

THIS POINT

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Vol III , No. 8

April, 1985

75 cents



WASHINGTON AVENUE, ABOUT 1908, courtesy Paul Brown

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in time

HISTORY ASSOCIATION NOTES ♦♦

ANNUAL MEETING and HISTORY FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 1985

Linsley Hall

235 Washington Avenue, Point Richmond

beginning at

1:00 P.M.

with a

POT LUCK LUNCHEON

and featuring

A VINTAGE FASHION SHOW

presented by Lois Boyle

and

DISPLAYS

of historic memorabilia

including a

SHOW AND TELL AREA

Bring your Historic Mementos

For Information, call 235-4222

Suggestion for Pot Luck Participation:

If your last name begins with A-H:

Bring a main dish

If your last name begins with J-P,

Bring a dessert

If your last name begins with Q-Z,

Bring a salad.

(Or any of the above) — If you bring guests who cannot participate in the Pot Luck, a donation to cover costs would be appreciated (\$3.50)

THANK YOU...

To Pat Pearson for two old scrapbooks, filled with photos and memorabilia;

To Paul Brown, via Alyce Williamson, for letting us borrow photos of Richmond during and before World War II.

MEMBERS...

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

Anne-Therese Ageson

Ruth McKay

Rev. Denis J. Araujo

Mollie O'Connell

Michael & Michelle Brown

Walter & Victoria Scholz

Paula Ferguson

Patrice Verhines

Mildred W. King

Betty Wirth

And welcome to the following new members:

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Berk

Eleanor Johnson Best

Judith Dunning

David and Mary Janney

(Please let us know if we have made any errors or omissions in the membership list).

A REPORT ON THE CHINESE SHRIMP CAMP

John Holsun, who works for a private archaeological consulting firm in Mill Valley, Dave Chavez and Associates, took part in a cultural resources evaluation at Point Molate. The Navy wanted to do some protective riprap work, and wanted information about any historical sites that might be impacted. His report has been presented to the Navy, and registered with the State Archaeological Registry.

For about 42 years (from 1870 to 1912) the cove at Point Molate was the site of what was called the Chinese Shrimp Camp.

Although the area is listed as a County and State Historical Landmark, little information was readily available about the early residents and their industry.

One of about 26 Chinese shrimp camps around the Bay, the Chinese Shrimp Camp was under contract to the Union Shrimp Company of San Francisco. Actually four self-contained units operated in the cove. Each had its own wharf and boats, boiling vat, drying area, storehouses and living quarters. Fishing just north of Red Rock, the shrimpers caught small fish along with the shrimp. The catch was brought to the boiling vat, then spread out on a planked drying area, where it dried for about four days. In a processing house the shrimp were ground up, separating them from their shells; then a winnowing process allowed the heavier shrimp (and fish) meat to fall, while the shells (and bones) were blown off, to be used as fertilizer. The meat was then bagged, shipped to San Francisco, and exported to China. Some of the shrimp was sold fresh in the Point by men who carried heavy-laden pails at the ends of a shoulder pole over the hills and around Point Richmond.

What is now the State Fish and Game Commission began in 1870. As early as 1874 there were complaints that the Chinese were ruining the fisheries, because they were taking so many small fish along with the shrimp. By 1901 the shrimp season was closed from May to August, and by 1905, there was a law against the export of dried shrimp. In 1906 over 50 tons of dried shrimp and by-products were seized. By 1911, legislation that dealt the death blow to shrimpers was passed. The Chinese shrimp net was outlawed altogether; and in 1912, a five year moratorium was declared on shrimping.

The Pt. Molate shrimp camp operated until 1912, but by 1915, little remained at the camp; much of the wood had been confiscated for firewood.



A special black walnut tree grew in Point Richmond. From that special tree, special candelabra were made and presented to the Historic First Methodist Church on Martina and West Richmond Avenues, in the Point.

Six years ago this aging tree, which grew in the back yard of the parsonage and outside the magnificent stained glass windows of the church and in view of the church classrooms — died.

Judge David Calfee, grandson and namesake of the Rev. David W. Calfee, founder of the Point church, supervised and assisted in cutting down the tree, and stored the valuable black walnut wood while it aged.

Dr. John Blackard, retired El Sobrante veterinarian, who had crafted candelabra for the El Sobrante Methodist Church, designed and created candelabra from the black walnut wood for the Point church. His search for brass candle holders to fit the design took him to Santa Rosa, but even those he chose needed modification.

The candelabra were dedicated during regular worship services on Sunday, March 24. Katie and Jennifer Mitchell served as candle lighters and the church school children sang a special song of 'Light'.

The candelabra are unique — created by a fellow methodist, to illuminate the church in whose yard the tree grew, from a tree cut down by the grandson of the church's founder. And, in attendance was Trannie Dornan, who was baptised in 1908 by the Rev. D. W. Calfee.

—Mid Dornan



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 . . .

A LOT NOW A LITTLE . . .

"A friendly suit to secure an amicable and just adjustment of the value of property owned by Councilman O.R. Ludwig at the southern end of Tenth street near the Ellis landing for the widening of the street was filed yesterday."

"This is one of the most unusual cases which has yet come up in a street widening in this city. The property is so located that when the widening and extension of the street is made that it will ruin the property of the councilman. The street goes through the center leaving only 12½ feet wide lot when the street is opened."

—April 1, 1915

ROAD WILL BE CONSTRUCTED . . .

"A contract totaling almost \$30,000 was awarded yesterday by the John Nicholl Company to Moffitt & Meade to construct a roadway connecting the property of the Los Angeles Pressed Brick company with the city wharf and highway. This road will allow the brick company to reach the municipal wharf, the Santa Fe pier and also the municipal tunnel."

—April 1, 1915

POEM FEATURED AT BLOUNT PARTY . . .

"Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Blount entertained a number of friends at Hillside Cot-

tage, the Blount home at 59 Golden Gate avenue recently. Games and music were features of the evening. An original poem entitled 'Snowflakes' by Mrs. Blount was read. The poem deals with the first snows of November and winds up:

*Then when the Springtime comes again
And the sun shines bright and clear,
Your months of white will then take flight,
And you travel away from here.*

"An original snow storm participated in by several small children added a most interesting and entertaining touch to the rendition."

—April 3, 1915

WALL HALL STALLED . . .

"Further delays in the city hall fight are augured by the filing of a referendum petition with the city clerk yesterday . . . demanding that the city council at a special election allow the voters to pass upon the plans for the new city hall in the George S. Wall tract. The building is now under course of construction. The petition was signed by 839 voters and will be presented to the council on next Monday evening."

—April 7, 1915

SEMI-ANNUAL CLAMBAKE . . .

"The semi-annual clam bake of the Standard Oil Company Sunday was attended by several hundred employees of the company. The affair took place at Desmond's Canyon

and everyone present declared that the affair was one of the most successful ever held by the company.

"One of the features of the afternoon was a baseball game between the 'Married Clams' and the 'Single Clams' . . . E.L. Scofield officiated on the mound for the married clams. He had all kinds of funny stuff on the ball but the single clam stickers would get in the way with a club once in a while and tear a hole in the ball.

"Sunday's affair was given under the direction of the Standard Oil Outing and Social Club . . . A menu including a roast sheep, clams and all of the necessary 'fixing' was enjoyed."

—April 13, 1915

KELLER TO SUE CITY . . .

"The City of Richmond and Shattuck Eddinger Company will be made defendants in a damage suit to be filed in a few days by Attorney W.D. Grady, representing Gus Keller.

"According to Keller, the new municipal tunnel takes off twenty-five feet of a portion of his property on the waterfront side. 'I was



Don Church Collection — Keller's Beach 1967

willing to let the tunnel contractors destroy several of my lots with dynamite, but when they apparently missed connections in their bay shore entrance and took away twenty-five (feet) of my land, I thought it was about time to protest. I intend erecting a large building on this lot, but under the circumstances this opening will hinder the work."

