

THIS POINT in time

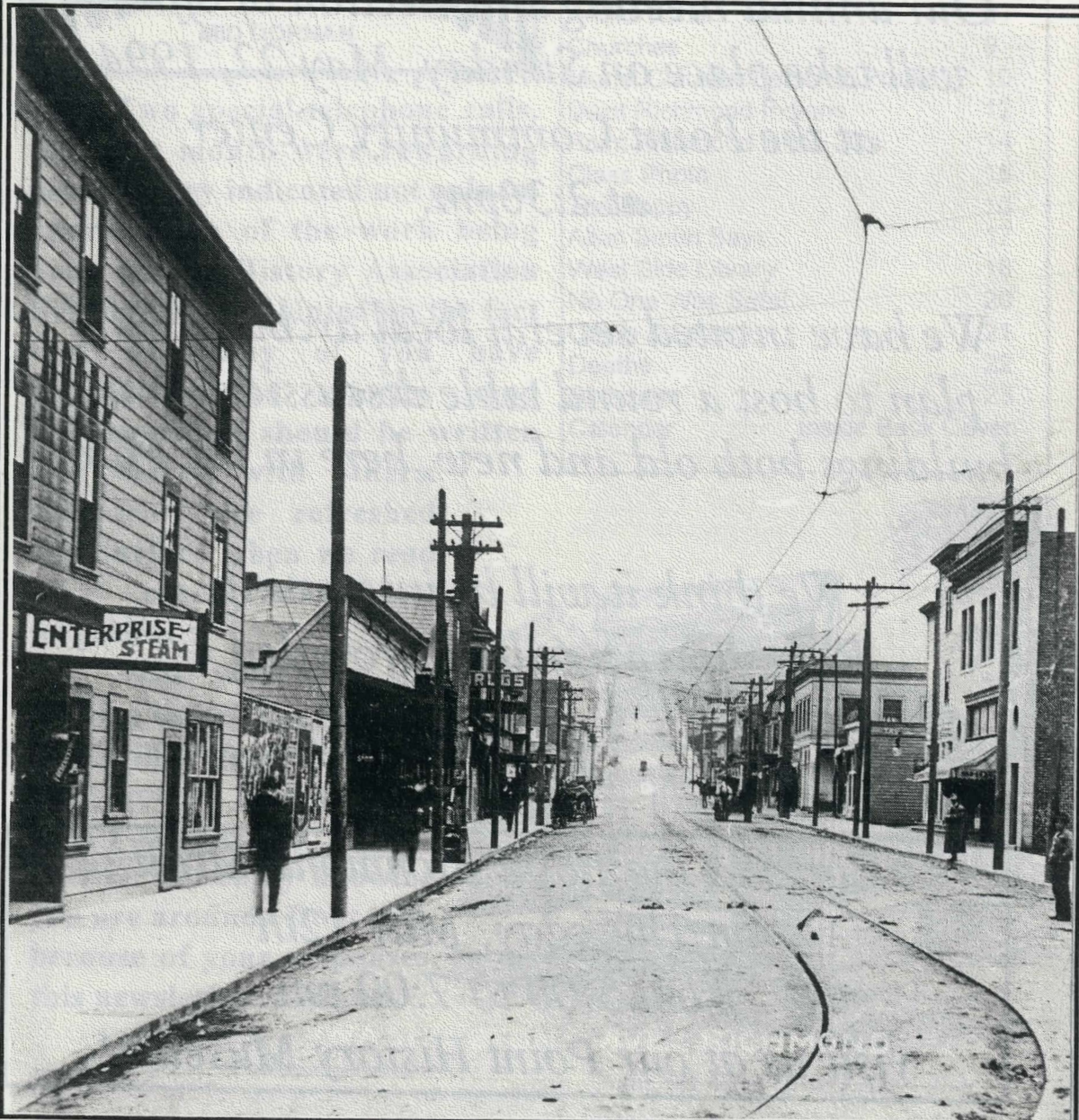
NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

Vol. XIII No. 1

May, 1994

\$1.50



Annual Meeting

*Our annual meeting and election of officers
will take place on Sunday, May 22, 1994
at the Point Community Center
at 2:30pm.*

*We have invited several local architects and
plan to host a round table discussion about
buildings both old and new, here in the Point.*

*We think it will be interesting.
Refreshments will be provided &*

*Come to the Point Richmond Stroll
on Thursday, May 12th
from 5:00 to 7:00 pm
visit us at our Point History Museum!*

From the President

MID DORNAN

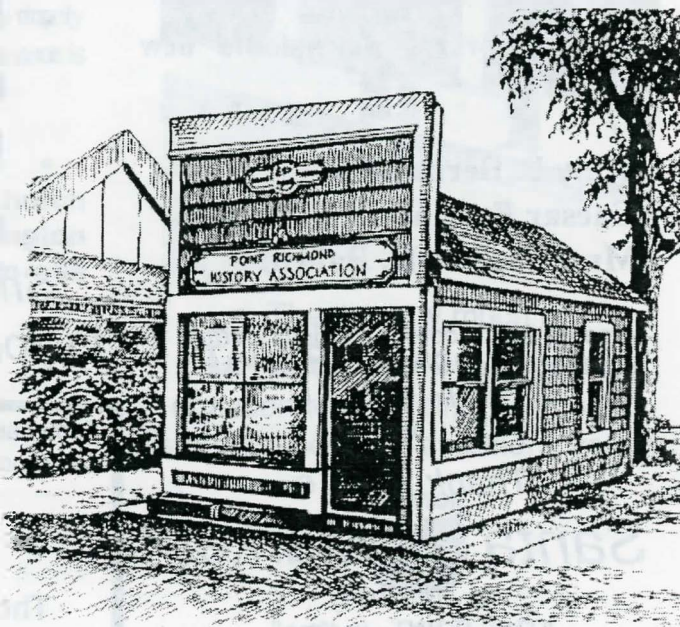
Two special telephone calls, this past month were rewarding because they indicated not only an appreciation of the work being done by the History Association Board but also pointed up the fact that so many of you have memories and stories and incidents that should be written and shared with others. Memories are refreshed and surface when we read what others have not forgotten.

Will you start by sending us just one incident it will trigger others. It need not be long (but we aren't restrictive). Your friends will enjoy knowing you are around. Do it now, because of your responses, this newsletter continues.

