

THIS POINT

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL. III, No. 2

September, 1984

75 cents

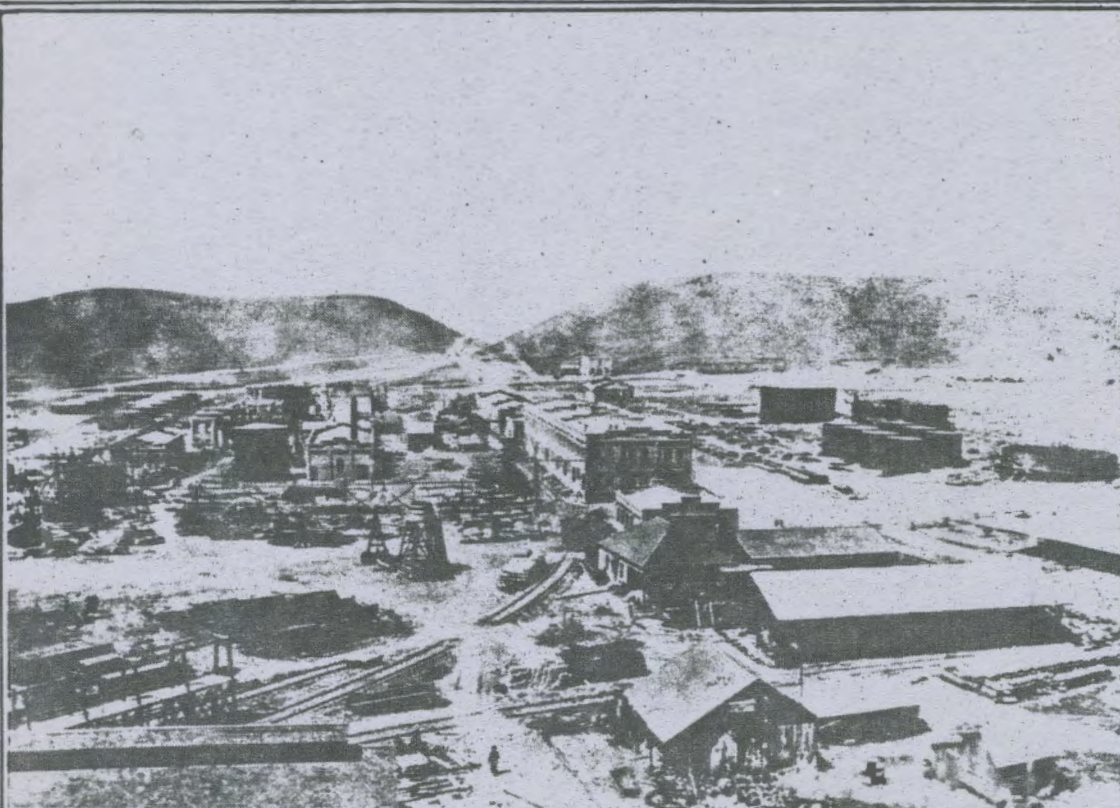


PHOTO DATED 1904, FROM 1956 NOTEBOOK PRESENTED TO BILL HOSKING WHEN HE RETIRED FROM STANDARD OIL. COURTESY, BILL STRIBLEY

HISTORY ASSOCIATION NOTES	1	EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS	12
AREA HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES	2	POINT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL	14
POINTS IN THE PAST	3	PETROMARK'S PLAN	14
STATUE DEDICATION DAY	8	WEST SIDE LIBRARY . . . LEAP Project	15
PIECES OF THE PAST	10	MASQUERS	16
A-MID TRIVIA	10	POINTS IN THE FUTURE	16
ARTS COMMISSION . . BILL BROWN	11	LETTERS	17

in time

♦♦ HISTORY ASSOCIATION NOTES ♦♦

THINGS WE DID THIS SUMMER . . .

Not a lot. But on August 8, "Betty's Tours" brought a bus load of people from around the Bay Area to view Point Richmond. After they lunched at the Baltic Restaurant, we provided a walking tour of the downtown and adjacent area, followed by a highly adventurous bus jaunt over the hills of the Point.

On August 21, Liz McDonald escorted 45 people from the San Jose Senior Center on a similar tour, minus the hilly ride.

For people not used to climbing hills, tours consisting of fewer people and smaller vehicles, we decided, would work out better. Tours can be arranged by calling 235-4222.

THINGS WE'LL DO THIS FALL (and you're invited) . . .

The Richmond Museum Association has invited us to tour the beautifully remodeled Museum, on a personally conducted tour of the many artifacts and photos relating to Richmond's history.

We will hold our first meeting at the Museum after the tour, on Sunday, September 23. Members of the San Pablo, El Cerrito and Pinole Historical Societies will also be invited.

The tour will begin at 2:00 at the Museum at Fourth and Nevin. Those wishing a ride should call 235-4222. There will be a short meeting and refreshments following the tour, in the Museum Courtyard.

Please plan not to miss this entertaining and educational (and relaxing!) tour!

continued on page 2

MEMBERS

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

Anne-Therese Ageson	Elizabeth McDonald
The Bury Family	Evelyn Cunan Moore
Louis R. Cunan	The Roselius family
Anna Soito Gaumer	Anna M. Schwarz
Mildred King	Joe & Elsie Spinola
David MacDiarmid	
family	

And welcome to the following new members:

Anne Anderson	Thelma Harvey
Mary J. Basile	James H. Headen
Carole L. Baskerville	Adele Chase Hollander
Patricia Behrens	Bernard Johnston
Claude Bisio	Virginia R. Kennedy
Elizabeth Bronson	Raymond C. Macway
James & Darlene Byers	Paul Murphy family
Grace Cardoza	Kay Pinkerton
Leslie W. Crim	Louise Henrick Rogers
Maurice Doherty	Sally N. Rush
Juanita E. Edmonds	Allan P. Smith
Mary J. Forbes	Lucille Smith
Bruna V. Giorgi	Judy Walsh family
The Goshay family	Greg Wheatley
Shoney Gustafson	

Please let us know if we have made any mistakes or omissions in the listings.

