



The story of teacher Bob Siebert A Pacifica journey of history and education



**Robert Siebert, 1932, graduate, UC Berkeley:
Letters and Science—Theta Upsilon Omega.**

Written by Jean Bartlett, May, 2020
(A Pacifica Historical Society Project)

SIEBERT, ROBERT XAVIER "BOB" (1907-1993)

"My first acquaintance with the Ocean Shore Railroad as a means of access to the coast came when I was a child," Bob Siebert reported to videographer Steve Brown in 1985.

With construction beginning in late 1905, the Ocean Shore Railway Company had big plans—the creation of a high-speed, two-track electric railway running coastside between San Francisco and Santa Cruz, with spectacular, cliff-hugging views of the Pacific Ocean. But then disaster struck. On April 18, 1906, a magnitude 7.9 earthquake shook San Francisco, plunging equipment and 4,000 feet of coastal railroad track into the waiting waves. Construction resumed but financial backing waned and the dream changed. Completed in 1908, the Ocean Shore Railroad was now a single-track steam line, running revenue passengers and freight trains between San Francisco and Tunitas Glen, an area more than 25 miles north of Santa Cruz.

"My brother and I were members of St. Mary's Children's Choir in San Francisco," Bob said, "and through the choir we took part in an excursion. The train depot was located at 12th and Mission in San Francisco and at that time, it was an excursion to get from 32nd Avenue, where we lived, to the depot – a 40-minute ride in itself. But once on the train, that was quite an experience to go down the coast and see the land disappear on the seaward side, and the cliffs keep us company all the way down, until we came to a place where something happened. The land fell away on both sides and we were suspended in mid-air and traveling across what I later found out was a trestle. Then, when we reached the other side of the trestle, we came back on the cliffside and the ocean view, and on the way down to the train's first stop."

In what is now Pacifica, the OSRR had station stops at: Edgemar, at Clifton Avenue; Salada, at San Mateo (now Paloma) Avenue; Brighton, near the intersection of Lakeside Avenue and Francisco Boulevard; Vallemar, at Reina Del Mar Avenue; Rockaway, just north of Rockaway Beach Avenue; Fleming, on San Pedro Beach at about what is now Anza Drive; and Tobin, at the end of Danmann Avenue – before the train headed through the 354-foot tunnel engineered through the solid rock of San Pedro Mountain. Bob, his brother and their choir mates disembarked near the natural lagoon known as Laguna Salada. Their mission was to enjoy the bathing pavilion.



The Ocean Shore Railroad steams along a coastside trestle, somewhere between 1908 and 1920. The railroad ceased operations in 1920.

"The Laguna Salada was named after an arm of the sea that came in and covered a good part of what is now the Sharp Park Golf Course," Bob recalled. "Down by the lagoon, they placed a bathing pavilion. Decks reached out to the water, and bath houses (along today's Clarendon Road) covered the area. Many people took advantage of it, including the boys from San Francisco."

* * *

Robert Xavier Siebert was born to Mary Frances Dugan and Edward Frederic Siebert on February 28, 1907. He was the third of five children: Edward, Antoinette, Robert, Charles and Leo. The children were all about a year apart in age.

"My dad was born in San Francisco's Mission District," Bob's daughter Andrea Siebert said.

At that time, the family was renting a house on Harrison Street where they had also lived during the 1906 earthquake and fire. Andrea noted that while the house survived the earthquake and fire, the gas lines in the entire neighborhood were shut down and the Siebert family cooked outside like everyone else until repairs were completed.

"From Harrison Street, the family moved to the Parkside neighborhood," Andrea continued. "My grandfather bought one of the first houses built on 32nd Avenue and Vicente Street."

For this biography, Andrea Siebert was interviewed in April of 2020. In addition, the 2010 Pacifica Historical Society Footprints of Pacifica Episode No.87, the "Bob Siebert Family" – which includes excerpts from the 1985 Steve Brown/Bob Siebert interview – was an invaluable resource, as were Pacifica Historical Society files and photos.

Bob's dad worked as a self-employed plumber and his mom worked at home, raising five children. Bob's parents additionally raised food for their family. They had a garden, they had poultry – the family never did without.



Bob and his sister Antoinette, circa 1913.

