

Discover



**San Mateo County
in the 1940s**

Credits

Happy San Mateo County

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 1940s is intended to encourage children of all ages to explore what life was like in the Forties, including the impact of World War II (1939-1945).

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ARTS COMMISSION

Discover San Mateo County in the 1940s
Created by Carmen J. Blair and Megan Nussbaum
Computer Illustrations by Lois Paul White

Front cover: Belair Shipyard in the 1940s.

Back cover: *Life in San Mateo 1940-1949* by Tobin Trowe, winner of the Happy San Mateo County Day Poster Contest, ages 11 and under.

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San Mateo County Historical Association
2200 Broadway, Redwood City, CA 94063
(650) 299-0104 www.historysmc.org

Before 1940

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



The streetcar allowed more people to live on the Peninsula.



Mexican homes were built from adobe.



The Ohlone hunted and gathered as they had done for thousands of years.

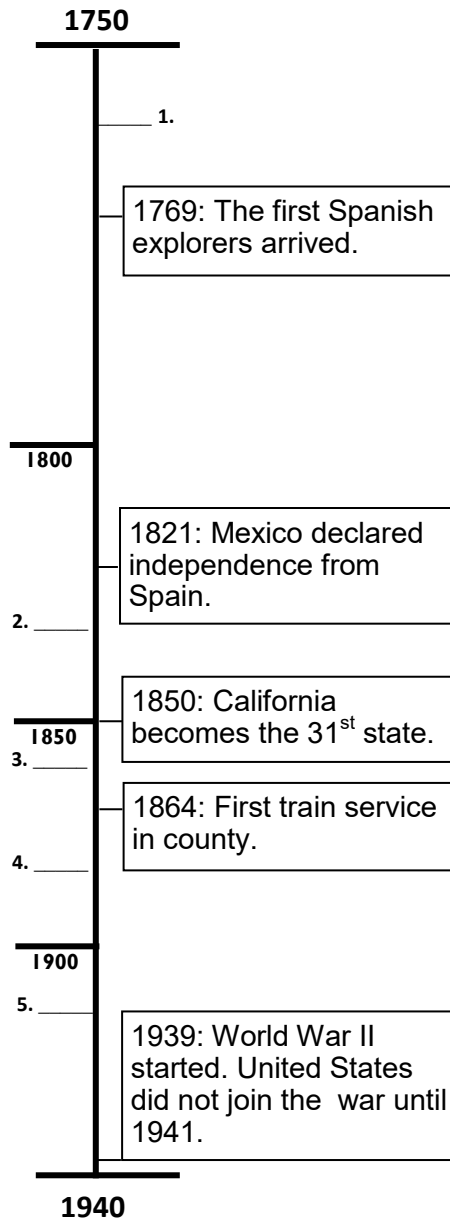
Images
SMCHA
Collection



Logging was one of the first American industries.