A red check mark in this circle is a reminder that your membership has expired, and is due for renewal . . . It will be your only reminder, so please help support the Association's work by sending in your donation now.



Please fill out the form on the last page and send it to Pam Wilson, 521 Western Drive.

The November meeting will take place at Linsley Hall, as usual. The exact date and program will be announced in next Month's Newsletter.

-[]-

Thanks to all those who responded to our letter and became members or renewed their memberships. Special thanks to those who offered help — there are some interesting and valuable projects to be worked on, and we will be calling you!

Special thanks to Allan Smith, Bill Stribley and Ila Deemer, who presented us with photos and information for our archives!

-Donna Roselius

ARCHIVES REPORT . . .

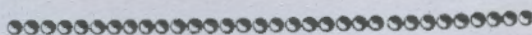
The last couple of months have been spent on archives "housekeeping". The donation and loan files are finally in working order. Additionally, we established a system for cataloging and filing the photographs (and are eagerly awaiting batch No. 4 of the reproductions from Chevron, USA). Michelle and Michael Brown are providing us with the necessary copies to implement our copy filing system.

We have continued our indexing project, and slowly but surely, we are working our way toward the end. However, this will be an ongoing project since each new publication requires indexing.

-Teresa Albro

AREA HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

The Contra Costa County Historical Society will present a program by Bancroft Reference Librarian Annegret Ogden, called "Hidden Histories", or what to look for in family papers. She will stress the fact that the period in which one's ancestors lived is as important and entertaining as information about the ancestors themselves. The meeting is at Grison's Restaurant in Walnut Creek, September 13. If interested, call Barbara Dear at 682-8498 immediately, since the deadline for reservations will have passed by the time this newsletter is mailed.



The San Pablo Historical and Museum Society will hold the Rancho San Pablo 1840 Heritage Day in the Central Plaza of Alvarado Square on September 16.

The day is co-sponsored by Gonzalez Restaurant, the Manzanillo-San Pablo Sister City organization, the San Pablo Chamber of Commerce and the San Pablo Beautification Board.

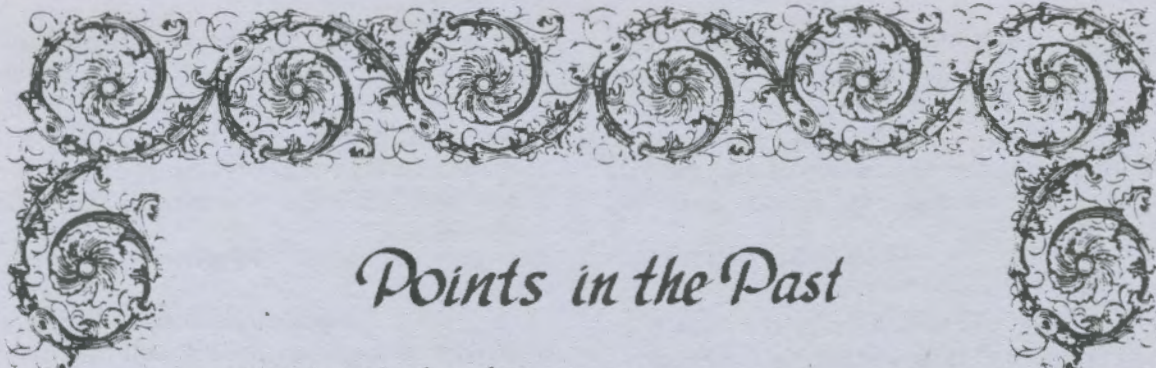
Festivities will continue from 12 to 5:00 p.m., with the Living History Group dramatizing events as were found on the Rancho San Pablo in 1840. Arts, crafts, original costumes, entertainment will fill the afternoon.

DR. C. L. ABBOTT

.. PHYSICIAN and SURGEON ..

Residence: 106 Sante Fe Ave.

1908 ad, courtesy Mary Casey



Points in the Past

*Articles from the Richmond Independent,
courtesy of the Richmond Library*

70 YEARS AGO ...

"Fire, cause unknown, badly damaged the beautiful home of J.O.Ford, at (11) Montana and Alvarado avenues shortly before 3 o'clock this morning. The damage, conservatively, amounts to about \$2500.

"Members of the family were aroused from their slumbers by the crackling of timbers. Ford aided his wife through the hall way and returned to care for their two children, Carroll and Clarence. The alarm was turned in by the watchman on the municipal tunnel.

"Effective work in saving household goods was accomplished by willing volunteers until the fire company took command . . . The fire company depended largely on chemicals in extinguishing the blaze, owing to extremely low pressure in the water mains."

—September 2, 1914

From an ad in the classified section:

"COTTAGE — five rooms and bath
No.15 Tunnel Ave. Rent \$16.50;
Water free. Tel. Rich. 226."

—September 6, 1914

"L.C. Bennett, living in Point Richmond gave Sergeant Phil Barry some surprise last night. So overwhelmed was Barry that he

extended the courtesies of Walker's hotel to Mr. Bennett for the evening.

"Barry found Bennett on the street, partially influenced by liquor, and told him to go home. Bennett refused, and Barry enforced his order with a little twist of the arm. Bennett went home. Shortly afterward Barry's phone rang. It was Bennett. Was Barry the cop who twisted his arm, he wanted to know. If he was, the voice complained, he was the first man to twist Bennett's arm and get away with it. Where could he meet the fresh cop, he inquired. At the station, Barry informed him.

"In less than five minutes Bennett walked in and reformed Barry that no man ever twisted his arm and got by with it. He got so unpleasant that Barry twisted his arm several more times and then locked him up for the night."

—September 8, 1914

"Scores of friends of Miss Kate Riordan and James Pope showered congratulations on the pair Tuesday when they had quietly made their way to St. Mark's church, and had Father Griffin tie the knot making them one. As proprietress of the Colonial Hotel (now the Hotel Mac) on the West Side, Miss Riordan, or rather Mrs. Pope, has made any number of friends and all were mighty pleased when they heard the news."

