

(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

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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. ■