

Discover
San Mateo County
in the 1950s



Credits

Happy San Mateo County Day

On May 12, 1856, the election to organize the new San Mateo County took place. Held in May, Happy San Mateo County Day serves as a birthday celebration for the county.

Discover San Mateo County in the 1950s is intended to encourage children of all ages to explore what life was like in a different era.

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COMMISSION**



Discover San Mateo County in the 1950s

Created by Carmen J. Blair and Elizabeth Crowley

Illustrations by Lois Paul White

Front cover: Helicopter and the new San Francisco International Airport Terminal, 1958, Norton Pearl Collection, SMCHA.

Back cover: Boating at Coyote Point, 1957, Norton Pearl Collection, SMCHA.

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San Mateo County Historical Association

2200 Broadway, Redwood City, CA 94063

(650) 299-0104 www.historysmc.org

Before the 1950s

People have lived on the Peninsula for thousands of years. Put the letter for each event in order on the timeline.



A
During World War I, residents cared for patients of a flu pandemic.



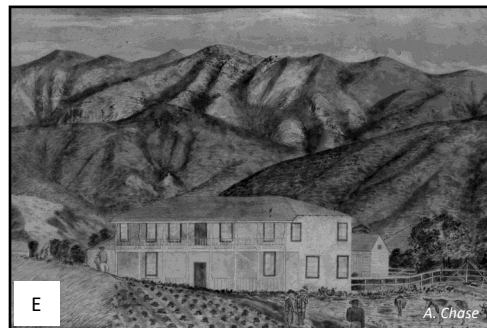
B
Soldiers and sailors trained and visited the county during World War II.



C
As they had for thousands of years, the Ohlone lived in tule homes.

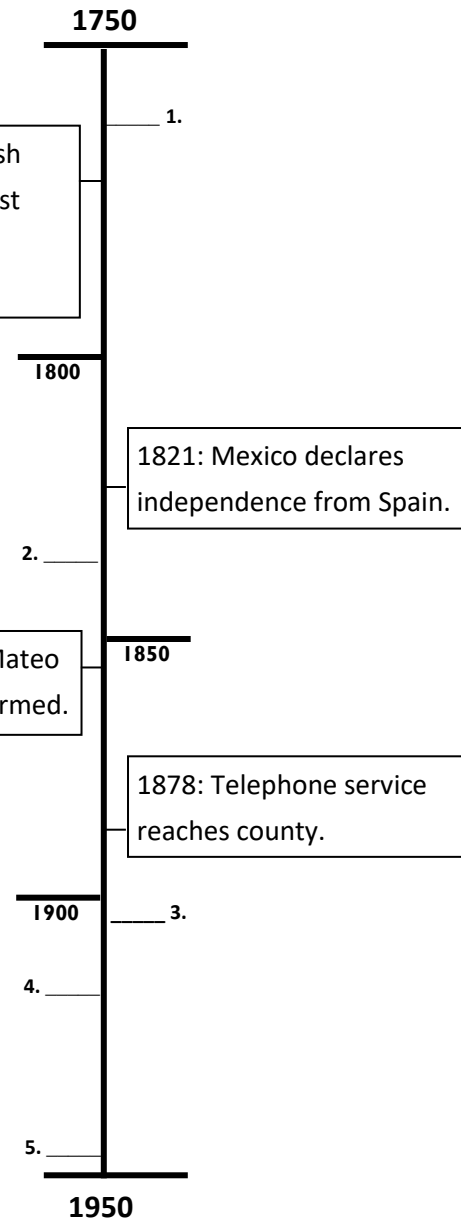


D
County courthouse damaged in a major earthquake.



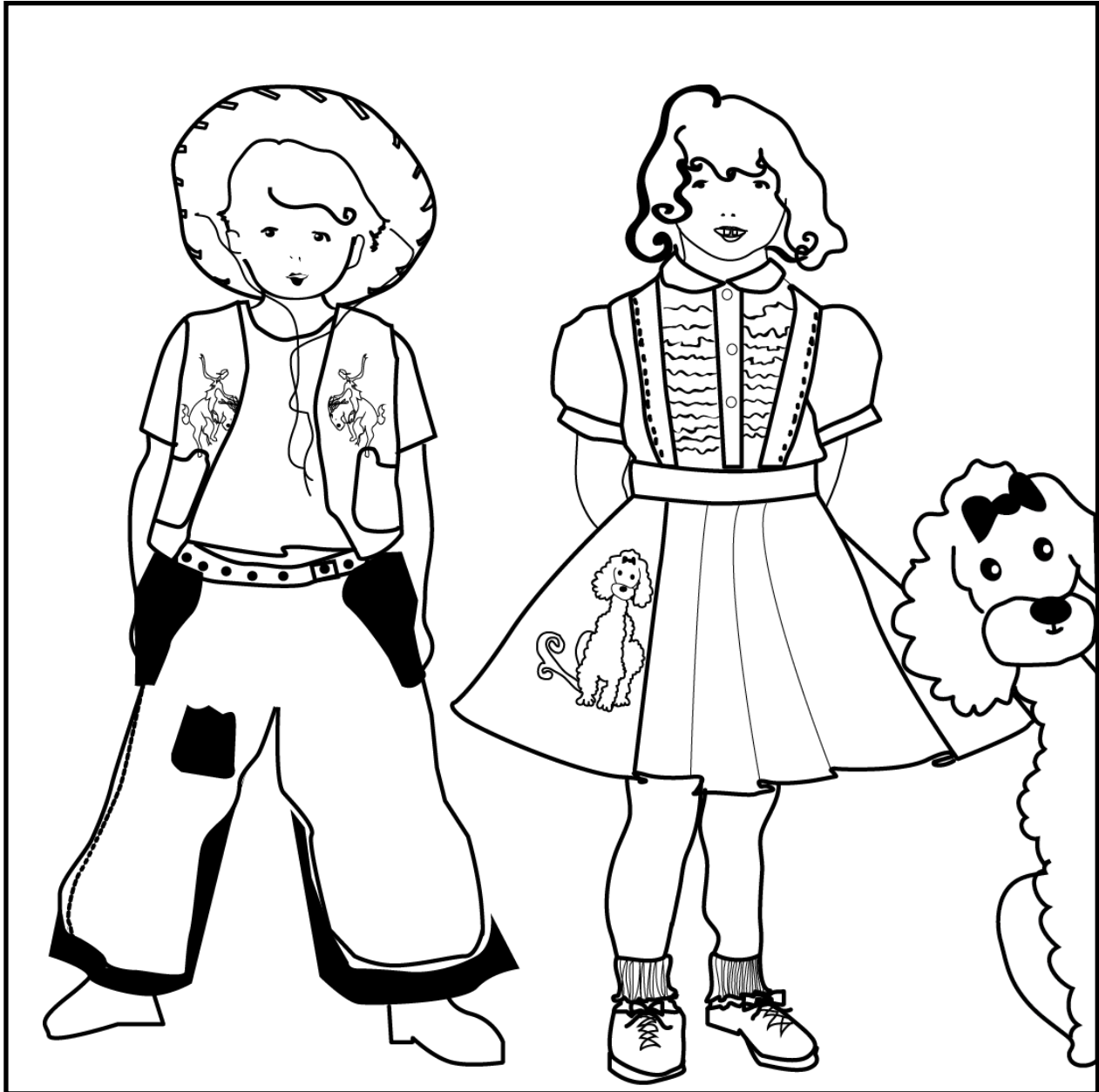
E
Mexican rancho owners built homes of adobe bricks.