—September 10, 1914

"Word was received last night from Rev. Father Sullivan, pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Church who has been in Europe, telling of his exciting adventures in getting out of France after the declaration of war. He had some hair raising experiences until he reached Ireland."

"There are two days in the year that appeal more than any others to the employees of the great Standard Oil refinery. One is the annual baseball game and the other is the annual clambake. The latter of the events will be held at the Pole Yard today.

"Dr. Charles R. Blake drove Mayor Garrard, Rev. D.W. Calfee and Rev. C.S. Linsley to the Greek Theatre in Berkeley Sunday where they represented Richmond at the big peace conference.

"Frank Critchett, well known locally, has embarked into the realty game in San Francisco and at his Market street offices, with J.B. McKenzie and Charles Hoag, will peddle Richmond property."
-September 17, 1914

"Another system is to be adopted in the digging of the municipal bore . . . Instead of using the shafts to bring the dirt and rock from the rear end, the cement lining will be put in gradually, being superseded by the

heavy timbers . . . Then the steam shovels will proceed digging from each end until they cut the hole clear through . . . Numerous small cave-ins, due to the volcanic formation of the rock, have caused much trouble, but under the new system this will be eliminated."

"John Nicholl has been keeping the water rushing from his oil well for the past few days while experts have been sampling it and estimating the supply, and he has come to the conclusion that he not only has the best well in these parts but the most copious supply. He is planning to offer it to the People's water company . . . and will make a proposition to sell the water if the well is not purchased. He declares he will sell it for 10 cents per 1,000 gallons, which is considerably less than the 25 cents per 1,000 gallons charged by the water company for city water presently."

—September 29, 1914

With the advent of a paid fire department the volunteer fire companies were disbanded. "Bonds of friendship, cemented by years of work as volunteer firemen brought together a large crowd of men in the city hall . . . They were members of Company No. 1 and had met to discuss plans for the organization of Richmond's Veteran Firemen's Association. After lengthy discussion it was decided to turn the piano, billiard and pool tables and the furnishings of the old fire hall on Park Place over to the Association to be installed in the old Standard avenue school house which has been given them as a meeting place." Included in the group were Harry Marland, R.G.Erskine, Andrew Trautvetter, Dick Spiersch, Chris Theis, Robert Dornan, D. Entrican and J.G. Asher.

—September 30, 1914



60 YEARS AGO ...

"Three of the four Richmond city firemen who were painfully burned when sprayed with liquid fire while fighting a blaze on a scow in the inner harbor near the Washington school, Saturday night, will be incapacitated for some weeks, and are being treated at the Cottage hospital." Lea Scarbrough, driver of the chemical engine, W.V. Willis, tillerman on truck No. 1, and Wilbur Marvin were hospitalized with serious burns. Captain Paasch was treated and released.

According to Chief W.P. Cooper, "Ahrens (owner of the scow) drew five gallons of gasoline from a 50 gallon drum at one end of the scow when the fumes were ignited by a lantern in close proximity to the drum.



Richmond's Frist Fire Bell, in a Fourth of July Parade, 1916, courtesy Ila L. Deemer

"When the fire department was fighting the fire on the other end of the scow where Ahrens lived, the 50 gallon drum of gasoline exploded, spraying a score of firemen with liquid fire."

September 8, 1924

"Total enrollment in the Richmond schools for the first month of the fall term increased approximately eight per cent over the corresponding month of 1923, according to figures compiled by C.H. Jones, deputy superintendent of schools. The total enrollment for the first month this year was 4,777, as compared to 4,375 of last year." At Washington school the total enrollment was 264, as compared to 224 in 1913.

—September 16, 1924

"As an outgrowth of the party held by the Americanization class on the West Side a week ago, a club called the "Cosmopolitan Club" was formed on Saturday night.

"The Cosmopolitan club with 17 nationalities represented and more than 70 members, announces as its object, the promotion of social progress and community service. Citizens or persons who have applied for citizenship or declared their intentions (to become citizens) are eligible for membership."

—September 30, 1924

50 YEARS AGO ...

"Summoned to provide an additional guard for the federal convict train which went through Richmond at an early hour this morning bound to Alcatraz, Chief of Police L.E. Jones with Captain Oliver Wylie and four men of the Richmond Police Department met the train at Ferry Point in the gray dawn and saw the three convict cars safely loaded aboard a Santa Fe barge for the island."

Included in this notorious group of 103 'desperados' were 32 killers who were each

suspected of killing three or more men, and the famous criminal "Machine Gun" Kelly.

—September 4, 1934

Lou Foo Chow died as a result of the burns he sustained "at the shrimp plant at the foot of Second street here Friday afternoon as he attempted to empty a basket of shrimps into a cooking pot, preparatory to drying them . . . He was a native of China and had been employed at the local shrimp plant for some time."

—September 10, 1934

"Charles Ceridono (of the West Side Market) is remodeling his home on (50) Nicholl Avenue. The place will present a very different appearance when it is finished."

—September 21, 1934

—Teresa Albro

40 YEARS AGO . . .

CLOTHING STOLEN FROM LOCAL HOME

"Warner H. Beutenmiller, 11½ Scenic Ave., reported to the police department that while he was away from home someone entered by removing a screen from a window and stole clothing valued at \$133. Money and jewels also left in the house were untouched by the burglar."

—July 1, 1944

LESLIE STANLEY WOUNDED AT ITALY FRONT

"Lt. Leslie Stanley, 75 Belvedere St., Point Richmond, was wounded in the face, arms and legs by shrapnel somewhere in Italy, according to a letter received from a hospital in Rome by his parents Mr. and Mrs. Jess George. Lt. Stanley, who is an infantry man, was flown to the Rome hospital after receiving treatment at a first aid station. He told his mother in the letter that the hospital and medical corpsmen deserve the highest praise for their work and care of the

wounded. The wounded officer has been overseas for several months. He is a graduate of Richmond schools and a former Standard Oil employee."

