

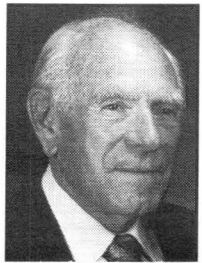
Visitor to Reserve Reflects on Family Gatherings, Early Days at Seal Cove

By Arthur L. Smith

(As this article of the Tides went to press we received the sad news that Arthur L. Smith, who wrote about his boyhood at Seal Cove in the article below, had passed away. He was 85. He lived in Tempe, Arizona, with his wife Geraldine at the time he died. He had returned to visit the tidepools earlier this year. Mr. Smith spent many happy summers at Moss Beach in the early 1900's. The red house he refers to in this story was built by his great uncle, Dr. George Sidney Smith, in 1887. Ed.)

I recall so well the happy summers spent at Seal Cove, the home of my great uncle and aunt, George Sidney Smith and Susan Moore Smith. My first visit to Seal Cove was in 1911 when I was only one month old.

My first recollection is when I was seven or eight. My folks took me to Moss Beach from where we lived in Oakland. We came across the Bay by ferry and out to the Bernal Cut where we took the Ocean Shore train to Moss Beach, changing engines to get over Mt. San Pedro. I recall Chauffeur "Thomas" picking us up in a 1917 Pierce Arrow and driving us to Seal Cove. A number of years later dad would drive us there, along with mother and brother Don, and sisters Marion and Alice in the 1916 Dodge touring car, and in Colma just before reaching the winds of the Pacific we'd stop to put up the isinglass curtains, then over Mt. San Pedro to Seal Cove where Aunt Sue put us up in the big red house.



Arthur L. Smith

Martin and Martha, respectively handyman and maid, and companion of Aunt Sue, were kind to us and would fix us kids up with tire irons and primitive fishing lines, and when a very low tide would hit we'd go out on the reefs prying off as many abalone as we could eat. We'd clean and pound them and mom would cook a wonderful meal for all of us.

My father, having to work, would drive down over the weekend. I remember the five-foot leopard shark he caught. Also, I recall my uncle bringing a large octopus up onto the beach. Many times I remember dad going over to play chess with Charlie Nye at his hotel.

Martin took care of the chickens, and we kids loved to watch the gruesome task of him beheading a couple of them for dinner. We kids would like to fill the bulbous end of kelp with sandfleas, of which there were many on the beach, and then watch the chickens go wild chasing these hopping creatures around the yard.

Sometimes we would eat with Aunt Sue, and we would always have our fill of artichokes which grew in abundance in a field nearby.

We got a lot of early Christian training at Seal Cove. Aunt Sue was very religious, and on Sundays she would see that all of us fit into the seven-passenger Pierce Arrow and drive the seven miles to a little store front church in Half Moon Bay for Church and Sunday School.

As we kids grew older we had other things to do on



THE GOOD OL' DAYS. Relatives and friends of Dr. George Sidney Smith, who purchased Seal Beach in 1887, are shown in front of the cottage house that was replaced in later years by the Dolger house. **Arthur L. Smith**, great nephew of Dr. Smith and the author of the story on this page, is shown between two other boys sitting on the radiator hood of the Model 'T' Ford. Picture date is July 4, 1925.

Audubon Society Announces New Guide to County Birdwatching

The Sequoia Audubon Society of San Mateo County announces the immediate availability of a newly revised edition of **San Francisco Peninsula Birdwatching**, the guide to birding sites in San Francisco and San Mateo Counties.

The magnificent diversity of habitats and birds found in this area is covered in the detailed descriptions of over 25 of this area's favorite birdwatching spots, including Golden Gate Park, Pescadero Marsh, Foster City shoreline and lagoons, Princeton Harbor, Ano Nuevo State Reserve, Edgewood Park, Lake Merced and many more. The new revised version features:

174 pages of text

23 fully updated, plus three entirely new, birding area descriptions

Completely new maps of the best birding areas

Over 20 all new high quality illustrations

Handy chart showing where and when to find the county's most sought after birds

A current checklist of the birds of San Mateo County

An extensive list of further references of interest to the resident or visiting birder

A complete index of bird species and locations

The new book sells for \$14.95. To expedite the order and for further details, people should call the SAS Office at (415) 345-3724.

our summer vacations and stopped going to Seal Cove. When Aunt Sue died she left Seal Cove to her son, my Uncle Harry, who let the property deteriorate, and finally sold it.