

# THIS POINT

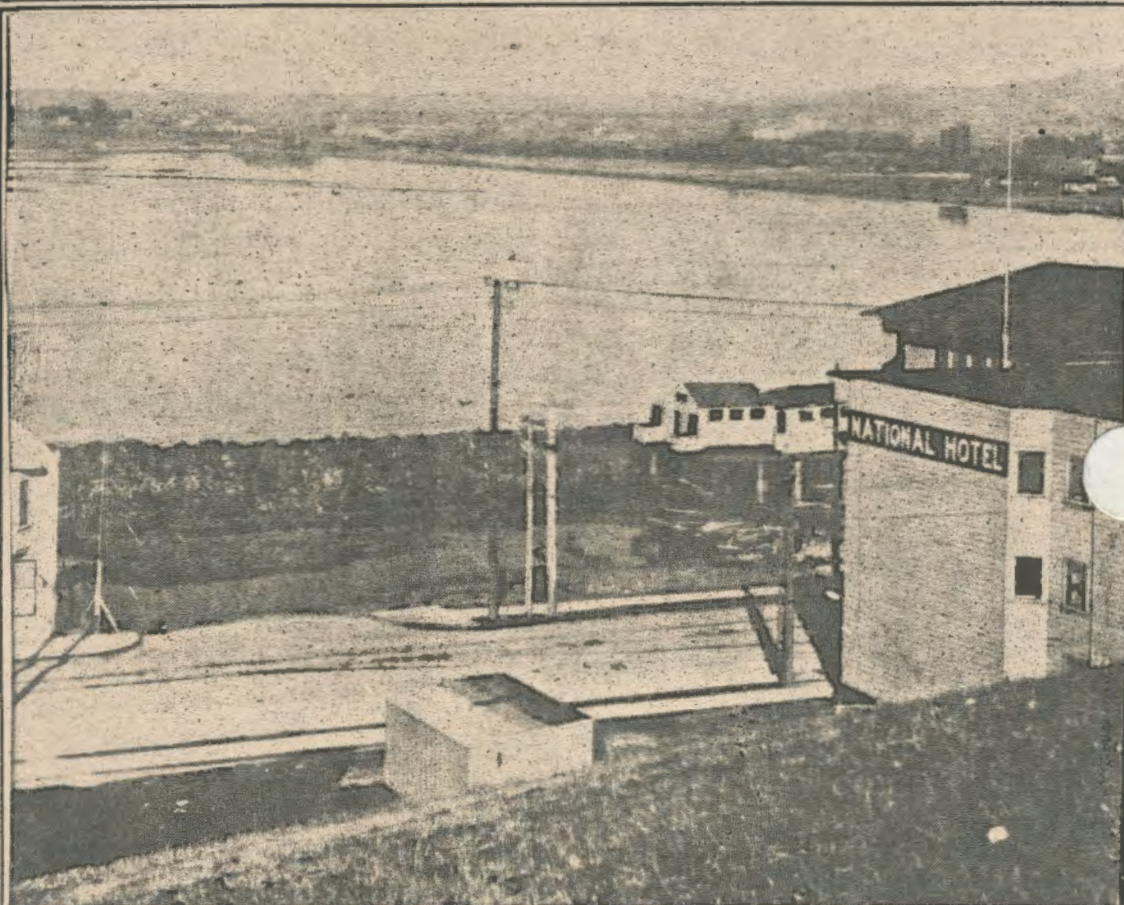
NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Vol. III, no. 6

February, 1985

75 cents



AN EARLY PICTURE OF STANDARD AVENUE, Don Church collection

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## in time



## VALENTINE GREETINGS



### A COMING OUT PARTY

A debutante sweet is she

now,

To society she makes her

bow;

In a year and a day,

She will be called *passé*,

And by her best friends that

I vow!

Copyright 1906 by Raphael Tuck & Sons Co. Ltd.

Card, 1906, from Mona Freeman



# • HISTORY ASSOCIATION NOTES •

## NAMES IN BRONZE FOR THE MINI PARK

Donations are now being accepted for the mini park surrounding the Statue. Donations of \$200+ will be memorialized by a plaque on the third side of the pedestal.

When sending your donation, please specify clearly how you wish the name printed on the plaque.

Donations may be sent to:  
Point Richmond History Association  
c/o Mae Mandl  
808 Western Drive  
Pt. Richmond, CA 94801

## INDIAN STATUE MINI-PARK

We have a small committee ready to go to work, and as soon as coordination with the Point Business Association and the City Recreation and Parks Department is accomplished, we will begin meeting. Lucretia Edwards has done considerable groundwork in planning and funding, which will provide a basis for decisions to be made by the committee. (If you wish to help, call 235-4222.)

Early donations are encouraged, so that the committee will know the approximate financial resources available to work with.

## TOURS:

A group of representatives of the Innisfree Company, builders of "The Brickyard" condominiums, were given a walking tour by the History Association recently. In appreciation, they contributed \$75 to the Association!

Periodically, we provide an historical guide to the Sierra Club hikes through the Point. The most recent guided tour was January 19.

## MARCH MEETING . . .

### EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CHINESE SHRIMP CAMP

The March meeting will be held in Linsley Hall at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 28.

We plan to have as our featured speaker John Holson, of Dave Chavez & Associates, who was under contract to the U. S. Navy to do a cultural resources inventory of the Point Molate area. He 'dug up' much heretofore scattered information, especially about the Shrimp Camp. Come and be the first to learn about the settlement and operation of the historic Chinese Shrimp Camp in its entirety.

(The joint meeting with other area historical groups will be postponed until later in the year, due to lack of time to plan the event. Sorry.)

## HISTORIC BUILDING PLAQUES

This committee will meet soon to begin the research and planning necessary to accomplish this long-term project. Anyone interested in assisting on this committee may call Mid Dornan at 234-5334.

## MEMBERS . . .

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

*Bob and Jan Burdick  
Bonita C. Klivans  
Robert Larson*

And welcome to the following new members:

*V.J. Bredemeier                      Mable G. Howell  
Sonja Darling                        Myrna Wishart*

*(Please let us know if we have made any mistakes or omissions in the membership lists.)*



## JANUARY MEETING . . .

Time in a bottle? Of course, if you were Sonny Jackson, our January speaker, that's where you would find and keep it. Although his collection of some 150 old bottles also includes medicine, milk and other types, Sonny chose some of his soda water containers to point up a small segment of early Point Richmond history.

Using his award winning paper on the Richmond Soda Works as his theme, Sonny took us on a journey through the years between 1902 and 1924, as written in *The Life and Times of the Soda Bottling Company Started by Reuben H. Curry*.

His research on bottles embossed variously "Point Richmond" and "Santa Fe", as their points of origin, took him to the *Santa Fe Times* and (anyone remember this?) the old *Record Herald* and commercial and real estate directories of that bygone era. Listed variously as the Richmond Soda Works, Quality Soda Works and bottlers of Napa Rock and Peerless Ginger Ale, the company occupied quarters on Ohio Street, an area apparently included in the Santa Fe tract and considered part of early Point Richmond.

While admitting that some of his treasured bottles and "go-with" historical items were purchased in antique shops in locations all over California, Sonny notes that many were found in local digs at construction sites. He claims, however, the richest sources of all are former locations of that former necessity to all households, the outhouse. These structures were often used not only as sanitary facilities but as convenient family dump sites. In this regard, Point Richmond should be a gold mine for collectors of bottles and other artifacts of early times, according to Sonny.

Point residents at the meeting were also delighted to browse through Sonny's scrapbooks of photos, post cards, checks and other memorabilia compiled as historical backup to his bottle collection.

