

THIS POINT

in time

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL VII NO. 7

MARCH, 1989

ONE DOLLAR



BASE BALL TEAM
OF THE RICHMOND UNION HIGH SCHOOL
1908

NEWSLETTER

History Association Meeting

on

March 16, 1989

at

124 Washington Avenue

The Meeting will begin Promptly at 7:30 pm

Guest speaker

Dr. William L. Thompson

Dr. Thompson grew up in the Point, living on Scenic
(Next door to where Tom Butt and his family now live)

His father knew Botts well and consulted with him about his plane. He has negatives and 8 photographs taken by him about 1903. They are in good condition.

A few years ago Dr. Thompson wrote an essay on the Botts plane for the Aerospace Museum at the Smithsonian at their request and submitted photographs and other information. They feel his are the only photographs in existence of the plane.

He has other memorabilia.

Dr. Thompson is retired but still serves his old patients, many of them still in the Point.

Don't miss this meeting and don't be late.

(Dr. Thompson has to leave on schedule)

History Association Notes

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Jerry Cerkowicz

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the special section in the February newsletter.

You may have noticed a few changes last month. Both the newsletter and the membership lists are now on Gary's computer.

Unfortunatley for us Amy Rotting and her family have moved to Fairfield and Amy will no longer be able to paste up the newsletter as she has done in the past. The Rottings are excited (as well they should be) about their brand new home. Thank's Amy for all the great work you have done for the Association, and the best of luck. Keep in touch! Gary will temporarily be doing the paste-up.

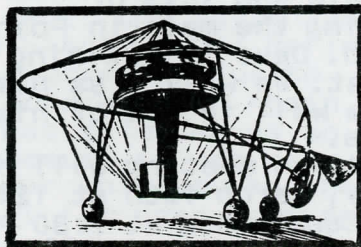
And thank you to Gary for all of the work he put into the February issue, the editing, typing, paste-up and printing. He put a lot of time and effort into making it a special issue that we are proud of.

The third annual Valentine making contest on Saturday, February 11th was a lot of fun. The children had a good time and us adults got to act like kids. David Vincent had a great variety of materials on hand for the contestants to use. Judges wer Adele Hollander and Joel Beck. The winner for kindergarten to 2nd grade was ...see page 2

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THE AIR SHIP

THE COVER is a picture of the Richmond Union High School baseball team of 1908. It is taken from the "Richmond Rodeo". The names are hand written, so please excuse any mis-spellings. Starting in the upper left are: Edward Hoffman, Chamberlien, Knobby Marshall, Foster Conn, Charles Lipp, Walter Smallwood, Budford Wright, Jsen Calfee, and Roy Fernald. You will find more items and illustrations from that book in this issue.

From the President.....cont.

Morgan Omaha, 5-6 year old was Michael Haley, Jr. High School was Jennifer Richardson and the winner in the adult catagory was Loyal Foster.

Prizes for the winners were donated by Kathy Rohrs. Cookies were provided by Marsha and Jenny.

Next up is the Easter egg dying and basket making contest in March...come down to the Community Center for a good time.

The January 26th meeting was well attended and interesting. Dave McElroy one of the Point's best mail carriers spoke about the trials and joys of delivering the mail in Point Richmond. Dave is retiring on March 1st. We will miss him and wish him well in all of his endeavors.

The March meeting will be on Thursday, March 16th at 124 Washington Avenue at 7:30 PM. I forward to seeing you there.

MEMBERS

*Pam Wilson, Membership
Chairwoman*

*521 Western Drive
Point Richmond, CA 94801*

Thank you to following members who have renewed their memberships:

Luis Cunan
Grace Howe
Frank D. Lopez
Mollie P. O'Connell
Elenor Best
Stanley R. Nystrom
Mae Mandl
Luisa Banks
George Batten
Anna Booth
Lloyd and Melba Farley
Sheila Fostiak

Ed Gingrich
Shoney Gustafson
Virginia R. Kennedy
Elizabeth McDonald
Alice Nelson
William G. Schultz

A warm welcome to new members:

Barbara Ambrose
Hal and Leah Stocker
Y. G. Cooper
Donald P. Smith

EDITOR'S NOTES

By Gary Shows

The February Memorial issue was a tough assignment. I would like to express special appreciation to Mid Dornan, Pam Wilson, Jerry Cerkowicz and Donna Roselius. I hope that the purpose of that issue will remain unique forever.

I regret losing the able assistance of Amy Rotting but wish her the best. Thank you Amy, for all of the great work!

Some exciting things are happening, we are on a roll in our "Growing up in the Point" series, Ed Garrard, a legend in Point Richmond is sharing some wonderful memories with us! You can read them in this issue and in the next, maybe more! I really think that you will enjoy his memories of the way the Point used to be. If anything you read brings back memories of your time in the Point, write them down and send them to me, I might print them.

Your comments on and participation in this newsletter is always encouraged and appreciated.



POINTS TO THE PAST

Articles of interest from our archives

Editor's note...Because of a lack of response to our pleas for research help we must change the format of this section. Instead of our usual 70 years ago, 60 years ago, etc. here are items of interest from our own resources. If our readers want the previous format and volunteer to help, we will bring it back.

