

THIS POINT

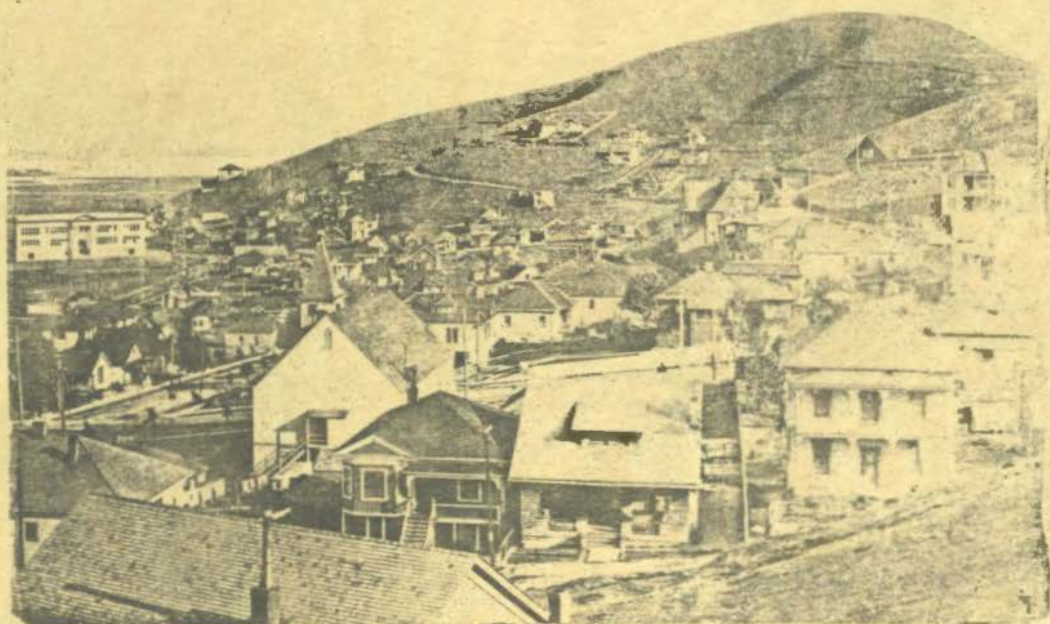
NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Vol. III, No. 1

Summer, 1984

75 cents



THE POINT IN 1913, LOOKING EAST FROM THE HILL ABOVE THE RAILROAD TUNNEL
from the Don Church Collection

HISTORY ASSOCIATION NOTES	1	Home Missionary Records	15	WHALE STATION	17
POINTS IN THE PAST	3	WEST SIDE LIBRARY	15	REMEMBER WHEN	18
THE DEVELOPMENT OF RICHMOND	8	INDIAN STATUE	16	WORD FROM WASHINGTON	18
BUSINESS DISTRICT Renaissance?	10	RICHMOND ART CENTER	16	YOUR POINT OF VIEW	19
WINIFRED GIUSTI	11	LEAP Update	17	A-MID TRIVIA	20
JUST MEMORIES	14	MASQUERS	17	LETTERS	22
				POINTS in the FUTURE	24

in time

❖ HISTORY ASSOCIATION NOTES ❖

END OF A YEAR

Ending our second year with our third Annual Meeting, the History Association is grateful for the growing participation of members, the growing number of members, and for the chance to catch our collective breaths for a couple of months before continuing our third year.

Our next newsletter will be published September 1, with the deadline for articles on August 20.

During this year we have continued our research, largely through this newsletter; gradually expanded our archives; began an important and ambitious indexing project; hosted informative and well-attended meetings; co-hosted a Mayor's reception for the Indian Statue sculptor; hosted a joint meeting of the area's historical societies.

We also began a project based on historical maps, which will graphically portray the evolution of Point Richmond when the project is completed.

Your membership enables us to continue without time- and energy-consuming fund-raising campaigns. Thanks!

BEGINNING OF A YEAR

Although summer vacation is upon us, projects will continue, and anyone with a little time to assist will be welcomed.

Our next meeting will be in September, and we plan to have at least as interesting a year as the last one has been.

—Donna Roselius

ANNUAL MEETING

A sunny day, a beautiful garden, the tastiest food in town, and a great group of people to enjoy it with started the meeting 'right'.

continued, page 2

MEMBERS

Thank you to the following members who have renewed their memberships this month:

Maude Alexander	Marion Downey
Emma Austin	The Fenton Family
Nell C. Brooker	Eleanor Hurley
Anita Brougham	J. Henry O'Hara
Alice Buckingham	The Lewton Family
Susan & Stephen Burman	
The Butt Family	David E. Sawyer
Verla Camren	Goldy Shrewsbury
Aileen Conn	Judy Walz
Pat Dornan	Pam Wilson
Trannie Dornan	Saryl Weinstein
	Charlotte G. Woods

And welcome to the following new members:

Jack T. Barry
Winifred Giusti
Eleanor Sully

If a red check mark appears here _____
your membership dues are (or were) due as of _____

To ensure receiving your next issue of "This Point in Time", and to keep it and other worthwhile projects going, please mail in your membership now — Since we are a non-profit organizations, your donations are tax-deductible, and greatly appreciated! Please fill out the form on the last page and send it to Pam Wilson, 521 Western Drive.

After lunch, Board members were elected: Teresa Albro, Michelle Brown, Dierdre Cerkanowicz, Mid Dornan, Lucretia Edwards, Paula Ferguson, Frankie Greenlaw, Liz McDonald, Donna Roselius and Pam Wilson; and honorary member, Trannie Dornan.

Assistant Superintendent of Santa Fe, Cecil Lilly, presented Santa Fe's donation of \$500 for the Indian Statue fund, which we have sent to Inter Arts of Marin.

Vlad Shkurkin presented an illustrated (and often humorous) lecture, showing the value, versatility and preciseness of the old Sanborn Insurance maps. We hope to add copies of early Point Richmond Sanborn maps to the large one we now have, which covers the period from 1916 to 1928.

Events of the meeting were caught on video tape, thanks to Rosy Roselius.

Some special out of town guests attended: Clyde Baker, who drove in from Clayton, (and who was also probably the senior member in attendance); Edna Hathaway, all the way from Paradise; and Edith Ashley, an old friend and guest of Goldie Shrewsbury, from Mountain View.

A special surprise anniversary cake was brought by George Batten.

Thanks to all of us for a happy celebration!

ARCHIVES REPORT

On display at the PRHA Annual Meeting in May were samples of the reproductions from the Don Church Collection which have been donated by Chevron USA. This project of reproducing the many photos in the collection will eventually form the core of the PRHA archives. Chevron USA is currently working on photos depicting the early school days of the Point.

Although there will be no newsletter produced during the summer months, the

Archives Committee plans to work on (and hopefully finish) a few of the ongoing projects: indexing, cataloging and accessioning. You are all welcome to join us in these important and interesting tasks.

—Teresa Albro

A SPECIAL ADDITION TO THE ARCHIVES. . .

Muriel Clausen has given us a copy of "The Richmond Harbor Report", written in 1912 by Haviland and Tibbetts.

The report, presented to the City Council, gives all the information, preliminary to the construction, on the Municipal Tunnel and roadway.



Lang Drugs, Brown & Sugrue
Union Restaurant & Lodging House
1901 - courtesy Richmond Museum



Points in the Past

Articles that appeared during this month,
70, 60, 50, 40 and 30 years ago in the *Richmond Independent* and *Point Richmond Record*, courtesy of the Richmond Library.

70 YEARS AGO . . .

"The mid-week social dance given at Kozy Kove last night was largely attended. A steady line of pleasure seekers climbed the hill by way of Washington Avenue to be present at the pleasing event.

"Manager Agar employed a unique method yesterday of advertizing his resort. A half dozen kids, clad in bathing suits and grotesque array paraded the streets with snare and bass drums, the leader being equipped with a bugle. Banners displayed the name of the resort and the character of the attraction."

