

—THIS POINT.... in time

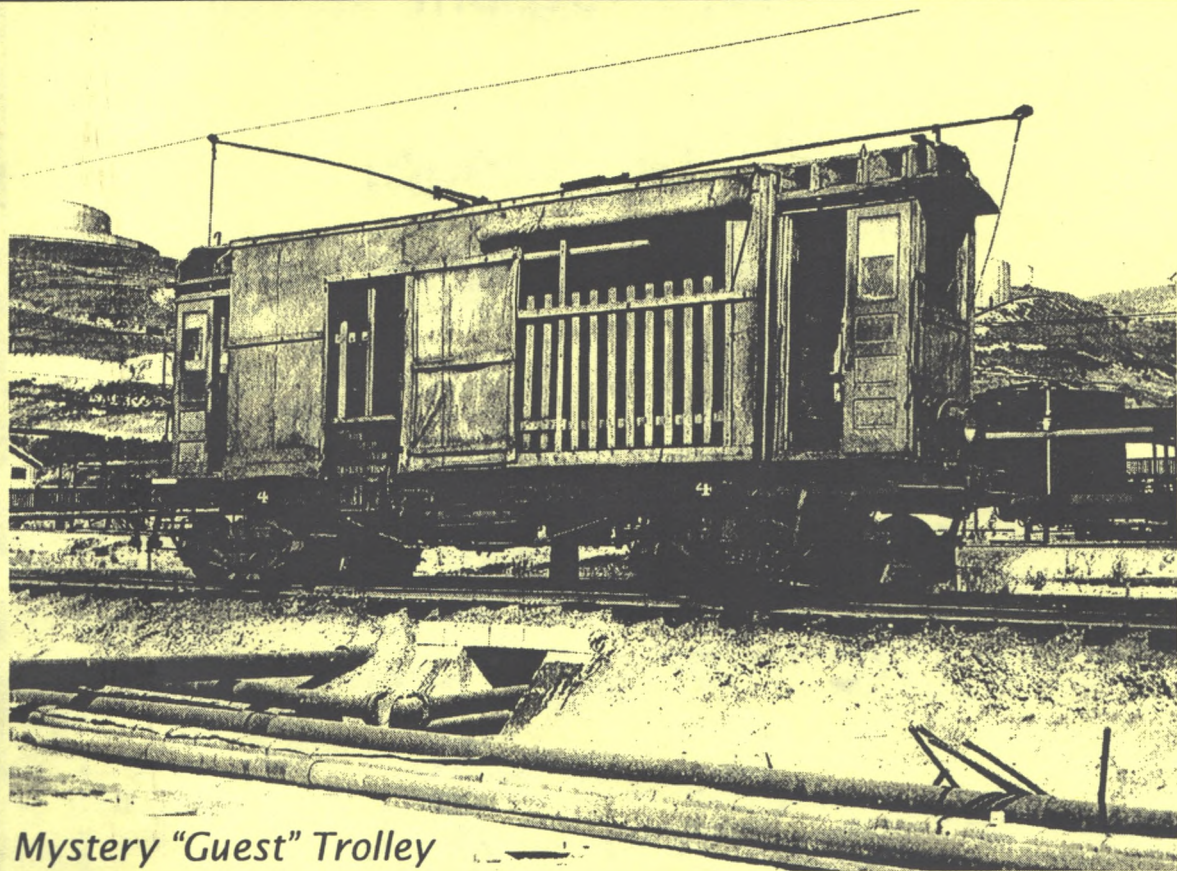
NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

Vol. XVI No. 6

April/May, 1998

\$1.50



Mystery "Guest" Trolley

Welcome to Point Richmond
Robin Williams

On
May 17, 1998
At 2:00 pm
the
**PRHA Annual
Membership Meeting**
And

**The Third Annual
Point Richmond Kids
Reunion and Show**

Is coming to
Our Lady of Mercy
Catholic Church

Don't miss it!

Refreshments will be served

From The President

Mid Dornan

It has been a February kind of month to forget! The fact it rained 26 of the 28 days didn't help. I arrived home after the theft of my car during a rainy, stormy, windy, miserable day, to find my telephone wasn't working. (It was an off-again, on-again situation for a whole month!) Guess who was in charge of reservations for Bob Peckham's most-fun-ever dinner!! Right. Then water on the kitchen floor came from a leaky sink, but the plumber wasn't available for two days; the first day the battery went dead! Water found its way into my garage, I chipped my front tooth and when things seemed at the bottom, my stolen credit card was going places I wasn't!

Today the sun shines, putting things into perspective; my house didn't slide down a cliff...floods didn't fill the house...and Ann Bartram took over Kid's Reunion chair!

So....will we see you on May 17th?

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

Pam Wilson

Betty Dornan

Maxine Mayer

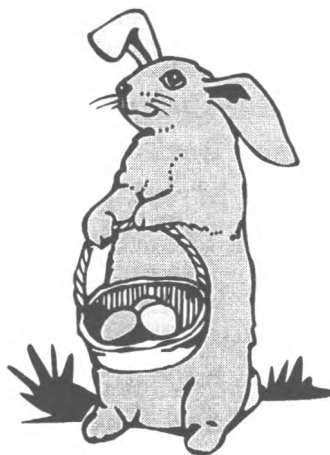
Lyle & Connee Fisher

John Papadakis

Helen Farres

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**Sarah Eeles
Mary Highfill
Luella C. Wilcox
Dixie Mello
Henry Gondola
Oretta Eaton
Mae Mandl
Lloyd & Melba Farley
C.F. Hochgesang
John and Barbara Vincent
Charles Novascone
Elizabeth McDonald
Shoney Gustafson
Mary Louise Ostrom
Sandi Genser-Maack
Inez A. Pestana
Reva Ward
Terry and Phyllis Downey
Bernard E. Christiansen
Albert J. Kollar
Thomas Kenny
Pete and Amanda Docter
Rita Hansen
Linda Andrew-Marshall
Elsine Beck TenBroeck
Dr. & Mrs. Bernard Dietz
Jay and Karen Fenton
Muriel Clausen
Pat Milano
Linda S. Milbourn
David and Carol McDiarmid**

