

THIS POINT.....in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

Vol. XIII No. 2

Summer, 1994

\$1.50





Important Notice

***To the citizens of Point Richmond
from your local fire department.***

Fire season is now upon us, for you and your family's safety we strongly recommend that you clear all tall weeds, brush, pine needles and other flammable debris to an area of 30 feet from your home. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to stop by your local fire house at 140 West Richmond Avenue.

***Thank you for your support,
Capt. Boyd McDowel, Eng. 61b***

HISTORY ASSOCIATION NOTES...

From the President

MID DORNAN

When 35 or 40 people with a common interest assemble together, a good time is guaranteed. Such was the 13t Annual Point Richmond History Association meeting in May. Invited architects Tom Butt and Walter Connolly discussed renovation, preservation, innovation, restoration and prevention relating to the Point. The importance of being listed in the National Register of Historic Places and how this relates to the business area as well as the neighborhood was discussed. A map showing which houses and buildings are included in the Register was displayed and is available in our museum

building. It was noted there were more buildings in the business area in 1915 than today. Those interested n preservation need to remain alert as once a building is torn down, it is gone! Everyone agreed the Point is a unique and diverse community and love it!

Officers for the PRHA Board were elected and we thank the members for their continued confidence. Although this is the Summer or last issue of TPIT Newsletter until September, the History Building will continue to be open as long as you volunteer.

You have two month to submit your stories and memories and trivia. See you in September.

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(Continued on page 2)

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

William Kollar
Elaine R. Harris
Donna Wilson
Madeline Albright
Thomas Mercer Hursh
Howard S. Arnold
James L. Wilson
Dean Beesley
Fred Beesley
June (Beelsey) Solosabal
Zoanna Kille
Doug Daniels
Elaine Scott
James Forbes
Gary Shows
The Corbin Family

And a warm welcome to new members:

George (Leroy) Williams
Dora (Beesley) Feuerhelm
Ivo Jonish
Glyde G. Cooper

Museum Staff Coordinator Betty Dornan thanks volunteers who staffed the History Building in May:

Bruce Bartram
Jerry Cerkowicz
Betty Dornan
&

More Thank You's:

To Martin McNair

and his assistant

Jerry Cerkowicz

for installing our new lamp in the front of the museum.

&

To Steve Clemens of Point

Richmond's BULWARK

WOODWORKS for building the beautiful planter box in front of the building and to bp/mp for the materials to build it.

&

To Michael Shaw for planting the flowers in the box and around both sides of the building, it looks great!

&

The Usual Thank You To

Santa Fe Market

for distributing

"THIS POINT...in time"

at no profit for themselves

ACQUISITION:

Very early photo of old Richmond Supply Hardware building (see page 1) presented by Dave Moore.

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

Producing this newsletter is enjoyable but I am so glad for the coming break that you just don't know!

Lot's of information in this issue, I hope I didn't forget anything or anybody.

I am real happy to announce a new series of articles that will begin after the summer break. In his series "Historical Memories of the Point Richmond Fire Department, our own Richmond Fireman, Capt. Boyd McDowell, Eng. 61B will supply historical accounts of early Point Richmond fire history. Capt. McDowell will be compiling this information from the extensive notes of Ast. Chief J.J. Berry who served in this position from 1915 until he retired in 1954. This series will be interesting as well as a treasure to add to our written historical archives.

I enjoyed seeing many of you at the May meeting, it turned out to be a good event, thanks to everyone involved. At the meeting Dr. Thompson told me that he has several projects in the works, including "Old Historic Road Grades in the Point Richmond Hills" and one on non-native fauna in the Point Richmond Hills.

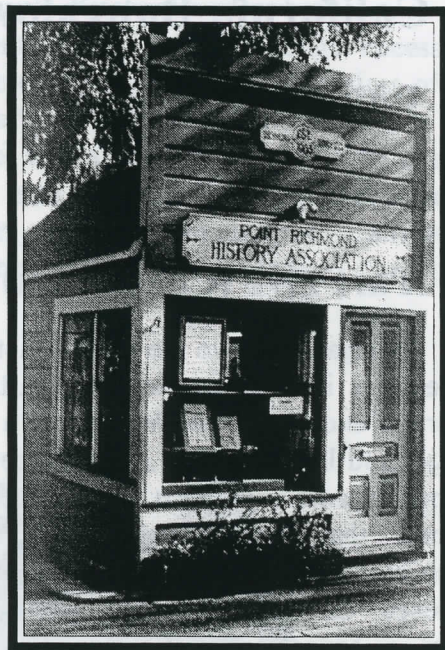
Thanks to all who contributed to this issue, your interest is what makes it, I only put it all together. Have a wonerful summer!

The deadline for the September issue is August 19, 1994.



The Cover:

Great photograph of our "World Headquarters" building taken by our own Sarah Eeles, unfortunately just before the latest finishing touches.



Another shot of our building from Oscar Lugo

TThe May Issue Assembly Crew:

Liz McDonald
Muriel Clausen
Mid Dornan
Mary Highfill
Pam Wilson
Jerry Cerkanowicz
Gary Shows

This Old House

by

Muriel C. Clausen

Chapter V The California Bungalow:

Point Richmond

Single Story

Part Five (Conclusion)

Bungalows have the same functional necessities in their interiors as Craftsman interiors except that the houses are a little bigger and less compact. As such the bungalow became somewhat more expensive to build than the Craftsman house. There is no clutter inside and no collectibles are exposed except rough pottery, bronze, brass, or copper and crafted wood objects. The furniture is sparse and of the Mission style. The entry is directly into the living room, a large room made to look larger by an arched opening into the adjacent dining room.

Off the dining room is a tiny but highly efficient kitchen having "factory-like" characteristics with all electric appliances and an electric stove. The kitchen is

not large enough for family gatherings as former kitchens had been but it has a breakfast nook with built-in table and benches to accommodate a few. A screened back porch is often added for utility. A hall to the side of the living room leads to two bedrooms with a single bathroom between. (Later a few added a narrow stairway leading to a small sleeping area in the attic. These latter lost the low bungalow profile.) Off the other side of the living room a small screened sleeping porch is added, and later windowed in.

As noted, in Southern California, the interior walls were plastered. In Northern California the interior walls were wood panelled to the chair or plate rail with burlap in earth tone colors above the chair rail. Stencil patterns were painted above the plate rail. The fireplace, located in the living room, is of large rocks without any dominant mantle. It is clearly an open, comfortable, functional house that was built easily and quickly in great numbers to serve a very large part of the population.

