

— THIS POINT —.... in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

Vol. XVI No. 3

November, 1997

\$1.50



You better watch out
Santa Claus
is coming to town
and will be at
Indian Statue Park
on November 29th at dusk.
There will be caroling led by
Dan Damon

Amongst the luminaries that will ring
the triangle, arts and crafts.
The Holiday Season will begin
And the big tree will light up!

From The President

Mid Dornan

Once upon a time, women spent a full day every week pressing clothes. With the advent of wash-and-wear clothing and clothes dryers, ironing is a now-and-then task today. Many households seldom use an iron. The heavy appliance has turned into a collectors item.

While irons date back to before the Middle Ages, their heyday was the second half of the 19th century when the U.S. Patent Office was flooded with inventions.

Today there are three basic types of irons. Dry only (not popular), steam, and spray-steam-dry. Let's face it, today ironing is definitely not a favorite American indoor sport!

My collection of irons began about 1947 when a small child sized Sad Iron was given me by my husband's Aunt Nubby. The iron collection includes "hot box", Charcoal, Steam, Electric, Fluting, one piece San and Sad with detachable handles, a 14 pound Tailor's, Gas, etc. They date back to 1866 and are now on display in our Point Richmond History Museum, 139½ Washington Avenue, Point Richmond. Stop by and learn why they were called "Sad" irons.

Contents

From The President	1
Members	2
Editor's Notes	3
A-Mid Trivia	4
The Plunge	7
Church News	8
Turkey Talk	11
Dr. Thompson's Little Memories	12
Westside Improvement Club	14
Pt. Richmond Business Association	15
Allan Smith's Point	17
Deaths	21
Birthdays	23
Calendar	inside back cover



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

Evelyn Macdonald
Beatrice (Beesley) Casey
Fay Hawkins
Spiro Cakos
Julio P. Carrera
Fred Beesley
Judith O'Dell
Grace Howe

*Museum Staff Coordinator Betty
Dornan thanks volunteers who
staffed the History Building
during the summer.*

&
*Thanks to
Bruce and Sandra
Beyaert
for a donation*

&
Thanks to



for matching it.

&

Our usual

Thank You!

to

Santa Fe Market
and
**Point Richmond
Market**

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

*Happy
Thanksgiving
to all!*

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

Gary's Page

Gary Shows

Presenting your November issue of TPIT! It will be a busy time for our staff as this is the only month (because of the holidays) that we produce two issues in back to back months, November and December.

Our cover photo is the Richmond Natatorium with a banner, "SAVE THE PLUNGE" because I feel that the plunge is one of the most important historical structures in Richmond. I show it not to take a political stance on the current proposition but to call attention to the plight of the Plunge and its historical significance to our community. In any case the Richmond Natatorium **MUST BE SAVED AT ANY EXPENSE**. It is a municipal building and should be taken care of by the municipality in any way the our city fathers and mothers see fit, but they must **SAVE THE PLUNGE!**

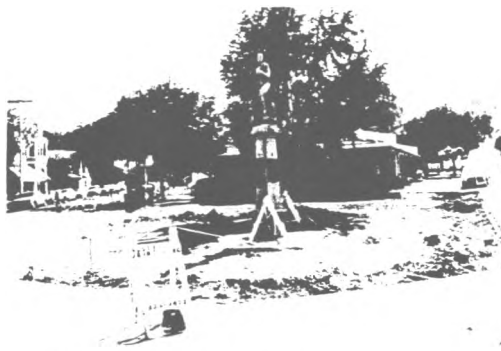
Have a great Thanksgiving!

The deadline for the December/January issue is November 21st with an anticipated date of assembly of December 4th.

Thanks to the September/October issue assembly crew:

Mary Highfill
Liz McDonald
Pam Wilson
Mid Dornan
Jerry Cerkowicz
Gary Shows
Betty Dornan
Sonja Darling

Extra Pics:



Indian Statue Park under construction.



Reprint, but a good one!

The Cover:

Recent photo of historic Richmond Natatorium AKA "The Plunge". To learn more about the Plunge please turn to page 7 of this issue.

A-Mid TRIVIA

-Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question: Point Richmond has many streets connected with pioneer names. For whom or why were these streets so named? 1. Martina 2. Nicholl 3. Park Place 4. Tewksbury 5. Alvarado

Answer at end of Trivia.

It is said human taste buds are more sensitive at sea level than at higher altitudes, thus, explaining our discriminating tastes?

Sympathy is extended to Ann (Hathaway) Manley in Hanford on the loss of her husband, Jack.

Take out food isn't new to early Point Richmondites. Joe and Nellie Matteucci of the Roma Hotel on Standard Avenue were pioneers of one of today's greatest food industries as they had Ravioli and Spaghetti take-outs in 1905.



Brookside and Doctors Hospitals have been renamed and are now known as Doctors Medical Center, San Pablo or Pinole campus! When Brookside Hospital first opened, the Richmond Junior Women's Club earned \$200 in the search to name the new hospital .

Louise Banks, a remarkable 92, fell in her home on Washington Avenue and fractured her hip.

Firefighters on duty in the Point Station on Sunday, September 20th, administered emergency first aid to an injured motorcyclist at Castro and Tewksbury. Their sensitive handling of his mangled, twisted leg was compassionate as they transferred him to an ambulance that carried him to the waiting helicopter in the Washington School yard.

Caller 311 for non-emergency police related problems is proving to be a successful answer in test areas. Look for other areas to consider this as an answer to the abused 911.

SAVE THE PLUNGE I!!!!

Alyce Williamson is home after a hospital stay.

It's a boy, Quinn, 7 lbs. 8 oz., 21 inches for new Point residents Lorilyn and Allen Farmer-Folks. Born early on Friday, September 26, 1997, Quinn is their first child.