**Jan and Jerry Feagley
Robert and Betty Menzie
Nellie Bisio Pasquini
Alexandra Gautraud
Virginia Cherniak
Allan P. Smith
Ed Garrard
Janice Cook and Jeff Lee
Dorothy Ruthnick
Bertha May McCloskey
Anne Anderson
Christopher Wilson
Anita Brougham
Elsie Spinola**

And a warm welcome to the following
new members:

**Michael & Janet Heckmann
Darlene A. Wright**

*Museum Staff Coordinator Betty
Dornan thanks volunteers who
staffed the History Building in
February and March*

**Bruce Bartram
Allan Smith
Mid Dornan
Sonja Darling
Bernard Christiansen
Joan Mowe
Dody Perry
Lyle Fisher**

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

Thank You!

to

Santa Fe Market and Point Richmond Market

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


Mother's Day

The Cover:

**"Toonerville Trolley" photo
supplied by Allan Smith who would
like for me to leave it as a Mystery
"Guest". You will learn more about
it in the next issue of TPIT.**

Gary's Column

Gary Shows

Hurray for Spring and the return of daylight savings time! This is truly the best time of the year.

This issue went together very well, I think it's a good one. Thanks to all contributors, especially Mid for covering so much material and to Allan who loaned the two 1933 Washington School class pictures.

The Robin Williams movie is kind of exciting, eh? I hope to get a bunch of pictures of the happenings for the next issue. And speaking of pictures I also hope to take yours at the May meeting also for publication in the Summer Issue.

Thanks also to Nora at the Solano Avenue Copy Mat for the return of good quality print, the last issue looked just great in every way!

Access to the world wide web? Be sure to check out the PRHA website, its pretty good.

<http://www.alkos.com/prha>

The deadline for the Summer issue is May 22nd with an anticipated date of assembly of June 4th.

Thanks to the February/March issue assembly crew:

Mary Highfill
Pam Wilson
Mid Dornan
Jerry Cerkowicz
Gary Shows
Betty Dornan

A-Mid TRIVIA

-Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question: When did Richmond's first telephone directory come out? How many names were listed?

Answer at end of Trivia.

Why does the future always seem to have more time than the present!

If you see Luciano "Chano" Forner walking the streets it is because his doctor told him to! Which is one reason Chano is looking fit after recent heart bypass.

When you look into the mirror you do not see your reflection, your reflection sees you.

A speedy recovery for Teresa Meneghelli after recent surgery and the treatment following. Hope she is well enough to be a 'guest' in May at the Kid's Reunion.

Engaged: Angela Workman and Justin Acquistapace who plan a May wedding in Concord. They will live in Hercules. Son of Carl and Marlyn Acquistapace of the Point, Justin is a printer in the family owned business, Richmond Blueprint and Litho Co.

Sandra Wallace is back at her Mechanics Bank desk after becoming a Mom in December. Daughter, Ciara, is "growing too fast" and being cared for by Daddy!

Jim Byers, Hotel Mac, was scheduled for shoulder surgery in March.

Crest Avenue residents Charlotte Woods and Alyce Williamson have been hospitalized and hopefully are home by the time this goes to print.

Can all the mud and landslides on Tewksbury, Golden Gate, Santa Fe and elsewhere in the Point during the recent rains be attributed to El Nino?

The Masquers's Playhouse. Inc. has received a \$25,000 gift from the Dean & Margaret Leshner Foundation (West County Times) for its building improvement fund to upgrade the turn-of-the-century 99-seat theater building.

Remember the Tour du-Point Bicycle Race last June? Promoters are planning to schedule another this year on May 31, 1998. The event took local residents by surprise, unprepared for the street closures last year; maybe the route will be better addressed this time. Many hours of planning go into making this a success.

Sorry to have missed Bernard Bernes San Diego telephone call.

Paul Lundgraf, our most distant member in Guam, was in the area recently. He said, "No one escaped damage from the worst storm ever to hit Guam at Christmas time". After treating our treasurer, Mary Rudolph, to dinner he gave her a generous donation to the History Association. For this we thank him but more thanks because he says he enjoys reading this newsletter! Kind words are priceless.

Who designed the ironing board? Does

anyone else still use one? And does anyone else wish they were wider?

Still on display at the History Museum in the Point are vintage irons dating back to the 1880's. Just looking at them gives you a feeling of how good we have it today.

Babies born in May in the Northern Hemisphere tend to weigh more than babies born in any other month. In the Southern Hemisphere, November is the big baby month.

Hard to believe the average ticket price for "Gone With the Wind" was 25¢ in 1939. The average ticket for "Titanic" is \$4.56

Starting January 1, 1999, the Federal Government will make ALL benefit payments, such as Social Security and veteran's benefits, via Direct Deposit (DD). Currently such payments are optional. Sending the money through Direct Deposit will cost just 2 cents, savings that could amount to \$100 million yearly!

It was a fourth generation Holy Sacrament celebration at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church on March 18th, 1998. Four month old Hailea Kehaulani Boykin came from Manhattan, Kansas to have Father Jim Clift perform the Baptism. Parents are Nathan and Kerri Boykin, Grandparents are Roy and Kris Javellana and proudest Great Grandparents are Mary and Victor Highfill. P.S. GG/M Mary commented, "Hailea enjoyed the whole ceremony!"

Some puppies, like some children, just don't know the good life they have! Count,

Lucy, 7 month-old Black Lab of Tom and Shirley Butt who began her midnight wunderlust a month ago and is still 'out-there'! Shirley has made so many trips to the Pound searching, she's fallen in love with each puppy there. But is always delighted to learn of their adoption before her return trip!

The trouble with being punctual is that there's so few there to appreciate it.

