

—THIS POINT....in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

Vol. XVI No. 5

February/March, 1998

\$1.50



General Membership Meeting Report

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF POINT RICHMOND
ANNOUNCES THE
1998 SWEETHEART OF THE YEAR

ROBERT (BOB) PECKHAM

*Local Businessman
Neighborhood Wit
Renowned Community Benefactor
And
Famous Elvis Impersonator*

Please join the CELEBRATION DINNER
Honoring (roasting) Bob on
February 12, 1998 from 6:30 to 10:00 p.m.

RICHMOND COUNTRY CLUB
1 MARKOWICH LANE (GIANT HWY EXIT OFF RICHMOND PKWY)

HORS D'OEUVRES - DINNER - ENTERTAINMENT
TICKETS - \$25 (BENEFIT CHURCH ROOF FUND)

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL:

MILDRED DORNAN
234-5334

OR

SHIRLEY BUTT
237-2084

SEND YOUR CHECK,
PAYABLE TO FIRST UMC
C/O MILDRED DORNAN
225 CLARENCE AVENUE
POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801

From The President

Mid Dornan

New faces and new members are Adrenalin in our volunteer history organization and welcomed. To acquaint yourself to the community and its history there isn't a better way than to staff the History Museum and peruse the materials on file. The two and a half hours on either Thursday or Saturday pass rapidly. And it gets you out of the house. You meet interesting people. Your life is enriched.

It would be nice to have someone to do oral interviews, a 50 years ago column, write articles. My ultimate dream goal is to have our new letters indexed! Can you help or do you know someone that could?

May the history of 1998 be positive.

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

Teresa Meneghelli
Luciano & Bonnie Forner
Reno Cairo
Marian E. Sauer
Herbert J. Hunn
Al & Helene Frosini
Clara M. Loux
Chester W. Thompson
Mary J. Forbes
Louis R. Cunan
Alice Nelson
Boysie Day
Barbara Olesen
Adele Waymir
Roberta Jenkins Smith
Theodore W. Beck

And a warm welcome to the following
new members:

Robert T. Anderson
Lee Christian
Mrs. Brenda McKinley
Gift from Mary J. Forbes
Robert and Joan Moe



*Hollywood is coming to Point
Richmond in mid April! A scene
from an upcoming Robin
Williams movie will be shot in the
Point's downtown. The shooting
will take several days and will
include the moving of a diner
into the area!*

*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

Gary's Column

Gary Shows

I think this is a pretty good, full issue thanks to all you regulars, I don't have much space to write. You can look forward to more from Dr. Thompson in the next issue.

Sorry I missed the PIXAR meeting but was just getting over a cold and in cough stage. Jerry did a great job with the digital camera, I hope they print better than the last couple of issues. My printer changed machines and this issue is their last chance.

The deadline for the April/May issue is March 20th with an anticipated date of assembly of April 2nd.

Thanks to the December/January issue assembly crew:

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

The Cover:

Photo of President Mid Dornan with PRHA General Meeting guest speaker Colin Brady of PIXAR. See page 7 for more meeting photos.

**Photos taken by
Jerry Cerkowicz**

Letter from Lucretia Edwards

Dear Point Richmond friends and neighbors:

Almost ten years ago our community was asked if it would participate in the annual Contra Costa County holiday food drive. We assented, and in the years since I, with many others, have been involved in organizing and implementing this yearly event between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Among these "many other" cheerful and good-hearted people are the stores, the library, bank, offices and our elementary school who provide room (frequently with considerable crowding within limited space) for the collection barrels for contributions of food; the patient automotons who staple the directions and contribution envelopes to the food bags; and the indefatigable people who disperse the food bags to all the houses in Point Richmond.

This has been a labor of love, and our community has responded with great generosity to a request which is now more urgent than ever.

I have enjoyed working on this project, but now because of the aging process and a few attendant health problems, I must give it up, and turn over the organization of the Holiday Food Drive to Diana McIntosh (telephone 234-7392 who has been my second in command for several years.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

A-Mid TRIVIA

-Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question: Who was the only president to have been elected unanimously by both the public and the Electoral College? Answer at end of Trivia.

"How are you?" is a greeting, not a question!

RESOLVED for 1998: Learn to spell milenium, Millenium. Millenium.

The 1997 holiday season is but a memory but residents in the 500 block on Golden Gate Avenue need recognition for their spectacular Christmas lights. Beginning with Judy Coleman's lights everywhere to the magnificent, multi-lighted trees, the spotlighted nativity scene atop a garage and the huge stars, it was a colorful, festive block! A block togetherness.

Remember when you went to the



grocery store for a loaf of bread and your only choice was white or whole wheat!

The average person who stops smoking needs one hour less sleep at night, says a medical specialist.

