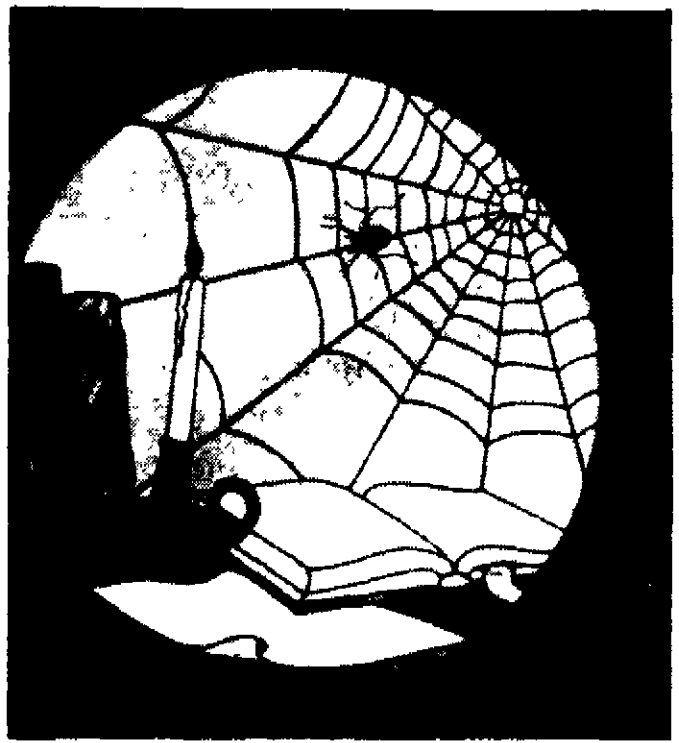


Sutro Tower to Replace Historic Mountain Villa



THE WHOLE PLACE IS A PERIOD PIECE
Decor in the mansion is 40 years old



THE SPIDER LOOKS REAL BUT IT'S NOT
Stained glass window in Sutro mansion

By ELINOR HAYES
Tribune Staff Writer

The astonishing house sits on its hill and looks over San Francisco rooftops to Mount Diablo.

It is a surprise. The hidden entrance is up a narrow, one-car wide road bordered by dense trees and blackberry vines, in a clearing on the southern crest of 903-foot Mount Sutro.

Suddenly... there it is... a massive and mysterious mansion... brooding and baffling.

The three story villa, La Avenzada, of dun colored stucco, has turrets and bays and its iron-banded, double front door is recessed and reached by a flight of stone steps across a flagstone terrace. Great boulders enhance the look of heavy permanence.

It has the look of a setting for a Helen MacInnes or Mary Stewart suspense story ("little did I know when the big door swung open...")

Indeed when the door does swing open it is literally another story.

The big, unusual rooms, wood beamed, tile and stained glass-ornamented, where fireplace flames should warm walls of books and men and women deep in conversation, are bare of conventional furniture.

Instead, the house is loaded with highly technical electronic equipment.

In the basement men work at panels in a room filled with cabinets. A huge fireplace incorporating fossil specimens is hidden by a tool panel. Half of the big living room is divided by aural and visual amplifiers. Acoustical tile blocks out the orange and blue panels that ornament the ceiling.

But the library is empty, the kitchen bare, the bedrooms locked.

Imagination could have a splendid time making this an

erie background for thrills and excitement — especially on a dark night with the wind whipping the tall eucalyptus trees and fog curling up the hill to blot out the lights below.

It is sinister? Or is it only a strange lonely house on a mountain top? Who was its fascinating builder? Why did he leave it? Why is it to be torn down? Why is it filled with unusual equipment?

The mystery will unravel. Adolph Gilbert Sutro, builder of La Avenzada, is the bachelor scion of one of the most illustrious names in San Francisco history, to which he has added his own luster.

He built his house on land granted to Jose de Jesus Noe as Rancho San Miguel in 1854. When the first Adolph Sutro — grandfather of the home builder — bought it in the 1870's it was a barren hillside.

This first Adolph Sutro, born in Prussia, came to San Francisco in 1850 and was a merchant when news came of the fabulous mining strike at the Comstock Lode at Virginia City, Nev.

Sutro was off to Nevada, where — as "Crazy" Sutro — through rock, obstacle and determination he worked crews for 10 years to build the four-mile Sutro Tunnel, aimed at removing heat and water that was stalling mining in the shafts below Mount Davidson.

He came back to San Francisco to practically claim the city as his own. He rebuilt the Cliff House, built the magnificent Sutro Baths, brought the seals and Seal Rocks under the protection of the city and county and was mayor of San Francisco from 1895-97.

