

THIS POINT

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Vol. I, No. 9

May, 1983

75 cents



*The Point Richmond School on Standard Avenue (then San Antonio), built in 1903.
Next door, the one-story building that served as the first school, and was later used as a high school.*

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in time

You are invited to attend the

**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"

A VIDEO-TAPED DISCUSSION

**Doug Corbin and Rosy Roselius
will video tape all historic information —
come with questions and answers!
Bring photos, memorabilia, anecdotes,
become part of
recorded history!**

MINI-TOURS OF HISTORIC PLACES

**Local Churches — Mid Dornan
Miller-Knox Park — Savina Fazio,
park naturalist
Nicholl Nob — Rosemary Corbin
Downtown — Dave Sawyer & Nancy Main
Sierra Club tour guides
Plunge & adjacent area — Michelle Brown
None of the above — Donna Roselius**

*Sign in when you arrive, and make known
your mini-tour preference, so we can plan
for transportation and possible assistants*

Suggestions for the Pot-Luck:

*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).
for information, call 235-4222*

**PHOTOS FROM THE DON CHURCH
COLLECTION . . .**

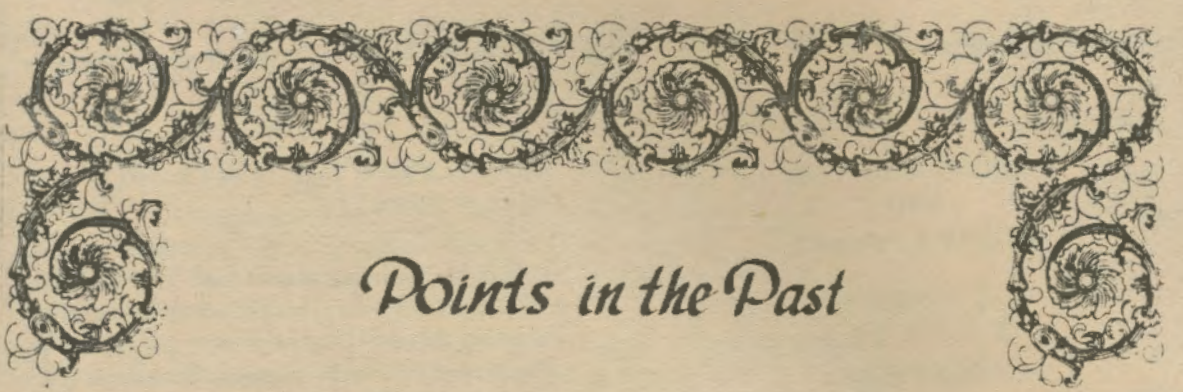
Some of the photos — those originally copied by Donna Powers and Teresa Albro and Roz Bury — will be shown at the annual meeting. Several hundred more (!) from his album are yet to be copied. Standard Oil's photo lab is still working on the first 20, and although we are hoping they will copy the most important of those remaining, we will be looking for assistance from photographers who will be willing to help us with other photographs lent to us for copying. If you, or someone you know can help, please call Teresa Albro at 233-6243.

Chevron Research will use some of the photos from the Church collection in its slide presentations. An extra copy of the slides they choose will be donated to our archives, thanks to Bob Stone, assistant to the President.

DORNAN DRIVE . . .

Many people have asked about the status of the proposal to change the name of the portion of Garrard Boulevard between the tunnel and Brickyard Cove Road to Dornan Drive. The process of re-presenting it to the City Council has been effectively blocked since February. However, we have been told by the Public Works Department that they will return it to the Council Committee on Thursday, May 5. It is still possible that, as we had hoped, we will be able to announce officially at the annual meeting, the future dedication of the street in memory of Bob Dornan. David King has offered to make the appropriate signs, should the City and Regional Park concur.

—Donna Roselius



Points in the Past

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

80 YEARS AGO . . .

"The Richmond Light and Power company ... (is) offering special low rates to all parties who will have their houses wired for electric lights during the present month. Since installing the Bay Counties current the service is giving splendid satisfaction and there is not the least danger of overloading their system. The local company is now in a position to supply light and power to a city of 500,000 people."

"Our Lady of Mercy church, which is the name of the handsome edifice being erected on Richmond Avenue by the Catholic denomination, is very near completion and in a few weeks Contractor Legault will be able to turn it over ready for occupancy."

—May 8, 1903-Pt. Richmond Daily Record

70 YEARS AGO . . .

On May 2, the Independent announced that the city is ready to obtain the necessary property to construct the tunnel and build the highway between Ashland (Garrard) and Richmond Avenues to Ferry Point. Although 28 individual property owners are involved, the main area is owned by Santa Fe and "Santa Fe officials have no objection to the sale of the land".

Unfortunately, even huge companies can change their minds and two weeks later Santa Fe unexpectedly opposes the city project, refuses to concede the right-of-way and vows to fight any attempts at condemnation. The company suggests that the city move the highway route and wharf location eastward so as not to interfere with Santa Fe plans.

However, since the "plans were prepared before the bond election and the route of the the tunnel and highway and the location of the wharves was firmly fixed in them, so that the people might know as to just what they were voting for, there is legal question as to whether any change in the route of the highway, or the location of the outer wharves, can be made by the city". The city attorney and harbor engineer have been instructed to file a condemnation suit for the required property.

May 2, 15, 20, 24, 1913

In another condemnation suit, the Castro Point Terminal and Railway company has brought suit against the Anglo-Pacific Development Company to obtain three and two-thirds acres along the waterfront to extend their tracks "from the present terminal of the Belt Line at Winhaven, easterly to the Standard Oil long wharf." A.S. Macdonald (of Macdonald Avenue fame), president of

Anglo-Pacific, "is fighting the suit, as he alleges that he has plans to make that section of the waterfront the most important and valuable of any about San Francisco Bay."

—May 30, 1913

60 YEARS AGO . . .

"Work on remodeling and enlarging the West Side branch of the Mercantile Trust company has been started by P.M. Sanford, Richmond contractor, and when completed the branch will be one of the most modern banks in the city of Richmond.

"The Mercantile Trust company is expanding its quarters in its present building to include the rooms formerly occupied by Pulse Brothers grocery, and will have practically twice as much space as is now occupied. More counters will be provided, permitting more tells and better facilities for handling the business of the West Side."

