

Bayshore Highway mixed blessing to East Palo Alto

First big population push rode in on route in 1932

By MARY MADISON

(Third of a series on the past, present and future of East Palo Alto.)

Bayshore Highway has played a major role in shaping East Palo Alto's destiny.

It was Bayshore that brought the first big commercial and population push to the area after the highway was extended to Palo Alto in 1932. Five years later, Bayshore rolled on to San Jose, and buildings started sprouting on East Palo Alto's verdant fields. People began to outnumber chickens.

COLLIS STEERE, an East Palo Alto property owner since 1926, said, "The poultry ranches began dying at the same time Bayshore was built. The highway raised land values so it didn't pay to keep ranches."

Some Runnymede colonists had started to sell acreage during the '20s as costs and competition increased, and Bayshore pulled more ranchers off the farm and into other ventures. Commercial flower growing, which is still part of the East Palo Alto scene, covered the fields with blooms.

Bayshore, a dividing feature of the community, has been a mixed blessing to East Palo Alto.

ALTHOUGH Bayshore was a boon to business in general, it periled the commercial business district on University Avenue, complicated incorporation and became a battleground for the attendance boundaries of Ravenswood High School.

The highway became "bloody" after World War II when the traffic load grew critical. Unveiling of freeway plans by the state gave East Palo Altoans hope that a new route could reunite their community. East Palo Alto groups saw the new freeway as a chance to pull the area back together and erase some dangerous curves at the same time.

THE ROUTE sought by East Palo Alto residents would have looped east from San Carlos Avenue near San Carlos, swinging away from the present freeway toward the bay until it bypassed East Palo Alto. The road would have re-joined the freeway route near Embarcadero Road in Palo

Alto residential and business sections and stimulate bay front industry.

J. H. (HY) STUBBE, chairman of the committee, won the endorsement of the Menlo Park City Council for the East Palo Alto plan, but the state held to the shorter and cheaper route.

East Palo Alto remained physically divided, but longtime residents deny that the freeway is any barrier to community "togetherness."

Carroll Da Mant, secretary of the East Palo Alto Sanitary District and superintendent of the East Palo Alto-Ravenswood Water District, discounts the importance of Bayshore. To Da Mant, who lives west of the highway and works east of it, Bayshore is "just a road, not a dividing line."

IN 1956, the freeway route became a reality, and steel and concrete ended an era in East Palo Alto. The infamous Whiskey Gulch was wiped out of the one-mile strip along Bayshore between University Avenue and Willow Road.

But the gulch's bars were not the only enterprises that fell before the advance of freeway bulldozers. About 50 business firms were forced to relocate, including Auten's, Ethans and the Town House restaurants. The end of Auten's removed a familiar East Palo Alto landmark—the tower and swordfish sign that had marked the entrance to the community.

MANY OF THE ousted firms relocated in East Palo Alto, where their trade was established. The community was ready for them with a master plan for a new East Palo Alto commercial area which was cooperatively designed by the Ravenswood Boosters and San Mateo County Planning Commission.

The plan provided a shopping district between University and Capital avenues east of Donohoe, complete with off-street parking. Since 1956, the business district has spread farther east with the construction of the University Village shopping center. Although Whiskey Gulch was destroyed, several bars have cropped up at the intersection of Bay Road and University Avenue near



(Times photo by Gene Tupper)

WHEN WHISKY GULCH WAS IN ITS HEYDAY

East Palo Alto's University Avenue-Bayshore intersection looked like this in 1956 before the freeway and overpass were built. This photo

looks west up University Avenue. Whiskey Gulch, the restaurants and service stations shown here were wiped out by the freeway.



(Times photo by Gene Tupper)

AFTER BAYSHORE FREEWAY CAME TO EAST PALO ALTO

The University Avenue-Bayshore intersection appears like this today as seen in a view looking west up University Avenue from the east

side of the overpass. New stores have sprung up to replace the buildings forced out by the freeway and overpass on Bayshore.

the area. A strong campaign by businessmen to change the structure's design was successful, however. The state highway department agreed to provide a left turn lane at the overpass for cars turning east to University Avenue. The business district has prospered under the revised setup.

THE FOUR-LANE overpass opened to traffic last Jan. 30, unplugging a bottleneck that previously backed up cars in four directions during rush hours. The six-lane freeway through Embarcadero Road in Palo Alto was officially opened May 6.

The expressway obliterated Bloody Bayshore which had been a mankiller for years, but it brought other, though less deadly, problems to East Palo Alto.

(Tomorrow: Bayshore's Heritage.)

SJ hearing set for kidnap-rape

Clair Engle will make three Peninsula appearances

Rep. Clair Engle, Democratic nominee for U.S. senator, tomorrow will make two major Santa Clara County campaign appearances, followed by a third in San Mateo Saturday night.

At a noon luncheon in Rickey's Studio Inn, Palo Alto, the Red Bluff congressman will deliver what his local sponsors described as "a blockbuster talk on the Middle East."

ENGLE HAS supported American troop landings in Lebanon but contends the United States must forge a more dynamic Middle Eastern policy than the Eisenhower Doctrine and the Baghdad Pact provide.

The countywide luncheon, sponsored by the Santa Clara County Engle for Senator Committee, will be open to the public. Tickets at \$2.25 will be on sale at the door of Rickey's Rose Room.



