

—THIS POINT—.... in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

Vol. XV No. 5

February/March, 1997

\$1.50



Contains coverage of our meeting with
muralist John Wehrle!

Anne Hanzlik's review of the current
Masquers "The Comedy of Errors"
and a lot more about the Point

Make your plans now!
May 18, 1997
PRHA Membership meeting
and
Kid's Reunion and Show!



Check out our new "Ferry Point" section of Miller-Knox Park!
This will become a new fishing pier, more about the park's development in
the next issue of 'This Point...in time'

From The President

Mid Dornan

The image of a private, quiet, sleepy, hidden little village of Point Richmond can no longer be claimed. In the computer world of the world wide web, e-mail, internet, our visibility and accomplishments reach worldwide. Even movie theaters carry screen credits of Point Richmond because of PIXAR and "Toy Story". We have our own "home page" and illustrated history, if you are "online" please give us a bookmark as the page will be updated with new information regularly. The URL for our association is:

<http://www.hooked.net/~gshows/prha.html>.

As we look back at history, one day this will be looked on as history too. Our goal is to preserve past history as each year it fades farther back, harder to reclaim and define. Only your memories can preserve it. Keep them coming to "THIS POINT...in time"!

Mid Dornan

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

Charles Novascone
Tom McGowan
Janice Cook
Pat Dornan
Bruce & Ann Bartram
Bernard Bernes
The Fenton Family
Bernard E. Christiansen
Chris W. Wilson
John & Jean Knox
Roberta Jenkins Smith
Pete & Amanda Docter
Nellie Bisio Pasquini
Alice Nelson
Betty Dornan
Shoney Gustafson
Ken & Isabel Dolan
Jan & Jerry Feagley
Virginia Cherniak
Elsie Spinola
Oretta Eaton
Anita M. Brougham
Rita Hansen
Emeric H. Baxter
Mae Mandl
Louisa Banks
Maxine Mayer
Mary Highfill
Lloyd & Melba Farley
William & Alyce Williamson
Elizabeth M. McDonald

Inez A Pestana
John Papadakis
Mary J. Rudolph
Betty & Robert Menzie
Sandi Genser-Maack
Gary Shows
Mary Burch
Dixie L. Mello
Marilyn Chartock
And a warm welcome to new members:
Adele (Bruno) Waymire
Henry Gondola

*Museum Staff Coordinator Betty Dornan
thanks volunteers who staffed the History
Building in December and January.*

&

Our usual

Thank You!

to

Santa Fe Market
and
Point Richmond Market

for their donated distribution of
"THIS POINT....in time"

If you can help staff our History Building
(2½ hours per month) call museum Staff
Coordinator Betty Dornan at 232-4317.

Museum Hours:

Thursday	11:30am - 2:00pm
Saturday	11:30 - 2:00pm

Editor's Notes

GARY SHOWS

Our Assistant Editor Dennis Schaefer was a big help with this issue. Dennis, a professional editor, often complains that I don't use his services enough, well, I got him this time! He gets an amazing amount of work done in a short time, thanks Dennis!

So here is the February/March issue thanks as usual to our regular dedicated staff, it's an interesting one. I have postponed the story on the post office attempted move so that the first "Bataan Death March" installment could be substantial. This piece evokes a lot of emotion over a extremely difficult time for many, we have decided that it is very important for this TPIT because of its historical content, and it's important to remember while its survivors are still alive. It will run over the next several issues, I hope you enjoy it.

I enjoyed the January 26th meeting very much! It was good seeing so many of you and I would like to extend my personal thanks to our guest John Wehrle. I understand John may be getting some new work as a result of our meeting, I can't wait to see it!

I'm surprised at how many of our members (of all ages) have email! Over the last month I've learned....

Bernard Bernes is "bbernes@aol.com"

Will Spirisch is "pedrowill@aol.com"

Pat Dornan is "doornob@earthlink.net"

Tom Butt is "tom.butt@intres.com"

Thomas Hursch is "thomas@cintegrity.com"

So many of us have email addresses now, maybe it would be fun to compile a list of folks interested in Point history. So send me your address and I'll publish a PRHA email directory both here and on our web page! You can send it to gary@alkos.com and I'll put it together! Remember also that this can be a fine way to send old Point memories for the newsletter!

Thanks to the December/January issue assembly crew:

Mary Highfill

Liz McDonald

Pam Wilson

Mid Dornan

Jerry Cerkanowicz

Gary Shows

Betty Dornan

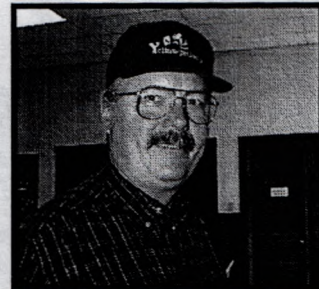
Allan Smith

Marcellina Smith

Mary Rudolph

Sonja Darling

Happy March 4th 82nd birthday to my mom in San Antonio, Bernice Shows! Will be seeing you sometime soon!



The Cover:

Can't have too many photos of our beautiful little museum. I took this with my new Kodak scientific digital camera.

A-Mid TRIVIA

-Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question: Richmond has had how many city halls?

Answer: End of Trivia

On February 1st, 1997 there will be 1065 days until the year 2000!

Washington and Lincoln were both born in February and we ought to remember them especially on President's Day. Washington was a good politician and gave the United States prestige, both at home and abroad when it was needed. He created the Cabinet as an indispensable part of our federal government deliberately selecting a group of men whose views offered him options. If Lincoln is to be remembered for his civil rights stand, it should

be for his support of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, outlawing all slavery in the United States, which was passed at the end of the Civil War.

Under a bill approved recently by the U.S. House of Representatives, the Treasury Department, beginning in 1997, would issue a series of Commemorative quarters designed to honor each of the 50 states. Five new quarters each year, honoring five states would be issued in the order in which they joined the union.

All 50 quarters will have the same design on one side. The other side will be designed by the Treasury Secretary in consultation with three other commissions and committees.

Sound travels slowly. Sometimes the things you say when your kids are teenagers don't reach them until they have kids of their own.

Congratulations to Alma and Wally McCartney who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in January proving fifty years isn't so long after all!