Michael and Theresa Eaton are proud parents of a baby girl, Mikhaila, born September 29th, 1997. Mikhaila is the granddaughter of Nikki Eaton and

Great-granddaughter of Oretta Eaton.

Overheard on the San Francisco pier during the spectacular, exciting and dramatic Blue Angels show during Fleet Week, "Wow! Precision perfect! I don't mind my tax dollar supporting this!"

Ferry Service to San Francisco? The Red and White Fleet has plans for ferries to leave from Terminal One, the end of Dornan Drive, as early as November. Doesn't that make the newly painted 'Ferry Point' above the Garrard tunnel appropriate!

You can't tickle yourself!

It will be Dr. Jeff Corbin, son of proud parents, Rosemary and Doug Corbin, who will receive his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina this month. Another Washington School product..before Many Hands!

The price of communicating from pay telephones has just gone up! The 20¢ fee for local calls is changing to whatever the market will bear. It has remained 20¢ for fifteen years but some may remember when it only took a nickel or a dime. The average calls per month per phone is 700.

Virginia Cherniak traveled to New Jersey to visit her daughter, Susan, and to attend a modern dance recital of Susan's in New York. Later, they all went to see Susan's daughter and Virginia's granddaughter, Nicole Hyde, in her vocal recital at the University of Pennsylvania from where Nicole will graduate in December.

Dr. Judy Forbes, Christchurch New

Zealand, and her mother, Mary Forbes, visited in Cape Cod and Boston. Judy returned here to attend her 30th Class reunion of Harry Ells.

ELVIS IS ALIVE!...and was sighted the night of September 6th in the Gates Building at the Ball fund raiser given by the Methodist Church for their new church roof. It is said David Vincent even purchased his guitar'

Bernard and Anita Christiansen of 32 Crest Avenue recently experienced a demonstration of "neighborly friendship".

The Christiansens, including nine members of a three generation family, were on a Scandinavian, Russian and England Cruise in August while their home was being painted.

Arriving home they were surprised to see Dick McClosky, owner of McClosky Painting Company, mowing their front lawn, which had over two weeks growth. He assured the Christiansens this was not his normal practice but he had wanted to surprise them.

Although they were tired arriving home, Bernard and Anita said they enjoyed the trip.



ut more especially, they enjoyed the beautiful, newly painted house and freshly mowed lawn.

"There should be more people like Dick McClosky," said Bernard adding, "Love thy neighbor".

Consider the life of Chelsea Clinton. She was born and lived in the Arkansas Governor's Mansion, moved to the Presidential White House and now as a college freshman at Stanford shares a room and must make her own bed!

The West Contra Costa Unified School District school year opened with 118 new classrooms, 350 new teachers whose students speak 39 different languages! Thank a teacher today!

Washington School had 160 students a few years ago when closure was a consideration. Today, with redistricting that includes the Marina and the lauded Many Hands Program, there are now 340 students. And a waiting list. At Washington, grades K through 4th are downsized to 20 students per class. The Spirit of Excellence Award winners in May were given Color Computers with printers.

May your Thanksgiving be a day of giving thanks for your many blessings. And, a day you have given something to one less fortunate.

ANSWER TO TRIVIA QUESTION

1. Martina -for eldest daughter of Francisco Castro, who married Juan Alvarado in 1839

2. Nicholl -for John Nicholl, land owner arriving here 1857

3. Park Place -for Park Jacobs, city clerk, 1908.

4. Tewksbury -for Dr. J. M. Tewksbury, who came here in the 1860 's from Brazil

5. Alvarado -Name of ex-governor of California from 1836-1942, Juan Bautista Alvarado, who moved to his rancho here where he died in 1882



November 4th Election Day

Voters will go to the polls Tuesday to elect a Mayor, three city council people and three members to the West Contra Costa School District Board.

Mayor Rosemary Corbin is unopposed for the Office of Mayor. Gary Bell is challenging incumbent Council members Irma Anderson, Richard Griffin, and John Marquez.

Incumbent School Board candidates Karen Leong Fenton, Charles Ramsey, and Woodrow Snodgrass face Deborah Diaz, Christopher Griffin, Emanuel Johnson, Brian Leary, and Glenn Price.

Proposition H is a bond issue seeking funds for public safety needs including seismically unsafe city buildings.

ABOUT THE PLUNGE

-Mid Dornan

One Saturday morning in 1924, a thousand fifth and sixth grade school children from Lincoln, Washington, Peres, Nystrom, Grant, Stege, Fairmont, and Pullman schools marched up Macdonald Avenue carrying posters which read, "The Fish Aren't the Only Ones Who Like to Swim," "Why Do We Have to Leave Richmond to Swim?", "We've Outgrown the Tub; Give Us the Tank," "The Old Swimming' Hole" The parade was an effort to persuade voters to pass an \$85,000 bond issue to build the Richmond Plunge.

A mass meeting was held at Nystrom School where speakers pointed out that if the bond issue passed, Richmond would have the largest swimming pool in the East Bay.

People from the audience wanted to know why they planned to build the pool way out by the railroad tunnel and not near the center of town where the kids could reach it easier? It was explained that the land was being given free of charge by the John Nicholl Company and similar land near the center of town would cost nearly \$30,000. And it would cost more to pipe in salt water. In short, the speaker explained, instead of costing \$85,000, the pool would cost nearly \$500,000 if build 'near the center of Richmond.

On election day, Mother Nature aided the cause when the thermometer rose to 100 degrees. The bond issue passed, 2502 to 998.

The reason Mr. Nicholl gave the city this land is another story best explained, that which started out to become an oil well, ended by becoming a swimming pool.

Over the years regular maintenance of the Plunge wasn't enough and eventually major, costly repairs that included a new boiler and

new pipes were needed. Without such funds, in September 1976 the pool was closed.

