

# POINT COUNTERPOINT

A JOURNAL FOR CIVIC COMMUNICATION

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POINT RICHMOND, CALIF.

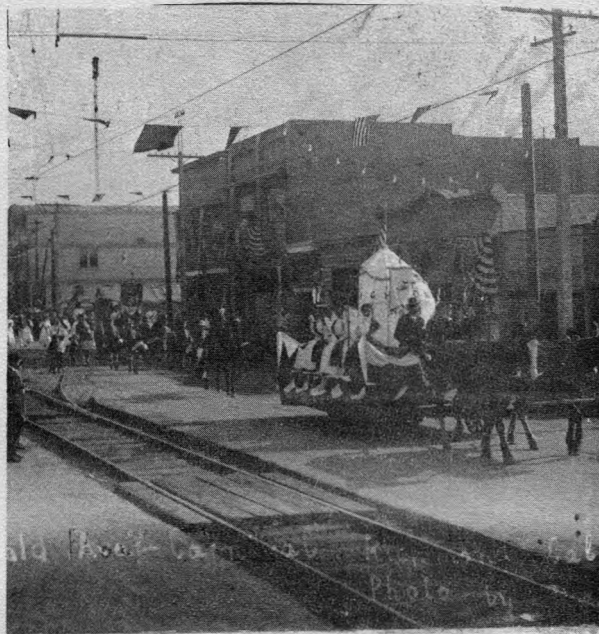


1910 FOURTH OF JULY..WASHINGTON AND WEST RICHMOND



## A HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY.....AN OLD FASHIONED CELEBRATION

Soon after Richmond began to expand, Macdonald Avenue was the site of the Fourth of July Celebrations. This photograph shows a portion of the parade down Macdonald in 1905. The 1910 celebration moved back to the Point for the parade, with the program held at East Shore Park. Below is a picture taken at a recent celebration in Point Richmond. The Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration, sponsored by the American Field Service Foreign Exchange Student program, and recently co-sponsored by the Richmond Junior Chamber of Commerce.



MACDONALD AVE.,

1905.

On the following pages, some events of this year's big celebration will be listed. Come down and join the fun, and at the same time you will be assisting a most worth-while program, which brings high school students from other countries here each year, to attend school and live with a Richmond family; and selects young people from Richmond to be student ambassadors abroad. Richmond's AFS program is carried out largely through proceeds from the 4th.



Park Place, 1968

### THE GLORIOUS FOURTH ....in 1911....

Announcements concerning the Fourth of July in 1911 included the following....

"The Richmond people were inclined to believe yesterday, when a mighty temblor passed across the city, that some mighty one was giving notice of the coming of the national birthday, and starting his celebration early! "

### WHO SAID THE FOURTH WAS ALWAYS NOISY?

Notice is hereby given that the use of explosives in celebrating the Fourth of July is strictly prohibited. ....and it is my duty to arrest all offenders.

(signed by the police chief)

And, on the same page....

Hurrah for the Fourth  
of July!

The Place to Buy the Goods  
to Make the Noise is at the  
Richmond News Stand!

IN 1914, a celebration was held at Kozy Kove, with a program of high diving and fireworks in the evening.

An announcement of Aerial flights, races and other feats of the air to be performed on the fourth included the stipulation, "provided the large engines which have been shipped from the East arrive in time."

Auto races were a part of the 1919 celebration, and the 1915 celebration continued for 6 days, with a bathing revue, concerts and an auto show.

# **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

2

10:30 ..... Parade Assembly ..... Cottage & Washington Ave.  
 11:00 ..... Kiddie Parade ..... Around the Triangle

## ALL DAY CONTINUOUS FREE ENTERTAINMENT

Prize Drawings Hourly

Noon ..... Richmond Municipal Band Concert ..... Bandstand  
 John Schuster, Band Master

1:00 ..... Introduction of Dignitaries ..... Bandstand  
 Introductions: William Kretzmer

1:00 ..... Old Fashioned Games and Races ..... Plunge Lawn  
 for Kids and Adults: Dir., Mrs. Geneva Hansen

1:30 ..... The Hamp-Tones Banjo and Guitar Group ..... Bandstand  
 (Just returned from Hollywood)

2:00 ..... Gung Foo ..... Plunge Lawn  
 Director, John Yee

2:00 ..... Washington Grade School Recorder Group ..... Community Center

2:15 ..... Ballet Folklorico Mexicano ..... Bandstand  
 Director, Mrs. Peter Cantu

2:40 ..... Royce Thomas, Folk Singer-Guitarist ..... Community Center

2:45 ..... Navajo Youth Dancers ..... Plunge Lawn  
 Stanford Volunteer Students Program

3:00 ..... Marlene Tait, Folk Singer-Guitarist ..... Bandstand

3:10 ..... Navajo Youth Dancers ..... Community Center

3:15 ..... Gypsy Dancers ..... Plunge Lawn

3:45 ..... Navajo Native Dancers ..... Bandstand  
 Oakland Navajo Club

4:00 ..... The Flash Group, Rock 'n Roll ..... Plunge Lawn  
 Director, Jay Slavik

4:20 ..... Houck and Scott ..... Bandstand  
 Director, Ron Houck

4:30 ..... Aquabelles - Water Show ..... Ye Olde Natatorium  
 Director, Jean Wieben (Adults - 2 tickets, Children, 1 ticket)

5:00 ..... Squarenaders ..... Bandstand  
 American Square Dance Exhibition Group

## ALL DAY ART IN ACTION - COMPLETE ART SHOW ..... Outside Community Center

5:30 ..... J.G.D. and The New Breed, Rock'n Roll ..... Bandstand

6:00 ..... "AFS FAMILY FUN" Draws to a close.

