

THIS POINT

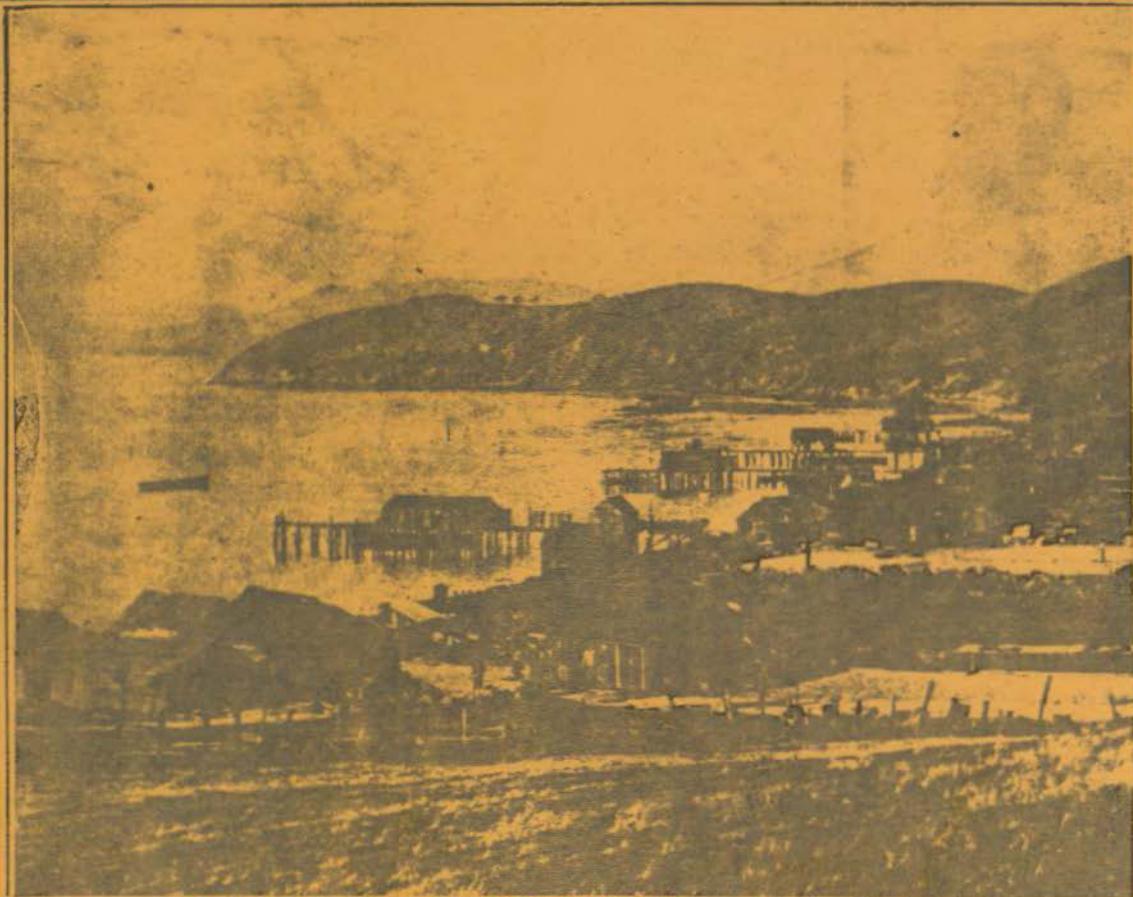
NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Vol. III, No. 7

March, 1985

75 cents



THE CHINESE SHRIMP CAMP NEAR POINT MOLATE, from the Don Church Collection
1904

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in time

HISTORY ASSOCIATION NOTES

HISTORY OF THE CHINESE SHRIMP CAMP

Everyone is Invited
To the Next Meeting at
Linsley Hall
MARCH 28, 1985
7:30 p.m.

Featured Speaker:
JOHN HOLSON

Who will present the results
of his recent research for the U.S. Navy
on the Shrimp Camp at Pt. Molate

Also, there will be a
brief description of the new book,
EAST BROTHER –
HISTORY OF AN ISLAND
LIGHT STATION

Recently published by the
East Brother Light Station, Inc.
(The book will be available for sale
at the meeting)

COME AND BRING YOUR
FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

THANK YOU . . .

