

3/30/94

The Reactor

Paul Azevedo



And now a few words from Pacifica

There are some words either unique to Pacifica, or with more importance in Pacifica than elsewhere. "Pacifica," for example. The name came from the theme statue of the San Francisco World's Fair of 1939-40. Suggested as the name of our city by attorney Julian Cohn.

Here are a few other words peculiar to our town you may want to add to your dictionary.

Berendos: Street in Vallemar.

Cabrillo: Cabrillo Highway is the name of state sign route one from Pacifica south. Cabrillo was a Portuguese navigator in the service of Spain who explored our coast in 1542.

Calhan, Edna Laurel: Longtime civic activist, founder of the Coastsides Democratic Forum, now the Pacifica Democrats, and the Fifty Plus Club. Known as an organizer, a mover and a shaker, and for her forthright opinions.

Coastside: the longtime designation of the area along the San Mateo ocean coast. Contrasts with Bayside. (Heavily used in Half Moon Bay.)

Denman: Truman "Doc" Denman, longtime owner of Shamrock Ranch just south of Pacifica. Also known as "The Fur Doctor," with his business in the downtown San Francisco of the thirties and forties.

Doelger: Henry Doelger, developer of Westlake and Fairmont. German immigrant, known for his willingness to pay taxes in his adopted country.

Edgemar: The area north of Monterey road, subdivided circa 1907. Some homes from that era are still in use.

Fassler: Connects Park Pacifica with Cabrillo Highway. Pacifica's first mayor was Jean Fassler, also a San Mateo County Supervisor.

Frontierland: A Pacifica city park on the site of a garbage dump, the name originally was that of a horse corral and riding stable.

Gibbs: Two well known families in Pacifica, both active contributors to the community's welfare.

Harkins: Rev. Herschel Harkins, "The Pastor Of The Coastsides." Known

for rectitude, long service to the community.

Hetch Hetchy: part of Yosemite National Park. Provides much of Pacifica's water supply, purchased from San Francisco.

Kopp: State Senator Quentin Kopp, known for independence, ability. Represents Pacifica and parts of San Mateo and San Francisco counties. Formerly a San Francisco Supervisor.

Lorvan: Former Mayor and council member Sid Lorvan, still a local attorney.

Montara: 1,900 foot mountain south of Linda Mar. Name originally a 19th century typographical error. Originally "Montaña de las Auras," Mountain of the Vultures. Montaña became Montara.

Mori: The Mori family owned the area now known as Mori's Point.

Picardo: Ranch behind Terra Nova High School. Also a nearby court. Louis Picardo operates Coastsides Scavenger.

Salada: Laguna Salada is simply "Salt Lake." The pond within Sharp Park Golf Course, it has been a prominent landmark since the 1780s.

Seavue: Theater here since 1951. The name almost adopted when city incorporated in 1957. Instead it became Pacifica.

Sweeney: Ridge from which Portolá discovered San Francisco Bay. Not known for certain who Sweeney was. Some suspect he was a Hibernia Bank official, circa 1879.