

Next deadline is December 26

POINT COUNTERPOINT

A JOURNAL FOR CIVIC COMMUNICATION

Merry Christmas, 1975!

RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA

35 cents



Janet Green 75

Excerpts from...

A Child's Christmas in Wales

by Dylan Thomas

One Christmas was so much like another,
in those years around the sea-town corner now
and out of all sound except the distant speaking
of the voices I sometimes hear a moment before sleep,
that I can never remember whether it snowed
for six days and six nights when I was twelve
or whether it snowed for twelve days and
twelve nights when I was six.

All the Christmases roll down toward the
two-tongued sea, like a cold and headlong moon
bundling down the sky that was our street,
and they stop at the rim of the ice edged,
fish-freezing waves, and I plunge my hands in the
snow and bring out whatever I can find.
In goes my hand into that wool-white bell-tongued
ball of holidays resting at the rim of the
carol-singing sea, and out comes Mrs. Prothero
and the firemen.

It was on the afternoon of the day
of Christmas Eve, and I was in Mrs. Prothero's
garden, waiting for cats, with her son Jim.
It was snowing. It was always snowing at Christmas.
December, in my memory, is white as Lapland,
though there were no reindeers.
But there were cats. Patient, cold and callous,
our hands wrapped in socks, we waited
to snowball the cats. Sleek and long as jaguars
and horrible whiskered, spitting and snarling,
they would slink and sidle over the white
back-garden walls, and the lynx-eyed hunters,
Jim and I, fur-capped and moccasined trappers
from Hudson Bay off Mumbles Road, would hurl
our deadly snowballs at the green of their eyes.

The wise cats never appeared. We were so still,
Eskimo footed arctic marksmen in the muffling
silence of the eternal snows--eternal,
ever since Wednesday--that we never heard
Mrs. Prothero's first cry from her igloo at the
bottom of the garden. Or, if we heard it at all,

it was, to us, like the far-off challenge of our enemy and prey, the neighbor's polar cat. But soon the voice grew louder. "Fire!" cried Mrs. Prothero, and she beat the dinner-gong.

And we ran down the garden, with the snowballs in our arms, toward the house, and smoke, indeed, was pouring out of the dining-room, and the gong was bombilating, and Mrs. Prothero was announcing ruin like a town crier in Pompeii. This was better than all the cats in Wales standing on the wall in a row. We bounded into the house, laden with snowballs, and stopped at the open door of the smoke-filled room.

Something was burning all right, perhaps it was Mr. Prothero, who always slept there after midday dinner with a newspaper over his face. But he was standing in the middle of the room, saying. "A fine Christmas!" and smacking at the smoke with a slipper.

"Call the fire brigade," cried Mrs. Prothero as she beat the gong.

"They won't be there," said Mr. Prothero, "it's Christmas."

There was no fire to be seen, only clouds of smoke and Mr. Prothero standing in the middle of them, waving his slipper as though he were conducting.

"Do something," he said.

And we threw all our snowballs into the smoke-- I think we missed Mr. Prothero--and ran out of the house to the telephone box.

"Let's call the police as well," Jim said.

"And the ambulance."

"And Ernie Jenkins, he likes fires."

But we only called the fire brigade, and soon the fire engine came and three tall men in helmets brought a hose into the house and Mr. Prothero got out just in time before they turned it on. Nobody could have had a noisier Christmas Eve. And when the firemen turned off the hose and were standing in the wet, smoky room, Jim's aunt, Miss Prothero, came downstairs and peered in at them. Jim and I waited, very quietly, to hear what she would say to them. She said the right thing, always. She looked at the three tall firemen in their shining helmets, standing among the smoke and cinders and dissolving snowballs, and she said: "Would you like anything to read?"

Early Days at Point Richmond

From our correspondent, Mr. Henry Soito of San Pablo (Mr. Soito was was a teller in the Bank of Richmond at the corner of West Richmond Ave and Washington Avenues in 1917) we received the following story:

THE MAESTRO AND THE FIAT

During World War I many young Italians came to Point Richmond. Some went into business while the others worked at the oil refinery. They associated socially. Being Italian they knew and were interested in music. One day they decided to establish a band to play at games, parades and dancing at the old Opera House. They decided they wanted a director and Maestro to organize them. A Mr. Massa, a merchant, was sent to North Beach in San Francisco. He came back and said he had found a Maestro who had a good reputation here and in the old country. About a week later the Maestro showed up in Point Richmond. He was driving a Fiat of the time. The Fiat was a large vehicle and high off the ground and heavily ornamented with brass. It was noisy and a gas eater. With a full tank of gas it still had to be filled from gas station to garage every few miles. The Maestro was a small man, wiry, with huge curled mustaches which he constantly curled and twirled. His name was Cheli (pronounced Kelly).

He got the band functioning and the dances were well attended. He thought that the band needed a singer. After conducting auditions, Lucia Bernardi was chosen. She sang Italian popular songs and arias from operas. She was a great success. After I married Miss Bernardi, she continued singing the same songs in Italian and my fondest memories of her are of her singing while doing her housework.

The band passed out when bad times came in the early twenties. The members scattered. Their leader Massa was murdered in his store. The opera house was demolished when Standard Avenue was widened.

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Another of our subscribers, Mrs. Goldy Shrewsbury of 44th Street in Richmond has something to add to the story of the "Warming Bench" by Silvio Candello, which appeared in the July 15 issue of COUNTERPOINT!

.....next page

"Early Days" (continued)

The "Warming Bench" at Washington School wasn't always punishment. Kids from the 'Hills' - Western Drive & Marine Street & Ocean Avenue - like the Neus, Westmans, Longs, Hunts and Peter-

sons - walked through rain and mud and got to school soaked. What a comfort it was to sit on that bench and get warmed while coats and such were dried in the furnace room. For me, that was some 62 years ago.

G. Shrewsbury

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charming Christmas picture on the cover

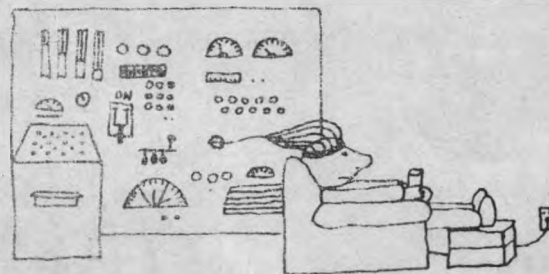


The BEST Christmas present I ever got!

A whole year of news about
my friends in Point Richmond!!

(During the months of November and December a year subscription to Point Counterpoint will cost only \$5.50. Take advantage of this holiday offer to get your favorite friends a Christmas subscription! See subscription form on back page.)

