

# THIS POINT... in time

## NEWSLETTER

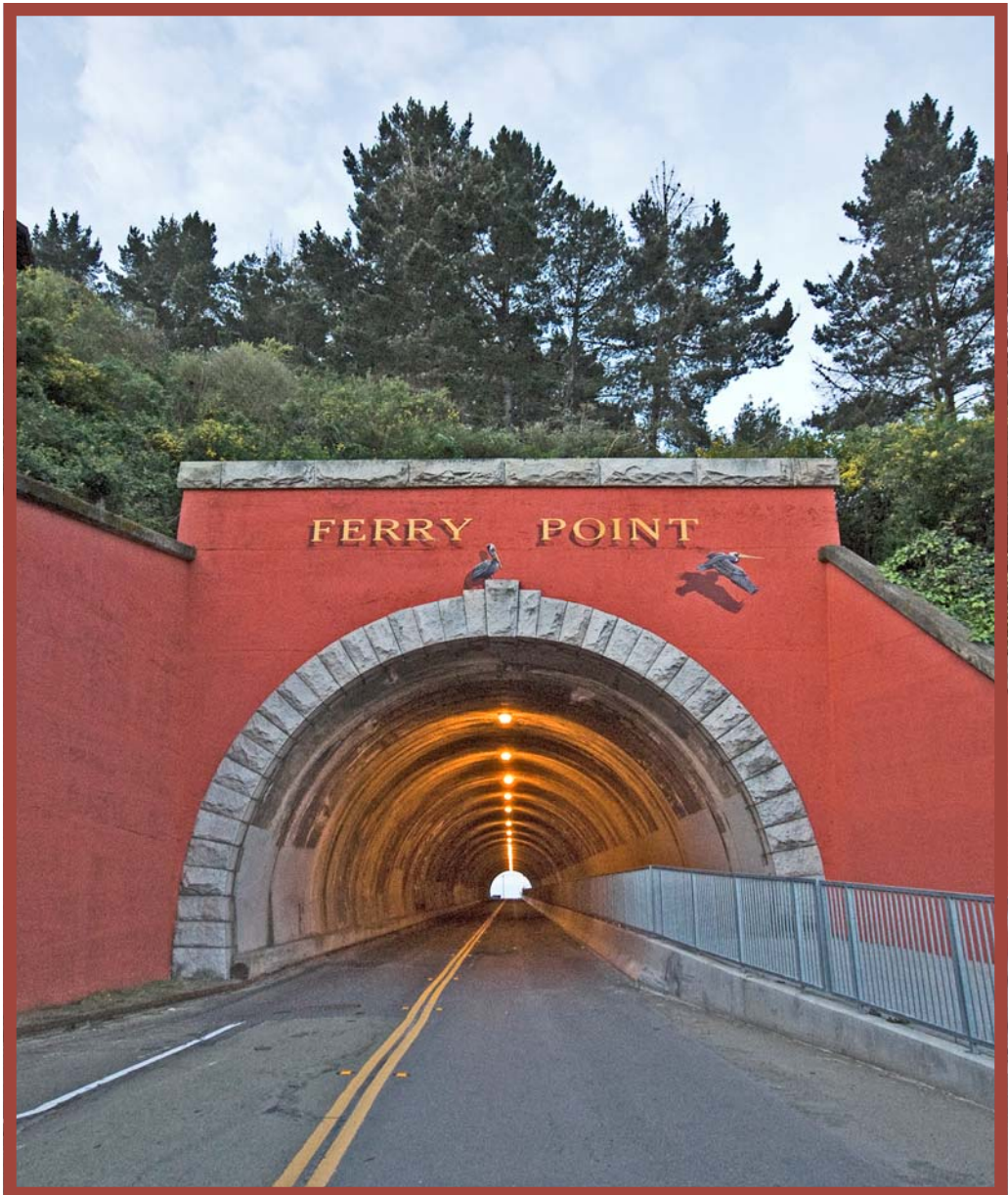
The Point Richmond History Association

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

Vol. XXVI No. 5

April/May, 2008

\$3.00





*You are invited to attend our*

ANNUAL MEETING OF POINT  
RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATON

on

SUNDAY, May 18, 2008

Community Center - Point Richmond

??? Washington Avenue

2:00 P.M.

***MEMORIES OF GROWING UP IN  
THE POINT***

Our Guest Panel will include Betty Dornan, June Beesley  
Sosabel, Bruce Bartram, George LeRoy Williams and Mary  
Bianchini Highfill.

Pat Bill Pearson will moderate the discussion.

We will also dedicate an historic plaque for our  
**Point Richmond History Museum**

Election of officers for  
2008-2009

Refreshments Will Be Served



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Mid Dornan

Why do people chose to live in Point Richmond or why do others chose to visit, shop and enjoy this area?

What memories of yesteryear still remain?

Our Annual Meeting in May promises to reveal interesting facts about how the Point has changed, how it has remained the same and how it might be in the future. Come hear what a soon to be 90-year old remembers about Washington School. Listen to the panel of Native members discuss the changes of the past 50 years. Come add your memories that day.

Mark your calendar so as not to miss this special event.

Another historic plaque will be dedicated on our little Museum at 139 1/2 Washington.

We are grateful to you loyal members who support our efforts.

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#0098  
from  
Regina  
Girard,  
enhanced  
by Thomas  
Mercer-  
Hursh

*Thank you members for your renewal:*

**Evan & Lydia Jahromi Family**  
**Bob Lee Family**  
**Doug and Rosemary Corbin\*\***  
**Patti, Stephanie & Stephen Kowalski\*\***  
**Roberta Jenkins Smith**  
**Hazel (Delphina Franco) Tawney**  
**Don & Diane Diani**  
**Jan & Jerry Feagley Family**  
**Judge & Mrs. George Carroll**  
**Wilson Gandola**  
**Pat Houck**  
**Joann Cannon**  
**Jenny Fillius**  
**Donna Wilson\*\***  
**Mid Dornan**  
**Gary Shows**  
**Bill Villivero**  
**Robert & Linda Drake\*\***  
**K. Kiehn & H. Lankford\*\***

*And a warm welcome to these new members*

**Enricka Garcia**  
**Christopher Spencer**

**\*Gift membership**

**\*\*Special Supporter**



*Thank You!*

## **Santa Fe Market and Point Richmond Market**

*For selling*

***“THIS POINT.....in time”***

*For us*

*Museum Hours:*

***Thursday 11:30 am to 2:00 pm***

***Saturday 11:30 am to 2:00 pm***

*And Thanks to the Volunteers who open  
and close our history museum on Thurs-  
day and Saturday:*

- **Betty Dornan**
- **Bruce and Ann Bartram**
- **Pat Pearson**
- **Mid Dornan**
- **Bonnie Jo Cullison**
- **Susan Brooks**
- **Anita Christiansen**
- **Sonja Darling**
- **Margaret Morkowski**

### **The Cover**

**The Point Richmond Automobile Tunnel with its John Wehrle Mural  
that was commissions by the Point Richmond Neighborhood Council  
in 1996. Photo by Theresa de Valence.**

# *EDITOR'S NOTES*

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

Your April/May issue of TPIT went together smoothly, thanks to all contributors.

I am looking forward to seeing you all at the May meeting.

The deadline for contributions to the next issue is May 30, 2008.

The February/March issue newsletter assembly crew, thanks to you all:

Jerry Cerkanowicz

Gary Shows

Pam Wilson

Mid Dornan

Pat Pearson

Mary Highfill

Bruce Bartram

Ann Bartram

Tom Piazza

*Below #00607*

*from Don*

*Church,*

*enhanced by*

*Thomas Mercer-*

*Hursh*



## *Thank You!* *Our Special Supporters!*

### *History Makers*

Sherri Mertle

Doug & Rosemary Corbin

Kathe Kiehn

Elizabeth M. McDonald

Transcept Pharmaceuticals, Inc

John A. Thiella & Rosa T. Casazza

Sonny Jackson

### *Corporate Sponsor*

Timeworks Inc. Clock Company

Stephanie, Patti & Stephen Kowalski

First Church of Christ, Scientist

### *History Preservers:*

Royce Ong

Edward J. McGarvey

Gilda Markarian

Kevin, Renee & Griffin Knee

Jean & John Knox

John A. Thiella & Rosa T. Casazza

David & Anne Roth

Catherine Burchell

Janice Cook & Jeff Lee

John Helfrich

Sandi Genser-Maack & Lynn Maack

Thomas Mercer-Hursh & Theresa de Valence

John & Nancy Mengshol

Donna Wilson

Erica & Barry Goode

Pat Dornan

Paul & Zoe Mukavtz



# A-MID TRIVIA

Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Q: The idea of paying income tax by having it withheld from paychecks was the brainchild of whom?