—August 4, 1944

STANDARD OIL'S E DAY PICNIC SET FOR SUNDAY

"Interest is mounting in the approaching E day picnic of the Standard Oil Company scheduled for Sunday, September 10, at the Rod and Gun Club.

"Already various departments of the local refinery are betting as to the outcome of the tug of war, in which teams of 10 men will endeavor to best the other side in one of the oldest of picnic sports. According to the committee, any healthy male employee is eligible. Teams should register before the day of the picnic with Ed Tandy, room 310 of the administration building. As an afterthought the committee man said, 'Men weighing over 400 pounds will not be accepted as contestants.'

"Every type of professional entertainment will round out the program. Also included will be children's field events, adults' field events, and swimming events including fancy diving by members of the Berkeley Junior Aquatic Club show directed by Bert Pace. Lunch will be served free to all who attend. . . Arrangements for sharing cars and transportation are now underway. Children will be taken care of by volunteers, leaving parents unhampered to participate in the field day events."

—September 6, 1944

30 YEARS AGO . . .

"A 4,702-ton freighter collided with two anchored barges and a piledriver at the Richmond-San Rafael bridge construction site shortly after midnight today, the Coast Guard reported.

"Conflicting reports came from three

different sources, but all agree that there were no injuries and that none of the crafts involved had sunk. The freighter, the SS Pacific Transport, sustained a 3 X 4-foot hole in the starboard side and a derrick barge was damaged.

"Commander F.A. Reicker, senior investigator for the 12th Coast Guard district, said if the Pacific Transport's skipper did not file a written report in two days, he'd go after the ship. The Coast Guard is investigating the collision.

"The Pacific Transport is owned by the Pacific Transport Lines, Inc., with its home port in San Francisco. It was coming from there when the accident occurred. The vessel loaded 450 tons of bulk tallow at Parr 4.

"An 83-foot Coast Guard patrol boat was immediately dispatched to the scene last night when the accident occurred. The gash in the tanker is just above the water line and the vessel was reported in no danger."

-July 1, 1954

STANDARD OIL CO. BAY TOUR PROVES THREE POINTS

"Standard Oil established three major points with city civic leaders in San Francisco Bay yesterday.

"First, that it takes a lot of room to maneuver a big oil tanker.

"Second, that small boats are a hindrance to big ships and in turn are endangered by them.

"Third, that oil coming to Richmond by tanker is an expensive operation.

"The local dignitaries, who have been investigating location of an aquatic park for the city, saw these things first hand during berthing of a giant tanker at the company's Long Wharf. The demonstration was conducted by the company to make clear its objection to a park in vicinity of the wharf. To emphasize their position company offi-

cials picked what until a short time ago was the largest oil tanker in the world. The ship, called the Petroking, was anchored near the Oakland-San Francisco Bay bridge when city officials boarded her after a cruise from the Long Wharf aboard a tug boat.

"Twice as long as a football field, the supertanker measures 673 feet in length and has a 92 foot beam. . . The Petroking is reputed to displace more tonnage than the battleship Missouri or the luxury liner United States.

"Chiefly Standard Oil has expressed concern over the number of small boats that would be cavorting in the area of the wharf if a beach-park site were established nearby. An apt illustration of its position occurred when the pilot of the huge ship started to turn into the dock for berthing and a sailboat held up matters for a full 15 minutes. Larger ships are required to give way to the smaller craft.

"The company wharf is now 2,467 feet long and can't be extended north of the Richmond-San Rafael bridge. Future plans call for building the structure 1,400 feet south toward the projected park site."

Councilmen, city officials, two members of a citizens' committee and a representative of the U.S. Corps of Engineers made the trip, conducted by R.M. Stall of Standard Oil.

-August 30, 1954

AQUATIC PARK GROUP WILL VISIT ISLAND

"Recreational possibilities of Brooks Island will be considered tomorrow afternoon during a boat tour of the harbor by a shoreline planning committee.

"Planning Director William E. Finley said the committee and city officials will inspect beachsites on the island and make a short tour of the inner harbor."

The committee selected by Mayor Sheridan were Charles Renwick, Jr., Thomas J. Ryan, U.C. professors H.A. Einstein and J.W. Johnson and Reuben Johnson of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

—September 15, 1954

20 YEARS AGO ...

QUESTION MARK COLUMN

"Perhaps you can file this little tale of woe under 'Misfortunes at Sea': Independent reporter George Martin and his wife were about half way back from Red Rock Island when they hit a vicious bunch of waves and found themselves swimming for life, fortune and honor, while the overturned boat floated off in the distance. Fortunately, soon after the event, Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Patterson of Lafayette happened by in their motor launch and took the sodden kayakers back to Richmond Yacht Harbor and thence home, after an unsuccessful search for the boat.

"Which may seem like the end of the story, but it isn't — not yet. This soggy tale of sea tragedy could have a happy ending. A good citizen found the kayak (it was seen aboard his green pickup later in the day) but has no way of knowing to whom it belongs. Martin's hoping the finder will give him a call at the Independent because he's mighty fond of the boat: he built it himself."

—August 4, 1964

—Pam Wilson

EAGLE RESTAURANT
E. ARVANITE, Prop.
OYSTER AND CHOP HOUSE
Open Day and Night. Private Rooms for
—Ladies—
17 Park Place Point Richmond, Cal.
QUICK SERVICE PHONE 1791
Phone 1791

1913 ad, courtesy Richmond Museum

**75 YEARS, 46 DAYS
LATER,**

POINT RICHMOND HISTORY REPEATS —

**INDIAN STATUE DEDICATION DAY
OCTOBER 20, 1984**

The scheduled unveiling of the Indian Statue fountain at the tip of the Triangle in Point Richmond will be the occasion of a great celebration similar to but larger than the original fountain unveiling which took place on September 4, 1909.