— June 11, 1914

"Dr. Charles R. Blake, city health commissioner and official fly catcher has issued a new set of 'dont's' for Independent readers. . . .

"Don't sweep the dirt and rubbish from your back porch down onto the people who live below you, if you live in flats or apartments . . .

"Don't fling rubbish or cast-off material of any kind into the backyard . . .

"Don't be unnecessarily noisy or disorderly in your habits. Dancing the tango until 2 o'clock in the morning is bad for your health and worse for the nerves and temper of your neighbors . . .

"Don't play the piano after midnight or indulge in ragtime vocal selections after 11 p.m."

— June 11, 1914

"That a large interest is being manifested in the progress of the municipal tunnel is evidenced in the large number of visitors who visit the great bore daily. Yesterday a party of several young women walked through the upper drift and scaled the steep ladder at the western outlet. Manager Carillo receives all visitors in a courteous manner and provides escorts for the women visitors.

"The work of removing the rock between the three drifts is progressing. This has been commenced at the western outlet of the drifts, and will be completed within a few weeks. The concrete casing will then be moulded into place."

— June 14, 1914

"Every city appointive officer except Architect J.G.Ogborn was named by the city council last evening . . . Charles H. Walker was named as chief of police at a salary of \$175 per month; Ira Vaughn as treasurer, salary, \$135 per month; William Lindsey as police judge, salary \$100 per month; D.J.Hall as attorney, salary \$175 per month; Dr. C.R.Blake as health officer, salary \$125 per month; A.C.Faris as clerk, salary \$150; H.D.Chapman as engineer, salary at \$250 per month; I.E.Marshall as tax collector, salary, \$150 per month; J.A.McVittie as auditor, salary \$150 per month; R.F.

Paasch as driver of Fire truck No.1, salary at \$100 per month; . . . John Lanson as janitor, salary \$75 per month and George Smith as poundmaster, salary, \$50 per month."

-June 16, 1914

"After several months spent in gathering evidence Chief of Police James Arnold yesterday afternoon arrested Tom Pgvis at 70 Railroad avenue on a charge of selling liquor without a license. Pgvis was released upon deposit of \$100 cash bail. This is the first step by the Chief of Police to eliminate 'blind pigs' in this city."

-June 18, 1914

"Colin Shanks, the capitalist who has been associated with Raphael Tcherassy in the Point Theatre, has placed on record a deed by which Shanks becomes the owner of the valuable corner at Richmond avenue and Park Place at the west side.

"The lot contains the theatre building. Tcherassy is still managing the amusement place."

-June 18, 1914

"The new apartment house of Mr. and Mrs. T.T. Cramer on (30) Nicholl avenue is completed. The structure is one of the most modern in the city. Completely furnished, the building represents an outlay of nearly \$10,000. It contains six three room apartments and is modern in every detail. The place is electric lighted and contains up-to-date conveniences.

"The building is a concrete affair and is connected throughout with talking tubes. It is three stories in height and is situated so that all apartments receive sunshine.

"The building was designed by T. S. Handley, a local architect. . . "

- June 20, 1914

"Bert Curry is a candidate for coroner of Contra Costa County . . . Curry is a native of this county, having been born at the little

town of Clayton in the shadows of old Mt. Diablo on June 1st, thirty two years ago. He finished the Clayton public schools and then attended Oakland high school and completed a business course at the Oakland polytechnic business college. Following his business course, he returned to Martinez where he learned the undertaking business in the establishment of his brother, Henry J. Curry. Success crowned his efforts and when Richmond was a mere village, Bert came here and established the first undertaking parlor. . .

"Bert's undertaking parlors at 143 Washington avenue are among the most modern and best fitted to be found in any of the cities on this side of the bay . . . "

-June 21, 1914

60 YEARS AGO . . .

"The West Side park in Richmond will be selected when the residents of that section of the city agree upon a location and petition the council to purchase it, according to a decision reached by the Richmond city council.

"Protests against the purchase of a site near the municipal natatorium at Garrard boulevard and Richmond avenue were filed at the council meeting on Monday night by the Point Richmond Commercial Club and the Women's West Side Improvement Club. The protest declared the site unsuitable and the price too high."

-June 17, 1924

[The natatorium had not been built at the writing of the above article, but bond issues had been voted for it, as indicated in the following article.]

"Dave Martz has announced his intention of erecting three stucco bungalows on Montana avenue [in] Point Richmond, although he has not yet applied for the building permits. He already has men engaged in wrecking two flats on the property to make way for the new structures. Martz, accord-

ing to reports, has already had many tentative offers to sell the bungalows as soon as they have been built, and attributes the demand for houses in this vicinity to the \$83,000 bath house project which was voted by the people."

—June 21, 1924

"Contract with James P. Narbett, local architect, for the drawings of plans and specifications for the municipal bathhouse at Point Richmond was approved and signed by the city council last night. The contract also calls for the supervision of the work on the bathhouse and swimming pool. The fee will be five per cent of the total cost of the pool and structure exclusive of all equipment. Narbett agreed to have the plans drawn up by July 21, and upon their approval 50 per cent of the fee will be paid Narbett."

—June 24, 1924

50 YEARS AGO ...

"Announcement is made by Rev. Arthur F. Loveridge, pastor of Point Richmond Baptist church, of the closing of the vacation church school and the church services.

"The postponement was made necessary due to an epidemic of infantile paralysis in Berkeley. Loveridge is a resident of Berkeley and the health authorities did not think it advisable for him to travel between the two cities."

— June 13, 1934

"Acting on a request made by Dr. C. R. Blake, city commissioner of health, City Manager J. A. McVittie today ordered the municipal natatorium closed immediately to prevent possible spread of infantile paralysis. The pool will remain closed until the danger is past, McVittie said."

—June 15, 1934

—Teresa Albro

40 YEARS AGO ...

SHIPYARDS CHEER INVASION NEWS, CONTINUE WORK

"News of the invasion was announced over the loud speaker systems throughout the Richmond Kaiser shipyards during the lunch hours on the swing shift, when bulletins received from the offices of the Richmond Independent were greeted by cheers on the part of the workers.

"But the workers almost immediately turned to their machines to work with redoubled energy at the thought of the smashing waves of invasion forces storming ashore on the beaches of the Normandy coast.

"Some of the workers greeted the news of the rain of bombs and shell-fire on the Nazi-held beaches, which were quickly followed by waves of troops, with brief and heartfelt prayers as they turned again to their jobs.

"Their feelings evidenced that the men on the home front are backing up the boys to the nth degree as they send the Nazis reeling from the channel coasts.

"But beyond that — and of more importance from a practical point of view — is the fact that the workers are working with increased energy at the thought that many of the ships built right here in the Richmond shipyards have carried the men, and supplies, across the sub-infested North Atlantic.

"At the thought that many of the ships in the huge invasion fleet now, and for the past many hours swarming across the English channel, have actually come from the labor of their hands and their own skills, they are working with redoubled energy. Sternly determined that there shall be no relaxation of effort on the home front now that the struggle on the European front has risen to the grand crescendo of invasion, they are proudly showing that the efforts of those providing our fighting men with the

sinews of war — up to and including the day when the enemy finally pleads unconditionally for mercy — shall not be relaxed by one iota.

—June 6, 1944

F.L. SMITH RECEIVES STANDARD OIL AWARD

"F. L. Smith, 331 East Richmond Avenue, received recognition recently for his faithful service in the employ of the Standard Oil Refinery here when he was presented with his 25-year service pin.

"Smith, a graduate of Richmond schools, has lived in the city since 1906.

"He entered the employ of the Standard Oil Company in 1913 and has been working as a shift foreman in the cracking division for the past several years.

"He is a prominent member of the Elks Club and the Point Masonic Lodge and is a veteran of World War No. 1."

