



THE GUIDEPOST

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INSIDE

California Trivia &
Factoids: Page 2

Green Gulch Farm &
Zen Center: Page 3

History of Tadich's:
Page 5

Where's the Blue
House?: Page 6

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

By: Jean Feilmoser

Greetings colleagues!

I am writing to you from Sydney Australia. . . it feels like my second home. . . and a sister city to San Francisco!

First of all, it gives me great pleasure to announce the SFTGG 2013 Board of Trustees:

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This group will surely make a dynamic board, and I hope you will all join me in giving them your whole-hearted support and help where needed.

I would also like to congratulate our newest Certified guides, Thomas McDonagh and Dennis Butzlaff! There are so many more of you who could become certified so please take the test.

I want to thank all of the SFTGG 2012 Board for working so hard to keep our organization strong. A big thanks, also, to Frances Gorman and her colleagues on the Transportation Committee for keeping us abreast of the transportation issues that impact our profession.

We need to remember that we live in one of the best cities in the world, and as professional guides we can enhance the experience for visitors to our fair city. We need to be productive, and above all, professional in taking care of our guests, as well as each other. Take pride in how you present yourself. . . how you speak to, and of, others and how hard you work in the business you are in.

We professional guides need to remember that we provide informative and knowledgeable tour commentary, have excellent presentation and communication skills, know how to do tours with optimal and alternative routes, are sensitive to cultural diversity and special needs, are flexible and customer focused, and are dressed properly and conduct all activities ethically.

So dear cultural ambassadors, logistics experts, transportation teams, history professors, architectural aficionados and culinary devotees. . . Thank You for continuing to evolve as guides and I look forward to seeing you 'on the street' next year!

Happy Holidays to you all, Jean

S A N
FRANCISCO
TOUR
GUIDE
GUILD

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California Trivia & Factoids

By Mary Johnson

“What would Americans do without California? Well, they probably wouldn’t have so much fun. After all California is the birthplace of the Frisbee, Barbie dolls, skateboards and video arcade games.

You can thank the Golden State for such goodies as Popsicles, McDonald’s hamburgers, canned tuna fish and, of course, our beloved fortune cookies. You would probably be working and learning a lot more slowly if Silicon Valley, the birthplace of the personal computer, didn’t exist. If you will just let go of your computer mouse, put down your martini, and slip into your Jacuzzi (all California originals), you’ll learn about other California “firsts”.

Technology, aviation, transportation, religion, fashion, entertainment – California has produced firsts in all areas. Most of these developments have taken place since the mid-19th century – the denizens of the Gold Rush perhaps ignited the creativity and achievements of the Golden State.”

- 1902: First motion picture theater in the world opened in Los Angeles
- 1909: First radio broadcasting station opened. Founded by Charles Herrold in San Jose
- 1927: Philo Farnsworth created the first working television. (See place on corner of Green/Sansome)
- 1942: Architect Timothy Phleuger built the world’s first underground parking garage in Union Square
- 1959: Dr. Robert Noyce and his team produced the first commercially practical integrated circuit at Fairchild in Palo Alto
- 1966: California’s Proposition 215 was the first statewide medical marijuana initiative to pass in the country

California Firsts, by Teri Davis Greenberg. 2002

Inyo National Forest is home to the bristle cone pine, the oldest living species -- some are over 4,600 yrs.old

San Francisco Bay is the world’s largest landlocked harbor

The largest living tree, a Giant Sequoia, is in Sequoia Nat. Park, 102 feet in circumference

California is the first state to reach a trillion dollar economy in gross state product

California has the largest economy in the states of the Union

There are approximately 500,000 detectable seismic tremors in California annually

Reference: www.50states.com

More turkeys are raised in California than any other state in the U.S.

The Hollywood Bowl is the world’s largest outdoor amphitheater

California leads the US in producing 350 different crops and commodities

55% of the fruits and vegetables consumed in this country are produced in California

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area is the largest urban park in the world (114 sq. miles)

Stanford Linear Accelerator is the largest in the world – two miles long

Reference: “California’s Fascinating Facts”, visitcalifornia.com

GREEN GULCH FARM & ZEN CENTER

By: Saskia Charbonneau



Green Gulch Farm Zen Center, also known as Green Dragon Temple (Soryu-ji), is a Buddhist practice center in the Japanese Soto Zen tradition, offering training in Zen meditation and ordinary work.