To Ila Arnold Deemer, who contributed
some photos and clippings to our archives
from her "old scrapbook."

MEMBERS . . .

Thank you to the following members
who have renewed their memberships this
month:

Dorothy Davis *Helen Skelton*
Ila Arnold Deemer *Ronald Yates*
Josephine Palenchar

And welcome to the following new members:

Carl & Marilyn Aquistapace
Mrs. Teresa Meneghelli

*(Please let us know if we have made any errors or
omissions in the membership lists.)*



*Snow in Point Richmond, January 9, 1912
photograph courtesy Mrs. Ila A. Deemer*

LOOKING BACK:
PERSONAL ACCOUNTS FROM
A SPECIAL ISSUE OF
THE RICHMOND DAILY INDEPENDENT
FEBRUARY 17, 1925

FIRST FIRES
IN POINT RICHMOND,
As Recalled by A. C. Lang,
Pioneer Richmond Druggist

Quoted from the Richmond Daily Independent of February 17, 1925.

Something less than ^{four} score years and ten' on a bright, but windy, ninth of June, lonesomeness caused me to move toward the front door of my drug store to see what part of town the maddening crowd was milling around, as no one had passed my place since Geo. Dimmick's transfer went by at 7 a.m. to catch the 9:15 o'clock Santa Fe train bound for Stockton. I thought that probably the smallpox had broken out some place near the town reservoir, and the whole population of three hundred including the deputy sheriff and Mrs. Cox of the singing society, had been quarantined.

The only moving thing I "got me eye on" was a red undershirt sporting in the breeze from a clothes line in the rear of the new Brunswick hotel. It may, however, have been the flag of the section as many of the opposite sex from the affiliated colleges "were housed there". **

** The date of the fire was June 9, 1901. A later account, in the Richmond Independent, dates this first fire, but says that it started at 8 a.m., with another fire the following day. Lang's account puts both fires on the same day, with the second starting at 8 p.m. - He's probably right, since the Lang Drug company was involved in the second fire.*

*** Mr. Lang's colloquialisms leave today's readers in need of an interpreter, or a good imagination.*

Across the street in a restaurant, some careless guy was strumming a mandolin. The city was unincorporated and there was no county ordinance opposing strumming, so this bird proceeded to add to the awful death-like quietness by "saying it with music". It seemed a melancholy chant, something about as cheerful as the bawl of a calf down on the farm on a Sunday morning.

Suddenly the strumming stopped and the black haired artist rushed out the door crying, fire! fire! And sure enough he was right. Directly opposite the intersection of the county road and what is now Standard avenue, across the street from the landmark Hunters Home which had a reputation, bum booze, a watering trough and a diamond-studded bartender, stood another saloon fire.

The fire had properly located itself to attract the attention of that part of our population that sleeps far into the morning and eats its breakfast in the afternoon.

Men, women and children from far and wide, came to see what was making all the smoke, crackling noises and sulphurous gas for the Standard Oil company had not yet come to town and those alarming conditions, which will probably prevail when the world comes to an end, caused women to forget their household duties, men their occupations and children their play, just as any big city's curious congregate to get in the way and help save the lot.

As there must be a first to everything, this was Richmond's first fire. Under the leadership of Pat Dean a temporary battery was organized armed with clubs, axes and two-by-fours and like Tennyson's Four Hundred, they rushed on this unfortunate saloon and battered down the side nearest the Brunswick Hotel. This helped matters to the extent that the flames leaped across a 25-foot lot and caught the exposed side of the hotel, burning another saloon and a nice

comfortable room just vacated by Charlie Gear's Little Red Onion Cigar Store. Charlie Gear knew his onions, for he had moved the day before. Pat Dean elected himself the head of the volunteer fire battery. It seems that Charlie Gear was possessed of a wonderful intuition as he was always one step ahead of the gang. I believe the fact that Charlie is still living is because of being able to set the pace and keep the step.