The original fountain/statue filled a need for a watering place for horses, dogs and humans. It was installed by the West Side Improvement Club. It was knocked over in 1943, and unceremoniously carried away. Stories about how it fell and what happened to the pieces have circulated sporadically but the latest account was brought to us by a friend of the person who admitted knocking the statue over. It happened at about 2 o'clock in the morning when the person exited a bar, entered his truck, and backed into the fountain, jarring the statue loose.

After 41 years the statue and fountain, this time for people only, will be replaced. Sponsored by the Point Richmond Business Association, the unveiling and dedication will be surrounded by accompanying events worthy of this historic occasion.

**FROM 10 A.M. TO 4 P.M.
EVENTS, EXHIBITS, ETC.
RAFFLE...**

Prizes donated by local businesses include a night for two at East Brother Light Station, a night for two at a Bed and Breakfast Inn, and merchandise prizes.

POINT TO POINT FUN RUN

Not exactly a marathon, the Fun Run

will begin at 11 a.m. at the Point Orient Restaurant and include stops at most restaurants along the way. Participants will run, walk, wheel or otherwise move from restaurant to restaurant, having their Fun Run Card validated at each for partaking of food and/or beverages offered. The Run ends at 2 or 3 p.m. with winners being eligible for a drawing for merchandise provided by the establishments involved. Participants will also receive a commemorative T-shirt.

ARTS and CRAFTS FAIR

Point Richmond artist-craftspeople are invited to participate in the fair to be set up on the Triangle grounds. A \$10 registration is all that is required, unless a table rental is desired for an additional \$10. We are hoping for full participation, meaning that, with the number and variety of artist-craftspeople residing here, the triangle should be filled with virtually every art form that can be created by hand. Forms are being sent out to artists on our list, but if any are

missed they will be available at the West Branch Library and businesses in the Point. For information, call 235-4222.

PEDDLERS' FAIRE

Organizations in Richmond will participate in a Peddlers' Faire, for which there will be a \$20 fee, including the table. David Vincent is in charge of the Faire, and his telephone number is 235-4850.

ENTERTAINMENT & DISPLAYS

Continuous entertainment is planned, with a variety of programs, directed by Herb Wimmer of Chevron, USA.

An Antique Car Show will be on view in the business district during the day.

The Richmond Museum and the Point Richmond History Association will display memorabilia and photos in the Community Center.

Mini tours will be scheduled during the day, provided by the History Association.

September 4, 1909 Dedication of the Fountain
courtesy, Ila L. Deemer



PIECES OF THE PAST

Excerpts from publications printed early in Richmond's history.

I

From "Contra Costa County – Under the Vitascope, published by the Richmond Record, January 1, 1902. Courtesy, Richmond Museum

LOVELY RICHMOND

The Gateway to Contra Costa County and the Future Shipping Point on San Francisco Bay

Scarcely a year ago this busy, pulsating city, with its railroads, steamships, waterworks, telephones, telegraphs, electric lights, street cars, manufactures, beautiful homes, thriving commercial houses, and all the accessories necessary to the formation of a great metropolitan city, was then one vast grain field. Its rapid and wonderful growth has simply been marvelous, and its future contingencies are, today, beyond the power of man to conceive, or even imagine. Situated as Richmond is, on the magnificent Bay of San Francisco, where all the deep water ships of the known world can find a safe and inviting anchorage, where the trans-continental railroads of the East are bidding for terminals, and where a number of the largest enterprises in existence are locating, one can readily see, that Richmond, in a few years, will rival the most famous industrial cities of the continent.

Richmond now has a population of more than 2,000 souls, and covers an area of three miles or more, with a deep water frontage of six miles from Potrero Point on the south and extending to San Pablo Point on the north. Business of every description is carried on here, and many large manufactories will soon be operating in our midst. Richmond is the terminus of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, and the great Standard Oil Company is now building here

the third largest oil refinery in the world. Both of these enterprises employ several hundred men, most of whom live in Richmond with their families, which, in brief, is the making of a large city. Richmond has a fine public school, churches of several denominations, hotels of first-class order, and many fraternal orders flourish with a goodly attendance of members. In a few words, Richmond is the coming city of the Coast. Beyond any cavil it has greater advantages for business than any other city on the Pacific Slope. Its present immense enterprises are a sure guarantee of its steady progress and its unrivaled inducements for profitable investment. *(to be continued in future issues)*

A-MID TRIVIA

The editor of this column, Mid Dornan, actually took a summer vacation, returning a few days ago – time to revive from jet lag, but not time to gather local news.

Visiting her daughter and son-in-law, Kathy and Rich Barnes in Vermillion, South Dakota, Mid hoped she was timing her visit to coincide with the arrival of her first grandchild. But two days after she had to return to prepare for a European tour, Robert Clayton Barnes was born, weighing in at 7 lbs., 4 oz., on August 10. Mid and great grandma Trannie Dornan are now eagerly awaiting a Christmas visit from the first grand- and great-grand child in the family.

-o-

The Corbin family is back at their Crest Avenue home. Friends, neighbors and community groups are delighted they're back!

-o-

Elsie and Joe Spinola, long time residents of Washington Avenue, will be treated to a well-deserved celebration at Linsley Hall September 16, in honor of thier Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary.

Mrs. Claude Bisio noted that her husband was born on June 18, 1921, above the Old Firehouse in Point Richmond.

-O-

COME ALIVE, a new art class in design, "just for you", is a new course taught by Arline Hartman at Contra Costa College. No previous art experience is required. Though classes started August 27, enrollment is open until September 14. The course invites you to get to your own source/system of design through exploring the relationship of line, shape, color, tone, texture, rhythm and movement, with mixed media — materials selected for individual expression, and special techniques to develop visual awareness and creative thinking. Course title is Art 120-01. For information call 235-7800, ext. 3332 or 3261.

-O-

Veryl Lewis, resident of Ocean Avenue for the past 30 years, died on August 23. She and her husband Bill have been active members of the Richmond Yacht Club.

