

The COUNTERPOINT


Point Richmond, CA

January 1, 1976

35¢



POINT RICHMOND METHODIST CHURCH
(UNDER CONSTRUCTION)




Early Days at Point Richmond

TRAGEDY AT 111 WASHINGTON AVENUE

by Henry C. Soito

On a morning in the early 1930's I went to the Richmond Cottage Hospital. In the lobby, I met Father Tozzi, pastor of St. Paul's Church in San Pablo. We chatted about many things. He was making visits to a number of patients who were members of his parish. As we talked, Mrs. Driscoll, the owner of the hospital, came to us. She told Father that an Italian gentleman had heard that Father was there and wanted to see him. Father left and when he returned he told me the gentleman was very close to death and wanted Father to hear his confession. Father told me his name was Antonio Mazza. Due to the confidential nature he told me nothing more. I had recalled earlier that the gentleman had been mentioned in the news, as the proprietor of Liberty Market at 111 Washington Avenue in the Point. It seems that earlier he had been found bleeding on the floor of his store. The customer who found him called the police who found him bleeding but still alive and had him transported to the hospital. He had been shot three times and nothing was missing from his person or the store. Antonio soon died of his wounds...I drove to the Point and at the Police Station I learned nothing. Speculation was ripe that it was a Mafia style killing. Antonio had a Masonic funeral and was buried at Sunset Cemetery. The papers reported that he was a well-educated man and had studied for the priesthood. It was known that he had got into trouble at the seminary and resigned in his last years. He never went back and in later years joined the Masons. Who killed him and why...the mystery has never been solved.





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IMPORTANT MEETING!!

The Point Richmond Business Association will meet Thursday, January 15, at 7:30 p.m. in JUMBOS.

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Comings & Goings

Many neighbors travelled during the holidays, braving fog and freeways...son Billy and I sojourned in Venice for a few days, where we walked along the beach (it was nice and warm) and took a side trip to Disneyland...Hank Allyn's son Jim came home for the holidays from Tacoma...Maxine Gudermuth had her mother and dad - Mr. & Mrs. Max Mercer--down from Bellington, Washington, for Christmas...former Point Richmond resident John Schueler came back for the local festivities... "Point Richmond is the ONLY place to spend Christmas," John told us...a birthday party was held for Maureen Downey Sunday, December 28 at Linda and Ed Mitchell's home...Dan Remley went to Oxnard to visit brother Skip and family for Christmas and for his brother's birthday party--Skip Remley's birthday is on the 24th of December!...Randy Onstad took a vacation home to Oregon to visit his mother...Gary Yaconi went back to Kansas City to visit his folks...Gracie Marr spent Christmas at her daughter's new

home in Walnut Creek. "I got lost in the fog," Gracie said...Jerry Solich attended a smashing party at the home of the Johnsons in El Sobrante Christmas eve. Jerry said he was the only "blue-nose" at the party!...The Roselius family were all together for the holidays...Donna is back from a jazz tour in Kyoto, Osaka, Okinawa, Thailand, Singapore...daughter Roni is back from running "Mountain Momma's" ice cream parlor in Quincy and was busy making plans to cater Karla Tedrick's wedding. Jodi Roselius was happily surprised by the holiday appearance of Patrick Antone, home all the way from Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri where he is stationed with the Army (Patrick formerly worked at the Pizza Parlor)... Suzy Murillo is reportedly coming back to Point Richmond from being in London, England for several months. She's even moving back to the same street--West Richmond Avenue--according to reliable friends...if you missed Terry Wynn at her shop THE GINGHAM GOOSE, it was be-

Local News

cause she flew up to Seattle to visit her mother...Elaine Reuter got away from it all between Christmas and New Years by going to the mountains---Incline Village, to be exact--to visit her brother-in-law who is lucky enough to live there year-round. He is an airline pilot who flies out of Los Angeles. When he has to go to work he hops a plane out of Reno and he is ready to report for duty in just an hour and a half!...The family of George and Edna Malone of West Richmond Avenue converged on them for Christmas Eve. dinner (ah, the joys of being a grandparent!)...Donna Tyrell flew back east to visit her folks...and last we heard, Jill Sacherman's parents were planning to fly out here from Ohio and whisk Jill away to Lake Tahoe for a vacation from art and pizza.



Ed Hudson is back in the hospital at Martinez for the second time in as many months. Ed suffers from emphysema. He would be happy to get cards and visitors.

Big doings around the Tedrick household over the holidays...Karla Tedrick and Doug Peterson were married December 30 at 1 pm at the First Methodist Church in Point Richmond. A reception followed at 348 Western Drive, the home of Grethe Tedrick. Karla was given a bridal shower at Becky Horn's house the Monday before Christmas. Best wishes, newlyweds!

All of Point Richmond was saddened to hear of the tragic shooting death of Robert Thomas, a Washington Avenue resident. Thomas Ruiz, who acquaintances say was a good friend of Thomas's was taken into custody by police at his apartment at 230 Castro Avenue, the scene of the shooting. Police were not immediately able to establish a motive.

Robert Thomas was a lifelong Richmond resident and a Vietnam veteran. He was 28 years old. He is survived by his widow, Shelley, of Littleton, Colo., a daughter, Marcina, also of Littleton; his mother, Clara Thomas of Richmond; and three brothers, Frank Thomas, Stanley Thomas and Richmond Thomas, all of San Pablo. Rev. Betsy Ellenburg officiated at the funeral services.

Gladys Ferguson, Community Center Director, extends special thanks to Mrs. Shirley Seaburg for donating a Christmas tree to the Center; to Mr. Jerry Lewis for assisting the staff with the excursion to the Christmas Show at the Richmond Auditorium; and to Bill, John and Charles of the Point Orient for donating a Christmas package to all the people that attend the center. The staff are very grateful to have the support from these wonderful people of the community.

Pie in the Sky

by Jeanne Eger

I read the Montclarion weekly with admiration.

In case you are not familiar with the Montclarion, it is a weekly newspaper published in Montclair (a neighborhood of Oakland) and it has a circulation of 35,000. It has been going for 32 years and was started on \$300, according to the editor. It is a neighborhood newspaper, like the Counterpoint.

I constantly compare the Counterpoint with the Montclarion, which is pretty silly, since the Counterpoint has a circulation of 600.

