

# THIS POINT.... in time

## NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

[www.PointRichmondHistory.org](http://www.PointRichmondHistory.org)

Vol. XX No. 1

June/July/August, 2001

\$1.50



*The Point Richmond  
Kid's Reunion  
2001!*

*Allan Smith has a prize (cup of coffee?) for the member who  
can identify these two young fellows!*

*"Here are two of Point Richmond's finest, this photo was taken  
in 1941 while attending the Golden Gate Exposition on Treasure  
Island"*

*Know who these guys are.....call Allan right away at  
510-234-5149!*





# From The President

*Mid Dornan*

If the officers of the Point Richmond History Association begin to look like bronze statues, it is because the same people accept the responsibility each year to promote and keep Donna Roselius' dream of an active, productive Point History Association alive. It is easy to be a president with a competent, supportive, and congenial staff. And, an editor that continues to improve the publication with the latest technology. When members contribute their memories and stories, the legacy of Point Richmond lives on. Thank you for the confidence for another year. And, thank you to those who are members of the Association.

## Inside this issue:

From the President	1
Members	2
Gary's Column	3
A-Mid Trivia	4
Church News and History	6
Newspaper Clippings 1913-1932	9
Mid's Meeting Report	11
Meeting Pictures	12
Allan Smith	16
Sports Memories	18
Westside Women	19
Deaths and Letters	21
Birthdays	23
Calendar of Events	24

*From Kid's Meeting, All Born in the Point.*



*THIS POINT.....in time*

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

**Virginia Cherniak**  
**Jerome Vloeberghs**  
**Betty Menzie**  
**Betty J. Marshall**  
**Roy Henry Gover**  
**Ellen Schaefer**  
**Allan P. Smith**  
**Rena Gonsalves**  
**Pat Milano**  
**Marie Louise Ostrom**  
**Anita M. Brougham**  
**Mae Mandl**  
**Ilamay Dein**  
**Willard & Jean Spiersch**  
**Phil A. Carrera**  
**Sarah Eeles**  
**John & Tonita Granado**  
**Renee, Kevin & Griffin Knee**

And a warm welcome to the following new members:

**Colleen & Lew Ross**  
**Regina Girard**

Museum Staff Coordinator Betty Dornan thanks the volunteers who staff the History Building.



*Thank You!*

**Santa Fe Market**  
and  
**Point Richmond Market**  
*for their donated distribution of*  
***"THIS POINT....in time***



*Can you name these two characters?*

*M. Dornan*

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

The Summer issue. As usual thanks to all contributors. Also I wanted to express my appreciation for the your gratitude at the meeting. Yes, it is quite a job to put TPIT together but let's do keep in mind that there would be nothing to put together without Mid, Allan, Jean, Dee and the rest of my regular contributors who also put hours of their time to make TPIT worth reading.

The Kid's Meeting was a lot of fun as usual. I hope the many pictures that are in this issue reproduce well, we have a new laser printer the make the masters, should be some improvement. Sorry, once again there was no time to caption all of the names.

I am pleased that Kristen Gates has offered to contribute time on our website. Kristen teaches website design so look for some changes and improvements over the summer. One of the most important purposes of this newsletter is to record little historical details of our area that might otherwise be forgotten. Someday I hope to get all issues of TPIT on the website in a searchable form.

I wish you all a wonderful summer and I will appreciate the break.

The deadline for the September/October issue will now be Friday, August 17, 2001.

**The Cover of this issue:  
The one and only Al Frosini at the  
PRHA Kid's Reunion Meeting.**

Thanks to the April/May issue assembly crew:

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

## TAKE THIS CARD TO THE POLLS MONDAY, APRIL 30TH, 1945

FOR CITY COUNCIL  
(Six year term)

OLIVER B. THOMPSON ☒

FRED C. KAUFMAN ☒

ROBERT D. LEE (Incumbent) ☒

FOR CITY COUNCIL  
(Two year term)

JAMES E. MARREN ☒

THESE FOUR MEN ARE PLEDGED TO  
THIS 4-POINT PROGRAM:

1. Richmond's share of 60 million post-war jobs
2. Improved public health and housing
3. Modernized transportation
4. A better city for our children



*1945 City of Richmond Ballot  
Courtesy of Erica Goode*

# A-Mid TRIVIA

-Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question: Baseball salaries make history. When you watch a game, visualize that in 1969 their average salary of \$24,909 isn't enough to buy one-at-bat by today's stars. In 2000, who were the highest paid per-at-bat and how much? And, pitchers? Answer at end of Trivia.

\*\*\*

The post office is the nation's largest civilian employer, with nearly 782,000 career and 115,000 seasonal workers receiving a payroll of \$1.6 billion every two weeks. 208 billion pieces of mail are delivered to 134 million addresses each year. A fresh round of increases is proposed for July 1 to raise the cost of a postcard by 1 cent to 21 cents and the cost of a 2-ounce first-class letter from 55 cents to 57 cents.

\*\*\*

Anna Schwartz broke her leg while vacationing in Palm Springs with German visitors. The good news is the visitors were



doctors who escorted her home and stayed to help her recover! And recover she did--swimming at the Plunge after 4 weeks! Don't mention being in your 80's to her!

\*\*\*

Bessie Squires suffered a fractured rib after a fall and who gets sympathy when the break is in an invisible place?

\*\*\*

Sonja Darling spent Mother's Day in Buxton, South Dakota with her mother.

\*\*\*

Are you aware the City of Richmond has several electric cars used by city staff for routine City business?

\*\*\*

Feeling down? "Volunteering can brighten you day" are words from a 17 year old who spends 3 hours each Sunday with people in a nursing home doing oral history, crafts and visiting.

\*\*\*

A special thank you to Mary Forbes for volunteering to take over staffing the History Museum since Betty Dornan has been ill.

\*\*\*

A proposed movie to be made in the Point is scheduled for June 6-7-8th. The tunnel will be used and closed at times. Indirect mitigation fees from the movie producer, set by the city, are charted for community directed programs.

\*\*\*

Every exit is an entrance to somewhere else.

\*\*\*

Best Wishes to Andrew Butt and Kimberly Martin on their marriage, Saturday, April 28 in the resort town of Eureka Springs, Arkansas. Tom and Shirley Butt were in Arkansas for a week for the festivities where

they also had time to participate in a canoe trip. Both the bride and groom graduated with bachelor of architecture degrees from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. Both live in California now, but Kimberly grew up in Fayetteville, also Tom's hometown. After a honeymoon in Hawaii, the newlyweds now reside in Point Richmond where both are employed at Interactive Resources.