—April 16, 1915

PERMIT FOR NEW FOUNDATION . . .

"William L. Ellis, assistant superintendent of streets yesterday took out a permit to have his home at 78 West Scenic raised and a new foundation put in. The work . . . will cost approximately \$400."

—April 17, 1915

REDLIGHT ABATEMENT LAW WILL BE ENFORCED . . .

"That letters warning the property owners of three buildings on Railroad avenue . . . to refrain from allowing their buildings to be used for alleged immoral purposes, will be sent out by the Good Government League, was admitted last night by Rev. P.E. Peterson, president of the League and Pastor of the First Methodist Church.

"If at the end of a certain period, the league is satisfied that the law is being ignored, action under the Redlight Abatement Law will be taken. According to officers of the League, they have sufficient evidence on hand to prove that the houses in question are being used for immoral purposes."

—April 24, 1915

TWO DAY FESTIVAL FOR FERRY OPENING . . .

"Completed plans for the two days' fete in honor of the opening of Richmond-San Rafael ferry were decided upon at San Rafael yesterday."

"Four trips by the ferry will be made to this city on next Saturday morning . . . augmented by a special launch to carry passen-

gers only. Richmond lodge of Elks will hold an open house during the day and there will be a luncheon in the basement of the clubhouse at one o'clock for the men folks and at the Richmond clubhouse for the ladies.

"As Oakland is to open its new auditorium on that day, the San Francisco-Oakland terminals railway company will run a round-trip three hour duration trolley trip from this city to Oakland for 25 cents."

"The afternoon sport here will be a baseball game between the Richmond and San Rafael nines commencing at 3 o'clock. Other features (include) an automobile parade which is being arranged by Sheriff R. R. Veale."

"San Rafael will be the host on Sunday. There will be an inspection of the grounds of the San Quentin prison, and auto parade of San Rafael and its environments and at noon an address of welcome in Boyd Memorial Park by Mayor S.K. Herzog of San Rafael."

"Following the basket luncheon in the park . . . there will be side trips out of San Rafael, return baseball game between Richmond and San Rafael and the opening of the new municipal baths at Petaluma where there will be water sports and finally a free swim for everyone.

"San Anselmo will entertain with a free dancing party in the beautiful open air pavillion on that evening."

—April 25, 1915

SALON TO OPEN MAY 5 . . .

"A big job of renovation is being carried on at the store formerly occupied by Mrs. White at 61 Park Place which has been purchased by Jorn C. Korn, and will be renamed The Elite and run with Miss Marie French as manager. It is being repainted and remodeled and will be thoroughly equipped as a place for hair dressing, scalp treatment, facial massage, manicuring for ladies and gentlemen

and electric steam baths for ladies."

—April 28, 1915

WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE . . .

"The work of laying the eight-inch water main through the new municipal tunnel was completed yesterday by a force of men working for the People's Water Company. The new line will be used to connect the docks and wharves which will handle the business expected with the completion of the tunnel.

"A large number of water pipes were received yesterday and work will start tomorrow to lay them on Richmond avenue, Castro street, Golden Gate avenue, Montecito, Bacca and other streets in the vicinity which are now being improved by Page contracting people. With the laying of the new pipes, sub pipes to supply water to the buildings on these thoroughfares will be installed."

—April 28, 1915

ARMED TONG MEN SOUGHT . . .

"The police were last night searching for two tong men who threatened the life of Hop Sing, a Chinese porter at the Oberon Saloon on the west side. Sing received word that two tong men armed for action were headed for Richmond to take his life."

—April 30, 1915

CLAREMONT OPENS . . .

"Fitted up with furniture manufactured from Alameda and Contra Costa counties' eucalyptus in the local furniture factory, Hotel Claremont of Berkeley will be opened up as a medium priced hotel today."

—April 30, 1915

60 YEARS AGO . . .

BRIDGE BILL PASSES . . .

"Governor Richardson today announced he had signed an assembly bill which would permit the construction of toll bridges and

remove the present limitations of the law, so as to make possible the construction of such structures as the Carquinez bridge and the proposed span across the Golden Gate."

—April 1, 1925

SPRING, AND YOUNG MEN — FANCY...

"Mayor J.H. Plate, in a proclamation issued today, designates Wednesday, April 15, as Richmond's official straw hat day.

"Consequently, Richmond's citizens known as 'good dressers' will appear on the streets tomorrow in new summer headgear, by way of keeping abreast of the fashion and showing an appreciation for the advent of the vernal season."

—April 14, 1925

MARCHINO FUNERAL...

"Point Richmond Aerie, Fraternal Order of Eagles this afternoon at 2 o'clock conducted funeral services ... for Peter C. Marchino, a resident of Richmond for six years ... Marchino, 36 years old, was the husband of Victoria L. Marchino and conducted a boarding house at Blake Brothers quarry."

—April 23, 1925

NEW FROM WEST SIDE PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION...

"The West Side Progressive association held a meeting in the Point Masonic hall last night, at which E. Esola presided. Much enthusiasm was shown by the large crowd in attendance.

"Indirectly the association was informed (that) the Nicholl company was willing to dispose of its holdings on the hillside running along Marina avenue and Mrs. G. W. Topping suggested that the matter be placed before some live real estate company to place the property on the market. This property would make ideal home sites and no doubt if the right parties handled the proposition, it would go over big, she said."

—April 24, 1925

WHARF NO. 2 — CONSTRUCTION...

"The United States government has set aside \$138,000 for additional dredging on the Richmond inner harbor, contingent upon immediate action by the city government of Richmond in starting construction of wharf No. 2.

"The city council six weeks ago ... passed a resolution to start immediate construction on the wharf on the inner harbor for which bonds were voted in 1912.

"During the intervening period negotiations have been underway with the Ellis Landing and Dock company in an effort to secure ... a right of way down Ninth street to the proposed wharf site.

"The city contends that it cannot proceed with dredging and location of the wharf until the right of way is secured.

—April 28, 1925

GIUSTI FUNERAL...

"Funeral services for Isacco Giusti of 475 Golden Gate avenue, who died of pneumonia in a local hospital this morning, will be held Saturday morning ... at the Bert Curry parlors. The deceased was a resident of Richmond for 22 years and was a native of Italy.

"He was the husband of Amelia Giusti and the father of Mrs. Ida Giacomelli of Richmond. Giusti was employed as a welder at the Standard Oil Company."

—April 30, 1925



50 YEARS AGO ...

APRIL SHOWERS ...

"Much damage was done here by the downpour of Saturday and Sunday which recorded 2.34 inches of rain.

"A rain softened embankment on Scenic avenue West Side caved in, sending a mass of mud into the back yard of Captain Richard Paasch of the local fire department."

—April 8, 1935

SANTA FE WATERFRONT PROPERTY ...

"Officials of the Santa Fe Railroad company today had admitted for the first time that the railroad owns the Berkeley Waterfront company, which controls several thousand acres of tidelands extending from Richmond inner harbor to West Oakland.

"We have owned the Berkeley Waterfront company since 1925, when we purchased the entire stock of the concern, then owning scattered parcels of waterfront land on the Eastbay shore," announced J.R. Hayden, assistant traffic manager of the railroad.

"Since then, through that company, we have been acquiring holdings until we now own approximately 3400 acres extending about nine miles from the Key System pier in Oakland to Richmond."

—April 9, 1935

FORD PRODUCTION ...

"Speaking before the directors of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce today, Clarence Bullwinkle, Ford company manager for this district, said that there was every evidence the peak production now being carried on at the local plant would continue indefinitely.