When Bob was born, the horse and buggy, bicycles, streetcars and trains were all the major forms of transportation. Automobiles became more common around 1915, but were still not common in San Francisco's lesser populated outer districts such as Parkside.

"When we lived at 32nd Avenue, my family would frequently take visits down to the coast for picnics and such," Bob recalled. "At first we did so by horse and buggy and then by automobile. I always remember one thing about the Coastside, even if we came on a foggy day – about the time we gathered everything up and made ready to go home, the sun would come out. Through the years we visited the Coastside many times. Later, when the time came for my wife and me to establish our own home, we were already acquainted with all the features of the Coastside that made it a desirable place to live."

When Bob was growing up, he and his siblings attended Parkside Elementary.

"All of the children helped at home," Andrea said. "They looked after each other, they cleaned and cooked with their parents, they learned to build, paint and maintain a home. There was free time in the summer and all the children in the neighborhood wrote plays and performed them for the adult community. Everyone camped out in the summer in what is now Sigmund Stern Grove. They lived in tents and shared barbequed food. The men would come home from work and join their families."

Bob attended Polytechnic High School on Frederick Street. He then headed off to the University of California, Berkeley. His brother Edward paid for his first year and then Bob went to work to pay for the last three years of college. First he worked as a waiter on a cruise ship.

"He then worked as a wiper on a tanker with Standard Oil of New York," Andrea said. "Ships, tankers and freighters alike were then propelled by burning oil. Huge ball bearings, bigger than beach balls, were set in cauldrons of oil to keep from freezing up. Oilers filled these and wipers had the job of mopping up spilled oil as the ships pitched."

Bob returned to UC Berkeley in the fall of 1929 and graduated in 1932. The fall of 1932 saw another increase in bank failures during the Great Depression.

"His first job after graduation was as a gauger – a person responsible for measuring the amount of alcohol in barrels of wine or spirits. They were needed by the alcohol tax unit as Prohibition ended."



Bob Siebert met Emma de la Fuente in 1929. She was his sister's best friend and boss, and Antoinette introduced them.

"Both my mom and dad were working hard to help their families at that time and my dad was back in college," Andrea said. "And with the Depression on, no one was making immediate plans to marry."

Seven years after they met, the couple married at St. Anne of the Sunset, a Catholic Church on Judah Street in San Francisco.

"Their first home was on 32nd Avenue with my dad's folks. When my father secured work for himself, his younger brother and my mom's younger brother, they were able to buy a house in Sharp Park, an unincorporated area of San Mateo County, at what was then 1077 County Road (now Palmetto Avenue)."

"We moved to Pacifica in November of 1941," Bob said. "And of course we always remembered that was one month before Pearl Harbor."

"During the War, we had a Coastguard detachment stationed in Pacifica's castle," Bob continued. "That happened to our community here and to other communities in the country. Bringing a tremendous influx of military personnel to a place that depended upon wells for their water supply, as we did then, made it possible for many of the wells to be almost immediately dry. That brought it to our attention that we were going to have to do something about getting a water supply that was not dependent on groundwater."

That information leads to the introduction of a famous early Pacifica pioneer, Lydia Comerford Fahey. Lydia had a well that was 200-feet deep. She controlled about 80 acres of land and her home was situated where the Mobile Home Park is now on Palmetto Avenue. She was Bob and Emma's neighbor, and of course later the neighbor of Bob and Emma's three daughters – Andrea, Frederica and Ramona – when they began to come along, beginning with Andrea in 1943.

"Mrs. Fahey used her 200-foot freshwater well, which was so close to the ocean, to irrigate all her fields," Bob said. "It was used by the people who rented the land from her for crops and it was an unfailing source of fresh water. Though it was the hardest water I ever came across, you couldn't get any lather from it!"

"Lydia Fahey, Lyde was her nickname, was no slouch and I thought she was the most marvelous woman," Andrea chimed in. "When the Ocean Shore Railway was being planned through the area that my dad was describing in the video, Lydia watched the surveyors. She was a young woman on a Palomino with a rifle across her lap and she rode up and said, 'What are you doing on my father's land?' They said, 'This is the Ocean Shore Railway right-of-way.' And she said, 'No it isn't. I have surveyed my father's land.' And so she invited them to tea, and ultimately the man in charge said to Mr. Fahey, 'Your daughter has saved us from a terrible misunderstanding and possible lawsuit.' She was a wonderful role model."