THE HISTORY OF POINT RICHMOND GENESIS

by Barbara Quein

Point Richmond's birth and development are attributed to the still flourishing companies of Santa Fe Railroad and Standard Oil. Before their concerns were here, Point Richmond (then known as a part of "the Potrero") was only farmland and was owned largely one man, Dr. Tewksbury.

The change came in 1899 when Santa Fe Railway Co. selected the Potrero as a transcontinental railroad terminal; the site was strategically located on the main line of the Southern Pacific, Ogden and Shasta routes. Point Richmond then became the link between San Francisco and the East. The Point station was one end of the longest railroad line under one management in the United States; the line stretched unbroken from here to Chicago. Thus Point Richmond became home to the Santa Fe employees. Houses and stores were built to

meet their needs...the city of Richmond was born.

In 1902, the establishment of the Standard Oil Refineries gave immense impetus to Richmond's growth. Again, the Point was selected as an ideal spot because it was near deep water for shipping and near railways for transport and communication. The land was purchased for a small amount from Tewksbury's widow. Construction of pipelines connected to central Californi oilfields brought many more workers to settle in Point Richmond.

With such opportunity for development, the Point grew from a small village to a boom town in a few years.

*Reprinted from The Point
Counterpoint, July 8, 1966*

THE HISTORY OF POINT RICHMOND EARLY PERSONALITIES

by Barbara Quein

The first settlers of Richmond must have been a hardy lot. The settlement was

actually a campground, and the early arrivals lived in tents until the winter of 1900.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Naugle and their son Ray were the first people to make Richmond their home. Mr. Naugle opened the Pioneer Grocery Store in April, 1900 at the foot of Barrett Street. Marketing, however, was not his calling; he hoped to publish the first Point Richmond newspaper. His purpose was achieved, and on July 7, 1900, the first edition of the "Point Richmond Record" appeared in time to cover the opening of Santa Fe Railway service in Richmond. Industrious Mr. Naugle continued to boost Richmond's growth with his success in having the Richmond Post Office created. Naturally, the Postmaster was Lyman Naugle.

The second family to arrive at the townsite was that of Frank Critchett. He, his wife and their three sons were the first subscriber to "The Record". Critchett built next to the Pioneer Store. He planned to open a liquor store, but instead he sold the building to Henry Wanske, who opened his Star Saloon there. Critchett had made a deal with the John Nicholl company to build and operate a hotel at Washington and Richmond Avenues.

The campsite was then moved from Barrett Street to Washington and Richmond Avenues, now the center of Point Richmond. Mr. Naugle built a new store and moved "The Record" to the Point. The Naugles and the Critchetts were joined by the Higgins, Corkish, Thurber and Redding Families.

Buildings went up as quickly as possible because the campers were plagued with winds and storms. The tents were finally replaced by buildings, and Point Richmond was no longer just a tent town, to the relief of the hardy settlers.

Reprinted from The Point Counterpoint, July, 1966

THE HISTORY OF POINT RICHMOND EARLY PERSONALITIES...THE INVENTOR

by Barbara Quein

Months before the Wright brothers were heard of, a Point Richmond resident by the name of R.H. Botts (inventor and constructor) announced that he had patented an improved steam engine which would enable him to build a steam powered flying machine.

Botts experimented with various lifting devices and found it necessary to obtain some extremely rapid and powerful motion; he succeeded in perfecting a steam engine and boiler, made of aluminum, that would be light enough to use. He claimed that for every ten pounds of engine and boiler weight he could generate one horsepower. A model airship was built and displayed in San Francisco and in Richmond.

By February, 1902, Botts announced that he would complete two airships by summer. He was planning an aerial expedition in June to the North Pole, to investigate "Physical conditions of the earth's surface and its northern axis." The ships, launched either from Tamalpais or Grizzly Peak, were to carry four people each,

along with supplies and a Marconi wireless system.

To finance his construction and expedition, Mr. Botts began advertising shares in the World's Aerial Navigation Company of Richmond. The May 26 demonstration of the engine at the Santa Fe yards convinced people to contribute and buy stocks. In August, Botts displayed his engine, boiler and model at the Richmond Fiesta. Eventually enough money was raised to build Bott's workshop at the top of Nicholl Nob, and the actual construction began.

Many people, skeptics and supporters alike, came to the Nob to view the flying machine. Unfortunately, their respective views could never be confirmed because the testing of the ship was never accomplished. Storm winds swept the light craft from the Nob and sent it crashing downhill. Mr. Botts lost hope and left town, but no one knows whether or not he was wrong. If there hadn't been a storm, Point Richmond rather than Kitty Hawk might now be remembered as the site of the first successful aerial demonstration.

Reprinted from "The Point Counterpoint", July, 1966

Ed. note: If you want to learn a lot more about Mr. Botts, come to the March 16th meeting.

