



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

COASTAL CONUNDRUM

"It's interesting that Pacificans want Pacifica to remain beautiful, in good shape financially, and its infrastructure intact. Folks see that happening in different ways. Most people who live here stay because they want the open space and to be away from the hustle and bustle of San Francisco or Daly City. In fact, I know one person who says we Pacificans are spoiled because our town is so beautiful – that made me smile. We don't need to fill up our 'empty space' with buildings in hopes that businesses will come here and stay. We have empty business spaces, for instance, Eureka Square. I've been told that rents there are very high; rumor has it the owner wants to sell that or build condos, but who knows. We do need more business, but basic businesses that will stay, not simply niche businesses. Niche businesses are good and fun, too, don't get me wrong. Folks who think that building is the answer to our problems should ask themselves why they think empty space is 'wasted' space. Someone actually said that to me. If buildings attract business, then why do we have empty storefronts? If that's true, then just move up to Daly City or San Francisco. As for widening Highway 1, I've driven to San Mateo for nearly 17 years now for work. I leave before 7 a.m. to get there without the hassle of traffic. I can honestly say two things: When school is out, I can leave 10 or 15 minutes later; and widening a part of Highway 1, then narrowing it again, does not truly solve traffic woes – it would be like a heart surgeon cleaning out part of your artery but leaving the rest of it clogged. 'Gang of No' is a label meant to segregate and isolate a specific group of people and give that group a negative connotation. That does not help anyone because it turns ideas into conflict. It is not productive. People will argue. Big deal. But ALL sides need to realize there will be give and take. It's not a contest; it's a process to reach a mutual goal." (Name withheld by request, posted on Pacifica Riptide)

YOU KNOW YOU GREW UP IN PACIFICA WHEN...

Darryll Fletcher is one of several administrators for the wildly popular Facebook site called "You Know You Grew Up in Pacifica When..." Darryll says, "The site was started by people who grew up from day one and love the town they were blessed to live in. Thankful to their parents to pick such a beautiful place that made everyone feel like family -- so much so that (I don't know if you noticed) all the guys say, 'I love you, man,' and truly mean it."

AMERICAN FLAG MYSTERY

"I'm curious about an American flag that keeps appearing and disappearing over the northbound Highway 1 lanes on the pedestrian bridge near the Manor exit. I first noticed it about a month ago. It was up for maybe two weeks. Then someone took it down. Within a few days, a second flag was up in the same place along with a small note next to it that said something like 'Don't take me down.' This flag may have lasted a week or 10 days before someone removed it.

A third flag went up within the past week and, as far as I know, is still there. Is this a battle of wills between two people or groups? Is this some kind of constitutional/procedural statement since the flag is neither taken down nor lit at night? Or has this somehow turned into an 'American flag corner'? Two additional American flags are now displayed -- one outside and one inside the window -- at the old Dallas/Spanky's Cafe near the footbridge where there were none when it was open. Obviously, someone wants to see an American flag displayed on the walkway and someone doesn't. Is it legal to permanently display a flag on a public property? Who keeps putting it up every time it gets taken down? My gut feeling is that it is someone living nearby who 'gets off' seeing it every day, but what do I know." (Sleepless in Paradise)

SAINT EDMUND'S LABYRINTH

The labyrinth in the courtyard at Saint Edmund's is available for all to enjoy from now until June 1. The gates are open daily from 7 a.m. to dusk. It is a place of peace and tranquility. "The labyrinth is a metaphor for the spiritual journey that we are all on as we search for the center and meaning of our lives. Since prehistoric times, the labyrinth has been a sacred path of meditation that confers real benefits to body and soul. It has been found in all religious traditions in various forms around the world." (Saint Edmund's Episcopal Church, 1500 Perez Drive, Pacifica, 650-359-3364)

PAY ATTENTION, DUDE

Scott McKellar loved the Tribune's April 4 "Police Beat" item: "Caller heard a gunshot two hours earlier but did not get up. Now noticed bullet hole in window through to his TV."

STUPID SEA CRUISE

What can you say about two adults who take their two toddlers sailing around the world, then suffer a mechanical and medical emergency requiring a U.S. Navy and Coast Guard rescue operation that cost taxpayers at least half a million dollars? On top of that, the couple does not apologize, though the wife apparently says on Facebook that it is one of the stupidest things they have ever done. Well, duh! The Internet is full of comments about these irresponsible parents. Syndicated columnist Ruben Navarrette blistered the couple with an op-ed titled "Seafaring parents toss responsibility overboard." What do you think?

REDUNDANCY (CONTINUED)

Chris Fogel nominates "The La Brea Tar Pits."

SWAMI SEZ

"Life is to be enjoyed, not endured." (Mongkut, King of Siam)

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