

# THIS POINT

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL. VI No. 6

MARCH, 1988

One Dollar



D. Rosch

201-7 COTTAGE AVENUE  
POINT RICHMOND

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## in time



WASHINGTON AVENUE ABOUT 1910

WE FINALLY HAVE OUR PHOTO ARCHIVES CATALOGED AND ARE READY TO OFFER REPRODUCTIONS OF MOST PHOTOS IN OUR COLLECTION. WE PLAN TO HAVE THEM ON DISPLAY AT FUTURE LOCAL EVENTS. PRICES WILL BE \$12.50 FOR 8" X 10" AND 11" X 14" FOR \$18.00! SEPIA TONE WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE.

TO INTRODUCE THIS NEW SERVICE WE HAVE MADE A NUMBER COPIES OF ONE OF OUR FAVORITES FROM THE DON CHURCH COLLECTION, "WASHINGTON AVENUE ABOUT 1910". WE WILL SELL COPIES OF THIS PICTURE FOR \$8.50 EACH THROUGH APRIL OR AS LONG AS OUR SUPPLY LASTS. DON'T WORRY, THE QUALITY IS MUCH BETTER THAN OUR OFFSET PRESS IS CAPABLE OF PRODUCING.

TO GET YOUR APPLICATION FOR A COPY CALL OR WRITE JERRY CERKANOWICZ.

229 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE  
POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801

235-1336

THIS PROJECT IS A BENEFIT FOR THE HISTORY ASSOCIATION. YOU MUST AGREE NOT TO FURTHER REPRODUCE THE PHOTOGRAPHS.



# ♦♦ HISTORY ASSOCIATION NOTES ♦♦

## PRESIDENTIAL PATTERN

*from Jerry Cerkanowicz, President*

First, I'd like to thank the good people who contribute to the newsletter: Points in the Past, Deirdre, Pam and Zoe; Churches, Roy Jones, Marion Downey and Mid Dornan, who also contributes her Trivia section, Troop 111 news and Camp Fire Memories, to name a few; Linda Andrew, Neighborhood Council; Jan Burdick, West Side Branch Library; and the Masquers. Then, the staff, Frankie Greenlaw for editing, rewriting and typing; Amy Rotting for layout and paste up; and Gary Shows, printing. Not to mention the faithful Board members, in addition to most of the aforementioned, who gather at my home to collate, staple, and address and sort the finished product. All of the above used to take place under one roof, which simplified matters a great deal—we're working on the problems in getting it all together from several sources and out to our faithful and understanding readers, for whose support we are most grateful.

Two dates to remember: first, our March 24 meeting at the Hotel Mac (upstairs meeting room) at 7:30 p. m. Monica Haley is to be our guest speaker. Hope to see you then. Next, the Point Richmond Business Association is sponsoring an Easter Egg Decorating contest at the Community Center from 12 noon to 4 p.m. on April 2, Saturday before Easter. Prizes will be awarded for best decorated eggs as adjudged by members of the Point Richmond Art Guild. Twenty-five cents will cover eggs, decorating materials and contest entry.

Finally, a special word of thanks to Tom Magenheimer who is leaving the Point to

take up residence in Napa after many years here at 222 Tunnel avenue. Tom has most graciously donated to the Association the plaque from the original Indian Statue fountain, noting its donation by the West Side Improvement Club in 1909. It was left in the basement of the house when Mrs. Elizabeth Gnaga died. She had belabored city officials regarding the statue's demise and finally was able to retrieve at least the dedication plate, which was overlooked when her heirs emptied the house. Tom gave it a place of honor on the wall of his living room for many years, but felt it should remain in the Point. Rest assured, Tom, that we will find a place for it in the Indian Statue Park! Thanks, again, for a truly meaningful gift to your adopted community.

## MEMBERS

*Pam Wilson, Membership Chairman  
521 Western Drive  
Point Richmond, CA 94801*

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

Louisa Banks	Zoanna Kille
George Batten	Frank Lopez
Eleanor Johnson Best	Mae Mandl
Anna Booth	Maxine Mayer
Jack Elle	W. J. McCutcheon
Sheila Fostiak	Stan Nystrom Family
Raymond Golden	Molly O'Connell
Virginia R. Kennedy	Tom Spenser

And a warm welcome to new member:

William G. Schultz

Phone Richmond 311 139 Richmond Ave.

## RICHMOND SUPPLY CO.

DRAYAGE AND EXPRESS

Wood, Coal, Hay and Grain

J. Q. BLACK, Manager Richmond, Cal.





## 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. . .

by Deirdre Cerkowicz

#### STORM BREAKS DREDGE LINE HERE

"Caught in the fierce southeaster which blew during the night, the pontoon pipe line of the American Dredging Company, which has been engaged in digging the turning basin near the municipal wharf, gave way . . . this morning, causing damages . . . which may take several days to repair. . . the pipes were rolled here and there by heavy swells . . . The dredger itself did not suffer injury but was rolled about by the high waves. . ."

February 6, 1918

#### LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER SUCCUMBS

"Charles E. Clark, for the past eight years assistant lighthouse keeper at the Brothers lighthouse opposite Pt. Orient, died suddenly this morning. He is survived by his widow, Alice Clark (and) was a native of Maine, aged 68 years. . ."

February 6, 1918

#### LOCAL BOY ON TORPEDOED LINER

"Tommy Grenfell, well known Richmond boy, was on the Tuscania. Whether he was saved or lost is yet unknown and his father, who resides at the Colonial Hotel, Washington and Cottage avenues, is hourly expecting advice from the War Department.

. . . He is 18 years of age. His mother, Mrs.

Margaret Grenfell, was formerly a prominent music teacher (who) passed away about two years ago.

Grenfell was a native of Australia, but had lived in Richmond for the past eight years."

February 8, 1918

(The liner Tuscania was apparently torpedoed some days earlier with a loss of an estimated 200 lives.)

#### MILITARY WEDDING UNITES OFFICERS

"Surpassing in brilliancy any nuptials which have been celebrated in Richmond for many months, the wedding of Lieutenant Elmo Zumwalt, M.D. and Miss Frances Frank, also an M.D., took place last night at the First Christian church. The vows were plighted beneath a large American flag spread above the pulpit and in the presence of 150 guests who crowded the church auditorium to witness the city's first military wedding. . .

The church decorations were of ferns and acacias with many American flags. . ."