9:00 ..... FIREWORKS DISPLAY ..... Top of Nicholl Nob  
 by the City of Richmond



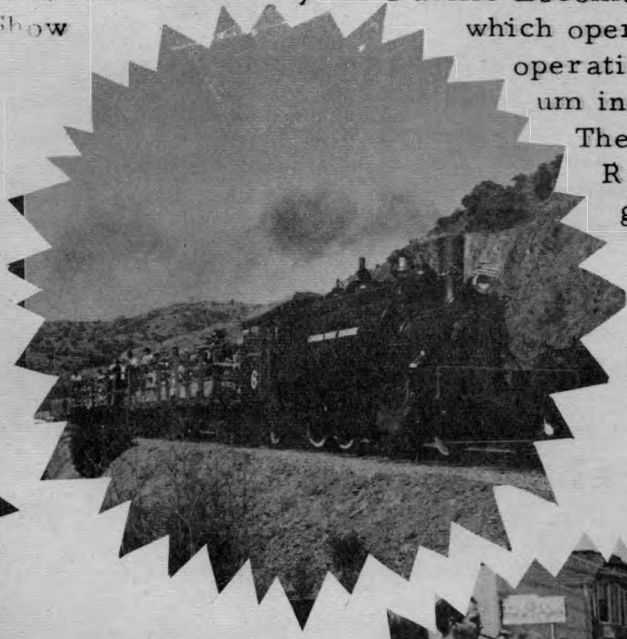


# SPECIAL FEATURES

FESTIVITIES BEGIN at 11 a. m. with the Kiddie Parade, around the triangle. Awards are given for the most original costumes in group and individual categories. The Richmond Recreation and Parks Department organizes the parade, as well as directing the Aquabelles' Water Show presented at the Plunge at 4:30.

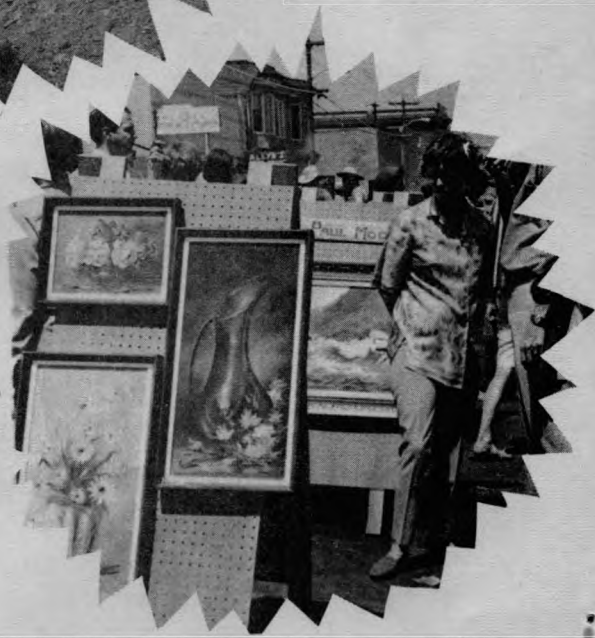
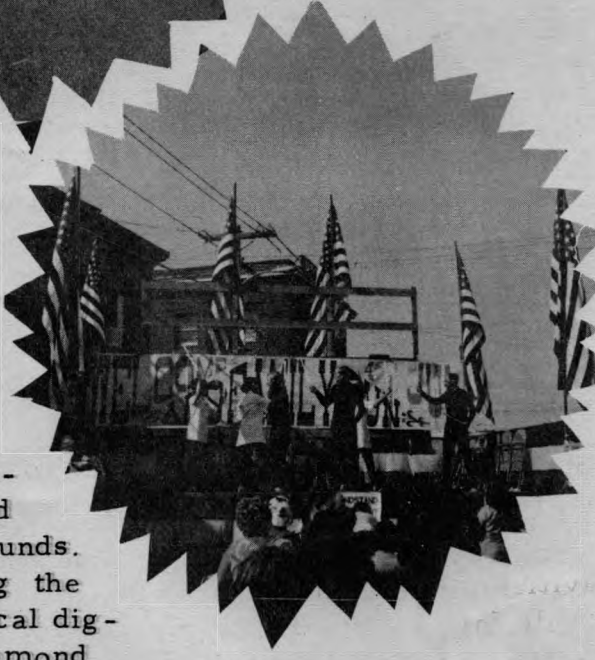


BOARD THE STEAM TRAIN via the Jitney that leaves every fifteen minutes from the corner of Railroad and West Richmond Avenues. Old fashioned steam trains will puff along the bay for a two-mile joy ride provided by the Pacific Locomotive Association which operates the largest operating Railway Museum in the United States.



The Castro Point Railway, which begins off the Point Molate road near the San Rafael bridge, follows the Bay for two miles.

CONSTANT ENTERTAINMENT takes place in three areas: the Bandstand, in the Community Center and on the Plunge grounds. At noon, preceding the introduction of local dignitaries, the Richmond Band will present a rousing program of band music, and during the afternoon you will hear everything from folk music to rock'n roll. Special Dance groups will provide colorful action, with Navajo Indian dancers, a Gypsy dance group, the Ballet Folklorico Mexicano, and the Squarenaders.



ART-IN-ACTION as well as exhibits of all forms of art provide by-the-hour enjoyment for spectators and buyers. The Community Center area will be filled with arts and crafts to delight the eye, and artist-craftsmen creating their works of art. Potters, Candle Makers, Leather Workers, Weavers, Spinners and Jewelry makers may be seen in action, all during the day's festivities. Most of the exhibited items may be purchased.



# ★ ★ AND ATTRACTIONS

8

## ★BANDSTAND SPECIALS.....

The Hamp-Tones, a young group of banjo-guitarists, have just returned from performances in Hollywood.....

Houck and Scott, a well-known local group, will soon perform on Channel 5, and are preparing their first record. These young musicians write and arrange their own music.

The Squarenaders, who have just returned from a National Squaredance convention in Kentucky, will add a dash of color and motion with their exhibition square dancing.

Gypsy Dancers, as well as Navajo Native Dancers and the Ballet Folklorico Mexicano will be appearing on the bandstand to enliven an already lively day.

## ★ON THE PLUNGE LAWN.....

A Gung Foo Demonstration will be one of the exciting "happenings" on the Plunge lawn. The Gypsy Dancers will also appear on the lawn, as well as a group of Navajo Youth Dancers.

## AT THE PLUNGE.....

Cool off and relax while you watch the synchronized water show presented by the Aquabelles, beginning at 4:30 p.m.

## ★RIDES AND GAMES.....

Besides the Steam Train rides that appeal to all ages, a Fire Engine will provide a special thrill for small kids. The "Kiddie Area" is filled with tot-size games and activities, and a great variety of games is available for all ages.

New this year is the "Loop-a-Leg" and the "William Tell" booth. An old favorite, the Dunk Tank, will await the more adventure-some thrill-seekers.

Gypsy Palm Readers will give you a chance to sit down and catch a glimpse of the future.

## ★IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER.....

Don't forget to come inside and see the AFS Exhibit. Entertainment, provided by the Navajo Youth Dancers, a grade-school Recorder Group, and a Folk Singer will be provided inside during the afternoon hours.

