

Where Were You, Summer 1967?

By Jennifer Wake, with Wendy Scheck and Lee Borrowman



In the summer of 1967, the Beatles released Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, the People's Republic of China announced a successful hydrogen bomb test, the 12th Street Riots in Detroit, Mich., claimed 43 lives, Thurgood Marshall was confirmed as the first African American Justice of the United States Supreme Court, and The Who destroyed their instruments during a performance on The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour.

Closer to home, our own Cathy Tyson was preparing to enter kindergarten at Los Perales in Moraga; in Orinda, Owsley Stanley, Grateful Dead audio engineer and legendary psychedelic chemist, was mixing up his own brand of trouble; and residents of Lafayette were arguing the issue of Incorporation.

Where were you during this fateful summer?

Darlene Haffner, Moraga

"That summer, John and I were in a huge stadium in Sacramento waiting to listen to Martin Luther King, Jr. speak. An incredible silence came over the crowd.

It was the most electrifying thing you could ever imagine."

Jay Lifson, Executive Director, Lafayette Chamber of Commerce

"I was 13 years old and a hippie wanna-be. That summer I hitchhiked to LA to see Jefferson Airplane in concert – the opening band was the Grateful Dead."

Ken Tom, Moraga

"I was the Assistant director of the Computer Facility at UCLA. There were several thousand people at a rally, when all of a sudden I heard them cry 'lets go to the computer center'. I ran to the center, blocked the door with my arms out to the side and spoke with the crowd. I told them that if they destroyed the computers, they would be hurting fellow students by destroying all of their research and thesis material. They backed down." (This was actually 1970, but who's counting)

Jess Wellan, Owner, Lafayette Car Wash

I grew up in New York, but when I heard what was happening in San Francisco I packed my bags and moved there. The summer of '67 I was living on the corner of Bush/Powell, paying \$400/month for rent and listening to Janis Joplin for free. I worked odd jobs and spent my free time at concerts like Jefferson Airplane where joints were thrown out to the crowd by the hand-ful and the Hells Angels were the body guards."

Jorge Quintero, Owner, Rheem Valley Pet Shoppe and Lafayette Pet Shoppe

"I was in 10th grade and living in Oakland with my mom. As racial tensions rose, I felt that it was too dangerous to be a Caucasian in East Oakland so I packed up and moved to San Francisco to live with my uncle. I worked hard to make ends meet, but I had a great time, wore long hair, flared pants, earth shoes, and enjoyed myself a lot. I was at the Jefferson Airplane concert where someone was shot despite the Hells Angels."



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