

Everybody's Favorite City: **SAN FRANCISCO**

By Irene Jones



By hosting nearly two-and-a-half million tourists, conventioners and business travellers each year, San Francisco earns its sobriquet "Everybody's Favorite City." Surrounded on three sides by the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco Bay, San Francisco's compact 47 square miles crowd the tip of the San Francisco Peninsula. "The City" with a population of 706,900 is the hub of the nine county Bay area and the gateway to the Pacific.

Never having visited California I decided to write to The San Francisco Visitors Bureau for their help and information for this article. Naturally I received page after page of travel pieces about things to do in "The City," so here for a change are some "suggested San Francisco don'ts:"

Don't pack a tropical wardrobe; the mercury hovers around 60 degrees even in summer.

Don't plan to diet; this city is the weight-watchers' Waterloo.

Don't call cable cars trolleys; they're powered by the moving steel cable you hear humming in the slot beneath your feet.

Don't dine at an authentic Japanese restaurant if you have a hole in your sock.

Don't board a public conveyance without 60¢ in change (\$1.00 for cable cars); the drivers don't make change.

Don't plan to go swimming in San Francisco Bay unless you're a member in good standing of the Polar Bear Club.

Don't go to Chinatown during the Chinese New Year Season (between mid-January and late February) if you have delicate eardrums. Year of the Ox 4683 on the lunar calendar coming up.

EVER RIDE A NATIONAL LANDMARK?

The recent \$60 million overhaul of San Francisco's "TRACK STARS" lasted 20 months as work crews installed new tracts, reconstructed the cable car barn and replaced drive machinery and components. Swept along by a tidal wave of civic pride, the CABLE CAR fleet returned on June 21, 1984. Twenty-eight "single-enders" ply the two Powell Street swoop loop. These vehicles, the only ones of their kind can be gasp-provoking when you're rounding a horseshoe-curve, even at 9½ mph. Count me in for this one!

WATER'S EDGE

San Francisco has been also called a "window on the world". The way the hills rise steeply out of a sparkling, island-studded bay is reminiscent of Hong Kong. At other times, when the harbor's a wind-whipped green, San Francisco assumes a Nordic look.



An indigo bay and peach blossom sky complement San Francisco's eastern skyline. Lighted clock tower lower left is the 19th century Ferry Building. Towering pyramid at right has been a local landmark since 1972. (photo by Mark Snyder courtesy of San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau)

The Marina, a forest of sailboat spars, and Fisherman's Wharf, where the fishing fleet ties up, could be scenes painted in Portofino or St. Tropez. This is the far eastern edge of the Orient. The western edge of the continent. A port of gold.

Fisherman's Wharf remains one of the city's singular tourist attractions. Dozens of seafood restaurants frame rows of colorfully painted and colorfully named fishing boats. During the crab season (mid-November through June) devotees line up for the best of the catch and a loaf of sourdough French bread from a nearby bakery. Dungeness crab, sourdough French bread and walkaway seafood cocktails are Fisherman's Wharf staples.

