

# THIS POINT

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Vol. I, No. 8

April, 1983

75 cents



The corner of Washington and Richmond Avenues as it looked in 1914 . . .  
the Richmond City Hall, the Bank of Richmond, a clothing store and the People's Water Company, and  
upstairs in the Bank Building, Drs. U.S. and C.L. Abbott's offices.

POINTS IN QUESTION	Inside Cover
HISTORY ASSOCIATION NEWS	1
POINTS IN THE PAST	2
AN INTERVIEW with BILL STRIBLEY	6
IT WAS WRITTEN	7
DEATHS	9
HELP THE LIBRARY	10

BACK TO BASICS	11
THE INDIAN STATUE	11
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION NOTES	11
MILLER-KNOX SHORELINE PARK	12
BOY SCOUTS / CAMPFIRE GIRLS	17
RICHMOND MUSEUM NOTES	17
POINTS IN THE FUTURE	17

## in time



## POINTS ??IN QUESTION??

Copies of the West Side Improvement Club are being made for the Association's archives but some of them are missing. The minutes for the years 1918 to 1921 and 1924 to 1954 cannot be found. Perhaps a former member or officer has them stored. If any one knows of their whereabouts, please notify Virginia Bryant.

Missing, too, are several old issues of the original "Point Counterpoint". If you are a collector, perhaps you have some of the missing issues. Please notify Donna Roselius, if you are able to add to the archives.

Questions and answers may be sent to Donna Roselius, 212 Bishop Alley, Pt. Richmond 94801

## AN INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A TRADITIONAL POINT RICHMOND COMMUNITY EVENT

The community is reminded to mark Saturday, May 14 on their calendar (the day before the History Association's Annual Meeting), and look at your calendar early on that day, because it is the date of the 29th ANNUAL BOY SCOUT PANCAKE BREAK-FAST. Scouts have tickets to sell and if you haven't been contacted, call Scoutmaster Fred Hart (235-1046) and he will have a scout call on you. Proceeds from this special event enable the boys to attend Summer Camp at nominal costs.

-Mild Dorman

FINAL DATE:

## ANNUAL MEETING AND HISTORY FESTIVAL

SUNDAY  
MAY 15, 1983  
LINSLEY HALL

235 Washington Avenue, Point Richmond

beginning at

1:00 P.M.

with a

POT LUCK LUNCHEON

the movie

"THE RICHMOND STORY"

followed by

A VIDEO TAPED DISCUSSION

(bring questions, anecdotes, photographs, memorabilia, little-known facts, about historic Point Richmond and become part of the recorded history in our archives!

## MINI-TOURS OF HISTORIC PLACES FOLLOWING THE MEETING

For Information:  
Call 235-4222

Suggestion for Pot-Luck participation:

If your last name begins with A - H, bring a main dish; J - P, bring a salad, and Q - Z, bring a dessert. If you're bringing guests who cannot participate, a donation to help cover costs will be appreciated (\$3.50).

□ HISTORY ASSOCIATION NEWS □

Please note the change of date for the Annual Meeting: Sunday, May 15, instead of May 8 (Mothers' Day), at Linsley Hall, beginning at 1:00 with a Pot Luck Luncheon. If you have any questions after reading the notice in the adjacent column, please call 235-4222.

The History Festival and Annual Meeting is for everyone, and everyone is invited to participate, beginning with the luncheon. Dig up memories, memorabilia, questions and facts for the video-taped discussion; our traveling camera-man, Doug Corbin, will catch you in action for our recorded history. If anyone has a van with windows which could be mobilized for the mini-tours, we would really like to hear from you — not everyone will want to walk, so we will need vans on hand. Please call a board member if you are willing to participate in this way.

A commemorative poster has been prepared by Deidre Cerkanowicz, featuring a 1903 photograph of Point Richmond, from the Don Church collection. They will be available in mid-April.

If you or someone you know are interested in participating on a committee or as a Board Member, please notify us — don't be reticent — we really need more people to help in the ever increasing number of activities and projects, as the organization grows.

*Donna Roselius*

REPORT FROM  
THE ARCHIVES COMMITTEE:

Carolyn Poage, Chevron's Public Affairs Administrative Assistant, reports that the photographers have been conducting tests to determine which materials will provide the best reproductions of the old photos in the Don Church Collection. Once this decision is made, the actual copying can begin.

On March 16, Rosemary Corbin met with Liz McDonald and me to show us correct indexing procedures. Our first project will be to index the History Association's publications. Once this is done, we plan to index other relevant materials in our collection. The subject headings generated by this project will form the basis for our cataloging system. Mid Dornan and Donna Roselius have volunteered to help us with this important task. Would anyone else like to join us?

We are interested in gathering current information about the Point. Jim Chesareck and Al Frosini have volunteered to save newspaper articles that concern Point affairs. We could use additional help with this. Also, we would like to obtain more material from the 30's, 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's. Just because something isn't 100 years old doesn't mean we aren't interested in it.

*Teresa Albro*

*Ad in a Richmond Telephone Directory, 1912*

**John Nicholl Company**

458 Ninth Street  
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA  
Phone Oakland 4369

LAND OWNERS ALAMEDA, CONTRA COSTA AND VENTURA COUNTIES

810 Washington Avenue  
RICHMOND, CAL.  
Phone-Richmond 1751





## Points in the Past

### 70 YEARS AGO . . .

"Sent forth in the world to make good by the woman of his choice to show her that he had the ability and stick-to-itiveness that lead to success, A. Thurm, proprietor of the New York Dry Goods Store on (152) Washington Avenue, came West and among his many enterprises started his local store which has been most successful. His efforts and career have more than proved his ability . . . and the woman of his heart fully satisfied has agreed to the wedding."

—April 2, 1913

West Side property owners, enraged by the water main installation planned for the Point by the People's Water Company, have taken their case to the City Council. The local citizens feel that the proposed 2" mains are not large enough to "secure a sufficient stream of water from the hydrants" in case of a fire.