Images SMCHA Collection



Fashion

Color the fashion of the 1950s.



Cowboy shows were popular in the 1950s. Many boys wore cowboy outfits while playing with their friends.

Girls wore felt skirts with all kinds of designs sewn to the front. A popular design was a poodle.

Slang is part of teen culture. Match the slang to the definitions. Are any of them still used?



Popular singers could bake biscuits that would be featured in the jukebox found at a local diner.

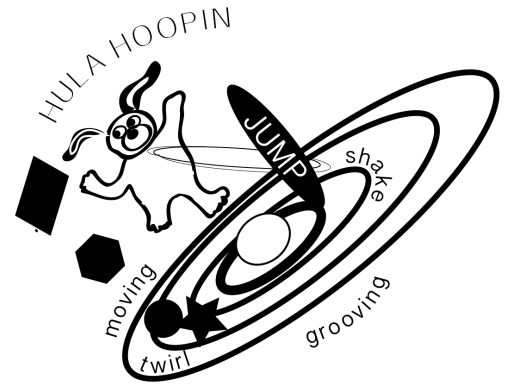
Slang Terms and Phrases

Bake biscuits	Four on the floor
Beat feet	Give me a bell
Cat	Kicks
Cloud 9	Made in the shade
Cut a rug	Pad
Cut the gas	Paper Shaker
Flip-top	Pile up Zs
Flip your lid	Square

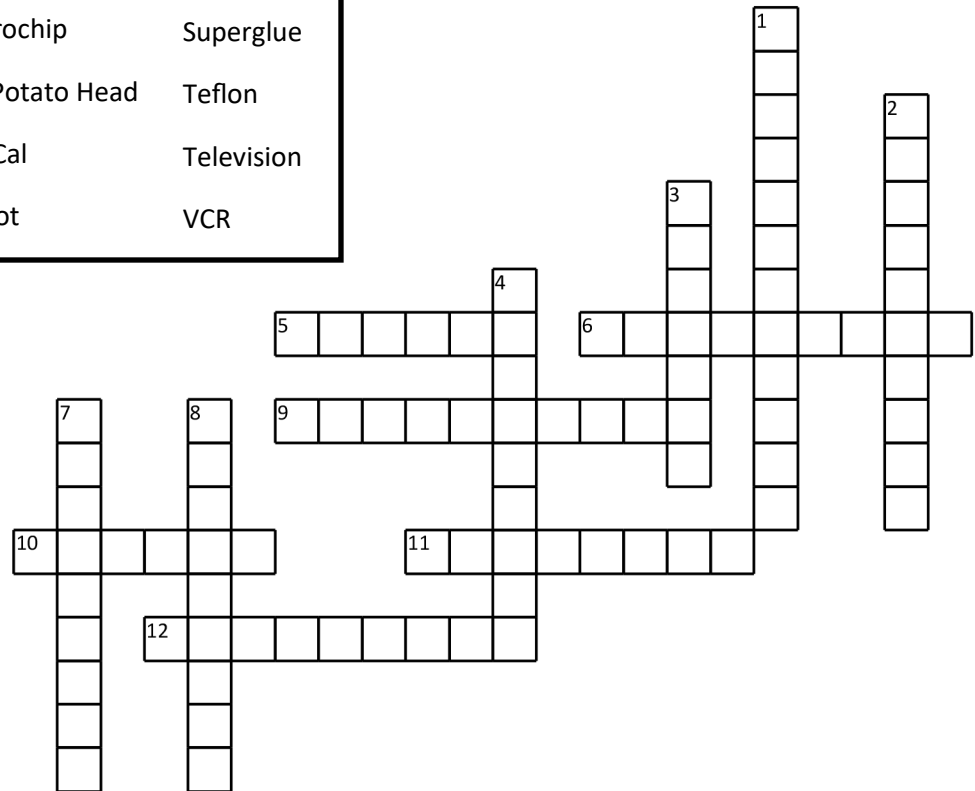
1. To leave _____
2. Be quiet! _____
3. Get some sleep _____
4. Really happy _____
5. Go crazy _____
6. Cheerleader _____
7. To make records _____
8. Call me on the phone _____
9. Place where you live _____
10. Guaranteed success _____
11. Convertible _____
12. A cool person _____

Inventions

Use the word list and pictures to learn about new inventions in the 1950s. Then, use the clues to finish the crossword puzzle.



Word List		
Barbie	McDonalds	Seatbelts
Barcode	Microchip	Superglue
Credit Card	Mr Potato Head	Teflon
Hula Hoop	No-Cal	Television
Lazy Bones	Robot	VCR



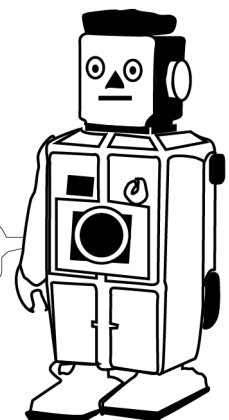
Across

5. Popular dolls with a variety of outfits.
6. A tiny computer part.
9. New way to pay without cash.
10. Space age coating used on pans to make them nonstick.
11. Popular circular toy that swung around the hips.
12. A device to change the channel on the TV without getting up.

Down

1. Toy that could switch facial features.
2. A form of home entertainment popularized in the 1950s.
3. Black and white lines to put prices on products.
4. Invented in the 1950s, but not required until the 1980s.
7. Sticks two things together.
8. Fast food burger chain.

1950
R
B
O
T



Medicine

Read the story about the polio vaccine. Then, find the underlined words from the story in the puzzle.



Polio vaccine clinic, 1956. Courtesy MS Dept of Archives and History.

C W M N H O L V I S V N N P Y
N O F H I O A E N C O W R A T
W E N L T C S A S I C A Q T N
A Z O T C L I P T E B L Y I U
C P N I A C A U I N Z K T E O
I H N I I G B E S T Y D I N C
V E O S D I I A H I A N N T P
U H Y P R E L O Z S Z L U S S
Q H U T E K T L U T C L M X M
P W S V Z Z M C A S E S M L S
E I T N E M N R E V O G O V W
D C H I L D R E N T G J C F E
E G W T F H O I V P O L L J R
I V I R S T N E R A P R X K T
R E S E A R C H I N G Z P N I

During the 1950s, there was an epidemic of polio, a disease that mainly affected children. It was very contagious and some children who became sick with it lost the ability to walk. People were very worried, because 58,000 cases of polio were reported in 1952. This was almost three times as many as normal. Parents wanted a cure or a vaccine to protect their children.