—May 29, 1923

"A shell 'mine' has been discovered on the Nicholl lands, and is now being worked actively and extensively. It isn't any small affair, either, but gives promise of being something like a half-million dollar producer ... William Thode of Berkeley, dealer in shells for the good of chicken gizzards, is the discoverer of the 'mine'. He learned that every tide floated to Nicholl Beach, near the entrance channel of the Inner Harbor, quantities of high class shells for discerning chicken gizzards.

"There was enough of the 'float' alone to make garnering profitable and Thode began hauling truck loads away. Then he prospected and struck the mother lode. It is a deposit of high grade shells three or four feet deep and of unknown length." Thode has obtained a lease to develop the shell site from W.B. Nicholl (new manager of the estate) and he estimates the potential value of the shells in this location may be as much

as \$600,000.

—May 19, 1923

50 YEARS AGO . . .

"The plundering career of a giant German police dog that had reverted to the wild state and for the past year terrorized residents of the West Side, came to an end this morning when Don Cizmich, 945 East Richmond Avenue, brought the ferocious animal down with one well aimed shot.

"According to police reports, the huge dog, which tipped the scales at 90 pounds, roamed the hills of the Potrero for months, attacking and killing domestic stock and, on several occasions, she actually attacked men. A toll of seven goats, placed out to pasture on the hillsides, have been taken by the dog ... Recently ... the big police dog was seen accompanied by a large collic. The two dogs attacked John Cizmich, 13, while he was on his way to school yesterday morning and forced him to run back to his home."

—May 20, 1933

(A sequel to this story appeared only last year)

"Recalling pioneer days of Richmond, when houses were at a premium, when Macdonald Avenue was just a pathway and when travel was slow and tedious, Richmond citizens to the number of more than 200 gathered at the First Methodist Church, West Side, last night, for the annual "old timers" night — a custom started a few years ago and which has come to be regarded as a tradition."

—May 27, 1933

(The History Association's Annual Meeting, on May 29th will serve as 1983's "old timers" afternoon — but newcomers are also welcome, to learn from the old timers.)

from 1913, '23 & '33 Independents

—Teresa Albrow

F. Palmer R. E. Tiffany
Palmer & Tiffany
 House, Sign, Carriage Painting
 Paper Hanging and Tinting
 Corner Richmond and Martini Aves.

from an ad in the 1903 'Daily Record'

Does anyone know how Martini became Martina?

40 YEARS AGO . . .

"War Bond Drive Here Hits \$1,172,513"

"Richmond citizens subscribed \$1,172,513.25 in war bonds during the drive held here from April 12 to 30, it was reported today when the final sales were totaled.

"This figure, which puts the city over the quota set here by more than a thousand dollars, does not include the subscriptions of shipyard workers residing in the district. When the shipyard payroll deductions are added to the present figure, the sales total will be given another boost.

"As the drive closed, chairman A.J.Fur-rer said, "We are proud of the people of Richmond who have responded with patriot-ism to the drive. Now we are looking ahead to the next drive, which will be held within the next three or four months, to prove that Richmond, its citizens, its labor and busi-ness organizations can do even better."

-Richmond Independent, May 4, 1943

30 YEARS AGO . . .

"Richmond Bridge? Bah!

Cries Famed Architect"

"Architect Frank Lloyd Wright, a lusty 83, today criticized the San Rafael-Richmond Bridge and warned residents of the Bay Area lest "the politicians" sell them "another old-fashioned monstrosity for a Bay crossing."

"Wright offered instead, at a news conference, his own Butterfly Wing bridge, which he described as a low, graceful structure of arches, constructed of concrete and steel.

"Civilization is just a way of life," Wright told newsmen in his Grant Avenue Studio. "Culture is a way of making that life beautiful."

"He commented on the recently begun Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. "It's nothing but bits of steel all patched up together," he snorted. 'It's the most awful thing I've ever seen. Here it isn't even built yet and already it is dated by 57 years.'

" 'The whole thing is an anachronism. It needs constant maintenance — always another coat of paint.' "

-Richmond Independent, May 1, 1953

20 YEARS AGO . . .

"The Question Mark Column"

"Appalled at the staggering amount of money it takes to run a city the size of Richmond? The budget for the current fiscal year, for example, is \$9,833.044. Back in 1909, disbursements totaled a cool \$650.00. Obviously, life in those days was not only simpler, it was cheaper as well.

"For example, in the fiscal year of 1908-09, city hall fuel cost \$32.35; janitor service, \$269; expenses of delegates to conventions, \$75; water bill, \$32; hauling hose cart to fires, \$45; killing and disposing of dogs at \$1 each, \$276.

"The fire department's rolling stock consisted of two horses, harness and hose wagon.

"The financial report also carries a list of all the city officials and their addresses. At the end of the list is the terse note: 'The above executive officers are subject to dismissal by the council at anytime.' "

May 4, 1963, Richmond Independent

-Pam Wilson

AN INTERVIEW WITH

William (Bill) Robert Quigley Brown

Bill was born on August 7, 1910 at St. Luke's Hospital in San Francisco. He spent the first three years of his life in Bakersfield where his father worked in the oil fields. Since the family moved to Richmond in 1913, his only memories of Bakersfield are of the coyotes howling in the desert.

Bill's father, an adventurer who went to Alaska in the Goldrush of 1898, was born in Canada, and graduated from the University of Halifax as a civil engineer. Bill remembers him as a mathematical genius. His mother was a skillful surgical nurse, who graduated from the French Hospital in San Francisco, receiving a diploma written in French, with gold seals. Though her name was Lucy Quigley Brown, she preferred Mrs. Billie Brown. A great walker, she often took her son on walks to Point Richmond, from their first home at 242 South Fifth Street. Upon discovering the beautiful view at the top of what is now Water Street, Billie Brown decided that this was the place where she wanted to settle.

The family soon found a little house on Water Street, which Bill's father remodeled using redwood salvaged from the abandoned Tormey house across the street. Bill eventually moved next door to the Patten house at 233 Water Street, selling the house at 235 to Connie and Bill Miller. The little house was next purchased, in 1953, by Madeline Cortese Williams, who did extensive internal remodeling. After her death, Roger and Arline Hartman, Madeline's daughter and son-in-law, moved into the house, and began a major transformation — outward and upward — it has been whimsically referred to as the 'Winchester House' and the 'Duomo di Milano'.