Don't let the library be the best kept secret in the Point.

LeRoy Williams writes, quote: "The mention of the Ferry to San Francisco brings back memories of the good old days. When the Ferry was in service I made daily trips to Ferry Point to sell Liberty and Post Magazines for 5¢ each...actually made a profit.)' So, LeRoy, we'd like you to write more of those memories. ..Okay?

Want a St. Patrick's Day postal cancellation? Cancellation from St. Patrick, Mo., is available March 17. Stamped, self-addressed envelopes requesting the special pictorial cancellation may be sent to Postmaster, Mike Lewis, St. Patrick, MO 63466

It's a girl, their first, for Rick and Charlotte Knox Wood. Born November 17th, 1997 at Kaiser Hospital, San Francisco she has been named Arabella Elizabeth.

First Lady Martha Washington once coped with lingering guests by rising after a party and announcing, "The General always retires at nine and I usually precede him."

In the year 2000 the historic Point Methodist Church will celebrate its centennial. In an effort to recognize the past with the present, information is being sought regarding

its past history. A plea is issued to anyone that has been a part of this church to share any memory, any incident or to tell them if you were baptized..became a member... were married in this church. Perhaps you attended a youth group, They especially are looking for stories of the war years or before. Send to 225 Clarence St., Pt. Richmond, 94801 or call (510)234-5334.

The Post Office will "Celebrate the Century" with 150 commemorative stamps issued over the next 2 1/2 years, looking back from the millennium at America's 20th century history. Events to be commemorated in the years since 1950 will be chosen by public vote. Ballots for voting on stamps will be available at post offices February 3.

Millennium. Millennium. Millennium.

Who learns the most at Washington School, the student or the volunteer? Second graders are sending e-mail, using CD-Roms for educational films on their TV and checking the internet. Education and technology has progressed a long way from your second grade years!

Al Frosini, Point Richmond's 80 year-old, multi-talented athlete was recognized in the West County Times as an 'Everyday Athlete'. His home gym is in his garage where he not only works out every day but takes time to teach boxing lessons to all the kids in the community. Al is best known for his National Water ski championships and disappointed no one will challenge him in the 75 and over category. Even a hip replacement kept him off skis for only five months. His doctor told him

not to ski but isn't it the Al everyone knows when he states, "but I was real careful."!

Gene Clements, now living in Mission Viejo, is a member of the retiring champion barbershop chorus, Masters of Harmony (they won it three consecutive years). Some will remember Clements Standard Oil Service Station (his Dad's) on the corner of the then Standard Avenue and Castro Street, now the area of the bus stop!

Kids that wash their hands at least 4 times a day missed 25% fewer school days because of illness than those students who didn't.

A 30-second Super Bowl spot cost \$1.3 million!!

THOT: Brag about someone to another person; that someone is bound to find out.

ANSWER: George Washington.



PRHA

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

JANUARY 18, 1998

Colin Brady was guest speaker at the General Meeting of the Point Richmond History Association on January 18th. About 40 members and guests braved the rain and winds to hear about Point Richmond's newest industry of fame, PIXAR. Located across the street from Washington school in Frogtown, they also refer to their buildings as 'Frogtown'.

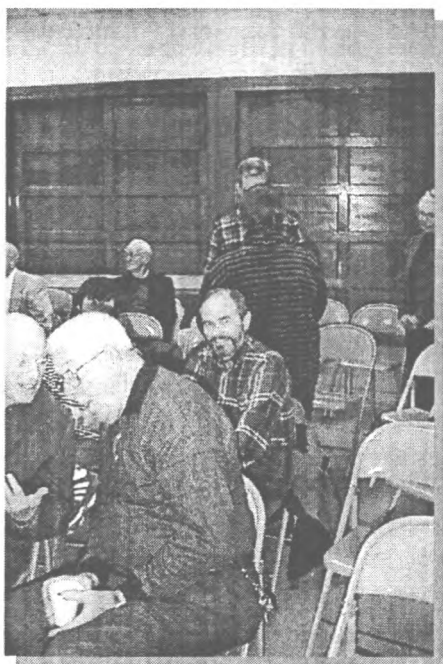
Railroads, oil and now the film industry has come to the Point. Not the Hollywood type of film making but historic computer films. Their employees have grown from 75 to almost 400 with the successful blockbuster, Toy Story, the first computer film. Point Richmond, California is seen by worldwide movie goers as credits flash on theater screens. Employees are young, most under age 30. John Lassiter is head of production; their CEO is Steve Jobs. A laid back working atmosphere is reflected in the open modular cubicles whose decor includes toys, scooters and an adult playground aura but their work is intense. Many can be found working well into the early morning. Theirs is mostly a 60 hour week. It takes about three weeks to create 3-seconds of film.