## ★HUNGRY?.....

Never! Whether your taste is for Mexican food, Norwegian Pastries, Chinese Chop Suey, Pop Corn, Pickles, Hot dogs or Hamburgers, you can eat all day long.

And, if you're thirsty, Coffee, Iced Tea, Lemonade, Cokes and Sno Cones are available at several locations.

## ★THINGS TO TAKE HOME.....

A Flea Market will be in progress between the Community Center and the Fire Station, as well as some large exciting items for Silent Auction.

If you're inclined to be hot-headed, keep the sun from beating down by buying a Fourth of July Hat at the Hats and Flage Booth. And, to brighten your home after the Fourth, buy some fresh flowers at the Flower Booth.

## ★FIREWORKS.....

Spectacular explosions of color will be seen from many vantage points throughout the city, as they are launched from Nicholl Nob at about 9 p.m. Find a place to relax and enjoy the glittering display.

The Information Booth is located on Park Place, and there are three ticket booths, besides roaming ticket-sellers. Look on the map for starred locations, denoting ticket booths.



## 5. **FREE COMMUNICATION SERVICE ON 4<sup>th</sup>**

"Skip" Van Order will set up a free communications service on the Fourth of July, to all servicemen anywhere in the world. The booth will be located in the storefront at 155 Park Place, between Sophie's Emporium and Laborforce. If anybody would like to send a message to a man in the Armed Service in Vietnam or anywhere else, they need only bring the APO address, and he can do the rest, free. The message will be radioed from Point Richmond to Hamilton Air Force Base by the MARS network, and at Hamilton, it is put on teletype for transmission to any part of the world.

## **CLEAVING BOOKSHELVES ?**

The Richmond Museum is gathering books for its annual Book Sale, to be held in September. If you have any paperbacks, text books, novels, etc., and would like them picked up, please call

Marlys Reynolds, 234-4617

Anytime, until September.

## **WEST SIDE**

## **LIBRARY**

by Mary Burkhard

The Circus Theme display that is currently covering our scarred walls is to promote the annual summer reading club for children, grades 1 to 6. This year it is called the Circus Reading Club. To join, a child must read a book and tell the librarian about it. At the end of the summer there will be a program at the Civic Center for all members of the Book Club. Members who have read 10 books or more will receive a certificate. Please encourage your children to join. We'll be happy to help them find books at their reading level.

## **WIN A TAHOE TRIP !**



There are probably still some prize tickets at local stores, etc., to be used on the Fourth of July -- who knows? You might win the Grand Prize of two nights and three days at the Sahara Tahoe. Get your tickets now, and deposit them at the bandstand on the Fourth of July.

## **MUSIC OUTDOORS**

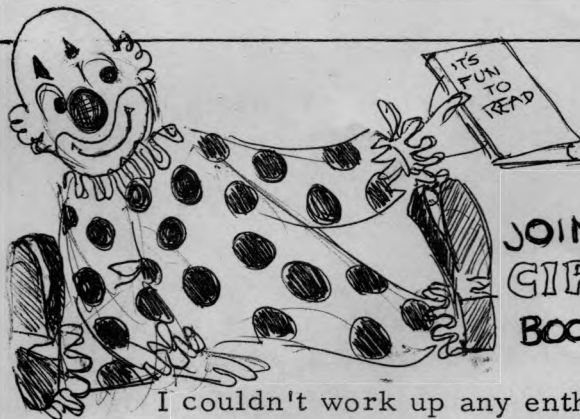
Music of Russia will be presented at an outdoor concert at Port Costa, 3 p.m. Sunday, July 12. Concerts are directed by Donald Pippin. The concert will include Moussorgsky's parody cantata, "the Puppet Theatre" and Stravinsky's "L'Histoire du Soldat."

## **SKI !**

The California World Cup Water Ski Tournament is coming up on July 18 and 19 at the Berkeley Aquatic Park. Local Ski Champ, Al Frosini should have some more news about the big event soon.



And Don't Forget: "Little Mary Sunshine" opens at the Masquers on July 24.



**JOIN THE  
CIRCUS  
BOOK CLUB**

I couldn't work up any enthusiasm over new books this week, so I thought I'd contribute the following recipe instead, about which I am always enthusiastic:

### **PEACH SMASH**

Put in blender two pitted ripe peaches, 1 can frozen concentrated pineapple juice, 3/4 cup rum. Fill to top with cracked ice. Flip the switch. ....Happy Fourth!





by Mid Dornan  
(and her summer help)  
235-4222

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Setats Detinu  
Don Essary  
Grethe Tedrick

Another reminder -- the summer do-it-yourself Trivia Box is located in the Old Firehouse Ice Cream Parlor -- stop in and write your news!

~~~~~

Michelle Healy (one of Point Counterpoint's OLDEST paper carriers -- she's only 11, but she started a long time ago) has just returned from ten glorious days in Oregon.

~~~~~

Included in the artists who have been accepted in the Marin Art and Garden Show from July 1 to 5, is Robert O'Donnell.

~~~~~

"I've never seen a boy who can ask so many questions," said an impatient father. "I wonder what would have happened if I had asked so many questions when I was your age!"

"Maybe you'd be able to answer some of mine."

~~~~~

This week's nominee for "Ice Cream Hero of the Week" is Dan Robertson (who is getting married on the 4th, so we'd better include both Mr. and Mrs. Robertson): "For his many assaults on the forces of unreason and absurdity in our community (especially, recently, the plum tree incident) always with gracious wit and good humor."

~~~~~

No matter how much you nurse a grudge, it never gets better.

On Wednesday, July 22, the To Kalon Club of Shiloah Shrine 29, will serve a Chicken Dinner at the Point Masonic Temple, 210 Washington Avenue, Point Richmond.

The public is cordially invited; reservations may be made by calling 232-6831 or 233-1931. The dinner is \$1.75 for adults, and \$1.00 for children.

~~~~~

### WHO DONE IT?

The welcome return of the play equipment to Washington Park after a long absence, is due to the efforts of Charlie Rosier, whose Petition and phone calls to the Recreation and Parks Department prompted the return of the play equipment now, instead of some later date."

~~~~~

Sympathy is extended to the Hartynyk family, at the death of Bob Hartynyk's mother, at the age of 85. A native of Austria, Mrs. Hartynyk has lived in this area for many years. She is survived by her husband Thomas, and son Robert and two grandchildren, Robert and Sheila. Mrs. Hartynyk was a member of Our Lady of Mercy Church, and services will be held there Friday morning, July 3.