"The residents of the hill section of the city are entitled to a better fire protection, [declared Councilman Edward McDuff] and in my opinion larger mains ... should be laid ... The way things are now, there is no fire protection and with no fire protection, property owners do not care to spend large amounts in beautifying their homes." And he called for 10" mains.

McDuff continued his protest and on April 21 the Council agreed "to notify the

People's Water Company that an eight inch main is wanted and that no other will suffice."

—April 11, 12, 22, 1913

"Robert Johnson, who was shot by Dolly Adams, a woman of the underworld Tuesday afternoon (April 15), while endeavoring to force his way into her room in a house on Railroad Avenue, was last evening removed from the Abbott Hospital to the city jail where he will be held on a charge of threatening the life of the woman until the police can investigate his past record with a view to determining whether he is a white slaver."

—April 19, 1913

"Chief of Police J.P. Arnold yesterday issued orders to Sergeant Ruiz to notify the landladies of the red-light district on Railroad Avenue that beginning on May 1 their houses will be closed by the local police department and that the segregated district that has been in existence on Railroad Avenue for the past four years will be wiped out. The order has been issued by Arnold following a careful consideration of the problem of regulating the resorts . . . the inmates of the houses will have to seek other cities if they expect to follow the bright lights of the demi-monde."

The state legislature recently passed a red-light abatement law which requires all "resorts" to be closed by August 1 at the

latest, so the six houses in operation on Railroad Avenue would have been shut down soon anyway.

April 20, 1913

## 60 YEARS AGO . . .

The Census Bureau estimates Richmond's population to be 20,462.

—April 6, 1923

Dan Hadsell, counsel for the Holland Land Company and 142 other owners of property in the delta area, have suggested the "construction of a regulating dam across the Carquinez Straits or between Point Richmond and the Marin County shore, to keep salt water from backing up the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers."

—April 16, 1923

## 50 YEARS AGO . . .

"Beer went on sale in Richmond today under a city ordinance adopted at a special meeting of the City Council last night, fixing a license fee of \$50 for retailers of 3.2 percent brew to be consumed on the premises, and a fee of \$10 per year for dealers in package lots not to be consumed on the premises."

"The city ordinance prohibits sales to minors under 19 years of age, and also in places where children congregate. It was this latter provision that caused the council to delay granting of a permit (on sale) to Andell Ciabattari, who operates a lunch room ("Cozy Lunch") on East Richmond Avenue, between the Washington School and the Municipal Natatorium."

Among the businesses granted "on sale" licenses were the Tunnel Hotel (now Dorothy's Corner) and the Central Hotel (Central Pool Hall). Ciabattari's Cozy Lunch (Great American Hamburger & Pie Co.) was granted an "off sale" license.

—April 8, 1933

"Sunday, April 23, is announced as the date upon which the change will be made in local Santa Fe service, whereby passenger service across the bay will be discontinued and will be handled by the Southern Pacific at Oakland mole."

"There will be no change in the number of trains or in their routing through Richmond, as all trains will come in to the Richmond Santa Fe depot, but will continue to Oakland instead of Ferry Point."

April 14, 1933

(From the Richmond Daily Independent, courtesy of the Richmond Museum)

—Teresa Albro

## 40 YEARS AGO . . .

*Mayor Gives Up Job For Shipyard Work*

"Richmond Shipyard worker Mayor Edwin L. Rich of Santa Cruz announced today he will not be a candidate at the next Santa Cruz election.

"The mayor has been going to Santa Cruz once a week to preside at the City Council meetings but said today he felt he was doing more for the war effort by working at the shipyards here than by helping to run the city of Santa Cruz."

—April 7, 1943

## 30 YEARS AGO . . .

*Man Saved As Blaze Sweeps Building Here*

"A tenant of a rooming house at 103 Washington Ave., blinded and choked by dense smoke that filled the building, was safely removed from a second story window by firemen during a fire shortly after noon yesterday.

"Originating in a janitor's closet at the Point Richmond Post Office station at 104 Washington Ave., apparently from spontaneous combustion, in a matter of minutes flames were raging furiously.



"Only prompt work by firemen in locating the heart of the blaze and chopping through to reach it averted a major fire.

"The rescued man, Christopher Koldborg, 65, was not injured. He did not require treatment and within a short time had recovered from the effects of the smoke.

"The fire caused damage estimated up to \$1,000 to the two-story structure, owned by August Gill of 81 Scenic Avenue.

"From the starting point in the janitor's closet, flames mushroomed and spread between the staircase, walls and flooring above.

"Principal damage was to the walls and ceiling of the Post Office and to the stairway. Lesser damage was done to a small area of flooring at the head of the stairs in the rooming house hallway, and to a section of the wall of the barber shop at 100 Washington Avenue, operated by William Acree.

"Assistant Chief Ray Martin directed the work of engine companies 1 and 7 and truck company 1 in locating the seat of the blaze and promptly getting it under control. Fire Chief Henry J. Schmidt also aided in the direction and investigation.

"Upon their arrival they found smoke shooting out in clouds from every part of the building and the use of oxygen masks was necessary."

—April 6, 1953

## 20 YEARS AGO . . .

### *The Question Mark Column*

"Richmond has virtually been making national headlines in the past week, and her commercial and industrial facets have been polished to a high gloss in the process.

"The sources are Standard Oil of California's monthly magazine "Bulletin" and the 1962 annual report of Safeway Stores, Inc.

"In the oil journal, an article titled 'Richmond' occupies nine pages and the en-

tire cover: Pictures of the local Standard refinery, with glimpses of the city and background hills sneaking in, total 17 — all but one in full color.

"The article deals with the vast local refinery, 'a symbol of our prime source of energy in America — and the world energy that is lifting peoples everywhere into a better life.'

"The Safeway report shows an aerial view of their sprawling distribution center that expanded in great spurts during 1962. The Richmond plant — center of Safeway's San Francisco Division — is 'one of the company's largest, supplying all of the stores in northern California and part of Nevada.' "

—April 4, 1963

### *The Independent's Man on the Street*

"What do you consider Richmond's greatest asset?"

