



Paul Azevedo

Dec. 19, 1984 Pacifica Tribune 16A

Reactor

Bits of Coastside History

By the way, did you know that Mussel Rock used to be known as Mussel Shoals rock? That Rancho San Pedro, which included most of what is now Pacifica, was given to Francisco Sanchez for his civic services?

Did you know that the predecessor of the Laguna Salada School District had one teacher in the mid-1870s? or that not long after that, in the early 1880s, "The San Francisco and Ocean Shore Railroad" was selling stock in a scheme to put a railroad down the coastside to Santa Cruz. They had a corporation, a chief engineer, a president, but never built a track.

Did you know that Rancho San Pedro was 8926½ acres? This compares to Pacifica's 8000 acres.

Did you know that the leading citizen of Redwood City in the 19th Century was a man named Horace Hawes? or that the leading San Mateo County industry in that period was Redwood lumbering?

Did you know that former Congressman Paul "Pete" McCloskey is the grandson of the man who built the Sharp Park Castle, the landmark that is now owned by Sam Mazza? Or that the county library system was founded in 1915? Or that there used to be a well-known San Mateo County town called San Raymundo, now buried under the waters of one of the chain of lakes that bisect the county?

Did you know that Nick's Restaurant started as the Rockaway cafe in 1927, begun by Nick Gust's father, Charles Gust?

Did you know that while he built his adobe house in San Pedro Valley in the 1840s, Francisco Sanchez spent most of his life in San Francisco, living near Mission Dolores? Or that his father, Jose Sanchez, was the grantee of Rancho Buri Buri, just over the hill in what is now South San Francisco?

Did you know that among the crops which have been raised commercially in what is now Pacifica are peas, artichokes, potatoes and heather?

Did you know that some of the early pioneers of Pacifica came to this area from Scotland and Ireland, via Australia? or that the predecessor school district of the Laguna Salada Union School District had an income of just more than \$1000 in the late 1870s?

That Jack London, at the age of seven, lived in Pacifica? That he lived in the area near what is now Pacific Manor? That he thought of this area for all his life as "the bleak, sad coast?"

That there are homes in the Edgemar area dating back to 1907? That the "pastor of the Coastside" was the longtime minister of the Little Brown Church, and that his name was Herschel Harkins?

That this area was known to the Ohlone Indians as Aramai, or that the village in San Pedro Valley was called Pruristac?

That the Ohlones, or as the Spanish called them, Costanoans, relied heavily on mussels, clams, abalone, and other bounty of the sea for food?

That two of the biggest landowners in this area in the 19th Century were Richard and Robert Tobin, of the Hibernia Savings and Loan Association, later the Hibernia Bank? That the Tobins had a summer home in San Pedro Valley?

That San Pedro Point is the westernmost point of North America south of San Francisco?