—June 9, 1944

30 YEARS AGO ...

NEW TRAIN

"The Santa Fe inaugurated service to Chicago on its new lightweight San Francisco Chief yesterday and two of the local residents boarding it at the Richmond depot were Mr. and Mrs. T.J. Lee, bound for Fort Worth. The counterpart of the new train left Chicago at the same time yesterday."

—June 7, 1954

EXTENSION OF STANDARD AVE. STARTS SOON

"Richmond officials today were notified that bids will be opened June 23 for a state highway division project to extend Standard Avenue to Cutting Boulevard.

"Edward A. Hoffman, director of the public works department, said that the bids will be opened in Sacramento.

"Standard Avenue will be extended from Garrard Boulevard to connect with Cutting



from a picture post-card showing the snowstorm of January, 1913
Nicholl's oil well and Smoky Row houses going uphill from it.
Courtesy of Carol Ford Kennedy

at Topeka Avenue. The work will eliminate the present jog at Oil Street.

"Hoffman's office was informed that the city will be notified the following week of the low bidder and the resident engineer in charge of the project.

"The state has budgeted \$106,000 for improving the section of State Route 69 between Cutting Boulevard and Standard Avenue as the main route to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge."

— June 11, 1954

20 YEARS AGO . . .

From the Question Mark Column...

"Firemen at the Point Richmond Firehouse and the Nineteenth and Barrett Firehouse were given an additional responsibility last night by City Councilmen.

"The responsibility?

"Why, to keep their stations from burning down. What else? Both stations are fairly new and when the council borrowed the money to build them it was forced to take out fire insurance on the buildings. The insurance cost \$440 every three years.

"The buildings have now been paid off and councilmen quickly saw a way to terminate the insurance and put the safety of the stations in the best hands they could think of — the firemen's."

— June 2, 1964

MANY ENTRIES FOR POINT'S BIG PARADE

"Many entries from local areas will participate in the big Independence Day Celebration Parade July 5 in Point Richmond.

"Claude Hall of Richmond and his family will ride in his Model 'T' truck.

"Several Boy Scout and Cub Scout troops will march carrying their colors. Chief Walter Clan will be present with his Indian dance group from Richmond. The Sobrante Riders

from El Sobrante have entered as a color guard. The award winning Junior Girls' Drill Team sponsored by the San Pablo Fraternal Order of Eagles will entertain with their routines. The Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary No. 6422 of El Cerrito have entered their own junior girls' drill team in the parade. The 19-girl unit placed second in field competition in Napa.

"The Catholic Daughters of America have requested to enter their Patriot Float in the parade. Mel Nichols has entered his Boy Scout Troop 120, a marching unit which will carry historical flags. The boys walked off with first place honors in the Richmond Elks Parade. The Thunderbirds of Richmond will be present with their colorful junior and senior majorette groups. Also competing in the parade will be Lynn Serranis. Another majorette group competing for top awards will be the Melody Marchers, entered by Carol Chambers Dance Studio.

— June 17, 1964

— Pam Wilson

Other

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATIONS IN THE 'GOOD OLD DAYS' . . .

VETERANS OF TWO WARS WILL BE PRINCIPALS AT GRAND CANYON

"Under the elms and oaks which add to the great beauty of Grand Canyon Park tomorrow will gather the sturdy veterans of the late war, the crumpled but distinguished forms of the heroes of the great Civil War battles and hundreds of others to commemorate the greatest of all holidays, the Fourth of July."

July 2, 1914

KOZY KOVE CELEBRATION.

"There will be a Fourth of July celebration in Kozy Kove with a program of high diving, and fireworks in the evening.

"The Guard Aviation Company have

planned to give aerial flights, races and other feats of the air, provided the large engines shipped from the East arrive today."

-July 3, 1914

MILITARY MANEUVERS AND HOT CONTESTS

In a realistic military contest, the "Boy's Brigade" wrested the stars and stripes from the "grand old veterans". The boys came in knee pants, but with real guns, and they "discovered a deep ravine along which they could approach to within 200 yards of the Battery's left flank and directly between the [redacted] and the Signal outpost," and were awarded with a silk flag for their victory.

Candidates, including supervisorial candidates Zeb Knott, A.C. Land and William F. Huber, and superior judge candidate Clarence Odell provided some comic relief after an hour long speech on patriotism by the "Honorable W.F. Freudenberger". Zeb Knott was fastest, "despite his 'portly tummy' Zeb managed to keep one jump ahead of Land, and these two led all the others," in a foot race.

-July 7, 1914

20,000 SEE THE PARADE CELEBRATING THE FOURTH OF JULY

"20,000 persons lined Macdonald Avenue to see Richmond's celebration. The paraders surged through the streets in one of the most colorful Independence Day spectacles ever staged in the city. A long hiatus several blocks long was caused between the leading units when the Sixteenth street subway was reached. According to Grand Marshall Boyle, the Goddess of Liberty Statue was too high to pass through the subway, necessitating a march via Barrett Avenue and back to Macdonald Avenue.

"The Richmond-San Rafael Ferry float showing the new 'City of San Rafael' attracted much attention."

-July 5, 1924

THE DEVELOPMENT OF RICHMOND

The story of how early Richmond developed structurally is an interesting one. A.E. Macdonald and John Nicholl and a quest for profit play major roles in the way Richmond was built.

Richmond began when Santa Fe opened rail service to the Point in July, 1900. Five hundred people resided in the area at this time - most within the Santa Fe station yard.

Although history credits Macdonald with 'discovering' Richmond and bringing the railroad to the area, there were, undoubtedly, others who had similar ideas. The time for development was right. The great land case had been settled, the land was rich and the harbor suggested many opportunities for shrewd business people. Macdonald and Nicholl fit that description.

When the final decisions were made in the great land case Nicholl was awarded 152.81 acres (including parts of Point Richmond). San Francisco and San Joaquin Railroad bought 57 acres from Nicholl for their station. The company went bankrupt before they could realize their plan. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe took over the land and brought the plan to completion.

Nicholl used the profits from the Santa Fe sale to purchase 236.44 acres of the Emery Tract (this included the north side of the Potrero) and to develop the remaining acres of his original holdings. He named this latter parcel 'Atchison'.

Nicholl, with Emily Tewksbury (who also owned Potrero property) developed the 'Town of Richmond Tract' in the Potrero foothills (now called Point Richmond). The map of the Nicholl subdivision was officially recorded in Martinez in 1899.

Nicholl actively promoted development

in Point Richmond. He was even able to persuade some established pioneer families to move from "Old Town" (now Richmond proper) to the Point. By 1902, some 2,000 people lived in Point Richmond. Nicholl's successful development made him wealthy, but he was not the only one wanting to direct building in Richmond. Macdonald owned much land in Old Town. He acquired a large part of the Barrett Ranch from Edson Adams of Oakland. Barrett had mortgaged it in 1870 and lost it entirely in 1906. The northern boundary was what is now Barrett Avenue, the southern boundary was Ohio Street, the west Garrard Boulevard, and the east Twenty-third Street. Macdonald subdivided the property into business, commercial and residential lots. He promoted the sales vigorously. Macdonald Avenue was to be the main thoroughfare. Until this time, Nicholl's development of the Point had managed to curb the growth of Old Town, but Macdonald, always farsighted and politically adept, soon changed this.

With William G. Henshaw, Macdonald was granted a franchise to develop a trolley system from the San Francisco depot in Point Richmond to the Southern Pacific depot in San Pablo. Macdonald had no real desire to run a local transportation company, but he did want to direct the route this system would travel. He sold the franchise to George Rheem, the president of Standard Oil. On May 2, 1904, the East Shore and Suburban Railway Company began service between the two depots. Within a year the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors granted three more lines connecting the system to the Oakland Transit Company lines. Much to the delight of Macdonald, the trolley used Macdonald Avenue rather than Ohio Avenue, making Macdonald the main East-west route from the Point.

Santa Fe made changes in its yard to accommodate the growth along Macdonald

Avenue. The station was moved from Point Richmond to the west end of Macdonald.