If you named your new baby Michael or Sarah, he or she is going to have a lot of friends and classmates with the same name. Those were the most popular baby names last year. Other popular boys names were Matthew, Nicholas, Jacob, Brandin, Joshua, Austin and Zachary. Girls were Kaitlyn, Brianna, Ashly, Jessica, Taylor, Megan, Hannah and Samantha.

Remember: Gargling first thing in the morning is a good way to find out if your neck leaks!

JOYOUS EASTER!

ANSWER: Richmond's first telephone directory came out in 1906. It was merely a strip of light cardboard containing the names of 259 subscribers. When one called a friend on party lines, it was possible for ten people to listen in on the conversation all at the same time.



Robin Williams Films Scene For His Movie "Patch Adams" in Point Richmond

Hollywood is coming to the Point April 14-17 transforming the triangle area into the 60's. Vintage cars, dress and environs will appear daily and filming on the 17th could possibly continue until sunrise on the 18th. A 'Diner' will be constructed in the Point Orient parking lot, Bob and Sherry's will be the 'Free Clinic' with shrubbery disguising more recent architecture.

Camera crews and equipment will be based at the Washington School area as schools are closed that week for Spring vacation. Parking during the filming will be critical as sound trucks, generators, and camera trucks must be staged close to shooting. All this exciting sidewalk activity, isn't financially beneficial to local merchants, but it is hoped something will go to help save the Plunge and the Many Hands Project at Washington School.

Patch Adams is the true life story of Dr. Hunter Adams. Well, depicted as 'true' as only Hollywood can make it.

-Mid Dornan



Diner in the Point Orient parking lot to be used in the movie. Customers to the Point Orient get valet parking. This is taken the day the diner arrived

THE IRISH IN POINT RICHMOND

Only in Point Richmond is everyone Irish on St. Patrick's Day. Or so it seems! A celebration of Catholics and Methodists was held in the basement of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church on Tuesday, March 17th. Traditional Corn Beef and Cabbage with carrots and potatoes was cooked next door by the men of the First Methodist Church and served by the women of the Catholic Church. (Why are these women the same familiar faces from Scouting, PTA, Camp Fire and other service clubs through the years? McKinley, Forbes, Palenchar, Gerk, Beardsley, Kirkpatrick, etc.)

Community singing of Irish songs led by Jack Murray and accompanied on the Keyboard by Jean Eakle was following by the Irish Blessing by the Methodist Choir.

So successful was this event planned by Gill Stanford and Bob Peckham, it is hoped there will be more ecumenical activities.

VIRTUOSO VARIETY SHOW A SUCCESS

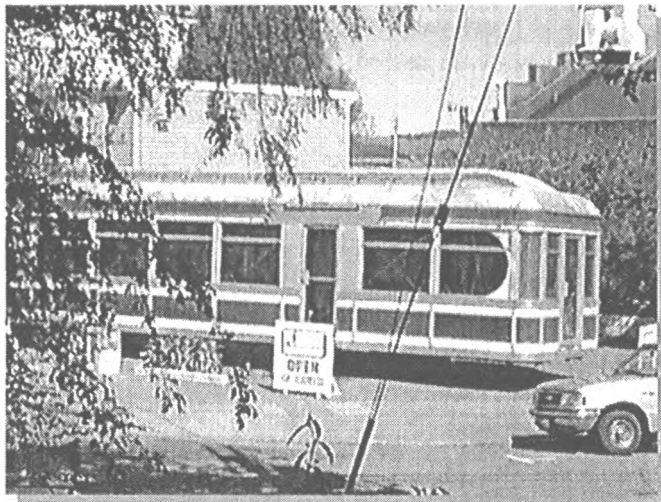
An appreciative audience 'raised-the-roof' as they responded enthusiastically, often with a standing ovation, to the Variety Show at the Methodist Church on Friday the 13th! The performance showcased LOCAL MUSICIANS!

The band: Dan Damon, piano; Jack Hines, bass; Roger Brooks, drums; Michael Baker, Guitar; Michael Moss, saxophone; Kit Eakle, violin.

Vocalists; Barbara Rhodes, Mark Barringer, Gill Stanfield, Tammara Plankers, Liz Skow and Paula Helene.

Profuse thanks was given to the musicians who gave their time and talent. Thanks to Hidden City Cafe for their contribution. This is another effort of the community to help retire the debt on the roof of this historic church. Requests for more from this group were vocal.

*Another view of the
diner on it's first
day in the Point.*



Church News

Our Lady of Mercy

Dee Rosier

232-1387

Repair work on the bell tower has begun and weather permitting should be complete soon. Bigham Taylor Roofing of Hayward is doing the work. Thanks to our Parishioners who faithfully donate on the first of each month to the Maintenance and Repair Fund. There was a sufficient amount in the fund to defray the \$11,800.00 cost. The last time work was done on the tower was in 1961.

Thanks to Al and Ina Rife who compiled the 1997 Parishioner donor statements. All Parishioners who are regular church envelope users received a statement to show proof of church support to the IRS.

Get well wishes to Chano Forner who underwent heart valve replacement. He sends thanks to all who called and sent cards. The best proof of his recovery is having him back at Sunday Mass.

The El Nino rains kept the Parish Council from meeting in February. The next meeting will be held in March.

The rain did not keep 160 people from attending the Bob Peckham roast. Master of Ceremonies, Tom McGowan was quick witted and set the mood for the evening. Other speakers shared tales of Bob's past and present. It was an evening of Catholic and Methodist unity and a grand tribute to a very

special Parishioner

Janet Dunn and Amy Letscher were joined in matrimony at our Parish on Valentine's Day. Amy used to live on Golden Gate Avenue.

Louise Haley, our oldest Parishioner celebrated her 96th birthday in February. Also celebrating February birthdays were Alan Smith and Brenda McKinley.

