

THIS POINT

in time

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL X No 4

OCTOBER, 1991

\$1.00



Standard Oil Company
April 19, 1906

Now at the Richmond Museum



August 10 to October 27, 1991 and December 14 to March 29, 1992

Myers Sr. Home Photo Services

*Ellis B. Myers
Richmond Photographer*

The Richmond Museum · 400 Nevin Avenue

This exhibition of photographs features local area photographs of African Americans in the late 1940's to mid 1950's taken by portrait photographer Ellis B. Myers. The photographs on display were selected from a collection of several hundred that were given to the Richmond Museum by the photographer in 1990.

The Cover:

"Picture of brick stacks and other collapsed structures at The Standard Oil Company after the earthquake of 1906. Note loose bricks being thrown from the stack on the left."

Picture and description courtesy of Dr. William L. Thompson

History Association Notes

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Mid Dornan

It is rewarding to discover the number and variety of people who visit the Point that are interested in the little History Building and our community. Visitors seem to "fall-in-love-at-first-sight" with this area.

Progress on The Building often seems slow but contact has been made with the city regarding electricity. Board member, Muriel Clausen, has donated an antique fixture for the inside ceiling; we are waiting now for an outside light fixture.

Watch for our Grand Opening announcement on Sunday afternoon, November 10th! A Champagne reception for contributors is planned for Friday, November 8th. (It's never too late to contribute to the building fund.)

Once the History Building is open, we will need volunteers to staff it a few hours a day. More information on this later.

Having it all come 'together' creates a glow of satisfaction that only

continued on page 2

CONTENTS

FROM THE PRESIDENT	1
MEMBERS	2
EDITOR'S NOTES	4
SENIOR NEWS	5
A-MID TRIVIA	6
CHURCHES	9
SPORTS	11
MORE MEMORIES	12
WILL'S RAMBLES	14
RICHMOND MUSEUM	16
COUNTRY FAIRE	16
MASQUER'S DREAM	17
WEST SIDE LIBRARY	18
MASQUERS	20
GREAT THREE MONTHS	20
DEATHS	22
LETTERS	23
BIRTHDAYS	23
CALENDAR	inside back cover



'From the President' cont. from page 1:

'giving' can provide. Thanks to so many, our dream is almost a reality!

"This Point...in time" is your paper. Let us know what interests you. Is there someone that would be willing to do interviews? Local residents have untold memories... and we need to get them on record. Having the interview on tape would be even more valuable.



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

MARY VALENZANO
MELBA LOGAN
MARY RUDOLPH
MARY FORBES
ANN BARTRAM
LOUIS R. CUNAN
MARY SANTINI SHUR
VIVIEN COOK
ANNE HANZLIK
PAM WILSON
BENA BOWLES

And a warm welcome to new member:

JOSHUA STEARNS

Thank you to the following merchants who sell our newsletter for us with no personal profit:

SANTA FE MARKET
POINT RICHMOND MARKET

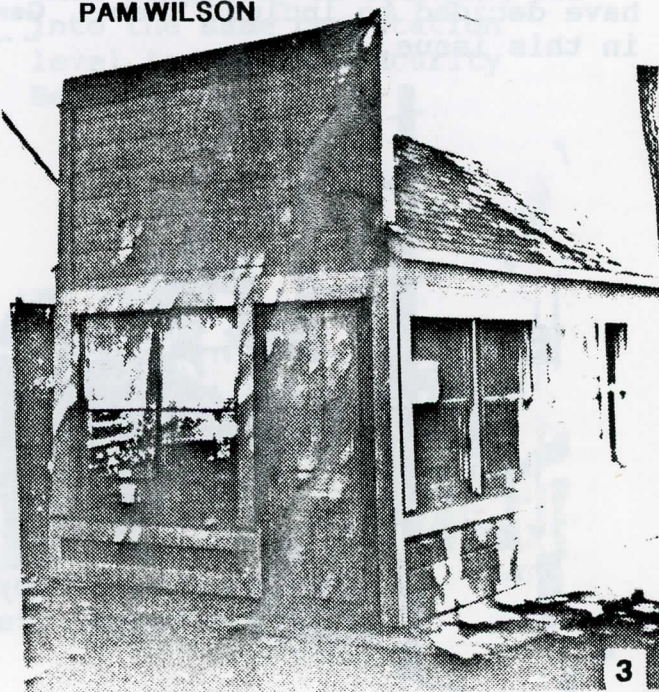
Thank You!

CONTRIBUTORS TO OUR MUSEUM PROJECT

JERRY CERKANOWICZ
BURL WILLIS & PHYLLIS SKAGLUND
(PT. RICHMOND TRAVEL)
ELIZABETH McDONALD
SHEILA FOSTIAK & FAMILY
RAMON & PATIENCE ZAMBRANO
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CHARLES C. EELES
THE DORNAN FAMILY
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JOAN MEISEL
HORTENSE GNAGA McGEE
(Given in Memory of Elizabeth F.
Gnaga, Goldy Gnaga Shrewsbury, &
Frankie Greenlaw)
MURIEL & BERT CLAUSEN
MARIE LOUISE OSTROM
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 ADELE CHASE HOLLANDER
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 MARIE WILSON DIETZ
 ANNE HANZLIK
 GRIFF AND CATHE BRAZIL
 TERESA NAVAS ALBRO
 MARY CROSBY & TOM PIAZZA
 GARY SHOWS
 CAROLYN & IRVING MOSKOWITZ
 THOMAS W. & MARGO TEDRICK
 TOM & LUCRETIA EDWARDS
 THOMAS E. WHITESIDES
 TOM BUTT & FAMILY
 JANICE A. HANTZSCHE
 RAIL & MARINE TRANSPORTATION
 CONSULTANTS, S.F. CROOK
 BETTY J. MARSHALL
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 (Given in Memory of Bob Young)
 CHANNEL LUMBER
 EDWIN L. BEDFORD
 WOMEN'S WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT
 CLUB
 GEORGE M. BATTEN
 (Given in memory of Virginia Batten)
 GRACE & JERRY CERKANOWICZ, SR.
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 (CHAMBERLAIN INSURANCE)
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 JOSEPH & SONJA DARLING
 BENA SALLE BOWLES
 (Given in Memory of Antone Salle)
 WILLIAM H. & ALYCE K. WILLIAMSON
 ROBERT HUBBART
 ANDREW JOHNS
 LYNN MAACK & SANDI GENSER-MACK

