

THIS POINT

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Vol. I, No. 2

September, 1982



POINTS IN THE PAST
AN INTERVIEW with CAROLINE DAVIDSON
POINT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION
POINT ARCHIVES BEGIN
CHURCHES OF POINT RICHMOND
HISTORY ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

1
2
3
4
5
5

RICHMOND LIBRARY BIRTHDAY
THE MASQUERS, PAST and FUTURE
HISTORY REPEATS
WASHINGTON SCHOOL NEWS
HOW DO YOU GROW A PARK?
BRUSH UP ON YOUR HISTORY

6
7
8
10
11
12

in time

Points in the Past...

Notes from the historic past of Point Richmond, from articles in the Richmond Daily Record and the Point Richmond Record newspapers, and Evan Griffin's History of Richmond, courtesy of the Richmond Museum.

80 YEARS AGO . . .

By the summer of 1902, a Roman Catholic parish was established here, and Rev. Scanlan offered his first mass at Monte Richards Hall, located at Park Place and Washington Avenue. Previously, the Point's Roman Catholics had met in Curry's Opera House, at Standard and Washington Avenues, where many of the town's activities—roller skating, dances, prize fights—shared the room, above the horse stables which occupied the ground floor.

The parish began work on the permanent church and rectory simultaneously, and on August 23, 1903, Our Lady of Mercy Church was formally dedicated. The Eightieth Anniversary celebration events will be noted in the article on Churches of Point Richmond.

July 17, 1902 . . .

In the early days of Point Richmond housing was extremely scarce. Many people lived in tents, unable to find suitable living quarters, as this article in 1902 testifies:

"Harry Land, storekeeper's clerk at the Santa Fe yards, has not where to lay his head. Except for the shelter of a tent, himself and family are exposed to the caprice of the elements. . . He is of the opinion that someone might make a pile of money by building dwellings to rent."

70 YEARS AGO . . .

By August, 1912, John Nicholl's oil well, located in the area where the Richmond Plunge presently stands, had been in operation for

nearly a year. The Record-Herald reported:

"Operations at the Nicholl gas well, corner of Oregon and Richmond Avenues have again been suspended and this time the delay is apt to be considerably longer than any of the lay-offs that have been encountered in the past. Sunday while drilling at a depth of over 900 feet the cable broke and the tools were lost in the bottom of the big hole."

A fishing outfit to recover the missing tools was immediately requested from Bakersfield. However, "considerable trouble with casing and equipment has been experienced the past month and it is due to this fact that the progress on the depth of the well has been retarded."

Ascertaining exact locations of buildings that stood here at the turn of the century is difficult, since street numbers were changed in 1912:

The numbering corps of the city engineer renumbered the city from "First street to Twenty-Third and from the northern boundary to the bay." By the beginning of August the corps was "engaged in numbering the residences in the annexed territory and as soon as this work is finished which will not take more than a day or two the men will be transferred to the West Side business and residence section where the work will be completed probably by next Tuesday or Wednesday. At the present progress . . . it looks like the entire city will be renumbered within two weeks after the work was commenced so that the new numbers will in no way interfere with the activities of the postal department in establishing its free mail delivery here."

60 YEARS AGO . . .

The Richmond Independent reported, in 1922:

Charles VanDamme, president of the Richmond-San Rafael Ferry Company, announced plans to secure a franchise for a new Richmond terminal for the ferry to Point San Quentin. It was proposed to "locate the western slips of the ferry at Castro Point, about 2,000 feet up the bay from the present slips. This would eliminate the necessity of making a wide swing around the 'Chickens', a group of rocks in the bay off the shore here and would give a practically straight route for the boats going each way."

This change would "enable the company to cut down its running time ten minutes each way, and make possible a round trip in about an hour and ten minutes." In addition, the construction of a road to the new slip would "provide a much better highway to Winehaven along the bay shore."