"At our Richmond plant," said Bullwinkle, "we are maintaining a list of 2400 to 2500 employees and putting out 350 cars per day ... There is every indication that

Mr. Ford's statement that his company would build one million cars in 1935 will be greatly exceeded. Our present production schedule of 800,000 cars in the first six months of 1935 has nothing to compare with it since 1929."

—April 10, 1935

CHASSEUR GROCERY

Imported and Domestic Groceries, Fruits and Vegetables

128 Standard Av. Phone Rich.114

Point Richmond

FOLGERS COFFEE	1 lb.	29¢
	2 lb.	56¢
MAYONNAISE	Pt.	27¢
	Qt.	45¢
MONTEREY CHEESE	1 lb.	19¢
TOMATO SAUCE	6 cans	19¢
OLIVE OIL star brand	Qt.	59¢
	½ Gal.	\$1.17
	Gal.	\$2.12
BUTTER	Lb.	31¢
EGGS	Doz.	25¢
CHICKEN FEED	100 Lb.	\$2.05

—April 26, 1935

—Teresa Albro

40 YEARS AGO ...

TORPEDO WASHED ASHORE AT POINT ...

"For some time police and residents in the vicinity of Ocean and Harrison avenues at Point Richmond were fearful that the torpedo [shown in a photograph] might be a live one that would go off at any time. However, this afternoon the Navy announced that it was a practice torpedo which had been lost in the bay yesterday."

—April 4, 1945

AMNESIA VICTIM FOUND HERE ...

"An unidentified young woman who knew only that she was 22 years of age and that she came from Wisconsin collapsed near the police station at Park Place yesterday afternoon and has been sent to the county hospital at Martinez for treatment."

—April 7, 1945

NAT TO OPEN APRIL 17...

"The Richmond Natatorium at East Richmond and Garrard will open on April 17.

"The swimming pool has received a general overhaul, with the installation of several new pipes and other improvements."

April 6, 1945

30 YEARS AGO ...

CLIFF FALL VICTIM DOUBTS FOUL PLAY...

"Roy W. See, 47, critically injured in a 180-foot Richmond plunge, said today he believes he must have fallen off the Pt. Richmond cliff and was not pushed, in his first coherent statement to authorities.

"See, who lives in Oakland, was found at the bottom of a Blake Brothers quarry cliff last Wednesday morning with severe injuries."

-April 6, 1955



20 YEARS AGO ...

CYCLE CLUB MEETING ON POINT NOISE...

"The Richmond Ramblers motorcycle club has arranged a meeting with Point Richmond residents, the police department and interested motorcycle riders to discuss the problem of noise in the Garrard Blvd. tunnel.

"The problem will be examined Wednesday night at 8 p.m. at the Ramblers clubhouse near the foot of Garrard.

"... Many Point residents have complained of the sound of cycle engines in the tunnel as riders go to and from the Ramblers club area, a favorite off-the-road riding spot in the Richmond area. *-April 2, 1965*

IRISH COFFEE AT THE BALTIC...

"Late spring rains have brought a bonanza to Bob Barker and John Taylor at the Baltic... they've provided a reminder that Irish Coffee is a great warmer-upper for chilly weather. *-April 2, 1965*

CARRIER GUILTY OF POLLUTING THE BAY...

"Bulk Food Carriers, Inc. of San Francisco, have been found guilty in Richmond Municipal Court of polluting San Francisco Bay in the Richmond Inner Harbor last Jan. 15.

"The company, operator of the merchant ship 'Rice Queen' was cited by State Fish and Game wardens after an oil spill during fueling at the Texaco Co. dock in the Inner Harbor.

"Judge John I. Pierce placed the firm on one year probation and imposed a suspended \$500 fine.

"Pierce has found six firms guilty of bay pollution within the past two months in the Richmond area."

-April 1, 1965

-Pan Wilson

CHURCHES

Church history is rich with contributions of women. One of the church groups in the early 1900's was the Home Missionary Society of the First Methodist Church, whose history is reflected in its minutes, printed below and taken from the stiff cardboard covered notebook purchased from "Shoen's Pharmacy in the Point." This is the seventh installment.

Point Richmond, Calif Sept 17, 1907

The Home Missionary Society met in the church. The president being present the meeting was opened in the usual form. Mrs. Mount did not prepare a paper to read but instead read a letter from Mrs. Younglove. Mrs. R.L. Adams and Mrs. Garrard was appointed visiting committee.

Mrs. Stout reported no one in need in her calling.

It was then moved and seconded that the Corresponding Secretary write for the by laws of the Home Missionary Society.

The Business adjourned. Mrs. Bradley read a paper on the mission work in Arizona and Mexico. The next was a reading on the Ukiah Mission among the Indians. Mrs. Gnaga presented bills for the children to the amount of \$7.33. Next was a song by Mrs. Adams and recitation by Goldie Gnaga.

Mrs. L.C. Pritchard Secretary

—Mid Dornan

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH . . .

On March 24 there was an Italian Catholic Federation breakfast after the 9 o'clock mass, in the Church Hall.

March 31 was Palm Sunday. Good Friday services will begin at 12:00 and will conclude around 2:00 p.m.

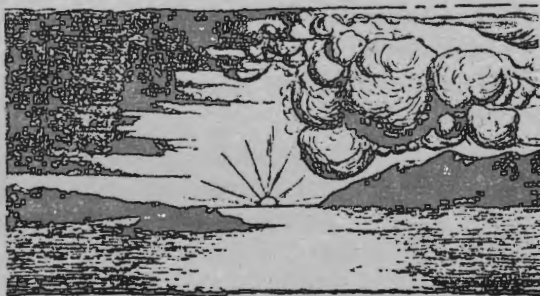
On Holy Saturday, there will be a 7:30 p.m. Vigil Mass. Candidates will be confirmed and welcomed into the church.

Much to the sorrow of the entire congregation, Anna Schwarz tendered her resignation as Choir Director and Organist. She will be sorely missed, after 28 years of faithful service.

Yolanda Sanders is acting as director temporarily, and Betty Enos is Organist.

The ladies of the church are giving Anna a dinner at the Point Orient, and presenting her with a special gold medalion.

—Marion Downey



LETTERS

I enjoy "This Point" very much. Mrs. Ila Deemer gave me the subscription. It surely brings back memories.

My folks came to Richmond in 1908 from Tulare and my father bought the bakery (at that time) at 1st (?) and Park Place and had it for many years.

The history of the Chinese Shrimp Camp will be very interesting. We used to go out there often and see the shrimp being cooked and in large trays on the floors. The shrimp were caught at Red Rock. The Chinese men used to come into town with their hair in pigtailed hanging down their backs; also had a pole on their shoulder carrying a basket on each end filled with cooked shrimp, and would give us children a handful to eat. Those were the good days.

My brother (Richard) and I also slid down Nicholl Knob on the day it snowed, as the picture shows in the magazine.

Louise (Henrich) Rogers

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

The Point Neighborhood Council is completing its first year of operation with a growing membership and some real successes. Over 100 people have paid membership dues for 1985. For those who have not yet contributed to your Neighborhood Council, membership dues are \$3.00 per person and \$5.00 per couple. Dues are primarily used for mailing and printing costs. They can be paid at quarterly meetings or sent to the Pt. Richmond Neighborhood Council, c/o Richmond Municipal Natatorium, Pt. Richmond, CA 94801.

The Neighborhood Council was one of several groups that actively worked against approval of a permit that would have allowed Petromark to build a pipeline across Dornan Drive, and ultimately expand their tank farm at Ferry Point. The request was defeated by a 5 to 4 vote of the City Council. Over 200 people appeared at the City Council meeting -- a representation of community strength that cannot be easily ignored. The turn out and final vote was a great example of what can be accomplished by people and groups working together on an issue that concerns everyone. The issue of land use for our valuable and lovely shoreline has not been resolved, but the City Council decision was a step in the right direction.