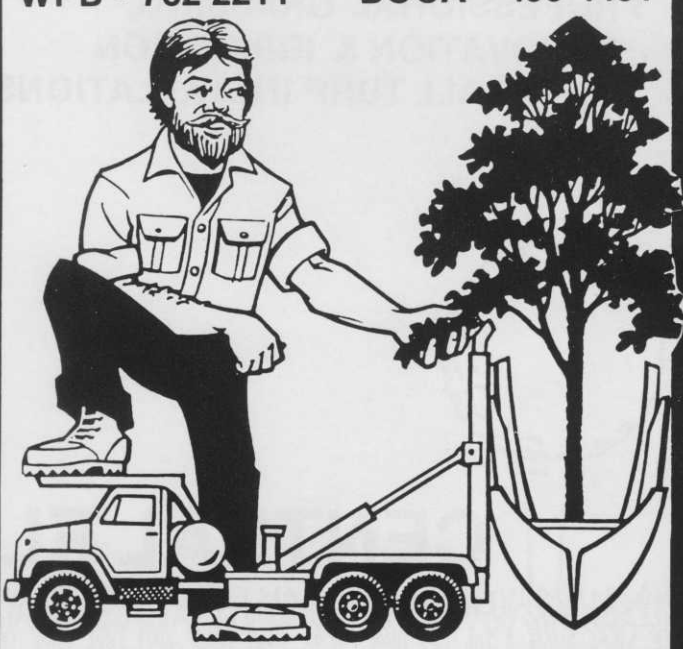
On Fisherman's Wharf one finds a living, working environment. It is an exciting place to visit because it is still very much a fishing port, even though the number of boats making this their base has diminished over the years. Thousands of tons of fish and the famed Fisherman's Wharf crab are still unloaded here each year. The catch is prepared for sale to markets and restaurants at the processing plants that line "Fish Alley," just behind Jefferson Street between Jones and Hyde. The best time to see the fishing industry in action is early in the morning. By 11:00 a.m. most of the day's work is finished for the fisherman and processors alike.

Nearly everyone wants to ride to Fisherman's Wharf in just one way ... aboard one of San Francisco's historic cable cars. But there are several other Municipal Railway routes that can take you directly to the Wharf from downtown San Francisco. The 32 Embarcadero runs
(continued on page 22)

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(continued from page 21)

along the waterfront from the Ferry Building at the foot of Market Street. The 15 Kearny leaves from Moscone Center, crosses Market at Third, and passes through Chinatown and North Beach. The 19 Polk and 47 Van Ness are good connections from the Civic Center area. Of course you can drive or take a taxi. There are a number of by-the-hour parking facilities at the Wharf and metered spaces on most streets. Before noon and after six p.m. parking is seldom a problem at Fisherman's Wharf.

The Wharf can be a base for exploring San Francisco. Fisherman's Wharf isn't just a great place to visit, it can be your home away from home. Some of the city's finest hotels are located right here so you can stay in comfortable accommodations right at the Wharf. Count me in for this one too!

GEORGE R. MOSCONE CONVENTION CENTER

The biggest production in the history of San Francisco's visitor industry, the \$126 million Moscone Convention Center will host The GCSAA's 57th Golf Course Conference & Show. Opened on December 2, 1981, the 650,000-square-foot convention facility is located on four blocks southeast of Union Square on an 11½-acre site bounded by Third, Howard, Fourth and Folsom Streets. It houses a 261,000-square-foot exhibit hall, the largest column-free structure of its kind in the U.S.; 41 meeting rooms seating from 30 to 3,200 people; a 30,000-square-foot ballroom, and accommodates 20,000 special events patrons theater-style. The Center underwent extensive modifications to conform to the needs of the July 16-20, 1984 Democratic National Convention. It faces the two-square-block Yerba Buena Gardens site slated for development into a lavishly landscaped greensward with cultural, recreational

and shopping attractions.

With the spacious and modern George R. Moscone Convention Center as its setting GCSAA's 57th International Golf Course Conference and Show on January 27-February 4, 1986 promises to be bigger and better than ever before. The show will offer more educational opportunities than any confluence to date. A brief outline includes:

- Twenty-seven seminar courses
- Twelve concurrent educational sessions
- Two and a half day trade show
- Sports Turf Managers Education Conference
- Golf Course Builders of American Education Conference
- American Society of Golf Course Architects Education Conference
- USGA Green Section Education conference
- National Golf Foundation Workshop

Other special events scheduled are:

- Prayer Breakfast
- Opening Session with keynote address by a nationally known personality
- GCSAA annual membership meeting
- Banquet & Show with Old Tom Morris Award presentation and top name entertainment
- Four-day spouse program

GCSAA members should have already received The Early Bird advance registration and information by now. I would urge you to take advantage of this early registration because it will save you time as well as money. Discounts made available through GCSAA Membership will be offered.

