

THIS POINT

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

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in time

POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION NOTES

Members and friends of the Point Richmond History Association met on Thursday, September 23 — the Association's second meeting — mainly to view the video tape of the panel discussion featured at the May meeting. The new organization already has over 100 members, and everyone interested in the Point and its history is urged to join. (Membership information is on the back cover).

BITS OF MEMORABILIA . . .

The partial viewing of the videotape led to a myriad of revelations about points in the past:

Curry's Hall, mentioned in last month's Newsletter as Curry's Opera House, was a hall with a livery stable below. The Opera House located across the street, was owned by Pat Deane, and was a separate establishment.

In tracing the history of schools in the Point, Mary Casey conjured up a mental image of a school day that began with the steady beat of a drum — the drummer standing on a hillside above the school, herding students into a rhythmic march, entering the school like little soldiers.

Since the meeting was held in the newly named Linsley Hall, memories of Reverend Linsley, one of the first ministers in what was then Trinity Episcopal Church, were resurrected. Goldie Shrewsbury remembered her confirmation, and Trannie Dornan recalled that Rev. Linsley, who lived in a parsonage on Golden Gate Avenue, was a tall man, with white hair and a flowing white beard. Much of the churches' early history is still unclear. Should anyone have any information about its earliest days we will be grateful to receive it.

Discussion about the Episcopal Church led to stories about fund raising in the early Point churches. One story about funds donated to the Methodist church by clients of a local madam (yet to be documented, so it won't be repeated at this time), led to the comment by Mary Casey that the Catholic deacon and Reverend Calfee, the Methodist minister, made regular rounds of the local saloons, collecting funds for their respective churches.

The whimsical possibility that Point Richmond may have been the birthplace of Pistachio ice cream was brought to light by Hortense Gnaga McGee, whose mother, Elizabeth Gnaga had wanted green ice cream for a tea, and Pistachio flavoring was chosen to match the color. Mrs. Gnaga was inventive in other ways, too, according to Caroline Davidson, who remembers that Elizabeth (an accomplished seamstress) was the first woman anyone in the Point had seen wearing slacks.

The story evoking greatest speculation was that accompanying a spike brought to the meeting by Zoanna Kille. While digging in her yard at 205 E. Richmond, in 1964, she unearthed a large rough hewn spike, inscribed "S.S. Independence, 1812". The spike may have belonged to a former owner of the house (it was built in 1904), or — is it possible that the Independence traveled that way through a shipping channel that once existed there? In 1905, the Richmond Canal and Land Co., organized by H.C. Cutting, dredged a canal from Ellis Landing (foot of Harbour Way) to a point near where Washington now stands, and with the material they dredged, filled in and reclaimed about half of the 400 acres they had bought in this area, and subdivided it into streets and lots. Previous to that, the marshland separating the Potrero from the mainland had been crossed with levees built by Jacob Tewksbury. But, before the levees had been built,

John Nystrom remembered sailing a sloop frequently through the channel between the Potrero and the mainland from San Pablo Bay to Ellis Landing.

NOTES FROM THE BUSINESS MEETING . . .

The offer by Chevron U.S.A., to reproduce valuable old photographs was again announced. Anyone having photos relevant to Point Richmond history is urged to allow the Association to have them copied for the archives. Call Teresa Albro (233-6243) if you wish to add to the archives. Allen Smith, who has Don Church's collection of memorabilia and photos has offered the photographs for reproduction.

The Association voted to send a proposal to the City Council to rededicate the portion of South Garrard Boulevard from the Tunnel to the Brickyard Cove road to the memory of Robert Dornan. The Boy Scouts planted a grove of trees adjacent to the road in the late Mr. Dornan's honor, and it was generally agreed that the road, traversing Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline Park would be a lasting and meaningful memorial if it were named Dornan Drive.

NOTES ABOUT THE NEXT MEETING . . .

Mark your calendar now - the next meeting of the Point Richmond History Association is scheduled for Thursday, November 18, at 7:30 p.m. in Linsley Hall. Equal time is being provided for men of the Point to present their versions of early days here. A panel of distinguished men in our community will be the featured program. Plan to attend - and bring questions for the panel. Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

- Donna Roselius

AN INTERVIEW WITH

Lawrence Thole

The first and most obvious remarkable fact about Lawrence Joseph Thole is simply his age. There are others. He is proof that one need not live in the high Andes or in the Ukraine to beat the century mark, and do it with grace and vigor. What Lawrence characterizes as "this salubrious climate" together with an abhorrence for tobacco and a willingness to follow medical advice regarding alcohol (take a bit daily in diluted form, e.g., California jug burgundy) have, in his view, much to do with the fact that he will celebrate one hundred and two years on December 3 of this year.