February 8, 1918

#### TRUCK RUNS AMUCK ON COTTAGE

"With danger to the life of L. H. Latimer, driver for the Lottman agency for Golden State Beer, the huge truck used by the distributing station ran amuck on Cottage avenue near the St. Francis hotel (today), and after rushing part way down the steep hill ended up knocking down an electric light pole and crashing into the curb near the



## Colonial Hotel.

Coming out of the St. Francis, Latimer stepped in front of the truck to start the motor, when the brakes suddenly lost their hold and the big car lunged down the hill. (He) jumped just in time to escape the wheels of the truck. . ."

*February 16, 1918*

## NEW STANDARD STEAMER READY

"The new steamship A. C. Bedford, built at the Union Iron Works for the Standard Oil Company was favorably commented upon on her arrival at the company's wharf to take on her first oil cargo. The tanker was launched October 27 and for several weeks was in the stream having the finishing touches put on. The vessel is one of the largest oil carriers ever constructed in the San Francisco bay region, being of 7,874 tons. Commandeered by the government . . ., she has been turned over to Standard by the Shipping board for operation."

*February 16, 1918*

## HARBOR TALKS CONTINUE WITH R. R.

"Negotiations are practically completed for details standing between the city and Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railway over tidelands and other matters connected with . . . harbor work. . .

Three matters were taken up with railroad officials by Richmond representatives . . . yesterday in Los Angeles. . .

The most important subject of negotiation related to nine acres near the municipal wharf owned by the Santa Fe. . . and needed by the city for improvement of the waterfront. It has practically been settled that the railroad will deed the land to the city in return for a long lease on 12 acres lying on each side of the Ferry Point slips in deep water. The city does not own the land which is in state title, but will secure the right to lease it from the state.

Railroad officials also agreed to construc-

tion of two spur tracks from the Richmond Pressed Brick works branch line to the wharf. . .

Further steps were taken in the matter of emptying mud dredged from the turning basin into the Santa Fe lagoon between Ferry Point and the municipal tunnel. . ."

*February 16, 1918*

## H. C. CUTTING GOES TO JAIL

"Refusing to allow friends to put up his \$1000 bail or to put up the amount himself, H. C. Cutting, president of Richmond Land and Canal Company, was taken to jail yesterday. . . to await a hearing March 4 on a writ of attachment. . .

Cutting was brought before Federal Judge W. C. Van Fleet yesterday to show cause why he had not paid \$500 expense bill to H. M. Wright, Government Master in Chancery, as the result of a suit brought against him by Henry J. and Francis A. Woodward, which Wright decided in favor of the plaintiffs. . .

The writ of attachment on Cutting's person was the first of its kind to be issued in Federal courts for years. . ."

*February 27, 1918*

## HOLD UP REPORTED NEAR R. R.

"Paul S. Lawruski, 52 Standard avenue, rushed into the police station last night with his face cut and bleeding and reported that he had just been held up at the Santa Fe crossing.

He told police that two men approached him and asked for a smoke. When he reached for it the man grabbed him and the other went through his pockets, taking \$5. The police searched the area but found no one."

*February 27, 1918*

## J. J. MCEWEN DIES IN SAN FRANCISCO

"J. J. McEwen, veteran Richmond real estate operator, member of the firm of McEwen Brothers, who subdivided and sold the Santa Fe tract, died today after an



illness of three months with heart trouble. He survived his brother, Frank McEwen, who died several years ago.

The deceased man was a resident of and a booster for this section before there was any Richmond. At that time the old town of Santa Fe was the only settlement here. He was one of the 30 men who went to Washington to help put through the Government aid for the Richmond harbor.

He was a member of the Richmond Industrial Commission and a prominent factor in the advancement of Richmond and was well known both here and in San Francisco. . ."

*March 11, 1918*

#### *POINT CLUB RESUMES MEETINGS*

"A meeting of the Point Richmond Commercial Club is to be held tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. at the offices of H. G. Stidham, well known real estate and insurance man, corner of Richmond and Washington avenues.

The club has accomplished many things for the west side and aims to revive interest in its activities."

*March 11, 1918*

#### *SURPRISE PARTY TENDERED MCDUFFS*

"Mr. and Mrs. Edward McDuff, popular Richmond residents, were the recipients of a most delightful surprise party a few evenings ago tendered to them at their home on Cottage avenue and which was featured by the presentation of many attractive presents, wishes of continued happiness and prosperity and an evening of merriment and feasting. Whist was one of the diversions of the evening . . . Miss Galbally, Mrs. D. Cleaves and Mr. Sullivan pleased with many well rendered vocal numbers. Dancing followed and Mr. and Mrs. McDuff . . ."

*March 22, 1918*

*Although the end of the story was missing from our copy, we assume the occasion was an anniversary, and that the McDuffs thanked their many friends! Ed.*

#### *SANTA FE LAYING TRACK IN YARDS*

"Track laying in the Santa Fe yards in Richmond that is now under way and that is to be started will make these freight yards the largest on the Pacific Coast. They are now exceeded only by Los Angeles yards, which have about 70 miles of trackage. This includes many long spurs to factories. The Richmond yards have 45 miles of solid freight trackage, not including any factory spurs. Work now going on and which is to be launched will give Richmond about 70 miles of tracks . . .

In addition to this, which all comes from sources in the Santa Fe building in San Francisco and is said to be authentic, the Santa Fe company is to really, actually and absolutely build that new passenger station, it is declared. The new station will be modern and of pleasing design and will not go on Cutting boulevard and Garrard avenue, but at Macdonald and Garrard.

The present passenger station is to be used for freight purposes. . ."

*March 22, 1918*

#### *POINT PEOPLE JAM OPERA HOUSE*

"Jammed to the doors by a cheering crowd, the Point Richmond Opera house last night presented a scene of excitement and a spirit which was caught up by the speakers and transformed into two hours of rousing enthusiasm.

The speakers were George Hough Perry, who talked straight from the shoulder on war loyalty, and F. N. Belgrana, president of the Fugazzi Popular Bank of San Francisco, who addressed the Italians present in their own tongue and then spoke also in English.

Music for the occasion was supplied by the Italian band, directed by Professor Cheli Rodolfo. Other numbers were given by Miss Loal (sic) Bernardi, Ernest Molinari, Philip Augusto and Carrie Ellsworth. . ."

