

THIS POINT

in time

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL X No 6

WINTER, 1991-1992

\$1.00

Seasons

Greetings



Point Richmond Holiday Food Drive

The 15-year old Community Food Coalition, which last year asked Point Richmond to participate in a holiday food drive, has, since then changed its name to the Contra Costa Food Bank, and also recently has again requested that Point Richmond become one of the neighborhoods in the county to sponsor a drive.

The Food Bank is a non-profit, United Way Agency and plays the central role in our county in channelling donations of food to needy Contra Costa residents. The collection of food goes on all year, but the Holiday Food Drive is especially to collect non-perishable food, canned or dried, for food baskets for those who are having a difficult time during this holiday period of feasting and rejoicing.

During the holiday season last year more than 250,000 pounds of canned food was collected by more than 100 business, service clubs and religious organizations, as well as 13 neighborhoods such as ours who sponsored one day or one week drives.

During the last year the Food Bank:

1. Distributed 15,275 pounds of food daily.
2. Provided a free bag of groceries weekly to 2,470 low income seniors through the Food Bank "Brown Bag Program."
3. Provided 12,200 meals each working day.
4. Provided 3-day (nine meals) food baskets each month for 7,060 people in Contra Costa County through the Food Bank network of emergency food pantries.
5. Averaged 3,815 volunteer hours donated monthly.
6. Provided food regularly for 153 local charities (soup kitchens, homeless shelters, childcare centers)
7. Through the Project Glean program, collected 225,000 pounds of fruit and vegetables "gleaned" from backyards, orchards and farms.

This year the holiday food drive will be held in Point Richmond from December 9th through December 13th. We hope that you will be able to respond to the needs of the increasing numbers who are feeling the pressure of the recession. This article is to alert you to the fact that brown bags will be distributed to doorsteps sometime during the last week of November and the first week of December. Attached to them will be a list of the most needed non-perishable foods, and of the locations of the barrels provided for drop-off and collection of the food bags.

Thank you for whatever you gave last year, and please give again this year, as the need is more, rather than less urgent.

.....Lucrecia Edwards

History Association Notes

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Mid Dornan

It was worth it! The aura of the celebration to dedicate the oldest commercial building at the Point as the Point Richmond History Association museum building remains. Over 160 people joined the two-day festivities.

It was gratifying to have so many local people show support for this gift to the community. A gift for future generations to enjoy. A gift that the dedicated Point Richmond History Association Board and dedicated volunteers have spent many hours preserving.

Of course, last minute finalizing frenzy included many helpers. THANKS: to the City staff that assisted in the electricity placement, to Mike Mahler and George Peterson for moving the showcase from Our Lady of Mercy to the Museum building, to the Church for the showcase and to Donna Roselius for repairing the showcase, making signs, painting the building door, plus all the odd jobs

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On November 7, 1991 our Board of Directors voted to increase the newsstand price of "This Point In Time" to \$1.50 starting with the February, 1992 issue. The increase makes the newsstand price more compatible with the price members pay and, of course helps offset increasing costs of production.

There has not been an increase in over three years.

"From the President" cont. from page 1:

that required a bit of talent! to Vic Highfill for taking charge of refreshments catered by women from the Methodist Church and to all those who provided needed support and encouragement.

Contributors and volunteers were honored at a champagne reception on Friday.

Charter members in attendance were recognized: Founder Donna Reselius, Port Orford, Oregon (*who was responsible for much of the aura*); Michelle Brown, Teresa Albro, Rosemary Corbin, Lucretia Edwards and Mid Dornan. Past President Jerry Cerkawicz was cited for his heroic stance in the building's move and Gary Shows, Editor, for keeping alive this monthly newsletter. A video of the moving of the building was shown at both receptions.

It is said nothing is forever but the Point Richmond History Association would like to leave a legacy for the future generation.

Please let us know when you could staff the building, now open only on Thursdays, 11:30 to 2:00. With enough volunteers, it could be open more often. Call 235-1336 or 234-5334.

I repeat, it was worth it!



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

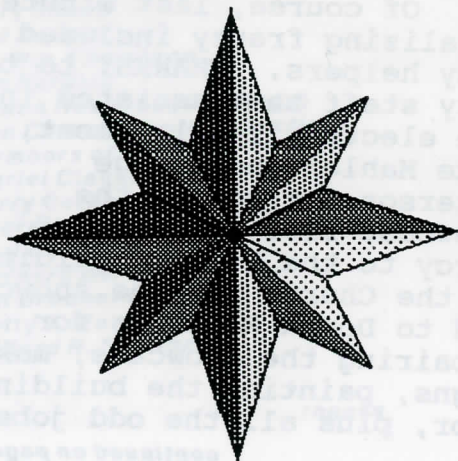
**ROBERT MENZIE, JR.
BARBARA OLESEN
ROBERT M. LARSEN
ALBERT & HORTENSE McGEE
HELEN M. SKELTON
BOB, MARIE & DARIAN PECKHAM
SARLY WEINSTEIN
AILEEN CONN**

And a warm welcome to new members:

**STEVEN & BRENDA PECKHAM
MICHAEL & JIN PECKHAM
KELLEY PECKHAM & DUGGER
SHORE
BERNARD E. CHRISTIANSON
NELLIE BISIO PASQUINI**

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

**SANTA FE MARKET
POINT RICHMOND MARKET**



editors notes.....

BY GARY SHOWS

I had a great time at our museum Grand Opening Ceremonies, both at the contributor's reception on Friday and the museum dedication on Sunday. Everything turned out just great! The weather was good, the food was wonderful, the people were friendly and gracious and our little museum building looks just great! Most of the event was planned by Mid Dornan who was at the outset very apprehensive about taking the job of President. She's doing a great job.

This winter issue has a lot in it with two more multi-part articles. As promised I am beginning the interview with Nell Coward Brooker by her daughter. I am breaking it up into several parts and I think you will enjoy them. The interview was received in the form of an audio tape and thank you to Pam Wilson for the good transcribing job.

Thank you Lucretia Edwards for her interesting paper on the events leading to the designation of Point Richmond as an Historic District. It will also be something for you to follow in future issues.

It is good hearing from Bernard Bernes and will have something from Willard

Spiersch in the next issue.

