- THIS POINT.... in time NEWSLETTER The Point Richmond History Association www.PointRichmondHistory.org Vol. XXII No. 6 April/May, 2004 \$1.50

# Richmond Avenue

LARGEROFF

### PRHA Annual Meeting May 23, 2004 2:00 pm

at

### Point Richmond Methodist Church Martina & West Richmond Avneue Point Richmond

#### All Invited Refreshments Will Be Served.

Donald Bastin, author of the book "Images of America: Richmond" Will be the featured speaker. "Images of America: Richmond" was published in 2003 and is a pictorial history documenting the birth of Richmond from the late 19th century ranchos to the present.

Mr. Bastin was born and raised in Richmond and is the director of the Richmond Museum of History. His great grandparents settled in the Richmond area before or during World War I.

For those of you who would like to preview the book before the meeting, copies will be available for purchase at the Point Richmond History Museum as well as the Richmond Museum of History. The price is \$20. Mr. Bastin will also be signing copies at the meeting for those of you who would like a personal touch!

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### By Mid Dornan

Blossoming trees and balmy shirtsleeve weather initiates Spring and intensives the beauty of living in the Point Richmond area. It also means it is time for our Annual Meeting of the Point Richmond History Association. You need to go mark your calendar now for the meeting on Sunday, May 23, 2:00 p.m. Watch for our invitation. Our speaker will be Don Bastian whose book *RICHMOND* was published last year. He will be there to autograph his book too. Check to the left page for more information.

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This Point ..... in time

Thank you members for your renewal: Simeon J. Burtner Linda Andrew-Marshall **Jan Burdick Madeline** Albright Janice Cook & Jeff Lee Herbert Hunn **Toney P. Bernabich** Muriel C. Clausen Al & Helene Frosini **Roberta Jenkins Smith John Papadakis Bill Vallivero Dean Beesley** John A. Bailo Albert J. Kollar Anna S. Gaumer **Brenda McKinley** Han & Jerry Feagley **Reva Ward Elizabeth McDonald** George L. Williams **Teresa Meneghelli** Adele (Bruno) Waymire **Dennis Amantite Mary Highfill Betty Dornan** Velma J. Healv Mary Crosby & Tom Piazza Inez Pestana **Myrna Wishart** Lvnn Maack Sandi Genser-Maack Llovd & Melba Farley John A. Theilla & Rosa T. Casazza

Linda & And a warm welcome to the following new members:

**Bob Lee & Pat Carrington** 

THANK YOU! SANTA FE MARKET AND POINT RICHMOND MARKET FOR SELLING "THIS POINT.....IN TIME"

Thanks to the Volunteers who open and close our history museum on Thursday and Saturday:

Betty Dornan (Director) Bruce and Ann Bartram Pat Pearson Mid Dornan Bonnie Jo Cullison Dody Perry Anita Christiansen Sonja Darling

7kank You! Special Supporters! History Makers Sherri Mertle Doug & Rosemary Corbin Mohamed & Sheba Warith Linda & Robert Drake History Preservers: Royce Ong Kathe Kiehn Edward J. McGarvey

This Point.....in time

# EDITOR'S NOTES

#### Gary Shows (510-235-1336)

So much going on! Trying to stimulate business for my store and put this out at the same time is taxing, but here you go! Thanks to everyone, Allan Smith is a little under the weather and was not able to give his usual interesting material. Hopefully he will be feeling better for the next issue and continue his interesting contribution. Thanks to everyone else for timely submissions.

I had hoped to publish some stuff about the current Indian Statue Park and how it came to be. I have read various misconceptions lately that I would like to clear up. It was an interesting and exciting time and I hope to get into it at a later issue. I would appreciate any help telling the story of the statue, the bricks, the park construction, the heroes and the villains. Just did not have the time with this one.

One of the best contributions ever to this publication was from Dr. William Thompson who wrote some interesting information about the Point. Since we are now online or soon to be online with TPIT, I have decided to reprint his information so that all can enjoy. At the completion of our reprint I will see to it that Dr. Thompson's work is available as a single separate booklet for future Point folks to enjoy. For The deadline for the Summer Issue (June/ July/August) is Friday, May 21, 2004.

The February/March issue assembly crew was:

Jerry Cerkanowicz Gary Shows Mid Dornan Bruce Bartram Ann Bartram Sonja Darling Betty Dornan Bonnie Jo Cullison Pam Wilson Pat Pearson



#### The Cover:

This is one of a number of new photos added to our collection thanks to a field trip taken by Mid Dornan and Pat Pearson to the Contra Costa Historical Society. We are grateful to Mid, Pat and the CCHS, photos have become our most interesting archive. All of the new photos are available on the PRHA Website.

This image is simply labeled "Richmond Ave." Can anyone pinpoint the exact location and year? Please let Gary Shows know.

# A-MID TRIVIA

#### Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question:What is unique about the San Francisco Cable Cars? Answer at end of Trivia

### HAPPY SPRING! HAPPY EASTER!

People go on vacation to forget things, and when they open their bags, they find out they did.

Oh to have the problems of Wyoming! Political leaders have a dilemma our state can only dream of -- What to do with a projected \$1.2 billion surplus! This is mainly the result of increased revenue from higher oil and natural gas prices.

\*\*\*

Farewells have been given by Alexandra and Albert Gautraud as they have moved to Charlotte, North Carolina to be near daughter, Jennifer and grandchildren. Alexandra is a member of the California Writers Association, held local classes on how to write your Autobiography, was treasurer of the Richmond Friends of the Library, and has provided the Point Richmond History Association with a booklet on the History of the Richmond Plunge (Natatorium) which is available for one dollar.

\*\*\*

One of the charms of the Point is its people and pets. "Cutie Pie" and Josephine Palenchar have been a Point icon for over 14 years as they daily strolled to the post office and stores. "Cutie Pie" has now gone to Dog Heaven and will be missed.

\*\*\*

Best get well wishes go to Joanne Busby as she recovers from recent major surgery.

If Margaret and Maurice Doherty seem to have even bigger smiles these days, it is because

they are about to become grandparents - TWICE! Daughter Clare and son Terance providing the smiles.

\*\*\*

Conversation means being able to disagree and still continue the discussion.