*March 26, 1918*



## CITY PUTS UP COIN FOR DREDGING

"The hundred thousand is up and Uncle Sam is busy on the first steps towards dredging the harbor channel. Yesterday . . . City Auditor J. A. McVittie and City Treasurer I. R. Vaughn visited the office of Colonel W. H. Hener, carrying authority to turn over the \$100,000 which is to match the initial government appropriation. . .

The plans for the harbor work have been approved at Washington . . . so that only the details (of) advertising for bids and getting started stand between commencement of the big dredging job which shall connect Richmond's harbor with deep water. . ."

March 28, 1918

## STRUGGLE AT TURNING POINT

"Washington, March 28—The allied offensive is well under way and most important news is expected from the battlefield in Picardy within the next 24 hours, war department officials declared today.

That the allies have placed 800,000 fresh troops along the Picardy front and that 100,000 of these are Americans ready for battle is the estimate made up according to the latest information reaching Washington."

March 28, 1918

## 60 YEARS AGO . . .

by Zoanna Kille

### HAPPENINGS ON THE WEST SIDE

"At the meeting of Trinity Guild Wednesday it was decided to give a food sale on Saturday, February 11, at the store at 164 Washington avenue. . ."

\*\*\*

"Miss Karin Peterson is confined to her home on Crest avenue by an injured ankle."

\*\*\*

"The Crescit Euridid club met on Monday in the Guild hall. A social evening was enjoyed with the Misses Karin, Maja and Ruth Petersen as the entertainment committee."

\*\*\*

"The Hillside club met today at Trinity Guild hall. Mrs. J. S. Moyle was hostess of the day. . . the afternoon was spent playing whist, after luncheon was served."

\*\*\*

"A reception was tendered to the worthy matron, Leona Patterson, and worthy patron Ivor D. Owens, at a meeting of Point chapter last evening. Despite the rain a large number of visitors were present from Richmond and Pinole. A program . . . was rendered (including) vocal solos, Miss LaVerne Patterson, accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Thankful Perault; monologues, Miss Jean Moyle; violin solos, Turner Brashear, accompanied by Miss Bernice Mills . . ."

(Guess it was assumed that everyone would know this was an Order of Eastern Star affair.)

\*\*\*

"An old-fashioned baked ham dinner will be served on Tuesday, February 7, at noon in the parlors of the First M. E. church. The ladies of the Social league, who are famous cooks, will sponsor the dinner. The committee . . . is headed by Mrs. J. B. Vloeberghs."

February 2, 1928

## RICHMOND'S 1ST FIRE CHIEF PAYS VISIT

"Richmond's first fire chief arrived in town to spend a few days with George Lee, prominent local broker.

Rapid fire changes in Richmond's business and commercial districts caused James McMullen, now living in Santa Rosa, who remembers the days when blazes were doused by strong armed fire fighters and buckets of water, to reminisce on the original town at the Point.

He harkened back to the days before the Standard Oil plant, when the town was less than a mud flat, and later to the time when corner lots of Macdonald avenue, now occupied by prominent business structures, went begging at \$150 each.

"In those days," declared the ex-chief, "residents along Macdonald avenue all had



mud puddles in front of their homes. Some of them even posted 'No Fishing' signs at the edge of their ponds."

Shortly after the opening of Macdonald avenue in 1910, according to McMullen, a huge carnival was held."

*February 3, 1928*

#### **WEST SIDE PARK BIDS ARE ASKED**

"Washington park and playground near Washington school on the West Side, is to receive its improvements, making it into a handsome park, under bids which have been called for by City Engineer Ed Hoffman. . .

Under plans for the park and playground, the entire area between Cutting boulevard and Richmond avenue and from Washington school westward to Garrard boulevard is to be graded and filled. The parking outside the sidewalk and a strip from 40 to 50 feet wide around the inside will be set to grass, shrubs and flowers. The interior space will be finished off for a baseball ground and equipped with playground apparatus. . ."

*February 7, 1928*

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

*by Zoanna Kille*

#### **POINT MASONS SEAT OFFICERS**

"At impressive ceremonies at Point Masonic temple last night, Clarence L. Peterson master, and his assisting staff, were installed as officers . . . of Point Lodge of Masons.

Installing officer was Jacob E. Hughes, inspector of the 30th Masonic district. Assisting him as master of ceremonies was C. J. Peterson, a past master of Point Lodge. The retiring master was Charles E. Bennett, Jr.

Other new officers are A. C. Cramer, senior warden; Charles J. Peterson, secretary; Chester Chappell, junior warden; Arthur F. Whitesides, treasurer; C. M. Nielson, chaplain; David G. Collins, senior deacon; Wilbur Woolsey, junior deacon; George Allwyn, senior steward; William Willett, junior steward; Carl Friezendorf, tyler; and Fred Wake, marshal . . ."

*February 2, 1938*

#### **FERRY TIE UP IS CONTINUED**

"The boats of the Richmond-San Rafael Ferry Company were still tied up today as employes of the company picketed roads leading to the ferry slips and company officials awaited a board meeting to be held in San Francisco this afternoon.

Although no announcement was made concerning what trend the discussion would take, it was indicated that a company offer has been drafted and will be submitted to the employes as soon as it is approved by the directors.

The dispute grew out of demands by three unions . . . for dismissal pay, seniority rights and an approximate 5 cent per hour raise. . ."

*February 3, 1938*

#### **PIONEER EDUCATOR IS CALLED**

"Miss Nora Ashfield, former assistant superintendent of Richmond schools and one of the best beloved school teachers and executives of the . . . department, died today at Redding, where she had been in ill health for more than seven years . . .

Miss Ashfield came to Richmond as a teacher in the Washington school in July, 1904. About four years later she was named principal of the school, and held the post until she was appointed assistant superintendent of schools in 1921 and continued as such until her retirement in 1930, due to illness. She was about 60 years of age at the time of her death. (She) will be mourned by hundreds of residents and school children who knew her as teacher and principal. . ."

*February 4, 1938*

#### **WEST SIDE NEWS**

"The Point Sewing Club at its meeting last Friday, planned a number of entertainments for the coming year. . . the business meeting was conducted by president Mrs. Rose Dingle. Whist was played with prizes given to Mrs. Louise Wilson, Mrs. Ethel Alexander and Mrs. Mary Moyle."