Spring is a great time to clean up. The City of Richmond is participating in the Work Alternative Program. Under the program, people arrested for minor offenses are allowed to work off their sentences rather than go to jail. This resource can be used on weekends to clean up public areas in our neighborhood. We must provide supervision. If you are interested in getting a crew to clean up your area, contact Janet Lyons at 235-5705. The Business Association and

other neighborhood Councils have already used the program and were pleased with the results.

On April 11, 1985, at 8:00 p.m. at the Point Richmond Community Center, the Neighborhood Council will hold its annual meeting. Updates will be presented on a number of issues including downtown developments, the development plan for the Tiscornia-Sheehan property and the Police Review Commission. In addition, candidates for City Council and the office of Mayor have been invited to join us and share their views on a variety of issues that affect our community. Plan on attending. The people we elect to office will be making important decisions that impact our neighborhood and our lives.

—Janet Lyons, President

RICHMOND MUSEUM

A special exhibit of Richmond advertising giveaways will be on display through May 19, Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. Tours at other times may also be arranged. The movie, "Richmond The Early Days" is now showing at 2:00 and 3:00 on Saturday and Sunday.

For information call the Museum, at 235-7387.

HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAY...

LOOF LIRPA	Tara Kaufman
Kathy Barnes	Verla Camren
Sydney Clutts	Judy Walz
Helen Kocher	Don Amantite
Paula Ferguson	Joel Peterson
Pam Wilson	Michael Horn
Melissa Allyn	Lisa Ogles
Roberta Palfini	Monica Doherty
Eric Hoiland	Bruce Bartram
William Kretzmer	Dori Freitas
Kari Elle	Ruth Wilson

*Have we missed your birthday? ... Let us know ...
234-5334.*

**31 st ANNUAL
BOY SCOUT
PANCAKE BREAKFAST!**

**Diet or Not, Once a Year
Point Richmonders Eat Those Famous
Troop 111 Pancakes**

Parents have been planning this event that helps boys go to summer camp, and are hoping to make the event the biggest ever. This year a banner is being prepared to hang in the Point, announcing the date, so that everyone will be prepared for the special day. It's said that once you attend this breakfast, you never want to miss another.

The pancakes are not just pancakes. . . They are made from a special recipe that was featured at the 1939 World Fair in New York, in a restaurant run by the Walter Muller family from Pasadena. The beaten egg whites folded into the batter is the secret to the lightness of this 'made from scratch' recipe.

Besides the pancakes, eggs are cooked to order; a special cured ham is obtained from the Santa Fe Market each year; and coffee and juice are served. This plus the fact that you may have as many pancakes as you can eat, all for only \$3.50 for adults, and \$2.50 for those under 8, makes for a delicious bargain.

Twenty percent of each ticket sold by a Scout goes to his personal camp fund to defray his costs.

Saturday, May 11, from 6 a.m. to 12 noon, at the First Methodist Church, Martina Street at West Richmond Avenue — *Mark Your Calendar Now.*

Scoutmaster Fred Hart is assisted by Ben Woodson and George Mohr, and they ask you to call Fred at 235-1046 if you want tickets, information, or if you can help. Everyone meets at the breakfast!

—Mid Dorman

WEST SIDE LIBRARY

NEW HOURS . . .

By the time you read this, the new hours at West Side will be in operation. Starting April 1, the library opens its doors Monday through Friday at noon. Monday and Tuesday it remains open until 8:00 with closure at 5:00 for the remaining days. To continue the Story Hour on Thursday mornings from 10 to 10:30, the library will be open to preschoolers and their chaperones.

MONTHLY SPECIALS . . .

Check the door for titles borrowed from the Main Library each month. In March the 600s (Applied Sciences) were supplemented. In April the section of Fine Arts (700s) will benefit.

NEW TITLES . . .

Titles to be found in the fiction new-book area include: *Tough Guys Don't Dance*, by Norman Mailer; *The Dossier* by Pierre Salinger and Leonard Gross; and a book of short stories by Sylvia Townsend, *One Thing Leading to Another*. Subjects in the non-fiction new-book area cover such diverse areas as: Zen, gun control, herpes diseases, fiber glass boats, world series and the history of the conservative movement.

INDIA IN APRIL . . .

Recently, movie and television screens have portrayed India, so it seems timely to feature books about that country in April.

—Jan Burdick

TRIVIA QUESTION . . .

What was the name of the hill once located in the area now called Easter Hill?

This is not like asking who was buried in Grant's Tomb. The answer is "Little Cerrito Hill."

add your name

DO IT IN BRONZE ...

A THIRD PLAQUE WILL BE PLACED ON THE INDIAN STATUE PEDESTAL. DONORS OF \$200 OR MORE WILL HAVE THEIR NAMES ON A BRONZE PLAQUE ATTACHED TO THE GRANITE BASE OF THE STATUE. FUNDS DONATED WILL CREATE A PARK AREA SURROUNDING THE STATUE.

Donations should be sent to the Point Richmond History Association, c/o Mae Mandl, 808 Western Drive, Point Richmond, CA 94801

Donations are tax deductible.

When making your donation, please specify clearly how you wish the name printed on the plaque. Smaller donations are also welcome and your name will be added to our roll call.

Donors, as of April 1, 1985 are:

Louisa Banks

Donald J. Jardine

George M. Batten

Anne Anderson

The Silve Club

The park committee is planning to present the landscape architect's drawing at the second annual October celebration in Point Richmond. Please call 235-4222 if you wish to be a member of the committee. Its next meeting is at 5 p.m. at The Point Restaurant, April 10, 1985.

Members of the park committee are:

Patricia Behrens

Sarah Eeles

Jay Ward

Catherine Burchell

Kathe Kiehn

Peggy Young

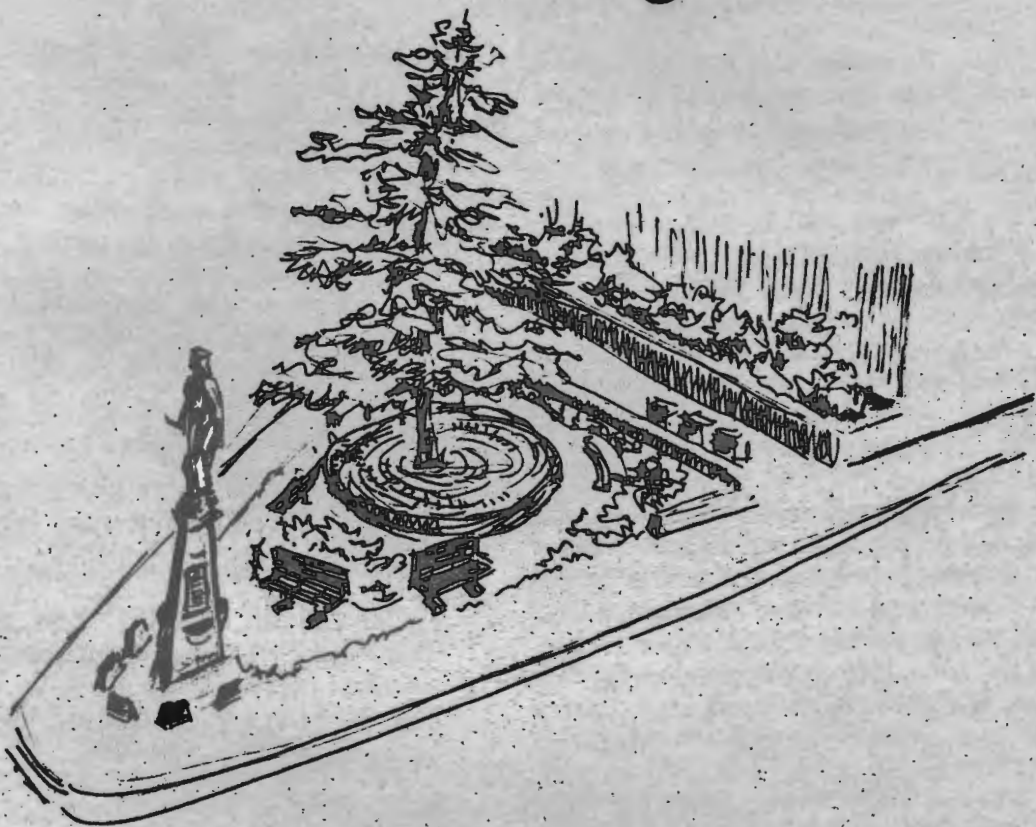
Tom Butt

David Vincent

Donna Roselius

Lucretia Edwards, Advisor

to history!