(Due to a Creative Low, there is
no title for this story)



By

JPearson

Dan Robertson

It is time for you to give the big kiss-off to Erhart Werner and Eric Berne and your guru and all those other pots-and pans salesmen of mental health who have been ripping you off for the last couple of years. They haven't done you one bit of good (just ask anyone who knows you) and besides, you can replace them for \$12.95. That's the price of a Bio-rhythm computer from San Francisco stores.

These computers will plot your bio-rhythms and let you know whether you are supposed to be happy or not, and when. You will not have to bring your computer flowers or a white handkerchief, you will not have to pay it \$500 to lock you up in a room for 24 hours while it swears at you, you will not even feel compelled to get other people to sign up for your mental health schtick so you won't be the only fool in the room. All you have to do is dial your bio-rhythm and there you are.

It is probably news to you that you even have bio-rhythms, but you do. You have a 23-day male cycle, that involves action and aggression; a 28-day female cycle that governs intuition and feeling; and a 33-day intellectual cycle, that governs your mental activity, if you have any. (You will note there is an aggression cycle every 23 days, but an intellectual cycle only every 33 days. Now you know why the world is in a mess.)

Each cycle has it's high and low points. A high in your male cycle, for example, means that you are snoring a lot, and are rolling cigarettes up in your tee shirt sleeve; a high in your female cycle means you are whining and complaining all over the place and are getting your fortune told; while a high in your intellectual cycle means you are using two-syllable words instead of one syllable, such as "Whyunt," instead of "Why don't," as in "Whyunt youse eat now?" (You better be on an intellectual high right now or you are not going to understand all this.)

Now, the theory is, if you know your cycles, you can plan ahead and act in your own best interests. You can make a bio-rhythm chart by jotting down the days you feel especially aggressive, intuitive or intellectual. As these feelings fade, make notes accordingly. In this manner, except for one problem, you could chart your own bio-rhythms. The problem is, as the feelings fade, you soon become too passive, too cloddish or too stupid to keep any notes. Well, you will have to solve that problem yourself; this is

(Due To a Creative Low...)

no tour to the Menninger Foundation.

As an alternative, you could send away for one of these little cardboard computers. There was an ad for them in the newspaper. It showed a picture of a dark-haired man hugging a blonde of the piffling type that passes for attractive in cut-rate ad agencies. Under the picture, the ad asks, "Is Today Right For Romance? Should Jim wait Until Next Week to Ask for That Raise? How Well Mated are We?", etc., etc.

The ad says you can get the answers to these questions by sending away for the computer. I, for one, am not going to buy a computer. It is not worth \$12.95 to me to find out whether Jim should ask for a raise. I don't even care if he gets fired. Besides that, if you are standing belly to belly like Jim and that blonde are doing, and you still don't know if Today is Right for Romance, you need more help than you are likely to get from a piece of cardboard.

But whether you do it yourself or buy a computer, plotting your bio-rhythms will solve all your problems. You will wake up in the morning, feeling really happy. Then, all you have to do is look at your chart to see if it is okay for you to feel happy that day. What could be simpler? If it is okay for you to be happy that day, you will probably sneak a peek at the rest of the chart. Unfortunately, you will discover that your happiness won't last. You will notice that in a week you are going to plunge into depression, and the week after that, you will be positively suicidal. No matter how happy you are to today, the future holds only the glumpfs, the blaards and the morks. That should take care of any happiness you feel that day, and you didn't even have to bow down to some fatty from India.

On the other hand, if you should wake up feeling awful, you can see by your chart that, well, one of these days you are bound to feel better. But if you let your eyes stray further along the chart, you will notice that in less than a month you are going to feel just as bad as you do now, possibly worse. You will realize that no matter what you do, for the rest of your life, you are going to wake up feeling terrible every few weeks, you are going to realize that for every silver lining, there's a grey cloud, and you are going to stick your head in the oven.

Furthermore, if you are on an intellectual low, you are going to stick your head in, even if its an electric oven. But that's okay, because if you are on an action-aggression low, you will be too passive to turn on the switch.

If you want to buy a bio-rhythm computer, you will be interested to know that, unlike TM, EST, URP, SLURP or MURK, it has a money-back guarantee. But the Guarantee has that little touch of larceny that we have come to know and love in the field of mental health hucksterism, because the guarantee is for only two weeks. Figure it out yourself. Since the minimum bio-rhythm cycle takes 23 days, and the guarantee period is only 14 days, you never have a complete cycle during the guarantee period and so will not know in time whether you want your money back or not.

Well, you can do whatever you want. Personally, the whole idea of bio-rhythm charts puts me into such an action-intuition-intellectual low, I can scarcely get the top off the vodka bottle.

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What's New at School?



WASHINGTON SCHOOL T-SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE!

As we mentioned in the last issue of Point Counterpoint, Washington School T-shirts are being sold to raise money for bicentennial and other books for the Washington School Library. They are gold and green (the school colors!) and cost \$3.85 (which includes tax). The sales have gone so well we have reordered, and have increased your choices: we now have T-shirts in the adult extra-large size and short-sleeved sweat shirts (at \$5.35 each) in adult sizes only. So clip the coupon and order shirts for your whole family - and get books for our school library as part of the bargain! If T-shirts or sweat-shirts aren't your thing, you can donate a book or a part of a book to the library. Rosemary Corbin has the list of books which would have been ordered if the school district hadn't cancelled all orders. Some parents are getting together to give books in the names of their children's teachers and, hopefully some organizations will do the same. How about you? Call Rosemary at 235-5779 for more information.

NEW CUBS WELCOMED INTO PACK 135

Ten new cub scouts were welcomed into pack 135 at a ceremony Thursday evening, November 20 at the Washington School Auditorium.

The new cubs receiving their Bobcat badge and pin were Vanessa French, Paul Cort, Billy Eger, Jason Goldsmith, Preston Sheets, Joshua Stearns, Anthony Bailey, Dan Doellstedt, Marty Hazeltine, and Steven Huerta.

The ceremony was conducted by Ed Hoiland, assistant cubmaster, who did a very dramatic reading and candle ceremony while seated under a teepee-like structure of sticks in front of a log-fire (which was lit by a light-bulb shining through colored paper).

The boys were given their pin by their mothers, who were also present at the ceremony, with instructions that the pin should stay upside-down until each cub had done one good deed.

Den leaders this year are Doris Cort, Barbara Kelly, Joe Travis, Ron Albrow and Ed Hoiland. (The men are Webelos leaders - the Webelos are the older cub scouts.) Cubmaster is Tom Kelly.