\* \* \*



"The Monday Bridge club were entertained at the home of Mrs. R. W. Jenkins on West Richmond avenue. Mrs. S. G. Little was guest of the evening."

\* \* \*

"A card party is being planned by the Washington P.T.A. for the evening of February 25. . . Mrs. Walter Paasch was named as chairman."

\* \* \*

"Mrs. W. R. Spiersch, accompanied by P Miss Pauline Spiersch, will leave Sunday for their home in Los Angeles. . . These folks are natives of Richmond and Will Spiersch is a prominent member of Club Mendelssohn and Miss Pauline attended R.U.H.S. and was an active member of Camp Fire Girls."

\* \* \*

"Antone Mazza, proprietor of the Liberty Market, has returned to his work following a long illness."

\* \* \*

"The Ladies Aid of the First M. E. church met today at the home of Mrs. Daisie Jenkins on Summit Place. Mrs. H. W. Pierce, president, presided."

\* \* \*

"The Woman's West Side Improvement Club will meet February 7 at the home of Mrs. J. A. McMenamin on Crest avenue. Mrs. J. P. Downey will assist as co-hostess."

\* \* \*

### **KILLER STORM LASHES STATE**

"San Francisco, Feb. 10—A score of cities today were strewn with wreckage caused by a violent Pacific gale that lashed the California coast with 80-mile-an-hour winds, killed six and injured dozens, and destroyed millions of dollars worth of property."

### **RICHMOND MENDING WRECKAGE**

"Richmond residents today set about repairing torn roofs, broken windows, shattered garages and other damage done by yesterday's gale, while the power and telephone companies were still struggling to mend broken

wires and erect flattened poles to re-establish electric and communication service.

On the West Side, many homes along the hilltop were damaged severely. Trees were down, windows broken and roofs damaged . . . The gale was the worst in the history of the city, but Richmond escaped without any reported injury to persons, although many narrow escapes from falling trees and poles were reported. . ."

*February 10, 1938*

### **40 YEARS AGO . . .**

*by Pam Wilson*

### **SANTA FE RETAINS SITE ON CHANNEL**

"An appeal to the city administration to prevail upon the Santa Fe to go along with proposed plans for a Richmond Marina and yacht harbor, was made before last night's city council meeting by J. A. Vincent, Jr., commodore of the Richmond Yacht Club.

Vincent requested the council to hear him after a letter had been presented . . . giving the firm's reasons (for retaining) possession of the property involved . . . possible use of the turning basin for turning large ships, . . . necessity of backing ships out of the channel if the basin not kept clear. . . (and) the demand for lands along the channel for industrial sites.

Vincent outlined . . . future plans of the yachting movement here, placing emphasis on plans for a junior small boats yacht club for boys from 10 to 18 years of age. . .

Vincent said the turning basin will not serve its purpose, has never been used to turn ships and is now . . . too small for modern ships . . .

"One of these days the city of Richmond is going to have to draw a line and strike a balance between industrial and legitimate

**Curry's Opera House**  
**Point Richmond**



recreational needs.” . . .”

*February 3, 1948*

#### **YACHT CLUB STARTS HUNT FOR NEW SITE**

“The Richmond Yacht Club’s new board of directors will meet next Wednesday to discuss the club housing situation.

Since the Santa Fe Company has declined to assign land to the City of Richmond for building a yacht club and aquatic (sic) park in the lower turning basin, the club must seek a new place to house its club and boats . . .”

*February 6, 1948*

#### **OPEN HOUSE TEA FOR LOCAL ARTISTS**

“The Cypress Point Road home of Mr. and Mrs. Veil Hammond was opened to over a hundred friends last Sunday in an informal open house.

Mrs. Hammond, known professionally in her work of interior decorating as Louise Hammond, was assisted in greeting guests by Mrs. Rosalind Wheeler, Mrs. Doris Clifford, Mrs. Marlyce Reynolds, Mrs. Connie Miller, Miss Georgia Flye and Mrs. Arlene

Hefner.

All artists, the hostess and co-hostesses had arranged exhibitions about the living rooms so guests could view them informally. . . .”

*March 2, 1948*

#### **POINT BUSINESSMEN SET UP GROUP**

“Temporary officers, a nominating committee and a by-laws committee were chosen at last night’s organizational meeting of the Point Richmond Businessmen’s Association.

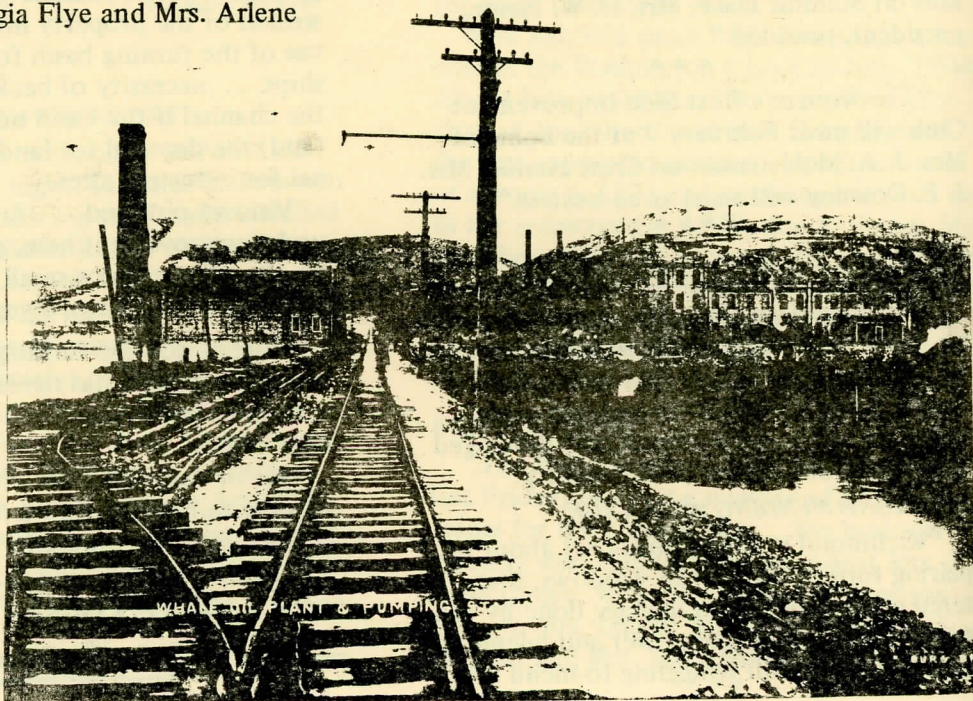
Theodore Ciabattari, who presided . . . was chosen temporary chairman and Helen Hathaway as secretary-treasurer.