Thanks to our TPIT staff for help with my deadline. This newsletter takes a lot of my spare time and timeliness helps so much. I do miss the regular church news, I feel that this information is a service to both our members and the churches. Perhaps something can be done within each organization to share the burden of reporting.

I've decided to stop printing the list of contributors to the Museum as I have since the April, 1990 issue. I feel that it has served its purpose and heck, we have a museum. It's been fun keeping up with all of the names, I will prepare the final list, to frame for the Museum.

The deadline for articles in the February is January 24, 1992.

Happy Holidays!

~~~~~  
THANKS TO THE  
NOVEMBER ASSEMBLY CREW:  
MARY HIGHFILL  
MURIEL CLAUSEN  
MID DORNAN  
PAM WILSON  
SONJA DARLING  
JERRY CERKANOWICZ  
GARY SHOWS  
~~~~~

SENIOR NEWS

By Muriel C. Clausen

Most seniors have what is called a "Medigap Insurance Policy" to supplement their Medicare coverage because Medicare has so many limitations. As the Medicare limitations have increased over the years so have the number of Medigap Insurance Policies to the point that they are confusing. Some persons are so confused that they have more than one Medigap Policy; and insurance salesmen are not unknown to promote this to their own benefit instead of that of their senior client. Several or even more than one Medigap Policy is unwise. Rather, one should carefully review and select one policy only.

Soon it may be less confusing to select a Medigap Policy due to a new law which causes the development of standards for ten only Medigap Policies to replace the thousands of such policies on the market. These standards are shaping up fast and

each carrier selected must have a policy which contains "core" benefits. These include:

1. Coverage for the part of Medicare eligible expenses that are not covered by Medicare during any hospital stay covered by Medicare.
2. 365 additional days of hospitalization after Medicare benefits end.
3. Medicare coinsurance (20% of Medicare approved expenses) after policy holder pays the annual deductible.
4. The Medicare deductible for blood transfusions.

All of the ten policies will cover all of the above; but after that they may vary with additional coverage in all cases except one which will only have only the above coverage.

California has until July 30, 1992 to adopt this new law. For insurance consultation one can call HICAP at 374- 3943. +

*The City of Richmond, Human Services Department
sponsors*

Light Exercise for Seniors (ages 50+)

Wednesdays

10:30 am - 11:15 am

Point Richmond Outreach Program

139 Washington Avenue

233-6881

50 cent donation

A-MID TRIVIA

By Mid Dornan (234-5334)

Q: When do most people open their Christmas presents?

A: Eve, 55 percent. Morning, 45 percent according to survey takers.

Former residents and interested persons from out of the area attending the History Building dedication included Herman and Helen Ostrom, Calistoga; Madeline and Ernest Albright and daughter, Brentwood; Floria Crim-Parker, Santa Cruz; William Machek, Berkeley; Gretchen Shaw, Brunswick, Maine; Jeanne von Zielinski, Novato; Patrtck Ferguson, Martinez. (And there were those who failed to sign the register/)

Susan Cherniak Hyde, husband Peter and daughter Nicole and Stephanie Cherniak Eakle spent Thanksgiving with their mother Virginia Cherniak. First time in 18 years they have been together.

Serving on Election Boards in the Point has perks. Bob Peckham (*Santa Fe Market*) brought fresh Acme bread and butter...and Rosemary (*Rosemary's Bakery*) dropped off a bag of goodies! It is wonderful to be spoiled in this manner! One school board and two City Council candidates were registered in the precinct held at the Methodist Church accounting for the 547 that voted at this precinct. Donna Powers was elected to the City Council.

Sara Warren visited her

newest grandchild, 2 week old Paul, son of Sara and Larry White who live in Vacaville. Paul was welcomed by sisters Lisa, 6, Amy, 4, and brother David, 17 months.

Keeping in touch with the Vern Doellstedt family we learn Jon is a Manager for Disney; Richard and wife, Tammy, are doing Inner city work in Chicago; Peggy is Export Manager for Richmond Meat Co.; Carl assists in his parents meat company and Dan is a Computer troubleshooter and specialist at U.C. Berkeley.

"And what would you like for Christmas?" the department store Santa asked the little boy.

Puzzled and confused the child looked up and wailed, "Didn't you read my letter?"

Zoe Eakle, daughter of Stephanie Eakle spent the summer with her grandmother, Virginia Cherniak and grandparents, Jim and Jean Eakle. She lives in Sointula, CA and attends York University in Toronto California.

Some people take vacations from their dogs but Jim and Florence Wilson managed to pick up a dog while on their vacation in Oregon. 'Penny', a Beagle puppy, has adjusted quickly to beds and laps with a fondness for chewing once back in the Point.

Dodie Perry's 'Welcome Mat' is interpreted literally. Friends Evelyn Wisner and Kim Page flew

from Connecticut to stay with her when they took a Hot Air Balloon ride in Napa.

Where were you December 7, 1941? Pearl Harbor is remembered on this 50th anniversary.

Ollie Amend Long, 83, now living in Pinole, recalls that she pushed the plunger that blew up the hill preparing for the Natatorium. Her uncle was L.L. Page, contractor, father of Charlotte Wood.

How is it that Christmas morning, no matter how little sleep was had the night before, never presents a wake-up problem?

Roy Jones taking piano lessons???

Daniel Anderson spent a week in Washington D.C. as a Congressional Youth Scholar. While there he attended a mock Congress, had individual appointments with his Congressmen, visited both chambers of Congress and even had time to tour the historic places.

Sympathy is extended to the Tom Butt family on the loss of his mother. She passed away in Arkansas while the family was enroute to visit.

The Tournament of Roses, for the first time in its 103-year-old history, will have two grand marshals for the Rose Parade. An American Indian will share honors with a direct descendant of Christopher Columbus. Rep. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, Colo, the only American Indian in

Congress, has been chosen to join Spanish aristocrat Cristobal Colon at the head of the New Year's Day parade.

Did Gloria call Julius? Did Julius call Gloria?

Looking for a household calendar? Eighty-three percent of such are gifts from businesses.

