

# THIS POINT....in time

## NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

[www.alkos.com/prha](http://www.alkos.com/prha)

Vol. XVII No. 6

April/May, 1999

\$1.50



Point Richmond Business Meeting  
At the Colonial Hotel  
(Hotel Mac)

On  
May 16, 1999  
At 2:00 pm

The  
PRHA Annual  
Membership Meeting  
And  
The Point Richmond  
Kids Reunion and Show

Is coming to  
Our Lady of Mercy  
Catholic Church  
Be There!

Refreshments will be served



# From The President

*Mid Dornan*

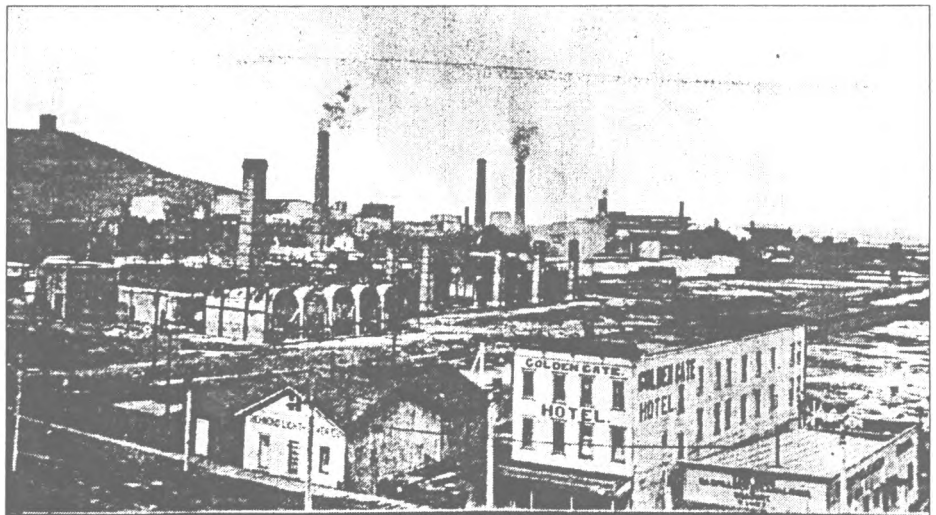
It will soon be May and time for the Kid's Reunion. To those who have attended before, you know the fun...but maybe not the work it takes to make this event successful.

For the past five years, the Point Richmond History Association has scheduled this reunion to coincide with their Annual Meeting. Because our Annual Meeting is set in our by-laws, after this year, the reunion will have to be held outside this date.

Chano Forner and Julio Carrera are chairmen this year but it takes many hands and plates of food to make the day. It is great to meet those who grew up and made Point Richmond history, to see those whose memories have provided us with facts regarding earlier times here as well as to give us many laughs. So, make plans now to attend this reunion on Sunday, May 16th. It may be a few years before it happens again.

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*This Point....in time*

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

**Janice Cook & Jeff Lee**  
**Oretta Eaton**  
**Murial C. Clausen**  
**David & Carol MacDiarmid**  
**Linda Andrew-Marshall**  
**Bertha May McCloskey**  
**Roy Henry Gover**  
**Alexandra Gautraud**  
**Betty Dornan**  
**Jan & Jerry Feagley**  
**Lyle & Connee Fisher**  
**Luella Bain Wilcox**  
**Stella Giovannini**  
**Anne Anderson**  
**Rita (MacDonald) Hanson**  
**Bernard Christiansen**  
**Grace & Jerry Cerknowicz**  
**Sarah Eeles**  
**Sandi Genser-Maack &  
Lynn Maack**  
**Albert J. Kollar**  
**Henry Gondola**  
**Mary Highfill**  
**Mae Mandl**  
**Charles Novascone**  
**Reva Ward**  
**Jerry & Phyllis Downey**  
**Ed Garrard**  
**Dorothy T. Ruthnick**  
**Chris W. Wilson**

**Douglas & Rosemary Corbin**  
**Shoney Gustafson**  
**John Papadakis**  
**Pete & Amanda Docter**  
**Reno J. Cairo**  
**Inez Pestana**  
**Maxine Mayer**  
**Elizabeth McDonald**  
**Lloyd & Melba Farley**  
**P.L. Milano**  
**Anita M. Brougham**  
**Joan Moe**  
**Bena Bowles**  
**Mary Valenzano**

And a warm welcome to the following  
new members:

**Harry & Olga Thompson**  
**Carol Sweatt**  
**Jeanne Moe**

*Thank You!*

**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:**

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>11:30am - 2:00pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>11:30 - 2:00pm</b>

# Gary's Column

Gary Shows

Gary Shows  
Betty Dornan  
Sonja Darling  
Mary Highfill  
Liz McDonald

Here is your April/May issue of TPIT. For this issue I received a pleasant surprise in the form of a wonderful little memory article from Harold Shawl, I think you will all enjoy it. It was especially welcome because of the recent loss of Dr. Thompson who wrote so many "memory articles". So if you have thought, "I have some special memories of Point Richmond that I bet others would enjoy reading" and have procrastinated, now is the time, and Harold....I bet you could do at least one more!

Alan Smith has done it again. Over the years we have collected some good archives, but photographs remain our most interesting, valuable and extensive treasure. He has come up with several good quality snapshot size pictures that we have not had in our collection. I am including some in this issue. I will work on making negatives next time I am at the processor.

I wish you all a wonderful spring, all is looking mighty good weather wise so far.

The deadline for the Summer issue is Friday May 21st with an anticipated date of assembly of June 3rd.

Thanks to the February/March issue assembly crew:

Pam Wilson  
Mid Dornan  
Jerry Cerkawicz

## *Hooray for our President ("Sweetheart of the Year")*

*Mid Dornan was honored in grand style at the "Sweetheart of the Year" dinner held on February 11 at the Richmond Golf and Country Club. Her daughters, friends, and representatives from several of the many civic groups in which she has participated spoke about what knowing her has meant to them. As a result of the dinner, previous fundraisers, and generous donations from members, friends and the community, the Point Richmond Methodist Church was able to make the final payment on our loan to replace the church roof. HOORAY!*

*.....Jean Reynolds*

## **The Cover:**

***Is from our Don Church Collection of Point Richmond Photos, courtesy of Allan Smith.***

# A-Mid TRIVIA

-Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question: When did the Westside branch Library open? Miss Norah McNeill was City Librarian.