No doubt deserving some share of the credit are superior genes, a wiry frame, and the good fortune to have found himself an interested observer of, rather than a participant in, a century of military conflict - war is even more hazardous to a young man's health than cigarette smoking.

And what's more, Lawrence will probably be the life of the party at his 102nd, as he was at the 101st celebration. If he doesn't play the piano for the dancing, as he did last year, he might entertain with the harmonica or a guitar and a song or two.

Lawrence was born on a section-sized wheat ranch in Minnesota in 1880. His father had homesteaded the land, which buffalo had fertilized for hundreds of years, perhaps in anticipation of the arrival of the Thole family. Lawrence recalls the single-bladed plow behind two oxen, and what an innovation it was when Cyrus McCormack introduced the double bladed model which made it unnecessary to struggle to maintain the

plow upright and even permitted the plowman to ride behind in a sulky. A number of years of relative prosperity were capped with a bumper crop in 1888 (abundant water from seven feet of snow on the ground on St. Patrick's day) which gave his father the cash and courage to head west to a certain promised land.



Anticipating the arrival of Big Jim Hill and the Northern Pacific R.R., Mr. Thole, Sr. purchased a hotel in what was to become Bellingham, Washington. But the railroad built to Seattle instead; and so, in Lawrence's sixteenth year his parents moved their six youngsters to San Jose, abandoning the Pacific Northwest to the rain gods. Lawrence followed the others under duress, as he had hooked up with another family in Washington and was reluctant to drop out of

school. But his father was insistent and even retained an attorney to threaten Lawrence with legally enforced deportation south should he continue to defy parental orders. Lawrence yielded, and, sure enough, was promptly put to work, beginning at 5:00 a.m. daily, in his father's newly opened San Jose hand laundry. Excepting for music lessons, that marked the end of Lawrence's formal education.

When an older married sister moved with her husband to Richmond at about the turn of the century, Lawrence followed and for six weeks shared life with them in their 12 x 15 foot tent adjacent the newly established Santa Fe yards, where Lawrence found work as an apprentice pipe fitter.

Still in his early twenties, he took up carpentry, bought himself a couple of lots, (\$460) at what is now 22nd and Nevin, and, with his brother-in-law's assistance, built his first home. It still stands, as 418 22nd Street. Later, he was to build 414 Nevin, 410 Nevin, and to work on numerous others in Richmond and North Richmond in association with one of the larger subdividers of the day, a Mr. Wall (Wall's Richmond additions and Wall Street)

There were no paved streets in the Richmond of 1905. Sanitary facilities were out back and, of course, electricity was still in the future. Water was the only available utility. The adobe mud made walking an ordeal in wet weather, so responsible property owners constructed boardwalks adjacent the street. Others didn't bother.

When it was proposed to pave Macdonald Avenue, a storm of protest arose from the "oldtimers" on grounds that the need was small and the cost great. The civic boosters, aided, presumably, by their allies, the paving contractors of the day, prevailed. Richmond was on its way to paved streets

and concrete sidewalks, except, paradoxically, in the higher rent areas of Point Richmond.

Saturday evenings were spent at the local saloon or at dances at the Maple Hall at about 6th and Ohio, now an apartment building. In that era of do-it-yourself entertainment(1900-1910), Lodges provided other recreational opportunities, and Lawrence points out that various "fraternal" organizations operated coeducationally.

Lawrence recalls the 1906 earthquake and fire in San Francisco and the days and nights of flames in the south as viewed from Crest Avenue. San Franciscans arrived by boat and were put up for days or weeks in any available room hotel or private home. Richmond escaped relatively unscathed, though well shaken. Only brick structures suffered severe damage.

Later Lawrence went into the real estate business and met, in the person of a client's niece, his first wife, Mae Chisholm. They were married in 1912 and when war came in 1916 he had a family of four youngsters and was exempted.

The years between the World Wars hold fewer memories for Lawrence. He sold real estate, did some carpentry and raised his family. By 1940, he was 60, but when the Richmond Shipyards began to take shape and the need became evident, Lawrence offered his skills as a journeyman carpenter. After nearly rejecting him at the employment office because of his age, they agreed to give him a ten day trial. He worked on Liberty Ships throughout the war and watched with astonishment as the time from keel-laying to launching shrunk from months to hours.

