



The Bowfin Inquirer

Since 1993

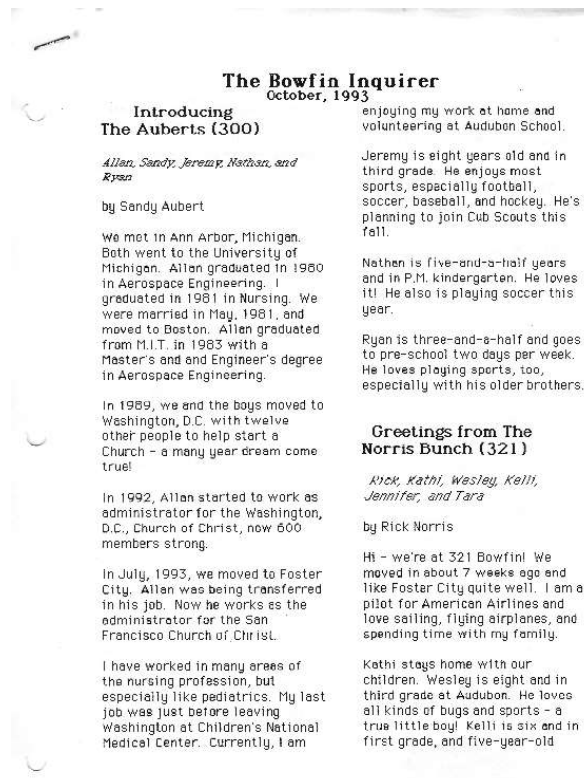


October, 2023

Our 30th Anniversary!

by Jerry Lerman (344)

Wow, that seems like a lotta years! Here's what that first Bowfin Inquirer looked like, composed in "First Publisher" (FP) and printed on my dot-matrix device connected to my 286 IBM PC. I had purchased the PC secondhand so I could complete my MBA program assignments presentably, and it came preloaded with FP. *(I remember that it also came with an incomprehensible Cad-Cam software product that was fun to play around with.)* The 1st issue (below) featured introductions to our newest Bowfin neighbors, the Auberts and Norrises, both of whom had just arrived a few weeks earlier. *This month's quiz is from the 10/93 issue.*



Aaron's Answers



A picture of the Swiss Alpine Train

Question 1: I've just been called to report for jury duty. What is the history of how juries originated, and do juries always have 12 jurors?

Question 2: I was chatting with a neighbor about Switzerland, and I recalled how wonderful Eve and I found it to ride on a train through the Alps when we visited it a few years ago. Do you think you'd enjoy such a ride yourself, if you had the chance?

-Jerry

Aaron's Answer (A'sA): Juries actually started long ago, in Ancient Greece and Rome. While they were not similar to what we have today, the concept of a group of people being chosen to judge cases existed even back then. The jurors put on the early juries were not normal citizens, but were judges themselves, ruling over their own courts. These councils were used for especially serious crimes that required more than one judge to produce a verdict.

Not all juries have 12 jurors; that is a tradition that arose in England. England is

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Solution to Last Month's Quiz

SEASONS GREETINGS

Solution provided by neighbor, Gaurav Keswani

Hi Editors

Here is the solution to quiz in BI September 23:

1. After the fall
2. Autumn leaves
3. The decline and fall of the Roman Empire
4. Falling water
5. Princess Summerfall Winterspring
6. Things fall apart
7. The rise and fall of the third Reich
8. The fall of the house of usher

and.. now is the winter of our discontent

Gaurav.

This Month's Quiz

Scrambled Streets

(from the October, 1993, issue of the BI)

Each of these word sums or differences can have their resulting letters rearranged to form the name of a street in Foster City. Do you have the "drive" to figure them all out?

1. NOW + FIB
2. YON + TUB
3. CHEF + PURRS
4. TAN + MARACA
5. NO + LEGAL
6. INNATE + KERB
7. DOG + WINE
8. OIL + SPAR
9. PARCH + BAKE
10. GREAT + WEED
11. KIDNAPPERS – K
12. A + BULL + CHAT

Home Improvement

by Gary Colman (345)



We've lived in our house on Bowfin St for almost 11 years, but the house was built 41 years before we moved in.