Three major films are now in production. "A Bugs Life" is to be released in 1998. The audience responded in laughter listening to Colin tell the story of "A Bugs Life", a complex, complicated film to make. "Toy Story II", is a continuation of the first film. The third film is yet unnamed.

Pixar has purchased land in Emeryville to build for their expanding productions and expect to move in about four years. The young employees are family oriented and enjoy the 'Bayberry' atmosphere of the Point. Around twenty families have already made the Point their home, Colin and his wife, Melissa, among them. Time will tell where Pixar goes in the future but for now, they are a part of the Point and welcomed.



This Point....in time



Church News

Our Lady of Mercy

Dee Rosier

232-1387

Whenever a fifth Sunday occurs, a second collection is taken to help support the souper kitchen. Our November collection netted \$1030.00. This was the largest sum collected. Your generosity will aid those less fortunate. Our next collection will be on March 29, 1998.

Due to the rapidity of the month of December the Parish Council did not meet this month.

The continuation of the rain keeps the repair of our bell tower on hold.

Art Ranger, a frequent visitor to our Sunday Masses passed away on December 7th. A memorial Mass was held for him at Our Lady of Mercy on December 12th. The overflowing crowd of friends and relatives a beautiful parting tribute to Art.

A recent baptism was Elisa Michelle De La Toree, daughter of Linda Smith and Edward De La Toree.

The church was beautifully decorated for the holiday season. Special thanks to Michael Smith for donating and setting up the Christmas trees; to David Boroski for the tree lights, and the Smith Brothers for setting up the Creche and Adolph Brossard for the shrine lights. A second set of thanks to the same

people who removed the the decorations and packed them away for next year.

Father Paul Devine celebrated the Midnight Mass. Many other Parishioners helped our Christmas liturgies joyous.

Special thanks to Bob and Marie Peckham (Santa Fe Market) who annually sponsor our church calendars.

Our first Parish assembly of the year was held on Sunday January 18th. I am sure everyone enjoyed the refreshments and comradery of fellow parishioners. Thanks go to those responsible for setting up and donating refreshments. Unfortunately I had the flu and had to miss it.

Our daughter, Renee' Rosier Knee, a Brickyard resident, was recently featured in the Sylvia Rubin's style counsel "Advice on How to Dress", in the January 15 issue of the *San Francisco Chronicle*

I recently read an article that going to church regularly is not only good for the soul, but researchers now show it good for the body. In a recent study doctors found that people who attend a religious service at least once a week had a healthier immune system. The study showed that church goers were only half as likely to have elevated levels of interluken-6, a protein involved in a variety of infections and age related diseases. The theory is that as people age their bodies lose the ability to regulate interluken-6 and they become more vulnerable to disease. So keep healthy and go to church.

Wishing you an exceptional 1998.

See you in church!



Point Richmond Methodist

Jean Reynolds

235-2988

We celebrated the baptism of Quinn Parmer Folks on December 7. In honor of the event the Angel Choir sang "Still with Me", a hymn composed by Pastor Dan Damon based on Psalm 139, and the Joyful Noise Choir sang "You are by Water Born and Blessed", written by Pastor Dan just for the occasion. The following Sunday, Lillie Thomas and Gladys Spencer became members. They were already busy being members; now they are official! Our circle keeps getting wider. . .

Some of the youth meet on Sunday mornings with Pastor Dan and study about Christian and United Methodist history and faith as they prepare for when they might join the church. Their class meets at the regular Sunday School time and will continue through Easter.

In early January, we provided a meal for G.R.I.P. Emergency Winter Shelter residents at Temple Beth Hillel. This shelter is housed at local churches and synagogues for one to two week time periods during the winter months, with evening and morning meals prepared and provided by volunteers. We help out small congregations with some of the volunteer needs that hosting requires. Residents of the program receive help to find more permanent housing.

We participated in a "Souper-Bowl Sunday" event in conjunction with the day of the same name but alternate spelling. Each person who attended worship was asked bring a can of soup and a dollar to be given to the Souper Center in Richmond. Last year, participating congregations nation-wide raised more than a million dollars in this way for their

own local charities.

More fun on the calendar. . .

A "Sweetheart of the Year" Award dinner to honor and roast Bob Peckham will be held at the Richmond Country Club on February 12, 6:30 to 10:00 p.m. Tickets cost \$25. Reservations may be made by calling Shirley Butt (237-2084) or Mid Dornan (234-5334). Proceeds will go to the roof fund.

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 31st installment.

Social League met in the Church Parlors with Mrs. Seymour and Griffin hostesses. Roll was called with 20 members present.

Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

Mrs. Owens reported for Mrs. Gibbons (sic) that the Ladies Aid could handle the Apron, Plant, and Grab Bag booths at the bazaar to be held Nov. 20th. Mrs. Gibbons to have charge of the Apron booth, Mrs. J.P. Smith the plant booth and Mrs. Dustheimer the grab bag booth. Mrs. Holbrooke called attention to an article in the modern Priscilla magazine relative to making articles for a bazaar and successfully (sic) managing one.

Report from Buying Committee. Mrs. Birdick said that a report would be made at the next meeting,

Mrs. Dustheimer thanked the League for flowers

sent her while in the hospital. Mrs. Ford was reported as getting along nicely. Mrs. Campbell was welcomed as a new member. Mrs. Jones reported on a plan suggested at the Quarterly Conference meeting by Dr. Bane regarding church finances, and how much the constant asking for donations had a bearing on church attendance. He said that one of the small valley towns had the following plan.--One person was appointed or elected to represent the year, 12 persons as the 12 months, the 52 weeks were represented by one and then the 365 days. Each was asked to contribute 1 cent per day or \$3.65 per year' which when worked out would amount to \$1500 per year. This was the only way this particular town had of financing their church and it worked out very successfully. It was the opinion that the food sale contributions amounted to a great deal more than \$3.65 per year, It was suggested that this plan could be worked out in conjunction with the Ladies Aid.

Mrs. Jones reported \$85 shortage in church finances.

Mrs. Dicely suggested each one earn \$1 or more to make up this shortage. Motion made by Mrs. Parker that \$10 be drawn from the treasury to make up our share of the shortage. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

On Hand	\$27.47
Rec'd Food Sale	.50
Dues. Mrs. Campbell	.10
Silver offering	2.35
	30.44
Pd First M.E.C. (Food Sale)	1.90
“ “ to help	
make up deficiency	10.00
	11.90
<u>Balance on Hand</u>	<u>-18.54</u>

Irene Conn
Mythen

West Side Improvement Club Coming Events

Anita Christensen

With renewed enthusiasm and energy the West Side Improvement Club members are ready for an active 1998 fun year.

Please mark your calendar and join us for you do not want to miss the two coming events for February and March.

FEBRUARY 3rd. By popular request and demand. A delightful reading from Masquers Playhouse performance of "Spoon River."

MARCH 3rd. Lecture by Dextra Christiansen, Physio-therapist from Walnut Creek, reputable and well known in her field. The subject, "How to Avoid From Falling". Also the important steps you can take to improve your activity, aliveness and awareness. Everyone regard less of 'age', should avail themselves of this lecture.

The Club serves dessert and coffee at each meeting. We would love to see you.

Time: 12 noon

Where: 1st Methodist Church Point Richmond

We embrace our community with our deep appreciation for the many expressions of love, talents and thoughtfulness throughout the year. We are indeed unique.

Our best wishes for the New Year, May 1998 be filled full with His many blessings.

Kid's Reunion

May 17th

A reminder that Sunday, May 17th is the Annual Meeting of the Point Richmond History Association and Kid's Reunion.

There is a general feeling that perhaps reunions should not me every year so after this year, there may be a lapse of a year or so. The committee is also trying to lure 'younger' along with the 'older' ones. Each has memories to share.

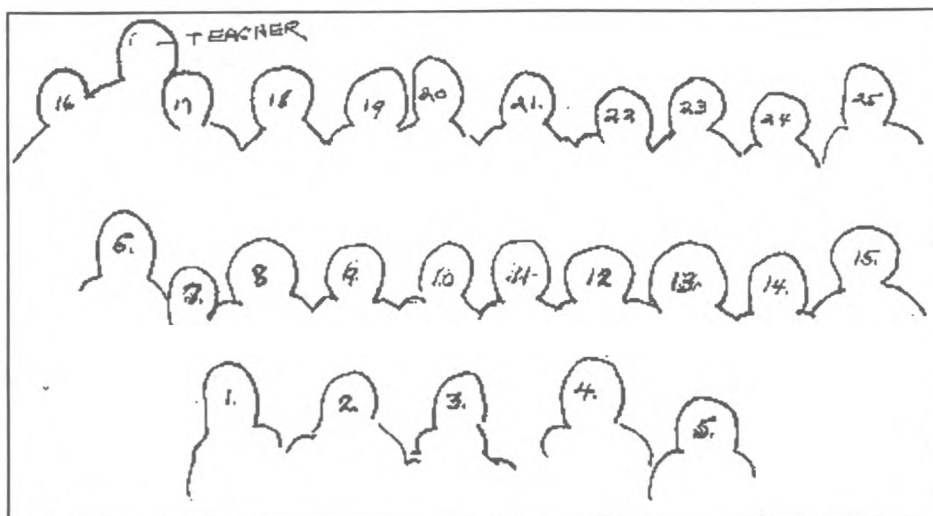


The Kid's Reunion Committee

For those with selective memories, the following are on the 1998 committee for the Reunion. Graciously Teresa Meneghelli has accepted being Chair again. New are Jenny Stark Lanning and from another generation (!) Linda Lanning. Others are Allan Smith, Chano Forner, Al Frosini, Julio Carrera, Ann and Bruce Bartram, June Solosabal, Mary Highfill, Liz McDonald, Josephine Palenchar and Mid Dornan. Sounds like a big committee? The successful reunion requires many hands. Call 510-223-9371 if you would like to be part of this special committee.