The winter season holds a number of exciting events for the cubs. Sunday, December 14, some of the cubs plus parents will go to a location on the Alhambra Valley road to cut Christmas trees. They will leave from in front of the school at 1:00. Then on December 18, at 7:30 p.m. at the school auditorium, will be the Christmas party meeting to be conducted by the Webelos. This will

CLIP AND RETURN TO: Rosemary Corbin, 114 Crest Avenue, Pt. Richmond 94801

Yes, I want: indicate the number needed:

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ADULTS ONLY

S	M	L	X-L
_____	_____	_____	_____

No. of T-shirts _____ x \$3.85 each = \$ _____

No. of sweat-shirts _____ x \$5.35 each = \$ _____

Total enclosed = \$ _____

include refreshments and tree-trimming. Canned food will be collected, which will be donated to the Richmond Rescue Mission.

February 19 is the date set for the annual Blue and Gold Dinner. Then two weeks later (Feb. 28) will be the yearly snow trip.

At the Christmas pack meeting each boy will receive an unfinished wooden car to work on in preparation for the March car-racing trials. The boys are supposed to make the cars themselves (DADS - DID YOU HEAR THAT!).

Boys can join the cub scouts any time during the year. Any boy who wants to join will be welcomed.

A COUPLE OF CHRISTMAS SUGGESTIONS

These aren't tried-and-true suggestions, but they sure looked good to me.

If you have children or grandchildren to buy presents for why don't you get (from the New York Times Book Review) The Whole Kids Catalog (Bantam. Paper, \$5.95), which proclaims in bold red letters, "Fabulous things you can write away for free."

"The book is a source book, a starting point, and as such should prove an invaluable tool for parents, teachers, librarians, group leaders or anyone involved with activities for children. Each of the 39 chapters describes books and pamphlets available for a wide variety of pursuits; from arts and crafts to magic, from the Bicentennial to Yoga. In addition, excerpts and illustrations are included from many of the publications described. Thus the book becomes an activity book, for if you never affix a stamp to an envelope to send for something or enter a bookstore to purchase one of the scores of excellent books listed throughout, the catalogue itself provides plenty of things to do. And of course there's that entire chapter of free or almost free things to write for, which I used liberally. If the mail doesn't fail me, I will soon be a member of Sparky's Fire Department; I will be the proud owner of a full-color poster of Red Ryder and Little Beaver; and I will learn how to entertain my family and friends with a harmonica rendition of "Hot Cross Buns."

The next Christmas suggestion comes from the pages of Women's Day Magazine -

it's the recipe for making non-edible cookie decorations for Christmas trees. Anyone who admired the cookie decorations at the recent Methodist Church benefit will want to make some themselves: I just hope this is the same recipe.

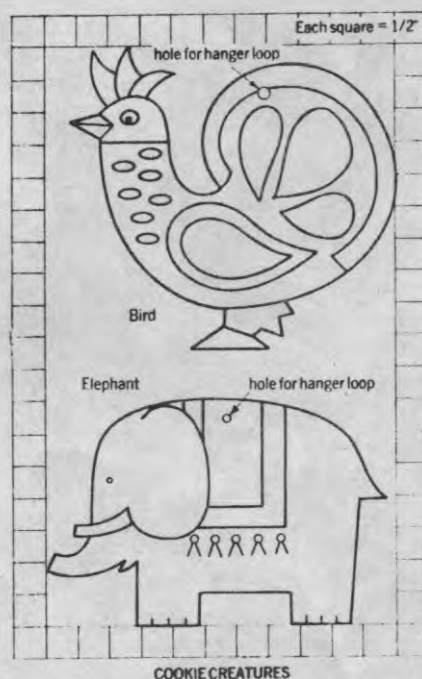
Cookie Creatures

Materials: See recipe below for special dough; food coloring; small candies, red hots, cake decorations such as silver balls, confetti and florets; florist's wire; paring knife; cardboard; small artist's brushes; clear polyurethane or shellac (optional).

Enlarge patterns for elephant and bird below (or make your own pattern) on cardboard; cut out.

Follow recipe below to make dough for cookies, which are inedible. Recipe cannot be halved or doubled. Cookies measure about 5" and recipe will make about 24.

Recipe: Preheat oven to 300°. Mix 4 cups flour with 1 cup salt. Dissolve 1/4 cup instant coffee in 1 1/2 cups warm water. Make a hole in center of flour-salt mixture and pour in 1 cup coffee. Mix thoroughly with hands or fork, adding additional coffee-water if necessary (dough should be smooth and satiny and neither crumbly nor sticky). Form into balls and store in plastic bags to prevent drying out. Using one ball at a time, roll out on cookies sheet to 1/4" thickness. Use cardboard patterns to cut cookie shapes with wet paring knife. Pull away excess dough, knead



*continued
on next
page...*

COOKIE CREATURES - continued

into ball and roll out again. To incise details on cookies follow pattern and use of ice pick. Work a hole centered at top of each ornament and insert and twist a piece of wire for hanger. Paint cookies with undiluted food coloring and artist's brushes. Press small candies and cake decorations into dough as shown.

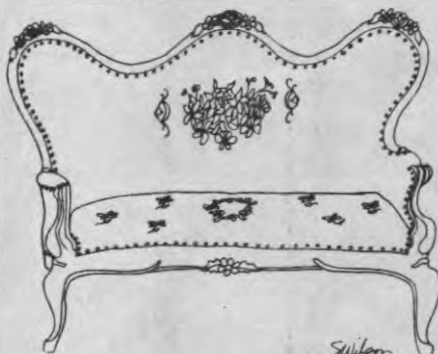
Bake ornaments in 350° oven 3/4 to 1 1/2 hours or until pin inserted in dough comes out clean. Remove from oven and cool on cake rack. Coat with polyurethane or shellac if desired.



LOCAL NEWS

Michael Feyer and new bride, the former B. Antionette Kalb, spent the Thanksgiving holiday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Feyder, 255 Water St. Point Richmond. The couple were married at St. Mary's Catholic Cathedral in Miami on April 26th and spent their honeymoon on Paradise Island in Nassau. Michael's parents and sister, Linda, of Oakland, attended the wedding. A graduate of Salesian High School and San Jose University, Michael is now assistant sales manager for Continental Airlines in Miami, Florida, where the couple resides.

Supervisor James Kenny has appointed Point Counterpoint editor Jeanne Eger to be his representative on the Contra Costa County Bicentennial Committee.