—Frankie Greenlaw



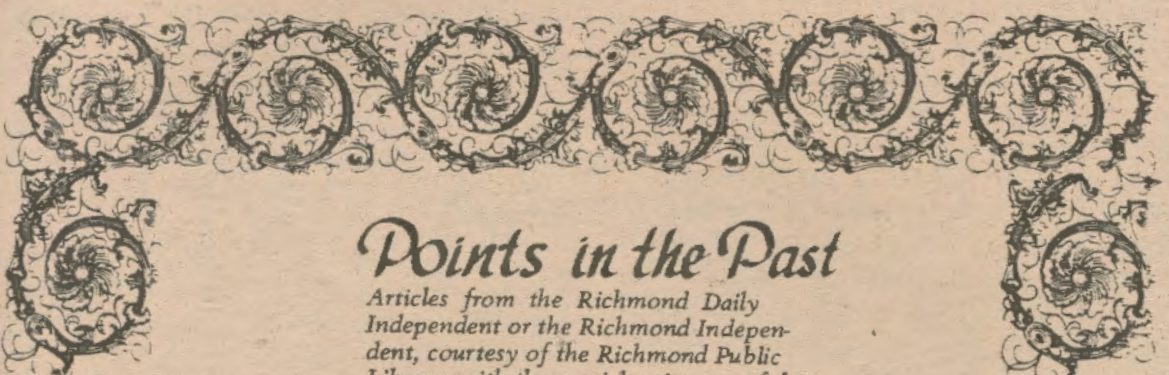
*The completed municipal tunnel late in 1915  
as it looked from the Bay side.  
(Don Church Collection)*

## AREA HISTORY SOCIETY NOTES

The San Pablo Museum Society has published the book, *Journey to a Distant Shore* by Frances Conley; an account of the Anza expedition of 1776 to settle San Francisco. They also published her first historical book, *First Families*, the story of the Castros of Rancho San Pablo. Both are available at the San Pablo Museum.

The El Cerrito Historical Society has published a calendar featuring 14 historical photographs of El Cerrito. They may still be available at El Cerrito City Hall.





## Points in the Past

Articles from the Richmond Daily Independent or the Richmond Independent, courtesy of the Richmond Public Library, with the special assistance of the reference librarians.

### 70 YEARS AGO ...

#### TERRIFIC STORM DAMAGE

"Many thousands of dollars damage was done in Richmond by what is claimed to be the worst rain and wind storm of the past 20 years for the state. Leaving in its wake devastation and wreckage, a fifty mile wind blew an almost steady sheet of rain almost continuously up to last evening.

"One of the most destructive works of the storm was the carrying away of the new work pier of the Santa Fe depot in pieces, which resulted in a loss of more than \$6,000 according to an estimate made last night by agent W.B. Trull, of the Santa Fe company.

"The Schooner Wavelet, belonging to the Oliver Salt Company Oakland, which drifted from Berkeley, where it was moored, was washed to Richmond and with her mast almost parallel to the sea was sent crashing into the waiting station on the Santa Fe Pier, ramming a hole through the building, but injuring no one.

"Many hundreds of feet of fence surrounding the various parts of the Standard Oil company went down before the gale.

"Advertising signs in many parts of the city were knocked over including the sign of the Ellis Landing company, to which objection was made to the city council several weeks ago."

—February 3, 1915

#### IMPROMPTU POINT CONCERT

"Those who happened to be in the waiting room of the Santa Fe company at Ferry Point yesterday afternoon enjoyed a rare musical treat. Between trains, Professor Marious, well known musician, took his violin from his case, and played for more than a quarter of an hour . . . passengers and members of the office force at Ferry Point enjoyed the occasion very much."

—February 5, 1915

#### NEW JUSTICE BUILDING TO BE CONSTRUCTED

"It was announced yesterday that the work of tearing down the Justice court building, on (11) Park Place, Point Richmond, will begin within the next seven days. Bids are to be called for and given out for the construction of an \$8000 edifice which will be a two story office and apartment building, pressed brick front and brick walls."

—February 5, 1915

#### IN THE DAYS BEFORE TV

"Another distinction is now Richmond's. A report compiled by the State board of health shows that Richmond is second in the state for number of births to every 1000 of population. Only Watsonville leads in this respect.

"The birthrate, based on a population of 20,000 for 1914 was 14.5 per 100."

—February 5, 1915



## THE AIRING OF SOME DIRTY LAUNDRY

"Albert L. Hall, driver for the Richmond Home Laundry had the narrowest escape from death that a man can well have and live to tell about it. While driving on Scenic avenue, a gust of wind came up, and blew wagon, horse and driver off from the slippery edge of the road down the hill.

"Damage was done to the wagon, but outside of a few minor bruises, Hall was able to pick himself up and walk away as before the accident. It was necessary to bring help to get the horse separated from the wagon and on its feet."

*-February 10, 1915*

## TUNNEL UPDATE

"At a conference last night with members of the firm of Shattuck and Eddinger . . . (and) the city council it was decided that work on the paving of the bore would not be delayed.

"As the time of the contractors is nearly up, they will be granted an extension, and as soon as they have the base leveled, and sidewalks laid, will proceed with the laying of the pavement. . . More conferences, with regard to the laying of the tracks and details regarding franchises, will be held before the completion, which will be some time in May."

*-February 18, 1915*

## "EXPOSITION OPENED YESTERDAY WITH BLAZE OF GLORY"

"Travel from Richmond yesterday broke all records, and all doubts that this section would take an active interest in the (Panama-Pacific International) Exposition faded to nothingness in the early hours of yesterday morning.

"Awakened by the shrieking whistles of the local factories, added to by the clanging of local fire bells and whistles, Richmond aroused itself early in the morning, and all

during the day flocked to the Exposition grounds.

"In the evening, Nicholl Knob, and other hills commanding a view of the Exposition grounds, were thronged with people who watched the fireworks on the Exposition grounds from Richmond.

"Jewel tower, splendidly lighted, was plainly visible, set amid a sparkling city of light surrounding it, and making of it a thing of rare beauty, even at the distance of across the bay.

"The people of Richmond and of Contra Costa county in general were greatly pleased when they visited the county exhibit in the California Building at the Exposition.

"Richmond people . . . recognized this city's space immediately from far down the aisles by mammoth pictures of the Standard Oil plant and the Pullman works, prominently labeled with the name of the city . . . The Los Angeles Pressed Brick people worked until 10 o'clock last night to get their beautiful exhibit completed. It is in one corner of the Richmond section and is admired by everybody.

"A large gilt sign announcing Richmond as a manufacturing and shipping city is to extend entirely across the back of the Richmond space. A panorama of the city today, panoramas of the outer water front and the Inner Harbor, of the Santa Fe shops and other features will be added."

*-February 21, 1915*

## CHANNEL OWNERSHIP DISPUTE

"Work on the Richmond Inner Harbor Channel was stopped yesterday . . . The reason is a suit filed by the Bay Counties Land company or the Morgan Oyster company, as it is known here, against the city enjoining against the work now in progress in making the inner harbor channel."



"The principal contention is that the land company has a patent to the land since 1868. They offered proof to show that in 1910 they had planted some oysters, and enclosed the channel with a force. This was in an attempt to establish ownership.

"It is the city's claim that the land is submerged and is not subject to private ownership."

—February 5 & 25, 1915

## 60 YEARS AGO . . .

### COST OF LIVING

"Despite the high cost of living, the average Californian above the age of 21 can actually be maintained with food, clothing and shelter necessary to life for a year at a minimum cost of \$485," according to L.E. Ross, director of the state bureau of vital statistics."

—February 6, 1925

### BUSTED!

"Because he was arrested the second time within two months on charges of violating the Wright Act, Michael O'Keefe of 507 Ocean Avenue must serve 500 days in the county jail. Police raided his place last night and after finding a quantity of jackass brandy, Michael and his son, William O'Keefe, were taken into custody.

"Michael O'Keefe, who is 72 years old, was fined \$500 for the first offense, and he was released on his promise to pay the fine. However, he failed to pay the fine, and upon his arrest yesterday, commitment papers were immediately issued for his incarceration. . . He was taken to Martinez to serve the sentence last night."

—February 11, 1925

### CEREDONI BUYS PULSE GROCERY

"Pulse Brothers, pioneer grocers on the West Side, have sold out their business (at 147 West Richmond Avenue) to Charles Ceredoni (50 Nicholl Avenue), former Rich-

mond police officer. . . Pulse Brothers have engaged in the grocery business here for more than 15 years, and have been identified with civic and business affairs through much of the growth of Richmond. . . Ceredoni is a pioneer West Side resident. Prior to serving on the police force he engaged in various lines of business."

—February 12, 1925

### FOILED AGAIN

"Tired and disgusted with life, Clarence Boyd, 46, of San Francisco, sought death by jumping in front of a Santa Fe switch engine on Richmond Avenue near the Santa Fe tunnel Saturday evening, but the suicide attempt was frustrated when the standing board of the engine threw him off the tracks."

—February 16, 1925

### BIG BLAST HERE

"Five Standard Oil employees received superficial burns . . . in a gas explosion in the hold of the Standard Oil tanker Lubrico, tied up at the Standard Oil long wharf here Saturday night. The blast was heard throughout the city."