LOVELY RICHMOND
THE GATEWAY TO CONTRA COSTA
COUNTY AND THE FUTURE SHIPPING
POINT ON SAN FRANCISCO BAY
Scarcely a year ago this
busy, pulsating city, with its
railroads, steam ships, water

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

Richmond has now a population of more than 2,000 souls, and covers an area of three miles or more, with a deep water frontage of six miles, from Potrero Point on the south and extending to San Pablo Point on the north. Business of every description is carried on here, and many large manufactories will soon be operation in our midst. Richmond is the terminus of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad, and the great Standard Oil Company is now building here the third largest oil refinery in the world. Both of these enterprises employ several hundred men, most of whom live in Richmond with their families, which, in brief, is the making of a large

city. Richmond has a fine public school, churches of several denomination, hotels of the first class order, and many fraternal orders flourish with a goodly attendance of members. In a few words, Richmond is the coming city of the Coast. Beyond any cavil it has greater advantages for business than any other city on the Pacific Slope. Its present immense enterprises are a sure guarantee of its steady progress and its unrivaled inducements for profitable investment.

The Richmond Electric Light Company is a new corporation which promises to cut an important figure in the future development of Lovely Richmond. The company has just been organized and as were going to press on this elaborate description of Contra Costa County's varied interests and industries, they are erecting their poles, stringing wires and planting machinery which before another month promises to transform Richmond from a village into a blooming city. The company is well financed; Henry J. Crocker of San Francisco is the President.

They are putting in a 125 horse power Corliss engine. Fuel oil will provide steam. The company expects to furnish both light and power, day and night. Thus small manufacturing plants will be provided with economical power. Nearly all buildings in Richmond are being wired, and soon the town will be a blaze of illumination. The company has also a contract to supply the Santa Fe Railroad with power at their shops and lights at their depots,

roundhouse and shops. The rates to consumers will be very reasonable.

From a special edition of a booklet published by "The Richmond Record", Lyman Naugle Editor and dated January 1, 1902, part of our Don Church Collection, courtesy Allan Smith.

THE BANK OF RICHMOND

A resume of the rapid growth and progress of Point Richmond would be incomplete without reference to this well known financial institution. The Bank of Richmond was incorporated April 17, 1902, with a capital stock of \$20,000. It opened its doors for business on the 25th day of April, and since that time has steadily grown until it has become a financial center of no mean proportions.

The incorporators are men of integrity and wealth, some of whom were land owners in this part of the country long before the town of Point Richmond was conceived. The president, Wm. Mintzer, has a large personal interest in the Tewksbury estate, and looks after all the interests of that large estate. The vice president is Wm. F. Belding, the San Pablo merchant, who has been connected with the affairs of this section for almost a quarter of a century. Other large stockholders in the bank are Waverly Stairley, Cashier, W.S. Stoddard, of Tehama County, Hon. Harry Ellis, representative-elect, J. Peres, E.M. Tilden, John H. Nicholl, J.B. Eakle, and others. Mr. Stairly, the cashier,

was collector of Internal Revenue at Sacramento under the Cleveland administration, and left that office with a splendid record. He is a safe, careful, conservative manager. Loans of large sums are always referred to the board of directors, viz: Wm. Mintzer, Wm. f. Belding, W. Stairley, W.S. Stoddard, Harry Ells, J. Peres and John H. Nichol.

The bank has proved an institution of great convenience to our people. The run of deposits is growing rapidly and every prospect bespeaks a properous future for this institution.

The furniture and fixtures of the bank are a model of convenience and perspective.

"Richmond Record", Dec 22, 1902

CAMP FIRE MEMORIES

courtesy of Mid Darnan

Maude Wood was a Camp Fire Girls leader in the Point, 1932-33. A scrap book of their activities, "Diary of the Pikida Wakan Camp Fire Group" was kept by Pikida, Kokokoho, Wakada, Wapo Moma and Tanda, Indian names the girls chose for themselves. This is the LAST installment of excerpts from the diary.

Big C

At 10 o'clock on January 6th, we went to the Big Sea. We were of course requested to bring our bathing suits, but either no one was in a position to go swimming, or all of a sudden they all woke up to the fact that the Big Sea instead of being spelled s-e-a is naturally spelled C. We rode to the bottom of the hill (the greater distance of our hike) and started for the top. I'm sure you'll forgive my absentmindedness, but I forgot to mention we had a guest Miss Edna Garloff, you'll know whose relative it is by the common last name she possesses.

On hiking to the top of the hill, we must admit we stopped several minutes after every few yards to rest, or was it inches.

We finally arrived at the top in the record breaking time of 21 minutes and Heaven knows how many seconds. Anyway on arriving, there we found that not only did we see the big C but we also saw a keen view of the city (town?) of Berkeley and S.F. and Oakland.

We waited till the chimes rang to eat our lunch. It was the first time some of the girls had heard them. Ask Maude who her signalling friend was who dropped in for lunch. We regret to say Jean was not with us on this trip.

The day ENDED PEACEFULLY.

RESPECTFULLY submitted
PIKID.

*Girls in this group included :
Betty Dornan, Betty Williams, Eva
Garloff, Mary Wilkins, Helen
Raffanelli, Clara Udy, Jean Williams
and Mary Wilkins.*

+++++

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SAM!

