

The Reactor

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Enough of serious stuff like politics. Let's talk Pacifica trivia. Unfortunately I don't know all the answers. Help me out. If you know the right answer, let me know.

What is the highest street in Pacifica? My guess is Kathleen Court. Do you know of one that is higher? Sweeney Ridge, at 1200 feet, is the high point of Pacifica, but there's no city street up there, unfortunately.

What is the steepest street? My guess is that either Manor Drive, Sheila Lane, Grand Avenue or Valdez Way qualifies. Manor Drive was built before incorporation. I don't know what excuses Sheila. Grand Avenue must have been planned in Chicago by some engineer who did not have a clue, or a map to guide him.

The lowest street in town? That's easy. It's San Marlo Way, in Rockaway, the part that's under water in front of Nick's parking lot. You can't drive it, but what the heck, surf it. The lowest drivable street? My guess is Anza, in the old bed of Lake Mathilda.

The oldest street in town, and the youngest? Marvilla, on the old Pedro Valley School grounds, is probably the youngest. The oldest? Sharp Park Road, perhaps. It's been there, with the same curves, since before 1894. They called it Sneath Road then, after the well-known San Bruno dairyman of a century ago.

Portions of what are now Crespi Drive, Seville, Adobe Drive and San Pedro Road were used to get to Pedro Valley's isolated farms and ranches, including the Adobe, well before most of the town was subdivided. Just how many 19th century roads survive today as part of our street system I don't know. Do you?

What is the finest view from Pacifica? That's subjective, a matter of judgment. Probably on a clear, crisp November morning, it's the view from the discovery site. There you can see Mount Diablo, Alameda County, the Mount Hamilton range, Point Reyes, the Farallones and more. In one sweeping 360 degree swivel you can see hundreds of square miles of land and ocean. For sheer drama the view from the top of Highway 1 as you come over the rise crossing Skyline Boulevard is hard to beat. The sight of Montara Mountain and San Pedro rock is ever-changing but ever riveting.

Pacifica's tallest tree? Probably a eucalyptus, but which one? Chances are it's in Vallemar.

Who is Pacifica's most popular politician? On the council I would guess Ginny Jaquith. Higher than that, in this Democratic city it's likely to be neither George Bush or George Deukmejian. In state offices it's probably between Quentin Kopp and Jackie Speier, but that may be my own biases expressing themselves. Which one would top the other head to head? I have no idea. Do you?

Which single individual knows the most Pacificans? Probably Nick Gust or Bill Drake, or it may be an anonymous postal employee. Few of us know them or think of them, but some of those post office veterans know us, all of us, far better than we realize. You can tell a lot about a person by the kind of mail he gets. They know us well.

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