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Point Richmond History Association

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

Griff & Catherine Brazil
John & Barbara Vincent
Tom & Shirley Butt
Malcolm P. Bury
Romilda Burress
Charlotte Woods
Jeff & Barbara Ward
Ed Garrard
Albert J. Kollar
Miriam F. Newhall
Mr. & Mrs. Albert W. McGee
Kathryn Johnson Coad
Barney & Marie Dietz
June Minor

And a warm welcome to new members:

Tony P. Bernabich
Caesar Frosini
Mrs. Charles H. Baldwin

Museum Staff Coordinator Betty Dornan thanks volunteer who staffed the History Building in April.

&

Thank You To
Santa Fe Market

*for distributing
"THIS POINT...in time"
at no profit for themselves*

NOTICES:

On Tuesday, May 10th at about 7:00 the Richmond City Council will proclaim the week of May 15th to be officially "Local History Week".

Tuesday, May 17th is "Senior Information Day" activities will occur at the the Richmond Memorial Convention Center from 9am to 2pm. This year's theme is "Reaching Out Together".

For the next issue:
*Reader participation
topic, please write us:*

- ***Where were you on D-Day?***
- ***What were you doing?***

*Share these memories
in your newsletter!*

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

This Old House

by

Muriel C. Clausen

Chapter V The California Bungalow:

Point Richmond

Single Story

Part Four

Then, as in Chicago previously, local architects evaluated the popularity of these small structures and carried the design concepts further for the more affluent. Famous for this were the Greene Brothers, who vastly influenced the Pasadena area with very grand "Craftsman houses", carrying out the tenets of honest work, good craftsmanship, use of local materials, open floor plan, lack of pretension, honesty and good workmanship. Their houses had rambling, spread out floor plans and no longer were homes for the simple working man. They were no longer either Craftsman houses or bungalows. Their designs went further to include Japanesque touches, adding delicacy and lightness to the total design.

Meanwhile, in Northern California, after the 1849 Gold Rush and its casual, undecorated, self-accepting architecture, in 1890 to 1920 the same population explosion as Southern California had experienced resulted in the same demand for simple housing in the Northern part of the state. This demand rapidly picked up the Southern California bungalow building momentum, resulting in the Northern California interpretation of the California bungalow, skipping rapidly over the Craftsman house phase. This bungalow style appeared in Point Richmond in the early 1900's.

The Northern part of the state interpreted the bungalow, with wood exteriors instead of stucco or concrete. Wood was carried into the interiors to include not only walls but beamed ceilings as well. And so, due to local materials, the Northern California bungalow was finished differently from the Southern California version yet with the same concepts, shape and design. The Craftsman style house slowly evolved elsewhere also and was replaced across the country with vernacular or local bungalow styles.

The word "bungalow" has its roots in 17th century England. England had colonials residing in India where they were housed in the native bangala. These bangala were long, low, horizontal, one-story structures each of which had a single big open room which was surrounded by a wide veranda and deep overhanging roof eaves, giving protection from the tropic heat. For the British, living in this type of

structure represented an easier, simpler life than at home in England.

In about 1820, in England and in America, this name was transposed from bangala to bungalow, and the name bungalow was given to utilitarian rural houses to signify the simple life. These houses had an open interior plan, overhanging eaves that were horizontal and set low with access to the garden. Added to the bangala-style open center living room, the English incorporated bedrooms at one side of the structure with a bathroom added later on. These were also built by the wealthy in England as summer homes. In 1880 in the United States these were built by the wealthy on Cape Cod as beach retreats, using "bungalow" as the descriptive name. This descriptive term was picked up later by the Craftsman Magazine in describing the particular kind of Craftsman house that had the Southern California floor plan.

Thus the bungalows were built in great numbers across this country, from the original Craftsman's house concept which was concerned with honest craftsmanship and structural integrity. It was Gustav Stickley, who gained his inspiration from William Morris and the Arts and Crafts movement in England, who promoted these concepts in America. By

1920 the bungalow had been refined out of the Craftsman house to become the preferred building model. In its full maturity, by 1923, it became the building symbol of California and elsewhere across the country. It is a building style that is easily identified and duplicated.

The now famous bungalow, built so prolifically in the 1920's, is a modest, useful, simple structure. It is built economically for comfort and utility, resulting in a small house that is charming and picturesque. It is one-story, rectilinear with no bays, and with a low pitched roof. The roof often has a front-facing gable at the entry against a turned gable if the house is broader than it is long. Or, when it retains its square shape from the interior layout the roof may be a single front-facing gable.

There is a broad exterior porch held up at the front entry by signature, low, stout, broadly scaled, tapered columns. Its entry is street oriented and its interior is garden oriented. Southern California models are coated on the exterior with plaster with a textured sand finish, colored in dull grayed earth tones or pastels and with the walls plastered inside as well. Northern California models are shingle or redwood finished on the exterior and with redwood interiors.



Happy Mother's Day!

A-Mid TRIVIA

- Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question: a. How many people signed the Declaration of Independence? b. What U.S. president had a great-grandfather who signed the Declaration of Independence and a grandfather who also served as president?

Answer: End of Trivia.

The month of May is an occasion to decorate with flowers or dance around a Maypole. And...May 8th is MOTHER'S DAY.

They serve her breakfast on a tray,
What better way to start Mom's day?
With roses, she won't mind if toast
Is singed a bit, eggs done--almost!
Mom hugs each child, vows she is
thrilled

Ignoring coffee freshly spilled;
And every mother in the land,
Who once was young, will understand
This priceless tribute by her brood
Is feast of love and not of food.

Thanks Caltrans for the trees
now lining the right hand side up
Tewksbury and for the clearing of the
overgrown brush!

Edna Hathaway is in therapy
after suffering a slight stroke that did
not affect her speech...only her arms
which curtails her playing the organ
and doing the gardening she loves
..temporarily!!

Some delightful 'young ladies'
were seen shopping for bagels and
cheese the morning after a "Sleep
Over" with Claudia Lusby. Looked

pretty wide-eyed for the ordeal. "We
played a fun game of 'Murder'! "Those
at the Sleep Over included Maggie
McKenney, Lauren DuBois, Molly
Posner, Erin Boyd, Kertin Eames and
Alexandra Niki. Why are they called
Sleep Overs or Slumber Parties when
there really isn't much sleep?

1994 is the fourth driest year on
record in California!

Join in the opening of the new
Police sub-station at 12th and Cutting
on May 6th, 11:00 a.m. Everyone is
welcome.

