

POINT COUNTERPOINT

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POINT RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA

WEEK OF AUGUST 1-8, 1969



by John Werner

MY STOVE

Old wood-burning stoves are charming. I've heard people say so, many times. They are bulky, heavy, impractical, hard to clean, like most "antiques"; And, like most antiques, they are prized. They are simple, honest appliances. You don't need electricity, there are no parts to burn out, no shiny chrome finishes to polish, no pilot lights to worry about, no gas fumes, nothing but a metal box that you put wood in and light a match to. You find some twigs, cut down a few trees, chop them up for kindling wood, keep them dry, and when you want to start the stove, you simply place the twigs, and several pieces of wood in the stove, leaving air spaces between the pieces, and start the fire with a match. There's some kind of fooling around you have to do with the flu, but that's simple too - you have your husband do it.

We have a wood stove. It is in our cabin. It's about all that will fit in our cabin, but it was there when we inherited the "cabin", and it will stay there. That's what I said when my husband suggested that, since he had to replace the wall next to the stove, he might as well remove the stove. That would solve the problem of the stove pipe in the new wall, and it would of course provide us with some space inside, he said. When he saw the look on my face, he went on. Wood stoves are unsafe, he said. When the wood burns down to coals, there is a danger of carbon monoxide. My expression didn't change. He rubbed his back and said that a simple butane stove wouldn't require cutting up logs and storing them. All you do is get a butane tank and you're in business.

Being a sympathetic wife, I was concerned about his back. "How will you get that heavy stove out of there?" I said. "And when you get it out, what will you do with it? How would you load it onto a

truck and haul it out? And we don't have a butane stove. How much do they cost? The tanks are heavy. How often do you have to replace the tank? And what would happen to that beautiful old stove? It's irreplaceable. They don't make them any more."

I don't know where my husband went. He just disappeared sometime during my debate. I guess he must have realized the value of our antique stove too. He didn't even mention the only real problem that we have with the stove. It is heavy--so heavy that the floor slants its way, making the inside wall slant slightly toward the stove too. This wall has an open cupboard in it, and if you walk too heavily, things drop out of the cupboard onto the stove. But he was considerate enough not to mention that. I guess he 's planning to reinforce the floor. I'm glad he loves antiques as much as I do.



REMINISCING

4.

***** 50 YEARS AGO *****

Articles from 1919 newspapers,
courtesy of Don Church, the Richmond
Museum and the Richmond Library.

August 2, 1919.....

PACIFIC PORCELAIN FROM RICHMOND TO RUSSIA

"Another Richmond industry has won world wide distinction through its ability to supply the goods when needed. The plant is the Pacific Porcelain Company of this city and the big customer is none other than the Soviet government of Russia. ...How the order was received in this country or by whom it was placed could not be stated by L. J. Waldear, official of Pacific Porcelain. Those details are contained in the Company's San Francisco archives. ...From the nature of the order which is now taxing the full capacity of the plant, it is believed that the porcelain ware is to be used in an extensive building program...from all appearances that government intends to build in a first class and costly manner."

August 2, 1919....EDITORIAL.....

"We are hearing much just now concerning 'America's' obligations to the world' and 'our duty' to fulfill them by entering into a covenant of nations to enforce peace on earth, good will toward men, and economic conditions that shall make this a better world in which to live.

"Of course, America is under now obligation whatever to anybody in the world. On the contrary, the world is under obligation to us."

August 4, 1919...COUNTY HIGHWAY
BEGINS....

"One of the first stretches will be the Richmond-Giant strip of five miles... Hercules powder company has promised to lay the same kind of paving for more than a mile through Hercules...and then the only rough spot in the Richmond Martinez highway will be through the town of Pinole."

August 4, 1919...BREAD DROPS...

"Perfection Bread will sell for 13 instead of 15 cents per loaf, and there was a big run on this make of bread in all local grocery stores."

August 5,
1919...

SHOOTING UP A SODA FOUNTAIN?

(Prohibition and the movie industry)