Kindergarten Class, 1954
Miss Lucille James,
teacher



- 1 Stephen Haas
- 2 Danny Crockel
- 3 Arthur Johnson
- 4 Clarence (Gary) Draper
- 5 Dick Coryell
- 6 Donna Sue Burleoud
- 7 Charlotte Isley
- 8 Beverly Jergenson
- 9 Linda Keels
- 10 Jessica Capps
- 11 Myrna Elmore
- 12 Onida Clutts
- 13 Patricia Dornan
- 14 Bonnie Bright
- 15 Darlene Albright
- 16 David Gray
- 17 Jimmy Cheshareck

- 18 Barnaby Edwards
- 19 Terry Gremillion
- 20 Philip Herrera
- 21 Russell Caccavello
- 22 Richard Thomas
- 23 Dick Titjen
- 24 James Campbell
- 25 David Greenlaw

Absent:

- Emily Clutts
 Linda Cowell
 Debbie Dutrow
 Freddie Miller
 Meade McClure
 Danny Welch

Anne Hanzlik Reviews The Masquers Production

Oscar Wilde's LORD ARTHUR SAVILE'S CRIME



January 23 - February 28, 1998

The author of this characteristic English comedy was born Oscar Fuigalh O'Flarietie Wells Wilde, the son of a famous Irish surgeon

and whose mother was a writer known as Esperanza. He starred in academics at Oxford but he was also famous as an eccentric, affecting effeminate clothes and an artistic life style. He was an apostle of a new cult of the aesthete.

The current play, a typical British comedy satire was one of his earlier ones, published in 1891. It was followed by several productions both in England and the United States, which he had visited with much notoriety. There were productions of "Lady Windemeres Fair" and also the well known "The Importance of Being Earnest".

These success somewhat mollified the criticism of his effeminate reputation. However in 1895 he was sentenced to two years of hard labor in jail for losing his libel suit against the Marquis of Queensberry. This produced his long and somber poem "The Ballad of Reading Goal" in 1898. By



The resourceful butler Baines (Norman Macleod, left) and his master Lord Arthur (Richard Bolster, right) discover that another of their schemes has gone amiss.

then he was bankrupt and left to live on the continent living under a pseudonym. He died in Paris in 1900. After his death there was published an apology by him, in 1905, for his life.

The Masquers have done a graceful and amusing rendition of the present play, adapted from Wilde's story by Constance Cox and directed by David Case.

The crisp, dry action, typically British is ably executed by the accomplished cast. Richard Bolster as Lord Arthur is a charming and animated rendition of the leading part. Richard is a new comer from the "Big Apple". (He is also seen in a current independent film, "Painted Gold").

Lady Windemere, Kathi Brotemarkle, has joined the Masquers for the first time as so does Tori Henkle as Sybil. Also new to the Masquers is Stephanie Leverage as Nellie. Other new comers are Norman MacLeod as Baines and Lorelee Windsor as Lady Clementina. There is a distinctly English aura to the cast, directed by David Case, also a native Londoner, we welcome them all!

However there are also some well known members of the cast such as Robert Love as "Masquer" since 1986 and Robert Taylor since 1987, not to mention Robert Wood, who has been "on the boards" of and on for 14 years.

The production crew added their usual excellent contribution to make the Masquers the outstanding and enduring organization it has been for the past forty odd years.

The MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

presents

Oscar Wilde's LORD ARTHUR SAVILE'S CRIME



By Constance Cox
Directed by David Case

FRIDAY & SATURDAY EVENINGS
JAN. 23 - FEB. 28, 1998
Sun. Matinees: FEB. 1, 15 & 22

Based on Oscar Wilde's story, this stylish comedy-mystery tells how Lord Arthur attempts to fulfill the prophecy that he will commit a crime. He wants it over and done with before he marries his fiancée. But the crime foretold is murder! "Great fun and strictly for laughs."

THE CAST

Richard Bolster • Kathi Brotemarkle • Tori Hinkle
Stephanie Leverage • Robert Love • Norman Macleod
Linda Paplow • Robert Taylor • Lorelee Windsor
Robert Wood

24-Hr. Reservations: 510 232-4031

We accept VISA and MasterCard.
All reservations must be prepaid. All sales final.