~~~~~

Mr. Julius Schmucker died at the age of 82. He lived in Point Richmond for 37 years. A retired teamster, he was a native of Germany, and died on June 22.

~~~~~

Funeral services were held on June 24 for James T. Wilson, father of James Wilson of Point Richmond. A retired employee of Standard Oil Company, he lived in West Point until his death at the age of 87.

~~~~~

Whether a man winds up with a nest egg or a goose egg depends a lot on the kind of chick that broke his shell.

~~~~~

Have a happy Fourth of July -- celebrate in the Point and have a safe one, too.





As many of you probably heard, one or more barrel bombs were set off in the boys' latrine in the Community Center at midday a week ago Saturday. Luckily, the Center and Library were closed at the time, as the explosion blew the appliance to bits.

All the adults at the Center and Recreation Department considered this act to be far more serious than a childish prank and the Center was closed last week.

On Thursday, 43 teens showed up for a meeting to discuss the vandalism, and \$15.20 was collected out of pocket money to contribute to the repairs. It was agreed that the two boys who committed the act would have to pay the total damages of \$178 before being allowed into the Teen Center.

Our summer has now been completely worked out. We will be open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and again from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Wednesday morning and every other Tuesday morning is reserved for parent groups. Fridays, we will be open from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to midnight. Saturdays, from 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. to midnight. We have tried to insure maximum use for the Point Teens.

Thank you so much, Gertrude Harris for the Gourmet Dinner you instructed and served on Tuesday. The special Roman Spaghetti, cooked with bacon, cheese and egg yolks, and the vegetable salad and cookies were delicious. The concern and care you demonstrated to our teens will not soon be forgotten.

Yesterday, the San Francisco Mime Troup produced two puppet shows for over 70 youngsters in our center. The content of the plays was quite adult, and

yet acted in such a vigorous and exciting way the tiniest tots laughed and participated.

We will see you all at the Fourth of July Celebration, as forty teenagers will be manning booths during the day.

## A CERTIFICATE FOR US

We are now the proud bearers of a Certificate of Crossing the International Date Line.....and we haven't even come close. We go beyond the "Point Counterpoint" dateline almost every week, but that's not quite the same thing.

Our vicarious thrill came by way of Isabel and Georgette Austria, who, with their parents are now in the Orient.

Isabel writes:

"To my Point Counterpoint customers and Mrs. Genosick:

I am sorry I was not able to say 'bye' to you all. My Aunt Helen is delivering the papers for me while I am away. I'll try my best to send a card from all the places we will go to.

Isabel"

The note, written on a Japan Airlines menu (mmmmmm) also includes another note, from Isabel's mother, which notes the time of dinner -- about 9 p.m., or about 5 p.m. Hawaiian time, or about 1 p.m. Tokyo time --maybe. Crossing the International dateline is confusing, to say the least.

---

Speaking of the Orient, the word Japan comes from a Chinese phrase meaning "the source of the sun." The word "Japan" came from Marco Polo's attempt to render the phrase in Italian after his return from China in the 13th century. The Japanese, however, usually give the characters a sound that is rendered in English as "Nihon."





by Dorothy King

Chet and Wanda Sarsfield have just returned from several days in Southern California. The business trip was made primarily to attend the Eighth Annual Turfgrass Sprinkler Irrigation Conference held at the University of California Conference Center at Lake Arrowhead, where Chet was a speaker on the program. Three busy but beautiful days were spent at Lake Arrowhead.

Following the conference, the Sarsfields made calls in the Los Angeles area which occupied another three days. Wanda's daughter, Ginger, accompanied them on this trip, so an evening trip to Disneyland was also included in the itinerary. A most enjoyable time was had by all. Irrigation Technical Services and Wax 'n Wicks candle shop are now both open for business again.

\*\*\*\*\*

You should see the lovely mail boxes at 622 and 616 Western Drive...go by and have a look.

\*\*\*\*\*

Peter Horn had his hair cut -- and we just want you to know, Peter, that if we don't smile and say hello, it's because it will take a while before we recognize you again.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Edwards and Barbara Olesen went for a week's vacation in Lovelock, Nevada, to visit Barbara's mother, Mrs. Leora Olesen.

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## Letter for Today

A copy of this letter was sent to us, and, though not a festive note for the Fourth of July, it is pertinent for our times).

Dear Friend:

It may yet be written that mankind -- ignoring the warnings of scientists -- continued to brutalize his environment and so brought