Life isn't a bowl of cherries; it's a bunch of "raisins": raisin' Cain, raisin' kids, raisin' money.

Luther Martin, son of George and Barbara Martin, has returned to the Point after spending five months in the scenic Tuscany area of Italy from where comes the world's most beautiful marble. Luther brought back hundreds of pounds of marble from these mountains to create his own marble art carvings.



A little bug is saying that the deal to sign Steve Mariucci was made and signed at the Hotel Mac.

A trip to the Point is no longer complete until you've taken time to see the new Ferry Point mural above the tunnel entrance by local artist John Wehrle.

1997 is the Chinese year of the OX. Born in 1901, 1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985 you have a calm, patient nature. Friends turn to you because you are that rarest of creatures, a good listener. Love bewilders you, so many people wrongly consider you cold.

Tom and Shirley Butt represented us at President Clinton's inauguration. A whirlwind odyssey that began in Hawaii, straight to the Inaugural Ball, then off to Las Vegas and finally home to Point Richmond!

Don't you hate it when you try to fast-forward through a TV commercial only to realize that you aren't using the VCR.

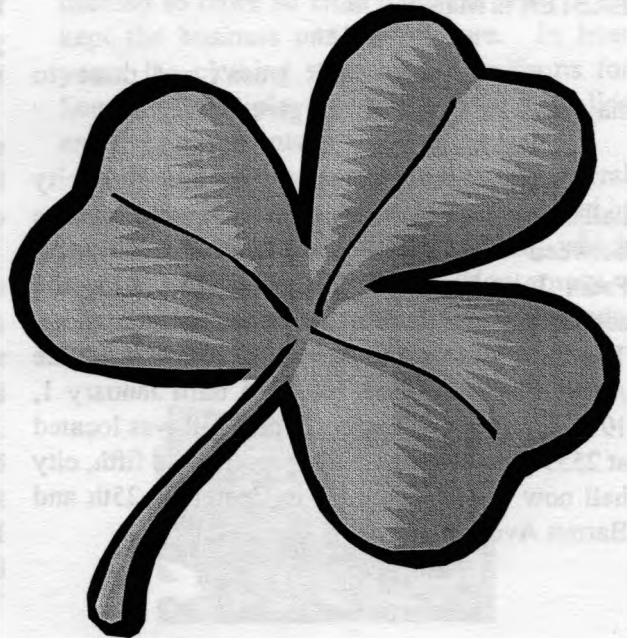
Jean E. asks, "If a woman artist finds lice on her cats, does that mean she has artistic lice-sence?"

Joe and Sonja Darling announce the engagement of their younger daughter, Kelly Darling, to Peter von York, son of Dr. Tania von York of Connecticut and grandson of Igor Sikorsky, inventor of the helicopter. Kelly is a Mary Kay Consultant and Peter is with Pacific Bell Computers. Sunday July 26th, is the wedding date.

Welcome new Point residents, Dave Thompson and Evelyn Ashcroft at Brickyard; Andrew Olmsted on High Street, and Tina Toriello and Teresa Elsert on Cottage. We invite you to stop by our History Museum on Washington Avenue to learn more about our community.

Elizabeth and Matt Meixell, after months of waiting finally returned from China where they adopted Samantha. She was baptised on January 26th at the Point Methodist Church wearing her great-grandmother's baptismal dress.

Good News! PIXAR, animation studios and creator of the movie "Toy Story", has signed a five year lease and will expand its operations into Tech Center II, a 150,000-square-foot research and development complex now under construction in Point Richmond



Ninety-year-olds today are not the stereotyped grey-haired-little-old-people being waited on! A spry, attractive Ruth Woods Mullen was surprised by family and friends at a luncheon held at Blackhawk Country Club to honor her 90th birthday. Given by her son and his wife, Bob and Becki Woods, the common thread of her tributes was woven around the family values handed down through four generations from Ruth, the mother, the grandmother and the great-grandmother and often mentioning the Point Methodist Church. Ruth now lives in Rossmore.

TIP: A dab of silver polish will remove scuff marks from leather tennis shoes and stubborn stains from Fiberglass tubs.

The halfway point of winter was February 4th. At that time 44 days of winter elapsed and 44 remained. Spring begins March 20th and EASTER is March 30th.

Love in your heart wasn't put there to stay..love isn't love 'til you give it away.

ANSWER: Richmond has had five city halls. The first was located on Richmond Avenue between Washington and Santa Fe Avenues. From July 19, 1909 until June 15, 1915, the second city hall stood at 210 Washington Avenue. The third was on the corner of 20th and Maine Avenue between June 16, 1915 until January 1, 1917. Until 1949, the fourth city hall was located at 2555 Nevin Avenue. The present, and fifth, city hall now stands at the Civic Center on 25th and Barrett Avenue.



Kids Meeting Notice

If it is February, can the May Kid's reunion be far away? As a reminder of WHO is on this committee!

That distinguished committee is:

Teresa Meneghelli

Thelma Hogan

Julio Carrero

Al Frosini

June Solosabal

Chano Forner

Bruce Bartram

May Highfill

Allan Smith

Mid Dornan

Committee members should call Mid (510-234-5334) so a meeting in early March can be arranged to start the process. Remember, it is only 1 call for you, but 9 calls if one person has to make all of the contacts.

ALLYN'S MEN'S STORE CLOSES

Mid Dornan

A chapter in Point Richmond History ended on November 30, 1996 when Allyn's Men's Store closed. Ironically, that day Memorial Services were held for William "Mickey" Allyn, oldest son of the founder Gust and Margaret Allyn. Established October 18, 1924 at 136 Washington Avenue, operating for 72 years, it was Richmond's oldest continuing family business.

Gust Allyn was presented the "Man of the Year" award by the Richmond Chamber of Commerce in 1968. He was born Kostantianos Demetrious Allagoyiannis but Americanized his name to Gust Allyn. Following information is from his autobiography text used at the presentation. (TPIT, VOL VIII, MO. 6, Pg 16)

"I was born in Kamarion, Greece, October 15, 1896, arriving in Richmond on June 15, 1913 to join my father who had been employed by the Standard Oil Refinery since 1905. Being too young (15) to go to work in industry, I enrolled in a private school...

