

The Reactor

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A Little Trivia

How about some Pacifica trivia, just for the fun of it? Rancho San Pedro, the huge land grant belonging to Francisco Sanchez, was over 900 acres larger than present day Pacifica.

The rancho, granted to Sanchez in 1839, remained under his control until his death in 1862. Sanchez's wife Teodora, was one quarter California Indian.

Sanchez is buried in Mission Dolores cemetery. This is appropriate, since he spent some years as Alcalde (mayor) of San Francisco, and lived most of his life near the old mission.

The Sharp Park district was named in the mid-thirties when the older communities of Brighton Beach and Salada Beach were combined. The name Sharp Park was noted in the official records of San Francisco's Recreation and Parks department as early as 1912.

Sharp Park golf course, which opened for business on April 16, 1932, was designed by one of the most famous golf course architects of all time, Alister Mackenzie. He is best known for designing the Augusta National course, where the Master's golf tournament is held.

Many of the national parks of the United States and Canada, including Yosemite, Glacier, Shenandoah, Big Bend, Everglades, Banff and Cape Breton, are honored with streets in the Park Pacifica district of Pacifica.

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Anderson's Store across from Oceana High school was built by Mathias Anderson and operated for over 80 years by members of his family. The store is now occupied by Oceana Deli. Anderson was also involved in building the castle owned by Henry Harrison McCloskey.

A building constructed entirely of doors was a landmark in northern Sharp Park about fifty years ago. It was a few blocks from the Comerford ranch house which was torn down to make room for the Pacific Skies Estates Mobile Home Park.

All the eucalyptus trees, as well as all the Monterey pines and Monterey cypresses which now grow in Pacifica were planted or are descended from plantings made within the last 150 years. The coastal hills prior to that time were covered only with grass or chaparral.

Poison oak is an important part of the native vegetation of Pacifica. It has been said that the native Americans who lived here were immune to its effects as a result of their association with the plant over thousands of years.

The predecessor of TCI cable television in Pacifica began operations in 1966. This area, with its many finger valleys surrounded by ridges which block out television signals, was a top priority candidate for cable television in the nation. TCI is headquartered in Denver, Colo., and is now the top cable TV operator in the nation. In 12 years its stock multiplied in value over 140 times while never paying a dividend.

Several streets on the maps of 80-year-old subdivisions in what is now Pacifica have become part of the ocean through the eroding action of wind and water.

Maitland Avenue in Rockaway Beach was named after Maitland Cline, president of the early day developers who subdivided Rockaway Beach and sold lots to beach-lovers who hoped to build summer cottages in the area.