

June 7, 1986

REMEMBRANCES
OF AN OLD MOTHER

Sandy Silver

I remember when the Mothers for Peace first began;
It was during America's involvement in Viet Nam.
Pat Miller can confirm what I have to say
'Cause she was with us from the very first day.

I remember another woman who joined soon after.
Her very quick wit provoked much laughter.
Even in the most serious meetings - after awhile,
With Jane Swanson around you couldn't help but smile.

It was a period of teach-ins and marches and speakers.
No, we were not the little old ladies in sneakers!
We were committed to peace and opposed to all war.
Alas, we still don't have peace - so we must all work some
more.

I remember a very long time ago
When first we decided to stop Diablo.
AEC hearings were held at the Golden Tee
And Liz Apfelberg made her debut on TV.

PG&E's pr men displayed great arrogance
In addition to their general ignorance.
Then Liz stepped forward into the spotlight
And announced, "The Mothers are here to fight".

We searched for lawyers of any kind.
They all replied, "Are you out of your mind?!"
One said, "Five thousand dollars it's gonna cost".
We told the guy to, "get lost".

Later on we all rejoiced when lawyers from the Center
Decided the legal case to enter.
Our first attorney was no wiseacre,
But instead, a genius named, David Fleischaker.

Before the Center, we went along in our naivete
Learning about PG&E and the AEC - what depravity!
But the Mothers are an ingenious lot
And we decided to give it all we got.

Which at the time was \$29.16
And lots and lots of innocence.
One thing we learned real quickly.
We couldn't do much with a treasury that sickly. ✓

How many ways can you raise a little dough?
You name it - we did it - right here in SLO.
First came a garage sale at Raye Fleming's on Chorro Street.
In 12 hours we had \$87.00 - and very sore feet.

I remember the hundreds of chocolate chip cookies we all
made.

And fudge; and baked potatoes; and lemonade.
Our booth was in the Mission Plaza on all the holidays.
Bonnie Cutter and Sue Sunderland both deserve our praise.

For making all the arrangements and always being reliable.
Of course, the fact that all the Mothers are great - is
undeniable.

All the Mothers did the cooking and selling of the food
Working together always made us feel good.

Nancy Walker had an idea that added some class.
The Mothers for Peace now have a special wine glass.
I remember a lovely wine tasting party with some cheese
Made us all feel so sophisticated, if you please.

And, of course, our fund raising letters
Which keep on getting better and better.
Most letters are produced by a team
To educate people and raise money has been our themes.

While Nancy Culver is our writer-in-residence,
(The press releases and fact sheets provide that evidence)
The esteem we have for her can never be enough.
Her weakness is: she seals envelopes before they're
stuffed!

I remember once a committee was formed,
When our skimpy treasury had us all alarmed.
It was at a meeting at Elaine Holder's
We agreed we needed an appeal that was bolder

Then all of a sudden,
Up popped June von Ruden
Who said, "Let's keep it short and sweet"
Please send us money - was the message complete.

She reasoned that the Mothers had an honest reputation
And had earned the trust and respect of the population.
I'm pleased to say she was absolutely right
'Cause money came in and we were able to carry on the fight.

To reach thousands of people is quite a feat.
Our marvelous team-effort has been hard to beat.
It was Joyce Curry Daly who suggested the computer
And our mailing successes are largely due to her.

Special thanks go to Marcia McGee
Who typed in all the names without a fee.
Lea Anderson's house has been used for mailing parties.
After 8 hours straight, we could have all used some
Bicardies!

And I remember the mailing parties at Wheeler and Spatafore
With Rochelle Becker and Judy Carscaden sorting mail on the
floor.

It really became a family affair
Micki Gillman has often brought her daughter there

Stuff, seal, stick on the label.
Debby Jeter proved to be extremely able.
Carol Loomis, Nancy Norwood and Sophie Fishman too,
Melinda Forbes and Marie Cattoir stuffed 'til their fingers
turned blue.

As you can see, raising money is truly an art.
And takes a monumental effort on everyone's part.
One of my favorite fund-raising memories
Involved our dealings with celebrities.

Who would ever believe I'd be chasing a movie star
With Betsy Umhofer driving in a borrowed car?
Both Betsy and I were longing
For a couple of celebrities' belongings.

We had a tip about a movie being shot
At the Nipomo Dunes with stars who were hot.
Off we sped in a 4-wheel drive truck
But sure enough, in the sand we got stuck.

But we forged ahead with little caution
Determined to get something for our Celebrity Auction.
If you should ask, what did those stars provide?
Not a damn thing - but we had a helluva fun ride!

It was Jackie Wheeler and Sue Rowland
Who got us all goin'
I remember one of the hardest things of all
Was trying to establish intimacy in the cavernous Vet's
Hall.

Ceilings 20 feet high and reaching to Mars,
And from the rafters, Sue wanted to hang silver stars.
As most of us grew discouraged and sadder,
Edie Clark called for a ladder.

Up she scampered like a sure-footed deer
Hung those stars and, by gosh, the ceiling appeared near.
The excitement of the evening was very contagious.
We all did things that were quite outrageous.

Cindy Vix modeled Jane Fonda's workout suit
(The buyer wanted Cindy ta-boot!)
A belt buckle from Robert Redford - a sexy star
Was bought by Mothers for Peace member, Char.

The evening was an exciting affair
Attended by people from everywhere.
Our beloved lawyer, Joel Renolds, was ever graceful,
As he walked away with an autographed baseball.

Along with celebrity items we received in a carton
Was a generous donation of a mo-ped from Lee Martin.
Financial mistakes we wanted to avoid,
So our cashier was Yvonne Floyd.

Of course, raising money wasn't our major aim.
The goals of our group has always been the same.
To work for peace and to shut down Diablo.
On both those scores - we've got a way to go.

Without a phone tree to keep us in touch
We'd all be scattered and couldn't accomplish very much.
Nancy Willison, Terry Drury and Jill Zamek too,
The Mothers want to say thanks to all of you.

I remember the quiet members who worked in the background
And who have made our organization so worthy and so sound.
I haven't begun to name all the Mothers
Nor the many countless others

Who have strengthened our faith and resolve.

There are so many people who have been involved.
Our Santa Barbara friends have been so loyal,
Like Mary and Liz Jones who have for years joined in our
toil.

From Steve Auslender of Seaside Survival,
To the Brunos, the McDermotts and to all the new arrivals,
The fight against Diablo will continue to be waged,
Because its existence in this community is an outrage.

The peaceful efforts of the Mother for Peace
Will continue to grow and never cease
As a member of the Mothers I am filled with great pride,
To work with these wonderful women side by side.

Memories are precious, but so is the future.
To be Loving and Caring are attributes we must all continue
to nurture
I hope you'll all remember, when I'm in Santa Cruz,
Just how much - I love all of you.