\*\*\*

Happy seventieth wedding anniversary to Jean and Willard Spiersch!

\*\*\*

Following the April general membership meeting, Rod Satre and his wife, Bonnie, hosted a reception at their home, 530 Santa Fe Avenue, for the new board of the Point Richmond Neighborhood Council.

\*\*\*

Sirens on May 1, 2001 signaled a General Chemical release. What happened to KCTR, 790, that nothing was heard on this channel but static? And, what about warning phone messages that are supposed to be sent? If there can be sirens, is it possible for a speaker voice message since one isn't always in a place with a radio, phone or TV?

\*\*\*

After 16 days in the hospital following surgery and time in a Rehab care center, Betty Dornan is looking forward to being home.

\*\*\*

How do you eat an Oreo? There are mini, reduced fat, double stuff and chocolate-covered Oreos. Now they just got more chocolately. Chocolate Creme Oreos will soon be distributed with cocoa-flavored filling in the classic sandwich cookie.

\*\*\*

It is never too late to welcome little Grace Isabella Brady, born on March 19, 2001

to Melissa and Colin Brady and greeted by big sister, Olivia.

\*\*\*

How does one get Tom Butts goats to clear the blackberries that threaten to overtake the whole hillside?

\*\*\*

Have a great summer.

\*\*\*

Freedom doesn't come cheap. Honor those who have preserved it by flying the American Flag on Flag Day and the Fourth of July!

\*\*\*

Answer:

### **The Highest Pay-per-at-bat**

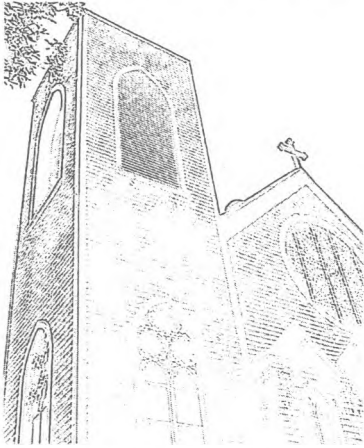
- Alex Rodriguez \$45,487
- Many Rameriz \$45,558
- Sammy Sosa \$29,801
- Derek Jeter \$31,872

The highest pitcher and his **per inning pitched**:

- Roger Clement \$75,624
- Mike Hampton with \$69,499



# Church News



## Our Lady of Mercy

*Dee Rosier*  
232-1387

The River Idaho on my street has finally disappeared. We enjoy longer days and more sunshine. The ground is warming us and it is again time for our annual planting. I am still trying to solve my riddle that I posed last year: "It takes a snail eight days to travel one mile. So how can something that travels so slowly devour an entire tomato plant overnight?"

We continue with our census in an effort to compile an accurate accounting of our parishioners. If you have not completed a census form, please do so. Forms are available at the entrance of the Church or on the request from Father Lima.

The Cenacle is a group of people from the Bay Area who meet at our Parish on the last Sunday of the month to pray for Priests. It is then followed by a potluck dinner. The previous Priest is in poor health and can no

longer participate. Father Lima has graciously accepted the position. It was decided that the group would now meet on the fourth Sunday of each month.

The Small Community Faith Group started as a Lenten devotion. A group of six met every other week. The scriptures were read and discussed. It was such a success, we have decided to continue. Meetings are held every other Wednesday at 7:00 P.M. at the home of one of the participants. If you are interested in joining the group, please call Steve Schaefer at 232-1315.

Coffee and donuts are enjoyed by our parishioners once a month after Mass. It's a great opportunity to share parish news and enjoy good company. The goodies are an added plus.

A Roof Committee has been formed. We all know that there is a need for a new roof. There is a sum of money in the Roof Fund, but certainly not an adequate amount to meet the estimates received. The Roof Committee is diligently working on a solution.

Another committee recently formed was the Centennial Committee. Nancy Hagel will chair this committee. Our Lady of Mercy will be 100 years old in 2002. A book will be published on the history of the Parish, with information from personal interviews and documents from the archives of the Oakland Diocese, San Francisco Archdiocese, and other written sources. The story of the Parish will also include Point Richmond history and will be illustrated with photographs. We have some photographs, but are seeking more. If you have any photographs you can share, i.e.: Pastors, Communion, Weddings, BBQ's, Catechism classes, etc. We would like to borrow them for the publication. Stanley Toledo is the point of contact and can be reached at 510-524-5095 (home) or 415-556-



4238 (work). If you know of anyone who might have a selection of photographs, let Stan know.

She had a birthday on April 1st and a few weeks into it tripped and broke her leg, that's our Anna Schwarz. She came back to Church with the use of a walker and her overwhelming enthusiasm.

Congratulations to Nancy Hagel on the birth of a Grandson, Samuel Joseph, born May 12. Samuel's father, Matthew, was a Parishioner before leaving the area.

Theresa Meneghelli is one of the the original Point Richmond kids. Theresa recently underwent surgery on the back of another illness. We wish Thersea renewed health and know that she had to miss the Point Richmond Kid's Reunion. We too missed Theresa.

The Gerk family is off to Colorado for the next three weeks to visit family. Have a good, safe trip.

Father Lima would like to include in the Sunday Bulletin, as well as the Prayers of the Faithful at Mass, the names of those parishioners who are sick. Please call him and let him know who they are.

Continued get well wishes to everyone's Sweetheart, Bob Peckham, who is enduring his journey with his usual sense of humor and plentiful smiles.

Since it is almost June and the month for brides, I share with you a child's thoughts on marriage:

*No person decides before they grow up who they're going to marry, God decides it way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with.*

TPIT will be on summer hiatus until September. Where will I contain all of the summer happenings? Have a fun-filled summer.

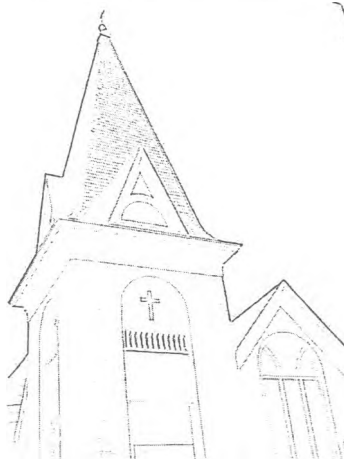
See you in church

## Point Richmond Methodist

*Jean Reynolds*

235-2988

[jeanormr@pacbell.net](mailto:jeanormr@pacbell.net)



You may notice that work has begun on the Memorial Garden, in the space on West Richmond Avenue east of the church. The garden will have a labyrinth for walking meditation, bricks with and without names set in the ground of the open spaces, and a bench or two. Green living things will grow there. Allen Folks has been our member/expert who has coordinated the plans and connects with the contractor. We anticipate that the work may conclude during the summer. Stay tuned: we plan to dedicate the new garden sometime soon after its completion, perhaps in September.

