

POINT COUNTERPOINT

A JOURNAL FOR CIVIC COMMUNICATION

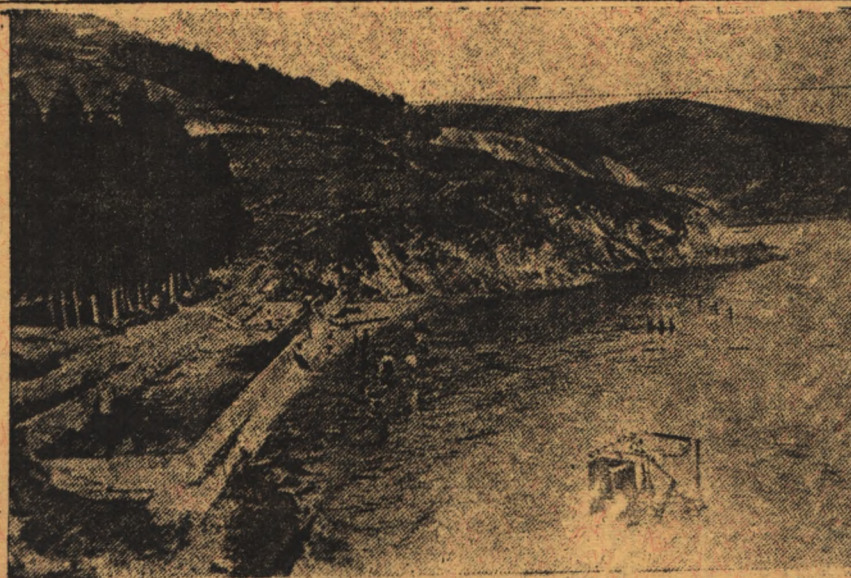
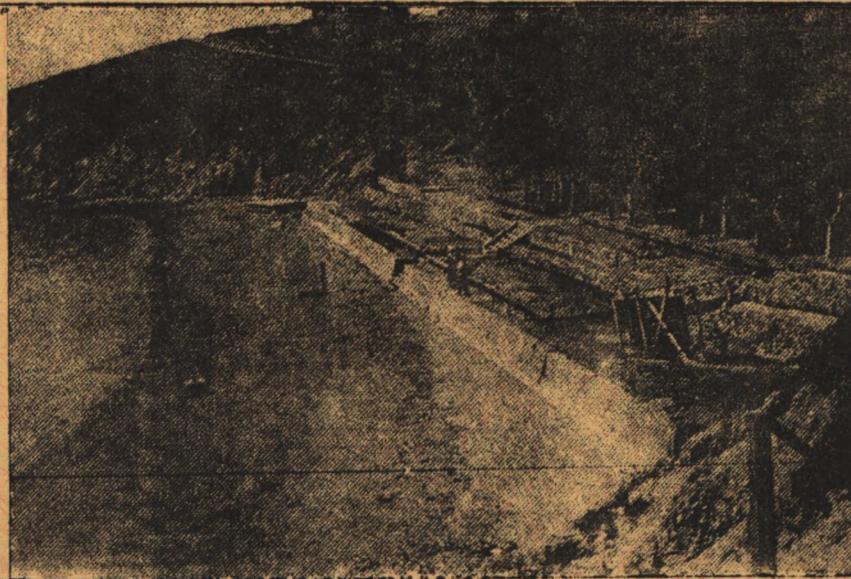
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WEEKLY 10¢

POINT RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA

FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 22, 1968

DO YOU REMEMBER LOOMIS PARK?



.....OR KOZY KOVE?

SEE STORY BY DON CHURCH ON PAGE 4!

WATCH 'EM RUN..... INTO THE BLACK!
(OUT OF THE RED!)

POINT RICHMOND
BOYS BASEBALL!

TRUES TV 1 BOY	<i>the</i> BALTIC 1 BOY	Sherry & Bob's 2 BOYS		STODDARD REALTY 1 BOY
<i>Allyn's</i> MEN'S SHOP 1 BOY	JUMBO burgers 1 BOY	Central pool 1 BOY	Point RICHMOND Real ESTATE 1 BOY	<i>Davis & DeLozier</i> CONTRACTORS 1 BOY
<i>the</i> SPOT 2 BOYS		PACIFIC BOAT WORKS 2 BOYS		<i>the</i> OLD FIREHOSE CORP. 1 BOY
TEDRICK Insurance 2 BOYS		<i>Dales</i> AUTO REPAIR 1 BOY		
SANTA FE market			1 BRONCO MAJOR TEAM (11-12 yrs)	
<i>Athison Village</i>			1 BRONCO MINOR TEAM (9, 10, 11 yrs)	
TOPS chemical			1 PEE WEE TEAM (7-8 yrs.)	

Any POINT RICHMOND MERCHANTS INTERESTED IN SPONSORING
BOYS... Call 233-4434

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THE HISTORY OF KOZY KOVE 4.

by DON CHURCH



KOZY By the Sea KOVE

POINT RICHMOND

Richmond's Refined Family Pleasure Resort

Swimming

Special Program Arranged for Sunday.....