-OO-

Please call or write to Mid Dorman, 234-5624; 225 Clarence, with news about people in the Point.

RICHMOND ARTS COMMISSION TASK FORCE

Mayor Corcoran has appointed a task force to develop guidelines for a City Arts Commission. The group had its first meeting August 28, and expects to complete its assigned task within two months.

The Task Force will attempt to create withing the city government an official organization dedicated to encouraging all of the various arts (visual, performing and literary). The members of the Task Force (listed below) are open to suggestions, and the Mayor will be seeking applicants for the proposed commission as soon as the ordinance is ad-

opted. The Task Force members are: William Seline, Chris Rozewski, Chuck Woodward, Sheila Braufman, Sy Zell, Margy Felcher, Edward Downer III, Valerie Otani, Don Hardison, Marie Varea-Ost, Rosemary Corbin, Christopher Forest and Peggy Cartwright.

—Rosemary Corbin

BILL BROWN

1910 - 1984

William Robert Quigley Brown was born in San Francisco, lived for three years in Bakersfield, and from then on made his home in Richmond — most of it in a house on Water Street. That and his name are the only unexceptional things about Bill Brown.

The word he used to describe his father — "adventurer" — truly applied to himself. As the interview in "This Point in Time" (Vol. I, No. 9) states, he traveled the world from Capetown to Calcutta; he had an unlimited license to be Chief Mate of any ship of any size, in any ocean.

He had the equivalent of that license in the newspaper business. He worked for innumerable newspapers, in the Bay area and in Central America.

A statement by his good friend John Pierce tells something about Bill's great sphere of experience — Bill would just "pack up and take off."

He did, until 1955, when he settled in the Point after his wife began her long bout with multiple sclerosis. He was employed by the Berkeley Gazette, the Examiner and until he retired, by the Oakland Tribune.

Those who were friends of and were befriended by Bill Brown will never forget him. At the time of this printing, memorial plans are pending for the final farewell to this unique man.

EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS . . .

Since we've been writing this column, the subject has usually been new and continuing business matters in Point Richmond. Earlier this summer we had the pleasure of visiting a former Point Richmond business owner, Quentin Lewton of Richmond Boat Works, at his new place of business in the Missouri Ozarks. Quentin, Jane, Tripper, Jennifer and baby Sasha now live on a 230 acre farm in a 100-year old farmhouse near Cole Camp ("where the Ozarks meet the plains"), where they raise beef and dairy cattle, sheep, turkeys, chickens, hay and cats.

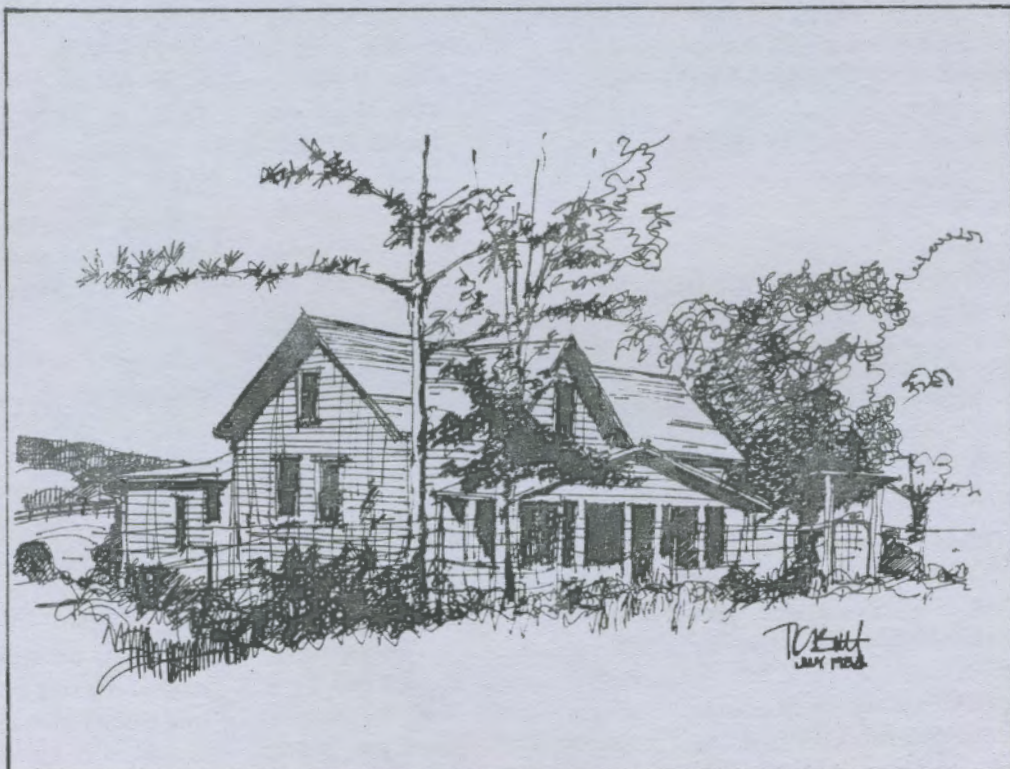
While we were there, our children learned how to milk cows, I remembered how to haul hay, and the coyotes ate ten of the twenty turkeys. The Lewtons are well and

very busy. Quentin has traded his yacht for a John Deere tractor and is so excited about farming he professes not to miss sailing at all.

Other local visitors to the Lewton farm this past summer included Amy Bruno and Stacey Nurss. Farming, however, doesn't appear to carry the same excitement for teenage girls as it does for back to the land sailors. Cole Camp is remarkably devoid of Coca-Cola, rock video and shopping malls.

PARKING BUSINESS . . .

The landscape portion of the Railroad Avenue Parking Project provides a good lesson in the shrinking ability of our City to provide public services. An inspection of the planting strip in July revealed that much of the plant material was dying, the irrigation system was inoperative in many areas while massive leaks were creating a swamp in others.