An outcry from citizens, who used and needed the facilities for health as well as recreational purposes, was led by Walt Faurso and Jay Vincent. With public support and a lot of financial support from Standard Oil, a repainted, refurbished Plunge reopened in February 1977.

Then in April 1989 the pool closed for needed renovations and was about ready to reopen when the Loma Prieto earthquake struck in October. It wasn't until April 1990 that permission was given to open the pool again.

In August, 1997 a decorative piece fell from outside the building causing legal and physical concerns about the building from the city staff. It was ordered closed as of September 30 for safety reasons. Again, pool patrons were outraged and declared their confidence in its safety as they paraded before the City Council. A large number citing the pool's use for essential therapy and health. Regular users questioned how many council members had ever been inside or used the Plunge!

In November 1997 a proposition 'H' was presented to Richmond voters for approval. The measure would authorize the levy of a special tax to fund critical public safety needs in the City of Richmond and included \$4.5 million for the seismic retrofit and rehabilitation of the Plunge. This would add about \$55 to yearly property taxes.

Walt Faurso and Jay Vincent again took up the task to once again, SAVE THE PLUNGE!

While there are directional signs to the 'Plunge', those really "in-the-know" refer to the pool by its original name, the Natatorium.

Church News

Our Lady of Mercy

Dee Rosier
232-1387

It was a perfect Sunday afternoon for our Church BBQ. John Gerk cooked the steaks and 361 people enjoyed them along with all the trimmings. A clear profit of \$5200 was realized. A surprise donation of \$1000 was received from the Mary Colter McDonald Trust of San Francisco. We can now reinforce the beautiful stained glass windows and do roof repairs. Jack and Edwina Murray sent thank you notes to all participating merchants. We encourage you to support them. Adolph Brossard was the grand prize winner. An appreciation dinner for all the workers was held on Monday, October 13th at the Hotel Mac. Thank yous to all who gave of their time to make the BBQ such a huge success.

Speaking of giving of their time, our parishioners continue to work at the Souper Kitchen - they being: Tony Ferriera, Brenda McKinley, John and Shirley Gerk, Amelia Drake and Angie Kirkpatrick. Our hats off to these hard workers who recently served 249 people. Our Lady of Mercy made a donation of \$555 to the kitchen.

A special intention mass was held recently for Theresa Meneghelli who has been extremely generous to Our Lady of Mercy.

During the month of October a count is

made of those attending masses. The tabulation of these numbers is sent to the Chancery (Bishop's office) so that the Bishop has some idea of the number of Catholics who are active in church participation. Ever try to count heads while the participants are either standing, kneeling or seated?

In five years Our Lady of Mercy will celebrate its 100th centennial year. Volunteers are being sought to plan this grand celebration.

We continue to be blessed with new members. Recently baptized were:

- David Anthony Reyes, son of David Reyes and Margarita Sanchez. The family are new members of our Parish.

- Shawn Michael Diaz, son of Dawn Young and Miquel Diaz. Shawn is Grandson to Cynthia and Bruce Young.

- Mary Timar, daughter of Joseph Timar and Mary Corless. Their other children were also baptized at Our Lady of Mercy.

- Elizah Angel Casaneres

- Samuel Westcott Shrimpton.

- Welcome little ones to our Christian world.

In my life as a Catholic, men have always taken up the offering. I don't know if it is Catholic law or not, but the women made a breakthrough recently when none of our regular offering collectors were present, Brenda McKinley and I elected to do it. I must confess that I became very sure of myself and during the second collection did unintentionally hit an innocent Parishioner in the head with the basket. Great experience to see everyone in church face-to-face.

Marcellina and Alan Smith enjoyed a trip to New York. Nancy Hagel was in Indianapolis recently to welcome a grandson

born to her daughter. In enjoyed a trip to Maui, Hawaii accompanied by my granddaughter, Jennifer as well as Delia and Ed Rosier, Leslie Rosier and Levi Rosier. Brenda McKinley spent a week in Florida visiting family.

Adolph Brossard has retired as Grand Knight of this district's Knights of Columbus. Thank you Adolph for your years of devoted service.

Remember with phone calls and cards parishioners unable to attend masses due to illness, Ben Garcia is recuperating at home after successful surgery. Louise Banks fell and had surgery at Kaiser, Oakland. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

Our August Parish Assembly was chaired by Dody Perry and September's by Angie Kirkpatrick and Shirley Gerk.

If you have traveled the Richmond Parkway you will say that it is the only way to go, but because it is a straight away it is very easy to go faster than the posted speed limit, Father Jim can attest to this.

The Italian Catholic Federation will hold its annual Dinner Dance on October 19, 1997 at St. Cornelius. Join us for Roast Beef, Pasta and the trimmings. Call Tina for tickets: 232-9075. Profits go to the ICF Scholarship Fund.



Point Richmond Methodist

Jean Reynolds

235-2988

The Century Ball: Minus Three and Counting was an evening to remember. The stroll-through-history fashion show included flappers, go-go girls, Rosie the Riveter, Marilyn Monroe, and other celebrities of the past. There was even an Elvis sighting (Bob Peckham.) The silent auction featured some wonderful one-of-a-kind gift items, and all proceeds went to benefit the roof fund. We are already anticipating what kind of encore Frances Smith will plan for next year's event.

We welcomed new members Jean Eger and Goldie Mobley on October 5. On hand to witness their membership vows was the youngest preparatory member: Quinn Folks. Quinn was born Sept. 26 to proud parents Allen Folks and Lorilyn Parmer-Folks. The women of the church cuddled Quinn and "showered" Lorilyn on October 7 at a baby shower in Friendship Hall.

Sunday School students, teachers and parents ate Methodist Eggs and muffins on Sunday, September 28. Sunday School meets at 9:45 a.m. for ages three years to adult. On October 26, the students will take part in the worship service as we celebrate Children's Sabbath. The Angel Choir will sing and there will be a puppet show performed by the children.