PATRICIA L. MILANO
 JERRY & THERESA DANIEL
 TOM POWERS
 INDIAN STATUE DAY RAFFLE
 WM. & ALYCE WILLIAMSON
 (Given in Memory of Ronnie Roselius
 Turner)
 GERALDINE MANN PETERSON,
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 PRYNE BUILDERS
 MARILYN CAROSELLA & MIKE
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 ERIC SCOTT
 MAE MANDL
 MOHAMED WARITH
 (POINT RICHMOND MARKET)
 NELLIE PASQUINI (BISIO)
 CHRISTY & RALPH JACOBSON
 ALEX & ROBBI BATTEY
 MARGARET & MAURICE DOHERTY &
 FAMILY
 (Given in Memory of Ronnie Roselius
 Turner)
 CARL & PEARLE WESTMAN
 VICTOR & MARY HIGHFILL
 PAM WILSON



editors notes.....

BY GARY SHOWS

The motherboard went bad on my computer and I was without it for a week and had to put this issue together much more quickly than I usually like to. If there are more typos and errors than usual, well.....too bad!

With this issue I am beginning Dr. Thompson's new series "More Memories....of Early Point Richmond". As usual I'm sure you are going to enjoy it.

Willard Spiersch has decided to delay the second installment of his new "Wheels" theme and has instead sent more of his "Rambles". I have decided to include them in this issue.

Pam Wilson is still working on the transcription of Nell Coward Brooker's interview.

Thanks to Mid Dornan for preparing several interesting items in addition to her usual contributions.

Our deadline for the November issue is October 25.

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THANKS TO THE  
SEPTEMBER ISSUE ASSEMBLY CREW:

Liz McDonald

Mary Highfill

Muriel Clausen

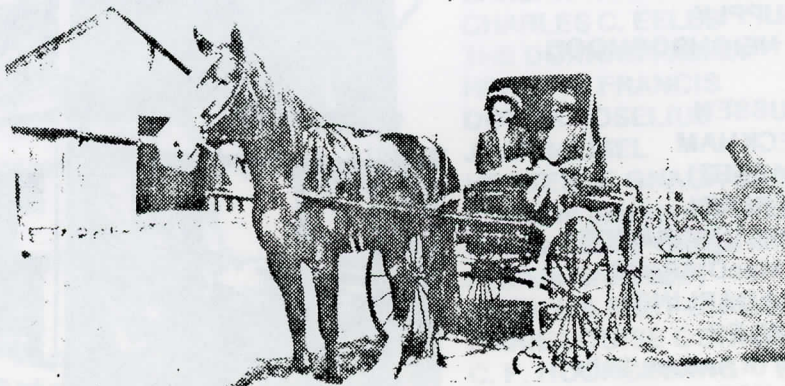
Mid Dornan

Pam Wilson

Jerry Cerknowicz

Gary Shows

~~~~~



"One of my old boy friends with his new buggy", Pearle Westman

SENIOR NEWS

By Muriel C. Clausen

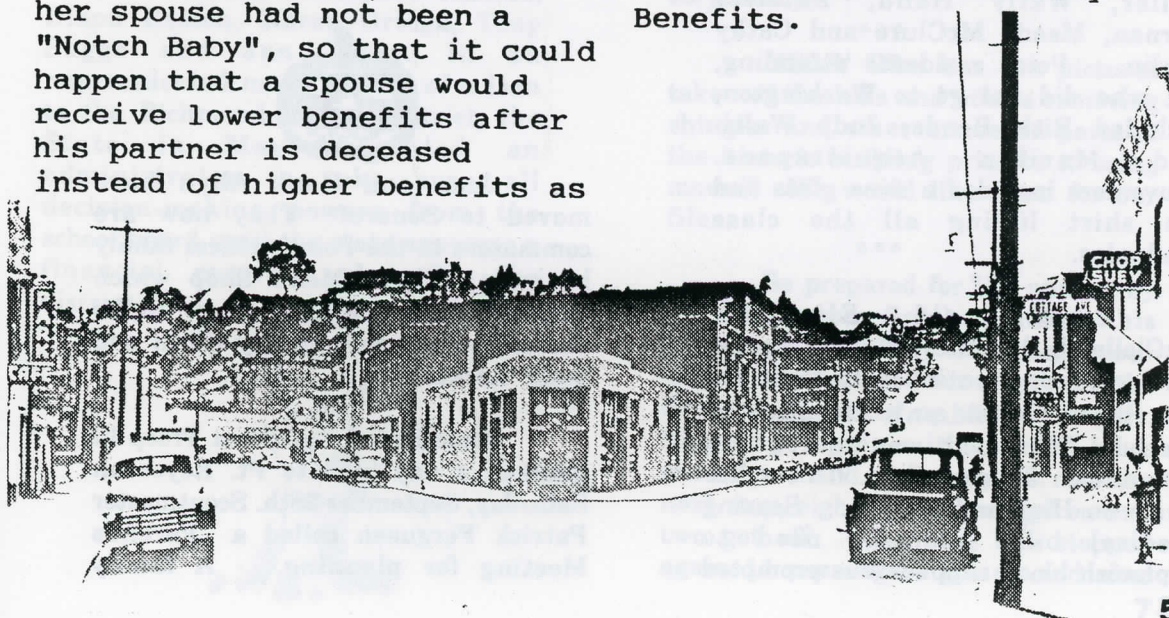
Are you a "Notch Baby" and/or is your spouse one as well? What is a "Notch Baby"? This is any person born between the years 1917 and 1921 inclusive. These persons have their Social Security Retirement Pay based upon a different monetary scale than everyone else; and, as a result their monthly Social Security Benefits are calculated at approximately 20% LOWER than those who are not "Notch Babies".

If one of two spouses is not a "Notch Baby" and the other is; and the second one is deceased; the first one would not derive as high a retirement pay as if his or her spouse had not been a "Notch Baby", so that it could happen that a spouse would receive lower benefits after his partner is deceased instead of higher benefits as

he or she might have expected.

Careful observation of the Notch system is required before one changes his or her retirement benefits after a spouse's death.

This disparity has been obvious for some time and often brought up for debate. In Washington, 232 House members now back a bill to stop these disparities; but the bill has a long way to go before becoming law. If you are interested write to Rep. Jerry Solomon, (R) New York, in Washington, D.C. who is actively promoting a change in this disparity to bringing all into the same computation level for Social Security Benefits.



A-MID TRIVIA

By Mid Dornan (234-5334)

October marks National...Pork Month, Seafood Month, Pasta Month, Pizza Month and Popcorn Poppin' Month. Anyone on a calorie-watching diet may want to skip October this year.

Curb and gutters have been placed from Castro Street to the top of Tewksbury hill. **Please..don't remove the magnificent Eucalyptus tree on the down side of the hill!** Caltrans earlier destroyed the grove of trees at the bottom of Tewksbury leaving the area barren of greenery and left nothing to inhibit the sounds of the freeway.

The Harry Ells High School 25th Class Reunion was a reunion also for many who began at Washington School. These included Richard Warren, Fern Creed, Fred Miller, Wally Hand, Patricia Dornan, Meade McClure and Cathy Carlin. Point residents attending, but who did not go to Washington, included Rick Bonds, Judy Walch and Marilyn Acquistapace. Souvenirs included a wine glass and tee shirt listing all the class graduates.

6-year old Elizabeth McClelland, daughter of Point Letter carrier Fred, continues to fight for her life at Children's Hospital in Oakland. Elizabeth was injured in a hit-and-run accident Sept. 11 near her home on Highland Avenue. Soaring medical bills and the need to replenish blood supplies has prompted

friends to establish The Elizabeth McClelland Trust, El Sobrante branch of Bank of America, 3939 San Pablo Dam Rd, Richmond, 94803-2895, account number 06939-01950.

If you are under age 35 one of the staples you grew up with was Play-Doh. Still popular with the pre-school set, it celebrates its 35th birthday and was introduced in one color, off-white, in a Washington department store in 1956. What's the stuff made of? That's a guarded secret.

The 141,000-gallon redwood reservoir on Nicholl Knob is being repaired. The East Bay Water District plans to pour concrete in the bottom and around the base of the tank to stop leaks that have plagued the reservoir for years. Temporary pumps and generators have been installed to provide water to customers during the job.

Julius...call Gloria



Jean and Hank Allyn have moved to Sonora! They now are commuters to the Point's oldest family business, Allyn's Men's Shop which they own and operate. Their Idaho Street home is occupied by Carla and Tony Beckersley.

Reactivated Boy Scout Troop 111 planned a day hike to Pt. Reyes on Saturday, September 28th. Scoutmaster Patrick Ferguson called a Parent's Meeting for planning. A family

potluck is scheduled for January 27th with a first Court of Honor. Scout Sunday is February 2nd and....for those who have missed them, the PANCAKE BREAKFAST is planned for May 9th, 1992! Eligible boys, 10 1/2 years to 17 are invited to join. The troop has a wonderful leader....so let us provide some great youth to benefit! Just show up at 7:00 pm on Mondays at the Methodist Church, Martina at West Richmond Avenue.

What is the right word to describe the shape of a football? (Answer at the end of Trivia.)

Craig Healy DDS, son of Velma Healy, has assumed the dental practice at 1500 Tara Hills Drive, Suite 200, in Pinole. Congratulations to another Point and Washington School graduate.

Seven candidates will vie for two open school board seats in November. They are Karen Fenton, from the Point, Jennipher Adkins, Diana Easton, Karen Ortega, Tony Suggs and Jan Wong. In an unprecedented move as part of a loan to the Richmond School District, the State in May appointed an administrator to take over all decision-making powers from the school board until the state approves a financial recovery plan for the district.