Sam Bushman, Point resident for the last 25 years will celebrate his 99th birthday on March 9th. He lives above the former Nick's Bar on Tewksbury and Santa Fe Avenues.

Sam, a native Son of the Golden West, resided in Oakland prior to coming to the Point. He had his own business where he manufactured and assembled antique light fixtures that are still very much in demand. He sold most of his equipment several years ago to the El Cerrito Light Company.

Mr. Bushman, at the age of 97, had to surrender his California Driver's License and also stoped smoking his daily cigar. Sam says that he owes his longevity to correct eating habits, favoring a vegetarian diet.

Churches

Our Lady of Mercy

by Eleanor Hurley

Father Denis continues to make a very good recovery and hopes to be able to come back very shortly.

Father Clift had a case of the flu, but is back and attending to his duties. The penitential Season of Lent started on Ash Wednesday, February 8, and Easter Sunday will be on March 26th, which is very early this year. Father is planning to have Mass on Tuesdays and Thursday's at Noon during the Lenten period.

Cynthia Young, head of the CCD Program is busy preparing the eligible children for receiving the First Holy Communion on Easter Sunday.

On Sunday, February 5th a Parish Breakfast was held in the church hall. The co-chairpersons were Marcelina and Allan Smith. Proceeds will go to benefit the CCD Program.

On Thursday evening, February 14th a committee meeting was held to discuss the formation of a Parish Council. St. Cornelious has had a very successful council and has been very helpful in furnishing information to our group. The committee has proposed By-Laws that they have found to be suitable. They will be presented to the Parish Meeting in March for review.

We are fortunate to have a new up to date Parish Directory listing the members with pictures of those who came to have them taken. The directory is a useful reference, thanks to efforts of Fr. Denis and the

untiring efforts of Dody Perry and the many hours she spent in checking, phoning and following up.

Point Methodist Church

by Mid Dornan

Janet Hansen returned to fill the pulpit the Sunday the Rev. Michael Brown was out of town.

Adult Bible Study on Matthew continues on Sundays at 5:30 PM and concludes by 7:30 PM.

The March Administrative Board meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, March 21st.

William Arthur Lathrop Thompson, III was baptised. Son of Alice (Bray) and Bill Thompson, he is a second generation to be baptised at the Point Church. His mother attended Sunday School as well and later played the church organ.

The United Methodist Women meet each Wednesday for crafts. Helen Valentine was honored with a heart party, both because of her name and February birthday and because of her big heart toward others.

Choir practice is on each Wednesday. Anyone interested should just show up at 6:30 PM at the parsonage.

After an absence, Betty Conception has returned to play the organ on Sundays intermittently with Jean Eakles. Music does make a difference.

Four church women's groups joined together at the Point church at the beginning of Lent to celebrate the annual Call to Prayer and Self Denial meal. A candlelight service followed and Connie Frueh from El

Cerrito Methodist Church
leading.

Sunday School meets at 9:45
AM and substitute teachers are
needed.

Work on a mow strip in the
church courtyard is almost
completed and the brick work
was added. Top soil will fill
the rose garden area and the
Martina and Nicholl Avenue will
soon be one of the prettiest
corners in the Point.

*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 35th installment.*

August 1913

The meeting of Woman's Home
Missionary Society was held at
Mrs. C. Bradleys. Meeting
opened by Scripture reading by
Mrs. Pritchard.

Prayer by Mrs. Gibbons.

Reading of minutes of
previous meeting. Reading of
Chapter of Mormons by Mrs.
Totten.

Report of committee on Box
for Indians.

Mrs Horner solicted
subscriptions for the Woman's
Home Missions paper obtaining
several.

Refreshments served.

Adjourned

Mrs. C. Bradley

1.60 refreshments

1.10 dues

Meeting of Society held by
Mrs. Pritchards Sept 26 called
to order by Mrs. Gibbons.

Reading of Scripture by Mrs.
Horner. Reading of minutes by
Sec.

Moved and carried that
Society pay \$1.30 express on
box for Indians and to pay \$2.5
due Mrs. Gibbons on past
account.

Mrs. Horner paid 50 cts due
paying in full up to July 1914.

Report of Conf Missionary
Delegate. Opening of mite boxes
to be at Oct meeting.

Mrs. Pritchard then served
dainty refreshments after which
adjournment was voted.

Mrs. C. Bradley, Sec

Point Baptist Church

by Roy Jones

My assignment... my beat...
for TPIT is to report
happenings at the Baptist
Church. Since the thrust of
TPIT is Point history it seems
appropriate to report church
history. And was a treasure
trove I have from which to
glean tidbits of information
that was once news... old
letters, old bills, baptismal
records, projects of previous
pastors, notes taken of
business meetings, membership
roles... the stuff of life in a
gone time... a gentler time.
The Dunlaps, the Stouts, the
Wishards, Gates, Churches...
many names of people who were
doers, not only in our church
but in the communtiy; folks
done come and gone. However,
for this one issue, permit me
to digress.