Back to Bill's family: His father worked for Standard Oil, and his mother was an active member of the community — a charter member of Club Mendelssohn, a member of the Richmond Club — and she led the Bond Drive to build the Plunge.

Bill recalls digging clams behind Washington School, where the Bay slough came to within 200 feet of the schoolyard. The area is still marshy during the winter, and is known today as Frog Town. There were times, Bill said, when the tide was high enough to allow fishing in the slough.



Bill described Kozy Kove as a happy place to go when he was a kid — a popular resort that attracted labor unions, clubs and lodges. It had weekend cabins, a playground, and a big dance hall. Kids in the neighborhood thrived on free food available from the picnickers. Still referred to as Kozy Kove, the park was on the shore, just West of Keller's Beach, or, as Bill remembers, just down

from Joe Vernetti's place (Joe owned Vernetti's Townhouse, a place with a 'notorious bar', in Emeryville).

Life as a kid here was great, Bill says, because of all the Italian families: the Pucci's, the Giovanetti's, the Vernetti's, the Bernardi's, etc. Even the Point Theater catered to to the Italian clientele, with signs in Italian on the walls inside, that translated: "Don't Spit on the Floor". Movies were such a novelty that many women came to see the same picture again and again. The theater had an orchestra pit, where an organist played, and a balcony where the bar of the Point Orient Restaurant is now located.

Bill went to Longfellow Junior High School on Ninth Street, and Richmond High School at Twenty-third and Macdonald. During the Depression, Bill's father took his pension from Standard Oil and moved to Kelseyville in Lake County, where his wife had been born and owned some property. Bill finished his last two years of high school in Kelseyville, and has fond memories of writing for the local newspaper, the Kelseyville Sun, getting to know some of the farmers' daughters, and playing football. While living in Lake County, the Water Street home was occupied by several renters, one of whom, Herb York, was an expert on nuclear physics, and nuclear advisor to President Eisenhower.

After graduating from high school, Bill fulfilled his insatiable desire to go to sea. As a kid, he was an omnivorous reader of sea stories. He has an impressive record of sailing on many of Standard Oil's vessels from 1927 to 1936. He can recount many of his experiences at sea, when he had the opportunity to sail all over the world. The last time he sailed on the H.M.Storey, in 1936, steering the vessel through the Racoon Straits toward Point Richmond, he pointed out the grove of trees near his home on Water Street, to which the Captain replied,

"Steady on those trees, lad, and we'll get home alright." Then World War II broke out and he went to sea as a shipmate of Tom Edwards of Point Richmond. Bill says that during the war, he traveled throughout the world, from Capetown to Calcutta. He now has an unlimited License to be Chief Mate of any ship, any tonnage, in any ocean — which implies a vast knowledge of navigation and spherical trigonometry.

Graduation certificate - Washington School



During his stay in Kelseyville, Bill had seen the movie, "Front Page" with Adolph Menjou, Edward Everett Horton and Pat O'Brien, and was so impressed that he decided he would like the active life of a newspaper reporter. He started his training in 1930 by buying a typewriter and going to a Commercial Business College at Tenth and Macdonald. He landed his first newspaper job with Jack Galvin of the Richmond Independent, as a sports editor, police reporter and doing general assignments. At the same time, he worked part-time for Standard Oil, as a rigger, setting up vapor columns that weighed 75 tons. His boss was Captain Rumsey, father of Laura and Dorothy (mother of Congressman George Miller, Jr.).

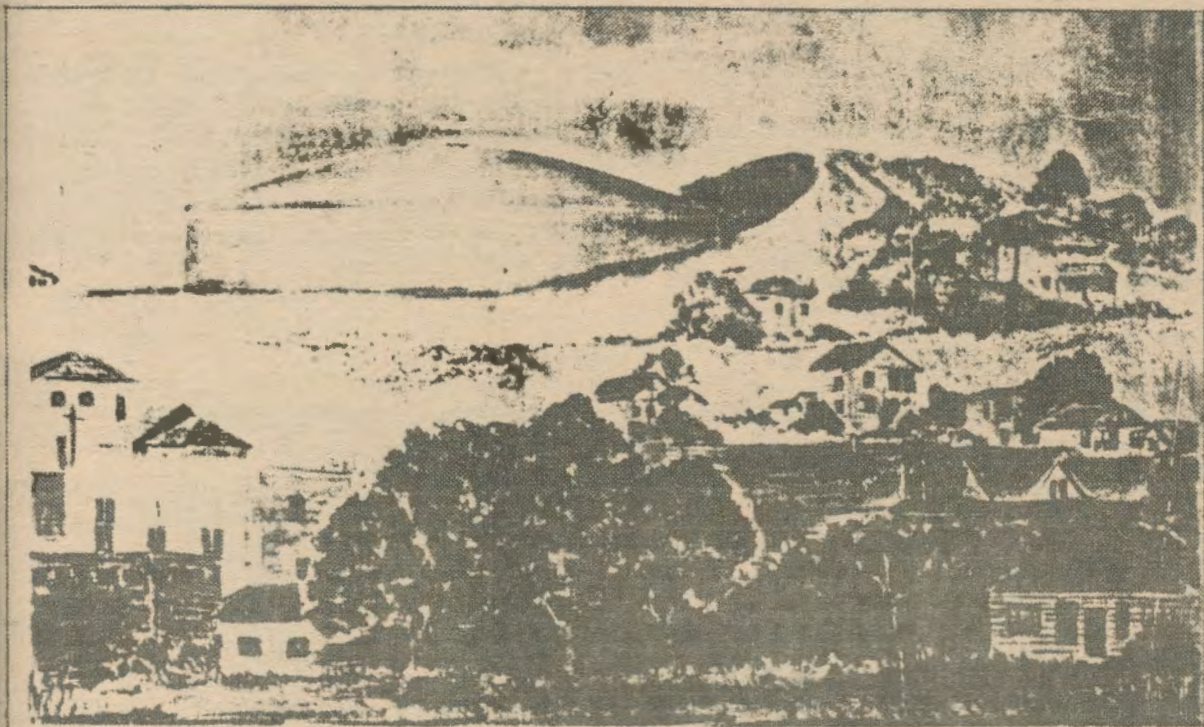
After the war, Bill worked for Hearst's "Post Enquirer" in Oakland until it folded, in 1950. It was there that he met his wife, Jo Clayre, a librarian who started as a copy girl.