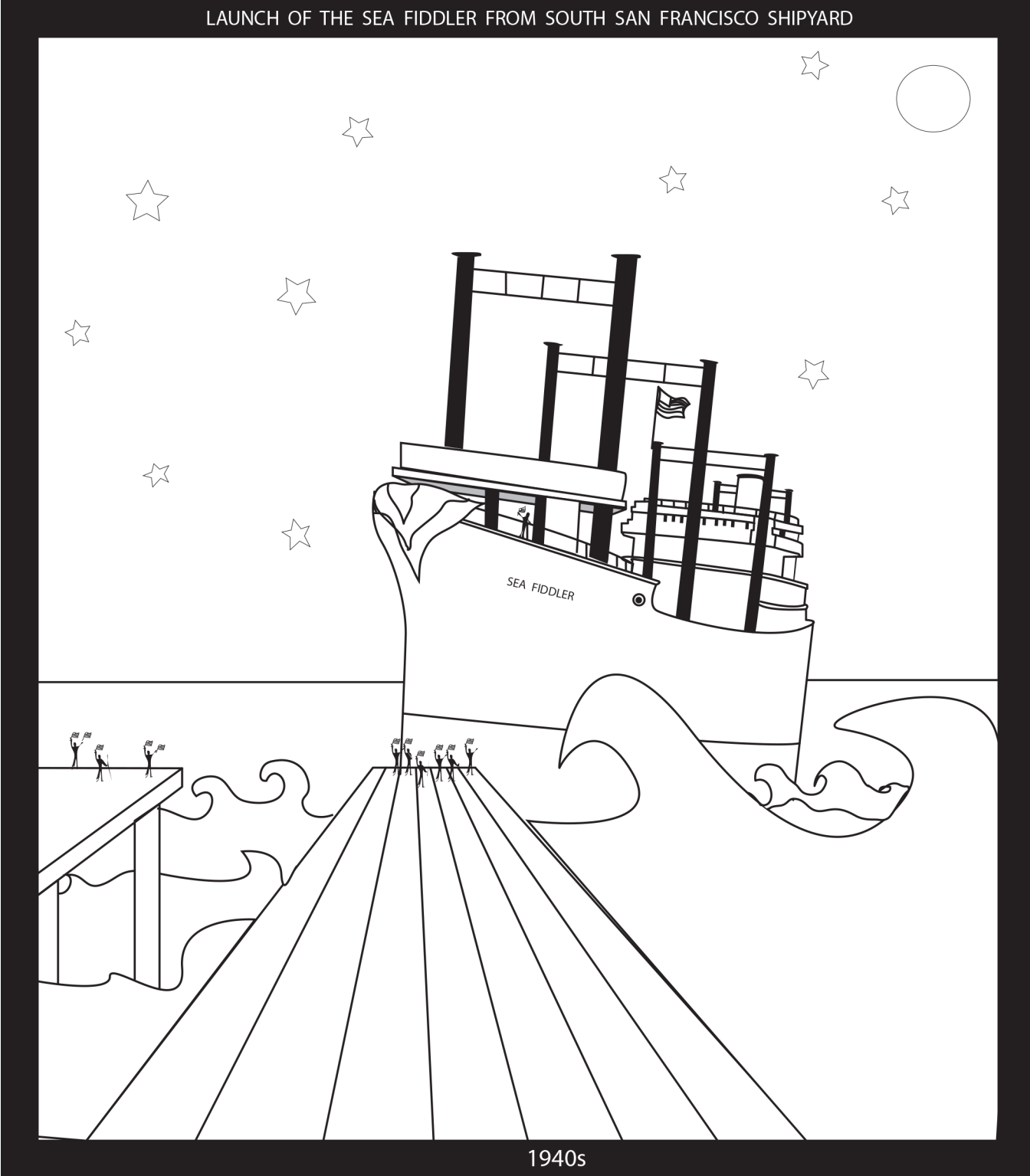


Millionaires used the train to travel from their homes to San Francisco.



Industry

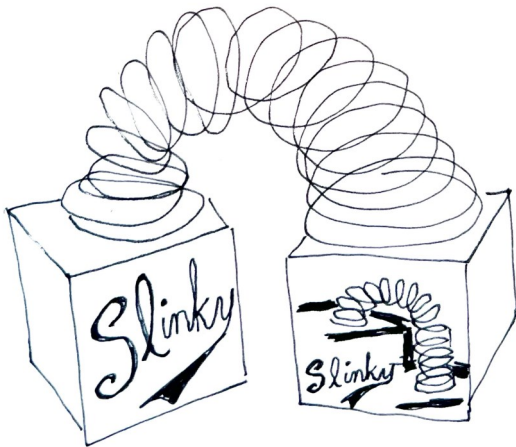
Color the ship.



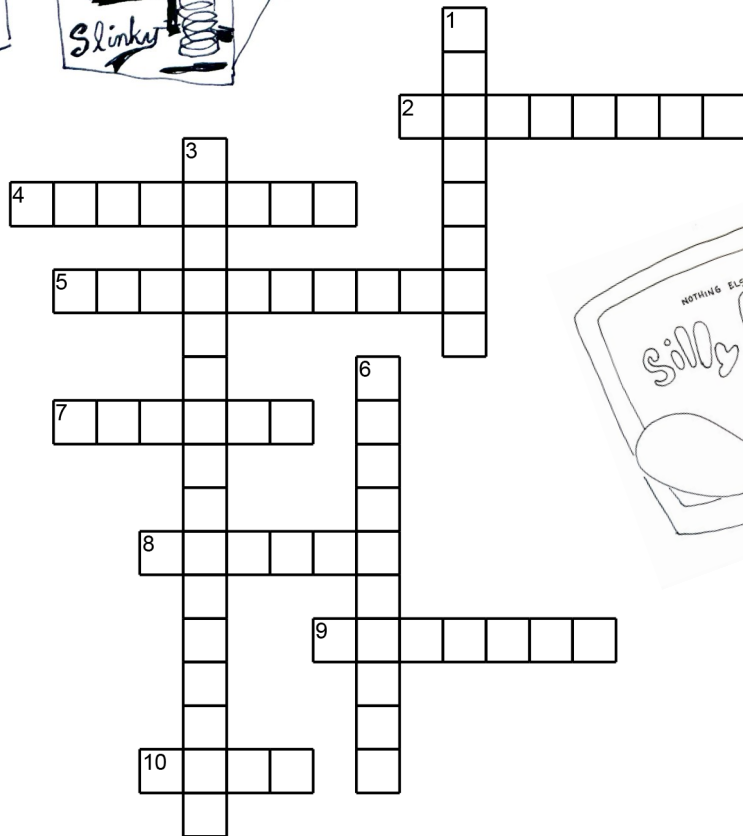
Western Pipe & Steel in South San Francisco built 48 ships during World War II. They included cargo ships, auxiliary aircraft carriers and troop transit ships.

Inventions

Finish the crossword puzzle to discover inventions of the 1940s.



Word List		
Aqua Lung	Jeep	Polaroid
Artificial Kidney	Jet Plane	Silly Putty
Bug Bomb	Kodak	Slinky
Duct Tape	Microwave	Velcro
Fly Swatter	Penicillin	Zipper



Many inventions of the 1940s were a result of the war effort.

Across

2. A water-resistant way to keep military boxes together.
4. This company produced the first instant camera.
5. A drug first used to treat sick soldiers.
7. Seeds stuck to a dog's fur gave the idea for this way to stick things together.
8. Toy created during research on ways to steady equipment during shipping.
9. First aerosol spray can was used to protect soldiers from mosquitos.
10. Four-wheel drive vehicle for bad road conditions.

Down

1. Allows divers to breathe underwater.
3. Removes extra water and waste products from blood.
6. Toy created during research for rubber substitutes.

Home Front

Read the story about volunteering during World War II. Then, find the underlined words from the story in the puzzle.

The home front included men, women and children who worked in various ways to help locally while soldiers fought overseas.