"The Lubrico was being cleaned out to carry a kind of oil different from that she had been carrying. The open hold had been washed out with distillate and the crew was busy finishing up the cleaning when the blast occurred. All were about the rim of the hatchway when an electric drop light placed in the hold broke . . . and the gas fumes were ignited."

—February 16, 1925

### SEWER LINES

"The city council last night decided to proceed with plans to change the location of the outfall of the sanitary sewer . . . City Engineer E.A. Hoffman was instructed to prepare estimates of the cost of extending the sanitary sewer farther down Tenth street, and meanwhile the city council members



will make a trip of inspection to the waterfront Wednesday afternoon to determine where the sewer should dump into the channel."

—February 17, 1925

#### **RICHMOND POPULATION INCREASES**

"The population of Richmond is approximately four times as great now as it was in 1910... The census of 1910 gave Richmond a population of 6,802.

"The 1920 census showed Richmond had 16,843 population. The estimate of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce for 1925 gives Richmond a population of 27,000 in round numbers. This figure is believed to be conservative."

—February 17, 1925

#### **PLUNGE BIDS TOO HIGH**

"Plans for the Richmond municipal natorium will be redrawn to eliminate some of the 'frills' and 'luxuries', and new bids will be called for in an effort to bring the cost of the structure within the \$85,000 bond issue, it was announced today by City Manager J.A. McVittie."

"The council was disappointed last Monday night when some 35 bids were opened, and it was found that the lowest of them was \$18,000 over the \$85,000 bond issue, with \$12,000 more required for a pipe line bringing the total excess to \$30,000 more than the funds available."

—February 23, 1925

#### **50 YEARS AGO...**

#### **FIENDISH KILLER AT LARGE**

"Local authorities today redoubled efforts to apprehend the West Side dog poisoner who has killed four valuable pets in that district during the past week.

"The latest victim of the fiendish killer was a pure-bred Boston bull terrier valued at \$125, owned by F.P. Morgan of 9 West Richmond avenue... Earlier yesterday after-

noon, Charles Miller of 25 Idaho avenue, reported that his pet animal had suffered a similar fate.

"The other two victims of the killer were valuable dogs owned by Michael Ruhling of 39 Washington avenue and G. Grosse of 8 Eddy street."

—February 9, 1935

#### **PTA PROGRAM**

"The combination Lincoln's birthday and Founders' day programs of the P.T.A. drew a large crowd of visitors to Washington school on Tuesday afternoon of this week. A program was presented by the children of the school, in the nature of a pageant representing the months of the year, and in the end honoring the month of February because of the noted events of this month.

"Mrs. Margret Allyn then gave an address of welcome and an outline of P.T.A. work since it was founded in 1927. Mrs. Rose Dingle, association president, added her word of welcome and presented the beautiful birthday cake, with its unlighted candles, and called on the past presidents of Washington P.T.A. to light them and dedicate each particular candle to someone of importance in school work."

—February 15, 1935

#### **MORE SEWER LINES**

"Installation of a new sewer to connect the Washington school with the city sewer on Cutting boulevard was ordered by the Richmond board of education yesterday afternoon.

"It was pointed out that when the Washington school was built in the early days of the city it was connected to an old sewer line that emptied into Ellis slough. As this property has not been filled, the sewer is blocked and a serious condition has arisen. The school is below the level of the Richmond avenue sewer, which was installed in later years.



"The city also plans to connect the bandstand at Washington park with the Cutting boulevard sewer at the same time."

—February 20, 1935

### SAVE THE FERRY

"In an effort to save at least something of the San Francisco ferry service to Richmond, the city council last night adopted resolutions rescinding the old lease granted to the Southern Pacific Golden Gate Ferries, Ltd., on a ferry slip on the outer harbor, and agreed to a new lease on a year to year basis at \$1 a year, with the understanding that the ferry company will continue to operate at least two round trip ferries daily.

"The company claims to have sustained a heavy operating loss each year since the ferry line was established."

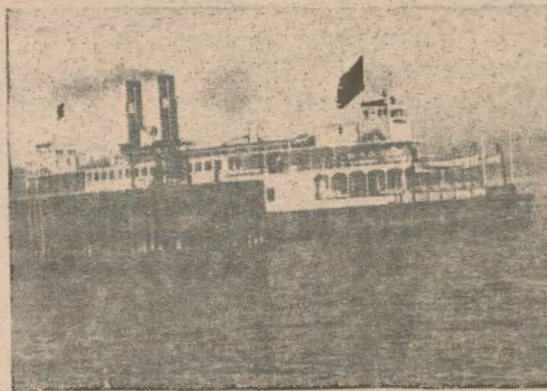
—February 26, 1935

### ACADEMY AWARDS

Claudette Colbert and Clark Gable won the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences awards for the best motion picture performances of 1934. "Shirley Temple, not yet six years old, was honored by academy members who decided she had held up her head among the greatest stars of the screen in not less than six major productions last year."

—February 28, 1935

—Teresa Albro



The Ferry San Pedro in 1911  
(Don Church collection)

### 40 YEARS AGO . . .

#### SOPHIE TUCKER- LAUNCHING SPONSOR

"Sophie Tucker, long-time vaudeville star, sponsored a Victory ship, S.S. Grinnell Victory launched this afternoon at Yard 2.

"Named for the Grinnell University of Grinnell, Ia., the Victory is the 660th ship out of the four Richmond yards."

—February 14, 1945

#### POINT BAPTISTS MEET

"Point Baptist Ladies Aid members will convene Thursday evening at the home of Mrs. C.C. Folkman, 976 Thirty-second street. Mrs. Robert Hamilton will preside.

—February 20, 1945

#### OUR LADY OF MERCY WHIST SLATED

"Our Lady of Mercy parish will stage a whist party Thursday at 8:30 p.m. it was announced today.

"Prizes for every table with a special award also are slated. Mrs. Bessie Pruitt and Miss Louise Novarini are in charge of the event."

February 20, 1945

### 30 YEARS AGO . .

#### DOOR TO DOOR CANVASS FOR DOGS

88

"The city's dog license canvass will move to the Point Richmond area Thursday, according to Deputy Tax Collector Robert W. Ellis.

"Ellis said today is the last day for city solicitors in the area east of San Pablo Avenue to the city limits. A license for a female is \$4. Males are \$2 and spayed females are \$2."

—February 9, 1955

Classified ad, Feb. 2, 1915:

SALOON and bowling alley  
for sale. 47 Washington Av.



## METHODIST WSCS MEETS

"The Women's Society of Christian Service, First Methodist Church of Pt. Richmond will meet in the home of Mrs. W.P. Dennis, 719 Golden Gate avenue tomorrow at 8 p.m.

"Mrs. Helen Williams has been asked to speak on the history of Richmond."

—February 8, 1955

## BRIDGE VIEW SITE OUT OF AQUATIC PARK PLAN

"The board of supervisors yesterday afternoon formally approved a report of the county planning commission eliminating the bridge view site in Richmond from the county master aquatic park plan.

"The bridge view site (near the Richmond slip of the Richmond-San Rafael ferry) was protested by the Blake Brothers Company, operators of a nearby quarry and owners of some of the land involved in the park site."

—February 2, 1955



## 20 YEARS AGO . . .

### KNOX MEETS SPOCK

"To the delight of Mrs. John Knox when she and her husband had dinner at the Governor's house . . . a distinguished guest was Dr. Benjamin Spock, authority on child care, growth and development. [They] have a mutual interest in nursery school programs and, of course, there was a spirited exchange of ideas on the subject.

"Mrs. Knox also took greetings to the author . . . from Lucretia Edwards. Lucretia, a former member of the personnel board and

now on the Human Relations Commission, studied under Dr. Spock at the child study center at Vassar in the mid-forties when Dr. Spock was just emerging."

—February 6, 1965

## PIERCE POINTS OUT QUARRY DANGER

"A quarry operation which he fears will scar Point Richmond as well as affect all the city adversely has drawn an angry blast from City Councilman David M. Pierce.

"Pierce challenged the application of O.C. Jones and Sons, Berkeley contractors, seeking a permit to quarry on Richfield Oil Co. property on Canal boulevard.

"... Planning Director Ernest Henderson said that Jones has modified his original plan and will now leave a knife-edged ridge between the bay and the city. The rest of the land would be leveled and eventually be used as a base for oil storage tanks."