In 1950, Bill went to Costa Rica to work in Public Relations for his friend Dick Dyer. He edited a Honduras newspaper, traveled and worked in many Central American countries including Nicaragua, Salvador, and Guatemala, with his home base in Costa Rica. In 1955, he felt a strong need to return home to his wife in Point Richmond, who had multiple sclerosis, which was becoming progressively more debilitating.

During his wife's illness, he worked for the Berkeley Gazette during the day, and for the Examiner evenings. At one point, he even worked for the old "Call Bulletin".

BILL'S BATTLE WITH EBMUD...

While working for the Gazette, the East Bay Municipal Utility District was making plans to carve away the top of Water Street for a large water tank site. Bill fought tooth and nail with their general manager, Mr. MacFarland. He ran an article in the Gazette showing drawings of the proposed tank. MacFarland claimed that Water Street was the only place with proper elevation and ground structure to hold the tank. With help from Bill Miller and other civil engineers in the Point, who testified that adequate conditions existed below Nicholl Nob; and with support from concerned citizens, Bill was able to persuade EBMUD to change their plans, and locate their tank on the hillside, below Nicholl Nob.



a drawing of EBMUD'S proposed water tank for Water Street, from the Berkeley Gazette

Bill went to work as Assistant News Editor at the Oakland Tribune, and worked his way up to Head of the copy desk, where the headlines are written. When he was 62, he retired from the Tribune, and today he enjoys the view from his Water Street home, watching ships coming and going on the Bay, and feeding what he calls his chickens (doves in disguise).

Bill recalls the Point in its earlier days as a lively working man's town, mostly populated by Standard Oil employees. Several brickyards were in operation. There was a red light district on Railroad Avenue, which moved here from San Francisco shortly after the 1906 earthquake. Eventually, the 'ladies of the night' were driven out, but Bill remembers a couple old gals who remained here well into their eighties.

Bill remembers Municipal band concerts in a dugout area where the Fire Station now stands, and recalls that the audience responded by tooting their car horns – that's right, they were watching from their cars!

The Gilt Edge restaurant can be located by finding the tiles that formed its entrance, on the sidewalk on Washington Avenue, between Sepulveda Printing and Judges and Spares. Bill recalls that it was a good restaurant, owned by a Mr. Hoover, whose son, Slim (a good basketball player) attended school with Bill. He remembers when the

Novarini family owned the Colonial Hotel, which became the Hotel Mac when a man named MacAfee bought it. Bill recalls that MacAfee was an impeccably dressed bartender. He remembers a San Francisco dowager whose curiosity was piqued by a bottle that contained a purple liquid. MacAfee informed her that it was a violet French liqueur which was popular in France because of the shortage of soap. He said that women drank it in order to smell sweet even when they perspired. The hotel often played host to celebrities – Bill remembers seeing Carol Channing, Earl Warren and Joe E. Brown.

Bill remembers Captain Lauritzen, who established one of the first freight services, with an old gasoline driven barge from the inner harbor where Canal Boulevard is now. The cliffs at Point Potrero were known as "Bulldog Point" Bill says, because of an old character named Bulldog Joe, who built a house on some pilings and lived out there alone and apart.

Being Bill's neighbor now, since 1953 when I moved here with my mother from Albany, and living in the house he grew up in as a child, it was a particularly rewarding experience for me to sit by his warm fireplace with him and have the privilege of getting to know him better.

*gratefully,
Arline Hartman*

| | | |
|---|--|---|
|  | <p>HOFFMAN HOUSE</p> <p>A POPULAR RESORT</p> <p>Highest Grades Of</p> <p>Scotch, Irish and American Whiskies.</p> <p>Tewksbury, Avenue, Richmond, Cal.</p> |  |
|---|--|---|



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".



POINT BAPTIST CHURCH . . .

Before word processors, before typewriters, and even before ballpoint pens, the written word meant all things to all people, and we find in old files many examples of exquisite penmanship likely written with quill pen — certainly with pen and ink — and with great flourish. The paragraph following is quoted from the Pastor's Report to the Point Richmond Baptist Church, seventy (!) years ago.

"It has been a very very happy year with you and I believe that we know God has been with us when we look at the increased attendance in our church school, women's groups, worship services. The growth in children's attendance at our church school has proven a blessing to us. They have the potentialities of men and women, who, in days to come, will be the pillars of the church here, or if not here, elsewhere, for which we should take courage. The increase from God's young ones may not immediately record itself in increase in financial support; they have but the pocket-books of children, some from non-church centered homes and sent to rather than brought to church school.

"Juvenile delinquency in all lands is vastly on the increase which affects our Bay Area, Richmond, and the Point community. This is another reason to be proud of our growing group of juniors. Our church is therefore rendering an all community service aside from the spiritual phase and yet not to be divorced from it, stabilizing young life."

The above paragraphs were selected from

a stack of papers, all of which are fascinating and give us the feeling that their problems and pleasures then were not greatly different from ours today. Our old church was recently the victim of some senseless vandalism — obscenities spray painted on the concrete steps and doors. The words that were not vulgar were misspelled. And of course, we know who did it; they may learn the difference between *constructive* and *destructive*, if not how to spell them, by helping to sandblast the steps.

—Roy Jones

THE METHODIST CHURCH

The following is a continuation of the first records of the Methodist Church in Point Richmond. The minutes were begun in the November issue of This Point In Time Newsletter, Vol. 1, No. 4. The handwritten accounts are in superb and legible penmanship. However, the lack of punctuation makes the reading more difficult. It may be noted that the church plus three lots were valued at \$4,000 ... janitorial services were 50cents a week, and it is hoped future minutes will reveal members of the choral society, "a select body of the town's brightest singers."

Nov. 19, 1902 Point Richmond

Official Board met after the prayer meeting 8:30 p.m. with Bro. Rich in the chair those present being Bro Rich, A.Odell, Bly and sisters Adams, Conn and Sparks.

Sister Conn was appointed a committee to see janitor about getting oil stove ready for Sunday and Wednesday Eve.

Bro Rich was appointed a committee to see about procuring pipe to lead water from roof so as not to have basement full of water when it rains.