-□-

POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

A big Spring Festival is being planned in Point Richmond's downtown area. Community involvement is invited. The Point Richmond History Association will provide tours of the Point. A date will be announced soon.

The History and Business Associations will likely soon discuss the problem of bus traffic through the downtown section of the Point. Congestion and damage to older buildings will be considered.

AN INTERVIEW WITH

Caroline Davidson

A ready smile, sparkling eyes and a pure complexion, a strong sense of concern for and interest in Richmond, along with great pride and loyalty for Standard Oil Company, characterize Caroline Davidson.



Caroline Davidson attended Richmond schools and worked in the accounting department at Standard Oil for twenty-three years. After retiring, she became very active in the West Side Improvement Club. She served as president of the esteemed organization for eight years.

Miss Davidson moved to Point Richmond in 1917, when San Pablo Avenue was still a dirt road. Her father, a Standard Oil employee, rented the house at 207 Buena Vista — the only house available for rent at that time. A year later the house, one of the first built in Point Richmond, came up for sale, and the Davidsons purchased it. Caroline Davidson has resided there ever since that time.

She attended Washington School, which included seventh and eighth grades at that time. She went on to graduate from Richmond Union High School, located at Twenty-third and MacDonald. Caroline remembers kids in the Point as being a tightly knit, friendly group. Teachers and principals knew their students well, and were closely involved with them.

Extracurricular activities revolved around the churches. Picnics, parties and other get-togethers were frequent and well-attended. Caroline's memories include numerous streetcar rides to Richmond's Methodist church for evening functions, often returning to the Point around midnight, and walking home. "Sure wouldn't do that nowadays!" Caroline exclaimed.

Caroline vividly remembers the flu epidemic of 1918. Everyone had to wear protective face masks or be arrested. Group gatherings were forbidden for fear of spreading the infection. Schools and churches were closed. Caroline recalls an Idaho Street resident being healthy one day and dead the next. She, too, was struck with the flu, but managed to survive. Caroline's remedy to deal with those difficult days — "Go fishing!"

She also recalls the groups of Chinese families from around the Bay Area making a Sunday pilgrimage to Nicholl Nob for collecting edible and medicinal herbs.

One of her more vivid recollections was the Point's celebration of the end of World War I. Standard Oil declared a holiday and men pa-

raded along Garrard Boulevard pounding big oil drums.

For several years Caroline traveled to San Francisco each day to work. Her commute involved taking the streetcar for the Point to the Oakland Pier, where she caught the ferry to San Francisco and walked to her office. This took about one and one-half hours each way.

Some of the changes in Point Richmond that Caroline laments are the increased crime rate and the decreased feeling of closeness among residents. In those days, "everybody knew everybody else."

During the devastating mudslides of 1982 Miss Davidson's home sustained severe damage and she and her dog had to be carried out of the mud. Throughout the ordeal and the long reconstruction period Caroline remained cheerful and philosophic about the experience.

-□-

POINT RICHMOND ARCHIVES ARE BEGINNING WITH A FINE COLLECTION

The Point Richmond Historian, the late Don Church, had a large collection of photographs and memorabilia which his wife left in the care of Mr. Allen Smith. Mr. Smith has granted permission to the History Association to have relevant items reproduced. Thanks to an offer of assistance by Chevron U.S.A., these photographs will be reproduced, to form the basis of our archives.

The Association hopes to be able to offer informative material on Point Richmond history for general viewing. Many thanks to Mr. Smith and to Chevron for helping us make the initial steps toward that goal.

Archives Chairman Teresa Albro (233-6243) will be happy to hear from anyone else willing to make additions to the archives.