The Sunday' February 15th Mass intention was in the memory of the 16th anniversary of my Mother's death. It was with great pride that the mass was attended by my closest family members. Twelve of us then had breakfast at my home.

Baptized on March 1 was Hailea Boykin, daughter of Nathan Boykin and Kerrie Kanai. Her parents were married at our Parish and we welcome Hailea into our Parish.

Let's not forget our shut ins who cannot regularly attend Mass. Louise Banks continues to improve. Janice Griffin, who took a fall and had surgery continues on the mend. Dody Perry recently underwent yet another hand surgery. Also remember in your prayers Theresa Meneghelli who has been so kind to our Parish.

Our condolences to Connie and Jack Healy over the recent loss of their niece.

Our March Parish Assembly was celebrated "in the green" for St. Patrick's Day. Thanks to Ameila and all of her helpers for the great decorations and goodies.

The Catholics and Methodists again reunited for a St. Patrick's Day corned beef and cabbage dinner. The Methodists did the cooking at their church and then brought it over to the Parish hall where the Catholics served and provided dessert and cleanup.

Entertainment was provided and the hall was filled with gaiety.

Father Larry Banfield, O.P. (Dominican) will be conducting a Parish Mission at our Parish during the week of March 16th. Father Larry has been ordained for 57 years. We welcome him into our Parish.

Our Bishop's appeal goal has been reached. To date Parishioners have donated \$2215.00. The Bishops Appeal Fund helps provide a financial helping hand to Parishes and schools in need of help; retrofitting earthquake-damage churches, Priests' retirement fund, and many other legitimate needs.

Enjoy the sunny days while they last and stay well.

See you in Church.



Point Richmond Methodist

Jean Reynolds

235-2988

The United Methodist Women donated Bibles to be presented to Sunday School students in the second grade and older. Bibles were presented on February 1, to Ginger Paasch, Taylor McClure, Heather Damon, Bethany Reynolds, Jessica Horton, Emily Goetsch, Liam Thompson, Aaron Marshall, Michael Marshall, Maria Sol DeForrest, Nathan Goetsch, David Reynolds, and J.R. McClure.

I hope none of you missed the

"Sweetheart of the Year" award dinner on February 12, given in honor of Bob Peckham of Santa Fe Market fame. Many of our neighborhood "pillars" were on hand to help toast/roast our friend Bob, whose sense of community has so shaped the reality of our community. Bob is a true "sweetheart", and many of the speakers could only say nice things about him (but others made up for it.) Bob was presented with an honorary membership to the United Methodist Church (and he didn't even have to denounce wickedness.) Besides being a feel-good event, the dinner was a fund-raiser for the church roof project.

On March 13, the church hosted a Virtuoso Variety Show that featured local musicians. Before the show, Hidden City Cafe offered delicious dining and gave a donation to the roof fund for any patron who mentioned the Methodist Church. The concert featured Pastor Dan Damon, Michael Moss, Roger Brooks, Michael Baker, Paula Helene, Barbara Rhodes, Gill Stanfield, Tammara Plankers, Mark Barringer, Kit Eakle, Liz Skow and Jack Hines.

This is no blarney I'm tellin' ye: the congregations of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic and Point Methodist Churches celebrated St. Paddy and the Luck o' the Irish together with a corned beef and cabbage dinner on March 17. The dinner was served in the parish hall at Our Lady of Mercy, and was cooked in the Methodist Church (by Methodist men, and Virginia Cherniak.) We sang some Irish songs, led by Jack Murray and Gill Stanfield, and the Methodists wore just as much green as the Catholics.

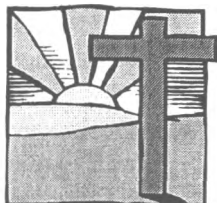
Pastor Dan and Claudia LeGué are part of a group of singer/musicians who are going

to Zimbabwe in August to sing and help construct faculty buildings at Africa University. They get to go, but the rest of us will be learning more about Africa and will be contributing in other ways to this mission project. Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 20 - 24, and the theme this year is Lodu's Escape. It will be a time for children ages three to sixth grade to learn about the land and culture of Africa, and for that rascal puppet Anansi the spider to tell his stories.

Ahead on the Calendar....

Point Methodist Church hosts a Feast for All on Palm Sunday, April 5. Local merchants and individuals are donating food and expertise to prepare and serve a ham dinner for our community. Palm Sunday services begin at 11:00 A.M. and dinner will be served from 12:15 to 2:30 P.M. in Friendship Hall at the church. All are welcome.

May 2, Saturday, Annual Junktique Yard Sale. Leave a message on the church phone (236-0527) if you have items in good condition to donate. Regardless, plan to attend on May 2, between 8:30 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. There is always a variety of household items, furniture, children's clothing, office equipment, books and other treasures to be had at the sale. It is a shopper's holiday!



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 32nd installment.

Sept 11, 1925

Social League met in the church Parlors with Mrs. Holbrook and Mrs. Elizabeth Jenkins as hostesses. Roll was called with 20 members present. Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

List of members who had paid their assessment was read and those who had not paid were requested to give the matter their attention.

Mrs. Holbrook offered to make a rag rug for the bazaar and asked the members to contribute any old cotton article for this purpose.

It was moved and seconded that Mrs. Burdick be paid \$1.00 to cover the purchase of stamped bureau scarfs for the bazaar. Carried.

Election of officers

Mrs. Dicely elected President

Mrs. Brother " 1st Vice Pres.

Mrs. Seymour " 2nd " "

Mrs. Dustheimer " Sceretary

Mrs. Oehne " Treasurer

Motion was made by Mrs. Danner that the 3rd Saturday of each month be definitely decided upon as the date for our Food Sales. Motion carried. Mrs. Jones reported that all but \$30 had been made up of the \$85 shortage in church finances. She also thanked the League for their loyal support and said the church finances were in better condition than they had been for years.

Mrs. Alta Lighter and Mrs. Adelaine Stender were welcomed as new members.