The recent tragedy at the
Santa Fe Market started be to
wondering about that building
on the southeast corner of West
Richmond Avenue and Washington
Avenue... why that name, how
long has it been there, who was

the first owner? In just two hours on a recent crisp and clear Sunday afternoon I had answers. How pleasing it is to me... a constant joy... to live in a little town where there are still good ole people willing and able to supply all this good ole stuff about Point history. One need hardly consult City Hall records, we have in our midst the real thing, living history, eyewitnesses. I get wistful listening to people like Louise Navaroni, Eleanor Hurley, Louie, Mrs Perasso, real Point people who have no need to stand on street corners waiting for media interviews.

The Santa Fe Market was originally just a meat market located at the corner of West Richmond and Santa Fe Avenue where the Catholics now park. It was actually the second building from the corner, there was a furniture store on the corner. The meat market was owned by a German man named Charley Riegert from about 1916 to 1925. Now along this time there was a grocery store where the laundrette is now, owned by a certain Mr. Whiteside, who bought the property at West Richmond and Washington Avenues from the Nicholl Subdivision with plans to move his grocery store there and The Santa Fe Market which he had purchased from Riegert. On that corner until 1925 was a frame house. Our own grande dame, Eleanor Hurley, who was just graduating from Richmond High, lived in that house with her family. She recalls visiting out her back window with her friend Louise Navaroni who still lives in the house next door on Washington.

The house on the corner that Eleanor lived in was moved down near Cutting and Tenth, and construction was begun on the present building, 1925, 26. A young Italian man named Perasso had worked for Riegert in the meat market on Santa Fe also worked for Whiteside in the new location. I dropped by to chat with this young man's widow in her comfortable home on Cottage... a gracious and beautiful lady (the most heavenly aroma of baking emanating from her kitchen) and she tells me they were married in 1935 and that her husband's salary at the newly-located Santa Fe Market was \$27.50 a week (remember this was the Twenties, a more prosperous time than was to follow in the next decade.)

There have been surprisingly few owners of the Santa Fe Market when one considers how old it is (1916). After Whiteside there was another German man, Adolph "Smitty" Biedermann and his wife Mary. Bob Young and Dave Lee took over in 1947. Now we have the courteous and capable Bob Peckham and his son Mike, and with hard-working considerate men like those in charge, the Santa Fe will continue to be a success.

Hey, I do ramble on don't I? My favorite pastime is to revel in the accounts of our senior residents... about the opera house on Tewksbury, the ferry boats, the old L street car from the City after the Bay Bridge was built. Makes be nostalgic for a time and place I never knew.

Back to the Baptists... our church was recently presented

with a fine engraved plaque at Hilltop Mall in recognition of our consistent contributions to the local Meals on Wheels; we have letters of acknowledgement and gratitude from Richmond Rescue Mission for our regular donations. Our chief purpose is to provide a house of worship but we also strive to be of service in other endeavors. We are soon to begin our ninth decade on Washington Avenue; good sermons, good music, and we are a friendly people.

Sunday mornings at 11:00 o'clock.

➡ **IN PURSUIT OF** ⬅
HISTORICAL TRIVIA

courtesy of Stan Nystrom

Sorry, no article from Stan this issue.

A Cornerstone

of useful information to the student
may be obtained by a visit to our
Stationery Department

Writing Tablets

Pencils

Pens

Ink Erasers

Most complete line in the city

Standard Drug Co.

E. F. MARTIN, Prop.
Washington Ave. Tel. 2551

from the 1808 "Richmond Rodeo"

A-MID TRIVIA

by Mid Dornan (234-5334)

Easter comes early this year so plan ahead for the Easter Egg dying and hunt.

Ahhh, the life of today's youth! Cruising from Vallejo to Hawaii.. Fuji.. Australia.. New Caledonia and Washington state before returning home on the Training Ship Golden Bear of the California Maritime Academy, are Alicia Powers, daughter of Supervisor Tom and wife Donna Powers as well as Robert Young, son of Jay Ward. They will be gone until March 21st.

Boy Scout Troop 111 of the Point has received a \$500 grant from Chevron Research for electrical repairs of their sponsoring institution, Point Methodist Church, basement. A former scout will donate his time when plans are formulated according to George Mohr, Scout assistant.

MARRIED: Linda Andrews and Hal Marshall were married on Saturday, January 28, 1989 at Linsley Hall. The celebration was attended by 75 guests... who all had a great time. Congrats! Linda is secretary of the Point Business Association and has her own business in the Point.

Feel bad about being over 50? Well, people over 50 are considered the last really fit Americans. They are the last ones who spent their childhood playing outdoors, there was no TV and the last generation to

walk to school, not ride busses or cars. They have better basic bodies than the younger generation, or so it is said.

On April 1, 1989, new sales and use taxes go into effect in Contra Costa County. This was voted in support of transportation and other local government services. The new tax rates increase of 1/2% makes the overall sales tax rate now 7%. Detailed information is to be mailed to all registered taxpayers.

It is reported that 58,369 license plates were stolen in 1988. A Southern California police officer has invented an auto license plate security bar.

Christine Darling was surprised... really surprised.. with a bridal shower given by Terry Wynne and Marybeth Driscoll at the Point Orient Resturant. About 30 guests joined in the surprise.