THE CHURCHES OF POINT RICHMOND

OUR LADY OF MERCY

The Eightieth Anniversary celebration of the parish took place on Sunday, August 15, 1982, with almost 600 people participating in the Mass of Thanksgiving and the huge barbecue following. Henry O'Hara reports seeing former members who had come to the celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary, thirty years ago. Joined by the Knights of Columbus, guest Priests, St. David's Choir, and an instrumental group, the celebration filled the church and the air with joy.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST

Members of the First United Methodist Church welcomed their new minister, Roger Spence and his family at a potluck dinner at the church. Roger comes from Marin County, where he served the Tamalpais Valley United Methodist Church for four years. Prior to that he was a counselor and later Director of Rehabilitation at Goodwill Industries in Oakland. A native Californian, graduate of U.C. Berkeley and the Chicago Theological Seminary, he was ordained in 1980. Roger can bake a noteworthy loaf of bread, too.

His wife, Mary, is also a native Californian, born and raised in Berkeley. She attended U.C. Berkeley, Stanford and the California School for Professional Psychology where she received a PhD. in Psychology in 1980. Mary is a clinical psychologist in Vallejo.

Son Matthew, age 15, is a sophomore at Albany High School and interested in contemporary music, foreign languages and computer science.

Since they own a home in Albany, the Spence family will not occupy the parsonage. This has afforded the church the opportunity to repair, paint and clean the home before it is rented. It is believed that this is only the second time in its history that the parsonage has been rented.

RALLY DAY signals the beginning of a new church school year and will be held on Sunday, September 12. Beginning with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., those attending are invited after church to a barbecue and swim at the Standard Oil Rod and Gun Club. All interested persons in the community are invited to begin this new church year and encouraged to attend. The Church is located at Martina and West Richmond Avenues in the Point. Linda Mitchell is the Church School Superintendent.

The ANNUAL COUNTRY FAIRE, sponsored by the United Methodist Women, will be held at the Church on Friday, October 1. Watch for information, and plan to attend.

POINT BAPTIST CHURCH . . .

A disturbing proposal was made recently, that the church take back the playlot it so generously sold to the city long ago for one dollar. Trying to trim the budget, the city offered to let the church take care of the lot. The "Janice Playlot" is now being used almost constantly by Point children, and usually with adult supervision. Evidently the city has decided to continue its minimal upkeep of the playlot, with continued community cooperation.



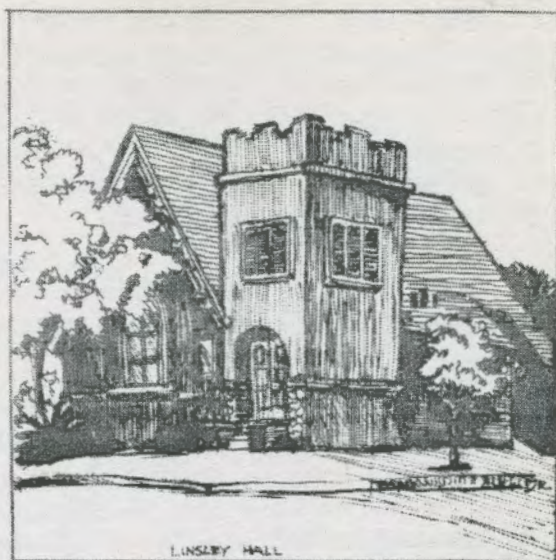
**NEXT MEETING
OF THE
POINT RICHMOND
HISTORY ASSOCIATION --
PLAN TO ATTEND !**

Thursday, September 23, at 7:30 p.m. will be the second meeting of the Association. The response to the annual meeting in May was so enthusiastic that an official meeting place has been established, along with a schedule of regular meetings.

Except for annual meetings, the Association will meet on the fourth Thursday, every other month. Meetings will take place at the building on the corner of Nicholl and Washington, recently known as "Town Hall", originally built as an Episcopal church. The building was recently purchased and is being renovated by Donna Powers. The original stained glass and beautiful wood is well preserved, making the building ideal for meetings, weddings, etc.

