



The Portola Valley Post

Spring 2006

Cable Survey Results

Congratulations to Lilian Rutherford, she was one of the more than two hundred people who responded to the cable survey in the November 2005 issue. While she enjoys dinner for two as the drawing winner, here are some insights for rest of us to chew over.

As with prior surveys in 1997 and 2002, residents responded strongly: this year about 1 in 7 households responded, both in the survey questions and astute comments. The cable

Continued on page 6



Figure 1 The survey

Portola Valley Playground

By Marti Tedesco

In the early days, people were drawn to Portola Valley for its proximity to lumber, its fertile soil and its remote beauty. Today, while many are drawn for the rural lifestyle and vistas, there are those who flock to Portola Valley as a natural playground. On any given day you can see them – biking, hiking, running, playing - you name it. This place is a haven for those who love physical activity and the outdoors. In fact, one might never have to leave the Valley to access any number of athletic and fitness pursuits. Over the years this has continued to grow and develop as the population and our dedication to fitness have done the same.

Horseback riding was one of the primary hobbies of the locals in the early days. Barns at Spring-down Farms, Portola Farms and Webb Ranch led the way in addition to the many barns and riding arenas on private property. Others like Portola Pastures, Creek-side Stables and the Portola Valley Training Center grew alongside the horse community. Together they serve a large population of equestrians with lessons, horse leases, competitive shows and high-end training programs. The wide network of riding trails that crisscrosses the Valley today serves an active horse community as well as walking and hiking enthusiasts.



A haven for those who love physical activity and the outdoors
Susan Thomas photo

Continued on page 4

An Inventor's Paradise

By Marti Tedesco

With our town's proximity to Silicon Valley and Stanford University, it comes as no surprise that we house more than our fair share of bright people. Everywhere one looks you can find the best and brightest in the fields of technology, medical science, government, finance, banking, real estate, education - you name it and they live here. Among this field of intelligentsia is an important subgroup that is typically recognized because they hold a US patent on a device, a process or discovery. These people are the inventors; the innovators that tend to really think outside the box and challenge the established ways of thinking.

Portola Valley has the highest patent-to-resident ratio in the state

In a *San Jose Mercury News* article from January 2003, their research showed Portola Valley to have the highest patent-to-resident ratio in the state. Calling us the "patent capital of California", the *Mercury News* reported that of the fewer than 5,000 residents that live here, Portola Valley people hold more than 1,800 patents. So, why is that? Why do these inventor types find themselves clustered in our town and not Hillsborough, Los Gatos or Los Angeles? In pondering this question, we explored the factors that lead to the patent concentration in our town and what makes inventors thrive here. Our first stop was a trip to the U.S. Patent Office and Trademark database.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office tracks patents issued as far back as the 1700s. A simple search of the data revealed that only 104 patents have been

Continued on page 5

PV School District Announces API Results

By Anne Campbell, Superintendent

Every year the California Department of Education calculates an API to measure the effectiveness of California's public schools. API stands for Academic Performance Index and establishes a school ranking scale of between 200 and 1000, with the goal of all schools receiving at least an 800.

The community can be very proud of the performance level of our local public schools

The API is calculated according to a complicated formula that weights student performance on the various STAR tests given each spring as well as on student demographic information. The demographics include pupil mobility, pupil ethnicity, pupil socio-economic status, the percentage of fully credentialed teachers, the percentage of teachers with emergency credentials, the percentage of pupils who are English Language Learners, the average class size per grade level, the school's grade span, the number of students in the GATE program and the number of students with disabilities. These numbers are all "crunched" and the result is known as the API. In addition, schools are given a statewide ranking (where they are compared to other schools of the same type throughout California) and they are given a similar schools ranking (where they are compared to 100 other schools with similar demographic characteristics).

So, how did Portola Valley's schools do on the API rankings that were just released?

Portola Valley School District	939
Ormondale School	949
Corte Madera School	935

The community can be very proud of the performance level of our local public schools. In the statewide ranking Ormondale and Corte Madera received a score of "10" and in the similar schools ranking they also both received a "10."

How do the 2005 API results compare with previous years?