Count me as one that likes the
old railroad wig-wags that greet you
entering the Point: a touch of the past.
And the orange California poppies are
colorful in the planters. But, could the
stripes be repainted before the Stroll on
the 13th?

Welcome Chris and Russell
Johnson, Brickyard Landing, new
residents.

Take Amtrak to Reno...!
Relaxed, refreshed and enjoying the
passing scenes, Gary and Jerry, along
with friends, were treated to a bonus of
snow cascading down the
mountainside as the train continued
along its tracks through tunnels and
tree filled scenery. "The only way to
go to Reno!" Makes leaving 'dues' in
Reno less painful!

Whew! On May 5th, you no
longer will be working for the
IRS...that is called 'Tax Freedom
Day'. The average Californian,
however, will finish paying off federal,
state and local taxes on May 9th!

If the annual federal deficit--borrowing that ultimately has to be paid back with taxes--were included, workers would have to spend 12 more days this year paying for it, sez the nonpartisan Tax Foundation.

Attention all Roller Bladers! Richard Katz plans to write a book on where to skate and with research says the Miller-Knox paved pad is the best in the area. He invites anyone interested, all ages share this sport, to join this unorganized fun on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. Provide your own equipment and wear guards. It is a fun sport and way to exercise!

Jennifer and Jack de la Fonteijn-Barnett announce the birth of their daughter, Linda Stefanie, on March 12, 1994 at 12:40 P.M., weighs 7 lbs. 4 oz and is 20 inches long. Jenny is the daughter of Alexandra Gautraud and lives in The Netherlands. Jack and Jennifer were married in the Point nine years ago; this is their first child. Congratulations!

Be glad to be old because "It's a time of liberation," says Tish Somers, vice chairman of the California Commission on Aging. "One has fewer responsibilities and better judgment on what and what not to worry about. (*and, you trade acne for wrinkles!!*)"

This years Point Richmond Stroll on May 13th sponsored by the Point Business Association will feature Point Richmond Stroll Chardonnay wine!

Who of you remember when you brought your pennies and dimes,

literally, to school to deposit them in an account at the Mechanics Bank. You were given a little bank book and each week your 'savings' were noted in the book. You watched yourself "getting rich"!!

No doubt it cost more to record the deposit than the deposit itself but it proved an invaluable lesson for youth and introduced them to the world of banking.

And, do you know what? The Mechanics Bank is again going to introduce "Saving Accounts" at Washington School.

The average age of a beginning smoker today is between 11-15 years old.

"Best thing that ever happened to me was to be born in the Point!" proudly stated Julio Carrera during a telephone call from his Sacramento home. "I used to ride on the back of his bicycle while Bob Dornan delivered newspapers". It was an uplifting and informative hour-long chat with a former Pointer who just called to check his expiration date on his This Point...in time!

Speaking of Sacramento, the average payroll for state senate staffs is \$705,147! The total legislative budget this year is \$122 million, of which \$94 million is for staff salaries!

Have you ever you felt like an alien when reading local newspapers? One understands the initials of PG&E ,S.F. and NBC but can you identify NASDAQ, PC, Apple PIE chief, and UFW ? And does Shark Shock have anything to do with mammals?

You've heard of "E-mail"? (electronic mail) and will it replace human interaction? E-mail can even have a baffling language of abbreviations and emotions--meant to cut down on "connect time". Confused?...me too. But, here are a few pseudographic depictions---view them with your head tilted to the left.

- :-) - Smile, happy
- :(- Sad, unhappy
- :t - Cross
- ;x - My lips are sealed
- :8-) - User wears glasses
- :p - Sticking tongue out at you
- :o - Surprised, shocked

"Herbert Hunn was the best teacher I ever had", comments 1923 RUHS graduate Vivian Cook.

The Richmond City Council will proclaim May 15 - 21 as Local History Week at their Tuesday, May 10th meeting. Visit your library and museums to learn about local history

Honorable Mayor Rosemary Corbin and Policewoman Debbie

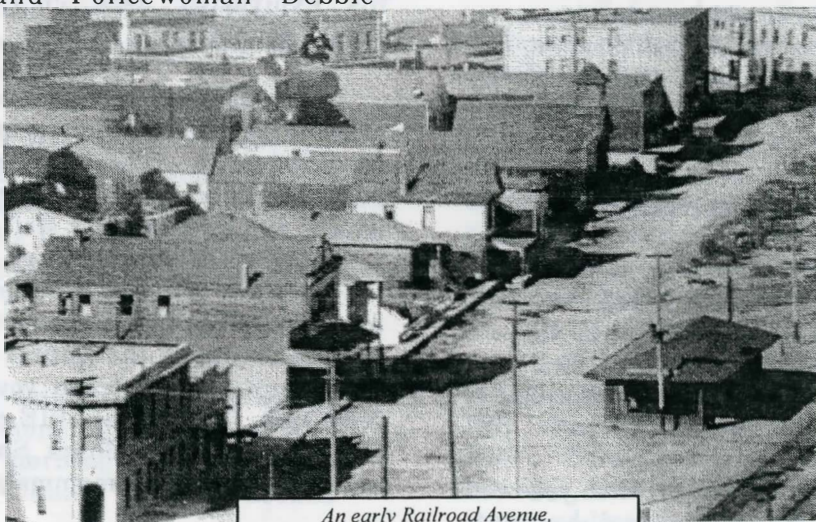
Noonan were in Washington D.C. to be a part of the President's Crime Bill Commission.

In every restaurant, the hardness of the butter pats increases in direct proportion to the softness of the bread being served.

David Reynolds and son, Timothy, house sat for his brother, Norm and family while Norm, Jean and children, Bethany and David drove to Washington State to visit Jean's parents. But, David and Timothy stayed long enough to visit when they returned.

So good to see Varsi Lometi looking so good and back attending the Committee on Aging after her serious fall.

Answer: a. Fifty-six - 50 signed it on August 2, 1776; one signed August 27, 1776; four signed November 19, 1776 and one signed in 1781. b. Benjamin Harrison



*An early Railroad Avenue,
photo courtesy Allan Smith*

Church News

Our Lady of Mercy Allan Smith

Rev. Denis J. Araujo is the twelfth priest to have served as Pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Point Richmond since its formation in 1902. Since his illness and recovery, he has been at St. Isidore's in Danville as the Senior Priest.