\*\*\*

ANSWER AT END OF TRIVIA

\*\*\*

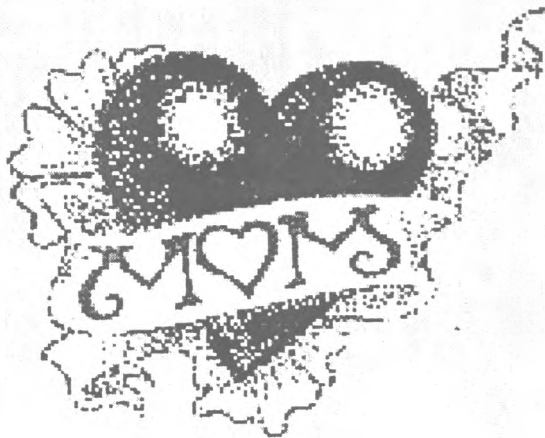
You know it is Spring in the Point when the magnificent trees blossom and the beautiful Tulip Trees command attention. After seven week-ends of rain, how welcome the sunshine.

\*\*\*

April Fool's Day did not originate as a time to play practical jokes. In the Roman calendar April was the second month of the year, and when it was changed to the fourth month, those who stuck with the old calendar were called April Fools.

\*\*\*

A fine is a tax for having done wrong. A tax is a fine for having done well.



\*\*\*

If the IRS estimates it will take the average person 11 hours and 34 minutes to prepare, copy, assemble, learn about the form and law and send form 1040, wonder how many fall into the average category?

\*\*\*

The poinsettia plant is popular at Christmastime; does that mean the Eggplant will be popular at Easter?

\*\*\*

Congratulations to the Richmond Museum of History on its 45th anniversary

\*\*\*

Ferry service to San Francisco is supposed to be coming June 1st. The Ferry will leave the dock at the end of Harbour Way out past the old Ford Building. Lots of parking. Should be a fun trip to the city.

\*\*\*

It's a family vacation in Hawaii for the Joe Darling Family. Spending two weeks on Oahu are Joe and Sonja Darling, Kelly and Peter von York of Oakland, and Christine and David Bradshaw, children Madison, Taylor, Jackson, Regan and 5-month old McKinley of San Rafael.

\*\*\*

Condolences to Mary Highfill who broke two of her toes while working in her springtime garden!

\*\*\*

Jennifer de le Fonteyne, her husband and 5 year-old daughter Linda, have returned to their home in the Netherlands after a visit with her mother, Alexandra and Al Gautraud Family and friends had a farewell party for them at Hotel Mac. It has been five years since their last visit.

\*\*\*

Alexandra was recovering from a broken ankle after tripping on in a pothole in the asphalt outside her home. The City promptly repaired the hole.

\*\*\*

The Rev. Dan Damon was notified his original hymn "Companion of the Poor" received a second place award from the Macalester-Plymouth United Church Hymn Contest in Minnesota. The Rev. Damon is another heralded emerging hymn writer who is pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Point Richmond, California."

\*\*\*

You know you've gained weight if: you never wear a sweater tucked into your pants anymore...the mattress needs turning more often...you're nervous about putting something new in the washing machine for fear it will shrink...extra large is a little small.

\*\*\*

The familiar smile of Luella Bain Wilcox of Oroville, will be missed at our Kid's Reunion. Recently, before her death, she had gone to live with her daughter in Torrance in Southern California because of ill health.

\*\*\*

Sympathy to Jean Reynolds on the loss of her mother who lived in Washington.

\*\*\*

Need a little spice in your daily life? Try being nice to someone for no reason--and without thanks. You know, random kindness and senseless acts of beauty... Suggestions: Pick up litter...Let someone merge into traffic before you...write something nice about your waiter or waitress on the back of your bill... select someone in your life who needs a special lift and send an anonymous gift of

flowers...leave 35 cents taped to a telephone booth with a note saying that anyone who needs it may use it...give up your place in line at the grocery store to a person with just one item or who has small children.

\*\*\*

Joke: Friends had arrived and after greeting them the host told them, "You know, after your recommending that author I went out and bought his other book."

"Oh!", sighed the guest, "I brought it to you as a hostess gift".

Wanting to ease the situation, the host said to the guest, "But, I just bought the crummy paper back edition. "

"Well," added the guest, handing him the gift, "now you'll have two crummy editions."

\*\*\*

You're an old-timer if you can remember when parents could tell their teenagers the facts of life without being corrected.

\*\*\*

Fay and Marian Hawkins joined Fay's brother from Southern California on a trip to Florida where they visited Disney World.

\*\*\*



PLEASE NOTE: If you have any treasures you don't want anymore, remember the Methodist church **JUNKTIQUE SALE** is **Saturday, May 1st** and they are needing your cast-aways! Call the church 236-0527 or Clauia LéGue, 215-1813.

\*\*\*

After 30 years, you may soon be putting a different name on your county tax bills as County Tax Collector Alfred Lometi is retiring.

\*\*\*

Six students from the third grade class at Washington school visited the Point History Museum as they are studying points of interest and historical buildings in the Point. They are putting it on the Washington School Web page. Log on and see who they are!

\*\*\*

The I.R.S. called to audit me...  
The fear was hard to surmount.  
They checked my return, then delivered  
The sermon on the Amount!

\*\*\*

It may only be April but before the next issue...

HAPPY EASTER!  
CELEBRATE PASSOVER!  
MERRY MOTHER'S DAY  
REMEMBER MEMORIAL DAY!

\*\*\*

ANSWER: It first opened in 1913 with a circulation of 6,661. To keep the library open in 1933 it cost the city \$1,450.99 of which the salary of the West Side Librarian was \$1,040 and the yearly building rental was \$385. Scavenger service was \$1.00 and fuel for the year cost \$37.00.