Gary Millward, bank employee, Berkeley: "I just began working here a couple of weeks ago, so I'm not too familiar with Richmond. I am impressed by the growth of the city. I used to play softball at Nicholl Field, in 1955, and it appears that area has improved and grown."

Emil Evenson, retired painter, Richmond: "The construction industry. People are coming here by the hundreds, and so we need more housing. We especially need housing for the low income elderly. I've got my own home, so it doesn't affect me."

Virginia Birchfield, housewife, Pt. Richmond: "Just the people in it — to me that is its greatest asset. I've lived here for 30 years. It's the people that make a city."

I. McGuffin, retired, Richmond: "There are a lot of assets around here, so it's hard to say. The greatest asset financially is the Standard Oil Co. They employ more people than any other company. They gave me a job for 17 years."

T.A. Snell, sales office, manufacturing company, Richmond: "I would say its geographical location for light industry and manufacturing. It has seaport facilities, railways, and it is on a main highway. These all aid in the distribution of manufactured goods. Richmond's not what you would call a central hub of a transportation system, but it has access to the three major means of transportation for manufactured goods. Also, Richmond's far enough out of the metropolitan area to allow for a freer traffic of goods."

— April 9, 1963

(From the Richmond Independent)

— Pam Wilson

-□-

#### AN INTERVIEW WITH

## Bill Stribley

When we think of people vital to any community, the ones who, by their activities and contributions define a town, we tend to focus on the headline grabbers, the politicians, the police and the judges. But much more fundamentally, the people who make a community "liveable" on a day to day basis are the shopkeepers who supply us with our daily needs, and the repair people, who, unlike most of us, have made it a point to understand the workings of the complex tools of an inventive society.

Bill Stribley both supplies and services things we need: timepieces. And he can supply things to nourish the spirit as well: jewelry.

Bill has been serving our community continuously since 1929 and from his pres-



ent location at 3109 Macdonald Avenue since 1972 (his fourth location in the city of Richmond). With him there are Aileen Blaisdell, who has assisted him since 1949 and Joann Roberts, who has been with him for the last year and a half.

I sat down across the table from Bill in his shop the other day, and as he disassembled and reassembled tiny watch parts, I questioned him about the early days of Point Richmond, where he arrived in 1909 at age 6 with his mother, stepfather (his father had been killed in a Colorado coal mine accident) and eight siblings and step-siblings. His new father had lined up a job with the Richmond refinery and brought the whole family, horses, etc. up from Modesto, their first California stop, to take up residence at 17 Montana Street. The building, still standing as an apartment complex, was owned by the legendary John Nicholl, a man who signed his name with an "X", but who understood how to count money.



Bill was enrolled at the old Point Richmond school at Castro and Standard Avenues, where he attended for the first two years before the building was moved to Second Street between Macdonald and Bissell (east side) and converted to apartments. One of his schoolmates during those first two years, and subsequently at the new Washington School, was his wife to be, Clarice.

At about the time when the new school was built, streets on that side of the Point were paved and the boardwalks were torn up.

Washington School was surrounded on three sides by a swamp, and ten to twelve year olds delighted in camping out along the edges, shooting and barbecuing ducks for entertainment and sustenance. The pre-teens of that day seem to have been a rather self sufficient lot.

Bill recalls as favorite teachers Emily Axtell, Mrs. Daugherty (who Clarice idolized) Mrs. Watson and Mrs. Tomlin. He also recalls the licks on the hand with a piece of leather harness administered by one of the less popular of his grammar school instructors.

In the manner of youngsters of the day, Bill always found some kind of work to do. He collected bottles at the dump and sold them to Dornan's Richmond Supply Company for recycling; he swept floors, chopped ice and made ice cream at the Kozy Candy Store, he delivered groceries for Stiefvater's, located in the shop which is now "One of a Kind"—formerly the Karate parlor.

This last job brought the youthful Bill Stribley into contact, of sorts, with various 'girls' of Railroad Avenue, to whose back doors he made deliveries. As one of the 'houses' was cheek by jowl with the local police station, it appears that prostitution was either legal at that time and this place, or perhaps tolerated by officialdom, for a price.

In keeping with that image, Point Richmond seemed to be mostly saloons and newly opened boarding houses for the single men who flocked to the refinery as it expanded. Meals were taken at the lodging houses (there were no restaurants at the time) and the saloons provided entertainment. The boys would peek through back windows to view the dancing and general merrymaking.

The present site of 'Energy Unlimited' was at that time McWhorter's Grocery Store. Dornan's store was located where the Point Richmond Realty is now, and a dry goods store was on the site of the present Sweetwater Nursery. The Point Theater, complete with a piano player to accompany the cowboy and Indian epics is now the Point Orient Restaurant.


A local performance worth remembering was that put on by Mr. Stairley, the banker. He walked to work each day at the bank (now Sherry and Bob's) with great dignity, in a top hat and a long black coat.

Bill completed his elementary education at Washington School and went to work in the watchmaking shop of E.M. Week at Sixth and Macdonald. The old man told Bill that further formal education was superfluous, as a good profession, watch repairing, could be learned right there, under his direction. Bill ultimately bought out Mr. Weed (in 1929).

Meanwhile, Clarice's life went off in other directions. She married and taught school for 35 years before the two of them, by now a widow and widower, became reacquainted at the home of a mutual friend here in Point Richmond. They were married May 13, 1973, and now live in Marin.


Doug Corbin





## IT WAS WRITTEN . . .

FROM THE ARCHIVES OF LOCAL CHURCHES  
COME STORIES OF EARLY POINT RICHMOND,  
AT A TIME WHEN PEOPLE ENJOYED  
AND TOOK TIME TO COMPOSE  
THE "WRITTEN WORD".