That event with the surveyors took place in 1905, and Mrs. Fahey's old rifle has since passed down to the Pacifica Historical Society.



The Comerford-Fahey house was the home of Lydia Comerford Fahey for more than 50 years. Built by Joseph Comerford in the 19th century, it was demolished in the 1950s to make room for the mobile home park, Pacific Skies Estates, at 1300 Palmetto Avenue. Mrs. Fahey also owned the land across the street where Ingrid B. Lacy Middle School now stands.

In his 1985 interview, Bob Siebert connected some historic dots in regards to the old bathing pavilion, fresh water and the Fahey Ranch.

"When the Sharp Park Golf Course was being developed (beginning in 1930), sand was dredged up from the ocean and pushed into place to form a dike, or a barricade between the land and the sea, and allow the water in the present lake to become fresh," Bob explained. "It drains from the hills. The doors from the bathing pavilion were saved and brought over to the Fahey Ranch. Joining Mrs. Fahey's home was a chicken ranch and the owner of the chicken ranch, who leased the land from Mrs. Fahey, used the doors to construct his sheds and chicken houses. It was noteworthy for the fact that from the road, you could see a sign that said 'Today's Eggs.' On the reverse side, for the people driving down to the Coast for a picnic, and so forth, the sign said 'No Eggs Today.'" Bob laughed, noting the fresh eggs were obviously not meant for the out-of-towners. As to Pacifica's seaside golf course, it was designed by the renowned landscape architect Alister MacKenzie and completed in the fall of 1931.

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Before the kids came along, Bob worked as a master painter for the Matson Navigation in San Francisco. He painted state rooms and the sides of ships. It was a good job and it allowed Bob and Emma to contribute to the support of their family elders. Bob was not eligible for service in the Second World War. Partially deaf in one ear from diving competitions in college, he was given a 4F classification.

It was after they moved to Pacifica and after Andrea was born that Bob decided to become a teacher.

"One day my mom came home from Janovitz's Five and Dime Store, on the highway strip between Santa Maria Avenue and Paloma Avenue that is now Oceana Boulevard," Andrea said. "The shopkeeper had told my mother that we needed teachers in San Mateo County and my mother, in turn, reported this to my father. I was very little, but I remember clearly that he responded, 'I've always wanted to be a teacher!' My mother looked at him greatly surprised and said, 'Well, then that's what you should be doing!' So he took his teaching credential at San Francisco State University, then a teacher's college, and he went on to receive his Master's in Education at Stanford University."

The need for teachers in Sharp Park, was in a word, dire, as explained in this *San Mateo Times* article by Times Staff Correspondent George W. Whitesell, dated September 17, 1948.

Sharp Park Rams 253 into Building Meant for Sixty

SHARP PARK, Sept. 17—Six school teachers here are battling with the almost unsolvable problem of how to fit 253 children into a school built 40 years ago to hold a maximum of 60 students. One of the teachers has 54 pupils in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. The teaching principal has 43 first graders and a single kindergarten teacher has 38 tots who have never been to school before.

The plight of the little San Pedro school district, caught in the north coast residential boom, is the most desperate ever uncovered in San Mateo county.

What makes the situation unusual is the rigid determination of the teachers and the school trustees to give every child all the education he should rightfully have—resisting the common practice of holding two daily school sessions when overcrowding becomes apparent.

What makes it tolerable is the smiling co-operation of the children who are accepting the overcrowding in good spirits.

Classes in Church

The tiny, antiquated school building did have two classrooms and a basement auditorium. The auditorium has been chopped in two in order to get two more makeshift classrooms, and the school has spread out into a nearby church where three other classes are held.

But 127 boys are using two toilets and 126 girls have two toilets. The teachers have no sanitary facilities of their own. The halls are jammed between classes, the playground is hopelessly small and many children must share benches instead of desks.

More Coming

And it is estimated that the enrollment of the school will climb to 300 before Thanksgiving as the residential growth of Sharp Park, Pacific Manor and Edgemar continues at a headlong pace.

There is some relief in sight—a new school building will be built. But already it can be plainly seen that the new school will not solve the problem, that it, too, will be hopelessly overcrowded by the time it is erected.