In San Mateo County, people feared an air attack. Plane spotters watched the skies day and night for enemy airplanes. Air raid wardens patrolled neighborhoods at night to make sure blackout curtains were used so light was not visible. Other volunteers served on fire units to respond to a disaster.

Volunteers on the Home Food Products Committee encouraged residents to plant Victory Gardens. They also taught people how to preserve food by canning it at home.

The United Services Organization (USO) had a club in San Mateo. Volunteers created theater groups to entertain visiting military service members. They collected scrapbooks of local news to send overseas. They also started a ride share program to help with the gasoline shortage.

Many women volunteered to help in local hospitals as nurses' aides. Others volunteered to drive ambulances or provide daycare for women workers.

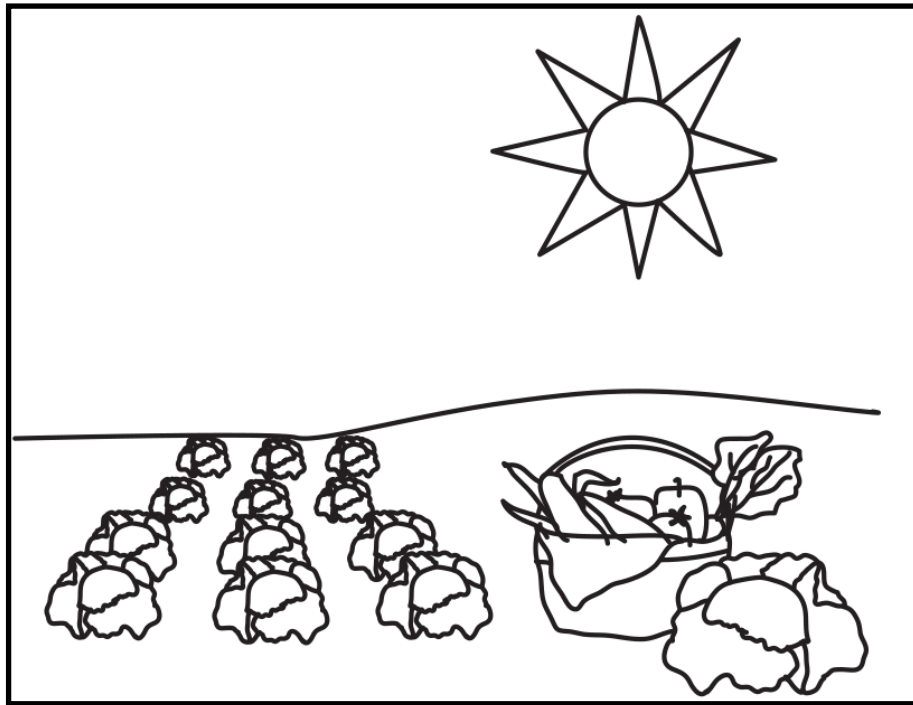
Children participated in the Write a Fighter Corps (WAFC). Children in the Redwood City Squad wrote one letter a month to someone in the military. They also participated in collecting material for scrap drives and encouraged people to buy war bonds.



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

Victory Gardens

Unscramble the words to find food grown in Victory Gardens.



Due to food shortages during the war, residents were encouraged to plant Victory Gardens full of fruits and vegetables. People with the space had home gardens, but there were also community gardens. San Mateo Junior College had its own Victory Garden and canning facility.

Can you think of any foods that people might have grown?

CTOARR

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BOOLCCRI

						17	4	

BTEE

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SRDAHI

19	3		9	5	

TTOAOM

10			7		

NRCO

6		21	

LTECTEU

18						

PATOTO

20				1	

AWEERTOMLN

16			14				2		11	

RGAEP

13		12		

F			
1	2	3	

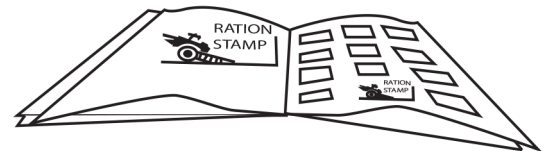
4	5

6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3					

13	14	15	16

y			
17	18	19	

w		
20	21	



To buy certain foods in stores, people needed money and ration stamps. The government gave each person a certain number of ration stamps each month. Red stamps were for meat and dairy products. Blue stamps were for canned and processed food.

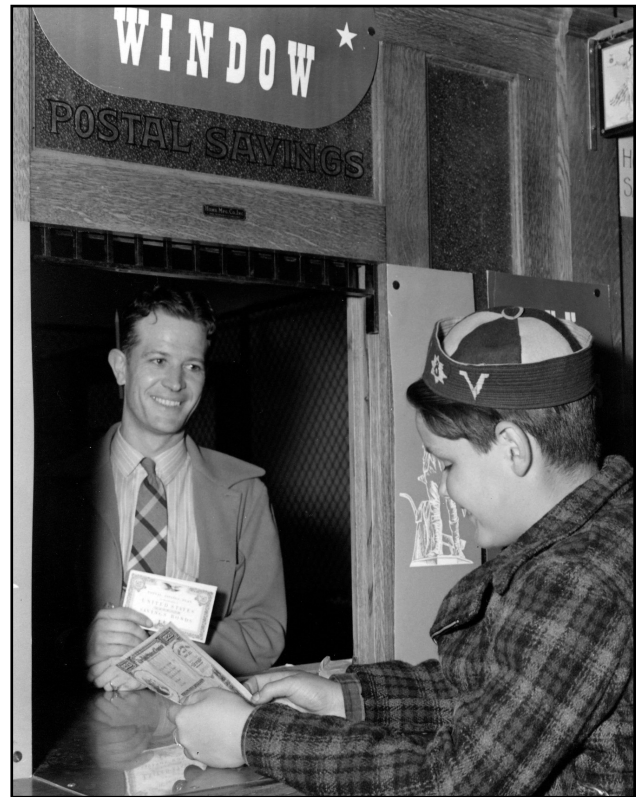
War Bonds

Decode the message by finding each substitute letter.