Father Denis is semi-retired now and is presently living in the El Cerrito Royale Retirement Center, 6510 Cladys Avenue in El Cerrito. His phone number is 236-2498. Rev. Araujo will be celebrating 50 years as a Catholic Priest in December of this year. Combined appropriate recognition plans are being made at St. Isidore Church in Danville, St. John's in El Cerrito and at Our Lady of Mercy in Point Richmond where he was Pastor from 1983 to 1988.

Laura Carey, Point Richmond native born in the old Abbott Hospital on Santa Fe Avenue, passed away recently while in Florida staying with one of her sons. Memorial services as well as funeral services were held here. Also, Anne Copeland, parishioner died on April 9, 1994.

Point Richmond Methodist

Jean Reynolds

Sorry, no report from Jean in this issue.

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 5th installment.

Tuesday April 1st, 1924

The Social League met at the home of Mrs. Erikson with all officers, eleven members and six visitors making 22 in all.

Meeting opened by repeating Lord's Prayer. Minutes of previous meeting read and approved. Treasurer, Mrs. Brothers reported on tea expenses were \$15.44 and proceeds \$22.40 and according motion at last meeting members were assessed 90¢ apiece to pay expense, leaving proceeds clear.

Moved and recorded we put shades up in Sunday School room. Carried.

Mrs. Dicely, Redman & Erickson appointed a committee to look into matters of hanging drapes at windows. Motion we back Ladies Aid in their improvement of basement. Carried. Motion carried election of officers take place first meeting in May - to take office June 1st.

A vote of thanks tendered Mrs. Ford for program of tea.

Motion carried we get materials together to start sewing for bazaar - Mrs. Brothers, Ch. - Mrs. Alexandra, Oehne & Redman to do buying.

Erma L. Parker, Secy

Muriel Clausen

A Personal Profile by Mid Dornan

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

Muriel was born in a small house in the little mining town of Eureka, Utah the second of six siblings. During the great depression in the 1930's, her Mining Engineering father moved his family to Toronto, Canada. Muriel feels strongly about her conservative Canadian upbringing. It gave her great respect for elders as well as advocacy of strict discipline in schools.

Comparing Canadian and U.S. philosophies of education, Muriel notes, "the U.S. has a fixation with 'averages' so all youngsters aim to be at least 'the average child (if they are not, they blame it on their parents per Dr. Spock). In Canada students are separated at 8th grade into two groups: one goes to trade training, the other prepares for college (five year high school intensive studies in multi-languages, chemistry, math, physics, natural sciences, English, history, etc.). All of this group focus on college with their own special interests taking the lead. There are no averages by which to be

measured, only an intense focus with individuality of talent highly respected. There is no fall back or blame. One is expected to succeed and the conservative focus does not encourage tooting one's own horn."

Muriel was in the second group and in July 1943 moved to Southern California to attend U.C.L.A. A member of Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority, she graduated, with honors, in three years with a B.A. in Psychology in February of 1946.

It was during the first month at college that she met a Walter Bertin "Bert" Clausen. He served as a B-24 pilot in the U.S. Air Force with missions over Europe and was stationed until July, 1945 in England. Bert and Muriel were married



October 22, 1945.

Two boys, Ronald and Kersey, were born in 1947 and 1949 respectively. Ron, a lawyer, has offices in San Francisco and Kersey is a structural engineer in Oakland.

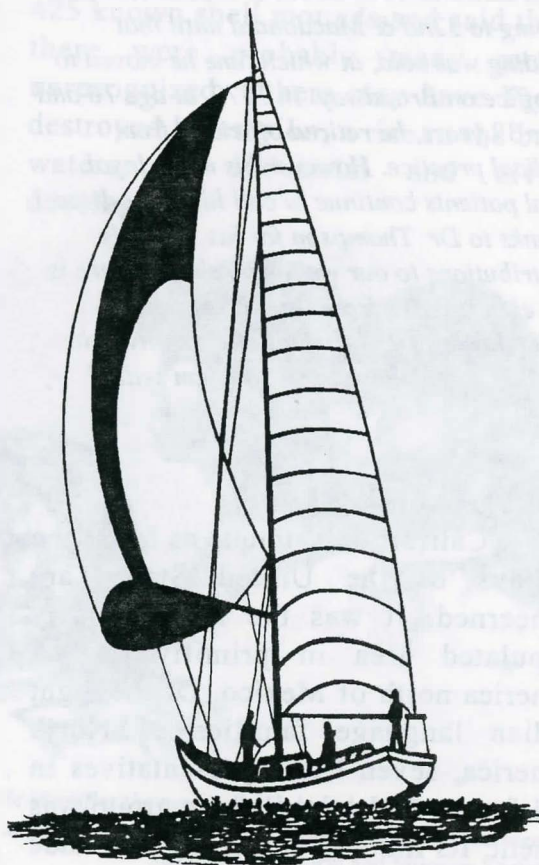
"Meanwhile," adds Muriel, "in 1958 I returned to U.C. Berkeley obtaining a Masters Degree in Interior Design in 1960." She had her own business in color consulting and interior design until 1984 when she "wound down the business" and went into volunteer work.

Sailing, which both Muriel and Bert love, brought them to Richmond in 1960 as they wanted a place on the water for easy access to their boat. By mid 1960 Brickyard Cove and Richmond Yacht Club were started by the Clausen's and a group of friends.

Her interest in architecture and the then recently published "Historic Houses of Point Richmond" by Donna Roselius brought her to the Point Richmond History Association meetings. Liz McDonald convinced her she was 'needed' to help put out the monthly newsletter and now Muriel serves as Treasurer of the organization.

It wasn't until the Clausens had moved to the Point they learned Bert's uncle, C.O. Clausen now deceased, was an architectural legend in the Point, had designed, among others, Hotel Mac, the Point Theatre (now Point Orient) and the Catholic Rectory. Bert still has the blueprints for these buildings.

When not involved with the PRHA, Muriel serves as: a member of the Advisory Council of the Area Agency on Aging, Chairperson of Legislative Review Committee for Senior Legislation in Contra Costa County, Chairperson for Richmond Commission on Aging and she is a member of the Point Richmond Neighborhood Council. Her hobbies, besides sailing ("I was raised on a sailboat"), include, gardening, sewing, hiking, traveling, baby sitting and writing, "I have published two books on women's health issues."