I've never met Mr. Graeser, the publisher and editor, but I read his editorials every week. I never fail to marvel at how he manages to state his views on everything without everyone wanting to tear him limb from limb. I guess the people in Montclair like knowing where the newspaper editor's head is at, even when they disagree with him. Maybe he is a gentle, venerable old man that everyone loves when they meet him on the street. He probably tips his hat to all the ladies and has time for a word with everyone and never, never gets mad and sounds off. Not like me.

Mr. Graeser cleared up a problem I was having with writing. When writing editorials one can use the pronoun "we". That is the editorial "we". Actually it means "I".

The trouble comes when one has to make all the pronouns agree with the first one. If you say "We called the printer," then you have to say, "The printer called us back."

But suppose in the next paragraph you want to use the pronoun, "I". Is this proper English?

Mr. Graeser seems to use either "we" or "I" depending on how he feels about that paragraph and what he's saying. And he ought to know what he's doing--he's been at it successfully for 32 years.

We're looking forward to meeting him some day.

Visit downtown Point Richmond some afternoon around 2:00 p.m. and look at your sleepy little town. A dog is crossing the street. Two shopowners are standing on the sidewalk chatting. One has on a chef's apron and one's small child is greeting the mailman. A young fellow has the hood up on his car and is tinkering. It's pleasant, isn't it?

Look again: two-thirds of the parking spaces are empty. One long-established businessman waits two hours for someone to come into his shop. One hopeful young entrepreneur expresses doubts about his ability to stay in business because a local restaurant has cut back its hours and the out-of-town customers want to dine there as well as shop.

Would a few more customers hurt the Point? For 10 years and longer people have been saying it will become another Sausalito. Some say it with horror; some with anticipation.

One reason the Point is not Sausalito is because the business section is not on the water. Another reason is because no one knows where Point Richmond is.

About nine months ago the Point Business Association was going strong under the leadership of Wayne Wanlass. Then Wayne died suddenly and tragically. Plans were under way at that time to put up a sign by Badger Meter Co., saying "Point Richmond". Plans were also to write Assemblyman Knox and ask him to ask the Highway Department to put up one of those green signs on the highway saying "Point Richmond."

It seems unlikely that a sign on the highway would flood the Point with unwelcome visitors. But it might bring in a few customers on their way to Marin County and help keep some of the small struggling businesses alive.

People on the streets are important. It keeps crime down. It keeps spirits up. It keeps small retail businesses open--and holds back the coming flood of professionals into ground floor offices.

We hope the Point Business Association will get it back together and put up a sign.



Public & Private Developments

Conflict Downtown

Sunday, December 15, City Hall--Will public investment drive out a private developer? That seemed to be the question in Councilmen's minds Monday night as they considered the necessary actions to call a public hearing to sell a large parcel bounded by Macdonald Avenue, Nevin, 11th street and 12th street to the Greater Richmond Community Development Corporation (GRCDC). The GRCDC parcel is right next to the one proposed by the Baroly Investment group, a private developer.

The event was a 5 pm study meeting of the full council prompted by a review of GRCDC's leasing progress report for their proposed "mercantile center". The letters of intention which have been received so far include Toya's Gift Shop, a new business; Jackie's Creations, a beauty shop presently in San Pablo; a bar and restaurant which will be a new business; John's Coffee Shop, now located on upper Macdonald; Wigs, Inc., now located at Macdonald and Ninth street; Art's Travel Service, now on Macdonald & 10th; Art's Records, now on Macdonald & 7th street; a delicatessen which is a new business; and J & T Jewelers, now at Macdonald & 8th street. Councilmen were concerned that there was no major, stable business with intentions to locate there, such as a bank or savings & loan association.

"What if we build a huge new building, the tenants go broke and we have another vacant building?" one councilman asked.

The GRCDC proposes to use about \$1 million of public monies to build the structure. About half will come from the Economic Development Agency and the other half from Model Cities funds. Model Cities projects are gradually being phased out and this is one of the last such projects. The center would have rooms for community agencies to hold



meetings as well as shops. A parking policy which enabled the city to obtain low-cost federal money for parking was pushed through the Economic Development Commission this summer, to cries of "railroading" by commissioners, and was one of the issues which prompted commission members to insist that city staff give them more time to consider these major projects before voting.

Parking was one of the bones of contention between Baroly representatives Rudolph Hurwich, the industrialist backer of the Baroly project and Norma Simmons, Baroly leasing agent; and the GRCDC staff representatives. Hurwich stated that he had had a number of conversations with redevelopment officials and each time they seemed to be talking about a different plan. He suggested that the GRCDC and the city ought to be more cooperative about their plans with the private group, and that the two developers ought to settle on something definite in the way of providing parking and mall space that would be satisfactory to both.

Councilmen asked the city manager if some way could be found to give Hurwich's group the benefit of some of the public funds to encourage them to continue the project. He did not think it was possible. Concerns were also expressed about the ability of GRCDC to undercut the Baroly group in leasing terms, thus punishing the private developer. Councilmen expressed a need for controls on the

GRCDC leases to prevent this from happening.

Norma Simmons later said she thought the GRCDC project should be located on 6th & Macdonald where it was originally slated. Thus it would be a boost to development in a blighted area, instead of a competitor to a private developer.

What was implied throughout the discussion was that the private development was more likely to produce a high-class shopping area than the public project and that the public project with its letters of intent from lower Macdonald Avenue shops would drag down the ability of the Baroly Group to secure more well-established and well-known retail stores. Also implied was the possibility that the private group would pull out if some of its demands were not met.

This view was supported by Stanley Grydyk, who cast the lone dissenting vote against holding the public hearing to sell the land to GRCDC.

Mayor Fernandez said he had had a meeting with EDA representatives. "If I had known how the meeting was going to go, I would never have invited other councilmen to attend," he said. "The EDA man had an attitude of exasperation. They want us to make up our minds what we are going to do. I don't want to jeopardize any more EDA funds," Fernandez said.

The council deliberations went like this: The Grubb & Ellis leasing agent for the GRCDC gave a report on the progress of the leases. He was very pessimistic on the possibility of getting leases for the downtown project. (The Grubb & Ellis agent for GRCDC is the same person doing the leasing for Hilltop Shopping Center.)

Councilman Wagerman: "There is no large company. What have you done for an anchor for the project?"

Grubb & Ellis: "On the basis of bank deposits in the City of Richmond, it is doubtful that another permit for a branch bank could be issued. This is not the kind of project that will attract national people. Hilltop is the regional shopping center."