Everything this first Sutro did was on a lavish scale: he left a library of 100,000 volumes (now the state's Sutro Library at the University of San Francisco); bought a twelfth of San Francisco land (he gave the site for the U.C. Medical School); imported eucalyptus trees and planted trees by the thousands and encouraged school children to do the same to make Sutro Forest.

Adolph Sutro, the younger, is the child of his son, Edgar.

Still living, now in his late 70's, Adolph has a villa on another hillside, this one on the Portuguese island of Madeira.

He is apparently wary of the spotlight, but what few facts are public about him give the impression of a man as fascinating as the house he built.

As a youth he attended Santa Clara College (now university) and, says he was a mechanic for the Wright brothers.

He joined those early day daredevils who flew the spit and baling wire planes that made modern aviation possible.

He was granted the first pilot's license in the U.S. for a hydro-aero plane and to this day carries that precious License No. 1 with him.

The year he received it — 1913 — the spectacled young pilot flying over the Bay, broke three air records and established another — greatest speed 75 miles an hour — before an oil leak in the flimsy craft sent him home for the day.

His keen interest in early aviation led him to operate the Sutro Hydro School in the Marina and to manufacture planes while living at 1207 Stanyan St.

He became a broker and managed the family's Sutro Baths, the great indoor swimming pool palace his grandfather had built that eventually burned.

But more revealing is the fact that he is a writer. The temper of his life may best be illustrated by "A Rolekicking Voyage to Alaska" his article in the September issue of Boating Magazine.

It is a gay and jaunty story

of the voyage of his Gloucester schooner Spray in the 1920's from the Bay Area north when Sutro and crew were mistaken for "revenuers", and other strange things happened.

Additionally an article on Sutro's flying experiences has been purchased by a national magazine.

He built La Avenzada for a reputed \$250,000 in the early 1930's so it isn't even an old house as San Francisco houses go. Here he lived with his mother for about 18 years.

Visiting them must have been a rewarding experience. The great front door is set off by stained glass panels. Inside there is a waist high corner fireplace in the hall. A door is covered in dark leather. Light fixtures and chandeliers are iron and leather. There are carved, indented, round nooks.

In the library there is a round stained glass window showing a spider spinning a web alongside a book and candle. For more decoration the roof is brought inside the library as an overhang, similar to stove hoods.

The facts surrounding the departure of Sutro and his mother from their mountain-top home are prosaic. They decided to move to property at San Luis Rey, near San Diego, and in 1948 sold the house and five acres for \$125,000 to the American Broadcasting Co. for use by KGO-TV.

(Sutro moved to Madeira about eight years ago after the death of his mother.)