—February 10, 1965

## CIVIC GROUP AGAINST QUARRY PLAN

"Opposition to any further quarrying around Pt. Richmond has been voiced by the Pt. Richmond Civic Group, according to Vice President David Hippolito.

"... the group declared that 'No further quarry permits should be issued (in the area between Canal street and Garrard boulevard) until building permits are issued for the land presently available, since further quarrying could continue until there are no hills left.'

"Preservation of the ridge line which presently protects the city from much fog and wind is the reason the group gives for its opposition to more quarrying.

"It was also pointed out that more than five acres have already been prepared for building and tank sites."

—February 16, 1965

—Pam Wilson



## EARLY DAYS IN POINT RICHMOND

### THE CHILDREN'S VIEW

*An interview with Bill and Charles Berk  
and their sister Grace Spencer*

Memories of childhood have a very special quality that is unlike any other memory. Brilliant colors, vivid sounds and pungent smells make up these memories — special moments encapsulated for all time.

Return now to the early days of this century when Richmond incorporated and became a place name in California. Raised wooden sidewalks lined the unpaved streets. New shops opened along the avenues with high hopes for success in "the Pittsburgh of the West".

Grace and her little friend, Peter, rolled down the hills on these wooden walkways as they laughed and shrieked with dizzy delight. Even today Grace laughs as she recalls these childish occupations. Her tall, slender frame and demure manner appear far removed from the silliness of rolling on wooden sidewalks.

Indeed, each of us has a memory that shimmers in the light of childhood. Charles Berk recalls the heavy wooden rowboat, number seven, tied up in the slough near Bulldog Joe's. No one seemed to own number seven so the kids around town used it for fishing and exploring the bay.

"There weren't any marinas in those days," Bill Berk recalled. "Bulldog Joe and Crazy Charlie did repairs and watched the boats. They tied them up to a piece of concrete and let them float out there. Bulldog Joe had a half dozen bulldogs which was good protection for the boats."

When the old Point Richmond Opera House closed down, they moved the advertisement covered stage curtain to Maple Hall

"Bulldog" Joe Smith  
(Don Church collection)



on Ohio Street. Soon Maple Hall fell into disrepair and stopped operations. Bill remembers the heavy canvas curtain which he and his friends removed from Maple Hall. They cut it to size and mounted it as a sail on old number seven.

"We sailed all over the bay," he recounted, "but we could go only one way with the sail up — back to shore. We couldn't go against the wind that would always blow toward the shore.

"We would row out to Brooks Island. There was a small island alongside of it about 50 feet long. We would fish off of it and catch all the fish we wanted."

Brooks Island was a busy place in those days which is in sharp contrast to the silent brooding sanctuary we know today. One side of the island rocked with the raucous squealing of pigs whenever their keepers delivered



slop from San Francisco. On the opposite side, the sounds of a quarry completed the discordant sound of Brooks Island.

The children knew of the Indian burial ground on the island. But Indian relics and remains were commonplace all over the Point.

Among the extraordinary happenings around Point Richmond Bill remembers the digging of the car/pedestrian tunnel. For many years both children and adults used the railroad tunnel with dire results. People had been killed and maimed by trains in the long dark tunnel. The railroad established a guard at the town end but swift, wiry children eluded him with inevitable success.

The new municipal tunnel's completion would mean carefree access to the shoreline. When the news broke that the workers had made an opening at the end of the tunnel, Bill sneaked into the burrow and made his way to the far end. Here workers confronted him just as he placed his foot on the step-ladder below the opening.

"They raised the devil with me," Bill recalls. "What was I doing inside the tunnel. But they let me climb the stepladder and then told me not to come back. So I had the satisfaction of climbing through the tunnel long before it was opened."

Getting to the shore became a childhood pursuit for the Berk boys. When Richmond completed municipal wharf number one, which promised a future as the world's busiest port, the city fathers never realized the immense fish habitat they had created. Under the pilings Bill and Charlie found poggies, shiners, rock cod, tom cod and crabs. The crabs turned Bill into a one-day tycoon.

During crab mating season, he noticed that with ease he could remove two crabs at a time from between the stones under the wharf. Within a very short while Bill filled a large sack. With visions of coins, he

headed for the barbershop in Point Richmond. When the patrons saw the crawling load, they eagerly paid ten cents apiece for the crabs.

The next day Bill returned to the barbershop with a second crab sack. But he found an unwelcome greeting. It seems that mating crabs lose their meat and become mostly liquid. So the barber chased him away for "taking money under false pretenses".

The stores along Washington Avenue and Park Place held special interest for children. Charlie's Butcher shop carried typical German meats. Grace remembers how he'd give the children a small wiener while their mother bought some meat.

Then, of course, there was Casey's store — a children's paradise of sweets.

"We'd have a nickel," Bill said. "Mrs. Casey knew my mother very well and she would always give us an extra piece of candy for our nickel. The Casey boys were real popular around town."

The bank was on the corner of Washington and West Richmond, with McWhorter's grocery store. Other businesses in town included the Kenney Brothers' Cigar Store, McDuff's Hotel, Gerlach's Todd Hotel, and of course the Berk's hardware store.

The hardware store carried a wide selection of goods to fit the needs of a growing city. For the horsedrawn wagons the elder Berk stocked axel grease, horseshoes and harness straps. Naturally he offered a complete line of pots and pans, stovepipes, nails and sheetmetal. There was even leather to sole shoes, in the days before a cobbler shop was established.

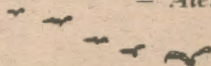
The Berks remember the great interior of the shop lighted by gasoline lamps that were cleaned daily by the children. Mr. Berk kept the large wooden counters polished to a bright shine.



He was always ready to assist in building projects for families in need. Together with the minister and congregation, he installed the furnace in the new Methodist Church.

These early remembrances fill the time before the Great War and Prohibition. These are the cherished memories of the very young when life had its beginnings in Richmond.

— Alexandra Gautraud



## LETTERS

*(Excerpts from a letter written to the Masquers accompanying a contribution for their building fund.)*

My thoughts go back to how it was in 1910 - 17 - 18. Henry Riegut (sp) was the butcher at the top of Richmond Ave. Tony Brazil and family had the Creamery across the street with huge cans of milk on shelves. If you wanted a quart they would put a gallon on their shoulder and pour it out for you!

I think there was an Elks Club upstairs in that block., too. At the corner of Richmond and Washington Ave. was the Mechanics Bank. Further down on Richmond Ave. was McWhorter's Grocery Store and next to that was our first Movie House with Mr. Livingston as Mgr. and David Horowitz Cleaning and Dyeing.

At the corner farther down and across from the Santa Fe Station (W. Richmond and Railroad Ave.) was Henry Sirrenberg's Saloon, and across from the Santa Fe Station was the "Redlight District" - about five houses which we passed to reach grammar school. We were warned to go right past fast, as they were "bad women". My mother told us. We lived on Idaho Street.

On Washington Ave. we went to Trinity Episcopal Church where I played the organ and sang in the choir. It has a beautiful window in it. I wonder if it is still there.

Neidecker's Drug Store was across from the Indian Fountain on Washington, and on Park Place there was a photographer with quite a long black beard.

Ruth Adair Brown  
Sacramento



*Memories of a former CampFire Girl Leader . . .*

I remember about fifty years ago I started the Camp Fire Girls at the Point. We rented a store. The younger girls used the store part and the older girls used the upper floor. There was an old fashioned wood stove upstairs and one of those old toilets that you pulled a long chain from the top. While we were getting the building ready, a couple of boys came and wanted to join the CampFire Girls. They saw the fun we were having. There wasn't much for girls to do in those days, which is why I started the group.

The girls had a wonderful time. We used the Natatorium and learned to swim. Honors were assigned for skills: Pollywogs: learning to swim; Fish: distance swimming, and Flying Fish: diving.

At one of our parties, the younger group made the cake. One of the older girls put her finger in and sampled the icing, which didn't go well with the youngster who made the cake.

Once we sold doughnuts for fundraising. One of the patrons called the police because her bag didn't have a full dozen doughnuts. (The girl got hungry on her sales route!)

After a get together at Camp Meeker, a Vallejo girl who had been our bugler entertained us by blowing her bugle in the Municipal tunnel. Then we parked behind the lovers at Kozy Kove and she played "Reveille". A policeman stopped us to look for a boy with a bugle. When he saw only girls he was surprised because it was such beau-



## POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

tiful playing. But he said a doctor had complained because he couldn't sleep with all the noise. So when we got back to the Camp Fire store we didn't play Taps that night in respect for the doctor.