On August 6, 1905, Richmond became an incorporated City (including 'Old Town', the Atchison Tract and the Richmond Tract or Point Richmond). By December, 1905, the city had annexed all land west of Twenty Third Street to the Santa Fe tracks, and by 1910 there were 6,802 people living in Richmond.

The city offices followed the trend of development and moved away from the Point. The first City Hall was located near the corner of Washington and Richmond Avenues in Point Richmond. The town soon outgrew this site, choosing one at Twentieth and Maine Streets, purchased from real estate promoter George S. Wall. The new City Hall was built and in use by June 15, 1915. The land was donated but the total cost of the building was \$13,320, to be paid in monthly installments of \$185. However, Nicholl was displeased with the site.

Nicholl recognized the building trend and wanted to profit from it. He had acquired property in and around Twenty-fifth Street and Nevin. He offered to donate the site for a City Hall, and the building, in the hope that a civic center would enhance the value of his surrounding property. His offer was put on the ballot, and Nicholl had his way. On January 1, 1917, the municipal government moved its operations to two new buildings on Nicholl's former property.

With the moves of the city's center away from Point Richmond, commercial development here halted; however, the stagnation helped to preserve the original buildings - many of which remain today. Standard and Richmond Avenues were displaced as the main commercial routes. Except for the temporary burgeoning (indeed bulging) during the Second World War, Point Richmond remained almost dormant until the late

1960's, when people rediscovered its beauty, charm and historical significance. It is now a district on the National Register of Historic Places.

Michelle Brown



BUSINESS DISTRICT RENAISSANCE?

Business prospects for Point Richmond merchants are looking better than any time since before the 1980-82 recession.

Vacancy rates are down to a level that has not been seen since 1979, with a good mix of office and retail commercial businesses.

Recent openings include the 'new' Point on the corner of West Richmond Avenue and Railroad Avenue with a dazzling color scheme that truly does justice to its position facing the "entry" to Point Richmond. Next door, the Hunan Chef is a little 'slick' for our tastes, but nevertheless a spectacular improvement over its former appearance.

Plans are in various stages of development for new buildings, additions to old ones, and rehabilitations that could add some 24,000 square feet of office, commercial, restaurant and residential space costing nearly \$2 million within the next two to three years. These plans, if executed, would essentially build out the remaining vacant lots in the Point Richmond commercial district, restoring the community to a density it has not seen since its 'boom-town' days of 1910.

Recent appraisals have shown that values of undeveloped properties are in the \$15.00 per square foot range, making the cost of a vacant 40 by 100 foot lot about \$60,000, if you can find one for sale. The value of exist-

ing commercial buildings in Point Richmond ranges from about \$30.00 to \$60.00 per square foot, depending on condition.

Will all this make Point Richmond "The Sausalito of the East Bay"? We doubt it. Other than the dining and drinking establishments which have remained rather stable over the last few years, the trend has been to offices, retail stores, and service businesses that employ local people and serve local needs rather than toward a tourist trade that has never materialized. Another interesting trend is that women appear to make up an unusually large segment of both operators and employees of Point Richmond businesses.

ANOTHER CLEAN-UP SUCCESS

For the second time, participants in the County's work alternative program worked off misdemeanor fines and jail terms by cleaning up Point Richmond's business district on June 2 - 3. Volunteer supervisors from the Business Association included David Vincent, Jay Betts and Tom Butt. A truckload of weeds and trash were hauled away by the City Public Works Department which also supplied tools and equipment.

The program was initiated by local County Supervisor Tom Powers and is coordinated by Leveron Bryant in the Richmond City Manager's office.

BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MEETING

The next meeting will be at 12:00 noon on June 13 in the Hotel Mac Banquet Room. Public Works Director Larry Loder is scheduled as a guest to address a number of ongoing projects and concerns, including AC Transit Bus routing and terminal, Santa Fe landscaping, and the Indian Statue. Everyone is invited, whether or not in Point Richmond business.

-Tom Butt

WINIFRED (MYERS) GIUSTI

POINT RICHMOND GROWING UP IN THE GREAT DEPRESSION

The late Depression years restricted teenage life in Point Richmond. But that ingenuity common to all teenagers rose above those hard times and created a small world of good friends and happy hours.

As Wynne Giusti relaxed in her comfortable living room, she reminisced about these warm friendships and golden afternoons.

The sandy beaches attracted the young people. Blake Brothers Beach (Point Castro) and Capp's Beach near the Long Wharf beckoned Wynne and her friends for swimming, hot dog roasts and sunbathing.

"We could get down to Capp's Beach then," Wynne recalled, "there were no houses along that shoreline."

"We used to go down there with the Giacomellis. There were a lot of kids in their family, too. So, Amelia and I minded our brothers down there."

At low tide Amelia Giacomelli and Wynne would walk from Capp's Beach to Keller's Beach along the shore. Beyond Keller's Beach the young people found their favorite swimming — near the Brickyard. This portion of the shore gave these beach devotees the perfect combination of clear water, sandy shore, and a gathering place for friends.

If they tired of the beaches, teenage friends gathered at the Plunge. For those who didn't want to swim, they could meet on the balcony overlooking the pool. From the Plunge this covey of young people converged on Ardell's, a small soda fountain located across the street on Tunnel Avenue.

Ardell's provided a spot to see friends,

sip sodas, eat ice cream, and talk endlessly about life and growing up. With a few nickels in the jukebox, the adult world and the Great Depression were kept at bay.

"Those were the Depression Years and I didn't do much 'gadding about'," Wynne recalled, "I was sort of restricted. My father with six kids — he's not going to let us go our straying."

"I can remember my father always let us off down at the Fifth Street Theater. It was only a nickel. He would give each of us a dime — show plus candy."

Although the Great Depression continued to ravish the country, Wynne's father, Ralph Myers, was fortunate in that he worked for Standard Oil. But even with this employment times weighed heavily on everyone.

"We moved around Richmond quite a bit in those days," Wynne explained, "These Depression years with six kids weren't easy."



But Ralph Myers and the other parents found activities for their growing children. Dude Martin, a western style radio program from Oakland, provided a very special outing for these young teens, when parents took a group of them to see the show being broadcast. Radio held a central place in everyone's life and this bit of free entertainment remained a fond memory.

Dances in friends' homes became a frequent diversion during these hard times. Families would roll up the carpet in the living room and the young people would enjoy an evening of dancing to records or radio music.

"I remember one time we had a dance at our house," Wynne related, "They put cornmeal on the floor, and I had to clean it up."

The girls wore skirts and bobby sox for the dances and the jitterbug was the new frenetic dance of the late '30's.

"In those days with the jitterbug," she said, "It was bobby sox with loafers or saddle back shoes."

One evening the comfortable shoes and bobby sox saved Wynne from very tired feet. With some friends from the Point, she went dancing at the old Ali Baba Ballroom in Oakland. While they enjoyed this very special treat, they missed the last bus home. So in the early hours of the morning, this group of dancers returned to the Point by walking from Oakland.

As with so many other activities, dancers know the adage, "Practice makes perfect." So, these young people squeezed in some practice time at Richmond High School. In the Union building during the lunch hour students gathered to dance, watch others, and learn new steps.

Once these students felt proficient, they sought new dance locations. Wynne and Es-

ther Gusto began to attend Italian-American Club dances which were held in the first school house.

"I was around seventeen years old at the time," Wynne related. "It was a very small, little place with people from around the Point, and that is where I met my husband."

Sam Giusti and Wynne dated each other quite frequently after their first meeting. The Fox Theater in Richmond offered them an elegant evening at the movies.

"I remember seeing 'Alexander's Ragtime Band' and quite a few of the oldies there," she said. "We felt real bad when we lost our theaters, with TV in every home."

When they first met, Sam worked for the Art Tile Company in Richmond, but soon he became a new employee with the Santa Fe Railroad. Their friendship grew and when Wynne turned eighteen, they were married at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Point Richmond.