The United States government spent \$300 billion on World War II. People were encouraged to purchase war bonds. The government would use that money to fund the war effort. In return, the individual would get their money back with interest.

Children and adults could buy saving stamps for 10 cents, 25 cents, 50 cents, one dollar or five dollars. The stamps would be placed in a collection book. When the book was full, it would be traded for a war bond.

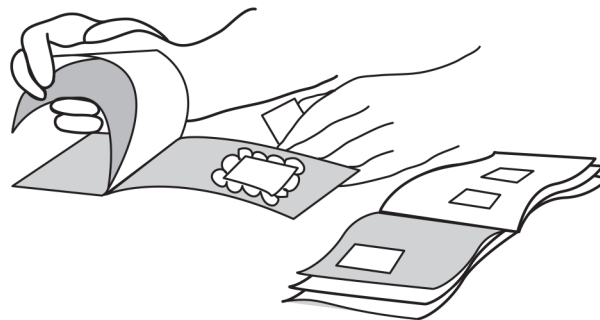
How much did locals purchase in war bonds?

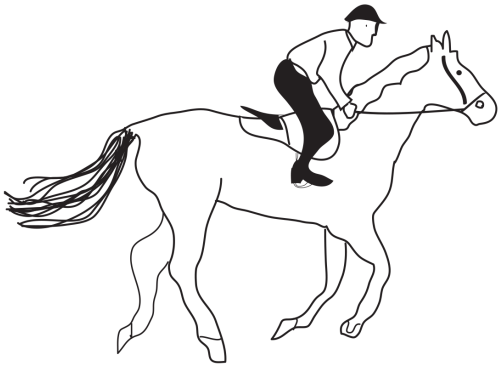


Trading a collection book for a war bond, SMCHA Collection.

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	
			9			18	26		20	8		23		5		19		7						3		25

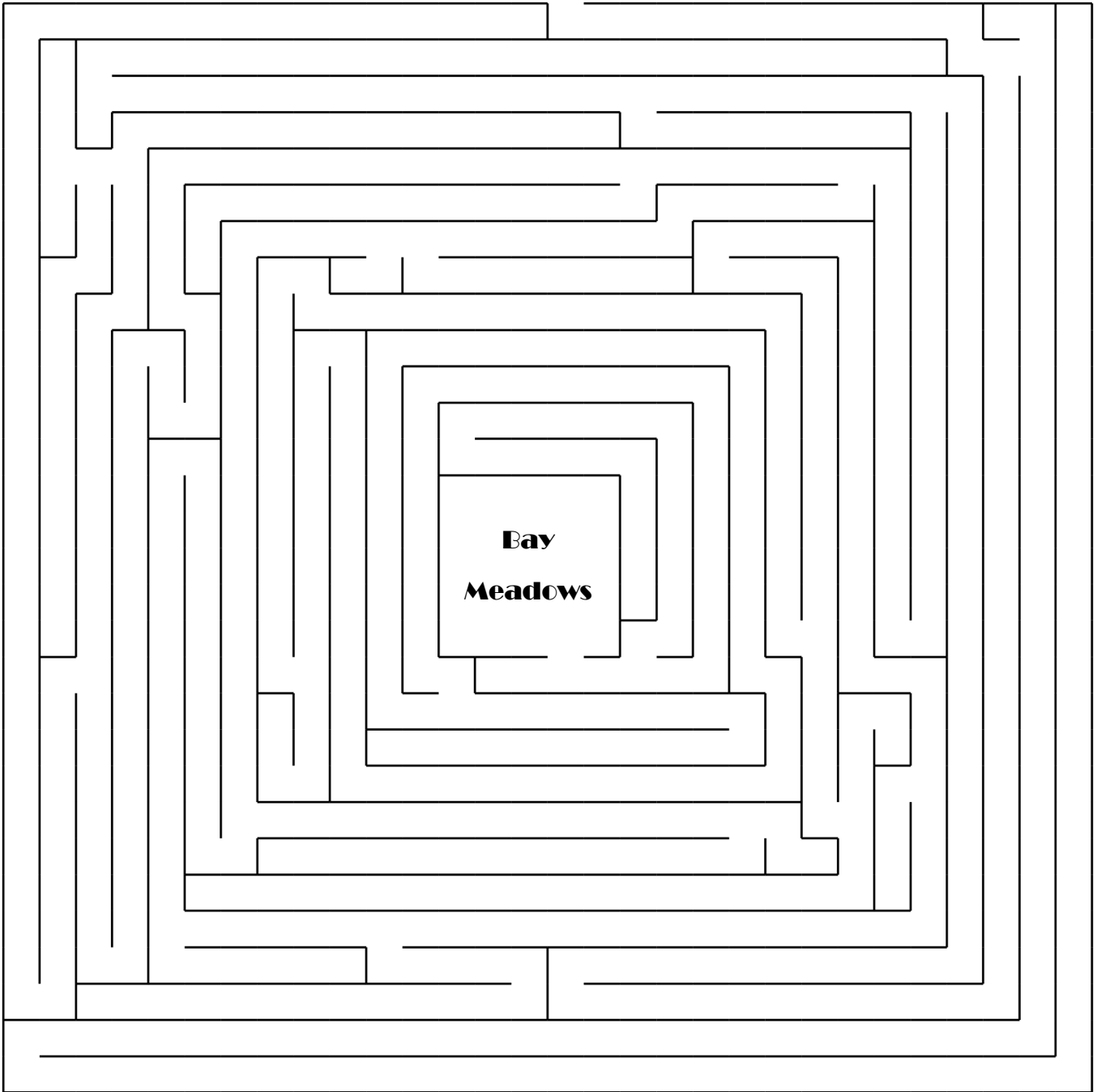
$\frac{S}{7}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{24}{24}$ $\frac{M}{23}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{10}{10}$ $\frac{21}{21}$ $\frac{5}{5}$ $\frac{O}{13}$ $\frac{5}{5}$ $\frac{6}{6}$ $\frac{24}{24}$ $\frac{10}{10}$ $\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{S}{12}$ $\frac{D}{21}$ $\frac{7}{7}$ $\frac{16}{16}$ $\frac{9}{9}$ $\frac{21}{21}$ $\frac{24}{24}$ $\frac{10}{10}$ $\frac{7}{7}$
 $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{6}{6}$ $\frac{12}{12}$ $\frac{13}{13}$ $\frac{26}{26}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{7}{7}$ $\frac{21}{21}$ $\frac{9}{9}$ $\frac{H}{5}$ $\frac{S}{14}$ $\frac{D}{21}$ $\frac{O}{12}$ $\frac{22}{22}$ $\frac{16}{16}$ $\frac{22}{22}$ $\frac{10}{10}$ $\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{M}{23}$ $\frac{16}{16}$ $\frac{17}{17}$ $\frac{17}{17}$ $\frac{16}{16}$ $\frac{5}{5}$ $\frac{24}{24}$
 $\frac{D}{9}$ $\frac{O}{5}$ $\frac{17}{17}$ $\frac{17}{17}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{12}{12}$ $\frac{7}{7}$ $\frac{S}{16}$ $\frac{24}{24}$ $\frac{15}{15}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{12}{12}$ $\frac{O}{11}$ $\frac{5}{5}$ $\frac{24}{24}$ $\frac{D}{9}$ $\frac{S}{7}$.