### Light 'N Easy Chicken A Recipe By Bernard Bernes

1 package of dry onion soup  
1 chicken – about 4 pounds  
1 can (3 oz) of mushrooms  
1 10 oz. Can chicken broth  
1 16 oz. Can of beer or 1 10 oz. Glass of white wine

Cut up chicken into pieces. Heat 2 tablespoons of cooking oil in a 4 quart pot. Brown chicken in pot. Remove chicken from pot. Put one layer of chicken in bottom of pot. Sprinkle on top of bottom layer. Sprinkle balance of onion soup on top., put about 5 oz of one of the above liquids into pot. Cover pot. Cook on low heat for 1/2 hour. Add balance of liquids and mushrooms. Bring to boil and let simmer another 1/2 hour. While simmering you may add some sherry wine to liquid.

Four Servings

## FREE!

**IBM Composer Typewriter with Font Elements**

**Sharp SF-711 Copy Machine**

**Gestetner Offset Press**

**Offset Plate Maker**

All of the above equipment was working the last time it was used several years ago. Interested, call Gary or Jerry at 510-235-1336.



# Church News

## Our Lady of Mercy

*Dee Rosier*  
232-1387

Plans for our centennial in 2002 are coming right along. The Parish Council has a committee putting together a book complete with history and photographs. Stan Toledo and Mary Lespier will be contacting parish members for their input. If you have any photographs or interesting facts to share, please call either Stan (524-5095) or Mary (235-5276).

Centennial plans have also unearthed a mystery. Years ago there were two angels on either side of the altar. They are to be unfound anywhere! Their disappearance prompted Josephine Palancher to bring out her 1940 wedding pictures to prove that the angels did indeed exist. The angels existence was also confirmed by Theresa Meneghelli with her wedding pictures. She also added to the mystery that there were also two large hanging lights toward the front of the church. The last year that their appearance can be accounted for was sometime in the 50's. Can anyone help in solving the mystery?

A new schedule for Eucharistic Ministers is now complete and a copy placed on the bulletin board at the entrance to the church. We have some new Ministers who have already experienced their first Eucharistic Ministry and have performed with

expertise.

The January souper kitchen collection was shared by donating half with Catholic Relief Services for the victims of the Colombian earthquake. Four hundred dollars was contributed to each cause. The next souper kitchen collection will be May 30.

Our parish is one of 17 in the diocese to have met our donation goal of \$2662.00 for the annual Bishop's Appeal. The collection enables the Bishop to pay bills for the diocese at large. This is not the first year that we have attained our goal.

A Valentines Day motif decorated our tables for the February Parish Assembly. Thanks once again to Amelia, Shirley and Angie for the refreshments. Peter and Mary Lespier will be taking blood pressure readings at each monthly assembly. Peter and Mary reported on the Parish Council Chairperson meeting held with Bishop Cummins. The meeting focused on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to local parishes. Javier Lopez is our newest member to the Parish Council.

Ann Dwyer, a lovely Irish lass, lives in Oakland and enjoys Sunday Mass with us. She will be participating in a 26.2 mile marathon in San Diego on May 23rd to benefit the American Leukemia Society. Her fundraising goal is \$3,250. Our parish assembly attendants made donations to help her meet her goal. Ann sends her thanks for the support.

Condolences to Adolph Brossard in the recent loss of his brother.

Norma Guisti (1912-1999), a life-long parishioner passed away recently after suffering a stroke. In the 1950's Father Kelly acquired the Stations of the Cross from a San

Francisco church which was being refurbished. The Stations were unpainted and Norma took on the task of painting them. They hang in our church today, beautifully painted and a constant reminder of Norma and her talents.

Welcome new parishioners Dave and Susan Maher, soon to be three sometime this month.

Dody Perry is back after successful shoulder surgery. She should be in good enough shape for spring training.

Welcome back Angie Kirpatrick who recently spent 3 cold, cold weeks visiting family in Michigan.

Amelia Drake is doing the Snake River tour. She left with a bad back. Let's hope it does not take away from her enjoying the trip.

If you are unable to attend Mass and wish to receive Holy Communion, contact Peter Lespier who will visit you at your home.

Bishop Cummins was at St. Cornelius recently to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the school. Many of our parish members children attended St. Cornelius. How well we remember the ride groups to and from. To name a few: The Gerks, Darlings, Giacomellis, Garcias, Pohls, Dohertys and Rosiers.

In honor of St. Patrick's Day, I leave you with an Irish Blessing:

May you always have work for your hands to do.

May your pockets hold always a coin or two.

May the sun shine bright on your windowpane.

May the rainbow be certain to follow each rain.

May the hand of a friend always be near you.

And may God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

See you in church.

## Point Richmond Methodist

*Jean Reynolds*

235-2988

Jean Eakle accompanied on piano for the "Second Sunday Sing-long" in March. Jean is flexible about the style of music she will play, so singers were able to request their favorite songs from a variety of sources. Yohann Anderson is slated to return on April 18, (note that it's not the second Sunday) to lead the singing.

These singings are informal, delicious (like most activities at the church), and a great way to spend a couple of hours on a Sunday evening. Making music is a good way to relax into the beginning of your week.

Mid Dornan was honored in grand style at the "Sweetheart of the Year" dinner held on February 11 at the Richmond Golf and Country Club. As a result of the dinner, previous fundraisers, and generous donations from members, friends and the community, we were able to make the final payment on our loan to replace the church roof. We are truly blessed.