Tom Corcoran: "Do you have any deposits with your letters of intent?"

Grubb & Ellis: "No, we didn't ask for them."

Stan Grydyk: "Have you done any investigation on the block between 6th & 7th?"

Grubb & Ellis: "Yes, but there is no interest."

Stan Grydyk: "What will we in the city do if the downtown isn't leasable?"

Grubb & Ellis: "I don't know."

Nat Bates: "Is it your analysis that we cannot compete with Hilltop? That we have to do it on a smaller scale?"

Grubb & Ellis: "Yes, the soft-core small businesses will go downtown."

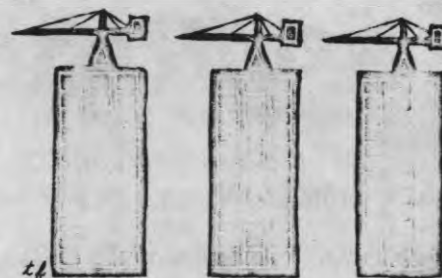
Bob Campbell: "We're not supposed to make downtown compete with Hilltop."

Nat Bates: "We've got people here who should recognize that you can make a buck in Richmond."

Stan Grydyk: "The seed money is for the hardest place to develop. That is what federal money is for. The proposed (GRCDC) tenants list is not aiming very high. After all, you have a million dollars of free money."

At the end of the hour-long study session GRCDC representatives summed up the position of the community corporation. "We may be the only minority project in the area. We have developed housing (the Barrett Avenue apartments) and child-care, and we've done a creditable job. You were the ones who came to us and asked us to develop a plan and we've done it. One way to go would be to phase more carefully or limit the developments--in that way we could both test the market before building. Another way would be a joint venture."

The public hearing will be held on or about January 12. Groundbreaking is tentatively set for May, 1976.



Big Changes in City Government Considered Here

Do you want an elected Mayor with veto power over the city council? Think about it because it will probably appear on an election ballot in the near future as a charter amendment. On October 29 the entire city council attended a study session at which six possible changes in the present city government structure were discussed. The following four items were taken from the mayor's report to councilmembers dated December 12. They

will be on the ballot soon as charter amendments if councilmen reach the same conclusions at the next study session.

Establishment of Directly Elected Mayor: Resolution: After considerable discussion, it was decided to request the Mayor to develop and recommend a draft of tentative duties and responsibilities for a directly elected Mayor.

Reducing Council Terms of Office from Six to Four Years The Council generally agreed to implement this change. The City Attorney presented a revision to a memorandum of June, 1975, which discussed in detail the mechanism by which such a change could be implemented. The mechanism developed by the Attorney would allow the change to be completed by 1983.

Adjustment of Councilmembers Compensation. It was generally agreed that this item should be placed on the ballot. The suggested level of compensation would be that received by Councilmembers in general law cities. Staff was requested to draft an "unlegal sounding" ordinance to this effect.

Mayor's Role in Filling Board and Commission Vacancies A suggestion was introduced by Councilman Campbell to allow the Mayor to fill vacancies occurring on any City board or commission for the unexpired term of office. The Council agreed in principal to this change. Accomplishing such a change would require amendments to the City Charter for the Personnel Board and to the ordinances which created the remaining boards and commissions.

The council meeting of the 15th ended with a large delegation of private citizens who had come to complain about certain police actions. However, Mayor Fernandez talked the leaders of the group out of speaking. Fernandez said that City Council could not reply to the group about their complaints because there was the threat of a lawsuit and anything councilmen said could be held against the city. He also said that anything the delegation said could be used against them and "prejudice" their case in a

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legal action. Leader of the group, Lorna Madison, backed down and agreed to a meeting with council in executive session.

(The Counterpoint has been contacted by a representative of the Police Officers Association regarding a recent Counterpoint article about police and the Counterpoint editor's candidacy for the Personnel Board. The group asked if the Counterpoint would be willing to come to an Association meeting to hear police officers' viewpoints on complaints about them. So we hope to bring you the other side of the story sometime in the near future.)



BUILDING PERMITS IN THE POINT

We went to the Richmond Public Works Department the other day and leafed through their building permit files. This is what we dug up.

On September 7, 1975, a permit was issued to David MacDiarmid to build a 3-bedroom dwelling at 355 Golden Gate Avenue. Value: \$35,000.

On October 14, permit no. 84685 was issued to owner Ralph Voight of San Leandro to build a \$30,000, 2½ story dwelling at 458 Contra Costa Street.

And on November 7, 1975 a permit was issued to Ulf and Brit Moren, owners, to build a \$39,000 2-story, 2-bedroom house at 625 Golden Gate Avenue.



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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.

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Many friends and neighbors have offered to help with the newspaper, but because the deadline often comes in the middle of the week, it has been hard to let people know when and what they can do. We're thinking about putting the paper out every two weeks, instead of twice a month--that way we could make the deadline every other Friday. Then people could come over and help put the paper together on Saturday and Sunday. This was kind of the way Donna Roselius did it when she published the Counterpoint in the sixties. From what we hear, it included pot-luck lunches, good company and lots of hard work. We need typists, artists, writers, layout-people and generally cheerful folks who like the hustle and bustle of putting out a community newspaper. Anyone who thinks this is a good idea (or a bad one), please call me (232-2494). Jeanne.

We forgot to mention in the article about the Lou Armstrong benefit (in the last issue) that Al and Eve Carter of the Mariner's Tavern were among the contributors. Sorry we missed you!

Catch the great Florsheim shoe sale at Jameson-Walz Men's Store between 10th & 11th streets on Macdonald Avenue. Did you know that Jameson-Walz and Allyn's are two of the oldest retail establishments in Richmond? And proud of it!

Any teenagers who are interested in advertising for jobs in the Counterpoint (like yardwork, babysitting) are invited to do so free. Just call 232-2494 or drop us a line at PO Box 366, Point Richmond, CA 94807.

That's Friendship?

That's friendship? Pretty Joy Mitchell, good buddy of Georgia Lance, fell down Georgia's stairs and broke her thumb. Joy, who managed to keep all her fingernails through the ordeal, refuses to let anyone autograph her cast. "I don't want to get it dirty," she said.