On Friday, February 17th, Christine and David Bradshaw were married in Marin County. A reception celebration was given them on Sunday., February 19th at the El Cerrito Community Center with a buffet and dancing. Chris and David are owners of the Foam Factory in Berkeley.

Did you know that Contra Costa County at the last November election had 64,661 absentee ballots?

Effective March of this year, the Veterans Administration (VA) has been elevated to a

cabinet level and becomes the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Attention all former life members, honorary service award members and past presidents of the Washington PTA, Founder's Day will be Friday, March 10 6:00 to 8:00 at the school auditorium. Because it isn't always possible to keep track of everyone you are to come anyway. For more information contact Mary Ruiz, 232-1961 or Washington School.

All of the Point Richmond History Association meetings are of special interest. But, on March 16th, Dr. William Thompson who was raised in the Point and delivered MANY Point babies, will have special memorabilia and memories to share. CU then.

Remember when everyone attended a church on Easter and every lady and girl child wore a hat and gloves! It usually signaled a time to change from winter to spring clothing and was a time to buy new things. Nowadays, every week is a time for new clothing and... there have been many hats being worn again.

Tax time is almosé here. Is yours done? Sign in an IRS office: "America... land of untold wealth."

WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY EASTER!!





POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Linda Andrew, Secretary

30 persons attended the noon luncheon meeting at the Hotel Mac on January 11, 1989. President David Vincent presided.

David Vincent announced that a dinner-theater nite to benefit the Business Association will be June 22nd. The musical "Oliver" will be playing at the Masquers following dinner at Hotel Mac. Also, that the 3rd Annual Easter Egg Coloring and Basket Making Day will be on Saturday March 25th at the Community Center.

Anne Hanzlik reported on behalf of the Indian Statue Park Committee and Women's West side Improvement Club on plans to construct a large map of Point Richmond printed on mylar in a redwood frame at a spot near the flagpole at the Firehouse near Park Place and Washington.

Discussion was held on a possible commuter parking lot at Castro and Tewksbury (formerly Kenny Park) on property owned by Caltrans. It was decided to endorse the concept providing that parking places would be restricted to use by residents of this general area.

Michael Holt of Crime Prevention Group gave a report of recent crime activity and told of the importance of giving reports to the Police Dept. so records are complete and show the need for increased police protection and determine

the size of police beats. A motion was unanimously carried to send a letter to the Police Chief and City recommending Officer Louis Pereira for a Medal of Valor and/or a Commendation for his heroism above and beyond the call of duty on January 5th in bravely acting alone in the shooting of Thomas Freeman, the killer of Bob Young and Brent Moriwaki of the Santa Fe Market.

Discussion was held on ideas for memorials, trust funds and therapy being made available to children since the tragic shooting. Recognition and thanks were given to David Vincent for his work in helping organize meetings and coordinating events after the shooting. Leftover foods donated by many individuals and businesses were given to the Senior Citizen's Center and the Food Pantry.

Geraldine Johnson closed the meeting with a reading of a poem appropriate in memory of Bob Young and Brent Moriwaki.

+++++

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good accommodations

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PT. RICHMOND
Calif.

Phone
251

Sports

memories

by Allan Smith

Point Richmond had the first tennis courts in the city and they are still located in the same area behind the Richmond Plunge. To my knowledge only one Point Richmond native ever reached championship tennis playing caliber and that was James "Jim" Hurley. Jim was the California State Boy's Tennis Champion in 1930. Jim still resides in the Point with his wife on Idaho Street overlooking the tennis courts.

Many of the Point Richmond natives were excellent players, such as Johnny Stark, Ted Beck, Carl and his brother Battle Peterson, Louie Michetti and Phil Carlin. I can't recall any of the Point girls that could swing a "mean" racket, although several of them were good enough to earn "Letters" at Roosevelt Junior High.

Many of us remember Adolph Biederman as a very good tennis player. Adolph had the Santa Fe Market before the late Bob Young purchased the business.

Johnny Stark was the Standard Oil Richmond Refinery Tennis Singles and Doubles Champion for many years. One of his most remembered games was played at Santa Cruz for the Standard Oil Company's Tennis Championship. Players from the entire company participated in the tournament.

During the late 1930's, the Standard Oil Company would reserve the entire Santa Cruz amusement complex for their employee's Annual Picnic.

Travel was by railroad from Richmond which many well remember as a "fun" trip. Talk about the "good old days"!



Here is a description of the yet to be completed Richmond Union High School taken from the 1908 "Richmond Rodeo". Even though this school is not in the Point, I'm certain the description of the building will be interesting to many who attended that school.

OUR NEW BUILDING

The Richmond Union High School Building, now in process of construction on Twenty-Third Street, between Macdonald and Bissell avenues, facing the east, is to be a modern modified Class A structure, of cream brick, three stories in height. The first floor is about four inches above the level of the grade: from the building the ground will slope gradually to the street, a distance of fifty feet. The design of the building is along simple, classic lines. An immense portico reaching to the third story, supported by Ionic pillar, forms the entrance. Above the arch over this entrance in gold letters on copper plate, is the name:

RICHMOND UNION HIGH SCHOOL
SAN PABLO STEGE RICHMOND

Across the front of the building, above and on either side of the portico, are groups of four windows in each story.