### THE POINT RICHMOND BAPTIST CHURCH . . .

On Sunday, September 28, 1941, the members of the First Baptist Church of Richmond (by that time located at Barrett Avenue and Thirteenth Street) voted unanimously to grant a blanket letter of dismissal to the Point Richmond Baptist Church those members whose names appear below (and here follows a list of some sixty people — The Howard Adams, C.W. Allen, David Bain, the Carl Conways, Demarest, DeMott, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dunlap, Fletcher, Hatchell, Kitchell, Lloyd, Reid, Walker, four Wishards — many of whom are still around the Point). Such dismissal from the First Baptist Church was only for official records as the majority of them had never left the old Point Church. The Church itself was officially moved to downtown Richmond, the second of three moves since leaving the original Point Richmond location. On Sunday, November 2, 1941, at 3:00 p.m. a public recognition service was held at the Point Richmond Baptist Church ("the afternoon bringing a driving rain in spite of which 135 were present"). After the First Baptist Church moved to downtown Richmond, the old church continued with church services, but operated for some time as a mission and did not regain independent status until 1941. To give you an idea of the difference in expenses a mere forty years back, we quote from a copy of our budget — for one month: Pastor's salary, \$85.00; custodian, \$7.50; a Sunday School teacher from the Baptist Divinity School, Berkeley, \$5.00; misc., \$5.00; utilities, \$5.00, for a total of \$112.50!

The time covered in this report is just before World War II — when our pastor was the Rev. Robert Lincoln Kelley. We quote now from Rev. Kelley's Annual Letter to the Northern California Baptist Convention: "The lower auditorium of the Point Richmond Baptist Church building has been made a community recreational center. With adequate supervision two hours each afternoon and two hours each evening of the week days, the Center is available for wholesome manual activities and play, nothing in this incompatible with church ideals." Further publicity for this recreational facility is quoted from the Independent of April 14, 1941. "The Point Richmond Recreation Center, founded in order to offer recreational, craft and hobby facilities for local residents, has opened in the Point Richmond Baptist Church basement, while the Recreation Department has made the city park next door to the church, at Nicholl and Washington Avenues, available." As it turned out, these facilities were soon given over to the Point Richmond chapter of the Red Cross and the Artillery men in the U.S.A., based in Point Richmond.

Roy Jones

### POINT METHODIST CHURCH . . .

*Records of the First Methodist Church in Point Richmond began in the November issue of this Newsletter (Vol. I, No. 4) and continues. These minutes are from the first book of records of the church, which was founded in October, 1900.*

Feb. 13, 1902

Board met in evening at church. Pastor



## IT WAS WRITTEN . . .

FROM THE ARCHIVES OF LOCAL CHURCHES  
COME STORIES OF EARLY POINT RICHMOND.  
AT A TIME WHEN PEOPLE ENJOYED  
AND TOOK TIME TO COMPOSE  
THE "WRITTEN WORD".



### THE POINT RICHMOND BAPTIST CHURCH . . .

On Sunday, September 28, 1941, the members of the First Baptist Church of Richmond (by that time located at Barrett Avenue and Thirteenth Street) voted unanimously to grant a blanket letter of dismissal to the Point Richmond Baptist Church those members whose names appear below (and here follows a list of some sixty people — The Howard Adams, C.W. Allen, David Bain, the Carl Conways, Demarest, DeMott, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dunlap, Fletcher, Hatchell, Kitchell, Lloyd, Reid, Walker, four Wishards — many of whom are still around the Point). Such dismissal from the First Baptist Church was only for official records as the majority of them had never left the old Point Church. The Church itself was officially moved to downtown Richmond, the second of three moves since leaving the original Point Richmond location. On Sunday, November 2, 1941, at 3:00 p.m. a public recognition service was held at the Point Richmond Baptist Church ("the afternoon bringing a driving rain in spite of which 135 were present"). After the First Baptist Church moved to downtown Richmond, the old church continued with church services, but operated for some time as a mission and did not regain independent status until 1941. To give you an idea of the difference in expenses a mere forty years back, we quote from a copy of our budget — for one month: Pastor's salary, \$85.00; custodian, \$7.50; a Sunday School teacher from the Baptist Divinity School, Berkeley, \$5.00; misc., \$5.00; utilities, \$5.00, for a total of \$112.50!

The time covered in this report is just before World War II — when our pastor was the Rev. Robert Lincoln Kelley. We quote now from Rev. Kelley's Annual Letter to the Northern California Baptist Convention: "The lower auditorium of the Point Richmond Baptist Church building has been made a community recreational center. With adequate supervision two hours each afternoon and two hours each evening of the week days, the Center is available for wholesome manual activities and play, nothing in this incompatible with church ideals." Further publicity for this recreational facility is quoted from the Independent of April 14, 1941. "The Point Richmond Recreation Center, founded in order to offer recreational, craft and hobby facilities for local residents, has opened in the Point Richmond Baptist Church basement, while the Recreation Department has made the city park next door to the church, at Nicholl and Washington Avenues, available." As it turned out, these facilities were soon given over to the Point Richmond chapter of the Red Cross and the Artillery men in the U.S.A., based in Point Richmond.

— Roy Jones

### POINT METHODIST CHURCH . . .

*Records of the First Methodist Church in Point Richmond began in the November issue of this Newsletter (Vol. I, No. 4) and continues. These minutes are from the first book of records of the church, which was founded in October, 1900.*

Feb. 13, 1902

Board met in evening at church. Pastor



J.W.Hinds in chair. Present were Harris, Berryman, Catterlon and Odell.

Ordered that two ladies be appointed instead of the lady Stewards, to solicit subscription to Pastor's salary from business portion of town.

Catterlin, Berryman and Harris were appointed a committee to interview members who had not subscribed to pastor's salary.

Pastor was appointed a comm. to see what can be done towards raising subscription and getting loan for erecting a parsonage.

June 30, 1902

Board met at church pursuant to Call at 8 p.m. On motion W.N. Younglove was elected chairman pro tem.

On motion it was agreed to recommend to the Trustees that the basement of the church be let to public school Trustees at \$10.00 per mo. they to pay the taxes should any be levied on account of such letting.