Amtrak service between San Jose and Sacramento will begin December 12 and will operate three round trips per day. The basic route will have stops at San Jose, the Oakland Coliseum, West Oakland, Berkeley, RICHMOND, Martinez, Suisun-Fairfield, Davis and Sacramento, with one run daily extending to Roseville. Running time from Oakland to Sacramento will be two hours and cost \$16 one way. \$42 million in Proposition 116 funds have been approved for the project.

1992 is Leap Year! Ladies can ask the men out and can even ask that special man to marry her. Sadie Hawkins was always a part of the "Li'l Abner" comic strip when Leap rolled around but haven't times changed? Isn't every year a Leap Year now in this respect!

New Year's Resolution we wish you'd make: "Send in a least one article of memories to This Point...in time!

Cryptic Christmas greeting:
A B C D E F G H I J K M N
O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Puzzled? It's simple.

No L.

THE ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING

And there was light!

Or not?



Some of the good citizens of Point Richmond, especially those with children celebrated the start of the Christmas Season Saturday, November 29th.

The Point Richmond Business Association held their annual tree lighting, visit from Santa, and group caroling event at Indian Statue Park. At past such events things have run smoothly though not well attended. This year things were a bit different, not so smooth but well attended.

Part of this Point Richmond tradition calls for luminarias, a traditional Mexican Christmas lantern consisting of a small paper bag weighted down by sand with a small lighted candle inside. These luminarias are then placed around the perimeter of the park. This is all well and good on a windless day, but Saturday there were 25 mile per hour winds. Just lighting the candles proved to be a major accomplishment, but as the wind blew the upper part of the bags around several caught fire and many of the candles were blown out.

Then there was the problem with the electricity needed to

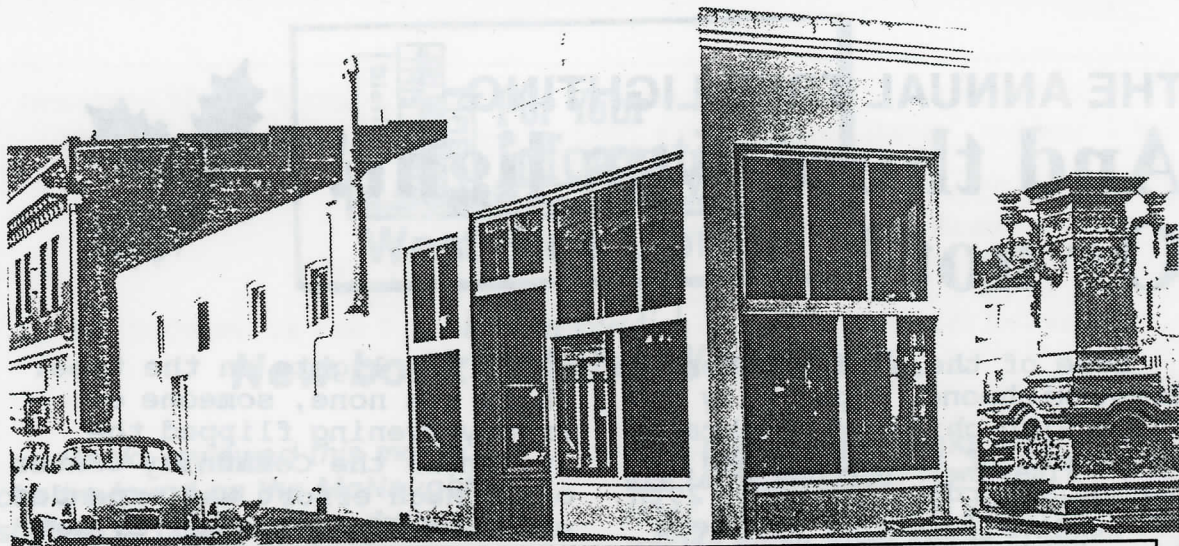
power the lights on the tree. There was none, someone on Friday evening flipped the switch in the Community Center off. Much effort was expended unsuccessfully trying to get into the building.

As citizens started arriving it stands to reason the main topic of conversation was that there was going to be a tree lighting without lights and what could be done. An extension cord was on obvious solution, but there was only one source of electricity and that was the only open business in the area and that was across Washington Avenue, the laundry and heavy duty cords were needed.

As Santa Claus approached the park with a bag of candy canes, extension cords appeared and within minutes the cord was across the street, the tree was lit and the sound of Christmas carols filled the night air. Then a great time was had by all.

Of course a half an hour later a fuse blew.....the tree went dark.

Thanks to David Vincent, Marsha Ward, Tom McGowan and Tom Butt.



ACQUISITIONS

1. A wedding picture dated February 4, 1911 of Joseph and Pierina Roveda, owners of the Standard Hotel. Her brother, Frank Sannazzaro was on her left but we would like to identify the location of the street where it was photographed. Stop by our museum office and help us out.

2. A set of early Richmond maps, some dated 1901. The maps are on window shade type rollers and incased in a wooden roll-top cabinet. This is a wonderful acquisition that everyone will enjoy, however it is a little fragile and will require some restoration work before it can be displayed. If you have time and expertise in this kind of work call Jerry at 235-1336.
(Gift from Hazel Carr)

3. Telephone/intercom set that was part of the closed-circuit

communication system that connected sections, buildings and management of the Standard Oil of California, Richmond Refinery. It was installed in the late 30's or early 40's and possibly removed from use in the early 60's.

It is believed this set was in the office of the General Manager or the Assistant Manager from the initials on the various switch positions. Could a former SO employee clue us in on this?

(Gift from Rosy Roselius)

4. L.H. SCHRADER CO. yardstick. Thought to be from the early 1920's.
(Gift from James Cheshareck, Jr.)

5. Picture of Point Grammar School, Class of 1909 with all the students identified!
(Gift from Hazel Conn)



Point Richmond: an Historic District

by Lucretia Edwards

PART ONE

The application for Point Richmond as an Historic District was through the U.S. Department of Interior national park Service, Federal Highway Commission via Cal Trans. When a highway or freeway is planned, Cal Trans is obliged to investigate the possibility of Native American artifacts (shell mounds, etc.) and also Historic Buildings. They have archaeologists and preservationists either on staff or on call for this purpose. This becomes part of the Environmental Impact Report for the project.