DONOR'S PLEDGE

I (we) _____ pledge \$ _____

to be used on the design and creation of the Indian Statue Park. I (we) understand that this is an amount due by September 15, 1985, and that it is a tax-exempt donation.

Dated: _____ Donor's signature: _____

Address: _____

send to: Pt. Richmond History Association, 808 Western Drive, Pt. Richmond CA 94801

A-MID TRIVIA

April is a lovely month.

Its days are quite relaxing. . .

Except, of course, the fifteenth day

Is really much too taxing.

-O-

Point Richmond may have been part of a ranch at one time, but we still have 'Cornfields' on Golden Gate Avenue and 'Beanes' on Vine!

-O-

We Point with pride to students included in Kennedy High School's honor roll: Alison Lord, Kenneth Fong, Paul Cort and John Healy.

-O-

Another Point student may be a budding architect — Seth Fenton was a *cash* winner in the Design Ad Contest!

-O-

Author of stories about Dick and Jane, and Spot the dog, Elizabeth Rider Montgomery Julesberg, has died in Seattle, Washington at the age of 82. Her books helped more than twenty million children learn to read. She wrote the first of the primer series, "We Look and See". If we didn't learn to read with these primers, our children did.

-O-

When Jack Elle became a member of the exclusive Grandparents' Club, he did it with a flourish! Daughter Roxanne presented him with *twin granddaughters*, Holly and Noel Trudeau — which also made Kari an aunt, Ingvar and Ivar uncles. New father Bob is surviving. Congratulations!

-O-

Helping to collate the March issue of "This Point in Time" was Shyuji Mimura, one of three Japanese students staying with Point Richmond families as part of the California Homestay Institute program. Shyuji became part of the Roselius family for his three week stay, while Yoko Otsuka and Yoshiyuki Okada's host families were Bob and Karen McNeil and Bill and Margaret

Thomas of Brickyard Cove. Twenty-seven other students were in the East Bay group attending the English Language Program at UC Berkeley.

-O-

Some people travel to become worldly, others like the Bob Peckhams, invite the world to their home. Pere Girbau is the seventh exchange student they have sponsored! A senior at Kennedy High School, Pere's home is a small village named Vic, near Barcelona, Spain. His parents, Toni and Maria, were here for a ten day visit in March. Bob comments, "My yard looks so good because Pere cuts it every week!" People who bring others from around the world to their home make sentiments like the song "We Are the World" a reality.

-O-

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Francis celebrated their first Wedding Anniversary with a family party at 50 Crest Avenue.

-O-

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Highfill celebrated their Fortieth Wedding Anniversary with an overnight weekend trip to Reno with the Larry Highfills and the Roy Javalanas.

-O-

John Tripp is the newest member of Boy Scout Troop 111. For the parents' meeting he made a wonderful layer cake. Mario Allen contributed chocolate cup cakes. Cooking skills begin early.

-O-

That streak you see going and coming down Crest Avenue is Rosemary Corbin, Richmond City Council Candidate. Her commitment to seek the position leaves little time for 'things around the house' as she plans to meet as many constituents as time allows. Be sure to attend at least one of her Candidates Nights to be a well informed voter.

-O-

Taxes could be much worse . . . suppose you paid on what we think you're worth!

FUTURE 'REMEMBER WHEN'S ...

You will soon be saying, "Remember when there was a caboose at the end of every train?" ... and, "Remember the song 'Little Red Caboose'?" Caboosees are to be replaced with unlyrical "end of train devices" which cost only \$6,000 compared to the present cost of \$85,000 for a caboose. An economic move forward, but the rear view of a train will never be the same.

-O-

For sixty years the C&H sugar boat went past the Point Richmond shores four times each day from the Crockett plant to the Santa Fe pier and back to Crockett. The easily identified boat became an expected sight for many Point residents. After April 1, the ship, probably the last of the Bay freighters on San Francisco Bay, will be sold.

-O-

Frustration is remembering a deduction ... *after* you mail your income tax return.

-O-

—Mid Dornan (234-5334)



WASHINGTON SCHOOL NEWS

FOUNDERS DAY FIESTA ...

Re-scheduled for April 10 at 7:00 p.m., the Founders Day Fiesta promises to be an exciting event, with Margarita and Don Hain co-chairpersons. With volunteers from each class, Linda Drake and Margarita Hain are teaching the students Hispanic songs and dances for the Fiesta program. Refreshments will be Mexican hot chocolate and sweet breads, arranged by Camera Johnson. Mrs. Demorest's class are making decorations for the Fiesta, and Amy Rotting has been responsible for the two sets of beautiful invi-

tations. Mr. Petroni will serve as Master of Ceremonies, which he does so well, and Honorary Service Awards are awaiting their especially deserving recipients. Please attend this wonderful community celebration.

SCIENTIFICALLY GROWN ...

Classroom displays for the March 26 Open House featured individual science projects, selected, developed and constructed by each student for his or her particular experiment. Students worked hard to learn about forces and elements in our world and in the Universe, to create their projects. Both students and parents learned much from the imaginative project.

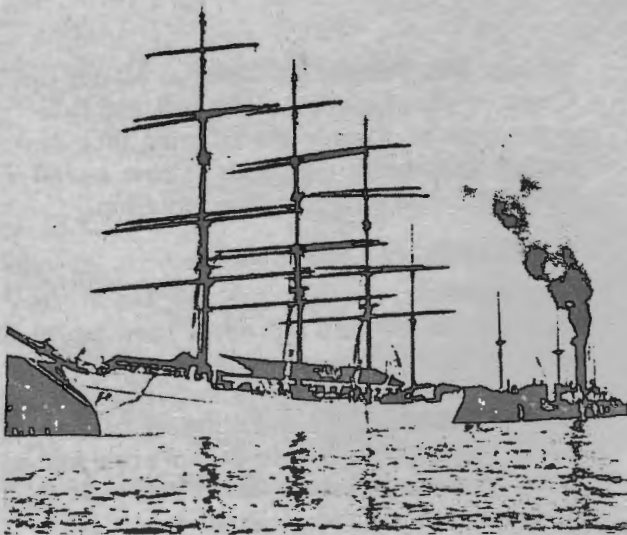
BOOK FAIR ...

The Used Book Fair is proceeding on course toward a late April date. We have collected quite a few books, through the beautiful posters designed by Mrs. Berg's class. You have probably noticed them in Point business district windows. Please continue to bring books to school. If pick-up is required call 236-7227, and we would be glad to come to your house for any book donations.

UP AND COMING ...

As most Point residents know, the extension of Highway 17, making Hoffman a freeway. This will involve some changes in the network of our Point Richmond streets. At our April PTA meeting we will be prepared to discuss these changes and how they will affect Washington School. We are also hoping to schedule a parent discussion that night, led by our school psychologist, Mr. Curtis Vaughn. The discussion will cover the public school system vs. private schools, and problems unique to Washington School and its students, and possible solutions to these problems.