PLANS PALO ALTO TALK
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ron Park, Engle's county chairman, will act as master of

"a full-dress review of American foreign policy," according to Al Boardman, Engle's county chairman.

The dinner will begin at 7. Tickets are on sale at the hotel desk.

Menlo YRs to hear Beeson on Prop. 18

Albert C. Beeson, Palo Alto industrial relations consultant and former member of the National Labor Relations Board, will discuss Proposition 18 (right-to-work proposal) at a Menlo-Atherton Young Republicans meeting tonight at 8 at the home of Gay Rickman, 275 Princeton Rd., Menlo Park.

Beeson, who has extensive experience as a business executive and private consultant, is a past president of the California Personnel Managers Association.

OTHER BUSINESS scheduled

the meeting. Refreshments will be served for 35 cents per person. The meeting is open to interested Republicans, a club spokesman said.

The YRs plan to register voters at the Menlo and Atherton train depots from 6 to 8:30 a.m. and on Sept. 10.

Judge Mosk to speak at Demo family picnic

Judge Stanley Mosk, Democratic candidate for state attorney general, will be the featured speaker at a steak barbecue Saturday from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Duveneck Hidden Villa Ranch, Los Altos Hills.

The family affair is being sponsored jointly by the Los Altos, Mountain View and South Palo Alto Democratic clubs.

Local Democratic candidates also will be present. The affair is open to the public, accord-

ing to Mrs. Arthur Cusic, picnic chairman.

There'll be swimming, games and a free magic show for the children, according to Peter Szego, who is in charge of children's activities.

Judge Mosk will be introduced by Bryan Jones, program chairman. Dr. Sid Tetenbaum is in charge of decorations and Mrs. Edward West and Mrs. John Hardin are co-chairmen of a special white elephant sale.

The ranch is located beyond Adobe Creek Lodge on Moody Road. Steak dinner tickets are \$1.50, and children's hot dog dinners 50 cents each. Reservations may be made by calling Mrs. George MacLeod, WH 8-5705.

Mosk will be feted at a birthday dinner tonight at 7:30 at the Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco, by his Northern California campaign team.

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THE ROUTE sought by East Palo Alto residents would have looped east from San Carlos Avenue near San Carlos, swinging away from the present freeway toward the bay until it bypassed East Palo Alto. The road would have rejoined the freeway route near Embarcadero Road in Palo Alto. The proposed line would eliminate a "dangerous curve" near Main Street in Redwood City, proponents argued.

However, Col. John H. Skeggs, assistant state highway engineer, and other state officials considered the East Palo Alto proposal more expensive.

In vain, the Bayshore Freeway Committee of the Ravenswood School District argued that its route would permit the natural development of East

Palo Alto residential and business sections and stimulate bay front industry.

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BUT EAST Palo Alto's troubles were not over once the freeway was constructed. The area suffered another setback when the design of the University Avenue cloverleaf was unveiled.

University Avenue merchants west of the highway in East Palo Alto declared the interchange would be fatal to their businesses since it bypassed



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SJ hearing set for kidnap-rape case suspect

SAN JOSE—A preliminary hearing will be held on Sept. 11 for Rodney Melgard, 29-year-old unemployed tree trimmer on two counts of kidnaping and lewd and lascivious conduct with two young Cupertino area girls.

The hearing was set by Municipal Judge Percy O'Connor before whom Melgard appeared for arraignment on the charges this week. Judge O'Connor set the hearing for Sept. 11 at 3

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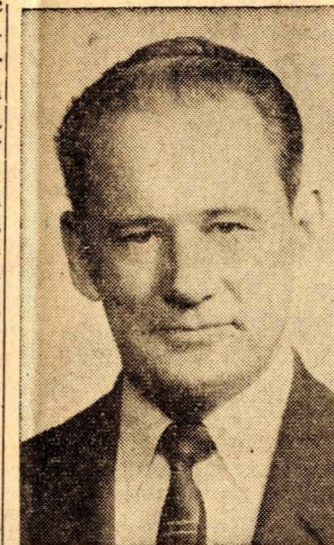
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PLANS PALO ALTO TALK

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ron Park, Engle's county chairman, will act as master of ceremonies. About 100 are expected.

In the afternoon, from 2 to 5 o'clock, the senatorial aspirant and his wife will be honored at the second annual membership tea and reception of the Women Democrats of Santa Clara County at the home of Mrs. Bernard Porter, 20800 Canon Dr., Los Gatos.

ON SATURDAY, Engle's San Mateo County supporters will

"a full-dress review of American foreign policy," according to Al Boardman, Engle's county chairman.

The dinner will begin at 7. Tickets are on sale at the hotel desk.

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Beeson, who has extensive experience as a business executive and private consultant, is a past president of the California Personnel Managers Association.

OTHER BUSINESS scheduled by the YRs includes election of officers, planning for a voter registration drive and discussion of the American Heritage Foundation drive to raise campaign funds.

A voter registrar will be at

the meeting. Refreshments will be served for 35 cents per person. The meeting is open to interested Republicans, a club spokesman said.

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Woodside schools to get \$300-\$350 for 'outsiders'

WOODSIDE — The Woodside School District will be compensated \$300 to \$350 in cash for each student that enrolls from outside the district this fall. Superintendent Lester M.

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