Back when it was first constructed it was a little smaller than it is now, and along the way, the various owners made some changes - a window here, an extra room or two there.

Last winter, the torrential rains exposed some unsanctioned paths for water to seep through the stucco and windows and breach the interior, and we decided this year that it's an imperative to fix it properly before winter.

While fewer than half of the windows and doors were compromised, we decided to replace them all to ensure that they match, and that, with proper installation, we figured that it would properly address these leaks...

As the work began, it became apparent that this was going to be a much larger job ... some of the windows had been incorrectly installed (hence the leaks), there was missing flashing in numerous places, the waterproof paper that acts as a moisture barrier between the stucco and the wood of the house (should the paint fail and water even make it there) had fought a valiant battle but had long-since lost the war ...

We also discovered that our house wasn't built with plywood between the paper and the studs, which is now convention and acts as an additional insulator and structural component, but was perhaps either overlooked for commercial and financial

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Aaron's Answers continued

the source of our current, modern jury system (as opposed to that of Greece or Rome), and the English deliberated for a long time about how many jurors there should be. They eventually settled on 12 jurors, which they deemed to be an amount not too large but also large enough that it could be diverse. The random selection of jurors most likely also arose in England. Have "fun" at jury duty!

Yes, I would love to ride that train through the Alps! Just by looking at pictures of the train and the view online, I think it would be a wonderful, natural experience to partake in. Besides, I like riding trains in general because they go so fast compared to my normal modes of transportation (biking, walking and running). They are truly amazing works of art!



**Spooky
BOOFIN
Street !**

TARGET DATE FOR Next Month's Contributions

November 21, 2023

Please reach us with your articles, news, photos,
CHILDREN'S ARTWORK or ideas at

344 Bowfin, (650 572-9153) or email us at our
email EDITOR@BOWFININQUIRER.COM

or by adding a NOTE on our Facebook Page

or our website: BOWFININQUIRER.COM



Home Improvement continued

reasons when Foster City came together as a new community, or perhaps just wasn't the style of building in 1972. We initially had thought that the degradation was localized to the west-facing wall, since it gets the most exposure to a combination sun and salt-spray winds, but as we probed other areas of the exterior, it was clear that this was going to be a much larger job.

We're now 5 weeks in, and we've stripped away all the stucco, added new fiberglass insulation, added plywood where it was missing and replaced it in areas where it was present. At the time of writing, the moisture barrier paper is up, and the wire to which the stucco adheres is also in place.

There have been a few surprises along the journey – e.g., we discovered that our deck was improperly affixed to our house, which could compromise waterproofing.

We had to remove our gutters because with the plywood now in place, the effective circumference of the house has increased and the gutters no longer fit.

We learned only after waiting 2 months for new windows to be delivered, and only after the project started, that the window manufacturer had delivered one incorrect window among the batch, and we'd need to wait another two weeks for its replacement. Most frustratingly for us as occupants in 2023, we have been operating on a temporary Internet connection due to the construction having damaged the fiber that is affixed to one wall, so I had to rig a temporary flylead into the AT&T junction box.

I also learned that this house had an earlier occupant by the name of "Brown" -- inferred from seeing his name written on the side of a window that I watched being removed. I did some Internet sleuthing (which took a little longer than usual, due to our lossy connection with the displaced fiber) and learned that Dr. Charles Harmon Brown

lived in this house in the 80s, and was a four-time Olympic coach, and a 10-time coach to U.S. national teams. (*Editor's note: You can see more about the late Dr. Brown in Wikipedia!*)

We also came to learn, after chatting with neighbours along Bowfin and in the neighborhood, that stucco and siding replacement isn't uncommon, and even during our own construction period, have observed quite a few houses around Foster City (and even another on Bowfin Street!) undergoing similar renovations.

We've passed the worst of the construction now, and very soon will begin applying our new stucco exterior.

In a few weeks, and hopefully before the onset of the heavier winter precipitation, our house will be leak-proof, and ready for the next 50 years.

Postscript from Gary: Allow me to add - since I hadn't submitted the September puzzle solution, that clearly last year was the winter of our discontent ;-)