From 1902 to 1907, many bungalows were built in Point Richmond. They are homey and familiar to us today, so much so that we seldom purposefully analyze them as being the famous "California bungalow". About 25 percent of the early Point Richmond homes built were California bungalows, making them a very important part of our descriptive history. Their source was the East Coast inspired Craftsman house. The California bungalows

low exemplifies the Craftsman philosophy in a very distinctive small house design style, of which Point Richmond owns its share in numbers.

To refer to "This Point in Time", a bungalow in the 100 block of Cottage has a stylized English look to it. West Richmond Avenue has a few pure bungalow designs. On Nicholl Avenue there is one with the Southern California Mission look. #31 Nicholl is a larger scale bungalow style, and #11 Montana is a fairly typical Northern California bungalow with other bungalows on that street. There are bungalows scattered throughout Point Richmond, some of which have been slightly modified. The most predominant modification, when there is land available, is to add a free standing or pergola at-

tached garage. However these houses were built before there was a requirement for parking space so many have carved out areas in their front landscape into which a car can be tucked.

These bungalows of Point Richmond are a charming addition to the collection of varied styles that were built in the early 1900's. Here in the era that followed not many have been changed because they serve the needs of the occupant very well. Kitchens and/or bathrooms may be remodelled with no change necessary to the exterior. They are the easiest of all of early Point Richmond's history of houses to maintain in their original design form, and they are an accepted, popular design concept throughout California, making change less desirable.



A-Mid TRIVIA

- MidDornan (510-234-5334)

Question 1. What percentage of women in their 40's are in the nation's labor force today:

- A. 26%
- B. 48%
- C. 67%
- D. 78%

Question 2: What year did Medicare begin?
Answer at end of Trivia

Election Day Primary is Tuesday, June 7th. Polling places in the Point: Point Methodist Church, Washington School, Brickyard Landing Clubhouse, check your ballot for your polling site. But vote with knowledge.

The recently painted brown Chevron tanks seem to disappear into the hills and wouldn't it be neat if they could seasonally change for green hills in the spring!

Fly the American flag proudly on Flag Day - Tuesday, June 14th!

Attendance at the Point Business Association meeting is averaging 45 members and guests each month for lunch. Retiring President Shirley Butt will remain on the Board along with Vali Cooper, President; Tom McGowan, V.P.; David Vincent V.P.; Nancy Transue, Secretary; Theresa Daniel, Treasurer; and Bob Peckham.

Opossums, skunks, deer, and raccoons along with stray cats and dogs frequent my yard nightly. But the raccoon that made itself 'at home' in the barbecue flue extending 18 feet below the roof line was an unwelcome guest! After two weeks of unnerving nightly 'chatter' behind the vent, Mr. Raccoon's eviction was sought by the Chimney

man. Five days and considerable \$'s later, he is no longer visible and hopefully found his way up the flue again. At least he isn't being heard...or smelled!

Bob Peckham captured in pictures the aura and ambiance of the fun annual Chamber of Commerce Point Richmond Stroll. They are posted in the window of the Santa Fe Market but the pictures showing the clean streets the next morning revealed individual good citizen responsibility for clean-up.

Anne Hanzlik is taking time out to recuperate from hip surgery and is doing well.

When Matthew Meixell graduates June 18th from John F. Kennedy Law School, the support team in the audience, celebrating his achievement, besides his wife, Elizabeth, will be parents, Darlene and Roger Isenberg, Alice, Randy and son Ben Isenberg all from Minnesota; Sister Trina Isenberg and brother Bryon Brown, Denver and Elizabeth's mother, Stormye Barnett from Missouri.

Matt then studies for the State Bar Exam in August which posted only a 48% passage last year!

Speaking of graduations, Pam Gates, wife of the Rev. Bill Gates of the Methodist Church, graduated with honors from California College of Arts and Crafts. Bill's parents came from Idaho for the event.

Other graduates include Daniel Butt, Nick Weisel, Cyndy Betts and Michael Reynolds.

Often misled signatures have qualified a high powered, sophisticated, Philip Morris tobacco sponsored initiative for the November ballot. The initiative would wipe all local smoking ordinances off the books and replace them with a

Often misled signatures have qualified a high powered, sophisticated, Philip Morris tobacco sponsored initiative for the November ballot. The initiative would wipe all local smoking ordinances off the books and replace them with a statewide standard that would allow smoking space in a restaurant. Power to regulate smoking would be taken from cities and counties and given to the Legislature, where the tobacco industry has been more successful in recent years.

Seth Fenton, son of Karen and Jay Fenton, will enter Columbia Law School in August. Meanwhile, Seth has been working at Energy Unlimited.

Donna Roselius, Port Orford, Oregon stopped overnight in the Point taking time to enjoy a relaxing dinner at Hotel Mac. She was enroute to Sonora to help celebrate granddaughter, Kyli Turner's fifth birthday!

The Women's Westside Improvement Club's final lunch until fall will be at Hidden City on June 7th. Retiring President Mary Highfill will introduce new officers: President, Anita Christensen; Vice-President, Amelia Drake; Secretary, Betty Dornan and Treasurer, Grace Mar. These few members accomplish monumental goodwill providing funds for Many Hands at Washington School, Point Richmond Library, two street lights in the Community Triangle and Meals on Wheels. They meet the first Tuesday of the month at 11:30 a.m. at the historic Methodist Church. Dessert is served and all are welcome.

A delightful telephone call from Marge Ellis Stone said, "I almost cry reading the newsletter each month as it brings back so many beautiful memories. I lived in such a wonderful time. We didn't realize it then."

Travel isn't just a summer thing. Joining a tour to Las Vegas were Amelia Drake, Josephine Palenchar, Marian and Ralph Voight. Betty Dornan traveled to Hawaii Deneanne Winter and Carla Scott from Richmond Travel chose to go to Athens, Greece. Virigina Cherniak visited daughter, Susan Hyde, in Teaneck, New York. Ann and Bruce Bartram also paid a visit to Las Vegas. Jim and Florence Wilson drove to Alaska to fish for Salmon. Fay and Marian Hawkins visited Arizona and the Grand Canyon area.