Once when we were having a Camp Fire Ceremonial at Kozy Kove, some boys uphill rolled a large stone down at us. I told the girls to run for the water. The stone did hit where we had been, tearing to pieces one of the girls' coats.

I could go on with stories of the Camp Fire Girls, but this is enough.

Best Wishes

Maude Wood, Richmond

-00-

Gregg Wheatley sent a copy of a 1934 S.F. Examiner, showing many raids on radical groups. He says, "In 1934 there were widespread strikes in California by Communist Unions . . . food strikes, shipping strikes, stores closed. There was a food shortage." The articles include on about Richmond, entitled "Richmond Red Haven Wrecked" and telling of the bombing of an alleged Communist headquarters on Twelfth Street.

-00-



*Railroad Avenue  
in 1911, when it  
was "going strong"  
(Don Church  
collection)*

On January 10, 1985, the Neighborhood Council held a rousing quarterly meeting to start off the new year. Over 60 people attended the meeting at the Pt. Richmond Community Center. A wide range of topics was covered; interesting speakers and an interested audience kept the meeting moving at a fast pace. Some of the topics discussed included:

**WEST CONTRA COSTA BAYSHORE COUNCIL:** Tom Butt described the development and purpose of the Bayshore Council. The organization was formed to deal with the problems and opportunities of the Richmond shoreline from Pt. Isabel to Pt. San Pablo. The current issue being addressed is the proposed Petromark expansion. The Neighborhood Council has voted to oppose the expansion. We are working cooperatively with the Bayshore Council to halt a requested pipeline encroachment across Dornan Drive. If approved this pipeline would enable Petromark to greatly expand its tank



farm. The encroachment request is being considered, according to latest information, at the February 27 City Council meeting. It is extremely important that the entire community attend. We may not have another opportunity to halt the expansion of a highly undesirable tank farm in our community and ensure that toxic materials are not stored at the site.

**UNDERGROUNDING UTILITIES:** Martin McNair provided an update on our request that the City explore the possibility of undergrounding utilities in the Point, under PG&E's Rule 20-A. PG&E has put aside 3.2 million dollars and an additional \$450,000 is provided annually to underground existing utilities in Richmond. The City has approved the establishment of a committee to study the situation and make recommendations for the use of the money. The committee is to be composed of representatives from the utility companies and the City Department of Public Works. A letter has been sent to the Department of Public Works to encourage their expedient planning and reiterate our interest in undergrounding utilities in Point Richmond.

**TISCORNIA - SHEEHAN PROPERTY:** Marc Peppard. The City has granted a contract to Wagstaff and Brady to develop a specific plan and Environmental Impact Report for this area of Point Richmond. Sheila Brady discussed the approach her firm will use in developing the plan and report. An advisory group composed of two representatives from the Neighborhood Council, two from landowners of the involved property and three City staff members will work with Ms. Brady. Our representatives will be Lucretia Edwards and Marc Peppard.

**BRICKYARD LANDING:** Margie Felcher, Project Director for this development discussed the project. Two hundred forty-one condominiums in four buildings are under

construction and approximately 50% complete.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Trash on Pacific Avenue is a real eyesore. We will discuss clean-up options with the City Manager's office. We have a great part-time library next door to the Community Center. Librarian Jan Burdick invites everyone to stop by and 'check it out'.

Now is the time to become an active member of the Neighborhood Council! Membership dues can now be paid for 1985: \$3.00 per person, \$5.00 per couple. Your financial and moral support is needed to work effectively in behalf of our community. Checks should be made out to: "Point Richmond Neighborhood Council, and sent to the Council, in care of Richmond Municipal Natatorium, Pt. Richmond, CA 94801.

The Council Executive Committee meets at 8 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Community Center. This is an open meeting and anyone is welcome to attend. The next general membership meeting will be held on April 11; this will be our official Annual Meeting. Thank you all for your support!

—Janet Lyons, President.





## A-MID TRIVIA

Good old George Washington must be spinning — his birthday has been changed to convenient Mondays . . . the dollar bill with his picture is now worth about 35 cents . . . and nothing during his presidency could be blamed on a previous administration.

-O-

Putting the "Merrie" into Christmas was Kazia Naves, sister of Teresa Albro, from Boston, who spent the holidays visiting the Albros and other local family members.

-O-

Who was quietly headed for 'outer Richmond' in the dark of night a few weeks ago, removing an unwanted immigrant from the Point? . . . The intruder, a troublesome opossum, was taken to better hunting grounds, where he will not cause sleepless hours, anxiety and concern about the noisy nesting habits under and between the walls! (Thanks, Rosy!) Since the opossum was exported, five more were trapped and have joined their relative.

-O-

Are you aware that if you have a problem with 'wild animals', i.e., opossums and raccoons, etc., you must contact Napa or the Fish and Game Department in Yountville to get assistance!

-O-

Belated *Congratulations* to Florence and Fremont Fenton of Ocean Avenue on their sixty-third wedding anniversary! These two are the perennial lovebirds! Wonderful.

-O-

Congratulations too, to Jim and Virginia Spillman, who celebrated their fiftieth anniversary at the Point Community Center on January 12. A large gathering of neighbors and relatives had the opportunity of sharing in the festive occasion. Virginia especially enjoyed the fact that people of all ages participated. Scenic Avenue neighbors who

enjoy the Spillman's hospitality and neighborliness, and relatives from as far away as Dallas, Texas were there. Grandsons Steven, Scott and Jason were among family members honoring the Spillmans.

-O-

Don't know what to do with those Betty Crocker coupons? The Methodist Church in the Point needs them for silverware they are purchasing. Drop them off at the Church or parsonage, or call 234-5334.

-O-

Dagmar Francis thanks everyone for the cards and calls while she was ill. It was a leg not hip, that was broken as reported.

-O-

Having more than her share of misfortune is Oretta Eaton. According to her, the broken leg is more of a handicap than two broken wrists of last year. It has delayed her scheduled trip to Phoenix.

-O-

Claire Friend of Crest Avenue unwillingly admitted to herself and herself to a hospital for care of an injured hip. Good luck!

-O-

Look up next time you pass the church. And, if its the Methodist church, you'll see something new. The original zinc ball on the steeple toppled years ago, but was restored and reset with the cross and flame logo, when the steeple was reroofed last month.

-O-

When he was baptised in the Point Methodist Church in December, four month old Robert Clayton Barnes was the fourth generation to be baptised in the church. His great-grandmother, Trannie Freeman Dornan was baptised in 1908 by Rev. Calfee; his late grandfather, Robert Dornan was baptised in 1922; and his mother Kathleen in 1950 by the man known as "Mr. Methodist" Rev. Leon Loofbourow.

Coming from Lodi to perform the sacrament, was former minister and family friend, Rev. Darrell Thomas. The baptismal



gown was made by his great aunt Joyce Carlson of Cheyenne, Wyoming.

His father, Richard Barnes, also became a member of this historic church the same day. The Barnes live in Vermillion, South Dakota.

-o-

I can't imagine any New Year's eve celebration comparable to those given at 212 Bishop Alley and hosted by Donna and Rosy Roselius. The family affairs are unique and noteworthy because of the total involvement of those who come.

-o-

The Point welcomes the Charles Smith family who have moved into the Methodist parsonage on Nicholl Avenue. Charles and his wife Cathy have two daughters, Casie and Stacie, 13 and 15, and a four year old son, Zacharius, and the incredibly energetic Genevieve, Charles' mother.

After being rented for two years, the parsonage has been completely repainted inside, with new drapes, window coverings and kitchen floor covering; bathroom improvements, repairs to the leaded glass windows, and even a new clothes dryer.

Charles is a first year student at the Pacific School of Religion (PSR) in Berkeley.

-o-

Boy Scout Sunday is February 3, and everyone is invited to join this formidable group of uniformed young men with their parents and distinguished leaders, Fred Hart, Ben Woodson and George Mohr when they attend the Methodist Church services at 11 a.m. The scouting program in Richmond began at this church, with Jesse George, father of Marian Hawkins, as the first Scoutmaster.

-o-

Camp Fire Candy Time Again! OKIZU is the only group still active in the Point, led by Bev Price, and they will be knocking at your door. The girls get experience in

salesmanship, handling money, and public relations while earning money for their group activities. You can help them and treat yourself to candy or nuts, too!