A dozen members of our congregation walked in the GRIP Harmony Walk for Hunger on Saturday, October 18, and many more supported the walkers with donations. This event is Greater Richmond Interfaith Program's annual fund-raiser to support the Richmond Souper Center, various food pantries, and CROP overseas hunger-relief project. The Souper Center serves a growing community of needy people: welfare reform has caused an increase in individuals and families who rely on the meals served there daily, and on the other services offered there.

On the Calendar:

Masquers'/Hotel Mac Dinner-Theatre.

Thursday, Nov. 20. Tickets cost \$26 each, and proceeds are used to supply summer-camp scholarships. The play is "Little Shop Of Horrors". Last summer, Heather Damon, Jessica Horton, and Bethany Reynolds attended camp Joyful Noise with help from this fund. They put on a musical for parents at the end of the week of camp (expertly performed!) and had a great time. Call 235-2988 to reserve tickets for an evening of delicious food and lively entertainment.

Thanksgiving Dinner: On Thanksgiving day, Nov. 27, all are invited to Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings. A short service to express our thanks at 11:00 a.m. will be followed by dinner

served from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Dinner will be provided, prepared and served by the Point Richmond business community and church members and friends.

Messiah Sing: December 14, 3:00 p.m. Directed by Virginia Cherniak. Join the choir to sing selected choruses for this performance: attend choir rehearsals on Wednesday evenings from now until Dec. 14.

A Christmas Carol: Tom McGowen produces the traditional Dickens' Christmas Story performed in Readers' Theatre at 7:00 p.m.

Jazz Christmas Eve Service. December 24, 7:00 p.m.



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 29th installment.

June 2nd (1925) - continued

On hand		\$29.03
June 2	Recd	
	Sale Pillow Cases for Bazaar	5.00
	Donation - Mrs. Hendricks	.50
	Dinner	1.00
	Assessment for luncheon	5.00
	West Side Impr. Club	14.03
	Silver Offering (luncheon)	2.15
June 16		
	West S. Impr. luncheon	5.45
	Ladies Aid Luncheon Assn	3.00
	Silver rental	.50
	Laundry	.33
June 26	Men's Dinner	3.81
July 25	Food Sale	12.40
July 30	Food Sale	<u>4.95</u>
		61.87
		\$90.90
Bills Paid		
June 2	First M.E. Church	35.00
June 26	Pt. Rich Produce	8.81
July 18	Marathon Candy Co	5.00
Men's dinner		
July 26	First M.E. Church	14.10
July 30	" "	<u>3.25</u>
		\$66.16
	Balance	\$24.74
Irene Conn Mythen		
Sec		

Let's Talk Turkey

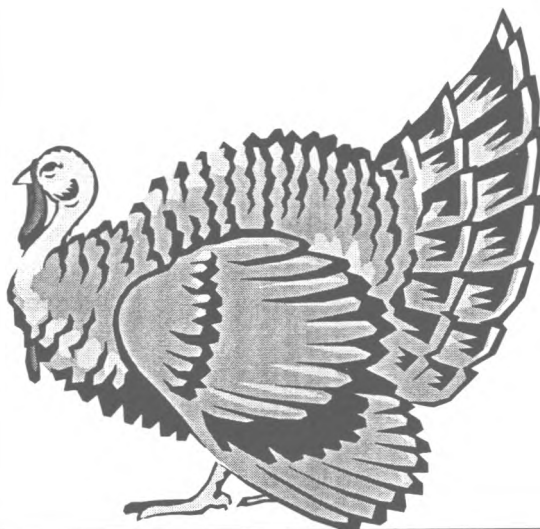
Thanksgiving traditions are getting less formal. In a survey, 90 percent of hosts will serve turkey and 79 percent will have pie for dessert. But only 15 percent plan a formal, sit-down, multi-course meal with good china and crystal. For a few turkey facts to liven up the conversation:

...A nest of turkey eggs is called a clutch.

...Turkeys are nervous and their blood pressure is high; spooking them can literally scare them to death.

...The red, fleshy thing that hangs from a turkey's beak is called a snood.

Mid



More Memories From Dr. William L. Thompson

William L. Thompson, often called Louis by his friends, was born in Point Richmond on February 17, 1909, lived on Scenic Avenue, graduated from Richmond Union High School and was the first native Richmondite to go through medical school. Dr. Thompson began his practice in 1940 at 9th and Macdonald, later moving to 32nd and Macdonald until that building was sold, at which time he moved to an office on Broadway. In 1979, at the age of 70 and after 39 years, he retired officially from medical practice.

In earlier issues of TPIT Dr. Thompson intrigued us with his vivid memories of the Point's early years. Thank you to the Doctor and to the folks that have talked him into giving us more of his wonderful memories here is the second installment.



There were two ferries that left from Ferry Point, one was the Santa Fe and the other an auto ferry. The auto ferry was a great help for people driving from the valley to San Francisco by saving miles of downtown driving through Oakland. Also Point Richmond residents who worked in San Francisco or went to school there could walk down to the ferry and read the paper or study for 55 minutes on the boat. The bridge put an end to this ferry.

Another ferry system that is not often recalled now was the air ferry. These were hydroplanes that landed and took off on the

water. Their San Francisco terminal was at the south end of the Ferry Building. In the East Bay they landed in Alameda. If the conditions were not right they had difficulty. I saw one that had to travel on the water almost half way to the Golden Gate before it could take off. There must have been more than one plane and I don't know what the fare was or how many passengers a plane carried.