"I bought my wedding dress in the City," Wynne recalled with some nostalgia, "The two piece blue dress was short, not long. My sister-in-law Freda was the maid of honor and Mario Devalle was the best man."

The year was 1939 and the country struggled to free itself from the slow economy. The happy young couple moved into an apartment above the French tailor at 113 Park Place.

When she recalled the \$10 a month rent, Wynne's face broke into a smile. "Would you believe \$10 a month rent - with garbage and water paid?"

"We had a huge living room with a wall bed which we didn't use," she said. For our bedroom we used the dining room. Then there was a little kitchen, bathroom, and the long hall - we had lovely neighbors.

"There were no facilities for washing clothes. There was only a basin in the kit-

chen. Then we used to bring our clothes upstairs and hang them up on the roof."

As the second World War burst into the headlines, the quiet years ended. Wynne recalled December 7, 1941 —Pearl Harbor.

"We were having Sunday dinner with Sam's parents when we heard the news on the radio," she commented. "It was a shock for all of us."

SPLASH
SWIM
at
RICHMOND

open

**SATURDAYS
SUNDAYS
HOLIDAYS**
10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

OTHER DAYS
2:00 to 10 p.m.

Closed Mondays
except holiday Monday,
then closed Tuesday.

**Best Swimming Facilities
of East Bay Cities at
Richmond Municipal
Natatorium**

Clean water, modern filtering plant.
Water always at pleasant temperature.
Accommodations for 500 bathers.
Salt, fresh water in right proportion.
Easy parking—Lots of parking space.

From San Pablo avenue turn into
Cutting boulevard and follow boulevard
direct to natatorium.

West end Cutting blvd. Richmond, Cal.

ad from a 1931 Oakland Tribune, courtesy of Gary Phillips

Because Sam's parents, Leo and Pauline Giusti, had never become United States citizens, they encountered difficulties during the war. As Italian nationals they were asked for security reasons to leave their home on Golden Gate Avenue.

The authorities considered Point Richmond, with nearby harbor, shipyards and oil refinery, a war defense zone.

"So they closed the house up and moved to Stockton," Wynne said. "They rented a house near some cousins.

"We used to go up to Stockton on the train to visit them. They felt very unhappy about the move. In fact, they wanted us to come up there with them."

But Shipyard 3 had employed Sam in their tool and parts department, so they remained in the Point.

With the birth of their daughter, Janice, in 1943, they moved to a two story home on Western Drive across the street from Kozy Kove. By this time Kozy Kove had closed to the public, but with special permission people still used the beach area.

"You couldn't get down there unless you knew the right people," she said, "but I remember as a very small child coming to Kozy Kove for the Fourth of July celebrations."

Wynne had never dreamed that as a young mother she would be strolling with her baby along these streets. These were happy days for Wynne. Often she pushed Janice in her carriage to Washington School and around Point Richmond.

The Point had three grocery stores and a bakery during the War Years. Once again the small movie theater opened and the town thrived.

"The Point still has so much of the color," Wynne commented, "but in those days we used to have a lot of fun."

—Alexandra A. Gautraud

JUST MEMORIES . . . SIXTY YEARS AGO

My dad, Joe Matteucci, who was at one time called the 'Mayor of Point Richmond', was a very busy man while he lived here. He operated a large hotel which offered room and board for \$1.00 a day. Meals were served in the hotel restaurant for 50 cents. Joe and his wife and four children all worked in the restaurant. Dad's specialty was Italian hams and Italian sausage, which the whole family took part in making.

His home-made raviolis were out of this world — made from the biggest ravioli machine I ever saw. The Italian gravy cooked (and its aroma filled the air) for hours.

Dad had a winery in the back yard, called Matteucci and Sons' Winery.

The bar near the entrance of the hotel was very popular with workers from the Standard Oil Refinery, who often gathered there after work.

Mom didn't know too much about cooking, but Dad taught her everything about Italian cooking, and their restaurant in the Hotel Roma (on Standard Avenue) turned out to be one of the most popular and well-known in the East Bay.

Dad was also famous for his large vegetable garden — probably because he gave everything we didn't use to his friends. He and Mom spent a lot of time working in the garden, growing beautiful plants and flowers.

Besides all this, Dad provided recreation in the form of a Bocci Ball Court, which all the men enjoyed playing. I remember the men who came to play all different kinds of card games, while smoking those stinky Italian Tuscany cigars.

—Josephine Palenchar

HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY RECORDS . . .

Church history is rich with contributions of women. It is true that men usually spent long hours working, but the women were not idle at home. One of the church groups was the Home Missionary Society of the First Methodist Church, whose history is reflected in the minutes which are copied below from the stiff cardboard covered notebook, which was obviously purchased at "Schoen's Pharmacy, Prescriptions carefully compounded, Point Richmond, California," as it was stamped in red on the inside of the cover.

First installment:

January 4, 1907

Point Richmond
California

The home Missionary Society of the M. E. Church was organized by the Ladies Society. Officers elected: Mrs. Head, President, Mrs. Younglove, Vice President, Mrs. Shoen, Treasurer, Mrs. G. Gerard, Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. L.C.Pritchard, Secretary.

January 25, 1907

The home Missionary Society of the M. E. Church met at the home of Mrs. C. Adams. The meeting was called to order by the President. First was a song. A selection by Miss Narron, followed by Prayer by Rev. D. W. Calfee and all join in the Lord's Prayer. This being the first meeting, no minutes being prepared. A report was given by the secretary. A report was given by Mrs. Younglove and the treasurer being absent the secretary gave a report on Finances.

It was then decided that all clothing should be taken to Mrs. Youngloves or Mrs. Adams. Then on motion and carried Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Sroufe and Mrs. G. Gerard was appointed as a committee to purchase material for gowns.

New business Mrs. Calfee then read a paper on the Unkiah Indians. Then Mrs. Younglove gave a very interesting talk on

the subject. The second was a reading by Mrs. Conry entitled the Christmas Box which was very much enjoyed by all. On motion the meeting

adjourned,

L.C.Pritchard, Sect.

—Mid Dorian



WEST SIDE BRANCH LIBRARY

If a trip is in your plans during the next few months, you may want to tuck some convenient size pocketbooks in your suitcase. West Side has a wide choice of subjects in this format and they can be checked out for a period of four weeks.

For the children (and interested adults) there will be some special events occurring at the library this summer. In late June a representative from the Oakland A's Baseball Team will introduce a reading club plan. Those who complete the program will get a certificate and a ticket to an A's game. In July a naturalist from Tilden Park will be bringing a snake, and he will talk about some of our local wildlife. August's event will include a representative from the Oakland SPCA and special guests. A talk and film will deal with pet care. Oh, those special guests will be PUPPIES! Dates for these programs will be posted on the library door.

Special categories of books to be featured: June — Romance; July — Travel; August — Science Fiction.

Be sure and put West Side on your list of places to visit this summer.

—Jan Burdick

PREPARING FOR THE INDIAN STATUE

Contributions are still being received by Inter Arts. Additions to the list of donors include: (\$200 or more)

Robert and Lillian Paasch

Grace and William Berk

Santa Fe Railway Company

(Equivalent in services:)

O.C. Jones and Sons

Jimmie Lee Plumbing

Day-Ti Construction

Carpenter's Local 22

M & M Investment Co., Inc.

(Less than \$200:)

Elizabeth Pope

Bernard and Marie Dietz

The pedestal is expected within six to eight weeks. The sculptor, Kirk St. Maur, is in the process of creating the statue, and the statue is scheduled for unveiling October 20, 1984.

The John Pence Gallery is presenting a One-Man Exhibition of Kirk St. Maur's work at 750 Post Street, San Francisco, through June 16.