	2003	2004	2005
Portola Valley	917	932	939
Ormondale	928	940	949
Corte Madera	912	929	935

The API scores show growth from year to year. For more detailed information about this year's API results, visit <http://api.cde.ca.gov>. For more detailed information about the performance of Portola Valley students on the STAR exam itself, visit the district's website at www.pvsd.net and click on the "Assessment" link – there you'll discover several PowerPoint presentations that have been presented to the Governing Board regarding student performance in language arts and mathematics.

Such excellent API scores are not an accident. They are made possible by great students, outstanding teachers, wonderful parents, and an incredibly supportive community!

Hat's off to one and all for a job well done! ♦



Town of Portola Valley

765 Portola Road
Portola Valley, CA 94028
(650) 851-1700
townhall@portolavalley.net

Portola Valley Town Council

Steve Toben, Mayor
Ted Driscoll, Vice Mayor
Ed Davis
Richard T. Merk
Maryann Moise Derwin

The Portola Valley Post

Editor: Julia Dillingham
(julia8925@sbcglobal.net)

Contributing Writer: Marti Tedesco

Contributor Liaison: Jeanette Thorpe

Council Liaison: Steve Toben

Photography: Susan Thomas

From The Mayor

Two years ago, 200 residents of Portola Valley came together to design a new Town Center over the course of the summer. The participants represented a broad cross-section of the community, from young teens to long-time residents. The plan they produced included a new library, community hall, activity rooms, playing fields, native garden, and children's playground.

When they delivered their plan to the Town Council, their message was "Our vision is to create a new Town Center that will inspire residents to play and learn and celebrate the natural beauty of Portola Valley for generations to come."

The projected cost of the new Town Center is \$20 million. This is a substantial sum for a town of 4,500 residents. But Portola Valley has a distinctive tradition of philanthropic support for worthy causes. Sensing the capacity and willingness of residents to invest in the Town's future, a group of citizens formed the Portola Valley Community Fund to seek donations for the Town Center project. The PVCF began its work in earnest last summer.

At the April 12 meeting of the Town Council, the PVCF announced that a total of \$8 million has already been secured for the Town Center project. This results from commitments of major donors and the availability of Town Center reserve funds. The fundraising effort continues in full force (for more information, see www.pvtowncenter.com).

The Town Council has pledged that it will not undertake any element of the Town Center project until it has funds in hands to complete the work on each phase. As a result of the fundraising progress to date, the Council has approved the preparation of construction drawings and soon will likely authorize the abatement of hazardous materials in the old, dangerous buildings, followed by demolition, rough grading, and hydroseeding of the site. The cost of this phase of the project is approximately \$2.2 million. The result will be a safe campus and beautiful new vistas to the western hills. ♦

Trails and Paths Committee Reports

The town of Portola Valley has acquired a twelve-acre property to be used as open space through a donation by Montgomery Kersten and Sheryl Heckmann. This property is located at the top of the Larry Lane trail which is a 1.75 mile trail running from the base of Hayfields Road, up past the Hayfields and continuing close to the Portola Valley-Woodside border. There are plans to extend the Larry Lane trail with an approximately 2000 foot loop through this new open space, which is to be named "The Herb Dengler Preserve" in honor of the late Herb Dengler, a long-time resident of Portola Valley whose proceeds from his botanical prints of local flora benefit the Town's Open Space Fund.

This open space trail will be open to hikers, equestrians and leashed dogs and will be a great destination area for a picnic or just a spot to take a break and take in the views.

The Portola Valley Trails Committee has lost an integral part of our group with the passing of Dick Anderson, a long time member and a very active and knowledgeable volunteer. Dick was such an integral member of our committee that we felt we needed two new members to take his place.

We are happy to welcome Craig Taylor and Dan Quinn to the Committee.

Craig Taylor currently chairs the town's Open Space Acquisition Committee. He has lived in Portola Valley for over 20 years and is currently retired, giving him time and energy to devote to projects in which he is interested. He touts his negotiating skills, which will be handy when the Town sorts out the Stanford C1 trail for which Stanford has donated funds. Craig worked with Mr. Kirsten in acquiring the above mentioned Herb Dengler Preserve. He is interested in trails, has taken a trails building class and - perhaps most important of all - he uses our trails extensively, as he is an active hiker and runner - surely a wonderful addition to our Committee.