Meeting Adjourne

On hand \$1854
Recd

Mrs. Mythen - assessment .50
Mrs. Dingle " .50
Silver offering 2.45
3.45

\$21.99

Bills Paid

Mrs. Burdick - fancy work \$1.00
Richmond Rose 2.00
Balance on hand \$18.00
Irene Conn Mythen
Sec.
Audited Sept 14, 1925
Merle Brothers
Helen Burdick

ANNUAL JUNKTIQUE SALE

Saturday, May 2nd
Point Methodist Church
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

WANTED:

toys
jewelry
kitchen ware
large/small appliance
lamps
children's clothing
radios, TV's
knick-knacks
miscellaneous furniture
usable computers

Call the Church 236-0527 or 232-11 02 or
232-431 7 for more information or if you
have items to be dropped off or picked up.

WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB NEWS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

-Anita Christensen

April 7, 1998

A tour of the Richmond Museum of
History, 400 Nevin Avenue, 11:30 A.M.
Box lunch catered by ROSEMARY'S
BAKERY.

Cost \$10.00.

Hosted by Ellie Strauss

Reservations needed

May 5, 1998

Program -"Spoon River" -by the
Masquers. Always interesting and
delightful, a "two thumbs up". Regular
business meeting to follow.

The club members voted to donate the
sum of \$250 towards the "Save the Plunge"
project.

We must be doing something right. At
our March 3rd meeting the Club welcomed
the following new members:

Bessie Squires

Maxine Stoddard

Gladys Spencer

Lauren McCloud

We are looking forward to enjoying
their presence in the Club.

For more information call: 233-3343
or 236-8036.



My Memories of the Stairley Family

by Dr. William Thompson

I read with interest Allen Smith's article in the November Point about the Stairley family. My family lived up the hill from the Stairley and knew them fairly well so I thought I would add a little more to his article. I remembered them well when I was a child and knew most of them well in later years.

The Stairley family lived in a three story wooden residence on the south side of the lower end of Montana street. The father, Waverly Stairley I recall as an elderly man who I often saw walking down east Richmond avenue. He always dressed in a long black over coat and large black hat. Also he had a long white beard and usually had a small white dog on a leash. Mr. Stairley came to Richmond in an about 1902 and started the first bank. This Bank of Richmond was later taken over by other banks including the American Trust Co. and later became a part of the Well's Fargo Bank.

The old Bank of Richmond on the corner of East Richmond Avenue and Washington Avenue was an a very important factor in early Richmond. It was the only place this side of Berkeley where a working man could cash his pay check. The Standard Oil (Chevron now) let their employees off an hour early on pay day so that they could go to the bank. I recall lines of men outside the bank on every payday. I understand that Mr. Stairley later became

postmaster in Point Richmond.

Mrs. Stairley was a rather stylish lady and was said to hare been a niece of Robert E. Lee. I recall her walking down East Richmond Ave. almost always dressed in a purple dress. The Stairleys had 2 children, a daughter and a son. The daughter married George Lee who worked in the bank and later became a local real estate and insurance man. They lived in a house on the north side of Montana Street near its upper end. This house later became the residence of the Ken Koht family. Koht had a garage on Garrard Blvd. near its junction with Standard Ave. The Lee's had one one child a daughter named Virginia. The Stairleys were southerners and Waiverly was said to have served in the Confederate army during the Civil War. He was middle aged when he came to Richmond. The voting register said he was aged 57 in 1902.

The son, Marmaduke, called Duke was a rather unusual person who I came to know quit well in his later life. I don't believe that he ever married. He seemed a little unusual and drank quite a little. He told me that he knew Jack London and drank with him down in Oakland on the waterfront. He did not have a very good opinion of London. Duke worked mostly on the bay with boats of his own and worked at times on the local dredgers. He fished, catching both fish and shrimps. I recall

once watching him fishing for shrimp in the bay area between what is now the inner and outer harbors. He ran his boat in wide circles around the shrimp area reducing the size of the circles to concentrate the shrimp in the center then catching them in his nets.

Waverly Stairley was a middle aged man when he came to Point Richmond and I recall very little about him. However, later I knew Mrs. Stairley and Duke quite well. Both were patients of mine in their later years. Mrs. Stairley lived to be 102 years of age and spent her later years in a small room in on the top floor of their old residence on Montana Ave. There was a bed, an easy chair and a front widow from which she could look out on East Richmond Ave. and some of the Washington School. I doubt if she ever left this room in her later months or even years as it was at the top of a long steep flight of stairs from the floor below. However, her son Duke took good care of her. He was past 75 years of age but did a good job. I visited them several times and had some interesting talks with them. In spite of her age

Mrs Stairley was quite alert and rational.

I recall Duke sitting in the main floor of the old house listening to a radio. The radio was an old crystal set, very antique and had to be listened to with a head set and had to be adjusted with the cat's whisker. We had several talks and he gave me some old historic mementos. I believe, at that time, that he was the last person alive that knew professor Botts and had seen his airship.

When Mrs. Stairley died, the daughter, Mrs. Lee, decided to sell the old house and Duke had to move out. He lived here almost all of his life. Duke then moved into a small two roomed shack down in the inner harbor between Cutting Blvd. and the harbor waterfront. He seemed content and I visited him there several times and helped him when I could. I heard later that the family put him in a rest home where he later died. Duke was an unusual person and probably was well past 80 years when he passed away.

The Stairley family was a remarkable family and quite important in early Point Richmond history.



*"The son,
Marmaduke,
called Duke was a
rather unusual
person who I came
to know quit well
in his later life."*

Washington School 4th Grade Class of 1933



Top Row (left to right):

1. ? 2. ? 3. ? 4. ? 5. ? 6. Myrtle Smith 7. ? 8. ?