Lawrence now lives with his daughter Maxine Mayer in a home at 123 Crest that

he had, at one time, been hired to demolish. It had been vacant for months and was called the "Ghost House" by the neighborhood youngsters. Lawrence found no ghosts inside, but rather plenty of first class carpentry which merited preservation rather than demolition. He added hardwood floors, a new stone fireplace and other interior touches.

These days, weather permitting, he can often be found outside, playing his guitar or reading. Stop and say, "Hello." You'll feel richer for having taken the time to get to know this fascinating gentleman.

- Douglas Corbin

CHURCHES OF POINT RICHMOND

FIRST UNITED METHODIST

The Annual Country Faire of the United Methodist Women in Point Richmond has been changed to Friday, November 12. Items for your Thanksgiving table are being planned along with the usual Christmas boutique. Luncheon (\$3.50) will be served from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. Reservations are requested. Oretta Eaton, president, can be contacted at 234-0780, for reservations and information. Save the date - Mark your calendar!

-Mid Dornan

OUR LADY OF MERCY

Additional notes on the Eightieth Anniversary Celebration include the official proclamation commemorating the event, presented by Richmond Mayor, Thomas Corcoran. Eight other Catholic priests joined Father Carmelo Mifsude in a Solemn High Mass. Grateful recognition is given to visiting clergy, parishioners, and guests who made this historic occasion possible.

- Allen Smith

POINTS IN THE PAST

Articles from old Richmond newspapers,
courtesy of the Richmond Museum.

70 YEARS AGO...

"The paving of Richmond, Railroad and Washington Avenues and Park Place on the west side of the city, will be by private and not public contract. At the meeting of the City Council last evening the Worswick Street Paving Company reported that it had signed up the majority of the property owners having frontage on the streets. This means private instead of public work."

Two days later, W.S. Farley, the City Engineer, reported that five property owners with holdings facing the West Side business district had not signed up for the work and it was decided that the City Council "will start proceedings against the dilatory owners" at the next meeting.

At an October 3 meeting of the City Council, power and other public utility Committees it was agreed that "five poles to the block is all that will be allowed in the paved district on the West Side business streets . . . The one pole will carry all of the power, phone and other wires, and also the Espee (Southern Pacific) electric road wires. The poles are to be sixty feet high."

—*Richmond Daily Independent*, October 1 - 4, 1912

By this date, the John Nicholl "oil and gas well at Richmond Avenue" was nearly 1100 feet deep. "The first real sand that might give an indication of petroleum was found at 1030 feet and then the drill was jammed through four feet of this easy formation, when rock and gravel were again en-

countered." But Nicholl planned to keep "doggedly digging away, with the expectation of making the bore at least 1800 feet deep and with every confidence that he will yet find what he is seeking."

—*Richmond Daily Independent*, October 9, 1912

60 YEARS AGO...

The Standard Oil Company of California announced "that it planned to increase its capital stock from \$115,000 to \$250,000 and on top of that, planned to declare a 100 per cent dividend . . . Due to the reinvestment of earnings of the corporation during the past years, and to the growth of its business, and to the discovery of valuable oil fields . . . the value of this corporation is now far in excess of its authorized capital." Financial writers in San Francisco, figuring on the basis of market value (\$128 per share) estimate that the dividend could amount to \$588,800,000. "The dividend sets a new record on the cutting of financial melons." "In fact, it has passed into a proverb, with regard to the Standard Oil of California, that nobody who bought this stock at any price at any time during the past ten years and held it, failed to make money."

—*Richmond Independent*, October 4, 1922

The Bank of Richmond was organized in 1902 and the large building at the corner of Washington and West Richmond Avenues (now Sherry and Bob's) was built the same

year. In the Independent it was reported that, "the First National Bank of Richmond and the Bank of Richmond will open their doors on Monday as Richmond branches of the Mercantile Trust Company of San Francisco. The merger of the two local banking institutions with the trust company became effective this afternoon with the closing of business . . . The name of the Bank of Richmond at the Point will be the Point Richmond Branch."

—*Richmond Independent*, October 7, 1922

50 YEARS AGO . . .

Due to a reduction in the library tax rate the Richmond Public Library Board ordered the closing of the West Side and Stege branch libraries on October 1. The Board decided that it would be best to "concentrate library activities at the main library and continue purchasing new books." However, because of protests against this plan filed by the Women's West Side Improvement Club and the Washington School PTA the City Council reviewed the Board's action.