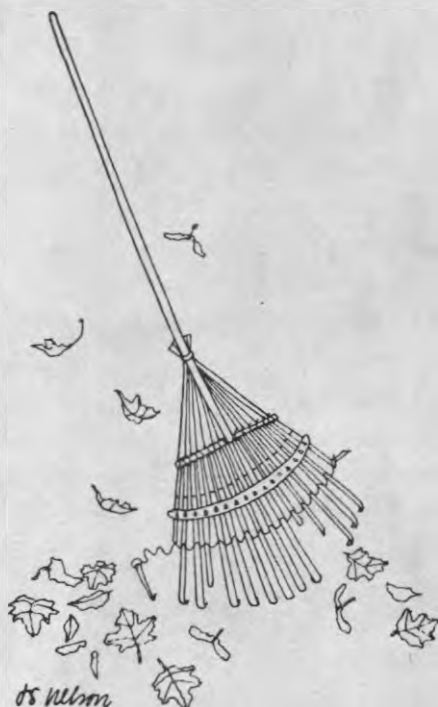


Reminiscing with William Allyn..."I remember the days before World War II when there were a lot of hobos in town. Those were the days when the Santa Fe carried passengers...They would come to the police station (the old Firehouse) - where the lawyers have their offices now - and ask at the desk if they could sleep there. Then they would get a cell and the police would leave the door open. They would eat at the old Eagle Cafe - it wasn't great, but the food was hot. Then they would move on...we had a lot of fun when we were kids but we used to get in trouble too...there were trees with beautiful sweet sugar plums...I suppose we could have asked for them, but then it wouldn't have been as much fun. Once an officer caught me and I told him to "go jump in the lake". That was a pretty daring thing to say to a police officer. He took me to my father and my father tanned me. The police would take us to the station and pretend to to book us. They would write our names on the blotter and scare us. Then they would take us back home....we were around the trains quite a bit...we used to hop the freight trains and go fishing. One kid almost got his legs cut off....We would climb up the hill over the Santa Fe tunnel and throw rocks down on the box-cars. We got caught at that too. A railroad cop parked his car on Crest and came up behind us. ...We used to go out to Point Molate and have weiner roasts on the beach. We'd build a big fire on the beach. There were a lot of switches and things out there - things were hidden in the ground. Once somebody tripped a switch and let a lot of gravel out of the storage place. That put an end to the night parties!"

The long bar and restaurant of the Villa Sorrento was filled and overflowing Tuesday, November 25, as members of the Point Richmond community from many walks of life came to contribute to the spaghetti benefit for Louis Armstrong. Many of the stores and businesses in the Point downtown had contributed prizes and gift certificates to the raffle drawing that was held in mid-evening. Some of the contributors were Allyn's, the Silver Club, the Spot, the Santa Fe Market, Sherry & Bob's, the Baltic, the Point, Sophies, the Point Orient and the Mexican Inn. Did we miss anyone? Toscana and Baroni contributed the French bread. The Villa Sorrento staff would like to thank everyone for making it a big success.

Juries in California cities and counties are expected to be composed of a wider cross-section of citizens, starting the first of the year.

New state legislation, which becomes effective January 1, removes all present exemptions from jury service. The only excuse allowable is that the jury service would entail "undue hardship on the person or the public served by the person."



Daytime babysitters hard to find? Can't afford a sitter but need to get away from the kids for a few hours? Have to turn down invitations because all your regular sitters are booked?

Perhaps the answer to these problems is a baby sitting co-op.

The San Pablo and Northwest Richmond Area Babysitting Co-operative is now accepting applications for membership.

Membership is open to any parent who lives within a reasonable driving distance and is able to work comfortably with fellow members.

For further information, please call Diane Lando at 223-3031.

AIR

by Anna Marie Gurish

"AIR", says Webster, is the invisible, odorless, and tasteless mixture of gases which surrounds the earth.

When I first told my friends that my husband and I had bought a home in Point Richmond a couple of years ago, the first response was, "Oh, it's a beautiful place, but how will you be able to stand the stench of Standard Oil?"

After we moved here, another friend's husband, a Standard Oil Company engineer asked me how I could possibly consider living in Point Richmond so close to the refinery. He had thought it a great place to shop, have lunch or dinner for the last 10 years, but live there... Never! A doctor that I recently consulted said, "Well, with your allergy condition the best place for you to live would be by the ocean, but you do live at least by the Bay. Of course, Standard Oil fumes spoil that. I do research right near Point Richmond and I know how foul the air there is." At first I thought that living in the Point was worth it and one would get used to the air on certain days, and, after all, the prevailing wind was from the ocean. But then one day I decided that there was such a thing as the Bay Area Pollution Control Board and I began calling them up and talking with the different inspectors that always appeared promptly after my call.

This is what I learned from those contacts and others. Just one official complaint from a citizen enables an in-

spector to enter the vast domains of the oil and chemical companies and inspect. The Pollution Board tells them the number of the complaints, but never tells them the names of the complainants.

The first complaint that I made was of a condition that was clear and provable by chemical tests the inspector was able to make on the spot and he was able to immediately file a violation citation against Standard Oil Company. It is interesting to note that the Board had received just two complaints that day and if they had received none, they would not have come out to test the air at all.

A couple of times the inspectors said that although the air was decidedly foul and smelled bad there was not an exact chemical combination in the air measurable enough to file a citation.

Now we get into a sticky wicket. We do not have to put up with the foul smell, but that comes under another violation which is called a "public nuisance" and has to be proved by a great number of people being bothered enough by it to complain.

I also learned that the inspectors made routine inspections in downtown Point Richmond, but seldom go up the hill and they commented that the odor was stronger there at times.

Because of the hills and wind currents one part of the Point may have foul air and another part none or hardly any odor. That is why it is important for residents in various parts of the town to call in and complain. Also, if the Board gets reports from different areas at different times they have more evidence about how widespread the contamination was and for how long a period.

On the day after the "snow" from Allied Chemical Co., I asked a neighbor if she called in to complain. She said that she hadn't because she knew that hundreds of complaints had been made. Two different reliable sources put the number of official complaints as just this 30. Just 30 calls about a contamination visible to the naked eye lasting 20 minutes.

So we cannot just sit back and "let George do it" because even if he is calling - George just isn't enough.

To complain you dial Operator and ask for Enterprise 13200 (toll free and no charge to you, not even counting as one

of your local calls). Then the operators will have a little conversation about billing and then you are connected to a switch board at the Board. Tell the operator that you want to make a complaint and hold on until she connects you with someone else...tell them your experience with the odor and give them your name, address and telephone number or else it is not an official complaint. I goofed on the day of the "snow" because she said that they had already had several complaints and so I didn't give my name to make my call an official complaint! So give your name and address even if they have a hundred complaints. (Wouldn't that be lovely.)

