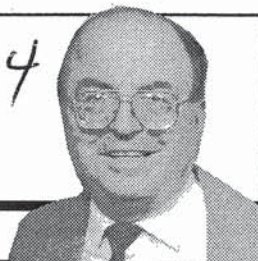


The Reactor

2-2-94



Paul Azevedo

Did you know?

- San Bruno has a pair of streets shaped like a heart. Perhaps they could hold a Valentine's dance there.

- A local school trustee in this area served for over 50 years.

- The newspaper called the Coastside Comet, the Tribune's predecessor, was named after Halley's Comet. It began publishing in Moss Beach in 1909, before the comet's 1910 appearance.

- When local residents of the northern Peninsula were counted for the census of 1880, census-takers couldn't speak Italian or Chinese. Most Italian and Chinese farmers and farm hands couldn't speak English. Census workers lined up the immigrants, estimated their ages, listed them as "Italian (or Chinese) no. 1 through 6, 60 years old, Italian no. 7 through 10, 55 years old," and so on. The immigrants were nameless, their ages roughly guessed. Only their existence and their national origin were accurate.

- Pacifica, Ralph Stackpole's 80 foot high statue at Treasure Island, did not survive long into World War II. While it crashed to the ground in 1942, at least three replicas about three to four feet tall survive. Two are in Pacifica.

- Geologically, Pacifica's beaches are a very recent phenomenon. Twelve thousand years ago the coastline was beyond the present-day Farallones. As the continental ice sheet melted, beaches migrated eastward. If the Greenland or Antarctic icecaps should melt, major portions of Linda Mar, Fairway Park and Sharp Park would be under water.

- A number of men who were, or would later become, Presidential candidates have visited Pacifica. Ronald Reagan, John C. Fremont and Walter Mondale were among them.

- A Pacifican, Jef Raskin, is credited by computer historians with the idea for the Macintosh computer.

The Macintosh has been the basis for enormous changes in publishing and a number of other businesses, and has had a major impact on the world. 1994 is the tenth anniversary of the Macintosh.

- All the stately Eucalyptus trees in Pacifica and throughout California, without exception, are less than 150 years old. Most, perhaps all, of Pacifica's large trees were planted after 1849. Many were planted by John McLaren, the Scot best-known for his work in Golden Gate Park.

- Pacifica's roster of wildlife includes mountain lions, raccoons, foxes, bobcats, coyotes, possum, deer and eagles. Several species of bats, owls and hawks can also be found, some in residential neighborhoods.

- Pacifica is one of a handful of cities in the U.S. which include parkland owned and managed by all levels of government; district, city, county, state and federal.

- While San Pedro Valley no longer is world-famous for artichokes, Pacifica still produces heather.

- A planet called Pacifica is a fictional (Star Trek, the Next Generation) counterpart to Switzerland, a place where conflicts among nations can be resolved in neutral surroundings. Sharp Park was once in the running for United Nations headquarters, but lost out to New York City.