In true goofy holiday spirit, Georgia related this armadillo story to us:

"I have a friend from Texas who has been promising for two years to bring me an armadillo. But he keeps running over the darn things. They call these "sail armadillos" because after an armadillo has been run over by a semi-truck several times and baked in the sun for a few days, they make great frisbees!"



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The Death of Our Founder

a short story
by Sunflower



One day, not so long ago, we awoke to find that our Founder had died peacefully in his sleep during the night. He was ninety-eight years old and had lived a full life, but that fact did not compensate us for our loss. All that morning we mourned with abandon, shedding tears of sadness that dried into a feeling of helplessness and indirection now that our Founder was gone from us. We knew we must pull ourselves together and plan an appropriate ceremony to mark the going of our most important member.

Our Founder had never given us any instructions to be followed in the event of his death. At first he always seemed so young and it would have been out of place to ask advice about his funeral. Then suddenly he was old and we could not ask him for fear of offending him by admitting that we thought him old. Now we must not only decide on the appropriate ceremony but we must do it without the help of the one person we had come to depend on most. Already we missed our Founder doubly. We took the remainder of the day deciding among a burial with a monument, a burial without a monument, cremation, cremation with the ashes scattered over the sea and cremation with the ashes scattered over the land. The faction favoring burial with a monument finally won but the vote was not unanimous. Already there was dissention and we had not even begun to plan the ceremony. We went to bed that night determined to try harder the next day to work together for a fitting ceremony.

The next day things did seem a little easier. We were all used to the idea that we were really on our own. We were without our Founder's wisdom and years of experience, but then, between us we had some knowledge of life. We decided to have the ceremony in the Eucalyptus Grove with a drama to commemorate the founding of Freetown and a eulogy studded with quotations from our Founder. Sparkling Red Wine caused a stir of anticipation when he brought in a letter from the Founder's files marked "To be opened in the event of my death." We decided to read it the following day at the ceremony for the first time. We were all greatly relieved that our Founder had still some advice to give us.

The day of our funeral dawned bright and sunny. We were almost happy as the day progressed, proud of a drama which portrayed vividly the hardships undertaken in founding our town, proud of the commanding sculpture which would mark our Founder's grave, and proud of the unity which enveloped us. Finally the long awaited moment arrived. Continuing Krishna opened our Founder's last words to his town and began to read:

"Beware of tradition in all its forms. Take care that your habits do not become your laws. Stay close to nature and make way for the changes which occur naturally. Try to live forever and you will die instantly. I am dead. Do not remember me. Do not quote me. Goodbye."

We were stunned by the harshness of his words. We removed the sculpture with tears in our eyes and left his grave unmarked. We walked away in different directions, each one alone in his grief.



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 West Side
 Branch Library

Every New Year some of us expect to proclaim intentions and vows to improve, if not perfect, the distressing physical and mental messes we became during the past 12 months. Elaine Reuter's new display at the West Side Library will help us reach our goals.

A start might be made by cleaning up the disorder in our immediate environment with the help of Heloise's Housekeeping Hints. Heloise will tell you about so many short cuts to make the job easier that there will be time to get on with a shape-up Yoga program.

The library has several paperbacks which explain the benefits of Yoga, including Yoga For Today, by Clara Spring and Guide to Yoga Meditation by Richard Hittleman, illustrated with photographs of supple young things happily relaxed in the lotus position. Less discouraging for beginners, a hardback, Yoga for All Ages by Rachel Carr, has diagrams in addition to photographs of simple to complex exercises.

If one wishes to concentrate on the healthful meditation aspect of Yoga, a further development in thought--or its absence--can be found in The Spirit of Zen by Alan W. Watts, an introduction to this Far Eastern way of thought.

I can't believe that anyone will stop smoking by reading a book or the library's store of pamphlets on the proved evils of cigarettes, but if one really wants to stop, Herbert Brean's How to Stop Smoking might help.

Many of us follow trends of thought as meted out by competent authorities who find economic security for themselves while saving their readers psychiatrists' fees. One of the more successful books is I'm OK - You're OK by Thomas A. Harris, M.D. He observes through the years that three states exist in all his patients: parent, adult, and child. From this neat concept, Dr. Harris shows that we

can work from 1-I'm not OK--you're OK, 2-I'm not OK--you're not OK, 3-I'm OK--you're not OK to 4-I'm OK--you're OK, the desirable combination. Simple? Not exactly.

Now we get down to the basic New Year's every-year resolution to reduce the calories, live longer, prettier, and healthier ever after. The diet books to help us slim come thick and fast, and the authors of these books have, I'm sure, few financial problems other than tax worries. While the psychiatrists and psychologists do not hint at their own personalities, a great many of the authors of diet books rely on their own problems to illustrate the only way to lose weight--their way. Jean Nidetch's Weight Watchers is largely autobiographical, chatty, and fun to read, but her real diet plan doesn't start until page 139.

The Truth about Weight Control by Dr. Neil Solomon is also entertaining because the author is interested in you, me and such subjects as "what theory fits your fat." His program is austere indeed, and he says of the "fad" diets, "You name it; you use it; you'll shed pounds--for awhile." His solution to our well-being is worth investigating.

The latest diet book is a treasure, new, and on loan from the main library for two months, the San Francisco Weight-Loss Method by Dr. David A. Schoenstadt. Again the author plugs his book with preliminary autobiographical stories about his own struggles to lose weight. A former athlete who was dismayed at the weights he gained when he cut off physical activity found a way to keep fit through exercise and slightly reduced calorie intake after a rugged 7-week program of diet and exercise.

Happy New Year!



LUNCH
MON.-FRI.
11:30-2 P.M.

COCKTAILS
MON.-FRI.
11 AM-2 P.M.
SUN. 4-12 P.M.
SAT. 4-2 A.M.

THE

32 WASHINGTON AVE.
233-4295

Dear Editor:

Too many of our young people today are in such a rush they don't have time for the small things in life. Not so for six-year-old Shane Capps, who goes to Washington School. Many could take lessons from this young lad. He always has time to exchange ideas and thoughts, whether you be young or old. A smile and a kind word can make someone's day. Thanks Shane!

(This letter was sent anonymously)

Its News To Us!

- * If your son or daughter becomes engaged or married or receives scholastic or athletic honors.
- * Public meetings held by any community organization.
- * If someone in your family receives a promotion.
- * If there's a death in the family or in the neighborhood.
- * If a former resident dies.
- * If you're celebrating a special wedding anniversary.