Bay Meadows

Help the race horse and jockey find their way to Bay Meadows Racetrack.



Bay Meadows was the only racetrack on the West Coast that remained open during World War II. Owner Bill Kyne agreed that 92% of the profits would go to support the war effort. There were also booths that sold war bonds at the track.



Training

Color the drawing.

Merchant Marine Cadet Basic Training

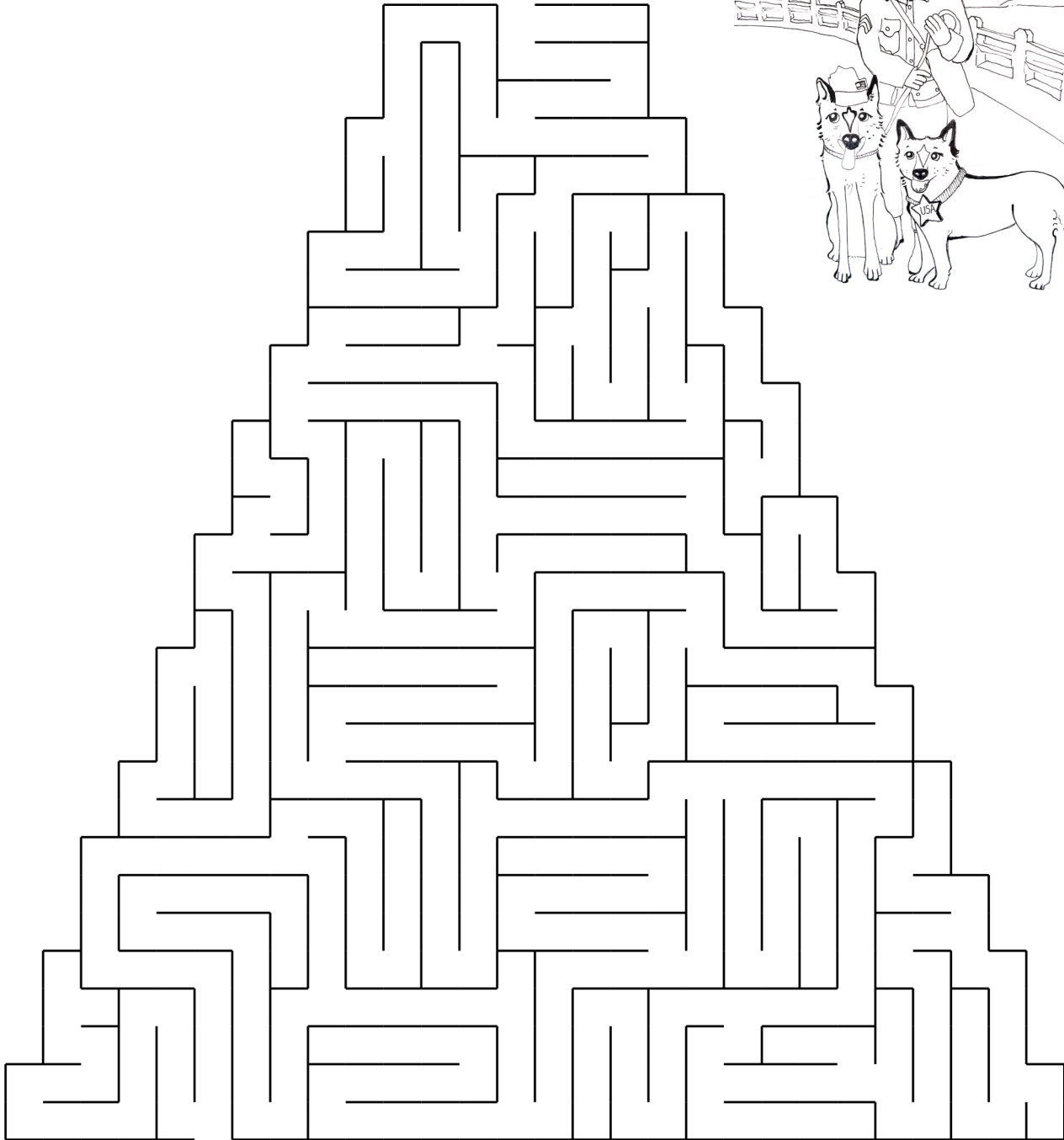


Coyote Point

The United States Merchant Marine Cadet Basic Training School was located at Coyote Point in San Mateo. For 90 days, cadets received basic training in seamanship.

Training

Help the dogs find their way back to Dogtown.



Dogtown


Known as Dogtown, the War Dog Reception Training Center in San Carlos trained 4,500 dogs to work as sentries, bring messages and find wounded soldiers.