Answer at end of Trivia  
\*\*\*

Ah! Spring in Point Richmond! Sunny streets of blossoming white and pink trees, daffodils in the Triangle and flower boxes protruding under business windows. Locals relax with coffee around the Indian Statue oblivious of the world moving on.  
\*\*\*

IRS Agent to businessman: "It's not sufficient to simply list your expenses as astronomical and your income as peanuts. You must itemize."  
\*\*\*

April 24th is Take Your Daughter or Son to Work Day. Invite your kids to the office - and don't forget to show them the family photo on your desk!  
\*\*\*

May 26th is Memorial Day Holiday, an occasion set aside for honoring those who have died in battle. It is also known as Decoration Day, because of the tradition of decorating the graves of soldiers.  
\*\*\*

West Contra Costa Unified School District Superintendent Bruce Harter provided a positive report on our schools progress at a recent Point Business Association luncheon. He has also visited almost every classroom, praising our teachers.  
\*\*\*

Bids for the renovation of the Plunge (Natatorium) are in and the Engineering staff will analyze the bid packages and prepare the City Council agenda item in the next few weeks. The engineering staff estimate for the project was \$4,200,00 and the low bid was \$3,991,000. Looks doable!  
\*\*\*

If you have problems finding the ends of plastic wrap try taking your toothbrush to the ends.  
\*\*\*

Matt Orem is happy to be back at work after a losing struggle to move a bookcase last December. It interfered with his visit to family back East over the holidays but hopefully it is all a bad memory now.  
\*\*\*

Want off some of those marketing lists? Go to More Preference Service registry of Direct Marketing ([dmachoice.org](http://dmachoice.org)) and click on -Remove my name from those lists. Online registration is free and good for three years.  
\*\*\*

Rebate checks of \$300 to \$1200 will go out to millions of tax payers and low-income people beginning in May, thanks to legislation crafted by Congress and signed by President Bush.  
\*\*\*

Question? If \$300 will stimulate the economy, wouldn't \$3000 stimulate it more?  
\*\*\*

A first-class stamp will cost 42 cents beginning May 12, a price increase of one penny, the U.S. Postal Service has announced. As long as they are available you can purchase Forever Stamps for 41 cents and they are good for first class for - Forever!  
\*\*\*

Happiness is having the West Side branch of the Library open again! Hours are from Mondays, 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesdays 1:30 to 7 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursdays 1 to 5 p.m.; but closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Besides Librarian Shiela Dickinson, Pat Pearson, Sonja Darling and Mid Dornan provided refreshments for the exciting March 17th opening.  
\*\*\*

UNO won Best in Show at the Westminster Kennel Club, the nations' biggest canine competition, becoming the first beagle to win the title at the event.  
\*\*\*

Going Native? Native plants that is. When to plant them, how to grow them and what type are

natural to Bay Area. Watch for the popular 4th Annual "Bring Back the Native Garden Tour". Tom and Shirley Butt's home is an example. To qualify, the garden must be pest free, provide habitat for wildlife, conserve water, contain at least 30% native plants. It is a garden that looks like and is California!

\*\*\*

And speaking of Tom Butt who wears many hats over his broad shoulders as a civic leader, he is all 'soft putty' when year-old-granddaughter, Cecelia, sits on his lap in church.

\*\*\*

Real generosity is doing something nice for someone who will never find out.

\*\*\*

APPRECIATION: Are you aware of the good things in your life as well as the things that keep you up at night? Are you thankful for those blessings?

\*\*\*

Muir Woods National Monument is 100 years old. Best known for its redwood trees, standing more than 20 feet high, the site in Mill Valley will mark its centennial with a Celebration of Trees on April 21, John Muir's birthday. William Kent, with his wife, Elizabeth, donated the land for the monument.

\*\*\*

A new study suggests cat owners are less likely to die of a heart attack than those who don't own cats. Dogs don't do the same trick.

Here kitty, kitty...

\*\*\*

Anna Schwarz will celebrate her 96th birthday April 1st (no joke!) by taking her German guests

on a cruise to Canada.

\*\*\*

In chatting with Anna, Sonja Darling found she and her daughters, Kelly and Christine and their families (10 total) will be on that same cruise.

\*\*\*

There is evidence they are making only 2 sizes of clothing these days -- too big or too small.

\*\*\*

School Homework is a bit different today as Johnny e-mails his work from school to his home computer to finish. And, may even send it to his teacher with email.

\*\*\*

Ever notice teenagers rarely wear wrist watches? They get their time from their cell phone.

\*\*\*

Or have you noticed a family of 3 has 15 phone numbers where they can be reached?

\*\*\*

Or have you noticed that people haven't played solitaire with real cards in years?

\*\*\*

And, is your reason for not staying in touch with friends is that they do not have an e-mail address?

\*\*\*

#### HONOR MOTHER ON HER DAY

\*\*\*

ANSWER: Financial expert Beardsley Ruml, born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in 1894, was a Dartmouth College graduate. Congress adopted the payroll deduction system in 1943. Ruml died in 1960.



*Thank you to Pat Gaboury for sending a Richmond Union High School Variety Show Program from March 21, 1924. There wasn't space to display it in this issue so I will save it for later. Pat is the daughter of Nellie Coward who has previously donated historic artifacts to our archives. Pat says she will be sending more in the future.*

Gary

# CHURCH NEWS



By Dee Rosier  
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Welcome spring!

Easter came early this year. It is always the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox which was March 20. The dating of Easter is based on the lunar calendar that Hebrew people used to identify Passover, which is why it moves around on our Roman calendar. This year is the earliest Easter any of us will ever see the rest of our lives! Only the most elderly of our population have ever seen it this early (95 years old or above.) The next time Easter will be this early will be the year 2228. The last time it was this early was 1913.

Father O'Rourke has been busy and we have missed him as he administered in other parishes. He conducted a Novena at St. Dominic's in celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> apparition in Lourdes. He spent two days in Palm Springs where he renewed his state therapist's license. His work-in-progress documentary continues and he recently spent time at the Hoover Institute at Stanford doing additional research. A recent visit to his cardiologist prompted

him to do some spring cleaning????

As a result of the cleaning some office furnishings were moved to the parish hall and are up for grabs – metal file cabinets, old computer, and various other items – interested – give Father a call; otherwise the Salvation Army will be by to pick them up.

At least 100 families are using the weekly offering envelopes, which prove to be a support to regular income. The front of the envelope has a box you can check showing the amount of your donation. It would be beneficial to the person counting the money to have the appropriate box checked.

A charitable person who was updating a television set has donated one which is in the church hall and can be used to show previews of Father's documentary.

The American Bible Society has sent a sample copy of a beautifully printed and bound Bible which includes a number of very useful articles on understanding the scriptures. If you are interested in ordering a copy, they sell for \$30.00 – again, give Father a call.

The Parish Council is now wearing a new hat as they perform as the Financial Council. They recently met and approved a new budget for 2008. A copy for all parishioners is forthcoming.

The Parish continues its support of the Souper Kitchen and is seeking volunteers who can assist. At the last lunch, Barbara Arkin brought her 10-year old grandson who had a workout distributing desserts.

Our pancake breakfasts continue to draw a significant response and the next one is scheduled for Sunday, April 20. Come join us – for \$8.00 your plate will be full of pancakes, bacon, sausage, eggs, fruit, as well as coffee, juice or tea. A raffle is held and lately home baked items have joined the prizes. A special thanks to all who are always there to plan and cook.

It was a standing room only crowd on Easter. During the Mass, two children were baptized which made it a memorable day. Maya Dora Drake is the



daughter of Max and Melissa Drake, whose grandparents are Linda and Robert Drake, which makes her proud, great grandmother, Amelia Drake. Also baptized was Fongei Tohnya, whose mother is Segmia Tata and father, Tanyifor Tohnya. Welcome to our Christian world.

Valentine's Day was a very special one for Diane and Fred Siegmund who gained the new title of grandparents. Their new grandson, Eric Siegmund II was recently at Mass along with his parents, Eric and Leslie Siegmund, as well as his great grandmother, Angie Kilpatrick. Diane and Fred will welcome another grandchild in May. (Hear it's a girl.)

Due to the above, Diane will become a stay-at-home grandparent. Both Diane and Fred have been hands-on, knowledgeable parishioners who we could always count on for their expert advice and assist us. We wish them the best as they enter a new rewarding chapter in their lives. On Saturday, April 19 a potluck will be held in their honor. Patti Callahan will become the new Parish secretary.

Coffee and donuts continue to be held in the parish hall on the first Sunday of each month. Come join us.

The Small Christian Communities both continue to meet both during a day and evening group. All are invited to attend and you need not be Catholic to attend. We all enjoy the Lutheran views of Barney Dietz.

If you are seeking information on our parish, i.e., social events, weddings, baptisms, etc., be sure to check us out on our webpage: [pointrichmondatholic.org](http://pointrichmondatholic.org).

Continue to remember in your prayers: Dody Perry, Jack Healy, Shirley Gerk, Frankie Mello, Theresa Meneghelli, Bill Smith, Charlie Rosier and Al Frosini.

It was a memorable day for Dody Perry as she celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> year with a Sunday open house attended by friends and neighbors. Her birthday fell on a Friday, which was the day her celebration began. May she continue to celebrate many more healthy ones.

April 1<sup>st</sup> will also be the 96<sup>th</sup> birthday of Anna Schwarz. She is still going strong and can always

provide you with a joke and a laugh. Anna has been retired from Chevron more than the years she worked. At-a-girl Anna! Writing her life story has become my work-in-progress.