Mrs. Powers hopes to begin bookings for special occasions by November 1, when the landscaping (by local landscaper Steven Burman) and the internal refurbishing has been completed. Anyone interested in a spring wedding, or other festive occasion, may call 235-7338 for information and reservations. In the next week or so a morning exercise class will begin in the building which will now be called "Linsley Hall."

The History Association meeting will include videotaped highlights of the panel discussion by members of the West Side Improvement Club at our first annual meeting. Afterwards, a free-for-all information exchange will take place, so that additions and corrections may be included in the final book of Point Richmond History.



Please plan to attend the meeting -- and if you know someone who could add to a discussion of Point Richmond history, please, bring them along, or at least invite them!

-□-

**BACK TO THE POINT --
REMINISCING WITH OLD FRIENDS**

One of Trannie Dornan's recent birthday celebrations was a mini-picnic held at the Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline Park here in the Point. Joining her at the picnic were her daughter Betty from San Francisco, and friends from Montclair, Louise Ortega and her mother Mary Abbott. What makes the birthday picnic significant is not just that Trannie was celebrating 87 years, but the fact that her guest, Mary, a few months ago, celebrated her 100th birthday !

When a friend from the past strolled into the Richmond Supply Company store of Trannie Dornan's and asked, "Do you remember me? I used to put your pigtails in the inkwell in the eighth grade," it took her only a second to exclaim, "Clyde Baker!" It had been 40 years since they last communicated.

A neighbor brought Clyde on this special trip from Clayton expressly to look up his former classmate from the Standard Avenue School.

Formerly an Assessor in the Point, Clyde was overwhelmed by the inflationary prices and values of Point properties today. He recalled the time when any lot in the Point could be purchased for \$50, and Trannie countered that she could remember waterfront lots being offered for sale for \$10 – but no one wanted to build there, then!

They spent several hours in nostalgic reminiscing, and promised to keep in touch. Each had considered themselves the 'best math student' in school, mentioning that they were almost always finished with their assignment book when the rest of the class had "hardly opened the cover!"

The Bakers had lived on Nicholl Avenue and attended the Trinity Episcopal Church. Clyde is now 88 years old.



RICHMOND LIBRARY'S 75th ANNIVERSARY — CELEBRATE and PARTICIPATE!

The Richmond Public Library will celebrate its 75th birthday this fall. Our fine library is suffering greatly under the latest budget cuts, so this milestone offers us an excuse to combine celebration with fund-raising. Please mark your calendars and plan to participate.

On October 23, there will be a barbecue donated by Richard Granzella at the Richmond Auditorium. The entire \$10.00 you pay will go to the Library. On October 24, the Library Commission is sponsoring an authors' tea in the Library Auditorium featuring Richard Rodriguez, the author of Hunger for Men, and Janet Sharp Hermann, author of Pursuit of a Dream.

On November 6, a 10 Kilometer Run will leave from and end at the Main Library where there will be a used book sale sponsored by the Friends of the Richmond Library (which you should join if you haven't already).

November 10 is the actual birthday, so a birthday party will be held in the Library Auditorium where the Richmond History Quilt will be raffled off. The quilt features thirty squares depicting Richmond's history. It will be displayed in various locations around town during September and October.

So, plan to go to the barbecue and tea. Save your books for the book sale. Start training for the run. And buy lots of books and quilt tickets. Then, join the Friends of the Library and help us on all of the above events. The proceeds will be divided between the book budget and the Trust fund. For more information call: Marie Contreras, our wonderful new city librarian, at 231-2122; or Rosemary Corbin, chairman of the Library Commission, at 235-5779.

A Point Richmond Tradition —
Trying NOT to Become a Part of
Point Richmond's Historic Past—

THE MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

In 1961, a play called "Man in the Dog Suit" packed audiences in at the newly opened Masquers Playhouse in Point Richmond. A show that had bombed on Broadway in spite of a stellar cast including Jessica Tandy and Hume Cronin, this "sleeper" awakened in the hands of the Masquers' less illustrious though no less dedicated players. According to Jo Camp, the then director of "Dog Suit" and current resident director of the group, "It was one of the funniest plays I've ever seen."