Middle Row (left to right)

1. Earl Kelleghan 2. ? 3. Frank Matteucci 4. Rudy Stark 5. ? 6. Claude Bisio 7. Harry McDonald 8. Jimmy McDonald 9. Sparky Allyn 10. Bruno Biancini 11. Louis McDonald

Bottom Row (left to right)

1. ? 2. ? 3. ? 4. ? 5. ? 6. ? 7. Charlotte Doney 8. ? 9. ? 10. Francis Gebhart 11. Roberta Jenkins 12. ?

Kid's Reunion Committee Report

The energetic and certainly vocal members of the Kid's Reunion met and have things almost 'ready' for the Sunday, May 17th event.

Due to recent surgery of chairman Teresa Meneghelli, capable Ann Bartram graciously accepted chairmanship. LeRoy Williams has even volunteered to serve on the committee too.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you and rumor has it Al Franco might be down from Washington. Betty Glass Marshall made her reservations a year ago at the Hotel Mac! Your help is needed with names to include younger 'Kids!' Call Gary Shows, 235-1336, and leave the address on his machine. We'll do the rest.

Join the fun and festivities on SUNDAY, MAY 17th at 2:00 p.m. at the Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church.

The MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE presents



The fun-filled musical "Mame,"
Great songs and outlandish high jinks
complement the warm and touching story
of the fabulous Mame and how she raises
her orphaned nephew Patrick in her unique
and quirky, but highly enjoyable manner.
Music & lyrics by Jerry Herman
Book by Jerome Lawrence
and Robert E. Lee
Based on the novel by Patrick Dennis
Directed by John Hull

FRIDAY & SATURDAY EVENINGS

APRIL 3 - MAY 16, 1998

Sun. Matinees: APRIL 19 & 26, MAY 3 & 10

THE CAST

Susan Amacker • Douglas Braak • Linda Brooks • Abraham Brown • Cathleen Canier
Andrew Gabel • Troy Guthrie • Ann Homrighausen • Tim Hutchinson • Donna Hyatt
Valerie Knowles • Daniel Morgan • Michael O'Brien • Carley Praml • Joe Repczynski
Katie Sciancalepore • Hillary Waits • Robert White • Judy Whiting • 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 *12 cash, check or credit card. Group Rates available.



Dinner at the Hotel Mac and "MAME"
THURS., MAY 14, \$25. Call (510) 236-4988

Irving Berlin's **CONCERT GALA**
ANNIE GET YOUR GUN
with Lisa Peers as Annie
produced by Robert Love

* SPECIAL MOTHER'S DAY PERFORMANCE

Sun. May 10, * 7:00 PM Sun. May 17, 7:00 PM
Fri. May 22, 8:00 PM Sat. May 23, 8:00 PM

Admission: *15 All profits benefit the Masquers Seaside Retro-Fa Fund
RESERVATIONS 510 232-3888

Point Community Honors Bob Peckham

by Frances Smith

Selected as SWEETHEART OF THE YEAR by the Point Richmond Methodist Church, Bob Peckham was roasted (and praised) on February 12th at a special dinner in his honor attended by 160 celebrants at the Richmond Golf and Country Club. Outside it was truly dark and stormy, but inside it was warm, friendly, and downright hilarious at times as Methodists, Catholics, a few Lutherans, and others who will remain indescribable, gathered for good food and great entertainment.

Pastor Dan Damon opened the evening with an ecumenical invocation that drew everyone together in a mood to celebrate. Tom McGowan, serving as Supreme Master of Ceremonies, led the lineup of speakers who each gave views of Bob from the past, the present, the heart, and in some cases from the "far side." Bob's sister Joan Peckham Anderson traveled from Los Angeles to talk about Bob's early years. Chano Forner, recovering from bypass surgery, sent a message that was embellished a bit. by the MC Leo Garfield, former Police Chief, couldn't believe Bob would agree to be named a "Sweetheart of the Year." Tom Butt revealed that in trying to gather information about the "Officer Peckham period" he found trace evidence that was suspiciously murky. Sallie Dewitt brought a banner with messages and hand-prints from

Washington School students. Michael Peckham, Shannon McGowan, Lucretia Edwards, and Rosemary Corbin, all spoke with affection and praise for Bob's character and the many contributions he has made and continues to make in the special place of Point Richmond. Mildred Dornan, Chair of the Methodist Church Ad Board presented a special plaque commemorating the occasion and an Honorary Methodist Certificate to Bob. Proceeds from the event were dedicated to Roof Fund of the Point Methodist Church. Tom McGowan noted that "if we had only known how many times we would be called together to help with the roof payments it would have been easier for us all to go over there and nail on the shingles ourselves." One gentleman was overheard saying he wanted to be Sweetheart of the Year next year. He didn't know the criteria but offered to kiss all the girls if it would help him win the contest. The grand finale of the evening was a surprise appearance of Elvis, who swiveled his way around the room picking up tips from adoring fans, mostly of the female persuasion. The food was outstanding and the company was even more so. Best of all, over \$1,700 was realized. Sincere thanks to everyone who attended. Those who missed the event can look forward to another chance in 1999.

Allan Smith's Point

I have a mystery question which is as follows:

In the sensational new motion picture "Titanic", when the ship was about to hit the iceberg, the helmsman was given the order "HARD TO STARBOARD!" but the doomed or damned ship went to the PORT SIDE. In nautical terms, STARBOARD refers to the RIGHT and PORT means to the LEFT. Maybe our Point Richmond yachtsman J.A. Vincent will explain?

★

Al Fredericks passed away recently. Al was known by all of us in the 1930's as he was an auto mechanic working for Ken Koht in Ken's Auto Shop. Ken owned the garage that was located at the junction of Cutting and Carrard Boulevards. I can't recall the name of the garage. Both Ken and Al left the auto garage business and went to work for the City of Richmond at the same trade, auto mechanic.