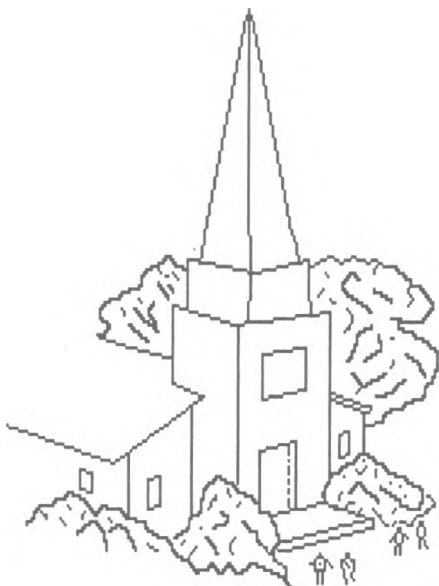
Jean Eger led a sketching day on February 21 after worship. Ten or more artists sat across the street and sketched the church building. Some of the sketches will be used for bulletin covers for Sunday worship. Many were very good. We have a lot of talented people in our midst. It was a new way to look at the building for me. I had never examined it so carefully or seen as much as I did that day. Jean has scheduled another day to sketch on March 28, at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome, and Jean even supplies the materials.

The church will host a Feast on Palm Sunday, March 28. It will begin after morning worship at 12:30 and will last until 2:30. All

members of the community are invited. Most of the food will be supplied by private donations this time. Some Point Richmond businesses will still be participating.

Our much-loved Wally McCartney passed away in March. A funeral service to remember him was held on Thursday, March 18, in Lafayette, CA. Wally lived in Benicia with his wife Alma, and they drove all the way to Point Richmond to be part of our worship on Sundays. Wally was famous for making lovely and useful things from wood. If you just mentioned a need, he was quick to make what you needed and it would always be better than you had imagined. The choir will always remember him. One of his last projects was to make risers for the choir loft so the back row could see and be seen. We loved him and will miss him.

Easter is April 4. There will be special music at the 11:00 worship service and an Easter Egg Hunt for the children will follow the service.



## 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 37th installment.*

Dec. 1st 1925

Social League met in the church Parlors with Mrs. Alexander and Mrs. Oehne, hostesses. Mrs. Dicely, president, opened the meeting by repeating the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Roll Call found seventeen members present.

Bazaar committees reported:

Paid out to Wood & Wood .75

" " " Independent .48

leaving a balance of \$161.30.

A check was made to the First M.E. Church for \$161.30 and given to Mrs. Beulah Jones.

Bill for boquet (sic) for Mrs. Mythen .75 ordered paid.

Meeting Ajourned,

E. Dustheimer, Secy

Receipts of meeting:

Silver Offering 3.30

paid out .75

forward 27.83

cash on hand 30.38



# SHHH!

*By Biblio Tek*

## Westside Branch Library News

**T**he Westside Branch Library is a wonderful place to curl up and read on a winter's day. But Lynn the Librarian has not been hibernating. She has been attending several programs in the Bay Area to enhance the Library. Noteworthy was the all day event with Caroline Fuller Bauer's inspiring READ Program – a kaleidoscope of ideas for storytelling, programs and art projects. Especially fun was the Performer's Showcase where the librarians could watch and select from dozens of magicians, storytellers, puppeteers and others for the summer kids programs.

The Richmond Public Library and Westside Branch has received a grant for internet access. Watch this space for more information and starting date.

Because The Friends of the Library has lost its storage space at Harry Ells, the Library is selling books in the Branch – 50 cents for hardbacks and 25 cents for paperbacks – Best Deal in Town!

A cash gift made it possible for Lynn to

buy "The Endurance" by Catherine Alexander for the Branch. This extraordinary book tells the true life adventure of the Shackleton expedition to the South Pole in 1914-1917. The ship "The Endurance" was crushed by ice leaving the men to drift on ice floes for months at a time, before Shackleton and five of his crew traveled 800 miles in an open whaleboat to get help. It took four relief expeditions, but Shackleton rescued every one of his men. This gripping account is vividly brought to life with photographs from the scene.

Another new book is "Ambrose Bierce and The Queen of Spades" by San Francisco writer Oakley Hall. Mr. Bierce, as you may recall, was the cynical newspaperman who authored "The Devil's Dictionary". Oakley Hall has interwoven an engaging mystery with a history of California in the years after the gold rush and tells it with commentary from the misanthropic Bierce whose Dictionary defined homicide as one of four types: felonious, excusable, justifiable and praiseworthy. Enjoy!





# "Facts" found on the Internet Supplied by surfer Bernard Bernes

Bbernes@aol.com

>>In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes...when you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. That's where the phrase, "good night, sleep tight" came from.

>>

>>The term "the whole 9 yards" came from W.W.II fighter pilots in the Pacific. When arming their airplanes on the ground, the .50 caliber machine gun ammo belts measured exactly 27 feet before being loaded into the fuselage. If the pilots fired all their ammo at a target, it got "the whole 9 yards".

>>

>>The phrase "rule of thumb" is derived from an old English law which stated that you couldn't beat your wife with anything wider than your thumb.

>>

>>The name Jeep came from the abbreviation used in the army for the "General Purpose" vehicle, GP.

>>

>> The first toilet ever seen on television was on "Leave it To Beaver".

>>

>>It takes 3,000 cows to supply the NFL with enough leather for a year's supply of footballs. (Do vegetarians watch football?)

>>

>>Thirty-five percent of the people who use personal ads for dating are already married.

>>

>> The world's termites outweigh the world's humans 10 to 1.

>>

>> On average, 100 people choke to death on ball-point pens every year....so BE CAREFUL!!

>>

>> It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after a couple's wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all of the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey wine, and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the "honey month" or what we know today as the "honeymoon".

# Washington School, Point Richmond 1928 Class, 4th Grade, Mrs. Gobel – Teacher



## Front Row

### Left to right:

- 1 Peter Cakos
- 2 August Zanzi
- 3 Silvio (Chip) Cecchi
- 4 ???
- 5 Henry Gondola

## Middle Row

### Left to right

- 1 Rosie Lagorio
- 2 Emily Terek
- 3 Edna Ghieri
- 4 Doris Hillyer
- 5 ???
- 6 Liena Lanzi
- 7 Della Bruno
- 8 Dorothy Paasch
- 9 Helen Maertins

## Top Row

### Left to right:

- 1 Leo Matteucci
- 2 Leonard Smith
- 3 ???
- 4 Teresa Bernardi
- 5 Madeline Bellando
- 6 ??? Gilbert Golden
- 7 Elio Tobacco
- 8 Edward Palenchar

*This picture donated by Spiro Cakos  
Names provided by Teresa Bernardi*

# Some Point Memories From Harold Shawl

First, I would like to say that I am saddened to hear of Dr. William L. Thompson's death. He and I were classmates in Washington School, Richmond Union High School and at U. C. Berkeley (1926 - 1930) and my condolences are extended to his family and to his brother "Chet".