Gust J. Allyn, Frank Shock and Louis Mighetti comprise the by-laws committee.

Forrest Marcello, Danny Keller and J. Bromsteadt are the nominating committee.

The meeting, held at the Oil Workers hall on Standard avenue near Tewksberry(sic) street, was attended by 50 businessmen of the Point Richmond area . . .”

*March 3, 1948*



*Photo courtesy  
Don Church  
collection*



## 30 YEARS AGO . . .

by Pam Wilson

### TALK AND TRIVIA by Helen Williams

"Resting (reluctantly) at home has been Mrs. George (Dody) Perry of Western Dr., who recuperated from a painful fall in the shower . . . sustained when she slipped."

February 8, 1958

"Assuring a lively growth for Richmond was the arrival on February 16, 1854, of energetic Mr. and Mrs. John Nicholl, Sr., who were aboard the steamer 'SS John L. Stephens' from Panama. En route to the Land of Gold from Ireland, the just-wed couple arrived at the Isthmus of Panama where Mr. Nicholl walked across and his bride rode a mule. After their arrival in the bustling town of San Francisco, he paid \$1 for a ride from there to San Leandro where they farmed for three years. Then, just 100 years ago, they bought 200 acres of land the heirs of Francisco Castro, grantee of Rancho San Pablo. The Nicholls built a two story farmhouse and farmed . . . now the sedate site of St. Cornelius School, Nicholl Park . . . etc. Following the nationally famous land litigation suit of 40 years, Mr. Nicholl took 150 acres of hill on the Bay. Then in 1897 he sold 57 acres of the "Point" property to the just formed San Francisco-San Joaquin Railway, later bought by the Atchison, Topeka and the Santa Fe Railway. The Nicholl Ranch boundaries were from the Santa Fe tracks north of Roosevelt avenue, from 23rd to 33rd streets. Mr. Nicholl was an elder in San Pablo Presbyterian church for 40 years; he died at the age of 92 in 1914."

February 15, 1958

### QUESTION MARK COLUMN

"As a good postmaster should, Gust Allyn opened an investigation this week when he read in this column of a letter which got through the mails with a Blue Chip stamp instead of one of those Uncle Sam sells at

postoffices. And he found that his office was not all to blame—because the letter was mailed in Rodeo. But a good talking to was meted out by Gust to a couple of his workers."

???

### LONG-TIME WORKERS HONORED BY PTA

"Two honorary life membership pins were awarded by the Washington School PTA at a recent founders' day meeting and luncheon. Recipients were Mrs. Elwood Berg and Mrs. G. E. Squires.

Mrs. Berg . . . is active in PTA, Girl Scout Brownies and organizing recreation for children. . .

Mrs. Squires is past president of Washington PTA . . . has taught Sunday School and has done extensive church work. Bluebirds are among the organizations that occupy her time. . .

Past-presidents honored were Mesdames J. B. Vleberghs, B. T. Brown, B. W. Brothers, R. F. Paasch, J. C. Williams, Gust Allyn, Rose Dingle, E. R. Saunders, O. F. Huffstetter, Mrs. J. C. Kennedy, Albert Palenchar, Rose Friesendorf, J. T. Robbins, Stephen Banks, H. R. Hillyer, Donald Bill, W. P. Dennis, Herbert Bill, Bert Allard, E. T. Gagnon, Paul Wentzel, L. M. McCown, R. W. Henderson, Jack Dorney, M. L. Lazaro, Jacob Brakstad, J. H. Hawthorne, Gladys Fe Beardsley, Earl Craig, G. E. Squires, C. H. Decker, Veil Hammond and Meade McClure.

Honorary life members also were honored including Mrs. Bill, John Emrich, Mrs. Samuel Guisti, Mrs. Homer Nissen, Mrs. George Norris, Mrs. W. T. Paasch, Mrs. Edward Palenchar, Mrs. Walter Pike, Mrs. Kathryn Plummer, Mrs. Frank Simmons, Mrs. Spino-la, Mrs. Lola Walker, Mrs. Gilbert Golden, Mrs. Marguerite Marinell, Robert Dorman, and Mrs. Brakstad."

February 24, 1958

### TALK AND TRIVIA by Helen Williams

"On March 1, 1901, Richmond's first telephone toll station was installed at the



Critchett Hotel, then at the corner of Washington and Richmond avenues, in East Yard (we call it Point Richmond). In April two telephones were placed in service for the Santa Fe over a line connecting the station with Oakland. In 1901 in the Post Office on Richmond avenue, Mr. Hoxter conducted a candy store, where Miss Laura Hoxter, later Mrs. Oliver Wylie, organized the first telephone exchange. Miss Hoxter was chosen because she had some experience on switchboard work and also because she agreed to accept it on a commission basis. The first subscriber was Dr. P. C. Campbell, later a total of 28 subscribers paid \$1.75 a month. On big nights such as elections and fight nights, Miss Hoxter would go to the exchange and call up Oakland to get the news. This candy store was known as the "Palace of Sweets."

March 1, 1958

#### QUESTION MARK COLUMN

"From the Standard Oil Company refinery here we hear that engineering has been completed, equipment ordered and preliminary site preparation is being done for the new polybutene plant. The work is scheduled to get under way next month and will cost between \$1 and \$2 million."

???

March 12, 1958



#### IN PURSUIT OF HISTORICAL TRIVIA

*courtesy of Stan Nystrom*

#### ANSWER:

The trivia question in the previous issue inquired about the unusual action taken by the Santa Fe Railroad to commemorate Mr. W. A. Bissell.

The answer is provided in the following excerpt from a succinct article in the Richmond Independent of February 2, 1917:

**"SANTA FE TRAINS STOP IN HONOR OF BISSELL"**

At 2:15 o'clock yesterday afternoon every wheel in the western division of the Santa Fe Railway came to a stop in honor of the late W. A. Bissell, former traffic manager of the company, whose funeral took place in Alameda at that hour. Bissell avenue in this city was named after W. A. Bissell . . ."