It is one of three centers that make up San Francisco Zen Center, which was founded by Shunrye Suzuki-roshi. The effort at Green Gulch is to awaken the bodhisattva spirit, the spirit of kindness and realistic helpfulness. . . the understanding of Buddha's Way.

Shunrye Suzuki-roshi, a Japanese Zen priest belonging to the Soto lineage, came to San Francisco in 1959 at the age of 54. Already a respected Zen master in Japan, he was impressed by the seriousness and quality of "beginner's mind" among Americans he met who were interested in Zen and decided to settle here. As more and more people of non-Japanese backgrounds joined him in meditation, Zen Center came into being and he was its' first abbot. Under this tutelage, Zen Center grew into City Center, Green Gulch Farm and Tassajara Zen Mountain Center. He was undoubtedly one of the most influential Zen teachers of his time. Suzuki-roshi died in 1971

The Zen Center

The Zen Center is booked for retreats and conferences. They have a 12-room guesthouse and prices range from \$95.00 to \$225.00. There is an authentic teahouse which is run by the tea master, the tea sensei Christy Bartlett. There are tea classes and once-a-month they have a Sunday Tea Gathering for up to 14 people.

Residents and visitors to the Zen Center attend morning and afternoon meditation sessions in the Green Dragon Temple (Zendo). There are usually about 65 residents at the Zen Center. Of those, 25 or so have been there as long as 10 years, but the majority come and go. It is quite transient.

On Sundays the general public is invited for a meditation program between 8:00am and 11:00am. After which lunch is served for regular visitors.

The Farm

Plants are sold in the garden shed. It is an honorary system where you pick out the plants and pay for them later at the office/gift shop.

The farm consists of 6 acres of mixed cool weather annual row crops, all of which are certified organic. The farm is maintained by a seasonal crew of 3-5 staff and 6-8 apprentices. Farm apprentices receive training in a wide range of practices, including the sowing, planting, cultivating, irrigating, harvesting and marketing of the wide variety of vegetables. They also learn about organic soil, pest and disease management through composting and cover crops, water/irrigation management and promotion of biological diversity.

The Garden

The Garden consists of 1.75 certified organic acres of annual and perennial flowers, herbs and fruit trees, including 2 smaller enclosed formal gardens, a demonstration permaculture area and a retail nursery.

The Garden is maintained by a seasonal crew of 2-3 staff and 2-3 apprentices. Garden apprentices receive training in a wide range of practices, including raised bed preparation, sowing, transplanting, composting, flower arranging and pruning.

Greens Restaurant

Greens Restaurant is located in a converted warehouse in historic Fort Mason. Opened in 1979 under the auspices of the San Francisco Zen Center, and built by Zen Center carpenters, the restaurant incorporates 12 types of wood.

Greens Restaurant, by placing vegetarian cuisine on a level with other fine dining restaurants was a pioneer in establishing vegetarian cuisine in the United States. The chef, Annie Somerville, was a Zen student and resident at Gulch Farm.

Due to tax reasons the Farm and restaurant are now separate entities, although they are still connected. The farm supplies produce for the restaurant and Annie Somerville hosts cooking workshops at the Green Gulch Farm

George W. Wheelwright III: 1903 - 2011

Before the Zen Center settled on Green Gulch Valley, it was owned by the Wheelwright family.

George W. Wheelwright III, a co-founder of the company that eventually became the Polaroid Corporation, died in Tiburon at the age of 97.

Most of the world thinks of Polaroid as the brainchild of Edwin H. Land, a scientist whose ideas for a lens that could polarize light and formed the technological underpinnings of glare-free sunglasses and later of instant photography. In fact, the company had two parents, Mr. Land and Mr. Wheelwright

George Wheelwright, an intellectual dilettante, was doing a brief stint as a physics professor at Harvard in 1932 when he struck up a friendship with his youngest and most precocious student, Mr. Land. The two formed Land-Wheelwright Laboratories to make and market polarizers. The Eastman Kodak Company was an early customer, using polarizers to make photographic filters. It was soon followed by the American Optical Company, which licensed the technology for sunglasses. Both men liked the feeling of commercializing their own technology, so in 1937 they formed the Polaroid Corporation.