In the old days on the flat lands of the Point we had flocks of mosquitoes due to stagnant water pools. When the inner harbor was dredged the mud was used to make the base for Cutting Boulevard and also to make cross streets in the Canal area so that homes could be constructed there. However only two houses were ever made there and they didn't last very long. The low areas in the quadrangles between these streets filled with water in the winter and were great breeding grounds for mosquitoes covering these with oil was not a good idea so they planted tiny stickleback fish in them to destroy the mosquito larva. As kids we used to go down and collect the fish in cans for pets.

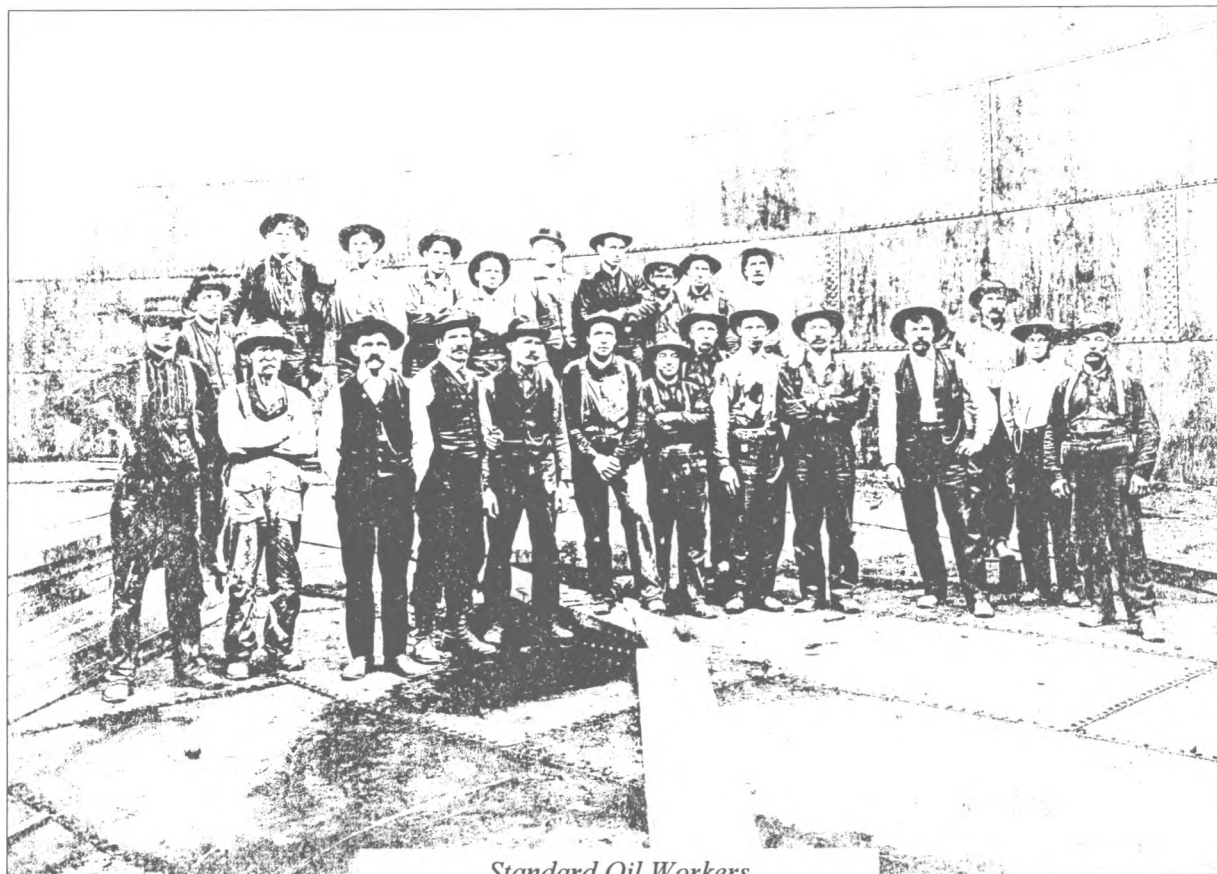
Also when children were taught to write in schools, a different method was used. In the early classes writing was done by pencil but as the children progressed they had to change to ink. In those days there were no ballpoint pens or even fountain pens. Desks had to be made

with built in ink wells. These had to be refilled often and many times spilled.

In the old days there was no welfare or food stamps therefore we had hobos who would occasionally stop by to ask for food. Living up on the hill we possibly had less of this than others. They were just bums who wouldn't or couldn't work. I never recall them causing any trouble. There was almost no crime in Point Richmond in the early days. I don't recall hearing of a single robbery. However;; most people didn't have much to steal. My father said that it would be difficult

for a robber to get away. On one side was the bay and on the other they had only Richmond to go through and they would probably be caught.

I recall one summer when the water supply was short those living up on the hills couldn't get water. In those days they used horse drawn sprinkling wagons to sprinkle the dust on the streets. They solved the water shortage by bringing up an old sprinkling wagon filled with water and parked on the streets nearby. If you needed water you went out with a bucket and got your water.



*Standard Oil Workers
This Point....in time*

WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB

-Anita Christensen

The Westside Improvement Club held its first meeting Sept. 9th, 1997 after the summer break. The Board hosted a lovely luncheon for 24 members.

The club, which meets the first Tuesday of the month at the 1st Methodist Church, Point Richmond, is the longest active service club in Richmond, originating in the very early 1900's and is still very active in the community.

For the October meeting our guest speaker was Tom McGowan. His explanation of the "Many Hands" a Washington School program and progress was very interesting and informative. He expressed his gratitude to the many volunteers who unselfishly donate their time and financially support this very worthy cause. And its no wonder the school has achieved outstanding results and reputation. To Tom McGowan and Sally DeWitt we owe much gratitude. The Club is proud to have a part in supporting this community program.

Our November meeting will be moved to the second week in November (the 11th) due to the Election.

December 2, 1997 -Christmas Lunch catered by Rosemary Bakery.