You know you are in a safe neighborhood when you are trusted or allowed to pump your gas before you pay for it.

Moisture from the sky didn't dampen the opening of the New Police Substation at 12th Street and Cutting Boulevard. On behalf of the Point Richmond History Association and the Point Neighborhood Council two pictures of the Richmond Police Department in 1912 were presented Lt. Dave O'Donnell for walls of his new office.

Never have the right coins or dollar bills to buy a BART ticket? Use an ATM or credit card for a BART ticket? Equipment could be installed this summer in 15 stations with \$1.6 million in federal grants. (That's you and me!) Another plastic, this one could become a Transit card good on any public transportation.

"Nostalgia" is remembering the nickel hamburger; "reality" is remembering how many times you didn't have a nickel!

How does one advertise a television commercial for a product that gets rid of television commercials? Due out in June is just such a device. It allows the entire program to be recorded, including ads, and makes a map of

where the ads are. Then, when the viewer plays back the recording, the device locates the ads and fastforwards past them. All the viewer sees is an eight-second-long blue screen.

Iggulden, who owns the patent, wants to license the technology to manufacturers who would build it directly into VCR's.

Bessie and Ed Squires report daughter, Suzanne Unser, Porterville, is recuperating nicely after the tumor removal from her thyroid. While in the area, they visited Edna Hathaway in Hanford who is also bouncing back after a slight stroke that affected her arms.

During the week, Mary several times asked her husband, Roger, to wash the car, repeating disgustingly, "I'm embarrassed to be seen riding in such a dirty car".

Other activities consumed Rogers time and he never seemed to get the job done. On Saturday when Roger arrived home from the shop the car was sitting out in front of the house. Mary had washed her half of the car, the side she'd be seen riding.

Remember when being all washed up meant you were ready to eat?

You can't see straight if you've got I-trouble.

Honor Dad on his special day.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

Answer to question 1. D. 78%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Answer to question 2: 1965.



Washington School PTA

As the school year ends, we reflect back on what happened during the year.

We had a meeting each month, some with special events. Our first meeting featured the new principal, Kay Burnside, and drew quite a crowd! Our November meeting was a Thanksgiving Reception and the February meeting was a program on African-American History.

In May we had our election and here is the new PTA Board thus far for the 1994/95 school year:

President: Peggy Jackson-Coles

Vice President/Staff Liaison: Elizabeth King

Vice President/To be Determined: Rossalyn Cash

Secretary/Newsletter: Roslyn Johnson

Treasurer: Kathy Landers

The new Board takes over July 1, 1994.

No Fat Chili

With today's emphasis on a low or no-fat diet, Kelly Darling shares another of her recipes.

Note: this is a large batch so it can be made ahead and frozen in dinner size servings.

#10 can red kidney beans

2 #2 cans S&W Italian stewed tomatoes

2 yellow onions

2 cups cooked brown rice

1/4 cup mild chili powder

2 cups corn

2 cups water 1/8 teaspoon cayenne (more if brave!)

1/2 cumin

1 cup picante or salsa

In stockpot, put beans, tomatoes, cooked rice and chili powder and simmer on low for 1 hour. Saute chopped onions in water until light brown and add to bean mixture in stock pot. Add the water, cayenne, cumin, corn and picante or salsa and simmer until hot. Serve.

Church News

Our Lady of Mercy

Allan Smith

Memorial Day A Time to Remember

World War I

Stephen Banks, USA

World War II

Stephen Banks, USMM

Jesse Barrios, USA*

Anthony Bernardi, USA

August Bernes, USN

Kenneth Boggiatto, USA

Leo Carey, USN

Stanislaus Casey, USA*

Silvio Cecci, USA

Robert Drake, USN

Charles Dutrow, USMC

Raymond Giacomelli, USMC

Robert Hartnyk, Sr., USA

John Kenny, USA*

John W. Stark, USAF

Donald Kirkpatrick, USN

John Medo, USA*

Edwin McKinley, USN

George Perry, USN

Leonard Smith, Jr., USMC

William J. Hinckley, Jr., USA

Korea

Frederick J. Botta, Jr., USMC

Leo A. Forner, USA

Raymond Giacomelli, USA

Vietnam

Michael Lizarraga, USMC*

Andrew B. Pritchard, USA

**Died on Active Duty*

Point Richmond Methodist

Jean Reynolds

The regular Sunday School program came to a close on May 22nd. Students Kadar Kurpad, Dani Kurpad, David Reynolds, Lynn Fretz, Virginia Jones, Bethany Reynolds, Cami Gates, Katrina Yamagada, Trevor Gates and Ryan Gates were present during morning worship and received certificates of completion to recognize their participation in the Sunday School program. A potluck luncheon was held after worship on May 15th to honor those who taught Sunday School this year. Teachers and students shared their memories of the past year. We look forward to September 11th, when classes resume!

Vacation Bible School will be the week of July 18-22. There will be classes for students age 3 to sixth grade, from 9 am to 12 noon each day. Activities will include music, crafts, recreation and class time. (Oh, and don't forget refreshments!) Leave a message on the church phone, 236-0527 or call Jean Reynolds at 235-2988 to pre-register.

Our pastor, the Rev. Bill Gates, has accepted the chairmanship of the Winter Shelter committee for the G.R.I.P., Greater Richmond Interfaith Program. Last winter, this project provided a place to sleep, shower and two meals a day, as well as access to social services, for up to thirty people (at any one time) who were homeless and caring for children. Local churches provided space for cots and many volunteers provided meals and other items. Last year the Winter Shelter project operated for four months; if funds were

available, G.R.I.P. hopes it will operate for six months this year. We support Bill in this important work and appreciate his willingness to take an active leadership role in our community.

The Third Annual Junktique Sale was another fine success due to efforts of many people across the state and here at home. Grace and Bob Yank from Sonoma, Paul and Nona Howe from Challenge, Wally and Alma McCartney from Benicia, and JoAnn and Ben Fray, most-often-from Bodega Bay, were among those who helped sell treasures and lunch. Helen Valentine baked nine pies to provide delicious refreshments for shoppers and browsers. It was again a wonderful holiday.

The Second-Tuesday Community Celebration Service will not be held during the summer months.



Point Citizens Make Our History Building Even Better

At long last, the light for the PRHA Museum building is in place. Just in time for The Stroll on May 20th. We thank Martin McNair who, along with his wife Janis, is always so pleasant and willing to take time to help whenever approached with one of our problems.