Another enthusiastic new member of the Trails and Paths Committee is Dan Quinn. He lives at the Ranch and has been a member of the town Conservation Committee and other town committees. He worked on clearing and maintaining trails back in the days when volunteers kept up our town trails. He is a contributing photographer to the Peninsula Open Space Trust and also volunteers at the Hidden Villa Environmental Education Program. His wife served on the Trails Committee some years ago. Dan is retired and enjoys hiking and jogging on our wonderful trails. He is most supportive of the volunteer spirit, which he feels has kept our town a wonderful place to live. He is enthused about joining the Committee and bringing some new energy to our group. ♦

Town Picnic and Zots to Tots Race

You still have time to get in shape for the Zots to Tots Race and then satisfy your hunger for good food and fun at the Town Picnic being held on Saturday, June 10.

The day begins with the annual Zots to Tots Race at 10 a.m., registration begins at 9:00 a.m. at the Alpine Inn. Young and old are invited to run, cycle, walk, and scooter the 2.6 miles to Town Center. The \$10 entry fee entitles all participants to receive a race bib, a Town Picnic T-shirt and participant ribbon in addition to a little exercise. There are also family discounts!

The Town Picnic festivities will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Town Center. Activities will include live music, carnival games, a dunking tank, climbing wall, collector's car show, and more. Beverages, BBQ, snacks, and of course - cotton candy, will be on sale throughout the day.

For more information on the Town Picnic, or if you would like to volunteer, please contact the event chair, Liz Sweeney at 851-4553. For more information on the Zots to Tots Race, please contact Jim Totte at 245-6851. ♦

Portola Valley Playground

From page 1

With notables like Betsy and Dwight Crowder, Herb Dengler, Lennie Roberts, Bill and Jean Lane and countless others, Portola Valley locals have worked furiously to protect open space. Hiking is an obvious pastime given the sheer beauty of the trails and open space. Places like the Windy Hill Open Space Preserve, Coalmine Ridge, the Blue Oaks Trail and others keep hikers challenged.

Portola Valley is also home to two private clubs – Alpine Hills Swim & Tennis and Ladera Oaks. Both clubs helped to foster the tennis craze of the 1970s and still command busy, competitive tennis playing communities. Both clubs boast competitive swim programs and remain leaders in local swim leagues from the youngest swimmers on up to aggressive masters swim teams.

Alpine Hills and Ladera Oaks each offer a spectrum of swim and tennis lessons, clinics, youth and adult teams, fitness training, exercise programs and more.

Chrissie Fleming is a long time Valley resident. She recalls “When I first moved here some years back, I saw all the tennis players, hikers and bikers and it made turning 50, 60 or even 70 look really fun to me. Even when I broke my arm and couldn’t play tennis, I just took to the trails.” On any given day you can find Chrissie and others like her out on the tennis courts, hiking Windy Hill or in the pool. “Every day you wake up and it’s just so gorgeous you can’t resist it” she says. Rounding out her fitness routine, Chrissie sums it up this way, “I swim to stay loose on the court, I hike for my heart, I bike to see the landscape and what’s going on in town, and I play tennis to stay social and to play competitive sport.” All of this, and she never has to go farther than Alpine Road and Golden Oak Drive!

For bikers, the term “the Loop” is synonymous with Portola Valley. The wide rolling hills of Alpine, Portola and Sand Hill roads are home to hundreds of bikers, especially on weekends. While many of them may not actually live here, they are drawn here by the beauty and accessibility of the terrain. Former Olympian Eric Heiden once trained here, and the Valley has been home to numerous competitive bike races.

While some have Olympic aspirations, many athletes find satisfaction through community-based team sports like soccer. Dean Asborno has lived here all his life and recalls playing his first games in the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) league on the fields at The Woodside Priory. Portola Valley was an early adopter of AYSO and the soccer phenomenon in the 1970s, long before it was popular across the US. “For us, it was a bunch of dads getting their kids together to play in one of the greatest places on earth. It wasn’t really about fitness so much as it was about having fun and being with friends in the community,” recalls Dean. The combination was so appealing that it set

many players on a lifelong track of fitness, sport and soccer. This blend of social interaction, competition and sport draws many youth and adult leagues to playing fields like Rossotti Field. Home to scores of soccer games annually, the Field was recently renovated by the Town and looks better than ever. Just down the road, many residents can tell the season just by driving past Ford Field. As a key baseball field for the Alpine West Menlo Little League, Ford hosts hundreds of players each year. Soccer and baseball tend to dominate the spring to summer calendar for youth and adults.