On April 16, 1917, I went to work for the Standard Oil Refinery where I remained until June 1917. I resigned from Standard Oil to enter business.

A friend of mine and I purchased the Eagle Restaurant, better known as Wylies Restaurant, 57 Washington Avenue, in Point Richmond. In 1919 I sold the restaurant and opened the Marathon Cigar Store and Pool Hall. In 1924 I sold half interest in the Pool Hall and opened a men's furnishings store in Point Richmond on September 18 of that year. Later, I disposed of my entire interest in the pool hall and devoted full time to the clothing business."

Gust became a citizen in 1922 and entered public service in 1937 being elected to the Richmond Union High School District Board of Trustees. He latter served on the City Council during which time the city adopted a resolution to establish a Book Mobile Library Service to outlying areas. Later he served as Mayor of Richmond and one of his most important accomplishments was promoting the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge until it became a reality in 1956. October 1, 1954 he was appointed Postmaster of Richmond and retired in 1968.

The Allyn's had three sons, William D., Nathaniel C., and Henry C. and one daughter, Diann (deceased). His sons William "Mickey" and Henry managed the clothing store when their father retired and around 1985 Mickey decided to retire so Henry and his wife, Jean, kept the business until its closure. In later years, the clothing store carried uniforms for Standard Oil employees as well as for the police and fire departments throughout the area.

Henry and Jean moved to Sonoma several years ago. The Incurable Collector is housed in the other half of the Allyn's building which once was Palmateers Pharmacy. Now empty, a sign in Allyn's Men's Store window reads, FOR RENT. Another era is about to begin.



Church News

Our Lady of Mercy

Allan Smith
235-2988

During the Christmas holidays our church was very festive. The poinsettias decorating the alter were beautiful and was accentuated by the original candelabra. The creche was spectacular with pine trees in the background and many shimmering white lights. The music program was planned and performed by parishioners Joni and Rod Phillips with a concert violinist participating. Rod played the Scottish bag pipes and the sound of this background music was very inspiring. Rev. Paul Devine celebrated the Midnight Mass as he did last year. Father Devine is the Port Chaplain for the Port of Oakland, representing the Apostleship of the Sea organization, which is regarded as a home away from home for merchant mariners of all countries and faiths. He also serves the Port of Richmond.

The season of Lent will start on Ash Wednesday, February 12, 1997. This is the period of forty weekdays from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. Pastor James Clift will have special services on each day and Stations of the Cross services on Fridays.



Point Richmond Methodist

Jean Reynolds
235-2988

Sunday, January 26, we celebrated the baptism of Samantha Jean-YaNi Meixell, who arrived from China the previous Thursday with her parents Matt and Elizabeth Meixell. Several members of Samantha's extended family were present as we welcomed her into the church community. Grandparents Darlene and Roger Isenberg from Minnesota and Stormye Barnett from Missouri attended the baptism. Elizabeth's sister Janie Atchley also came from Missouri. Samantha's godparents are Hank and Paula Scarpelli. Grandpa Roger sang "Because He Lives," and the choir sang "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters." Samantha did not get just a lukewarm welcome; when it was over, she knew she was loved. May she continue to grow and thrive in the love that surrounds her in her new family!

The Monday night study group read and discussed *Jesus A New Vision*, by Marcus Borg and will view the film *The*

*Last Temptation of Christ. The group selected the book **Living Buddha, Living Christ** by Thich Nhat Hanh to read next.*

During the **season of Lent**, there will be a Hymn Sing at the church on Sunday, February 23 at 6:30 p.m. Pastor Dan will lead and accompany the congregational singing, and the Angel Choir is scheduled to sing, too.

Worship will be at the regular time of 11:00 a.m. on Palm Sunday (March 23) and Easter (March 30). An Easter egg hunt will follow the morning worship on March 30.



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 24th installment.

April 7, 1925

The Social League met at the home of Mrs. R.T. Osborn with Mrs. Osborn and Mrs. Owney as hostesses. There were 20 members present.

The meeting was opened by repeating the Lord's Prayer, let by Mrs. Owens. Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

It was moved, seconded and carried that we hold a tea for the Ladies Aid & friends of the church

in the church parlors April 21st.

Mrs. Owens appointed the following committee for the Tea.

Reception Committee - past Presidents & Mrs. Osborne.

Decoration - Mrs. Seymore

Serving - Mrs. Brothers - Dicely Parker

Program - Mrs. Scofield - Redman

It was moved, seconded and carried that all refreshments be provided out of the treasury.

Mrs. Dustmer, Owens, Vlenburch, (*ed. I feel this should have been written Vloebergh*) Jones and Redman volunteered for the clean-up committee.

Mrs. Owens, Dustimer and Jones volunteered to help decorate the church for the Easter Services.

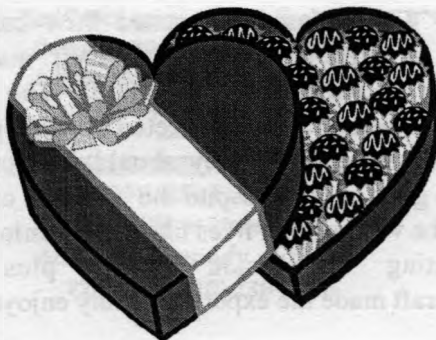
The meeting was adjourned and delicious refreshments served.

On hand	58.75
Rec'd Food sale	31.00
Mrs. Hendicks - donation.	.50
Mrs. Jones - food sale & 3 aprons	2.75
Mrs. Parker - dues	.40
Mrs. Dicely - dues	.60
Mrs. Dingle - dues	.60
Silver Offering	<u>2.10</u>
	37.95

less \$1.00 for material

less purchased by Mrs. Jones 5.95

On Hand 64.70
Irene Mythen, Sec.



Anne Hanzlik
Reviews
The Masquers Production

The COMEDY
of ERRORS

Laugh your head off!