Now in its twenty-first year at Point Richmond, the Masquers can reflect on a string of successes including such better known works as "Death on the Nile", "Gaslight", "South Pacific", "George Washington Slept Here" and "Bus Stop", as well as less familiar dramas such as this season's "Cue for Passion", with its overtones of the Hamlet story. The group presents five plays each year, usually a melange of comedy, suspense, serious drama, musical comedy and maybe a melodrama. Each production is performed for six consecutive weekends. Camp reserves one or two plays a season to direct herself, and the others are given to guest directors. Although cast members don't have to belong to the group — this is a way of keeping the doors open to new talent — Camp points out that the Masquers themselves represent "mature actors and actresses . . . people with a lot of experience."

Founded by Camp in El Cerrito in 1955, the Masquers moved to Point Richmond six years later to rent facilities used by the Richmond Community Theater. That group folded a few months thence, and the Masquers leased the building for its own. The story goes that the structure, known to be in existence be-



fore 1907, was put together from two adjacent shops, one a grocery store, the other housing the Richmond Daily Independent newspaper. This conjunction formed a small theater, seating just under 100 people, with a stage that is minute compared to the expanse of board prevalent in "big time" houses.

Out of constrained circumstances, however, have come some sizeable productions. Consider, if you will, spectaculars like "South Pacific", "Dames at Sea", "Guys and Dolls" and this season's "Man of La Mancha". With requisites for extravagant sets, lavish costumes, large casts and even musicians, these shows have come off in intimate surroundings that give the illusion of being grand scale.

Backstage, intimate becomes just plain cramped as casts varying in size from four to nearly 30 dodge the stage crew and sometimes even a musical group to apply makeup, don finery and await cues. Two tiny dressing rooms accommodate the "stars", while the other actors change costumes alongside each other in the narrow fire corridor paralleling one side

of the theater, just a thin wall away from the audience. Ask any director how to keep people quiet under such circumstances when a scene is being played onstage, and you'll hear, "It isn't easy!"

Because backstage offers only a postage stamp's worth of walk-around space, actors come out front to see friends after the curtain call. The audience has a chance to meet their favorite players. They might chat with a star one night only to find themselves some weeks later talking to the same person as he takes tickets for another production. With a membership of only 35 to 40, all Masquers are called upon to help with the details that go into running a theater. They serve on the board of directors that manages the affairs of the nonprofit group. They dispense tickets, and, at intermission, serve the cookies they themselves baked that afternoon ("No store cookies," insists Camp). A few nights before a play opens they clean the theater, and those on lobby duty the night of a performance stay after the last audience member goes out the door to sweep the floors and dump the trash. Masquers may be dentists, social workers, truck drivers or students in real life, but when they get to their theater they pitch in to do whatever is needed.

The group receives its financial support mainly from ticket sales. Through the loyalty of faithful audiences, including holders of season tickets and groups that buy out one or two houses a run, the theater has managed to operate in the black even as Point Richmond has seen a flux of commercial climates. Now, faced with the possibility of losing the lease to their theater, the Masquers are bent upon an ongoing fund raising effort to buy this building. The Point Richmond community has been most generous in rallying to the cause.

The town has always made the theater feel welcome. Its citizens come to the plays (a couple of them have even joined the group.)