\*\*\*

The annual JUNKTIQUE SALE at the Point historic Methodist Church will be on Saturday, May 1st. This popular fund raiser begins at 8:00 in the morning and helps supplement the largest budget in the church's 104 year old history. Have something to contribute? Drop it off at the church or call and leave a message at the church, (510) 236-0527 or (510) 964-9901, Fran.

Kiley Wynne, daughter of Terry Wynne, was chosen from the senior class at California College of Arts and Crafts, Berkeley/Oakland campus to put on a show of her photography and cinematography. Kiley will graduate from the college on May 8th. Congratulations!.

\*\*\*

With summer comes sow bugs. If they are in your garden, sprinkle Epsom salts around and the bugs will leave.

Bernard Bernes, member of our 90's club is recovering from an accident that left him with a fractured pelvis. We wish him a speedy recovery because we miss his emails!

Chocolate lovers can take heart in new research showing that cocoa has more health protecting antioxidants than wine or green or black tea. On a per-serving basis, the antioxidant capacity in cocoa was almost two times stronger than red wine, two to three times stronger than green tea and four to five times stronger than black tea. Does that suggest "a cup of hot cocoa in the morning, a cup of green tea in the afternoon and a glass of red wine in the evening as a good combination for the daily antioxidant intake?

We need old friends to help us grow old and new friends to help us stay young.

#### Dennis Snyder, De Moines, Iowa, was visiting his mother in Atchison Village and revisited the Point . A former scout in Troop 111, he peeked in the windows of the history museum and fell in love with our oil painting of

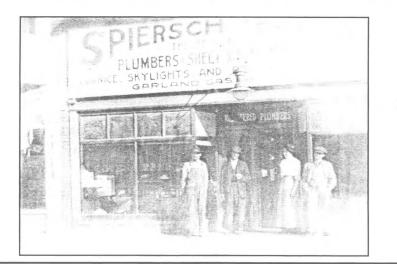
Keller's Beach. Is there someone that would like to photograph it so he could have a copy?

Many women in the Point are becoming more physically as they dash over to Curves for their 30 minute work out!

#### \*\*\*

#### DON'T FORGET TO REMEMBER MOM ON HER DAY - AND THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN LIKE A MOM TO YOU TOO.

Answer: The San Francisco Cable Cars are the only mobile national monuments.

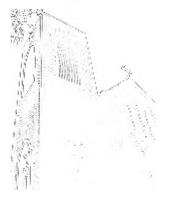


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#### FUNDING FOR HISTORIC PLAQUES- HELP!

Next year on August 7, 2005 the City of Richmond will be celebrating the centennial or 100 years of government. We already know Richmond was conceived at an earlier meeting in the Critchett Hotel here in Point Richmond, now a Market. This site has been commemorated and identified with a Bronze Memorial Plaque. Two other buildings in the same area, the First Bank Building and the First City Hall in Richmond await Memorial plaques. Inadequate funds is a familiar tune but unfortunately is our song , too! We need approximately \$1200 to complete the next two above. plaques. If you are looking for a lasting legacy or a tax deduction, consider this worthwhile project. Checks can be mailed to us at our History Museum, 139 1/2 Washington Avenue, Point Richmond, Ca 94801.

### CHURCH NEWS



### Our Lady of Mercy Church

By Dee Rosier 510-232-1387

Welcome Spring – time to garden, time to sneeze, time to enjoy the children's voices as they play outdoors.

Father has surrounded the rectory with roses, which at this point are growing and healthy looking. Soon the entire rectory will be in bloom. Adding to the rectory's curb appeal is the removal of the security bars from the highest windows. It is now a warm and welcoming site. Thanks to Luciano Forner for removing the bars.

Parishioners enjoyed a Madri Gras potluck in the church hall. Father O'Rourke again proved himself to be handy in the kitchen by preparing a delicious tamale pie. Margaret Morkowski exhibited her talent by decorating the tables with Madri Gras theme. Those in attendance brought their favorite dish to share. The Italian Catholic Federation held their quarterly Communion at our Parish. Some of those in attendance are Pt. Richmond kids. Breakfast followed in the church hall. We have a new stove, but it lacks a part, which controls the smoke flow. As usual, the smoke alarm was triggered and the Pt. Richmond Fire Department responded. The problem sparked the interest of some of those in attendance and we may soon see the problem solved. If not, we will invite the Pt. Richmond Fire Department to be our guests.

My friend, Irene Reindl, visiting here from Cottonwood and Gail Rasmussen from Vacaville and I enjoyed lunch in Pt. Richmond. Talk got around to the Santa Fe Market and Bob Peckham. When Bob first moved here from the East, he lived with Irene's parents on 37<sup>th</sup> Street. Needless to say, we stopped at the Santa Fe Market so that Irene and Bob could visit. The older one gets, the smaller the world becomes. By the way my other friend, Gails' mother, Lynn Luck was waitress at the Baltic for many years.

For the last thirteen months we have enjoyed the generosity of the Santa Fe Market in providing the coffee and donuts for all to enjoy on the first Sunday of each month. The money collected by those kind enough to donate was returned to Bob who donated it to the Souper Kitchen. There are not enough kind words to express our thanks to Bob and Marie. We will continue to host the coffee and donuts at our expense and use the Santa Fe Market as our resource.

Our Sunday Masses appear to be drawing more and more children and their parents. Prompted by them, one of our Parishioners has volunteered to provide religious classes for the children. If you have a child needing religious classes in preparation for Sacraments, please sign up on the sheet in the back of the Church. Sign up will continue through the month of March.

Now that Linda and Robert Drake have moved back to the Point, we enjoy the pleasure of seeing Amelia at Mass.

If you have noticed the big elephant missing from our parking lot, Bob sold his truck for a pittance (you missed a great buy). A great burden was lifted from Bob's shoulders and the new owner and his wife are delighted with their new possession.

Condolences to Florence and Jim Wilson in the recent loss of their grandson, John Swindell. Jack, Connie Healy and I attended the services in Vacaville. John was the son of Roberta Wilson.

We have all become accustomed to seeing Josephine Palenchar walking her dog, Cutie Pie on our Pt. Richmond streets. Cutie Pie was 14 years old and recently died. I have mourned the death of two of my dogs and my sympathy goes out to Josephine.

Father Jim Pickett was back in town for the Valentine's Day marriage of Stella and Brett Olsen's son, Brett to Christina Martis. His cousins Raquel, stationed in Italy, and Stacia, stationed in San Diego, were home for the festivities.