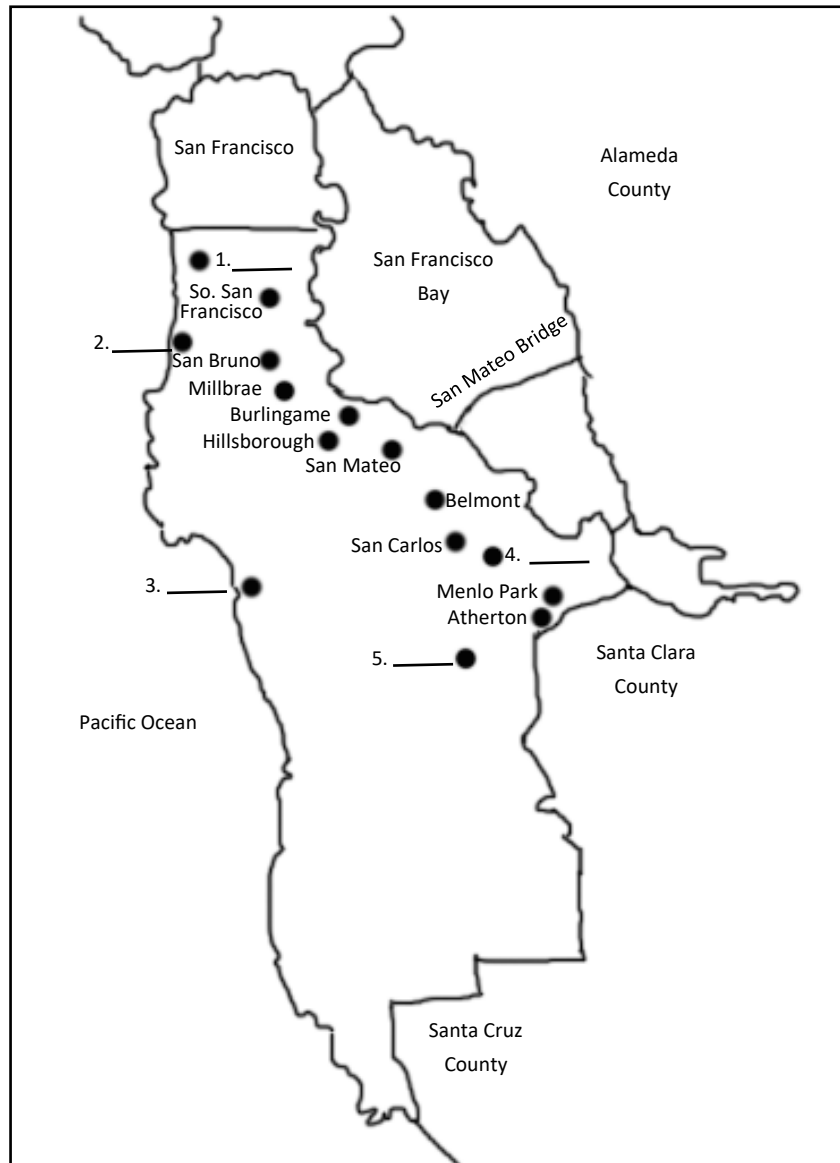
Scientists had been researching polio vaccines, but during the 1950s, millions of dollars were invested by the government and private companies to find a cure. In 1955, Jonas Salk's polio vaccine was available to the public.

Parents lined up around the block to make sure their children were protected. By 1961, only 161 cases of polio were reported in the US.

Locally, Dr. Harold D. Chope was the director of San Mateo County Community Hospital. It was the only hospital that accepted polio patients. There were often as many as 50 patients, mostly children, in the hospital. Once the vaccine became available, Dr. Chope organized its distribution throughout San Mateo County, eradicating the disease locally. He was honored in 2005, as the "Physician of the Century" for all his work looking after the health of the people of San Mateo County.

County Growth

In the 1950s, many people moved to San Mateo County. There hadn't been so many towns incorporated since the 1920s. When a town incorporates it has its own government and services.



Write the name of the town in the blank below. Then, put the letter in the correct blank on the map.

- A. In Henry Doelger's Westlake development, 4 schools were built in the 1950s. _____
- B. In the 1850s, loggers lived here. It incorporated in 1956. _____
- C. With new developments built by Henry Doelger and Andrew Oddstad, this Coastside city incorporated in 1957.

- D. Called Spanishtown in the 1800s, this Coastside city incorporated two years after its northern neighbor.

- E. While it was the first incorporated city in the county, new development happened in the 1950s including building Sequoia Hospital.

County Growth

San Mateo County saw a lot of changes in the 1950s. It was not just new homes that were built. There was also a need for new hospitals, schools and businesses.



Decode the message by finding each substitute letter.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
				18				4	16	14	20		21	7		10			23	8			22		5

O N E O L E O E T O N
 17 7 15 25 21 12 1 18 7 1 20 18 15 7 11 18 9 23 7 17 25 21
 T E O O U N T T T N E O O L ,
 15 25 23 18 7 26 7 8 21 23 12 23 19 25 23 21 18 13 17 26 19 7 7 20 17
 I N L U I N E T O O I O O L ,
 4 21 26 20 8 9 4 21 6 13 18 17 23 15 7 7 24 19 4 6 19 17 26 19 7 7 20
 E E U I L T O L L O T E
 13 18 24 18 2 8 4 20 23 3 7 24 25 20 20 7 3 23 19 18
 N E T U E N T .
 21 18 13 17 23 8 9 18 21 23 17

Industry

Read the story about some of the industries in the county in the 1950s. Then, find the underlined words from the story in the puzzle.

Bill Eitel and Jack McCullough founded Eimac in San Bruno in 1934. The company moved to San Carlos for more space in 1959. In May of that year, they produced a new giant klystron tube that powered MIT's radar.

Alexander Poniatoff started Ampex during World War II and moved the company to Redwood City in the 1950s. The company pre-recorded singer and actor Bing Crosby's radio shows. In 1954, an Ampex tape recorder recorded the first Elvis Presley single, "That's All Right." In 1956, the company invented the first video tape recorder and won an Emmy for it the next year. In 1958, NASA started using Ampex data recorders and magnetic tape.

At its Menlo Park location, Hiller Aviation housed advanced research for the Lockheed Corporation. In 1950, it produced its first military helicopter that was used in the Korean War.

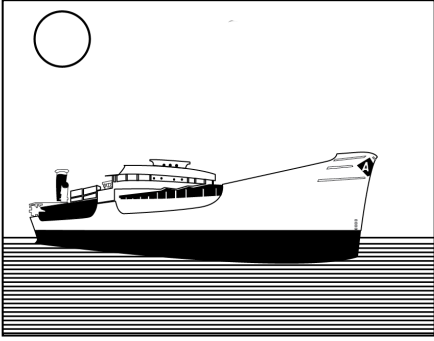
Paul Cook founded Raychem in Redwood City in 1957. It worked in radiation chemistry, a new branch of science. Its first product was lightweight, rugged wire and cable for aircraft.