More choices loom in the City Council race with twelve seeking five seats. Incumbents are LaVonne Nichols, David MacDiarmid (Point Richmond), Lonnie Washington, Jr., John Marquez, Jim McMillan and contenders are Lillie Mae Jones, Bobbie Arnold, Lucille Allen, Jim Rogers, Nagaraja Rao, Michael DeLaGarza and Donna Powers (Point Richmond).

REMEMBER TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 5TH!

Gloria...why don't you call Julius?

Earlier this summer Tom Butt was put on trial for defacing and pulling paint and shingles from an historic building in Point Richmond. Found guilty, he was sentenced to be removed from the office of President to that of Past President of Rotary Club and ordered to attend weekly meetings. (*How clever...and we appreciate the publicity!*)

HELP! Who has the pictures taken of the kids and others removing shingles and other unneeded parts of the historic building prior to it being moved? We would like them for our files.

Be prepared for the answer by the time you finish reading this paragraph, without retracing your steps: A bus started out empty. At the first stop it picked up ten passengers. Stopping again, it let off five passengers and picked up 12. At the next stop, eight passengers got on and two got off. When the bus stopped again 14 passengers got on and nine

got off. One more stop and two passengers got on and one got off.

Ready with your answer?

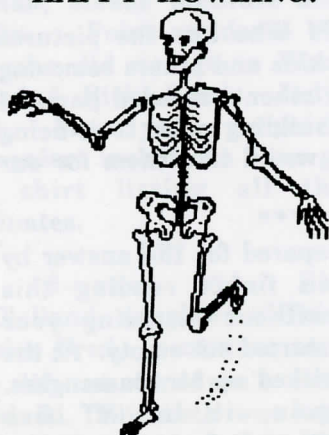
The question: How many stops did the bus make?

(The bus stopped five times.)

Did you know the most popular U.S. name for a boy is Michael. And, that among newborn girls, Ashley overtook Jennifer?

Halloween tricks formerly overshadowed treats. One of the most popular tricks was the soaping or waxing of windows and which a homemade noisemaker was used to frighten the occupants and let them know they had been soaped. The noisemaker was a large wooden spool with notches cut in the edges and a rubber band though the hole, secured by matchsticks at either end. The rubber band, when twisted and released, would make the spool revolve fast and set up a racket against the window pane. Remember?

HAPPY HOWLING!



ANSWER: It's a prolate. A sphere expanded by 28 pounds of air pressure, 11 inches long and 28 inches in circumference at its thickest.

POINT MUSEUM WISH LIST

Can you help?

- *Wooden floor.....installed*
- *Refinish four wooden chairs*
- *Two small glass display cases*
- *~~Planter box appropriate for front of building~~*
- *Slanted table for viewing books*
- *~~Early push button electrical switch~~*
- *Point Richmond pictures and memorabilia*

**Planter box appropriate for front of building*

*Wish to be granted by
the Peckhams of
Santa Fe Market
Thank You!!*

**Early push-button electrical switch*

*Wish to be granted by
Alko Office Supply
(literally)
Thank You!!*

CHURCHES

Our Lady of Mercy

by Eleanor Hurley

Sorry to say that our reliable friend and reporter, Eleanor has had a bad month and has no report on Our Lady of Mercy. Let's wish Eleanor and her little pet dog the best and hope to see her reports back here next issue.

Point Methodist

by Jean Reynolds

July 21st was a special day at the Point Methodist Church.

Baby (or should I say toddler?) Nicholas Noia, son of Joe and Brenda Noia, was baptized. And seven new (and not-so-new) members were received into the church. We welcome Roy Jones, Jerald and Ursula Fretz, Ryan Anderson, Daniel Anderson, Maurine Frazier and JoAnn Bray into our membership body.

French toast, bacon and fruit was served for returning students, parents and teachers as the fall quarter of Sunday school started on September 8th. The breakfast crew was Oretta Eaton, Helen Valentine, Marian Hawkins, Mid Dornan and Claudia LeGue. Twelve students were on hand to taste and study: Andrew Butt, Daniel Butt, Daniel Anderson, Ryan Andersen, Michael Reynolds,

Ricco King, James Allen, Joshua Allen, their Neighbor LaVar, Becky Price, Ginger Paasch and Bethany Reynolds.

The adult study of the book "The Christian Agnostic" by Leslie Weatherhead continues on Thursday evenings.

Holtzman Frazier and pastor Michael Brown are co-leaders.

The Point Methodist Church supports the fund-raising efforts of the West Contra Costa County Hunger Walk. This year the walk will be held on October 19th at 8:30 a.m. Walkers sign up people who pledge to pay a certain donation for each kilometer walked. Some members of our church will be walkers, others will pledge donations and provide refreshments for walkers as part of this event that raises money for hungry people abroad and here in our own country.

The Annual Country Faire bazaar of the United Methodist Women will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 25th and 26th. An extra-special effort this year by the "crafty" women of the church promises a wide selection of holiday gift items and decorations as well as "the usual" fine lunches and baked-goods. Lunch on Friday will be five dollars and includes dessert; Saturday will be chili or soup (all you can eat) for three dollars and a la carte desserts. Proceeds

MORE MEMORIES.....

of Early Point Richmond

Wm. L. Thompson

William L. Thompson, often called Louis by his friends, was born in Point Richmond on February 17, 1909, lived on Scenic Avenue, graduated from Richmond Union High School and was the first native Richmondite to go through medical school. Dr. Thompson began his practice in 1940 at 9th & Macdonald, later moving to 32nd & Macdonald until that building was sold at which time he moved to an office on Broadway. In 1979, at age 70 and after 39 years, he retired officially from medical practice. However, his many loyal, local patients continue to call him for advice.

