

# THIS POINT in time

## NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

Vol. XII No. 9

April, 1994

\$1.50



*Washington Avenue, 1915*





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T.O.W.C.  
251P.C.  
-1-

A tease! To learn more about this class photo you will have to wait until the May issue. In the mean time send your guesses or comments to the Editor.



## HISTORY ASSOCIATION NOTES...

# From the President

MID DORNAN

Spring...in the Point! A reason To live here. The pink flowering trees lining Tunnel Avenue, yellow daffodils sharing gardens with tulips, Hyacinths, forget-me-nots, alyssm, pansies, primroses, stock and calendulas. Wild poppes on the greening hills. White clouds in te blue sky covering the wind filled sails of boats on the sun splashed bay. Ducks lazy and motionless in the regional park pond. A time to walk around the Point, appreciate the old homes, buildings and churches, reminisce the past, enjoy the present but wonder about the future.

Today is history for tomorrow. Your memory of an incident, a game, a family, a time is important. We want it for our newsletter. Call and we will help you put t down for us. Any member of the board will be happy to do this. Also, the History Museum is meant to be staffed by many persons...I know there are people who have time to commit to a period on only 2 1/2 hours a month in such a fun place! Call.

Mark your calendar now for the Annual Meeting, Sunday, May 22, 1994.

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(Continued on page 2)

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

Bernard Bernes  
Thelma (Hecker) Harvey  
Lyle & Connee Fisher  
Bertha May McCloskey  
Marie Louise Ostrom  
Alexandra Gautraud  
American Rock & Asphalt  
Company

Ethel Schumacher

And a warm welcome to new  
members:

Roberta Smith  
Marie Corr Flynn



## **Hotel Mac Celebrates 83 Years!**

In addition to other  
promotions between April  
10th and April 24th  
(Free afternoon Hors d'oeuvres and  
nightly Dixieland Jazz)  
Wednesday night, April 20th is  
designated as Point Richmond  
Business Association and  
Point Richmond History  
Association evening.  
To make your reservations,  
Call the Hotel Mac  
233-0576

Thank You To  
***Santa Fe Market***  
for distributing  
"THIS POINT...in time"  
at no profit for themselves

\*

Thanks to History Building  
staffers in March.

If you can help staff our museum (2 1/2 hours  
per month) call museum staff coordinator  
Betty Dornan at 232-4317.

**Museum hours:**  
Thursday 11:30am - 2:00pm  
Saturday 11:30am - 2:00pm



# Editor's Notes

Gary Shows

Again, here's an issue filled with all kinds of information, if you notice some changes in the appearance of this issue that's because I am trying out a new computer publishing program. Please let me know of any opinions or comments.

This issue contains the conclusions of both Dr. Thompson's "Memories of the Medical History of Point Richmond" and Dephina Franco's "Point Richmond in the 1920's". I have already received a new series from Dr. Thompson (see page 13 for details) and am hoping that Delphina Franco stays in a writing mood as everyone seems to enjoy her memories.

Check out Prego Pizzeria as they are collecting an impressive collection of historic Point Richmond photographs to decorate the walls of their restaurant (many of which were purchased from the History Association). Try some of the best food in the Point while you browse.

And to newsletter staff, thanks a lot to most of you for making my deadline, or at least coming very close. If you can't make the deadline at least try to get your info to me shortly after, it helps a lot. If you are waiting for breaking information, we can always update your article by phone.

The deadline for the May issue is April 22nd.



## The Cover:

Photo taken from our Don Church Photo Collection, scene is from the tip of the triangle looking west up Washington Avenue in 1915

## The March Issue Assembly Crew:

**Mary Highfill**  
**Liz McDonald**  
**Muriel Clausen**  
**Mid Dornan**  
**Jerry Cerknowicz**  
**Gary Shows**

Thanks to  
**Rena (Cairo) Gonsalves**  
for thinking of us again!

Last year, among other things Rena donated a copy of a Washington School 1922 "The Poppy", see page 22.

This time we recieved  
⇒ 4 copies of 60's and 70's "Point Counterpoint"

⇒ Old photos including a 1923 Washington Grammer School class photo and one of teacher Ruth Lucas, 1923.

⇒ A 1961 Golden Anniversary Elks booklet

Thank You!



# **This Old House**

by

*Marjell C. Clausen*

## **Chapter V**

### **The California Bungalow:**

### **Point Richmond**

### **Single Story**

### **Part Three**

They became popular enough so that architects took notice. Frank Lloyd Wright adapted the horizontal, low, blocky look and open interior floor plan into longer, bigger, low, more expensive designs for the affluent which later became known as "prairie houses". (Later, after World War II, the prairie style concept spread to California to become what are known to us today as "ranch style" houses.)

Meanwhile in California, commencing about 1897, these small Craftsman houses were built in vast numbers. There were so many built so quickly, that they became the trademark of Southern California. This became the era of pattern book designs and prefabricated houses making them even more available. For the

West Coast the pattern book designs were especially designed for wood construction. (Following such success, more elaborate and larger Victorian pattern book houses became available for the more affluent.) In no time the Craftsman house concept of the permanent, small, simple house was popular across the nation for the middle class worker.

Broadly speaking, nationwide, the Craftsman houses are houses that have added amenities for comfort that the West Coast simple houses we have previously described did not. They retain the same simple, basically utilitarian approach to design, however they are houses that were designed, for the first time, from the inside out. They became an "explosion" of interior space. They were designed to include the rapidly accepted "necessities" of life, indoor bathrooms, kitchens with built-in cupboards, laundry rooms in the basement with a coal storage area to feed a central heating system, and closets for storage, living room fireplaces, inglenooks, window seats, and recesses for private activities.

The use of central heating encouraged the design of the open interior plan for easy heat distribution, yet it is a very compact open floor plan with the rooms functionally relating to one another without wasteful hallways. They are very well built of the best local materials available, over sound foundations, with doors of solid wood, stone fireplaces and "large" windows. As such they are quite different from Victorian houses.



There would be no servants, and so there would be no basement kitchens, servants quarters, back stairways, long hallways, rooms with many doors, or butler's pantries. The rooms in the Craftsman house function closely with each other and open into each other instead of being strung up and down stairs or along hallways. This is indeed radically different from the Victorian house. However the Craftsman house is not greatly different in plan from the previously described simple houses of the West Coast. They are basically foursquare or rectilinear as the floor plan works out, utilitarian, small, simple, with no bays, and single-story, plain with no ornamentation, and quietly dignified.