★

The Maritime Warehouse located on Castro Street is a thing of the past. The huge wooden complex as long as a football field is no longer there. I can't understand why one of Richmond's "Forty Thieves" didn't purchase the building. A used lumber outfit from Arizona got the prize. It was built before the start of World War 2 by the U.S. Government for the United States Maritime Commission for use by their Four Richmond Shipyards. After the war, it was purchased by a prominent Standard Oil Company stockholder. In my time it was known as the Kelham Warehouse. All types of war Materials were stored there for World War 2, the Korean and Viet Nam Wars.

★

One comment on the Port Chicago Mutiny situation that has been prominent lately in local and national papers.

I was a crewman on an ammunition ship that was loading bombs and ammunition at Port Chicago before the disaster on July 14, 1944. I was amazed at how fast and furious the naval stevedores worked when loading the ship as if they were in a contest. The terrible explosion killed 302 men and 202 of them were black men who were the ammunition loaders. Their commissioned officers were white as was the naval custom at that time.

Did any Point Richmonders experience the explosion? One thing, after my watch was over, I did not stay on the ship, that's for sure. Home was too close. But then, more times than one my relief did not show up.

★

I wonder if our congenial and volunteer Editor Gary Shows ever received any contributions from our local branch librarian (*ed. nope!*)? If not, I have this book to offer, "Honor's Voice" by Douglas Wilson. This is another Abraham Lincoln biography. The Berkeley School District once had an elementary school named Lincoln Elementary, it was changed to Malcolm X Elementary. Look out for Richmond's Lincoln School!!!!

And speaking of public libraries, check out San Francisco's new home. You can receive a library card in 3 minutes!

What does Richmond Library do with fines collected from overdue books and other incidentals? I already donated over two dollars to the "FUND".

Sports Memories

by Allan Smith

Bob Hartnyk, Jr. is back in town after spending several years in Hawaii. I remember when his dad, Robert Hartnyk, Sr. purchased the Hawaiian property in the 1930's. Bob, Jr. was carrying a beautiful four cornered pocket watch that was given to his father Bob, Sr. in 1939 when he was at Saint Mary's College in Moraga and played against Texas Tech in the Cotton Bowl football game. Bob, Sr. played an end position for Slip Madigan and his team. He lived in Point Richmond during his college career and later worked at the Standard Oil Refinery, and went into business here with his wife Sherry and resided in this area.

Al Frosini is coaching several young Point Richmonders in the manly art of self-defense. Did I see a young girl working out in his gym?

There is a Boxing Museum in Napa run by

newsboy Joe Gavras, a popular local prize fighter in his time. Do any of you boxing fans remember the Four Round Bouts that used to take place in El Cerrito? And speaking of Point Richmond boxers, we all agree that Art Glover of Point Richmond was one of the best.

John Philip Sousa wrote a March in 1926 called "The National Game". He dedicated it to KENESAW MOUNTAIN LANDIS, the czar of organized baseball. Baseball needs another czar like the Judge.

If you happened to have seen Roberto Duran, one of Panama's greatest prize fighters and a World Middleweight Champion, in Richmond at one time. It is true, they say he had a girlfriend here in town. What a great Champion he was!!!





CARDS & LETTERS



Dear Pam and Friends:

Thanks to all that contribute to making this newsletter so interesting. I enjoy each issue so much.

Sincerely,
Helen Farres



Dear Pam:

Enclosed is my renewal check.

I had a great time at the "Kid's Day" in 1997 and am looking forward to '98.

Mid Dornan took Betty Marshall and I for a "Sentimental Journey" around Kellar's Beach and all.

I love TPIT and hope to read it for years to come. Everyone seems to enjoy putting it together and it shows. Thanks!

Sincerely,
Luella Bain Wilcox



Dear Gary,

Much to my surprise my mother Madeline Albright handed me your newsletter today and there I was in the Kindergarten Class of 1954! Boy did this bring back old memories of some of my old friends. I have some very fond memories of the old Point Richmond as a little girl.

I lived at 123 Nicole Avenue for 11 years. My grandmother Mrs. Vinceza Bellando lived at 214 Tunnel Avenue for 55 years. She worked at the Torino Bakery on Standard Avenue. Dr. Thompson delivered me in 1948 at the Richmond Hospital but that, I don't remember!

I attended Washington Elementary School and also had Mrs. Ruby Simmons in the 1st grade, my mother also had this same teacher when she was a child.

Well, I didn't move far. I now live in Concord and I work full time as a case manager for a medical group.

Enjoyed your newsletter,
Darlene Albright Wright
Concord, CA



Camp Fire Girls Reunion

Celebrating the March birthday of the Camp Fire program, former leaders and Camp Fire Girls held a reunion on Saturday, March 7th at the historic First Methodist Church in the Point, site of the first Camp Fire Group in Richmond. On display were photos, Camp Fire uniforms and Ceremonial Gowns. Members exchanged nostalgic memories of when the Camp Fire program in Richmond served many hundreds of young girls. They lamented the fact no groups exist locally today. Among the former Bluebird, Camp Fire Girls and Horizon Club leaders attending were Delores Felix, Sonja Darling, Adeline Miller, Felicia Cipolla, Marty Selleck, Mid Dornan, Virginia Miller and Pat Newton who organized the reunion.

Another reunion is being planned for next year, same place.

-Mid Dornan

Top Row (left to right)

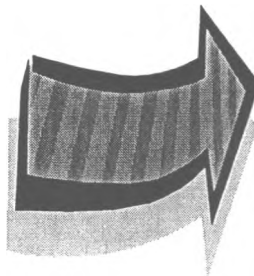
1. Mickey Allen, 2. John Bellando, 3. Claude Bisio, 4. ?, 5. ?, 6. ?, 7. ?, 8. Jim McAfee, 9. Rudolf Annelini, 10. Ray Golden, 11. Trefry Ross, 12. John Cizmich

Middle Row (left to right)

1. Francis Gebhart, 2. ?, 3. Ed McAfee, 4. Frank Matteucci, 5. Louis McDonald, 6. Edward Gilg, 7. Roberta Jenkins, 8. Myrtyl Smith, 9. Margaret Tolosano, 10. Harry McDonald, 11. Jim McDonald

Bottom Row (left to right)

1. ?, 2. Henry Bustillos, 3. Andy Cakos, 4. Rudy Stark, 5. Elio Tobacco, 6. Bruno Biancini, 7. J. Higgins



WASHINGTON SCHOOL LOW 5TH GRADE CLASS 1933



Deaths....