Thanks to Dr. Thompson for his valuable contributions to our archives.

Here is our forth series from Dr. Thompson. In this series his childhood memories fly from the Point's geography, such as the hills, the beaches and the harbor to events such as the building of the harbor and Cutting Boulevard, the Barnum and Bailey Circus, the 1915 World's Fair and the old ferry systems. Sit back and enjoy this one.

PART ONE

One of my early memories is of the old fire bell. Whenever there was a fire the bell at the old fire station rang loudly and could be heard over

much of the Point. We kids ran out and from our vantage point on the hill could usually see where the engines went. We could see east and west Richmond Avenues. If we did not see the engines there they usually would be up Standard Avenue. There were no sirens in those days but the trucks had bells that we could trace. Fires were not very common in those days but they were exciting. The one I recall best was when the Ciabattari and Morrison homes burned right next to ours. We were in grammar school and at noon we raced up the hill to see the damage. As one would expect, Jim Morrison and the Ciabattari children were most upset.

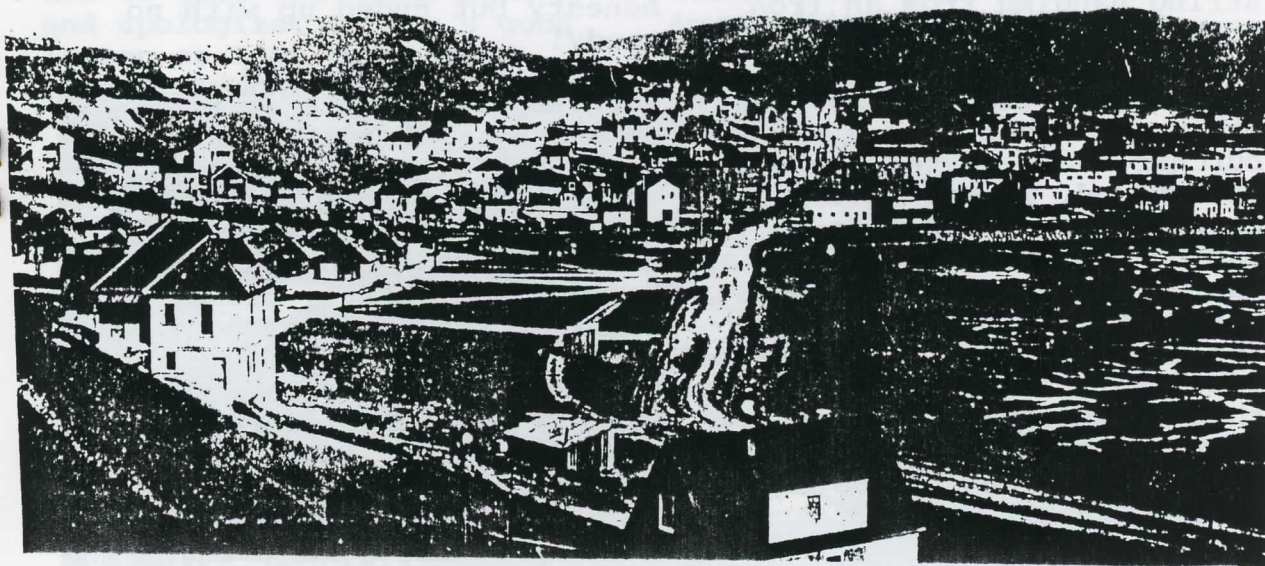
Thinking of fires brings up the Paasch Family. The elder Paasch for many years was our fire chief and did an excellent job. The two Paasch boys, Bob and Dick, were just ahead of me in school and in high school they played on the football team. They were a fine stable Point Richmond family and resided on Tunnel Avenue not far from the fire station.

From our elevation on the

hill we could observe happenings on the watered area that is now the inner harbor. At first this was only a mass of channels that twisted around many low mud islands. Later it was dredged out and eventually arrived at its present state. The dredged silt was used to form Cutting Blvd. and the other old roads in the area. On one of the little mud bank islands near the main channel there was a little, one roomed shack made of drift wood and other scraps of material. An old sea captain, I think his name was Lauritzen, lived there alone. When we fished on the opposite side of the channel he often came out and roared at us.

There was an old road from East Richmond Avenue to

Cutting Blvd. across where the end of the present harbor now is. The center of this had washed out and allowed water into a low area between the road and the Washington School. At high tide this was a large deep pond. At times ducks and especially coots would land here. There was a black dog owned by someone on Richmond Avenue who persisted in chasing these birds. He would swim out after them and when he was nearly there the coots would dive and disappear. He was most perplexed but he was even more surprised when they reappeared some yards away. He again took after them only to have it happen again. This continued until he was exhausted and left the water. I witnessed this vain pursuit many times.



Will Rambles On...The Point

Willard R. Spiersch

Louis mentioned "Charlies" butcher shop.. Well one of my earliest memories in the Point was holding on to my mother's skirt while she did her meat shopping. The Butcher had on a white apron and held up the piece of meat for her inspection, managing not to show her the worst side! Then placing the meat on the scale, and wiping his hands on his apron, he looked quizzically at his customer as he announced his price. If mother was satisfied, he then proceeded to wrap the meat in stiff pinkish paper and tied it with heavy white string. This whole transaction completed, he then broke off and gave we a wiener from a string hanging from an iron hook. Oh Boy! was that wienie good!

In later years, I saw the making of wienies in a Point butcher shop. After the meat was ground, it was placed on a machine and forced into a casing (don't ask me what that casing was made of!). Anyway the butcher cleverly twisted the long rope and formed it into links. The links were then boiled in a large iron kettle until cooked, then placed in a smoke house, for color I guess. I don't know how modern wienies are made, you buy them in a plastic

container on a grocery store counter, but believe me, they don't taste like Charlie the butcher's!

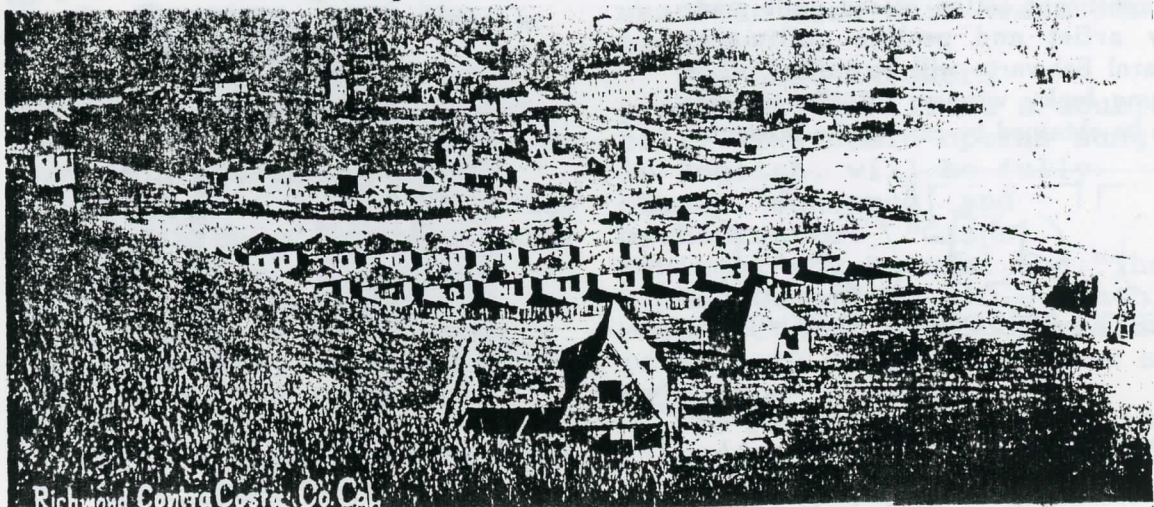
Dr. Thompson mentioned Niels' candy store. I remember it well! My Father brought home some cash every Saturday evening for Mother's household expenses the following week. No credit cards or checking accounts in those days. There was usually a gold piece or two, I took a five dollar gold piece from the pile, thinking it was a penny, and attempted to buy some candy from Mrs. Niel. Of course she got on the phone and called my Mother! You can believe that I not only got a good lesson in financial honesty but ended up with no candy!