If you have missed seeing Marie Peckham doing her daily walks, don't fret, she was walking the streets of New York. She recently spent two weeks giving a helping hand to Darian when he moved to a new residence.

Back from their annual Hawaii vacation: Kevin, Renee and Griffin Knee. It's off to Brazil for Nancy and Stan Toledo.

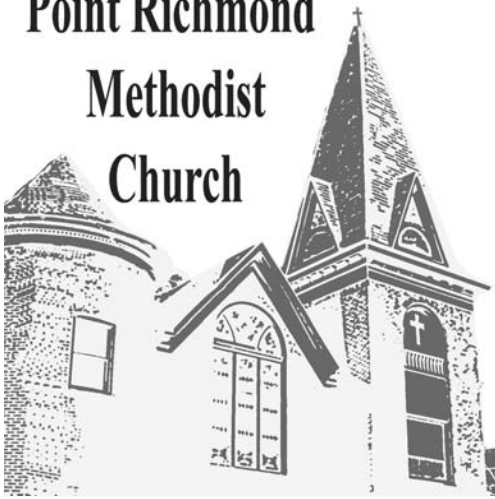
Another memorable birthday was recently celebrated by one of my kindergarten friends, Peggy McManus Pettit. We gathered at a Walnut Creek restaurant as she leads the way for the rest of us. We have now been friends for 70 years. Now, that should take us on a trip to the Oprah Show! While having lunch a gentleman was celebrating his 87<sup>th</sup> year and as we joined him, he wanted to know where we were during his youth.

LAUGHTER IS GOD'S SUNSHINE  
TAKE TIME TO LAUGH, FOR IT'S  
THE MUSIC OF THE SOUL

SEE YOU IN CHURCH



# Point Richmond Methodist Church



*By Jean Reynolds*

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The Sweetheart of the Year dinner, Eleventh Edition, was February 14. The 2008 Sweetheart is Pastor Dan Damon, and true to Dan's musical spirit, many of the tributes offered that evening were musical. Arpha MacIntyre and Jane Carnall played piano duet gathering music, the Angel Choir sang the invocation, Dan's daughter Heather Damon and Bethany Reynolds set their own verses to Dan's hymn "Give Thanks for Wolf and Bird," a men's quartet with Heinz Lankford, Norm Reynolds, Gill Stanfield and Don Wieber voiced their own rendition of "Danny Boy," and Paula Helene and David Tattershall presented a Dan Damon-specific version of "Heaven." The Joyful Noise choir sang the benediction: "The Lord Bless You and Keep You." Robert Love and Bob Goshay presented Dan with an additional award: an Honorary Masquers' membership. Tom Butt was the MC and magician/landscape designer Allen Folks temporarily turned Pastor Dan into a table and renamed his hymns. 2007 Sweetheart Helen Valentine spoke in public (!) and bestowed Dan with the Sweetheart Scepter. Thanks to careful planning by Fran Smith and others, it was an evening to remember!

The annual Bobby Hall and Friends Gospel Music concert was February 17, at 5:00 p.m. Bobby and Pamella Hall along with friends, family, and partners in faith offer a concert and sing-along to rock the house and benefit the church. Pamella and Bobby have a music ministry at Green Pastures Church in North Richmond, and support us in various ways throughout the year. The Joyful Noise Choir sang "Wade in the Water," and Gill Stanfield sang "Stand By Me," accompanied by Pastor Dan, as part of the program. Tyrah Weems, age 2, played percussion and joined the singers for several songs. We got to sing "Oh Happy Day" with Dorothy Morrison and the Coombs family to close. The Bobby Hall concert is a chance for us to enjoy a different style of worship and praise with members of other congregations, electric guitar, bass, drums, saxophones, other percussion, keyboard, voice and dance.

Christina De León organized the Palm Sunday Feast served on March 16, 2008. Members and friends of the church donate to provide Palm Sunday dinner. We served baked ham, roasted potatoes and vegetables, salad, rolls, drinks and apple crisp. The food was cooked at Bark Stix, courtesy of Mim Drake and Kate Gebhart. Tinna Manansala headed up the cooking effort and Paul Garnett organized the serving process in the church kitchen. It was a fabulous meal thanks to their efforts! The Point Richmond Market helped by providing their cooler to safely store the food. Lots of volunteers helped promote, shop, peel, clean, cut, slice, deliver, decorate, welcome, seat guests, serve, entertain, eat, and clean up. It was delicious, fun, and a joy to share.

We mourned the loss of Louise Hammond, a dear spirit and Pt. Richmond resident. Louise was thoughtful and had many experiences and insights to share. She was a social activist and helped usher in some changes during the many years she lived in Richmond. She continued to be willing to weigh in on controversial issues when social justice was at stake. We will miss her stories, her commitment to peace and justice, and sharing tea with her at coffee hour.

We held a memorial service to celebrate the life

of Oretta J. Eaton, 1915 – 2008, a long time Richmond resident, member and mentor in our church. On March 8, we gathered to tell stories of Oretta, and to share a meal featuring some of her best recipes: Chicken Salad Bake, biscuits, salad, pumpkin pie, and Peet's coffee, 101 blend (if it wasn't 101, it should have been.) The stories we shared recalled Oretta as a caring friend and mentor: she was a role model to younger women in the church and her neighborhood. She fostered a connection between our congregation and United Methodist Women and Church Women United. She supported local schools long past the time when her children attended. Oretta modeled the concept of unconditional love, and was an active informed environmentalist before it was in vogue. She practiced gracious hospitality for all.

Claudia LeGué passed away on March 25, at her home in Pt. Richmond surrounded by family and friends. Claudia served the church and community many ways: church financial secretary, chairperson to plan the Junktique Sale and Feasts, soprano in the choir, founding member of the book group, artist, GRIP harmony walk organizer, thoughtful Sunday school member, and outspoken advocate for social justice. She was a leader of the CA-NV Methodist Federation for Social Action chapter for several years. Claudia knew the value of maintaining friendships and was an efficient organizer at work and at home. She is survived by husband Jim Brooks of Pt. Richmond, father Frank Reitz, sister Sandra Wilson (Brian Steen,) brother Jeff Reitz (Donna Gray,) three stepchildren and ten grandchildren. Family and friends will meet to celebrate her life on Saturday, April 12, 2:00 p.m., at the church.

The churchyard on Nicholl Ave. has a new improved look! In the last few weeks, Patrick McMahon, stonecutter and artist, installed a courtyard in memory of Ross Parmer and designed by Allen Folks. Stone borders with a flagstone and decomposed granite surface for the courtyard itself make a stable space for tables and chairs, with a bit of grass left near the roses for nature enthusiasts and relay races. It will be a lovely and functional

space for years to come.

Jennifer Metz transferred her membership from Wayside UMC in Vacaville to First UMC Richmond. Jen is a graduate student at UC Davis, but is able to attend our worship most Sundays. We are grateful for her presence, and that she and fiancé Matthew Foster feel so much a part of our congregation.

We celebrated Easter with an 8:00 a.m. service in the Labyrinth Garden with special music by the Heather Damon and the Joyful Noise Choir. Everyone joined in a serpentine dance, then we returned to a yummy cooked breakfast in Friendship Hall. Sunday School was next at 10:00, followed by worship in the sanctuary at 11:00. The Angel Choir did an interpretive dance they learned from Christine Silva-Netto to music sung by the Joyful Noise Choir for the Call to Worship. After worship, Pat Dornan and Linda Pereira hid Easter eggs for the children to hunt. Easter is one of my favorite days, and I especially like that people may choose to attend any or all of the events.

On the Calendar:

Sun, April 6 - 4 pm: Kingston Players String Quartet concert with works by Mozart, Beethoven, Bach, Byrd and Jenkins. Quartet members are: Sue Nelson, viola; Fran Tannenbaum Kaye, violin; Adelaide Tolberg, violin; Tom Fattaruso, cello. Suggested donation: \$10 or \$5 seniors, children and students.

April 20, 5:00 p.m. Dancer's Circle in concert, Suggested donation \$10.

Junktique Sale, May 3, Saturday. Come early for the best selection of one-of-a-kind items. Stay for lunch and choose from chili, minestrone soup, hotdogs, and pie by the slice.

May 18, 5 p.m., *Come Away to the Skies*, a solo piano concert featuring Pastor Damon playing gospel songs, hymns and spirituals. The concert will be recorded for release as a CD. Suggested donation \$10.

## POINT METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

*Mid Dornan*

Church history is rich with contributions of women. One church group in the 1920s was the SOCIAL LEAGUE of the First Methodist Episcopal Church whose history is reflected in their minutes printed below and taken from the canvass covered, red leather cornered notebook which cost \$1.15. The minutes are printed as written, This is the 70th installment.

June 5, 1928

The Social League of the First M.E. Church met in the church parlors with Mesdames Jones and Dingle as hostesses. The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Schmidt. After the opening prayer, he roll was called and sixteen members answered he call.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Report from the committee in charge of the Tea given May 29 was given which netted our Treasury (sic) \$9.35 more.