-o-

A special Thank You to the Point Firemen who promptly reported the vandalized broken window at Richmond Supply Company, and good neighbor Karen Fenton for supplying the barricade to prevent children enroute to school from being hurt. A very pleasant policeman, Officer Martinez, who once lived in the Point, responded, and the glazier was none other than Point resident Leo former — a neighborly event.

-o-

It's time to transfer those name and address stickers from holiday letters and cards to your address book. . .

-o-

*Do YOU Remember When . . .*

. . . communicable diseases such as mumps, measles, chicken pox, etc. brought out someone from the Health Department who put a large red and white quarantine sign on the house to warn people not to enter? (Immunizations should be appreciated!)

. . . the postal department made TWO deliveries a day to each house. Also, if a letter was mailed at the Point Post Office by 11:00 one day it would be delivered in the midwest by noon the next day, for a six cent Air Mail stamp?

. . . the '20 years ago' column that was ancient history, but now seems recent, or even worse, you remember them like it was only yesterday?

-o-

*(Can you share some of your 'remember when's?')*

-o-

FOUND: A wedding ring, size 6½, hand-made, silver. Call Edna Delmore, 235-1935.



On January 27, friends and co-workers of Robert Butzbach gave him a festive retirement party at the Point Restaurant. A large crowd and several local bands participated in the send-off., after 34 years at Chevron.

#### DIED:

Paul A. Ciabattari, Sr., on January 19, at age 67. A native of Michigan, Paul was also a long time resident of the Point. He was a retired U.S. Post Office employee, after 25 years of service. He was also a veteran of the U.S. Army, having served in World War II.

Paul is survived by his daughter Arella Ciabattari of Aspen, Colorado, and a son, Paul Fr. of the Point; brothers Ardell of Richmond and Ted of Auburn, and two sisters, Florence and Vernetta Ciabattari, both of Point Richmond.

-O-

Richard F. Wilson, January 2. Richard came to California from Ohio when he was 9 years old. In August, 1948, he married Donna, and in 1957, purchased the home at 521 Western Drive, which he made his home until his death. He was proud of his daughters and joked that he "had to get up early to get into the bathroom first!" He liked to sing and was more than just a 'pillar' of the Point Baptist Church. He lived as a 24 hour a day Christian. An excellent carpenter, Richard was always available to help a neighbor or friend.

He is survived by his wife Donna, twin daughters Pam Wilson and Paula Ferguson, Peggy Danks of Richmond and Patrice Verhies of Stockton. He was the brother of Conrad Wilson, Lenore Thomas, Roy Wilson and Virginia Cadiente of Watsonville, Ray Wilson of Forest Hill, Bernard Wilson of Brawley, Cris Wilson of Richmond, Margaret Hopper of Sacramento, Lyman Wilson of Orange, and the late Helen Crim. Also he is

survived by 6 grandchildren. He was a member of the Point Baptist Church, Alpha Lodge of Masons of Richmond, Carpenters Union Local 642 and a Navy veteran of World War II. He was 57 years old.

-O-

Jack Creed died January 26 at the age of 76. A well known resident of Point Richmond, he was born in Colby, Wisconsin. He had been an electrician for the Pacific Railroad.

Mr. Creed was a member of the Point Methodist Church, and of several Mason Lodges, the Eagles, Jobs Daughters and the Scottish Rite.

Survivors include his wife Jean, sons David of Benicia and Theodore of Rodeo; daughters Nina Berry of El Sobrante and Fern Eastman of San Pablo.

-O-

Leo Matteucci died January 24 at the age of 68. He was a native Point Richmonder, and a lifetime resident. He had been a welder at Chevron. He was a member of Our Lady of Mercy Church, and belonged to the Eagles Lodge.

Survivors include his daughter, Sandra Rhyne of Tracy, a son, Richard Matteucci of Ventura, and two brothers and a sister, Josephine Palenchar of the Point.

-Mid Dornan (234-5334)

## THE "COZY"

Candy and . . .  
Ice Cream Parlors

148 Washington Ave. Pt. Richmond

Manufacture Their Own  
Candies Fresh Every Day

Ice Cream of all kinds and  
Water Ices always on hand  
Phone 651

1908 ad, courtesy Mary Casey



## POINT CHURCHES

### TRIBUTE TO A SPECIAL FATHER

(written by Patrice (Wilson) Verhines,  
the following was read at the funeral  
service for her father, Richard Wilson)

To my precious Daddy,

We all wished we could have endured  
your pain — I would gladly have done  
that for you. It would never have been  
repayment enough for all the loving  
concern you've rendered me all my life.

I hope that from Eternity the Lord  
allows our loved ones to draw close to  
us from time to time. In our propriet-  
ary nature, we hate to give you up, even  
to Paradise and your eternal rewards.  
But I will let you go, for no one is  
more deserving of His sheltering arms  
than you, though you knew that  
wouldn't be your ticket in. You gave  
heart and soul to the Lord our Savior,  
and lived all your days accordingly.  
For that, I'm the person I am today,  
and so many others have received  
your loving touch as well.

We'll all miss you so — Mother  
most of all, for in total marriage  
you've been so much a part of her.  
Let her weep for you now — she's  
not received the revelations of Etern-  
ity yet as you have, and it hurts so  
badly for you to be gone from our  
midst.

I rejoice at your "peace that passes  
all understanding" in your last hours.  
That condition is a gift to us all, I  
think, a sign from yourself and our  
Creator that all is truly well, and  
through our sorrow we can remember  
and know, that your happiness and joy  
in heaven can enable us to go on here.  
But, oh, the wide gap your leaving has  
caused in our hearts. It will heal, but  
you can never be replaced. We simply  
have to learn a new life, different now  
because you're not a resident on this  
side with us.

Go in peace, my Daddy, and dance  
around the Throne one time for me.  
I'll see you there later. For now, we'll  
all do our very best for you.

Thanks for calling me your  
"Darling Daughter"  
Patrice

### HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY. . .

*This is the fifth in a series of minutes taken  
from the Pt. Richmond Missionary Society  
record book of the Methodist Church. They  
are printed as recorded in the stiff cardboard  
covered notebook purchased from 'Schoen's  
Pharmacy in the Point', and reflect the con-  
tributions of women to the church history.*

The Home Missionary Society met at the  
Church. Mrs. Conry our first Vice President  
acted as President. The meeting was opened  
by singing and scripture reading from Isaiah  
(sic) 60 Chapter and prayer by Mrs. Conry.  
Business in order. It was moved and carried  
for Mrs. Gnaga as chairman on committee to  
see the father of the children also to see to  
getting clothing for the boy. The question  
was in order to see to getting a home for the  
girl. The treasure (sic) gave her report. \$4.25  
Dues Fund. For refreshments .80 cts. for  
July. Refreshments \$1.25.

Mrs. N.J.Pritchard paid Dues 50 cts.

For Programs several readings by Mrs.  
Gerard, Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. L.C.Pritchard.

Donation 50 cts.

L.C.Pritchard sect

—Mid Dornan

### OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH . . .

Free bags of groceries have been donated  
to needy families recently. On January 24  
110 bags were distributed! The church will  
greatly appreciate any donations of canned  
goods to assist in this project.

During January, the School of Religion  
resumed classes, on Wednesdays from 3:30  
to 4:15 p.m. T

The Sixth Anniversary of the Cenacle,  
which is held the last Sunday of each month,  
was celebrated January 27, with the after-  
noon service followed by a pot-luck dinner.

Lent will begin February 20, on Ash  
Wednesday. Easter is April 7.

—Marion Downey



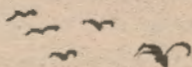
## WEST SIDE LIBRARY

"At West Side Library." — This is the answer to last issue's burning question, "Where is the computer?" Installed and functioning at the circulation desk, the terminal provides access to the collection of the Richmond Public Library system. If you want to know if a certain title is owned by the Library, if you have a request in and are wondering where you stand on the waiting list, if you are interested in the works of a particular author and wonder what the Library owns by her/him — come in and we'll put the terminal to work. However, using the computer for check out/in of materials is still forthcoming.

As announced at the Neighborhood Council's general meeting, copies of the minutes of the Richmond Unified School District's board meetings are available at West Side. Also, both the transactions of the previous week's meeting of the Richmond City Council and the agenda for the current session are available on Mondays. As Environmental Impact Reports are published for developments in Point Richmond, they will also be available at West Side.