On October 1, it was reported that, "the Richmond branch libraries remained open today while members of the finance committee of the City Council and the Library Board continued to study ways and means of saving \$7,000 without closing the branches." And by October 4, a new policy was established to keep the branch libraries open at least four days a week.

—*Richmond Independent*, September 22, 1932

A "new terminal facility on the inner harbor, to be built jointly by the City of Richmond and the Parr-Richmond Terminal Corporation, was placed under construction today." E.A. Hoffman, City Engineer, estimated that the work would be completed in less than a month and the new facility would be ready to use by November 1. "The pres-

ent wharf is 930 feet long and the addition including the pile dolphins will add 260 feet making a total berthing space of nearly 1200 feet . . . (as a result) more than 50,000 tons of additional cargo will be handled at the harbor of Richmond during the remaining months of 1932."

—*Richmond Independent*, September 18, 1932

Whiteside Grocery, at 155 Richmond Avenue, advertised in October, 1932:

MJB Coffee — 1 lb. can:	\$.34
Wheaties - 2 Pkgs.	.14
Durkee Mayonnaise—Pt. Jar	.21
Challenge Butter —solid Lb.	.25
Cheese —1 Lb.	.19
Dried Prunes, 30-40 size, 3 Lbs.	.25

— Teresa Albro



WORKING TOGETHER WORKS . . .

PART II

Point Richmonders tell delightful tales of a time, prior to the '60's, when the "Dog Pound" showed compassion toward loved pets and their young masters. During the '60's, "Hippies" moved into the Point, bringing with them a multitude of "man's best friends". These pets soon became pests and a breakdown between the community and the Animal Service began.

The "roving residents" moved on, leaving domesticated animals behind to fend for themselves. In order to survive they banded together, migrating to the closest wildlife feedlot, the Point Richmond hills. Industrially they began the first regional solar housing project, kennel diggings. Living in the wild made them wild, or "feral packs."

This condition was tolerated over ten years. By 1977 the locals had little voice in the matter and the Pinole Animal Service provided little action. In 1981 an incident, involving two children threatened by the feral pack, was published in the "Independent", reawakening the sleeping inhabitants to the problem.

What is faster than fast? Whatever it is, that is how Diana Iwasa (Martinez Animal Control) responded. Working overtime and appointing two experts for the job (supervisors Ted Braiser and Andy Leckie), the seemingly impossible task of removing the remaining pack from the area began. Within a year's time it was accomplished.

One feral litter of adorable pups will recreate this deplorable situation again. The County has done their job, and continues to do it by routine surveillance. The community's support is vital in controlling the ever-present threat. Please report any vagrant animal to either the Martinez or Pinole Animal Control Services (Mrtzn.-372-2995, Pinole--235-7666).

Children, jack rabbits, pheasant and deer can be seen running free on our hills again. Let's keep it that way.

* Part I appeared in "This Point in Time" Newsletter, Vol. I, No. 1.



WASHINGTON SCHOOL BUGGED???

Principal Nino Petroni reports that the bees which have plagued Washington School kids during lunch hours are being lured elsewhere since the bottle brush on the Cutting Boulevard side have been pruned. Evidently the bees had found it easier to share lunch with the children than to forage on their own. The problem became so severe that lunches had to be served indoors. But the freeloading bees have now moved on. Does Point Richmond have a resident beekeeper whose bees prefer peanut butter and jelly to wildflower nectar?

We welcome Mr. Petroni to Washington. He has been with Richmond Unified School District for many years, 16 as a teacher and 14 as a principal - at Olinda, Mira Vista, Peres and Verde. We're delighted now to have him as principal at Washington.

In addition to Mr. Petroni, several new staff members have been added at Washington. Mr. William Plutte is teaching a 4-5 combination, Mr. Gus Wagonheim is teaching a 5-6 combination, and Mrs. Arlene Hays is teaching Kindergarten. (Has anyone else noted that the male staff population has risen 300% at Washington this year?)

Ghosts, witches, Cinderellas and Luke Skywalkers will again parade through the streets of Point Richmond on Friday, October 29. Come out and join the fun.

— Judy Spediacci



RICHMOND SCHOOLS — THEN AND NOW

September 8, 1982, the first day of school, saw many changes in the Richmond Unified School District. Included in these changes were a shortened school day for some secondary grades, a drastically reduced elementary music program, elimination of teachers' preparation time in some grades and elimination of busing. Large classroom size and 'split' classrooms (where two or more grade levels share the same classroom and teacher) are common. The reason for these changes is fiscal — not enough money to pay for established programs.