The Craftsman houses are built on low foundations with horizontal lines intentionally to unite the house with nature. They have spreading, low roofs and wide, overhanging eaves. The exterior materials, as noted, are local and therefore inexpensive. There could be rough textured, multicolored brick or sturdy foundations of smooth rounded stones. Exterior walls could be textured in stucco or cement or covered with wood shingles. The roofs could be covered in shingles, Spanish or flat tile, or slate.

The light and airy pergola-like porch overhangs or the garden pergolas are an open, pleasant sheltered space providing a transition to the outdoors from the inside. The pergolas are covered with vines for shade in the summer, and in the winter, when the vines are leafless, they allow

light to penetrate the interiors. These little houses have a comfortable room arrangement and are pleasing to the eye. Most important they were inexpensive to build and affordable so as to readily meet the great housing demand.

Across the country the Craftsman houses were interpreted in many vernacular ways by speculative builders with emphasis on directness and simplicity for economy's sake. There is no single Craftsman style due to the variation of materials used in different locales which gives regional distinction. Speculative builders started adding exterior touches to give the house a "style". There could be the look of the English cottage, the Swiss chalet, the Bavarian Hunting Lodge, the Southern California adobe, the East Coast shingle style, the Japanese teahouse, etc.

The vernacular Craftsman style continued until the early 1920's all across the United States as thousands of such houses were built, all symbolic statements of a simple life. However, earlier in Southern California, a major movement toward the adobe interpretation and a more simplified interior layout corresponding much to California's early simple houses took place. Southern California used exterior concrete or stucco walls over masonry, brick, wood, or later, metal mesh. By 1910, sturdy, tinted stucco exterior walled Craftsman houses gradually evolved into what became known as the "California bungalow".





# A-Mid TRIVIA

- Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question: If 1 million seconds equals about 12 days, how long would one billion seconds equal? One trillion?

Answer: at end of A-Mid Trivia

\*\*\*

Young girl: "I've never fully trusted the IRS. I always get the feeling they were only interested in my money!"

\*\*\*

Have you noticed the new blossoming pear tree planted in front of the Santa Fe Market?

\*\*\*

Citizen of the Month goes to Mary Highfill on Crest Avenue! Concerned over the unsightly, overgrown triangle entrance to Crest and Vine Streets off Washington Avenue she decided to do something about it. Aware of limited funding, she contacted the city with her willingness to plant and maintain this area and then convinced the city to clear it for her project. Drive by . Each of our neighborhoods could be more attractive with like cooperation. Let us know what you have done to beautify your neighborhood.

\*\*\*

What a surprise to have Fred Egger drop by the History Building on a visit through the Point. Former resident and member of Boy Scout Troop 111, Fred is a Water/Wastes Specialist in Sacramento and was in the Point to check out a recent graduate of his program now employed here. Fred boasts of four children and grandchildren!!

\*\*\*

Overheard, "Just had the best eggs Benedict at Annie's this morning!"

\*\*\*

Cemetery on hills above West Richmond Avenue?? A refreshingly polite young boy that lives on West Richmond Avenue said he had heard there was one and inquired at the history museum. Has anyone else heard this?

\*\*\*

After the baking soda in the refrigerator gets old, put it in your laundry water. It will even save on the amount of soap needed.

\*\*\*

Do you ever feel that when buying a new cookbook how much you prefer reading to cooking?

\*\*\*

Belated Happy First Birthday Rachel Elizabeth Palfini!

\*\*\*

Bruce Beyeart is a thorough person but has carried it to an extreme. While skiing in back country, Bruce managed to break **both** legs, one in two places, as well as injure his hip! His bed and wheel chair days are made more comfortable by wife and nurse, Sandra. And look for progress through walkers and crutches!

\*\*\*

Bessie Squires is hoping her hospital and doctor visits are in the past as she is recuperating from her latest surgery. Just the magnificent panoramic views from their Belvedere home would be healing therapy for anyone.

\*\*\*

Pam Gates, wife of pastor Bill Gates of the Point Methodist Church, has gone to Farmington, New Mexico visit with her terminally ill father, Eddy Jones.

\*\*\*

Vacation Bible School will be offered in July at the historic Point



Methodist Church. Watch for the dates and children's ages in the next issue.

\*\*\*

Joke:

Boy 1: Why can't chickens talk?

Boy 2: Because we don't allow foul language here.

\*\*\*

Just when you've accepted the 29¢ stamp, the post office announces it is increasing the first-class stamp to 32 cents! Postcards will be 21 cents. How much a minute are phone calls?

\*\*\*

Many a small boy is the kind of kid his mother wouldn't let him play with.

\*\*\*

Psychiatrists say it's not good for a person to keep too much to himself.

The IRS says the same thing.

\*\*\*

Answer: One billion seconds is about 31 years and one trillion is about 31,000 years. Convert this to our national spending and budget... awesome, right?



## 3rd Annual Junktique Sale

Saturday, May 21st

Historic Point Methodist Church

Lunch will be available that day.

Wanted: Furniture, dishes, appliances, attic and garage stored items, children's clothing, toys, books etc. (please give other clothing to your favorite charity)

Also: need helpers to mark and sort and assist Saturday

Call: 236-0527 or 232-4317 for pickup or drop off.



## FAT FREE MANICOTTI

*(Today food and health are topics of concern. When her mother, Sonja, was diagnosed with heart problems, her daughter began converting recipes to 'fat free'. She will be sharing some of these with our readers.)*

-Kelly

Darling

4 cans (14 1/2 oz) S&W Italian style  
stewed tomatoes

5-6 pear tomatoes

2 bunches basil

1 bunch cilantro

1 teas Italian seasoning (or to taste)

1 1/2 cups fat free ricotta cheese

1 1/2 cups fat free cottage cheese

1 bulb garlic

1/2 red onion

black pepper to taste

1 bag "Healthy Choice" fat free  
mozzarella cheese

1 box manicotti shells

SAUCE:

Drain tomatoes and puree. Chop 1 bunch of basil and 1/2 of the cilantro (yes, cilantro - even if you don't care for it, give it a try!) Chop tomatoes and garlic, and add pepper and Italian seasoning to taste. This sauce should only be warmed not boiled or even simmered, you want to keep it fresh!