As the Brunswick caught fire there was a number of low hung jaws and anxious faces. It meant the destruction of at least four more saloons, and the community did not know how it was going to survive with the number reduced to the unlucky number of 13. But I appeased them. I pointed to my little drug store and said "Everything may be destroyed but ye apothecary shop remaineth ever." Business was not too brisk with me anyway so I was merely advertising to the clientele who looked so forlorn, reviving hopes, as it were.

As the Brunswick was being razed the adjoining buildings fell before the flames, much to the satisfaction of the lumber company. Furniture, trunks, household utensils, clothing, beer, wine and assorted liquors decorated the hillsides and adjoining vacant lots.

But, and ah! That night at 8 o'clock there was something serious happened. A fire started in the upper half story where the little drug store was located. This half story was occupied by Jack Simon, the grocer next door. Mrs. Simon left the back door open and a coal oil lamp on the table. Putting the baby to bed in its little crib between her bed and the wall she went down the front way and as she opened the front door the strong draft closed the kitchen door with a bang, the concussion knocking the lamp off the table to the floor. This it was that caused the second fire. I was preparing to assist in a Red Men's dance that night, taking a lesson in archery, where you pull



The Point Richmond Volunteer Fire Department, ready for a parade, July 4, 1907. Taken in front of the original firehouse on Park Place. It had been moved from Martina to Park Place in about 1905, and later it was moved to Railroad Avenue. (Picture from the Don Church Collection)

the bow and hit the Adams Apple, when I heard the pitiful screams of Mrs. Simon. Opening the back door the flames were crawling upward towards the roof. My brother rushed in the front door, followed by several people who offered their services to move my stock. We got boxes and crates, baskets and sacks and in less than 20 minutes a stock of drugs, perfumes and showcases was keeping company with quite a quantity of potable liquor and a wagon load of "dead soldiers".

Mrs. Simon ran wildly about beseeching someone to save her child. A ladder was placed at the window of the sleeping room and two men crawled in, keeping close to the floor till they found the bed. Arising they pulled the clothing from the bed and rushed back to the window for air, discovering that they did not have the child. Unable to return they came out of the building as it collapsed. These men declared there was no baby in the bed, but the trouble was that the babe lay in a crib between the wall and bed, and next morning Mr. Higgins, Mr. Simon and I found the little bones in the center of the springs and placed them in a cigar box. The remains were taken to San Francisco for interment.

The flames tore through this building to the next and then to the next toward the McNally hotel. Elton Mason came to aid in fighting this fire by bringing all the one-inch pipe in town and connecting with the nearest hydrant, where a bucket brigade was started, in an endeavor to save the hoel.

Soon the "four deuces", a name the switch engine went by, came up, stretched her hose, which barely reached the hotel, started her pumps and exhausted her water supply in five minutes. She then returned to the water tank at East Yard, replenished, but before she could return the fire had got a good start and soon the McNally roost was

reduced to ashes.

FIRST FIRE COMPANY . . .

One week after the fire a meeting was called to plan a volunteer fire company. This meeting was held at Frank Critchett hotel and was well attended. All they talked about was the feasibility of organizing; and after the floor was properly spattered with tobacco spit and the chairman was unable to recognize those present through the tobacco smoke, it was decided to call a meeting of those willing to enlist as volunteers. This meeting took place in the office of the hotel and 25 was the number decided on as the proper man-strength of a volunteer fire company.

After organizing I was chosen president of the company and John Murray, chief. Jack Simon was the committee on finance and he collected from every wholesaler in San Francisco and Oakland. Bill was chairman of the bell committee, and Bill got a bell. [Probably William Ellis]

After we had a constitution and bylaws and a bell with a few hundred dollars in the treasury, we proceeded to purchase a reel and hose, axes, ladders and other fire fighting paraphernalia. This we finally housed on the hill off of Richmond avenue. 'Tis here we used to gather to swap lies and fight. The department was made up of a belligerent bunch. They got so bad they refused to speak to one another. They were either all chiefs or all privates.

The test came, however. An alarm was received that the Santa Fe shops were burning and the department was raring to go. When the hose and reel got as far as Tilden's lumber yard Jack Eakle was the only one tugging at the ropes; the rest were along the road side "all in". After a few minutes, however, some of the heroes helped Jack get the reel to the fire. As the Santa Fe had all the hose necessary to fight a first [class fire, we

were able to] take our turn in line and get a little stimulant occasionally.

