



TELEGRAPH HILL SEMAPHORE
(A publication of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers)



No 29 *****AUGUST 1967

IN MEMORIUM

This, the twenty ninth issue of our Bulletin, is dedicated to the memory of Dennis Flynn, who died at his home at 480 Vallejo Street on July Fifth.

Dennis, a charter member of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers, was treasurer for six years and President in 1960 to 1962 and remained active in the affairs of the organization until his recent illness.

Without his efforts many of the accomplishments of the organization would never have been achieved. No task was too difficult for Dennis to tackle. He cheerfully went to work and carried the assignment to a successful conclusion.

Dennis, with his ready wit and good cheer, was welcome everywhere and his loss will create a vacuum that will not easily be filled as his many friends in North Beach and throughout San Francisco will testify.

NEW BY - LAWS

At the general membership meeting held July 12th at the Montclair Restaurant -a most enjoyable and well attended dinner- the by-law committee submitted the complete set of by-laws for final approval. As was to be expected, there were some varying points of view on some of the provisions therein. Each in turn was discussed and voted on as amendments to the original set. After lengthy consideration the by-laws, as amended, were voted upon and accepted. All that remains to be done is to have the by-laws, as approved, put in printed form and the by-law committee will be out of a job.

DOWNTOWN ZONING STUDY

The basic idea behind the Downtown Zoning Study conducted by the City Planning Department, is to establish a new zoning ordinance for the central business district.

The concept in this new ordinance would reward a developer for providing a public amenity by permitting him an increase in the allowable floor area ratio, that is from base of 14:1 (in the c 3-0) to a possible maximum of 24:1.

A number of these bonus features are far too generous for the questionable value to the public of the amenities provided, thus permitting excessively large buildings.

This was reported at the General Membership Meeting of July 12th by Jerry Cauthen, chairman of the Downtown Task Force, where it was decided to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors and the City Planning Commission stating our reservations.

N O R T H E R N ++++++ W A T E R F R O N T ++++++ S T U D Y

The Telegraph Hill Dwellers, as members of the Citizens Advisory Committee on the study of the Northern Water Front, hope for a plan that will take full advantage of the area's potential and are directing our criticisms and suggestions to the attainment of that objective.

In a letter addressed to William M. Brinton, President of the City Planning Commission, our President George Raad outlined our long standing position.

1- The Northern Waterfront must be considered in context with the entire City and not as an entity of its own.

2- The preservation of the topography of the adjacent land must be respected in any plan concept, particularly the relation of San Francisco's hills to level areas and the Bay Development must not be permitted to obscure this unique feature of our City, but should instead reinforce the natural topography and its relationship to the water.

3- Any renewal plan of the Northern Waterfront must contain strict regulations to control views to and of Telegraph Hill, and where possible the cliffs must remain exposed.

4- The Northern Waterfront land is far too valuable and important to serve as a main arterial carrying through traffic or become the site for a bridge to Marin County,

5- Maximum visual access to the water must be achieved.

6- We see no reason why the 40' height limit should not be continued to Broadway.

President Raad reaffirmed our position on freeways, he stated - "Our position on freeways is clearly one which proposes a diversion of through traffic rather than an accommodation to it."

On height limits he stated our position as follows - "The Telegraph Hill Dwellers are opposed to any change of height limits on Telegraph Hill . . . we strongly support the continuation of the Forty foot height limit from where it now stops on the waterfront all the way to Broadway."

The following members of the Dwellers are participating in the discussions of the Citizens Advisory Committee on the study of the Northern Water Front.

George Raad
Morton Rader
Kenneth Evers
Patricia Major
Bob Katz
Jerry Cauthen
Frieda Klussman (also representing San Francisco Beautiful)

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B U L L e t i n
B O A R D

T.H.D. BULLETIN

We need your help -- We aim to keep you informed of T.H.D. Committee actions, City Hall activities, news of the Hill, and of San Francisco. If you have any news, gossip, gripes, or comments, please contact the editor by phone, wire or pony express. If you like this bulletin let us know; if you don't like it let us know anyway.
Editor Kenneth Evers 421-2671

OUR MEMORIALS

Our treasurer is holding \$171.50 donated by our membership as a memorial to Fred Meyer, Silvio Catelli, and Charles Ince. One of the main purposes of our organization is to beautify Telegraph Hill. A fitting tribute to these men would be a tangible memorial which would carry out this objective. If a worthwhile memorial could be devised, it is this writer's belief that this fund could be implemented with additional donations. Dorothy Erskine chairmans this committee.
Dorothy's phone - 362-1737

D U E S

President George Raad has officially declared the week of June 26 to July 2 as dues-paying-week. If you have not paid your dues for this year, or if you have changed your address call or send a check to Nancy Katz-2 Whiting St. 986-1890

BY - L A W S

Our by-laws are being revised. Our present by-laws were written when the Telegraph Hill Dwellers were first organized. Our immediate objective at that time was to preserve for posterity and future Hill Dwellers the 39 Bus which was scheduled for extermination by the muni. Now we find our by-laws are no longer adequate. Keeping in mind the objectives of this organization as outlined in the by-laws. "The object of this organization shall be to beautify and improve Telegraph Hill, to encourage a friendly association among the Hill residents, to perpetuate the historic traditions of the Hill's place in San Francisco history and to represent the property owners and residents in community problems which may arise." Suggestions by the membership will be welcomed and considered.
Chairman - Marion Evers 421-2671

I N T H E S H A D O W O F C O I T T O W E R

Patricia and Bob Major, who have been T. H. D's since early days, have just completed a three unit building on Filbert Street just above the Shadows Restaurant. The building designed by Henry Hester A. I. A. of La Jolla was constructed by the De Martini Bros., Elmo and Tac. also T. H. D. members from way back. There are two studio units and one two bedroom unit.