upon himself a new Ice Age. A prominent biologist with whom I have appeared on TV believes the human species to be so far down the road to extinction he no longer pays for life insurance. I am more optimistic. Nature's bills for our vandalism will be high but mankind can survive. At stake is the quality of our life from this time on.

Overpopulation is the backdrop for our environmental crisis and for a score of social problems that steadily make our earth less liveable. The chaos of our cities; the growing polarization between rich and poor nations; wars and political upheaval are all multiple effects of the population surge. Half the world is trapped in misery and squalor hunger and privation. This year four million will die of starvation; millions more will be stunted physically or mentally by protein deprivation. With our global population expected to double in 30 years these problems can only get worse.

Americans are feeling the squeeze -- in our impacted cities, our choking highways, our disfigured land. We feel it in power failures and water shortages in smog and sewage and slums. By the year 2,000 at our present rate of growth we must make room for 300 million Americans, 244 million cars, 6 trillion pounds of garbage. What happens to the quality of our life then?

Our rivers and lakes are open sewers emphysema is claiming lives at an alarming rate and noise has damaged the hearing of three out of five men. We suicidally abuse our environment -- by our numbers, our affluence, our technology. Seventy-eight species of animals are in danger of extinction. Unless we can limit our numbers -- unless we recognize that the earth does not belong to us, but that we belong to it -- man may follow the bald eagle into oblivion.

Planned Parenthood programs here and overseas is working in 102 countries. Through direct assistance, public education and research and training, it is cutting birth rates from Mexico to the Philippines. Working with the government, in the U.S. alone, 525 clinics provide birth control help to nearly half a million low-income women.

The only private organization through which one can work, the Planned Parenthood program should be supported.

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# LETTERS

## PERSPECTIVES: MOTORCYCLES & HILLS...

Dear Editor:

As a Point Richmond motorcycle rider, I feel that the City Council meeting of June 22, as reported in last week's Point Counterpoint needs further coverage to help the readers put what has actually happened into perspective.

The large turnout at the meeting was largely motorcycle riders, showing their concern over the proposed ordinance, which would have ended riding on the Point Richmond hills.

The "representative of 60% of the owners of property on the Garrard hills," in fact represents land owners whose land is essentially unused by motorcycles. Furthermore, that 60% of the land owners in fact own only a small percentage of the total Point Richmond hills in acreage.

Regarding the "impassioned plea from the mother whose children are endangered on the streets of Point Richmond by motorcycles," specifically her complaint was about "motorcycles racing up and down Washington Avenue". This calls for enforcement of existing traffic laws, not an ordinance restricting trail riding which does not address itself to the above complaint.

I think the City Council understood this. The Council also stated that ordinances covering trespass and use of private property already exist, and why didn't the land owners use existing ordinances?

I think it should be noted that the signs posted by the Richmond Ramblers, eight weeks ago, have not been knocked down, defaced or to the best of my knowledge, disobeyed. (Clayton Pinkerton please note.)

Conspicuously absent from the names mentioned in last week's coverage of the meeting, were Luciano and Leo Forner, who as native Point Richmondites



jected strongly to the continued efforts of the small group, presently known as the Shoreline Park Committee, to present their position, as the position of the entire community on whatever is the issue of the moment.

Jim Roberts' movie devoted considerable footage to soil erosion that by conservative estimates is at least eight feet deep. That erosion, however, was not caused by motorcycles. Erosion caused by motorcycles is undeniable, but as clearly shown in the movie, erosion caused by motorcycles is minor when compared to the Quarrying, Grading and Excavation of Point Richmond hills. A motorcycle has never removed a hill.

As to whouses the Point Richmond hills: It would be far more accurate to say the hills are used by East Bay residents: Not that the hills draw riders from all over California.

Is it consistent to complain about non-Richmond residents using the Point Richmond hills and then suggest that these people plus the many Richmond residents using this area travel to a "legitimate place to ride motorcycles" (Carnegie Motorcycle Park) located at the southeast corner of Alameda County, 60 miles from Richmond? There has never been a "national competition" motorcycle event held at Point Richmond.

The ever increasing number of riders using the Point Richmond hills points out the real need for a "Mechanical Park" in Contra Costa County. I think the City Council is well aware of the need for such a park, and they realize that the Point Richmond hills are serving that purpose now, as they have for the last 25 years. I feel that the City Council voted to serve the interests of all the residents of Richmond, not the self-interests of a vocal few.

