

The Reactor

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Nick Gust Way is as fitting and appropriate as Grace McCarthy Scenic Vista Point. I can think of no one who has made more of an impact, in Rockaway and Pacifica, than Nick. But I, because I am aware of history, wish that somehow we could have both Nick Gust Way and Maitland Road.

Instead, only a hidden stub, a short deadend driveway remains as Maitland Road. Few people will be aware of it. Too bad. Maitland was named after Maitland Cline, the president of the Rockaway Beach Land Co., an offshoot of the Ocean Shore Railroad. It's one of Pacifica's oldest street names, dating from about 1908. Nearby Harvey Way, the little street paralleling the highway, was named after visionary J. Downey Harvey, first President of the Ocean Shore Railway. He was the man whose energy, vision, imagination and poor judgment brought that ill-fated but super-roman-

tic enterprise into being, and whose concept has shaped the Coastside from that day to this.

The Gust family has had a far longer association with Rockaway Beach than did Mr. Cline or Mr. Harvey, and much more successful.

At the opposite end of Rockaway, Troglia Terrace was also named after a family with a long history in Rockaway. They owned a two level building on the highway. The top level faced the highway. It was used by visiting priests to say Mass for local Catholics. In the basement the Troglias made wine. The building later became a second hand store, Ben's Trading Post. It survived into the early sixties. Road widening put it out of business.

It's interesting that four of Pacifica's nine streets are in Rockaway. In case you want to explore them, they are Ebken St., Copeland St., Hill St. and Spring St.

The other five streets in town are

Bruce St., (Pacific Manor) Short St. and Waterford St. (Edgemar), Surf St. and Shell St. (just north of Sharp Park).

That means that Linda Mar, Park Pacifica, Pedro Point, Vallemar, Fairmont, Westview, Fairway Park, and the main portion of Sharp Park have no streets. They have only avenues, drives, roads, boulevards, etc.

I suppose that it costs no more to live on a boulevard than a street, but it sounds fancier.

One thing that Pacifica has in quantity is paper streets, the ones that appear only on the records of the county, not in asphalted reality. Take out your map of Pacifica. Look carefully at certain parts, especially in Rockaway Beach. Bet you can't find several of the streets that the map swears are there. For example, there's no San Pedro Way in Rockaway, as you'll find out the hard way if you try to drive it. On some maps there are a whole series of Rockaway streets that exist only in fantasy.

Then of course there is Tobin Park, 75 acres of hillside and poison oak that has deluded some folks for the last 85 or 90 years. It lies at the edge of Willow Brook Estates, south of Linda Mar. Pacifica's boundary makers very sensibly left it in the hands of the county. Tobin Park was probably an embarrassment to the high-minded Tobin family whose summer home graced the bottom of Montara Mountain.