In 1942, Mr. Wheelwright left Polaroid to go to Washington, where he worked with the Bureau of Special Devices to help develop polarized glasses for pilots and the Link Flyer, a device that simulates an aircraft's control panel and used to train pilots.

With the war raging, he persuaded the Navy to train him in air navigation. He became a Naval Air Transport pilot, first ferrying troops and supplies to European battlefields and later flying captured German scientists to the United States.

Following the war, Mr. Wheelwright and his second wife decided to try a new life out West. They bought an 800-acre cattle ranch in Green Gulch, California, and along with his wife's three children moved there in 1945. Although Mr. Wheelwright was now officially a rancher, at heart he was still a scientist. Before long he was experimenting with breeding different types of Herford cattle and planting exotic grasses from New Zealand to feed them. When his wife developed lung cancer, he dived into research and experiments with laetrile

and other controversial drugs in an unsuccessful attempt to cure her.

Once cancer had claimed his wife, the ranch lost some if its appeal, so in 1972 Mr. Wheelwright sold it to a Zen Buddhist group for what his son calls a pittance. "He could have sold it for a fortune, but he wanted it preserved as a green belt," his son said.

Soon after, Mr. Wheelwright married again, and he and his third wife bought a ranch near Reno, Nevada, but by the late 1980's with both his health and marriage were deteriorating, he returned to live with the Zen Buddhists in Green Gulch. "He wasn't really a Zen Buddhist himself, but he did believe in it a bit, and he really liked their attitudes toward preserving land," his son said.

Mr. Wheelwright stayed with the Buddhists until he could no longer care for himself, and in 1996 he was moved to a nursing home, where he died in 2011.



THE ELEPHANT STATUES
Vina del Mar Park, Sausalito

By: Saskia Charbonneau

The elephants were originally designed as decorations for the Court of the Universe in the 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition. Architect William Faville, a Sausalito native, utilized elephant statues at the base of twelve 100 ft. flagpoles surrounding the building. At the end of the fair, he had 2 of the elephant statues and a decorative fountain ferried across the Bay to his hometown where they were placed in the town square.

By 1935, the original statues, made of plaster and lathe had deteriorated. Mr. Faville then personally funded their replacement. Sausalito residents had nicknames their town elephants Jumbo and PeeWee. Two castings were made of PeeWee so that concrete replacements could be returned to the Park. The results, fitted with elaborate street lights, are what you see today. The entire Park was restored in 2000 and remains the pride of the town today.

THE HISTORY OF TADICH'S:

From 1849 Coffee Stand to 2012 Tadich Grill

By: Frances Gorman

Coffee Stand to New World Coffee Saloon

In 1849, Nikola Budrovich, Frano Koska, and Antonio Gasparich, three immigrants from Croatia, set up a tent on Long Wharf and posted a sign "Coffee Stand". The Long Wharf pier reached half a mile into the Bay from Montgomery Street, with hundreds of ships tied up, and was lined with shops, saloons, markets and gambling dens. Coffee Stand served fresh fish grilled over charcoal to the merchants, sailors and argonauts. A ship with a load of iron arrived and the crew deserted to the tilled fields. Soon after, a corrugated iron shanty replaced the Coffee Stand tent. As the bay was filled in east of Montgomery Street, Long Wharf became an extension of Commercial Street. Coffee Stand relocated to the New Leidesdorff streets, and was renamed "New World Coffee Stand". Before long, the Croatians moved their place to Commercial and Kearny streets and renamed it the "New World Coffee Saloon."

Saloon to Cold Day Restaurant to Tadich Grill

In 1882, Alexander Badlam Jr. was running for reelection as San Francisco Tax Assessor. He bragged it would be "a cold day" when he'd be defeated. Badlam lost by a landslide, and since he was a regular at the New World, everyone began to call it the "Cold Day Restaurant". In 1887 John Tadich bought it.

The 1906 earthquake and fire destroyed the Cold Day and another nearby Croatian restaurant, the Adriatic, owned by John Sutich. Tadich and Sutich together opened a new Cold Day Restaurant at 417 Pine Street, and later at 411 Pine. In 1912 Tadich dissolved that partnership and opened a new place at 545 Clay Street he named Tadich Grill!

