

TOWER TALK AROUND SAN FRANCISCO TOWERS

Sugar Caen

This is a collection of vignettes, encounters, and observations regarding residents, employees, events, conditions and triumphs in and around San Francisco Towers. This publication is routinely undertaken responsibly and is always positive and never unduly critical. It is published privately and does NOT seek NOR carry the approval nor draw upon the resources of Towers management or any other agency. Readers wishing comments, submit material, or stop receipt are encouraged to do so by writing to Sugarcaen00@gmail.com "Sugar Caen" is a non de plume that bears no relation to any Towers' residents

Recalling Caen: II

Herb Caen annually created a humorous Holiday column. Here is Sugar's first parallel effort.

A California Certified Continuing Care Residential Community Version of an Old Holiday Favorite

*T'was the night Before Christmas
And all through the Towers, many
creatures were still stirring into the wee
hours*

*Stockings were to have been hung by
chimneys with care. However, many
Towers' mantles were regrettably bare.*

*Skilled Nursing patients were nestled
safe in their beds whilst visions of old
sugar daddies danced in their heads.*

*In Hermes scarf and fore-and-aft cap,
Sugar settled in for a well-deserved nap,
when out in the Alley
There arose such a clatter there was no
valid choice but to assess the matter.*

*Away to the window Sugar flew
in a flash, and opened the blinds and,*

*flung open the sash. Reflection from
aluminum recyclables collected afore
imparted a luster to the homeless
assembled galore.*

*When what to Sugar's wandering eyes
should appear an eco friendly gas fueled
turbo sleigh and eight Penske supplied
non-carbon emitting rental reindeer
With a little ol Uber driver so lively and
quick, Sugar knew in a moment it must
be a politically agile St. Nick*

*More rapid than eagles his courses they
came as he whistled and shouted and
called each treasured species by name.
Now Melody, Now Ilene, Now
Annie, Now Cynthia, Now Eric. On
Larry, On Eddie, On Mario, and Blaine*

*To the top of the Tower called Coit to the
balcony of residents named Hoyt, Now
dash-away Dash-away Dash-away all*

*So with a liquid natural gas-fueled
sleigh, driven by St. Nicholas, too
excited to pay heed, up to the rooftops
they flew at ram speed,*

*And then in a twinkling, Sugar heard
on the roof, the prancing and pawing of
each protected category little hoof.
As Sugar stumbled and turned around,
down the chimney St. Nicholas came
with a bound.*

*He was dressed all in (faux) fur from his
head to his foot and his clothes reeked
badly of Dewars and soot.*

*He had Google equities in the bag on his
back and he looked like an AARP agent
about to attack. His eyes had a twinkle
His cosmetic dimples had nary a wrinkle*

*The stump of his corn-silk pipe was
clenched tight in his teeth and the
billowing smoke cloaked him like a
wreath.*

*He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave
a whistle and away they all flew like the
down of a thistle*

*But Sugar heard him exclaim
As he rose out of sight,
Merry Christmas to all
And to all a goodnight*

Ok. So it wasn't all that funny.
Sugar is new at this. It will get better.

Sugar's You Are So San Franciscan If You Know Quiz

1. The criminal, O. J. Simpson,
played High School football at:

- A. Lowell
- B. Katerine Burks
- C. Galileo

2. The Chef/Owner of Fleur de Ly
was:

- A. Jacque Pepin
- B. Julia Child
- C. Yan Can Cook
- D. Hubert Kellor

3. The number of Tower's elevators:

- A. 6
- B. 8
- C. 11

4. Sutro Baths

- A. Great place to take a date
- B. Smelled funny
- C. Was Beaux Arts glass beautiful
- D. Burned by arsonists

5. Fleischacker Pool was:

- A. Filled with seawater
- B. 1,000 feet long
- C. Training spot for Tarzan
- D. Anathema to Cheata

6. Who among the following SFT
residents lived with Herb Caen?

- A. Grace Prien
- B. Shirley Groner
- C. Gloria Hoppe
- D. Barbara Bunting

7. Who among the following was
NOT a Lowell HS principal?

- A. Horace Mann
- B. Edith Pince
- C. Alan Fibish
- D. J. A Perino

Corrections & Reflections

The Tower Talk Premier Edition elicited 22 communiqués. Nineteen were complementary of Sugar. Bob Bolton questioned his name change. (He was inadvertently listed as "John"). Olivia Guthrie was hurt by Sugar's failure to recognize her Halloween costume as Hillary Clinton. It is reported by others that Duncan Howard was a tad miffed at his reference. On all counts, Sugar apologizes, never meaning to malign. Each has received a truffle as a gesture of apology

Sugar would be assisted by readers' submission of items. This can include any matter of humor, vexation, irony, insight, triumph, tyranny, or tribute that comes to a reader's mind. Anonymity can be respected if requested. Know, however, that Sugar is the arbiter of taste. Remember to be sweet.