(continued on page 23)

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(continued from page 22)

Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA)

Congress in October 1972 set aside 34,000 undeveloped San Francisco and Marin County acres as the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and mandated the National Park Service to develop and administer it. The preserve was expanded in 1976, 1978 and twice in 1980, which includes the San Francisco shoreline from Aquatic Park to Fort Funston, the bay islands of Alcatraz and Angel and extends north of the Golden Gate for 20 miles. Marin County portion encompasses Rodeo and Stinson beaches, Muir Woods National Monument, Mt. Tamalpais, Audubon Canyon Ranch, lagoons, rugged headlands, meadows, fortifications, picnic facilities and 100 miles of trails. Over 25,000 acres in San Mateo County include historic Sweeney Ridge, the San Francisco Bay Discovery Site. Of the 72,815 acres currently within authorized boundaries of the recreation area, the GGNRA owns and manages approximately 24,000 acres. For GGNRA information phone 415/556-0560.

The National Maritime Museum, a component of the GGNRA, attracts over 1 million visitors annually. Its seaworthy treasures include five vessels moored at the Hyde Street Pier, the S/V Balclutha berthed at Pier 43 and two new arrivals, the U.S.S. Pampanito, a World War II fleet submarine which was part of the South Pacific based "Wolf Pack," and the SS Jeremiah O'Brien, the last of the more than 2,750 "Liberty" cargo ships operated during World War II; the latter may be boarded at Pier 45, Fisherman's Wharf and Pier 3, Fort Mason respectively.

ALCATRAZ

"The Rock" is now a unit of the bay Area's Golden Gate National Recreation Area. A legendary, 12-acre island rising 135 feet out of San Francisco Bay, Alcatraz was opened to the public on October 26, 1973 after 118 years of isolation. The island has been used successfully as a fortification, U.S. military prison, army disciplinary barracks and federal penitentiary that confined many of the country's most infamous felons. Boats depart frequently from Pier 41 for two-hour tours of Alcatraz. Reservations are required by telephone 415/546-2805.

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area created by Congress in 1972 takes in San Francisco's shoreline greenbelt and the Marin County coast north to Point Reyes National Seashore. Together they form a federal protectorate of more than 100,000 acres of beaches, lagoons, wildlife sanctuaries, redwoods, ranchlands and rugged headlands.

For a great intra-city escape catch the No. 5 bus from downtown Market St. to Golden Gate Park. There's not a single "KEEP OFF THE GRASS" sign in this emerald isle's 1,017 acres. Fees for admission to its many special attractions ... the Japanese Tea Garden, M.H. de Young and Asian Art Museums, Conservatory of Flowers, California Academy of Sciences, etc. are minimal.

The City's Visitors Bureau maintains a GA (Gratis Attractions) list for points of interest such as the Old Mint, Wells Fargo History Room, Mission Dolores, Fort Point National Historic Site, the National Maritime Museum

(continued on page 24)



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(continued from page 23)

and Hyde St. Pier's flotilla of vintage coastal vessels. Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope marked GA to the SFCVB, P.O. Box 6977, San Francisco, CA 94101 for complete details.

ALAMO SQUARE: A PHOTOGENIC THICKET OF VICTORIANS

A great part of San Francisco was built between 1850 and 1900 when Victorian architecture was in flower. Some 14,000 residential examples remain, about half of which have been maintained or restored. This survival statistic is astonishing when you consider that 514 blocks went up in flame in the wake of the 1906 earthquake. Endangered specimens have been put within the reach of preservation-minded buyers and out of the path of urban renewal.

In fact, saving Victorians has become a thriving enterprise here. Quite a few of the new entrepreneurs have set up shop as exterior paint consultants. One company, Victoriana, runs a millworking shop turning out 150 patterns of moldings and trim to insure authenticity of restoration.