The treasurer made her report as follows:

| | | |
|---------------------|-------|-------|
| Amount on hand | 15.69 | |
| Received | 25.78 | 41.47 |
| Paid Pastor | 11.00 | |
| Nov. 13 | 14.41 | |
| Pd. presiding Elder | 4.55 | 29.96 |
| On hand | | 11.51 |

It was moved and seconded that we pay nitor for one month work from Oct 18 to ov 18 amount \$2.00 also colored man for nding church one Sunday 50 cents.

It was also moved and seconded that we ay the Pastor the amount on hand. Carried.

Nothing more before the meeting it was oved and seconded that we adjourn

Jas C Bly Secy

Point Richmond, June 29, 1903

Meeting opened with prayer by Bro Rich the church. Bro Bly acting as secy. Those resent were Bro Rich, O. Odell, Younglove, Bly, sisters Conn and Bly.

Moved and seconded that Bro Rich pro- re an Official Book for church records. Bro Younglove agreeing to write up a his- ry of the church from beginning and as soon as book is procured Bro Bly agrees to write up all minutes in same.

There was some talk of asking the church extension for \$300 to make necessary im- provements. It was discussed pro and con and was finally agreed to drop for the pre- sent.

Bro Rich stated that he had about enough pledged to meet the indebtedness church property.

Bro Odell wished the chicken dinner to materialize as soon as possible and sisters

Bly and Conn to see it to a finish.

Nothing further the meeting adjourned.

Jas. C. Bly Secy.

Pt. Richmond Aug. 31, 1903

Adjourned meeting opened with Bro Rich in the chair. Bro Younglove led in pray- er. Those present being Bro Odell, Lester, Younglove, Bly, Rich, Sisters Schoen, Gib- bons, Conn, Adams, Brown, Bly.

Bro. Rich reported that the church prop- erty consisted of the church building and 3 lots valued at (same as last year) \$4000.00. The Title by which it is held is Bargain and Sale deed. There is a debt of \$450 including a note of \$330 which has been provided for and will be paid by the close of the confer- ence year. It is insured for \$1000. There has been spent on improvements during the year \$150. Amount raised for conference claim- ants - \$7.00, amounts raised for missions - \$8.00.

Bro Rich nominated the following com- mittees for the coming year:

Missions--Mrs. Rich, Mrs. Walker

Church Extension--Dahl, Bly

Sunday Schools--Tessie, Rich, Mrs.

Lester

Temperance & Education--Stokwell,

Neal, Gibbons

Church records --Bly

Parsonage & Furniture--Conn, Schoen, Adams

Church Music--Odell

Pastor's salary & Conference Claims--

Mrs. Odell, Mrs. Adams, Conn

Pastor Record to date

(money raised) \$423.35

Presiding Elder 32.25

leaving a balance due the pastor from the amount agreed to pay (\$500) 76.65. As the board had agreed to pay 1/2 of his rent being \$100 also back and very little prospects to

pay the same Bro Rich agreed to let that go and also his traveling expenses amounting to \$50. Sister Bly had started an entertainment "Old Fashion Destrick Skule" the proceeds of which she agrees to turn over to the pastor as soon as entertainment comes off.

The society being so far behind with the pastors salary and the presiding Elder's account it was thought best to try and raise by subscription what we possibly could.

| | |
|--|--------|
| Bro Lester heading list with | \$5.00 |
| Sister Schoen | 5.00 |
| Sister Brown | 5.00 |
| Sister Bly agreeing to raise by collection | 10.00 |

Bro Rich nominated Mr. Wm. Conn a member of the board of Trustees. Carried unanimously. Bro A.Odell asked the board the use of the church one evening a week for the coral society "a select body of the towns brightest singers" After deliberate discussion it was moved and seconded that the Coral Society have the use of the church one evening a week providing they pay for the lights and furnish their own musical instrument. Carried unanimously. Nothing further the meeting adjourned.

Jas C Bly Sec

Aug 21, 1903

Report of Sup M.E.S. School

Richmond Charge Cal Conference

No. pupils enrolled 105

Average attendance 56

No teacher 9

No officers 4

The school is still in need of consecrated teachers. Respectfully submitted,

A.Odell, Supt

Mid Dornan

LIFE in the POINT - BEFORE RICHMOND

Animal life and sea life were plentiful; native bunchgrass filled the meadows and forests of oaks and redwood trees covered the hills. Water was everywhere. The San Francisco Bay, which was larger than it is today, was surrounded by swamps and marshes. This was home to the Ohlone Indians.

Ohlone is the name given to the forty or so tribelets that inhabited the area from the San Francisco Bay to the Monterey Bay. The tribelets were quite independent from one another -- they had their own territories, their own customs and, in many cases, their own languages. The Huchuin were the tribelet that lived in what is now the Richmond area.

The Ohlones were hunter-gatherers. They spent their lives following the ripenings and harvests of nature. This type of lifestyle is considered somewhat primitive by anthropologists. However, researchers show a difference between the Ohlones and other groups of hunter-gatherers. The Ohlones traveled over a rather small area, generally less than one hundred square miles, whereas others needed vast amounts of territory to fulfill their needs. This area provided the Ohlones with an interesting, varied diet in a moderate climate without an inordinate amount of work.

The wandering lifestyle of the Ohlones was reflected in the temporary homes and boats made of tule. These structures worked well for short periods and required little work.

The Ohlones were skilled craftspeople, renowned for their extraordinary basket work. The Indian culture appreciated material possessions, but did not accumulate them. The need to accommodate their traveling lifestyle helps explain this attitude in part. But the generosity and close family ties of the Ohlone culture provided the



foundation of the society, and accounts for their views of wealth more completely. Malcolm Margolin, author of *The Ohlone Way*, says, "The ties that bound the people to their family were so deeply felt, so central to the Ohlone's self-image, that the people scarcely recognized themselves as individuals who existed outside the network of family and tribelet." Material possessions were to be traded and shared. When a person died his possessions were destroyed. Europeans, who treasured wealth and an agricultural way of life, thought the Ohlones backward. Their unchanging lifestyle, though, may have been the result of a successful way of living, with no need to develop other more settled ways.