Now the Museum is the most attractive site on the Triangle! A redwood planter box in front was designed and built by wood craftsman Steve Clemens. Michael Shaw then filled the planter box with multicolored, pastel impatiens, planting more impatiens on either side of the building under the windows.

Beautiful!

md

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 6th installment.

Tuesday April 15th, 1924

Social League met at the home of Mrs. Frank Hollingsworth with twenty present, fifteen members and five visitors, three of whom joined the League. Mrs. Griffin, Mrs. Vloebergh and Mrs. Harris.

Meeting opened by Lords prayer in unison.

Motion League buy material for drapes for S.S. Room of monks cloth. Carried. Bazaar plans tabled.

Mrs. Ford, Owens and Redman appointed to draw up By-laws for League.

Motion rescinding election of officers in May and electing in September to correspond with church year. Carried.

Meeting next time to be April 19th at Mrs. Fords to relieve her of so much music work.

Mrs. Ford to get in touch with Mr. Bell, piano tuner, and get estimate on fixing S.S. Piano.

Adjourned,

Erma R. Parker, Secy

Mrs. Owens Assm't	.90
Parker Dues 1 mo	.10
Griffin " 6 mo	.60
Vloebergh " 6 mo	.60
Silver Offering	1.75
Cash on hand	<u>32.91</u>

36.86

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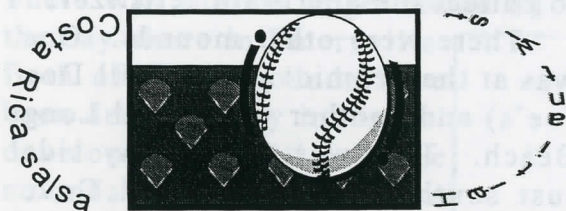
Sports Memories

Allan Smith

Gene Corr, a Point Richmond native son, was the first baseball coach for Contra Costa College. He recently held a reunion of his California State Baseball Championship teams of 1954 and 1955. In 1954, Contra Costa College was Runner Up in the California State Junior College Baseball competition and in 1955 they were the California State Baseball Champions.

Richard Smith, native from Point Richmond, was one of the pitchers on both championship teams. His brother, Frank, later played for Contra Costa College and Gene Corr where he held a strikeout record for pitchers. In one game he struck out 18 batters.

Gene Corr once said, "As long as California State Baseball Championships are played by the Community Colleges of California, the 1954 team and the 1955 team of Contra Costa College will be remembered."



Proof that Costa Rican baseballs are "juiced".

TRIVIA FROM MR. SMITH

Al Frosini, popular Point Richmonder, recalls, during World War 2 on the island of Guam, he ran into his Point buddy, Silvio Cecchi. What a time they had together "borrowing" a U.S. Army jeep! Also, on Guam at the same time was another Point resident, Paul Novarini, serving in the U.S. Navy.

Al Frosini would like to organize a group of Point Richmond people meeting periodically to relate together their early days in the Point.

A United States Department of Agriculture Certificate of Appreciation for volunteer participation in the reforestation efforts on the Georgetown Ranger District, El Dorado National Forest, April 1994 was presented to the following Point Richmond volunteers:

Marcelina Smith, Allan Smith, Jack Healy, Mervyn Kelleghan and Louie Barra.

This group is part of the Chevron sponsored retirees tree planting organization founded and let by Walt Fauerso. The group is now working on a site on the top of Golden Gate Avenue, planning to build a 'bird sanctuary' in a strategic and beautiful location. In that area at our last outing, a fox was seen surveying the activity.

Mary Highfill

A Personal Profile b Mid Dornan

Corresponding Secretary Mary Highfill escaped Mid's tape recorder for this issue, She won't be so lucky next time, look for Mary's personal profile in the September Issue..

Gary

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 Two

In the Point Richmond or Potrero ridge of hills in years past, I knew of five mounds and there were probably two others that had been covered by the two brickyards in the area. These were all in the area south of the Santa Fe tracks and there were probably many more in others sections of the ridge. One

large one was located at the old Chinese shrimp camp near Winehaven. Only one is still recognizable in the south hills. Drive down Dornan Drive past Miller-Knox Park and near the end of the park look across to the hill on the left. There you will see a buckeye tree growing near the road on an old mound. Many mounds have buckeyes growing on them. Here the Indians ate buckeyes and a few were lost and grew in the debris. I knew this mound well because my father and others used to collect the debris for fertilizer.

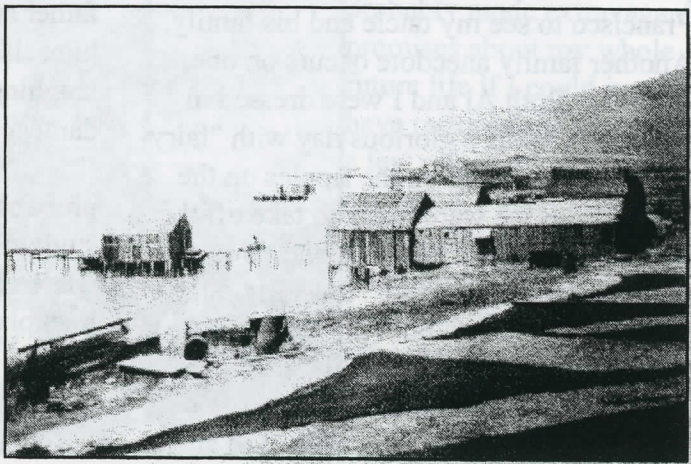
There were other mounds. One was at the Schmidt place (Bull Dog Joe's) and another was at old Long Beach. This was on the bay side just south of the Brickyard Cove area. It has been completely overed and destroyed by industrial filling. My favorite was the large mound on the marsh side of Point Potrero (Bull Dog Point). This was a rather large deep mound with a buckeye growing on it. This entire point

area and the south several hundred yards of the ridge were destroyed for landfill when shipyard #4 was built during the war. I heard that several old Indian burials were unearthed at that time. What happened to these remains I do not know. Burials, for tribes that used them, often occurred in shell mounds because here the digging was easier. The Indians also usually buried their dead in a flexed position, most likely because it required a smaller hole.