A request by David MacDiarmid for City Council action to remedy the problems was addressed in four successive Council Committee meetings. Statements by Public Works and Recreation and Parks staff revealed the following:

1) The landscaping and irrigation were improperly constructed and erroneously approved by the City.

2) The City staff claims they do not have sufficient funds to repair and maintain the area.

The Recreation and Parks Department has repaired some of the major problems, but the City Council is still considering the ultimate solution. Meanwhile, the Point Richmond Business Association is continuing to sponsor and supervise Work Alternative Program participants to provide weeding and cleanup of the parking area every three or four months.

Aside from the landscape maintenance problems, the parking area continues to be greatly used and appreciated by employees and patrons of Point Richmond businesses and is frequently totally filled with vehicles.

BENEFIT BUSINESS

Planning for dedication of the Indian Statue on October 20, 1984, is continuing under the able and untiring guidance of Point Richmond Business Association President David Vincent. Money raised from the raffle and other activities connected with the event is earmarked for The Masquers.

David reports that the Masquers have opened escrow on the purchase of their building and now have barely enough money to make the \$30,000 down payment after it was generously cut from \$37,000 by seller Ernie Spencer. There is still a great need for additional funds to maintain and rehabilitate the aging brick structure, and

many Point residents continue to pitch in with as many as ten benefit dinner parties scheduled for the coming weeks.

BRICKYARD LANDING

Framing is rapidly rising at the Brickyard Landing project at the site of the old brickyard at Brickyard Cove indicating what a massive development it is.

Project Manager Marge Felcher of the Innisfree Company and her sales manager gave a presentation at the August Point Richmond Business Association meeting.

The sales office is temporarily located at Brickyard Cove, and the units which are offered at prices ranging from \$125,000 to \$250,000 will go on sale after Labor Day.

LOCAL BRICK AND MORTAR

Work continues on two local rehabilitation projects located on Washington Avenue. The old Central Pool Hall is now showing its final color scheme, another master work by colorist Bob Buckler. Owner Bob Read now has plans approved for the storefront section and will soon begin the final phase of his skillfully executed reconstruction work.

Across the street, the former home of the Doll Factory is getting a second floor and a new street facade complete with bay windows.

Next door, the former home of The Point is now totally vacant and available for lease.

When rented, these three buildings will add some 12,000 square feet of office and commercial space to the Point's thriving business district.

—Tom Butt

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

The quarterly meeting of the Point Richmond Neighborhood Council was held on July 23, 1984. The featured speaker of the meeting was Levron Bryant from the City Manager's office. Mr. Bryant spoke to the group about the City's budget and various tax options and budget cuts being considered by the City Council.

Marc Peppard reported on the status of the Tiscornia-Sheehan property. There has been a six year effort on the part of Point Richmond residents to require that the property be developed under a specific plan. On July 22, 1984, the City Council passed the first reading of an emergency ordinance imposing a moratorium on development in the area until a specific plan could be drawn up. The plan is to be developed jointly by the Planning Department and interested members of the public. The moratorium will be in effect for four months, with the possibility of extending it to eight months and subsequently for one year. A special thanks to Marc Peppard for the time he has devoted over the past six years to prevent the piecemeal, unplanned development of this significant Point Richmond property.

The Environmental Impact Report on Petromark's proposed encroachment across Dornan Drive has been completed and is available for review at the Planning Department and the West Side Branch Library.

On August 3, 1984, the Neighborhood Council sent a letter to the City Council requesting that the City initiate the action required under PG&E's Rule No. 20A to begin undergrounding overhead utilities within Point Richmond. The request has been forwarded to the Planning Department for review.

The next quarterly meeting of the Neighborhood Council will be in October. October is National Crime Prevention Month, and our meeting will focus on crime prevention and what we can do to reduce crime in our neighborhood. The specific meeting date will be announced in the October issue of "This Point in Time".

—Janet Lyons

PETROMARK'S PLAN ON EBRPD AGENDA

Unfortunately, the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors meeting at which they will discuss and vote upon a resolution against Petromark's proposal for expansion will take place before this newsletter is published and mailed.

At their September 4th meeting, the Board's agenda calls for "Discussion and Adoption of Resolution Opposing Petromark Proposal: Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline." Public input was encouraged.

Petromark's expansion proposal — to construct a 300,000 barrel for-hire bulk liquid storage terminal on an 8.1 acre lot located some 400 feet from the developed part of Miller-Knox Park, would consist of 50 5,000-barrel tanks, three 20,000-barrel tanks, a storage building and two pipelines, plus a railroad siding and truck loading rack. A public hearing will be held on September 19 at 7:30 in the City Council chambers.

Background data for the Park District's recommendation against Petromark's expansion were presented in a written report which will be available at the West Side Branch Library.

WEST SIDE LIBRARY

Summer vacation is over and it's back to school for students of all ages. If you need some books to help with those courses in Reading, 'Riting and 'Rithmetic, stop in the library and see the display for September.

Unusual visitors to the West Side Branch in July and August included a king snake, a rattlesnake and a large brown rabbit. These animals were part of a special summer program for children.

STORY HOUR

There will be a story hour every Thursday morning at 10:00. Children (and parents, too) are invited to come.

PETROMARK REPORT

Ask at the desk if you wish to look at the Petromark Expansion Project - environmental impact report published August 17, 1984.

COMPUTER AT WEST SIDE !

The computer is coming! If plans continue on schedule, West Side will be on line in mid-September. It will be necessary for each patron to have a library card to which is affixed a bar encoded label. Users of the Main Library already have this label on the reverse side of their library card. For those who need to obtain a label, there will be an announcement of dates when this will be done. Watch for a notice on the library door at West Side.

-Jan Burdick

LEAP IS HELPING

Now in its sixth month, the Literacy for Every Adult Project sponsored by the Richmond Public Library is helping nearly 100 men and women conquer the reading problems they have battled all their lives.

