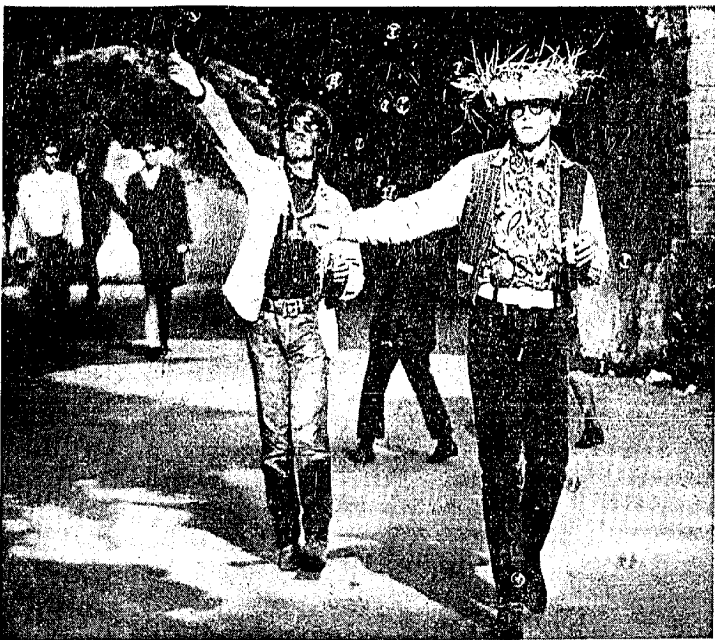


**Hippies Merely a Nuisance, Veteran S.F. Officer Insists**  
**DAVE FELTON**  
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**THE SIMPLE PLEASURES**— Strolling through Golden Gate Park are Nick Yadao, 19, left, and Fred Willkison, 15, strewing soap bubbles along the way. Hippies believe bubbles symbolize life's fragility.



**HIGH SPOT**— Capping most San Francisco sight-seeing expeditions today is a tour of Haight Street, haven for hippies and now a congested congregation of gawkers as well. Hippies ignore spectators. Times photos by Steve Fontaine

**'INVASION' RUMOR RIDICULED**

**Hippies Merely a Nuisance, Veteran S.F. Officer Insists**

BY DAVE FELTON  
 Times Staff Writer

Park Station of the San Francisco Police Department is an acid head's dream.

Nestled inside the lush east end of Golden Gate Park, near Stanyan and Waller Sts., this yellowing oak building is surrounded by the best mind-expanding smells, sounds and patterns of nature's groovy drug-store.

In the late afternoon, an arched stairwell window captures the sun, splits it and lights the dusty air inside with cathedral shafts. A bumper sticker pasted to the complaint window offers a one-word greeting in magenta: LOVE.

This free psychedelic show, without the bumper sticker perhaps, has been performed since 1965 when the building was constructed. Yet recently the audience has been growing, boosted largely by a new crop of nearby immigrants—the hippies of Haight-Ashbury.

Unfortunately—for both sides—attendance has been largely involuntary.

**Getting LSD Crowd Now**

"They started moving in here two, maybe three years ago," recalled Lt. John Curran of the Park Station day watch. "The original hippies were all right—real writers and artists. Now we're attracting the LSD crowd."

Lt. Curran, a gentle, witty veteran of 29 years on the force, is not a man to be ruffled by hippies. He takes reports of growing Haight-Ashbury tension and rumors of a summer youth invasion with pounds of salt.

"That's just something that's been concocted by the newspapers," he said. "What we have here is nothing more than a bunch of kids celebrating Halloween every day.

"Only thing now is, on Saturdays and Sundays we're getting an influx of cars to the district. Some are tourists and some are your 'plastic' hippies—you know, the phonies, the high school kids that come over just on weekends."

According to Lt. Curran, the main problem police have in the Haight-Ashbury is trying to locate

runaway teen-agers, particularly young girls.

"That's the sad part of all this, all these girls running away," he said. "Last month we had a father up from Los Angeles looking for his teen-age daughter. He finally had to dress up as a hippie himself and go into the area to find her."

Many of the runaways take refuge in digger houses where they can stay free of charge, said the lieutenant.