RICHMOND ART CENTER

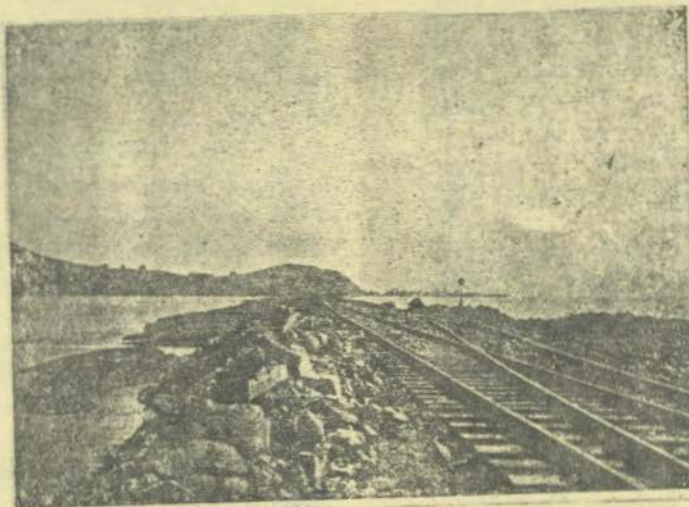
The Richmond Art Center has a new director and is actively promoting its unique role in the Bay Area. It is the only art museum dedicated to the developments in contemporary art.

From its humble beginnings when Hazel Salmi traveled around giving instruction in whatever facility was available, the center gradually grew into a community facility, and, under Hazel's direction, offered courses in arts and crafts with fine instructors, building an enviable reputation.

The present facility was opened in 1951. Its principal support came from the City. The Tax Initiative of 1978 drastically reduced funding; and its wide range of exhibits and educational programs now relies heavily on memberships and the fund raising activities of its members.

The next fund raising activity is the Annual Auction on June 9. A great array of valuable art work is available for the bidding.

—Michelle Brown



*Santa Fe tracks, looking West from the Railroad Tunnel, 1901
courtesy, Richmond Museum*

A LEAP UPDATE

The Richmond Public Library has just started a volunteer tutoring program to help adults learn to read or improve their math skills. It is one of twenty seven library programs in California to receive this special funding. Approximately eighty volunteer tutors are now working here in Richmond with students to improve their skills at convenient locations around the city: community centers and churches as well as the library. The library provides training and materials for tutors, and ongoing support.

Please call if you are interested in helping someone learn to read. Or tell someone you care about they can learn to read now, free, at the Richmond Public Library.

231-2116.

THE MASQUERS . . . A BEDROOM FARCE

The Masquers of Point Richmond will open their summer production with *Bedroom Farce*, by Alan Ayckbourn, the popular British playwright.

Alan Ayckbourn writes about serious matters in a funny way. He is a master of frustration comedy. The funniest things happen to people when they can't do what they intend. This fast-paced farce takes place in three bedrooms with three couples and a fourth thrown in for good measure. The fourth couple intrude tirelessly in the lives of all the others, bringing their own miseries along. One couple, Trevor and Susannah, played by Wayne Alves and Tiffany Grant, should never have married each other. But they cling to their mistake and grimly try to make it work. The three couples who try to express sympathy for Susannah and Trevor are forced to learn that old adage: "No good deed goes unpunished."

A middle-aged couple, Delia and Ernest,

played by Lillian Duran and Abe Kalish, plan their wedding anniversary celebration at a restaurant and end up snacking in bed. A thirtyish couple is having a party, but guests' coats have been stacked on the bed when festivities come to an embarrassing end. Another couple, Nick and Jan, played by Mark Cohen and Michele Stadmler, have accepted an invitation to the party, but Nick has a bad back and has to stay in his own bedroom at home. The mutual intent is to have all three couples sleep peaceably in their respective bedrooms, but it is not to be. The fourth couple reduce their friends' relationship to dust. Oddly comes the dawn.

The play, directed by Doug Ham, opens June 15 and runs through July 21, with Sunday matinees on June 24, July 5 and July 15. Tickets are \$5.00 and show time is 8:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings. Matinees are \$4.50, and start at 2:30 p.m.

—Freeman Sargent & Eleanor
Tully (232-3888)

SAVE THE WHALE ... STATION?

The final hearing on the Old Whaling Station is scheduled for the City Council meeting of Monday, June 18.

Overlooked in much of the publicity concerning plans for the area is the Whale Center's proposal for creating a permanent headquarters, museum and library in the building.

Emphasis in news items has been on commercial versus industrial development, with little or no mention of the museum.

Support will be needed if the building is to be saved. For information about the Whale Center's plans, call the Whale Center in Oakland, and ask for the Executive Director, Bert Schwarzschild. The number is 654-6621.

REMEMBER WHEN . . .

Do you remember when these things were in Point Richmond? . . . I do:

Bernes-Lacrouts French Laundry
 Martins Bakery
 Chassure Grocery
 Farinas Grocery
 Fat Dick's Grocery
 Liberty Market (where the Masquers are now)
 Roma Hotel
 Columbo Hotel
 Standard Hotel
 Al's Fountain
 Jiggs Restaurant
 Nick's Bar
 Three Shoemakers
 Kenny Ice Cream, and rooms (The 'Spot')
 Grand Garage
 Ed Wendle's Garage
 Biso Tailors
 Peraults Hardware Store
 Kings Cigar Store
 Several Barber Shops
 Palmateers Drug Store
 Opera House
 Street cars on Standard Avenue
 Bocci Ball Courts
 Snail Photos
 Harry Burt's Point Paper
 Kenny Pool Hall
 West Side Market
 Old Andrew's Store
 Kozy Kove
 The Point Theater
 Fred Breun, Saw Sharpener
 Mrs. Nagy, Real Estate
 Gallo Taxi
 Johnson Truck Lines
 Smith's Snow Cones at the Plunge
 Woods Second Hand Stores
 Fireman Bill's Animal Training
 Dr. Gregg, Dog Training
 Doctor Lucas
 Doctor Neilson, Dentist
 The Fourth of July Celebrations
 The old Standard Avenue Schoolhouses
 Old Winehaven
 San Rafael Ferry Boats
 Ferry Boats to San Francisco
 Ardell's
 The Band Stand
 Paper boys, calling "Extra, Extra"

—Josephine Palenchar

WORD FROM WASHINGTON

Our thrust this year at Washington School has been writing. Not penmanship, the formation of letters, but writing, the putting of ideas on paper—the cement that has bound generation to generation, the force that has created nations from the humble beginnings of class, tribe and township.

Our students have taken every opportunity to write, maintaining daily journals, writing for planned assignments, for term projects and papers and for teacher designed projects to encourage creative literary endeavor.

Our goals for the year were the edition of periodic school newspapers with news of what was happening at Washington, including the assorted features usually found in big city newspapers. We soon came to the realization that the putting together of only one edition of a school newspaper with the limited time and facilities found today in an elementary school is a two- to three-week endeavor, with the school secretary trying to squeeze in the typing between her many other duties. We also soon discovered that there was nothing 'deader' than yesterday's news. A new method of delivering the news had to be found.

It took Mrs. Jones, our reading resource teacher, to come up with the 'instant news'



Firm School House, on Standard Avenue, 1901
 courtesy, Richmond Museum

concept. Here's how it works. Groups of students decide on stories they want to write. They are immediately off to get the facts or conduct the interview. They return to class, write a rough copy, then turn out the final story in a reproducible form. Using a copy machine, the 'newspaper' is ready for distribution in a relatively short time. There are minor spelling mistakes, but this is far overshadowed by the immense amount of writing, thinking and planning that has taken place. There is nothing more exciting than having four second graders enter the principal's office asking if they can autograph (interview) the principal.

Other exciting highlights of the year were the special art programs conducted by the Richmond Art Center. They presented the "Artist In the School" programs, which included Puppetry, a unit on Monsters and Imaginary Things, and Mexican Mythology which culminated in a mural which will become a permanent part of our school.

In addition, our PTA helped us achieve our goal of bringing more Art, Science and Music into the classroom by paying for additional services from the Richmond Art Center.

More science was added to our curriculum by making use of personnel from the Exploratorium in San Francisco. They brought us such exciting units as Calves' Eyes (dissection), Taste and Smell, Electricity, Bubbles, and Heat and Temperature.