While this is indeed a dire time in the state of public education, the issues are not new ones. They have come up at other times in the history of the Richmond School District.

The periods being offered in some secondary grades have been cut from six to five. This is cause for concern because research shows that the actual time spent on learning is one of the crucial elements in getting a good education. This tenet in educational principles seemed important to a management consultant firm hired, in 1961, to assess the quality of education being offered in the Richmond School District. Their findings showed that, in general, "the programs (were) above average," but recommended "adoption of an eight period day instead of a seven period day."

Some things have changed over the years. Underutilization and empty classrooms due to decreasing school population is a problem today. The opposite was true in 1954 when some schools were operating on split-shifts and "holding classes in areas not designed for classroom use." This large school population occurred after federal public housing was introduced in Richmond.

The cost of educating a student has also changed. In 1960 it cost \$525.83 to educate a high school student for a year. Today, it costs \$2,262 to educate a high school student for the same period of time.

One thing that has remained unchanged is concern about finances. In April, 1963, the school board candidates agreed that the most pressing problems facing the Richmond School District was "living within our income" and "obtaining sufficient operating funds" to pay for the programs being offered."

— Michelle Brown



BRICKYARD COVE

Although there has been a slowdown in building activity over the last year at the Cove, some activity has still occurred – a few modifications of existing homes and one new home (which is still for sale). The Marina is filled with beautiful yachts and a new office building is almost ready for occupancy. If you haven't tried All's Fare for lunch you have missed something.

Some of the sights you can see at the Cove include a baby Sea Lion, Mertle the resident Mallard with her 10 offspring (now full grown), a Yellow Billed Loon from the Arctic, who visits for a few months each year, and a noticeably increased number of "land" birds.

The Cove Homeowners' Association is an active group, which has been involved in working with the "Point" people in trying

to coordinate and communicate issues which are of mutual interest. The Association meets the second Tuesday of each month.

There are presently 48 homes in the Cove – with one new building permit recently issued. The Richmond Yacht Club and Cove area is becoming noted as the place where the "hottest" racing boats in the world reside. For example, Clay Bernard's "Great Fun" took first place in Class B at the Clipper Cup Races in Hawaii; Irving Loube's "Bravura" took first place in Class C; and "Scarlett O'Hara", "Swiftsure", and "Zamazaan" are frequent sparring partners with the "big boats".

For the young ones, the El Toro's are very active in the winter months, meeting almost every Sunday.

—Dan Seifers

WILL THE INDIAN RISE AGAIN IN POINT RICHMOND?

Some members of the Point Richmond community are asking what is happening with the Indian Statue that was to be resurrected.

The Indian Statue project started over a year ago. Rod Garrett (a resident landscape designer and President of Inter-Arts) was asked by the Point Richmond Business Association to volunteer his time to redesign the Point of the Point triangle. Mr. Garrett remembered seeing a picture of an Indian statue which disappeared in 1944, and conceived the idea to rebuild it. Encouraged by friends, and with the help of many residents, two community meetings were held to seek support for the project. Three committees were formed: guts committee (grant writing and fund raising); research committee (research the statue's past); and the community concerns committee (survey the community and public relations). The Business Association approved the project and supplied seed money for it. The Richmond City Council and Mayor's office have given their endorsement. Last summer many residents and Inter-Arts produced a barbecue and T-shirts to raise funds for the statue. Residents donated time surveying the community. The survey results showed a majority in favor of a reproduction of the original statue, rather than a contemporary version.

In order to receive grant funds through a non-profit tax exempt corporation, Inter-Arts, a Marin organization that coordinates the design and execution of Public Art Projects, brought the project before its Board of Directors, who approved the statue. Inter-Arts receives funds from the San Fran-

cisco Foundation for Public Art Projects. Their goals are to place permanent works of art in public places, increase interaction between the community and artists, and pay artists for their skills. From 1980 to 1982, artists placed the following works of art, through Inter-Arts: A 50 foot long mural of Mount Tamalpais in San Anselmo, a marble wall-relief in Mill Valley City Hall, a 32 foot high steel sculpture for Sausalito City Hall Plaza, and a marble sculpture for the Novato Police Station. Projects for 1982-83 include: a stainless steel sculpture for the entrance to Albert Park in San Rafael, a wall relief for the Corte Madera Recreation Center, a historical statue of a Native American Indian for Point Richmond, and many other projects.