Cement steps lead to the entrance. The floor of the vestibule is tiled, the walls are of white marble with a case of brown marble, and the doors are sheathed with copper and fitted with plate glass panels. From the landing within the main entrance a flight of steps leads to the main floor.

On the ground floor are the science laboratories, the science lecture room, the athletic dressing rooms and lavatories, and a janitor's room. In the laboratories the windows are of prism glass. In the lecture room the seats are arranged in amphitheatre style, each tier being raised above the other. The athletic dressing rooms are fitted with showers and individual apartments to accommodate the athletic teams. Outside doors lead to the automatic heating and ventilating plant, which is a small brick house outside of the building.

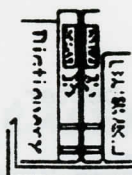
At the head of the stairs leading to the second story, a hall runs parallel with the front of the building. Across this hall directly opposite the main entrance, is the Principal's office. This is divided by folding doors into a general reception room and a private office, with fireplace and bookcases. On either side, opening in the hall, are locker rooms for the students. On this floor are the Mathematics, History, Latin, Greek, Geography, and English rooms. In all the rooms are bookcases, and in the English and history rooms a foot of burlap map-board extends around the walls at the top of the black boards for pictures and maps. At both ends of the hall toward

the rear of the building, stairways lead to the first and third floors.

On the third floor are the assembly hall, drawing room, commercial rooms, library, a teacher's room and lockers. The commercial and typewriting rooms, occupying one end of the floor, are separated by a glass partition. The drawing room has a skylight and rows of windows on both outside walls. At one end of the assembly hall is a stage and dressing rooms. The library, back of the assembly hall, is separated from it only by pillars and a beamed arch: so that, when the folding doors of the drawing room are pushed back, the drawing room, the library, and assembly hall are thrown into one large room which will seat about eight hundred people.

The roof is a seven ply, tar and gravel roof, surrounded by ornamental railing. All cornices, with other ornamental exterior work, drain pipes, and gutters are of sixteen ounce copper. The entire building is lighted with both gas and electricity. All the walls are tinted and have a wainscoting of hard plaster. The woodwork throughout is of Oregon pine with a wax finish of dark brown. All the exterior doors of the building are copper lined. The stairways are lined with steel, and the floors are of Eastern maple over cement, so that the structure is thoroughly fire proof.

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA
1908



For Your Information

WEST SIDE LIBRARY

by Jan Burdick

If those good intentions to assume a healthier lifestyle haven't quite been realized, take a look at The Underground Shoppers's Guide to Health and Fitness by Sue Goldstein. Part I may be familiar stuff about why some diets don't work, comments about various forms of exercise and the need for changing behaviour. Part II called "Resources" is full of addresses of organizations, advice ranging from evaluation of video tapes to sources for specialty clothes, shoes, etc. Parts II and III suggest how to continue a program when eating out or on a vacation and even gives an in depth description of various kinds of spas.

Along these same lines is a great book for people who think they may be too old for vigorous exercise. Complete with many illustrations and various gradations of exercises is Exercise as You Grow Older by Naomi Lederbach.

Peking by Anthony Grey is a sweeping tale of modern China as its history from 1934 to the present has affected two intertwined families, one English, one Chinese. At the start of the Long March Jakob Kellner, a young English missionary and his infant daughter Abigail are captured by the Red Army. Sustained by his faith he wins the grudging

respect of his atheist captors. During the imprisonment he meets Lu Mei-ling, a beautiful and idealistic Chinese revolutionary who saves his life and shelters his daughter. Years later while a "China Watcher" in Hong Kong he receives a mysterious invitation to visit the Peoples Republic, an invitation most likely from one of his former captors. Pick up this book to meet a cast of historical and fictional characters in this action filled story.

Paperbacks recently added to West Side's collection include the following titles:

The Radiant Way, Margaret Drabble
Love Songs, Lawrence Sanders
Heaven and Hell, John Jakes
Tommyknockers, Stephen King
The Socratic Method, Michael Levin
Waiting for Childhood, Sumner Locke Elliott
The Splendid Outcast, Beryl Markham
Let Sleeping Dogs Lie, John R. Riggs



✉ ✉ LETTERS ✉ ✉

Dear Jerry,

I'd like to thank each and everyone of you who signed the petition to rename West Richmond Avenue to BOB YOUNG AVENUE.

So far there are over 850 signatures on the petition. I'd especially like to thank business owners and residents of West Richmond Avenue because this change would affect you the most.

I have sent a letter to the Mayor to get on the City Council's agenda to present this petition to them. For publicity, the "West County Times" will run an article on the street name change.

I, with a few other youngsters from the Point will present the petition to the City Council. I will also pass out flyers to let everyone know the date of that meeting.

What I am in need of are supporters, especially business owners and residents of West Richmond Avenue to attend the meeting and show support for this memorial for Bob.

If you have not had a chance to sign the petition and would like to, please sign one at the Santa Fe Market or at the Gallery Florist.