Bob Miller.

next page, please



## HAIR DESIGNS

139 park place  
237-9860

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*Hair Shaping*

FOR MEN: TUESDAYS

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11.

## ASSESSMENT ON ASSESSMENTS

Dear Editor:

The benign appraisal of our county assessor's performance at the recent Point Civic Group meeting by your correspondent (PCP June 26-July 3) was shared by none of those in attendance with whom I spoke; hence this letter cataloging a few of the complaints I heard the other evening.

Point Richmond residents should not

accuse themselves of paranoid thinking patterns if they conclude that they are victims of an inverse "more equal than others" treatment at the hands of the assessor. True, the assessor, by law, is required to assess at 25% of full cash value and hence the upwards of 50% assessment increase many of us have received over the past year may be within the law since certain of the limited number of home sales here have involved people with more money than sense -- and it is increasing sales prices in an area which largely justifies boosted assessments for the rest of us. But ours is the only area, county wide, which has been singled out for such large increases. Neither Kensington, nor Danville, nor Orinda, nor Bethlehem Steel received either the intensive scrutiny of the assessor's staff or the unprecedented increases visited on us over the past year. Mr. Wanaka, Contra Costa County Tax Assessor, eloquently detailed the sophisticated traditional and computerized techniques which were used to justify assessment figures for the Point Richmond area corresponding to the very last penny of current market value. In time, other taxpayers and other portions of the county may suffer the same fate of having to spend time in the assessor's fishbowl, but this will be of little consolation to those who will foot a disproportionate share of the county bill this time around.

Human and other somewhat intangible social values are submerged in Mr. Wanaka's sea of figures relating to "market value," a notion which gets his undivided attention irrespective of the consequences of such tunnel vision. Examples:

1. A long and valued Point resident (who has made enormous contributions to the quality of life in Richmond through the Art Center) gently inquired whether it is a reasonable policy to tax at such a rate as to make ownership of single family residences uneconomic and impossible except for the few to whom cost is no object. In response, Mr. Wanaka acknowledged that the market (and the policies of his office) have indeed created a situation where the unaffluent homeowner couldn't even hope to abandon his home to a renter since the rental income might well be largely de-

BUYING OR SELLING?

**Jack STODDARD**  
realty

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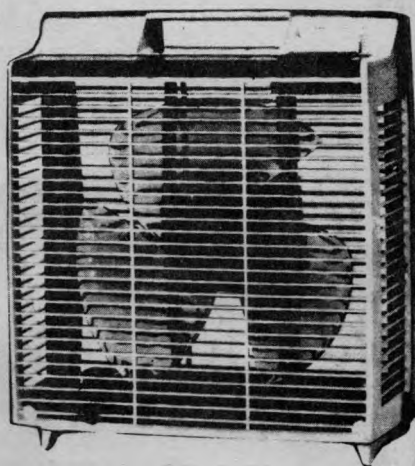
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voured by the tax collector. An outright sale so as to pass along the dilemma to the next owner was the only suggested solution. This same gracious lady reported that an assessor's office functionary in the Richmond office put it to her somewhat more directly, viz: "What are you trying to prove by living in a prestigious area like the Point. Why don't you move?" In this writer's opinion, Mr. Wanaka's policies necessarily lead to a "final solution" to the first residential "problem" -- rezone to high rise or heavy industrial.

2. It is surrealistic to predicate taxation policies on the notion that elderly residents finishing out quiet lives in modest homes contracted for long ago will some day enjoy speculator's profits and can therefore be expected to pay part of that profit to county taxing authorities as they go along. Everyone in the auditorium the other night (with perhaps two exceptions) seemed to appreciate that these neighbors must pass from this physical world of real estate dealing to realize the assumed profits. Unless, of course, the assessor's policies force them into insolvency first. And then again, the market may decline and there may be no profits, even to an estate. It's happened before. And if there are profits, the taxes could be recouped at that time. But that way lies chaos in the assessor's office. Well, at least a departure from long established practices.

3. One speaker asked of the tax consequences of modifying his triplex into a duplex to accommodate his growing family, a move which would decrease his rental income. The question was answered with another: "Does modifying the building increase the value of the property to you?" The slower thinkers in the audience paused for perhaps thirty milliseconds to conjure up the answer which would have been offered had the question concerned modifying a duplex to create a triplex. "Heads I win, tails, etc."

4. Another speaker inquired about a list of permissible improvements or repairs which would not cost more in taxes. Such schedules are published by many of the more progressive and home-owner oriented assessors throughout the state. Mr.

NEXT PAGE, PLEASE