Box Office opens 7:30PM; Matinees 2PM.
Curtain 8:00PM. Matinees 2:30PM.
Admission \$10 cash, check or credit card.
Group Rates available.

MASQUERS DINNER & THEATER BENEFIT

THURS., FEB. 26
DINNER at Hotel Mac
And "Lord Arthur Savile's Crime"
\$25. Call (510) 236-4988

Presidential Tidbits

Mid Dornan

Our Presidents are recognized in February with an observed national holiday. Their terms of office and historical impact are recorded in history books. Little known facts include:

The first president to be born in the country of the United States was **Martin Van Buren**, on December 5, 1782. Among other things, he organized the first Democratic National Convention in 1831.

-**FDR** was the first president to name a woman as a Department Secretary. She was **Frances Perkins**, Secretary of Labor.

-**James Buchanan** was our first and only lifetime bachelor president.

-**Gerald Ford** was the first president to have served without having been elected to the office of either President or Vice-President.

-**William Howard Taft** was the only president to have served as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

-Dubious achievement goes to Vice-President **Aaron Burr**, who killed Treasury Secretary **Alexander Hamilton** in a duel on July 11, 1804. As far as is known, he is the only Vice President to have publicly killed someone. He is also known to have plotted to take over the presidency from **Thomas Jefferson**.

-Former presidents **Thomas Jefferson** and **John Adams** died within hours of each other on the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, on July 4, 1826.

-**Herbert Hoover**, Stanford geology student, translated a rare book on metallurgy, Agricola's *De Re Metallica*, from Latin to English.



Allan Smith's Point

I'm looking forward to our Editor, Gary Shows, to increase our newsletter to 30 pages or more as we have had some very talented contributors who occasionally write. (*ed. says "hmm!"*). For instance, in the December/January 1997-98 issue, Al Franco's "A Different World, But in Many Ways the Best Times" article should receive an "A-plus". Dr. Thompson always writes of fond memories and historical values as does Augie MacDonald, Bernard Bernes, Ed Garrard and Delphina Franco, among many others that write.

I was very surprised that our editor did not receive any comments, written or verbal, in regards to the September/October, 1997 TPIT where the picture of "Duke" Stairly was on the cover. This picture and the cover pictures of Loyd Christopher and Frankie Neil are my favorites.

Visit the Prego Pizzeria at 151 Park Place and enjoy looking at all of the framed photos that are wall displayed at the owners cost. They are of early days of Point Richmond. (Enjoy a pizza while you are there). The daughter of Mohamed and Sheba Warith, owners of the Point Richmond Market, is operating the restaurant.

An Eagle Returns: Bryan Smith, Point Richmond native, home for the recent holidays, visited the site where the late Scout Master Robert Dornan and his Boy Scouts from Point Richmond Troop #111 planted about 100 trees, 20 years ago. He was very discouraged to see that only a few

trees still exist and that the Robert Dornan Memorial Grove maintenance is sorely neglected. It is located across from the Miller-Knox Regional Park adjacent to the motorcycle clubhouse. He will donate some time on his next trip home in February to its upkeep. Scout Master Bob Dornan presented an Eagle Scout Award to Bryan Smith in 1980.

I wonder if the late Mary Hodges is smiling in her grave? She was the lovable West Side Branch Librarian for as long as I can remember. Smiling, because once again I am a contributor to the library's picnic fund because of overdue books. Is the fine still 10 cents per day? Librarian Hodges was always very fair to all of us when it came to paying the money owed.

I've been after our present Librarian to restart a West Side Library column in TPIT like her predecessors did. She doesn't seem able to find the time. I guess the circulation is to big. So, I would like to suggest, if you have the time, read Into Thin Air, a Mount Everest recent tragedy. Ironically, my overdue books were all about the history of Richmond. I want to investigate the role that Fred Parr Played in Richmond's history.

During the Depression years you could join the Civilian Conservation Corps if unable to find job after graduating from high school. The CCC paid \$30 a month, room and board. Before joining, you were taken to Fort Mason, U.S. Army Headquarters, and offered to join the Army, \$17 per month. What would be your choice?

Sports Memories

by Allan Smith

I've been asked several times by natives of Pt. Richmond who have moved from the area, 'whatever became of **Al Frosini**', a legendary Point native. Well, I refer them to the January 20, 1998 issue of the *West County Times*. The *Times* donated 1/2 page to **Al Frosini** in their "Everday Athlete" column. A great write-up and **Al** is still involved in boxing, despite his 80 years, and is residing in the Point with his wife Helene (Raffanelli).