And now it is up to you. I will continue to dial when we have a foul-smelling day. To dial or not to dial: that is the question. To let Point Richmond stink or not to stink - that is the question.

A.M.G.



A matter of life

BY NED BOGIE



You know what there is most of on this earth? No, not water. Not atmosphere. Bills.

Haven't you ever had that feeling? It usually comes around the end of the month when the mail seems to be nothing else but a series of outstretched hands, clawing at your shrinking checking account.

So you work, you earn, the money comes in, and the money goes out. And somehow a precarious balance is maintained—provided, of course, that the money *does* keep coming in.

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HANDCRAFTED HOLIDAYS

by Carol Bold
West Side Branch Library

Some of the books about holidays and crafts featured in Elaine Reuter's new display at West Side are annotated here:

Getting Started in Dried Flower Craft by Amlick has sections on plant gathering and drying followed by suggestions for creating dried flower arrangements and pressed flower pictures. Photographs in both color and black and white plus diagrams illustrate the slim book.

Making Gifts From Oddments & Outdoor Materials by Creekmore also has information on dried flowers, but the ideas in this book are not restricted like the one just on flowers. Would it be fun to make a wall hanging out of such things as corn, popcorn, peas, peanuts, and pumpkin seeds? Or how about a pomander, which is an orange or apple pierced and rolled in spice and then completely covered with whole cloves to hang in a closet for a fresh spice scent.

Easy Ways with Holidays by Sanders is about holidays throughout the year. In addition to Christmas ideas for winter, Hanukkah and the Spanish holiday on January 6, Three Kings' Day (Epiphany), are described. Brief instructions on making a pinata are found in this book.

The Jewish Holiday Cook Book by Leonard suggests menus and gives recipes for the Sabbath, Rosh Hashona, Channukah, Purim, Passover, Shevuoth, and also for home celebrations. The background of each holiday, traditional customs and games, such as the Channukah Draidil game, are explained. The Draidil, a four-sided top with markings on each side, is spun and inevitably falls on one flat side which indicates the amount of money candies, or match sticks the player has won or lost.



Mexico: Her Daily & Festive Breads by Taylor is not a how-to book, but a story of history, religion, and folklore told by bread making. Photographs illustrate the more than 300 kinds of bread available in Mexico. Another book about bread, The Bread Dough Craft Book by Sommer, gives a recipe of crumbled bread, glue, and detergent to make a substitute for clay. With the aid of food coloring, scissors, and imagination a limitless array of ornaments, jewelry and figurines can be produced.

The Off-Loom Weaving Book by Naumann pictures elegant hangings, mats, and wearing apparel worked on board, frame, and card looms, and a process called Inkle weaving. The weaving book would be useful only to those with artistic talent, but anyone could learn to crochet by reading Crochet for Beginners. by Rubenstone.

Whirligigs and Whimmy Diddles and Other American Folkcraft Objects is by Pettit. A whirligig, an 18th century toy carved in the figure of a man whose arms whirl in the wind, was called a "Sunday toy" because it was silent enough enough not to disturb the austerity of the Sabbath in those days. How-to information includes quilting, candle making, Christmas decorations, theorum painting using stencils, and, of course, whirligigs and whimmy diddles.

LIBRARY NEWS.....

The West Side Branch will be closed from 6 to 9 pm Christmas Eve. and New Year's eve and, of course, all day on Christmas and New Year's Day. Happy Holidays!

The area above the juvenile book shelves is decorated by Mrs. Nancy Spencer's 4th grade class at Washington School. Many thanks to a classy class.

Anyone looking for a job? On top of the magazine rack at West Side is a clipboard where we keep an up-to-date listing of city, county and state job openings.



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MASQUERS ANNOUNCES 1976
SEASON



The Masquer's Playhouse, now in its 22nd year of continuous production, is pleased to announce its 1976 season--a season of five All-American plays for an American Bicentennial year. In accordance with continuing policy, season ticket holders will be able to see all five plays, including one musical for the price of four.

The season opener, Twentieth Century Limited, is a rousing comedy set to the racy pace of the famed Twentieth Century Limited, crack passenger train of the decades before the last World War. Twentieth Century opens January 16, taking its audience clicking over the rails between Chicago and New York, while a down-on-his-luck-but-never-say-die Broadway producer works his nefarious wiles on the glamorous star he counts on to save his bacon...again! Next

Next, opening March 26, The Solid Gold Cadillac rolls in and stops cold the corporate wheels of awesome General Products, Ltd, when a Little Old Lady with a solid gold brain manages to set the executives spinning. And, if this classic comedy has a "now" look, the Masquers have another, when Strange Bedfellows opens June 4th, and the Women's Lib movement of the turn of the century stands a Male Chauvinist San Francisco on its ear, hopelessly fouled in yellow ribbons.

Then, August 13, the Masquers head for Little Old New York for a warm, funny, intensely human musical about the most famous Mr. Mayor of them all, Fiorello, based on the life of Fiorello LaGuardia.

Finally, the season will close back in San Francisco and a poignantly funny look at the human condition from the vantage point of Nick's Bar on Pacific, in William Saroyan's The Time of Your Life, opening November 5.

The purchase of a season ticket will allow Masquer patrons to see all five shows for the price of four. A season

ticket may be obtained by sending a check or money order for \$10.00 (a \$13 value) to: The Masquers Playhouse, Inc., 105 Park Place, Point Richmond, Calif., 94801. Persons desiring further details may write, without obligation, to the same address. The Masquers also offer low group rates. Contact Ralph Miller at 524-5220 for information.

Gardner Chiles passed away November 22 1975. He had lived in Point Richmond for more than 35 years. Mr. Chiles was 77 years old and is survived by his wife Geraldine Chiles and brother Captain John Preston Chiles of Piedmont and five nieces and nephews. He was a member of the San Francisco Pioneer Society of San Francisco.

Bill Harcourt moved after his retirement to Rossmoor. He had lived at 111 Western Drive for many years and was with the Felice & Perrelli Canning Company all his working life. He is survived by his wife Lois and son Michael and daughter Lilas.

Thank you to Sheila Fostiak for bringing our attention to the passage of our friends and neighbors.

The West Side Branch Library has received from the Richmond Redevelopment Agency a booklet illustrated with photographs in color describing the Agency's achievements and giving a financial report. An 11-page pamphlet, Facts about Richmond, is available to patrons who are interested in the area, its government, and its schools. A third pamphlet, Tour of Richmond Residential Areas, should be especially useful to newcomers. Pt. Richmond is described favorably. Larger apartment complexes and their rental prices are listed.