BTW, do not waste your time attempting to identify Sugar. Sweetness can be found everywhere.

Residents Seeking Sugar's Advice

Dear Sugar:

When I unload my car, it frequently is difficult to find a shopping cart near an elevator lobby.

Perturbed

Dear Perturbed:

Sugar is most sympathetic.

Conversation with residents who have lived a long life in high-rise settings suggests that there is no easy solution. Buying more carts and management admonitions to return carts all help. Somehow, however, carts never seem to be on the level or in the elevator lobby where they are needed most.

Sugar suggests, if you can, go to Amazon Online or go to Wal-Mart and obtain a collapsible, wheeled carryall. The price is about \$25. They fold into almost nothing, will fit in the back or trunk of your auto or one of your closets, and are virtually indestructible.

Sugar.

Sugar's Episodic Rant: Macro Burst

Sugar loves the Holiday season for all the conventional reasons, family, friends, festivities, food, religious rituals, gifts (though the giving has come to be a great deal more fulfilling than the getting) and the hope that, somehow the New Year will bring a greater quantum of peace and harmony than the old. However, in all candor, and with an unusual sense of gravity, Sugar is deeply concerned regarding the coming year. Never in Sugar's adult life, have world events been so perplexing, uncertain, and seemingly

on the brink of spiraling into chaos. There have certainly been worrisome times in the period since World War II. The Korean War, Cuban Missile Crisis, the "Cold War," Viet Nam, Iraq, the 2008 financial Meltdown all come to mind and Sugar is confident that Towers' residents could expand.

Certainly, as a nation, we have faced past crises. However, today's world seems to bounce from one worrisome event to the next with ever-greater frequency and amplitude and often with little sense of finality, let alone a successful result. Many of our past crises came to closure, even if not always a happy closure.

However, at present the barbarism of Isis, the nuclear threat of North Korea and Iran, the torrent of miserable people striving to leave the Middle East, the bullying behavior of Russia and China, the soaring income inequality and seemingly increasing mass shootings here at home: the failure of the global economy to gain momentum, continuing environmental pollution, and the list could be much longer, all seem simultaneously to pose a challenge and few come forward with practical nonpartisan suggestions

The "adults are supposed to be in charge" and too often, be they adults here at home or on a broader international stage, they simply seem to squabble among themselves or put forth only self serving and short lived rather than sensible solutions.

Despair is not in order. It is important to be optimistic around our progeny and ourselves; yet

keeping a stiff upper lip is increasingly a challenge in our lifetimes, regardless.

The United States previously has been fortunate to be able to rely on great leaders to bind us in unity and purpose. Sugar is hopeful that somewhere around us is a Washington, Lincoln, a Roosevelt, or a Truman.

Nevertheless, as much we might be tempted, we cannot sit on the sidelines, wring our hands, and hope for an external savior.

There are many among who have known great challenge and have overcome enormous adversity. I think here of our community members who are survivors of the Holocaust and other fascist oppressors. There are extraordinary leaders and remarkable creative individuals in our midst.

It is simply this reservoir of human experience, compassion, and capacity at the Towers that provokes Sugar to wonder if there is not more that we can do together to make matters better.

With such a great amount of talent and courage about us, even if we are not positioned directly to influence overseas events and United States domestic policy, is there is not more that we can do collectively?

Sugar issues the challenge. Some of us may be elderly, but our lives need not have exhausted their purpose. Is there more we can do individually and collectively?

Sugar solicits reader suggestions for anything we might do together that

would have a fruitful impact outside our comfortable walls.

Meanwhile, given the uncertainty all about us, it seems important that we:

1. *Resist despair.*
2. *Maintain our health and fitness regimens.*
3. *Redouble efforts to be informed regarding local, national, and global conditions.*
4. *Engage in informed and civil discourse among ourselves.*
5. *Sustain the Towers ethos of civility and compassion toward others in our community, both residents and staff.*
6. *Contribute within personal limits to charities and causes possessing promise.*
7. *Actively attempt through letters, tracts, Op Ed pieces, conversations, and emails to support capable public officials who strive for solutions.*
8. *Be wary of overly simple proposals.*
9. *Be alert to and report alarming events or conditions around us.*
10. *Possibly conceive of a Towers collective project.*

Sugar's Episodic Rant: Micro Burst

Still no flags on new roof poles

Little Known Concluding Fact

Shirley Groner long lived with Herb Caen. Really. Ask her.

Stay sweet
Sugar