Mrs. Niel also sold marbles, which were in high demand my Washington Grammar school boys. August Bernes was a crack marble player, to replace our marble losses, Mrs. Niel had good business. Besides some pretty glass marbles, she had some aggies (real agate) marbles. However, they were beyond my means. Small ones were a quarter, larger ones more, they were beautiful gems. I wish I could have bought some and kept them. You wouldn't believe what collectors are

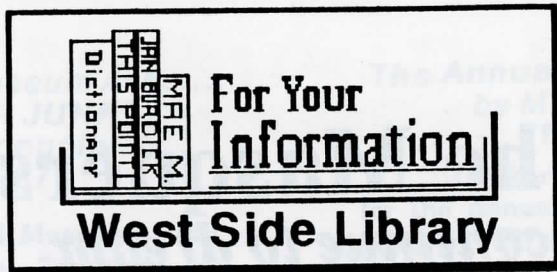
but Stievater's grocery store on Richmond Avenue was on my to school. Yes, we had to walk to school in those days, now here in Alameda, when school lets out, you can hardly get by the traffic generated my parents picking up their kids! New schools planned in Alameda will have pick up and drop off lanes on the school property. Anyway, to get back to Stievater's, he had a rack of seed on the sidewalk in front of the store. I was fascinated my the picture of a pumpkin on one pack, I guess I wanted to grow my own jack 'o lantern, so I liberated a pack. When my Father saw those seeds and quizzed me as to their source, I confessed. I was immediately marched down to the store. Mr. Stievater just laughed and told him to forget it. Not my Father, I had to give the seeds back and apologize. It was a good lesson as I've had a good

respect for other people's property ever since!

Again, confessing my early life of crime I spent some time in the Point pokey! I was pre-school and was left in my uncle's care at the shop. Anyway I was asked to do or not to do something, and I sassed my Uncle. I told him like kids do, that he wasn't the boss of me, and took off on a run. Well, he caught up with me climbing over the fence in back of the Baltic bar! My Uncle marched me up to the jail next to the Baltic and had one of his cop friends open one of the cells, telling me that this is where had boys ended up! I'm sure he thought he was doing me a favor, but I was in shock for two days and didn't get over my fear of policemen for quite a while. I did forgive my Uncle and we became good friends in time. Anyway, jails smell BAD!



"Smokey Row" in the Summer of 1901



by Jan Burdick

New books at the West Side.....

ANITA BROOKNER

Brief Lives

"The late afternoon is my bad time, when the light goes. I get nervous then, and long for someone to come." Fay Langdon is looking back on a life of emotional desolation, in Brookner's most powerful novel yet.

Fay's story is in essence a simple one: an attractive, talented self-supporting but unworldly young woman, with a trusting heart formed by a loving home, marries the man of her dreams, and is never happy again. The place is London and the time the late 1940's. Fay's fine singing voice gets her work on the radio, but on marrying lawyer Owen Langdon she agrees to abandon her career and become a housewife and hostess at dinnerparties for Owen's rich clients.

Brookner's portrait of a woman adrift in a comfortless world, where the hourglass never stops running, chills to the bone.



STEVEN MEDLEY

The Complete Guidebook To Yosemite National Park

Why another guide to one of the older, more heavily visited national parks? Because most focus on trails or natural history, but this one covers everything repeat visitors as well as first-timers need to know.

There is detailed information on food and lodging in and near the park, trails, supplies, activities, flora and fauna, history, personalities - even a list of fictional works in which Yosemite has a role.

Medley is a former park ranger and now president of the Yosemite Association giving him excellent qualifications for writing this guide and history book.

HENRY BEARD

Latin For All Occasions

If you saw the following sign in a restaurant would you know what it means? TIBI GRATIAS AGIMUS QUOD NIHIL FUMAS. If you're curious check out this slim volume called

"Latin For All Occasions". It's a fun little book which provides everything you'll ever need to say in perfect Latin - from cocktail party chit-chat to bumper stickers to personal ads.

STEPHEN VINCENT, editor

O California Thanks to the generosity of the Women's Westside Improvement Club, West Side Library now has added a beautiful art book to its collection. Edited by Stephen Vincent with paintings selected by Paul Mills, "O California" is a collection of 19th and early 20th century California landscapes and observations.

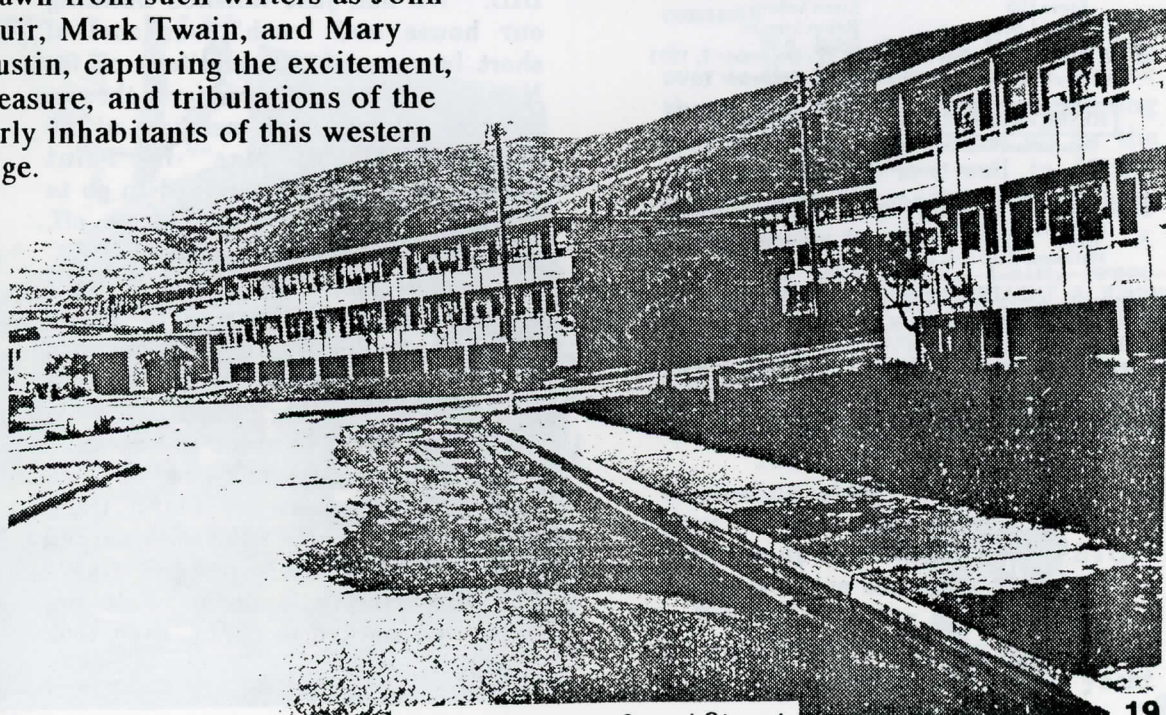
Paintings by such artists as Albert Bierstadt, Thomas Hill, and William Keith are juxtaposed with texts drawn from such writers as John Muir, Mark Twain, and Mary Austin, capturing the excitement, pleasure, and tribulations of the early inhabitants of this western edge.

Did You Know?

That during World War II because of the fear of enemy attack on the Richmond shipyards, cannons were installed on the top of Nichol Knob. But these "cannons" were actually big wooden logs painted olive green to look like gun batteries.



That the Japanese have become so efficient that they can produce a completely custom bicycle in about three hours! The bike is then crated and held in a warehouse for two weeks before being shipped. This delay is intentional as they do not want the customer to be "cheated of the joy of anticipating the arrival his/her new purchase".



War housing on Canal Street



THE MASQUERS

Playhouse, Inc.

105 Park Place, Point Richmond

PROUDLY PRESENTS



By:
PUCCINI

By:
P.D.Q. BACH

Directed by: JOE CRAVOTTO

Staged by: ROBERT LOVE & JO LUSK