The Dick Oxtot Quartet was enjoyed by many Point residents when they played at the Point Restaurant Friday night, November 5. Especially delightful was the Dixieland Jazz singing by bright new star Pamela Poland, who sings in the style of Bessie Smith and other greats. The Quartet will be back December 26. We're looking forward to hearing them again.

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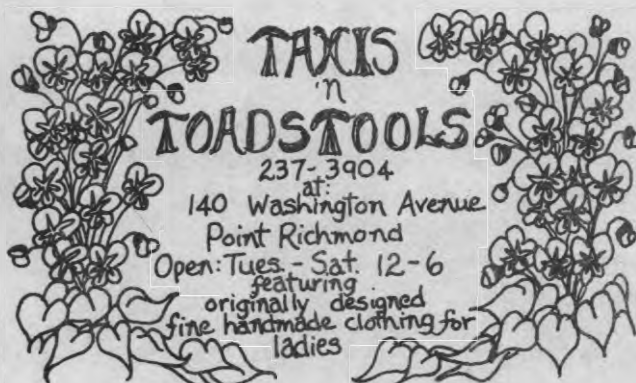
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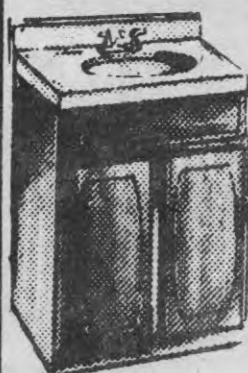
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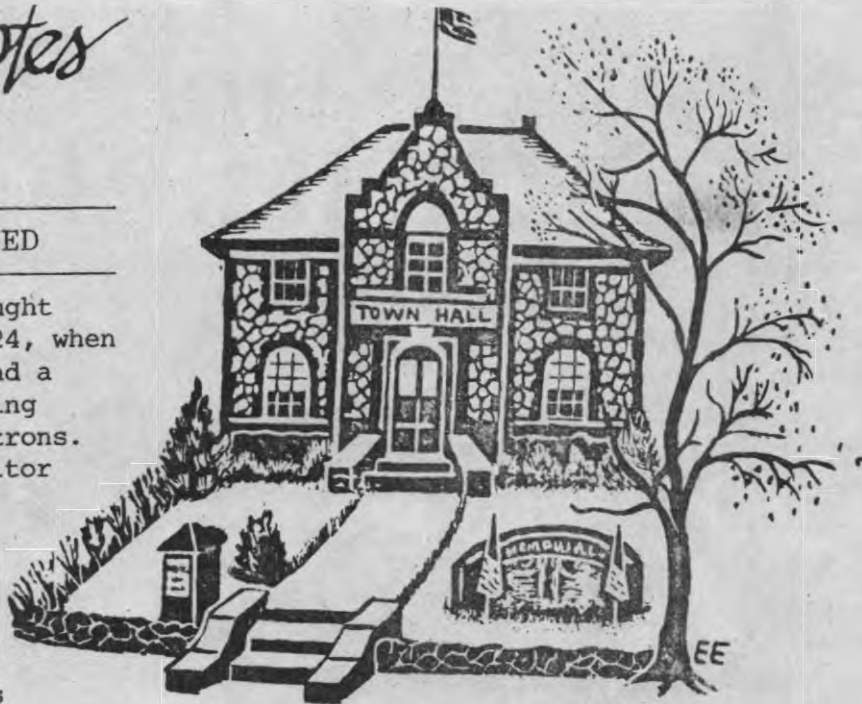
POOL HALL CONTROVERSY REOPENED

The Pool Hall controversy was brought back to life Monday evening November 24, when Ivy Inn proprietor Wallace Darling read a petition to the City Council complaining about alleged actions of Pool Hall patrons.

Because the Point Counterpoint editor spoke in defense of the Pool Hall at that meeting we do not feel qualified to write an objective report on the council meeting. Therefore Point Counterpoint reprints (with permission) two stories which appeared in the local daily newspapers after the meeting.

The petition appeared to be the same one which was first circulated last March (as reported in the April 1, 1975 edition of Point Counterpoint). On April 15, 1975 a Neighborhood Council meeting was held at the community center, which was attended by 70 members of the Point Richmond Community. The subject of motorcycles and bars and the Pool Hall in particular was discussed at that meeting, at which Chief of Police Garfield was present. The report of that meeting appeared in the May 1, 1975 issue of Point Counterpoint.

The issue is further complicated by the fact that Pool Hall owners are currently involved in legal actions in their attempt to complete the purchase of the Pool Hall from County Supervisor James Kenny and his sister.



From the
RICHMOND INDEPENDENT
11-25-75

Pt. Richmonders demand action on motorcycles

By BARBARA ERICKSON
I-G Staff Writer

RICHMOND — An irate resident of Point Richmond, complaining to the city council about noise from motorcyclists around a pool hall, said, "We've gone through two summers of plain hell, and we want the council and police to stop it."

Wallace L. Darling of 19 Cottage Ave., listed grievances that Point residents have with Central Pool Hall at 49 Washington Ave. when he addressed council members at last night's regular meeting.

Some months ago, Darling said, residents took up a petition which stated that the pool hall sells alcohol to customers who take their drinks outside and caters to motorcyclists who ride their "choppers" around the streets without their lights on and without mufflers.

Clients of the pool hall, according to the complaint, park their motorcycles on the sidewalk, urinate near the building, use profane language,

set a bad example for the youth in the area, and keep residents awake nights with "their rowdy actions."

"You wouldn't believe what some of these law abiding citizens who live around there say they would like to do to the motorcycles riders," Darling said. He added that residents complained to police several times before the department began to send units out to control the cyclists.

Darling said that he wants police and the council to crack down so word will get around that "Richmond is not the place to come and play with choppers."

Another resident, June Davies of 18 Washington Ave., agreed with

Darling, saying that the noise on weekends was "enough to wake the dead," but Jean Eger of 119 Contra Costa St. spoke on behalf of the pool hall.

Ms. Eger said that Police Chief Leo Garfield had given the hall a clean bill of health and that the owner, Bob Reed, has his clients leave when they are noisy.

Vice Mayor Nathaniel Bates, standing in for Mayor Gary Fernandez who is on vacation, referred the matter to the Public Safety Committee which will meet with residents, the police, the city attorney, and the owner of the hall to discuss the problem.

Another action of the council, which passed unanimously and without discussion last night, will take care of part of the complaint against the pool hall. Council members voted to pass the second reading of the ordinance prohibiting drinking alcoholic beverages on public streets and ways, liquor store parking lots, and adjacent land.