The Town Parks & Recreation Committee manages some of the leagues, and provides field management for many others

who use the facilities. The Town staff will reserve the following facilities for leagues and groups: Russ Miller Soccer Field at Town Center, Ford Field, Rossotti Soccer Field, the Town Center Softball Field and the Town Center facilities which can support basketball, tennis, paddle tennis, volleyball and picnicking.

Beyond community leagues, Portola Valley is attractive to more elite athletes as well. For these high performance types, Portola Valley offers a variety of training possibilities.

“The best thing about training in the Valley is the hills,” says Jeff Fryling, a triathlon veteran who lives and trains here. “Whether it’s running or biking, the Valley offers numerous stretches of road with a constant 20 to 30 minute incline. That’s just the type of training you need to get your heart in shape for a triathlon.” Chrissie Fleming’s son is also a tri-athlete. She says he loves to come back to the Valley because “he thinks it’s a tri-athlete’s paradise.”

Unfortunately, not everyone in Portola Valley enjoys an optimal fitness level. Brian Bettendorf of PacificTHERX on Alpine Road has seen over 300 residents in the 6 years he has been here. His clients usually are not as active as they would like to be and want to feel healthier. Others have had health issues arise - either disease or musculoskeletal problems - and are looking for ways to stay active through their physical setbacks. “We work with people at all levels, but our typical client is 40 to 60 years old. We work with each individual to help manage their disease, increase their fitness and to help them feel better.” According to Brian, the geography of the Valley is phenomenal. He encourages clients who simply do not want to work out indoors to move outside and get to know Portola Valley. He recommends that his clients try something new whether it’s hiking, biking, swimming or just walking as a way to maintain a healthy and active lifestyle.

While small and rural, it doesn’t take long for new trends in exercise to catch on in the Valley. There are large and



Windy Hill—ideal for winter sports?

Susan Thomas photo

Continued on page 7

Inventors

From page 1

registered to a Portola Valley address since 1975. There are an additional 12 patents pending approval and 216 registered trademarks. A patent is issued to an inventor and grants them the property rights to their invention for 20 years. A trademark is a word, name or symbol which indicates one specific good and distinguishes it from other like products. Such a small number of locally registered patents suggest that many inventors either created their device or product before they came here, or they did so working for a company that does not reside in Portola Valley.

“Patents have changed a lot over the years,” says Hy Murveit, a resident holder of multiple voice recognition patents. “Over the last 30 years companies, not individuals, tend to hold the majority of the patents. In the technology industry, patents protect the investment a company makes in research and development. They also protect a company from their competition. Given that we are next door to Silicon Valley, it follows that as the technology industry has grown, so too has the number of patents.” As a result, Portola Valley finds itself home to inventors of everything from graphical user interfaces, to optical imaging technologies, to tire pressure sensors to a variety of life sciences-related devices. In fact, it is this last category that dominates the list of patents actually registered in the town of Portola Valley. Of those, more patents either belong to, or are tied directly to Dr. Thomas Fogarty than to anyone else.

Dr. Thomas Fogarty has more patents either belonging to him or tied directly to him than other inventors in Portola Valley



Perhaps best known for his 1961 breakthrough invention of the balloon catheter for the removal of arterial blood clots, Dr. Fogarty has lived in Portola Valley for nearly 40 years. He and his many associates of Fogarty Engineering hold title to over 100 patents primarily related to cardiovascular surgery. It's exciting to imagine the number of human lives saved and improved through the use of just one of their devices. Dr. Fogarty is also a wine maker, and proprietor of the well known Thomas Fogarty Winery and Vineyards. In talking with Dr. Fogarty, it became evident that inventors are a different breed of individual all together. “Inventors are different and sometimes difficult people. They don't look for consensus, they look for challenge, and they enjoy it. They like to challenge authority and create concepts that move outside the accepted standards.” So when does an inventor do their best thinking? “Part of being an inventor is seeing the analogies between things – between a corkscrew and a surgical devise to remove blood clots for example. Seeing these analogies hap-

pens most often when you are alone, without distractions” he said. Perhaps Portola Valley is naturally appealing to this type of inventor as a result of our open space and large lot size. Together these insure that the inventive mind has both the physical space and the privacy needed to see solutions clearly and without distraction.