A fun-filled double bill! Two comic operas sung in English fully staged, costumed, and orchestrated.

THE OPERAS' PERSONNEL:

Joseph Arone	Robert Love
Betty Baker Bindner	Helen Nace
Joni De Grabiele	Joan Nelson
John Dunn	John Owens
Nikki Nahmens Gage	Mark Patino
Tim Hart	Jane Rateaver
Steve Hill	Steen Sellers
Steve Lockett	Robin Steeves

Friday & Saturday evenings — October 25 - December 7, 1991
Sunday Matinees — November 3, 17, December 1

RESERVATIONS: (510) 232-4031 (24 hours)

Reservations held until 10 minutes before curtain.

Group Rates Available

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: \$8.00

DINNER & THEATRE benefit for our building fund at HOTEL MAC, Thursday evening, Dec. 5. Dinner and ticket to 'Schicchi' & 'Stoned Guest' for only 23.00. To reserve, CALL: (510) 236-4988.

COMING: "Amahl & the Night Visitors", back by popular demand, for a limited run, opening December 18, 1991.



OUR GREAT THREE MONTHS OF 1949

by Martin Kenoyer

Our good friend Frank Bilek, had found and bought the 44 foot cutter, "Java Head" back East, near New York City. He and six other friends sailed it down to Charleston, NC, then straight East for three days and then turned South...First landfall was in South America...Trinidad! From there they headed north, stopping off at nearly 20 of the West Indian Islands, Dutch, German, English, Spanish...all interesting...Frank wrote and asked if we could "join up" at Kingston, Jamaica, and help him and Dick and Grace McCarthy sail the boat on to the Panama Canal and home to Richmond.

I was sort of looking for a good excuse to "Quit my job" anyway, so I DID. We had just finished building our house and "cash" was sort of short..borrowed \$1000 and took off for New York. First was the party thrown by about 20 yacht club members..at the good old "Hotel Mac" in Point Richmond..about 12 managed to go to the Oakland Airport to see us off. Quite a send-off! The good old "DC3" 2 propeller job, with a sort of light load, made it all the way to Tulsa, Oklahoma which was quite a distance for those days. Everyone aboard was surprised at the "Big Leap"! Anyway, we made it to NY in about 16 hours!

We caught a bus and on down to Annapolis where we found Doug Boswell's fairly new Chevrolet parked in the garage where he had left it. We had fun driving it down to Miami where we parked it again, then took

another bus down the "Highway that goes to SEA" to KEY WEST! There we boarded a Cuban Airways Plane for the short flight over to Havana. Spent about four days seeing the sights there...all Cubans extra friendly, wanting to "practice" their English on us! Every so often there would be a "BIG BANG"...Castro was making himself HEARD! He took over a couple years later. Another bus down to "Camaguey" where we caught a PAN-AM over to Kingston, Jamaica. The authorities there nearly wouldn't let us stay. We didn't have enough money to pay our way OUT. They finally let us stay, they believed that we were telling the truth, that we were joining up with a sailboat! We waited a few days for the JAVA HEAD to show up. Skipper Kent and wife Lucille and Doug and Mary Boswell flew off to Miami to pick up their car, and and we took their places on the

boat!

Kingston was in a flurry of excitement, a British Battleship arrived with a load of Naval Cadets, complete with dozens of little sailboats. A LARGE INTERNATIONAL REGATTA was formed. I talked Frank into entering...there was another 44' cutter visiting from England so those two boats made the Regatt an "International"!!! It was a GREAT RACE. The smaller boats started first, so we two largest boats started LAST and had to pass up ALL the boats to win! We managed to come in FIRST. A great party on the clubhouse lawn. Bea admired the Commodores "Royal Jamaica Yacht Club" insignia on his hat...he TORE IT OFF and presented it to her!

In the English Yacht Clubs, they can only call themselves "Royal" with the King or Queen's consent.

We had a good five day sail over to the Canal...spent about a week there, did our own bottom cleaning and painting, then shoved off for the five day motor and sail to "Cocos Island"...got there right in the middle of the largest "treasure hunt" ever. A bunch of Riverside, Calif. were there..never found the treasure, tho the "Skipper" couldn't take the excitement...had a nervous breakdown, had to be flown back to Calif...IN A STRAIGHT-JACKET!!

After our five day stay at the interesting island, 400 inches rain per year, we shoved off for our 40 (forty) day ride up to San Diego..NON STOP! Frank was too conservative...afraid to pull into any of the Mexican Harbors. In those days, one couldn't know what kind of treatment a visiting yacht



would get. Even the Authorities would come aboard..with guns..and make any kind of excuse to FINE YOU or even to CONFISCATE THE BOAT..so we didn't stop anywhere. Kept about 500 miles off shore, real slow trip...not much wind most of the time. One pretty good BLOW for three days, huge waves but the Java Head just rode up and over them...under just a 'handkerchief' storm sail keeping up "steerage way". San Diego was a welcome sight.

Bea and I caught a Greyhound to SF, Frank and the McCarthys carried on to LA and then after trying THREE TIMES to round Pt. Conception, gave it up, sailed back to LA, readied the boat for the Trans-Pac race to Honolulu...did pretty well in the race and HAD AN EASY SAIL ++BACK TO SF.