Thank you,
James Cheshareck

To whom this may concern:

I was close friends with Bob and Brent both during the 12 years I lived in Point Richmond and came to love them both dearly. It was such a shock when a friend told me what happened and I think that it's great that you are managing a fund for such a wonderful man. My contribution is small but proportionate for I am only 14 but I think that if everyone were a little more like Bob and Brent the world

would be a whole lot better.
Thank you very much.

Love,
Thompson Hamilton
Napa, CA

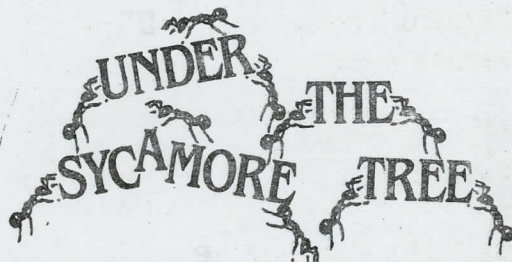


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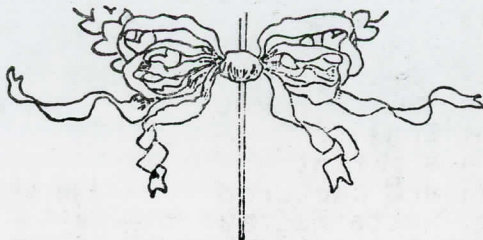


UNDER THE SYCAMORE TREE

MARCH 31 thru MAY 6

This delightful comedy is a satire on the human race, set, surprisingly, in an ant colony. In the interest of science the ants study humans and discover modern warfare, politics, and yes, even love. Written with subtle wry humor by Samuel Spewack, this *underground classic* if you will, is a very funny and most enjoyable fantasy, particularly pertinent in an election year. Directed by John Hull.

RESERVATIONS: 232-4031 (24 hours)



CALENDAR

Neighborhood Council Meeting
➤ March 7

Westside Improvement Club
➤ March 7

Point Business Assoc. Luncheon
➤ March 8

Washington PTA Founders Day
School Auditorium 6:00-8:00
➤ March 10

Ides of March
➤ March 15

Articles due for newsletter
➤ March 15

POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOC.
MEETING, 124 Washington Ave.
7:00 PM Sharp (see inside cover)
➤ March 16

Happy Birthday Campfire Girls
➤ March 17

St. Patrick's Day
➤ March 17

Palm Sunday
➤ March 19

Good Friday
➤ March 24

Easter Egg Dying Contest
Community Center
➤ March 25

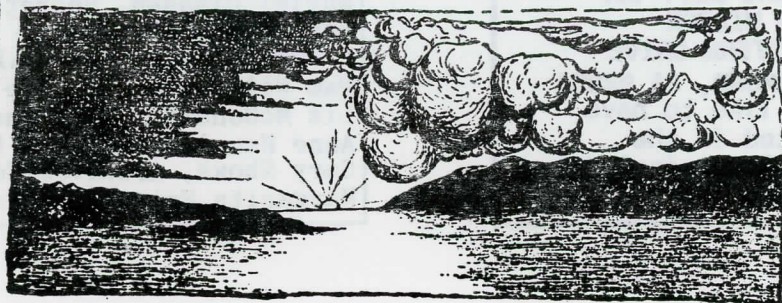
Easter Sunday
➤ March 26

Spring Break
➤ March 26-31

April Fools Day (Lirpa Loof)
➤ April 1

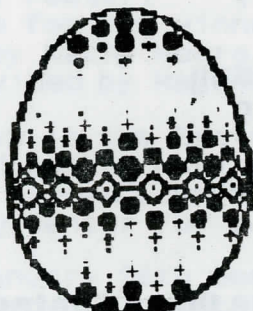
Neighborhood Council Meeting
➤ April 4

Point Business Assoc. Luncheon
➤ April 12



In the Next Issue.....

More MEMORIES OF GROWING UP
IN THE POINT IN THE 20's AND
30's from Ed Garrard!



Birthdays

MARCH

Karolyn Macdiarmid
Ben Bray
JoAnn Bray
Jean Knox
Carol Darling
Ramona Robbins
Carl Paasch
Martin Busby
Noraleen Dowell
Reba Stagle Downs
Rich Scholdt
Don Hain
Dale Hawkins
Carol Seawell

Wendy Wirth
Jim Morrison
CAMP FIRE GIRLS
GIRL SCOUTS
Dolly Forsini
Virginia Cherniak
Allan Smith, Jr.
Marie Wilson Dietz
Brian Richardson
Phyllis Feyder
Susan Berman
Bernice Shows
Winnie Guisti

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Address _____

Phone No. _____

Type of membership, check one

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POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801

If you would like to have
birthdays noted in the
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names and months.

Articles for each month's
issue are due on the 15th of
the previous month. Please
mail articles and items of
interest to Gary Shows
229 Golden Gate Avenue
Pt. Richmond, CA 94801
Phone: 235-1336

This Point in Time is a
publication of the Point
Richmond History Association,
a non-profit corporation at
229 Golden Gate Avenue, Point
Richmond, CA 94801

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