By William Shakespeare

Scenic Design by John Hull
Costume Design by Nancy Wilson
Lighting by Marsha Hansen
Sound Design and Special Effects
by Wayne McRice
Stage Manager Pat Steavens
Production Manager Rhoda Plymack

Directed by Shelli Ireland

January 24 through March 1, 1997

The Masquers opened their current season with a first, their maiden attempt at portraying "The Bard". The first night audience at least greeted it with great enthusiasm -- Well, they should, because it was a good show. Despite the triteness of the plot, the well-known lives like the Dromio thru lamenting "I'm beside myself", plus the stagecraft made the experience truly enjoyable.

The theme of mistaken identity is an old chestnut. Even the Romans had borrowed the plot from a previous author when they used it in Menachimi by Plautus around 254-184 B.C., and the theme has been used innumerable times ever since, down to the present day TV sitcoms.

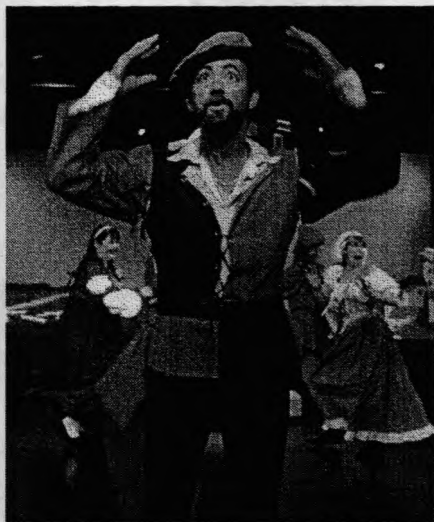
Prolific Will Shakespeare even doubled the fun by creating two sets of twins to create even further confusion. That premise is even further elaborated by having one set of twins poor and the other rich. Then to add another improbable element, the two sets of identical twins are separated by a shipwreck that divides the ship in two so that one part of the ship ends up in Ephesus and the other in Syracuse.

All of these contrived situations afford Shakespeare plenty of opportunity for laughs, of which there are many! In addition to this happy mood, the stage set with the vast backdrop with a view of the Aegean Sea creates a delightful ambience. The stage set was done by John Hull, Dick Brizman, Martin Frankin, and Norma Prince. It forms a frame (plus the "door") for the Elizabethan costumes of the cast that are amusing and flattering. All of them seem delighted and successful in their roles from the Duke, Gene Kahane; Steve McLaughlin as the merchant of Syracuse; the "rich" twins Antipholus, Gary Pierce and Robert Hamm; the "poor" twins, Antony Rowan Galvan; and their respective merchants and their wives as well as Luciana, Angelo, Balthazar, Nell, played by Jo Lusk; Even Ellen Reiterman and Michele Livengood as the door persons. All the cast acted in the spirit of the farce, certainly one of the bard's less serious contributions to literature.

You will enjoy the show, which runs through March 1st.



IDENTICAL TWIN SERVANTS AND THEIR IDENTICAL TWIN MASTERS (CLOCKWISE FROM THE RIGHT) ANTHONY ROWAN GALVAN, GARY PIERCE, JIM COLGAN, AND ROBERT HAMM CREATE CONFUSION IN THE MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE PRODUCTION OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S "THE COMEDY OF ERRORS." MASQUERS PHOTO BY JERRY TELFER



ANTIPHOLUS OF SYRACUSE (JIM COLGAN) REMARKS ON THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO THINK THEY KNOW HIM IN THE CITY OF EPHEBUS, WHERE HE HAS JUST ARRIVED.

The MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE
presents

The COMEDY of ERRORS

Laugh your head off!

"Identical" twins, not one pair but two! Mistaken identities! Wit and word-play! Wild chases, slapstick and pratfalls! All the wonderful comic contrivances that have kept theatergoers laughing at the Immortal Bard's "Comedy of Errors" for 100s of years! By William Shakespeare. Directed by Shelli Ireland.

THE CAST

Michele Delattre Clark Jim Colgan Diana Godet
Anthony Rowan Galvan Robert Hamm Patricia Inabnet
Gene Kahane Michelle Livengood Jo Lusk
Stephen McLaughlin Gary Pierce Ellen Reiterman
Teri Stockton John Tangney Marie Wedell

FRIDAY & SATURDAY EVENINGS
JANUARY 24-MARCH 1, 1997
Sun. Matinees: FEBRUARY 2, 16 & 23

24-Hr. Reservations: 510 232-4031

ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE PREPAID.

NOW ACCEPTING VISA and MasterCard!

ALL SALES FINAL.

Box Office opens 8PM; Matinees 2PM.

Curtain 8:30PM. Matinees 2:30PM.

Admission \$9 cash, check or credit card.

Group Rates available.

MASQUERS DINNER & THEATER BENEFIT

THURS., FEB. 27

DINNER at Hotel Mac

And "The Comedy of Errors"

\$25. Call (510) 236-4988

THANK YOU JOHN WEHRLE

by Gary Shows

For a very interesting meeting at the Point Methodist Church on January 26th. We learned all about John's extensive mural work throughout California. We learned that the preferred paint used for outdoor murals is a silica (yes, good ole' sand) base so that the paint doesn't seal but can breathe and that this paint costs \$65 to \$85 a gallon! We learned how paintings of this large scale are planned and executed including one done on a freeway in Los Angeles that had to be done in a three foot space along side of a busy freeway. We learned about murals that we see on a day to day basis or have admired from a number of years ago, and we learned what it takes to get them there.