When it is realized that the Santa Fe extends as far east as Chicago and New Orleans, stopping every wheel in the western division becomes a gesture of considerable impact. I wonder if many present-day citizens were ever aware of this story about the man for whom Bissell avenue was named.

#### QUESTION:

When some people think of Richmond, they think only of Chevron refinery (formerly Standard Oil), and when they think of the refinery, they think only of gasoline and oil. A recent news release mentioned that over 300 different products are made here. During my brief employment there near the beginning of WWII, I worked in what was then known as the Specialty Shop, and was surprised to see such items as harness oil and wagon-axle grease being packed there.

This month's question is directed to the 'senior set' to see if they can recall brand names listed below and match each one up with the products they represented. Be aware that these are obsolete brand names that I can recall, and, to keep it from being too easy, there are a few more products listed than brands.

Brand names	Products
Atlas(not tires)	pharmaceutical
Zerolene	mineral oil
Mica	wagon-axle grease
Red Crown	floor wax
Flamo	cigarette lighter fluid
Calol	premium gasoline
Oronite	harness oil
Flight	motor oil
Pearl	black stove polish
Delo	furniture and floor oil
Squibb	cooking and heating gas
	white gasoline
	sealing wax

A belated acknowledgement to the Richmond Library and Ann Roberts of the San Pablo Historical & Museum Association for providing the pictorial sketch of Richmond-1900 for last month's trivia question regarding the fence location. SN





## CAMP FIRE MEMORIES

*courtesy of Mid Dornan*

*Maude Wood was a Camp Fire Girls leader in the Point, 1932-33. A scrapbook of their activities, "Diary of the Pikida Wakan Camp Fire Group" was kept by Pikida, Kokoko, Wakoda, Wapo Moma and Tanda, Indian names the girls chose for themselves. This is the 13th installment of excerpts from the diary.*

"October 27-29, 1933     Houseparty

We all marched in the N.R.A. parade including our three guests, Frances, Lois and Ruth. Later we went up to the dance and tried dancing a little bit. Then we started to walk home. (It may not be the last time) only to discover it wasn't so hot especially on the feet. Then we proceeded to make our beds in which we spent shall I say a hard night on the floor. P.S. after having a cop tell us to quit singing taps and the guardians song.) The gang hung out the window!!! does your mother know your (sic) out - this to the butcher boy! - from Frances". - a half hour before the cop came up the steps and flashed his light on Tanda's pajamas."

The next day we started to hike to Wine-Haven (sic) but stopped on the way to eat our lunch at the quarry. We didn't get any further due to a sudden shower of rain. We walked home (again) much to our embarrassment (sic) as every car that passed us turned around to look at us (we only had our tennis shorts and blouses on) but we soon fixed them. How? You'll never guess.

Saturday night we went to a church party and had a heap of fun. Frances came home with a cow call for Eva. Sunday afternoon we all went to the show for 10 cents except Maude (of course). Upon coming out we found it to be raining cats and dogs.

So after getting a milkshake we drove to the bridge where Frances and Lois caught the bus to Vallejo - half fare. (Are you a Camp Fire Girl?)

Submitted except the end,  
Pikida"

"October 28, 1933     Ceremonial - Mrs.

Wilkins Made New Guardian

The Saturday night the Vallejo Camp Fire Girls were down the Onchiotas and Betty Dornan and Eva Garloff of the Pikida Wakan Group had a ceremonial. (The others of the Wakans going to church Halloween party) Mrs. Wilkins was brought into Camp Fire. After singing songs and making speeches Miss Wood assisted by Mrs. Wilkins gave out honors. Informal questions and answers about Camp Fire were made in council. We had two guests who were Mrs. Dingle and Mrs. Avila. The Onchiota group closed the evening with singing their group song.  
Wakoda"

## CHURCHES

### OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH

*by Eleanor Hurley*

During the busy Lenten season, Father Denis is holding daily masses Monday through Friday at noon, and stations of the cross at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, so that those who are employed during the day may attend.

The Department of Adult Education of the Diocese has been holding a Lent Scripture series, "Mary the Mother of Jesus in the Gospels", with Our Lady of Mercy serving as host church. Sessions were held on February 16, 23 and March 1, 8 and 15.

The parish also participated in the Oakland Pastoral Convention, February 26-28 to select members of the Diocean Parish Council.

Principal Cynthia Young is busy with CCD classes, preparing children and several adults for First Communion.

Several Laotian families have been welcomed into the Parish and are a quiet and reverent addition to our church.



Father Denis traveled to Korea in January for a 10-day ecumenical seminar.

Al and Florence Weyland celebrated the 50th anniversary of their marriage on January 23, 1988, with a mass, renewal of their wedding vows and a reception in the church hall. They are former parishioners here and their children and grandchildren planned the celebration.

Memorial services were held in late February for Joseph Loza, who had lived in Atcheson Village for 40 years.

A note from the past: In late January, Father Denis received a letter from South Bend, Indiana, informing him the Reverend Gerald R. Barmasse, C.S.C., was ordained a priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross, in Santiago, Chile, on March 26, 1976. He was baptized in our parish on April 28, 1946 by Father M. A. Smith. His parents are Arthur Peter and Nilda Barmasse.

## POINT METHODIST CHURCH

*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 their minutes, printed below and taken from the stiff cardboard covered notebook purchased from "Shoen's Pharmacy in the Point". This is the 29th installment.*

"Minutes of the home Missionary Meeting, Mar 15, 1912

Meeting opened by reading scripture. Prayer by Mrs. Pritchard. Reading of minutes. Letters received concerning contingent fund to be sent before April 15. Receipts for Lunch .75 cents. Adjourned to meet at Mrs. Bradley's next month for mite box opening.  
Sec Mrs. Murray"

"Minutes of Home Missionary Soc meeting April 15, 1912 at Mrs. Bradley's

Was opened by Mrs. Pritchard, President, by reading the 3rd Chapter of Math and repeating the Lord's Prayer. Opening of mite boxes occurred when \$6.00 was collected. Moved and carried we pay \$1.00 to the Life Membership Fund of the District Home Missionary of Oakland Dist. Dues paid by:

Mrs. R. N. Wood	\$1.00
Mrs. Pritchard	1.10
Mrs. Gibbons	.50
Mrs. Adams	1.30
	<hr/>
	\$4.00

Motion to adjourn.