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Wanaka rejected the proposal as improper and illegal. The argument that such a list encourages home maintenance and modest improvements, desiderata in the eyes of both the homeowner and his neighbors, was dismissed out of hand by Mr. Wanaka. Furthermore, Assessor Tinney of San Francisco was, by inference, branded a law breaker since he makes available such a schedule.

And there was another facet to the evening with our assessor -- the larger question of who carries the tax load, the weak or the strong? Suspicions were aroused by the following recital of tax rates: Berkeley, \$13.40 per \$100 assessed valuation; Concord, \$12.89; Richmond, \$12.64; San Francisco, \$12.29; El Cerrito, \$12.16; Walnut Creek \$12.11; Oakland, \$10.01; Hayward, \$9.98; and San Leandro, \$8.08. Why is the rate so low in San Leandro and so high in Richmond? According to the "Independent's" Action Man, to whom we are indebted for these figures, San Leandro has a large industrial tax base which "carries the load." The Action Man failed to answer the second part of the question.

A glimmer of light was cast on this issue by a pair of questions from a local attorney who has developed some sophistication in the weird world of assessment practices: "What fraction of the assessor's staff works on the enormously complex problems of industry assessment?" and "What was the percentage increase over the last year or two in industrial land assessments within Richmond?" The assessor mentioned 14 industrial land appraisers out of a staff of about 90 but refused to answer the second question.

Other members of the assessor's staff assisted this writer in answering the second question. With respect to Bethlehem Steel's Point Pinole acreage, with its glorious Eucalyptus groves and rolling grasslands, the assessment figures, (sans improvements) are as follows for the last three years: '68-'69: \$2,626,680; '69-'70, \$2,746,920; '70-'71, \$2,837,350. The increase over this time is \$210,670, or a hair over 8%. What now has happened to the argument, offered so many times the other night, that it is escalating land prices which justify the drastic assessment



jump Point Richmond homeowners have suffered.

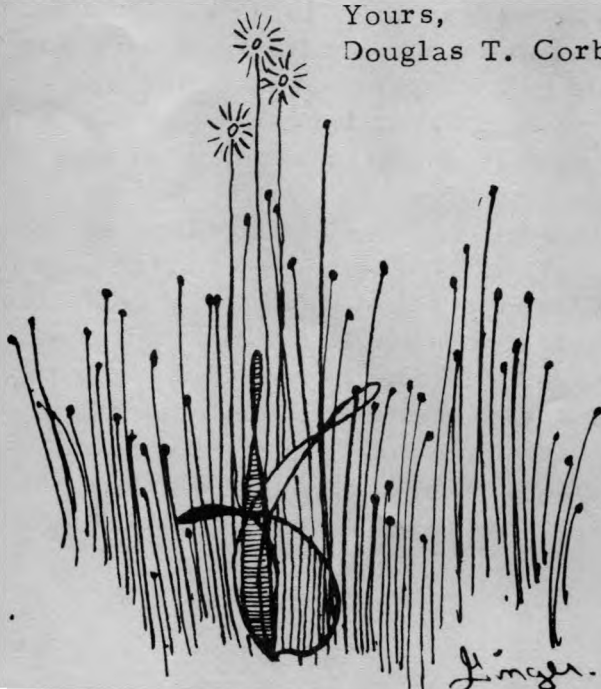
Various of us are further aroused by the Point Pinole situation when we recall that Bethlehem snatched our shoreline park out from under our very noses in 1963 for a price reported by the "Independent" to have been in excess of \$12,000,000. Yet the current assessment predicates a full cash value of \$11,494,000 after seven years of California land appreciation rates of 20 per cent to 50% per year -- remember Point Reyes. Even ignoring its potential as another Country Club Estates subdivision, Point Pinole is carried on our assessor's books at a full cash value of less than \$.20 per square foot, one-fifth or less than the usual selling price of industrial land in Richmond.

Does our assessor believe that Bethlehem would be willing, now that plans for the steel mill have apparently gone awry, to part with 800 or so coastal acres at \$.20 per square foot for park purposes? Perhaps we should ask both of them.

But back to the assessments and taxes. I presume that the assessor's view of the Bethlehem-Point Pinole situation is that this is but one aberration in an otherwise pure and unsullied (as well as fair) system. One wonders.

Finally, those interested in joining with other Point residents to protest the latest general reassessment should phone 233-0493 immediately. Only a few weeks remain to take action.

Yours,  
Douglas T. Corbin.





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## TAX ROLL INFO...

According to County Tax Assessor E. F. Wanaka, the 1970-71 roll of locally assessed property will be in the custody of the County Auditor, and open for public inspection. It will be available to the Board of Supervisors on July 20 for local equalization proceedings.

The assessed value of property appraised by the County Assessor amounts to \$1,628,790,181 -- an increase of \$99,896,760 over the previous year. In addition, escaped assessments to be included will bring the increase to approximately \$120 million.

Not included is the value of public utilities, assessed by the State Board of Equalization, available August 1. The State Board will reduce the assessment ratio of utilities from 33% to 31%, so no significant increase is expected.

The statistics do not include deductions for the \$750 homeowners' exemption, nor the 30% exemption allowed business inventories. The total of the homeowners' exemptions is \$65,161,880, and business inventory exemptions, \$32,080,242. These exemptions are paid by the State.

Veterans exemptions was down about 2,200, accounting for a gain of about \$2 million in the assessment roll.

The overall increase amounts to about 6.7%, not as great an increase as last year's 7.81%.

Of the cities, Concord had the greatest gain in assessed value, 18.49%. Updating and annexations account for Concord's and Pleasant Hill's increase (the latter's increase was 16.85%). Hercules was the only city to show a loss; a result of reduced industrial activity.