Vince and Judy Kafka celebrated Vince's memorable 80<sup>th</sup> birthday with family in San Diego. Vince recently had cataract surgery and is seeing well. On Sunday March 21, he and Judy will host a wine and cheese get together at their home for members of the Small Christian

Community.

Years ago, Donna Roselius, a local artist, drew a wonderful picture of our church. It was used on note cards, which became obsolete. Through the kindness of Donna, she sent us her original artwork and we have had it recreated on note cards. We plan to sell them at the Stroll. If you don't want to wait for the Stroll, they are currently available and can be purchased in packets of ten for \$10.00.

It is a wonderful feeling to see some of our former parishioners drop in and join us for Mass on Sundays. Kathleen Casey was a recent visitor, and we never know when Dai, Susan and Patrick Meagher might be present.

Anna Schwarz, who swims daily, must be enjoying her days in Florida. Dody Perry celebrated her 86<sup>th</sup> birthday

Father O'Rourke has many projects planned, but before doing so will make a trip to New York and consult with his cardiologist for a few days to have a clearer picture of his limits. Our prayers go with him. Also remember in your prayers, Allan Smith and my sister, Elaine Neihouse.

Worked the election board at the Methodist Church in early March. Bob and Marie arrived with their usual gift of bread, cheese and fruit. Thank you kind shepherds

LIFE IS A JOURNEY, NOT A GUIDED TOUR

See you in church.



This Point ..... in time



### POINT RICHMOND METHODIST CHURCH

by Jean Reynolds 510-235-2988 jeanormr@pacbell.net

Our Seventh Annual Sweetheart Dinner honored sweetheart Frances Kinter Smith on February 12. Selecting Fran for the honor removed her from her usual role as organizer. Mid Dornan (Sweetheart 1999), Pat Pearson and others stepped in so Fran could celebrate. Speakers at the event toasted her involvement in Campfire, a quilter's club, The Masquers, Save the Plunge, United Cerebral Palsy, and fund raising for the First United Methodist Church. (What? No one spoke from the Monday night book group?) Tom Butt emceed the program and represented the church trustees. Speakers who regaled Fran with their appreciation for her included: Linda Felix-Lambie, Pat Newton, Bob Goshay, Ellie Strauss, Tom Byrne, and Burns Vick. Other featured guests were Bob Peckham, our first Sweetheart, and Fay Hawkins, Sweetheart of 2003. Pastor Dan wrote his own words to John Denver's "Thank God I'm a Country Boy" to make it "Thank God Fran's a Methodist". Eileen Johnson and Heather Damon played back-up. The Joyful Noise Choir sang the benediction. Fran said it was better than a funeral, because she was there to enjoy it.

The Bobby Hall and Friends Gospel Concert February 22 was so wonderful that Pastor Dan and the two church choirs are already thinking about how to get involved next year. We are so lucky to have a connection with Bobby and Pamella Hall and their musical gifts, loving spirits, and their family and friends.

On February 25, Richmond First UMC hosted an Ash Wednesday service that included pastors and members from seven other area churches: Albany UMC, El Cerrito UMC, Pinole UMC, El Sobrante UMC, Good Shepherd UMC, Easter Hill UMC, and St. Luke's UMC. Our District Superintendent and his wife, Jim and Odette Lockwood-Stewart, also attended. The sanctuary was comfortably packed. The offering all went to GRIP, sponsor of the Souper Center, emergency winter shelter, and other programs. Other celebrations during Lent included a Call to Prayer service for United Methodist Women at Easter Hill UMC, World Day of Prayer service by Church Women United on March 5, and an ongoing Bible study at the parsonage Monday nights during Lent.

The unexpected spring weather in early March prompted a longing to worship in the garden on March 14. The Sunday School Youth set up and dusted the chairs and transported hymnals. An advance phone call alerted members to wear a hat. The choir sang Lutheran style behind the worshipers (to use the garage door as a shell.) Alice Thompson and Pastor Dan accompanied the congregation on guitars. We watched humming birds perch and hoped people would want to perch at our church, too. Quote of the day: "Church seems shorter when you meet outside." Recent garden work parties have made the garden a pleasant place for musing.

Susie McCutchan organized a pre-choir party on March 17 to remember her Irish roots. Green chowder, green grapes, green drinks...you get the idea. We had a great turnout for rehearsal, and everyone was in good spirits.

On the Calendar:

Palm Sunday Feast: April 4, A ham dinner with all the trimmings will be served in Friendship Hall at 12:30 p.m. following 11:00 a.m. worship. Free to all. All welcome to enjoy. EntrÈe and potatoes prepared courtesy of Chuck Wise and The Baltic crew.

Easter: 8:00 a.m. "Sunrise Service" in the garden, led by the youth. Breakfast follows at 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages at 10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary, 11:00 a.m., Easter Egg Hunt 12:15 p.m.

April 18 Angel Choir Concert 5:00 p.m. \$10 donation requested.

May 1 Annual Junktique: Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Find that perfect item at the right price! Have lunch while you shop! During April, call Juanita Hoffman (234-8052) to arrange pickup of good usable items for sale.

Monday, May 31, Masquers Community Yard Sale. Plan to eat pancake breakfast at the church while you shop.

May 20 Point Richmond Stroll: 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Stop by the UMC Church table for a cookie, to register for a pie drawing, or to visit.



### 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 64th installment

#### May May 17, 1927

The meeting of the Social League was called to order by the President in the Church Parlors Mrs. Beulah Jones and Mrs. Brothers were hostesses for the afternoon. After opening the meeting by repeating the Lords Prayer in unison, 13 members responded to the roll call. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The report of the luncheon was given by Mrs. Jones. Moved and carried to accept and file report. A vote of thanks extended to Mrs. Jones. Mrs. Jones also started a receipe book to be kept for future use. Quanitity and recipes that can be referred to for luncheon and dinners. .Rev. Grant reported on "Fellowship" dinner. The dinner for the "First Methodist Church" to be held in Sept., Rev. Grant asked for written report from League Secretary to file at next Quarterly meeting Thursday May 26th. Moved and seconded that the League have vacation after 1st meeting in June and resumed last meeting in August. Mrs. Holbrook and Mrs. Glennice are to act as hostesses for next meeting to be held June 7th. Mrs. Owens and Mrs. Scofield appointed as entertainment committee for next meeting.

