

# TELEGRAPH HILL SEMAPHORE

*Publication of the Telegraph Hill Dwellers*

NUMBER THIRTY FIVE

APRIL 1969

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## TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS - FIFTEENTH BIRTHDAY

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

DINNER MEETING - April 22                      MONTCLAIR RESTAURANT                      550 GREEN STREET

COCKTAILS 6:30                                      DINNER 7:30                                      PRICE \$4.00

FOR TICKETS CALL ANNE FIBUSH 771-4816 (price of dinner includes tax and tip)

SPECIAL EVENT - MR. GEORGE WILLIAMS OF THE CHARTER REVISION COMMITTEE  
WILL SPEAK ON PROPOSED CHARTER REVISIONS.

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### NOMINATIONS APRIL 1969 APRIL 1970

Your Nominating Committee has nominated the following members to serve during the next fiscal year, April 1969-1970

#### OFFICERS

|                         |                 |                       |          |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|----------|
| President               | Gerald Cauthen  | 1321-B Montgomery St. | 362-7954 |
| Vice President          | Allen Lathrop   | 291 Union St.         | 781-4751 |
| Recording Secretary     | Jane Schubert   | 33 Genoa Place        | 421-7936 |
| Treasurer               | Curtis Baldwin  | 370 Chestnut St.      | 781-8534 |
| Financial Secretary     | Thomas Hounsley | 480 Vallejo St.       | 392-7564 |
| Corresponding Secretary | Anne Davis      | 177 Pfeiffer St.      | 781-9132 |
| Historian               | Bernard Bour    | 48 San Antonio Place  | 781-4732 |

#### DIRECTORS FOR TWO YEARS

|                 |                     |          |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------|
| Marion F. Evers | 255 Chestnut St.    | 421-2671 |
| Jane Dillon     | 1236 Montgomery St. | 362-3928 |
| Tobey Bloxam    | 3 Montague Place    | 392-0675 |
| John Coyle      | 479 Vallejo St.     | 781-3579 |

#### DIRECTORS REMAINING ON THE BOARD FOR AN ADDITIONAL YEAR

|                  |                     |          |
|------------------|---------------------|----------|
| George Raad*     | 315 Chestnut St.    | 392-0693 |
| Mildred Hamilton | 1937 Stockton St.   | 986-6170 |
| Robert Katz      | 2 Whiting St.       | 986-1890 |
| Frieda Klussman  | 260 Green St.       | 421-2608 |
| John Schick      | 1360 Montgomery St. | 981-5495 |
| John Harman      | 1403 Montgomery St. | 362-5733 |

\*George Raad as immediate past President is an ex-officio member of the Board according to the by-laws.

THE EARLY DAYS OF THE TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS \* \* \* WHAT WERE THEY LIKE?

BY HISTORIAN BERNARD BOUR

(continued from Bulletin 34)

The beginnings of height limitations on the Hill, to keep buildings from interfering with the spectacular Plaza around Coit Tower, go back to 1932. And in 1943, the Board of Supervisors enacted a limitation of forty feet covering the Hill generally north of Union Street.

But a proposal for an eleven story, 30 unit apartment building at 1255 Montgomery Street, brought a prolonged struggle in 1955 and 1956 (details in Bulletin No. 1 of May, 1956). T.H.D. was ultimately able to defeat this proposal, with editorial support from the CHRONICLE, despite the fact that the Board of Permit Appeals reversed the Planning Commission in 1956 and approved plans for the eleven story building.

As an outcome of this struggle, T.H.D. was able to win approval of an extension of the forty foot ceiling down the Hill from Union to just north of Broadway. The same height ceiling battle erupted furiously again, however, in 1960 and 1961 and this is referred to later in this essay.

(to be continued in next Bulletin)

APPEAL PROCEDURE WON'T BE CHANGED

An attempt by the Board of Permit appeals to grab more power for themselves was thwarted by the Board of Supervisors Government Services Committee March 11th.

The proposal that the non-controversial Housing Appeals Board be shifted to the highly controversial Board of Permit Appeals, was overwhelmingly rejected by the Supervisors' committee, through the efforts of more than a dozen witnesses, and particularly through the efforts of Chief Administrator Thomas J. Mellon, who stated "The five man Housing Appeals Board, which will be renamed the Abatement Appeals Board - - - has heard thousands of cases in the past ten years with almost no complaints, the decisions of the board have been made on strictly a professional basis, which contrasts, very frankly, with the Board of Permit Appeals."

A LETTER TO MAYOR ALIOTO & HIS REPLY

In a letter to the Mayor, January 24th, President Cauthen thanked His Honor for his "steady determination, obviously born of long conviction, to oppose the freeway juggernaut."