DANCING

Every Saturday Night, Sunday Afternoon
and Sunday Night

First Class Union Orchestra....

The oldest picture I have of "Loomis Park" was taken by Mr. Harry Marland in 1907 from the cliff just south of the park. Mr. B. E. Loomis owned the property from adjacent Keller's Beach to beyond Washington Avenue and from Crest up to the reservoir at the top of Water Street.

About 1905, he built the concrete bulkhead and had planted palm and cypress trees in a horseshoe shape up from the beach, and named it "Loomis Park". The public could use the park at any time. In addition, he had built benches at the top of Washington Avenue where the residents of the Point could sit and enjoy the beautiful view of the Bay. I recall watching from those benches the flames that covered San Francisco after the 1906 Earthquake; and the reflection of the fire in the calm waters of the Bay, for calm it was during those three nights.

There were no eucalyptus trees in the park at that time and only two houses are visible in the background; one is the old McHenry home now owned by the Walter Paasch's, and the other is the old Eakle home located next to the Stephen Banks' home on Washington Avenue.

An article in the Richmond Record Herald dated March 23, 1914, reads; "Amusement Park to be started on the West Side. Kozy Kove Pleasure Park Company headed by Frank Agar and other San Francisco capitalists closed a deal purchasing the holdings of the Point Richmond Warehouse and Dock Company on Bay Shore Tract and will convert same into a resort. It will take over what is known as 'Loomis Park' and it

will be known as Kozy Kove. The price paid is said to be \$45,000. An open air cafe and dancing pavillion will be constructed."

On April 7, 1914, work commenced on the \$10,000 Kozy Kove Amusement Park: The plans call for a string of bathhouses along the entire waterfront besides the dance hall. A large force of carpenters are at work hoping to have the park open by the middle of May.

"It is probable that a franchise will be applied for to build a breakwater off the shore so swimming will be available in all kinds of weather." (This was not built).

The April 13th issue states that 100 individual change rooms were to be erected and that Sunday band concerts would be held. Four thousand feet of lumber were on the grounds for the first buildings. Refreshment stands would be a feature but only soft drinks would be served. (It was raided a couple of times, but no liquor was found.)

"The corporation has acquired a half-mile of waterfront and the opening is planned for early June. Those interested in the park include Frank Agar, Fred Dawson, and Mrs. Elizabeth Schenkel all of Oakland". (Judging from the number of diamonds worn by Mrs. Schenkel, she must have been the financial backer.)

The May 25th issue states that the park had a large dancing pavillion, 100 bath houses, and the beach had been placed in first class condition. The park opening was planned for May 30, Memorial Day, with a Hawaiian band in attendance. Mr. Agar asked the City Council to rescind the ban on Sunday dancing. The council agreed, and instructed the City Attorney to amend the ordinance.

The June first paper states: "Manager Frank Agar is wearing the smile that won't come off. His beautiful park was filled with people on both Saturday and Sunday. There was boating, dancing and swimming and each pastime was enjoyed by all, and it is needless to say they will come again, not only this year but every other year."

"There was a large sprinkling of local people at the Kove yesterday, but most of them came from San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley." A 4" by 10" ad in the paper is reproduced on page 4.

The Kove prospered for awhile, but by fall the attendance had fallen off to the point that a nickel player-piano was used exclusively for the music. The only exception was when a group or a lodge gave a dance. Then an orchestra would be brought in. We boys found that, by banging the box in which nickels were placed, we could make the piano play without paying. One of the boys would pretend to put in a nickel and the others would make enough noise to drown out the banging. This lasted only a few weeks for the Schenkels noticed that the public was getting too much music for the number of nickels deposited.

That winter, the worst storm in 20 years destroyed the diving tower, and on May 7, 1915, the equipment of the Kove was sold at auction. The sale produced only 15 cents on the dollar. Constable Gregory conducted the sale, which disposed of the following items: 184 bathing suits, 83 towels, 10 caps, 12 mirrors, 2 picks, 2 sacks of cement, 1 clothes wringer and 1 scythe.

Simultaneously with the sale, Adolph Winters, the local florist, armed with a pick and shovel, dug up all of the shrubbery, which he had planted to help beautify the park.

The Record Herald states, "No more from out of its dance hall will float the syncopated airs of ragtime, no more from beneath its cypress hedges will float the love songs of the swains wooing their fair young mates, for Kozy Kove and its amusements have been relegated to the scrap heap by its creditors and the courts."

However, on May 15, a new company was formed and on June 3 the paper reports "The Kove will open under the management of Benson and Jansing after a thorough overhauling and remodeling. In addition, a playground for children has been built. Electricity has been carried to every part of the grounds, which

can be enjoyed by day or night.