Move and carried that the laundry bills be paid. \$2.40. Move and carried that the League pay \$10.00 to the Church Treasury (sic) per month during July and August.

Dues received from:

Mrs. Redmon	.60
Mrs., Ohne	.60
Mrs. Dicely	.60
	\$1.80
Mrs. Dingle	.60
Cakes sold after	
the Tea	4.01
Tea funds	9.35
	\$15.76
Old Balance	\$36.32
(laundry & church expense	-12.40
	\$23.92
	+ 15.76
New balance	\$39.68
July Ch treas	10.00
New Balance	\$29.68
Mrs. Lulu V. Prince, Secy-Protem	



## *Golden State Model Railroad News*

The Golden State Model Railroad Museum begins its season with its Annual Grand Reopening on Sunday, April 6, 2008, with hours from 12 to 5 PM.

This year the museum celebrates the 75th Anniversary of the East Boy Model Engineers Society, the organization that builds and runs trains on the layouts housed by the Museum.

The schedule for 2008, April 6 through December, and rates are:

- Trains operating, all layouts: Sundays, 12 - 5 pm and special Holiday Season Shows on Saturdays in December (admission charged).
- Layout and display viewing: Saturdays, Memorial, Independence and Labor Days, 12 - 5 pm; Wednesdays 11 - 3 pm; Friday evenings 7 - 10 pm (no admission charged).
- Admission for the 2008 Sunday shows (and Saturday Holiday Shows in December are: Adults: \$4.00; seniors over 65 and children under 12: \$2.00; with family admission a maximum of \$9.00. For additional information, directions and photographs of the museum please go to our website: [www.gsmrm.com](http://www.gsmrm.com).

*from John A. Edginton*



# WWIC, EST. 1908

*The Women's Westside Improvement Club Meets at the Point Richmond Methodist Church.*

Norma Wallace

510-236-6968

WWIC met for a Happy Valentines Holiday Luncheon on February 12, 2008. The meeting was pushed back one week to accommodate the February 5 elections at the First United Methodist Church of Point Richmond. There is crossover of the polling location and our lunch location and of key WWIC board members who also coordinate the polling!

WWIC President **Margaret Morkowski** greeted the many assembled members and introduced guest speaker **Thea Kynthia of Hydrangea Flowers & Gifts**, the most recent part of this year's speaker series of Women Business Owners of Point Richmond.

**Thea** offered a lively and intriguing introduction. Somewhat of a linguist, **Thea** speaks not only English but Greek, Spanish and some Italian. An artist and activist, she created the peace dove logo and was cofounder of Global Peace Media. **Thea** has a studio in Berkeley, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Street area.

**Thea's** creative management approach to Hydrangea includes additional display lighting and furniture rearranged to enhance traffic flow. She commissioned local muralist **Brian Elder** to create a beautiful new sign over the garden. **Thea** discussed her expertise in providing flowers for events (weddings, memorials), and for a special large project for the Hilton Hotel in Emeryville. With her background in graphic design, she offers sensitive assistance in designing memorial programs.

Perhaps the most enjoyable portion of the presentation was the sampling of new merchandise **Thea** brought to show WWIC. Had she been able to bring a cash register, she would likely have sold out her inventory on the spot! Many practical yet whimsical gift items (jewelry holders, scented stuff) for reasonable prices. The pink Easter Chick is a sight to behold! **Thea** talked us through her large supply of gift cards, including separate

section for Papyrus and a non-Papyrus collections.

Following **Thea's** interactive presentation, President **Margaret** opened the business meeting with a call to order and welcome to all. Special thanks went to hostesses **Mary Highfill**, **Maggie La Force**, **Susan Hesse** and **Anita Christiansen** for the bright red Heart!-felt decorations and scrumptious desserts. We welcomed guests, and new members **Ilza Lewis**, baker at Sweet Things in Tiburon (stop by to taste her delicious inspirations some time!) and former featured speaker **Nancy Burns** of Body Wisdom.

Secretary **Susan Brooks** read the minutes of the November meeting (there being no business at the December lunch/social and no meeting at all in January). They were summarily approved.

Treasurer **Sonja Darling** in providing the treasurer's report noted the balance had been enhanced by the many fundraising efforts supporting WWIC centennial projects.

Of sad note, **Dulcie Johnson** passed away January 12, 2008. She was 95 years of age at the time. Former member **Louise Hammond** passed away at 94 years of age.

Updates from various Centennial Committees followed. **Margaret** anticipated adding a handsome sum to the budget courtesy of the progressive dinner, and thanked **Marsha Tomassi**, **Connie Satre** and **Connie Lompa** especially for their involvement, work and gracious hospitality. The "Tea Cup" Committee meets this Friday at the **Brasil Restaurant**, **Susan Brooks** coordinating. The WWIC Chorus practices Wednesday mornings, **Marion Kent** coordinating. An historic 18-month calendar of centennial events spanning 2008-2009 is being sponsored by **Connie Lompa's** husband **Richard Lompa**, and will salute WWIC events from 1908 – 2008. For example, July 1908 saw the very first meeting of WWIC (see below on Janice Park).

Recipes collected by the Cookbook



(Continued from page 11)

Committee, in addition to the anticipated food recipes, feature personal care products and dog biscuits! The title will be "100 Recipes for 100 Years." Sadly for Point Richmond, project coordinator **Linda Duste** has moved to Novato. **Norma Wallace** will be working with **Linda** to finalize the project. The History Committee is working on the WWIC history book, going through old minutes to gather information. The Tours, Shows and Exhibits, and Outreach committees will meet again later in the year.

New Business includes the announcement of a Salad Lunch fundraiser in March, and reminder of the very special WWIC Members Only event on April 1, English Tea with **Susan Leech** of **Orinda Village Antiques**. Hats and gloves encouraged! As our year already starts to wind down, we are seeking volunteers to the nominating committee for election of 2008-2009 officers in May.

Member **Joan Gatten** announced a weekly walking group starting up on Wednesdays; stop by the Community Center for details. Separately, **PRAM** received a \$10,000 grant to upgrade Janice Park, which work is scheduled for March 1-2. WWIC established this park as one of its very first projects in 1908; members were encouraged to stop by with refreshments for the workers. WWIC members representing early Point Richmond families **Mid Dornan** and **Pat Pearson** will share the history and special memories of Point Richmond on Free-for-all-Friday February 29 at 1pm at the Community Center.

Best Happy Birthday wishes go out to many WWIC ladies !! For December, **Pat Pearson** on the 17<sup>th</sup>, **Susan Brooks** on the 21<sup>st</sup>, **Dorothy Hernandez** on the 29<sup>th</sup>. For January, **Mary Highfill** on the 5<sup>th</sup>, **Altha Humphrey** on the 9<sup>th</sup>, **Sonja Darling** on the 31<sup>st</sup>. For February, **Maggie La Force** on the 10<sup>th</sup>, **Peggy Fowler** on the 12<sup>th</sup>, **Nancy Burns** on the 17<sup>th</sup>, **Dody Perry** on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

# OUT AND ABOUT TOWN

Margaret Morkowski (510) 234-4219

My gosh, Spring has sprung .... the flowering trees here in the Point have been so beautiful. David Moore, who is the guru for the Point Richmond Online Web Site <http://www.pointrichmond.com>, took a picture of Steve Hurst among the trees on Tunnel Ave. Check it out... the picture makes a great visual and encourages everyone to learn more about the Point. Thanks David.



If it's Spring, that means "**The Stroll**" will soon be here. Mark your calendars for **Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm**. There are four great bands including the Crunchy Frog, The Dave Matthews Blues Band and the Key Lime Pie. Stop by all the shops, galleries, restaurants and stores to say "Hi" and visit. There'll be lots of non-profit organizations around the triangle with great info... don't forget to stop by the History Museum too. The kids will have lots to do including making a hat from recycled "stuff." Nineteen years ago the **Point Richmond Business Association** (PRBA) started this annual event to say "thank you" to the community for coming to town. So invite your neighbors and friends, and "Come Do the Stroll" so we can say "Thank You" in style. For info, please call Marsha Tomassi at 215-6133.



And then comes Summer... that means it's time for **The Point Richmond Summer Concert Series**. The concerts are going to be awesome. Usually there are 3 evening concerts... but there is so much great music out there that the committee decided to put on 5 concerts this year. The concerts are always held on the second Fridays of the month. This year these will be **June 13<sup>th</sup>, July 11<sup>th</sup>, August 8<sup>th</sup> and September 12<sup>th</sup>** and then add the fifth concert on **Friday, Sept 26<sup>th</sup>**. The bands play from 5:30 pm –

**8:00 pm**, but set aside some time before and after to visit the stores and restaurants in town. Come and enjoy the music... “Do a Little Dance, ... and Get Down Tonight.” Call Andrew Butt at 236-7435 for more info.



P.S. Don't forget the **Point Richmond Neighborhood Council National Night Out on August 12<sup>th</sup>** and the **PRBA's Indian Statue Day on September 20<sup>th</sup>**.