February is Afro-American History Month. Accordingly, biographies of Afro-Americans will be featured on the display table.

—Jan Burdick



## NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

### JEWELRY SALE . . .

We are immensely proud of those enterprising students who sold bushels of jewelry to win prizes and money for themselves and the school, and their individual classes. Also we now have \$1,650 to add to our PTA treasury, thanks to those hard working stu-

dents. We had as many as 86 orders from one student, Satia Robinson, in Mrs. Pryde's class, and 60 orders from Tamara Walker in Mrs. Demorest's class. This was, to date, our most profitable fund raiser for the amount of effort involved.

### FIELD TRIPS . . .

Some classes toured the Chevron Research Museum in December, to see first hand how oil is extracted from the earth, the equipment used and the many uses and products of oil. Living in Point Richmond and neighboring areas close to Chevron, the students gained an understanding of what is happening on those strange hills covered with huge tanks and smoking steam pipes.

### BOOK SALE . . .

The PTA will be sponsoring a used book sale in the spring, with the help of people in the community. The children and the community can participate now by bringing in their used books, and spreading the word of the sale. A receptacle for books will be at the school in the hall near the office. The West Side Library is also assisting us in gathering books.

We are accepting children's and adults' reading materials. Discretion in subject matter will be appreciated. So start dusting off those old books and bring them to school!

### FOUNDERS DAY . . .

This year's Founders Day is planned for March. Each year our founding mothers and fathers are saluted and remembered for their contributions to our school. Last year we had members and officers from as far back as the 1930's in attendance. Memories and old friendships were rekindled. Two Honorary service awards were presented, to Mr. Petroni, our principal, and to Mr. and Mrs. Steve Burman for their extraordinary service to the school and its students.

—Debbie Alley, president.



**RECENT HISTORY:  
MILLER-KNOX  
REGIONAL SHORELINE PARK  
(And Peripheral Issues)**

**Part XI**

*(Continued from Vol. III, No. 3, October, 1984)*

Following the September 19, 1984 hearing before the Richmond Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Panel on the Draft EIR concerning Petromark's expansion, Dr. Richard Cole of Environmental Science Associates, who prepared the EIR, gathered up the draft, plus many skeptical comments made by the citizenry on the document, and "went back to the drawing board" to prepare the *final* EIR, with an appendix of significant comments and staff responses. According to the timetable, another EIR Panel meeting would be held, probably after Thanksgiving, to determine whether the Final EIR was or was not in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, (CEQA) and California Guidelines. Like the September EIR hearing, no value judgment on the proposed Petromark expansion would be made. So again the neighborhood people on either side of Petromark composed themselves to wait.

**MEANWHILE . . .**

And what was going on at the Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline Park meanwhile?

The rains came, and the golden garb of summer was exchanged for the green of fall and winter. Trees grew, grass grew, and the flatlands were faithfully manicured by the skilled Park District staff.

The job of dismantling the vast, decrepit Butler building (erected by an earlier owner, Georgia Pacific) that had been deemed unsuitable for park use during 1983 Land Use Planning discussions, was begun.

A succession of waterfowl, migratory

and resident, peacefully-enjoyed the lagoon.

People used the park, to walk high on the hills or low by the Bay, enjoying the views and soul-satisfying tranquility of the experience.

Children, dogs, musicians, volley ball players, family picnic parties and lunch-time refugees from nearby industries, came and went.

In August, amid the many festivities of a "Town Picnic", the Park, which had been dedicated in 1972 as the George Miller Jr. Park, was rededicated as part of East Bay Regional Park District's Fiftieth Anniversary ceremonies as Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline Park. The rededication fittingly gave recognition to the significant role played by former local Assemblyman John T. Knox, in the delicate business of developing funding during budget cuts, Proposition 13, recession, and generally diminished park funding of the recent past, all of which necessitated new and innovative ideas for garnering grant monies from a variety of sources.

Also on the Park front, the East Bay Regional Park District, greatly affronted at the cavalier dismissal of the significance of the Regional Park by the Draft EIR for Petromark, was among those registering a protest at the September EIR Panel hearing.

In addition, the EBRP District Board voted to oppose the proposed oil tank farm expansion.

Adjacent to the Park, the hills of the headlands purchased by Innisfree were methodically scraped down to prepare for the hillside housing of "The Brickyard" development. Construction began on 241 first phase units, with 69 more planned for the upper hill levels, once the first phase of the project stabilizes.

"The Brickyard" development pledged also to contribute to an emergency access road, providing a link to Canal Boulevard, to



be built at the time that "Seacliff Estates" planned by Middletown Enterprises, goes into construction. "The Brickyard" project not unnaturally, expressed opposition to the Petromark expansion.

Another group of individuals, the West Contra Costa Bayshore Council, a recently formed political action committee concerned with the future of the Richmond shoreline, was quietly but vehemently opposed to the Petromark expansion. Stating that the beautiful and unique land along Richmond's bayshore rims constitutes a priceless asset (in hard economic terms as well as a means of greatly improving the City's somewhat tarnished image) which if carefully planned and coordinated could result in benefits for the entire City. This organization, initiated by a small group of creative and forceful individuals, quickly broadened its membership to include all interested community members, and its scope of interest to include the bayshore from Point Isabel to Point San

The West Contra Costa Bayshore Council took the position that the archaic zoning of the shoreline (dating back many decades), combined with a lack of clear city policy, permits disastrous juxtapositions of dangerous and polluting industries with potentially tax-rich residential-commercial developments capable of providing profitable returns to the city.

The organization calls for new land use plans and zoning decisions, pointing to the Petromark situation as a clear and classic example of outdated practices and short-sightedness, granting incompatible permits without consideration for changing public needs and potential.

Unhappily, the Bayshore Council was perceived by some leaders of the Black community as an autocratic group of elitist newcomers, unconcerned and uninvolved in the ongoing problems of the City; interested only in a selfish grab for money and power

through use of land for homes and shops that could never be afforded or enjoyed by the average Richmond resident. To add insult to injury, they were seen as doing so by usurping acreage which might otherwise provide industrial development and jobs to go with them. So firmly entrenched were these ideas that logical discussion was difficult.

For example, while some of the founding members of the Bayshore Council were recent newcomers to the city, and valuable for their fresh ideas and drive (and a disinclination to feel that situations which had stagnated for half a century need continue to stagnate) others were long time residents. Deeply committed to the city's future, they saw change as a way of giving the city's image and future a much needed boost. Among these people were old timers who joined as the organization's membership opened. Saddened and exhausted by the realization that the city they lived in and loved was deteriorating as a result of failure to move with changing times, these people were eager for a new direction and welcomed the ideas and possibilities presented by the Bayshore Council.



*coming from the ferry (no date)  
(Don Church collection)*



Other concepts not readily accepted were that statistics, facts and figures had been developed and are available for those ready to study them with an open mind, that clearly indicate that petrochemical industries (of which Richmond has more than its share) downgrade an environment because of their hazards and pollutants, and constitute a liability to a city. On the other hand, many people come to the Bay Area because of its exceptional beauty; and most if not all wish for a dwelling on or with a view of the Bay. So residential developments on the Bayshore (while they unquestionably enrich the developers) may be said to be an asset to a city, since land assessments, property tax revenues and money generated by the occupants enrich the city coffers.

Other studies demonstrate that in a rapidly changing high-tech world industrial jobs are less and less needed, whereas service jobs, such as those associated with commercial-residential areas are more and more in demand.

Since it was not easy to induce individuals whose minds were adamantly made up to so much as consider such facts, the Bayshore Council sought a way to demonstrate in deeds rather than words that their intentions were honorable as far as the whole city was concerned, and not concerned solely with personal gain.

A project made to order was miraculously brought to the organization's attention. The previous summer Port of Richmond Engineers had drafted a plan for a new fishing pier at the end of Dornan Drive, where a city-owned pier had existed for many years. This dock is designated on the BCDC plan as "a public access point for viewing and fishing", and because of its long and enthusiastic use by area fishers, it was one of the subjects of public dismay and outrage when, in 1983, the Port Department made an application to vacate the end of Dornan Drive.

The application to vacate was made in order to lease it to Petromark, creating contiguous land with Petromark property: the first move in the firm's tank farm expansion to land across the road owned by Santa Fe and leased by them to the City.