POINT COUNTERPOINT
232-2494

Local News: Mid Dornan: 234-5334

HERE AND THERE

with Dorothy King

On November 1, 1975, Mrs. Leora Noel Olesen of 77 Vine Ave., Point Richmond, California, passed away. She was a fine, grand and gracious lady. At the time of her death, Mrs. Olesen's daughters and her good friends Pat Herron, Lucretia Edwards, Anne Davis and Dorothy King were with her.

Mrs. Olesen was a native of Visalia, California and later on made her home in Lovelock, Nevada, where she reared her two fine daughters: Miss Barbara Olesen who lives here at the Point, a counselor and teacher at Contra Costa College, and Miss Virginia Lee Olesen of San Francisco who is a sociology professor at U.C. Medical Center, and a sister, Mrs. Sallie Murray of Visalia.

Mrs. Olesen moved to the Point about 2½ years ago. She had many friends here as she had visited the Point over the past 25 years.

Prayers were said at the services for Mrs. Olesen on November 8 at the Lone Mountain Cemetery, Lovelock, Nevada. The reader was Mr. Vernon Schoenfeld.

The prayers were from Mrs. Olesen's Bible, including one written by her mother, Elizabeth C. Noel, and one written by Mrs. Olesen.

Mrs. Olesen's last wish was that her two daughters would invite her friends and family to her home, where refreshments were served and many pictures of her were shown.

Mrs. Olesen's friends talked about the kind deeds that she had done in her lifetime for other people. She was right there in spirit.



"MY TRUE FRIEND"

It is so nice to have a true friend,
for they are few and far between.
Far between, as if to say
they were there for a day.
But in memory they were always there,
for you know that they care.
Care what happens - it is like two ships
passing in a fog.
The handclasp, the smile. You are my
friend.
Though we may part I'm always there if
you need me,
For I know you care.
My friend, money can never buy true
friendship,
Be ye a rich person or a poor person.
My friend was there when the going was
the roughest.
That is my true friend.
One doesn't care how many mistakes one
has made upon the rough pathway of life.
To show a smile, a welcome hand when
needed.
We all make mistakes but my true friend
doesn't care.
For they are forever there...
My true friend.

D.K.



SHOPPING TODAY

by Anne-Marie Gurish

What a joy it is to shop in Point Richmond where not only do you have a clerk asking "What can I do to help you?" but it is often the proprietor giving you time and consideration and even calling you by name!

Not so out in the cold cruel world beyond...several weeks ago, away before the Christmas rush, I was looking at some curtain material in Capwell's and as I was hurrying out, I remembered that I needed some red knee sox. One busy clerk answered my questions with a wave of her hand that covered half the first floor and said they were in hosiery. Armed with this unhelpful information, I finally found the department, found the rack and the six myself and brought these items and my money to the nearest clerk. She told me she did not serve this department to go across the aisle. That clerk was busy with a customer and I stood and waited. Then I began to realize that I did not have time for all of this and was deciding whether to put the sox back on the rack or just leave them on the counter when the telephone rang and the clerk left to go answer the phone. At that time I remembered something I had done years ago--the only time in my life that I shop lifted. I had gone in a hurry to the stationery department of a store to quickly pick up a pen I needed for notes for the meeting I was going to. That time, after trying several clerks who were not busy, but couldn't wait on me, I dropped the pen in my purse and strode out! Well, my soul was saved this time in Capwells, by the clerk returning in time to take my money.

Later I was in the new Home Wares section of Macy's in San Rafael, which is a new store across Fourth Street and lo and behold there in the center of the main floor was a huge square counter with clerks who handled the sales of anything from anywhere on the floor. Then I remembered that Grand Auto stores already have gates at the front door. As usual, the future is already here.

However, I learned something new about modern day shoplifting at a Christmas party a few nights ago. A young man was complaining bitterly about being in a

hurry and buying a pair of trousers that he wore at once. Just as he was getting into his car in the parking lot, a store detective stopped him and said that he had stolen the trousers and would have to go with him. The young man presented his receipt for the sale, but he still had to go back into the store. It seems that attached to the trousers was a piece of metal that had triggered an alarm when he had gone out the door. It was fastened in such a way that only the special machine in the store could remove it without ripping the pants. Going back into the store they found that the "new" clerk had simply forgotten to remove the "bug".

And so now in the New Year, buy whatever you can in Point Richmond where we still have old world courtesy and consideration and when you do venture forth into the mechanized world of the outside be prepared to take a lot of time to spend your hard earned dollars and also beware of being "bugged".

POLITICS



If you are interested in Democratic party politics, or how politics in general works, be sure to catch an article in the December 26-Jan. 9 BAY GUARDIAN, entitled "Democrats Purge Their Leader". The article outlines the attempted ouster (which may still succeed) of State Democratic Party Chairman Robert Schwartz by former Point Richmond resident Bert Coffey and other high party officials. Coffey, a local publicist, has dominated Contra Costa politics for years, serving as campaign manager for Jack Knox, the late George Miller, Jr., and currently serving as legislative assistant to the current Congressman George Miller. Though the article is badly written (purple prose) and somewhat biased (on Schwartz's side) it does describe the wheeling and dealing that goes on when someone (in this case Schwartz) does not go along with the power brokers.

Hearing Will Decide Fate of Brooks Island

(The following article is a press release from the East Bay Regional Parks District)

What kind of a park will the East Bay Regional Park District fashion out of "Mr. Tough", 45-acre Brooks Island which has survived at least five proposals to raze it and wipe it off the map in the last century?

EBRPD seeks an outstanding solution for the island which offers one of the finest 360-degree panoramas of the Bay Area in an insular isolation, some 2000 feet from Richmond's busy industrial waterfront.

The first step toward getting some answers will be a public hearing on the Resource Inventory and Analysis for Brooks Island Regional Shoreline to be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 13 in the Richmond City Council Chambers. That precedes the Land Use Plan which will be subjected to public scrutiny also.

Ever since EBRPD acquired the little island in 1968 for \$625,000 it has aroused everyone's curiosity and shoals of ideas and proposals for its use and development have been offered. There have been delays, attributable largely to providing a practical access solution, potable water and suitable sanitation.

"Perhaps the most significant feature of the island," Heil Havlik, EBRPD Resource Analyst, wrote, "is the fact that it is still there. No less than five proposals or plans for leveling the island for industrial or commercial use have been brought forward at various times."