State to Help Quiet City's Liquor Libido

From The
OAKLAND
TRIBUNE
11-26-75

By RICHARD SPENCER

RICHMOND—The art of drinking—involving, in this city, motorcycles, sleepless residents, a new city ordinance, public urination and parking lot life adjacent to liquor stores—has locked the Alcoholic Beverage Control Department and irate citizens on a collision course.

It was public drinking and parking lot life that led to an amendment to the city code "pertaining to the drinking of beverages on public streets, ways, liquor store parking lots and adjacent land."

Now law, the ordinance makes the practice unlawful.

The city council requested the ordinance as complaints about conditions at several liquor stores grew.

In a letter to council members, City Attorney Samuel V. McGrath, said representatives of the ABC have promised to help "with all of the measures they have at their command."

Complaints about liquor store life styles geographically centered in metropolitan Richmond, but now the council

has heard from Wallace L. Darling, a Point Richmond resident for some 19 years, and proprietor of the Ivy Inn at 19 Cottage Ave.

More Contra Costa
County News, Page 9

"I hope in their ordinance they aren't just throwing us a bone, but mean it," said Darling, adding he has a petition with 125 Point Richmond signatures, complaining about nights punctuated by

the sleep-killing roar of motorcycles and clamorous conduct because of the presence of the Central Pool Hall at 49 Washington Ave.

"I can't be responsible for what my patrons do outside my bar," said owner Robert Reed. "In Point Richmond in a one-block area of my bar, there are four others, and there are a lot of undesirables that come to the Point.

"At one point I hired a bouncer to contain those wild hoodlums. My regular clientele are well aware of the pressure

on the bar, but we're right on the way in and out of Richmond at the foot of the bridge, and they come from everywhere.

Citing the growth of motorcycling in the past five years, Reed said he wants more police in Point Richmond. "We've told them we want more police, and they're welcome in the bar. But we're the only bar in the Point that has open front windows, so cats park in front because an eye can be kept on their bikes. I'd contribute to a city parking lot with a watchman where cats could park

motorcycles."

The council referred the matter to staff for investigation.

"Some people hang around liquor stores," said Councilman Fritz Allen, who voted against the ordinance. "It's part of a cultural pattern, and is especially common among blacks and hardhat workers. The stores are places of social exchange."

He said store owners should not suffer because of this "sociological phenomenon."

City council Monday, December 8, upheld a Planning Commission decision to turn down a request for a variance on a property located on Ocean Ave. in Point Richmond. The council heard the plea of Rev. Russell Moore of Kensington to allow him to build a house with zero setback on a sub-standard sized lot. The deciding factor seemed to be the apparent unwillingness of the present owner - A.B. Copeland - to resubdivide the lots which go all the way up the hill at the edge of the ocean, into the appropriate size - minimum 6,000 square feet. Bruce Young, Ocean Avenue resident, spoke against the appeal and several of his neighbors were at the meeting to support him. The vote was 6-3. (It takes 6 council votes to overturn a Planning Commission decision.)



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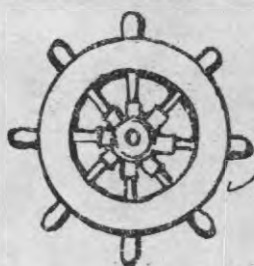
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HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY

Marian Hawkins	Emma Helen Gensel
Hazel Paasch	Debbie Seaburg
Jon Larsen	Marilyn Darling
Chris Rucker	Ed Drim
Harry Ellenburg	Roni Roselius
Siras Freiner	Gerrie Kretzmer
Jean Allyn	Fern Creed
Les Crim	Thea Robertson

You know its Christmas when the annual letter and the cards arrive ... there is the smell of ever-green throughout the house...gaily wrapped gifts are piled high in the back seat of passing autos... bells are ringing and you feed the little black pot...shelves are filled with toys and games where more utilitarian items usually appear...candy canes hang in every store window...everyone seems headed for a party...college students are home...and friends seem friendlier!

Who will give up the thrill one gets on Christmas Eve thinking a about the thousands of children who are dreaming of prancing reindeer, the sleigh and the "little driver so jolly and quick"? Christmas without Santa, I couldn't imagine it.

Santa Claus, Indiana, is the only town so designated in the United States, the privilege is reserved by its Post Office by a Congressional Act.

Is there ever enough time among grown-up populations to get everything done before Christmas? Were days ever so long as the week before Christmas for the kiddies?



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PRIVATE LESSONS

111 W. RICHMOND-PT. RICHMOND

It is belated, but still best wishes and congratulations to Paula (Wilson) and Glenn Ferguson of Alameda who were married recently in Minnesota. They are now residing in San Leandro. Paula is the daughter of Dick and Donna Wilson on Western Drive and the twin sister of Pamela.

Other just-weds are Les Crim and Bonnie Blankenship on Golden Gate. While both were raised in the Point, it took Bonnie a little longer to find her way back.

It is with pride the Point notes its honor students at Harry Ells. Sara Warren with all A's and the rest with a B Average. Johnny Bash, Ingvar Elle, Sharron Amantite, Ivar Elle, Sonja Egger, Roxanne Elle, Amy Fletcher, Jon Healy, Michelle Healy, Sean McCaskey, Patricia McCasland, and Jennifer Allaire.

Gift for the person who has everything: A calendar to remind him when the payments are due!

Henry O'Hara suffered a heart attack shortly after his retirement from Standard Oil, but is now doing yard work and looks great!

The Joe Darlings spent Thanksgiving vacation at Disneyland and then on into Mexico. Before she left, Sonja was busy preparing Christmas gifts for an 89 year-old friend. If you are looking for ideas, she was preparing and freezing homemade TV dinners.

The oldest letter is "O", unchanged in shape since its adoption into the Phoenician alphabet between 1200 and 1300 BC.

As the poem tells us, on the night before Christmas, children once dreamed of sugar plums. Now they pin their hopes on something for about \$29.95 (batteries not incl.)

Heidi Kristine is the name chosen by Gloria (Crim) and Charles Schwab for their first daughter who arrived on November 15th by Caesarean section. Both are in tip-top condition.

Why is it, just when I've thrown away
a thing I've kept for many years,
So soon, perhaps that very day-
A need for it appears?

The 1975 Bar examination was passed by Larry Barusch of Cypress Point Rd. Son of Phyllis and Maurice Barusch, Larry is a Washington School graduate who also graduated Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude from Harvard Law School. He has joined a San Francisco law firm of Cotton, Selitman and Ray who handle commercial tax matters and estate planning. Also passing the bar exam was Janice Pearson of Richmond. While not a Point resident, she is well known to her local peers.

Newlywed Michael Feyder and his bride, Tony (Kolt) of Miami, Florida, visited his parents, the Robert Feyders on Water Street for Thanksgiving. His sister, Linda, of Oakland, joined in the festivities.