On April 22, we celebrated the baptism of cousins Drake Michael Campbell, eleven weeks old, and Ryan James Woodward, three-and-a-half years old. Drake Michael is the son of Mike and Patty Campbell of Seattle. Mike and Patty were married here about a year ago. Ryan James is the son of Judy Keller and Tom Woodward of Corte Madera. The Joyful Noise

choir sang "Down In The River to Pray" from the movie "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" but the baptism was by sprinkling, so we were free of soggy bottoms.

The Angel Choir, directed by Dan Damon, had its first all-angel concert on April 29. They performed with poise and precision fifteen of their favorites and one sing-along. CD's of the concert may be available in the fall. The Angel Choir usually sings one Sunday a month during worship. Rehearsals are on Saturday mornings at 10:00 am, except in the summer months, and any student who likes to sing is welcome. Members range from grade one to grade ten this year (with an occasional odd mother or two.)

In May, there were two yard sales at the church. One was on May 5 (Cinco de Mayo), our regular Junktique day, complete with soup, chili, grilled chicken sandwiches, hotdogs and pies. The other was on Memorial Day, May 28, accompanied by a pancake breakfast, hotdogs, hamburgers and gardenburgers, with some of our proceeds benefiting the Masquers' Theatre. Our donors provided some wonderful junk to sell, and our customers happily benefited. It was all a lot of work and took a lot of people to make it happen. Claudia LeGué organized both events, and has earned a little down time. Thanks to the Point Richmond neighbors who support our activities and events in so many ways!

#### Summer Calendar:

June 10, Sunday, 11:00 am, Jazz Worship Service. The morning message in music features the Dan Damon Trio and the Angel Choir.

July 9 – July 13: Vacation Bible School for ages 4 through fifth grade. 9:00 am to 11:30 am. This is always a fun week; we look forward to it all year. We will hear stories, do crafts, sing, eat and play games. Call Jean Reynolds at 235-2988 to sign up.

## 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 50th installment.*

### May 31st 1926

Social League met at the home of Mrs. Reman with Mrs. Er4ickson assisting her as hostess. It was moved, seconded and carried that the Florist and Laundry bills be paid.

Mrs. Schmidt

Sec

24.87 - Previous balance

1.95 - plate

.60 - Mrs. Stender, dues

.15 - donation

27.57

5.15 - deductions

22.42 - new balance

*I have this ring-binder that is full of yellowed original clippings from old newspapers. The hand inscribed front cover says "Local Newspaper Clippings-Richmond - 1913-1932". It has a documenting problem as that most of the clipped articles do not give credit to the source, most however seem to be from the "Richmond Herald-Record". I do not know who put it together. They are, however old, hand dated and interesting reading, many spelling errors are not corrected here is installment #2. Gary Shows*

### **Red Lights Twinkle for Last Time Saturday Eve (12-1-1913)**

NO MORE WILL THE RUDDY GLARE OF DENS OF INIQUITY BECKON SOULS TO DESTRUCTION—LAST INMATES DEPART FOR OTHER FIELDS SATURDAY EVENING—CHIEF OF POLICE WILL ENFORCE ORDER, HE SAYS—WILL NOT ALLOW SCATTERING OF DENIZENS OF UNDERWORLD ABOUT CITY OF RICHMOND—OWNERS OF PROPERTY HERETOFORE USED FOR VICE WILL HAVE TO OBTAIN OTHER TENANTS

The red lights on Railroad avenue twinkled for the last time Saturday night. Chief of Police Arnold enforced his order previously given that all places of iniquity would have to close forever in Richmond, commencing December 1st.

In compliance with the orders of the chief many of the inmates of resorts in Richmond's redlight district packed their belongings last week and moved out of town. The last of the denizens of the tenderloin departed Sunday morning and the row of houses on the thoroughfare hertofore given up to the worship of the goddess Venus today presented a deserted appearance.

Chief of Police Jas. P. Arnold, in conversation with a representative of the Record-Herald, stated that he intended to keep the city free from women of questionable virtue and would not tolerate a promiscuous scattering over the city of the inmates who have been forced to leave the resorts on Railroad avenue.

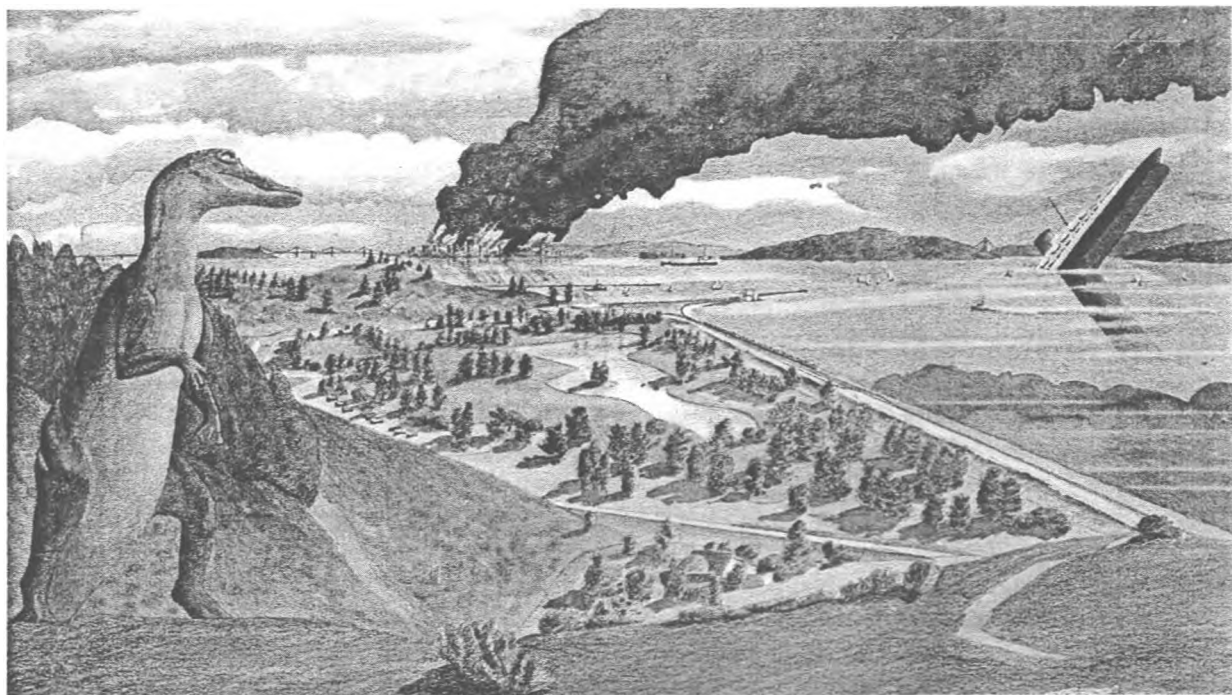
Chief of Police Arnold has received the support of the city council and all the churches of Richmond in his effort to red Richmond of resorts of easy virtue. Chief Arnold's action will be emulated by the authorities of other east by cities by the first of the coming year.