Previous bal 15.79 Money from luncheon 25.21 Collection 1.10 \$42.10 total No further business meeting adjourned. Mrs. Osborn Secretary

This Point.....in time

### CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH and READING ROOM by Jo Bycraft

The past month and a half have been busy for our congregation, getting moved in to our lovely new quarters, stocking shelves in the Reading Room, and so on. There are still a few decorating and construction details to be finished, but we are "up and running". Many of you have watched our build-out with interest, and you're still interested enough to look in through the Reading Room door when we are open, and stop to see what's in our window displays. Quite a few are coming in to get acquainted, sit and read the Christian Science Monitor, or just admire our warm color scheme. Don't be shy! Come on in and introduce yourselves. We have Bibles, Bible research books, and all the writings of Mary Baker Eddy for you to read, borrow, or purchase. We're

always happy to meet more of our new neighbors.

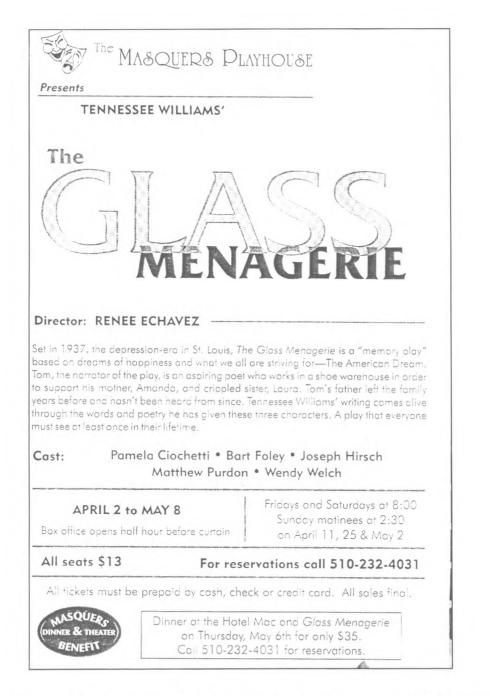
We will be sponsoring a Christian Science lecture which will be held on Thursday, June 17th from 7 - 9 PM at the Quality Inn on West Cutting at Canal. This will be an interactive workshop on the subject of "Safety and Security" conducted by Patti May Cangiano of Shasta Lake,

California. Ms. Cangiano is a member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship, and the basis of her talk will be the 23rd Psalm. There will be an opportunity for sharing and asking questions. A \$15 fee will be collected to cover the cost of materials given to each participant. Drop in to the Reading Room for further details, or keep an eye open for flyers posted in our window.



Get Your Own Copy of the Video "Birth of Victory" from the PRHA For those of you who channel surf late at night and have encountered the fascinating (if not grainy) movie on Kaiser Shipyard production and the mind-boggling changes that occurred in Richmond during those WWII years, you are in luck! The Point Richmond History Museum has copies of that videotape for sale. This is must-see, contemporary

footage of the lives of the shipyard workers and the birth of very large ships. As Donald Bastin, Director of the History Museum of Richmond, has so succinctly put it, Richmond has 2 histories: before the Kaiser Shipyardds and after the Kaiser Shipyards. The title of the video is "Birth of Victory" and sells for \$20.



COMING NEXT TO MASQUERS "VICTOR VICTORIA"

This Point ..... in time

# William L. Thompson, M.D. Life in Old Point Richmond



Dr. Thompson was born in Point Richmond on February 17, 1909. He grew up in the Point, attended Washington Elementary School and graduated from Richmond High School in 1926, attended U.C. Berkeley and in 1929 at the age of 20 was admitted to the UCSF Medical School. He completed his medical school in 1933 and interned at Highland Hospital before joining the Civilian Conservation Corp. as a contract surgeon for the Army. Dr. Thompson practiced medicine for 39 years in Richmond, we are lucky to be the recipient of his written memories of his life in Point Richmond. This is a reprint of his gift to all of us. We will reprint his entire series. Thank you Dr. Thompson! Enjoy!

#### Installment #1

Life in early Point Richmond was quite different from what it is today. Most of our modern conveniences and labor saving devices had not been developed or were not available locally. However these were unknown and so not missed. Lack of such things were largely offset by closer cooperation within family groups and between families.

Work in the home was rather simple but laborious. There was no gas for heating and little electricity. Many people still used kerosene lamps for illumination and some of these lamps were quite impressive. I recall one neighbor that had a large lamp that hung down on cords from the ceiling and had to be pulled down to be lighted. Almost all heating was from wood or coal stoves. The kitchen was the central part of the house. In the winter it was the only room that was adequately warmed. It was the living room of the house and also was used to entertain neighbors and friends.

The Standard Oil Company cut up its used and waste wood and sold it cheaply to employees. This was the source of most of our wood supply. Some people collected wood from the drift in the winter. Gas came in rather late, especially in the outlying districts. Cooking was a tedious job over a wood range. The stove had to be stoked frequently and the degree of heat was not constant and there was some danger if not carefully supervised.

Most foods were prepared fresh. Canned foods were rather few and presented a danger of death from botulism food poisoning. The germ of botulism grows only in the absence of air, so canned foods were an ideal place for its development. Death from this source was not uncommon in the early days. I recall an entire family of four who lived on Richmond Avenue between Tunnel Avenue and the tracks that died from home canned string beans. The germ resists boiling and takes many days to develop its toxin and requires an alkaline medium and some protein to produce the poison. Sugar inhibits its growth so canned fruits, which are acid, contain little protein and much sugar are relatively safe but home canned vegetables have been the main danger. Eventually this problem was solved by workers at U.C. and properly prepared canned foods are among the safest of our foods.

In addition to canned fruits, much jams and jellies were preserved. I recall the canning process. My brother and I peeled and cut the fruit while my mother did the cooking and canning. It was a tedious process but later the canned fruits were most welcome.

Many people had gardens and raised much of their own vegetables. We raised string beans, carrots, radishes and onions. My mother had a sage bush and harvested the leaves to dry and pulverize to make dressings. There were a few fruit trees, peaches did the best, and berry vines did quite well. However, up to the hills agriculture was not too successful. We raised chickens for food and eggs. My mother was especially good at this. I don't recall in early years having to buy eggs. There were more than we could use during the summer so we preserved them for winter use in water glass in a silicate solution.