Serving the Club for the coming year the officers are:

President -Virginia Cherniak

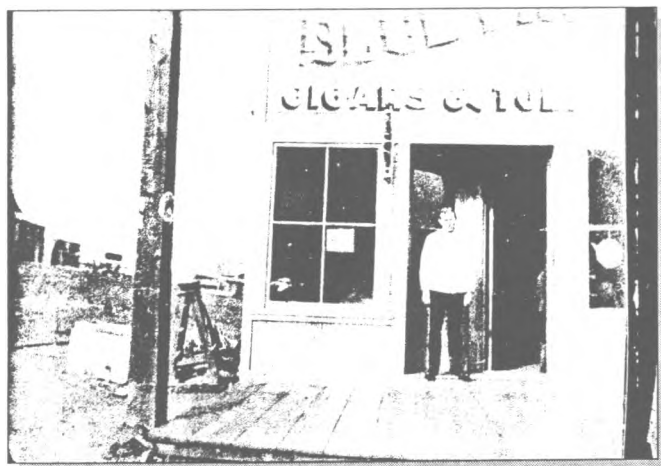
Vice-Pres -Betty Dornan

Rec.Secrt -Elizabeth McDonald

Treasurer -Anita Christensen

We welcome new members who are interested in joining the Club. For information you may call these nos. 236-8036 or 233-3343

Best Wishes for Joyous Holidays.



Point Richmond's first barber Al Hickok. His shop was on Washington Avenue next door to Pat Dean's saloon and restaurant. He was the father of Mrs. Yeater. This picture was taken in September, 1901.

POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

At their September meeting, the Point Richmond Business Association recognized three businesses that have been in the Point for 20 to 25 years. Honored were Claudia Beall, Point Richmond Print Shop; Tom and Shirley Butt, Interactive Resources; and Ramona Longpre and Jay Ward, The Point Bar and Restaurant. Following are excerpts from their biographical sketches prepared by David Vincent.

CLAUDIA KRAUSE BEALL

was born in the Richmond Hospital' raised on Easter Hill and graduated from Richmond High. Her marriage to Nuclear Physicist and Professor at the University of Maryland ended in divorce. A single mother of two, Claudia returned to California. With a background as a Printing Broker and as a Printing Manager, twenty years ago Claudia opened "Sepulveda Printing" after her mother's maiden name. Sepulveda Boulevard in Southern California is also named for the family. Later, it became the "Point Richmond Print Shop" at 114 Washington Avenue, next door to the then famous hamburger restaurant "Jumbos" owned by Betty Moore, both now gone.

She always liked the Point as a child and opened her business here where she served the PRBA as Treasurer and Director for many years.

Though she closed the retail operation of her business in July 1997, she continues the printing brokerage business at 124 Washington Avenue.

TOM AND SHIRLEY BUTT,

Interactive Resources, are two 'Southerners' (Shirley from Tennessee and Tom from Arkansas) who met in San Francisco after

Tom had completed his service in Viet Nam in the Army Corps of Engineers. Their first two years or marriage was at UCLA where Tom earned his Masters in Architecture. Returning to the Bay Area, they lived in Mill Valley; Tom working in San Francisco and Shirley working toward her MA in City Planning at UC Berkeley. During this time they 'found' the sleepy little town of Point Richmond, moved to a house on Western Drive, started the business and put up a windmill, which caused a furor in the neighborhood.

They have two children; Andrew was born in 1974, is studying Architecture at his fathers alma mater, University of Arkansas and Daniel, born in 1976 who is a student at UC Davis, studying History and Political Science.

The first Interactive Resources office was at 39 Washington Avenue, the name reflecting the different disciplines available in the firm. Their partner, John Clinton, was also in the same Corp. of Engineers unit in Viet Nam.

Tom and Shirley have both served as Past Presidents of the PRBA and Directors numerous years. Tom was elected to the City Council in the last election.

RAMONA LONGPRE AND JAY WARD,

The Point Bar and Restaurant. Jay Ward was born in Powell, Wyoming but at 6 months came to Corning, California where his father was an olive rancher. After graduation, he was drafted into the army during the Korean War serving as a Tank Commander. After the war' he was a Service Manager at McGinni Ford in Berkeley, then owned a small chain of beauty shops. Ready for a change, he attended Bartender School. Work at the then Holiday Inn (Now Point Marina Inn) brought him to the Point. Within a short period of time, Ramona Longpre came to work there.

Ramona Longpre, from Montana, first worked in Gordon's Drive-in on 23rd Street,

Richmond is only drive-in with 'Car Hops 'and service trays on your door window. She and her husband, Art Longpre, now an Optometrist on Solano in Albany, were students at UC Berkeley.

In 1972 'The Point' was available for sale by Doug Pound at 32 Washington avenue. Jay asked Ramona if she wanted to buy a bar and restaurant. The rest is history. They remained at that location until they lost their lease in 1984 and moved to 2 West Richmond Avenue.

Jay was Treasurer and a Director of the PRBA for several years during the 80's. His wife of 23 years, Marsha, is still working at the Point. Marsha is famous as Santa Claus at the annual tree lighting at Indian Statue Park.



A gang of borders and roomers at the old Keystone Hotel (later St. Francis owned by Ed McDuff) owned at that time (1907) by Mose Moch who was later manager of the San Rafael Ferry,.

Allan Smith's Point

Mystery Guest Identified!

The mystery guest (last issue's cover picture) was identified by only one person. Liz McDonald, (honorary Point Richmond Native) correctly identified the picture and is entitled to the prize. She said she saw the photo at the Richmond Museum of History where she is a Technical Volunteer. I gave a clue in the article about the photo to our congenial editor, Gary Shows, but he inadvertently did not print it. I wrote that the young man's first name was Marmaduke.