The owners of property heretofore used for the purpose of vice will now have to seek other tenants for their buildings, and it will probably be a long time before they will be able to rent the places again, for the stigma will remain on them for years to come.



*Looking down from the hill onto Idaho Street circa 1910*

*A. Smith*



### APOCALYPTIC PANORAMA FROM POINT RICHMOND

*Trachodons roam the Potrero Hills, downtown San Francisco is in flames, and the Normandie sinks in Raccoon Strait. Richmond's new Regional Shoreline is finally a lively spot!*

This image is from a painting by John Kenyon

Pretty strange eh? You can buy a card featuring this picture (in color) from the Santa Fe Market.



*PRAM Keeps  
Rolling Along*

By Lorilyn Parmer-Folks  
*Sorry, no report in this issue.*



## **ONCE A WASHINGTON SCHOOL KID, ALWAYS A KID**

The passing years haven't dimmed the love of Point Richmond for the former "Kids (!)" from Washington School when they met after the Annual Meeting of the Point Richmond History Association on Sunday, May 20, 2001 at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church. Master of Ceremonies George LeRoy Williams had Al Frosini, (who would have known he had recent hip surgery?) lead the group in Richmond High cheers who added, "Our team is red hot, Your team is all shot!"

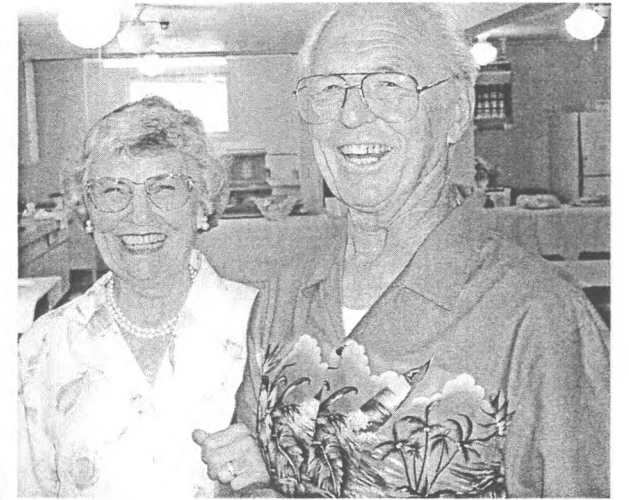
Of the more than 60 in attendance, eighteen were born in the Point, six still live here and the others came from Napa, Martinez, Hercules, El Cerrito Oakland, San Pablo, Vallejo, Walnut Creek, Albany, Pinole, Hanford, Nevada City, and Concord. Because Edna Wickershim Hathaway came the farthest from Hanford, she was allowed to be first in line for refreshments. Stella Analini Giovannini and Kay Mayfield Robertson have been friends since Kindergarten at Washington School. Claude Bisio blames any of his problems on the fact Al Smith stood atop the train tunnel and dropped rocks on the tracks below and one hit Claude on the head. He immediately went to Al's mother to report it! Melba Logan didn't even blush when someone asked about her 'wild' times on Keller's Beach. Bill Smith recalled being at the old Washington school when it was shut down and the new one opened. Bill Kollar mention it was World War I that he and Toni Bernardi took paper plates and as they licked the plates said 'they would lick the Kaiser too!'

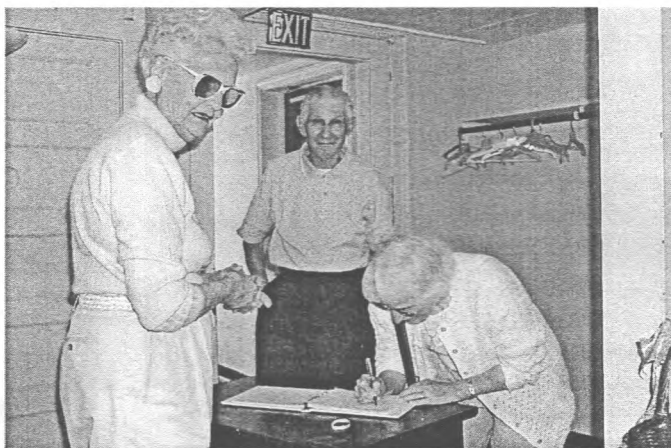
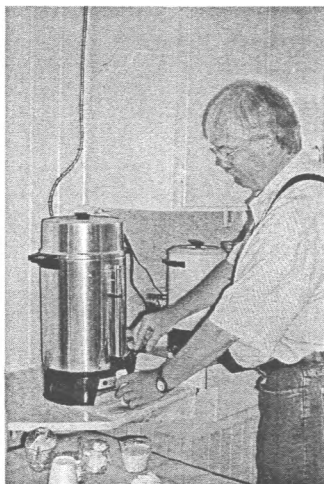
"Anyone remember the 'wienie man'?" asked Stewart Saunders. "Well, I'm the first wienie." Old tires were rolled down the hill to try to block the entrance to the tunnel. "There

weren't any houses there," added Al Kollar. Nellie Pasquini slid down the banks on cardboard boxes and years later, Pam Wilson and Pat Dornan did too. (Does it appear girls have nicer memories?) There were nostalgic stories of swimming at Keller's Beach and the parties at Blake's Quarry. Ellen Schaefer admits to being a newcomer but remembers Jumbos cranking out hamburgers. Everyone joined in with accolades for the Point, its friendliness, its small community and still the most desirable place to live.