Many, Including our family, raised rabbits. We boys spent much of our after school time searching the hill for vegetation to feed the rabbits. Some people had goats and a few had cows. Also we kids used to harvest wild black berries and hazel nuts in the hills.

Laundry was quite a task and was usually done on Monday. There were no washing machines in those days. At first we had only two round metal tubs, one for washing and the other Washing was accomplished by for rinsing. vigorous scrubbing on a corrugated wash board then rinsed and wrung out by hand. Drying was done on outside lines. In wet weather there usually were indoor lines that could be used. Later we got the so called sanitary tubs with hot and cold water faucets. With these there was a ringer but it had to be used by turning a crank to force the clothes through the rollers of the wringer. It was hard work and often fell to us kids. The advent of the modern washing machine was a blessing.

Ironing was another problem. There were no electric irons. Flat irons were used that had to be heated on top of the stove. About three irons were necessary; two to be heating while one was in use. The first irons were one piece. The handle was also of iron and was fused onto the ironing portion. The trouble with this was that the handle got hot also. Later irons with detachable handles came into use. Another use for the flat irons was to heat them, wrap them in cloth and use them to heat beds at night. The electric iron also proved a blessing.

This all amounted to hard work around the clock for the lady of the house and it was much greater if there were children adept at soiling things. The husband usually was more help from children than there usually is today. The family was a single unit with all having their tasks.

Dr. Thompson's Son in law Gab Togner wrote a touching eulogy to Dr. Thompson at his memorial in 1998, you can read it at http://www.alkos.com/prha/thompson.html.

# The Bath House

by Charlotte Kermabon Birsinger

As a kid I lived on Oregon Avenue, across the street from what is now called the Plunge.

Originally, there was a huge empty lot, with a high wooden fence around it. There were tall Eucalyptus trees growing on the property. A man Named "Murphy" owned the property and had a small house on the premises. We heard that the city had purchased the property, and that a Municipal Natatorium was going to be built there. We also heard that the City of Richmond wanted this to be built in their town.

One day buses appeared at Washington Grammar School, and all the students (me included) were put on the buses and driven to Richmond. We were given signs to hold that said, "We want the Bath House." We marched down the center of McDonald Avenue carrying our signs, and chanting, "We want the Bath House." It must have done some good, because Point Richmond got the Bath House. It was so much fun watching it being built. What a project! Finally it was completed, and it was so beautiful. There was a woman named Georgia who worked behind the counter. She collected money, and gave out towels, and was friendly to everyone. She allowed the neighborhood girls to go upstairs to the Lady's Room. We sat in front of mirrors, and blew our hair with the new hair dryers. What a magic place. When we got tired of that, we would sit in the balcony and watch the swimmers below. We never got tired of it.

The best of all, Wednesday afternoon was "Girls Day." All girls got in free, and could splash and swim from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday was "Boys Day," and they could do the same. We would bring our swimsuits to school on Wednesday, and when school let out, we would run all the way to the Bath House, so as not to lose a precious minute. I learned to swim there.

So today, when I drive to Point Richmond, I look a the sign that says "The Plunge." I like that name, but for me it will always be the "Bath House," and I treasure all my childhood memories of that wonderful place.

# ALLAN'S POINT AND HIS SPORTS MEMORIES

By Allan Smith

Allan is "under the weather". We hope he feels better and is able to write for the next issue. He did supply Charlotte Kermabon Birsinger's article and a great photo of the Christopher brothers.

# **Point Richmond Birds**

#### From Theresa and Jerry Daniels

Jerry has done the Point Richmond Bird count for the last seven years. We read Muriel's list in the last newsletter and she did a very good job of listing the birds for Brickyard Cove but I thought it would be nice to list all the birds seen not in just the Cove but all of Point Richmond which Jerry defined when he started the count as:

South of I-580 West of the Richmond Channel East of Red Rocks Includes Brooks Island and the Jetty south of the Channel

We started bird watching when we moved to the Point in 1985 but started the Point Richmond bird count 1997. We have had help from other excellent bird watchers: Dick Spight, Judith Fortney (both from the Point), Bob and Hanno Lewis, and Rusty Scalf (Bob and Rusty teach a bird identifying class offered at the Albany Adult Education Program). When you read the list attach we have included a rare sighting back in 1980 of a Yellow-billed Loon.

- 1 Red-Throated Loon
  - 2 Common Loon
  - 3 Yellow-billed Loon \*
  - 4 Pied-billed Grebe
  - 5 Horned Grebe
  - 6 Red-necked Grebe
  - 7 Eared Grebe
  - 8 Western Grebe
  - 9 Clark's Grebe
  - 10 White Pelican
  - 11 Brown Pelican
  - 12 Double-crested Cormorant
  - 13 Pelagic Cormorant
  - 14 Great Blue Heron
  - 15 Great Egret
  - 16 Snowy Egret
  - 17 Green Heron

18 Black-crowned Night-

Heron

- 19 Greater White-fronted Goose
  - 20 Brant Goose
  - 21 Canada Goose
  - 22 Green-winged Teal
  - 23 Cinnamon Teal
- 24 Mallard
- 25 Northern Pintail
- 26 Northern Shoveler
- 27 Gadwall
- 28 Eurasian Wigeon
- 29 American Wigeon
- 30 Redhead
- 31 Greater Scaup
- 32 Lesser Scaup

- 33 Surf Scoter
- 34 White-winged Scoter
- 35 Common Goldeneye
- 36 Harlequin Duck
- 37 Bufflehead
- 38 Red-breasted Merganser
- 39 Ruddy Duck
- 40 Turkey Vulture
- 41 Osprey
- 42 White-tailed Kite
- 43 Northern Harrier
- 44 Sharp-shinned Hawk
- 45 Cooper's Hawk
- 46 Red-shouldered Hawk
- 47 Red-tailed Hawk\*\*\*
- 48 American Kestrel
- 49 Merlin