Moved and seconded that the amount of subscription in hands of Bro Hinds and Uter be applied on account of Johnson Lumber Co. lost.

Ordered that the Secy. be instructed to write Bro. Kirby that his obligation to this church was due and unpaid and that we are liable to be sued for lumber bill.

Ordered that Bro. Hinds be instructed to pay over on Johnson Lumber Co. bill the \$25 on hand and offer him a bankable note for balance of bill.

Ordered that Bro. Hinds be instructed to send to bankers letters which he has prepared in reference to erecting a church in this place.

Oct. 5, 1902

Board met at church pursuant to call by Bro. Rich at 8 p.m. Opened by Prayer by Bro. Rich. It was moved and carried that the Pastor's plan for collecting funds for the support of the church be done by a com-

mittee of ladies appointed by the Pastor viz each lady to have her district and solicit each week or month from those desiring to contribute and report same the first Wednesday Eve. after prayer meeting amount collected and progress made.

Bro. Brondson and Bly were appointed collectors. Bro. Brondson to act at the morning service, Bro. Bly at the evening service.

The Ladies Aid was asked to look after materials and supplies for the Lord's Supper. Moved and seconded that we have our prayer meetings Wednesday in place of Thursday as heretofore. Carried.

(all signed) A. Odell, Secy

Oct. 13, 1902

Second Official Board met at church, Bro. Rich in the chair. Meeting opened with prayer by Bro. Rich. Bro. Bly was appointed secy pro tem. The first business to be transacted was election of Secy. Bro. Odell was nom. as was Bro. Bly. There being two nominated for the Office it was decided to vote by Ballot. After the second ballot it was found that Bro. Bly had received 4 ballots to Bro. Odell 3 and Bro. Bly was declared elected for the coming year.

The letting of the basement to the Public School Trustees was next brought up. It was found that there was three months rent due and it was moved and seconded that the amount of \$30.00 go towards paying for lumber bought and long past due from Johnson Lumber Co.

It was moved and seconded that Bro. Rich be appointed a committee of one to see School Trustees and get warrant for same.

Sacrament service was next brought up. Mrs. Conn was appointed a committee to bring the matter before the Ladies Aid to have them prepare material and supplies for such services during the coming year.

Those present were Bros. Odell, Rich, Younglove, Dahl and Bly. Sisters Conn, Bly. Jas. C. Bly, Secy

*Also found among the records were the following accounts, written on lined note paper imprinted with: 'Office of L. T. Gorsuch, M.D., Surgeon for Santa Fe R.R.', for the purchase of land for the church lots:*

Nov. 13, 1901

For value received,

Ninety days after date we promise to pay to W.C.Gray or Order, three hundred and thirty dollars (\$330.00) with interest at twelve percent per annum. Principal and interest being payable in gold coin of the United States.

Signed: The First Methodist Episcopal Church of Richmond by Order of the Board of Trustees

L.T.Gorsuch, President of the Board  
W.O.Shaw, Secretary of the Board

*On the reverse side of the note the following was listed:*

Paid May 29, 1903 — thirty four 88/100 (\$34.88) dollars by Postal Money Order received from Rev. C.E. Rich.

Paid June 15, 1903 — Forty (40) dollars by Postal Money Order and check received from Re. C.E.Rich.

Paid Aug. 13, 1903 — Forty (40) dollars by Postal Money Order and check received from Rev. C.E. Rich.

Paid Sept 1, 1903 — Forty-five (45) dollars by Rev. C.E. Rich, leaving a balance due on the note \$165.

*Across the bottom of the page was written:*

This note was taken up February 10, 1905, by the Board, J.C.Bly, Isaac Lester, O.J.Dahl and the pastor D.W.Calfee giving a new note for \$110.00 bearing (6) six percent decum interest — payable Feb. 10, 1908 — Bro. Gray donated balance, about \$161 principle and interest.

—Mid Dornan

## DEATHS

Stephanie R. Stark, age 63, died March 5, 1983. Ruth, as she was known, was the daughter of the late John Starks, a pioneer family who came to the Point around 1910. She was retired from the Richmond Hospital, where she worked for 24 years. She was a member of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church. Her survivors include her sister, Johanne Lanning of the Point, John of Richmond and Virginia, New Orleans; Rudolph, Las Vegas; Peter, Sonoma; William, Petaluma and 15 nieces and nephews.

# LANG

## Drug Company

TWO STORES:

31 Wash. Ave. 601 Macdonald

—  
Estab. 1901—still here 1910  
—

The largest stock in Contra  
Costa County. We do the busi-  
ness. Nuf sed.

—ad from 1910 newspaper

George Bartram, age 82, died on March 23, 1983. A 60 year resident of the Point, Mr. Bartram's family moved to Richmond before George retired from Standard Oil, where he worked for 48 years as a foreman in the Lube Plant. George was a supporter of the Boy Scout Troop 111 in the Point. He is survived by his wife Nora, daughter Beverly and son Bruce, a sister Flora White and a granddaughter Suzanne Bartram.



Alyn Boice Brennan, born in Elko, Nevada in 1928, died on March 2. Best known locally for having popularized the 'lunch in Point Richmond' habit by creating "Judges and Spares", he had been involved in a tremendous variety of ventures during his relatively short life. He attended Stanford University, U.C., Berkeley and San Francisco State University; with degrees in English Literature and Medieval History. For a short time, he taught in the Richmond Elementary Schools and at the 3R School in Marin. He also taught inmates at San Quentin and worked at the Austin McCormick Half-Way House in San Francisco. Alyn was an extensive traveler, and for a time he lived in Hawaii, working as a Psychiatric Orderly in a mental institution, and as a taxicab driver. When he returned to California in 1970, he worked as a chef in a restaurant in Norden, and, at the Cheese Board in Berkeley, he baked about 150 loaves of bread each day. After attending some culinary courses, he opened the popular Judges and Spares on Washington Avenue, Point Richmond, on March 1, 1972. He retired in 1974 because of health problems, but was soon back in school, learning about the travel business. After working as a travel agent, he opened Point Richmond Travel about a year ago.