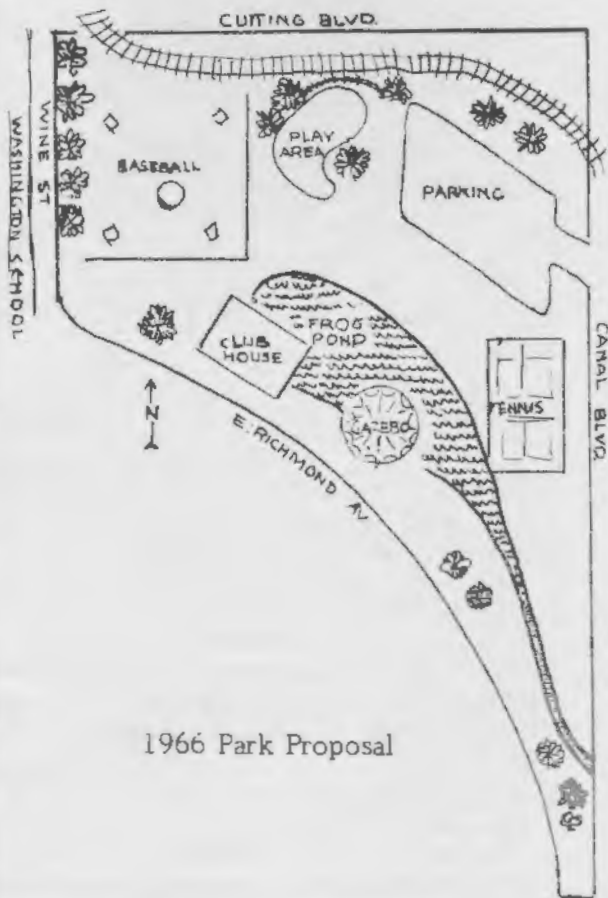
For many years, the Point Restaurant handled all reservations and, until recently, rented the group an upstairs room for costume storage. The Mexican Inn has sustained many an actor with a quick pre-rehearsal dinner, and restaurants such as the Hotel Mac and the Baltic are salubrious settings for pre- and postperformance gatherings of the actors and their friends. All in all, Point Richmond is a good spot for the Masquers to be, and they hope to be raising the curtain there for a long time. The footlights just wouldn't be as bright anywhere else.



HISTORY REPEATS

In 1966, the plot of land facing Washington Grade School was nearly transformed into an industrial complex. It was, as it is now, zoned residential, and it was, as it is now, owned by Santa Fe. Not much has changed in that area bounded by Wine Street, East Richmond Avenue and Cutting and Canal Boulevard — frogs and kids use it much as they did in 1966 — except that, because of the tertiary treatment added by the Sewage Treatment Plant to the south, the periodic stench of the sludge doesn't permeate the air as it did then.

The proposed industrial "park" was almost approved by city planners before the public of the Point were aware of it. Enough objections were raised to what was to be called "The Nineteenth Green" (there was no golf course, and very little greenery in the plan) so that it did not succeed at that time. However, some thoughts were focused on the land because of the discussions, and a real park plan was created by local residents:



1966 Park Proposal

When the proposed freeway plans were made, the little park seemed even more feasible because of the fact that Kenny Park, located on Castro Street, was needed by the Highway Department for an off-ramp. Since the Highway Department is obliged to replace public land, proposals were made that they replace Kenny Park with a park across from Washington School. The proposals were taken to the Highway Department, and though they took them under consideration, answers were delayed as often as the building of the freeway has been.

Now, sixteen years later, the same area which has come to be known as "Frogtown" was invaded by Volkswagens (no longer called 'Beetles', unfortunately). Hundreds of VW



were parked, after a hasty grading of the land, and a fence topped with razor-ribbon barbed wire barricaded them and the land from the kids. No notice of a public hearing for zoning change was ever seen. What was seen was a cloud of dust from the newly graded soil when the cars were driven onto it. Local residents were incensed (and coughing), and began sending objections to Pasha Industries, to Santa Fe and to City officials. The result of the calls was the eventual removal of the cars. However, the cars were a short-term use, anyway, with more permanent use of the land reportedly planned for coal storage. Neither coal nor cars are animate, and cannot "reside" in an area, so one can assume that they are illegal in a residentially zoned area. Pasha officials claimed that city officials were aware of and in agreement with what they were doing, and that it would be only a short time before official permission would be granted. This would require a change of zoning, necessitating a public hearing, and since the area is facing a school, some sort of environmental impact report should also be a requisite.