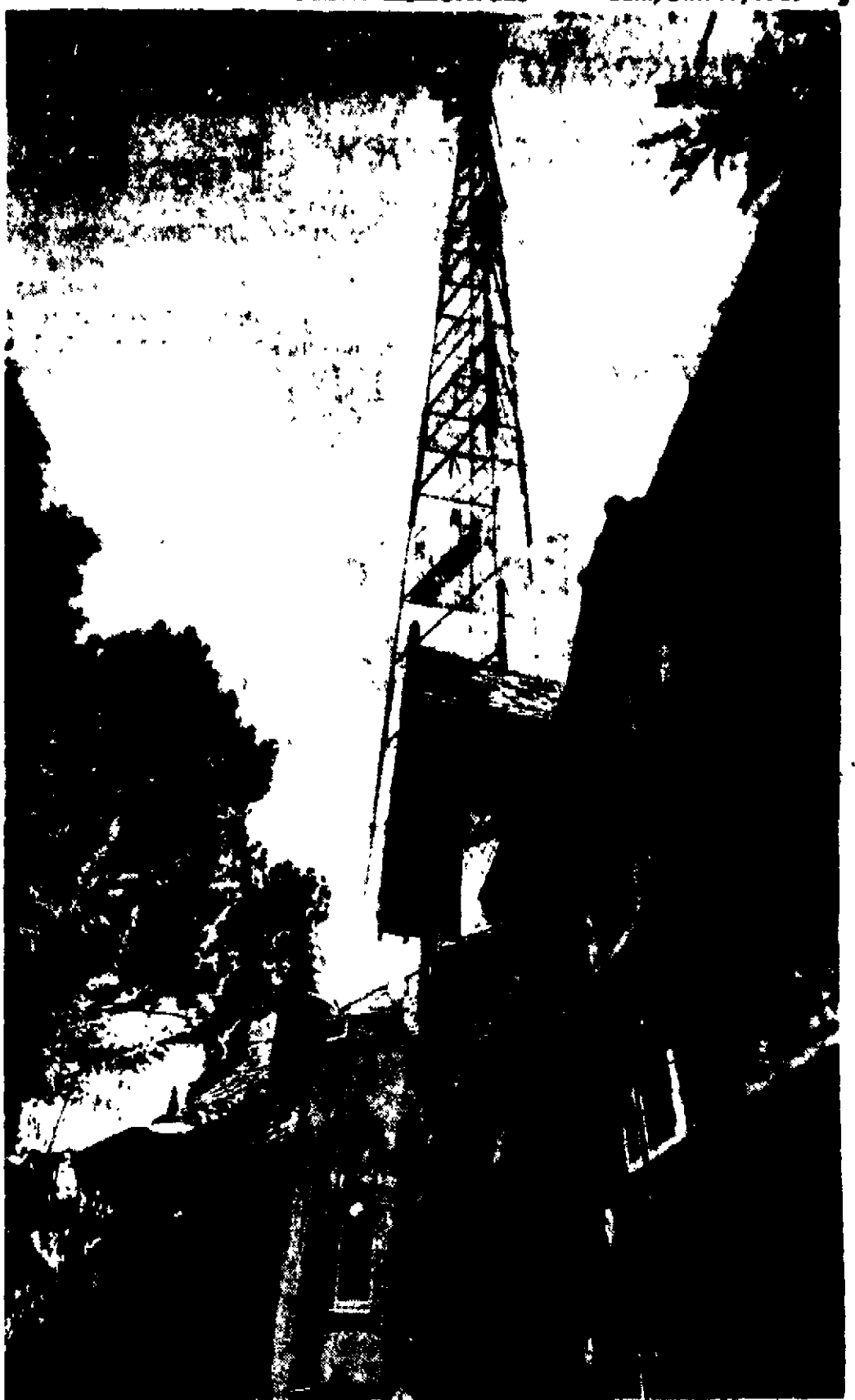
The mystery equipment in the Sutro house is transmitting equipment for the nearby tower.

About two years later Station KPIX moved up and took space on the 580 foot tower and FM Stations joined.

At first KGO-TV had its studios in the house but in 1953 they moved to 277 Golden Gate Ave. Only personnel needed to keep the all but automatic equipment working remain.

In 1956 Bay Area TV stations decided they needed higher tower facilities to cover the hilly terrain that makes the Bay Area so difficult for TV reception.

They applied to the Federal Communications Commission for a 980-foot tower permit.



THE SUTRO MANSION STANDS ON THE MOUNTAIN OF THE SAME NAME
It housed broadcasters and crews for the steel TV tower

KRON applied for a San Bruno mountain tower location.

Years of litigation, argument, delays and hearings followed before the FCC, Federal Aviation Agency and other regulatory bodies agreed on the Mount Sutro site.

Then the various broadcasting companies got together as Sutro Tower Inc. Included are the American Broadcasting Co., The San Francisco Chronicle, Westinghouse, Cox Broadcast and Metromedia for Channels KGO-TV, KRON, KPIX, KTVU and KNEW-TV.

Ground-breaking is to start shortly for the \$4 million transmitter complex expected

to be completed in January, 1971.

Neill Smith and Associates have designed a 35,000 square foot building.

Part of the agreement with the city is that the house will be removed since it is considered a fire trap and mecca for vandals, according to Harry Jacobs, project supervisor for Sutro Tower Inc.

Already rocks have been tossed through the big front windows. They now are boarded up.

"We take it for granted but it really is a sensational place," said Jacobs. "There is nothing like it."

Sutro and his mother moved to property at San Luis Rey, near San Diego. After her death about eight years ago, he moved to Madeira.

Jacobs guided us out into the sunlight with a final look at the unique house.

"There were big stone lions guarding the front but they were removed to a school yard," he said.

We drove down the little road, turned into a city street and in moments were back on San Francisco's Market Street.

The only mystery left was how to get through the traffic.

Pentagon Plans Manpower Cut

By DARRELL GARWOOD

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A cutback of nearly a million men in the size of the U.S. armed forces apparently will be staged over the next three or four years if progress toward ending the Vietnam war continues.

The military services, it was learned Saturday, have been told to budget for a total reduction of 500,000 by June 30, 1971. This would bring strength down to 2.9 million men, with a further slash to about 2.5 million expected.