The island with its two miles of shoreline has also been known as Sheep Island and Isla de Carmen and, according to the Analysis prepared by Havlik, it has been considered for these purposes:

A railroad freight terminal during the period 1874-89 when the Central Pacific's "Big Four"--Leland Stanford, Collis P. Huntington, Mark Hopkins and Charles Crocker--held title to it.

Jetty fill when the U.S. Navy was considering an ambitious plan to establish a huge Naval base and "Annapolis of the West" in the general area.

A heliport in 1953 when the City of Richmond debated leveling the island.

And a marina or park to be created by either the state, Contra Costa County or the City of Richmond.

The triangular-shaped island park actually constitutes 77 acres, with adjacent underwater tidelands, and slopes gently upward to a 161-foot high point dotted with native grasses and wildflowers.

Some of the highlights of Havlik's Resource Analysis includes:

* In the past the island has been used for orcharding, viticulture, cattle and sheep grazing and rock quarrying.

* There are two Indian shellmounds on the island which may date back 2000-3000



years and during the painstaking excavation of one which covered a decade, evidence of 25 human burials were uncovered and some 1000 artifacts were found. The excavation of the site designated "CCo-290" was supervised by George Coles, Instructor in Anthropology at Contra Costa College (and a Point Richmond resident).

No work has been undertaken at the site designated "CCo-291" and will not be except "under conditions acceptable to all parties including the Native American community."

* The City of Richmond is developing plans for a major redevelopment of its port area and a marina is planned for the Inner Harbor Basin "and a possible ferry slip providing transportation to other bay points and to Brooks Island." The study adds that "developing a landing at Richmond to provide public access to Brooks Island may require a parking area on the mainland in addition to docking at the island." An existing dock at the Richmond Boat Ramp might be suitable for a small ferry. At low tide, boats drawing more than a foot of water cannot land at the island.

* More than 100 species of birds are known to frequent the island: some 50 black-crowned night herons roost on Brooks during the summer; and western Canadian geese have, in recent years, nested on Brooks and Bird Island to the westward.

*Of particular interest" on the island are two wrings, one on the northeast side of Brooks which is interruptible during the summer and an all-year spring on the western side.

* Of primary interest is the native grassland including needlegrass, rye and fescues as well as such wildflowers as wild hyacinth, lupine, checker, balsam root, wild violet and soap plant. The study observes that "this grassland is an important resource which is being lost, albeit slowly, to invasions of brush and weeds."

" The island became an epic battle ground in the late 1950's when meadow mice or voles were introduced to adjacent Bird Island; swam the channel to Brooks; and then proceeded to "overwhelm the house mouse and Norway rat populations...which have declined in numbers greatly."

EBRPD wished to proceed carefully in developing the island, set in a fragile environment, and the scientific community asked to be consulted and so, in Havlik's words, "a somewhat unusual Resource Analysis" was arranged. These consultants, many of whom had spent considerable time on Brooks, agreed to assist Havlik. They included:

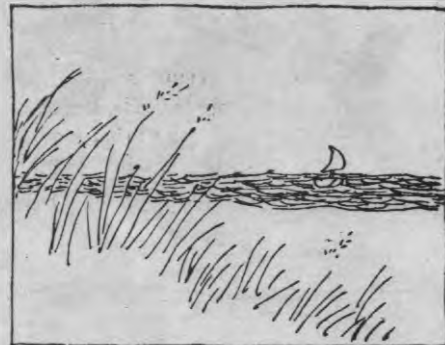
Dr. William Lidicher, professor of zoology; Dr. Arnold Schultz, professor of forestry and conservation, and Dr. Lawrence Hackard, Curator of the Jepson Herbarium, all of the University of California; Coles and his wife and assistant, Corrine; Ross Wagner, staff ecologist with the Geotechnical and Materials Engineering Office of the U.S. Forest Service; Fred McCollum, graduate student in zoology at U.C.; George Collier, Albany historian; and Wayne Toberson, local representative of the American Indian Movement of San Pablo.

During the approximate period 1886-1909, the Morgan Oyster Company had its oyster beds offshore from the island.

Can an island talk? Can an island say, "Leave me alone! Leave me the way I've been for thousands of years!"

Of course islands can't talk. Only people can talk. So it is up to you on January 13 at 7 pm in City Council Chambers to speak for your island and say "Leave it alone! Leave it the way it has been for a thousand years!"

Remember--islands can't talk. Only people can talk. And only people can destroy an island...



What Will Happen To Brooks Island? - Continued

But starting about 1892 and continuing intermittently from that date for some 46 years, various firms quarried rock from the southwest side of the island carving a gigantic gash in one of its flanks. Largest operator was the Healy Tibbitts Construction Company of San Francisco which acquired the island in 1918, building piers on the north and south shores, rotting pilings being the only remnants today.

"Rusting ore cars, sheet metal, some scattered concrete foundations and an altered landform" are about all that remain of the quarrying operations, Havlik wrote.

Havlik reported that Coles and his crew of trained workers sifted through more than 1000 cubic meters of middens or refuse in the Indian shellmound at the northeastern end of the island over a 10-year period "which yielded material for an analysis of diet, workshop techniques, trade relationships, food gathering, ceremonial and other types of activities of community life in this setting..."

Some of the 1000 artifacts recovered included projectile points, bone tools, cordage of apocynum fiber, knives, scrapers, stone net sinkers, mortars, pestles and many varieties of beads of shell, stone and bone.

Objects of undetermined use "called charmstones" were found in portions of the middens corresponding with a period about 1000 years ago. At that level, they suddenly ceased being found and beads became more common.

"In addition," Coles told Havlik, "the food remains reveal a greater reliance upon aquatic birds than before and a diminution of fish remains and of net sinkers.

"The presence of apparent Spanish and Russian trade items in the upper portions of the middens suggests occupation by native peoples continued as late as the 1840's though this is not indicated in known historic records.

"It is possible that excavation of the second major site on the island would provide further information of considerable value..."

The economic life of the island aborigines "centered around fishing and the gathering of shellfish and vegetable foods such as acorns and buckeyes with hunting and trading as supplementary activities."

Havlik found the "absence of trees such as live oak or bay difficult to explain. However, the presence of the buckeye trees is clearly due to human influence. There is simply on other way the large, heavy seeds, which are killed by contact with salt water, could get to the island. They are clustered around the Indian shellmound on the northeast shore of the island..."