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W H A T ' S N E W

Congratulations to the consolidated Chinese Enterprises. On May 21st Miss Deane Wong, Miss San Francisco Chinatown of 1966 accompanied by the happy dancing lion and girls in costumes of the Oyster girls of Taiwan presided at ribbon cutting ceremonies opening the refurbished Palace Theater on Powell Street opposite the Marini Triangle. The newly refurbished theater will show films from Hong Kong and Taiwan. The first attraction Oyster Girl had dialogue in Mandarin with subtitles in English.

M A T T E R O F L O N G S T A N D I N G

After a year and a half the conflict in the matter of Rodriguez and Sterling (Union and Montgomery) continues with no hope of an immediate solution. In order to compensate for the deprivation of the full use of his property (because of use permits granted to Mr. Sterling by the City) Mr. Rodriguez has on file an application to vacate a portion of the side walk in order to build a garage in fulfillment of the 1 for 1 parking requirement for off street parking for a 6 unit apartment building. The T. H. D's have taken the position that any other solution would be preferable to the vacating of the side walk to build a structure that would block views, impede pedestrian traffic and change the facade of the originally established width of the street. It would establish a dangerous precedent that owners have already declared they would follow.

S T I L L A N O T H E R Z O N I N G M A T T E R

An attempt is being made by several improvement clubs at the request of the Cow Hollow Improvement Club to enlist the support of other organizations to initiate legislation to curb and define the powers of the Board of Permit Appeals.

The Board of Permit Appeals have constantly thwarted efforts of the planning department to enforce zoning requirements, and have constantly allowed variances that have been harmful to Telegraph Hill and harmful to San Francisco generally. This effort should be supported.

M A N Y T H A N K S T O O U R A D V E R T I S E R S

Please note our advertisers in this Bulletin are all North Beach merchants - - long established and of excellent reputation. Your patronage of these merchants will assure you of satisfaction.

The Golden Gate Bridge District on August 7th signed a \$265,000.00 contract for preliminary engineering of a second deck on the Golden Gate Bridge. This action was taken without asking the Board of Supervisors to voice an opinion.

If this deck is built, and the Bridge Directors seem determined that it shall be, immediate pressures will be brought to bear to provide freeway access.

The Bridge Directors steadfastly refuse to consider other alternative methods of getting to Marin County.

Representatives of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers, along with other neighborhood organizations, appeared at the meeting on August 7th and protested the signing of the contract.

Nine alternative methods of handling increasing traffic between San Francisco and Marin were suggested by E. R. Foley, chief engineer of the State Division of Bay Toll Crossings in a recent report, however the Bridge District has arbitrarily decided that the second deck is the answer to the problem, and are expending the sum of \$265,000.00 for this study.

The Telegraph Hill Dwellers and other neighborhood groups are forming a protest organization. Every effort will be made by our organization to counteract the program prescribed by the Bridge Directors.

This program will have a far reaching impact on all of San Francisco as well as our local area.

The established position of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers is in support of an underwater tube to Marin County for rapid transit only, as proposed by Supervisor Leo T. McCarthy.

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F I R E B A L L

The Old Spaghetti Factory was the scene of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers Fire Ball on May 25th.

About 300 revelers danced until the wee hours of the morning to the music of the Vandals, and had a delicious spaghetti dinner.

Our special guests were firemen from Engine Co. 28, who are now back in their renewed engine house on Stockton Street.

Revelers arrived in costumes befitting the theme of the ball. Psuedo firemen, Lillie Hitchcocks, fire plugs, dalmatians etc. dominated the scene.

The Telegraph Hill Dwellers Bulletin of January 1957 carried this article: "The Fire Ball, the name given to the party held in Rudolph Schaeffer's courtyard on October 13 was attended by about 200 people. With a fine autumn evening and a good band, the party was a success, thanks to the good work of Booth Goodman and the various committees involved." It would seem we have had successful parties for a long time.

H O M E I M P R O V E M E N T S W I T H N O A S S E S S M E N T

Do you want to repair, redecorate or improve your home, but hesitate because your assessment may be raised?

Assesor Joseph E. Tinney has released the following list of home repairs and improvements which may be made without increasing your assessed valuation-

Inside the Home

New furnace, new water heater; plaster repairs; redecorating; adding small closets or built-ins; new ceilings; interior surfacing; 220 V. wiring; replace plumbing and light fixtures; new floor surfacing; leveling floors; lateral loads (stiffen for earthquake) addition of vents to unvented heaters; new fire exit (inside house); ventilating fan in bathroom.

Outside the Home

Repainting repairing and replacing exterior masonry; new roof; repairing and replacing porches and steps; remove unused porch or exterior trim; repairs to fire escapes; new fire escapes; replacing window sash and sills; insulation; weather stripping; exterior awnings and shutters; add or replace gutters, downspouts; outside painting; minor repair termite or dry rot repair; decorative screens minor sculptors etc.; connect to underground wiring.

Around the Building

Outdoor electric cable and outdoor lights; repairing or replacing private walks; dilapidated garages or sheds (same type and area); paving rear lot and parking areas; new fences or retaining walls; lawns landscaping, lawn sprinklers; new sheds to store garbage and rubbish containers.

You may also plant a tree outside your house, (lets have more of them.)

The assessor pointed out that a complete modernization job, sharply increasing the value of the home would be reflected in a higher assessment, but individual items would not of themselves increase the assessment. A combination of many of these, however could affect the assessed valuation.

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