Victory Mail

Write a letter to a soldier. All news must be happy!

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.

 (CENSOR'S STAMP)	To :	From :
		(Date)

(Sender's complete address above)

PD FORM 83
HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE
ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY
V...-MAIL

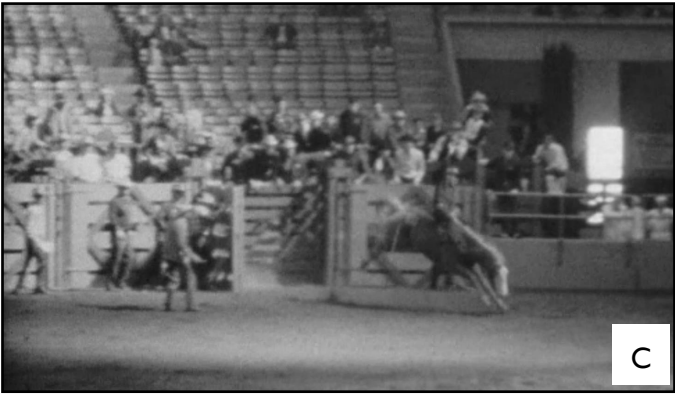
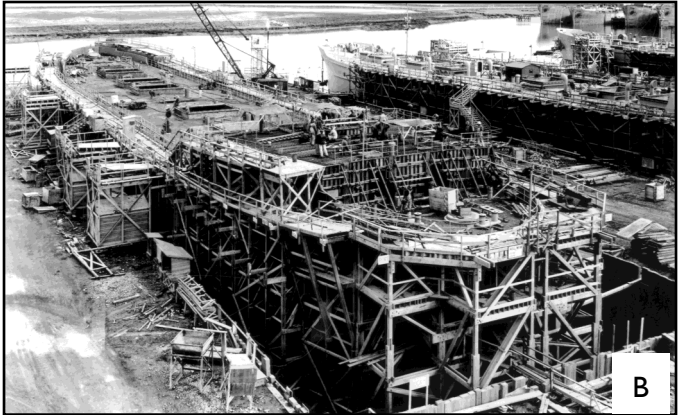
HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE
ADDRESS AT TOP?

U. S. P. - 1950 - P., No. 7540

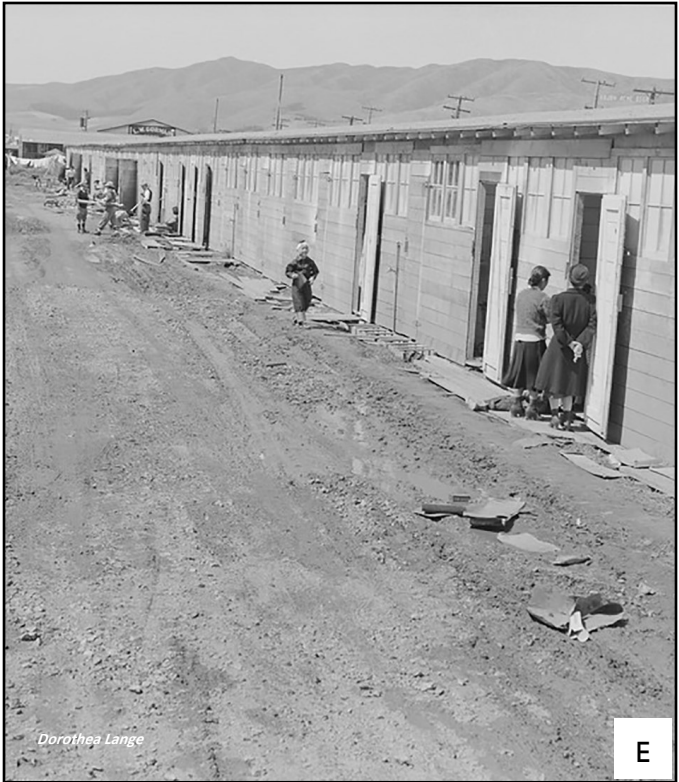
Victory Mail, known as V-mail, were one-page letters. The government photographed them and sent them overseas as microfilm. At the end location, letters were printed and distributed to recipients. This saved space in shipping.