I lived in Pt. Richmond from second grade (1916) until 1930, first on Montana Ave. and then on Golden Gate Avenue and have many memories of those days. At Washington School, I remember Mrs. Axtell, my second grade teacher. Also Miss Michaelran, Miss Morehouse, Miss Lynch and Miss Lucas as my various grade teachers, as well as Mr. Hunn, (shop teacher) and Nora Ashfield, Principal. Walter Helms was superintendent of schools at

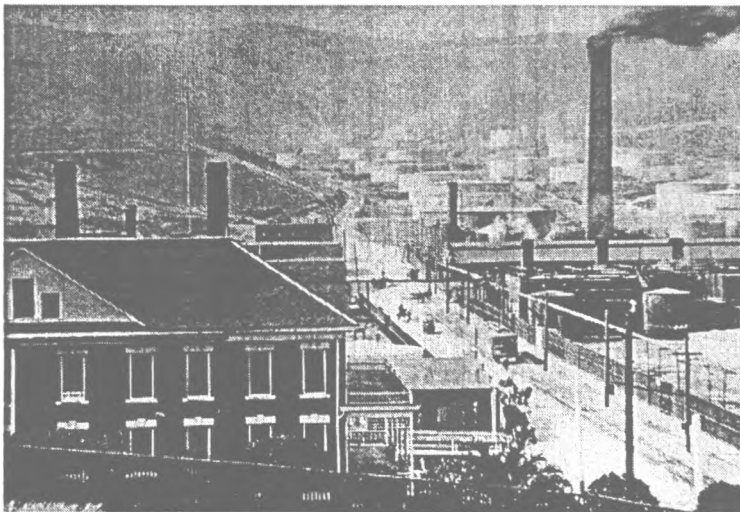
that time. Incidentally, it was quite a thrill for me to see Mr. Helms, then 87, as Rotary Club secretary in Richmond at a meeting that I attended in about 1966.

The people in Pt. Richmond that I remember are too numerous to mention, but I note some names in your recent publications that are included in those memories – such as Bernard and August Bernes, Louis Cunan, Willard and Jane Spiersch, Palenchar (Joe), William and Andy Kollar, the Vloberge family, the Paasch brothers (Dick & Bob), Mark Gebhart, Pina Barbieri and many others. The Pucci family were our neighbors.

There may be a few of we old timers that recall the 1920 incident of the Washington seventh grade girls getting into trouble by throwing bread dough on the ceiling of the homemaking room.

The recent article about Ivan (Maj) Hill was interesting. I was on his 1925 RUHS football squad and remember our team going to Sacramento Hi and winning 32-0. Later Ivan was taking some courses at U. C. during part of the time that I attended.

The recent article (from Dr. Thompson) about the RUHS cadet camp at Leona Heights brought back some fond memories, particularly



about firing the Army 30 caliber rifles, that gave us sore shoulders. We also worked the targets in the (pits).

I remember marching in "Victory Loan" parades in Richmond and carrying a large American flag. The various Industrial plants in the area all blew their whistles and there was quite a celebration on Nov. 11, 1918 when the Armistice was signed ending World War I.

During the "flue" epidemic in 1918, everyone wore gauze masks and we either washed them in hot water or heated them in the oven to sanitize them for further use.

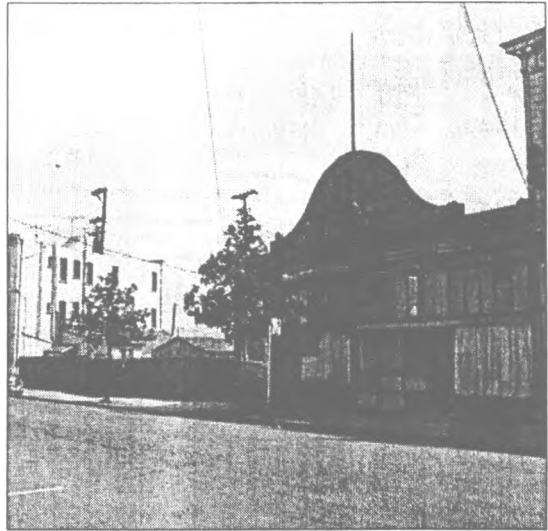
In those days, there was very little development along Cutting Blvd. and in stormy periods the waves would dash onto Cutting Blvd.

William E. (Bill) Richmond and I were cadets at the 1925 Citizens Military Camp at Del Monte. I had expected to be an officer in the RUHS California High School Cadet Corp. as a result of the summer cadet training, but the State ended the program that year.

I attended Sunday School and Church at the Pt. M. E. Church for several years, beginning in 1916. I think Rev. Hocking was then pastor.

My brother Louis (93), who died on Dec. 22, 1998, was employed on the construction of the Natatorium in 1923 before he started to Art School in Berkeley.

The tunnel was the locale for some after school fist fighting to settle some grievances



and this always attracted a crowd.

I remember swimming many times at Kozy Kove and at Keller's Beach. Mr. Keller and her son, Dan, were always on the job.

In those days there was ferry service from the area of the Paar Terminal (Wharf Building No. 1). I used it to go to San Francisco, where I had vacation building construction jobs in 1924 and 1928. The lagoon between the old brickyard and the A T S F. track was filled in by dredging mud from the Bay in the early 1920s.

The Boy Scouts (Mr. George, Scoutmaster) met in a building on Standard Avenue near the end of the street car line. On more than one occasion, someone greased the car track to watch the car try to get traction. We "kids" from the Point used to ride the Key System street cars to RUHS at 23rd and McDonald and would sometime rock the cars to get them into violent end to end motion as they rolled along.