STUFFING:

Combine ricotta and cottage cheese. Finely chop the rest of the basil and cilantro, garlic, onion and add seasonings to taste. Prepare shells according to package directions. Stuff. Put in 9 x 13" pan and cover with sauce and bake at 400° for about 1/2 hour. Top with mozzarella cheese and bake 10 more minutes. Enjoy.



# Church News

## Our Lady of Mercy

Allan Smith

Pastor James C. Clift has prepared the 1994 Holy Week schedule which is as follows:

March 27 - Passion (Palm) Sunday - 9:30 am Mass

March 28 - 12 Noon Mass

March 29 - 12 Noon Mass

March 30 - 12 Noon Mass

March 31 - 5:30 pm - Holy Thursday - Easter Tritium

April 1 - Good Friday Services - 12 Noon - 3:00 pm

April 2 - Easter Vigil Mass - 5:00 pm

April 3 - Easter Sunday Mass - 9:30 am

Rev Clift has led the West Contra Costa Catholic Community in reciting the Stations of the Cross at St. Joseph's Cemetery during the Lenten Season.

A group of parishioners will soon take an exciting step backwards into antiquity when they visit "The Mystery of the Dead Sea Scrolls" exhibit at the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum in San Francisco. This major attraction will run until May 29.

Parishioner Frank Hagel was the CEO of the Health and Human Services Department of the Social Security Administration located in Richmond for the past several years. He has been transferred to San Francisco to assume a

higher position in the U.S. Government.

We have recently purchased a new electronic organ which has met the approval of our church organist, Anna Schwarz and her assistant Betty Concepcion. An organ recital for the enjoyment of the church and community is in the planning stage.

Our Lady of Mercy Church was host to the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, March 12. The ladies of our parish prepared and served a hot luncheon for their guests.

The Point Methodist Church is very fortunate to have accurate records of their church history in their possession. All we can claim are Baptism and Marriage records dating from the parish 1902 formation.

## Point Richmond Methodist

Jean Reynolds

The Community Celebration service on March 8 was an evening to remember. Our guests were Malcom and Jo Lee and the Missionaires gospel singers from the Richmond Rescue Mission. Was there seismic activity recorded in the vicinity that evening? The music and personal witnessing shared by members of the Missionaires were enough to move the ground beneath our feet and the recesses of our hearts. We salute the work of the Richmond Rescue Mission in our community.

We were able to provide dinner again for Greater Richmond Interfaith Programs's

Winter Shelter Project, on March 17, St Patrick's Day. The generosity and willing help of many persons and congregations made this new effort to house and feed some homeless families a success.

Easter Sunday, April 3, will be a special time of worship. There will be an Easter Egg hunt for the children following the 11:00am worship service.

### **Point Methodist Calendar**

April 12 Community Celebration Service: the second Tuesday of each month. It starts at 6:30 pm with a potluck and concludes with singing, Bible study or a special program.

April 28 Masquer's/Hotel Mac dinner/theater fund-raiser production of "You Can't Take it With You" Tickets at \$25 each include a delicious meal at Hotel Mac and great entertainment across the street at the Masquer's Theater. Proceeds of ticket sales will fund summer camp scholarships for kids. To obtain tickets call Jean at 235-2988 or leave a message on the church phone, 236-0527.

April 30 Men's Breakfast, the last Saturday of the month. Coffee and preparation 8:00am with breakfast around 8:30am.

May 21 (Note the change in date) Junquetique/Yard Sale. Call Betty Dornan if you have items to donate, 232-4317.

July 18-22 Vacation Bible School 9:00-12:00 noon for children age 3 to sixth grade. We are excited to be able to offer this week of study, music, recreation and crafts for children in our neighborhood!

## **MOVIE STARS**

- Betty Dornan

*(This was an assignment for the 'Writing Your Life History class'. Similar activities are experienced in everyone's life and is the type of article we urge you to share with us.)*

I am writing this as it provided hours of fun for us as children and in conversations with others, I have never found anyone who enjoyed this activity.

In Washington grammar school we collected pictures of movie stars from magazines and sold them to our friends. For money, we used straight pins. You must remember this was the great depression. The size of the picture and the popularity of the star determined the number of pins asked.

We carried the pins and pictures in a box and sold them at recess and lunch time.

In those days True Story magazine had full page pictures of the stars in each monthly issue and they were preferred. Movie magazines were not in abundance as now.

The time spent looking for pictures kept us occupied for hours. It is probably difficult to understand how selling for pins can create so much excitement but proves having fun is an attitude.



### **BENEFIT**

Summer Camp

First United Methodist Church

Thursday, April 28, 1994

Dinner: Hotel Mac

Theatre: Masquers

"You Can't Take It With You"

\$25.00

For tickets call: Jean Reynolds 235-2988  
or Mid Dornan 234-5334



# Jerome Clement Cerkowicz, Jr.

A Personal Profile by Mid Dornan

*This is the third in a series of oral interviews of the Board of the Point Richmond History Association.*

"It was the most nerve-racking 20 minutes of my life"... momentous words uttered by Jerry Cerkowicz on April 11, 1989 when circumstances dictated a split second decision be made to move the historic building from 139 West Richmond Avenue to the present site. A decision he often says, "I'd do again!"

Assisting his sister, Deidre, with her "...Years Ago" column in "This Point...in time", Jerry also began attending history meetings and helping to collate the newsletter. He was named index chairman.

When Founder, Editor and President Donna Roselius moved to Oregon, the Board asked Jerry to be President but he "had to think about it." He never regretted the decision to accept. "I was shy, really a loner. It gave me self-esteem. I feel more of a public person... and I can now talk in public with being nervous ahead of time. It got me out of my shell!"

Born in Arlington, Virginia, Jerry, a junior, is the oldest of three children born to Grace and Jerry Cerkowicz, Sr. He has two sisters, Diane, in Baltimore, Maryland and Deidre who also lives in the Point.