Aboriginal Indians of the Point Richmond Area

Wm. L. Thompson

William L. Thompson, often called Louis by his friends, was born in Point Richmond on February 17th, 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 written archives. Here is our eighth series from Dr. Thompson, in which he describes the Indians who lived in the Bay Area before the white man settled here.

Part One

California is unique as far as the Indians of the United States are concerned. It was the most densely populated area in primitive North America north of Mexico. Of the eight Indian language families of North America, seven had representatives in California. Only the Cadoan group was absent. Its Indian population was made

up of at least 106 different tribes and tribelets throughout the state. The usual tribelet consisted of 200 to 300 individuals. The number of languages and dialects was enormous.

The reasons for the great diversity of this population were several. First, the climate was mild and contributed to the health of the people. Second was the great variety and concentration of food items, both animal and vegetable, that were present throughout the state. The peoples were mostly peaceful and traded with each other so there was no reason to rob one another for food or other necessities. In fact, the only tribes that were at all warlike were the Yuki on the north coast and some of the tribes along the Colorado River in the southwest.

The Indians of the Bay Area were of the Penutian language group that occupied most of central California. The part of this group that occupied the East Bay and South Bay were known as the Costanoans. This group extended south as far as Santa Cruz or Monterey. The word Costanoan is derived from a

Spanish word meaning coast people. The tribelets in the Contra Costa and Richmond area were the Saklan and the Huchium. The origin of the more recent name, Ohlone, for the Costanoans is unknown to me. Neither Kroeber nor Heiser mention it.

The local Indians in the Richmond and surrounding area were originally considered to be part of the Costanoan group but Dr. Heiser told me some years ago that more recent discovery of language units suggested that they were more closely related to the Coast Miwok of Marin County. Kroeber, in his massive work on the California Indians, mentions that the connections of these groups were uncertain. Invasions by the early white settlers destroyed the culture of these peoples

for religious and financial reasons, and little has come down to us. The only relatively undisturbed groups in the state were the northwest coast tribes and the southeast desert tribes, who had nothing much to steal.

The areas of Richmond and the San Francisco Bay were especially heavily populated due to the excellent food sources. Most of the tribelets there had similar cultures. Much of what we know of them has been obtained from their refuse dumps or shell mounds. In 1909, Nelson listed 425 known shell mounds and said that there were probably many more unrecognized. Others may have been destroyed by erosion, a rise in the bay waters, or industrial and civic development.



L. Choris sketched these natives of the Bay Area in 1816. He identifies the two on the right as being Saklan (Orinda-Walnut Creek Miwok). The one on the left and in the center are Guymen (Marin County Miwok tribelet) and the second Indian from the left is a Huchium (Alameda County group).

San Pablo Historical and Museum Society.

Delphina Franco moved to Point Richmond as a child of three. This is the third 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 Dephina Franco

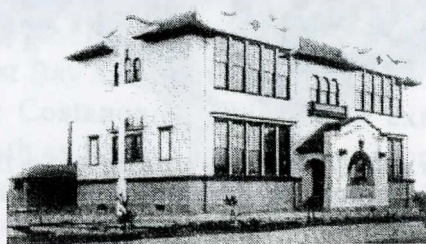
Recreation

Part One

It would seem that there was nothing to do in the sleepy town of Pt. Richmond in the '20's - at least not by today's standards. It was a family oriented society with mostly small children and few people beyond middle age.

For adults there were the Masons and Moose for men and Eastern Star for women as well as the Rod and Gun Club. There were several whist games and I remember that my mother and a next door neighbor sometimes went to them. On one occasion my mother brought home a red fox fur which I thought was wonderful. There was also The Point Theatre (which had been renovated into a Chinese restaurant the last time I saw it). In the early '20's there were only silent pictures. My folks didn't believe

that the movies were a good place for children and we went infrequently, there being no baby-sitters in those days. Pictures stayed all week changing on the week-end for a big rush of money on the opening night. In 1929, when the first "talkie" came to town, my folks felt this was a great new phenomenon and we went to see the picture. I believe that it was about a circus, but I only remember a heavy-set man, not the Adonis I was hoping to see even though I was a pre-teenager. The thing I will always remember is that the sound track and picture were not synchronized. I couldn't make up my mind to just listen with closed eyes to know what was going on or whether to try to block out the sound by covering my ears and watching the events. I believe that my parents couldn't figure out what was going on either and that we left in the middle. The Cat and the Canary was a different matter. Al was about three years old and it was deliciously scary for me, but skinny hands reaching over the back of the headboard to grab the occupant in the bed was too much for Al and for several nights afterwards he had nightmares. It was no wonder as Lon Chaney, I believe, was hideously made up.



Nystrom School, built 1908

Class Photo

The April class photo was supplied by Bena Salle Bowles:

"I think that I enclosed a 1925 Washington School 6th grade class picture. So many faces are familiar but not the names."

"The ones I remember are from left to right:"

Top Row

- 1 Helen Pope
- 2 Bena Salle
- 3 Frank Christopher
- 9 Rebecca Cakos

Second Row

- 3 Laverne Patterson
- 5 Jimmy Hurley
- 6 Tammy James
- 7 Carlo Ginelli
- 8 Louise Casazza

Third Row

- 1 Yolanda Bono
- 4 Helen Cakos
- 5 Irene Kelleghan
- 7 Nita Chasseur
- 8 Claire Smith
- 9 Rosalind Hillyer
- 12 Dorothy Ervin

Fourth Row

- 1 Arthur Stone
- 2 Gordon Williams
- 6 Forrest Simoni

I'm not sure but the teacher could have been Mrs. Friensendorf.

Maybe somebody else can help to fill in the blanks.

An avid subscriber,
Bene Salle Bowles

Acquisitions

From Art Salina:

- ◇ Magazine "The Delineator", May 1904
- ◇ Quarry letter dated 4-21-06 to Blake & Belger Co. from R.H. Rogers

From Dr. Wm. Thompson:

- ◇ Large 1903 photo of the Point from Nichol Nob
- ◇ A number of old newspapers and magazines including 1909 Richmond Daily Leader, 1912 Richmond Daily Independent and more!

Thanks!

Trivia

Do you remember at Roosevelt Junior High School when the girl students had to wear blue or black skirts and white blouses every day except on Wednesdays? On this day they could wear any color dress (no slacks in those times).