Point Richmond qualified as a District because it was a COMPANY TOWN, when it was first built in the very early 1900's within certain boundaries that later are described in the application for Historic District. All of the houses were of a certain period, size and style. These were the homes of the workers. The executive group built in Mira Vista area as we know it now because one of the Standard Oil Company of California Directors owned some vacant real estate there which he was eager to develop.

From the time that Point Richmond was built up there was a Point Richmond Civic Group which was "crisis oriented"; i.e. a civic group that did not meet regularly but only when one threat or another arose; such as a fat-rendering plant proposed on the flats which we now know as Miller-Knox Shoreline Park, a reservoir dug out of the top of Water Street hill, an E.J.J. McKeegan's proposal to fill the Bay in front of the residential area and to place tract houses there.

There had, for a long time, been interest in an Aquatic Park in the Bay where Miller-Knox Park is now and in the 1947 City of Richmond Interim Master Plan this is shown. Between 1947 and 1954 the city made a beginning towards acquiring underwater property in the area. \$48,000.00 was set aside for eventual development of a small boat harbor. In 1954 when State Tideland oil revenues were made available for waterfront parks the Aquatic Park seemed about to become a reality. But the idea was strongly opposed at the last minute by the Standard Oil Company on the

basis that small boats, especially sail boats would interfere with the docking of tankers at their Long Wharf. As a result of this the Aquatic Park plans were abandoned and the \$48,000.00 went to purchase the property upon which now stands Montgomery Ward. As one looks at the mural behind the Mayor's and Councilpersons' podium in the City Hall the Aquatic Park site is shown as it was envisioned at that time.

Ten years later in 1964 as an inducement to Contra Costa County to join Alameda County in an East Bay Regional Park District, Contra Costa was promised a 200 acre West County water front Park by June 1969. The Park District pledged \$100,000 per year to be set aside for four years to provide money to purchase the land for this park. Point Pinole was made, at the time, available for purchase by the gun powder manufacturers who had owned it and this was proposed for the future park site. But before any arrangement could be consummated the entire property was purchased by Bethlehem Steel Company whose stated intent was to develop it extensively as an integrated steel plant.

With Point Pinole eliminated as a potential park site various alternative West County Shoreline sites were

considered and in 1966 the Point Richmond site was chosen. The Regional Park District Directors, who were understandably eager to acquire still available untouched wilderness areas deep in the county where wary of the idea of spending tax payers' dollars on highly priced industrial land whose potential they could not envision. So, while the Point Richmond site had been chosen, activity ground to a halt until 1968.

Look for Part 2 of "Point Richmond: an Historic District" in the next issue.

The City of Richmond Human Services Department
and
Richmond High School
PRESENTS
The 4th Annual Holiday CLASSIC
Basketball
Tournament

Thursday, December 19, 1991
thru
Saturday, December 21, 1991
3:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

RICHMOND MEMORIAL
CONVENTION CENTER,
CIVIC CENTER PLAZA

Tickets:
Students: \$2.00
Adults: \$3.00

Tickets on sale beginning November 4, 1991 at the Human Services Department, 2544 Barrett Avenue or one of the schools listed below.

Participating High Schools are from the Bay Area and Canada:

Centennial, Canada
Richmond, Richmond
Acalanes, Lafayette

Galico, San Francisco
Kennedy, Richmond
Albany, Albany

Burton, San Francisco
John Swett, Crockett
Emery, Emeryville

For more information call 231-3070 or 620-6792

CHURCHES

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

The annual Christmas program at the Point United Methodist Church will be on Sunday, December 15th at 7:00 p.m. This year the Sunday School youth will be putting on a play entitled "The Lamb's Christmas." There will be singing of carols and refreshments afterwards and who knows what other surprises lay in wait.

From 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on December 15th the Rev. Michael Brown and family will host a Christmas Open House at the parsonage.

The Annual Christmas Eve service is planned again this year at 7:00 p.m. at the church. This service of lessons and carols should be a part of the ongoing Christmas celebration and getting ready for Christmas.

The service promises to be short (about 50 minutes), yet meaningful in this time of busyness and stress. Plan to attend to raise voices in singing of old carols and letting the hustle and bustle of Christmas be forgotten for a moment.

EVERYONE IS INVITED
AND WELCOME.

Our Lady of Mercy

by Eleanor Hurley

POINT METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

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". The minutes are printed as written. This is the 60th installment.

August 1917

W.H.M.S. met at church parlors. Opened by prayer by Mrs. Gibbons.

Scripture lesson read by President, Mrs. Adams. Minutes read and approved. Treasurer's yearly report accepted.

Motion made and carried that the present Officers hold office for another year and Sec cast the ballot for same.

Mrs. Gibbons was elected to 1st Vice President office in place of Mrs. Whalen. The Ladies were asked to bring garments to the Church Basement for box to be sent to Indians.

No further business meeting closed.

Nettie Grover, Treas.

Point Methodist

by Jean Reynolds

*Sorry, we received no report from
either of the churches for this issue.*

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 THREE

Bulldog Point at the extreme end of the Point Richmond hills was an interesting place. We used to hike out there fishing when we were children. The war destroyed it. It was completely leveled to form the

fill for shipyard #4 during the war. One of the most interesting features of this point was a large Indian shell mound on its lee side. A large buckeye tree grew on the mound which is a rather common feature of these mounds. In the absence of acorns the Indians used the buckeyes as a staple part of their diet. Lost buckeyes often germinated there so the trees were not uncommon on the mounds. I used to dig there occasionally and once when I was studying anthropology at Cal a class-mate of mine and I spent most of a day excavating there. Among the masses of mussel and oyster shells that make up the bulk of the mound we found many fish and bird bones and one vertebra probably from a deer. We found one obsidian arrow point and many obsidian flakes and partial points. Obsidian or black volcanic glass does not occur in this region and must have been traded down from the Clear Lake region. Also I unearthed an old fireplace crudely made of large stones with a mass of ashes. This was an interesting mound but was completely destroyed during the war to make room and fill for shipyard #4. I heard that several Indian burials were

found when the mound was dismantled.

There were several other mounds in the Point Richmond area. One small one was on the hillside above the road half way between ferry point and the old police pistol range. It also had a buckeye tree growing on it. People used to use some of the mound material as fertilizer.