- 50 Peregrine Falcon
- 51 Ring-necked Pheasant
- 52 California Quail
- 53 American Coot
- 54 Black-bellied Plover
- 55 Semipalmated Plover
- 56 Killdeer
- 57 Black Oystercatcher
- 58 American Avocet
- 59 Greater Yellowlegs
- 60 Lesser Yellowlegs
- 61 Willet
- 62 Spotted Sandpiper
- 63 Whimbrel
- 64 Long-billed Curlew
- 65 Marbled Godwit
- 66 Ruddy Turnstone
- 67 Black Turnstone
- 68 Surfbird
- 69 Sanderling
- 70 Western Sandpiper
- 71 Least Sandpiper
- 72 Dunlin
- 73 Short-billed Dowitcher
- 74 Long-billed Dowitcher
- 75 Parasitic Jaeger
- 76 Heermann's Gull
- 77 Mew Gull
- 78 Ring-billed Gull
- 79 California Gull
- 80 Herring Gull
- 81 Western Gull
- 82 Glaucous-winged Gull
- 83 Caspian Tern
- 84 Elgeant Tern
- 85 Forster's Tern
- 86 Rock Dove

16

87 Mourning Dove

- 88 Barn Owl
- 89 Great Horned Owl
- 90 Long-eared Owl \*\*
- 91 White-throated Swift
- 92 Black-chinned
- Hummingbird
  - 93 Anna's Hummingbird
  - 94 Costa's Hummingbird
  - 95 Rufous Hummingbird
  - 96 Allen's Hummingbird
  - 97 Belted Kingfisher
  - 98 Nuttall's Woodpecker
  - 99 Downy Woodpecker
  - 100 Northern Flicker
  - 101 Black Phoebe
  - 102 Says Phoebe
  - 103 Loggerhead Shrike
  - 104 Tree Swallow
  - 105 Cliff Swallow
  - 106 Barn Swallow
  - 107 Steller's Jay
  - 108 Scrub Jay
  - 109 American Crow
  - 110 Common Raven
  - 111 Chestnut-backed
- Chickadee
- 112 Bushtit
- 113 Red-breasted Nuthatch
- 114 Rock Wren
- 115 Bewick's Wren
- 116 Winter Wren
- 117 Marsh Wren
- 118 Golden-crowned Kinglet
- 119 Ruby-crowned Kinglet
- 120 Western Bluebird

This Point....in time

- 121 Hermit Thrush
- 122 American Robin
- 123 Wrentit

- 124 Northern Mockingbird
- 125 European Starling
- 126 American Pipit
- 127 Cedar Waxwing
- 128 Orange-crowned Warbler
- 129 Yellow Warbler
- 130 Yellow-rumped Warbler
- 131 Black-throated Gray
- Warbler
  - 132 Townsend's Warbler
  - 133 Black and White Warbler
  - 134 Spotted Towhee
  - 135 California Towhee
  - 136 Savannah Sparrow
  - 137 Fox Sparrow
  - 138 Song Sparrow
  - 139 Lincoln's Sparrow
  - 140 White-crowned Sparrow
  - 141 Golden-crowned Sparrow
  - 142 Dark-eyed Junco
  - 143 Western Meadowlark
  - 144 Red-winged Blackbird
  - 145 Brewer's Blackbird

147 Hooded Oriole

149 Purple Finch

150 House Finch

148 Bullock's Oriole

151 Lesser Goldfinch

153 House Sparrow

records

Landing

152 American Goldfinch

\*once in 1980 from ABA

\*\* found dead at Brickyard

\*\*\*aka Chicken Hawk

146 Brown-headed Cowbird

### WWIC ACTIVITIES

Alyce Williamson

#### February

The Women's Westside Improvement Club met Feb 3, 2004 at the Pt. Richmond Methodist Church. There were 19 members & one guest present. The theme for the day was "Valentine's Day". Anita Christiansen & Betty Dornan were hostesses.

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 by President, Margaret Morkowski. Annoucements: Next meeting will be March 9 due to State election on March 3rd.; Pat Pearson brought to our attention the proposed development on Pacific Av.; the Methodist Church annual Sweetheart Event honoring Francis Smith to be Feb. 26th at the Pt. San Pablo Yacht Club; Marion Voight has been in the hospital and is now in nursing home recovering; Ellie Strauss has moved to Cloverdale and she will be missed. She will be returning to the Point often in connection with her Executive Director activities for "Save The Plunge".

There will be a fund raiser lunch at the March 9th meeting co-chaired by Altha Humphries & Margaret Morkowski. \$7.50 per person. Plan to attend and bring a guest Margaret announced the distribution of funds to Point Richmond groups as follows: Many Hands/Washington School, History Association, Point Library and we set aside \$100 toward our 100 year celebration in 2008. The meeting was adjourned with inspirational thought by Anita Christiansen.

Next meeting March 9, 2004. There will be a guest speaker. See you there. Bring a guest and or a new member.

#### March

The Women's Westside Improvement Club met March 9, 2004 at the Pt. Richmond Methodist Church. There were 28 members and guest present. The theme for the day was St. Patrick's Day. Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by Altha Humphries; desserts by Rosemary Corbin & Alice Zeier with Marion Kent and Lori Nova helping with serving. All their efforts brought forth a very successful fund raising luncheon. Members unable to attend the luncheon but made a donation to the fund were Pat Pearson. Mary Highfil, Anna Swartz, Catherine Burchell & Alyce Williamson. We will receive a report on the final tally at the next meeting.

Guest speakers were Janice Cook and her Associate, Claire Crowson of Realty World Pt. Richmond. Janice took us on a very interesting

(Continued on page 18)



Washington Avenue, 1910

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This Point.....in time

#### (Continued from page 17)

and eventful trip leading up to her career in Real Estate. She was in theatre (acting, choreography & ice skating). In 1966 Janice appeared in "Roar of Grease Paint" at the Marines Memorial Auditorium in S.F. She is an accomplished ice skater winning the gold medal in West Coast Adult Competition in 2003. Following the theatre world career she went to Secty of Real Estate Firms., then to sales. Her first listing & sale in Point Richmond was in 1988 for 212 Bishop Alley. She is now well known for her sales & knowledge of Pt. Richmond She is still active in skating property. competition. We are very fortunate to have such a successful and talented businesswoman in our midst.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by President, Margaret Morkowski. Margaret extended our thanks to all those who helped make this fund raiser luncheon a great success.

Announcements: Fri, March 19th the Civic Center Farmers Market will open for the season. Hours 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM every Fri thru Oct.; Thurs. May 20th will be annual Pt. Richmond Stroll. We plan to participate again and will discuss details at the next meeting.; Edibles opened a new restaurant on Tewksbury. They plan to re-open their place on Washington as a Fish & Chips restaurant; Sun. Mar 29th the Pt. Methodist Church will be having a program featuring their new organ.