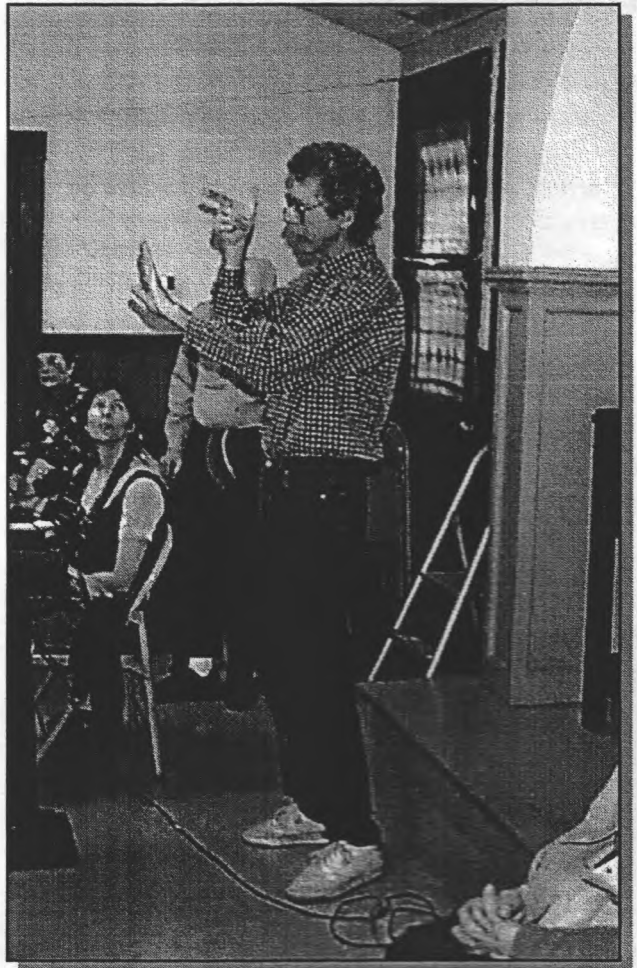
John's fascinating presentation included quite a few slides of his previous works. They were also very interesting and left the crowd with lots of "oooo's!" "wows!"

Thanks to all who came as the turnout was good, about forty people. And thanks to the Richmond Museum of History for rescheduling their meeting so that it did not compete with ours, allowing Richmond "history buffs" to attend both meetings.

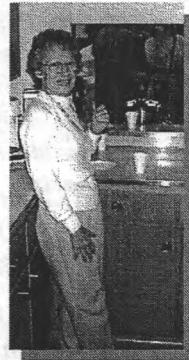
Kudos to Anne Hanzlik for inviting, arranging for and introducing our special guest. The usual credit must go to able President Mid Dornan for a well run meeting. Thanks also to Liz McDonald, Mary Highfill and Sonja

Darling for seeing to all of the wonderfully delicious after meeting goodies.

Lastly we appreciate the use of the Methodist Church's facilities, it was very enjoyable, thank you Methodists!



MEETING PHOTOS



The Bataan Death March

John Playter

After fifty years, World War II stories keep surfacing. Stories and memories so heart-wrenching they haven't surfaced because the pain is still real, still felt.

The following story was two and a half years in the making but it took 50 years before he could bring himself to tell it. So intense and emotionally disturbing was the experience of the Bataan Death March that it stayed within, and even his closest friends had heard only a few scant details of his painful experiences.

As John Playter related his story as a prisoner of war to his local Rotary Club, his voice broke up on repeated occasions and he fought back tears in the telling. John Playter lives in Bolivar, Missouri but visits his relatives in El Cerrito and Bodega Bay. It is through his niece, Joann Bray, that this amazing, touching and historic story is available. What to many was another incident of a horrible war becomes a tearful sharing of pain and patriotism.

First Installment

"John Playter's remarks at the 1994 Celebration of Freedom", from the Bolivar Herald-Free Press, Bolivar, Missouri, Wednesday, July 6, 1994:

My very personal story, which concerns the early days of WW II, will never be reminisced or honored, as it represents a time of infamy in United States military history. Most of you here today were just a glint in your daddy or granddaddy's eye when this occurred. And as I relate this story, you will easily detect my feeling of ill will concerning my captors. But please bear in mind, in late 1941,

Mitsubishi, Sony, Honda and Toyota were not household words in the good old USA. But I wish to present excerpts, mostly very unpleasant, to emphasize how a very difficult experience can magnify my love of country.

The story begins about 26 months before D-Day in Europe and ends 3 months after D-Day. It began with Pearl Harbor and ended Sept. 7, 1944.

At the time of Pearl Harbor, I was serving with the 88th FA(PS), stationed at Fort Stotsenberg, Pampanga, P.I. This camp adjoined Clark Air Force Base. Clark Field was bombed just a few hours after Pearl Harbor and 95 percent of the aircraft available in the islands was destroyed.

The Philippine Army had been organized only a short time and had little or no equipment or leadership. The only planned defense against a Japanese invasion was a delaying one and it was poorly organized. By Christmas of 1941, all forces on Luzon, the main island where Manila is located, were forced down to the peninsula of Bataan. This was a designated plan and we were to hold out there until reinforcements arrived.

Such reinforcements had not even been manufactured, although we did hear by way of radio American propaganda, supposedly from a ship, that an announcer was reporting that as far as he could see there was nothing but ships and men and supplies heading for Manila. But there was not a word of truth to that.

The first effort of the Japanese to take Bataan was repulsed. But very wisely, having

us completely surrounded, they withdrew and left us to rapidly starve out. We had been on limited rations since Christmas 1941.

They returned the last days of March, 1942 and quickly overran us. We were ordered to surrender on April 9, 1942. Hence, I was a part of the largest contingent of American troops ever to be taken prisoner. This disgraceful situation hurt us deeply.

Most, if not all, of the veterans here today have a story to tell which ends in victory, but mine ended in bitter defeat. Hence, I feel very qualified to speak as one who lost his freedom. It lasted two years and five months, a short time compared to some men captured by the Vietnamese, but considerably longer than most held in German prison camps.

Before my field Artillery battery disbanded, and everyone went on their own, we destroyed as best we could all of our equipment. We personally made an effort to get to Corregidor, but were unsuccessful. Further complicating it, I came down with malaria the morning of the surrender.

Being intercepted by Japanese troops, we were forced out to the only road leading from Bataan. There we were searched, stripped of all valuables and slapped if we resisted. As large groups gathered, we were started on the march out of Bataan. I was so miserable with fever that I could hardly keep going. Along toward evening, I fell out of the column and passed out alongside the road but across the ditch. I remember nothing else until just before dawn the following morning when I was kicked in the head by a Japanese soldier. As I looked up, all I could see was a bayonet with a flashlight shining upon it. We definitely had a language problem, but I got the message and hit the road.

Fortunately, during the night, my fever had broken, so although very weak, I had control of myself. Thus began five days of a march to San Fernando, about 65 miles. The most painful part of the march was thirst, the greatest force, second only to fear. We were deliberately denied water and shade. While many Americans died or were brutally killed on this march, referred to as "The Bataan Death March", it was the effects of this ordeal in the days and months to come that caused the greatest number of deaths.