Whenever the sport (?) of pugilism is the topic of discussion, I always relate that Point Richmond was the home of a former Bantamweight Champion. **Frankie Neil**, of the Point was the World Champion at the age of 20. When he retired from Boxing he moved from his native San Francisco to Point Richmond in 1911. He proved to be a friend of everyone in the Point and listening to his recollection of professional fights in his career are memories we all cherish. Frankie was appointed to the National Association Boxing Hall of Fame. I personally, took him to the Boxing Gym in San Francisco several times and they always treated him like a "Champion". Recently, I was given a December 1997 issue of the *Petaluma Post*. It contained a reprint of the 1969 story of "Remembering Frankie Neil", by Bill Soberanes, a columnist-peopleologist, in his column of "My Fascinating World of People". I would like to quote from the full page article the first paragraph and I hope our congenial Editor, Gary Shows, will print it.

It is as follows:

Fame flies with the passing of time, and many men who were once the toast of the world live long enough to be forgotten by most. These men outlive those who looked upon them as heroes of the day and often fade into oblivion without friends or finances. Some of them even live long enough to find that the fields they reigned over as heroes no longer produce heroes of the same magnitude.

There are two large framed pictures of Frankie Neil in the Point Richmond History Association Museum and the Boxing Museum in San Francisco. Incidentally, Frankie Neil, World Boxing Champion ended the twilight of his career as the Janitor for Point Richmond's Post Office.

Many athletes from Point Richmond were good enough in their playing careers to become professional football players and earn a "Super Bowl" ring but ??????. The native college Point players the could have 'made it' were the Paasch's, the Giacomelli's, the Slagles, the Cakos's all outstanding players. The late Robert Hartnyk, Sr. did play professional football at one time. He came to the Point with the late Frank Schock when both were attending St. Mary's College in Moraga.





CARDS & LETTERS



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

I would like to thank all of Point Richmond for its warm and generous response to the Food Drive, and to ask that next year you help Diana as much as you have helped me, so that your exceptional friendliness and sharing may be perpetuated for those who appreciate the giving as well as the gift.

Lucretia Edwards
Point Richmond



Dear Gary:

Letters, letters critiquing my Remembrance Articles, mostly favorable, my sister Rita's for example. The other one questioned my "Memory Catcher". "No such thing" it insisted. How could such a thing catch a Memory. Gee, I don't know, I never took it apart to see how it works. Perhaps this critic is correct so if he is right, what is this thing I call a memory catcher? Now it is full to overflowing and some things are being squeezed out. They look like memories but then I never really saw a memory. Memories just are, one does not try to analyze their appearance. In fact I am not sure they have an appearance. On the other hand the Native

Americans have a "Dream Catcher" which they hang over an infants crib to catch bad dreams. Everyone knows that bad dreams are harder to catch than memories. I hope this answers all of your questions.

Pleasant Memories,
Augie Mac Donald
Farmington, NY



Dear Pam:

Enclosed find check for membership in the PRHA. While I never lived in Point Richmond, I have fond remembrances of friends, places, and activities there.

My grandfather, grandmother and my mother lived on Smokey Row in the early 1900's probably about 1911 before moving uptown to Barrett Avenue between 10th and 11th. Their names were Levi L. and Mary A. Shoemaker and their daughter Stella Y. Shoemaker (later Anderson). Stella later became a Richmond schoolteacher, teaching at Peres, Lincoln, Nystrom and Mira Vista Elementary schools. Smokey Row was later demolished for the construction of the tunnel or for the Natatorium. Smokey Row was a number of almost identical homes alongside the Santa Fe tracks just before the railroad tunnel where the tennis courts and the Plunge

now stand.

During the 1930's, Richmond school students could swim at the Natatorium on free days. The boys swam on Thursday afternoon and girls on Wednesday. During vacation time, Monday afternoon was also free for co-ed swimming. Ralph Kendrick was the lifeguard and he also taught life saving, etc. for the Red Cross and passed swimming requirements for the Boy Scouts. My brother-in-law, Paul Moorhead; Harry Orthman and myself were locker boys at one time. Harry Orthman became a pilot during WW2. He either stayed in the service or was called back during the Berlin Airlift or Korea. He later, as a Colonel, was pilot of Air Force I for President Dwight Eisenhower.

Thank you,
Robert T. Anderson
Truckee, CA

Thanks Robert! Did you know that many of the Smokey Row houses were not demolished but moved to various lots in an around Point Richmond and still exist today?
Gary



Dear Gary:

I read of the passing of Alan Clark, a very fine fellow.

He was a member of the Richmond Yacht Club and sailed the Swipe Class sailboat, as I

tried to do, during the pre WW2 years. He was an excellent sailor along with J.A. and J.D. Vincent. His dad owned the "Ace", an R class sailboat, made of mahogany that in those days was the class that was sailed in the America Cup Races.

