

History

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pier restaurant, which was located at the head of the pier. In addition, the Company was to build a \$15,000 pavilion on the ocean end of the pier with a bait shop, tackle rental for fishermen and a restaurant. The outside of the building was stucco with a Spanish tile roof and large gooseneck reflectors to light up the building so it could be seen from shore as well as for miles out at sea.

The pier had a dubious beginning. A \$75,000 bond issue had been proposed for a 1,500 foot pier at the foot of Center Street (Manhattan Beach Boulevard). However, it failed 168 to 170 in August 1914, thanks to a "Necessities Before Luxuries" campaign. The issue was revived the next year and passed in 1916. A compromise was struck for a \$70,000 pleasure pier at Center Street and a \$20,000 pavilion at Marine Avenue.

A.L. Harris, special engineer for the City, designed and submitted plans in 1916 stating the practical and unique reasons a round-end pier would be desirable to the California coastline. He said, "It is a feature unique to the coastline and it is much stronger against

the action of the water."

The causeway was to be 1,250 feet in length leading to a 100-foot diameter area. However, the municipal pier extended 928 feet out into the Santa Monica Bay. Because of contracting problems exacerbated by World War I, the pier was not finished until July 5, 1920. At the time, the deck spanned approximately 760 feet of water; but today only 300 feet of pier can be found in Dennis's *A Walk Beside the Sea* and *Manhattan Beach Pier*.

Following World War I, a boom in building brought many families to town. Prohibition was in effect, but it was still the age of bathtub gin and bootlegging. As women trimmed their dresses and bobbed their hair, the Victorian Age came to an end, heralding bathing suit contests and jazz.

Manhattan Beach had its share of moonshiners, inebriated drivers racing through town and flappers dancing the night away. Still it was a family town and it cracked down hard on anything that would disturb that image.

To be continued... •

Mustangs

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Pedro. Lucas Whitehill threw five innings and allowed just one run on three hits to improve to 2-2. The Mustangs scored four fifth-inning runs, highlighted by Jelmini's sacrifice fly and Kris Cayton's two-run double as Mira Costa improved to 16-9 on the year.

The Mustangs faced Redondo at home Wednesday and play away at Redondo Friday night at 7 p.m. The Mustangs need to keep pace with Palos Verdes when they face the Sea Kings next week at home on Tuesday May 12 and away on Thursday May 14. Both games are slated for 3:15 p.m.

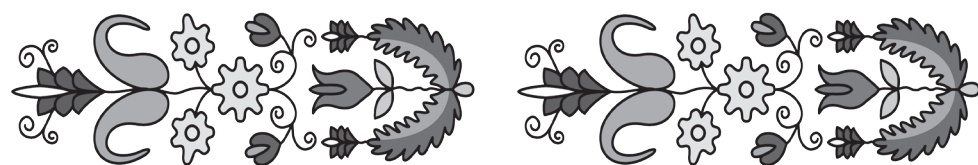
Mustang News and Notes

The Mira Costa boys' lacrosse team won its first Bay League title after a convincing 7-5 win over Palos Verdes. Joe Marinelli scored a game-high four goals, while Tom Farrell, Austin Dorr and Dakota Randall rounded out the scoring for the Mustangs.

The Mira Costa boys' golf team is really

turning heads this year with its 376-402 win over Edison to improve to 18-1 on the year. Michael D'Angelo, Kyle Nakazaki and JP Harper have been on fire and are looking forward to the CIF Southern Section playoffs.

The Mira Costa girls' softball team took another step to getting a postseason playoff berth with a thrilling 2-1 win over Peninsula. With the score tied in the bottom of the seventh, Rachael Lee was hit by a pitch and later scored on a single by Amanda Padilla as the Mustangs improved to 4-2 in the Bay League. The Mustangs, who played Leuzinger Wednesday at Redondo today at home, are just a game back of league leader Palos Verdes and will face the Sea Kings next Thursday away at 3:15 p.m. in a game that could decide the league title. The Mustangs wind up their home schedule with a game against Redondo at 3:15 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12. •



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Earthtalk



Some 525 million gallons of wet coal ash spilled into the Tennessee River and surrounding areas last December, flowing into the water supply for Chattanooga and millions of people living downstream in Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky. Afterwards, tests found elevated levels of lead and thallium, which have been linked to birth defects and nervous and reproductive system disorders. Image by Brian Stansberry, courtesy Wikipedia.