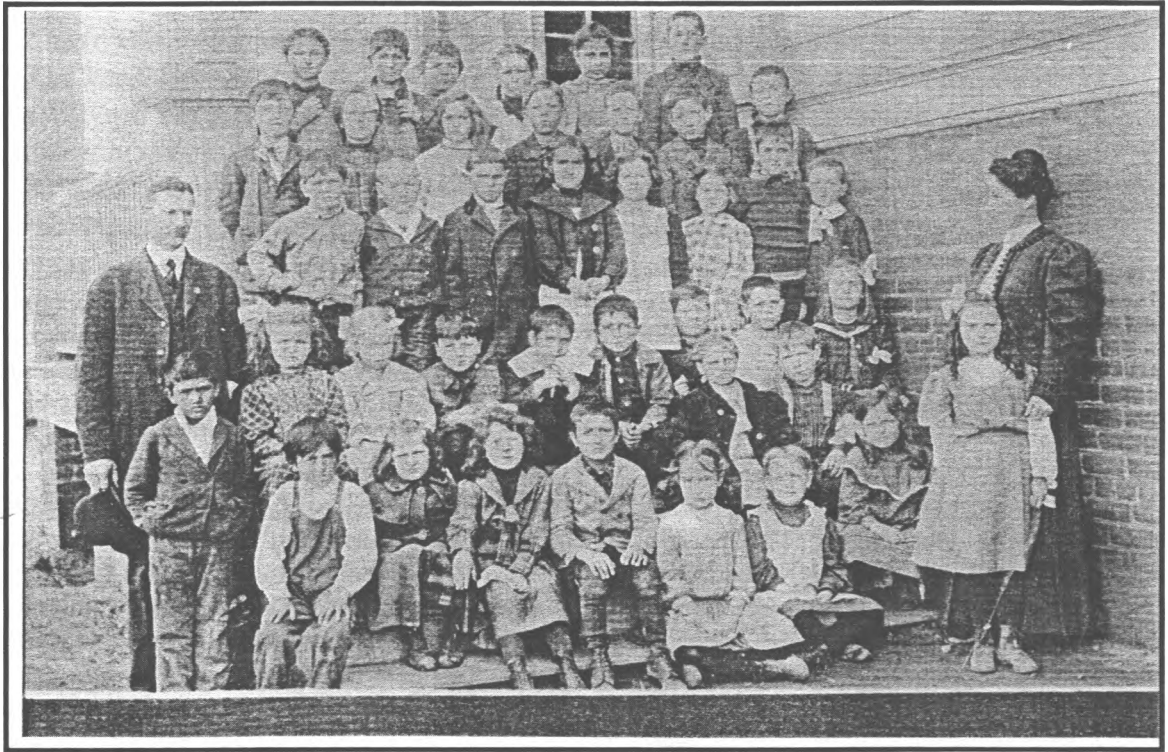
Those who came and signed the guest book included: June Solasabal, Fred Beesley, Luciano Forner, Bev Bartram, Mary Highfill, George LeRoy Williams, Bruce Bartram, Ann Vloeberghs Bartram, Lino Nivolo (who took photos for his cousin Silvio Candelo now in a care home), Patricia Dornan, Albert Kollar, Molly & Stewart Saunders, Mid Dornan, William Kollar, James Kenny, Thomas Kenny, Josephine Mattucci Palenchar, Fay and Marian George Hawkins, Dr.Kay Mayfield Robertson, Treelis Madison Marea, Ken Madison, Dora Beesley Fauerhelm, Melba Logan, Edna Wickershim Hathaway, Ann Hoff, Richard Smith, Romeo and Nellie Pasquini, Allan Smith, Stella and Mike Giovannini, Dennis and Ellen Schaefer, Jerry Cerkowicz, Bena Bowles, Carolyn , Irene Patterson, Bernadette Bisio, Donna Wilson, Pam Wilson, Evelyn Thill, Al and Helene Frosini, Mary Forbes, Jack Healy, Dennis Amantite, Ben Sudin, Mike Canepa, Rose and Louie Barra, Tonita and John Granada, Loren Smith, Elizabeth McDonald, Jim Paulson, Gary Shows, Rodney Kendrick and Claude Bisio. Missed was Betty Glass Marshall from Oregon! Chairman Teresa Meneghelli was recuperating from emergency major surgery the week before so she was also missed.

*Mid Dornan*









Here's an old class picture donated by IlaMay Dein.

It will be added to our growing collection.

STANDARD AVENUE SCHOOL  
POINT RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA  
PROF. HELMS, PRINCIPAL  
MYRTLEM. RIDDLE, TEACHER  
THIRD GRADE 1908-1909

TOP ROW

1. Harriet Johnson
2. ?
3. ?
4. Alice Woods
5. Violet Dutro
6. ?

2nd ROW

1. ?
2. Thelma Stelham
3. Goldie Gnaga

4. ?

5. ?

6. Howard Topping

7. ?

3rd ROW

1. Fuller Winslow
2. Emil Brignone
3. ?
4. Clara Monroe
5. Rita Arnold
6. Elizabeth Wyman

7. Joe Pastori

8. Teddy Jones

4th ROW

1. Rita (unknown)
2. Helen Cowan
3. ?
4. Emmitt Mc Laughlin
5. Joe Allochis
6. Gordon Perault
7. ?
8. Nellie Parlier

9. ?

10. Gordon Oliphant

5th ROW

1. August Dutro
2. ?
3. Elizabeth Hounsel
4. John Allochis
5. ?
6. Elenor Axelson
7. Leona Adair

To the left Prof. Helms, in front of him ?, to the right is Miss Riddle, in front of her is Ila Arnold.

*THIS POINT.....in time*



# Allan's Point

By Allan Smith

The recent Point Richmond Kid's Reunion brought back many Washington School playground memories. Stu Saunders was present at the reunion and he talked of the times when he was a Washington School Playground Director along with the late Herbie Bill. Stu Saunders and Herbie Bill were good baseball players and were members of the Washington School "Bonecrushers", a local school baseball team. The Washington school Playground was under the supervision of the directors. Directors I remember were Charlie Baldwin, John Palmer, Norman Gregg and George Miller. All were hired by the Richmond City Recreation Department while they were attending college. The playground was open after school hours and every day during the summer vacation. Do you think a playground director at Washington School would be successful once again?

I personally enjoyed the Kid's Reunion, but so many of the native kids were not present, and they live locally in the Bay Area. Many still reside in the Point and in Richmond. At the Kid's Reunion, I talked with Native Son Tom Kenny who has just returned from Ireland after a month's visit with relatives. Tom's wife passed away recently. In 1941, Tom was instrumental in telling us that the United States Maritime Service was accepting men to join the Merchant Marine. Tom retired from the Merchant Marines after more than 20 years of service. Tom brought his cousin, Jim Kenny to the reunion. Jim was a former Councilman, Mayor and Supervisor for the City of

Richmond and Contra Costa County.

Jim Kenny was born in the building which Little Louies now occupies. His family had a business there. Jim had a hard time when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1941. The City had no recorded record of his birth, even Our Lady of Mercy Church where Jim Kenny was baptized had no record. That was because the church was closed during the Depression years and all records were lost. Jim Kenny served in the Navy as a member of the Armed Guard. These men of the Armed Guard were placed on U.S. Merchant ships to man the guns in order to defend the ship if attacked by enemy forces. Incidentally, Jim Kenny and his cousin, Tom Kenny, met each other in England during World War Two.