The boys had no restrictions but it was customary to wear corduroy (cords) pants. These were never washed so as to obtain a nice 'sheen'. In the winter season when the 'cords' got wet it was very disturbing to the teachers as well as the boy's mothers. A.S.



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 second installment.)

School News

The Class of June '22 is very large and old. The age is 261 years; the altitude, 100 feet and the weight is 2027 pounds. Brains are in proportion.

When we came into Miss Lucas' room there was a grand rush for the back seats but some of us made rapid progress to the front.

The work of the last class was carried on and a club was organized. A constitution was adopted and the club named "Junior Citizens of the Washington School."

The assembly programs this term were very interesting. The eighth grade explained the making of our everyday tools-pens, pencils and paper. The visiting grades responded by writing letters.

Miss Hunn's class gave an Indian play. It was worked out very nicely and represented pioneer days. An interesting program was given on Egypt and India by Miss Morehouse's class. They explained all parts of the two countries and exhibited pictures explaining their talks.

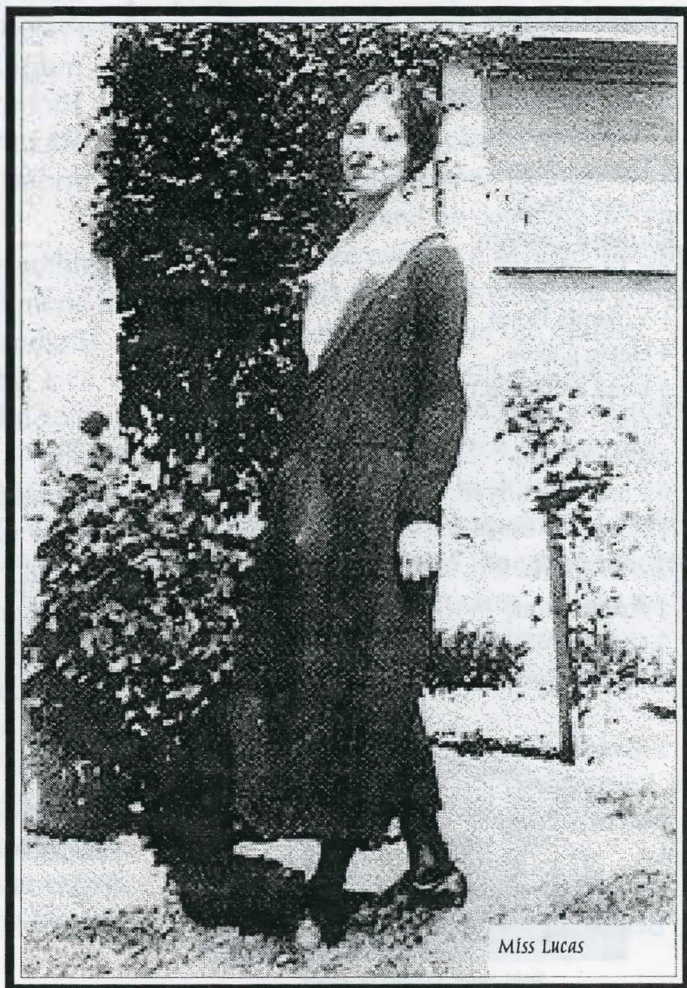
Mrs. Head's class gave a play on

Holland. The stage looked like a village in Holland. The play "The Leak in the Dike" was well given

On exhibit day the rooms were arranged to show our visitors what we do in school. The regular work was continued until the last period when we entertained with assembly singing and plays.

With the help of Mr. Hunn the manual training students made a simple wireless set and listened in on the music in the air.

(to be continued)



Miss Lucas

and Allan Smith Says...

I had a pleasant visit recently with Russ Church and his wife at their home in Pleasant Hill. Russ is the son of the late Marilyn and Donald Church. Russell Church's father, Don, was the main contributor to the PRHA photo archives. His hundreds of photographs of early Point Richmond are on display at the museum where they are treasured by all.

I was very pleased to have been given more of the late Church's photo negatives and albums. These items will be correctly acknowledged, cataloged and given to the museum. Our TPIT editor, Gary Shows was very enthused to hear of this latest donation.

Smith's Profiles

Here are short profiles of notable Point Richmond residents.

Royce Ong

Royce Ong is the son of a pioneer Asian Point Richmond family. His parents were among the first Chinese to settle in this area in 1903. They were not involved in the shrimp industry but owned a local eating establishment. Royce's father was a jack-of-all tradesman who worked for the original Elks Club fraternal organization. Royce mentions a Pioneer Hotel here in Point Richmond where the Elks met, a building I cannot recall.

Royce Ong still lives in the Point family home on Golden Gate Avenue. He can be seen mornings walking down the narrow walkway from Golden Gate to Martina Street on his way to get his morning paper. Following him is his beautiful white cat "Happy" who waits for his

return in the Catholic Church parking lot. Royce retired from work with the U.S. Government in Port Chicago and is now a full time volunteer for the street car museum in San Francisco. He has great memories of his childhood in Point Richmond.

Antonio Mazza

Several times during the summer months in Point Richmond in the 1930's, we used to have a "street dance". This affair was solely sponsored by Antonio "Tony" Mazza, who owned and operated the Liberty Cash Market. He would hire a complete band to play for the local residents. He even gave me \$10 once to play my trombone in the band.

"Tony" was a great Italian gentleman whom everyone admired. His grocery store was located at 111 Washington Avenue and later moved to Park Place. The Park Place Location is vague to me but the name was later changed to the IGA Market (International Grocers Alliance) and was owned by Mario and Elsie Grosso and their beautiful daughter Rose. Rosie still lives in the family home on Tewksbury Avenue. Her father Mario was among the first men to work at the Standard Oil Refinery.



Hunters Home, 1898



Westside Library: Then and Now

By Michael Senturia
Temporary Branch Librarian

Art and Design at Westside

Westside's ongoing display of the work of local artists and design firms continues in May with artists Jean Eger, Simone Odom and Jean Swanson and the environmental design firm, LSA. In keeping with the idea of the library reflecting the creative milieu which surrounds it, artist Pamela Pollock has painted a distinctive sign for the branch which beckons you as you enter the library. Artists interested in having their work on display may call the branch at 620-6567 or drop by and talk with a member of the library staff.