“Imagination is more important than knowledge,” said Albert Einstein, and it is clear that Dr. Fogarty agrees. “Inventors have a sense of imagination; they see things that others don't see. That's why they can seem somewhat strange. While inventors are typically very independent, they do not do it alone. I am interested in making things that work. In order to do that you need others who know the science. I have to be able to relate my ideas to others and then take advantage of their skills and knowledge to make the product work.” So it is an eco-system of sorts. Inventors may be drawn to Portola Valley because of the solitude, but it is access to a deep talent pool that makes taking an idea from thought to product more feasible here than elsewhere.

According to the *Silicon Valley 2005 Index* produced by Joint Venture Silicon Valley Network, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office awarded Silicon Valley inventors 8,809 patents in 2003. That's 10% of all patents awarded in the U.S. and 45% of all patents awarded in California alone. The number of patents awarded to local inventors tripled from 1993 through 2003.

Hy Murveit believes that working with others is critical to the process of invention. When he was at Cal, he was encouraged by his advisor to explore speech recognition. From early on his best work was done in collaboration with others. “The most successful companies in Silicon Valley have dynamic research groups and engineering teams that work together to bounce ideas off each other. Companies like IBM, HP, Google, Intel and others draw the best and brightest to work for them. Many of those people don't want to live too far away from their workplace, so they settle here” says Murveit. Through our proximity to the many universities that ring the Bay Area, we have a constant supply of newly minted scientists and technologists as well as seasoned academics. As a result, the Portola Valley patent list does not read like a “who's who” of technology alone, but also reflects companies like Agilent, Genentech, Alza, Gilead Sciences and others that have grown up here as well.

In the end it is a mixture of people, place and proximity that come together to make Portola Valley attractive to inventors and great thinkers. Some are drawn by friends, colleagues and mentors. Some find themselves here through their professional associations with companies. Others are drawn by the beauty and creative space that Portola Valley affords them. Dozens of inventors including Mark Farmwald, Stanley Cohen, Christine Martens, Lynn Wilcox, Alan Burns, David

Continued on page 7

Cable Survey Results

From page 1

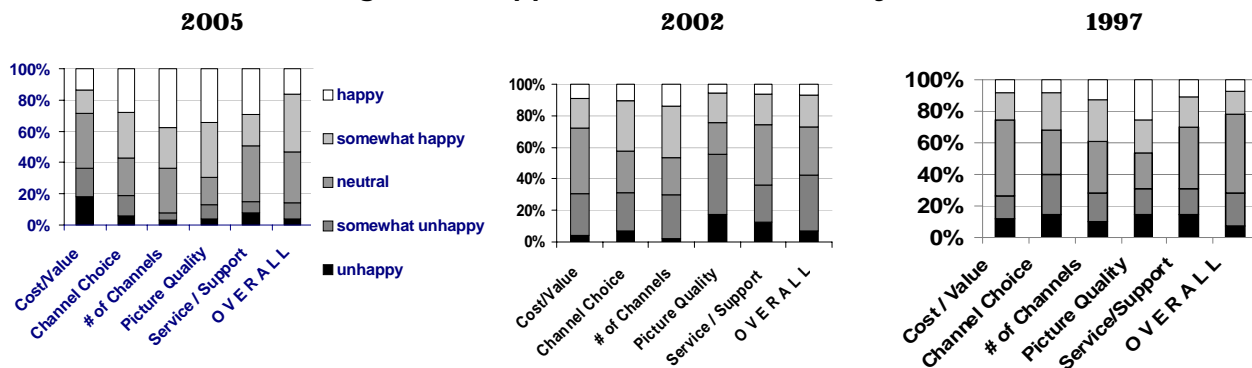
upgrade reduced prior complaints of poor picture quality and service / support while some residents raised new flags about cost: all important as the Town negotiates a new franchise agreement with Comcast. Utility undergrounding generated intense interest and some ardent opposition – and this was before the January blackouts. We'll look at both of these topics and a few others that arose along the way.