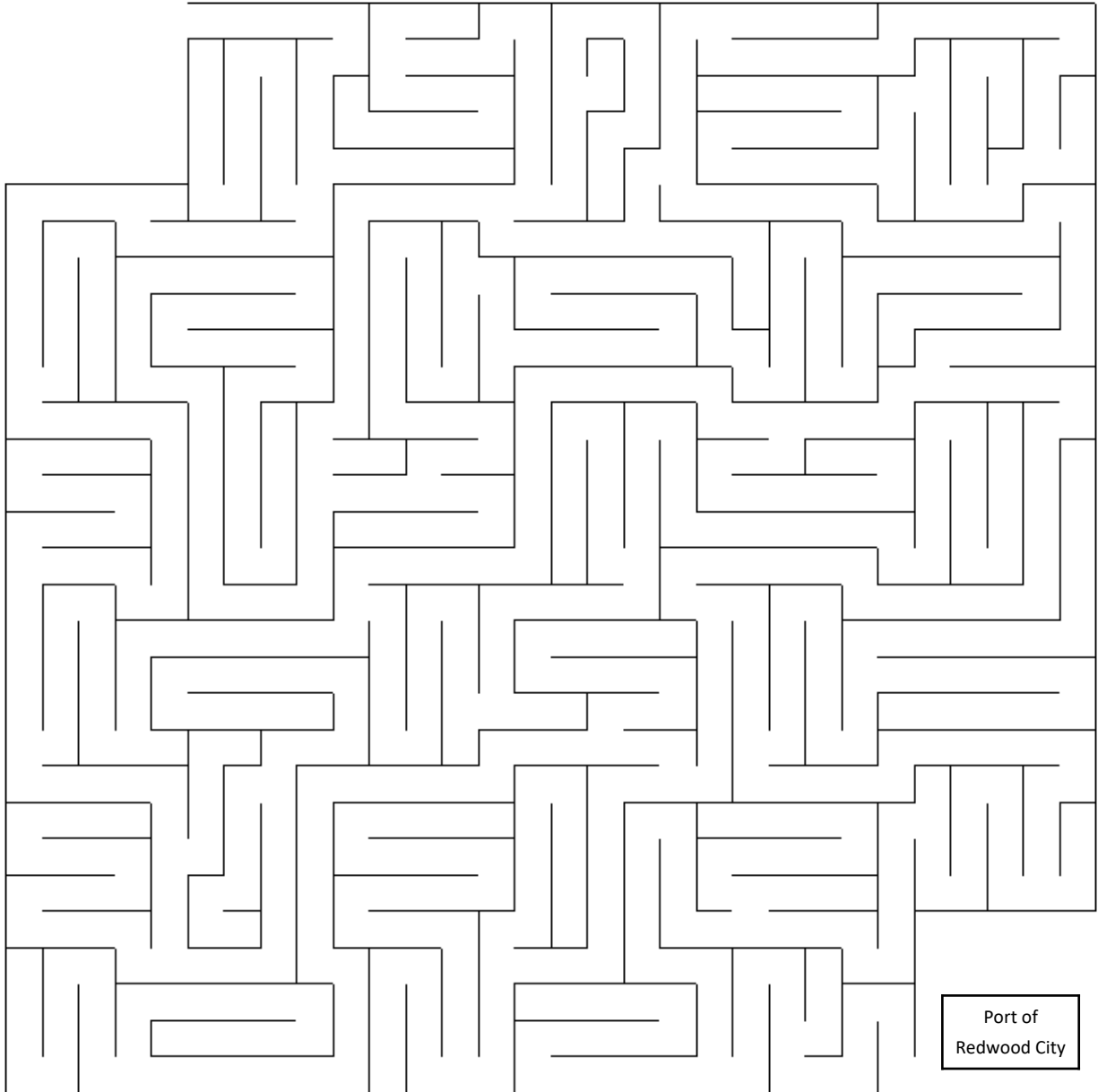
Ampex staff with first video tape recorder, SMCHA Collection.

H	R	E	D	R	O	C	E	R	R	Y	E	B	M	K
A	E	F	H	T	J	T	H	E	A	N	K	M	L	W
C	E	L	X	I	O	S	D	T	D	A	O	B	M	U
R	I	G	I	O	L	M	J	Z	I	P	R	M	Q	Y
X	B	T	H	C	E	L	E	O	A	M	E	M	S	E
T	E	T	E	H	O	I	E	O	T	O	A	Y	U	W
P	Q	P	C	N	M	P	S	R	I	C	N	I	N	G
D	R	Y	M	A	G	I	T	K	O	F	G	I	X	I
S	A	V	C	A	V	A	L	E	N	B	H	Q	R	S
R	B	N	O	L	P	Y	M	V	R	E	C	V	O	X
V	I	D	E	O	S	C	I	E	N	C	E	Y	I	I
L	I	G	H	T	W	E	I	G	H	T	D	A	D	Y
A	P	W	R	I	N	E	S	X	Q	R	A	D	A	R
Q	E	O	R	K	V	D	S	W	H	J	T	H	R	J
I	N	E	S	A	K	E	Y	M	T	T	A	L	N	A

Shipping



Help the container ship find its way from San Francisco to the Port of Redwood City.

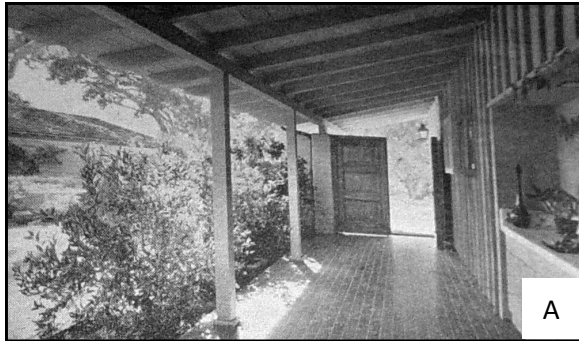


The Port of Redwood City shipped over 27 million tons of cargo in the 1950s, making it to the Golden Age of Cargo.

Buildings

Match the people to their architectural style. Write the letter of the building in the blank in front of the person's name.

Thousands of homes and public buildings were built all over San Mateo County to keep pace with all the families moving into the area. A modern, California style drew inspiration from the Space Age.



____ 1. Henry Doelger

Known for square houses that looked similar, built in a row.

____ 2. Joseph Eichler

Known for post and beam construction with large outdoor spaces and windows to take advantage of local weather.

____ 3. Mario Ciampi

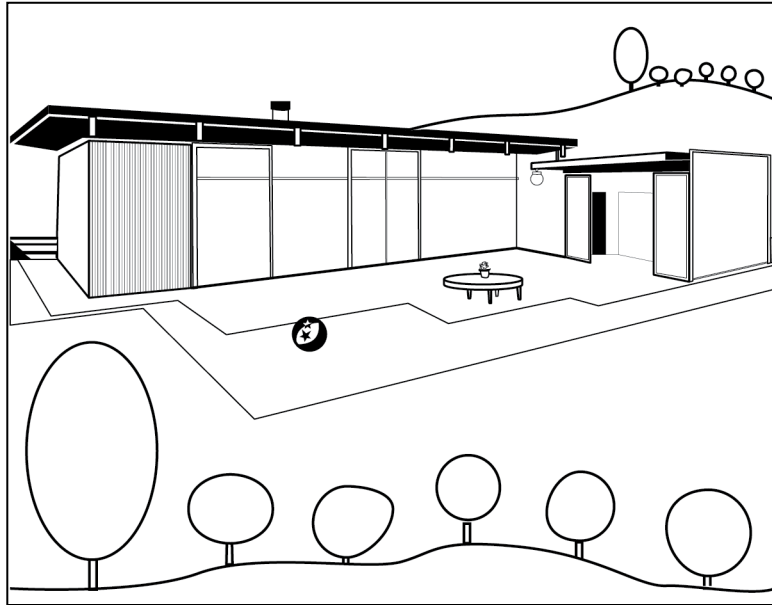
Known for using modern materials like glass, steel, and concrete in public buildings.

____ 4. Cliff May

Known for developing the "dream home" of the 1950s, the California Ranch House featuring a courtyard and the exterior corridor.

Houses

Color the Eichler house. Unscramble the words below to discover some features of houses in the 1950s. Then, match the words to the definitions below.