Reviews by Jan Burdick

Former Westside librarian Jan Burdick gives

us three reviews of recent arrivals at Westside:

- Second Nature by Alice Hoffman; Only a writer of Alice Hoffman's skill could entice one to read a story that might lead you to believe it was a modern day fairy tale or a retelling of Roman mythology. How many plots have been developed lately where a woman (Robin Moore) takes into her home a young man (Stephen who, until his recent rescue from a trap, was raised by wolves and thought he was one? How Robin and her teenage son (Connor) keep the secret while she teaches Stephen to speak, read and eventually work as her assistant gardener is only a part of the story. Many well-defined characters round out this novel, Hoffman's tenth work, not to mention the suspense aspect of who or what is killing the neighborhood animals and eventually the neighbor.
- How to Murder Your Mother-in-law by Dorothy Cannell; Contrary to its title, this is neither a how-to book or a murder mystery. The author, Dorothy Cannell, being English, qualifies as one of a breed (i.e. writers of good who-done-its) much admired by American readers. Instead, this is meant to be a humorous tale, but in lieu of wry English wit, one gets writing that tries too hard to be funny and clever. The premise is promising, an example of a good deed gone wrong. Ellie Haskell plans an anniversary party for her in-laws, although husband Ben does not share her enthusiasm for the idea. The inclusion of an old friend, Beatrix, whom Magdalene and Elijah (the in-laws) haven't seen for forty years turns into a

fiasco. Since Magdalene has never really approved of Ellie, this is just the beginning of a disastrous visit. If you are an Anglophile and love the English turn of a phrase, you'll thrive on the fact that very often things are at sixes and sevens. As for me, I couldn't get over the moon about it (if you catch my drift.)

- Nine Lives to Murder by Marian Babson; Suspend your belief and you will be rewarded with a few hours of delightful reading in this slight mystery. At the end of the first chapter Winstanley Fortescue, a leading British Shakespearean actor, finds himself regaining consciousness after a fall from a ladder during rehearsal. In the process, he'd collided forcibly with Monty, the cat, who lives in the theater. Imagine Win's surprise when he calls his wife's name, Miranda, and it comes out "Mirrecow." Yes, Monty and Win have exchanged souls. It's especially amusing to read Win's human thoughts becoming mixed up with a cat's instincts as he finds himself actually catching mice. What makes this a mystery is when it is suspected that the fall from the ladder wasn't an accident as there are further attempts on Win's and Monty's lives. (Someone doesn't like the cat, either).

Point Richmond Stroll

During the Point Richmond Stroll, Thursday, May 12, from 5 to 7 P.M., the library will be open for browsing and the Friends of the Library will have a book sale at the library's entrance. Stop by!

Library Director leaves for Berkeley

Adelia Lines, Director of the Richmond Public Library, has been selected to head the Berkeley Public Library and will move to that position in May. Adelia's directness, vision, inspiration and humanity will be sorely missed by library patrons and staff members alike.



WRITING CLASS

The Writing Your Own Life Story seminar by Alexandra Gautraud has proven so popular the students asked her to continue. It is the type of class a newcomer can enter at any time.

How often have you children or grandchildren asked you to tell them stories of when you were small? What were schools like? What did you do without TV? What type of games did you play?

Wouldn't you like to be able to read about your grandmother's life and times? The world is different and constantly changing. Whether you write for yourself or your children, just writing your memories, memories only you have, can be a big self-esteem builder.

Those attending this class include Dorothy Ruthnick, Thomas Edwards, Betty Dornan, Mary Tom Coe, Zoanna Kille, Ed Squir, Hans Shaper, Mid Dornan

No One Was Safe!

Brian Cowley

The world around us is not as safe and secure as Point Richmond is. Dr. Forbes, daughter of Mary and Jim Forbes is the subject of this article. Dr. Forbes was delivered into this world by Dr. Wm. L Thompson. Jessie and Devin were the two of her six children (3 adopted) that went with her. She moved to New Zealand after marriage for a better lifestyle and after her African experience says, "I now realize it really is paradise!"

ADVENTURE!

Judith Forbes expected tough conditions when she volunteered her skills as an anesthetist in the African homeland of Transkei. But the reality was far worse than she imagined.

Dr. Judith Forbes, director of anaesthetics at Christchurch Women's Hospital, joined a group of American healthcare professionals after learning of the need for anesthetists in the Transkei.

She found a territory where anarchy reigned. A land awash with violence, where murder and mayhem were facts of life.

"You dared not travel," she says, "And, if you did, you never stopped your car. That was an invitation for someone to get in and you were expected to drive them to where they wanted to go.

It was only luck that neither she nor two of her children who went with her were not threatened.

"We lived within the hospital compound and one day I was called to the casualty ward to see a patient who was hemorrhaging to death from gunshot wounds," says Dr. Forbes.

"Before I reached the door, staff were running out of the building. They told me not to go in because the man who had shot him was there finishing him off.

"I retreated. What else could I do? Seconds later, I heard gunshots. There was blood and bullet holes all around the ward. Everyone solves their problems in this way."

The door to Dr. Forbes' living quarters had three locks and the windows had burglar bars. There were alarms in every room. Despite the heavy security, the house was burgled twice.

"No one was safe.....black or white. I didn't meet anyone who was not touched by the violence in some way.

"Twenty-two people were slaughtered while waiting for a taxi on the first night I was there. By the third or fourth day 86 people had been killed," she says.

Conditions in the hospital were equally chaotic, "There was a lot of modern equipment but it was all broken down. You could not get anyone to come out and fix it because people were afraid to travel. There was a shortage of basic drugs and while I was there, the ceiling in the operating theatre collapsed and it was flooded with hot water."

"I expected Third World conditions but I didn't expect to find a total breakdown of the system. I made it impossible for me to impart my techniques and skills to the local people. I just gave as many anaesthetics every day for as long as I could stand up.

Dr. Forbes says she would not have endangered her children's lives had she known how serious things were in the Transkei.



Cards & Letters

in the next issue, this newsletter has kind of become my main hobby. But I must say getting a letter like this, definitely makes the trouble worthwhile!

*Thanks again,
Gary*

Dear Gary:

I have intended to write this letter for a long time, so I will procrastinate no longer. I want to congratulate you and all of your predecessors for the fine job you and your staff do in publishing This Point...in time, from one issue to the other.