Instructions from Defense Department planners to the Army, Navy and Air Force were necessary at this time because the services already were drafting their proposed budgets for the 1971 fiscal year.

These money requests must be presented to the next session of Congress, and must be argued, approved and worked out in detail in time to go to the printer by Dec. 15.

Since reductions totaling 220,000 by next June 30 have been scheduled, the budget target may mean a shrinkage

of 280,000 men in the size of the armed forces during the second complete fiscal year of the Nixon administration.

Pentagon experts estimate that for every soldier returned to civilian life the government can chalk up a saving of \$10,000 a year if he was stationed in a peaceful area, or \$25,000 a year if the reduction is in Vietnam.

On this basis, the anticipated 500,000-man cutback, including a reduction to a small residual force in Vietnam, should reduce the defense spending budget from \$77 billion for the current fiscal year to \$65 billion or less.

In announcing plans to maintain the residual force earlier this week, however, Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird said the spending budget would remain above \$70 billion.

Laird also said that plans have been made for withdrawal of all U.S. combat forces from Vietnam in a "reasonable time" — a year or two. Of the 509,000 American troops still there, just over 300,000 are combat.

Major Drug Firms Linked To Pushers

WASHINGTON (AP) —

Chairman Claude Pepper of the House Committee on Crime said Saturday that major drug and chemical companies as well as fly-by-nighters, are supply sources for drug pushers.

The Florida Democrat, preparing for a hearing in San Francisco, said "the dirty trail of drugs from legitimate manufacturers to black market operators and to sick kids is all too clear."

Pepper said committee aides have been investigating the organizations and individuals involved in legal and illegal traffic in dangerous drugs.

"The evidence we already have in hand is almost unbelievable," he said.

"It indicates that we Americans have just begun to appreciate how widespread the use of dangerous drugs has become and how profitable it may be for the vultures who push it into the hands of young people."

Pepper's comments came in a statement announcing his committee will hold open hearings in San Francisco beginning Thursday. He said the hearings would run three days and perhaps two days the following week.

He said the source of dangerous drugs which are now "shockingly available" in San Francisco and other cities will be the subject of this investigation. "Many witnesses will be called, some of them under subpoena," he said.

The committee's investigations, he said, have pointed to outwardly respectable dealers in pharmaceuticals or chemical supplies who sell the chemical ingredients from which dangerous drugs could be made.

There is also evidence, he said, that this country is supplying the world with a large portion of these dangerous drugs.

"Why should 70 million methamphetamines (speed) pills be sent to a tiny drugstore in Mexico? What are we to think when we find that this drugstore doesn't even exist? Why should any reputable drug company be anywhere near such an operation?" he asked.

"Everyone, including most of the medical profession, will be astonished," Pepper said.

Third Soviet Spacecraft In Experiment Returns

MOSCOW (UPI) — The Soviet Union returned the last of its manned space ships Saturday and announced comple-

Yugoslavs Fete Apollo II Crew

BELGRADE (AP) — America's Apollo II astronauts got a tumultuous welcome from thousands of Yugoslavs and the freedom of the city from the mayor when they arrived Saturday for a two-day visit to this independent Communist nation.

At a luncheon later in their honor, President Tito told astronauts Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. Aldrin Jr. and Michael Collins: "I do not like invaders of the earth, but I hold in high esteem the conquering of celestial bodies."

Yugoslavia is the only Communist country on the astronauts' world tour schedule.

tion of a program that included "group flying" drills and remote-control space welding.

Soyuz 8, carrying cosmonauts Lt. Col. Vladimir Shatalov and civilian Alexei Yeliseyev, landed by parachute on the wind-swept Karaganda Plain of Soviet Central Asia shortly before noon.

The Soviets Saturday also launched their sixth space craft in a week, sending an unmanned research satellite into high orbit.

Cosmos 303 was launched shortly after Soyuz 8 touched down. Two other similar satellites were sent aloft during the week. Cosmos 303 was believed to be the type that circles for several months before being destroyed as it re-enters the atmosphere.

Soyuz 7 landed in the Karaganda area Friday with three men and Soyuz 6 with two men touched down Thursday. Each spent five days in space.

Don't Touch The Hands Yet

No, no, don't touch that clock today.

It's next Sunday, Oct. 26, the last Sunday in the month, that we go off Daylight Saving Time at 2 a.m.

Clocks should be turned back an hour that night, meaning you pick up an hour you lost when savings time started this year.

In case you might have trouble remembering which way to turn the clock, the memory-aid saying is: spring forward, fall back.

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