I suspect that these sites were occupied during the winter and spring months due to lack of fresh water during the dry months. However there was one good spring on the hill above the old Schmidt place on the inside of the ridge not far from Bulldog Point that ran well into the summer and in the past when there probably was greater rainfall may have lasted longer.

I often wonder about the toxicity of red water during the summer months. Shell fish become poisonous often during the summer months due to consuming the tiny toxic creatures that come from the red water. Now days we are warned not to eat shellfish during the summer months, (the months with an "R") because of this toxicity. Did the Indians suffer from this? Possibly lack of fresh water made them leave the region during the warm months and so they were protected.

I once found an obsidian arrow point on the slopes of Nichol Nob. It was of the microlithic type from the late

horizon Indians. Also I found a fragment of fossil ivory on the old hillside. This was no doubt a fragment of mammoth tusk. At one time, back in the 1920's when the Standard Oil Company was dredging out channels off of San Pablo Bay they dredged out parts of a mammoth skeleton. The end of a femur (thigh bone) of this skeleton was on display in the main office there at one time and may still be there. My father brought me a fragment of ivory from this find.

After the dredgers from the inner harbor had laid down dirt for Cutting Blvd. they laid ridges of bay silt in squares to be the bases for streets forming city blocks. This section was known as the canal section and it was years before any further development was done. Later some pavement was laid down and two homes were built in the area. This is the region between Cutting and Garrard and is mostly industrial. Before this was developed, the square blocks were low marshy areas that filled with water in the rainy season. These ponds were playgrounds for children who floated rafts and other objects in the water. They also were landing places for waterfowl and no doubt contributed to the mosquito population. In some there were stickelback fish which controlled their larva.



Recollections of Point Richmond



Nell Coward Brooker

This article was dictated on a tape recorder on August 15, 1988 at the home of Nell Coward Brooker in Thousand Oaks, California. The tape session was arranged by her daughter Pat Brooker Gaboury and was inspired by the cover of the Summer, 1988 issue of "This Point In Time" on which we featured a drawing made by Nell in her teens. The drawing was taken from her high school "memory book" which had been previously donated to our archives. The tape was transcribed by Pam Wilson who had problems at times as Nell rambles a bit making some sentences hard to understand.

Nell grew up in Point Richmond and was known as a bright and energetic person, we are grateful to her for this.....

Part One

First, I was so pleased about your using part of my memory book for your cover in "This Point In Time". It was a real surprise when I received the copy. I'm talking because I can't write very well since I have had a broken hip plus Parkinsons Disease and I'm still a little bit woosie with that, however, I would like to tell you a few things about Point Richmond.

First, my parents moved to Point

Richmond in October of 1910 and I spent all my school years in Richmond... first Washington School in the Point, and then Richmond Union High School, and then finally the University of California at Berkeley from which I graduated in 1930.

In 1931, I married Edgar Brooker who was employed at the Standard Oil Company and had not lived in Richmond very long, so we did live at the Point for a while, then he was transferred to El Segundo, and from there we came back to Richmond again.

I always loved Point Richmond. It was fun living there and we always used to have so much fun going down to Keller's Beach and the way we got there, we simply went to the top of the hill and it was so covered with grass, brown grass, that all we did was practically slide down the hill right into Kozy Kove, which was a great experience in the first years. Sometimes we were allowed to go there and swim without parents, we had a real good time. Getting back wasn't so much fun, it was pretty hard getting back up the hill. We used to lie down with coconut oil spread all over us and get brown..... same as people do today. To come

back from the beach, we could walk through the tunnel, not the railroad tunnel, the first tunnel that we came to, the same tunnel that's still in use that goes out to Ferry Point, I don't know exactly what they call it out there now, but it has a lot of beautiful homes right on the bay.

One of the things that we did that was quite unusual was after going into the first world war, we went around and we did everything and knitted, I guess wash rags, that's what I called them, they were big heavy string things and we had a lot of things there that the soldiers could use. In the first world war, passenger trains came through going to San Francisco by getting on at the depot in Point Richmond near the theater there and on Railroad Avenue. You got on the train and you rode out to Ferry Point and then you got on the ferry and went over to San Francisco.

One of the biggest thrills of my life was being taken to San Francisco on Armistice Day for the signing of the ending of the first world war. When the trains came through with the troops going over abroad all of the Point Richmond people, or many of the Point Richmond people took a soldier to be a sort of a friend and corresponded with them and sent them cookies and did the things that would make them feel at home. I

think that most of the soldiers came from the famous Rainbow Division, which was started or began their journey in San Francisco by taking the ferry and on to trains. They were leaving for the front in Europe and they were having, well it was a big ta-do, it was lots of things, there was more enthusiasm and compassion for the soldiers than for any other war.

I was 10 years old, I think and the Washington School also had a group of children who bought liberty bonds by saving a quarter a week or some such thing. I went and picked all the dahlias that my mother had in the yard, then took them down to the merchants along Washington Avenue and sold them for the Red Cross. It was not such a big deal, but the Red Cross was appreciative at any little thing that kids could do, so that was one of the things we did. I got a cow bell, and we went up and down Market Street making the cow bell ring, of course, and I had that cow bell so many years, I threw it out just before the end of the second world war. I was sorry it was not one of the things I kept. So, anyway, we had an exciting time during the first world war. There were many people around and we didn't realize what a treasure we had in Point Richmond.... we loved it!

DUKE STAIRLEY, Dr.

Captain of the Schooner "Agnes Jones."

Shipper of Burbank Potatoes

MEMORIES OF THE OLD POINT

BERNARD "FRENCHIE" BERNES

I have not seen in the newsletter memory columns mention of the Curry Funeral Parlor on Park Place in the triangle across from the Fire Station. If I recall correctly, the streetcars came up the street to take people out to the cemetery in San Pablo.

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There was a skeet and trap shooting range on the north side of Standard Avenue near Mr. Dornan's and P.F. Johnson's storage yards. On Saturdays, men would take their shotguns out to the field to shoot at clay pigeons. It was fun watching the contests. After the contests the men would retire to the Hunter's Home, a saloon, and have a few beers and conversation. The Hunter's Home was across the street from the Opera House and Ben Brignone's and Santini's Colombo Hotel, on Standard Avenue.