The largest shell mound in this area was the old Ellis Landing shell mound across the marsh at the foot of 10th Street. This covered several acres and was partially water overed by a rise in the bay. It had been extensively excavated and studied by archaeologists from the university. There was another huge mound on the bay shore in Emeryville. Both of these mounds have been destroyed by industrial development. Other large mounds were found on Brooks Island across from Potrero Point. These were more recently excavated.

The thrill of examining shell mounds lies not in the recovery of artifacts but in learning how the people lived, what they ate, and

what they constructed. The mounds are bluish in color due to the prevalence of blue mussel shells in the debris. This mollusk was the most common and easiest to collect, thus its great presence. In addition there were oyster and clam shells. Oyster shells were rare because they were rock oysters which were firmly fixed to rocks. I know because I have tried to detach them. Also there were many bones of fish. These were well preserved due the abundance of calcium-rich shells which prevented the absorption of bones by the alkalinity of the mound. The same can be said for human bones. There were also fragments of animal bones, mostly rabbit and probably deer and seals. Bird feathers and bones, mostly from marine birds, were also found.



Chinese Shrimp Camp

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 Two

What with working in the vegetable garden in spring, summer and early fall evenings we didn't go very many places. Twice a year we generally took the bus in front of the Natatorium to the ferry slip past the brickyard for a trip to San Francisco to see my uncle and his family. Another family anecdote occurs on one such trip. Both Al and I were dressed in white and it was a glorious day with "fairy diamonds" dancing on the ripples on the bay. Just as we were ready to take off the horn gave a thunderous toot and three-year old Al jumped "sky high" to let my father tell it. It was funny, but I'm sure my brother tired of hearing the incident long before my father tired of telling it.

One thing everyone seemed to attend was the Sunday afternoon band concert.

There was a band shell at the corner of Washington Street at the apex of the triangle in back of the Library. There was a depression there which made a splendid place for a concert. Chairs were set up and as I remember it, people came in their Sunday-best clothes after church and early dinner. I guess it was about 2:00 in the afternoon. The crowd enjoyed the music and it was an opportunity to exchange gossip and talk of the latest events in town.

One Sunday while my mother was getting dinner my father took Al and me for a walk in a northwesterly direction from Washington School. I've heard that a real estate venture went sour but only after sidewalks had been installed with the idea of selling lots for houses. No houses were ever built, but the sidewalks were there. Grass grew several feet high at the edge of the sidewalks and there was a decline from the sidewalk down to the lower level.. Al ran on ahead and must have tripped as he went rolling down the incline with both my father and me scared that he had hurt himself. He was sitting on the level laughing rather than crying and the only damage was a very dirty white sailor suit.

I came home one day from school; probably I was in third grade as we were studying about Indians. My enthusiasm was so great that I could hardly take time to explain that a REAL LIVE INDIAN CHIEF was coming and that it was at night and everyone could get in for free. A vacant building was opened and I believe some makeshift stage built. (I suspect that

some cure all elixir was being touted) I teased and begged until we all went to see the Chief, admirably dressed in buckskin with a huge headdress of feathers, jumping around in a war dance waving a tomahawk and playing a drum while singing Indian war chants. I have a vague recollection of brown bottles, but don't remember how successful the sales pitch was. For me, the memory is still a treasured one.

At about the same time the Natatorium was finished and wonder of wonders, there was to be a girls' free day (Wednesday) and a boys free day (Thursday). What fun! I suspect our minds were not on school work on those days. We brought our suites, towels and bathing caps to school to have the most time in the water. I have forgotten her name, but the young woman who handed out the towels and took admission was small and dark and everyone (including kids) called her by her

first name (at a time when my mother and her next-door neighbor always referred to each other as Mrs. Stender and Mrs. Franco). It was loads of fun splashing around, but there were no free swimming lessons in the beginning. Other kids sort of taught us to swim, but it was really just fun horsing around. We were constantly cautioned not to run in the corridors which had wooden-type mats with long horizontal cut-outs to drain the water. Ordinarily I obeyed all restrictions, not because I was that obedient, but because my mother always heard of any infraction of the rules over the back fence even before I could get home with a good fib. One time, caught up in the horseplay, several of us were playing tag and I ran off turning a corner and falling flat on my back knocking the wind out of me. I hadn't uttered a sound and when I tried to talk, I couldn't even whisper. I think that is the first time I

consciously prayed for something to be changed. I probably made extravagant promises about my whole future life if I could just have restored speech. After a few minutes I regained my voice. I don't know how many promises I broke, but I was a very subdued person in the Natatorium after that and sufficiently scared that I didn't tell anyone about the incident.



Municipal Natatorium Dedication Ceremonies, March 20, 1926



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 third installment.)

School News

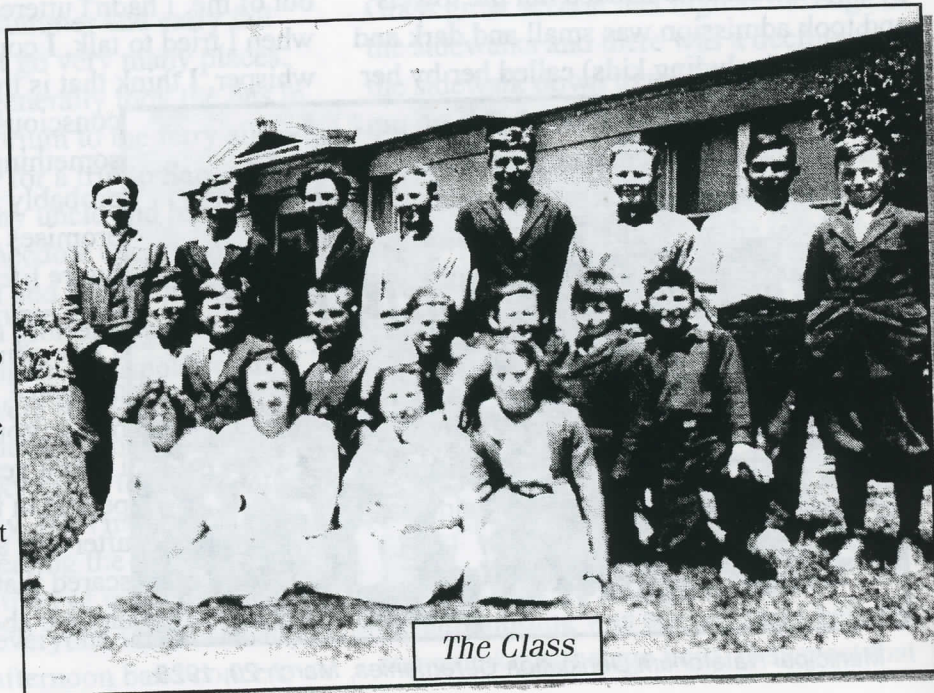
Before the milk came into sight

The children were all very light.