When Jerry was six years old, the family moved to a dryer climate in San Antonio, Texas for his health. Summer vacations were spent visiting grandparents in New York City and Wendell, North Carolina. Jerry's father was in the civilian Air Force Intelligence Department and in 1961 was transferred to Germany for three years. Here Jerry completed the last two years of high school and one year of college before returning to Texas.

Always wanting to come to California, he arrived in Oakland in 1970 and by 1971 had "discovered" the Point. Through a postal carrier friend in the Point (since they are the first to know of vacancies) he moved to 220 Tunnel Avenue, Sweetwater Nursery, owned by the Fostiaks. "Bikers" had previously trashed the basement apartment.

Jerry likes the Point "a lot. The people ..the location" but becomes enthusiastic at the mention of the beach. "About 10 of us, ages 20 to 85 regularly meet at Kellers Beach. Bill Koller, born in the Point, is the oldest." By summer's end, Jerry sports an enviable tan.

Jerry volunteered that "History had always been my best subject in school and in aptitude tests." A college professor discouraged his interest in archeology saying 'there wasn't a future in it!' A fact Jerry now regrets. He has written words

for songs for several people. Relating to spelling, he grimaces and laughingly reveals "I purposely write illegibly, spilling dots in the middle of words over e's and i's, etc. so so one will know!"

Secretary and Past President, Jerry assists Gary Shows, whom he has known since 1964, with this newsletter each month and often staffs the History Museum. He assists David Vincent in the Point Business

sponsored Easter Egg Dyeing Contest, Valentine Contest and Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Chinese is his favorite food. Jerry feels residents need to be more communicative; some are "stand-offish" even though friendly. He is one of the most visible of the townspeople keeping up on what's happening around town.



## POINT METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

-Mid Dornan

*Church history is rich with contributions of women. One church group in the 1920's was the SOCIAL LEAGUE of the First Methodist Episcopal Church whose history is reflected in their minutes printed below and taken from the canvas covered, red leather cornered notebook which cost \$1.15. The minutes are printed as written. This is the 4th installment .*

Tuesday March 4, 1924

Social League met at the home of Mrs. Dicely with Mrs. Burdick in chair. Meeting opened by repeating Lords Prayer.

Minute read and approved as read.

Roll call found three officers, six members and two visitors present.

Report that at a special meeting called after church Sunday the 2d the money received from fellowship

dinner \$8 in all was turned in toward the current church expenses.

Refreshment committee for the reported were going to serve a veg-combination salad, rolls and coffee and salted nuts

No report from decorating committee.

Moved and seconded and carried that whatever expense is necessary for tea would be paid equally by members and not be taken from proceeds.

Moved, recorded and carried tea be advertised as a 25\$ tea.

Adjourned,  
Erma L. Parker, Secy

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| On hand March 4th | \$ 7.15      |
| Silver offering   | <u>1.15</u>  |
|                   | 8.30         |
| Proceeds from tea | <u>21.40</u> |
|                   | 29.70        |
| less expenses     | <u>15.44</u> |
|                   | 14.26        |



in Richmond did much work in The Point although they did not have offices here. This was especially true during World War Two when the population increased five or sixfold, but that number of doctors and hospital capacity remained the same. There was Dr. Cunningham, Dr. Bumgartner, Dr. Guinan, Dr. Hedges, Dr. Frazier, Dr. Kaho Daily, Dr. Boomer and Dr. Peter Ross to name a few.

I started my practice in Richmond in 1940 and sweated out the war and the shipyards here at

the request of the government. I never had an office in Point Richmond but lived here throughout the war years. Having been born and raised in The Point, I was well known here and much of my practice was from here. One rather strange but insignificant fact brought out in Dr. Abbott's discussion, but unknown to me, was that I was the first native Richmondite to go through medical school. Several have achieved that since.

Thank you Dr. Thompson! We have all enjoyed reading Dr. Thompson's memories of Point Richmond, I hope he realizes not only the joy he has given to the folks of his generation but also the fascinating information he has allowed us to record on the history of our community. As time permits I hope to combine each of his stories into a booklet. Remember "Memories of Pt. Richmond Residents", "Life in Old Point Richmond", "Childhood Memories of the Triangle", "More Memories of Old Point Richmond", "Memories of the Second World War", we enjoyed them all.

Well readers, I have a treat for you. Dr. Thompson is preparing a new different article for us. This new article will be called "Aboriginal Indians of the Point Richmond Area". When asked about his background in this field he says:

"I have been interested in all phases of natural sciences since childhood. While a pre-med student at U.C., Berkeley I took work in anthropology, both ethology and physical anthropology under Dr. Lowie and Dr. Kroeber in 1927 and 1928. Later I studied California Indians under Dr. Robert Heiser who followed Kroeber at U.C. While working at a forensic pathologist here I have an opportunity to use my background in physical anthropology in identifying bodies and especially skeletal remains. During that time we were able to recognize several important archeological sites in the county and refer them to Dr. Heiser."

"In addition to that I did some work in archeology in the southwest. I was with several parties that explored the area where the Canyon Lands National park is now located. This happened in the early 1950's. We found several previously unknown ruins and other sites and I wrote descriptions of 3 anasazi ruins for the Museum of Northern Arizona. The reason for this was to preserve a record of these fragile sites in case vandals should find and destroy them. Some of these sites had not been seen since the Indians left and some have since become well known."

Coming next issue "Aboriginal Indians of the Point Richmond Area".



*Delphina Franco moved to Point Richmond as a child of three. This is the second installment in a series of articles about her experiences in Point Richmond beginning in the early 20's.*

## Point Richmond in the 1920's

by Delphina Franco

### **Schools**

#### **Part Three (Conclusion)**

From time to time we had some kind of tests, and as a result of one of them probably an achievement test, about six of us tested far beyond our 4th grade level in one or another subject. This accomplishment caused a minor stir for a while. My mother had to go to school, and it was explained to her that some of us had done very well in the test. (I think my reading was five grades beyond what was expected of a 4th grader.) The teacher and principal, Mrs. Petersen, said that it was unwise for us to skip grades since we might get "brain fever", but we needed some additional activity so we could feel challenged. It was decided that I should take cello lessons because the school had an extra one. Washington School had recently been converted from a grammar school (K-8) to a K-6 school when Lincoln Junior High in Richmond was built, so there were plenty of extra rooms on the third floor. It did no good to tell everyone I was going to get a piano for Christmas. I was issued a cello which was practically

bigger than I was. It was not all that heavy, but it was unwieldy and cumbersome to carry nine long blocks up the many hills to Golden Gate Avenue, with each hill steeper than the last. It didn't help that I was less than my adult height of five feet either, nor was it all that easy to get the cello down the hill either, since I had to lean back and brace myself to prevent both myself and the cello from rolling down the hills. It was a great relief in January to turn over the cello to the music teacher, telling him I was taking private music lessons on my Christmas piano.