Have you had a chance to stop by **Janis Park** and see the great new, refurbished playground park next to the old Baptist Church on the corner of Washington and Nicholl? Just seeing it makes you feel good all over. The whole community wants to thank **PRAM** (Parents Resources and More) and City of Richmond staff for making the park a great place to be. For more info call Courtney Coolidge at 234-3445.



Don't forget to stop by the **Point Richmond Branch Library**. It opened on Saint Patrick's Day, March 17<sup>th</sup> ... what a lucky day for us. History note: did you know the Point's own Womens Westside Improvement Club started this “branch” in 1908 or 1909 as a Reading Room? A couple of years later, when the Carnegie Library opened on Nevin and 4<sup>th</sup>, just off Macdonald, the

Ladies donated the books and location to the City for our “West Side” Branch. I wonder if any of those original books are still there. Anyway, our branch is now open Monday through Thursdays. Give them a call at 620-6567 if you have any questions. It's nice to have them back.



A couple of weeks ago Ellie Strass, the Executive Director of the **Save the Plunge Trust** shared this info. “The bids came in last week (March 6th) and I am giving you a direct quote from the City of Richmond City Managers weekly update: ‘Richmond Natatorium Project Update: Bids for the renovation of the Richmond Natatorium (The Plunge) were received and opened this past Thursday. The engineer's estimate for the project is \$4,200,000 and the City received two bids with the low bid at \$3,991,000. Engineering staff will be analyzing the bid packages, calling references and preparing the City Council agenda item during the next few weeks.’ While 8 bid packages were picked up, only three bids were actually turned back into the City with one bid turned in too late to be valid. The other good news is that our request to Valley Foundation for \$500,000 was granted but with the following codicils. It is to be a matching grant and must be matched with private funds and it is to be used for Phase 2 of the project. ...”

Please call 235-5779 for more info.

## *Plaque Update*

*The plaque to be displayed on the wall of the PRHA building in downtown Point Richmond is at the East Bay Brass Foundry for a “proof” as we go to print. The plaque will not only tell the story of the building but will also tell the story of the Richmond Supply Company which was started in 1911 and was an active family business until 1987. The plaque will also have a picture, prepared by Andrew Butt, of Mr. Dornan, Sr. in his 1912 truck. We hope the plaque will be finished for our Annual Meeting on May 18, 2008 at the Community Center.*

*Pat Pearson*

# ARCHIVE PHOTO GALLERY

*Historical Photo Restorations by Thomas Mercer-Hursh, Ph.D.*



*Above 088-DC from Don Church*

*Below #0054 from Don Church*





*Right #0055 from Don Church, the tunnel was completed in 1915.. The old Gus Keller “cliff house” is just to the left of the trees.*

*Below 0093 from Don Church is another view of the tunnel from the west side Gus Keller’s “cliff house” is also evident.*



# TARTUFFE

## *at the Masquers*

A review by Theresa de Valencé, TdeV@bstw.com

If you've never seen the **Ranjit Bolt** translation of *Tartuffe* you deserve the experience. The original written by **Molière** was first produced in 1664 at Versailles. In 2002 Ranjit Bolt updated his translation to a modern play with marvelous rhyming couplets. This production is directed by **Paul Shepard**.

I was very confused when I saw this performance (being unfamiliar with the plot). My response was to see the play again the following weekend, an unlikely recourse for most people. I didn't stay confused, but I did lose the first half hour of the show. During the second viewing I clarified the relationships amongst characters for others in the audience around me, just as others had done for me, so I knew that I was not alone in my confusion. This would have been obviated had the relationships been clear: *his wife, his wife's brother, his daughter's fiancé*, etc.—something which could still be printed on a sheet of paper and tucked into the programme for the rest of the run.

As a person who has often been at variance with traditional social attitudes, I am familiar with the way people gang up on an individual who does not fit the standard mold. That *everyone* thought Tartuffe a raging hypocrite was not enough for me, I had to see for myself. So I kept an open mind....

General Orgon (**Robert Love**) surprised me the first time I saw him because he began the play shuddering. I might be nervous but I doubt Robert is—perhaps the General is wound up so tight, he shakes. For the General, this is not a funny play. Like many bigots, he has narrow limits for who's acceptable, and those he enthuses over with the fervour of a zealot. He spends most of the play duped and continues to gush in spite of mounting evidence. Eventually he is confronted with irrevocable truth and he changes his loyalty—to another small-minded truth! He is a very controlled and controlling man—he is prodded constantly, yet he manages to convey that he is very long used to being obeyed.

Elmire (**Beth Chastain**) wins my vote for Woman Who Most Deserves To Be Enjoying Herself. As the second wife of the General, Elmire's marriage seems sexless, but she is loyal and rebuffs unwelcome advances with a grace which is delicately chaste. Then Elmire has the task of vamping a willing suitor. For a woman who has entered middle age to wallow in the pleasures of being lusted after by a new man is fun, indeed, and Elmire looks to be indulging herself. That she flows from one rôle into the other is grand, and, she gets to do it for six weeks! (Photo by Jerry Telfer).



Dorine (**Alexaendrai Bond**) is a major star in this show. As the sassy maid, she has many funny lines which she delivers with aplomb—she interrupts people left and right, finishing their rhymes. The entire play is in an exaggerated style, yet Alexaendrai's performance is the most "natural" ... voice and gesture and stage persona fit together well. Lines rollick off her tongue, roll out smoothly and finish in a snap!

Tartuffe (**Keith Jefferds**), though the lead, does not appear 'til well into the play. Tartuffe has loads of opportunity to provide visual comedy which he milks ... and milks ... and milks. Some measure of his success comes from stage directions and his costumer, **Johnny Kim**. Tartuffe is overwhelmingly, breathtakingly funny. It is the most elaborate and finest performance of Keith's I have seen. He is devout, fervent, aroused, crafty, gleeful, devilish, sinister and dashed. He does it with his



eyebrows, eyelashes, voice, hands and arms. Not to mention his hips and his string tie. No, I can't tell you more about Keith's performance without giving it away.

Madame Pernelle (**Loralee Windsor**) is an intransigent tartar, the opinionated mother of General Orgon—definitely a mother-in-law to avoid! It's a humourless rôle though reminiscent of parts Lorelee often plays. Because I watched the play twice, I was able to see how carefully Lorelee (with some help from her costumer) conjures up her character.


Cléante (**Phil Reed**), the General's brother-in-law, is the voice of reason. Naturally, nobody ever minds what he says. He preaches moderation in a perfectly balanced style reminiscent of a smooth, used car salesman, smiling constantly, his voice projecting throughout the theatre and his gestures larger than life. It's a compelling performance, I found myself drawn to *his* face while others ranted.

Damis (**Caspar Newlen-Brun**) is the General's young son. The first time, I was shocked by his ferocity (perhaps attributable to my being bewildered by onstage events), but by the second viewing, he was fluid and believable. Damis is a hot-headed young man who is quick to take offense, shouting and threatening people. He is reigned in by his relatives (with varying success).

Mariane (**Laura Morgan**) is the General's obedient and beautiful daughter. While she has but few lines in the play, these are her smallest contribution. Her performance is delightful. Mariane has a most eloquent face—a lift of the eyebrow, pursing of the lips, and a whole commentary transpires—though not one the meek young lady would ever speak.

Valère (**Greg Milholland**), Mariane's intermittent fiancé, was another character who confused me with his shuddering, though I warmed to him quickly. He is a handsome young man, anguished by being sent away by the woman he loves though he hopes she doesn't mean it. Magnificent! Mariane and Valère have several exchanges making full use of the stage, beautifully choreographed, timed perfectly.

**Robert Eichberg** plays Laurent, Monsieur Loyal, and an Officer for our great amusement.



The MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE  
PRESENTS

# Molière's *Tartuffe*

translation by  
**Ranjit Bolt**

Directed by Paul Shepard

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Each vignette provided Robert with a moment in the sun and he enchanted us with wholly different characters: from costume, to movements, to accents.

My remarks about the actors are trifling details about this performance. I was laughing so hard I was making some kind of noise (snicking, maybe) to the consternation of my neighbour. Fortunately there was a small break in the hilarity, and I was able to catch my breath.

It's pretty amazing to realize that while the audience are falling all over themselves laughing, onstage, the actors are able to keep a perfectly straight face—somehow it adds to the enjoyment, that those characters have no idea how funny they are.

Extremely satisfying.

*Theresa de Valencé publishes reviews of Masquers and other community performances. Subscription to the electronic list is free, send an email with "subscribe" in the subject to TdeV@bstw.com.*

# William L. Thompson, M.D.

## *Memories of the Second World War in the Richmond Area*



*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!*

### **Part Two**

Another snag was in rationing. Many foods were rationed and ration stamp books were issued. Gasoline also was rationed. This caused considerable difficulty in medical practice due to the increased number of home calls. At first we were allowed the same amount of gas as the general public. The A coupons were hardly enough to get to the offices and hospital. We requested additional gas but were told by the ration board to take common carriers or take a taxi. This was utterly absurd. Street cars would take much more time and not take us close to our objective. Taxis would take twice as much gas. Eventually when Bob Lee took over the ration board they saw the light and we were issued D coupons.