But when the milk business began to grow

Most of the children became fat and slow.

During the last weeks the high eighth class busily prepared for graduation. The entertainment was in the form of a pageant, "Emily's Dream". Emily was a little girl who did not like geography until she had this dream. Many children of the school took part in the pageant.



Sports

W-a-s-h-i-n-g-t-o-n

That's the way we spell it,

This is the way we yell it,

Washington! Washington!

Rah! Rah! Rah!

Basket-ball Teams

Low Eighth - Kuhn, forward, captain;

Westman, forward, Matthis, center; Corse, guard.

High Eighth - Gannon, center, captain;

Palenchar, forward; Arnold, forward; Brazil, guard.

1-2-3-4 3-2-1-4

Who are we for?

Washington! Washington!

Rah! Rah! Rah!

(to be continued)

General Meeting Report

The Annual General Membership meeting and election of officers was a pleasant affair at the Point Community Center on May 22, 1994. The meeting, attended by about 35 people was directed by President Mildred Dornan and not only served its administrative purpose of electing PRHA officers, but was also interesting and informative. The program was devised and developed by Programs Director Anne Hanzlik and was hosted by our able Treasurer Muriel Clausen. The time spent in the community center (even on a beautiful sunny day) was not wasted.

Guests were architects Tom Butt, owner of Interactive Resources, Inc., Tom was (along with Lucretia Edwards) the main force in making Point Richmond an Historical District, he has and has had much influence on the Point. Also as our guest was Walter Connolly, architect, designer and builder of many of Point Richmond's most prominent structures.

Tom first gave his views on the historical district and what he thinks the future holds. He expressed a bit of pessimism because of the current direction of the City Planners who he says are not preservation minded. He also warned that we should be ever vigilant to keep our historic neighborhood

Walter brought slides of buildings in the Point and explained his views of

what is wrong and right with the Point. He also brought us up to date with his ongoing restoration project of the Todd Hotel and what he envisions his finished product to look like. He also expressed his strong feelings of undergrounding utilities and doing away with (historically significant?) steel utility poles.

A general discussion went on about the direction of the downtown area and what types of retail business was wanted and could be supported by the community. The new owner of 117 West Richmond Avenue (Odd Fellows Building) was on hand and expressed her desire to restore that building to its original 3 stories.

After the meeting cookies and coffee were served and all seemed to have a good time.



109, 111 & 117 West Richmond Avenue, building to the right is still there, but only one storey



Westside Library: Then and Now

By *Michael Senturia*

Temporary Branch Librarian

Point Richmond Art and Design at Westside

Thanks to Jean Swanson for her photographs and watercolors, Jean Eger for her prints, and Simone Odom for her hand-made paper cards, which have graced Westside's walls in May. Thanks, also, to Liz King of Washington School for providing the nice bower of Earth Day posters created by Washington School fifth and sixth graders. In June, artists Theresa Albro and Adele Chase, photographer Bruce Polansky, and the Chemical Design Company will have their work on display in the library. And July's display will feature work by members of the Point Arts Guild. The creativity of the library's neighbors is quite remarkable. Artists interest in displaying their work may call the branch at 620-6567, or drop by and talk to a member of the library staff.

Summer Events for Children

Westside branch will be offering a variety of summer events for youngsters. In addition to regular pre-school story time Thursdays mornings, there will be some extended special preschool presentations. For school-age children, a series of special afternoon programs each Wednesday from 3:00 to 4:00 P.M. at the Library and adjoining Community Center will begin Wednesday, June 22 and run through Wednesday, August 24, and will include Jimbo, the clown/juggler, nature lore and tales by Tilden Ranger Tim Gordon of the East Bay Regional Park Environmental Education Center, a performance by the jazz ensemble from the Young Musicians Program of the University of California, Berkeley, a session on pet and animal care by the Berkeley Humane Society, and two hands-on crafts sessions by local artist Jean Eger, the first on paper-making and the second on print-making. Stop by Westside in early June for a complete schedule!

For youngsters of all ages, the Summer Reading Program with the theme "Reading is a Magic Trip" will commence June 24 and will run all summer, with Oakland A's tickets and books as rewards.

New arrivals

New adult titles at Westside include Isaac Asimov's I Asimov: A Memoir, Saul Bellows' It All Adds Up, Marion Zimmer Bradley's The Forest House, Remember Me by Mary Higgins Clark, Frederick Forsyth's The Fist of God, Carlos Fuentes' The Orange Tree, Sue Grafton's "K" is For Killer, Judith Krantz' Lovers, Reba McEntire's biography, Belva Plain's Davbreak, Gloria Steinem's latest collection of essays Moving Beyond Words, and titles by Louis L'Amour, T. Coraghessan Boyle, Terry Brooks, Dr. Joyce Brothers, Marion Chesney, Karen Hicks, Jack Higgins, William Kienzle, Whitney Otto, Jean Plaidy, and Bill Shoemaker.

Friends of the Richmond Public Library

If you purchased a book from the Friends of the Richmond Public Library during the Stroll (or at any other book sale) you not only got a bargain, but you helped this small, dedicated, group in immeasurable ways. In February the Friends approved allocations for the library for a grand total of \$9,718 and included:

- 1 Summer reading prizes for Juvenile and Young Adults - \$2100.
- 2 Children's Room and Extension Programming - \$1500.
- 3 African Americans of Achievement Series Videos - \$400.
- 4 LEAP's Page Magnifiers - \$223.
- 5 Heritage on Film Video Program - \$700.
- 6 Fax Machines for the two Branch Libraries - \$700.
- 7 LEAP's Contest Prizes - \$245.
- 8 Main's Business Brochures - \$500.
- 9 Children's Room Answering Machine for Storytelling - \$150.
- 10 Books on Tape - \$750.
- 11 African American History Month Program - \$500.
- 12 Local History Collection Photocopier - \$1800.
- 13 Children's Room Wooden Puzzles - \$150.

m.d.