Cable performance

The survey opened with an assessment of use and service: over half of respondents used the cable system although there were spirited backers of satellite, antenna and turning off the television. For those who did fill out the service section, it provides an interesting contrast with prior years, as shown in figure 2.

There are five categories (cost/value, channel choice, # of channels, picture quality and service/support) and an overall rating. The survey asked readers to select happy, neutral, unhappy or somewhat happy/unhappy. Figure 2 shows the results with happiness as lighter and unhappiness as darker shades.

Figure 2 Happiness with the cable system



In looking ahead to the franchise renewal, those with suggestions concentrated on keeping the system up-to-date with good service while others added lower cost or senior rates and more local programs. A recurring theme was paying just for certain channels ala carte, echoing a national debate.

Continued on page 8

The Sequoias

By Trish Hooper

A walk around the forty plus acres of The Sequoias at this time of year is sheer delight. The camellias are out in full bloom - all colors, all sizes, and on the hills and in flower pots the daffodils are opening.

At the north end of the campus, progress is being made on the new Health Services project. This much awaited development, along with the reconfigured Health Center and Lodge, will offer more beds and more care - long term and respite - for neighbors in Portola Valley and other adjacent areas, as well as for residents here. The present Health Center will provide increased single bed rooms, while the remodeled Lodge next door will be reconfigured to offer a safe and secure haven for those with memory impairment.

The new building between the present Lodge and Health Center will provide assisted living accommodations some of which will be able to be turned into small suites should a couple need assistance. The proximity of these facilities to

all residents of the Portola Valley area will give added emphasis to the availability of The Sequoias to offer special needs care.

Our music programs at 4 p.m., as well as entertainment on Friday evenings, are open to all. These popular events are carried to all residents on in-house television, but, as we all know, it's much more fun for both entertainers and audience to be there in person. We welcome neighbors to take advantage of these programs.

Happy spring to all, including the hungry deer. ♦



Playground

From page 4

social groups of dog enthusiasts. An active yoga community attends yoga and Pilates classes at various clubs and churches. Fitness gyms at Ladera Oaks and Alpine Hills have either been renovated or are soon to be upgraded, while PacificTHERX and Curves Gym at the Ladera Shopper provide a variety of customized and basic personal training programs.

Whatever your age or stage of life, from young hikers who merely want to play in the creeks to those training for more significant climbs; from those just learning to ride a two-wheeler to others training for a century ride; from the jogger to the seasoned tri-athlete, this is a town that welcomes and invites an active lifestyle. It is rare these days to find a place like this that is so naturally suited to fitness, is so accessible and yet so safe. In fact, the Valley itself seems to thrive on being used in exactly this manner. Perhaps it is living proof that if we take care of Portola Valley, it will continue to take care of us for years to come. ♦

Woodside Priory

By Carolyn Dobervich

The new berm and drainage system built last summer on the Priory's Kalman athletic field got a real test with the constant rain. The system was engineered, as required by the school's new conditional use permit, to catch runoff that originates above the campus as well as on it, hold it on Kalman Field, and release it slowly into Corte Madera creek.

Mark Stogner, Priory Athletic Director, has observed this year only a small amount of standing water on the field for only short periods of time. An El Nino-style drenching, which dumps several inches of water all at once on the entire watershed, creates a different kind of problem that the new system should also handle. In that case, water sheets rapidly down the hill and through the campus. In that event (or the 100-year storm event), the berm is designed to hold up to 33 inches of runoff on the playing field. The water will seep through the earth to drainage pipes that release it into Corte Madera Creek, and the standing water should be gone within eight hours.

While the wet winter curtailed the usual school and local youth league sports events, the community farm at the top of the campus is blooming—literally.