—Debbie Alley



**RECENT HISTORY:
MILLER-KNOX REGIONAL
SHORELINE PARK
(and related issues)
continued. . .**

Part XII

On February 25, 1985, at a Richmond City Council meeting fraught with tension and drama, the Council voted (5 to 3, with one abstention) against the Petromark application for "an encroachment permit for the vault and pipelines beneath Dornan Drive."

This vote did not occur with the sweet simplicity of words that report it. A frenzy of activity, a flurry of meetings and an enormous amount of political lobbying took place in the brief period between the Special Port Commission meeting of January 22 and the Council meeting of February 25.

The Port Commission meeting had been called to explain the terms of the City's proposed amended lease agreement with Petromark, enabling the Commission to make a recommendation to the Council before February 5, when the Council was originally scheduled to act on the Petromark matter. However, so much new material was presented, and so many changes made, in-

volving so many unexplained questions, that the Port Commission balked at coming to a hasty and ill-considered determination. A sub-committee was appointed by chairman John Sheridan, composed of commissioners Ernest Spencer, a real estate broker, designated as chairman; Douglas Lord, an attorney; and Steven Bianchi, who works for a Bay Area tugboat firm. Their task was to report the results of their in depth study to the full Commission.

Some background information may be helpful in considering the ramifications of this somewhat tortuous situation.

In 1973, the present owners of Petromark, George Koppel and Grove Bryant, quietly signed a 20-year lease (until 1993) on approximately 13.83 city owned acres at Terminal 1, which were previously leased by another chemical firm. The 1973 lease contained *options* to January 30, 2003. Though late Councilman Gay Vargas ("Watchdog of the Council") intimated that such a lease might be signed, it was such an unobtrusive piece of city business that it was consummated before anyone realized its implications.

In 1974, Collier Carbon and Chemical Corp. (a Union Oil subsidiary) made application for an encroachment permit under Garrard Boulevard (now Dornan Drive) in connection with their proposal to erect two 20,000-ton capacity tanks on the 8 acres of Santa Fe land between Petromark and the Bray Terminal tanks, for the storage of anhydrous ammonia. Petromark's pumping station was to be utilized to fill truck and railroad tanks from these storage tanks, after they were filled by ships docking at the Petromark dock at Terminal 1. The encroachment permit was needed for transfer of the chemical under the city-owned road.

Because anhydrous ammonia is a potentially dangerous chemical, the application

was aggressively contested by alarmed residential neighbors. After an Environmental Impact Review and many noisy meetings, Collier and Petromark quietly gave up the plan. On May 1, 1980, a long term lease was negotiated by Richmond from Santa Fe for approximately 6.57 acres across Dornan Drive, to the west of the 'lease' premises.

On the same date, and just as unobtrusively, Richmond sub-leased that parcel to Petromark for expansion of their operations at Terminal 1. There were doubtless advantages to Santa Fe in the lease - sublease arrangement, not the least of them that the City would be obliged to take the heat generated by land uses objectionable to Richmond citizens.

Both agreements were for three years, with options to extend the term to January 31, 2003, subject to certain conditions; the principal one that Petromark develop the site in a manner that would increase the use of both the wharf at Terminal 1 and the Santa Fe tracks.

Before expiration of the initial three-year sublease, Petromark presented plans for expansion of their tank farm to the sub-leased site, satisfying the condition for site development. On January 4, 1983, Petromark exercised their option to extend the sublease term to January 31, 2003.

To honor Petromark's option, Richmond had to exercise its option with Santa Fe. The matter was placed on the January 24, 1983, City Council 'Consent Calendar' authorizing the mayor to exercise the lease option; which he did by letter the following day. Besides extending the lease term to January 31, 2003, the letter included other changes requested by Petromark: That Santa Fe increase the size of the lease area by 1.076 acres; and the inclusion of an additional ten year option plan. (This supplemental agreement would take the lease potentially to January 31, 2013.)

Petromark's next move, in March, 1983, was to request the vacation of the end of Dornan Drive (from Brickyard Cove Road to the Bay) to avoid the encroachment permit required for under-the-road construction. This would have joined the Petromark facility to the expansion site, and obviate the need (under M3, heavy industrial zoning) for installation permits for the essential pipeline from the proposed new tank farm to Terminal 1.

Petromark's request for street vacation hotly contested, since it would cut off Bay access to people who like to fish, and who can find few public access spots on deep water. The request was denied by the Planning Commission, but appealed to the City Council, who arrived at no decision. Subsequently, the Bay Conservation and Development Commission noted that the street closure request was under their jurisdiction, since it was within 100 feet of the Bay.

Petromark then changed its strategy, dropped its vacation request, and in October 1983, again applied for an encroachment permit under Dornan Drive to install a pipe trench under the street. City Council discussed this in December 1983 and January, 1984, and an environmental impact report (which Petromark had to this time stubbornly resisted) was agreed upon.

The completed EIR was certified by the Richmond EIR Panel on January 17, 1985, and referred to City Council for review and consideration, prior to their action on the encroachment permit application on February 25, 1985.

-o-

While the EIR process was going on, the City and Petromark were negotiating (unpublished) to amend Petromark's lease for Terminal 1. These negotiations officially began on October 17, 1983, when newly appointed City Manager Jim Fales wrote to Petromark President Grove Bryant as follows:

"With the soon-to-be expansion of Petromark, I am sure that you feel as I do that now is the time to resolve those difficulties which have appeared in the operation of the lease in its present form."

City Manager Fales had had extensive Port experience during his tenure as City Manager of Redwood City. Because he brought a fresh, albeit informed understanding of Port operations, he doubtless was dismayed at the terms of the 1973 lease. His letter did place the City in the position of initiating the lease amendment. It itemized eleven points, which were discussed in the negotiations:

1. Sale of city-owned tanks and buildings to Petromark;
2. Use of wharfage and dockage fund;
3. Collection and sharing with the City of vessel service charges;
4. City sharing in sublease revenues;
5. Landscaping of property;
6. Extension of lease property;
7. Cooperative use of the wharf;
8. Lease of Santa Fe railway land, the eight acres where the company wants to put 53 new tanks;
9. Lengthening of berth space;
10. Provision for lease adjustments on a periodic basis;
11. Adjustment of required amount of insurance.

The lease amendments were negotiated by Jim Fales, Port Director Sal Bose and later reviewed by Assistant City Attorney Bill Bonnell.

Under the terms of the amended lease, Petromark would purchase City owned tanks and all improvements at Terminal 1 except the wharf, mooring dolphin, warehouse and transit shed, though they would be responsible for maintenance of the last two items, above floor level. A fund would be established for deposit of a portion of the service charge collected by Petromark, in the event that the Richmond Deep Draft Harbor Project was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. If carried out, the dredging

would deepen the channel next to the wharf enough to undercut the support for the wharf pilings, making a new platform and mooring dolphins necessary. Deposits to this fund would cease June 30, 1989, after which the City would receive 10% of all service charges outright. Wharfage and dockage would continue in order to finance maintenance and repair of City-owned facilities at the Terminal.

The amended lease would go into effect only if Petromark's application for the encroachment permit was granted.

It was this amended lease that the Port Commission sub-committee was given to study, a task they felt might take them several weeks. However, after only one meeting, they returned to the Port Commission meeting February 5, with a report 'strongly critical of the amendments — amendments that were tacitly understood to be Petromark's trade-off with Richmond for permission to build the 53 new tanks on the eight subleased acres.