Places

Match the description to the photograph.



Images SMCHA Collection & National Archives and Records



- _____ 1. Cow Palace, 1941
The Daly City building was designed to host livestock expositions and rodeos.
- _____ 2. San Mateo County Historical Museum, 1941
The museum opened with a display in a classroom at San Mateo Junior College.
- _____ 3. Belair Shipyard, 1942
The shipyard built cargo ships out of concrete in South San Francisco.
- _____ 4. Tanforan Assembly Center, 1942
Nearly 8,000 Japanese Americans were imprisoned at a San Bruno racetrack. Many were forced to live in horse stalls.
- _____ 5. Bayside Mammoth Pits, 1943
One of the most significant prehistoric discoveries on the Pacific Coast.



Sock Hop

Read the story about a sock hop at Foresters Hall in Redwood City. Then, find the underlined words from the story in the puzzle.

Being a real alligator, Jim is eager to get over to Foresters Hall for an energetic sock hop. He doesn't want to hear any corn! He's looking forward to cuttin' the rug with all his school friends to some lively swing to start his weekend off with a bang.

Once Jim enters Foresters' ballroom, he notices some real cool cats have already started playing a tune with a lively rhythm. There doesn't seem to be a single paper man in the band. He takes off his shoes in a hurry. Soon, the ballroom is full of young dancers from all over Redwood City. A canary joins the band, making it hard for anyone to resist dancing. Jim joins his friends to jitterbug until they are too tired to stand. Foresters Hall sure isn't the place for a long hair on a Friday night! Exhausted, Jim and his friends put their shoes back on and leave the ballroom for some burgers and malts.



Alligator: someone who loves swing music

Sock hop: an informal event for teens, where dancers often took off their shoes

Corn: music for slow dancing

Cuttin' the rug: dancing to swing music

Cats: musicians in a swing orchestra

Canary: a female vocalist

Jitter bug: a fast dance performed to swing music

Paper man: a musician who plays only by sheet music and can't improvise

Long hair: someone who prefers symphonic music over swing

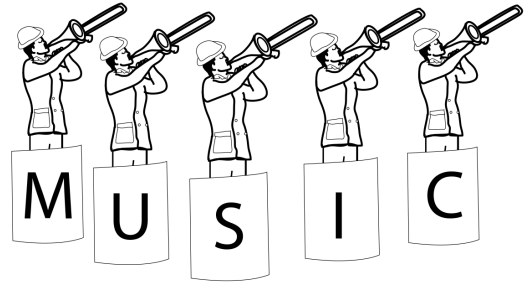
C I C R L B W P W V R Z S I D
 R A A O H Q A U O M G R F M N
 M M N T Y Y Z L T H E J O R E
 M B A A C O T Q L T K M H U K
 B U R G E R S H S R T C Y X E
 J Z Y I S N X E M K O G O P E
 K X U L J T R C S A C O A S W
 Y R F L U O X O T N K P M K L
 T T D A F B G O L K E I H D P
 G N I W S N N L A R T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

Slang

Slang is part of teen culture. Some terms came from the war. Are any of them still used?

Slang Terms and Phrases

Armored Cow	Dead Hooper	Pass the Buck
Bubble Dancing	Ducky Shincracker	Peanuts
Chili Bowl	Gas	Snap your Cap
Clams	Gobbledygook	Square
Crumb	Hit the Silk	Zooty



Cats: Musicians in a swing orchestra

1. Canned milk _____
2. A mean person _____
3. Boring or old-fashioned _____
4. Washing dishes _____
5. Get mad or flustered _____
6. An Army haircut _____
7. To blame someone else _____
8. Hilarious or funny _____
9. Dollars or money _____
10. Dressed very flashy _____
11. A bad dancer _____
12. A good dancer _____
13. Nonsense _____
14. Make a parachute jump _____
15. Not enough money _____



Western Life

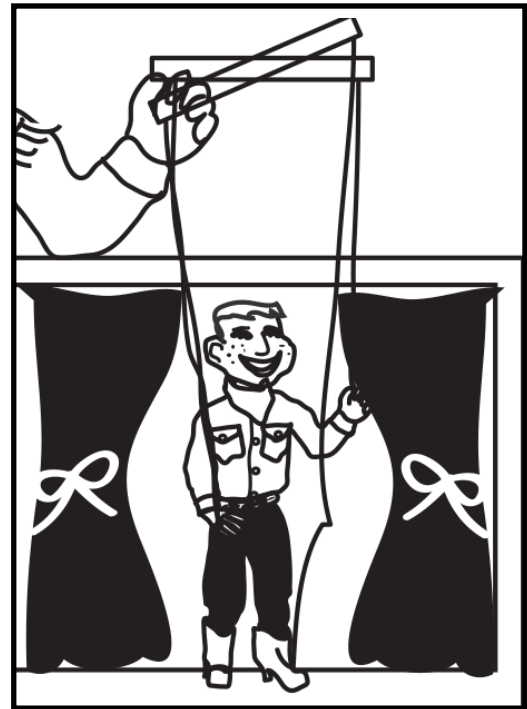
Unscramble the words. Then, use them to fill in the blanks of the story. The marked letters solve the second puzzle.