Care of children was especially difficult. There was little hospital room for them. I received a call one night to see a sick child. The man said that they were living in the second car from the corner at Second and Ohio Streets. When I got there I found a man and his wife and two children living in a car. They did not dare move the car or some one else would get their space. It was only a few blocks from the shipyards one way and close to Macdonald Avenue the other way where they could get supplies. I had to complete my examination and

treatment by flashlight. Fortunately the child recovered.

I delivered a baby girl for a girl aged 13 whose husband was 16. After they left the hospital I got a call one night that the baby was ill and they wanted me to see it. They were living near Broadway in San Pablo. In those days Broadway was only a narrow dirt road. They had been dust bowl refugees and were living in a tent a hundred yards from the road. It was raining and I had to wade through two or three inches of mud and water to get there. I found a small tent made half of canvas and half of burlap. The canvas part was fairly waterproof but the burlap part leaked badly. Things were a mess and the tiny little new born had a respiratory infection. However even in those pre antibiotic days it recovered.

When government housing came in, things got better. Atchison Village was the first development and the best built of any of the projects. It is still in use today. Esmeralda Village near the Washington School in Point Richmond was also a good project but was later torn down. Most of the other housing was in multi-apartment barrack-like structures which were built in the area south of Ohio Street. There were many unused areas there and it was

fairly close to the shipyards. These crude apartment buildings were erected on all unused land often without notifying the owners. Housing development in the Point Richmond area was mostly confined to the canal area between Cutting and Garrard Boulevards.

I made a call one night in a house in the south of Ohio area. When I got there I met another doctor just leaving and as I turned to go another doctor drove up. They had called three doctors and took the first one who arrived. The others were sent home.

On another occasion I was called one night to see a man who was said to be having a heart attack. When I arrived there I found a noisy, combative man with no evidence of a heart attack but with a strong odor of alcohol. I told the family that he was only drunk. They said that they knew that but called me to give him a shot and quiet him down so they could get some sleep. They added that if they had told me he was only drunk, I wouldn't have come. They were right.

Dr. Hodges told me that he was called out one night to see a baby in a coma. When he got there he found a child 1½ or 2 years old unconscious but with a strong odor of alcohol. They had been

giving the child beer and it was dead drunk. Treatment consisted partly of my bawling out the family. The child survived.

I was called out one night to see a delirious little girl of about 7 or 8. Questioning revealed that an aunt had been telling her ghost stories and horrible tales of demons and such. The child was scared to death. The treatment consisted of a mild sedative for the child and a bawling out of the aunt. I never saw them again.

When Kaiser Hospital came in it relieved the situation somewhat but at first they only took care of industrial cases. Later they cared for families on the Kaiser Plan.

Most of the medical profession in those days worked long hours. A 75 or 80 hour week was the usual and often it was more. Pay was poor. There was almost no insurance and most people had little to spend. Most of us took care of the families of service men without charge. Emergency care was given in the emergency room at the Richmond Hospital and doctors were assigned on first and second call by the week. On one weekend around a New Years Day I saw 44 emergency cases and was paid only 6 dollars. One man had Union Oil insurance.



*Photo is from Royce Ong and  
is enhanced by Thomas  
Mercer-Hursh  
#0563-ong*

*This is from a "fact diary", a book of headlines and interesting events in Early Point Richmond. It was compiled by Don Church from the "Richmond Independent" "Point Richmond News" and "Richmond Herald Record". It is one of the items left for us by Allan Smith.*

## Items of Interest Point Richmond, 1913

### *Richmond Independent*

- 2-25 Plan for public bath house for Richmond on which Councilman Garrard has been working for 3 years was endorsed by Richmond Club. Possibility of using some of the 36 million gallons of salt water the SOCo dumps each day.  
New machine of Chief Arnold is a beauty; 1913 40 HP Buick.
- 2-27 Sterling fixture and Show Case Company to build factory here.
- 3-1 Skating on streets must stop says Chief.
- 3-4 Phone Company is making large additions. New poles and wires being installed at the Point.
- 3-7 Presbyterian church to build at 12th and Bissell.
- 3-15 SOCo earnings for 1912 - 7 million
- 3-19 Old shacks torn down on Richmond Avenue to make room for Anderson Building.
- 3-20 James Cruickshanks get contract for new Gerlach Hotel.
- 3-23 Old Richmond brick yard is sold for \$1400 at auction.
- 4-3 Fire at Winehaven threatens wharf.
- 4-25 Spiersch Bros. will erect new shop on 13th off Macdonald. Will still keep Point shop.
- 4-26 Our Lady of Mercy giving big vaudeville show at the Point Theater tonight, also movie on Pope and the Vatican.
- 5-1 Rumors of Red Lights moving to other parts of the city from Railroad Avenue will not be tolerated says Chief Arnold. They must go.
- 5-6 Chinese laundry to be demolished on Cottage Avenue.  
Extra story being added to the Howland home on Tunnel Avenue
- 8-12 Dr. U.S. Abbott sued for \$50,000 for death of man he hit with car.
- 8-26 B. McWhorter opened new store in the Anderson Building.
- 8-31 F.I. Brazil sells his creamery in the Point to Tulare man.
- 9-2 Ordinance passed to prevent teamsters or autos from driving into the ruts in paved street, fine is \$100. Also ordinance to prevent stalls with horses (or stables) within 25' of a residence or storing manure within 25' unless covered in air tight receptacle
- 9-13 Epidemic of rabies in the city, all dogs must be muzzled.
- 10-15 Abbott Hospital sold to the Roosevelt Hospital of Berkeley. The doctor's practices are too great and require too much time. They have moved to the entire upper floor of the Bank Building.
- 10-16 William Berry buys Oliver Wylie's bar, The Mecca on Washington Avenue.

# Evan Griffins' 1938 Memoirs

*Thanks to Bruce Beyaert for getting this to us and to Suzanne Loosen for recommending it.*

*Mr. Griffins' memoirs go beyond the scope of Point Richmond and much is before the Point was populated but it is nevertheless an interesting account of the history of our region. We will publish it in several parts.*

For some time I have been prevailed upon to write some of my recollections of the early settlers of this community, their habits, handicaps and other adversities which they endured.

In the early days this was known as the San Pablo Valley in which were the towns of San Pablo, Callagher and the Potrero, on which the Standard Oil now occupies a part and the Point Richmond section of our present city is located on another portion of it.

This Potrero was by nature an island but the soil washed down from the hills and assisted by the efforts of Dr. Tewksbury finally became a peninsula so that by 1874 it was accessible at all seasons of the year. Prior to that time it was impossible to reach these hills in winter months. The flood waters of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and their tributaries apparently had a course of their own which ran close to the shore, being diverted by Point San Pablo, their waters over ran the marsh land, thereby causing an inland lake which did not recede sufficiently until March and April to make team traffic possible.

This flood condition prevailed to a far greater extent from Stockton to Antioch where it was likely to occur as late as the month of June. In May 1886, I saw the whole area inundated, but diking of the rivers and dredging for the improvement of Mare Island navy yard evidently produced a different channel for after that these part were not affected by the overflow. The water carrying sand and other debris aided this transformation to the Potrero to such an extent that in 1872 the government was asked to declare it a peninsula. Hence the Potrero became part of the San Pablo Rancho which was a Tewksbury move.

At that time there was a dwelling about where the Standard Oil Barrel house now stands lived in

by James Fennon who used the northern portion of this Potrero for cattle and sheep raising, disposing of it by selling meat to the farmers during the summer months. The land between this house and what is now Washington Avenue was farmed by Peter Davis whose house was at the head of a canyon that runs up from the neighborhood of the Standard Oil administration buildings. The portion south of Washington Avenue was used for farming.

At one time the Morgan Oyster Company operated an oyster bed on a shoal extending from this section at a point just opposite to where the Ford plant now stands.

One projection of this Potrero was Point Richmond, so named by the government engineer in 1852; now the name originated there is no definite information but nevertheless it supplied the fame for this city.

Sheep Island, known now as Brooks Island remains in my memory as a place of horror, so remote and so lonely, used only for sheep grazing with no contact with the main land. We were always told about a mother in sheer agony of loneliness decapitating her own child and throwing her down a well so she would escape a life on this island.

The shell mound was an old Indian burial ground situated on a marsh east of Ellis Landing or where the Municipal warehouse now stands. The University of California has published a book on the shell mounds which describes the relics of the past. A great many of them can be seen in the Museum at Golden Gate Park.

The Ellis Landing was a very important place as it afforded transportation for freight to San Francisco. Hay, grain poultry and eggs found

*(Continued on page 24)*



# An Interview With Gordon Miller

*by Mid Dornan*

Gordon Miller isn't a stereotyped 100-year-old as he leans over his balcony in Brickyard to wave as I park the car. And, he boasts that his last driver's license allows him to drive until he is 101 next year.

Gordon's many friends and family honored him at the Richmond Yacht Club on Friday, April 4th not only to celebrate his impressive hundredth birthday but to acknowledge he also is the oldest regular member of the Yacht Club joining in 1934. "Hal Decker lured me into the love of boats and sailing," he said.