Life was predictable and unchanging, until the late 1800's when the Spanish explorers discovered Central California. They found the Ohlones to be friendly, hospitable people. The Franciscan monks, who accompanied the explorers, viewed the Ohlones as wayward souls in need of salvation. To this end six missions were established in the Ohlone territory. The Ohlone were fascinated with the missionaries and their ways. At first, the Indians came to the missions willingly. Once there, though, their freedom ended. The missionaries were intent on baptizing the Ohlones and teaching them European ways. They succeeded only in destroying the Ohlones. Mission life broke their spirits and European diseases destroyed their bodies. By the late nineteenth century, very few Ohlones still existed.

Although the last full blooded Ohlone Indian died a few years ago, there are still people of Ohlone ancestry living in the Bay Area. They provide a living link with this fascinating Indian people. There is much to admire and much to learn from these early residents of the Bay Area, the Ohlones.

Information for this article was gathered from *The Ohlone Way* by Malcolm Margolin and *The Costanoan Indians*, edited by Robert F. Heizer.

—Michelle Brown

RICHMOND BAY SHORE — INDUSTRY OR PEOPLE?

... WHY NOT A BALANCE?

While all the citizens of Richmond certainly wish their city to prosper, there is a marked difference in the means chosen by two opposing groups. The curious dispute over the closing of the end of Garrard Boulevard illustrates this difference.

In order to enlarge its operation Petro mark petrochemical company has asked the City Council to 'vacate' the Bay front end of Garrard. This would enable the company to put more tanks on land adjoining (to be leased from Santa Fe). This request has pleased the people who feel that more industry on the Bay shore is just what Richmond needs. Another group feels that there better uses for this particular piece of shore.



To understand these widely differing views, it might help to consider a bit of history. Early in this century, it was industry, namely the Santa Fe Railway, the Standard Oil Company and some quarry operations that gave Richmond the reason for its existence. Only a few Italian and Portuguese quarry workers and fishermen lived on the Bay side of the hills and shoreline of Point Richmond, at first, and though they were followed by a few local settlers, most gathered close to the present business district and on the east side of the hills.

It was not until the 1930's that people moved to Point Richmond simply because it was a beautiful place to live. Some University of California professors were astonished at the sweeping views of San Francisco Bay and the surrounding hills. They bought land and built a few homes, while many of the original settlers fled to the expanding flat areas and the Eastern hills of Richmond. The local bank was so leery of this use of the Point Richmond land that at first they would lend no money for home building here. In spite of difficulties, many new comers bought land and built homes.

Ship building during World War II reinforced the industrial image of the city, and in the 1970's the building of a container port was thought to be a wonderful way to restore the industrial excitement of the 1940's, which had died soon after the war's end. Dreams of an industrial empire danced 'like sugarplums' in the heads of many Richmonders.

Meanwhile, more homes were built in Point Richmond, the Brickyard Cove home and boat complex was built, and now the Marina Bay condominium development is rising around the old ship building inner harbor, now the home of many yachts; and the newly developed Regional Miller-Knox Shoreline Park lures many people, not just

Richmonders, to enjoy the beauty of the shore.

The uses of the Bay shore have now multiplied with the new concept that people should be able to enjoy access to the shore.

The group who oppose the closing of the end of Garrard are composed of a large contingent of fishermen, some of whom have fished here for over 70 years, plus many home and boat owners who fear more heavy trucks and trains, as well as the unsightliness and odors of a larger petrochemical plant.

Many people feel it would be more profitable for the city and would provide more jobs if this choice piece of land would be used for developing waterfront restaurants and shops. No more beautiful and sweeping views exist in the Bay area.

The Port Commission, desperate for business, is pushing very hard for Petromark's enlargement, but many thoughtful Richmond residents feel that a thorough study should be made of the situation before a decision is made.

Right now, the City Council has postponed making its decision until May 16, after the election, before the new members are seated. (The Bay Conservation and Development Commission may demand that permits are needed before any change is made.)

It will be interesting to see what the future holds for Richmond's Bay shoreline, not only for this location, but all along the shores and adjacent hills. It is hoped a wise long term plan will be established, for the best possible uses of our greatest assets.

—Louise Hammond



BUSINESS NEWS

Lincoln Chew, of the San Francisco office of Caltrans appeared at the April meeting of the Point Richmond Business Association to discuss details of the construction plans for the Hoffman Freeway in the Point Richmond area.

Concerns addressed at the meeting included appearance of the freeway, traffic noise, location of off-ramps, signage and the construction schedule.

Mr. Chew observed that the Point Richmond section of the freeway would be the last to be constructed and would probably not be fully open until 1989. However, the construction plans would be completed in 1984 or 1985.

There will be some trade-offs between the visual aspects of proposed sound barriers and their noise control function. There also may be some alternate treatments available for concrete retaining walls and landscaping. Mr. Chew pointed out that Caltrans would tend to use the same construction details in the Point Richmond section of the freeway as in the other sections that are to be built earlier, so that it is necessary for us to comment on the design of other, earlier sections in the near future, if we want any effective input regarding our section. He promised to remain in touch with us as designs develop so that we will be able to provide comments.

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comed.

Ads from the 1903
Point Richmond 'Daily Record'

The exits serving Point Richmond will be at Castro Street and Canal Boulevard. Since Castro Street will also be the terminus of the North Richmond Bypass, there was some discussion regarding the advantages and disadvantages of promoting one or the other as the "main entrance" to Point Richmond. Mr. Chew indicated that the battle we went through during the overpass construction regarding "Point Richmond" exit signs would have to be fought all over again. It took the personal intervention of Assemblyman John Knox to get a "Point Richmond" sign on the exits at Castro Street and Canal Boulevard because Caltrans can put only city names and street signs at exits. Point Richmond, obviously, qualifies as neither. (We are also looking into State Historical Landmark status for the Point Richmond Historic District, which would qualify it for a state sign. Although listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Point Richmond apparently has no concomitant State status.)

The Business Association will continue to closely monitor progress in the freeway design to assure that our business community's interests are protected.

In other business, the group discussed the proposed gala celebration at the Indian Statue unveiling sometime in September — a regular street fair is being planned, including a sporting event for all ages — the first "Point to Point" relays, a series of 40-yard dashes from saloon to saloon.

A proposal was also made to begin videotaping and timing street blockages by Santa Fe trains, in order to provide the police department unimpeachable evidence that Santa Fe was exceeding the five minute limit. It was decided to contact Santa Fe and give them one more month to comply with the law before embarking on the monitoring program.

—Tom Butt

THE WRITTEN WORD

Last month the ABC disciplinary school proposal met with resounding defeat but the seed of an idea was planted; that Washington develop its own alternative *EDUCATION* program tailored to its own needs.

