



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

SMOKE TESTING

Did you get one of those bilious chartreuse flyers about smoke testing sewer lines in Pacifica through November 11? If so, you may have been intrigued by this sentence: "The smoke you see coming from the vent stacks on houses or holes in the ground is NON-TOXIC, NON-STAINING, HAS NO ODOR, WHITE TO GRAY IN COLOR AND CREATES NO FIRE HAZARD." Well, that certainly got my attention. The flyer goes on to say: "The smoke should not enter your home unless you have defective plumbing or dried up drain traps. It is advisable for the home owner to pour a gallon of water into each floor drain prior to our testing. If smoke enters your home there is good reason to assume that dangerous sewer gases may also be entering your home or business. You should evacuate immediately and notify our work crew. If you are not home and discover

smoke when you return, please call us at (650) 738-4660." The flyer also advises that if anyone in your home is immobile or has respiratory problems, you should call (650) 738-4669 prior to testing.

DARK WINDOWS

A company called San Francisco Lodging LLC based in Santa Nella, California, has bought Pacifica Beach Resort at Crespi and Highway 1 for \$3,215,000. The property was listed as in "good" condition. Yeah, right! Frankly, I can't understand how this sorry place stayed in business all these years with so many empty rooms and dark windows. What will the new owners do about that? Stay tuned.

BROWSER

Occasionally you have to pay attention to items at the bottom of the growing pile on your desk and in your email inbox, because you

just might find a goodie like this San Francisco Chronicle (sfgate.com) story on February 23, 2011: The City College of San Francisco Rams baseball and softball teams play their home games on Pacifica's Fairmont Field because (the college says) it is cheaper than playing in San Francisco. The Pacifica School District, which owns the field, leases it to St. Ignatius High School in San Francisco, which in turn rents it to the college. But my reading of this story led to the astounding fact that SI charges CCSF \$55 an hour compared to San Francisco's \$25. What gives here? I hope to hear from a knowledgeable sports economist about this apparent anomaly.

LA COSTANERA SCORES

Zagat rates Montara's La Costanera one of the top five Peruvian restaurants in the country. Based on one visit there, I would have to say that the food is pretty good, the ocean views and sunsets are awesome, and the prices are such that you better wait for your rich uncle or someone on an expense account to take you there. Not really my kind of place. Give me a Nona's Kitchen Sink Salad or an Upper Crust eggplant sandwich, and put the savings in the cookie jar.

INNER EDIROT

"Apple, like they often do, recognizes these trends at just the right time." (Mike Thompson, Nuance Communications, quoted in S.F. Chronicle business section, October 9)

BIG-BOX HERO

Though I advocate constantly for our small, locally owned grocery stores like Oceana, Pacifica Farmers Market, and Sun Valley, I have to profess my admiration for the late Sol Price, warehouse store pioneer, whose Price Club eventually became Costco. You can read all about Sol by googling his name, but I can tell you that he was a lawyer, businessman, and philanthropist who did well and did good in his lifetime. So when I need a good deal on an exotic item like a turducken or a huge multipack of just about anything, I don't mind buying it from Costco. At least I am not stuck with Walmart as my only big-box option.

ALANDROME

As reported in last week's Tribune, the Menlo Park Police Department decision to hire Pacifica Police Captain Dave Bertini as its new commander comes as no

surprise to Pacifica palindrome lovers, who know Bertini's stellar track record in Pacifica: "Did no con evade Dave? No con did!" (Alan Wald)

SWAMI SEZ

"A nation's greatness is measured by how it treats its weakest members." (Mahatma Gandhi)

SITeseer

- Awesome submersible watercraft: seabreacher.com
- Pacifica/South San Francisco police dispatch: radioreference.com
- S.F. history includes saving San Bruno Mountain: foundsf.org
- Rock Quarry: my rock-and-roll fantasy -- Rockaway Quarry amphitheater
- Harvest up to 500 pounds of acorns per oak: gowildconsulting.com
- Publish your own writing: email kindle-singles@amazon.com
- Walkabout Monterey Bay shoreline: SlowAdventure.us

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