



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

JOHN'S GRILL

With all the openings and closings of restaurants in this dicey local economy, we thought it might be time to propose a whole new kind of Pacifica menu. For breakfast, we feature City Hall Waffles, Highway 1 Extra-Wide Omelettes, and Shark's Breath Coffee. For lunch, there is a blue-plate special consisting of three Devil's Sliders, deep-fried Linda Mar Heritage artichoke hearts, and Vallemar Vanilla Pudding. Dinner is a simple but hearty Manor Mushroom Burger with Rockaway Rutabaga Ratatouille and a dessert of Crespi Creampuffs. We are always looking for new specials to add to our menu, so send them to my email address at the bottom of this column.

PHOBIAS: TUNNELS VS. DEVIL'S SLIDE

Interesting debate going on in Pacifica between those who used to avoid driving over Devil's Slide for fear of falling rocks and roadways, and those who now avoid driving through the new Tom Lantos Tunnels at Devil's Slide. For those so afflicted and seeking help with their darkest fears, psychiatric nurse Dolores De Cabeza has hung out her shingle at the Linda Mar bus shelter, where she dispenses professional advice, performance-enhancing pharmaceuticals, and SamTrans bus tickets. No credit cards, cash only.

CALTRANS CONUNDRUM

Opponents of widening Highway 1 turned out in force for the March 25 City Council meeting, but left disappointed and dismayed by council's inability (or unwillingness) to even vote on whether to have a public hearing on the highway issue. More than one citizen-speaker at council Oral Communications remarked on the supreme irony of March 25, a day when Caltrans (having acceded to public pressure and a popular vote to build "The People's Tunnels" rather than a mountain-busting freeway bypass) finally opened the new tunnels, while pressing ahead despite public opposition with its plan to widen Highway 1 through the heart of Pacifica. If you read the letters to the editor of this newspaper or if you read the local blogs (Pacifica Riptide, Fix Pacifica, Pacifica Patch, Pacifica Index), by now you must have learned that Pacificans have submitted some 200 alternatives to highway widening, but Caltrans has pooh-poohed them and proceeded with its own engineering-mentality steamroller/bulldozer/juggernaut. Meanwhile, disgruntled townfolks are hashing over possible strategies, including public forums, lawsuits, ballot initiatives, and Willits-style sit-ins and honey buckets. Stay tuned.

WORKING ON THE RAILROAD

Scott Lindner of the Pacifica Historical Society writes: "We need help with restoring and moving Ocean Shore Railroad Passenger Car #1409. With great anticipation, we are now preparing to move our railcar from the current worksite at Shamrock Ranch to a new worksite, most graciously lent to us by the City of Pacifica, at the Maintenance Facility in northern Rockaway Beach. The owners of Shamrock

Ranch have given us an excellent area to initially start the rough construction renovations, but the site not being secure or supervised has lent to vandalism and abuse to #1409. The new area has a concrete slab foundation and the facility is monitored, with power and storage available to us. We have contacted Murray Trucking of Stockton and are securing a contract to move the car. They have experience moving for Niles Canyon Railroad and will obtain Caltrans permitting and pilot car. Our work is to prepare the car for the move, break down and erect the shelter, and construct shoring and cribbing to lift and lower our 20-ton car at both the old and new sites. We will continue work during the next few weeks, so we need everyone to help." Email Scott at mycrzyplace@sbcglobal.net or call 650-276-6568.

SITeseER

Mindbender: mentalfloss.com

SWAMI SEZ

I am an error/And I will reveal myself /After you press "Send" (Grammar Day haiku contest winner)

AUTOEXOTIC

Bruce Hotchkiss writes a car column for this publication and blogs at brucehotchkiss.com. Visit there for upcoming events like the Sequoia High School Truck Show, the River Ranch Run, and the Marin Sonoma Concours d'Elegance, all coming up in May.

WASTING AWAY IN MAYBURRITOVILLE

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