Behind the trouble is the rapid expansion on the north coastside. Sharp Park and Edgemar have been experiencing a residential boom far beyond normal expectation, and brand-new Pacific Manor is a development where homes are going up in lots of 200 at a time.

There is a tremendous influx of new families, most of them from San Francisco, which is in easy commuting distance. Nearly every family has children of school age and the continuing development is bringing in more at a constantly accelerating rate.

However, taxes on these new improvements lag far behind and the school district is being forced to operate on income which, for all practical purposes, is about the same as that of two years ago when there were less than 100 pupils.

Trustees of the school district anticipated the condition which has now arrived and strove to meet it. The district voted a bond issue of \$42,000, all that could be permitted upon its assessed valuation. Six thousand dollars of this went to purchase a new school site and application was made to the state for aid under the Lowery act for assistance to "distressed school districts."

Red Tape

State and county officials made a survey and agreed that there would be need for a 14-room school, and application was made to the state for \$450,000. Then red tape got in the road and the other distressed schools also sought funds under the Lowery act.

In consequence the whole project has been mercilessly pared and the district that officials agreed would need 14 classrooms is going to get only six classrooms. As for the \$450,000, that has been pared down to \$111,800 to which will add the remainder of its bond issue in order to build this six-classroom school.

Not Enough

The county schools office says that the state money finally allotted will come soon and it is possible that this school can be erected before next year. It will not be enough, or soon enough, but it will help.

Teachers are allotted on the basis of the previous year's attendance and this will again cause the same "overloading" that the patient teachers now at the school are valiantly attempting to meet right now.

State officials shrug their shoulders and say they "don't know what's to be done." The teachers and the trustees don't know the answer either, but they are doing a brave best under almost impossible circumstances.

Hot Potato

*Teaching Principal Mrs. Mary Drury has one of the virtually impossible jobs that are typical of the whole school. She must teach 43 first grade youngsters (when authorities agree that 25 first graders is the top possible load), and then she must attend to all the administrative work of the school. **Teacher Robert Siebert has tackled the job of teaching sixth, seventh and eighth grade subjects to 53 students.***

Clerk of the school board is local merchant Al Janovitz, who, with trustee Mrs. Julie Rueckert and board president Kenneth Fitch, is holding the "hottest school potato" the county has ever seen.

Says Principal Drury optimistically, "If I could just get one more teacher and a place for her to work."

That's the spirit in which the teachers are doing their best. They can't get the impossible and they'll be grateful for any small aid they can get.—George W. Whitesell



San Pedro School, now City Hall, Sharp Park. Circa 1947.



Bob Siebert with his 7th and 8th grade students in 1947, San Pedro School.

Author: Jean Bartlett (www.bartlettbiographies.com)

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For the 30-year period following the Second World War, approximately six million housing units were constructed in California and 3.5 million of those were single-family homes. The 1944 GI Bill (the Servicemen's Readjustment Act) made low-interest mortgages available.

"So many people moved with their families to the Bay Area because there wasn't and isn't any snow out here," Andrea said. "And so there were all these children that needed to be accommodated. Along with the building that is now City Hall, the district rented downstairs rooms in the Little Brown Church. Together that comprised the classrooms for San Pedro School. My dad's first assignment was the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades which were in the Little Brown Church annex. Some of the students sat on the floor and used pew seats for writing surfaces. There were still shortages due to the War."

Bob taught for 38 years.

"He started at San Pedro School. Sharp Park School was the first school built and he taught there for many years," Andrea recalled. "Sharp Park School was located where Ingrid B. Lacy Middle School is now. Then he taught at Oddstad Elementary School in the back of Linda Mar, and the last school he taught at was Pacific Manor School, which is where Ocean Shore School is now.

"He preferred 5th grade and always taught that grade when he had a choice. One year the district gathered all the 'problem children' throughout the city who were 9, 10 or 11, and comprised a class. They believed my dad was the best one to 'manage' them."



Bob Siebert and his first 8th grade class, 1947, San Pedro School.

