



Wandering & Wondering

John Maybury

HOLIDAY CENSUS

Biking around Linda Mar over Thanksgiving holiday weekend, I smelled roasting turkeys and baking pies, saw “Teamsters for Obama” and “Carpenters for Obama” bumper stickers, and heard people indoors yelling about football games. (Can anyone explain why 30 college football games are televised on Saturdays, but during baseball season maybe only one college baseball game a week on TV?) Christmas trees and decorations went up and survivors of Black Friday rested for Cyber Monday. My Thanksgiving mantra: I am thankful the Giants won the World Series (again) and that I will never hear the words “President Romney.”

DEVIL'S SLIDE MOVEMENTS

•The City of Pacifica and County of San Mateo start a free weekend shuttle December 1 between the two ends of town. Eventually, the shuttle will serve the Devil's Slide Tunnels turnaround so pedestrians and bicyclists can go enjoy the spectacular scenery from the soon-to-be-closed oceanside roadway, where the rumble of traffic will give way to the natural sounds of surf and seabirds. This transformation is expected to begin as soon as the tunnels open, which in current Caltrans time is said to be sometime next spring. Tick tock, tick tock, time is money, and we stare at a bill of nearly half a billion dollars. Nice work if you can get it. The free shuttle runs weekends between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., with eight departures in each direction, from Linda Mar Park & Ride in the south, and Oceana Terrace Senior Housing in the north. Major stops along the way include the Community Center, Mori Point, Sharp Park Golf Course, Beach Boulevard, The Pier, City Hall, and Oceana High School/Brink Pool. Once the Devil's

Slide Tunnels open, the shuttle will go up the hill to the bridge turnaround. For details, call city engineer Dave Rogers at 650-738-3767.

•Kudos to my colleague Jane Northrop for her article in last week's Tribune about environmental pioneers Lennie Roberts, Olive “Ollie” Mayer, and Zoe Kersteen-Tucker championing the cause of the tunnel over the Big Bad Bypass. These three women's efforts certainly deserve full honors, but the story is not complete without credit to our hometown tunnel activist Mitch Reid. As Mitch humbly says, the project should be called “The People's Tunnels.”

•The San Mateo County History Museum in downtown Redwood City between now and May 12 features a photography exhibit about Devil's Slide and how the tunnels came about.

OK LIQUOR STORE

Jim Wagner reports the sad news that the gentleman known to us only as Steve, the owner of OK Liquors in Park Mall, died of a heart attack on November 18. When Steve was stricken at his store, paramedics came and rushed him to the hospital, but it was too late. He was gone. I had bought lottery tickets from Steve over the years and always had pleasant conversations with him. We usually talked about things at Park Mall, particularly the bad actors who vandalized and shoplifted from his store. I mentioned these incidents here in my column, and Steve always thanked me for trying to help him. He always mentioned my column whenever I saw him. I have no further information about Steve's wife, who often worked at the store, and no news about the future of OK Liquors. Farewell, Steve, rest in peace. Your customers and friends miss you.

CORRECTION

I may have given readers the wrong impression in last week's item about Paul Slavin. While he suggests a light-timing experiment as a relatively simple way to evaluate any possible benefits, he believes that, in the long run, only widening the highway will solve the congestion and public safety problems.

TIME THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Michael Foley likes Paul Slavin's idea about timing the traffic lights on Highway 1. Michael writes: “As a kid growing up in New York, what happens on Highway 1 in the morning wouldn't be considered a ‘jam.’ There would simply be two motorcycle cops with walkie-talkies (I'm dating myself), adjusting the traffic lights so you wouldn't wait on the thoroughfare for left turns and right turns that aren't happening. You wouldn't even need real cops these days, just some folks trained to do the job. Oh, and instead of spending 50 million, we'd be creating a couple of taxpayers.”

BLOCK THAT CLICHE

“Cloud Nine.” Gregg Levoy says this synonym for happiness comes direct from heaven – the National Weather Service, that is. Meteorologists call the highest cloud formation (cumulonimbus, at 30,000 to 40,000 feet) “Cloud Nine.”

SWAMI SEZ

“If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change the way you think about it.” (Mary Englebreit)

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