In March, 1982, the San Francisco Foundation allocated \$11,250 for the Point Richmond statue. The Skaggs Foundation in Oakland is also interested in the project and in November will be determining our \$10,000 grant request. PT&T and PG&E have been asked to assist us in removing the phone booths and hooking up the fountains. Chevron has donated bronze worth \$1400; Carlos Garza will be donating designs for the foundation; and the City of Richmond has magically found a 10 foot high granite base for the statue, worth approximately \$ 9,000.

A local artist who was to produce the statue could no longer participate. Therefore Inter-arts asked for bids from artists who could fabricate realistic bronze sculptures. Inter-Arts chose Kirk St.Maur.(who has studios in Italy, Illinois and San Francisco) to replicate the statue, pending funding. Kirk was chosen for his excellent handling of the full body figure. He will produce a model that will be presented to the Point Richmond community and Inter-Arts for their approval.



photograph courtesy of Richmond Museum

A mini-park can also be included in the redesign of the triangle. Those of you who would like to help with replanting, paving, lighting or tax exempt cash contributions please call Inter-Arts, 457-9744, or Rod Garrett, 233-5747. Also it would be terrific to document the history of the statue if there are people willing to research and write. T-shirts designed by Joel Beck are available for \$7.00 in adult sizes and \$6.00 for kids. If all funding comes through, we will still need to raise \$5,000. Any ideas?

People and businesses who have donated time and/or money for the project are: Pat Brenner, Tom Powers, Peggy Young, Joel Beck, Tom Corcoran, Merve Thompson, Lee Purbaugh, Guy Schwartz, Ethel Carr, John Giori, Bob Young, Interactive Resources, Karl Henning, R.W.Davis, Nancy Noble, Maritime Properties, Frieda Antonio, John Saunders, Bay & River Navigation Co., Cooper and Clark, The Baltic, The Point, Sweetwater Nursery, L.L.Boone, Wayne Robert, David Sawyer, Linda Andrew, Joanne Gabbs, Gloria Whitsitt, David Brown, Cinda Wert, Donna Roselius, Teresa Albro, Bob Peckham, David Vincent, Lucretia Edwards, Anne Hauzlik, H.Francis, Gina Green, Lupe Morris, Frank Pedrick and Lonnie Washington.

-Kerry Vander Meer

Washington Market

Dealer in First Class Beef, Mutton, Pork, Lard, Ham, Bacon, Sausage,
Washington Avenue, Richmond, Cal.

Wholesale and Retail.

Courteous Treatment.

(an ad from a 1902 newspaper)

TROOP 111 REPORTS

Boy Scout Troop 111 has resumed meeting on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. in Friendship Hall, Point Methodist Church, and Scoutmaster Fred Hart has announced Troop plans for a busy year in scouting.

In July, 25 boys and adults spent eight days pioneer camping at Granite Meadows in the Marble Mountain Wilderness Area in the Klamath National Forest. By improving the camping areas, boys fulfilled requirements for merit badges in Conservation, Forestry, and Soil and Water Conservation. A Snipe Hunt with over half the boys participating was a highlight. Also, they were visited by bears who drank most of their cooking oil and ate their butter even though the items were in plastic bottles and containers. Other food was stored from ropes between trees. Slides of summer camp will be shown at their Court of Honor at the Church on October 25. Anyone interested is invited to attend. Attending camp were: Jeff Albro, Mario Allen, Rob Bury, Paul and Todd Cort, Eric Egan, Seth Fenton, Shawn Fernandes, Ken and Kevin Fong, Jason Goldsmith, Gwilym and Luther Martin, Mike Modie, Frank Powers, Lamont Reed, Josh Truman, Chris Ward, Steve and Chris Waterman, Ken and Ben Woodson, Steve and Fred Hart and George Martin.

In September the boys attended a winning A's game and a selected group will be attending the Patrol Leader's Development Program in October.

Paul Cort and Gwilym Martin, members of the Order of the Arrow, will participate in the Order of the Arrow Ordeal at Camp Lindblad in October.

— Mid Dornan

ONE, TWO, THREE. . . PLANT?

PLANT:

- [1] to set seed, vine, herb, tree or shrub in ground for growth.
- [2] a building or factory for the manufacture of a particular product.
- [3] to covertly place for discovery, publication or dissemination.⁽¹⁾

Subsequent to the January, 1982 flood, the damage that resulted spurred an article, "Mother Nature Did It."⁽²⁾

Referring to [1] for PLANT, an unequivocal phrase from the article read, "anyone can plant a plant." On the afternoon of August 8, 1982, a discovery was made that this innovative idea had begun years prior. As the East Bay Regional Park District was [1] planting vegetation, other unknown individuals were involved in planting with a variation. These unidentified imbeciles were seemingly attempting to grow a [2] plant (factory) by [1] planting containers of refrigerant.