From the Editors of E/The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: What were the environmental impacts of the huge coal ash spill in Tennessee this past December?

-- Dave S, Lynnfield, MA

Environmentalists' call for an end to the age of coal—one of the dirtiest and most common of all the fossil fuels we now use—took on new urgency this past December when some 525 million gallons of wet coal ash, enough toxic slurry to flood more than 3,000 acres of nearby land, spilled into the nearby Tennessee River and surrounding areas when a retaining wall at a power plant in the town of Harriman gave way.

The sludge destroyed 12 homes, though no one was directly injured. However, an unprecedented fish kill occurred in the Tennessee River and area tributaries in the aftermath of the spill. According to John Moulton, a spokesman for the Tennessee Valley Authority, which owns the plant, a test of river water near the spill site found elevated levels of lead and thallium, both of which have been linked to birth defects and nervous and reproductive system disorders. He reassured locals that, although these substances exceeded safety limits for drinking water, they would be filtered out by normal water treatment processes.

But some area residents aren't so sure that they are safe from the effects of the spill,

which is estimated to have been over 40 times bigger by volume than the infamous Exxon Valdez oil spill of 1989. Calling it an "environmental disaster of epic proportions," Carol Kimmons, a local resident who works at the non-profit Sequatchie Valley Institute, told reporters that the nasty black ash flowed into "the water supply for Chattanooga and millions of people living downstream in Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky." She added that the spill was 70 percent bigger than a similar one in Kentucky in October 2000 (306 million gallons) that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) referred to at the time as "one of the worst environmental disasters in the Southeastern United States."

More than a year after that Kentucky spill, researchers found levels of lead downstream from where the spill took place that were 400 times higher than the EPA's safe limit. And levels of Beryllium were 160 times higher than acceptable EPA levels. "Coal contains huge amounts of heavy metals, and when coal is burned, the organic matter burns off, but many of the nasty chemicals stick around, in higher concentrations," said Kimmons. "Also, coal is 'washed' using some really nasty chemicals, which are also left over in coal slurry." The bottom line, she concluded, is that "coal slurry is really, really toxic stuff."

Ironically, on the very same day as the huge

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Frankly

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ting practice pitcher Plank who was out and about researching on Friday evening. And that strenuous researching was accomplished after watching a couple of races at Hollypark and the kid's high school baseball game--another walkover against the team from Lawndale.

More on the Hollypark experience down the road. The researching was very trying also, what with my Halos coughing up another win against the dreaded Yankees. The Angel bullpen is very dicey at this time. To say the least. Okay, they stink!

Anyway, the Mariners sleepwalked through the start of the game, allowing the Yankees to take the early lead. It was 4-0, if I remember correctly. No guarantee there. I was a little sidetracked that morning, what with the Kentucky Derby coming up. Had to figure out who I was betting on, didn't I?

So we mounted a comeback in the middle innings, but I as the third base coach, made a big screw-up and got one of our runners thrown out at home by about 55 feet, which wasn't a good thing. And the next guy that found third base was also tagged out at the plate when a potential wild pitch bounced right back to the catcher, who tagged out our kid. I'll take the blame for that one, too.

Maybe I should do less researching the night before a 9 a.m. doubleheader? You think?

But the kids picked me up and came back to win the game. And then they proceeded

to fall behind early in game two, but rallied to sweep the doubleheader. It's never over till the fat lady sings, goes the cliché. Saw the fat lady at the snack stand Saturday and she wasn't singing, but ordering up a double cheeseburger.

The Mariners are in first place at this time, but with a double-elimination tourney that includes all six teams starting in a couple of weeks, it ain't how you start; it's how you finish. We play both Friday and Saturday nights this week, so don't blame me if my research for next week's *FP* is a bit dodgy. Maybe I'll get Dodger Girl or RJ the Golfer to help fill in the blanks.

On second thought, don't know how wise that would be. Trust Dodger Girl implicitly, but not so sure about the Golfer, who owes me a buck or two because he apparently is tapped out. Even though he hit a Pick 4 at Hollypark last Saturday... Pay up, dude!

Gotta end with this ditty. "Reefer" Rex Hudler, Angel announcer, was apparently overwhelmed by a fantastic play made by shortstop Maicer Itzturis. Mighty Maicer ranged far into the hole to snare a grounder, leaving his feet to corral the horsehide. His one-bounce throw was short-hopped by first baseman Kendry Morales. Said Reefer Rex: "Morales picked that one like he picks his nose!" I kid you not. I can't add anything to that... •