There were two favorite teachers for us back then. The First Grade teacher was Miss Dooling. She was pretty as well as nice. The fact that she hit me on the arm with a ruler for writing with my fingers instead of my arm, did not greatly diminish my admiration of her, but it almost broke my heart at the time. She was in an auto accident and could not climb the stairs, either on the outside or the inside of the school, so she was transferred to a school in Richmond without stairs. She arranged for a large container of ice cream and cones for the last day she would be teaching us. As the saying goes, "there wasn't a dry eye in the house". Our other favorite teacher was Miss Lincoln, who taught 4th grade. She was very young and petite with short brown hair. It was inevitable, but we didn't know it, that she would marry shortly. She told us toward the end of the school year, and I remember how disappointed I was in her decid-



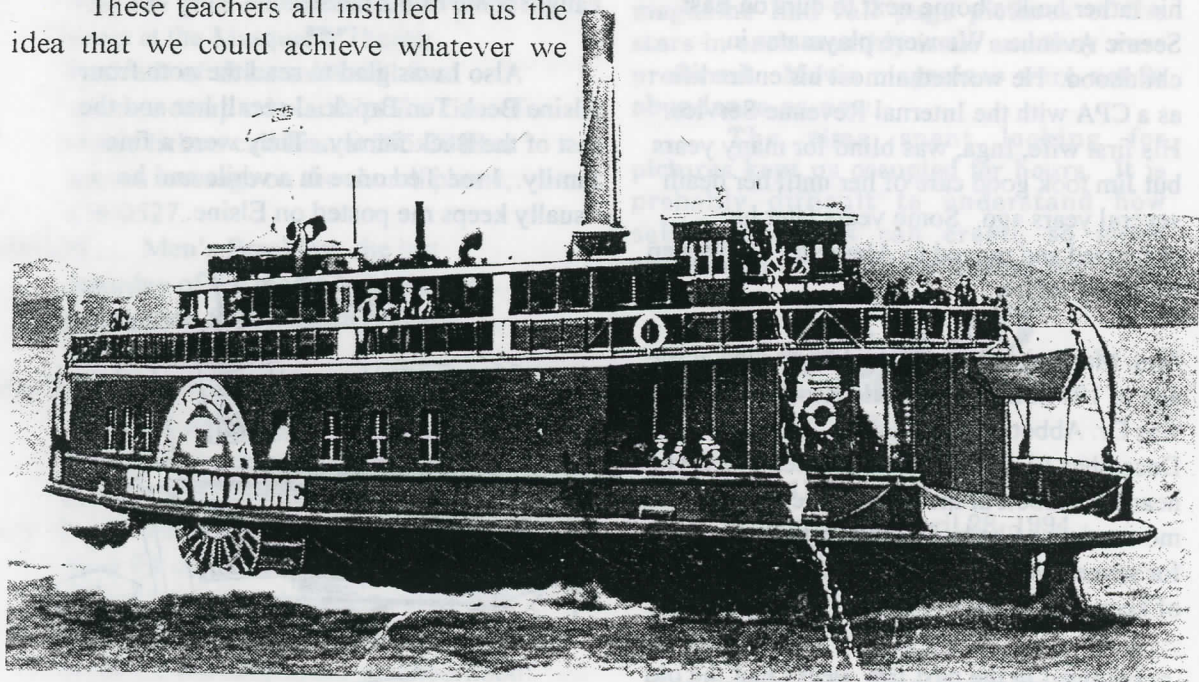
ing to get married instead of continuing to teach even if she wouldn't be teaching us. It was like a betrayal for her to prefer marriage to teaching.

These teachers all had a Normal College education - that is, two or three years of college and not the five years required nowadays. During the time they were in college, they learned to teach elementary school children. Their education lacked breadth, but they brought a personal viewpoint to their little charges and seemed genuinely interested in children, and they did their best to make us understand the lessons. At that time we were told that New York and Massachusetts were supposed to have better schools than we, but ours was the third best educational system in the United States.

These teachers all instilled in us the idea that we could achieve whatever we

wanted in life. They constantly told us to work hard and get good grades and we would go on to college. I never doubted the teachers and without their confidence, perhaps I never would have gone to UC Berkeley during the depths of the Depression. We had no money, but I had faith and was able to get menial jobs which paid little, but in those days it took much less to go to UC.

We did not have computers, video games, or organized clubs with activities planned for us. We used our imaginations, did chores at home, and read books. One of the joys of a Saturday afternoon was eating a crisp apple and reading a book on the back stairs. I think I was very lucky to receive a fine elementary education from a fine group of teachers.



*Richmond-San Rafael Ferry Co.--"The Short Route"*

# Historical Point Trivia

by Wm. Thompson

Viola Lynch was my teacher in the 7th grade the old Washington School in 1921. I know very little about the rest of her history but she was an excellent teacher.

\*\*\*

Jim Morrison's birthday was noted in the March issue. I am sorry to say that Jim passed away some months ago in Alameda. I knew Jim since he was four years old when his father built a home next to ours on East Scenic Avenue. We were playmates in childhood. He worked almost his entire life as a CPA with the Internal Revenue Service. His first wife, Inga, was blind for many years but Jim took good care of her until her death several years ago. Some years later he remarried and moved to Alameda. He was an excellent fellow.

\*\*\*

Mrs. Margarite (Mrs. C.L.) Abbott died at the age of 101 at the Creek Side Rest Home. She was Dr. Abbott's second wife. She died on December 13, 1993 and was buried in a crypt near Dr. Abbott at the Sunset View moratorium. She had been a patient of mine for several years and quite often accused me of keeping her alive.

\*\*\*

I noticed in the past few weeks that the old

Bernardi home on Dornan Drive across from the Miller-Knox Park is being remodeled.