An estimated 23 million Americans are functionally illiterate. In Richmond alone, there may be as many as 28,000 adults who can't read.

One-to-one tutoring can help turn this situation around for the first time. Learning to read is a process that takes time, practice and, for these adults, confidence.

Nearly 100 volunteer tutors already are at work with adult students who need help in reading, writing and basic math skills. But more students and tutors are needed.

Do you know someone who needs help? Could you help someone else as a tutor for a few hours a week? You don't have to be an expert: the library will help you with training and materials.

The next tutor training is Friday, September 28 and October 5 from 10:00 - 1:00 p.m. or Thursday, October 18 and 25 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Both sessions will be in the Richmond Public Library Auditorium, located near the entrance to the Children's room.

Call the LEAP program at the Richmond Public Library at 231-2116 or 231-2151. Help others to help themselves.

RICHMOND CITY DIRECTORY

F. C. DIETRICH, Leading Jeweler

EVERYTHING IN THE JEWELRY LINE

Strictly Reliable

116 Washington Ave.

1907 ad, courtesy Richmond Museum

MASQUERS PLANS

Big, Brash and Bouncy, "George M" has all those great George M. Cohan tunes, and it will be playing at the Masquers Playhouse Friday and Saturday evenings until October 13, with Sunday matinees on September 9, 23, and October 7.

Beginning on November 9, the 'bewitching' comedy, "Bell, Book and Candle" will be on the Masquers stage. Call 526-1038 for reservations.

Phone Richmond 6761

RICHMOND HOTEL and BAR

THOMAS KENNY, PROP.

GOOD GOODS AND GOOD SERVICE

Washington and Standard Aves.

Point Richmond

1913 ad, courtesy Richmond Museum

POINTS IN THE FUTURE

SEPTEMBER

- 16 - San Pablo Rancho 1840 Heritage Day
12 to 5, Alvarado Square
- 19 - Public Hearing on Petromark's Expansion
Plan - 7:30, City Council Chambers
- 23 - SUNDAY, 2:00 P.M. -
RICHMOND MUSEUM TOUR -
First meeting of Pt. Richmond
History Association.
- 28 - Friday, 10 to 1:00, tutor training for LEAP,
Richmond Library Auditorium

OCTOBER

- 5 - Friday, 10 to 1:00, tutor training for LEAP,
Richmond Library Auditorium
- 13 - George M ends at the Masquers
- 18 - Thursday, 6:30-9:30, tutor training for
LEAP, Richmond Library Auditorium
- 20 - 10 to 4:00
INDIAN STATUE DEDICATION DAY
- 25 - Thursday, 6:30-9:30, tutor training for
LEAP, Richmond Library Auditorium



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (CHECK ONE)

- | | |
|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE | \$10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR CITIZEN (65 +) | 5.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY | 20.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ORGANIZATION | 25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HISTORY-PRESERVER | 30.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HISTORY-MAKER | 100.00 |

Membership in the Point Richmond History Association includes a subscription to this newsletter.

Please send membership forms to:

PAM WILSON
521 WESTERN DRIVE
POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801

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

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

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

Please mail articles and items of interest to: 212 Bishop Alley, Point Richmond, CA 94801. Questions? Call 235-4222.

Items may also be dropped off at Richmond Supply Co., 145 W. Richmond Avenue.

LETTERS

Mrs. Ida (Arnold) Deemer enclosed three old Point Richmond photos, which we will try to reproduce in this issue. One is of the Fountain Dedication in 1909, one of the Point's first Fire Bell, and one of students at the Standard Avenue School.

In the last issue the "Remember When" list brought back memories. As I was raised at the Point and celebrated my 84th birthday the fourth of this month I really enjoyed this issue and the others.

I'm enclosing a check for a subscription for Louise Henrick Rogers. Her father had the first bakery. We both are the same age (same day) and still correspond.

Keep up the good work.

Ila (Arnold) Deemer
Paradise, California

A while back I noted your historical news of Point Richmond.

I have a picture of my dad working in his dad's butcher shop in Point Richmond.

I also have a faded newspaper, September, 1902, featuring the marriage of my mother and dad. Also in this newspaper it noted that a decision had been made by Richmond that Macdonald Avenue would go under the S.P. Railroad tracks at Nineteenth - Twentieth Street.

My dad's family came from Iowa. My mother was born near Stege - now South Twenty-Third Street, not quite as far south east as the Safeway Plant. We used to go under the Santa Fe tracks where they cross the S.P. tracks. Mother's mother, Mrs. Dooling, owned a ranch on upper Twenty-Third Street, where Richmond High School is now.

My dear parents are buried in St. Joseph Cemetery in San Pablo.

Joc Savill
Burlingame

A SEARCH FOR OLD ACQUAINTANCES . . .

These letters came to the Mayor's office from people in England and France who are trying to locate "missing" friends here:

I wonder if I could impose upon your time, and ask you to do me a favour, rather unusual for you, but which would be much appreciated by me.

In the days of my youth, in the distant past of the middle twenties, I had a brief but very pleasant period in my life. I started a correspondence with a girl pen friend in your country. Although I have no material record to help me, I remember the address (I hope) which was: 239 Sixth Street, Richmond, California.

Her name was Elizabeth Whitney, and the only photograph I had was in a college (or school) magazine. . . At that tender age I thought she was lovely.

Could you please help me by investigating whether the lady is still alive, and, I sincerely hope, well.

Albert Edward Johnson
Flat 5 D, The Green
Hartford, Northwich,
Cheshire, England
CW 8 1 QA

I take the liberty to write you this letter because I hope you to help me finding my aunt, if you please.

Since two years, I didn't receive letters coming from Annie Gnetta, living in Richmond, 86 ost 43 Rd. (?) (She is 85 years old), her husband being my mother's brother.

I send letters to her children (Edouard and Edwin, 69, 70 years old), without any answers (I wrote in Italian). . . Thanks a lot for your assistance.

Neveux Tierrine
Rue de l'Eglise
54540 Vacqueville
France