He expressed the hope that a "truly modern public transportation system between Marin County and downtown San Francisco will obviate the need for a freeway entirely."

The Mayor's reply stated: "The solution to San Francisco's traffic problems lies in the development of efficient public transit, such as trans-Bay ferries between Marin and the City, rather than more freeways . . . . Any freeway linking the Embarcadero and the Golden Gate Bridge should, to my way of thinking, be underground." He further stated that plans for a study of San Francisco's ties with the surrounding Bay Area are being developed.

*Thomas Cara, Ltd.*

CULINARY IMPORTS

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BIG FAT NO! FOR THAT SKINNY HOUSE

The above headline appeared in the newspaper after Fred Maffei lost his appeal to the Board of Permit Appeals, to build a house on La Ferrera Terrace.

La Ferrera Terrace is a cul-de-sac 16 feet wide which runs westerly from Kearny Street and is just a short distance north of Lombard Street.

The proposed house, to be 8 ft. wide and about 60 ft. long, was to be constructed on concrete piles about 14 ft. above ground level, and was to occupy one half of the width of the cul-de-sac.

Vigorous objections were raised by neighbors and by the Telegraph Hill Dwellers.

TRANSAMERICA TOWER

The Transamerica Corporation plans a skyscraper 30 stories higher than the B of A Headquarters Building at the southeast corner of Washington and Montgomery Streets. Mr. Allan Jacobs, the City's Planning Director, has expressed strong opposition to the proposal because of the northerly location and because of the effect of such a tower on the surrounding hills. We expect to have more information on this subject at the April 22nd general meeting.

SAVE THE BAY

A series of destructive Bay Fill projects, the latest of which is Oakland Mayor Reading's amazing scheme to expand the Oakland Port by filling in no less than 2,000 acres, continue to threaten the future desirability of the entire Bay Area as a place to live. Members are again urged to express themselves on this vital subject in letters to the Governor and to other State officials. Mrs. Tobey Bloxam has agreed to act as chairman of a new T.H.D. committee to keep tabs on this and other conservation matters.

CLEAN UP CAMPAIGN

Under the able leadership of Vice President Allen Lathrop, we are endeavoring to reduce the flood of trash which finds its way to our city streets.

At Garfield School, the T.H.D. sponsored poster contest was enthusiastically received with over 100 entries. The theme...A CLEANER TELEGRAPH HILL.

Our donated litter cans are being used, but not enough. Please help spread the word.

A grand "CLEAN UP THE HILL DAY" is being planned. Schedule will be announced at our April 22nd meeting.

650 Vallejo Street  
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California 94133  
Phone: DOuglas 2-3324



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PARKING AND TRAFFIC ON TELEGRAPH HILL

There are numerous ways in which the Telegraph Hill Dwellers hope to improve the traffic and parking situation on the Hill. We have some good ideas, but we need a small team of determined volunteers to help us implement our plans.

If you consider the problems of traffic and parking are of vital interest to you, call George Raad, 392-0693, and volunteer to help us.

CRIME

Crime continues to be an extremely serious problem throughout the city. The T.H.D. is working with other organizations in an effort to bring about a crackdown on lawlessness. Individuals can help by writing to State legislators, to judges and to municipal officials.

THE EMBARCADERO FREEWAY

(Excerpt from the Telegraph Hill Dwellers Position Paper on the Northern Waterfront)

"We feel that a report of this scope should include a recommendation for the removal of this ungainly mistake"

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THIS BULLETIN IS OUR MEANS OF BRINGING YOU UP TO DATE ON OUR ACTIVITIES. SUGGESTIONS - CRITICISMS - OR ANY COMMENTS MAY BE DIRECTED TO YOUR EDITOR. WE WOULD BE GLAD TO INCLUDE YOU AS AN ADVERTISER.

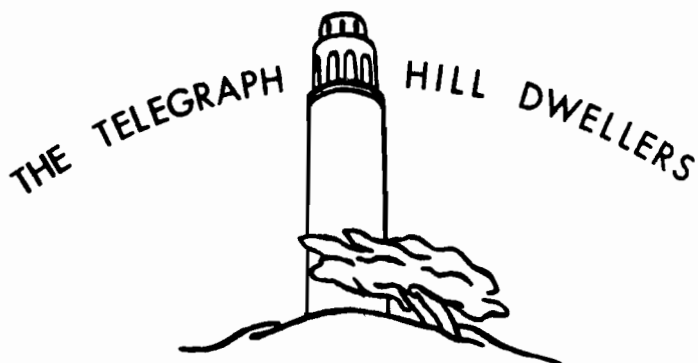
KENNETH EVERS

255 CHESTNUT STREET

421-2671

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San Francisco 94133