J.A. Vincent could tell us more about Alan Clark and his dad who was involved with the ferry that ran between Point Richmond and Point San Quentin. Capt. Clark, Sr. built the Richmond Yacht Harbor near the Rod & Gun Club.

Best wishes,
Pete Hunn



Dear Pam Wilson:

I just recently became a member of PRHA and would like to know if I can order back issues of "This Point...in time". I would like to especially have copies of Vol XIV # 2 & #1 so that I would have the complete year of 1997. If you cannot provide me with the above two issues, then you can consider all or part of the \$5.00 check I have enclosed as a donation to your fine work.

Yours truly
Paul R. Nichols
Hercules, CA

We do have those back issues and will send them, thanks for the interest in our organization.
Gary



Vivien Cook: 1908 to 1997

Is Remembered by friend William Thompson

Vivien Cook recently passed away at Smith River in Northern California at the age of 89. He had been a native of Point Richmond and had been a classmate of mine through Washington School, Roosevelt Junior High and Richmond High School. He is survived by a younger sister, Edna, now living in Yountville.

Vivien with his sister and brother all attended church with me at the old Baptist Sunday school on Washington Avenue. Along with us was my brother Chester Thompson and a neighbor Charles Henry.

We remained good friends throughout school and played together on the high school football team in 1925 under the coaching of Maj. Hill. He played tackle and I was an end so we often played side by side. The most remarkable thing was that during that season we only lost one game. That was to Petaluma High School and the score was 3 to 2. Does not sound like a football score does it? Vivien also played on the baseball team. He had a remarkable sense of humor.

Vivien graduated from high school in the fall of 1926. We did not have a chance to follow each other after graduation. He apparently lived in Walnut Creek and worked for the Union Oil Co. there. He had 2 children and later several grandchildren. After retiring they moved to Smith River in northern California.

After I returned to Richmond after several years of college I learned that he had moved north and I was able to communicate with him several times by telephone. I often suggested that he come down on a visit and I would drive him around to all the old familiar places. However, he was suffering from arthritis and could not make the trip.

Vivien passed away in the Smith River area after being in a coma for several days. He lived a good and varied life and we will surely miss him.

Is Remembered by Daughter Loretta Hancock

My dad, Vivien Cook was born on May 20, 1908 in Gualala, California but Point Richmond was his real home and love. He enjoyed the phone calls and friends many time over all these years.

I will miss his love and time we had together, but am happy to have had him for so long. My mother will miss him after 67 years of marriage. My dad was a good man and I will always look up to him.

February Birthdays

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

ROWENE MACMILLAN
ETHEL MACMILLAN
DAGMAR FRANCIS
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
PEARLE WESTMAN
CARRIE WICKMAN DORN
VELMA HEALY
A VALENTINE GIRL!
SARAH WILSON
MARY SHUR
STEVEN MERTLE

FRANK PEARSON
DOUG BUSBY
WALTER MACMILLAN
CONNIE HEALY
MARCOS ROTTING
LANDOW HOWE
DODY PERRY
PHILIP DORN, III
KIM WARD

March Birthdays

KAROLYN MACDIARMID
VIRGINIA CHERNIAK
JOANN BRAY
BERNICE SHOWS
CAROL DARLING
GIRL SCOUTS
CAMP FIRE GIRLS
CARL PAASCH
RICH SCHULDT
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
BILL WILLIAMSON
DALE HAWKINS
CAROL PAASCH
WENDY WIRTH

JIM MORRISON
DOLLY FROSINI
REBA DOWNS
PHYLLIS FEYDER
VIRGINIA CHERNIAK
JEAN KNOX
DELPHINA FRANCO
MAXINE MAYER
WINNIE GUISTI
MARY VALENZANO
BEN BRAY
MARY VALENZANO
ELIZABETH BUHLER

The telephone company is urging people to please not use the telephone unless it is absolutely necessary in order to keep the lines open for emergency personnel. We'll be right back after this break to give away a pair of Phil Collins concert tickets to caller number 95.

a Los Angeles radio DJ shortly after the February 1990 earthquake

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

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Calendar

February and March, 1998

February 11
Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting
Noon at the Hotel Mac

February 14
Saturday

Valentine's Day

Valentine Making Contest
Noon to 4:00 pm, Point Community Center

February 16
Monday

President's Day Holiday

February 25
Wednesday

Ash Wednesday

March 11
Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting
Noon at the Hotel Mac

March 17
Tuesday

St Patrick's Day

March 20
Friday

Deadline for the April/May Issue of TPIT

Richmond Natatorium Dedicated, 1926

First Day of Spring

April 1
Wednesday

All Fools Day