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"The reason my parents moved to Sharp Park from San Francisco, is because my mother really wanted to have a garden around her house and they both loved the sea," Andrea said. "When we lived on Palmetto—later the family moved to Paloma, past where Oceana High School is now—we went to the beach almost every day. My father would take us to the beach at 5 a.m. in the morning. He would roust us out of bed. He'd say, 'Wake ho! Rise and Shine! Ready for work on the Matson Line!' He would then feed us and take us down there on a Saturday or Sunday. Sometimes on school days, if it was a low enough tide, he would get us out there at 4:30 in the morning because there was a lot to see. Then we would come back and get on our school uniforms and go to school. Some of my fondest childhood memories are walking on the beach with my dad or with Mrs. Fahey."



Taken in 1939, before Bob and Emma had any children, Bob enjoys a catch from the Pacific.

"When I look at this photo of my dad and the bass, it reminds me of the great, whirling birds that used to cover the ocean because we had so many bass. The bass would drive the herring up and the birds would feast on the herring and the sardines. Our dad used to take us down to see this, and we'd ask, 'What's that big black mass on the ocean?' and he would teach us about the ocean. He had the head of that fish he caught in 1939, mounted in his den in our little house on County Road."

Andrea noted that Mrs. Fahey would walk on the beach, dressed for downtown, then "whip off her Lisle stockings and her high-heeled shoes" and wade with Andrea into the water. Together they would find mussel shells and Mrs. Fahey would talk to Andrea about the ocean. Andrea planned on being a beachcomber for a living.

Sharp Park was a different place back then. Not only did Andrea and her family spend time on the beach, but she and her sisters also climbed up into the hills—and just a visit over to Mrs. Fahey's house would mean picking wild mushrooms and strawberries, stuffing themselves with dates, or blackberry picking in autumn. Often the sisters would have an exploratory go of Mrs. Fahey's vast attic while their dad made repairs needed to her 200-foot well. And often Emma Siebert could be found having a visit with Mrs. Fahey.

Andrea and her sisters did not attend school in Pacifica.

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"At the time our dad became teacher he was told by the principal that the teachers did not want his children at the same school with him," Andrea explained. "He and my mother discussed this carefully. He was greatly affected by his desire to stand in solidarity with another teacher who was told the same thing about her sons. However, my mother was a Mexican national by accident of birth. She was born in Mexico because her family, who lived in San Francisco, was staying with relatives during the aftermath of the 1906 quake. She'd also seen her Japanese friends incarcerated during the Second World War, and had experienced prejudice first hand. So she prevailed upon my dad to send us to school in San Francisco. We attended Notre Dame Des Victoires for elementary school. Frederica and I went to St. Rose Academy for high school. Ramona argued successfully and was the only one allowed to attend Oceana High School in Pacifica.

"For us kids, particularly the two eldest, Frederica and me, the area where we lived with its beaches, neighborhoods and agricultural lands around us, never changed until the 1950s. The GI Bill after the War made it possible to sell farmland at a great profit to housing developers from back East. By the time it really started to take hold, Frederica and I were pre-teens and we really noticed. Vast armies of earwigs came into our homes because the ag land turned over so fast that they had nowhere to go."

And all the while Bob Siebert not only taught, but became very involved in his coastal community.

In 1961, three years after the nine small communities of Fairmont, Westview, Pacific Manor, Sharp Park, Fairway Park, Vallemar, Rockaway Beach, Linda Mar and Pedro Point incorporated as the City of Pacifica, there was a *San Mateo Times* piece on eighth grade Linda Mar school teacher Robert Siebert, who had been selected to attend the spring National Education Association Conference in Tucson. The purpose of the conference was to study new methods in education, from kindergarten through eighth grade. Bob's selection by his fellow Pacifica teachers to represent the Laguna Salada Education Association came with highlights from his résumé to date. These highlights included: served as former secretary of the Sharp Park Sanitary District, past president of the Sharp Park Improvement Club, chairman of a Troop committee for Boy Scouts of America (1944-1958), and member of the Board of Directors of the Catholic Social Service of San Mateo County. Additional service activities included: past president of the Laguna Salada Education Association, membership in the NEA, work with the Planning Committee for UNESCO observances and he was also a former parliamentarian of the San Mateo County Teachers Association. Not mentioned in the article but noted by all of his daughters, was that Bob was also a square dance caller, and a great quoter of Shakespeare, having read all of the Bard's play by the time he was 12 years old.

