

# point Counterpoint

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# Reminiscing with Don Church

Interesting and sometimes humorous stories taken from old Richmond and Point Richmond newspapers, through the courtesy of the Richmond Museum.

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THE YEAR:  
1914

Richmond Independent, December 4, 1914:

**"FERRY WILL BE TOPIC TODAY"**

"Richmond boosters will join with those from Oakland, Santa Rosa, and Petaluma today at San Rafael City Hall to make formal plans for operation of a passenger and vehicle ferry service between here and a point in Marin County just opposite this city. The Mayors and City Councils of the above cities as well as Berkeley, Petaluma and San Rafael have been invited also.

The company that would operate the system is one of the large lumber carrier firms on the coast and also operates 7 or 8 ocean going steamers. (Olson & Mahoney). Its name will be disclosed this afternoon at the meeting.

It is expected that 300 citizens will be present."

December 5, 1914: **"MARIN FERRY SYSTEM WILL BE RUNNING APRIL 1."**

April 1 is the date set by Charles Van Damme and his associates



for the first trip of the Richmond-Marin ferry. The new company has been financed by Van Damme, who is secretary of the Olson-Mahoney lumber company of San Francisco. An hour service has been promised and the leased ferry will carry 20 cars and 1,000 passengers per trip. The Richmond landing will be at the Blake Brothers Quarry and the Marin Landing will be at Point San Quentin.

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December 5, 1914:

**"POOR GIVEN WORK TEARING DOWN OLDEST WEST SIDE CHURCH"**

"As if it felt that its usefulness would never be ended until the last bit of plaster had fallen to the ground and the last board had been piled on the vacant lot, the old First Methodist Church, corner of Martina and Richmond, at the Point is departing; but in doing so, is furnishing food and warmth for five needy families.

Reverend Peterson is having the building razed to make room for his new rectory, which is expected to soon be started. The lumber from the old church is being used and in order to get the building out of the way, five laborers all sadly in need of work, have been hired.

The church was started in 1900 by Rev. Younglove. It was but a frame building, but it carries away with it some of the sweetest memories of the older members... many of whom were married in it

# TIME, LET US DEDICATE A PARK !

The city of Richmond, through the Director of Parks and Recreation, has offered the Point Richmond Civic Group the opportunity to sponsor the dedication of Keller's Beach as a City Park on December 10, 1967. The Civic Group, by vote of the executive committee, agreed to accept the sponsorship. Dedication ceremonies will begin at 2:30, but following is a sequential list of the afternoon's activities: (Pray for no rain--the only shelters available are the rest rooms!)

## KITE FLYING CONTEST

will begin at 1:30 p.m., with appropriate prizes for the highest flying kites. For non-kite flyers, bring a picnic lunch and relax under a kite-filled sky.)

**DEDICATION** and Ribbon-Cutting ceremony will take place at 2:30 p.m. It is hoped that Lieutenant Governor Robert Finch will be able to arrange his schedule so that he can make the dedication speech. Also on hand for the ceremony will be Senator George Miller of Martinez, Assemblyman John Knox of Richmond, and Mayor Stanley Grydyk. Although Congressman Jerome Waldie is invited, it is believed that he will be in Washington at that time.

Mayors, City Managers, Councilmen and Recreation and Park Directors of East Bay Cities, as well as members of Richmond's City Commissions and members of the East Bay Regional Park District Staff and Board of Directors have been invited as special guests.



All funds for acquisition and development of the park were matched by Federal Funds, and Regional Director of Housing and Urban Development and members of his staff will be on hand as special guests also.

A **MARCHING BAND** will provide rousing music just before the ceremonies, and it is hoped that the Point Piper, Dr. Rodney Paine will play his bagpipes during the afternoon.

Everyone is invited to come early and stay as late as they wish, to enjoy the official dedication of the beautiful new park. Mayor Grydyk will cut the ribbon to officially open the park.

**PICNICKING** will go on all afternoon -- bring a lunch and eat when you wish. If you haven't yet visited this lovely park, this is the time to get acquainted with it -- and look beyond it to the flat land leading to the beach south of Keller's, and to the hillside, up to Nicholl Knob, and visualize the even larger Regional Park which is planned for the area.

**EVERYONE** is invited!

(PTA -continued)

## EDUCATION AND NOISE

Even though the meeting was primarily a luncheon for cast members and teachers, one item of business was discussed, and should be of interest to anyone who has a child in school, or who is concerned about children's education.

The spur track next to the school poses

a problem of noise and safety--even though assurance has been given by the Santa Fe Railway Company that no train would run during school hours except in emergency situations. Already trains are passing during the day. Noise is intense enough to drown out any teacher's voice. A letter was sent to the Railway Company but it was agreed that further action might be necessary to guarantee safety and reasonably low noise level.