PTAOI

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4 16

SKIHGLTY

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13 3 5 15

IISNGDL DROO

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6 11 12

AMUTRI

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7 17

PCRTAOR

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2 8

WNDWOI LWLA

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1 9 10 14

E		j		
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1 2 3

		e
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4 5

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6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

--	--

14 15

			e
--	--	--	---

5 16 17

- Window in the ceiling of a home. _____
- Glass door that moves. _____
- Protects vehicle from weather. _____
- Paved area next to house. _____
- Outdoor space in center of house. _____
- Floor to ceiling windows. _____

Shopping

Read the story about Hillsdale Shopping Center. Then, find the underlined words from the story in the puzzle.

The 1950s saw the creation of large shopping centers that people drove to. David Bohannon built a new shopping district in San Mateo.

Hillsdale Shopping Center looked different when it opened in 1954. There were twelve buildings surrounding a central courtyard. These shops included restaurants, department stores, and a farmer's market. It had the first suburban Macy's in California that was larger than any other store in the county.

Hillsdale Shopping Center was at the end of the "main drag" down El Camino Real. Teens flocked to the food court and popular restaurants like Archie's Burger Pit.

Beniamino "Benny" Bufano was commissioned to create several large sculptures for the mall. Bufano had his studio on site and visitors were able to watch him create statues of animals.

The shopping center hosted many events. An automobile show displayed vintage and modern cars. On Father's Day, local children performed a musical show. In the fall, garden clubs from all over the county hosted a flower and fashion show. The mall also hosted events like holiday celebrations with live reindeer.



Reindeer at the Hillsdale Shopping Center, 1957. Photo Norton Pearl, SMCHA.

O	P	E	P	T	S	S	R	O	O	D	S	L	M	C
W	E	N	G	T	W	E	X	E	Q	R	U	A	A	G
O	M	L	N	A	I	E	G	C	E	A	B	C	R	W
U	I	E	I	N	T	N	L	S	Y	K	U	I	K	F
G	V	D	D	B	I	N	T	V	I	L	R	S	E	E
E	Z	E	U	P	O	A	I	Y	E	P	B	U	T	L
Q	E	P	P	T	U	M	M	V	Y	X	A	M	X	A
R	D	O	N	R	S	B	O	H	A	N	N	O	N	D
D	H	I	A	T	U	P	B	T	C	O	U	R	T	S
S	Y	N	S	R	O	N	A	F	U	B	C	E	R	L
O	T	H	G	T	N	E	M	T	R	A	P	E	D	L
S	A	E	D	L	R	S	E	U	T	A	T	S	D	I
Y	R	F	A	S	H	I	O	N	D	G	N	S	N	H
H	Z	X	O	R	T	D	C	K	O	Y	L	E	Q	Z
V	T	Y	H	H	G	W	I	T	X	Q	L	R	C	N

Shopping

Unscramble the words. Then, use the answers to fill in the blanks in the sentences.



Draeger's Market c. 1955. Courtesy Draeger's Market.

GCEISREOR

		4	11			10			

LRGAER

				7	

ROTES

		6			

ETEUSRPMKR

		8		9				5	3	

SUTRHCBE

		1	2				

1	2	3	4	5	

6	2	7	

8	9	10	1	11			

1. People used to shop for food in small, specialty stores like the _____.

2. In the 1950s, more consumers went to a _____.

3. They could buy all their _____ in one place.

4. Draeger's Market opened their first _____ in Menlo Park in 1955.

5. It was three times _____ than any other grocery store in San Mateo County .

Grocery Prices in 1955

1 gallon of milk: 93¢

10 lb of potatoes: 56¢

1 doz on eggs: 61¢

1 container Oreo Cookies: 39¢

1 can of spam: 39¢

1 lb box of chocolate: \$1.86

1 lb of bread: 18¢

¢ means cents

1 lb of sliced bacon: 66¢

\$ means dollars

1 lb of round steak: 90¢

lb means pound

Create your own grocery list. Then, figure out how much the total would be.

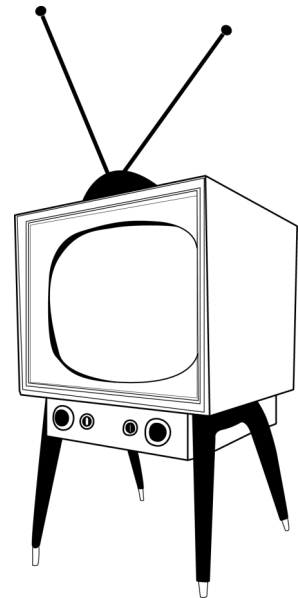
1950s shopping cart



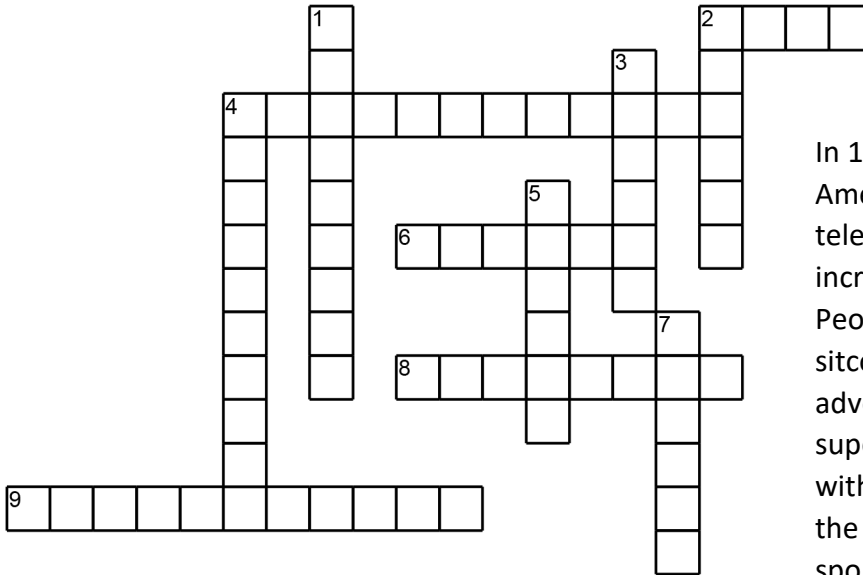
Television

Wordlist

Bandstand	Father	Lassie	Musical
Batman	Heart	Love	Pluto
Beaver	Hello	Menace	Ranger
Cowboy	Honeymooners	Mickey Mouse	Rover
Couple	Howdy Doody	Mother	Superman



In 1950, only 9% of American households had a television. By 1959, that increased to almost 86%. People could laugh at sitcoms, enjoy the adventures of outlaws and superheroes, dance along with popular music, discover the latest news and watch sporting events.



Solve the crossword puzzle for the names of popular American television shows in the 1950s.