Sec Ida Lester pro tem "

*(Tucked away in the minutes book is a small two-page pamphlet. On the back it tells where to order more copies. Cost? 50 or less, 6 cents; 50 to 100, 10 cents)*

"May 1912

Meeting was held at Mrs. Pritchards with quite a number present. Mrs. Pritchard opened meeting by reading and prayer. After which followed readings and discussion of Mormon question.

Refreshments and adjournment.

Mrs. Bradley, Sec pro tem "



## A-MID TRIVIA

by Mid Dornan (234-5334)

Welcome are the signs of spring! — the flowering plums, the greening of the hills, the balmy days . . . thoughts of vacation!

O-O-O

Getting an early start on vacationing were Fay and Marian Hawkins with a trip to Hawaii. "When we aren't sitting, we're hoofing it and both areas let us know it," she wrote.

O-O-O

How long has it been since you were called for jury duty? Are you available or would you like to be 'on call' for duty? If so, the county is eager and in need of your services to expedite cases. A visiting judge, explaining court procedures, noted there might be frequent breaks, as he felt "the mind can only assimilate what the seat can accommodate!"

O-O-O



Convinced it is never too soon to begin planning, the United Methodist Women have begun meeting on Wednesday evenings to share ideas and plan for the annual bazaar in October. Besides, they enjoy the fellowship and fun of the meetings. And—you don't have to be a Methodist to join them—just like to have fun and maybe even like to sew!

O-O-O

If you have a child who will be five on or before December 1, be sure to register him/her this month for kindergarten in the fall. Take a certificate of birth and immunization records with you when you go to enrol your child.

O-O-O

On your 'scenic' drives around the Point, don't bypass the Castro street/I-580 intersection! Check out the 'Great Wall of Tewksbury'!

O-O-O

Have you noticed an unusually large number of Japanese youth in the Point in the past couple of weeks? Through the Cultural Home Institute, eleven students are in local homes here while they attend U.C.-Berkeley, learning English as well as taking in the sights of the area. Host families include Tom and Shirley Butt, Doug and Rosemary Corbin, Joe and Sonja Darling, Tom and Keiko Fletcher (2 students), Jens and Eleanor Hansen, Joh and Edwina Murray, Doug Pryne, Norm and Jean Reynolds, Jim and Kathleen Smyk and Bob and Marie Peckham—the Peckhams are coordinators for the three-week visits. What a great way to achieve better cultural understanding!

O-O-O

How's your memory? Does it seem like 12 years ago that you were putting bricks in the toilet tank and fashioning water-saving faucets for the drought of '75-'77?

O-O-O

RUSD spring holidays follow Easter this year. Speaking of schools, everyone is eligible

to attend open house at the schools on Tuesday, March 22 (junior highs), Tuesday, March 29 (elementary) and Wednesday, March 30 (senior highs). Renew your appreciation of the dedicated teachers who bear the responsibility of carrying out the administration of education in our public schools.

O-O-O

Think how smart we'd all be if we retained as much of what we read as of what we eat!

O-O-O

Jennifer and Jack de la Fonteijne from Rotterdam, The Netherlands, paid a quick but busy trip to visit her parents Albert and Alexandra Gautraud in January. There is never enough time to see all one's friends!

O-O-O

Maundy Thursday services will be observed at the First Methodist church at 7:00 p.m. Sunrise services are planned for Easter at Miller-Knox Regional Park.

O-O-O

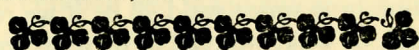
One of Point Richmond's oldest and most historic buildings at 139 West Richmond avenue has been offered to the Point Richmond History Association as its headquarters *if a site can be found on which to put it!* Owner Charlotte Anderson has made the generous offer, but the building must be moved by the middle of April, so time is of the essence if the offer is to be accepted. Anyone having suggestions or who is willing to help with the project should call 234-5334, 233-4999 or 235-1336, as soon as possible.

J. Q. Black first used the building for his feed, fuel and drayage business office from 1900 to 1911 when Bob Dornan and Art Whitesides bought him out. When Mr. Dornan decided the business needed a truck, Mr. Whitesides disagreed, so he sold out to Mr. Dornan and went to work at Standard Oil. The business then became the Richmond Supply Company. When rent on 139 was raised from \$25, Mr. Dornan purchased the property next door and built the present location in 1946.



"My tax form is subject to an early attack  
When I think I will get some of my  
money back.  
But, suspecting I owe, I don't start to  
begin it  
Until I am forced to, at the very last  
minute!"

Sound familiar, folks?



# POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

*courtesy of Linda Andrew*

At the February meeting of the PRNC representatives of the Gold Rush City Holding Company, Inc., of Belvedere showed a video describing the proposed Gold Rush City theme park on a 200-acre site along the Richmond shoreline between Point Pinole Park and Rod and Gun Club.

Norman Jarrett and Gene Hawkins told of a similar park developed in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 1986. They described the park planned here as a "mini-city", with its own police and fire departments, newspaper, hotel and business services, providing employment opportunities for local residents.

To be built in mid-1800's architectural style, the park would include a Wild West area, vaudeville theater, band shell, mining camp and Indian and Russian settlement re-

plicas. It is anticipated that the development would be open year round with BART shuttles, future ferryboat service and possible train service to transport visitors to the area.

The developers hope that fill will not be necessary around the shoreline and that nearby wetlands would be preserved, though a public promenade is planned along the shore for boat owners coming in for recreation and meals without going into the park itself.

\* \* \*

Point residents are reminded that the council now meets on the first Tuesday of every month. Tuesday, April 5, is the date set for the Annual Membership and Election of Officers. All members and residents are urged to attend. The group meets in the Point Richmond Community Center at 7:30 p.m.

**HAPPY 75TH BIRTHDAY, WASHINGTON!!**

*by Mid Dornan*

A full house helped celebrate Washington School's 75th birthday with a family spaghetti dinner preceding the Founders' Day program at the school. President Mary Ruiz welcomed those attending and was chairman of the event.

Former presidents and Honorary Life Members present were Christine Dennis, oldest past-president in attendance (1940); Elsie Spinola, (1951) past-president and

Mrs. N. M. White

Telephone Richmond 5821

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61 Park Place

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*Ad from the Richmond  
Independent, July 1910*



honorary life member (and a student at Washington school herself); Louise Genosick, past-president and honorary life member; Mid Dornan, past-president and honorary life member; Louise Nissen, oldest honorary life member recipient (1950), who was accompanied by her daughter Donna (Washington school K-6), and her son Richard (Duke)(grades 5 and 6).