Mrs. Donna Roselius brought several of our classes additional music instruction. Her exciting manner of making the learning and writing of music seem easy and natural is something our students will never forget.

All in all, it's been a very exciting year with new ground being broken by our PTA in bringing interesting and novel curriculum offerings to our students. Next year will be even better.

—Francisco Petroni

YOUR POINT OF VIEW

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE POINT RICHMOND RESTAURANT?

Russell Moore: "That's a tough one. Well, I'll give you a plug for what used to be the Mandarin Restaurant. We were distressed when it closed. The Hotel Mac is a good one. We like the Baltic — we've eaten there. We used to eat at Judges and Spares, but it's not the same as it used to be. This is really hard to answer because it depends on what you want at the time. I guess you can say our over-all favorite is the Hotel Mac — it's comparable to anything in San Francisco, but we don't always like to spend that much, so we just eat there once in a while. Our second choice would be the Baltic."

Marie Peckham: "I like all of them for different reasons — they're all good for different reasons. The most elegant is the Hotel Mac. I like the Point Orient, the Baltic, and the Mandarin when it was open. I guess my favorite, though, would be the Hotel Mac."

Richard Wilson: "Donna's Diner [his wife's kitchen]. Seriously? I guess it would be the Point Orient. That's second to Donna's Diner, though."

David Sawyer: "Well, let's see. My favorite bar is The Point. My favorite restaurant is the Point Orient, although I do like Jumbo's. I like to go in there every once in a while. Also, I like to go to All's Fare, the new one at Brickyard Cove. On a Sunday afternoon, you can sit and watch the boats — it's very relaxing. Another place I like is the Baltic."

Linda Andrew: "Oh, that's a toughie. We just left the Hunan Chef, formerly the Mandarin, and it was very good. I like the Mac, The Baltic, and the Point Orient, too. That's a 'problem' living in the Point — good food and close by — you can just walk to it."

—Pam Wilson

A-MID TRIVIA

Summertime Birthdays . . .

JUNE

Cindy Quist	Stacy Spinola
Rosemary Giacomelli	Joe Spinola
Dan Weinstein	Diane Squires
Stephanie Pearson	Suzanne Squires
Ed Mitchell	Anita Brougham
Ron Albro	Jan Sprecker
Joanne Lanning	Andrew Butt
Ruth Beardsley	Grace Yank

JULY

Dick Dowell	Brian Pease
Julius Matteucci	Ed Palenchar
Kathryn Fong	Josephine Palenchar
Mary Knox	Trannie Dornan
Francis Smith	(89 little ones)
Clara Perasso	Frank Matteucci

AUGUST

Alice Thompson	Kelly Darling
Gladys Johnson	Karla Peterson
Nikki Eaton	Gloria Schwab
Veora Heiney	Floria Parker
Terrence Doherty	Mid Dornan
Jessie Clark	Joe Darling
Oretta Eaton	Donna Wilson

SPECIAL DAYS IN JUNE . . .

- JUNE 5 - Election Day - Presidential Primary
 11 - Graduation - El Cerrito High School
 12 - Graduation - Richmond High School
 13 - Graduation - Kennedy High School
 14 - Graduation - Harry Ells High School
 15 - Last day of School Year (Dismissal at noon)
 14 - FLAG DAY (fly it proudly)
 17 - FATHERS' DAY (make it a special day - for him)
 21 - Summer OFFICIALLY Begins

The 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 20, was special for thirteen young people who took their first communion at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church. Participating were: Kassandra Allen, Mario Allen, Aprille De-Valle, Steven Ochoa, Kiley Wynne, Ronald Blesio, Casey Shott, Cory Shott, Anthony Ballard, (Robert) Max Drake, Leslie Smith,

Lisa Marie Chosa and Armando Beardsley. Special recognition was given to the Strauss family - Ellie, Bob, Marie, Joany and Joy - for being the teachers.

-O-

Married: In Reno on Sunday, May 8, Kenneth Clark and Diane Hansen. They are living on West Richmond Avenue in the Point.

-O-

History was made Tuesday evening, May 22, at the Point Methodist Church when two Bishops from the Methodist Conference were in attendance at the meeting on Stress conducted by Mary Ella Stuart, author of *To Bend Without Breaking*. They even helped set up and take down chairs! Mary Ella is the wife of Bishop Marvin Stuart, and Bishop Wilbur Choy is the husband of the minister, Nancy Yamasaki. Mrs. Stuart's father was a Methodist minister, and her mother a licensed preacher (in those days no women were ordained.) The community was well represented at the meeting, which was a gift from Rev. Nancy.

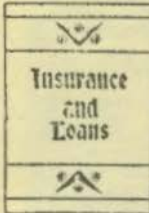
-O-

Congratulations to Raymond Giacomelli, June graduate of Salesian High School, on receiving a scholarship to Washington State University.

-O-

Graduating from eighth grade at St. Cornelius are: Kelly Darling, Christine Hayes and Rosemary Giacomelli. Monica Doherty will graduate from St. John's.

-O-



C. A. ODELL

REAL ESTATE

Some Choice Bargains in Richmond
Improved and Unimproved Property

Lots in Richmond Villa Tract

ad from the Point Richmond Leader, 1902
courtesy Richmond Museum

Died: Mabel A. Edwards, 210 Martina Street, in a Richmond hospital on May 22. She had lived in Richmond since 1919, was a member of the First Methodist Church in the Point and a retired teacher, having taught at Washington School until her retirement.

Mabel loved cats and befriended hundreds. She saw that they had medical care if needed, and although she did not have a car, often took them via cab to the Vet.

She was a native of Fresno, and her body was interred at Belmont Memorial Park in Fresno.

Boy Scout Troop 111 in the Point will spend Saturday and Sunday, June 9 and 10, at Cash Creek, rafting. In August the boys and leaders will pioneer camp in the Marble Mountain Wilderness Area. Fred Hart, Scoutmaster and Ben Bray, Assistant Scoutmaster, thank everyone in the community for supporting the annual pancake breakfast which funds a great part of the camping experiences for the boys. They are especially grateful to former scouts who return to assist and support the event.

Father's Day: Some doubt exists about the holiday's origin, but Mrs. John Bruce Dodd is credited in most reference books as having started it as a local celebration in Spokane in 1910. Four years later Congress made it a nationwide commemoration.

Speaking of fathers — two of this city's 'fathers' were born during the summer months — Richard F. Paasch was born in Germany on August 1, 1874; and Bert Curry was born June 1, 1882.

It was a black day, indeed, when the Independent, Richmond's local newspaper, published its last paper on Sunday, May 13. Its many friends included those native or long time Richmonders who found local news within its pages. Who of you did not

have faith in its continuance and had paid in advance . . . probably within a few days of its demise, too.

Watching the big billows of white smoke overhead caused commuter traffic to jam on Cutting Boulevard May 24, around 4:00 p.m. as fire blackened the east side of Nicholl Nob. The charred remains left little for wildlife to return to.

Remember when the 4th of July meant coming to the Point for an "Old Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration" that benefitted the American Field Service (AFS) Americans Abroad program? Each year it increased in size until it outgrew the area and then, people had mixed ideas of 'fun'. There was a special charm in the small-town feeling of the celebration.

Houseguest season. Obviously, the best approach is to get organized in advance. Stock up on food supplies, and make use of local facilities — parks, beaches (steam train rides) — within walking distance!

Craig Healy, former Finn Class national champion, is competing in a series of races to determine who will represent the U.S. in sailing competition at the Olympics.

Craig is a dental student.

If you haven't visited the Richmond Museum recently, take time this summer to treat yourself to a most attractive, educational, and conveniently located tour. The Museum is open Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00.

Cleophus Brown was among the 500 people who attended the Shipyard Workers Reunion at Grace Lutheran Church in May. The Richmond Museum provided displays and co-sponsored the great event.