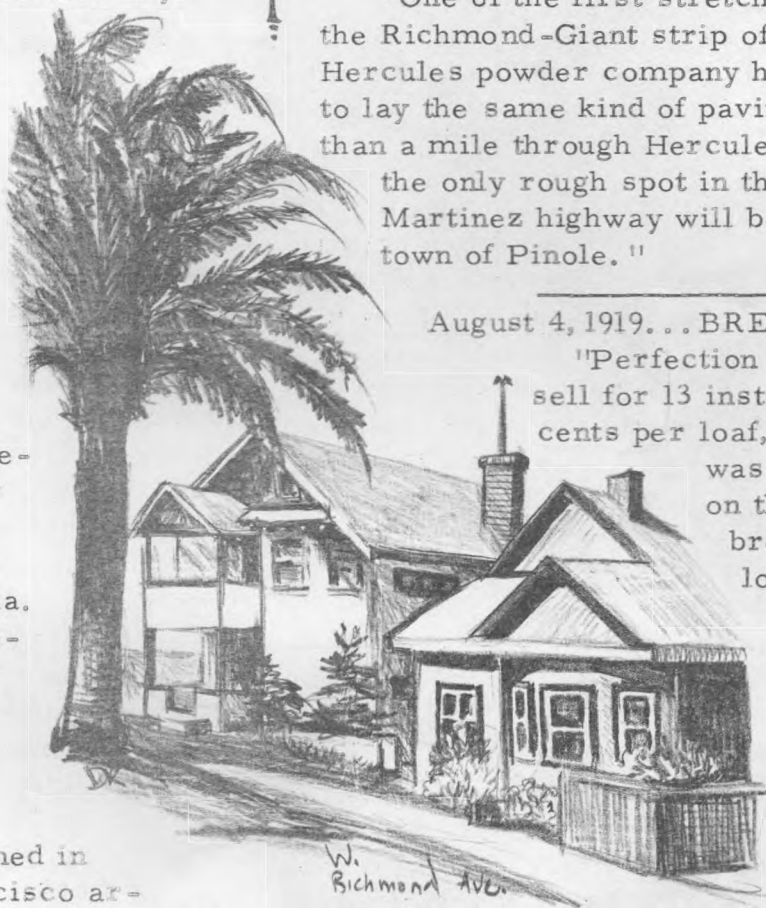
"Ravishing eyes vamping o'er a bubbling beaker of - well, say malted milk with an egg for maximum kick.

"Wild west heroes roping villains inedebriated with nothing but imagination.

"Comedians, maudlin and ribald on snappy college ices... The movie industry suddenly awoke to the realization that prohibition has wiped saloons from the wild west, snatched the glass of extra dry from the lips of the vampire, and is driving the comedian to dry humor."

August 5, 1919...INFANT INDUSTRY
NEEDS SPANKING...

"A child brought up on the prevailing type of moving pictures will feel sure that the only way to get rich is to marry a rich man or woman, find a bonanza gold mine, or own oil stock and run across several gushers on the land..."



5. WEST SIDE Library



by Mary Burkhard

There are three technicolor films on the schedule for tomorrow morning: (1) A Disney film about the coyote and other sild dogs; (2) CHARGE OF WILD HORSES is an experimental film created around the dilemma faced by a band of wild horses when they are caught in a grass fire, and (3) THE TOYMAKER is a short film about two puppets, one striped and one polka-dotted. The polka-dotted puppet feels slighted because his companion has stripes and he doesn't. After much strive and finally some reasoning, they learn to reconcile their differences.

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August 9th is the end of the Summer "THERE AND BACK AGAIN" Reading Club for children. Members who would like to receive a certificate at the Club program, August 19th, must have read and reported on 10 books by August 9th.

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BOOKS.....

THE CENTER OF THE ACTION by Pulitzer Prize winner, Jerome Weidman, explores the current American passion for business merger by examining, in hilarious and often terrifying detail, the takeover of an old-style publishing house by a new-style financial wizard. The moment Ted Leff, fresh from the garment center, walked into the offices of Mattlin and Merritt, he began to grasp something the tweedy pipe smokers who ran the book publishing business would have resented; they "were cut from the same bolt of velveteen I was cut from." The Center of the Action is the story - in Ted's own words -- of how he applied the methods of the Seventh Avenue "rags business" to the problems of

Fourth Avenue's Publishers' Row and made a fortune in the process. This is a fast, funny and realistic novel that is first-class Weidman on a subject -- how we live -- and a theme -- the dark side of ambition -- perfectly suited to his talents.

THE SECOND GENESIS; THE COMING CONTROL OF LIFE, by Life Magazine Science Editor, Albert Rosenfeld, discusses the incredible possibilities inherent in current biomedical exploration, and the unprecedented hazards and confusion that will arise. He foresees the ability to boost the capacity of memory, alter the personalities of criminals, and psychotics, and by-pass sex entirely in the creation of human beings. Hereditary and congenital defects -- hemophilia, albinism, harelip, even some forms of mental incapacity -- may be prevented by prenatal treatment or even by direct surgery on the chromosomes. Mr. Rosenfeld also shows how man has already entered into a science-fiction world of artificial breeding, psychochemicals and cybernetics -- a whole new biotechnological environment that will have an overwhelming impact on the very fundamentals of religion, philosophy, law, sex, morality, and the conduct of our daily lives.

In PAIRING OFF by Julian Moynahan you will meet Myles McCormick, the smash with women. The stacks of the Boston Free Library, where he spends his days cataloguing books, are fairly littered with female bodies -- all of them warm and some quite lively. Myles may have a way with the ladies but he does have trouble relating to them on any but the most superficial level. It's symptomatic of his whole approach to life, which is to laugh a lot. And so will the reader with this harrowingly comic, poignant, and wildly unpredictable novel of a libidinous librarian's passage to his eventual "pairing off." In it the broadest comedy rubs against the stark realities of death and suffering. Told with a wonderful sense of the absurdity of things.

