

## Give Yourself a Gift

With Christmas almost on us, you may be wishing it was all over and all those decisions...which presents to buy, which relatives to visit, which charity to contribute to, perhaps even which church to attend on Christmas day...you may be wishing all those decisions were over and done with and out of the way.

If there's too much to do and not enough time to do it in, why not give yourself a two-hour vacation, perhaps once a week, right here in this area. Do something you are really "too busy" to do. I know you can't afford the time, but after all, you can't afford all those gifts you bought for other people. This is a gift from you to you.

Here are some ideas, but why not get some scratch paper and note some things you would like to do. To start your mind working, here are a few ideas I plan to try out.

(1) New Year's Eve: set aside 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Drive down to Fitzgerald Marine Reserve in Moss Beach. It's about 10 minutes from Linda Mar. At that particular hour and day, there will be a very low minus tide. Follow the tide out, observing all the tiny creatures who form such an important part of our neighborhood. You heard last week that there is going to be a very high tide that day. Oddly enough, that also means an extreme low tide and a wonderful opportunity to observe tide pool life. Dress warmly in rough clothing you don't mind getting damp, and enjoy.

(2) San Pedro Valley Park. Some Saturday morning, or Sunday, set the alarm for 5:30, and drive out to San Pedro Valley Park. The gate will be locked up, but just leave your car outside and find your way in. Take a quiet walk back in the meadow areas. Observe the little rabbits grazing. Check out (careful, now) any skunks in garbage cans. Observe the sunrise over Sweeney Ridge.

(3) Drive over to Frontierland Park on Yosemite drive. Do the PAR course.

(4) Have breakfast at the golf course. Get there in time to watch daylight begin. Or have an early dinner and watch the sunset over the ocean. The sunset, (no extra charge for beauty) is also available often from Nick's, or the Moonraker, or Moss Beach Distillery, or the Chart House, if you go south of the slide.

(5) On your own, hike up to Sweeney Ridge, over the eighth of Pacifica that is now part of a national park, the GGNRA. Try it early on a winter day, preferably one that's a bit windy but cloudless. Dress warmly and be prepared to enjoy a world-class view that circles around you with a diameter of 100 miles. From the top of Sweeney Ridge you can see Mount Diablo to the east, Point Reyes to the west, as well as the Farallones, Pedro Point, Mount Tamalpais, Mount Hamilton east of San Jose, and several spectacular points you'll want to discover for yourself. Then you can truly be a Descubridor, as you follow in the footsteps of Don Gaspar de Portola of Catalunya.

Let me know some of your ideas for two-hour vacations in Pacifica. There are plenty more out there I just haven't thought of.

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