Last July, he had the pleasure of becoming a grandparent to Forrest Niles Brennan, son of Alexander and Wendy (Niles) Brennan who live in Point Richmond. Mr. Brennan is also survived by two other sons, Reid Alyn ("Turtle"), now living in San Rafael, and Miles Chester of Berkeley.

-□-

Ad from Richmond  
newspaper, 1902

The shrinking Library budget has taken its toll on our West Side Branch. As you know, the hours have lessened, and the collection has had to share the budget cuts, too. Could you help reverse the trend? The Main Library has been successful in getting people to contribute periodical subscriptions. If you can contribute a subscription to West Side, please call Betty Hall at the Branch, Marie Contreras, the Head Librarian, or Maurice Doherty or Rosemary Corbin, Commissioners.

If you are interested in organizing a West Side subcommittee of the Friends of Richmond Public Library, notify any of the above mentioned people about that, too.

And don't forget to patronize our library — if we don't use it, we'll lose it.

—Rosemary Corbin

## Moyle's Shoes

Are strictly up-to-date in  
**PRICE** **STYLE**  
**FIT and** **WEAR**  
Guaranteed.

We want your shoe trade. No trouble to show the goods.

One of the oldest business houses in Richmond. Established Jan. 1902.

50 WASHINGTON AVE.

Phone 1901.



## 'BACK TO BASICS' ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION

A small furor arose this month when it was proposed that Washington School ask that the District designate it as a "Basic" school. At first glance parents were enthusiastic about the idea, but further examination of the plan and discussion with faculty and administration raised some serious questions on the advisability of changing Washington's status.

The first question arose over the term 'Basic'. In the context of the District, being a Basic school meant 'basic' discipline, including required homework, dress codes and a prescribed disciplinary action program for infractions. The curriculum would not change or be upgraded.

Parents and faculty alike felt that we already have a school with a viable and successful discipline program and therefore had no need for formal designation.

On the 'pro' side of the Basic program was a required written commitment from parents to uphold the program. It was felt that a written commitment would increase parental interest and participation in the school, strengthen student-parent relations directly related to education and generally improve the school climate.

This consideration was overridden by the requirement that Basic schools have open enrollment. Potentially open enrollment could increase Washington's population from 250 students to 479 students, and could possibly prevent children living within Washington's attendance area from attending the school.

A lengthy discussion of all the pro's and cons resulted in a vote to observe the basic program at work in other designated schools this year and to work with teachers and

parents in the coming year to devise a new and creative curriculum which would also fall within State requirements as a different means of alternative education which would perhaps better fit the needs and interests of Washington students. This, to me, is a most exciting possibility.

*Judy Spediacci*

## THE INDIAN STATUE

Inter Arts is greatly encouraged by the donations received recently. The statue itself is within \$400 of being completely funded. Some donations have already been made for the park setting, also. Chevron is preparing to move the statue base to the Triangle. A pledge brochure will be available soon, for those who wish to pledge donations. If you want your name, your organization's name, or someone else's name memorialized in bronze, a donation of \$200 or more will assure a name on the statue's bronze plaque. Donations made out to Inter Arts/Indian Statue may be sent to Box 364, Pt. Richmond, CA 94807.

## BUSINESS ASSOCIATION NOTES

The Association's next meeting will take place at Point Pancho's on Wednesday, April 13 at 4 p.m. Association President David Vincent said that a Caltrans representative will be present at the meeting, to provide information about the Castro Street off-ramp, and to discuss the design of the freeway wall, as well as the sound barrier possibilities.

The July or August meeting is scheduled to take place in the Chevron Cafeteria.

The matters receiving greatest emphasis during the coming year will be the Indian Statue and appropriate signs for Point Richmond, once the Freeway is constructed.



## RECENT HISTORY — THE MILLER-KNOX REGIONAL SHORELINE PARK

### III

*A series of articles on the Park —  
its birth and development.*

*The last article (February, 1983) on the evolution of the George Miller Jr. Regional Shoreline Park ended with the crushing refusal in 1973, by the Bay Conservation and Development Commission to grant permits for eight acres of fill needed for beach development.*

A number of years prior to this time, a student in the University of California, Berkeley, School of Landscape Design (and a Point Richmond resident) developed the proposal of a lagoon within the park area flatland as a design project for one of his classes.

This concept proved to be the solution decided upon by the East Bay Regional Park District Design Department. While the Contra Costa Shoreline Parks Committee was deeply disappointed at the abandonment of direct beach access to the Bay, they accepted the lagoon idea as an attractive alternative.

Extensive digging, shaping and remodeling of the flat land on the land side of the railroad tracks was required; but there were of course no further objections from the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, because instead of filling the Bay, this idea created more water surface, albeit within the land confines of the Park.

An intriguing engineering proposal, which would have utilized wind power and a windmill pumping Bay water into the lagoon from the boundary of the park nearest Ferry Point, and out the other end near Keller's Beach, had to be abandoned because of technical and financial problems and the possi-

bility of vandalism. But a clever, unobtrusive pumping system was substituted, and the completed lagoon provides the focal point of a gleaming sheet of water, to the pleasure of waterbirds and park walkers alike.

For those who over the years dreamed, hoped and worked for this park has come the pleasure of watching the park slowly evolve, despite the frustrating difficulties and obstacles. The greatest disappointment was that the ambitious "urban threshold park" concept, suggested by landscape architects Arbogast and Newton, for the entire 650 acres of Potrero San Pablo ridge, has not been carried out. This idea, presented in 1973, was perhaps too innovative for the time, and particularly the place.

The concept is now fashionable and widely accepted, with states, counties and cities scrambling to acquire available open space in or near highly impacted areas, to provide much needed oases for the physical and spiritual re-creation of stress-pressured urban populations.