George LeRoy Williams once again served as Master of Ceremonies and did a perfect job. At one time George was the Exalted Ruler of the Richmond Elks Club. Many thanks to Mid Dornan for presiding as chairperson of the reunion. We all remember her late husband, Bob, who was raised in the Point and was very active in the Point Boy Scouts, serving as Scoutmaster for many years.

In an earlier issue of TPIT, Mid Dornan, our Point Richmond History Association President, mentioned a book called "Survivor" and that she knew the Author, John Playter. It is a personal memoir of one soldier's experience in the Battle for the Philippines, the Batann Death March, Japanese slave labor camps and escape from the Japanese hell ship,

*(Continued on page 17)*

the Shinyo Maru. Needless to say, this tragedy still exists in the minds of World War Two people. The book has the answer to their personal problem of forgiving his captors for the way he was humiliated and beaten. The author survived the Bataan Death March. I also read a book called Yanks Don't Cry. It is also a Marine's review of Four Heroic Years in a Japanese Prisoner of War Camp authored by Martin Boyle.

Ross Dixon passed away recently. He was the father of Lynn Dixon Stoddard who resides in the Point. Ross was the owner of the Schmidt Funeral Home in Richmond along with his wife Winifred (Winnie). Winnie came from a family long associated in the funeral business which started in Point Richmond under the direction of Bert Curry. The original Schmidt Dixon Funeral Home was located at 334 Eleventh Street in Richmond and was known as the Richmond Funeral Home.

Ross's mother-in-law, Claire Schmidt, owned the Funeral Home and had the reputation of giving very personal attention to the people she served. A reputation that existed until the Funeral Home was sold a few years ago. Lynn Dixon Stoddard is still associated with the firm. Ross Dixon was very well known in the City of Richmond and heavily involved in Richmond's Elks Club. It always amazed me how Ross and Winnie could find burial places in the Veterans Cemetery, Golden Gate, for the Veterans they served. The Veteran's Cemetery has long been full capacity with spaces available only in Oregon or down South. Somehow they came through in answering the wishes of the Veteran's family. The latest to be buried at Golden Gate Cemetery was Johnny Stark, Point Richmond native,, who passed away several years ago. Point Richmond's Bruce

Bartram was an embalmer who came out of retirement to direct Ross Dixon's Funeral. I met Ross Dixon in 1942 while I was attending the United States Maritime Service Officer's School in Alameda. The school was located at the old Neptune Beach recreation site. Ross was an officer at the school working with engine room candidates as a machinist.

Watch for the fifteenth anniversary celebration of the Point Richmond Market which is owned and operated by Mohamed Warith and his wife Sheba.

Linda Marshall is the mother of twins, which I call the 'double-headers'. I see them quite often at the Point Richmond Library working out on the library computers. It is hard to believe that they will be attending Junior High next year because it seems like yesterday when they were born. Speaking of twins: Bob Hartnyk and his wife and their twins were on display during the Annual City Garage Sale.

When Rev. James Clift was Pastor of Our Lady of Mercy he always had special Memorial Service for Catholics and all other Point people. We always paid tribute to the memory of the veterans who were killed during the wars and others who died while on active duty. Also, tribute was paid to all Point Richmond native veterans who have passed. From our Catholic Church, the following were remembered as killed in action or died while on active duty: JOSEPH CASEY, JESSE BARRIOS, ROBERT DRAKE, JOHN KENNY, JOHN MEDO, THOMAS ARRENDON AND MICHAEL LIA LIZARRAGA.

I grew up in the Point with Robert (Bob) Gragg who was killed in action during World War Two.

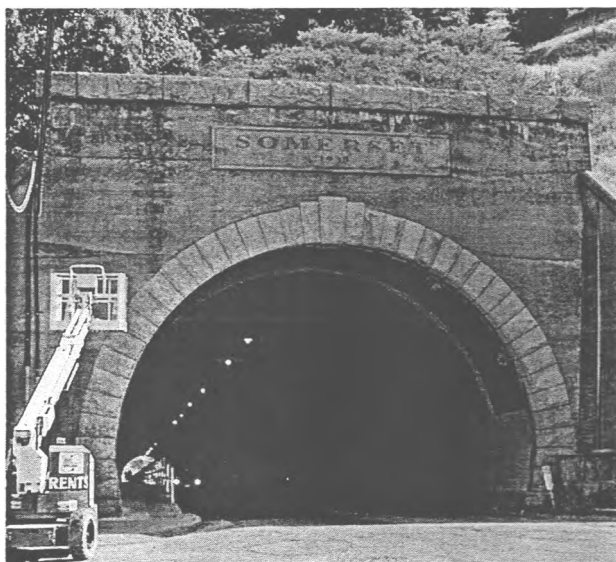
# Sports Memories

by Allan Smith

I was reading the book, "Joe Dimaggio, the Hero's Life" by Richard Kramer, available at the Point Library. He was writing about DiMaggio's baseball record when he hit safely in 62 straight games. He was playing in the Pacific Coast League for the San Francisco Seals. Richmond's Bohnny Babich, a power right handed pitcher, won 20 games with the last place Mission Reds in the same Pacific Coast League and at the same time as Joe DiMaggio. Babich almost stopped DiMaggio's record at 49 when he pitched against the Seals. In 1933, Babich had DiMaggio hitless into the eighth inning when he tried to throw a fast ball past Joe,

and Joe hit it for a triple to win the game for the seals 1 to 0.

Joe Dimaggio went with the New York Yankees and Johnny Babich with the Brooklyn Dodgers. Later in 1941, Babich was with the Philadelphia Athletics and he was pitching against Joe DiMaggio and Joe had 56 straight hitting streak and Babich said that he would stop that streak. But the hitter got a two base hit off of Babich. Later Babich was known as the "Yankee Killer" and they said he personally stopped the New York Yankees from winning the pennant that year.