We were first interned at Camp O'Donnell. I will never forget the scene as we approached. There was an endless line of pairs of men carrying bodies via blankets suspended on a bamboo pole. There were absolutely no medical supplies and very limited food. One barracks was designated as a hospital, but American doctors, as sick as the rest of us, had absolutely no medicine or supplies.

Other than complete exhaustion, most who reported to the hospital had malaria or amoebic dysentery. No water was available to try and keep any kind of cleanliness, hence flies were unbearable. I can see to this good day men crawling out of this building and seeking the cool mud underneath the buildings to try to control their raging fevers.

Bodies of American GI's were piled outside the building like polewood. Men detailed to burial details were sick also, and records or markers were not kept. Hence, Vietnam is not the only country containing inadequate POW and MIA records. When Americans returned to these scenes in 1945, a fake well-kept cemetery was displayed. It meant nothing.

Of the 9,000 Americans interned at Camp

O'Dennell, from mid-April through July 1942, 1,508 Americans died. In a separate but adjoining camp, 50,000 Filipinos were held. During the same time period, 22,000 died.

FREEDOM, you bet! We had lost it and were at the mercy of our captors. The Japanese captain in charge of the camp told us when we arrived: "We hate you. You are our enemies. If you try to escape, we will kill you. Because you have surrendered, you must do everything we tell you. You are not Prisoners of War, but our captives!"

This short but direct speech set the tone for our life for the next two years.

In June of 1942, we were moved to Cabanatuan, which is in the central part of Luzon. Conditions there were slightly better. We were joined by troops taken when Corregidor fell on May 6, 1942. These troops had not had the march and had eaten better than troops on Bataan. However, food and medical supplies were scarce and deaths very numerous. Forty-five to fifty men died each day in our camp of 8,000. Our diet was so poor that the malnutrition diseases of beriberi, scurvy and pellagra were rapidly increasing. Twenty-five hundred Americans died within five months at Cabanatuan.

Concerning attempted escapes, we were divided into groups of ten. If anyone escaped, the nine left in the particular group would be shot. Such an incident occurred on a work detail, so we got the message that they meant what they said.

It was at Cabanatuan that the real effects of the march out of Bataan began to show. Poor and very limited food and no medicine made it impossible to recover. Filthy sanitary conditions caused the spread of diarrhea and dysentery and recurring attacks of malaria went untreated.

Ninety-nine percent of the deaths that occurred were men captured on Bataan. The march made the difference.

The camp was divided into two sections, one for the sick and the other side for those not yet sick. One section of the hospital was called the "zero" ward. That was the end of the line. Large burial details were required each day. And these men on the burial details were in no condition to dig graves. Rain was often and heavy, hence water filled the graves quickly, making it difficult to accomplish a normal burial. No effort was made by the Japanese or Americans to keep records. The final resting place for hundreds of young American men will never be known.

As we served on these burial details, there was seldom a chaplain to offer a prayer, but inside, we felt that no matter how awful the circumstances, there was a good God who was caring for the souls of these young men. We were thankful that Jesus had promised everlasting life, as they trusted Him, so they were now released from prison camp and starvation, separation from loved ones and disease. They were now safe in the love of God. No formal theology could convince one more about the relevance of life after death. There had to be something beyond the circumstances of this world.

...To be continued



The Smiths Enjoy

A View From the Top

The Point Richmond Smith brothers and their wives were the guests of CEO Ken Derr, Chairman of the Board of the Chevron company recently. The occasion for the luncheon, in the executive dining room at the top of the Chevron building in San Francisco, was the presentation of an award to their brother Bill.

Bill Smith has completed 50 years of continuous service with Chevron. He is still working at the Richmond Long Wharf of Chevron as their Dock Boatswain. Bill started his career with Chevron in 1946. Actually, he was hired before then as the the company hired under aged boys during the World War Two years due to the man power shortage.

The Point Smith family have accumulated over 300 years service working with Standard Oil Company and Chevron. This must be a record for an immediate family that was employed by this company. There are two other Chevron families from Point Richmond that have contributed recognized years to Chevron. Jack Healy, Chevron retiree, living on Ocean Avenue with his wife Connie, can trace his family's company history back to the formation of the original Standard Oil Company of California when it was started in Alameda. Also, Charlie Rosier and his wife Dolores are Point Richmond residents can trace their employment with the company back to its formation.

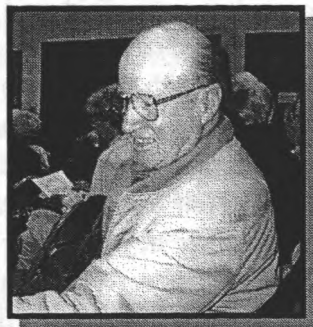
As to the 'view from the top' (40th floor), the view was great and we were treated royally.

Sports Memories

by Allan Smith

Super Bowl Sunday, January 26, 1997, will be just a memory when you receive this issue of TPIT. The memory of the Green Bay Packers football team and one of its star player of 20 years ago, Richmond's own Travis Williams, will never be forgotten. The legendary Green Bay Packer coach, the late Vince Lombardi, paid a high tribute at that time to Travis Williams. Travis attended Harry Ells High School with many of the Point Richmond students.

In my last issue, my son Allan, Jr. said that I failed to acknowledge a lot of the Point people who played football in high school and college, such as Steve Egger, the Bash brothers and Bob Paasch. Paasch played football for St. Mary's College in Moraga. Can anyone help by naming other Point Richmond football athletes?



AP Smith

Allan Smith's Point

Don't go to Little Louie's Restaurant during a weekday lunch hour....standing room only! Every time I go to this place, Little Louie's, I have a nostalgic memory of the atmosphere of many years ago when Little Louie's was the Central Pool Hall. I can actually smell the cigarette and cigar and beer fumes amid the sound of the billiard balls during a spirited game and see a former World Boxing Champion sitting there and reminiscing of his great days as a pugilistic champion and a champion, hey, Frankie Neil was a great guy. Joel Swindell, a local yokel, worked for the building contractor when the Central Pool Hall was being remodeled to serve the public as Little Louie's. He said that it was practically 100% rebuilt except for the original western wall. Can you believe there was a bowling alley located there? Bud and Clyde Shaw, Point Richmond Natives, owned the Central Pool Hall along with their father at one time in the early fifties. Their dad was an excellent billiard player and a great man. The original Central Pool Hall owner, John Kenny, would let a few underage boys come or sneak into the pool room on an early Sunday morning to 'shoot' one game of pool (but only after Mass!).