This year, notices of increased assessments were mailed to 66,684 Contra Costa County taxpayers, of which 4,110 contacted the assessor's office regarding their new assessment. Those persons wishing to protest their assessments to the local Board of Equalization must do so in writing on forms provided by the County Clerk or the County Assessor between July 2 and August 26.



# HEALTH

## *Comes first*

by

A. H. MEADS

### Inactivity Causes Fatigue .....

Sometimes, nervous exhaustion sets in when a person simply isn't doing enough to keep his circulation going. Here's some good advice from Dr. Wayne Brandstadt, who wrote in the New York World Telegram and Sun (August 13, 1965):

"In some persons nervous fatigue is actually caused by insufficient exercise. If you suffer from insomnia, one of the chief symptoms of nervous exhaustion, run around the block 3 times before tumbling into bed, then make yourself as limp as a wet rag. The chances are you will go to sleep at once".

If magnesium and potassium salts of aspartic acid are administered in their refined form, the combination would have to be considered a drug. Although drugs in general perform valuable roles in scientific investigation, it is not necessary to resort to drugs for relieving fatigue, since we can obtain the elements of this remedy in natural form from the diet.

Potassium is found in many kinds of meat—beef, lamb, chicken, liver, and turkey. Nuts, including almonds, walnuts and unsalted peanuts, are rich sources of potassium. Many vegetables also provide this mineral—lima beans, green beans, peas, lettuce and spinach. Avoid foods with a high sodium content (pretzels, french fries, pickles, salted meats and fish) as salt tends to deplete potassium levels.

Magnesium is found in many of the same foods as potassium, but dolomite is its best source. Sesame, pumpkin, and sunflower seeds, kelp, sea salt, barley, corn, soy flour and cashew nuts are other foods that contain magnesium in good quantity. As for aspartic acid, asparagus and soybeans are the preferred choice.

If fatigue poses a great problem for you, a change in work or nutritional habits may help. If you are always tired at the end of the day, slow down. You may be trying to accomplish too many things at once. If you are tired from boredom, take walks in the fresh air; find a hobby. Eat asparagus and soybeans for aspartic acid, and rust of all kinds for potassium. Above all, make sure you take dolomite every day since magnesium is the most difficult of these to obtain.

Keep Healthy By Lots of Exercise.

O.K. DOC. I DID LIKE YOU SAID... 3 TIMES AROUND THE BLOCK..... THEN LIMP AS A WET RAG.... I WAS CHASED BY 3 DOGS. 2 CATS. COLLIDED WITH A BURGLAR, WAS CHASED BY 2 MEN, ARRESTED BY A COP & PUT UNDER SURVEILLANCE AS A SUSPICIOUS CHARACTER. O.K.... I'M LIMP AS A WET RAG... NOW HOW WAS IT YOU GET TO SLEEP?





# Paging the Younger Generation

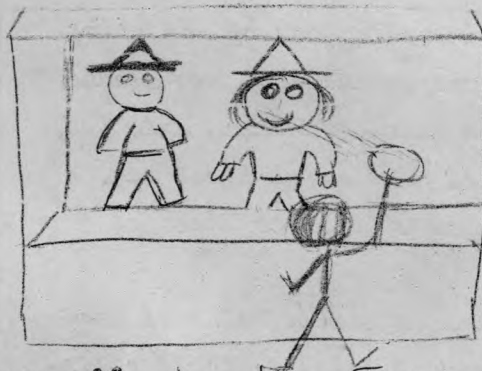
Happiness is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July



The Parade is first. We want to see it all.



Next stop: The Ticket Booth.

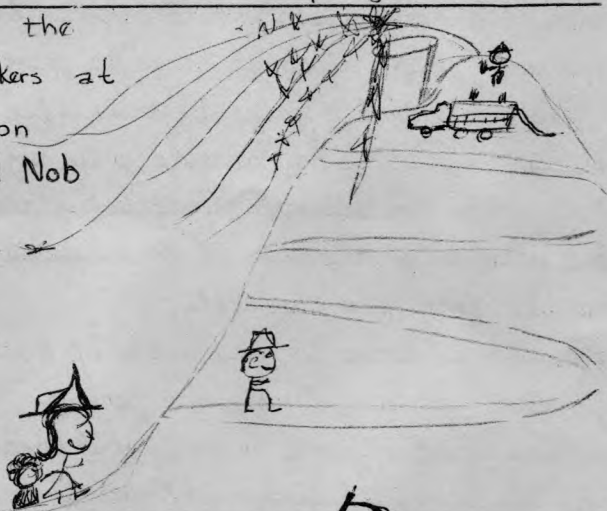


Then off to the Sponge throw.

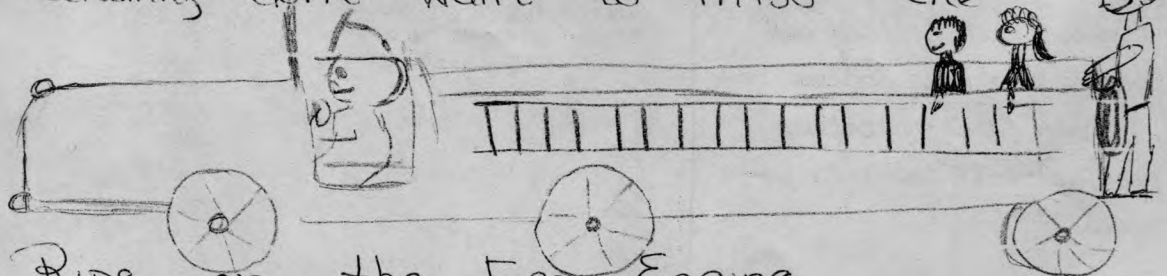
AND the  
Firecrackers at  
night on  
Nichol Nob



Lets buy a balloon!



We certainly don't want to miss the

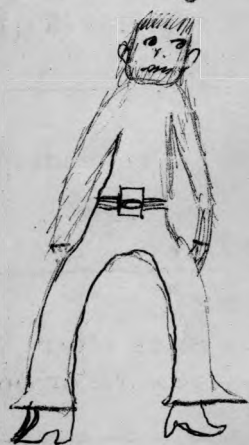


Ride on the Fire Engine



# Riddles

## Puzzles

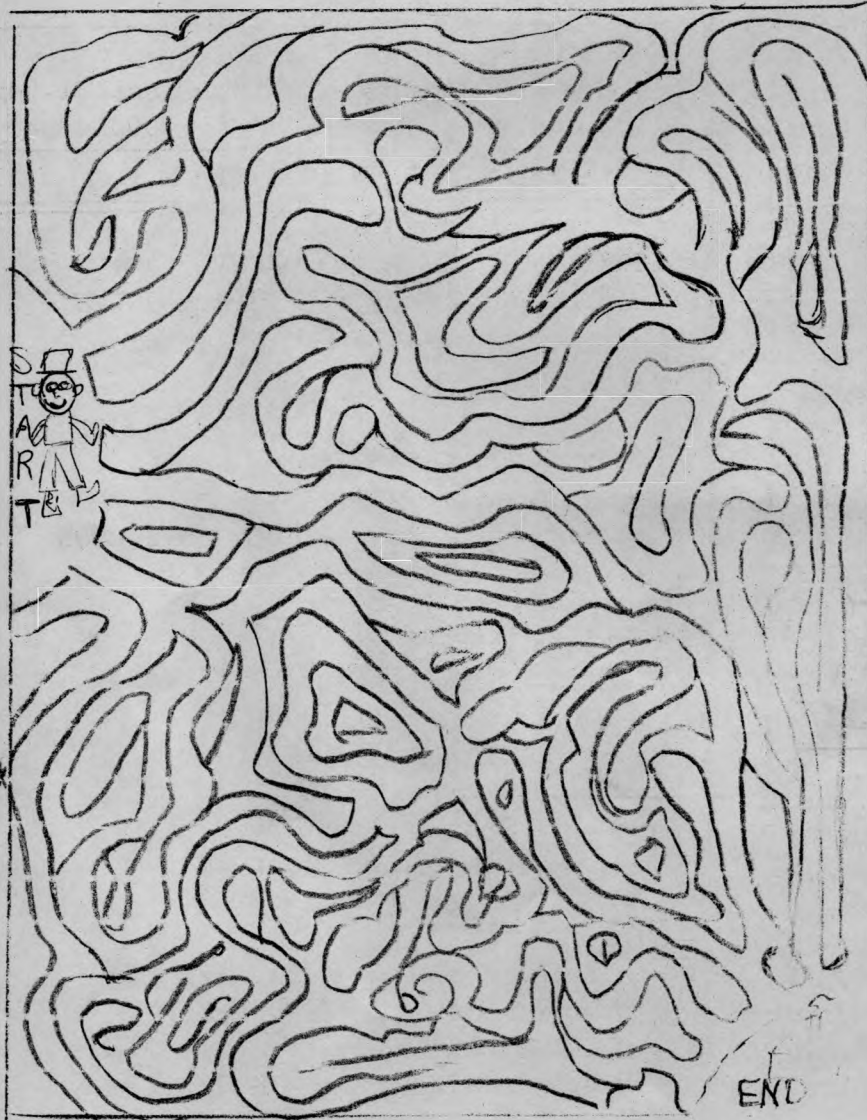


1. By Johnny Meir  
"Corn Acres"



How many ears are there? —

2. Help Richard Schuldt find his house



3. Does England have a Fourth of July?
4. Why do birds fly South?
5. What do elephants have that no other animal has?

ANSWERS TO RIDDLES: ① No, did you count the boys' ears for to walk ② Yes, every place has July 4 ③ Because it's only elephants

## About the Declaration of Independence

The official title of the Declaration of Independence is "The Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America."

The job of writing the declaration was given to Thomas Jefferson.

The anniversary of the act of independence is July 2. It was announced to the world on July 4.

On August 2, fifty-three members of Congress signed the document. Four more signatures were to be added later.

In 1894 the original paper was definitely sealed in a steel case to keep it from light and air.

In 1954, it was in the NATIONAL ARCHIVES BUILDING.

Write down each letter that is shaded and you will find hidden in the message the name of a holiday.

On Nicholl Nob: A red pack with the name Matt on it, with a blue down jacket and red quilt. REWARD. Call 235-7306, and ask for Melissa.

On Friday, June 12, Small wallet-size tool kit. Black case, instructions in French. Downtown Point Richmond or Atchison Village. REWARD  
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Cleaning-- reasonable: 234-6037

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### LIGHT HAULING: ODD JOBS

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Cathy Enyeart: 235-9572

Craig Healy: 234-6139

Sherry & Loretta Mertle: 232-0995

Melissa Martincich: 235-7306

May Sinawi: 233-5742

Linda Taylor: 232-8819

Lisa Williams: 233-5211

Wendy Wirth: 233-5618

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Debra Dustin: 232-6612

Ellen Rasmussen: 233-1112

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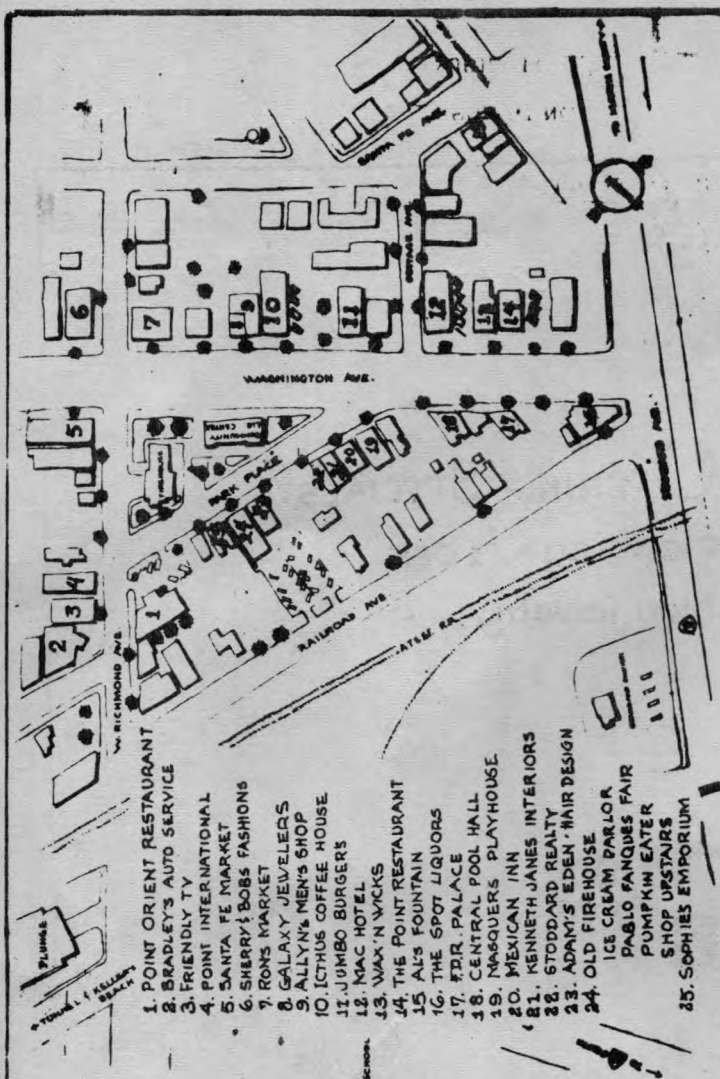
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