In 1938 Healy and Tibbitts sold the island to Mrs. Mabel Horton, widow of Charles C. Horton who had been one of the company owners. EBRPD began negotiations for the island in 1965 and even brought condemnation proceedings before an out-of-court settlement of \$625,000 was agreed upon. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) reimbursed the Park District for \$326,373 of the purchase price.

First nautical survey of San Francisco Bay was undertaken by Jose de Canizares in 1775 under the guidance of Juan Manuel de Ayala, commander of the Sloop San Carlos. Canizares assigned the name Isla de Carmen to what is now Brooks Island.

Origin of the name Brooks is lost in antiquity but it first appeared on a map surveyed in 1850 by Commander Cadwalader Ringgold, USN, and in 1853 the official map of the state, adopted by the legislature, repeated that name.

A breakwater or jetty extending some two miles northwest from the island to form Richmond's Harbor Channel has led to the creation, through tidal currents, of two crescent-shaped beaches and land as much as 10 feet above sea level. This area, however, is not now a part of the park.

Portions are owned by the federal government, the City of Richmond, the Santa Fe Railway and Helen House. Another EBRPD "neighbor" on the east side of the island is Ralph Sullivan.

Fish frequenting the waters around the island include perch, smelt, starry flounder, speckled sand dab, rockfish, midshipmen, staghorn sculpin and three species of shark - leopard, dogfish and brown smoothhound.

Mussels, clams and oysters are available, and a 1970 State Department of Health study found that "with adequate safeguards and treatment of all community waste affecting this area...harvesting shellfish for human consumption would be safe on the easterly and southwesterly shores of Brooks Island.


When EBRPD acquired the island it was subject to lease by the Sheep Island Gun Club which pays EBRPD \$2,720 a year rental and occupies the island under an arrangement whereby the lease can be terminated with advance notice at the end of six-month intervals.

The club is licensed by the state and raises pheasants for hunting. The club also provides a caretaker who also serves EBRPD indirectly in protecting the island environment and halting vandalism.

But when EBRPD completes its land-use plan and opens the island to full public use, there'll be no more shotguns or shooting on the island, and the only hunting will be with camera or binoculars or looking for a picnic site.

FOR CHILDREN ONLY -- HERE'S A ZOO FOR YOU!!

Zoo Scramble-le-do

See if you can unscramble the words  below.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. efrfaig _____ | 7. yemnko _____ |
| 2. ohinr _____ | 8. noil _____ |
| 3. arbez _____ | 9. ruttel _____ |
| 4. ybbashbu _____ | 10. iglorla _____ |
| 5. eploneta _____ | 11. flwo _____ |
| 6. ntphaeel _____ | 12. gtier _____ |

ANSWER

BOX 7 monkey, 8 lion, 9 turtle, 10 gorilla, 11 wolf, 12 tiger, 1. giraffe, 2 rhino, 3 zebra, 4 bushbaby 5 antelope, 6 elephant,

Zoo Quiz

What animal set the record for living the longest?

A-The tortoise.
One lived to be 152 years old.

Guess how long was the longest snake every found in a zoo.

A-There was a python that was over 28 feet long.

What is the largest animal in the world?

A-Not the elephant, but the blue whale. Sometimes blue whales can weigh as much as 179 tons.

What is the tallest animal?

A-The giraffe, because of his very long neck.

MINI-JOKES

I swallowed some uranium.
What happened?
I got a-tomic ache.

Teacher: Joe, name the four seasons.
Joe: Salt, pepper, vinegar and mustard.

Customer: Say, what is this in my soup?
Waiter: I can't say, sir. I don't know one insect from another.

What is round as a biscuit,
deep as a cup and the Mississippi
River can't fill it?
A tea strainer.

JUST NONSENSE

COW

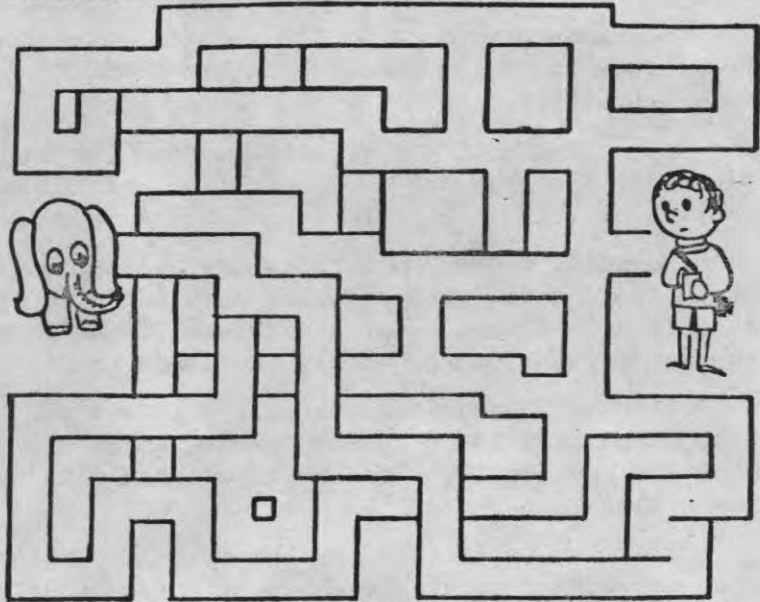
Cows are not supposed to fly,
And so, if you should see
A spotted Cow go flying by
Above a pawpaw tree

In a porkpie hat with a green umbrella,
Then run right down the road
and tell a
Lady selling sarsaparilla,
Lemon soda and vanilla,
So she can come here and tell me!

ORDER IN THE COURT

Order in the court,
The judge is eating beans.
His wife is in the bathtub
Counting submarines.

Mini Maze



Help the little zoo visitor find the elephant. It's his favorite animal to watch.

Zoo Try 'N Find

Zoo animals are hidden in the block below. See if you can find: Elephant, giraffe, leopard, armadillo, cobra, gorilla, orangutan, antelope, gazelle, toucan, zebra, wolf, ostrich, rhinoceros.