Locally, there are three basic designs — Italianate, Queen Anne and Stick, or Eastlake. Italianate, in great vogue between 1850 and 1875, is characterized by bays whose side windows slant inward, pipe-stem columns flanking the front door and flat crowns. Queen Annes, patterned after a style popular in England in the 1860's are marked by rounded corners, hooded domes, sinister-looking windows and the use of shingles as siding. Stick, or Eastlake, all but indistinguishable from Italianate, stems from the 1880's and offers such esoteric clues as chamfered corners on pillars, strips, incised decoration and horseshoe arches.

The San Francisco Convention and Visitors Bureau has charted a 6½ mile car tour of the cream of the Pacific Heights-Western Addition of homes; this area is not "strolling terrain." Walkers should confine themselves to the Pacific Heights and Union Street areas. The 1600 to 2200 blocks of Union are best explored on foot because of their many intriguing alleys and boutique-bordered backyards.

Ask for the San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau's supplemental list of VICTORIANS WHERE YOU CAN EAT and VICTORIANS WHERE YOU CAN SHOP. There are also Victorians you can visit as well as Victorians where you can stay such as Bed and Breakfast Inn, 4 Charlton Court. Here you will find nine guest rooms in a pair of 1873 and 1896 Victorians overlooking a one-time milk-wagon loading yard off Union Street's 1900 block. The Monte Cristo, located at 600 Presidio Avenue, offers 14 rooms in an 1875 Victorian. Since Dan's favorite pastime is not visiting architectural heritage locations I'm hoping that the four-day spouse program will offer a tour of some Victorians. It sounds like a natural event for a ladies tour.

In conclusion I'm starting to think about plans for our trip to San Francisco ... this is due to the fact that in past years I have not been a very good "trip planner." Good being defined in this case as "organized." So as of now I

have a goal to pre-think some items in order that Dan and I may calmly and confidently depart from West Palm Beach on January 28, 1986. Not only will I pre-pack, I will put *all* the luggage beside the front door the night before. (Last year when we went to Washington Dan's assistant Tim barely made it back to the airport with our garment bags, which I left neatly hung up in the closet.)

Looking down at "Beeper," our fluffy gray cat, dozing at my feet, I'm already making a mental note to make some arrangements for him. He doesn't even know he is an animal because he usually just travels with us to Grandmom's house, etc. ... this time he will have to just face the fact.

Cheryl is eighteen now, a senior in high school, so there will have to be a family conference about her plans. I would like for her to go with us but I realize that she has obligations to meet in other areas. (Each vacation, trip or outing that we take as a family I get very nostalgic thinking that maybe this will be our last family event before she leaves for college.)

As soon as the "Early Bird" advance registration arrives I vow to fill out all the forms and make out all the checks, place all the calls to airlines and so forth ... actually if I were to be completely honest at this point I would admit to the fact that I am a terrible traveler because: number 1, I'm not completely comfortable with flying ... number 2, my bed and pillow are completely comfortable ... number 3, our home is located in a quiet wooded area (we usually end up with the room next to "people who party") ... and number 4, everything I need for my health, convenience and happiness is here at home.

Actually though I will push through everything by January 28, 1986 and I will have a great time at the conference ... seeing old friends ... touring San Francisco ... and supporting Dan in his profession. And if I were to choose between going to the San Francisco Convention and going camping I would definitely choose the convention. ■

GOOD CONECTIONS IN SAN FRANCISCO

SAN FRANCISCO -- If you're heading for San Francisco, you should jot this down: 391-2000.

Hundreds of people dial it every week for a rundown on local doings.

The voice at the other end provides a two-minute summary of special events, cultural happenings, sports highlights and sightseeing tips -- 'round-the-clock.

The San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau innovated this public service in 1967. Last year the system logged over 27,000 calls.

In 1980, it went international. If English is not your best language, you can get the message in four others: French (391-2003), German (391-2004), Spanish (391-2122) and Japanese (391-2101).

To take advantage of San Francisco's tele-itinerary from outside of the Bay Area, dial area code 415 first. ■