Across

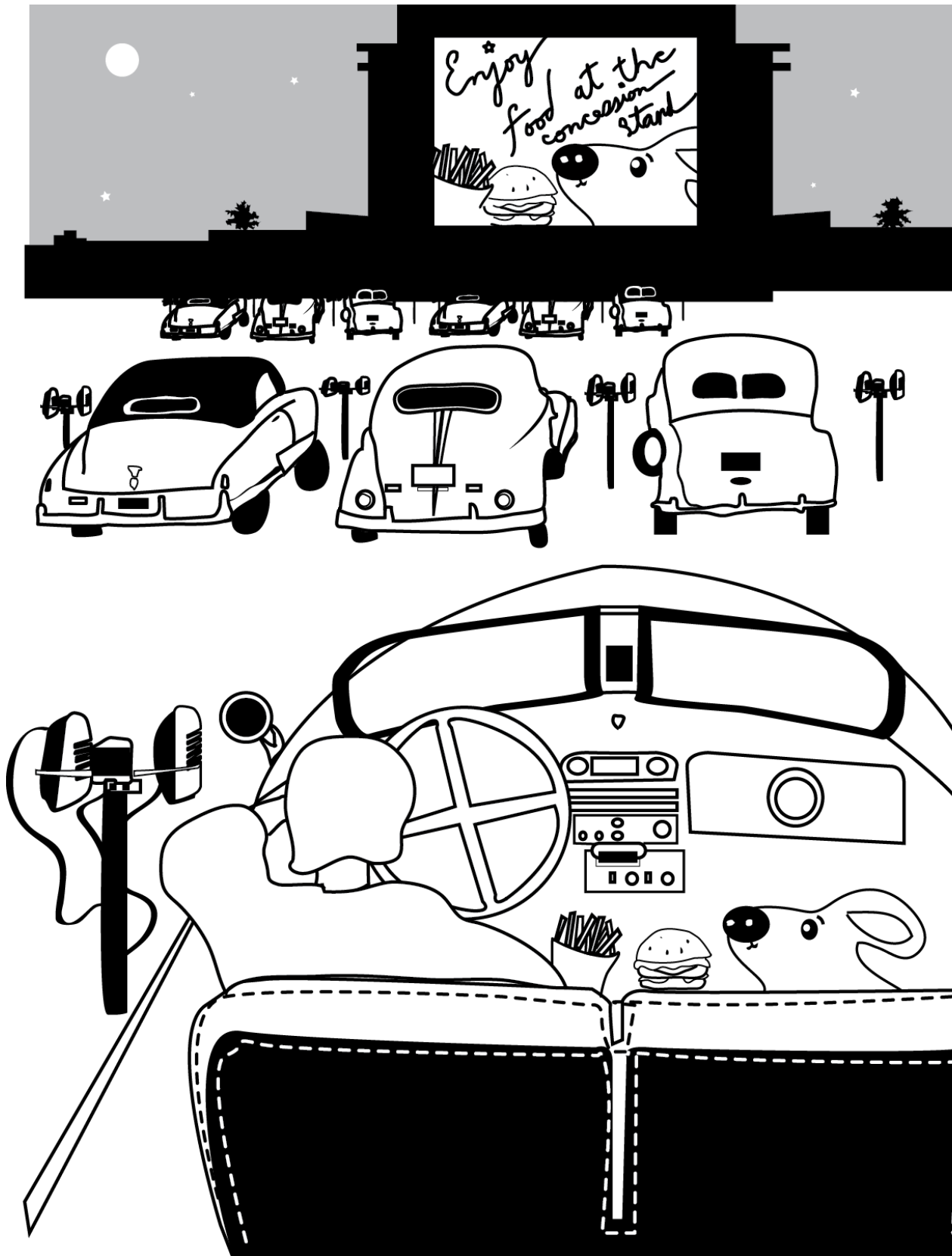
2. A comedy, I _____ Lucy was one of the most watched shows of the 1950s.
4. This comedy was named for people who just got married.
6. Dennis the _____ was about a boy who often gets in trouble.
8. The Adventures of _____ featured a hero battling villains in Metropolis.
9. The _____ Club was a variety show created by Walt Disney with teenage performers.

Down

1. American _____ featured music and dance popular with teenagers.
2. Show named after a dog who had adventures with a boy.
3. Leave it to _____ was about a boy's adventures at home, school and around the neighborhood.
4. _____ featured a marionette named after the phrase "How Do You Do?"
5. _____ Knows Best is about a parent and his family.
7. The Lone _____ was about a masked man fighting outlaws.

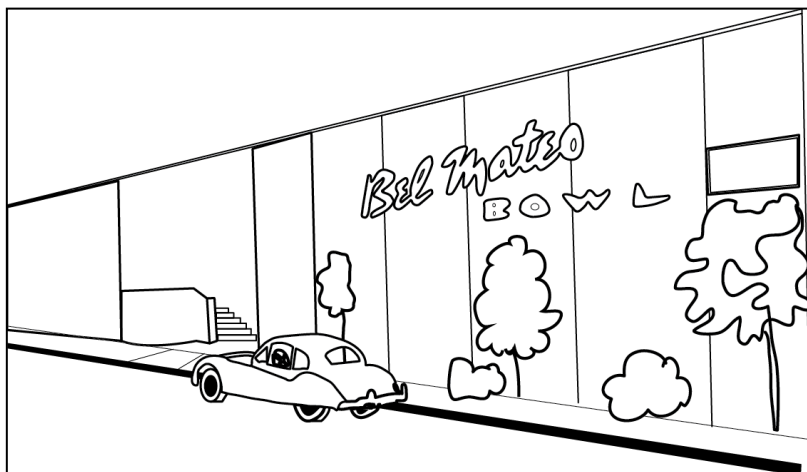
Movies

Color the picture.



Enjoy a movie in the comfort of your own car. Do you see the speakers to hear the sound?

Bowling



Bowling was a popular past time during the 1950s for both teens and adults. Bel Mateo Bowl opened in 1958 and was built in the new California style-known for being colorful and theme-based.

Add a door to the building and color it.

Bowling has its own unique scoring system. See if you can figure out the score for the Barry the Bowler below.

FRAME	1		2		3		4		5	
SCORE	2	7	5	3	6	1	7	/	2	5
TOTAL										
FRAME	6		7		8		9		10	
SCORE	4	/	1	8	X	-	5	1	3	6
TOTAL										

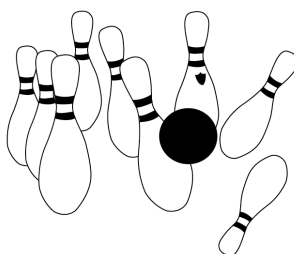
Scoring Rules

Strike: Mark with X, if you knock down all 10 pins on the first shot of a frame. 10 points, plus the sum of your next two shots.

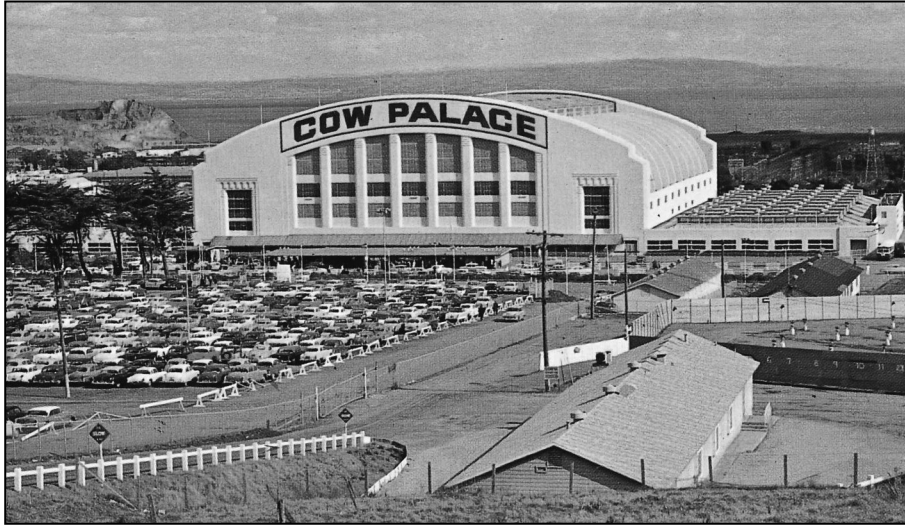
Spare: Mark with a /, if you knock down all 10 pins on the second shot of a frame. 10 points, plus the number of pins you knock down on the next shot.