The shooting range was where the famous Nelson-Wolgast fight was held. Point Richmond had a big increase in its population that day!

><><><><><><><><

I would like to mention Dr. Lucas. He was quarterback for Stanford's football team in the early 1900's. Dr. Lucas could be recognized by the car he always owned, Franklin with an air cooled engine, Maybe if his son Russell reads the newsletter, he could tell us more about his father and his

Franklins.

><><><><><><><><

Another person who was well known in the Point was Joe Pippin. Joe was about five feet two and about as big around. He came from Boston and was a master of all trades. Joe was the manager of the American Hotel on Washington and Standard Avenues and also operated Tom Kenny's Cigar Store. He was a very good mechanic, he did repairs and maintenance on steam boilers and electrical equipment at my father's laundry. The last job I remember him having was for Mr. McDuff at the St. James Hotel on Cottage Avenue, Joe was chef! He made the best mince pies around. I wonder what happened to him.

><><><><><><><><

Something that may be of interest is that the majority of the families on the bayside of Point Richmond were Italian.

They were: Bernardi,
Vernetti, Corsi, Amantite,
Fambrini, Pucci, Giovanetti,
Buono and Perricone.

><><><><><><><><

It might be of interest to know some of the nicknames of some of the boys at Washington School. I was "Frog", then there were "Goat", "Sloppy", "Butch", "Banana", "Dago", "Wop", "Sant", "Professor", "Napoleon" and "Blackbird".

To show that life can be interesting for many years I would comment that I had ten "firsts" between my 70th and 80th birthdays. They were:

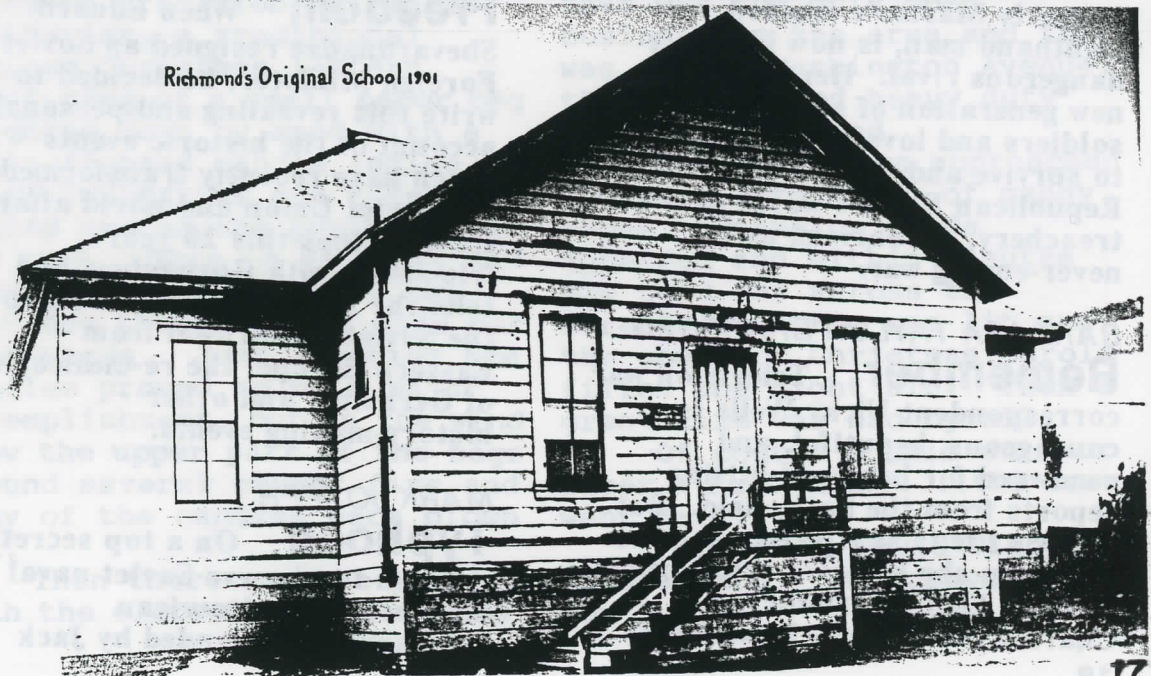
1. Trip to China, Shanghai, Beijing and the Great Wall.
2. Trip to Alaska by motor home.
3. Trip to Yukon, Whitehorse and Dawson by motor home.
4. Trip to La Paz and Cabo San Lucas by motor home.
5. Transited the Panama Canal on a Tuna Seiner. I was at the wheel on Lake Gatun, we had sailed from Puerto Rico.
6. Parachute sailed in Mexico.
7. Flew a Sailplane for the first time.
8. Flew a Helicopter from a ship at sea.
9. Started to use computers.
10. Trip on a new Tuna seiner built in Sturgeon Bay Wisconsin. We traveled from Lake Michigan, through Lake Huron, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, down the St. Lawrence River, down the East Coast, Panama Canal, up to San Diego. We traveled for 28 days.

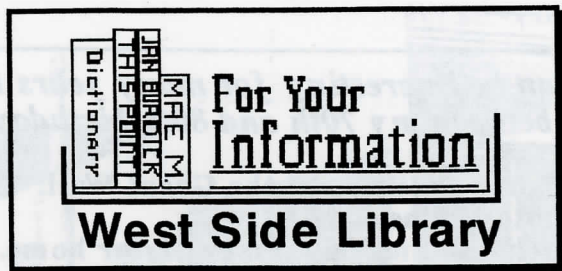
I am now 83 years old and since my 80th have:

1. Taken a trip to Russia, Poland and Germany.
2. Taken flying lessons, compliments of my three daughters.

Bernard "Frenchie" Bernes

Richmond's Original School 1901





by Jan Burdick

New books at the West Side.....

Books reviewed this month can be found on the McNaughton shelves of newly received titles.

COLLEEN McCULLOUGH

The Grass Crown

Continuing the saga of *The First Man In Rome*, which West Side has in paperback, Gaius Marius, a victorious general and savior of the Republic, now longs to be Consul of Rome for the seventh time. But Lucius Cornelius Sulla, formerly Marius's trusted righthand man, is now his most dangerous rival. Here, too, is a new generation of statesmen, soldiers and lovers who struggle to survive and triumph in the Republican Rome's world of treachery, barbarism, and never-ending war.