I am writing this story just 42 years later: Sure doesn't seem that long! Those were really HAPPY DAYS...The 'Java Head' is still sailing around SFBay. It has outlasted some of the 1949 Crew members...Bilek, Skipper Kent, Doug Boswell, and Grace McCarthy are all passed away. I thought I had better write this before I followed suit.

Deaths.....

LOYD CHRISTOPHER on September 5, 1991. Please see page 11.

SAMUEL MERRIMAN JANES, JR. on September 19, 1991 was a boilermaker for 39 years at Chevron USA Refinery. He died in a San Pablo hospital after a short illness at the age of 76 years.

Mr. Janes, a native of Point Richmond, was a lifetime Richmond resident. He was a founding member of St. Cornelius Catholic Church, Richmond, a member of Chevron USA Annuitant Club, past president and treasurer of Boilermakers Union Local 317, a former member of Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks #1251 and an active member of the Richmond Public Library.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret E. Janes of Richmond; a daughter, Michele M. Janes of Larkspur; a son, Donal M. Janes of Clayton; and four grandchildren.

THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

ACKNOWLEDGES

A DONATION MADE
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Thank You



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Hi Pam:

In the last issue I was real sorry to read about the death of Mary B. Casey. In the later part of 1915 my family moved to 545 Golden Gate Avenue across the street from Mary Casey. Mary had three brothers Joe (lost in the war), John and Stan. Stan was more of my age and later years we would pal around together. I always remember Mary as she took a picture of my brother Sterling, my sister Edna and of course me. We looked all over for that picture and can not find it. In my late teens Stan and I would neet down at Gust Allyn's pool hall at Standard and Washington Avenues. Stan went to work in San Francisco. Years later I met him and his sister Mary up in Reno and Mary was leading Stan around because he was blind as he was a diabetic. Stan and I had a good visit. As far as I know Mary took care of Stan till he passed away.

I was writing up about my Christmas, 1921 graduation from Point Richmond Grammar School and my picture reproduction did not turn out. I will try to write again and send pictures.

Vivien E. Cook
Fort Dick, CA

TERRY WYNNE	KATE LORD
JEFF ALBRO	DOROTHY DAVIS
JEAN MOYLE SPIERSCH	MILDRED PAETH
MARGUERITE CLUTTS	LINDA PEREIRA
ROSY ROSELIUS	TIMOTHY DOHERTY
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HELEN FROSINI	ROSE FAHRION
JEFF WARD	CHRIS WARD
SHERA THOMPSON	JERRY DANIEL
BETTY GLASS MARSHALL	MARJ BELLATI

THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY
ASSOCIATION GRATEFULLY
ACKNOWLEDGES A CONTRIBUTION TO
OUR TRIBUTE FUND
GIVEN
IN REMEMBRANCE
OF
MARY B. CASEY
BY
WILLARD R. SPIERSCH

"When I was a very small squirt, I was sitting on the front proch of our Castro Street house, crying my heart out. My mother had punished me, probably for some good cause! Anyway Mary Casey, who often came down Castro Street stopped and tried to comfort me. I never forgot her, and later she never failed to stop and give me a cheery hello and pass the time of day whenever our paths crossed. She was a real nice person!"

Willard R. Spiersch

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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PAM WILSON
521 WESTERN DRIVE
POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801

If you would like to have Birthdays noted in the newsletter, please include names and dates.

Articles for each month's issue are due on or before the published deadline in the calendar section of this issue.

Please mail articles and items of interest to:

GARY SHOWS
229 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE
POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801

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Willard Spiersch
Jerry Cerkowicz
Martin Kenoyer
Allan Smith
Joan Connolly

.....thanks

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- October 3** **1914, Abbott Hospital remodeled into rooming house**
- October 9** **Point Richmond Business Association Meeting,
Noon, Hotel Mac**
- October 19** **1915, Municipal Tunnel opens**
- October 20** **Second Indian Statue is dedicated, 1984**
- October 25** **DEADLINE FOR TPIT NOVEMBER ISSUE**
- "Gianni Schicchi" and "The Stoned Guest"
open at the Masquers Playhouse**
- Annual Country Faire at Point Richmond Methodist
Church, continues through October 26th**
- October 27** **Fifty Years Ago, First Liberty Ship Launched, 1941**
- Ellis B. Myers Photo Exhibit closes at Richmond Museum
reopens again on December 14**
- Daylight Savings Time Ends, set your clock back 1 hour**
- October 31** **Halloween**
- November 5** **Election Day**
- Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting,
11:30 AM, Our Lady of Mercy Church**
- Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting,
7:30 PM, Point Community Center**
- November 8** **Reception for Point History Museum Contributors**
- November 10** **General Meeting of the Point Richmond History
Association and Grand Opening for our New Museum!**
- November 11** **Veteran's Day**