No admission was charged during the weekdays, and young couples could put in their nickels and dance anytime. The refreshment stand was open, serving soft drinks and candy. On Sundays hamburgers and other sandwiches were available. Saturday night dances were held with the Lenzen-McCracken orchestra. Reg Lenzen was the finest dance band pianist to ever hit Richmond, and Ward McCracken took a back seat to no one when it came to the violin section. Jimmy Dolan was on the drums. Reg had played with top orchestras in Chicago before he came here, and went on to Shanghai with his own orchestra, and later to the largest dance hall in Long Beach on the Strand. Jimmy drummed at the Orpheum theatres and at night clubs around the Bay.

Lodges and other groups rented the park at times, and had large crowds. Attempts were made to charge occasionally, but the Kellers always let us kids in free. I can't remember a time that either one of them ever ran us off the beach, but I can think of numerous times when they should have!

By the mid 1920's, automobiles had given people wanderlust, and they drove to the Marin or San Francisco beaches or down to Alameda to Neptune Beach, and the Kove was abandoned. We would hike over the hill and sit on the benches and watch the next generation wade or swim with memories of the Kove in its hey-day, when "Our love songs wooed our fair young mates".

In closing, a tragic item is noted in the February 28, 1916 issue of the Record Herald, which contains the notices of delinquent taxes; "Thursday, (March 2) commencing at 11 o'clock, City Tax Collector, I. E. Marshall, will sell 1302 pieces of delinquent property. Under Bay Shore Tract: taxes, \$123.20, penalty at 15% \$18.48. Cost of collection; \$18.48. Advertisement: 50 cents. Total, \$160.66.

Whether Benson and Jansing bought the property for taxes and penalty, or leased the Kove is not known. But, in

October of 1919, the Record Herald records: "Kozy Kove Park is offered to the City of Richmond by Mrs. Elizabeth Chamberlain, owner, on two different plans; one to cost \$22,500, the other \$32,500." The city didn't take the offer, obviously, and before long, homes were being built.

OVER the

BACKYARD FENCE

with
Gertrude Berry

If some people need proof that a positive approach gets things done, may I refer them to the recent excursions at Keller's Beach Park by the Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls.

Both events started when one woman happened to think that it might be nice to have youth groups climb to the top of Nicholl Knob and plant wild flower seeds.

This had not been done before, and most people would stop right there. It has been my experience that most people spend nine times more effort thinking of reasons not to do something than they would just doing the thing.

At any rate, because one woman had an idea and talked about it positively, several hundred girls visited the park and played on the beach, climbed the hill, fell in love with the view, planted seeds and roasted hot dogs, and went home singing.

AN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT came this week from the office of Mr. Beresford. He wishes to inform his constituents that he has decided not to run if nominated, not to serve if elected. In his exclusive interview with Point Counterpoint reporters, he said consolingly, however, that this announcement should not slow up the flow of contributions. As for us, we may turn our support to Herbert Blackschleger, who claims to be the only man who can stop all wars. He can bring people back from the grave, cure illness, stop smog and make rain. What more can you ask!

FREE FILM

"Dark River" provided a view for the first time of the work of Hugo del Carril, Argentinian musical idol, actor and film director. The film exposes the conditions on yerba mate plantations in Argentina, and was opposed by police censors. Del Carril was named best director of the year for 1953.

FAMILY LECTURES

The Contra Costa College series,
"Youth and Parents in our Society",

THE SHOP UPSTAIRS



145 PARK PLACE
POINT RICHMOND

ARTS-ANTIQUES-GIFTS

BUSINESS HOURS 10 AM - 5:30 PM
TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY
SUNDAY 1 - 5:30 PM

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Open 12 to 6
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237-1523

presents, as its next lecture, a panel on "Parent, Youth and Drugs", by Detective Ralph Rawson, Sgt. Del Priest, and Sgt. Bob Wood of the Richmond Police Department, on March 27. The panel discussion and question-answer session will begin at 8 p.m. in the Liberal Arts Lecture Hall on campus. Admission is one dollar.

The Brookside Hospital series, adult lectures on Family Life Education, presents on April 2, Dr. William Bewley, director of Mental Health Clinic, speaking on Discipline and Conflict within the family, and Moral Values. Lectures begin at 7:30, and are held in the Medical Auditorium at Brookside.

From DENMARK

The celebrated Danish Gymnastics Team will perform at Contra Costa College on Saturday, March 30, at 8 p.m. Most of the gymnasts are in their early 20's, and are among the most skillful gymnasts in Denmark. They will demonstrate modern Danish gymnastics, and a selection of Danish folk dances in colorful native costumes. They are accompanied by music, mainly composed by the two pianists of the team.

This year's program includes rhythmic series with wooden disks, tambourines, balls and ropes; jazz gymnastics; a balance beam routine by girls; a vaulting and tumbling routine by boys. Tickets are available on campus or by mail. Call 235-7800, ext. 230 for more information.

What's the Attraction AT THE BEACH?

The Bass are running ... and so are the fishermen, to the beach at Point Richmond. Several large bass have been caught, and hopeful fishermen are coming daily to try their luck.