Notes from Jean Eger

Your former newsboy Billy Eger, now known as Lieutenant William Eger, is the proud father of Karissa Renee Eger, six pounds, 13 ounces, born May 7, 1994 in Kingsland, Georgia. Bill's wife Maria and baby daughter are doing fine. Maria is the daughter of John and Bonnie Hall of Enterprise, Alabama. Bill and Maria were married last December 18 in a beautiful church ceremony in Enterprise, where Bill was training to become a helicopter pilot for the Army. Now Bill is stationed in El Paso, Texas, where Maria will rejoin him in August. Maria will finish a stint in the Navy in Georgia after taking six weeks off to give Karissa a good start in life.

Proud grandmother Jean Eger is also celebrating her graduation from San Francisco State University May 28, 1994, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in art, with emphasis in art education and printmaking. It only took her 30 years to get this degree! The former Point Counterpoint publisher is now in graduate school at State, going for a Master's in art education. Jean has volunteered to teach papermaking and printmaking at the Point Richmond Community center in August.

Notice how people attending college always say, "I'm getting MY B.A. or MY B.S., as if there was a bachelor's degree personally reserved for each one of us, just waiting for us to go collect it!

article by Betsy Bell Ringer



By Rick Abbot
Directed by Betsy Bell Ringer

In 1897 Bram Stoker wrote "Dracula". Although three novels preceded his (John Polidori's "The Vampyre", 1819; Thomas Preskett Prest's campy "Varney the Vampyre", 1847; and Sheridan LeFanu's female blood-sucker, "Carmilla", 1872), it's Stoker's images that have inspired countless books, plays and films.

Hamilton Dean's play opened in London's West End in 1927 and was thrashed by the critics. The public, however, fainted and swooned with delight. It was brought to America by Horace Liveright, who enlisted J.L. Balderston to adapt it to American tastes. Again, it was panned by the critics, but adored by theatre goers.

When the British actor playing Dracula refused the low pay being offered to come to America, a little known Hungarian, Bela Ferenc Dezso Blasko, accepted the role.

From Bela Lugosi to Gary Oldman, the Count has been portrayed onstage and in film by an amazing collection of actors, among them: Christopher Lee, Frank Langella, Jean LeClerc, Jeremy Britt, Raul Julia, Terence Stamp, David Dukes, tennis great Bill Tilden (briefly in 1930) and Jack Palance!

Some fascinating trivia includes the fact that

Lugosi had so much trouble with English he had to learn his lines phonetically and was directed, at his request, in French. Another tidbit is the whimsical choice of green makeup, an embarrassment forced on Raymond Huntley by Horace Liveright, who threatened to file a grievance with Equity if Huntley refused to comply. Last, but certainly not least in the trivia arena, Count Dracula had such an effect on Clara Bow that she initiated a torrid affair with Bela Lugosi!

Some noteworthy film versions of the vampire legend include: "Billy the Kid Versus Dracula"; "The Legend of the Seven Golden Vampires"; Werner Herzog's lyrical remake of F.W. Murnau's "Nosferatu"; Roman Polanski's "Fearless Vampire Killers", featuring his beautiful, ill-fated wife, Sharon Tate; "Andy Warhol's Dracula" and Francis Ford Coppola's visually stunning "Dracula".

Opening Friday, June 3, the Masquers Playhouse presents Rick Abbot's version of the legend, which somehow succeeds in mixing puns with fright, simple melodies with complex harmonies and ancient lore with the 21st century.

Come and enjoy this pun-laden special effects romp in which Transylvania's most infamous son meets the residents of the Seward family madhouse. Dracula has never been more seductive nor Renfield more outlandish. A very funny show!

Richard Butler	Devon Hardwick
Michael Clark	Darlene Langston
Sharon Gold	John Stenger
Larry Golding	Linda Woody-Wood

Friday & Saturday evenings: JUNE 3 - JULY 23
Sunday Matinees: JUNE 12 & 26 and JULY 10 & 17

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: *\$8⁰⁰ cash or check

MASQUERS DINNER & THEATRE BENEFIT
for the Masquers Building Fund
THURS., JULY 21
Dinner at the Hotel Mac followed by performance
of *Dracula-The Musical?*
for only \$25. To reserve, call (510) 236-4988.

WWII VICTORY SHIP MAKES HISTORIC JOURNEY

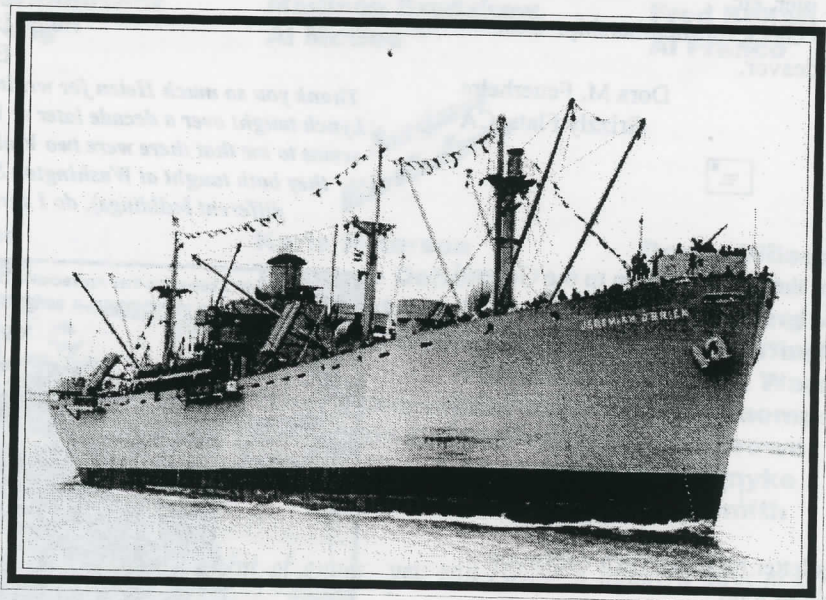
The *SS Jeremiah O'Brien* is a Liberty ship, one of 2,751 identical ships built during World War II. Though not built here, Richmond's shipyards built 563 Liberty ships. She is a merchant marine cargo ship which was operated by Grace Line and manned by a civilian crew. The guns were defensive weapons only and were manned by a contingent of US Navy Armed Guard.