BARBARA TAYLOR BRADFORD

Remember Television war correspondent Nicky Wells is courageous, beautiful, and renowned for her hard-hitting reports from the battlefield. But Nicky's life is shattered when the only man she has ever truly loved - dashing English aristocrat Charles Devereaux - inexplicably

kills himself only weeks before they are to be married. Two years later Nicky's world is again turned upside down when she is stunned to see Charles's face in a news broadcast from Rome. Within hours, Nicky has embarked on a quest that will draw on every investigative skill she has ever learned.

EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE

The Future Belongs To Freedom

When Eduard Shevardnadze resigned as Soviet Foreign Minister, he decided to write this revealing and personal account of the historic events which have recently transformed the Soviet Union and world affairs. He describes this 20 year friendship with Gorbachev, and tells the story of his own role in the Soviet withdrawal from Eastern Europe, the re-unification of Germany, and other history-making events.

MARK JOSEPH

Typhoon On a top secret mission to observe Soviet naval maneuvers, an American submarine commanded by Jack

Gunner watches in horror as Soviet admiral Zenko, commander of a nuclear sub called Typhoon, opens fire on his own secret base. It's a life and death battle between the old regime and the forces of Soviet change. Caught in the crossfire, Gunner - deep and alone inside Soviet waters - must ultimately decide who the enemy is while trying to save his submarine and avert a nuclear catastrophe.

JAMES THURBER

Thurber On Crime

American humorist James Thurber's collection of ruminations on everyday villainy includes stories, articles, essays, drawings, and reflections on the evil that men do. Obsessed by what he referred to as the war between men and women, Thurber sees this "war" reaching its extreme in murder. He covers other crime subjects, as well that will interest both fictional and true crime readers.

POINT MUSEUM WISH LIST *Can you help?*

- *Refinish four wooden chairs*
- *Point Richmond pictures and memorabilia*
- *Container suitable for a donation box.*
- *Volunteers to man the museum on Thursdays*
- *Mail Slot, donated and installed*
- *Antique stools for slanted viewing table, preferably three matching.*
- *Pictures of: J.Q. Black, Laura Carlin, Burt Huff, former tenants of the Point Richmond History Association Building*
- *Special waste basket for the museum*

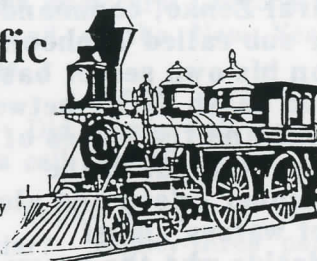


San Ramon Branch Line of the Southern Pacific

by
Irma M. Dotson



Published by
Museum of the San Ramon Valley
Danville, California
1991



Years of research by local historian and author, Irma Dotson, has produced a beautiful and immensely readable history of early attempts at railroad building in Contra Costa County. The book details the development of the San Ramon Branch Line and examines its social and economic impact on the Valley. With line drawings, over one hundred photographs, maps and station plats, it is a must for every home library.

The Museum of the San Ramon Valley, proud to serve as publisher of this entertaining and historically significant work, offers it at a special pre-publication price of \$40.00.

(Publication price: \$50.00 after December 31, 1991)

To receive your autographed copy, simply complete the coupon below and mail with your check or money order to:

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Dear Pam:

It's as if my name and address slipped through the cracks of your well oiled machinery. I have not recieved a TPIT since the "May" issue that I received at the end of June! I'm feeling neglected by your august body. If you are actively sending and I am not receiving we either have a hungry rat chewing it to pieces or a people rat that is intercept- ing it without the courage to pass it along. Puzzling? You bet!

I did receive your invitation to the grand opening of the POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION BUILDING on Sunday November 10th. I hope to be there. I can't make the Friday night get together.

Betty J. Marshall
Los Angeles

To my horror Betty you DID somehow "slip through the cracks"! My computer is the dirty rat that somehow deleted you from our records. I have had a stern talk with the computer and such a thing should never happen again! At Pam's suggestion we carried around your missing back issues on Sunday hoping to meet you. I guess you couldn't make it. We are sending your missing issues and hope that you will accept our sincere regrets for your inconveniences.

Gary

Dear Gary:

Enclosed is some material for the newsletter.

I stopped to see you last July on my way to Victoria Island, B.C. Sorry that I didn't get to see you.

Also I have a water color of Keller's Beach which I will pass to the Point Museum. Please let me know if you are interested.

Sincerely,
Bernard Bernes
Chula Vista, CA

*Always great to hear from you!
I'm sure you've noticed that you are published again!*

I'm sorry to have missed your visit to the Point, I did get your card.

We would LOVE to have the watercolor for the museum. Thanks for everything.

Gary

Gentlemen:

Thank you so much for the invitation to the opening celebration party for your new building! I will not be able to attend, but I sincerely hope you all have a ball!

I liked the pen and ink rendition of the building on the invitation and will frame it and hang it in my den.

I passed that building many times on my way to and from school. I remember a rumor voiced to me by an older boy, that there was a trap door under the building where you could gain entry. Now let's set that rumor to rest. Was there a trapdoor, or was my leg being pulled, so to speak?

Very truly yours,
Willard R. Spiersch
Alameda

I don't remember seeing a trapdoor, I'll look again.

....Gary



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105 Park Place, Point Richmond

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A Holiday Offering to our
Community, Patrons, and Friends.

An All-Masquers Production
Back by Popular Demand

AM AHL and the NIGHT VISITORS

a Christmas Opera
by
Gian Carlo Menotti



Wednesday	Dec. 18	**Sunday	Dec. 22
Thursday	Dec. 19	Friday	Dec. 27
Friday	Dec. 20	**Saturday	Dec. 28
Saturday	Dec. 21	*Sunday	Dec. 29

** - Matinee and Evening Performances

* - Matinee Only

For Reservations call:
(510) 232-4031

Call early; seating is limited!

\$6 - Adults — \$3 Children (12 and under)

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

Curtain: 8:30 p.m. / Matinees: 2:30 p.m.