Marmaduke's father's first name was Waverley. He enlisted in the Calvary of Wade Hamilton's Legion during the Civil War at the age of 15. He also was made a member of the Legion of Honor, 6th Degree. Waverley came to Point Richmond in 1902, was cashier, manager and secretary of the Bank of Richmond first located in Point Richmond and also was Postmaster from 1916 to 1921. Waverley married Mary Tilden who was related to General Robert E. Lee and Samuel Tilden of national renown.

There were two children of this marriage, one son named MARMADUKE and daughter Louise Elizabeth who later became the wife of the first (and well respected) financial broker of Richmond, George Lee.

So the mystery guest is Marmaduke

Stairley, better known to us all as "Duke" Stairley. Now as Paul Harvey says, "you know the rest of the story".

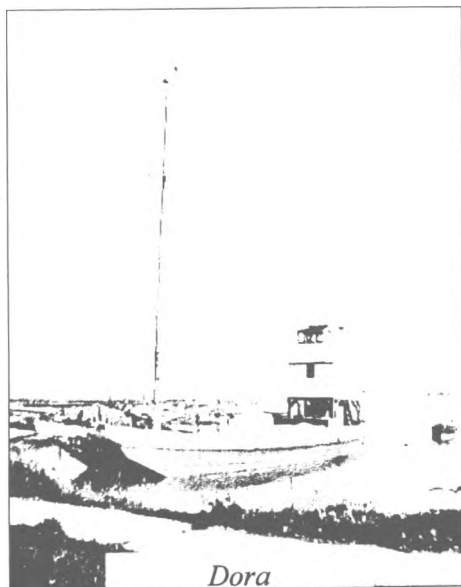
Duke's Story

"Duke", one of Point Richmond's early great personalities ran his bay and river freighting business from 1902 until 1927 when the trucks put him out of business. He handled everything...lumber, potatoes, sand and general cargo. He then fished commercially for shrimp and the local catch until 1953 when he retired. Duke owned six boats; *HECLA*, *MAGNOLIA*, *MAGGIE B. HARTMAN*, *PANAZONE* (tug), *DORA* and the schooner *AGNES JONES*.



Schooner Agnes Jones

How well we remember Duke cooking his shrimp at his shack and camp on Brooks Island! He sold his shrimp at that time for six cents a pound. Duke would row a skiff from the foot of Cutting Boulevard to Brooks Island to exercise his six foot four frame. You have to admit that the photo of him on the cover for our last issue was that of a well built man. At the climax of his career he was part of the trio that hung out at the island in front of the Plunge when it was a sitting, resting area with rest room facilities and where Carl Feudner, Park Superintendent, kept his tools. The trio I mention included Howard Knight, Duke Stairley, and "Tiny" Morelli.



Duke would turn over in his grave if he knew most people associated his name with Marmaduke, a comic feature. We really did not know his first name.

There is a street in Point Richmond Named after the STAIRLEY family.

Sports Memories

by Allan Smith

To a baseball enthusiast watching at least 500 boys and girls from the ages of 5 to 15 playing Soccer at the Joaquin Moraga Park in Moraga is very disturbing. Soccer has about taken over the younger generation. For one thing, it seems that everyone can play.



To the readers of my ramblings.....

It is well to reflect on what the editor of Scribner's Magazine replied to Edith Wharton when she asked him just how much she might deviate from the truth: "Write anything, dare anything, so long as you can make your readers believe it". So, I'm on a sabbatical, not for seven years though, as the truth is starting to escape me. Really! it is hard for me to make the deadline. Gary may have some of my non-printed notes in his 'morgue'.

Hey Allan, OK forget the deadline....we would miss your "ramblings" just keep um' commin' in at your own pace.

Gary

FRIENDSHIPS

by Dee Rosier

As we go through various stages of life, friendships are made; some are kept and some forgotten. I am possessive of my friendships and have collected many in the different phases of my life. The friendships I value most are ones that began in 1938. Five of us began kindergarten on the same day, completed our education and still remain friends today.

We all shared life in the small town of Crockett, population 2500. Our parents were acquaintances and our homes within walking distance. We all attended the same church with the exception of one. Most of our parents were employed by the C&H Sugar Refinery. Growing up in a small town always gave us a safe feeling. We learned to swim at the Crockett Men's Club, played in the park, marched in the annual Halloween parade and belonged to the Camp Fire Girls. Every Saturday afternoon we went to the movies, collected pennies from friends and shared a loaf of fresh French bread. We all had the opportunity to participate in the annual C&H Christmas pageant. After Mass on Sunday, we would go downstairs to the church hall, play the piano, sing and dance. We also experienced air raid drills, standing in line with ration books, the Port Chicago blast, bobby socks, poodle skirts, each other's birthday parties, sleep overs, much chatter and lots of laughs.

We have mourned the passing of our parents and

now experience the joy of being grandparents. We noticed recently that we now all resemble our mothers. We are independent modern ladies who enjoy life to the fullest attending the theater, shopping, walking, laughing and all trying to talk at the same time.

Pursuing diverse careers and living in different communities has not jeopardized our long lasting friendship. In fact, each of us had a hand in editing this article.

We try to get together every few months and make it known to those we meet that we have been friends for almost 60 years.

Let me introduce the FAMOUS GROUP:

Kay Bellaria Ritchey, presently a teacher in Fairfield a" resides in Green Valley. Beverly McKillop Jones, who recently earned her Bachelors degree from Hayward State (we urged her to pursue her Masters), and resident of Pleasant Hill. Peggy McManus Pettit is a retired school teacher and resides in Concord. Pat Allamano Houck is a teacher and resides in Riverbank. Dee Sepulveda Rosier is retired from Chevron and resides in the Point. (Peggy, Bev and I have lived in our present homes since our marriages 40 years ago).



This Point....in time



CARDS & LETTERS



Dear Pam:

Thank Mid for the reminder that my membership had run out.

