

Melville McBride
Aptos

✓ 1-4-83

Lighthouse Field's future

Editor: Re: Lighthouse Field (Phelan Park): I have recently learned that a movement is afoot to develop the Lighthouse Point area as a recreation park and to give it the name, Phelan Park.

My interest in this project is perhaps understandable. It was my childhood home and that of three generations of my family.

Briefly, I would like to make two comments regarding what I understand are (1) the type of development, and (2) the name to be adopted.

Very simply and aesthetically, I would suggest that it be kept as close to its original beauty as possible. The sea literally meets a beautiful shoreland and the marriage should be preserved with simple walkways, trees and natural growth for a basically pedestrian experience. To add athletic or "recreational" facilities would only deprive it of its singular and essential beauty.

Secondly, on the subject of its name. Some of California's most significant history could be preserved by adoption of the name it carried for almost 100 years. Surely this should be encouraged in a state now overrun, as is Arizona, by people who haven't the slightest notion of what went on before their arrival in that enchanted part of California.

The Phelans were pre-gold rush

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merchants among a handful of pioneers who started and built San Francisco.

The leader of the second generation of my family was James D. Phelan, three times mayor of San Francisco and later U.S. senator, whose gifts to his native state were numberless...

In modesty I can say that histories of California carry his name and that of other members of my family who for three generations enjoyed Phelan Park as their second home.

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