In the vicinity above Canal Boulevard, over the ridge toward the "pit", 20 to 25 30-lb. cylinders of Kaiser Refrigerant 22 (R22) lay collecting rust. There, filed along a fissure, sandwiched between earth and eucalyptus trees, Tony Gerk and Donell Allen unearthed the clearly marked containers — "Exposing this to heat may result in bursting cylinder and serious injury or death. Federal Law prohibits refill — Penalty up to \$25,000 and 5 years imprisonment." The wording prompted the boys' swift exit, to inform Donell's mother, Mrs.

(1) Webster's Dictionary

(2) "This Point in Time" Newsletter, Vol.1, No.1



Bobby Allen of Atchison Village, who in turn immediately contacted the Richmond Police, the Hazardous Waste Management Branch of the California Health Department, and the Contra Costa County Health Services Environmental Health Division, which provides a 24-HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE involving hazardous materials - 372-4461. Mrs. Allen also contacted Com Air and Kaiser Industries. Their collaborated efforts unraveled the riddle.

R22 is used in domestic and supermarket refrigerators and most air conditioning systems. It has been distributed throughout the U.S. since the early '60's by several companies, Kaiser being one. The pressurized 30-lb. (fl.wt.) cylinders have warning labels, since pressure buildup may cause them to burst. The same applies to aerosol (spray) cans of any kind. Although manufacturers might save money by refilling large containers, Federal Law prohibits refill, which classifies such containers as "disposables."

The R22 cylinders if sealed and full are valued at approximately \$135 apiece, making 20 of them worth \$2,700. This was not the case, however. The meager contents appeared to be diluted with mud, and the nozzles were unsealed and unbroken. How, when, and why they were put there is anyone's guess.

Where does the responsibility lie if the foolish persons who put them there cannot be traced? The property owner who doesn't know they are there? The manufacturer who sold the product? The agencies who clean up after the fact? Speculatively, if an injury occurred, is the finder held responsible? All chemicals can be hazardous. R22, if sprayed in the eye can freeze the cornea and cause blindness; if spilled on the skin can cause blisters accompanied by excruciating pain.

Injury, agonizing pain and medical bills might have been the trophy for the discovery. No wonder Mrs. Allen was concerned, as all caring people are. The 24 hour emergency service - 372-4461 - should be listed along with other emergency numbers.

Prompt efficient action was taken by many in this matter, costing time, worry and money better spent. The land is cleared. Let's keep it that way. If you see anyone planting chemicals, please inform them that R22 didn't grow a refrigeration plant, and it is doubtful their plant will grow, either!

Residents interested in [1] planting a plant, please contact Roz Bury at 235-5629. Additional research coordinated with the East Bay Regional Park District will make this venture both inexpensive and rewarding.

- Roz Bury

AC TRANSIT POINT RICHMOND ROUTE

In its December, 1981 regular meeting, the Point Richmond Business Association invited representatives of AC Transit to participate in discussions regarding the routing of buses into Point Richmond. The discussion centered around various complaints from business people about trash and vandalism at bus stops, noise and vibration from buses, speeding, and safety factors.

The Association voted unanimously to request AC Transit to establish a new bus terminal across West Richmond Avenue from the Plunge, and to use the streets in front of the Plunge for a turnaround.

On March 2, 1982, AC Transit replied that they were turning down all recommendations. They stated that, "it is necessary for us to locate bus routes that allow customers direct access to important places within Point Richmond, such as Park Place and Washington Avenue." The Transit District determined that it was "unfeasible" to turn buses around in front of the Plunge, and they said that a review by "the City of Richmond and Point Richmond passengers" determined that the proposed bus shelter location was too far removed from what they considered "necessary traffic to provide security."

On March 5, 1982, the Business Association replied by letter that they were disappointed their requests were given so little weight in the considerations by AC Transit. Their letter noted that the buses "can and do already turn around (sometimes) in front of the Plunge. The letter also stated that a representative of the Business Association should have been present in the meetings with the City and "Point Richmond passengers" to present their viewpoints. A public hearing was requested so that all parties of interest could discuss the issues openly.