Corrine Rainville Coles, a homemaker, died on March 7, 1998 in a San Pablo convalescent home. She was 74. The Alhambra native lived in Point Richmond for 43 years and enjoyed painting with watercolors. She is survived by her husband of 55 years, George Coles of Point Richmond; daughter, Shane Coles of Julian; sister, Felicia Wool of San Jose; and one granddaughter. Her son, Scott Coles, died in 1968.



Remigio P. Javellana died on March 3, 1998 in San Pablo, age 86. A native of the Philippine Islands, Remigio lived in Hawaii as a young man coming to the Point in the early '50's and lived on Washington Avenue. Extremely musical, he introduced the Hawaiian culture and music to the Point, entertaining at the school and community events. Throughout Hawaii he was known as a Champion Bantam Weight Boxer. Confronted with his illness, he asked the doctor, "Am I good for another round?" He is survived by his sons, Reynold and Remigio Javellana and daughters Loretta Almondova, Laura Berg, Geraldine Rubin, Pat Walch, Catherine Ortiz and Theresa Johnson as well as many grandchildren.



Vinita Eleanor Foor, a homemaker, died March 21, 1998 at home. She was 79. The California native lived in Point Richmond for 26 years and previously had lived in Berkeley for 30 years. She is survived by her daughter, Linda Hanna of Point Richmond; sons, Thomas Foor of Kensington, Peter Foor of Fairfield and Eric Foor of Morro Bay; sister, Margaret Laughlin of San Jose and Jane Pogue of Palm Desert; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



Helen Gene Swaim-Magnessm, a retired real estate agent who worked with various companies, died March 4, 1998 in Denton, Texas. She was 68. The Texas native returned to Tioga, Texas, after retiring in 1989. She previously lived in El Sobrante for 27 years and was a member of El Pinablo Soroptimist Club. She is survived by her daughter, Maxine Lee Wilson of Tioga, Texas; son, Danny Jack Swaim of Denver; stepdaughters, Ruby Hyles, Karen Gaddy and Marian Magness; sisters Mary Lou Cooper of Point Richmond and Kathryn "Kitty" Thorn of Hercules; brothers, Leroy and Dan Wilson of Texas and Sam Wilson of Camarillo; and two granddaughters. Her husbands, Jack Swaim and Fred Magness, preceded her in death.

April Birthdays

LOOF LIRPA
ROBERTA PALFINI
KARILU CRAIN
TARA KAUFMAN
JUDY WALZ
PAM WILSON
JOEL PETERSON
CHARLOTTE KNOX
ANNA SCHWARTZ
MONICA DOHERTY
WILIAM KRETZMER
ALISON LORD

SHARON MERTLE
CAROL MACDIARMID
ROSEMARY CORBIN
ROBERT JAMES PALFINI
CHESTER THOMPSON
ROBERTA JENKINS SMITH
KATHY BARNES
BRUCE BARTRAM
DORI FREITAS
RUTH WILSON
PAULA FERGUSON
DON AMANTITE

MICHAEL HORN
BONITA NEASHAM
ERIC HOILAND
MELISSA DRISCOLL
JOHN MAXWELL
GORDON MILLER
DARIAN PECKHAM
TERRY DOWNEY
LORI MEISTER
TAYLOR BRADSHAW
DAVID BRADSHAW
CINDY QUIST

May Birthdays

PATRICIA DORNAN
DOUGLAS CORBIN
DIANA CORBIN
RICHARD MATTUECCI
JON DOELLSTEDT
LUCRETIA EDWARDS
VERN DOELLSTEDT
MAURICE DOHERTY
RUTH BEARDSLEY
VARSIE LOMETTI
MARG MILLER
SHIRLEY MOORE

WINIFRED BOZIKI
JACKSON BRADSHAW
DORA BEESLEY
FEUERHELM
BRUNO REVEDA
BOB PECKHAM
DIANA SPINOLA
BECKY HORN
SARA EELES
BETTY WIRTH
RENA GONSALVES
LYLE FISHER

MURIEL CLAUSEN
NELL BROOKER
WINI JONES
ANNE HANZLIK
SHONEY GUSTAFSON
DAVID MACDIARMID
JULIAN SMITH
ANNE-CATHERINE
HADREAS
NORM REYNOLDS
JACK MURRAY
JOHN KNOX, JR.

Deep-Seated Pleasure

By Maude Smith

*My armchair does love me.
"He" is my true friend.
With him I spend house
Reading books, without end.
He brings peace and quiet.
(We don't "do" TV.)
There's great pleasure among us -
Books, armchair and me.*

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.

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

Please mail articles and items of interest to:

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Point Richmond, CA 94801**

or

fax 510-233-0762

or

email: gary@alkos.com

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Calendar

April/May, 1998

April 5
Sunday

Daylight Savings Time Begins
Set your clocks one hour ahead at bedtime Saturday

April 8
Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting
Noon at the Hotel Mac

April 12
Sunday

Easter

April 15
Wednesday

Income Taxes are due

April 21
Tuesday

Bank of Richmond opens in 1902

May 10
Sunday

Mother's Day

May 13
Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting
Noon at the Hotel Mac

May 17
Sunday

PRHA Membership Meeting and "Kid's" Reunion
Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church (see inside front cover)

May 21
Thursday

Point Richmond Stroll "An Evening in Point Richmond"
Downtown 5 pm – 7 pm

May 22
Friday

DEADLINE FOR THE SUMMER ISSUE OF TPIT

May 25
Monday

Memorial Day