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INDEX

CIVIC CALENDAR	----- 19
CIVIC NEWS	----- 5, 12, 17
FEATURES:	
Men behind the Parks--	9
Nothing to Fear but	
Bugs Themselves--	6, 7, 8
Purists Have Problems--	14
Taxes--	16, 17

FILIPINO CIRCLES	----- 15
HERE & THERE	----- 10, 11
POETRY	----- 12, 13, 14
REMINISCING	----- 4
SCHOOLS & SCOUTS	----- 2, 11, 3
TRIVIA	----- 8
WANT ADS	----- 18
WEST SIDE LIBRARY	----- 10

WILLIAM P. DENNIS

A man of many parts--all fitted together so comfortably that his face constantly reflected the harmony of his life.



Bill Dennis was anything but a sober-faced Englishman. Few people who have met him can remember seeing him frown. He was born in Ashton-under-Lyne, England, in 1898. In his youth, he served in the Canadian Army. While in Pueblo, Colorado, he met his wife, Christine, and in 1923, when everyone was migrating to California, they decided to go to Portland, Oregon instead. After working as a chef in a summer resort there, he was offered a job at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco. Later, he began working at the Standard Oil Company Cafeteria, and was eventually put in charge of the entire cafeteria. He retired in 1960.

He was a 25-year veteran of Boy Scout work, serving as Scoutmaster of Troop 111 from 1942 to 1948. From 1948 to 1968, he was an active member of the troop committee. He also served, from 1939 to 1942 as Neighborhood Commissioner of the Scouts.

Nothing he did was half-hearted, including singing. The Methodist Church Choir always looked well-balanced, with Bill on one end and Christine on the other. For twenty years, Bill sang in the Elks Glee Club

The Washington School P. T. A. presented him with an Honorary Life Membership, in honor of his service to youth.

He was the perennial Santa Claus who appeared at the Elks Christmas Party for children. He livened every party he attended, and always had a game at the tip of his fingers, if things needed livening-up. He was noted for his recitations and his shaggy dog stories.

Besides his other accomplishments, he was an artist of note in this area. His last contribution of art work went to the KQED - TV Auction -- a portrait of Albert Schweitzer. He donated paintings, or made them especially for events at the Church. He was a prolific painter and his house displays a number of his canvasses on various subjects. Many homes in this area have a Dennis painting.

On Saturday, June 8, Bill Dennis died in his sleep. Today, June 14, his friends will pay tribute to him at a service in the First Methodist Church.

He is survived by his wife, two sons, Ken and Bill, jr., a daughter, Diana Spinola, and two granddaughters--Stephanie and Stacy Spinola.... and a great number of devoted friends.

AN INFANT SON

was born, and died, and his funeral services are also on this Friday, in the morning. The infant son of Pat Olaskey was born prematurely on Tuesday, and died the same day.

REMINISCING

WITH DON CHURCH

Interesting and sometimes amusing articles from old Richmond and Point Richmond newspapers, courtesy of the Richmond Museum.

• 1913 •

June 17, 1913:

"FIRST SPADEFUL OF EARTH TAKEN AT WEST PORTAL OF NEW TUNNEL"

(The municipal tunnel on Garrard Blvd. was begun in 1912, finished in 1915).

"The first spadeful of earth was taken from the west portal to the new tunnel by H. W. Wernse and Julius Stievater when they rolled up their sleeves at 8 a. m. Sunday morning and started digging.

After informal ceremonies the shovel brigade which consisted of Wernse, Stievater, Richard and Fred Spiersch, W. E. Luce, R. L. Fernald, Andrew Trautvetter, W. S. McCracken, Charles Genazzi, E. Weisse and C. E. Bennett, finished up the job in the most approved style."



• 1915 •

June 11, 1915: "FERRY COMPANY HAS TOO MUCH BUSINESS"

"Here's a company which has more business than it can attend to.

The Richmond-Marin Ferry has been a success from the first boat sent out from this city to Point San Quentin.

Every trip made since service was inaugurated about a month ago the steamer "Ellen" has been well patronized and automobiles have stood in line for several hours, on certain holidays and Sundays waiting their turn to cross the bay by the new route.

What is now bothering the ferry people is how they are going to care for their rapidly growing business. They are in a position to handle the week-day business, but on Sundays and holidays it is impossible to do

so. The Fourth of July is near at hand and on that day there will be literally thousands of automobile parties who will want to cross to the Marin shores for an outing.

And they must be taken care of--but how?

There are no boats that can carry autos which can be bought or rented. Superintendent Barnes of the ferry company has sent his emissaries to every nook and cranny of the Pacific Coast to find a safe and serviceable ferry boat, but without success. It is true they can build one, but it cannot be ready for service before another year. In the meantime a condition and not a theory confronts them.

Who has a big ferry steamer that they want to hire out at a reasonable remuneration?"

June 16, 1921: "A wedding ceremony at the Our Lady of Mercy Church last night joined in marriage Miss Marion McMenamin, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. McMenamin, 111 Crest Ave., and John Downey."

"IT'S FOR YOU"

Good news for all those who are interested in having a telephone installed at Kellers Beach. The Telephone Company has consented to install one there, and it should go in before the end of June.

It would be worth remembering that, the only reason for having hesitated to install a telephone for the public convenience was the real possibility that exists for vandalism. Many of our conveniences and freedoms have been limited by vandals. It is the duty of each of us to protect our rights--if we should see destructive behavior, not to turn the other way, but to do something about it immediately. The inconvenience of caring for our public facilities is far outweighed by the convenience the facilities bring us.

Teeth IN THE LAW

The Public Health Committee will vote June 18 on AB 1475. There is an urgent need for public support for this State-wide Fluoridation Bill.

Here are reasons that this bill is important: Fluoridation of the water supply one part in a million, has been shown to reduce dental decay by one half. State-supported dental bills come to millions of dollars a year in California. More and more dental bills are being paid with public funds, and could be cut drastically by fluoridation of the water supplies. Modern equipment is used, and fluoride can be accurately added to the water system without danger, and is controlled by the State Department of Public Health.

Letters, postcards, telegrams, are needed now in support of AB 1475. Send them, in this section of the county, to John Knox, State Capitol Building, Sacramento, Calif.

Join Save the Bay Association--send a dollar to PO Box 925, Berkeley, Ca. 94701.

Special Buffet

After the Fourth of July Celebration again this year, The Richmond Citizens Planning Association will have a buffet supper.

The Third Annual RCPA supper will feature a fabulous buffet, live music (softer than last year) and a chance to relax after a day of celebration. For reservations, call Thea Kendall, at 233-0887.

DAD'S DAY

Fathers Day comes in the aftermath of Graduation, commencement exercises, and vacation preparations. Don't forget dear old dad in the shuffle.



"PICNICS . BEACHES !
LET'S BE REALISTIC !
WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME ?"

... LOUISE FORAN