"My father studied social institutions in school," Andrea said. "He was very interested in how the world worked in terms of what was needed. That brought his early involvement in the Sharp Park Improvement Club and the Sharp Park Sanitary Board. The water crisis he alluded to in the (1985) video, brought people together around the issue of water and how they were going to share it out and whether the County was going to foot the bill, or who was going to pay. After that, as more people moved in, he was part of the Sanitary Board and that was more organized. It wasn't just a club. It was incorporated, it had articles, and they wheeled and dealt with the County to get us set up with water from Hetch Hetchy."

Because of the work of Bob Siebert, and other equally-determined water warriors of the Salada Beach and Sharp Park areas—and despite contentious naysayers who filled local papers with headlines such as: "Hetch Hetchy Will Bankrupt The Coastside—coastal residents voted to incorporate the North Coast County Water District in 1944. Pipes were subsequently laid and NCCWD has provided Hetch Hetchy water to the City of Pacifica since.

Longtime Pacifican, longtime member of the Pacifica Historical Society and retired educator Erika Rigling was and remains a huge fan of Bob Siebert. She noted that also remains true for Pacifica teachers still working or retired who knew him.

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"I first met Bob when I found out that during the summers, he was the one who repaired the audio-visual machines in the School District," Erika said. "At that time, our equipment was mostly record players and movie projectors. Teachers would tag the equipment in need of repair and he volunteered his time to fix it. When I was teaching at the Alternative School (now Ocean Shore Elementary), he volunteered to come in and teach a number of subjects. I particularly remember him bringing a stereoscope to the class because we were reading a story that had one in it. All the kids loved looking at an actual stereoscope and it greatly enhanced the reading of the story. He was very giving of his time. He was very giving as an educator and his students thought the world of him."

"He was deeply interested in how the world worked in terms of people being of goodwill," Andrea said. "He held strong convictions about the empowerment that education could provide. Eternally grateful to his brother, his dearest friend for his own education, he felt a brotherly sense of duty toward his students. He never went to bed before two in the morning during any school year and lost weight regularly all year long, until my mom could fatten him up during summer. He was busy collecting data and learning things so he could benefit his children and prepare them for the most success they could enjoy."

"I think his classroom was kind of a field trip," Andrea went on to say. "He introduced dance and music into the school, learned Spanish to teach that in school, studied art so he could help his artistic students, and each summer he would take me to Coyote Point to borrow animals from their taxidermy library, so that he could teach ecology in summer school. I'm sure as both a teacher and as a fellow citizen he made mistakes—but due to idealism, never to small mindedness."



At his definitely festive retirement party, Bob posed with Mrs. Drury, the principal of San Pedro School when Bob began his teaching career.

"My dad was mild-mannered and encouraging with his three daughters as children, and he stayed that way all his life," Andrea recalled with a smile. "He loved Pacifica and its people very much and his passion for justice was considered and deliberate. He was delighted when I worked with *Pacifica Tribune* publisher Bill Drake to oppose capitulation to a shifty gambling house on Mori Point that would have ruined real estate. One election we argued for weeks about whether to vote for the person with the most integrity as distinguished from the person most likely to be elected. On Election Day we both went off to the polls separately. I decided to switch and vote for the electable candidate. He asked me, after I poured myself and my parents a sherry, 'Who did you vote for?' Embarrassed, I answered that I'd voted for his suggested candidate after all. He took his pipe out of his mouth and laughed and said, 'I voted for Shirley Chisholm!' He and I could talk each other in and out of anything. My sister Frederica was his star. My sister Ramona was his heart's delight." (Bob and Emma Siebert were also very proud in-laws and were thrilled to be grandparents to seven.)

Was her father in favor of the City's incorporation in 1957?

"Though he and my mom were keenly aware of the deficits a community might suffer from overgrowth and underfunding, they, like most of the people, believed the Coastsiders were somewhat neglected by the County. They warily considered that being a city could benefit them."

Andrea said her dad did not like being retired and fell ill with diabetes soon after.

"So he un-retired after a couple of years and was then hired by Mercy High School in Burlingame to teach – as a science and math resource person. The teachers and administrators there valued him even more than he'd been valued by colleagues before. The experience gave him the strength to lift himself from diabetic ill-health to perfect health and he was never troubled by diabetes again. I was most grateful that he gave himself that experience."