*Our tunnel was temporarily renamed "Somerset, 1908" by a movie making company filming in the Point in early June.*

# WESTSIDE WOMEN HAVE HAT DAY

Recalling days when hats and gloves were standard if you attended church, went to the City or considered yourself well-groomed, women of the Westside Improvement Club wore hats to their April meeting. And oh, the variety! Anita Christensen modeled her budget breaking (40 years ago) hat costing \$62 but had to wait a few years to wear it until she could afford a suitable dress to go with it. Betty Dornan's garden hat was decorated with Easter bunnies and chicks for the season and looked good enough to eat! Liz McDonald wore her husband's Marine Corps cap; Betty Wirth, while growing up in Minnesota, made hats and the fur-trimmed one she wore was suitable for the Minnesota winters. Sonja Darling's hat was given to her by her mother-in-law after she married so she could attend church; Bessie Squire's husband purchased her hat, but for himself. Bessie fell in love with the

fisherman motif so he gave it to her. Since Mary Forbes admitted to never wearing a hat, she borrowed one from a neighbor girl. Varsi Lometi purchased her tam in Scotland; Amelia Drake's red garden hat folded up into a pouch; Mid Dornan modeled her large, fringed black felt hat from her Trousseau; Josephine Palenchar crotched hers; and Gladys Spencer displayed a dime store hat she decorated when caught unprepared. President Alice Williamson has a large collection of hats which she displayed for all to see.

It was a fun day! At their May meeting the following were elected as officers for the year 2001 - 2002:

President: Anita Christensen

Vice Pres: Mary Forbes

Secretary: Marian Kent

Treasurer: Sonja Darling



SHHHH!

## Westside Branch Library News

*By Biblio Tek*

*Sorry, no report from Biblio in this issue.*



# LETTERS

April 18, 2001

Dear Ms. Wilson,

I obtained your name and address from the website.

We have had a request from my cousin in Denmark, Poul Bergmann, to see if we can get some information on a schoolmate of his. She is now deceased but we will give you the information he gave us. Her name and address were:

Dorothy Gould  
25 Santa Fe Ave. Apt. D  
Pt. Richmond, CA 94801

He relates that she emigrated to the U.S., was married here, had three children, was divorced, and now deceased. She would be approximately 76 to 78 years old.

His request is to know her date of emigration, date of marriage, place of marriage, name of husband, his date of birth and place of birth, date of divorce, her date of death and burial place.

Mr. Bergmann is very much into genealogy and perhaps he is assembling a book on schoolmates. He says it is easy to secure such information in Denmark, but hoped he could get such info in the U.S.

If you know anything about Ms. Gould, such as a church she may have attended, perhaps I can go that route to get the wanted info.

I hope you can be of assistance. Thank you very much for your help.

Earl A. Sarner  
109 S. Hi-Lusi  
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

P.S. Your website is interesting. There must be a lot of history in your area.

April 11, 2001

Dear Mr. Shows,

Enclosed please find pages 7 & 8 of a "FORE'N'AFT" publication, dated October 5, 1945, which was kept by one of my parents.

Also enclosed is a clipping, which likely came from a "FORE'N'AFT" publication. The date is not on it. One side there is a picture with the caption: "Yard Three Outfitting Dock", "Water Color by Werner Philipp". On the other side is a picture of men working on an anchor test. The caption gives some explanation of the test process and use of the anchors. My father was employed at shipyard #3, so he probably is the one who kept this clipping.

I spoke on the telephone to Mr. Cerkowicz about interest in these items. It is a privilege for me to share these. Thank you.

Respectfully,  
LaVerne Rentfro Woolman  
Rescue, CA

Thank You!.....Gary  
May 16, 2001



Dear Mr. Shows,

Enclosed are two blueprints. One states: "HULLS 11 TO 30 PRODUCTION DRAFTING TANK TOP-AFT DECK LAYOUT C4—KP-133 DATE 1-4-43".

The other blueprint states: "HULLS 1 TO 50 SHELL PLATE PRODUCTION DRAFTING C4—KP-13 DATE: 1-4-43".

Both drawings are very worn , appartenly from much use. I believe they were uned at Shipyard #3. Both did photo-copy well. A photo-copy of each is enclosed.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these drawings.

Sincerely,  
LaVerne Rentfro Woolman  
Rescue, CA.

*Thanks again, the wonderful items become  
a part of our archives and will be shared same  
as all of the other great artifacts you have  
donated.* Gary



Dear Gary,

My son Fredrick was born in Richmond. For the first two years of his life he lived in the Point. He missed growing up there, the poor guy! Anyway he has a daughter named Sarah. Sarah was married in the shadow of the Golden Gate Bridge on a se going tug boat. Now they have a child named Lillian Claire Fike. She was born on December 7th. Yes, they resisted naming her Pearl! I feel that Lillian is entitled to be an honorary citizen of Point Richmond, in my mind anyway! I am enclosing a picture of Lillian. NO that isn't "the" tug boat!

My wife reluctantly gave her permission to joint the over ninety club. Which leads me to announce our seventieth wedding anniversary in June. Who said Point Richmond weddings don't last!

Love your publication and look forward to receiving it!

Willard Spiersch  
E-mail jeannwill@aol.com

### *From the Website.....*

My grandfather was part owner of Richmond Brick aka Remilliard Brick (I have found info from both names). I am very interested in finding out more information on this place and history of how it helped (if it did) the Richmond area. Please direct me to anyone who may be able to help.

Thanks  
Joey Sevy  
rednex269@yahoo.com  
979-821-2830 (work)  
979-779-6714 (home)  
979-822-3396 (fax)



# Deaths....

**Joseph Francis Bernardi.** died in Vacaville on December 6, 2000, he was 91. He attended U.C. Berkeley and worked 48 years for Mastercraft Tile and Roofing in Richmond, before retiring. His hobbies were gardening and dancing. He leaves his wife of 64 years, Domenica, and a granddaughter Marisa Bartolotti. His daughter preceded him in death on April 10, 1999. He also leaves sisters, Angela Canellas of Windsor and Teresa Meneghelli of Richmond. Funeral services were held at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Vacaville.

**Angela 'Bernardi' Canellas** died in Windsor, California on February 27, 2001, she was 93. She was retired after 18 years as an elementary school teacher in the former Richmond Unified School District. The native of Point Richmond, lived in Windsor for 10 years and previously lived in San Francisco and Hillsborough. She was co-owner with her husband of the El Portal Restaurant in San Francisco. She is survived by her step-son Byron Canellos of Windsor, sister, Teresa Meneghelli of Richmond and 3 step-grandchildren. Her husband, Basil died in 1994. A memorial Mass was celebrated at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Point Richmond.