Hopefully, public opinion and the fact that Richmond's General Plan denotes the area as "Residential" would have enough force to counteract the detrimental plans some have in mind for the land. The "natural" use of the land seems to be a park — perhaps a nature park for students to study and enjoy frogs and other natural residents of the area.



HISTORY REPEATS — And So Do Math, Reading, etc., Every Year About This Time

As surely as August will lead to September the long days of summer will become school days. Starting on September 8 promptly at 8:30 a.m. our streets no longer will ring with children's voices until long past noon — except on "minimum" days when everyone, except kindergarteners, gets out at 1:10 p.m.

This leads to confusion about who gets out of school at what time. If past schedules hold true, kindergarten will end at noon. Grades 1 - 3 finish at 2:10 and out 4 - 6 graders end their day at 2:40 except on minimum days when grades 1 - 6 are through at 1:10.

Minimum days are shortened school days which occur every Wednesday and on other occasional days during the year. Minimum days allow teachers in "project" schools extra preparation and parent conference time. So long as Washington remains a "project" school we will have minimum days.

Since the first day of school is a Wednesday, expect to hear our homewardbound children any time after 1:10.

*The term "project" refers to schools receiving special funding for educationally disadvantaged children.

Washington School will have a new principal this year, Mr. Nino Petroni. Mr. Petroni has served in our school district for several years. He is well known and respected throughout the district, and it should be a good year for Washington School in spite of budget cuts that are making things "tough all over." Since the elementary school music program seems to be non-existent at least for the coming year, Bob Maske has volunteered to head an effort to bridge the gap. Anyone interested in assisting him should call and offer support. His home phone number is 234-6989.

HOW DO YOU GROW A PARK?

The expanse of land from the ridges of the Point Richmond hills to the Bay was once vast grass and swamp land. In 1891 John Nicholl exchanged land in Richmond for 150 acres of this land including what we now call Nicholl Nob. At the turn of the century, 57 acres of Nicholl's land and a great portion of surrounding land was granted to the railroad. Santa Fe still owns a large portion of land here, other land having been acquired by Atlantic Richfield, PG&E, the City of Richmond and recently the East Bay Regional Park District. Quarry Products purchased land from ARCO, Innisfree is acquiring Masonry Supply Company land (the Brick Yard) and the city of Richmond leases Terminal 1 to Petromark.

The East Bay Regional Park District, at great expense, bought 175 acres of fill land, above and below the water line, from Santa Fe, but not the portion owned by Georgia Pacific, that used to be the Tops Chemical Co. This area is now known as the Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline Park. Since 1975 the Park District has acquired 75 acres of land, from Nicholl Nob along the ridge to the west side of Garrard Tunnel and the Ramblers building. This acquisition was spurred on by the Edwards, who offered their land for sale to the Park District. In 1980 a State grant was received by the District for further ridge and Bay side hill land. John Knox donated a sizeable amount of money for park acquisition also. The District is presently negotiating with Innisfree and Santa Fe.

After twelve years of negotiating, the District has arranged to buy land occupied since 1907 by Luigi Bernardi. The long time resident of Point Richmond came to 617 Garrard with his family when he was two and a half years old. The little white house was remodeled in 1934 to fit an expanding family. Luigi and his

brother Antonio, four kittens, several cats, dog and for a time, rabbits, have remained in the home to this time. Their land is to remain grasslands, but the historic old home's future is uncertain. The History Association is contemplating its use as a history learning center.

Final Park plans, according to Lew Crutcher, the District's chief of planning and design, cannot be made until all land is acquired. They do intend to keep the 360 degree view of the Bay Area enjoyed from Nicholl Nob, and they intend to retain the natural growth of grass and wildflowers. Trails on the ridge may be named after the roads laid out by John Nicholl.