Sub-committee chairman Ernest Spencer reported that with the exception of an increase in insurance coverage (from \$1/300,000 to \$5 million) which was heartily endorsed, and the landscaping, which the sub-committee did not feel qualified to judge, they felt the document was too vague in many places, and not favorable to the City.

Keith Howard, attorney for Petromark, understandably spoke in favor of the amended lease. His parting shot was, "Is the City better off now than it will be with the amended lease?" After a good bit of discussion and despite vigorous efforts by Chairman, John Sheridan, to press for approval, the Commission voted 5 to 2 for disapproval of the amended lease. Their recommendation promised cold comfort for the City Council, looking to an election on May 14, at which three council members and the Mayor would be up for re-election.



photo from the Don Church Collection

A sleeping giant, the East Bay Regional Park District now stirred, and for the first time since their September 5, 1984, vote opposing Petromark's expansion plan, was heard from, in a letter sent to many Richmond residents from Park District Manager, Richard Trudeau. Reiterating the feeling that Petomark expansion was clearly incompatible with park and residential uses in the area, he proposed as "a viable alternative", a joint negotiation which was underway between the Park District and Kaiser Development Company to buy eight acres between Miller-Knox Park and the proposed site for Petromark expansion. The land is owned by Bray Oil Company, and is empty except for some aging unused storage tanks.

Kaiser Development (a subsidiary of Oakland-based Kaiser Aluminum) is interest-

ed developing a commercial-residential project on the property, but would *not* pursue the idea if the encroachment permit was granted to Petromark.

Mr. Trudeau's letter reported that Kaiser is seeking the first option to buy the Bray property, but if the sale does not go through, the Park District would have the second option, to make an extension of the park. In the event Kaiser proceeded with the development, some of the land would be reserved for extending the park.

The letter urged recipients to contact City Council members, urging their opposition to Petromark's expansion, and consideration of alternative development of the area. A list of Council members' names, addresses and telephone numbers was enclosed.

This communication from the Park District was offensive to some Council members, one of whom, Don Greco, questioned the use of tax monies for letters encouraging voters to lobby the Council. To this, Walter Costa, president of the Park Board, responded that, "The District has a vested interest in representing the public and taxpayers in the area, and feels that the more testimony you get from people regarding a situation, the better."

Mounting pressure and publicity were beginning to erode the conviction of Council members, once 8 to 1 in favor of Petromark expansion. Now they were stating uneasily that professional contract negotiators should be called in, or shoreline studies made. Councilman Al Silva suggested an ad hoc committee to review the amendments, iron out problems, and report back to the Council: Lonnie Washington (an account auditor), City Attorney Malcolm Hunter, and Port Commissioners Sheridan, Lord and Bianchi. This idea was speedily knocked flat, when the City Attorney advised that Washington, a Southern Pacific auditor, might violate conflict of interest regulations were

he to participate in a contract that could benefit the railroad company. (Santa fe and Southern Pacific are awaiting an I.C.C. ruling on a proposed merger.) Instead, Council directed Public Works and Port Department staff, with the City Attorney's office, to pursue further negotiations with Petromark, and report back to Council committees.

Mr. Silva, long a critic of City Council control of port operations, promptly proposed a Port Authority separate from Council control. The present seven member Port Commission was established in 1982. Before that, the City Council acted as the Port Commission. Silva favors an autonomous Port Commission, believing that, only then could the Port be run as a business, free from political pressure.

Port Commission chairman John Sheridan demurred, saying that an autonomous port authority would not work in Richmond, which is at present operating in the red. He questioned how a separate commission could fund the deficit and pay the insurance. But Port Commissioner Steve Bianchi, who is in the shipping industry, said that this idea was a move in the right direction. "Ports are a business," said Bianchi, "and business is turned off by layers of bureaucracy. When you have layers of government, you have politics which can turn into a three-ring circus instead of a business transaction."

-o-

The next development surfaced at the morning Council committee meetings February 20 and 21, at which Council members consider issues scheduled for the following Monday's Council meeting.

Malcolm Hunter reported the results of renewed negotiations with Petromark, or the "amended amended lease". Petromark, eager to embark on the expansion, made more concessions beneficial to the City. The latest proposals included:

1. Keeping the same annual rent (now at \$165,900) rather than the reduced rent suggested if Petromark bought some of the tanks and buildings, providing \$18,876 more per year than guaranteed in the earlier negotiations.

2. Charging \$38,729 more (or \$248,529) for the sale of the in situ tanks than Petromark had initially agreed to pay. The City would save \$20,000 a year in maintenance costs.

3. Increasing minimum liability insurance from the earlier \$5 million to \$10 million.

4. Raising the City's share of service fees from 10% to 12.5% which would be \$20,625 yearly for current operations; projected to be \$24,375 for the expanded facility.

Altogether, amendments would add up to about \$40,625 yearly for the city. Another \$19,000 could be anticipated in wharfage and dockage fees, from newly generated business (or approximately \$59,000 more altogether).

5. Affirmative Action provisions were added to the lease;

6. Cooperative use of the dock was pledged to Bray Oil Company, if use was not in competition with Petromark.

Port Commissioner Ernest Spencer, who attended the committee meetings, congratulated Hunter on the concessions, but still criticized the basic proposal, which he stated was unfair to the City, and would mean that Richmond would lose one million dollars in rent by 1993. He further objected to the additional ten years in the lease, since he said it was not possible in 1985 to anticipate the best land use in 2003, certainly not in 2013, or even in 1993, and suggested a study to select the best future use of the area.

At both committee meetings, the Port Commission was urged, if possible, to consider the latest proposals and transmit them prior to the Monday night Council meeting.

Sheridan speedily called a special Port Commission meeting for Friday, February 22, although two members, Lord and Bianchi could not attend. At the meeting, City Attorney Hunter again explained the new concessions. He pointed out also that, while the leases were not signed, they were in effect, since the options had been exercised.



photo courtesy Richmond Museum

Port Commissioner Spencer repeated the objections to the amended lease; but Commissioner Ryder made the motion that the amended amended lease be approved, with a recommendation to the Council for approval. The motion passed 4 to 1.

As the crucial February 25th City Council meeting drew closer, the sorely tried adjacent communities wrote letters, held meetings and circulated leaflets in an effort to get organized and participate in objecting to the Petromark expansion plan.

Time and time again, at the meetings it was emphasized that *a plan for land use and future development* is essential, or this sort of battle will be fought over and over. Various mechanisms to undertake shoreline planning were discussed, such as a shoreline advisory committee, or a special area plan for the entire shoreline, perhaps under the aegis of BCDC.

It was also repeatedly emphasized that since this issue concerns the public interest and 'the highest and best use' of the land, it involves the entire city, not just a section. As such, the vote on February 25 was seen

as a landmark vote on the political philosophy of Richmond, regarding the relative importance given to the needs of people and the needs of industry.

On the Council agenda, Item 16 was "to consider resolution authorizing execution of an encroachment agreement authorizing Petromark, Inc. to encroach upon a portion of Dornan Drive", and Item 17 (which would be considered only if Item 16 passed) was to "consider amendment to existing 1973 Master Lease with Petromark, Inc."

Interested voters filled the Council chamber to overflowing, prepared to spend half the night there if necessary; and it was pointed out that it might be necessary if all were determined to speak on the issue. However, out of more than fifty eager people signed up to speak, only about a dozen had the opportunity to do so. Keith Howard, for Petromark, led off by belittling the safety concerns voiced by many, since, he pointed out, Point Richmond is next to many bigger and more dangerous tanks at the Chevron refinery, and the Brickyard has the gigantic PG&E gas storage tank in its midst. He portrayed Petromark as a small business that had been "put through the wringer" in its admirable effort to improve itself. He concluded that Petromark was there only because the City had entered into the lease, and Petromark was now determined to go ahead with the expansion even if the encroachment permit was denied, providing the additional product by truck. "You will be left with the old lease, with objectionable aspects and without benefits."