Gordon is a Native Son, born April 3, 1908 in Santa Cruz, California, and claims he has no longevity genes, he is it! In 1908 Theodore Roosevelt was president and it was unlawful for women to smoke. In October 1908, the first Model T Ford hit the U.S. market; first model with a left-side steering. In 1908 Post Toasties showed up on the market.

His family moved to Berkeley in 1916 or 1917 and he recalls celebrating the end of W.W.I in 1918. He and a friend filled potato boxes with rocks and tied them to the back of a streetcar sending loud, popping, banging and irritating noises as the streetcar progressed down the street.

Upon high school graduation in 1927, his Dad wanted him to attend college but Gordon had other ideas and didn't go. He wanted a car and bought a Model-T Ford that cost \$6.00 which had to be towed to his home to repair the engine which he did.

Gordon met his wife Margaret at a party. She was invited to the party as there were sailors attending but was reluctant to go as she was self-conscious about her weight. This obviously wasn't a deterrent. In 1944, Gordon sold his boat to buy a ring and she and Gordon were married, ten days before he was to be transferred in the Navy.

However, he spent thirty-three months of W.W.II at Treasure Island.

After Gordon's discharge from the Navy they moved into Nystrom Village and he went back to work for Palco, a linoleum company, where he began working in 1933. Their two sons, Steve and Fred, were born during this time.

Rheumatic Fever is the only serious health problem in his 100 years that he can recall.

One of the wisest things Gordon did was to sell his Chrysler in 1944 to buy a waterfront lot on Ocean Avenue in the Point to be a neighbor of the Deckers. The house was built in two segments,



(Continued from page 22)

and they lived in the bottom section until the rest was finished in 1954.

When his company was relocating East, friends of Gordon got him a job at Standard Oil. After five promotions and 13 years, he retired.

Gordon's love of boats is evident as photos of them grace their home with his favorite, Zephyr, the most prominent.

In 1985, after the boys had left home, the market seemed right, so they sold the Ocean Avenue home and moved to Rossmore. They

regretted this decision and 22 months later they moved back to the Point at Brickyard Landing where they enjoy views of the harbor, the boats, and the Bay.

Asked for advice on his longevity he pointed to his wife, Margaret who is younger, and said, "She takes good care of me!"

Beside their sons and family, they enjoy their two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Don't be surprised DMV next year to see Gordon renewing his drivers license for another five years!

## Happy Birthday Jim Kenny!

From Pat Pearson

I was lucky to be the representative of the PRHA at the 95th birthday party for James Kenny who is a member of our 90's club. There were about 100 people at the Albany Community Center on February 10, 2008 to wish Jim a *Happy Birthday!* and to enjoy the food, drink, and great stories.

Mr. Kenny was born upstairs over the Central Pool Hall (now Rosemaria's) in downtown Point Richmond, in 1913. His parents owned the building and the business. His uncle lived down the block at the building where the Spot is today. Both his father and his uncle were active in the founding of the city in 1905.

Jim was also active in civic affairs. After returning from World War II, he was elected to the Richmond City Council, later elected as a County Supervisor and served for 20 years. He was also a very active, prominent, labor leader. He has many stories to share.

I had an appointment to interview Mr. Kenny so that I could write the whole story of his life. On the morning of the appointment, his daughter-in-law, Annie, called to tell me he was in the hospital. He had a serious stroke on February 29th. I have talked to her and to his cousin, Tom Kenny and was told that he is working to regain his speech.

I hope to interview him soon in small 15 minute visits. Hopefully, I will have some great stories from him for the next issue of *THIS POINT.....in time*. If you would like to send him a card or good wishes. send them to 9554 Stannage Avenue, Albany, CA 94706.

(Continued from page 21)

ready market there. The produce was carried on hay schooners operated by Captains George Ellis and James Smith.

The lone hills in this valley took their names from their owners, the one on the south side of Cutting Boulevard was known as Wood and Seavor Hill, the one at the county line was called the Charles McKoover's Hill, and the one now known as the Best Hill West Boyd Hill. The Pullman shop occupies part of the Wood Ranch. Mr. Wood arrived here via the covered wagon. He died in the early seventies and Mrs. Wood married Benjamin Boorman. The place then became known as the Boorman place.

W.T. Coleman, who was president of the vigilance committee of San Francisco, was the original owner of the Stege Ranch. This place was always known as the Quilfoldt Ranch as they operated it. I did not know until the final settlement of the San Pablo rancho that Mr. Coleman retained an title to this property. I do not know what arrangement existed between Coleman and Quilfeldt but it was always referred to as the Quilfeldt place and later as the Stege Ranch.

Some years after the death of Mr. Quilfeldt, his widow married Richard Stege, a restaurant man from San Francisco. Under Mr. Stege's management this became one of the show places in this section. His idea was to raise frogs for market. The gardens had large lawns banked by all varieties of flowers and huge trees. There were four artificial grog ponds on the grounds which totaled between three and four acres in area. Rhese ponds were stocked with California red legged frogs and the American bull-frog. While the business was never very profitable, the ponds were most artistic.

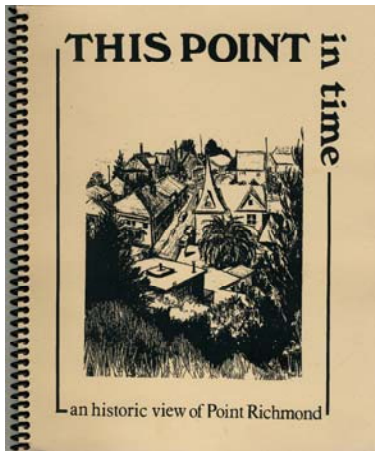
There was a boat landing on the Stege Ranch about where the cap factory now stands which was operated by a Captain King, whose career ended in a mystery. He took his schooner as usual in the spring to a dry dock in San Francisco, went ashore with \$600.00 and was never heard of nor seen again.

The Walls Harbor Center tract was owned by Thomas D. Young, a resident of Oakland and one of the first engineers on the 7<sup>th</sup> Street Oakland trains.

*to be continued*

## **"THIS POINT in time", the book is available once again!**

**By Donna Roselius, Teresa Albro, Michelle Brown & Rosemary Corbin. It was written in 1980 and published by the Point Richmond History Association. This book contains stories of early Point Richmond, detailed descriptions of historic homes and commercial buildings and is illustrated throughout with drawings and maps by talented Donna Roselius. You can get yours for \$15.00.**



*Pick up your copy at the museum (Tuesday/Thursday 11:30-2).*

*Or mail your check (made out to PRHA) for \$15.00 for each copy you want and add \$6.50 for UPS shipping. Mail it to: TPIT Book, 229 Golden Gate Avenue, Richmond, CA 94801.*

# DEATHS.....

**Oretta J. Eaton** died at her home on February 10, 2008. Age 92. Born in Nebraska she was a cosmetology school graduate. She married Dwight Eaton and lived in Alaska before moving to Point Richmond. A member of the Point Richmond Methodist Church since 1950, friends and family celebrated her life at the church on March 8th followed by a luncheon featuring her recipes. Oretta, a great cook, was in charge of the Country Faire luncheon every fall for years and her handcrafts were endless for the Bazaar. She also was one of the last few original "August Birthday Club" members. Her daughter, Nikki, preceded her in death December 20, 2007 and she is survived by her daughter, Gail Saverese, Willits; five grandchildren and two great- grandchildren; one brother, Orval Sanger and one sister, Louella Fain, both of Denver.

**Edwin Arthur Peterson, Jr.** on March 8, 2008, age 84. Born in Point Richmond on January 9, 1924, he was preceded in death by his parents Edwin and Victoria Peterson of Point Richmond and Elsie Peterson Spinola and Victoria Peterson Smith. He was a W.W.II veteran and retired from Chevron Oil after 35-years. Edwin is survived by his wife, Lucille Spinola Peterson, and many nieces and nephews.

**Dulcie Johnson** on January 12, 2008, at her Brickyard home, Age 95. She is remembered as being witty and very generously donated to charities. As a member of the Point Richmond Recorder and Giggly Society, Donna Roselius remembers she played both the alto and bass recorder, donating the bass recorder to her when she retired from the group. Dulcie was an award winning weaver. She worked for awhile in the office of the Richmond Yacht Club and was a member of the historic Women's Westside Improvement Club. Dulcie was not survived by any relatives.

**Louise Hammond.** Age 93. A Memorial Open House was held at her Cypress Point Road home in Point Richmond on Sunday, March 2nd, 2008. where her family and friends gathered for her Eulogy. Among her many accomplishments, Louise was instrumental in getting the Miller- Knox Regional Park located in the Point.





# CARDS, LETTERS & E-MAIL

Dear Gary,

I spoke to Jerry recently about a Richmond Hi yearbook of my Mom's plus a ribbon (class ribbon) that I have in an envelope ready to send to you but I also have a bunch of other packages for people. But I found this program of a variety show program from 1924 and am sending it to you now. Eventually you will get the other things.

I am glad you are keeping the history of Pt. Richmond alive. My mom would like that. Her name was Nellie Coward. Her family home was at 60 Terrace Avenue in Pt. Richmond.