In 1973, though, the leap from the original 8.6 acre land acquisition to 650 acres surrounding the hills for an "urban threshold park" was too great to be considered, and the opposition was guaranteed to be too formidable. Indeed, acquisition of the entire peninsula was, by then, an impossibility. Various interests had already established beachheads and were firmly entrenched. Although there were small parcels owned by individuals, the land was chiefly held by large landowners as the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe's "Santa Fe Land and Development Company", The Masonry Supply Company and the Atlantic Richfield Company (ARCO).

In the early days of the Bay's development, when this land was prized for its commercial-industrial possibilities rather than for its unique beauty, large companies were







The peaceful isolation of the western side of the ridge, long held by the Santa Fe Land Development Company as part of Santa Fe's 'western terminus of operations' had been threatened by development on several occasions (most notably in the 1940's by a fish reduction plant) but had remained inviolate save for the small holding of the motorcycle riders club, and one other sneaky intrusion. This last came about during the 1960's when an ambitious young economic development staff member in the City Manager's office successfully negotiated, by 'administrative decision', a one acre land sale to a chemical (chlorine) company on a narrow strip of land between Garrard Avenue and the hill. The usual hearing by the Planning Commission was sidestepped by the use of 'administrative decision', thus avoiding public reaction. The negotiation was carried out during the summer, when usually vigilant Point Richmond landwatchers were vacationing or in a dangerous state of summer indolence.

The clever fait accompli was deeply resented by those who dreamed (at that point it was only a dream) of park development, and resentment mounted when the chemical company obtained more land from Santa Fe on the Bay side of Garrard, for a parking lot — again approved by administrative decision. Subsequently, and without public notice a large 'Butler' building was erected on the "parking lot". Though the building remains, it and the land have been acquired by the Regional Park District, at great expense. Unattractive and out of place in the park setting, the large building has not been demolished because of the expense involved. Numerous ideas have been considered for its use as part of the park — that the Castro Point Railroad Museum's collection of beautiful old trains be moved to the site, or that the Masquer's Theater use a portion of it for its productions — but none of these ideas

have come to fruition, due to various difficulties and objections.

*It is interesting, in terms of the faith and perseverance — essential elements in acquiring land for a park, to note that only this year (1983) has the East Bay Regional Park's Land Acquisition Department succeeded in obtaining the land on the hill side of Garrard where the original chlorine plant was built. This is not through lack of dedication on the part of Hulett Hornbeck, chief of the department, but because the property has changed hands a number of times and suffered various confusions, bankruptcies, law suits and 'returns to the drawing board'. In the course of these protracted delays the asking price for the land rose.*

Also on the western side of the hills, early in the 1960's, park dreamers watched with ill-concealed rage while a real estate group proposed a housing development on the steep sheltering curve of hills above the future park flatlands. Fortunately, zoning and the lack of roads and utilities made this project infeasible; but those who had been involved benefitted greatly by selling their properties to the Park District.

The bulk of the remaining vacant land on the western slopes and flat belonged to Santa Fe Land and Development Company, notorious for its reluctance to relinquish its historic holdings without doing battle. This was only too evident during month after month of frustrating negotiations with the Park District, who as a last resort decided to begin condemnation proceedings, which as a public body it was entitled to do. Only then did Santa Fe enter into serious discussions resulting in the sale of additional land to the Park District (at an exorbitant price).

On the eastern side of the ridge, facing the Santa Fe and Inner Harbor Channels, was land already identified as potential and feasibly industrial, unlike the relative



unspoiled western slopes. Though the great activity related to the World War II shipyards had ceased, a number of companies dependent on maritime transportation for their products purchased land on the channels. Plans for reorganized port development began to be discussed, the city built its new sewage disposal plant, and in the post-war years Atlantic Richfield Company bought substantial acreage which began at the eastern ridge of the Potrero hills and wrapped around the headlands.

In 1959 a company known as Quarry Products was engaged by ARCO to do excavating for tank sites on the southeast side of their property. This completed, ARCO entered into an agreement based on royalties with Quarry Products, to quarry the hills at the southern end of the ridge. Unfortunately at the time such activities were not controlled by the City of Richmond, because no industrial grading ordinance existed, and quarries were not subject to approval by the Planning Commission. When a special protection district was belatedly added to the zoning on Point Richmond hills, the quarry was "grandfathered" in, leaving the city with no authority to supervise or restrict quarrying operations.

The Quarry company's protection from city control and from public view — the operation was tucked away in a heavy industrial area on the far side of the ridge from residential Point Richmond — gave them the freedom to quarry more than their project had allowed. Only the people who hiked on the hills were aware of the brutal destruction that cut back into the ridgeline.

In 1975, as Quarry Products was preparing to close down its activity, protests were made against the damaged condition of the hills, left exposed to further destruction by erosion. Quarry Products was asked by the City to provide landscaping to heal and pro-

tect the ravaged hills. The work was never done.

The headlands — the magnificent bluffs and cliffs facing the Bay at the end of Point Potrero Ridge — were in various ownerships. Santa Fe holdings on the West side adjoined a long held property of the Masonry Supply Company (Brickyard). Next, a slice of land from sea level to the top of the hill was acquired by Pacific Gas and Electric Company who in 1949 built a 17 million cubic foot gas storage holder, towering 385 feet above ground. This tank, used to store natural gas so that pipeline supplies to the Richmond-Berkeley area could be supplemented during peak demand periods or emergencies, had originally been intended for a Point Isabel location. However, such an uproar was created by the people of El Cerrito against such a huge object (254 feet in diameter and 385 in height) intruding upon and blocking their views of the Bay, that PG&E hastily withdrew and looked for a quiet niche into which they could tuck their behemoth. They found a niche in the Potrero hills for the "unobtrusive tank", and over the years it has come to be regarded with something close to affection by Richmond yachtsmen and sailors, its giant form providing an unorthodox but effective navigation aid, pinpointing the Richmond Yacht Club and Brickyard Cove.

Next to the PG&E property, the extensive ARCO holdings follow the face of the headlands and continue northward, facing the Harbor and Santa Fe channels.