\*\*\*

I greatly enjoyed hearing from Bernard Bernes and Mr. Vivian Cook. Both were with me thru school and were good friends. Vivian phoned me a few months ago and he expressed a wish that he could visit Point Richmond again, but he was somewhat physically incapacitated and the trip might be difficult. I wish he could come, he would be quite surprised at the changes.

\*\*\*

Allan Smith mentions Judge Charles Baldwin, Judge Norman Gregg and John Palmer. All of these were in high school with me. I have testified in court with both judges. Charlie Baldwin was quite an athlete. He starred in football, track, baseball, and basketball. I was on the football team and caught some of his passes.

\*\*\*

Also I was glad to read the note from Elsie Beck Ten Broek. I recall her and the rest of the Beck family. They were a fine family. I see Ted once in a while and he usually keeps me posted on Elsie.





# and Allan Smith Says...

## *Delphina Franco's*

### *"Point Richmond in the 1920's"*

I enjoy Delphina Franco's memories of Point Richmond very much. Most of us have many stories and experiences of our childhood we can relate but find it difficult to write about as far as putting them on paper goes. Delphina must have taken a journalism course at Richmond High.

However, I would like to correct the spelling of Loyd Christopher's name in the last issue (Delphina spelled it "Lloyd Christoffer"). I went to school with Loyd and his name was often written as Lloyd, which is a mis-spelling. Even the Baseball Encyclopedia, which has the complete and official major league baseball record of anyone who has ever played Big League baseball, has Loyd's name spelled "Lloyd". We will have that corrected. Also, I remember the father of Russ and Loyd as a well dressed gentleman who worked as an upholsterer in his shop on MacDonald Avenue in Richmond. All of the Oakland Oaks home baseball games in Emeryville, he was always present sitting near the first base side watching his son Loyd hit home runs. I wonder if he ever saw his other son, Russ pitch in the Major Leagues?

I was acquainted with Delphina Franco but knew her brother Alfred better as we were near the same age. Alfred Franco was a great friend of the late Bob Dorman in those early years. Incidentally, Bob was a tall man, 6 foot 4 inches, and Alfred was about 5 foot 6 inches, as I recall.

The graduating class of Richmond Union High School in January, 1936 was well represented by Point Richmond Students. Delphina Franco was one of the student speakers as was Teresa Bernardi. Point's Eugene (Gene) Corr was president of this

graduating class.

### *New Books for the Westside?*

The Following Main Library Oral History books, under the auspices of the University of California, should have copies placed in our Point Richmond Branch:

Henry O'Hara - A View of the Waterfront from Point Richmond

John A. Vincent - Recollections of Ferry Point

Alan Clarke - Recollections of Pt. San Pablo and San Francisco Bay

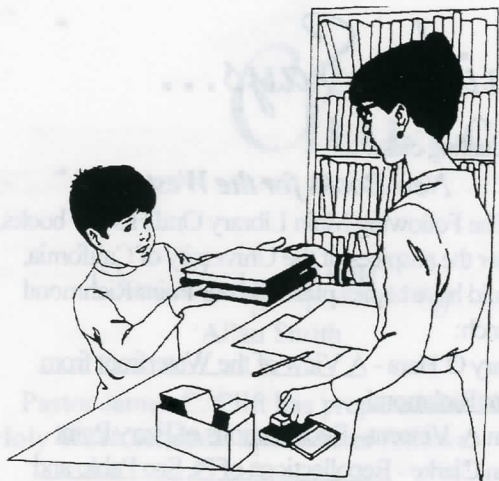
M.M. Snodgrass - Memories of the Richmond San Rafael Ferry

Henry O'Hara, J.A. Vincent and Alan Clarke were all raised in Point Richmond.

### *S/S Jeremiah O'Brien*

The S/S Jeremiah O'Brien, one of two of the 2,710 Liberty Ships built during World War Two that is still in operating condition will be well on her way to Normandy, France by the time editor Gary Shows prints his May TPIT Newsletter. The ship is docked at Fort Mason in San Francisco preparing for the nine months voyage to participate in the D Day Commemoration. (As a volunteer on board, I had hopes of making the trip.)

The 78 year old captain of the ship, Captain Jahn, was Second Mate of a Matson cargo ship on December 11, 1941. On that date, the ship was torpedoed and sunk by a Japanese submarine. On the same ship, but in different lifeboats, was a 20 year old Point Richmond native, Melvin "Swede" Janes. Captain Jahn and Melvin Janes were eleven days in a lifeboat before being rescued. "Swede" later became a marine engineer.



## Westside Library: Then and Now

By Michael Senturia

*Temporary Branch Librarian*

### Local History Sources at Westside

First, an invitation, if you're interested in local history, come and browse the Westside Library's modest but interesting collection of Point Richmond, Richmond and Contra Costa County local history, detailed here. For more, come to the Main Library in Civic Center Plaza.

- [Anon.] A Brief History of the Richmond Public Library [Richmond, CA]: s.n., [1976?]. Covers the years 1907-1976
- [Anon.] History of Richmond. S.l.: s.n., 192?. Principally, a portrait of city government in 1920.
- Butt, Thomas K. City of Richmond. Application of Public Policy and Zoning Action in the Point Richmond Historic District. Point Richmond, CA: s.n., 1992,

1993. Not only are there numerous photos of historic Point Richmond homes, but a bibliography of Point Richmond history as well, including several newspaper articles collected by the Point Richmond History Association.

- Cheatham, Wilma G. The Story of Contra Costa County for Boys and Girls. San Francisco, CA: Harr Wagner Publishing Co. 1942. A fourth grade history text.
- City of Richmond. 50th Anniversary Pamphlet 1905-1955. Richmond, CA: The City, (1955).
- The Charter of the City of Richmond. Richmond, CA: [The City], 1965, 1971, 1975, 1987.
- Cole, Susan D. Richmond-Windows to the Past. Richmond, CA: Wildcat Canyon Books, 1980. Excellent photographs accompany a historical narrative to 1945.
- Contra Costa County Development Association. Research Report: Contra Costa County California. Richmond, CA; s.n., 1936. A description of the physical and economic aspects of the county as of 1935.
- Fridell, Lee D. The story of Richmond: El Cerrito -San Pablo-Pinole-Hercules. Richmond, CA: Richmond Union High School District, 1954. Substantial. A "history and a study of present day industry and government of the incorporated communities within the Richmond Union High School District."
- Griffins, Evan. Early History of Richmond, Contra Costa County, California. Richmond, CA: s.n., 1938. A recollection of Richmond area in the 1860's and 1870's by a 75 year-old.
- Hanson, Erle C. East Shore & Suburban



Railway. San Marino, CA: Pacific Railroad Publishing, Inc., 1961. A railway chronicle covering the years 1900-1933.