The *O'Brien* is the last Liberty in operating condition and only three others are still afloat. With one minor exception she is unaltered from the original construction. Today, the ship is in the same condition she was in during the summer of 1944 when she made 11 shuttle runs between British ports and Omaha and Utah Beachheads at Normandy; the first trip was June 10 D-Day plus 4.

She is now a National Liberty Ship Memorial and calls Fort Mason in San Francisco home. Volunteers including our own Alan Smith keep this historic ship in its original working condition.

This D-Day the *O'Brien* sailed under the Golden Gate and has made an historic return voyage back to Normandy to commemorate the 50th anniversary. She is now docked in Portsmouth, England and is open to the British public. In D-Day Ceremonies she will parade by the British ship *Britannia*, being honored by the British Queen, President Bill Clinton, French President Francois Mitterrand and other dignitaries and heads of state from around the world.

She is scheduled to return to the Bay Area October 6, 1994.



Cards & Letters

PRHA:

My brother, Fred Beesley, gave me a copy of "This Point in Time", Vol. XII, No. 6, Winter 1993/94, in which the cover photograph by Dick Spiersch (by the way, this is the way we walked every day to and from school), and the class photo supplied by Ila Weis was published. I am in the class photo and I don't even remember the picture being taken, but a kid of 11 years isn't truly interested in that kind of stuff anyway, but now I am. I am pictured in the middle of the second row. DORA MAY BEESLEY (not Deisley, also Mervin Kellegan's name is misspelled). What fun! Many things have happened since that truly innocent time. Our life then was school, reading in the library across from the Firehouse, riding our red wagon down Tewksbury and skinning knees and elbows. Over the hill to swim in the Bay, fishing of the RR pier, etc.

Enclosed is my check for membership. Best wishes in your endeavor.

Dora M. Feuerhelm
Grizzly Flats, CA



PRHA Directors:

Thank you for the nice invitation to the General Meeting, I would be sure and come except on that day I have tickets to "Hair"!

Please ask me again,
Elizabeth Wirth
Point Richmond



Dear Gary:

Rena Cairo's letter hit this Lynch confusion head on and cleared it up.

Viola Lynch Jones and Viola Lynch Peterson

are two different people - Viola Lynch Peterson was our gal at Washington. Sorry to have created a tempest in a teapot, I wonder the where-abouts of Lynch Peterson?

I remember the Cairo's on Cottage Avenue years ago. Hello to all who remain!

Best to all,
Ed Garrard
Sonoma, CA

And a neat little tempest in a teapot it was! How about this for coincidence, please read the next letter.

Gary



Dear Gary:

In regard to "Viola Lynch Jones".

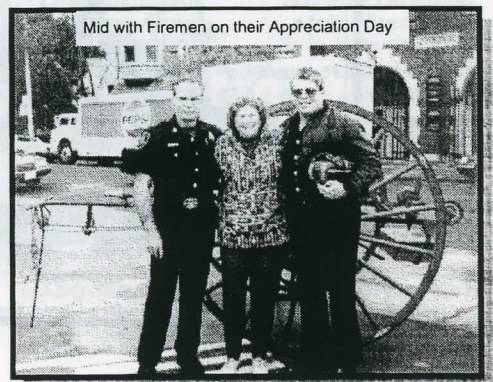
Well, I am her niece and have lived in El Cerrito for the past 45 years (510-232-6633). My Aunt, Viola Lynch Jones was principal of Washington School in Point Richmond during the late 40's and early 50's.

On February 6, 1994 a "Memorial Tribute" was held for Viola Lynch Jones. It was held in Walnut Creek and was given by her nieces, about 150 people attended.

Sincerely,
Helen Lynch Dressel
El Cerrito, CA

Thank you so much Helen for writing. Your Viola Lynch taught over a decade later at Washington, it seems to me that there were two Viola Lynchs and they both taught at Washington School (even in different buildings), do I surmise correctly?

Gary



June Birthdays

**Alissa Bagley
William Shea
Anita Brougham
Grace Yank
Jan Sprecker
Dan Weinstein
Stacey Spinola
Jean Eakle
Rosemary Giacomelli**

**Dave Macdiarmid, Jr.
Cathe Brazil
Aaron/Michelle
Marshall
Maurice Doherty
Cynthia Wilson Quist
Ron Albro
Richard Fox
Suzanne Unser**

**Andrew Butt
Joanne Lansing
Brian Rotting
Nathan Berman
Claude Bisio
Louisa Banks
Gerry Higuera**

July Birthdays

**Roger Elle
Francis Smith
Amy Rotting
Julius Matteucci
Jean Creed
Allen Anderson
Deirdre Cerkanowicz
Kathryn Fong**

**Alice McMahon
Clifford (lou)
MacMillan
Josephine Palenchar
Madeline Albright
Madison Bradshaw
Al McGee**

**Brian Pease
Jean Reynolds
Mary Knox
Ann Bisio
Ed Squires
Betty Conception
Fred Bellati
Al Franco**

August Birthdays

**Kevin Pryne
Oretta Eaton
Veora Heiney
Bea Kenoyer
Nikki Eaton
Bernie Bisio
Bob Maske
Anne-Therese Ageson
Connee Fisher**

**Karla Peterson
Terrence Doherty
Carl Westman
Bonnie Ritzenthaler
Wilson
Ethel Schumacher
R. Clayton Barnes
Thelma (Hecker)
Harvey**

**Donna Wilson
Mid Dornan
Joe Darling
Kelly Darling
Barbara Ward
Alice Thompson
Lynn Brown
Alia Smyke
Lisa Smith**

"If you are patient in one moment of anger, you will escape a hundred days of sorrow."

-Chinese Proverb

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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Gary replacing bulb in new lamp, photo



Calendar

Summer, 1994

June 3
Friday

Dracula, The Musical opens at Masquer's Playhouse

June 7
Tuesday

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

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

June 8
Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting,
Noon at Hotel Mac

June 14
Tuesday

Flag Day

June 19
Sunday

Father's Day

June 21
Tuesday

First Day of Summer

July 4
Monday

Independence Day

July 5
Tuesday

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

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

July 13
Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting,
Noon at Hotel Mac

August 2
Tuesday

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

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

August 10
Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting,
Noon at Hotel Mac

August 19
Friday

DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES TO TPIT, SEPTEMBER ISSUE

September 4
Sunday

First Indian Statue dedicated, 1904

September 5
Monday

Labor Day

September 6
Tuesday

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