Enter the number of pins you knock down (1-9) for each shot that is not a strike a spare. Mark with - , if no pins are knocked down.

The bottom of each frame keeps a running tally of your score.



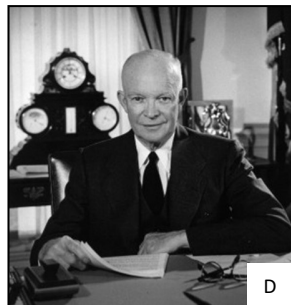
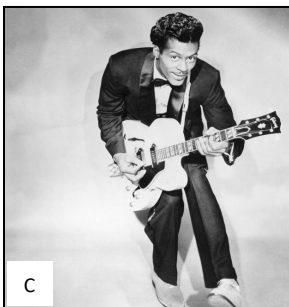
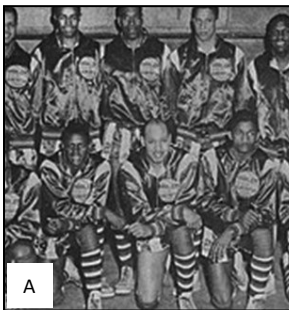
Events



Cow Palace in the 1950s, SMCHA Collection.

In the 1950s, the Cow Palace hosted music performances, rodeos, presidential conventions, boat shows and more fun events for San Mateo County residents.

Match the pictures of people who visited the Cow Palace to their names.



____ 1. Chuck Berry

Performed as part of the Rock N Roll Show of Shows in 1956.

____ 2. Dwight Eisenhower

During the 1956 Republican National Convention nominated for a second term as President of the United States.

____ 3. Harlem Globetrotters

Showed off their basketball trick moves in 1953.

____ 4. Roy Rogers & Dale Evans

The singing Western duo had a television special as part of the Grand National Rodeo in 1958.

Transportation

See a 1956 Chrysler Imperial on exhibit at the San Mateo County History Museum.



Words in each line are merged together. Find the original words. Then, decide which phrases finish the sentences below.

bsenecahts

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bseeltast

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

rpelcaoyredr

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

ggoaafslolloinne

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

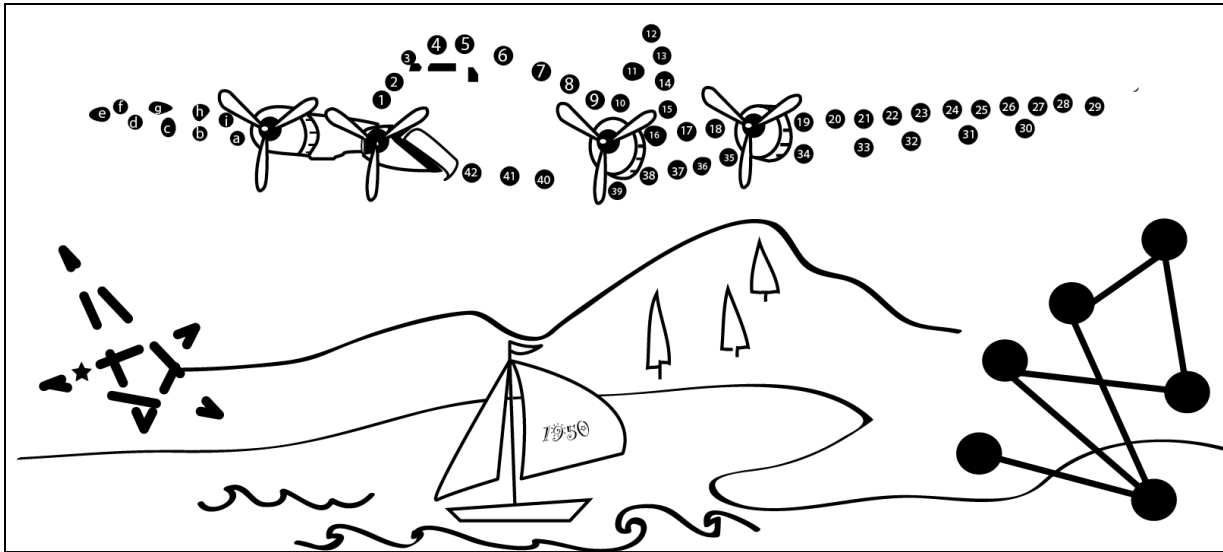
tfaiinl

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

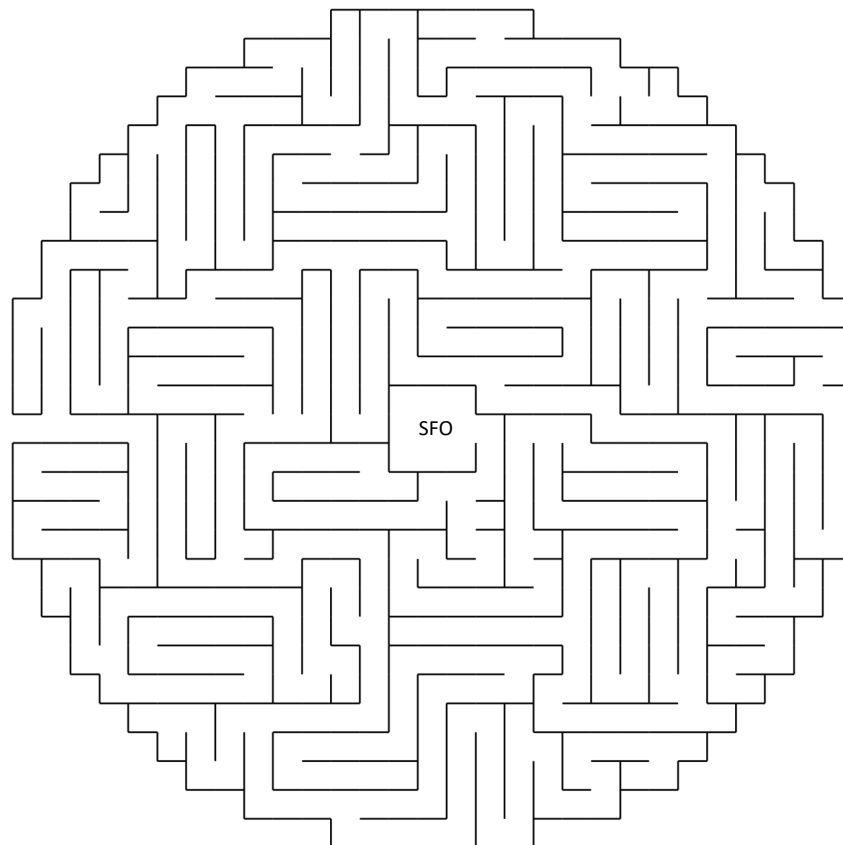
- Prices! The average cost of a _____ was 27 to 30 cents.
- Safety! _____ were first offered as an option in Chryslers and Buicks in 1956.
- Music! Listen to your favorite songs on the radio. Some cars also had a _____.
- Pile in! People sat together on _____ in the front and back.
- Looks! The _____ on the back of the car had a different style each year.