Until the World War II period, steep cliffs at Potrero Point, where the Harbor channel makes a hard turn to port, extended to the water's edge. 'Bulldog Point', named for the profile of the cliffs, was torn down and cleared when the Maritime Commission authorized the building of Shipyard 3. Now owned by the Richmond Surplus Property Authority, the approximately 115 acres are



leased to Shortez (a ship repair yard), Pasha Industries (for parking and storage of imported cars), and Levin Metals (for scrap metal export). The Richmond Redevelopment Agency's Urban Renewal Plan for the area proposes eventual development of container port facilities. Doubling back along the shore west from Point Potrero, facing on the Richmond Harbor entrance channel and below the headland hills, the ARCO property abuts Levin Metals. Brickyard Cove residential marina community adjoins ARCO and is, in turn, the neighbor of the Richmond Yacht Club.

Established in the early 1960's, the Yacht Club moved from its former location at the foot of the Santa Fe channel on Cutting Boulevard to the land acquired from the Macdonald-Henshaw estates. It was soon joined on the Bayshore by the Brickyard Cove lagoon community. West of these developments is a pocket of city-owned industrial shoreline land which is bounded by Santa Fe property, terminating at the Santa Fe dock (labeled Point Richmond on nautical maps).

This property is the location of Richmond's Terminal 1, which is leased to Petro-mark, a firm that stores and packages bulk liquids (including chemicals, vegetable oils, and lubricating oils).

Soon after the quarry operation was terminated on ARCO land, in 1975, a consortium made up of Santa Fe, The Masonry Supply Company and ARCO launched an elaborate proposal for a large housing development. The plan showed little regard for or understanding of the unique hills and the danger of cutting into the ridge and precipitous slopes for roads and houses.

The ambitious and costly proposal, which caused much public dismay and outcry, was quickly aborted when one member of the

consortium withdrew, and the other members decided that funding the project was impractical without a total joint effort.

Another less extensive housing proposal, planned around an abandoned water-filled quarry hole on ARCO land facing the Bay was also dumped when the developers were notified of their obligation to prepare an Environmental Impact Report.

The headlands were by this time properly recognized not only for their spectacular beauty but for their value as potential Bayshore residential property, for which there was growing demand and limited supply. Though the East Bay Regional Park District had, by the late seventies, patiently acquired land that extended the park from Keller's Beach to the Bray oil tanks and from Nicholl Nob down, embracing the amphitheater of hills framing the flatlands, the astronomical sums under consideration for the headlands seemed to eliminate them from consideration.

—Lucretia Edwards

#### APRIL HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

*Your birthstone is the Diamond; innocence. Flower is the Sweet Pea; Colors are Yellow and Red. You are an Aries (1 - 20) and governed by Mars. (21 - 30 is Taurus and governed by Venus.) A fairly good planner, you direct others better than yourself. Your home life will be happy and love will play a great part in your life. Your outstanding characteristics are honesty, dependability and an indomitable ambition.*

Lirpa Loof  
Kathy Dornan  
Michael Horn  
Peter Horn  
Sydney Clutts  
Helen Kocher  
Melisso Allyn  
Kari Lu Elle  
Joel Peterson  
Roberta Palfini  
Alison Lord

Verla Camren  
Eric Hoiland  
William Kretzmer  
Tara Kaufman  
Pam Wilson  
Paula Ferguson  
Judy Walz  
Dan Amanite  
Mabel Edwards  
Rosemary Corbin  
Lore Shaper

*April showers will bring May flowers — if the March rains haven't washed them all away!*

—Mid Dornan



## PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR TROOP 111

Boy Scout Troop 111 from the Point participated in the Mt. Diablo District Scout-O-Rama held in the Richmond Auditorium. Their demonstration of life saving CPR (cardio pulmonary resuscitation) earned them a President's Award, given only to ten units of those participating that day. The boys can be proud of this accomplishment. Leaders are Scoutmaster Fred Hart, Assistant Scoutmaster Ben Woodson and Committee Chairman George Mohr.

Also in attendance that day was Carl Jenkins, former member of Troop 111, now the Scout Executive of the Flagstaff, Arizona, Council.

## CAMPFIRE NEWS

On March 17, Bev Price's Discovery Camp Fire Girls celebrated the seventy-third birthday of Camp Fire. The following Sunday they invited all members of the Council to worship services at the Point Baptist Church. On April 1, the group is dyeing eggs for Easter. Profits from their recent candy/nut sales and the QST magazine subscription sales will enable the group to take a trip to the snow and ski slopes at Tahoe for three days, April 8 to 10, and they will stop enroute home at Sam's Town outside Sacramento. Discovery members are Kelly Darling, Lynn Darling, Kathryn Fong, Christine Hayes, Lisa Ogles, Anne Price and Rose Tomey.

—Mid Dorman

## POINTS IN THE FUTURE

MAY 14 — Annual Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast - Point Richmond Methodist Church. Call 235-1046 for information

MAY 15 — Point Richmond History Association, Annual Meeting & History Festival.  
1:00 p.m., Linsley Hall

## RICHMOND MUSEUM NOTES

The Richmond Museum's annual dinner meeting drew a capacity crowd, as did the tour through the Chevron Refinery. A busload of people viewed the refinery and were treated to lunch in the new cafeteria.

Tentative plans are being made to hold the West Side Improvement Club's May meeting at the Museum, and view their slide presentation of Richmond's history.

---

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

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

Illustrations: Donna Roselius

Layout: Jodi Roselius

Articles for next month's issue are due on the 20th day of this month.

Mail articles to the Association at the above address, or bring them to 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 APPLICATIONS MAY BE SENT TO MICHELLE BROWN, 25 IDAHO STREET, POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801.

---

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

---

TELEPHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (CHECK ONE)

- |                                                |         |
|------------------------------------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE                | \$10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR CITIZEN (65 +) | 5.00    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY                | 20.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ORGANIZATION          | 25.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HISTORY-PRESERVER     | 50.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HISTORY-MAKER         | 100.00  |