R	H	I	N	O	C	E	R	O	S	Z	L	N	G
C	A	D	Q	S	X	L	E	O	P	A	R	D	I
A	X	G	V	T	T	E	M	Z	E	B	R	A	R
R	Y	G	C	R	D	P	S	E	T	P	K	G	A
M	W	B	K	I	S	H	F	R	O	T	U	A	F
A	F	J	P	C	E	A	O	Q	U	A	U	Z	F
D	Z	C	H	H	R	N	O	Q	C	W	L	E	E
I	G	O	I	B	Y	T	P	F	A	E	H	L	B
L	N	B	M	Z	U	N	L	D	N	V	I	L	M
L	O	R	H	V	A	N	T	E	L	O	P	E	C
O	R	A	N	G	U	T	A	N	T	K	J	A	S
I	G	O	R	I	L	L	A	R	J	W	O	L	F



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- TIME - devote your time to other jobs... let us do the work
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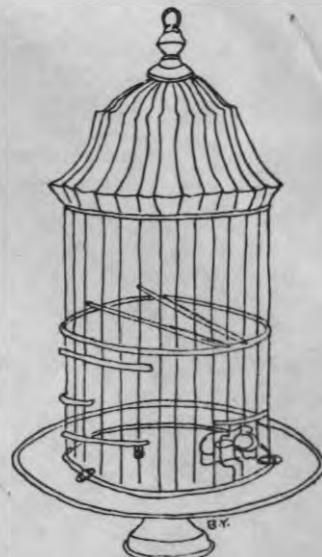
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205-41st • RICHMOND



Jan. 5 (Mon.) School starts again

Jan. 13 (Tues.) 7 p.m. City Council Chambers, 3rd floor, city hall - What Will Happen To Brooks Island? Come speak for your island. Public hearing.

Jan. 14 (Weds.) Hot Dog Day at Washington School

Jan. 14 (Weds.) PTA meet and SAC meet at 7 p.m. Washington School, room 8

Jan. 15 (Thurs.) Point Business Association meeting at Jumbos, 7:30 p.m.

Jan. 16 (Fri.) Twentieth Century opens at the Masquer's Playhouse. Curtain time: 8:30 p.m.

Jan. 16 (Fri.) Milk Money Day at Washington School

Jan. 26 (Weds.) Minimum day at Washington School (kids get out early)

Jan. 28 (Weds.) Hot Dog Day

CARPORT SALE--Saturday, January 10.
560 Washington Avenue. Clothes, dishes, baby things & other stuff.

Local teenager needed to do yardwork on regular basis. Anne 234-0567

AVON CALLING

Anyone interested in Avon products in the Point please call 232-2660 --Beverly Price

Point Richmond stationery consisting of 10 notecards with different Point scenes and 10 envelopes are now on sale at Sherry & Bob's for \$1.75.

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

ONE YEAR OF The COUNTERPOINT for only \$6.25. Make check payable to The COUNTERPOINT. Mail to P.O. Box 366, Point Richmond, CA 94807. Receive historic 1984 Sandow map of East Bay Counties free with your new subscription!



Name _____

Street _____

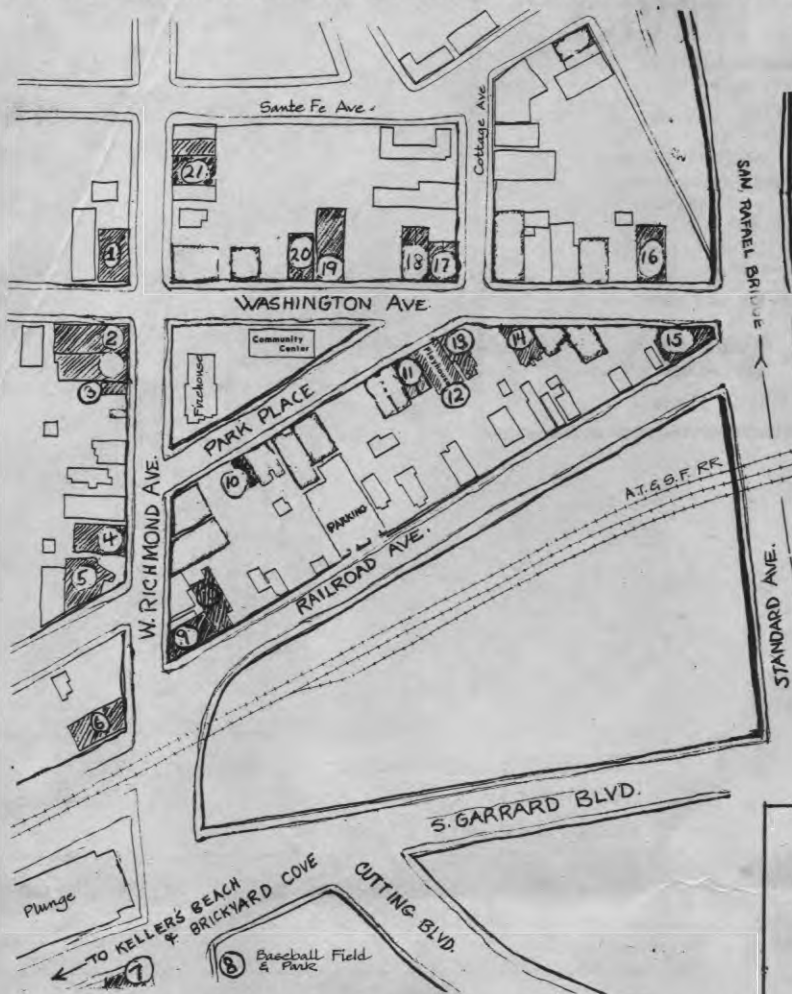
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State _____

Zip _____

Downtown Point Richmond

1. Sherry & Bob's
2. Santa Fe Market
3. Richmond Supply Co.
4. Karate (Point Richmond School of Self-Defense)
5. Bradley's Automotive
6. Bill's Key Shop
7. Onstad's Pizza
8. Washington School
9. Villa Sorrento
10. Wood Spirit
11. Park Place Barbers
12. Masquer's Playhouse
13. Mariner's Tavern
14. Central Pool Hall
15. The Spot Liquors & Bar
16. The Point Restaurant
17. The Gingham Goose Post Office
18. Jumbo Burgers
19. Judges & Spares
20. Allyn's Men's Shop Taxis & Toadstools
21. R & D Plastic Wood Art



The COUNTERPOINT is published around the 1st & 15th of each month in Point Richmond, Calif. by Jeanne Eger, P.O. Box 366, Telephone 232-2494. Labor donated.

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CHURCH SCHOOL 9:45
MORNING WORSHIP 11:00

