

PACIFICA PROGNOSIS 1969

William Chapin's book "Suburbs of San Francisco" (published in 1969) predicted that Pacifica would grow to a population of 90,000 by the year 1990. Chapin also wrote about Pacifica:

- "It has no industry and its local sales are among the lowest in the state."
- "To remedy this, the city manager has stressed efforts to 'provide a little better balance by attracting recreation-oriented businesses to exploit our beautiful beaches and rugged, rocky vistas.'"
- "Citizens' participation in civic affairs and community events is unusually high...Hardly any Council meetings have fewer than 50 to 100 citizens in attendance..."

(Thanks to Bill Collins for sharing this bit of history.)

DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME

In Punjab, India, surgeons removed 40 knives from the stomach of a police constable who had swallowed the knives over the past two months. Some of the knives were folded; others had blades as long as seven inches. According to one of the doctors who performed the successful surgery, the patient apparently was suffering from a psychiatric disorder. And I would guess he had a pretty bad bellyache, too. (News of the Day, San Francisco Chronicle, August 24)

GOOD QUESTIONS WITHOUT ANSWERS

The ever-inquisitive Scott McKellar of Linda Mar Heights wonders why roads are called freeways though they cost millions of dollars to build. Not to be outdone by this Sidewalk Socrates, I fired back to him: "Why are roads called highways though most of them are either on the surface or down below the surface?"

FLIPPING PEOPLE OFF

Last Monday night, a motorist on Sharp Park Road at Skyline reported that a reckless driver was weaving in and out of traffic and "flipping off other drivers," according to a Pacifica Police report. Alan Wald wonders when "flipping off" became official law enforcement terminology.

FIRE IN THE HOLE

The U.S. Forest Service has concluded that a recent 122-acre forest fire at Mammoth Lakes was caused by a mountain bike pedal striking a rock. Evidence collected at the scene and from interviews with mountain bikers determined that the pedal strike had caused a spark that ignited the dry brush along the trail. This also started a firestorm on social media, where avid mountain bikers denounced the government's conclusion about the Rock Creek Fire. So far, no one has been identified as the guilty rider, but the Forest Service says it has no plans to prosecute anyone because the fire was not started intentionally. It also has no plans to close the trail where the fire started or to restrict

mountain bike access, saying the chances of such an accident reoccurring are very small. (Source: Kurtis Alexander, San Francisco Chronicle, August 30)

SWAMI SEZ

“I couldn't sleep, so I went to a store I knew was open 24 hours. When I got there, the guy was locking it up. I said, ‘What are you doing. The sign says you're open 24 hours.’ He said, ‘Yeah, but not in a row.’” (Steven Wright)

MAYBURRITOVILLE

- Email: Mayburrito@Goofbuster.com
- Blog: PacificaRiptide.com
- Copy Editor: Goofbuster.com