Mr. Howard was supported by representatives of the Metal Trades and Boilermakers unions, who lamented unemployment (although not much employment is involved in this situation) and stressed that Richmond's financial base is industrial. As one of them said, "Without industry we'll be in suburbia!"

Then opponents of the encroachment permit began. They were vehement and eloquent; and while courteous, they were implacable in their determination to be heard. A succession of Park representatives, developers and neighborhood residents presented strong arguments against the encroachment, and the proposed expansion.

It was apparent no end was in sight, in the varied arguments against the permit, and a vote was called. It was a surprising 5 to 3 verdict against the permit. Nicholls, McMillan and Silva voted for the permit, and Corcoran, Greco, Livingston, MacDiarmid and Ziesenhenné voted against it. Councilman Washington was obliged to abstain because of his connection with the railroad. Mr. Greco protested that he had hit the wrong button. In any case, only four votes were needed to defeat the encroachment permit.

Petromark may now decide to truck their products from the dock to the proposed storage tanks, or they may decide to go to court.

The consternation created by the vote surfaced at the March 5 meeting of the Port Commission. Tom Butt, chairman of the West Contra Costa County Bayshore Council appeared before the Port Commission at the instruction of the City Council, to present the proposal he had first made to the Council concerning a fishing pier on the site of the former Southern Pacific Ferry Dock, owned by the city, at the Bay end of Dornan Drive.

A well-orchestrated attack was launched against Mr. Butt, before he had done more than identify himself; questioning his organization (which had opposed the Petromark expansion), its membership and purpose, and leveling various accusations against him. Mr. Butt responded that his group had become interested in the fishing pier idea from designs drawn up for a pier by the Port de-

partment. But Port Director Sal Bose refuted this statement on the grounds that the design was done only at the request of Councilman David MacDiarmid, who lives in Point Richmond, and is a charter member of the Bayshore Council.

Councilman MacDiarmid, who was present at the Port Commission meeting, stated that the old dock had been a traditional public access site which he, his family and many Richmond residents had long used and enjoyed. After the Port took it over and no longer provided maintenance, subsequently closing it to public access, he investigated the legality of the closure. He was informed that the closure was legal if the dock was a danger to the public, which it now is since it lacked maintenance. It was on this basis that MacDiarmid requested the Port department to draw up a design for a fishing pier. This they did, but when they did not promote it, the Bayshore Council adopted, and elaborated on the design.

Port Commissioner Sheridan said he would form a sub-committee to study the idea and report back in thirty days.

Mr. Butt received a less hostile reception next evening when, as instructed by the City Council he presented his plan to the Recreation and Parks Commission. Joseph Salvato, Recreation and Parks Director, referred to the Port Plan prepared by BCDC that says "public use of the shoreline is permissible, provided it does not impair Port use," and "A cooperative working relationship is to be maintained between the Port operation and public use."

Mr. Salvato listed a number of conditions which would have to be met for the proposed fishing pier, but reported that his department recommended approval of the idea, and the Commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the pier. Further consideration of the pier has been indefinitely postponed, until there has been

a resolution of the industrial versus commercial/residential development of the shoreline. Various members of the City Council feel that a study of the shoreline should be conducted before proceeding on the pier.

The entire situation has far-reaching implications for recreational interests, for development interests, for environmental interests, for neighborhood-residential interests and for port-industrial interests.

-O-

This is another chapter in the struggle which has been going on for a number of years, dramatized intermittently by specific land use battles about the direction in which the City will go in a future where societal priorities are shifting. Richmond has been historically industrial, with industry controlling and receiving precedence in city action. Basic human needs as health, recreation, education, employment and esthetics have historically been of secondary importance.

Now some of the powerful, necessary industries, because they have been found to be dangerously pollutant of air, water or land, will not be able to expand or proliferate. Coincidentally, a series of local and national circumstances have placed Richmond in a situation requiring drastic measures to restore its equilibrium. Richmond's deep-water port, Richmond's last best hope to restore its financial stability, has suffered consistent reversals, and the City's much publicized aspiration to become a significant Bay Area port competitor is currently given little credence.

Because the city owns vacant land long held for industrial development which may now never come to pass in an area short of residential land supply, Richmond's hope for continued economic growth may be the use of land for people — people who have been attracted to the Bay Area because it is a choice place to live.

An indication of this fact emerged, if

grudgingly, during the March 5 Port Commission meeting, when Mr. Donald Black, a representative of Ernst and Whinney, who were hired in October by the City to market the Levin Metals site at Shipyard 3, had a dismal report of his firm's efforts.

While the ports of Seattle and Los Angeles are doing well, the two river ports, San Francisco Bay Area and Portland, are doing poorly. Added to that, Richmond's negative port image made Ernst and Whinney unable to find a tenant. Mr. Black said that, while their charge was to look for a maritime use of the property, they had been contacted by numerous non-maritime users, i.e., developers. Black commented that there was a significant demand for waterfront land because of its limited supply; and that non-maritime development was a possibility for the City to consider.

Mr. Black was asked to repeat his report at the March 12 City Council meeting. His report met with mixed reactions. Though the Council agreed to schedule several sessions with the Port Commission on Black's report, several Council members stated for the first time that perhaps the City should consider non-maritime usage of the valuable waterfront land; other members hotly contested this idea or any action threatening to the City's investment in the Port.

It is perhaps significant that, throughout the United States, there is a growing groundswell of opposition to the authoritarian manner in which many cities operate, without regard to the needs and wishes of their citizens. Perhaps the vote against incompatible industrial expansion on Richmond's shoreline is a manifestation of a growing participatory democracy. Irritating and cumbersome as it may seem to some City fathers, it is a hopeful sign on the part of the City of Richmond, that it may begin, and hopefully maintain, sound planning for land uses.

—*Lucretia Edwards*

SPECIAL DAYS IN APRIL . . .

- 1 – April Fools' Day
- 1 to 5 – Easter Holidays for schools
- 5 – Good Friday
- 7 – EASTER
- 10 – Property taxes due – County
- 15 – IRS Wants YOUR Report!
- 16 – RUSD Pre School Art Exhibit,
Richmond Art Center. Reception 5 to 7:00.
- 19 – Arbor Day
- 19 – Report Cards – Elementary Schools
- 26 – Report Cards – Secondary
- 27 – Daylight Savings Begins – Go ahead 1 hour.

APRILS IN THE PAST . . .

- 16, 1906 – Pacific Cable was completed between
U.S. and China
- 19, 1775 – American Revolutionary War began
- 19, 1933 – U.S. abandoned the gold standard
- 22, 1864 – Congress authorized "In God We
Trust" minted on U.S. coins.
- 24, 1953 – Moslem women voted for the first time.
- 27, 1937 – First Social Security payment made by
U.S. government.
- 28, 1952 – War with Japan formally ended

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (CHECK ONE)

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

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

POINTS IN THE FUTURE

- April 2 – West Side Improvement Club,
Noon, Our Lady of Mercy Church
- April 10 – Point Richmond Business Association, noon, Hotel Mac
- April 10 – Indian Statue Park Committee meeting - The Point, 5 p.m.
- April 10 – Washington School Founders Day Fiesta, 7 p.m. Auditorium
- April 11 – Neighborhood Council General Meeting – Community Center, 8 p.m.
- May 11 – Annual Troop 111 Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast – 6 a.m. to noon. Everyone Invited!
- May 19 – Point Richmond History Association ANNUAL MEETING – Pot Luck Luncheon, Linsley Hall, 1 p.m. Special Vintage Fashion Show and historic displays.

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

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Illustrations: Donna Roselius

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

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