"We are especially grateful to some nice neighbors who have shared their strawberry plants, sent needed construction materials and donated some lovely heritage roses," said Janey Wise, a garden volunteer. Janey is also active with the Portola Valley public schools; she is listed as a tutor for children with special needs and helped to launch a school breakfast program. ♦



Inventors

From page 5

Benaron, Michael Watts, Norman Handy, John Patton, Mathew Rabinowitz, Bruce Campbell, Ronald Schmidt, Louis Pourciau and Julie Fouquet to name just a few, are some of the many patent holders who live in Portola Valley.

So the next time you are at the grocery store, little league game or simply waving to your neighbor, chances are that you are only a few steps away from a person who spends a lot of their time thinking about their next invention or innovation. It's just that kind of place, and those are just the kind of people who like to call Portola Valley their home. ♦

Sesquicentennial

By Nancy Lund

San Mateo County is celebrating its sesquicentennial this year—the 150th anniversary of its founding. Portola Valley has two buildings that have survived from this era. Do you know which two?

You're right if you guessed the Alpine Inn, formerly (and still) known as Rossotti's or simply Zot's. In operation from its days as a retreat for *Californios* in the 1850s until today, it is believed to be the oldest continuously operating roadhouse in California.

The other survivor is less well known. To identify it, the next time you're driving down Portola Road, slow down when you pass the old Jelich Ranch. Take a close look at the little white house very near the road near the Spring-down border—the one with the boarded-up windows and sagging front porch. That's the Chilean Woodchopper's House, and it too dates from the 1850s.

When Chileans were driven from the goldfields and unable to get home because the bay was full of the abandoned ships of gold seekers, they looked for work in California. Several came to our neighborhood to work for the Maximo Martinez family, cutting willows to make charcoal. A Martinez grandson recalled that willows along the creek were "thick as hairs on a dog's back." In fact, Sausal means willow.

Old-timers reported five or six houses like the surviving one once dotted the valley. This one has been added onto a time or two, is somewhat modernized in the interior, and is showing the deterioration that time and neglect bring.

The new ranch owners, Cindie and Phil White, have offered the house to the Town. The Town Council wants to accept this gift, assuming details can be worked out. Meanwhile, the Historic Resources Committee has been awarded a \$1000 sesquicentennial grant from the San Mateo County Historical Association to prevent further damage. It may not be too late to save this precious piece of our heritage. Stay tuned. ♦

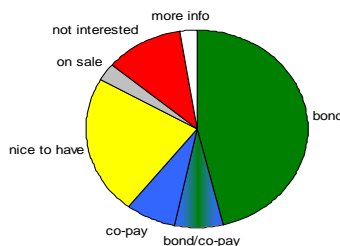
Cable Survey Results

From page 6

Undergrounding

This section captures residents' observations about undergrounding. Quite a surprising groundswell of respondents stressed the importance of undergrounding. Over half would endorse a bond now with more still opting to co-pay by neighborhood or proceeding once it could be found in the budget.

- 51%** would pay tax/bond now
- 14%** co-pay by neighborhood
- 24%** nice to have if in budget
- 3%** on home sale
- 11%** not interested
- 2%** other: more info needed



The astute will note that this tallies to more than 100%: some chose a combination of bond and co-paying by neighborhood.

When questioned where undergrounding should take place, over half called the scenic corridors of Portola and Alpine Roads, (54% of surveys), followed by residential streets (39%), major roads (29%), and "in front of my house" (21%). As above, the tally is greater than 100% since many chose several places. While many underscored their interest in spirited comments, other cautioned about the cost of the project, both in absolute terms and in community priorities.

Other notes

Among the other important findings was the low level of residents' awareness of the committee. When residents encounter service difficulties, the committee works to resolve the issue with Comcast. Queries can be phoned or written to Town Hall or emailed to cabletv@portolavalley.net In all cases, this appeal route should come after trying to work with the Comcast service center directly first. Written materials best enable us to engage Comcast when resolution is possible. ♦

Town Picnic ♦ Saturday, June 10

- ♦live music ♦carnival games ♦dunking tank ♦climbing wall ♦collector's car show
- See page 3 for details*



The Portola Valley Post
765 Portola Road
Portola Valley, CA 94028

Presorted
Standard
US POSTAGE
PAID
Menlo Park, CA
94025

Permit No. 581

ECRWSS
Postal Customer
Portola Valley, CA 94028