## OUR FLAG

The Flag of the United States of America is one of the oldest of the national standards of the world; older than the Union Jack of Great Britain or the Tricolor of France. During the early days of the Revolutionary War a variety of flags were used by the different colonies

and military commands, Prominent among these were the "Pine Tree" and "Rattlesnake" flags with various arrangements and mottoes. Late in 1775 a committee of Congress with Ben Franklin at the head, after consulting with Washington, then in command of the army at Cambridge, decided upon the form for a new flag. This flag consisted of thirteen stripes, red and white, with the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew on a blue field in the canton or union. On June 14, 1777, Congress passed an act stating "That the flag of the thirteen

United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation." This was the birthday of the Flag as we now know it and June 14 is now celebrated as "Flag Day"

*M. Dornan*

# June Birthdays

Alissa Bagley  
Phyllis Downey  
William Shea  
Emeric H. Baxter  
Anita Brougham  
Andrew Butt  
Jean Eakle  
Joanne Lansing

Cathe Brazil  
Brian Rotting  
Stacey Spinola  
Lillian Karl\*  
Luke Karl\*  
Adele Loux  
Claude Bisio  
Gill Stanfield

John H. Knox  
Alice Baxter  
Rosemary Giacomelli  
Daniel Buhler  
Dave Macdiarmid, Jr.  
Cindy Quist  
Dianne Primavera  
Suzanne Unser

Aaron and Michael  
Marshall  
Thomas Kenny  
Marcelina Smith  
Maurice Doherty Gerry  
Higuera Louise Banks  
Judy Travis

# July Birthdays

Josephine Palenchar  
Francis Smith  
Amy Rotting  
Mrs. Chas Baldwin  
Julius Matteucci  
Bea Read  
Mary L. Knox  
Al McGee  
Diedre Cerkowicz

Jean Creed  
Allen Anderson  
Madison Bradshaw  
Ed Squires  
Roger Elle  
Alice McMahon  
Betty Conception  
Hilary Lord  
Liz Garrard

Clifford (Lou)  
MacMillan  
Loretta 'Mertle' Lease  
Madeline Bellando  
Albright  
Jean Reynolds  
Ann Bisio  
Ed Squires  
Fred Bellati

Al Franco  
Regan Bradshaw  
Stella Anellini  
Giovannini  
Alyce Williamson  
Martha Bielawski

# August Birthdays

Oretta Eaton  
Donna Wilson  
Mid Dornan  
Kevin Pryne  
Bea Kenoyer  
Joe Darling  
Nikki Eaton  
Bernie Bisio

Barbara Ward  
Connee Fisher  
Alice Thompson  
Bernice Preece  
Zoanna Kille  
Mary Knox  
Karla Peterson  
Alia Smyke

Terrence Doherty  
Lisa Smith  
Kelly von York  
Bonnie Ritzenthaler  
Wilson  
Ethel Schumacher  
Dean Beesley  
R. Clayton Barnes

Tony Bernabich  
Thelma Hecker Harvey  
Michael Shaw  
Roy Henry Gover  
Clara Christopher Loux  
Molly Kate Barnes  
Jerome Vloeberghs

## Exclusive—Over 90 Club

*\*Member of the Exclusive—Over 90 Club*

*Mae Mandl  
Ruth Wood  
Bernard Bernes  
William Kollar  
Thelma Hecker Harvey*

*Pina Barbieri  
Mark M. Gebhart  
Willard Spiersch  
Jean Spiersch  
Louis Shaw*

*Alice Helseth*

*(Have we missed anyone?  
Let us know)*

*THIS POINT.....in time*



# *Calendar of Events Alphabetical by Group*

## **GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM AND EAST BAY MODEL ENGINEERS SOCIETY**

900 Dornan Drive, Miller/Knox Regional Park. Interested in Museum Membership? Business Meetings and Workshop on Friday's 7-10 PM. 510-234-4884.

## **MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE**

"The Diary of Anne Frank" Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm, June 15 through July 21. Sunday Matinees at 2:30 on 6/24, 7/1, 7/15. Reservations 232-4031.

Dinner at the Hotel Mac and *"The Diary of Anne Frank"* on July 19th for only \$28. Call 510-236-4988 for reservations.

## **POINT RICHMOND ASSOCIATION OF MOTHERS (PRAM)**

Mondays, at 7:00 PM; , December 11 on Mondays at 7 PM, Methodist Church, 201 Martina Street. Information on meetings call 273-9959.

## **POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

Meets 2nd Wednesday each month, Hotel Mac Banquet Room, 12-1:30, Lunch Reservations \$11. Contact: Paula Aasmus, O.D. 510-235-5228.

## **POINT RICHMOND COMMUNITY CENTER/FIELD HOUSE & PLUNGE**

Info: 233-6881

## **POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION**

The deadline for the September/October issue of TPIT is Friday August 17, 2001.

## **POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

Meets last Wednesday each month, Pt Richmond Community Center; 7:30 P.M Contact: Rod Satre, President, 232 5059.

## **RICHMOND ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND**

The REDF meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 , First United Methodist Church, 201 Martina Street, Point Richmond. Call David Michener, 510-232-0405 for details of the meeting. Info: 510-234-2706 or 510-215-6100

## **WASHINGTON SCHOOL**

Contact: Miss Jones, Secretary 510-232-1436.

## **WOMEN'S WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB**

Contact: Alyce Williamson, President at 234-6167

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). 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:

**Gary Shows**

229 Golden Gate Avenue  
Point Richmond, CA 94801

or

fax 510-644-1286

or

email: [gary@alkos.com](mailto:gary@alkos.com)

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

139 1/2 Washington Avenue  
Point Richmond, CA 94801

All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part of any article or image without written permission of the Point Richmond History Association is prohibited.

### **Board of Directors:**

*Mid Dornan, President*

*Elizabeth McDonald, Vice President*

*Jerry Cerkanowicz, Secretary*

*Ellen Schaefer, Treasurer*

*Mary Highfill, Corresponding Secretary*

*Pam Wilson, Membership*

*Dennis Schaefer, Programs*

*Gary Shows, Newsletter Editor*

*Sonja Darling, Fund Raising*

*Betty Dornan, Museum*

*Allan Smith, Archives*

### **Main Contributors to this Issue:**

Gary Shows	Editor
Mid Dornan	Various Articles
Don Church/Allan Smith	Historic Photos
Jerry Cerkanowicz	Proof/Article
Pam Wilson	Membership Info
Allan Smith	Articles/photos
Jean Reynolds	Article
Dee Rosier	Article
Kevin Pryne	Cover Prep
David Vincent	Calendar/Photo
LaVerne Rentfro Woolman	Photo
Erica Goode	Photo
Point Richmond Kids	Material

### **Phone Numbers**

Mid Dornan	510-234-5334
Gary Shows	510-235-1336
Fax	510-644-1286
Allan Smith	510-234-5149

Visit us at our website

**PointRichmondHistory.org**

Richmond Museum of History 510-235-7387

Red Oak Victory Information 510-235-7387

For Red Oak Project information visit:

<http://www.rosietheriveter.org/>