"The digger ideas are all right, but their execution is wrong," he said. "Their houses are way overloaded. You can't have 50 or 60 persons using two toilets. Their sanitary conditions are poor. I've heard some get lice but are too tenderhearted to kill 'em."

**Started Camping in Park**

"Another thing—whenever you have young girls staying with a bunch of older men, you have sex rearing its ugly head. I mean, down at 6th and Market if a man makes a pass at a girl, he's a dirty old man. Here, all he has to do is spout some poetry or put on a scrape or crazy hat and it's okay."

Apart from the runaway problem, hippies present only an occasional nuisance, claimed Lt. Curran.

"Last year they started camping out at night in Golden Gate Park, sleeping in these tents and sleeping bags," he recalled. "Well, this park's not national, and the park code's against it. I'd hate to do it myself, with the rats and things in the bushes."

"We had one incident over here the other day. Our men discovered some hippies sleeping in a foxhole they'd dug in the sand. It had a trap door with camouflage and everything."

Because Park Station officers still walk their beats, the lieutenant explained, relations with the hippies have been good.

"As far as I'm concerned, your foot man is still your best community relations officer. He can talk to people and get to know them. One officer in the Haight-Ashbury is an

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**A FRIEND** - The Rev. Leon Harris, who finds hippie movement exciting.



**HEALTH CHIEF** - John C. Kelterer directed a check on hippie housing. Times photos.

## HIPPIES IN S.F.

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artist himself, has some of his stuff hanging in the shop windows.

"All in all the hippies are peaceful. They're just a little annoying at times because they want complete freedom."

Perhaps Lt. Curran is right about about the good police-hippies relations. But the next afternoon his officers arrested 20 young people for allegedly resisting efforts to disperse a crowd of several thousand hippies.

A similar incident occurred the weekend before, and there is little reason to think there won't be future trouble. Weekend crowds of tourists and hippies are reaching mob proportions in the Haight-Ashbury, forcing police to close the streets to automobiles.

Public city buses are rerouting to stay out of the area, while private tourist buses are rerouting to go into it. And despite police denials, there is the persistent rumor that 100,000 to 200,000 disenchant-ed young people will seek refuge in the city this summer.

The prospect that seems to frighten public officials more than any other is that of too much publicity. San Francisco Mayor John F. Shelley, when told of a possible hippie invasion, immediately asked his board of supervisors for "an official declaration of policy that such a migration is—UNWELCOME."

### Islands of Squalor

Several days later, on Monday, March 27, City Health Director, Dr. Ellis Sox ordered eight two-man teams into the Haight-Ashbury district to enforce the sanitation and housing code in "certain islands of squalor out there."

Dr. Sox should have sneaked into the area by himself before launching his hippie raid. As a political move, it backfired disastrously.

"Our men inspected 1,200 buildings in 50 square blocks of the Haight-Ashbury district," explained John C. Kelterer, chief of the bureau of sanitation and housing inspection, Department of Public Health, San Francisco.

"Of these, 65 received written notices giving them five days to clean up. Of these 65 homes, 15 or 20 belonged to so-called hippies.

"It appears now we did not find things quite so bad as we'd been led to believe."

### Complaints by Police

Kelterer said the department had been planning to inspect the Haight-Ashbury anyway after receiving numerous citizens' complaints about health conditions there. He admitted most of the so-called "citizens' complaints" actually came from police and narcotics officers who had been in hippie homes to make arrests.

"We only found 13 real bad situations," he said. "These were where the garbage hadn't been picked up or where there was faulty plumbing or overcrowding."

Of the 15 or 20 hippie pads cited, one of the worst was the digger hostel at 848 Clayton St., Kelterer said. "They hadn't paid their garbage bill and it was collecting on the sidewalk outside the house. Incidentally, here was a place where we could not find the owner. Absolutely nothing in our records. It's just amazing—a piece of property that

apparently no one cares about."

Not paying your garbage bill can be a health problem in San Francisco where there is no public collection. For years it has been collected by a private firm with the delightful name of Sunset Scavengers.