Our wonderful Washington teachers have come through again and created the concept of a school with extreme emphasis on language arts and writing. The program, to be implemented in September, is already well formulated and with a specific goal: to have each child feel he is a fertile and thoughtful writer. The steps toward this goal are many, but each step is so direct that we may wonder why they haven't been taken before, and the program will require the participation not only of teachers and students, but that of the parents, the principal and the community.

On a daily basis, from Kindergarten up, each child will write in class, perhaps by keeping a journal, working on a short story or poem, a report or a newspaper article.

Each week every class will exchange student writing with a sister class to expand the writing audience and develop new ideas. Additionally, the teachers will hold weekly in-service seminars to exchange ideas, devise programs and hone their own skills. Each teacher will chair the seminars for one month, and during that month will be responsible for creating new writing programs and implementing old ones.

On a monthly program, the best student writing will be displayed on school bulletin boards and throughout the community. A newspaper will be published with articles on local and school events, sports, cartoons, jokes and interviews. Each student will also be required to read and report on one book a month. Here, the parents will have to be responsible to make sure appropriate books are chosen and reports are done on them.

And lest we think all these words on paper will just be filed away somewhere, at the end of the year each student will put together a book of his own best writing, stories or poetry for display at a Book Fair.

To round out the program, theater and puppetry will be included, and our principal, Mr. Petroni, will serve as "coach", keeping the project in focus and enthusiasm high.

Three weeks ago we were talking discipline, now we're talking education, thanks to the highly motivated, caring and dedicated staff at Washington. Isn't it great!

—Judy Spediacci

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LETTERS ...

I have enjoyed your publication immensely and am sending a check for renewed membership and donation for Indian restoration.

Your last "This Point" [had] old Washington School where I spent eight years, some of it on the famous "warming bench" for some misbehaving.

My parents came to Richmond in October, 1910, when I was two years old and Richmond (Point) was home to us for the next 30 or 40 years (60 Terrace Ave.).

I have not seen mention of the band concerts that used to be held every Thursday evening at the bandstand in the triangle across from Whiteside's store.

During the First World War, there was a big train wreck at or near the old depot. All the kids skipped school to go look. My brother Gilbert was one of them, and he was heartbroken when the teacher took away his job of taking children's money to bank for war savings stamps as a disciplinary action. What kid wouldn't go to see a trainwreck of such magnitude? Billy Wing was the engineer killed here. His wife Brownie later married Al Stromberg and they lived in Point Richmond many, many years.

Someday I hope to write more of my memories of Point Richmond. It will always be dear to my heart.

The Indian was one of the favorite gathering places for young people, along with the Library.

Our house is next door to Stiefvater's at 60 Terrace Avenue. It is drawn on the inside cover . . . in *This Point in Time*. The artist who does the drawings is really fabulous. Keep up the good work. I visit the Point every time I have a chance to come North from here.

Sincerely,
Nell Coward Brooker
Thousand Oaks, CA

PEOPLE ... AT THIS POINT

JON DOELLSTEDT ...

The Point's athletic claim to fame comes via Carl Doellstedt, participant in the Los Angeles 'Ironman' competition on May 1. Competing with 400 other Triathletes, he will run 20 miles, bicycle 20 miles and swim 2 miles. He also plans to compete in the October Ironman competition in Hawaii.

CHRIS DARLING ...

Winner of a camp scholarship to Camp Norway, in Sundane, Norway from June 30 to August 6, Chris won the award from the Sons of Norway, District 6, which includes California, Nevada and Colorado. Daughter of Sonja and Joe Darling, Chris has had much experience camping, with the Camp-Fire Girls.

LUCRETIA EDWARDS ...

Hundreds of people, including representatives of the National, State, County and City governments, gave Lucretia a true surprise 'Thank You' party, Friday, April 29, at the Berkeley Yacht Club.

"The most wonderful and most terrible evening of my life," as Lucretia described it in her comments at the end of an evening filled with commendations and resumes of a life filled with public service, was planned by Staten and Linda Webster. The well-kept secret occasion was a phenomenon in itself considering the number of people involved in planning the surprise. Congressman George Miller sent greetings; Assemblyman Robert Campbell presented Lucretia with a Resolution and a Plaque; Mayor Tom Corcoran also acknowledged her contributions through the Neighborhood Council, the Richmond Museum, the Pt. Molate Historical Society, and the Contra Costa Shoreline Parks Com-

mittee among others, with a Resolution of Commendation; a similar Resolution was presented on behalf of the East Bay Regional Park District by Mary Jefferds, citing Lucretia's assistance throughout the District, and specifically, the setting aside of six lots atop Nicholl Nob, which her husband Tom purchased so that they could be added to the Miller-Knox Shoreline Park, at their original purchase price. Alan LaPointe presented her with a Wildcat Canyon T-shirt; County Supervisor Nancy Fahden sent her greetings.

\$500 in donations was sent to the Hospice Program in Lucretia's honor; and the Edwards were presented with a gift certificate for a vacation in St. Helena.

Emcee Staten Webster introduced Tom Butt, Barbara Vincent and Jeanne Judd, who attempted to enumerate the accomplishments of this unique woman. Her work on behalf of the Point, placing it on the National Register of Historic Places; similar work on behalf of Point Molate and the East Brother Light Station, most of it with a team nucleus including Louise Hammond, Lori Shaper and Barbara Vincent; and her most recent project, the establishment and organizing of a local Hospice Program; were a few brush strokes in a complex and amazing portrait.

A BIRTH . . .

Sarah Ashely, daughter of Sidney and Shirley Clutts, 222 Martina Street. Sisters are Shannon 13, and Stacy, 1½. Grandparents are Ira and Marguerite Clutts, and Nick and Ramona Calvin, all of Point Richmond. Born at Brookside Hospital on February 26, Sarah weighed 6 pounds, 10 ounces.

DEATHS . . .

Dr. Jay (Jesselene) Thomas, a Point resident for 20 years, died March 29, after a

prolonged illness. Before going into private psychiatric practice in Richmond in 1970, she served at the Contra Costa Mental Health for four years.