Ms. Nivia Batista is the guest of Allan

and Marcelina Smith. She is the niece of Marcelina and just arrived from her native country, the Republic of Panama. Nivia is applying for admission to Hayward State University in one of their master's degree programs. When she left Panama City the temperature was in the high 90's. She is surviving here now just fine!



In our "Whatever Became Of" column, Bud Koopman comes to mind. Bud was a Point native raised with us in the early 1930 era and is of the "70ish circa". He was at Richmond Union High School and took of one semester to sail around the world on a Standard Oil Tanker, the S/S W.H. Rheem, as an Ordinary Seaman. He returned to school with fascinating tales of foreign ports, foreign girls, as experienced by a 16 year old teenager.

Whatever became of Bud Koopman?



Bob Peckham, owner of the Santa Fe Market, occasionally places news articles in his store window. These are written by Point Richmond professional writers and authors and 'real' journalism people. I wish they would contribute in some way to our little publication "This Point...in time" as I never did pass the "Bonehead English Class".

ACQUIRING THE RED OAK VICTORY SHIP

In July of 1996 the Richmond Museum Association received a grant from the San Francisco Facilities Planning Fund to hire two consultants: the first to find funding sources for the restoration of the Red Oak Victory Ship recently conveyed to the Richmond Museum of History by Congress; the other to coordinate the volunteers in the actual restoration process.

The grant was for:

The Preservation, Restoration and Development of the SS Red Oak Victory Ship

This project is the preservation, restoration and development of the SS RED OAK VICTORY SHIP into a fixed-place maritime museum/community center to be permanently docked on Richmond's shoreline at the Point Molate Pier. Its intent is to offer a unique World War II perspective on the history-making achievements of the City of Richmond and the Kaiser Shipyard workers, and to honor those who served with valor in the armed forces and the Merchant Marine.

The project is expected to take two years prior to removal to dry-docking in the third year.

Although 747 ships were built in Richmond, none has been preserved. The Richmond Museum Association has been

successful in saving one.

Saving a Ship

Instead of scrap for the manufacture of nuts and bolts it will be a lifetime maritime memorial to the men and women of America who made victory possible: a memorial to those who worked in the shipyards and in all the wartime industries; to all the young men and women everywhere who lost their lives and limbs serving this country; to all the people who worked at home keeping our towns alive as the fury raged abroad; to all the people of this country who believe in democracy, fair play, freedom and human dignity.

*by Lois Boyle, President
Richmond Museum Association*



400 NEVIN AVENUE
P.O. BOX 1267
RICHMOND
CALIFORNIA 94802
510-235-7387

Open Wednesday thru
Sunday, 1 to 4 pm. Free

This Point....in time

NOTICES

East Brother Lighthouse Sculpture

Now you can own a superbly crafted, detailed, cold-cast porcelain and hand painted sculpture of the East Brother Lighthouse. Danbury Mint is offering this extraordinary sculpture that measures 13 inches wide and 6 inches high with finishing touches that include a flashing light in the tope of the tower and subtle illumination of the light-keeper's quarters and the outbuilding. Cost is \$129 plus tax and S&H.

Looking for the Oldest Point Resident

If you have celebrated your first ninety (90) years and you are still living in Point Richmond, we'd like to know who your are. We want to recognize you as special citizens. And, honor who of you might be the most senior.

We also want to know who you are if you are 90 and once lived in the Point. Tell us where you live now, when you left the Point and other facts in between if you'd like! Write to the editor or call Mid Dornan (510-234-5334). Let us hear from you or some one that knows you!

Information on Blood Alley Sought

Desperately Seeking 8mm films and/or still photos shot during the filming of the 1955 Warner Brothers movie "Blood Alley" starring John Wayne and Lauren Bacall at Pt. San Pablo Yacht Harbor. San Francisco State University will begin filming a documentary film in mid February and desires footage or photos in black & white or color. No money available but screen credit given to all who donate to this venture highlighting this funky, old marina. Search your basements, attics and photo albums. Contact Bill Burns, P.O. Box 70083, Point Richmond, CA 94807-0083 or call 510-237-8227.

Ferry Point Park Recommendations Offered

Have you checked out the progress of the new Ferry Point addition to Miller Knox Park? As expected, the East Bay Regional Park District has done a beautiful job! Jay Vincent was asked for his opinion of what should be done with the old Pump House and Warehouse still untouched on the site. Mr. Vincent has studied the property and has come up with a proposal. He feels the buildings should definitely be restored. He feels that the wide expanse of the interior wall space would provide an excellent opportunity to show what Ferry Point was like before the turn of the century, and how important it became as a major transportation hub for commerce in the Bay Area. As for the Pump House, he sees an opportunity to enjoy a major sweeping view of the Bay from one viewing point. It could be a favorite place to be on a chilly day or one in which to escape to watch the grandeur of a Bay storm.

Will keep you up to date on this project in future issues of TPIT. Ideas or suggestions should be directed to J.A. Vincent, 2500 Lowell Avenue, Richmond, CA 94804 or call Jay at 234-4626.



CARDS & LETTERS



Dear Mid:

Thank you for your kind offer of space in your bi-monthly newsletter. We are pleased to accept.

We will have material to your office by the third week of January for a February production, and every other month thereafter. Please let me know if there is a change to that schedule, or if I have misunderstood.

Our annual membership meeting had been scheduled for the same time as yours so the board voted to change our time to 4 p.m. so that everyone will have the opportunity to participate in both.

Have a nice holiday, and looking forward to seeing you in January.