- History of Contra Costa County, California, Complete with Biographical Sketches... Los Angeles, CA: Historic Record Co., 1926. A substantial, 1,000 page narrative.
- Humphrey, Jack. "Richmond: The War Years," Landmark 2, no. 1 (Spring, 1962): 5-7.
- League of Women Voters, Richmond Area. Port of Richmond 1901-1980. Richmond, CA: s.n., 1980.
- Point Richmond History Association. This Point in Time: An Historic View of Point Richmond. Point Richmond, CA: The Association, 1980. Includes sections on Early Stories, The Business District, Churches and Schools, Historic Homes, and The Periphery.
- Postwar Richmond: A Pictorial Summary of Postwar Accomplishments 1945-1949. S.l.: s.n., 1949. A fifty-page description of city government in 1949 with some comparative looking backward to 1945.
- Richmond Chamber of Commerce. Handbooks. Richmond CA: Chamber of Commerce, 1939-1953.
- Richmond General Plan of 1955. [Map].
- Roselius, Donna and Frances Smith. Historic Homes of Point Richmond. Pt. Richmond, CA: DR Enterprises, c1967.
- Sanford, P.M. Richmond, City of Destiny. S.l.: s.n., [19??]. Covers the years 1859-1933.
- This Point....in time: Monthly Newsletter of the Point Richmond History Association. 1983-.
- [Whitnah, Joseph?]. A History of

Richmond, California. [Richmond, CA; Chamber of Commerce], 1944. A history from Richmond's origins to 1944. Some striking photos.

- Art and Design at Point Richmond Today  
\*\*\*

The work of Point Richmond individual artists and architectural and design firms is on a rotating display at the Westside Branch. In March, Claudia Joan Kraus Beall, Dierdre Cerkanowicz, Hannah Kelley, Lisa McMahon, the Dennis Fox Design Group and the Origin Point were on display. Work of Richard Clopton, Pamela Pollock and Interactive Resources will be on display in April. If you are interested in having your work on display, please come to the library or phone 620-6567 and let us know. Art work from Washington School and the Community Center will also be given space. Come in and enjoy and take pride in the creative vitality of visual design at the Point!

## Cards & Letters

Dear PRHA,

What a wonderful surprise to receive from you the beautiful note cards. What a wonderful trip down memory lane you gave me.

Growing up in the Point had to be the best and, I will hold the Point fondly in my heart. We had the best of both worlds, a small town and the nearby cities to visit, especially San Francisco, as it had so much to offer.

Thanks very much,  
June Kunkel Blackburn  
Bemidji, MN

# "YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU"

By Kaufman and Hart  
Directed by Tim Hart



## *a Review from* **Anne Hanzlik**

The basis of a true comedy is to be timeless, not just timely. Although this play was set in the milieu of the 1930's its sixty years on the boards hasn't dimmed its humor or its characterizations. The endearing qualities of a group of eccentrics still holds true in the 90's. We can easily imagine Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman reacting an amalgam of their personal experiences with various oddballs in their

respective memories to mix into the delightful stew of the Vanderhof family, all of them "doing their own thing", and all of them being just as individualistic as any members of our most recent decades. As just in their ultra conservative life style were as eccentric at that time as they would be today, to many people.

I first saw "You Can't Take It" in Chicago when it was a new production. The venue of N.Y.C. or Chicago would reflect the variable life styles of city life was just as "off beat" as anything you would find today. Many small communities too, have boasted eccentrics then as well. I can imagine we have friends or relatives that would fit in with the Vanderhofs. For instance one of my distant relatives had an extensive collection of phonograph records but no phonograph! We had a family saying that someone was "just as Queer as Dick's hat band". We always wonder what that hat band looked like!

The large cast, some new some old on the Masquer's stage makes a happy amalgam of people from many areas and backgrounds. And which are unified in a most successful cast.

First, Penny and Paul Sycamore, (Lindi Bauman and Manny Miro) who are living in Grandpa Vanderhof's (Robert O'Brien) New York City home with their grown children Essie and Alice (Allyne Bentley and Jennifer Pawlitschek). As well as other diverse and unrelated occupants make up the household.

John Hunt achieved the same pastiche in the living room setting, dated and idiosyncratic and obviously not dictated my an interior decorator, a room obviously lived in!

It takes many talented people to create a theater piece such as the masquers achieve so often!





*The Masquers Playhouse proudly presents*

# "YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU"

By Kaufman and Hart  
Directed by Tim Hart

Meet the New York Vanderhoffs, a family that takes eccentricity to new heights much to the discomfort of their one conventional member, in this Pulitzer Prize winning American comedy classic. The cast:

|                   |                  |                |
|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Lindi Bauman      | Larry Golding    | Robert O'Brien |
| Allyne Bentley    | Virginia Handley | Ben Putman     |
| Virginia Cherniak | Paulette Herring | Al Schmiedeke  |
| Bill Coolidge     | Patricia Inabnet | Andrew Solovay |
| David Cottingham  | Don Mariano      | John Tangney   |
| Wade Gardner      | Manny Miro       | Robert Wood    |

Jennifer Pawlitschek

**Friday & Saturday evenings: MARCH 25 – MAY 7**  
**Sunday Matinees: APRIL 10 and 24 MAY 1**

**24 HR. RESERVATIONS: (510) 232-4031**

Reservations held until 10 minutes before curtain.  
Group Rates Available.

Box Office opens at 8PM; 2PM for matinees  
Curtain 8:30PM Matinees 2:30PM  
Admission: \$8<sup>00</sup>

## MASQUERS DINNER & THEATRE BENEFIT

for the Masquers Building Fund

**THURS., MAY 5**

Dinner at the Hotel Mac followed by performance  
of *You Can't Take It With You*  
for only \$25. To reserve, call (510) 236-4988.