Deaths.....

DIAAN "DEE" LAWRENCE, died on November 25, 1991 of heart failure at her Point Richmond home at the age of 66. A native and lifetime Point resident she was retired from the Richmond Unified School District, was a member of Fairmede Alliance Church, past matron of Beacon- Point Chapter No. 383, Order of the Eastern Star and Daughters of the Nile.

Diaan is the daughter of the late Gust and Margaret Allyn. Gust immigrated to the Point from Greece in 1913 and later opened Allyn's Men's Shop. Among many public offices he held were that of Mayor and Postmaster.

She is survived by my sons, Edward of Point Richmond and Allyn of Arizona; brothers W.D. "Micky" Allyn, Richmond; Nathaniel, Palo Alto and H.C. "Hank", Sonoma; and five grandchildren.



JOHN C. HALEY, died in a Richmond Hospital on November 9, 1991 at the age of 86. A leading figure of the Berkeley school of painting, he discovered the hills of Point Richmond soon after arriving in California. Many of Haley's paintings depict scenes of these hills and industry around Point Richmond, where he lived for

60 years.

In 1972, Haley retired from the Department of Art at UC Berkeley to devote more time to painting. At the time of his death, he was working on etchings and carvings; work that was influenced by Haley's African sculpture collection.

Last year the Richmond Museum exhibited Haley's art. His works are in public collections such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, Phillips Memorial Gallery, Washington, D.C., San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Mills College Art Gallery, UC Berkeley Museum, Oakland Museum, Chico State College and the IBM Collection.

He was a member of the Richmond Art Center, Oakland Museum, University Art Museum in Berkeley and Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco.

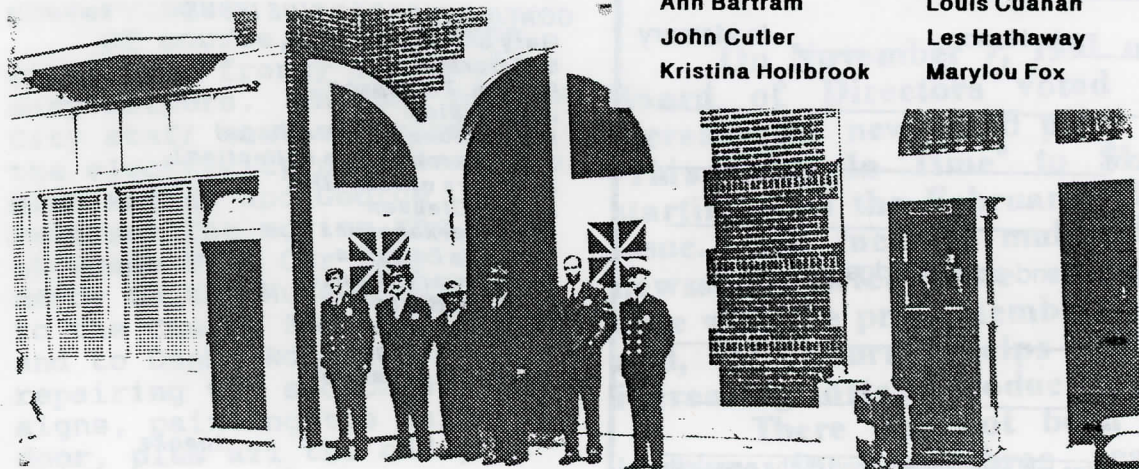
John is survived by his wife, Monica E. Haley of Point Richmond.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS (234-5334)

Jean Allyn	Christina Nagatani
Hazel Paasch	Seth Fenton
Edna Hathaway	Cris Creed
Debbie Seaburg	Nellie Ross
Christine Hayes	Fern Eastman
Sherry Hartnyk	Richard Barnes
Teresa Albro	Marian Hawkins
Gerrie Kretzmer	Mark Steven
Mike Turner	Jeff Corbin
Eric Turner	Marilyn Darling
Teresa Meneghelli	Michael Cheshareck
Lauren Nason	Tom Brennan

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS (234-5334)

Henry Allyn	Cindy Rosier
Sonja Darling	Joe Travis
Linda Marshall	Bryan Smith
Doug Greiner	Trefrey Ross
Henry Francis	Ed Paasch
Jim Wilson	Lupe Morris
Betty Moore	Diana Kaffan
Mary Highfill	Elaine Harris
Ann Bartram	Louis Cuanan
John Cutler	Les Hathaway
Kristina Hollbrook	Marylou Fox



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

Type of membership (check one)

- | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | SINGLE | \$18.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | SENIOR (65 +) | 12.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | FAMILY | 25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | HISTORY PRESERVER | 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | CORPORATE SPONSOR | 75.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | HISTORY MAKER | 100.00 |

Membership in the Point Richmond History Association includes a one year subscription to "This Point" newsletter (nine issues). Please make your check payable to the Point Richmond History Association and mail it to:

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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Don Church (photo collection)
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Muriel Clausen
Jerry Cerkowicz
Lucretia Edwards
Nell Coward Brooker
Bernard Bernes
Pat Brooker Gaboury
Betty J. Marshall
Willard R. Spiersch

.....thanks

CALENDAR

DECEMBER/JANUARY

- December 1** Hanukkah (1st Candle)
- December 3** Women's Westside Improvement Club Christmas Luncheon meets 11:30 AM, Our Lady of Mercy Church
- Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting,
7:30 PM, Point Community Center
- December 9** Point Richmond Holiday Time Food Drive Begins
BE GENEROUS!
- December 11** Point Richmond Business Association Holiday Party,,
4:00-5:30 PM, Hotel Mac
- December 14** Ellis B. Myers Photo Exhibit of local area photographs
of African Americans in the 1940's to mid 1950's
reopens at Richmond Museum
- December 22** First Day of Winter
- December 25** CHRISTMAS DAY
- January 1** NEW YEAR'S DAY, Have a Happy 1992!!
- January 7** 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
- January 8** Point Richmond Business Association Meeting,
Noon, Hotel Mac
- January 20** Martin Luther King's Birthday, observed
- January 24** "Hay Fever" Opens at Masquer's Playhouse
- February 4** 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

next TPIT Deadline
January 24