Planning an air trip? The civil Aeronautics Board requires all passengers to put their names on their luggage. The aim of this requirement is to speed tracing and returning of misdirected

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baggage. Free identification tags are available from any airline ticket office or at airports. They also recommend placing ID inside suitcases.

Frustration: trying to find those Christmas cards you bought at half-price last January!

It will be a long recovery for Lou Armstrong at Brookside Hospital. Contractor Lou fell while roofing Maud Alexander's house. His many friends honored him at a benefit dinner at Villa Sorrento. He would appreciate your cards and why not stop in for a short visit to aid his spirits!



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Seventeen boys received recognition for their achievements and advancement within Troop 111 at the December Court of Honor held in Friendship Hall of the Methodist Church, meeting site of the Scouts for over 45 years. Gary Darling advanced to Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, Terry Autry is Senior Patrol Leader. Other receiving awards were Dale Darling, Ivar Elle, Pat Ferguson, John Lizarraga, Mile Price, Brian Smith, Charles Smith, Jim Woodson, Dennis Price, Ken Woodson, Eric Hoiland, Brian Pease, David MacDiarmid, and Carl Doellstedt.

A very special Court of Honor will be held on January 9th to honor Gary Darling who has achieved the rank of Eagle, the highest award to be earned by a Scout.

Those who don't believe in Santa Claus will change their thoughts when the bills arrive next month indicating he has been using the charge account.



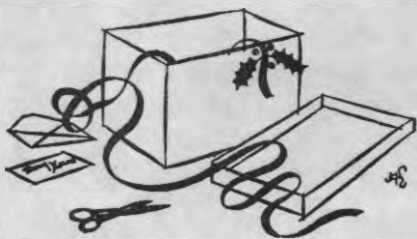
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Sincere sympathy is extended to those families who have lost loved ones. LEORA OLESON, 77 Vine Street, died at her home the Point. Mother of Barbara Oleson, she was a local resident for over two years.

EUGENIA ALICE BIRD, mother of Evelyn Lizarraga.

GARDNER CHILES, 364 Western Dr., leaves his widow, Geraldine. A retired stock broker, Gardner was a long time resident of the Point.

RODNEY BROTHERS, SR., Santa Cruz, but a native Point Richmonder, died of a heart attack while visiting his mother in Richmond. He was circulation manager of the now defunct Oakland Post Inquirer and the Richmond Independent, and was once a candidate for a council seat in Richmond.



As Christmas comes this year, let us open ourselves to even deeper dimensions of giving and sharing. Perhaps you would put an envelope on your Christmas tree for one additional member of the family. Put into that envelope as much as you would give to your own child or parent. Then, on Christmas Day, send it to a group that will do specific service in meeting others' needs, that you care about.

The giving of Christmas baskets should be accompanied by a prayer that one day there need be no more Christmas baskets.

As Tiny Tim said, "God Bless you, everyone," and a very happy holiday season.

FEELING CHRISTMAS

by Dottie Rupert

IF Christmas is

A kind of hurting
when others hurt;
A kind of singing
when our college freshman
son comes home for the holidays
tuned into life, and
tuned on by his French horn;
A kind of praying
when our brown eyed, 8th grade
girl struggles with the
peaks and valleys of becoming...
A kind of growing
when the words spoken
on a Sunday morn suddenly
possess meaning and light...
while the sun plays
hide and seek
with the prisms, filling our
sanctuary with warmth and color;
A kind of choking
when the human condition seems
more than mere humans can bear;
A kind of sharing
when each feels the importance of
his own being, and
each experience becomes richer
when it is shared...

IF Christmas is

a kind of throbbing
in the sounds of silence;
a kind of dreaming
along with
Abraham, Martin, and John;
a kind of missing
those we can't be near;
a kind of longing
for PEACE that lives in
each heart, each nation, each race;
a kind of knowing
that God can help each of us
to make a difference
if we choose...

IF Christmas is

a kind of loving...

Then--we are feeling Christmas.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES IN THE POINT

Sunday, December 21st, 7 pm,
Christmas play "Charlie Brown's
Christmas" and program at First
Methodist Church, West Richmond
at Martina Street. Put on by
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Tuesday, December 23rd, 7 pm,
Caroling! Everyone is invited
to go caroling with members of
the Methodist Church. Meet at
the church, carol the neighbor-
hood and then end up at the
parsonage for hot cider and
dessert. If you would like the
group to carol a special place,
call 237-0413. Let us share
the spirit of Christmas!

Wednesday, December 24

8 pm - First Methodist Church -
everyone is invited to join
in giving thanks to God, with
singing, candles and family
worship

11 pm - Point Baptist Church -
midnight service for entire
family, located at Washington
and Nicholl Avenues.

12 pm - Midnight Mass at Our
Lady of Mercy Catholic Church,
West Richmond Avenue and
Santa Fe.

The Point churches invite all
people in the community to enjoy
any and all of their Christmas
services with them.

Wednesday, December 31, 12 midnight
New Year's Eve - Point Baptist
Church - watchnight services



Eleanor Armstrong called us and asked
us to pass along to all the friends and
neighbors in the Point her thanks for
"the beautiful showing of love and gener-
osity on November 25 at the Villa
Sorrento on behalf of our friends for Lou
Armstrong."

Mrs. Armstrong said that the family's
spirits are rising and that Lou is deter-
mined to get out of the hospital soon.

If you enjoy knowing your neighbors
and admiring their creative productions,
you might enjoy taking a drive over to
the Marin City Flea Market some Saturday
or Sunday, where Betty Pearson displays
objects she has found and fixed or
created herself. The pleasure and imagin-
ation and professional skill that go
into Betty's artwork are evident in every-
thing she touches. This might be the
place to find that hard-to-find gift with
a personal touch.

THIS TIME ITS NOT A RUMOR

RICHMOND PLUNGE WILL BE RENOVATED

After nearly 50 years of fine service
to the community in which many thousands
learned to swim and many hundreds of
thousands played in its indoor comfort,
the Richmond Municipal Natatorium will
receive a much needed face lift.

The Plunge, as it has been called,
will close its doors the evening of
December 11, 1975 and reopen July 1, 1976.

Changes planned include all new mech-
anical equipment to keep the water clean
and warm; large deck space; new dressing
areas which accomodate tots, children
and adults; and special consideration
has been given to the handicapped who use
the pool. Many other improvements will
not be seen but will add to your comfort
and safety. All the planned changes will
not make the Plunge a totally different
place. There will still be swimming in
indoor comfort and tots will still have
a shallow pool with a bubbling fountain.