Tadich Grill continues on under Buich family

One year later, Tadich hired another Croat, Tom Buich, as a pantryman. Five years later Tadich fired Buich for trying to tell him how to run the establishment. However, Tadich forgave and hired Tom back in 1923 as a waiter. By 1934, Tom and his brothers, Mitch and Louie Buich,

were the sole owners. They revived the Coffee Stand's practice of grilling fish over charcoal, using mesquite exclusively. In 1967, redevelopment again forced the restaurant to move, to 240 California, where the Buich family still owns and runs it today.

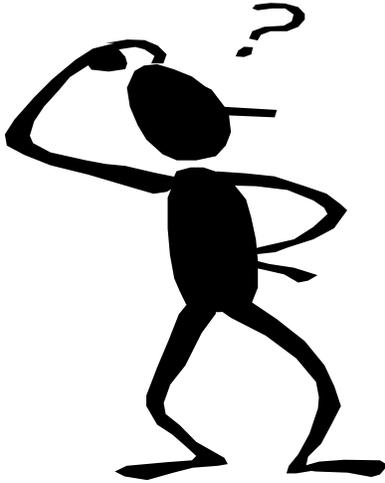
Tradition is as much a part of Tadich as the kitchen. Employees serve loyal customers for generations. John "Duke" Dukich worked there as a waiter 42 years, from 1924 to 1966. John Skorlich waited tables 27 years, from 1939 to 1966. John Markovich also served for 27 years, 1943 to 1970. The restaurant has survived some rough times: prohibition; the food shortages during WWII; and the 1989 earthquake. It closed on the day of the '89 quake and the following day, but opened the next. With no gas stoves, the menu was limited to crab Louie, deep-fried prawns, or charcoal grilled fish, and customers were offered free Bloody Marys. The day after that, it was business as usual. An August 2009 fire starting in the kitchen called out 13 fire trucks. Again, the next day was business as usual.

Tadich Grill, like many well-known restaurants, likes to keep tabs on its famous customers, such as politicians. You can hardly be, or even run for, mayor of San Francisco without being a familiar face at Tadich. Many other political leaders, from emperors (Haile Selassie of Ethiopia), to presidents (George H. Bush), have been served the Buich family's fresh fish. Sports figures, such as Joe DiMaggio, were a common sight. Joe Montana and Dan Marino had lunch there together. Hollywood legends have included: Groucho Marx, Lana Turner, Clark Gable, Cary Grant, Danny DeVito, Jack Nicholson, George Lucas and Francis Ford Coppola. Herb Caen was a regular. The most honored guest may have been in January 1949, when 94 year-old John Tadich helped the 100th year of the restaurant's operation! San Francisco treasures tradition, longevity and preserving history. Few, if any other city establishments can equal Tadich Grill.

Edited from article by George Rathmell, as originally published in June 2010 Nob Hill Gazette. Also copyrighted on Tadich Grill 2012 website.

**Where's That BLUE HOUSE Made Famous by
Maxime LeForestier?**

By: Lucy Perdichizzi



Francophone/Francophile guides - do your passengers ask you where the “Blue House” is located??

Here is some information you can share with them:

In the 1960's , the young French singer-songwriter Maxime Le Forestier lived for awhile in the Castro, in a blue Victorian at 3841 18th Street, between Church & Sanchez.

He later wrote a song entitled “San Francisco”. Most French folks just call it “La Maison Bleue.”

The gist of the song: It's a blue house perched up against a hill, no one knocks, the people who live there throw away the key. Everyone's there around the table at 5:00, with long hair and playing the guitar, full of music, as San Francisco gets foggy. It will be the last to stay standing if San Francisco collapses. Where are you Liza, Luc, Sylvia? . . wait for me!

Every French visitor, young and old alike, knows the words by heart and asks about the house.

But – c'est scandaleux. . . for many years the Blue House was GREEN, having been painted over by former occupants. In 2011, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the song, and of his love affair with San Francisco, Maxime LeForestier came back. With the blessing and support of the French Consul General, the house was painted back to its original blue, beautifully restored, and a commemorative plaque, in French and English, was placed on the house.

An urban hike will easily take you there from any central location. Or, the F-Line goes close to it. To listen to the song, in French of course, go to www.maximeleforestier.net.

+++++

**A TROLL LIVES ON THE SAN FRANCISCO-
OAKLAND BAY BRIDGE**

By: Donna West

A troll looks over this bridge.