Enclosed is enough to put me back, on the roll.

Wouldn't miss it for the world.

See you at the next KID's meeting!

Yours Truly,
Fred Beesley

(1930's and early 1940's) as it was a nice town to grow up in.

We just completed a second trip to Ireland. Quite a interesting country. We were there 25 years ago. They, most certainly are a lot more prosperous than they were in 1973.

My birthday is in November.

Thanks,
Spiro Cakos

Dear Pam:

Just a short note to tell you how much I enjoy the newsletter. However, When I saw the birthdays for September and October I was disappointed to see that my name was not enclosed. You see, my birthdate is October 8th.

I suppose it was an oversight and I can understand, with all the work you have, but its nice to be remembered on a birthday.

Anyway, keep up the good work!

An Old Timer,
Abigail Muñoz Rivera

*I bet we don't forget your birthday next year,
hope you had a good one!*

Gary

Dear Pam:

Enclosed is a check for our renewal. We enjoy "This Point" every time we receive it.

We get double mileage out of it as I send it over to my brother Gus who lives in Palmdale, CA.

I enjoyed Pt. Richmond in my early years

Dear Gary Shows:

I am writing you about a history book of Richmond and the Point. I have read it and it is certainly a fine piece to bring everybody up to speed. The book covers the complete history of your area from the shell mound Indians to the ship yard days.

The book may be obtained from your local library. They have to get it from the state library in Sacramento.

The book is:

#979.463 W616

"A History of Richmond"

by Joseph C. Whitnah

An interesting sideline, Joe Whitnah, Jr. went to college with me and was an aviator killed in World War II.


Sincerely,
Ed Garrard, Jr.
Sonoma

*Thanks Ed, I did not get a chance to check
the book out, but this will help others with the time.*


Gary

Deaths....


Euna Sparks died on October 15, 1997 in a Vallejo hospital. She was 87. Euna lived for 23 years in Atchison Village and Point Richmond before moving to Milpitas after retirement as a dietician with the West Contra Costa Unified School District. She began at Roosevelt Junior High in the 1960's. She is survived by her daughters, Myrna Sparks-Patton of Milpitas and Cheryl Mihoevich of Livermore, sons Thomas Sparks of Vallejo and William Sparks of Woodland. Also brothers John, Coy and Paul King, all of Arkansas, and Hays and Bruce King of Wyoming and sister, Ruth Morrow of Arkansas; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.




Captain Alan Clarke son of the man who founded the ferry line between Richmond and San Rafael. He learned to sail on his dad's boat and attended schools in Richmond, Marin and was graduated from St. Mary's College. He later became a tugboat officer at Fort Mason and eventually a pilot for troopships while working for Red Stack and the San Francisco Bar Pilots. "He was the best pilot there was" is how a fellow bar pilot remembers the longtime Richmond Yacht Club member. During his memorial services held at the Firestation at Fort Mason, a large passenger liner was coming in. In tribute, the big ship sounded five blasts of its whistle, the traditional salute given by a ship bound for sea to the pilot. It also means have a safe voyage. Captain Clarke is survived by his wife, Ann, a daughter and three sons.



Robert Kyle Brown an operating engineer for 10 years, died September 13, 1997 in a Richmond nursing home. He was 73. He lived in Point Richmond for 50 years and was a member of the Operating Engineers Local 3 in Alameda. There are no survivors.



Richard Eugene Myers a bindery worker for 12 years at Richmond Blueprint & Litho Co., died September 28, 1997 in a San Pablo hospital. He was 60. The Creston, Iowa, native lived in Point Richmond for 47 years. He was an Army veteran and 1955 graduate of Richmond High School. He is survived by two nephews, Patrick Sane and Michael Brian Myers, both of Byron; and a sister-in-law, Norma Knowles of Byron.



David Wesley Garbellano a retired physicist at the Lawrence Livermore and Lawrence Berkeley Laboratories, died September 27, 1997 in a Greenbrae convalescent hospital. He was 82.



November Birthdays

Ann Greiner
Jason McGill
Betty Dornan
Mary Ann Gaspard
Elsie Spinola
Clare Doherty
Bo Amantite
Dennis Dornan
Dorothy McCutcheon
Joe Savill
Marianne Forbes
Hal Marshall
Nicole Vargo
Bethany Reynolds
Matthew Berman

James Cheshareck, Sr.
James Cheshareck, Jr.
Michael Brown
Ida Giacomelli
Linda Chesareck
Claudia LeGue
Albert Kollar
Paul Cort
Lynn Darling
Jack Elle
Shirley Butt
Chris Bradshaw
Craig Seaborg
Liam Thompson
Kenny Paasch

Lance Rotting
Kay Hawkins
Shane Thomas
Linda Feyder
Ted Beck
Kathryn Pinkerton
Aubyn Eakles
Gary Shows
Kevin Fong
Audrey Edwards
Bobbies Boziki
Katrina MacDiarmid
Bernard Bernes (89!)
Spiro Cakos

*Today is the first day of the rest of your
life....but relax! So is tomorrow!*

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
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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
Dee Rosier	Article
Dr. William Thompson	Article
Anita Christensen	Article
David Vincent	Information
Thomas L. Kenny	Photograph

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

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

139 1/2 Washington Avenue
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Calendar

November, 1997

November 4

Tuesday

Election Day, Get out and Vote!

November 11

Tuesday

Veterans Day

November 12

Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting, Noon at the Hotel Mac

November 21

Friday

DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER/JANUARY ISSUE OF TPIT

November 27

Thursday

Thanksgiving Day

November 29

Saturday

Point Richmond's Christmas tree lighting ceremony
Dusk at Indian Statue Park

December 10

Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Christmas Party
Point Richmond Branch, Mechanics Bank , 5-7 pm