

THE LAKE MERRITT INSTITUTE

A Center For Urban Runoff And Watershed Research

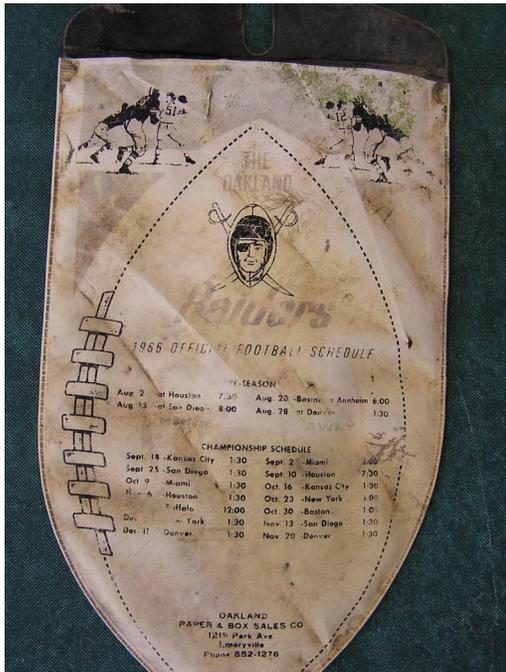
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VOLUNTEER LETTER

PEOPLE LOVE TO THROW THINGS IN THE WATER: You've done it; I've done it. Everyone throws things into the water. And considering the pacifiers we find in the Lake, it starts at a very early age! But the variety of things we find in Lake Merritt is astounding.



Someone must have cleaned out their garage. What other explanation is there for this 1966 Raider's schedule being in the Lake?

In addition to the antique schedule, the following have been pulled out with our nets:

A plastic piece of bacon, a very real looking plastic orange, a corkscrew, Christmas ornaments, fake money, bullets, a crucifix, a mouse casket, a backpack, stuffed animals, unidentified (auto?) parts, a Turkish flag, a trophy, a boomerang, books, shoes, a tape recorder, CD's, cell phones, pagers, legos, dominoes, a mannequin arm, a rug, a parking meter, a "No Littering" sign; a stuffed Nemo, a clay mask, messages in bottles and part of a 78 rpm record!

One time we found a huge amount of clothing and household goods, including some things with an address. Being good citizens we tried to return the wet mess, but were told that the owner was currently in jail. So to the dump it went.

But alas, most of it is trash. *Trash related to putting things in one's mouth*; namely candy wrappers, cigarette butts, plastic bottles, Styrofoam cups, food wrappers, drink cans and more. So if you volunteer to clean the Lake, that's mainly what you will find. But you never know...Hilary found a large diamond in the grass one time.

LAKESHORE CONSTRUCTION NOT THE BEST MODEL:

As shown in this photo, concrete work on Lakeshore Avenue appears to have sent pollutants down the drain into Lake Merritt. Such incidents can be avoided. Temporary and permanent drain inlet filters are available, and are used by responsible companies. If you think hazardous materials are being dumped, call 911.



SUMMARY: 2.60 inches of rain; 4,840 pounds of trash; 237 people; 140 bags of trash and a whole lot of duckweed. Thanks guys.

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