Just seeing all those former Washington students, now parents, behind the serving table is enough to age one. Special honors to Ruth Beardsley, great-grandmother(!) for dishing up all that spaghetti.

Students presented skits, dances and songs, including the new Washington School song by Barbara Politeau. A rousing cheer went up in the auditorium when they finished.

Recognition was given three outstanding people who have contributed special time and talent to the school and community. Those so honored were Mary Ellen Romero, Linda Drake and Barabara Politeau. Very few teachers have been so honored during the 45 years the awards have been presented..

Congratulations to all concerned and "Happy Birthday, Washington School!"

## DEATHS

**WALTER PIKE** died November 25 in Fontana at the age of 77. A native of Como, OH, he had lived in Richmond from 1940 until his retirement from the City of Richmond Public Works Department in 1970, when he moved with his family to Niland, CA.

While living in Richmond, Walter was an active parent in Boy Scout Troop 111.

Surviving are his wife, Helen, of Niland; two sons, James Pike, Willow Creek, and Robert Pike, Suisun; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Services were held in Southern California.

## HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY!!

Karolyn Macdiarmid  
Ben Bray  
JoAnn Bray  
Jean Knox  
Carol Darling  
Ramona Robbins  
Carl Paasch  
Martin Busby  
Noraleen Dowell  
Reba Slaght Downs  
Rich Schuldt

Don Hain  
Dale Hawkins  
Carol Seawell  
Wendy Wirth  
Jim Morrison  
Dolly Frosini  
Virginia Cherniak  
Allan Smith, Jr.  
Marie Wilson Dietz  
Brian Richardson  
Phyllis Feyder

Susan Berman

And, of course, Camp Fire Girls and Girl Scouts!



## THE MASQUERS

Playhouse, Inc.

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PROUDLY PRESENTS

# THE CURIOUS SAVAGE

By John Patrick

Directed by Jerry Johnson

This tender, warm, and gentle comedy sometimes tests the question of which segment of our society should be 'inside' and which should be 'outside'!

### Featuring:

Bill Atwood  
Greg Behrendt  
Sara DeWitt  
John Dunn

Linda Ellinwood  
Christina Olsen  
Freeman Sargent  
Angela Skrivianich

Robin Steeves  
Marie Wedell  
Robert Wood

Friday & Saturday evenings — March 25 - May 7, 1988

Sunday Matinees — April 3, 24, May 1

DINNER & THEATRE benefit for our building fund at HOTEL MAC, Thursday evening, May 5. Dinner and ticket to THE CURIOUS SAVAGE for only \$22.00. To reserve, CALL RESERVATIONS: 232-4031.

Box Office Opens at 8:00 p.m.; 2:00 p.m. for matinees.

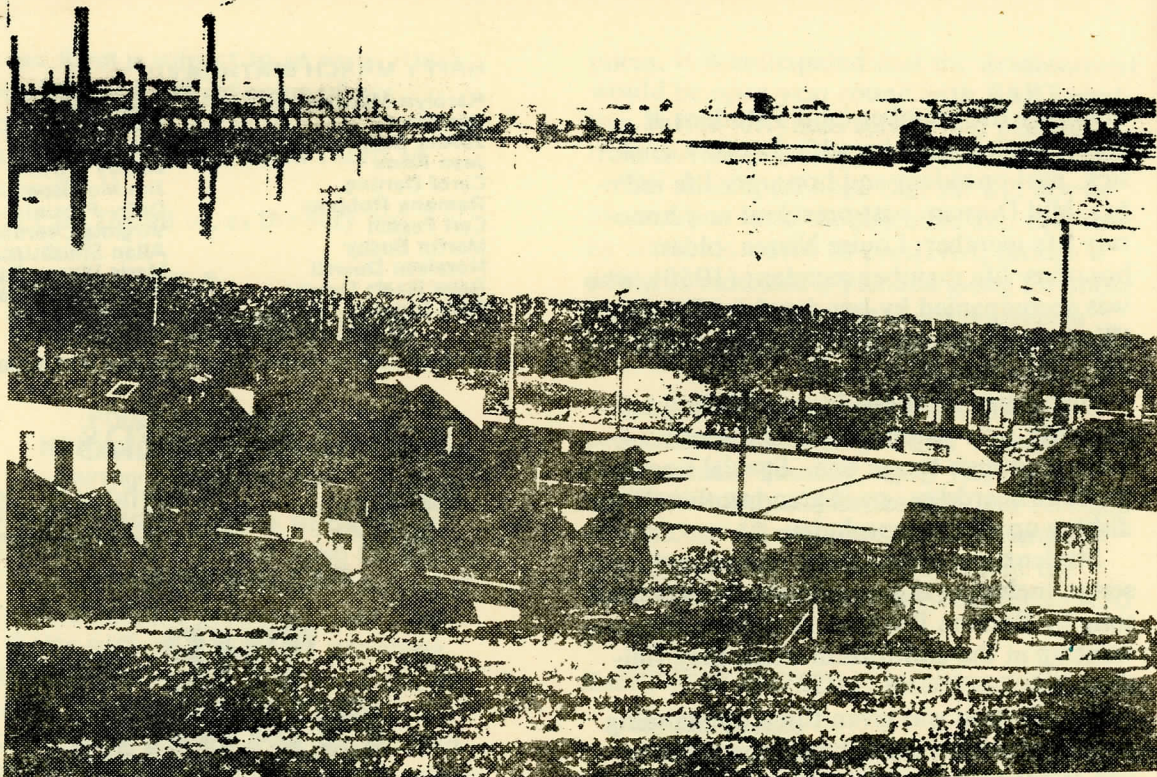
Curtain: 8:30 p.m.

Matinees: 2:30 p.m.

Admission: \$6.00

**RESERVATIONS: 232-4031 (24 hours)**





Taken from Delfino ave. looking north at Standard Ave. 1910-1915

Photo courtesy of Don Church collection

Please fill out and return this form to renew your membership, or to become a member of the Point Richmond History Association, a non-profit corporation. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Articles for each month's issue are due on the 20th of the previous month.

Please mail articles and items of interest to Jerry Cerkanowicz

229 Golden Gate Ave.  
Pt. Richmond, CA 94801  
Phone: 235-1336

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