I remember the big fire that destroyed the old Standard Hotel in about 1917. I recall Kenny's Cigar Store on Standard Avenue, Palmeteer's Pharmacy, Henry's Soda Fountain, the Library and Saturday morning story hours, the band concerts across the street from McWhorter's Grocery Store, the bank on the corner of Washington Avenue, and watching (through the window) Standard Oil employees cashing their pay checks and receiving \$5, \$10, and \$20 gold pieces as part of their change.

The Bernes family operated a French Laundry on Standard Avenue. Shortly after World War I the Bernes family made a visit to France to visit relatives, and August and

Bernard related some of their experiences to us after they returned. This was a big deal in 1919 or 1920. They also were pioneers in constructing their own radio sets, which they later continued to do and became "ham" operators. My friend, Bernard Bernes, tells me that I was editor of the Washington School "Poppy" in 1921, but I have long since forgotten that incident.

This epistle could go on and on, but enough may be too much.

*This was a fun article Harold, please more!*  
...Gary



# Allan Smith's Point

## **Norma Guisti**

Norma Guisti passed away recently leaving behind a legend of Point Richmond story and memories. She was a native of the Point residing in the family home on Golden Gate Avenue. Norma Guisti retired from the City of Richmond and her latest position was working in the office of the Waste Disposal Plant in the Point.

Norma left two small beautiful pet dogs at she hoped someone from the Point would adopt. If anyone is interested please contact Morris Simpson at phone number 233-7232.

Her father was one of the early pioneer employees of the Santa Fe Railroad in 1900.

Norma Guisti was interested in photography and has many early photos of Point Richmond. We hope the family will give the Point Richmond History Association a chance to copy them.

## **Gene Corr**

Gene Corr passed away last month after a long illness. He was a native son of Point Richmond and was raised in the Point and went to local schools. The family home was at the end of West Richmond Avenue where the Loyd Christopher, Jr. family now resides. Gene was one of Point Richmond's great baseball players at that time playing with Loyd and Russ Christopher, Leonard Smith and Chip Checchi along with many others.

He was a great student of baseball. He was left handed and although was not a great power hitter he used to lead off and hit them where the ain't". Corr never did play professional baseball but played semi-

professional with the best at an early age and later with the University of California..

After World War Two, where he was a US Navy officer, he became the first base ball coach and athletic director for Contra Costa Junior College. He retired after many years of coaching, obtaining many baseball titles and championships over the years.

Incidentally, when he was playing ball his beloved mother used to attend every game sitting on the third base side.

## **Operation Pin-Wheel**

Here is a World War Two story that is very interesting:

It happened on the Island of Guam in June of 1945. Japan captured Guam on December 10, 1941 and the US Forces recaptured the Island on August of 1944. The Port at that time was so crowded with US Naval ships of all sizes , including the U.S.N Randolph, captained by Captain Felix Baker. The Randolph was a 900 foot Aircraft Carrier that had seen considerable enemy action. The Captain received urgent orders to leave Guam immediately and proceed towards Japan but the Port was so jammed he could not maneuver as his bow was facing shore. Also, there were no tug boats available to assist him. Soon, there was a loud roar and the ship began a 180 degree turn and proceeded to leave port under its own power.

This is what Captain Felix Baker had done:

He lashed 5 airplanes forward crosswise and 5 planes aft crosswise and had the engines start with full power. The ship turned on a dime. Thus was born "Operation Pin-Wheel", a maneuver that is still used today.

# Sports Memories

by Allan Smith

I was never able to see the great Joe DiMaggio play baseball for the New York Yankees but did see him play when he first started in San Francisco. DiMaggio started his baseball career in 1933 when he was signed to play for the San Francisco Seals of the Pacific Coast League which was a highly competitive AAA League Baseball organization.

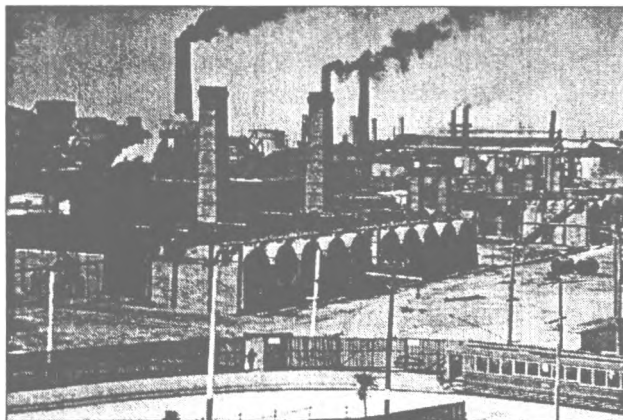
At the age of 17, he was a great baseball sensation playing shortstop before switching to the outfield position. He made his Major League debut in 1936 with the New York Yankees where he played for 13 years.

In 1941, he set a 56 game hitting streak record that still stands. Incidentally, helping him set that record was Richmond's own Johnny Babich, a great pitcher for the Philadelphia Athletics. Joe DiMaggio got his 40th hit off of Babich on June 28, 1941 and his 46th straight hit against Babich on July 6,

1941. Joe DiMaggio died on March 8, 1999.

Richmond's Willie McGee still loves to play the game of baseball at the age of 40. We have all watched the great career of Willie McGee since he first started playing baseball in Richmond's sand lots at Harry Ell's High School. He started playing professionally in 1977 and will probably play for the St. Louis Cardinals this year. We rate him the best professional baseball player that was raised in Richmond.

As far as great baseball players who were raised in the Point, I can only refer to players who played during my time which was in the early thirties. Before then, names like the Bonos, the Westmans and the Caseys are mentionable.