Recent visitors with the Corbin family in Spain were Maxine Stoddard, Carol Bold and Virginia Cherniak, who met Rosemary Corbin for lunch in Barcelona.

The Corbins will be leaving Spain on June 24. They are probably looking forward to 'sunny California', because 'sunny Spain' wasn't. Natives tell them the weather has been strange — rainy and cold since October!

They intend to drive to Paris, spend a week there, and take the ferry to London. They plan to arrive here July 9.

-o-

Congratulations to Paul Cort and graduating senior Siras Greiner, for achieving an all 'A' average at Kennedy High School.

-o-

In her first year of competing, Indra Coles walked off with a First Place trophy in the Golden Gate Speech Association's competition at Kennedy High School, May 12. Over 100 students from the South Bay Area to the northern border of California took part in the Novice Tournament. Indra entered in the Original Prose and Poetry category with a dissertation entitled, "Welcome to the World of Ma Mere est Fromage," (My Mother is Cheese).

-o-

Old friends may want to send messages wishing a speedy recovery to Lawrence Thole who is now recovering from hip surgery. Mr. Thole is a remarkable 103-year-old!

-o-

Died: Richard E. Smith, long time Point Richmond resident; on May 8 in a local hospital, age 74. A retired plant maintenance employee of Phillips Oil Company, he was a member of the Eagles Aerie No. 354, Richmond. He is survived by his wife Lucille (Tots) of the Point, a son Richard, a daughter Lucille Matush and 7 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Died: Louis C. Bardis, in a San Pablo hospital, on May 27, age 78. A native of Korfu, Greece, he lived in this area 40 years and was owner of Louie's Restaurant (now Judges and Spares), and later the Four Corners Restaurant (now the Great American Hamburger Co.) across from the Plunge, until his retirement in 1973. He is survived by his wife, Ellie, a son Bill and five grandchildren.

-o-

For their 75th anniversary (in 1985), Camp Fire Girls, Inc., have pledged \$500,000 nationwide toward the restoration of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. The Kansas City based organization is the first youth group to launch such an effort. "We want to help preserve these symbols of freedom and hope for all Americans." It will be October 28, 1986 at the completion of the restoration that the President of the United States will rededicate the Statue of Liberty.

-o-

-Mid Dorman (234-5334)

LETTERS

[We have had this letter for a month, and so far, no one has come up with an answer to its question. If one of our readers knows about the group, please let us know (235-4222)]

Thank you for the great job you are doing on *This Point In Time* — a very interesting little publication. I share mine with my mother, now in a convalescent hospital. She was a clerk at Whiteside's Market for several years (now good old Santa Fe Market)! My father was ill, so she was the bread winner.

But that's not what I am writing you to ask —

I was talking to Caroline McKeegan, the current president of the Richmond Republican Women. She wondered if there were any records as to when and by whom this club was founded. It is her understanding

that it was begun in the Point, but her records are 'fuzzy' on the details. Do you have any ideas as to where we should start?

—Marie Wilson Dietz
Point Richmond

Please be kind enough to start a subscription for my aunt, Mrs. Anita York.

... Mrs. York is an ex-resident of 'The Point' and I grew up at 6 Crest Avenue, leaving there to live in Canada, in 1946. I was very interested to see your publication when I visited Mrs. Bagley outside Washington D. C. this year.

—Ann Falkner
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

I enjoyed reading the article Sunday (May 6) in the S.F. Chronicle by M.P. Doss very much.

I feel I must write to say I lived in Point Richmond from 1901 to about 1923 — I remember everything very well, as I was just three years old at that time. I remember when Richmond Avenue was paved — the first paved road in town, and what a celebration we had!

I don't understand the "tunnel being changed", for we used to walk through the tunnel to Keller's Beach where we rowed and swam. Also, Both the Santa Fe and the Southern Pacific trains went through the tunnel to the Ferry for San Francisco.

[Mrs. Doss's article refers to the Municipal Tunnel, being built in 1914. The tunnel itself wasn't changed, but its proposed route was changed because John Nicholl refused to sell the land on which he had drilled an oil well to the city, so the city had to build the road to the tunnel 'around' Nicholl's property.]

There were daily trains, and we did all our shopping in S.F., as Richmond itself was all swamp. We'd even go to S.F. for a dinner treat, or to see the theatre (I was growing up all this time, of course).

We were thrown out of bed at the time of the Earthquake, and my father walked

us up to Nicholl Nob for four or five nights to watch the City burn. The trains brought refugees from San Francisco.

One of the theatres, I wonder, must be Tcherassy's theatre — the first big one built. I am of course confused because it has been years since I was in Point Richmond. My father worked at the Standard Oil, and we were one of the Standard Oil families who helped with the Refinery. At that time Mr. D.G. Scofield was President in S.F., but Sam Scofield lived at the Point with all of us.

I have happy memories of the Point. I also worked in the library at the gore, and remember when the 'Indian' was dedicated. I later moved to S.F., then married in Berkeley.

Is your History in the Library?

Best wishes, and enjoy that view from Nicholl Nob — Best there is!

I am 85 now, and in good health.

— Ruth Adair Brown

*Sacramento
[The theatre referred to was the Tcherassy theatre, built in 1913.]*

Our history book is in Richmond libraries only, although we still have some books left, which we sell for \$5.75, tax incl.]

The ad for the Richmond Municipal Natatorium accompanied a letter thanking us for information about the Nelson-Wolbout in Point Richmond.

... Please keep my interest in the Wolgast-Nelson bout in your city and any other pre-1940 boxing information in mind if you happen across any more such information.

My wife and I are planning to visit the Point Richmond area this summer as it appears much has been done to preserve the history of the region.

Thanks again for the help with my research.

—Gary Phillips
Yuba City

POINTS IN THE FUTURE

SPECIAL DAYS IN HISTORY...

- June** 8, 1872 - Congress authorized the penny post card (which is now 13 cents)
 26, 1721 - First smallpox inoculations given in America
 17, 1928 - Amelia Earhart became first woman to fly across Atlantic Ocean
 23, 1836 - U.S. Treasury divided a \$28 million surplus among States!
- July** 4, 1884 - Statue of Liberty presented to U.S. as a gift from France
 23, 1904 - Ice Cream invented, in St. Louis, Missouri!
 6, 1854 - Republican Party founded at Jackson, Michigan convention
- August** 1, 1790 - Population of 3,929,214 recorded in first U.S. Census
 5, 1884 - Statue of Liberty cornerstone laid
 10, 1776 - "E Pluribus Unum" (One from Many) suggested as motto for Great Seal of the United States
 26, 1920 - 19th Amendment went into effect giving women right to vote

JUNE:

- 9 - Richmond Art Center Auction
 Admission Free. 7:00 p.m. no-host bar, 8:30 Auction.
- 13 - Point Richmond Business Association meeting, 12 noon, Hotel Mac Banquet Room.
- 18 - City Council hearing on Whaling Station area. (Wed. & Thurs. of previous week, sub-committees of the Council will consider the question.)

LATE JUNE: Oakland A's representative will be at West Side Library, to start a reading club - award: Tickets to A's game!

JULY:

- 11 - Neighborhood Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., at the Community Center - tentative schedule. Watch for notices.

West Side Library - Tilden Park Naturalist visit.

AUGUST:

- 9 - Evening at the Whale Center, 7:30 - Film about the last active Whaling Station, Point San Pablo. Call 654-6621, Bert Schwarzschild, for details.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (CHECK ONE)

- | | |
|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE | \$10.00 |
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 POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801

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Editorial Staff (Board members):

Donna Roselius, Teresa Albro, Michelle Brown, Dierdre Cerkanowicz, Mid Dorman, Lucretia Edwards, Paula Ferguson, Frankie Greenlaw, Liz McDonald, Pam Wilson: Trannie Dorman, advisor

Illustrations: Donna Roselius

ARTICLES FOR EACH MONTH'S ISSUE ARE DUE ON THE 20TH OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

Please mail articles and items of interest to:
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