Transportation

Connect the dots for a popular form of transportation in the 1950s.. Then, help the plane find SFO in the maze below.



In 1955, San Francisco Municipal opened a \$15 million terminal building and became the new San Francisco International Airport (SFO). This made it easier for visitors and new businesses to come to the Bay Area.



After the 1950s

Unscramble the words to discover what came to San Mateo County after the 1950s. Use the marked letters to solve the second puzzle. Then, match it to the picture.

1. ____ YBOTUUE

18 20 11

2. ____ TAR NAD UIPPKMN LIFVTAES

3 14 9 10 17 22 13 8 6

3. ____ LMAO PEARIT RHUEEQAKTA

5 15 2

4. ____ MENAIR WLDOR

12 16 1 7

5. ____ FRESCO CYIT

4 21 19

1 2 3 4

W 5 6 7

2 8 9 10 11 12

13 14

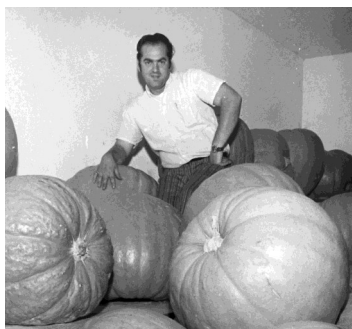
15 2 16

17 18 19 20 21 22 ?

A. Work started on this "planned urban development" in 1961.



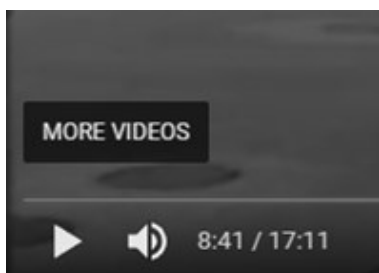
B. Residents could watch ocean animals here starting in 1968.



C. This Half Moon Bay event started in 1971.



D. This rocked the Bay Area in 1989, causing the water tower to fall at the Amfac Hotel.



E. Starting in 2005, this San Bruno company allowed people to share their videos with the world.

Answers

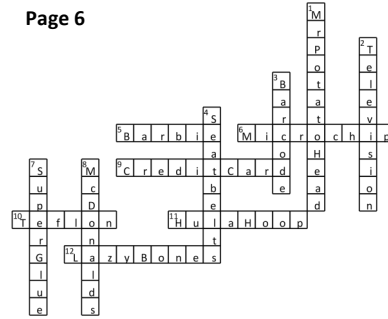
Page 3

- C
- E
- D
- A
- B

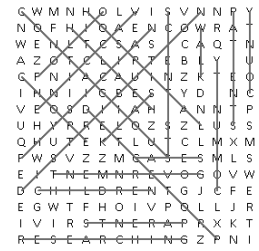
Page 5

- Beat feet
- Cut the gas
- Pile up Zs
- Cloud 9
- Flip your lid
- Paper Shaker
- Bake Biscuits
- Give me a bell
- Pad
- Made in the shade
- Flip-top
- Cat

Page 6



Page 7



Page 8

- A, Daly City
- C, Pacifica
- D, Half Moon Bay
- E, Redwood City
- B, Woodside

Page 9

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
25	2	26	9	18	3	6	19	4	16	14	20	15	21	7	1	10	24	17	23	8	11	13	22	12	5

Page 12

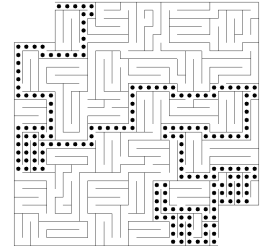
- B
- C
- D
- A

S	O	M	A	N	Y	P	E	O	P	L	E	M	O	V	E	D	T	O	S	A	N					
17	7	15	25	21	12	1	18	7	1	20	18	15	7	11	18	9	23	7	17	25	21					
M	A	T	E	O	C	O	U	N	T	Y	T	H	A	T	N	E	W	S	C	H	O	O	L	S		
15	25	23	18	7	26	7	8	21	23	12	23	19	25	23	21	18	13	17	26	19	7	7	20	17		
I	N	C	L	U	D	I	N	G	W	E	S	T	M	O	O	R	H	I	G	H	S	C	H	O	O	L
4	21	26	20	8	9	4	21	6	13	18	17	23	15	7	7	24	19	4	6	19	17	26	19	7	20	
W	E	R	E	B	U	I	L	T	F	O	R	A	L	L	O	F	T	H	E							
13	18	24	18	2	8	4	20	23	3	7	24	25	20	20	7	3	23	19	18							
N	E	W	S	T	U	D	E	N	T	S																
21	18	13	17	23	8	9	18	21	23	17																

Page 10



Page 11

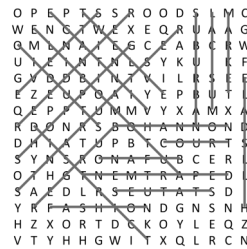


Page 13

- PTAOI
- SKIHLTY
- IISNGDLDRIO
- AMUTRI
- PCRTAOR
- WINDWOIWLWA

E	N	J	O	J	T	H	E	O	U	T	D	O	O	R	S	A	T	H	O	M	E
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22

Page 14

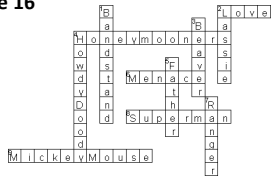


Page 15

- GCEISREOR
- LRGAER
- ROTES
- ETEUASRPKMR
- SUTRHCBE

C	H	E	C	K	T	H	E	P	R	I	C	E
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

Page 16



Page 18

FRAME	1	2	3	4	5
SCORE	2	7	5	3	6
TOTAL	9	(9+8) 17	(17+7) 24	(24+10+2) 36	(36+7) 43
FRAME	6	7	8	9	10
SCORE	4	/	1	8	X
TOTAL	(43+10+1) 54	(54+9) 63	(63+10+6) 79	(79+6) 85	(85+9) 94

Page 19

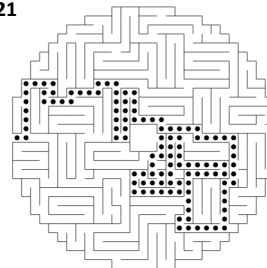
- C
- D
- A
- B

Page 20

- bsenecahts
- bseeltast
- rpelcaoyredr
- ggoaafslollinne
- tfainl

b	e	n	c	h	s	e	a	t	s						
s	e	a	t	b	e	i	l	t	s						
r	e	c	o	r	d	p	l	a	y	e	r				
g	a	i	l	i	o	n	o	f	g	a	s	o	i	n	e
t	a	i	l	f	i	n									

Page 21



Page 22

- E YBOTUUE
- C TAR NAD UIPPKMN LIFVTAES
- D LMAO PEARIT RHUEEQAKTA
- B MENAIR WLDOR
- A FRESTO CVIT

W	H	A	T	W	I	L	L	H	A	P	P	E	N	I	N	T	H	E	F	U	T	U	R	E	?
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	