Along with Karl Baldwin, Cheryl Bracco, Bill Growney, Howard Hoops, Paul Lawrence, Grace McCarthy, Marv Morganti, Sheila Hyman and Henry Boudinot, Bob Siebert helped establish the 1982-founded, Pacificans Care. Still very much going, the community based non-profit organization raises funds locally to provide grants to social service organizations in Pacifica.

"My parents close friends were mostly family and friends in San Francisco, because they grew up there and worked there for so long," Andrea said, "And these friendships lasted until death. But my dad's best Pacifica friend, after they moved to Paloma, was Henry Boudinot. The two played chess once a week. He of course had also been friends with Mrs. Fahey and my mom and Lydia were especially close friends. My parents were so fond of Maida and Tom Johnston. The Johnstons lived in the Sharp Park house known as the 'Skull Cracker.' The Johnstons had a marvelous library and lent me many books to read and encouraged my interests in politics and literature. Until his death, somewhere in the late 1980s, Tom Johnston was a welcome visitor to our home and he and my dad talked over all things endlessly."

Because of Bob's involvement in all sorts of Pacifica civic groups, he knew Jean and Joe Fassler well. Jean Fassler, a multi-Pacifica mayor was also the City's first mayor. He knew Grace McCarthy well, also a multi-Pacifica mayor, and worked with her on many committees.

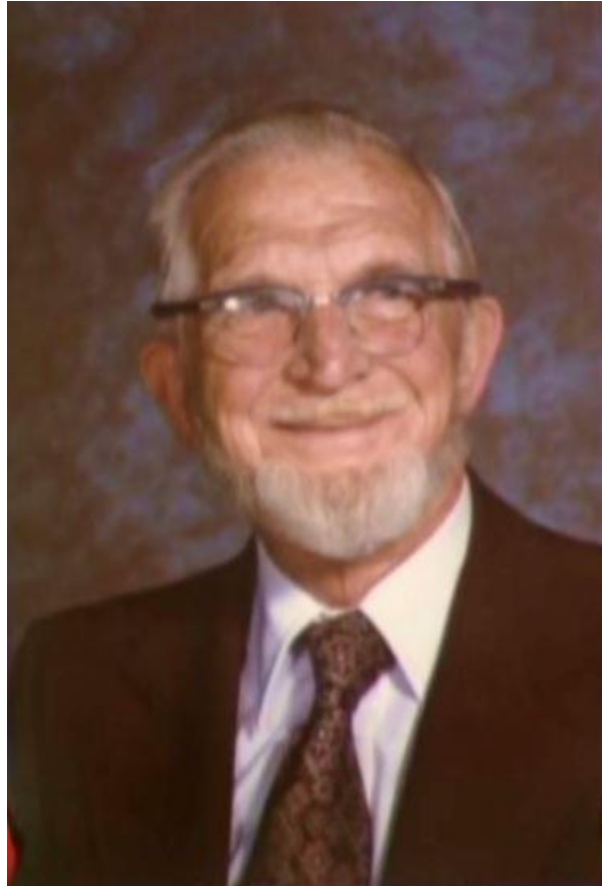
"*Pacifica Tribune* publisher Bill Drake visited our house regularly," Andrea said. "My dad also worked a great deal with teacher Ingrid B. Lacy (Pacifica's middle school is named after her). He so admired her and my mom thought highly of Mrs. Lacy as well."

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"What was absolutely true about my father was that ethical strength and personal integrity motivated all that he did," Andrea noted. "As he lay dying, he said he thought that life is about solving problems, and in the contexts to which he referred he meant 'helping life be better for everyone.'"



Robert Xavier Siebert
February 28, 1907–March 10, 1993



Jean Bartlett is a longtime Bay Area features writer: Pacifica Tribune, Oakland Tribune, San Jose Mercury, San Mateo Times, Portraits & Roots, Marin Independent Journal, Twin City Times, Ross Valley Reporter, Peninsula Progress, Coastal Connections, Contra Costa County Times, Bay Area Business Woman and Catholic San Francisco. She is also a former Hallmark Card writer, a produced playwright and a published author.

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