



I find few things as fascinating as a good road map. For example the other day, when John Beale, the Vallemar insurance man, gave me some maps of midwestern states put out by Farmer's Insurance Group, I could hardly wait to get them home to study them.

Maps pack a tremendous amount of knowledge into a small package, and they're fun as well.

I've compared maps of Pacifica from throughout its history, from the first primitive pencil sketch of San Pedro Rancho, well over 100 years old, to the latest product of North American brand maps given out by the Chamber of Commerce.

Looking at that one recently, I saw a lot of nuggets buried in the street names of Pacifica.

Also a few puzzling questions.

Why for example, do so few streets have men's first names? I find only about six or eight, including Francisco (and that used to be San Francisco, 75 years ago).

On the other hand, there are well over 20 women's

first names, including Arleen, Beverly, Celia, Ressa, Lisa, Ursula, Sheila, Edna and Kathleen.

The ocean is the theme of only 15 or 20 Pacifica streets, though some of them are among our most important, like Linda Mar Boulevard, Reina del Mar, Beach Boulevard and Edgemar Avenue.

Less well known are Seabreeze, Seaforth, Seahaven, and Seaside. Besides Linda Mar and Edgemar we have three other Mars; Del Mar, Vista Mar and Marina.

Subdividers choose names with buyers in mind. The Spanish explorers Pigafetta and Oviedo were both important in their day, but no one would name a street Pigafetta. Spanish names, though, both family names and historical names are much used in Linda Mar.

From Alvarado to Zamora, Pacifica has 20 or more streets bearing such family names as Ortega, Alviso, Peralta and Galvez. Some streets carry the names of priests, including Crespi, Serra and Palou.

Some are named after explorers like Magellan, or Californios like Vallejo, or Mexican-era governors like Pio Pico and Arguello.

Some reasons for Pacifica streets we'll never know. Others are obvious. Pedro Point has Stanley and Livingston, for example.

There are streets that commemorate early settlers or early real estate men, including Danmann Avenue, Higgins Way, Picardo Way and Malavear Court.

Sometimes names will mislead. There is a tiny street in Santa Rosa called Major Drive. You might think the name paradoxical, unless you knew my uncle, the man it was named after. His first name was Major.

7-21-82