Margaret reminded us that we need hostesses for May. Please sign up if you have not served. Margaret handed out a survey for our 1st "Day Trip". The list included trip to Carmel or Filoli, Half Moon Bay & Sunset Magazine Gardens of Menlo Park. Results of the survey will be discussed at our next meeting.

Janice Cook and her associate, Claire Crowson and Connie Lompa became new members. Welcome aboard ladies.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be April 6, 2004. Julie Van Tilberg, Certified Financial Planner will be our guest speaker.

See you there. Bring a guest and or a new member!!

#### WASHINGTON SCHOOL GREEN DREAM

The PTA school fund raiser will be on Saturday, May 8th at Washington School. Today they need supplies--pots, soil, garden tools, watering cans, seeds! Any extra pots sitting around, they can use them. If you have gardening expertise, come talk to a class. Share your knowledge of growing succulents from cuttings, or the best way to transplant tomato seedlings. OR, you can simply send a check, - the money to pay for seeds and supplies. Make checks out to Washington School PTA and send to Aracely Knox, 141 Bishop Avenue, Point Richmond, 94801. The school needs your donation of time, money or materials. This is a great way to enrich the learning experience of children, help a local school and keep our community strong.

mid

**WigWag Committee:** David Dolberg reported that an agreement between the city and BNSF was ready to go when BNSF added a clause asking the city to hold the railroad harmless regarding the triangle of land between the extension of Cutting Boulevard to the RR crossing and the BNSF track. The City is to receive that land as part of the deal. The city has never been able to inspect this property so the negotiations continue.

PRNC



By Bibliotek

# News From the Westside Branch

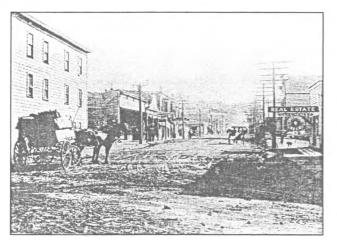
A very fond farewell party was held for Alexandra and Albert Gautraud who have been stalwart and unflagging supporters of Friends of the Library and West Side Branch for more years than we can count. When the Gautrauds take on a project, they really roll op their sleeves and their enthusiasm inspires everyone. Cake. coffee, juice, tears and laughter were served to all the guests who included former mayor Rosemary Corbin, library commissioners, members of Friends of the Library and many grateful library The honored guests were staff members. presented with no less than four plaques to decorate their new home. We hope Charlotte, North Carolina appreciates the gems who are coming their way.

The library staff particularly wants to thank everyone in the community for their heartfelt support during these difficult financial times. We are trying to provide five days of services in only two days a week. Your encouragement keeps us going.

The West Side Branch book club is still reading apace. We meet one a month on Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. Call us for the exact date and the name of the current selection. Books we have read recently include *The Reader* by Bernard Schlink, *West of Kabul, East of New York* by Tamin Snsary, and *All The Pretty Horses* by Cormac McCarthy.

*Tolle lege, tolle lege.* Take up and read, take up and read, St. Augustine.

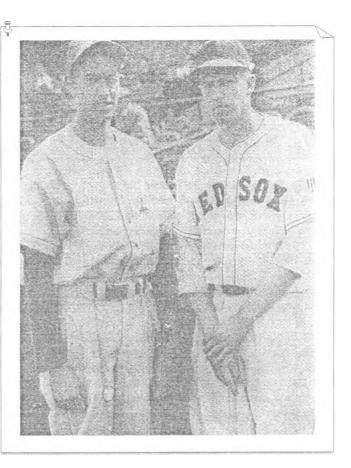
My Library was dukedome large enough, The Tempest. William Shakespeare.



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This Point ..... in time

The Christophers, Russ and Loyd, prominent members of another Richmond baseball playing family, are getting ready for another season on the diamonds. Russ Christopher will be starting his eighth season as a member of the Philadelphia Athletics pitching staff while Loyd, who was a member of the Red Sox when this picture was taken, is just about to transfer operations from the Los Angeles Angels to the Oakland Oaks. Loyd is an outfielder.





This Point ..... in time

# CARDS, LETTERS & E-MAIL

Dear Pam:

The efforts and dedication of those that prepare and print "This Point" are to be commended. It is so informative and a wonderful way to retain our connection to "The Point".

> Thank you, George Williams Richmond, CA

The Board of the Friends of the Richmond Public Library is in need of officers-time limits, age factors, lack of accounting experience, the Gautraud's are leaving the area, etc. have left us in need.

We<sup>1</sup>re asking the Richmond community to help the Friends in their outreach efforts not only by becoming a member of the Friends but also by providing us with names of people who would be good and interested in serving on the Board; we especially need a treasurer.

Meetings are held six times a year from 10 a.m. to noon. We all know what a "jewel" the Richmond Public Library is and in light of the library's financial situation the Friends are more important than ever. We've been able to contribute a great deal; our last book sale in December brought in more money than ever.

If you have ideas, please call Alexandra Gautraud, Nominating Committee Chair, at 237-8497 or Jodie Lines, President, at 237-8459.

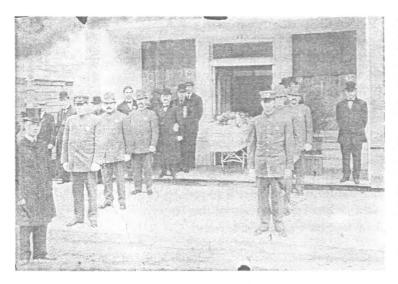
Yearly membership is \$20 individual, \$35 family, \$50 patron or \$100 business/ organization. Checks are to be made out to The Friends of the Richmond Public Library and mailed to 325 Civic Center Plaza, Richmond, CA 94804.

# DEATHS.....

**Thelma Hecker Harvey** died on February 16, 2004. Born in 1907 in Point Richmond, widow of John Harvey, daughter of late parents, Connie and Irene Hecker. Father and uncle were retired early, employees of Standard Oil. She worked many years at Rheem Manufacturing Company. She is survived by her cousins. Was a longtime resident of Orinda and one of the PRHA 90's club.