Over 500 indignant fishers signed a protest in spring of 1983, but an even more compelling argument against the road closing was presented by BCDC. They reminded the City that because of the question of public access to the Bay, the City would need a state permit before it could close off the end of the street. Presumably this contributed to Petromark's eventual decision, in January, 1984, to give up the road closing. At the same time they agreed to an EIR.

During the squabbles about the road, the City-owned fishing pier was closed down and fenced off. It has remained partially closed since then, though periodically the fence is cut or broken down and people are back again fishing, despite the fact that the old dock is in dangerous disrepair. Obviously those who love to fish have not forgotten this pleasure nor their right to precious areas of dwindling public access. So the possibility that the Port was planning restoration of the popular Bay access spot was good news.

However, the Port is poor. The City is poor. And last summer's fishing pier designs have not been implemented nor heralded to the public. The Bayshore Council felt that this would be a project that would demonstrate their organization's desire to participate in shoreline projects not exclusive to the well-to-do.

The Port estimates for the pier came to about \$185,000, which included roughly \$26,000 to demolish the old pier and \$25,000 for shoreline repair such as riprap. On the City's bare-bones budget there were no spare dollars available for such a relatively non-essential item.



The Bayshore Council's proposal is for a \$250,000 timber-pile pier, underwritten by private initiative. It envisions a 210-foot fishing pier, which would include a bait shop, fish cleaning shelter, parking and landscaping.

The Bayshore Council began an informal solicitation of private individuals for donations toward the project. When the response was positive, the group went before the City Council on January 14, 1985 to describe the proposal and its possible building and operation funding, which could come from a combination of public and private sources. The California Coastal Conservancy, the State Lands Commission, the East Bay Regional Park District and donations from individuals interested in the idea would be contacted, if the City indicated agreement with the proposal at the meeting.

Richmond Mayor, Thomas Corcoran, recommended that the Port Commission and the Recreation and Parks Department review the proposal before definitive action was taken by the City Council. This idea was accepted by the Bayshore Council, who said that as soon as they had agreement in principle they would seek funding commitments. It was estimated that at least a year would be required to raise the money, obtain necessary permits and clearances, and to begin building the pier. Once built, the city-owned pier could be leased to a public or non-profit agency to operate it. Precedents have proven this to be a not only feasible but successful arrangement.

Also during this week in January, 1985, the announcement was made that the Final EIR on the Petromark expansion was completed, and that the EIR Panel would meet Thursday, January 17, to consider certification of the Document.

#### *FINALLY, THE HEARING...*

To no one's surprise, since authors of

EIRs are usually paid by proponents of a proposal, the Final EIR responded to the myriad specific criticisms of the Draft document with a suave avoidance of the issues, including subjects of particular concern to the community relating to public health and safety. A few concessions were included in the generally bland blanket of reassurances, but they seemed more in the nature of window dressing than admissions of inaccuracy, or causes for anxiety.

Then, on January 17, the Richmond EIR Panel, in a few short minutes, certified the report as meeting State requirements. This is a routine and fairly predictable response. The reports are often cumbersome documents containing technical information incomprehensible to many lay persons. Consultants in this field are often known for their skill in meeting guidelines and requirements; perhaps more than in providing lucid explanations of criticism.

Few citizens attending EIR Panel meetings, even if they were permitted to speak, would be in a position to challenge decisions on the meeting of guidelines. The Panel makes its decisions knowing that the real fireworks attend the subjective decision which is the responsibility of elected members of the City Council.

#### *COUNCIL DECISION - FEB. 4?*

The announcement was made that the City Council might take action on either January 28 or February 4, on the Petromark permit. It is expected to be February 4, giving proponents and opponents two and a half weeks to marshal their forces.

The first such 'Marshalling of forces' came almost at once, with the announcement of a special meeting by the Port Commission on January 22, to discuss the City's amended lease agreement with Petromark. The Port Commission occasionally advises the City Council on Port affairs, and at



this meeting City legal staff was scheduled to explain the amended agreement to the commission, who would then forward their approval or disapproval to the Council in time for the February 4 Council action on Petromark's encroachment permit.

Timing was seen to be important in this situation, as the amended lease would only go into effect if the encroachment permit was granted to Petromark. Since the amended lease provides an attractive number of benefits to Richmond, it can be seen as a seductive bargaining chip which might well have a significant effect on the Petromark decision.

The notice of this meeting was welcome news to those who habitually observe Port Commission meetings. These are so perfunctory and hasty, and so little information is forthcoming that the operation of the Port, as far as the public is concerned, is a mystery.

However, those who had hoped for great revelations (and an interested crowd attended the January 22 meeting) were doomed to disappointment, for the Port Commission members had been given a great deal of material on the amended lease to digest on short notice, and did not feel themselves to be in a position to make an informed recommendation. Furthermore, they questioned the wording of the amended lease and some of its terms, and were irritated when information they had requested was not available.

Therefore it was agreed that the proposed amended lease and complete background material on it should be referred to a Port Commission sub-committee. Chairman John Sheridan appointed commissioners Ernest Spencer, Douglas Lord and Steve Bianchi, with the understanding that following its meeting(s) the subcommittee would bring the results of their considerations back to the full Commission for a recommenda-

tion to the City Council, possibly in time for the February 4 Council meeting.

*addendum:*

*At the January 28 City Council meeting it was decided to postpone the Council's DECISION ON PETROMARK to MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27.*

*—Lucretia Edwards*



*Point Richmond shoreline in 1914  
(Don Church collection)*

#### **HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY...**

Arline Hartman  
Shelly Virgo  
Dixie Copeland  
Frank Pearson  
Doug Busby  
Connie Healy  
Landon Howe  
Marcos Rotting

Bessie Squires  
Frankie Greenlaw  
Allan Smith  
Russell Paasch  
Helen Valentine  
Sharon Amantite  
Bill Williamson  
Christopher Rotting  
(his first)

#### **CASINO NIGHT & BLUES FESTIVAL**

Catch the Mardi Gras fever at Crestmont School's annual Casino Night and Blues Festival Saturday, February 16, from 7 'til 1, in the Crocket Civic Auditorium.

Gambling, Creole food, drinks and entertainment by music greats, and even a prize for the best masquerade costume will benefit Crestmont School. For information and reservations, call 799-1811.



## FEBRUARY AHEAD...

- 1 - Report cards to Elementary students
- 2 - Ground Hog Day—will he see his shadow?
- 3 - BOY SCOUT SUNDAY
- 8 - Report cards to Secondary students
- 12 - Lincoln's Birthday - Holiday
- 14 - VALENTINE'S DAY
- 18 - Washington's Birthday (observed)
- 18 - 21 - SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
- 20 - Ash Wednesday
- 22 - Washington's Birthday
- 23 - Chinese New Year - lunar year 4683

## FEBRUARY'S PAST...

- 8, 1910 - Boy Scouts of America incorporated by William Boyce
- 10, 1863 - Fire extinguisher patented
- 20, 1809 - Supreme Court ruled that power of the Federal Gov't. was greater than that of any state.
- 22, 1879 - First "five cent store" opened by Frank W. Woolworth in Utica, N. Y.
- 23, 1954 - First mass inoculation of Salk anti-polio vaccine. Began in Pittsburgh
- 25, 1919 - Oregon became first state to tax gasoline, one per cent.
- 28, 1849 - First ship carrying gold seeker arrived at San Francisco

NAME _____	
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TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (CHECK ONE)	
<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR CITIZEN (65 +)	5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY	20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> ORGANIZATION	25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORY-PRESERVER	50.00
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## POINTS IN THE FUTURE...

### FEBRUARY:

- 5 - West Side Improvement Club, 12 noon, Our Lady of Mercy Church basement.
- 7 - Washington PTA meeting
- 13 - Point Richmond Business Association meeting, Hotel Mac, 12 noon.
- 14 - Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Executive Board meeting, Community Center, 8 p.m.
- 27 - PETROMARK HEARING at City Council Chambers, 7:30 p.m.

### MARCH:

- 28 - Point Richmond History Association meeting, 7:30 p.m. Linsley Hall.  
Speaker: John Holson, with a complete story on the Chinese Shrimp Camp at Pt. Molate.

**GUNG HAY FAT CHOY** - the Year of the Ox.  
According to Chinese zodiac experts, persons born in the year of the Ox are strong-willed introverts. The Ox years are: 1889, 1901, 1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973 & 1985.

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

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**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.