A healthy looking executive in dark coat and tie, Kelterer has lived in San Francisco all his life. "At one time the Haight-

Ashbury district was one of the nicest neighborhoods in town," he recalled. "Doctors, lawyers, professional people lived there.

"Then several years ago we had to go in and inspect the same area because there had been so many conversions to multiple use. In our opinion, there are no really unsafe buildings in the district."

As for the hippies' personal health habits, Kelterer said, "You'll have to ask someone else. We're concerned with things right now, not people."

"Off the record, well, apparently every age has its quirks. I mean, what the hell, we've all got to live together."

In another section of the health department, where they are concerned with people, not things, an attractive woman doctor talked about venereal disease.

"There have been reports of a rise in VD among the hippies," said the doctor, after asking that she not be identified. "But you have to remember that the statistics are not necessarily meaningful."

She pointed out that the last census was in 1960 and that the present Haight-Ashbury population is really unknown. Also, she said, hippies may be more apt to report

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# Hippies Just Nuisance, Veteran Officer Says

is religious in nature. It consists of a deep sensual appreciation, a renewal of the sensual and spiritual, similar to some eastern religions." Some are even calling for a "summer of religious celebration," he said.

## Rank Hypocrisy

"I feel these people, although religious, are alienated from the church. They see the rank hypocrisy, the lack of love from church people. I know a number of church people who talk of love but when it comes to practicing it, draw their garments about them.

"To hippies, churches do not actually practice what they preach. Hippies are against organized religion, but they have not repudiated God, prayer or meditation. They're not sure where they arrive theologically. They seem drawn to eastern religions, but they're not sure that's the case.

"A great many have found themselves starting to reassess."

Father Harris may have a difficult time in arguing his case. Last week he received an angry letter from his chief lay officer, Donald Carlson.

According to Carlson, the hippies are "un-Christian and immoral" and should not be allowed to use the facilities of the church.

With that, Carlson signed the letter and resigned.

**Next: A visit with the diggers, the worker priests of the hippie movement—who they are, what they do and their prediction for the hippie future.**

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venereal disease than other segments of society.

"No outbreaks of hepatitis or dysentery have been reported," she said, "but, of course, we're always concerned about overcrowding where these things could start. They say themselves there's a lot of sickness, but it's mostly colds and respiratory ailments."

## Moral Health

It may be that San Francisco parents, when they speak of venereal disease and bad living conditions in Haight-Ashbury, are more concerned about the moral, rather than the physical, health of hippies.

At any rate, one man who should know about these things is the Rev. Leon Harris, for 19 years pastor of All Saints' Episcopal Church in the heart of the Haight-Ashbury. He is a sparkle-eyed man with a gray crewcut and flowing black cape.

"The hippie manifestation is part of a major social revolution sweeping the world," Father Harris said. "A huge number of young people are becoming unhappy, disturbed and disillusioned with society. They find themselves in a society not of their making and which they don't particularly like.

"They are seeking a change of environment. They seek more love, less strife. They put more emphasis on personal worth rather than external materialism. These people are not antisociety, they have despaired of society."

Against the wishes of

some parishioners, Father Harris has made friends with the hippies. He donated one room of his parish hall to the diggers, whom he calls "the executive branch of the hippie movement." They use it as their front office.

It was his warning of a 100,000-hippie pilgrimage and request that Golden Gate Park be donated for sleeping grounds that first upset Mayor Shelley and other city officials.

"No doubt we're likely to have some problems. We've already had some," said Father Harris. "Looks as if there will be at least 100,000, perhaps 200,000 young people coming this summer.

"We get this information from people all over the country who are conversant with the situation—educators, ministers, social workers, psychologists. Maybe they won't all come, but as long as there's a possibility, the city ought to be prepared.

## After Earthquake

"The city has the power to do a good deal. People get alarmed at the suggestion to use Golden Gate Park, but at least there is a precedent here. The park was used after the 1905 earthquake."

Another possible campground, he said, would be Kezar Stadium, where there are adequate sanitary facilities.

"But we're not suggesting that the city provide them with a life of ease and luxury," Father Harris said.

For the most part, he admitted, he finds the hippie movement exciting and positive.

"The basic energy flowing out of Haight-Ashbury