The Bay Bridge troll story was first made public when the *San Francisco Chronicle* ran the story on January 15, 1990. The troll, a symbol of protection, appeared on the Bay Bridge after the 1989 earthquake, was made by iron workers without official knowledge and consent of Caltrans, during repairs to the bridge.

The troll is 18-inches with a spud wrench and welded to the iron below the upper deck on the north side of the bridge.

Yes, they do have plans to relocate the troll when the original east span is taken away.

Source: *Bay Bridge website*

[Hppt://baybridgeinfo.org/timeline#c1963](http://baybridgeinfo.org/timeline#c1963)



RICE IN CALIFORNIA?

By: Lynn Andrews

California is celebrating 100 years of commercial rice production this year, marking the anniversary of a commodity that has evolved to become one of the state's largest agricultural exports.

Farmers began experimenting with growing rice during the Gold Rush more than 160 years ago, according to the California Rice Commission. It has long been grown in the southeastern US but was introduced in California by Chinese gold miners.

It wasn't until 1912 that the first commercial production started in Butte County, about 70 miles north of the state capital. Since then, California has become the nation's largest producer of short-and medium-grain sticky rice, with much of the high-quality product shipped to Japan and other Asian countries. Most sushi in the United States is made with California rice.



All told, California annually ships almost 5 billion pounds of rice as far away as Europe and the Middle East. Most is grown within 100 miles of Sacramento. Rice commission spokesman Jim Morris said the climate, soil and water are ideal for the crop. "We liken it to the Napa Valley for wine grapes," he said.

Growers annually flood low-lying land near the Sacramento River. In the fall balloon-tired combines harvest the grain. California's half-million acres of rice fields serve a second purpose during the winters, attracting almost 10 million migratory waterfowl that traverse the Pacific Flyway and land in the Central Valley wetlands to rest, eat and breed.

Rice was California's fifth-largest agricultural export behind almonds, dairy products, wine and walnuts in 2010, the most recent year available. California accounts for a third of the nation's rice exports

SF Chronicle 11/25/2012

DID YOU KNOW???

By: Saskia Charbonneau

Highway 101 – Sausalito:

Highway 101 north of the GGB opened one year after the bridge in 1938. During that year, commuters would use the road along the Sausalito waterfront to get to/from the bridge, Water Street. The name was change into Bridgeway!

Point Bonita Lighthouse:

The Lighthouse was completed in 1855, but at a different location (higher up the hill). It is the third lighthouse on the west coast after Alcatraz and Fort Point

The Tunnel through the rocks to reach the lighthouse was built by Chinese workers who finished their work on the Continental Railroad. They used only picks and shovels.

The Lighthouse not only uses light but also an electric fog horn to indicate the shoreline to ships. There are 5 lighthouses: Alcatraz, Fort Point, Point Bonita, Point Diablo and Mile Rock

Muir Woods Redwoods:

A coastal redwood can sway 50 – 100 feet! Redwood Creek is the last free-flowing creek in California

San Francisco Bay:

The salinity (level of salt) in the Pacific (12%) is currently LOWER than in the San Francisco Bay (19%). This is due to the dry weather conditions which have resulted in less fresh water to flow into the bay and dilute the salt water. This is a big ecological problem that affects much of our marine life.

Bar Pilots: There are 72 pilots who move more than 9,000 vessels per year. They board the vessel, but do not personally take over the 'wheel'. Orders are given to the Captain to direct him safely into harbor.

San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge:

by: Lynn Andrews: *SF Chronicle*11/21/2012

With the completion of the "Big Lift", shifting a 35,200-ton weight of the new single-tower suspension span from temporary trestles to a single mile-long cable, draped across a 525 ft. tower and anchored in the bridge deck holding it from above. . . This is NOW, officially, the **largest self-anchored suspension bridge in the world**

PROJECTED SFTGG PROGRAMS, 2013

By: Lynn Andrews

Anita Rao, and her hard-working Programs team, has come up with just a few of the programs they would like to offer next year:

- Candlestick Park Walking Tour
- San Francisco Specialties: Cooking with Barbara!
- Vallejo (via Ferry)
- Napa City overnigher
- Urban Wineries
- Irish San Francisco
- Gold Country/Grass Valley overnigher

STAY TUNED!!



TO ALL: A HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A PROSPEROUS 2013!!

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