On March 10, 1982, Supervisor Tom Powers wrote AC Transit requesting clarification of the Transit District's findings and supporting the public hearing proposed by the Business Association.

AC Transit failed to answer either the Business Association request or that by Supervisor Powers. On September 22, Supervisor Powers again wrote AC Transit requesting a public hearing be scheduled to discuss the matter.

The routes of service and designated bus shelter locations are still items of controversy in Point Richmond. Some think that the principal reason for the current route is so that AC Transit drivers can stop at the Spot for snacks and sandwiches. Perhaps some day the hearing will be held and the controversy resolved.

— Tom Butt

REMOVED

G. F. Langtry has moved his merchant tailoring business on Washington Avenue across the street, next to the Davy Crockett cigar store. Same old prices—suits to order \$15 upwards; pants \$5 up. Cleaning, dyeing and repairing.

An ad from
a 1902 news-
paper.....

LETTER FROM ROCKVILLE

(Portions of a letter received by Michelle Brown)

"Emma (Austin) sent a couple of newspaper articles telling about the organization, The Point Richmond History Association, and that is why I kept the letter — so I could join the organization and receive the newsletter.

"Enclosed is my check for \$10.00 for a single membership although I don't think there is any doubt but what I qualify as a Senior Citizen, having graduated, as I recall, from Washington eighth grade at their first out-of-doors graduation held over in Richmond in 1920, wearing middies and pleated skirts with black sailor's ties. The white skirts were made in our sewing class.

"Also, I understand the organization published a book, *This Point in Time*, in 1980. Are there any copies left? If so, I'd like to purchase one. . . It would be a nice addition to my family genealogy collection.

"Best wishes to you and for the organization, and a special greeting to my good friends Clarice and Bill (Stribley)."

Sincerely,
Maud (Austin) Bagley



CANCER STUDY

The American Cancer Society began Cancer Prevention Study II in September. The first study was over a thirteen year period from 1959 to 1972, and helped identify a number of factors related to the development of cancer. In fact, most of what is known today about the causes of cancer came from such epidemiologic studies. It is only by following a large number of people for a long period of time, as is planned in Cancer Prevention Study II, that many other facts can be uncovered to determine which are hazardous to health and which ones are not.

In Cancer Study II attention is turned to the changes that have occurred since the first study in the way we live, the products we use, and in our home and work place environments. Recently, there has been widespread concern about the safety of saccharin, hair dyes, oral contraceptives, tranquilizers and other drugs and medication. The effects of long-term exposure to X-rays, air and water pollutants and carcinogens in in the workplace have also been questioned.

The plan of the Cancer Society's new study is to enroll more than 1,000,000 persons to follow for six years or longer. A number of Point residents are among those being researched. By keeping track of persons and reporting on them every other year, health statisticians will be provided with information on how life styles affect health, and diseases such as cancer. The final goal, of course, is to prevent cancer and save thousands of lives.

-Mid Dornan



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

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Illustrations: Roz Bury, Donna Roselius

Articles for the next issue are due by October 20. 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.

POINTS IN THE FUTURE

- OCT. 20—Deadline for news items for November's Newsletter. (Send articles to 212 Bishop Alley, or leave with Trannie at Richmond Supply Co.)
- OCT. 23—A Feast, celebrating the Library's 75th Birthday. Tickets on sale at the library.
- OCT. 24—Meet the Authors — 2 p.m. at the Richmond Library: Richard Rodriguez, Janet Sharp Hermann and Zilpha Keatley Snyder. Free.
- OCT. 29—Halloween Parade through downtown Point Richmond.
- NOV. 6—Library Fun Run—"Jog your mind, run to the Richmond Public Library"—Free. Prizes, refreshments for participants. 9:30 a.m. Starts and ends at the Library.
- Book and Bake Sale — 9:30 -4:00, at the Library.
- NOV. 10—Library Birthday Party — Program honoring Ethel Kerns, Quilt raffle. Raffle tickets on sale at Library.
- NOV. 12—Point Methodist Church —Annual Country Faire (see article).
- NOV. 18—Point Richmond History Association meeting - Linsley Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- NOV. 25—Thanksgiving!

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TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (CHECK ONE)

<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE	\$10.00 *	NAME _____
<input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR CITIZEN (65+)	5.00 *	
<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY	20.00 *	ADDRESS _____
<input type="checkbox"/> ORGANIZATION	25.00 *	
<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORY-PRESERVER	50.00 *	
<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORY-MAKER	100.00 *	TEL NO. _____