Regards,
Lois Boyle
President
Richmond Museum Association

Thank you so much for participating in our newsletter, we feel that study the "big picture" of the history of our city while we represent the more focused study of where Richmond began. Though published six times a year we vary our publication schedule slightly for seasonal reasons. Please expect postcard notices of issue deadlines. Lastly, thanks for your meeting change, it allowed for participation in both affairs.

Gary

Dear Gary,

This year the Point Richmond Holiday Food Drive contributed 1409 pounds of

nourishment for those in our county in need of it. Unhappily, giving is down this year in these United States, but I am proud of Point Richmond for 1409 pounds of food and \$275!

Sincerely,
Lucretia W. Edwards
Point Richmond

Dear Gary

Sixty years ago when Pt. Richmond was separated from Richmond proper by empty lots, there were 3 families living on the fringe of the Point. They were the Saunders, the Bills and the Harlaws.

When the rains came in the winter and filled those lots with water, they were a great temptation to 12 and 14 year olds, so Stewart Saunders and myself rigged up a raft and charged one penny to "cross the water". Pat (Davis) Pearson can testify to this as she was one of our customers ;).

This is just one of the many happy memories I have while living at the Point.

I so love the Point newsletter and a sincere THANKS to all who help put it together.

Sincerely,
Luella Bain Wilcox
Oroville, CA

Dear Pam,

I don't know if you are aware, but my mother-in-law Elsie Spinola had a massive stroke in April and is completely paralyzed on her left side. She is at Convelescent Hospital in San Leandro. She is able to talk and knows everone.

Thelma Spinola
San Leandro

Deaths....

Marjorie Ellis Stone, died of natural causes at her home in Kinsington. She was 81. She came to the Point when she was a very small child. Her parents, George and Ruby Ellis arrived from the East while the Point Still had boardwalks. They built their home in the 500 block on Golden Gate at the time of the 1906 Earthquake.

She is survived by her daughter, Nancy Stone Neilson of El Cerrito; sone, Clarke A Stone of Danville; brothers, William and Robert Ellis, both of South Lake Tahoe; and four grandchildren.



Kieth Brian Morris, a carpenter at Park & Company, Richmond, for 20 years, died December 8th in a San Pablo hospital. The cause of death was unavailable, he was 39.

The Sacramento native was a 38 year resident of Point Richmond and a member of Our Lady of Mercy in Point Richmond.

He is survived by a companion, Diana Bounds of Point Richmond; stepsons, Anthony Wong and Adam Bounds, both of Richmond; mother, Lupe Avila Morris of Point Richmond; brothers, Jesse Barrios of Point Richmond, Kenneth Morris of San Pablo and Clark Morris of Pacheco.



Ernest Albright, passed away November 29th at the age of 82 years. He was a U.S. Army Veteran and worked for the Union Oil Refinery in Rodeo for 33 years. He lived in Brentwood California for 16 years and was founder and president of the Chinese Shar-Pei dog club.

He is survived by this wife Madeline Albright and a daughter Darlene A. Wright and a grandson, Jamie.



We miss you **Chili!**



Anna Gaumer loaned this photo to us. It is from about 1920 and is of her father Henry Soito at work in the Bank of Richmond (now Sherry & Bob's). He met is wife (Anna's mother) Lucia Bernardi while working in Point Richmond.

February Birthdays

ED GARRARD
HORTENSE GNAGA MCGEE
BILL WILLIAMSON
DIXIE COPELAND
ALLAN SMITH
CHRIS ROTTING
MITZI KRUSE
BARNABY EDWARDS
HELEN VALENTINE

ARLENE HARTMAN
PHILIP DORN, III
CARRIE WICKMAN DORN
ROWENE MACMILLAN
ETHEL MACMILLAN
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
PEARLE WESTMAN
SARAH WILSON
STEVEN MERTLE

FRANK PEARSON
DOUG BUSBY
BESSIE SQUIRES
CONNIE HEALY
MARCOS ROTTING
LANDOW HOWE
DODY PERRY
KIM WARD
DAGMAR FRANCIS

March Birthdays

KAROLYN MACDIARMID
VIRGINIA CHERNIAK
JOANN BRAY
BERNICE SHOWS
CAROL DARLING
CAMP FIRE GIRLS
GIRL SCOUTS
CARL PAASCH
NORALEEN DOWELL
ALAN SMITH, JR.
JANICE JONES
MARIE WILSON-DIETZ
AVIS BLANCHETTE
ALEXANDRA GAUTRAUD
BRIAN RICHARDSON

SUSAN BERMAN
RACHEL ELIZABETH
PALFINI
MYRON PESTANA
NAOMI HUFFSTETTER
ISABEL FOLSON
LUCILE COTTINGHAM
MEYER
GEORGE LEROY WILLIAMS
DALE HAWKINS
CAROL PAASCH
WENDY WIRTH
JIM MORRISON
DOLLY FROSINI
REBA DOWNS

RICH SCHULDT
PHYLLIS FEYDER
JEAN KNOX
DELPHINA FRANCO
MAXINE MAYER
WINNIE GUISTI
MARY VALENZANO
BEN BRAY

SPECIAL WISHES TO
NAOMI HUFFSTETTER
94 YEARS OLD



This Point....in time

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 (six issues) and a special publication. 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.

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Jean Reynolds	Article
Anne Hanzlik	Article
Anna Gaumer	Picture
John Playter	Article
Jay Vincent	Information
Sandi Genser-Maack	Article

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

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or

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or

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"This Point...in time" is a publication of the Point Richmond History Association, a non-profit organization at:

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Calendar

February/March, 1997

February 4
Tuesday

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

February 12
Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting
Noon, Hotel Mac

Ash Wednesday

February 14
Friday

St. Valentine's Day

February 17
Monday

President's Day

February 25
Tuesday

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

March 12
Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting
Noon, Hotel Mac

March 4
Tuesday

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

March 17
Monday

St. Patrick's Day

February 17-21

Richmond School Winter Holiday (no school)

March 20
Thursday

Vernal Equinox (AKA "First Day of Spring")

March 21
Friday

DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL/MAY ISSUE OF TPIT

March 25
Tuesday

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

March 28
Friday

Good Friday

March 29
Saturday

Easter egg dying and basket making contest
Noon to 4:00, Point Community Center

March 30
Sunday

Easter

April 1

All Fool's Day