### OUR NEXT ATTRACTION...

Rick Abbot's punny funny musical romp  
***Dracula, The Musical?***  
Opening June 3

## History Association Plays Host

*Jerry Cerkawicz*

On Wednesday afternoon, March 23, 1994 The Point Richmond History Association played host to some forty members of the Oakland Museum. Earlier in the day they toured Winehaven out at Point Molate and then had lunch at the Hotel Mac. Led by Alexandra Gautraud a member of both groups, along with Betty Dornan, Mary Highfill and Jerry Cerkawicz, they were given a walking tour of the Point. Walking up to the churches, Betty opened the Methodist Church and talked of its history. We then walked to Doc Abbott's old house on Cottage and through town down Park Place and over to the Plunge. All along the way Betty, Mary and I answered questions about our town, but Alexandra had a well used volume of "This Point in Time" and was well versed in local lore.

After the tour the folks from Oakland got back on the bus and drove through the tunnel to Brickyard Cove then on to the Richmond Museum of History.

Everyone seemed to have a good time.





# The Poppy

## Washington School

June, 1922

*(This 6" X 9" faded green construction covered booklet has an orange crayon poppy on the cover and is tied together on the left side with a faded half-inch wide orange satin ribbon. The purple mimeograph lettering is also faded with age. The original writing inside is by hand. This is the first in a series.)*

### Page 1:

We, the graduates of June 1922, dedicate this paper to Mrs. Tomlin, Principal of Washington School, as a tribute to her true-hearted help and kindness.

We, likewise, wish to thank the teachers of the school for their help and kindness in aiding us through the grammar school.

### Page 2:

#### The Staff

##### Editor:

William Kollar

##### Associate Editors:

Lena Ceridono

Glenn Wilson

Joseph Condon

##### Business Managers:

Henry Fulkerson

Alfred Perricone

##### Contributor:

The High Eight Grade

##### Committees:

Sports - Fred Childs

- Cornelius Gannon

##### School News:

Howard Arnold

Joseph Brazil

Silven Lacher

##### Jokes:

George Solich

Theodore Ciabattari

### Page 3:

##### Class Prophecy:

Lewis Thompson

##### Editors:

##### Class Will

Denzell McCracken

Joe Palenchar

##### Class Mirror

##### Cover:

Edith Hunt

Mary Prola

Alice Pucci

##### Class Officers:

President

Howard Arnold

Vice President

William Kollar

Secretary

Edith Hunt

Treasurer

Glenn Wilson

### Class of June, 1922

Howard Stanley Arnold

Joseph Lawrence Brazil

Lena Marie Ceridono

John Fred Childs

Theodore Peter Ciabattari

Joseph Henry Condon

Henry S. Fulkerson

Cornelius Edward Gannon

Edith Marie Hunt

William Stephen Kollar

Silven Jack Lacher

Denzell Louis McCracken

Joseph John Palenchar

Alfred Anthonly Perricon

Mary Josephine Prola

Alice Nathalina Pucci

George G. Solich

William Louis Thompson

Glenn DeVere Wilson



# April Birthdays

LOOF LIRPA  
ROBERTA PALFINI  
KARI LU CRAIN  
TARA KAUFMAN  
JUDY WALZ  
PAM WILSON  
JOEL PETERSON  
MICHAEL HORN  
BONITA NEASHAM  
MONICA DOHERTY  
WILLIAM KRETZMER  
ALISON LORD  
JOHN MAXWELL  
GORDON MILLER

TAYLOR BRADSHAW  
KATHY BARNES  
BRUCE BARTRAM  
DORI FREITAS  
RUTH WILSON  
PAULA FERGUSON  
DON AMANTITE  
LISA OGLES  
ANNA SCHWARTZ  
ELNORA SURDAM  
ERIC HOILAND  
MELISSA DRISCOLL  
ROSEMARY CORBIN  
DAVID BRADSHAW  
ROBERTA JENKINS SMITH



**“If dandelions were hard to grow, they would be most welcome on any lawn.”**

Andrew V. Mason

## HISTORY ASSOCIATION NOTES...

# From the President

MID DORNAN

Spring...in the Point! A reason To live here. The pink flowering trees lining Tunnel Avenue, yellow daffodils sharing gardens with tulips, Hyacinths, forget-me-nots, alyssm, pansies, primroses, stock and calendulas. Wild poppes on the greening hills. White clouds in te blue sky covering the wind filled sails of boats on the sun splashed bay. Ducks lazy and motionless in the regional park pond. A time to walk around the Point, appreciate the old homes, buildings and churches, reminisce the past, enjoy the present but wonder about the future.

Today is history for tomorrow. Your memory of an incident, a game, a family, a time is important. We want it for our newsletter. Call and we will help you put t down for us. Any member of the board will be happy to do this. Also, the History Museum is meant to be staffed by many persons...I know there are people who have time to commit to a period on only 2 1/2 hours a month in such a fun place! Call.

Mark your calendar now for the Annual Meeting, Sunday, May 22, 1994.

(Continued on page 2)

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# Calendar

**April, 1994**

**April 1**

*Friday*

**Good Friday**

**All Fools Day**

**April 2**

*Saturday*

**Easter Egg Dying and Basket Making Contest**

**Noon, Point Community Center**

**April 3**

*Sunday*

**Easter Sunday**

**Daylight Savings Time Begins at 2:00am**

**Set your clocks ahead one hour**

**April 5**

*Tuesday*

**Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting,**

**7:30pm, Point Community Center**

**Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting,**

**11:30am, Point Richmond Methodist Church**

**April 13**

*Wednesday*

**Point Richmond Business Association Meeting,**

**Noon, Hotel Mac**

**April 20**

*Wednesday*

**Point Richmond Business Association & Point**

**Richmond History Association Night at the Hotel Mac**

**April 21**

*Thursday*

**Bank of Richmond Opened, 1902**

**April 22**

*Friday*

**DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES TO TPIT, MAY ISSUE**

**May 8**

*Sunday*

**Mother's Day**

**May 12**

*Thursday*

**Point Richmond Stroll "On the Triangle"**

**5pm to 7pm, PRHA History Building will be open!**

**May 15-21**

*Entire Week*

**Contra Costa County Local History Week**