In 1940, life in many parts of San Mateo County was very ^{1.} _____.
^{2.} _____ operation was at its peak with over 13,000 milk cows. People across the country enjoyed eating green ^{3.} _____ grown Coastside.

The Cow ^{4.} _____ opened in 1941. Contests were held to find the best ^{5.} _____ raised throughout the area. There were also rodeos where ^{6.} _____ showed off their skills.

The same year, ^{7.} _____ station KVSM began broadcasting in San Mateo. It became the first all ^{8.} _____ music station.

Starting in 1947, *Howdy Doody* was a ^{9.} _____ in children's television. The ^{10.} _____ star lived in a Western town.



ASINALM

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KRHAIECSOT

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YBSOOCW

YAIRD

LECAPA

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

EONPEIR

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

PUETPP

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

AORDI

ARRUL

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NRTWEES

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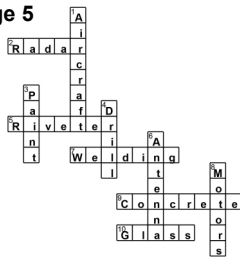
1	2	3	4	5	

Answers

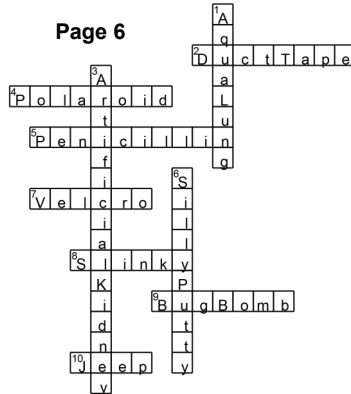
Page 3

1. C
2. B
3. D
4. E
5. A

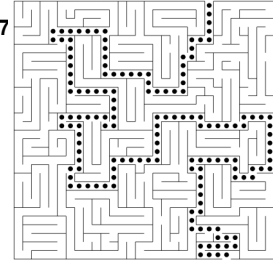
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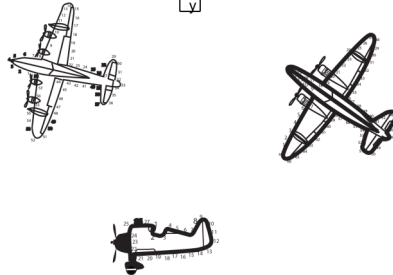
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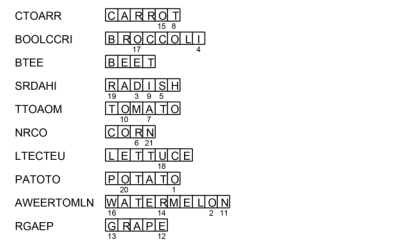
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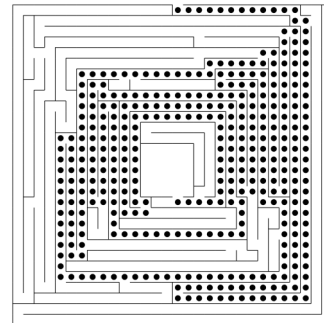
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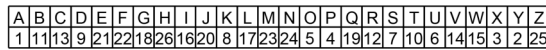
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Page 11

1. D
2. A
3. C
4. G
5. B
6. E
7. F

Page 12

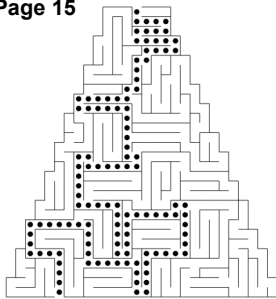


SAN MATEO COUNTY RESIDENTS
7 1 24 23 1 10 21 5 13 5 6 24 10 2 12 21 7 16 9 21 24 10 7

PURCHASED OVER FIFTY MILLION
4 6 12 13 26 1 7 21 9 5 14 21 12 22 16 22 10 2 23 16 17 17 16 5 24

DOLLARS IN WAR BONDS
9 5 17 17 1 12 7 16 24 15 1 12 11 5 24 9 7

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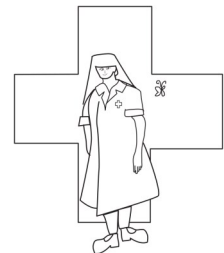
1. C
2. A
3. B
4. E
5. D

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Page 19

1. Armored cow
2. Crumb
3. Square
4. Bubble dancing
5. Snap your cap
6. Chili bowl
7. Pass the buck
8. Gas
9. Clams
10. Zooty
11. Dead hoover
12. Ducky shincracker
13. Gobbledygook
14. Hit the silk
15. Peanuts



Page 20

5. ASINALM **ANIMALS**
3. KRHAIECSOT **ARTICHOKES**
6. YBSOOCW **COWBOYS**
2. YAIDR **DAIRY**
4. LECAPA **PALACE**
9. EONPEIR **PIONEER**
10. PUETPP **PUPPET**
7. AORDI **RADIO**
1. ARRUL **RURAL**
8. NRTWEES **WESTERN**



Page 22

1. E **Police Officer**
2. B **Elvis Presley**
3. D **Hillisdale Shopping Mall**
4. C **Peninsula Hospital**
5. A **Martin Luther King Junior**

Happy San Mateo County Day 1940-1949

