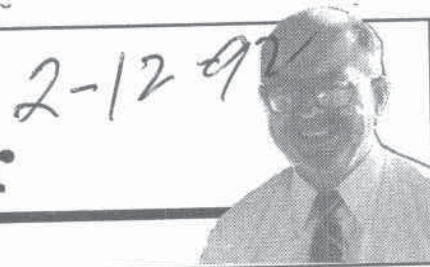


The Reactor

Paul Azevedo



The Pacifica old-older game

Pacifica dentist Nile Porter and I share an interest in the Santa Rosa of the forties, where we both grew up. He knew I would enjoy a column by *Santa Rosa Press Democrat* columnist Gaye LeBaron on some mildly historical trivia. It's called the "old-older" game.

I'm not above stealing a good idea, as I am about to prove. (It's called "adapting" .) You know you're old when you tell someone to turn off the highway "at the Wander Inn." (The Wander Inn used to be on the beach side of Crespi and Coast Highway.)

You know you're old when you remember Librarian Florence Novak's constant halo of cigarette smoke. You are older if you checked out books from the county library corner of Ray Higgins' real estate office.

You're old if you participated in lively discussions for or against incorporation. You're older if you voted in Sharp Park Sanitary District elections. You're old if your favorite substitute for a roller coaster was the Hog Ranch Road coming over the hill from Colma. You're older if you visited friends in Half Moon Bay by driving the San Pedro Mountain road.

You're old if you walked with your kids to celebrate the new Pacifica Community Pier. You're older if you remember the Sixth Tee Inn, where golfers could take a short break from the demands of the golf course. You're older yet if you were in the first 400 to

tee off at Sharp Park Golf Course when it opened April 16, 1932.

You're old if your marriage ceremony was presided over by Rev. Herschel Harkins. You're older yet if you were thrilled when they first installed electric lights in the Little Brown Church.

You're old if you remember the legal hassles between the corporate remains of the Ocean Shore Railroad and the people who wanted to develop the Coastsides for housing. You're older if you commuted to school in San Francisco on the Ocean Shore Railroad. You are really up there if you were around when Lydia Comerford Fahey held off surveyors of the railroad with a shotgun when they tried to survey her land without permission.

You're old if you welcomed back Nick Gust on his return from military service. You're older if you bought hot dogs from Charles Gust's Rockaway Cafe during your beach excursions along the San Mateo coast.

You're old if your family was one of the first to buy in the new tract in Pacific Manor. You're older if you or your parents had to notify your correspondents they should stop sending you mail at Salada Beach, Calif., and start using Sharp Park, Calif.

You're old if you have the vol. 1, # 1 of the *Coastside Comet*, predecessor of the *Tribune*, from 1947. You're older if you have the initial issue of the *Sharp Park Breakers*.