**Raymond P. Martin** on January 25, 2004, age 80. A 1937 graduate of Richmond High, Ray had an extensive career in the Richmond Fire Department for 37 years and at age 39 was appointed Fire chief, at the time the youngest Fire Chief in the U.S. He organized the Richmond Junior Fire Department for 5th & 6th graders for a fire prevention program that is still in effect. A lifelong member of the Boy Scouts with continuous membership for 72 years, he received many honors including "Man of the Year" which recognized his contributions to many community services. He is survived by his daughter, Judith Martin-Hoyt, son Dan, a Richmond fire fighter; brother Robert, and two grandchildren.

**Christopher A. Vincent** on February 22, 2004 in Martinez. Born in Richmond, he attended local schools and graduated from the San Francisco Art Institute and worked as a network cameraman. Chris is survived by Shari Gent, his son Alek Gent-Vincent, his parents Jay and Barbara Vincent, Richmond; brothers, Michael Vincent, Suisun; Stephen Vincent, San Francisco; and David Vincent of Point Richmond. Memorial services were held at the First United Methodist Church on Sunday, March 7, 2004.



This photo is one of our treasured photo archives thanks to Ed McGarvey. Ed is the grandson of pre 1912 Chief of Police J.P. Arnold.

Funeral Director Bert Curry to the left and Chief Arnold the officer to the right. Don't know who that is in the middle.

VI-2-0276-EM

This Point ..... in time

### BIRTHDAYS

### April

LOOF LIRPA Kathy Dornan Barnes Roberta Dornan Palfini Bruce Bartram Karilu Crain Dori Freitas Tara Kaufman Ruth Wilson Paula Israeli

Pam Wilson Don Amantite Lori Meister Charlotte Knox Anna Schwartz Monica Doherty Eric Hoiland Melissa Allyn Delio Terry Downey Alison Lord John Maxwell

Sherri Mertle Taylor Bradshaw Carol MacDiarmid Gordon Miller Rosemary Corbin Darian Peckham Robert J. Palfini David Bradshaw Sharon Mertle

Roberta Jenkins Smith Charline Barni Cynthia Wilson Ouist Joni Loux Emerson Donna Diaz David Roth

Patricia Dornan Julian Smith Douglas Corbin Bob Peckham Diana Corbin Diana Spinola Richard Mattuecci Becky Horn Jon Doellstedt Sara Eeles Lucretia Edwards Vern Doellstedt

Rena Gonsalves Lyle Fisher Sandra Loux Fuller Maurice Doherty Muriel Clausen Ruth Beardsley Varsie Lometti Wini Jones Anne-Catherine Hadreas Marg Miller

### May

Ann Hanzlik Shirley Moore Shoney Gustafson Winifred Boziki David MacDiarmid Jackson Bradshaw Gene Bielawski Norm Reynolds Charles Palenchar Adolph Higuera Jack Murray

Laura Beckerley John Knox, Jr. Diana McIntosh Dale Huffstetter Marv L. Roth\* John Granado Sophia Dolberg Tonita Avila Granado Mark Healy Michelle Healv Norma Wallace

#### Exclusive - Over 90 Club

An impressive list! And it grows each month!

Mae Mandl Pina Barbieri **Ruth Wood Mullen** Mark Gebhart **Bernard Bernes** Anna Schwarz **Romilda Burress** Jim Kenny **Jay Vincent** 

Alice Helseth Jean Moyle Spiersch **Rena Cairo Gonsalves** Anne Hanzlik **Dulcie Johnson** Lupe Padilla Lopez Louise Hammond Anita Brougham **Ethel Schumacher Dorothy Rudnick Goldie Mobley** Al McGee

Laura Kurtz

Reva Ward (welcome to our newest member!)

We have an even more exclusive club. 100 YEAR OLDS:

**Bonnie Kirkman** 

Have we missed anyone?

### CALENDAR

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

900 Dornan Drive, Miller/Knox Regional Park. Interested in Museum Membership? Museum is open to the public Saturdays and Sundays and July 4th and Labor Day noon to 5 pm. Business Meetings and Workshop on Friday's 7-10 PM. 510-234-4884.

#### **MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE**

Quality productions, Fridays and Saturdays at \* pm, Sunday Matinees at 2:30 pm. Tickets are \$13, cash check or credit card. Reservations and program, 510-232-4031.

Dinner at the Hotel Mac and the play on Thursday, for only \$28. Call 510-232-4031 for reservations.

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

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**

Museum at 139<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Washington Avenue, open Thursday's and Saturday's, 11:30 to 2:00 The Association's Annual Membership Meeting and Election of Officers is Sunday May 23, 2004 at 2:00pm at the Point Richmond Methodist Church Meeting Room.

The deadline for the Summer Issue (June/July/August) of TPIT is Friday May 21, 2004.

#### **POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

Meets last Wednesday each month, Pt Richmond Community Center; 7:30 P.M Contact: Don Woodrow, President, 234-3107.

#### **RICHMOND ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND**

The REDF is a non-profit corporation dedicated to ensuring that future development here is wellplanned, sensitive to the environment and in compliance with city, state and federal laws. Citizen support is encouraged. Further information, call 510-215-6100. General membership public meetings are held monthly. Details of current meetings are available by calling 510-232-0405.

#### WASHINGTON SCHOOL

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

#### WOMEN'S WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB

Contact: Margaret Morkowski, President.

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

Name: -

Address:

Phone: \_

Type of membership (check one):

	Single	\$18.00
4	Senior (65+)	12.00
-	Family	25.00
-	History Preserver	50.00
-	Corporate Sponsor	75.00
	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.

#### Main Contributors to this Issue:

Gary Shows	Editor
Mid Dornan	Various Articles
Don Church/Allan Smith	Historic Photos
Jerry Cerkanowicz	Proof/Photos
Pam Wilson	Membership Info
Allan Smith	Articles/photos
Jean Reynolds	Article
Dee Rosier	Article
Jerry & Theresa Daniels	Article
Alyce Williamson	Article
William Thompson, M.D.	Article
Biblio Tek	Article
Jo Bycraft	Article
Bonnie Jo Cullison	Information
Ed McGarvey	Photo

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

> fax 510-965-0335 or

email: gary@alkos.com "This Point...in time" is a publication of the Point Richmond History Association, a nonprofit organization at: 139 ½ 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.

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PointRichmondHistory.org

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