Some work has already begun on the hill. Neil Havlik, revenue analyst with the Park District, is doing restorative work on eroded areas caused by motorcycles. Crevasses were bulldozed, nets were used, and areas were hand dug so that the area might reseed itself. Pin Oak, Bay, Buckeye and Willow trees have also been planted, and are doing well, considering that Mother Nature supplies all their nourishment.

Boy Scout Troop 111 of the Mt. Diablo Council, led by Ken Woodson, established t



roadside area known as Dornan Grove. The roop bought pines from the park department, made adequate arrangements for watering, and proceeded to plant the trees. The grove is located between the Bernardi property and the Ramblers building. There on a rock is a brass plaque expressing the admiration they feel for their beloved former leader. You can help cut an unforeseen expense, in case you pass that way. Drive very slowly if you see a hose across the street, probably leading to Mr. Hart's hand, watering the grove. Several hoses have been damaged by a too-rapid flow of traffic.

-□-

BRUSH UP ON YOUR HISTORY

Five exciting field trips are an added bonus to the course on "Geography and History of the San Francisco Bay Region", offered by Contra Costa College instructor Bill Moxley, beginning on September 7. Listed as History 298, the classes will convene from 7 to 9:00 p.m. on Tuesdays. The five Saturday field trips will offer tours of adobes, Victorian homes, the whaling station, old ships and ports, Spanish Missions, old mansions, hidden museums, and environmental and ecological centers. The course will include historic slides of Contra Costa County, and there will be special emphasis on the city of San Francisco and County of Contra Costa.

Mr. Moxley's presentation at the first annual meeting of the History Association was enthusiastically received, so it is a safe assumption that his course will be fascinating.

A course on the History of Contra Costa County is, unfortunately, just coming to an end. George Collier has offered classes in the "Open House" on Stockton Street in El Cerrito on Wednesday mornings. The last class is to be offered on September 8.

Mr. Collier has written an interesting and thorough account of the history of Brooks Island, which will be included in the Point Richmond History Association's next, and hopefully definitive book, on Point history. He has written a great deal on the area's history, and we are grateful for his contributions.



POINTS IN THE FUTURE

- Sept. 7 Geography and History of the San Francisco Bay Region - Contra Costa College, Bill Moxley instructor.
- Sept. 23 Point Richmond History Association meeting at Linsley Hall, 235 Washington Avenue, 7:30 p.m. A videotape showing of highlights of the annual meeting followed by a group discussion on Point History - bring questions and answers and friends!
- Oct. 1 Annual Country Faire at the First Methodist Church.
- Oct. 23 Barbecue-benefit for the Richmond Public Library.
- Oct. 24 Authors' Tea at the Richmond Library Auditorium.
- Sept. 8 School Starts

**"This Point in Time" is published by the
Point Richmond History Association, 212
Bishop Alley, Point Richmond, Calif.
94801.**

Editorial Staff: Teresa Albro, Michelle Brown, Roz Bury,
Rosemary Corbin, Mid Dornan, Lucretia Edwards, Donna
Roselius, Judy Spediacci.

Writers for this issue: Teresa Albro, Michelle Brown, Roz
Bury, Rosemary Corbin, Mid Dornan, Donna Roselius, Judy
Spediacci and Jane Talamini.

Illustrations by Donna Roselius and Roz Bury

Articles for the next issue are due by September 15. They may be mailed to the History Association, 212 Bishop Alley, Point Richmond, CA 94801; or left with Trannie Dornan at the Richmond Supply Company, 145 West Richmond Avenue. For information or small news items, call 235-4222.

Membership in the Point Richmond History Association includes a subscription to this newsletter. Membership dues may be sent to Michelle Brown, 25 Idaho St., Point Richmond, CA 94801.

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

SINGLE	\$10.00
SENIOR CITIZEN (65+)	5.00
FAMILY	20.00
ORGANIZATION	25.00
HISTORY-PRESERVER	50.00
HISTORY-MAKER	100.00