Born in Marshalltown, Iowa, she graduated from the University of Utah in 1949, as a Doctor of Internal Medicine. She organized a hospital for tuberculosis patients at Napa State Hospital, where she received her psychiatric training. She served at Kaiser Hospital in Oakland, and was a diplomat of the American Board of Psychiatrists and Neurosurgeons since 1967. In her private practice, she specialized in treating the chronically disabled.

Dr. Thomas owned a home on Cypress Point, where she lived quietly, enjoyed sailing, and loved carpentry work.

~~Frank Cheshareck~~
Frank Cheshareck, or Frank Shock, as he was known during most of the time he lived in the Point, died last month at the age of 69. "Shock's Variety" was a basic part of of the Point from 1949 to 1960. Located on Washington Avenue where Mark Farmer's Doll Factory now stands, the store provided those essential little things which make us travel across town to Payless or K-Mart to pick up now.

Born in Morris, Illinois, Frank came to the Bay Area to attend St. Mary's College. Sometime early in his residence here, someone told him that his name was impossible to pronounce, and they changed his name for their convenience. The name stuck, and when he opened his store, he named it "Shock's Variety".

Well known in the Point, he lived on West Richmond Avenue for many years. His wife died in 1975. They had three sons, all of whom live in the Bay Area. Jim Cheshareck and his family reside in Point Richmond; Frank jr. and family live in Martinez, and John's family live in Rodeo. All are married, and besides Jim and Linda's two sons, Frank had eight other grandchildren.

BOY SCOUT NEWS

Twenty-five people will be involved from Boy Scout Troop 111, Point Richmond, when they participate in the District Camporee at Lake Berryessa from April 29 to May 1, when the boys will compete for awards and demonstrate proficiency in scouting skills.



Attending will be Jason Goldsmith, Paul and Todd Cort, Seth Fenton, Gwilym and Luther Martin, Kevin and Kenneth Fong, Chris Waterman, Erik Brown, LaMonte Reed, Chris Ward, Eric Egan, Mario Allen, Robb Bury, Scott Wara, David Charrett, Jeff Albrow, Matt and Mike Modi, Shawn Fernandez along with leaders Fred Hart, Ben Woodson, George Mohr and Rich Wara.

REMEMBER THE ANNUAL SCOUT PANCAKE BREAKFAST — Saturday, May 14, from 6 a.m. to 12 noon, at the Methodist Church, Martina at West Richmond Avenues in the Point; Adults: \$3.25, children under 8, \$2.00. Best breakfast in town! Homemade buttermilk pancakes their specialty — along with two eggs, any style, ham, juice and coffee. Even the syrup is homemade! Proceeds help the boys to go to summer camp and keep their costs affordable. Call 235-1046 if you need to purchase a ticket!

CRAFT NIGHT

The First Wednesday of each month has been designated 'Bazaar Craft Night' for members/friends/anyone interested in joining in the spirit of helping to prepare for the Annual Country Faire at the First Methodist Church in the Point in October. The group meets in Friendship Hall at the church from 7:00 p.m. on. Come and stay as long as you want. If you don't have a project, one of the members can keep those hands busy. Besides being a constructive couple of hours, it is also a fun-filled time. Consider this a personal invitation to join the group. Need more information? Call Oretta Eaton, 234-0780.



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THE DEVIL'S DISCIPLE
WILL BE HERE
UNTIL MAY 28!

George Bernard Shaw's classic comedy about the American Revolution, 'The Devil's Disciple', will be playing Friday and Saturday evenings through May 28 at the Masquers Playhouse at 105 Park Place. Curtain time is 8:30 p.m. There will be two Sunday matinees, May 8 and 22, at 2:30 p.m.

Directed by Kensington's Theo Collins, the play stars Point Richmonders Stephanie Coles and Bill English. Also featured are Ralph Miller of Berkeley; Eddie and Christopher Collins of Kensington; Pat and Chuck Siekert of Concord; Janet Gannaway of Berkeley; Joe DeChellis and George Jaqua of San Francisco; Roger Gorrell of El Sobrante; Kevin Pryne of Point Richmond and Ross Taylor of Richmond.

Tickets are \$4.00 for each performance. For reservations, call 526-1038.

AN HISTORIC FIRST
FOR
POINT RICHMOND...

Valet parking, a service commonplace and sometimes necessary just across the Bay, is for the first time being offered in Point Richmond, at the Hotel Mac.

HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY...

May is a delightful month — one of the happiest months of the year. It has been celebrated by poets who have spoken of it as the 'merry month'. On the first day of May there is a special feeling of joy — the sheer delight of being alive in such a beautiful, blossoming singing world.

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Hope Lee | Jon Doellstedt |
| Doug Corbin | Michelle Healy |
| Diana Corbin | Uldine Nikola |
| Lucretia Edwards | Pat Dornan |
| Bill McDonald | Ruth Beardsley |
| Winifred Jones | Christine Dennis |
| Vern Doellstedt | Bob Feyder |
| Lloyd Farley | Ann Price |
| Jim Eakle | Bev Price |
| | John Knox, Jr. |

and Fred Kelly — a special one, his 80th. Fred was born on Idaho Street in 1903.

"Flowers appear on the earth,
the time of singing has come."



POINTS IN THE FUTURE

- MAY 11 — Senior Information Day
- MAY 12 — Professor Burton Benedict, U.C. Anthropology Prof., slide lecture on the Panama Pacific International Exposition, 1915. City Council Chambers, El Cerrito, 7:30 p.m., presented by the El Cerrito Historical Society.
- MAY 14 — ANNUAL BOY SCOUT BREAKFAST. First Methodist Church, Point Richmond. 6 a.m. to 12 noon. Great Pancakes!!!! Call 235-1046 for information.
- MAY 15 — Sunday, 1:00 p.m. ANNUAL MEETING and HISTORY FESTIVAL — Pt. Richmond History Association. call 235-4222 for information.
- JUNE 23 — Joint meeting of Historical Societies and Museum Societies. Maple Hall, 7:30 p.m., hosted by San Pablo Museum Society.



NAME _____

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TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (CHECK ONE)

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

A JOINT MEETING IN JUNE . . .

The San Pablo Historical and Museum Society is planning to play host to several local groups — Richmond, Point Richmond, El Cerrito and Pinole. The meeting will take place at 7:00 p.m., June 23, at Maple Hall.

Anyone interested in attending this truly Historic meeting should call 235-4222 so that they will have an idea of how many people to expect.

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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.