A few years ago you printed in you little publication parts of a tape that I made with Mom about her early memories of Pt. Richmond. I still have it. It was very nice. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,  
Pat Gaboury  
Boulder City, CO



Folks,

This is in the nature of "something I ought to have known."

I have learned that Richard Doell, one of the most famous of the earth scientists whose papers I and all of my colleagues had our students read and understand, died last week. Working with Alan Cox of Stanford and Bruce Dalrymple of the USGS/Menlo Park, Richard co-authored one of the most important of the early plate tectonics papers. Richard's death and his contributions to geology are probably not a big issue with my friends here in the Point. After all, we all go sometime, later rather than sooner we hope.

But unbeknownst to me, Richard lived at Brickyard. His wife Janet and their daughter Shirley live there now. Who knows, but maybe Richard and his family are/were PRNC members or worked with Beverley and Chris against Toll or worked with Bruce, Nancy and others on the Bay Trail. Maybe he was one of those unnamed people I "got to know" as dog-walkers at Ferry Point. Who knows

It just hits me with great force that one of the greats of my science was close by and I never knew it.

Let's get to know as many of our neighbors as possible.

By the way, Richard's obit tells me that he built a boat, sailed it across the Pacific and the Atlantic, and that he was an expert on lichens, both as photogenic objects and as items to be studied and classified. Makes the rest of us mere mortals look like pikers.

Don Woodrow  
Point Richmond



Dear Mrs. Dornan;

I've spent a very interesting and informative Sunday visiting Richmond and The Point, both via websites and interactive maps. The old memories really got to stirring as I thought of the many trips up Cutting Blvd to The Bridge and over to Marin from Berkeley/Oakland, either to play in a club or see friends. {I guess the freeway bypasses some of that now} Wow..do I sound like the old geezer! I had a look through the Nov-Jan. issue of TPIT and had my first view of the Reading Room -what a lovely restoration, and an amazing feat, moving an 80-ton structure like that. As you see in the note I'm

Fwd-ing, the Freight Office and the Trainmaster's Bldg were right in the same area -I don't suppose they could be one and the same? Or was the Reading Room literally what the title implies, rather than serving multiple functions. This is of course all part of my project to discover more about Helen, the subject of my postcards. The SPRR archivist at Sherman Library in Corona del Mar was most helpful, thus I now know that Miss Clothier was employed by the railroad as clerk and bookkeeper til at least 1934 - apparently that year still working for the Richmond office, but at home (her apt at Telegraph and 28th St.). It must have been a long trolley ride to work when she was commuting! So thank you folks again for being there with all that information and the fabulous photo galleries-it's a wonderful journey back in time.

All the very best -  
Brian Voorheis Friendship  
NY 14739

# ***BIRTHDAYS***

## ***April***

Kathy Dornan  
Roberta Palfini  
Bruce Bartram  
Gordon Miller  
Robert Palfini  
Karilu Crain  
Dori Freitas  
Tara Kaufman  
Ruth Wilson

Paul Israeli  
Pam Wilson  
Don Amantite  
Joel Peterson  
Lori Meister  
Charlotte Knox  
Anna Schwarz  
Monica Doherty  
Eric Hoiland

Melissa Allyn Delio  
Alison Lord  
John Maxwell  
Sherri Mertle  
Taylor Bradshaw  
Carol MacDiarmid  
Rosemary Corbin  
Darian Peckham  
Terry Downey

David Bradshaw  
Roberta Jenkins Smith  
Charline Barni  
Cynthia Wilson Quist  
Donna Diaz  
Joni Loux Emerson  
David Roth  
Theresa deValence

## ***May***

Douglas Corbin  
Patricia Dornan  
Diana Corbin  
Diana Spinola  
Richard Mattuecci  
Becky Horn  
Jon Doellstedt  
Sara Eeles  
Vern Doellstedt  
Rena Gonsalves

Lyle Fisher  
Sandra Loux Fuller  
Muriel Clausen  
Ruth Beardsley  
Varsie Lometi  
Wini Jones  
Julian Smith  
Anne-Catherine Hadreas  
Marge Miller  
Ann Hanzlik

Shoney Gustafson  
Winifred Boziki  
David MacDiarmid  
Jackson Bradshaw  
Gene Bielawski  
Norm Reynolds  
Charles Palenchar  
Adolph Higuera  
Jack Murray  
John Knox, Jr.

Diana McIntosh  
Mary L. Roth  
John Granado  
Sophia Dolberg  
Mark Healy  
Tonita Avila Granado  
Michelle Healy  
Norma Wallace  
Ann Hathaway Kissling  
Eva Marchitiello

# ***EXCLUSIVE OVER 90 CLUB***

*An impressive list that grows  
each month.*

Mark Gebhart- 93  
Madeline Bellando Albright- 91  
Anna Schwarz - 96  
Jim Patrick Kenny - 95  
Bena Bowles - 94-  
Lee Christian  
Shoney Gustafson - 92  
Alice Helseth - 98  
Jean Moyle Spiersch - 95  
Rena Cairo Gonsalves - 95  
Lupe Padilla Lopez - 94  
Laura Kurtz - 96

Anita Brougham - 94  
Goldie Mobley - 95  
Maxine Stoddard - 93  
Reva Ward - 94  
Steve Wyrick - 92  
Charlottte Kernabon

Birsinger - 91  
Teresa Menegheilli - 90  
Bernard Dietz - 93  
Avis Blanchette - 93  
Romilda Burris  
Ruth Mallette - 96  
Ann Hanzlik - 96  
Thelma Mae Harvey - 93

Bena Bowles - 93  
Eunice Ruth Hurst - 91  
Jerome Vloebergh - 91  
DODY PERRY - welcome!

### **100 Year Club**

Ruth Wood Mullen, 1/08/1907  
Gordon Miller, 4/3/1908

***Remember that Age is not  
a number, it's an attitude.***

*Please send additions and updates to our "Exclusive Over 90 Club"  
to Mid Dornan, c/o PRHA, 139½ Washington Avenue, Point Richmond, CA 94801*



# 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 Sundays 12:00 to 5:00. Also special openings on Saturdays and Holidays. Admission is \$4.00 for adults, \$2.00 for over 65 and under 12, maximum family admission \$9.00, call 510-234-4884 for details.

## **MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE**

Quality productions, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm, Sunday Matinees at 2:30 pm. Tickets are \$18, cash check or credit card. Reservations and program, 510-232-4031.

Dinner at the Hotel Mac and the play on Thursday, for only \$45. Call 510-232-4031 for reservations.

## **PARENTS, RESOURCES AND MORE (PRAM)**

Parents, Resources and More (PRAM) is a volunteer-run nonprofit organization serving families with children ages 0-5 in the greater Richmond area. The group offers playgroups, social events, educational opportunities, and a community center for infant and preschool enrichment. For more information go to <http://www.PRAM.net> or call 510-215-1734 or call Courtney Coolidge at 510-234-3445.

## **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 139½ Washington Avenue, open Thursday's and Saturday's, 11:30 to 2:00. The deadline for the next issue of TPIT is Friday May 30, 2008. More information call President Mildred Dornan at 510-234-5334.

## **POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

Meets last Wednesday each month, Pt Richmond Community Center; 7:30 P.M Contact: Robin Carpenter, President, 510-232-8175.

## **RED OAK VICTORY**

Open Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday 10am - 3pm. \$5 donation for adults, \$4 seniors, \$2 children. Sunday Breakfast September 10th and October 12th, 9 am - 1 pm, \$6 adults children FREE

## **WASHINGTON SCHOOL**

Contact: Roz Plishner, Principal 510-232-1436.

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

Richmond's longest standing women's club. Contact: Margaret Morkowski , President. 510-234-4219 for more information.

*To update or add your organization or event to our calendar, please contact Gary Shows, 510-235-1336, or email him, [gary@alkos.com](mailto:gary@alkos.com), or send your request to 229 Golden Gate Avenue, Point Richmond, CA 94801*

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

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

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

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

Type of membership (check one):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Single	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior (65+)	15.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	25.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	History Preserver	50.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Sponsor	75.00
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Membership in the Point Richmond History Association includes a one year subscription to "THIS POINT...in time" newsletter (five 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:

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Mid Dornan	Various Articles
Thomas Mercer-Hursh, Ph.D.	Design/Photos
Don Church/Allan Smith	Historic Photos
Jerry Cerkowicz	Proof/Information
Pam Wilson	Membership Info
Jean Reynolds	Article
Dee Rosier	Article
William Thompson, M.D.	Article
Theresa de Valence	Article/Photos
Margaret Morkowski	Articles
Regina Cunan Girard	Photo
Pat Pearson	Articles
Evan Griffins	Article
Bruce Beyaert	Material
Gordon Miller	Article

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 510-965-0335**

or  
**email: gary@alkos.com**

"This Point...in time" is a publication of the Point Richmond History Association, a non-profit organization at:  
**139 ½ Washington Avenue**  
**Point Richmond, CA 94801**

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**Margaret Morkowski, Museum Staff Coordinator**  
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Visit our website  
**PointRichmondHistory.org**

*Thanks ALKO office supply for hosting our site*

Richmond Museum of History 510-235-7387  
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