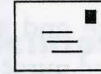
Having jst resigned, after five grueling years, as editor of a volunteer newsletter (The Buulletin) for the Humaine Society for the Tacoma/Pierce County, I can appreciate what a fine publication this is. I have witnessed the pressure of meeting a deadline, the uncertainty of where the next article is coming from, the laborious task of assembling a crew to proff read, print, collate, label and mail The Bulletin on schedule, the satisfaction of seeing the end result and spotting the areas where we could have done better; yes I know the agony and the ectasy of being an editor. Ours was much less ambitious than yours, and I realize that your job must be tenfold harder than mine ever was.

My thanks, also, for publishing articles by my sister, Delphina Franco (AKA Hazel Tawney) and, thereby, teaching me things I never knew or forgot about my family and our early days in the Point.

Again please accept my commendations and thanks for a job well done.

Sincerely,
Al Franco
Sumner, WA

A very sincere thank you from me and all TPIT staff! I have learned from others that only a former editor can truely understand just what goes into producing a regular publication. I continue, with each issue, to be amazed by the tedious details that seem to go on and on. But like you say, there is something very satisfying about seeing the end result and planning improvements



Dear Mr. Shows:

In the March issue I read the obituary of a Viola Lynch Jones. I don't know if this Ms. Lynch did teach at the Washington School. The Viola Lynch that i know of was the one that taught me in the sixth grade. She later became Mrs. Peterson. After graduating from the last 8th grade at Washington school I happened to meet her about 3 years later. I went up to her and addressed her as Ms. Lynch. She told me she was married and her name was Peterson.

In your Winter issue I recognized her photo in the 1932 class photo.

In one of Mr. Thompson's letters he stated that he vividly recelled each and every teacher he had. I can say the same about me. My days were happy ones at Washington School and memories of those days will never be forgotten.

Teachers that I recall are Ms. Emily Axtell, Ms. Whitehead, Ms. Dooling as well as Bradley, Belgum. Strass, Delia Rainey Roeder, Helen Morehouse, Viola Lynch, and our beloved Mis Ruth Lucas. Principals I remember were Ms. Ashfield and Alice Tomlin.

To Mr. Thompson, I've never met you sir but I do enjoy all your writings and I am looking forward to more. I remember your brother Chester Thompson, he sat next to me in my history class at R.U.H. Shool. I am now 84 years young.

Rena Nee Cairo Gonsalves
Manteca, CA

Remembering Mayren "Pearson" Adolf

by Wm. L. Thompson

Mayren Adolf, born Mayren Pearson, came to Point Richmond as a small child in about 1905 or 1906 with her parents. They lived in a house on the upper side of Micholl Avenue near its junction with Tunnel Avenue. She attended the old Standard Avenue School and later the Washington School. She was a playmate of my older sister, Sarah. She became a nurse and worked for years at the Richmond Hospital. She was an excellent and devoted nurse and I worked with her for years on the wards and emergency at the hospital. Much of her time there was during the war when nurses were scarce and worked for long hours with little pay. She and her family were fine Point Richmond residents and should be remembered.

Deaths

Laura Carey died on March 20, 1994 in Florida, age 85. A native and former resident of Point Richmond, she lived in Cypress Point. She is survived by her sons John Carey, Panama and Leo Carey, Florida and five grandchildren as well as sisters, Dorothy Rumsey Miller and Ann Balfour.

Mary Helen Calfee died at her home in Meadow Vista, CA on March 22, 1994 after a long illness. She is survived by her husband David W. Calfee, her children, David W. Calfee III and Kent Calfee of Davis, California, Shirley Heinrich of Boise, Idaho and Laura Marlow of Lawrence, Kansas and 8 grandchildren. She was a long-time Richmond resident, taught at the Peres Children's Center for many years, a member of the League of Women Voters, YWCA, American Field Service, YMCA, East Bay Regional Park District, Methodist Church, and held many positions on community commissions.

Dorothy "Betty" Moist, retired as a teacher and librarian from the Richmond School District, died of cancer April 22 at her home in El Cerrito. She was 76. She is survived by her husband, Theodore R. Moist of El Cerrito; sons, John R. Moist of Hawaii and Michael A. Moist of Oregon; brothers, Herbert J. Hunn of Clarksburg and Richard C. Hunn of El Sobrante; eight grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

Mayren "Pearson" Adolf, a retired registered nurse, died of natural causes April 5, at her Manteca Home. She was 91.

The Fort Bragg native was a 50-year resident of Richmond and had worked at Richmond Hospital. She was a member of the California Nurses Association.

She is survived by her son, Donald W. Adolf of Manteca; daughter, Betty Lou Urbais of Sierra City; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

May Birthdays

Patrcia Dornan
Douglas Corbin
Diana Corbin
Winifred Jones
Richard Mattuecci
Jon Doellstedt
Vern Doellstedt
Marcello Caceres
Shirley Moore
Ruth Beardsley
Betty Wirth
Lucretia Edwards
Anne-Catherine Hadreas
Shaney Gustafson
Shoney Gustafson
Norm Reynolds

Dianna McIntosh
Bruno Roveda
George Kelleghan
Marge Miller
Diana Spinola
John Knox, Jr.
Becky Horn
Varsi Lometti
Evelyn Essary
Cindy Quist
Muriel Clausen
Nell Brooker
Sarah Eeles
Lyle Fisher
Anne Hanzlik
Adolph Higuera
Jack Murray



"The best cure for insomnia is a Monday morning."

-Sandy Cooley

I would like to join the P.R.H.A.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Type of membership (check one):

<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...in time" 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 months.

Articles for each issue are due on or before the deadline printed in the calendar section.

Please mail articles and items of interest to:

Gary Shows
229 Golden Gate Avenue
Point Richmond, CA 94801
or

fax 510-233-0762

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Calendar

May, 1994

May 3
Tuesday

Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting,
7:30pm, Point Community Center

Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting,
11:30am Point Methodist Church

May 8
Sunday

Mother's Day

May 11
Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting, Noon
Hotel Mac

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

May 17
Tuesday

12th Annual Senior Information Day, "Reaching out Together", 9:00am - 2:00pm, Richmond Memorial Convention Center

May 20
Friday

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES TO TPIT, SUMMER ISSUE

May 21
Saturday

Point Methodist Church Annual Junktique Sale
Call 236-0527 or 232-4317 for pickup or dropoff

May 22
Sunday

Point Richmond History Association Annual Meeting
Point Community Center, 2:30pm

May 30
Monday

Memorial Day

June 3
Friday

Dracula, The Musical opens at Masquer's Playhouse

June 14

Flag Day