*Standard Oil Company  
"Number 5 battery"*

*Note street car on Standard  
Avenue and "Guard" at entrance  
gate. (No date noted)*

## CARDS & LETTERS

Dear Mr. Shows:

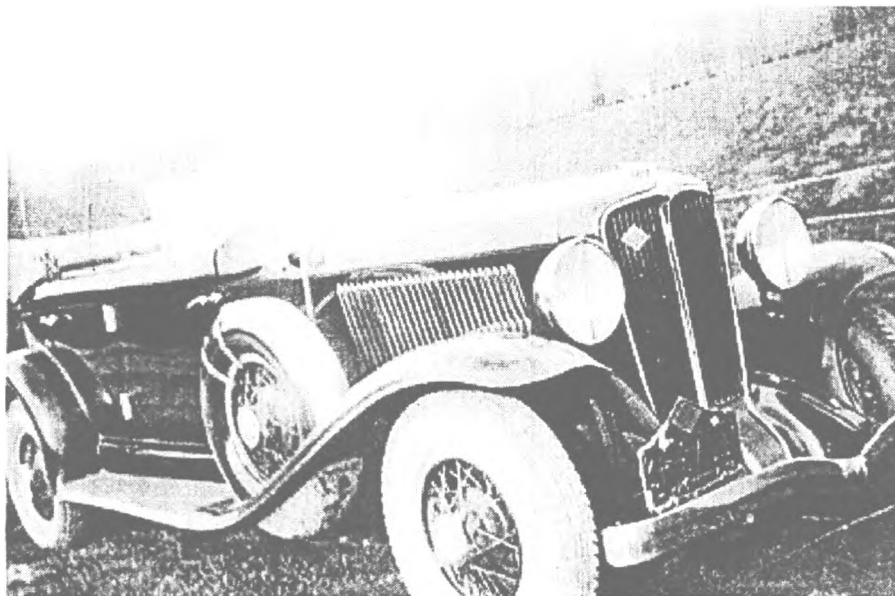
In response to Ed Garrard's letter in the last issue.

I'll never forget when George Antone and I went to the San Francisco Auto Show in 1931. We entered the dim lit showroom and in the middle of it was a huge spotlight on the Auburn revolving on a circular turntable in all its glory. George fell in love with it and as his life insurance policy became due, he bought it. Antone and I worked two years at the Eagle Café with no salary during the depression for it. When we needed gas, George would slip us a couple of dollars. Just imagine, 20 cents a gallon!

George took me to apply for my drivers license at the Firehouse with was also the Police Station. Captain Cundy told me to drive around the triangle and when I came back. "What else", I said and he handed me my drivers license. Those were the 'good ole days'.

By the way Ed, I'm still driving a 1960 pearl grey Jaguar sedan, stick shift and wire wheels. I need a polish job.

Recycled Teen-ager,  
Bena Salle Bowles  
Richmond



*This Point....in time*



Dear Gary:

It is with heartfelt sadness that I write to you about my pal and wonderful friend Louella Bains Wilcox, who passed away February 26th.

Memories are precious as my mind races to recall the recent past, last year at the Point Richmond "Kid's Day" fellowship. We both enjoyed seeing all the kids of yesteryear, very much like a family reunion. Making the effort to attend was well worth it!

Louella was so much a part of yesterday. As young kids we giggled about everything. I recall packing wet sand inside our swim suits to pretend to be fatter than we were and barely able to walk into the water only to have all that sand disappear as we would swim. There was a large bulb type seaweed we used for pretend soap. The bottom of our feet was stained with tar from Cappy's Beach in the summer. Anything strong enough to remove it would also remove tender skin! In winter we would swim at the 'Nat' or Plunge.

Our sterling friendship got a boost through the Point Richmond History Association as well as the "TPIT", bridging our earlier contact as kids.

She will be terribly missed. Condolences to all her family,

Sincerely,  
Betty Glass Marshall  
Grants Pass, OR



Betty Glass Marshall adds the following names to the February, 1934 Washington School picture in the Vol. XVII No. 4 December/January issue of TPIT.

Second row

Left to right:

3rd is Louella Baines

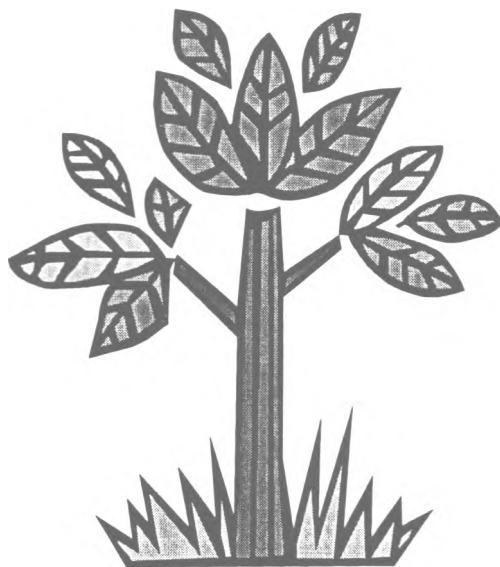
7th is Shirley Gwen Gebhart (aka Rusty)

Bottom row

Left to right:

7th is Barbara Valenti.

*Thank you Betty!*



# A Poem

## The Seed

*A little seed lay in the ground  
And soon began to sprout.  
"Now, which of all the flowers around,"  
It mused, "Shall I come out?"*

*The Lily is so fair and proud,  
But just a trifle cold;  
The Rose, I think, is rather loud,  
And then its fashions' old.*

*The Violet — it is very well,  
But not a flower I'd choose,  
Nor yet the Canterbury Bell...  
I never cared for blues.*

*And so it criticized each flower,  
This supercilious seed,  
Until it woke one summer hour,  
And found itself a weed.*

## On Time.....

It's farther to the corner grocery and they've added a hill. Busses run faster: stairs are steeper and newspaper print is smaller. Noticed that? Dresses are made so skimpy around the hips and waist – I can hardly reach my shoelaces! Even people are changing, younger than they used to be when I was their age. Then again, people my own age are much older than I am! I saw an old classmate recently, she has aged so much she didn't know me! I was thinking about the poor dear while combing my hair this morning and in doing so, I glanced at my own reflection. Now, even the mirrors aren't as good as they used to be!

*By Margaret A Lewis*

Saturday, March 27, 1999  
3:30 p.m. on TV Channel 9

## *"California's Gold, Kaiser Shipyards"*

*Visits*

## *Richmond & the Red Oak Victory*

For more information on

## *The Red Oak Victory Ship*

Call the Richmond Museum of History  
510-235-7387

*Point Richmond Needs a  
Flag.*

*What should it look like?*

*Let's design a flag for Point  
Richmond!*

*Direct your input to Editor  
Gary Shows.*

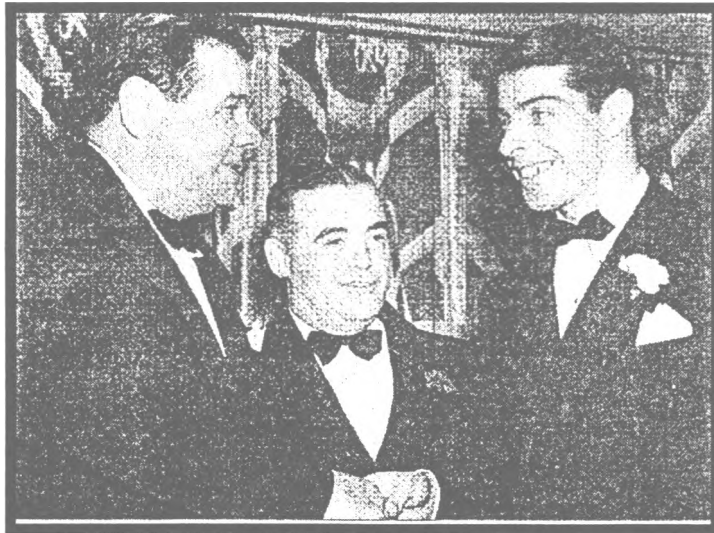
# Deaths....

**Luella Bain Wilcox** died at her daughter's home in Torrance, CA on February 26, 1999. She was 75. Born in Spreckles, CA in 1924, she came to Point Richmond in 1933 and remained in the Bay Area until 1954 when she moved to Southern California. From there she moved to Oroville, CA and recently returned to Southern California, to be closer to her family. Preceded in death by her husband Delos Wilcox and her son Arthur Wilcox she is survived by two daughters, Catherine Landrum (Randy) and Susan Gordon (Harley), sisters Mary Rudolph of El Sobrante, CA and Evelyn Rudolph of El Dorado Hills, CA, five grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. She was much lived and will be dearly missed.



## Joe DiMaggio

1914 - 1999



*Babe Ruth, Sportswriter Bill Corum and Joe Demaggio*

AP file photo

# April Birthdays

JOE LIRPA  
JILL ELLE CRAIN  
ROBERTA JENKINS SMITH\*  
JULIA FERGUSON ISRAELI  
JIM WILSON  
JOE MEISTSER  
JONICA DOHERTY  
JANITA NEASHAM  
JOE VALENTINE  
JIM PECKHAM  
JILLIAM KRETZMER

ALISON LORD  
JONI LOUX EMERSON\*  
SHARON MERTLE  
ROBERTA DORNAN  
PALFINI\*  
ROBERT PALFINI  
KATHY DORNAN BARNES\*  
BRUCE BARTRAM  
CHARLINE BARNI  
DAVID BRADSHAW  
CARLOTTE KNOX

ANNA SCHWARZ  
TAYLOR BRADSHAW  
TERRY DOWNEY  
ROSEMARY CORBIN  
MELISSA DRISCOLL  
JOHN MAXWELL  
CHESTER THOMPSON\*  
GORDON MILLER  
JUDY WALZ  
DON AMANTITE

# May Birthdays

PATRICIA DORNAN  
DOUGLAS CORBIN  
DIANA CORBIN  
RICHARD MATTUECCI  
JOE DOELLSTEDT  
JULIA EDWARDS  
JOE DOELLSTEDT  
MAURICE DOHERTY  
RUTH BEARDSLEY  
JOE 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.

*Born in Point Richmond?  
Let us know and we will BOLD your name!*

# 90 Year Wonders!

NAOMI HUFFSTETTER  
LOUISE BANKS  
RUTH WOOD  
MAE MANDL  
BERNARD BERNES

1905  
1907  
1908

WILLARD SPIERSCH  
WILLIAM KOLLAR  
LOUIS SHAW



I would like to join the P.R.H.A.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership (check one):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Single	\$18.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior (65+)	12.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	25.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	History Preserver	50.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Sponsor	75.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	History Maker	100.00

Membership in the Point Richmond History Association includes a one year subscription to "THIS POINT...in time" newsletter (six issues) and a special publication. Please make your check payable to the Point Richmond History Association and mail it to:

**Pam Wilson**  
**521 Western Drive**

**Point Richmond, CA 94801**

If you would like to have birthdays noted in the newsletter, please include names and months.

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Pam Wilson	Membership Info
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Dee Rosier	Article
Biblio Tek	Article
Mary Rudolph	Obituary
Harold Shawl	Article
Bena Salle Bowles	Picture
Spiro Cakos	Picture
Teresa Bernardi	Information
Betty Class Marshall	Information
Bernard Bernes	Information

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

**139 ½ Washington Avenue**  
**Point Richmond, CA 94801**

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Visit us at our website  
**<http://www.alkos.com/prha>**





# Calendar

## *April/May, 1999*

**April 4**  
*Sunday*

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

Easter

**April 14**  
*Wednesday*

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting  
Noon at the Hotel Mac

**April 15**  
*Thursday*

Income Taxes are Due

**April 21**  
*Monday*

Bank of Richmond opens in 1902

**May 9**  
*Sunday*

Mother's Day

**May 12**  
*Wednesday*

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting  
Noon at the Hotel Mac

**May 16**  
*Sunday*

PRHA Membership Meeting and "Kids" Reunion  
See inside front cover for details

**May 20**  
*Thursday*

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

**May 21**  
*Friday*

DEADLINE FOR THE SUMMER ISSUE OF TPIT

**May 31**  
*Monday*

Memorial Day