After the fire had burnt up every bolt and scorched every nut in the shop, we held a consultation and sorrowfully acknowledged that the fire was out. Whatever became of the company I don't know, excepting I stumbled over the chief's horn getting out of the yards. A stranger assisted me in getting the reel up to the Critchett hotel corner where we left it for the night.

This was the last fire that I attended as fireman. The Santa Fe round house was the last property I helped save. Next day I resigned. And yet some how Richmond fire company managed to exist and drink many a long glass of beer without my assistance.

—A. C. Lang

[The undated Richmond Independent account lists P.G. McIntyre as the first President; however, he may have been the second President of the group, since Lang resigned after only a short term.]

—Teresa Albro

Eleven years earlier, the following article appeared in the Richmond Daily Independent, on February 23, 1914:

BANQUET OF BANQUETS HELD BY LOCAL FIREMEN

Banquets may come and banquets may go, but the second annual banquet held on Saturday evening by the members of Fire company No. 1 in their reception rooms will long stand as one of the most elaborate feasts that has been served in this city for many years.

Councilman J.B. Willis was the toastmaster for the occasion and he performed his duties in an excellent manner. One of the feature speeches of the evening's affair was made by A.C. Lang, who briefed the history of the company from the day that it was organized with its hand-drawn apparatus up

to the present day with its modern fire trucks.
(from the Don Church scrapbooks)

WHEN THE INDEPENDENT WAS YOUNG

M.J. BEAUMONT, founder of the Daily Independent, writes reminiscences of early days in the history of this newspaper and tells of struggles with wily politicians.

As I look back sixteen years ago, when I first went to Richmond, yes, a pioneer, and began my work as a builder of what is today a thriving city, I am inclined to "live in the past" and chuckle over the passing reflections of incidents as I view them in panoramic procession.

It was just before I landed. The old Richmond Leader, conducted by Will H. Marsh, was having a stormy career. It was "in bad" all the way. One dark and gloomy night the "boys about town" decided that the Leader should die. Wearing black shrouds, in mournful procession, bearing a big black coffin, the "boys" halted in front of the "leading newspaper" on the Point side. The big coffin was set on fire and the Leader was burned in effigy. Shortly after, a new manager was sought for the Leader and I was selected as the new manager. But the road was too rocky. In May, 1910, I left the Leader and with D.N. Foss, established the Independent in June. We showed signs of life at once and survived the pioneering days, but my poor old friend Foss was a dreamer and had little confidence in his fellowmen. His policy was in contradiction to mine. Foss was of the calibre who believed in "saying it with flowers", while I preferred to "say it with fire". So we finally agreed to disagree during a terrific saloon fight, in which the council sought to reduce the number of saloons.

At that time there were something like 60 saloons in town. It was during this scrap that I was approached by one of the chief dive keepers and pressed with \$2500 in gold if I would use the Independent in an effort to hoodwink the public and help to retain the full quota of saloons. My efforts in this direction were not pleasing to the saloon men and what I received was nil. I did not fall for this sort of dirty graft, never have and never will, notwithstanding the fact that I see it passing me with outstretched hand, year in and year out.

It was during one of these saloon-labor fights that a "pinch-hitting" lawyer interested himself in maligning me and The Independent. He gathered together a big crowd of sympathizers one night in front of The Independent office and delivered a "wobbly" speech. In the heat of his talk he took a fling at me. "I want you people to know that the editor is no doubt taking a bath with thousand dollar toilet soap at this very minute," said the lawyer. At this very juncture he spied me coming into the crowd. Lowering his uplifted arm, he concluded - "Well, I have had my say." Getting down from his store box platform, he left his hearers standing mutely astonished at his sudden departure.

I also remember another labor fight. During this fight, my esteemed friend, Lee Windrem, tore the banner from the back of a "picket", kicked the man severely and trampled the banner into the street. Then there came a chap of dynamite fame from Los Angeles. He brought with him a bunch of "head-crackers" and pulling up in front

of the Independent office, pointed his finger at me and declared in a loud voice, "I'll get you." My old friend Jim Arnold who was chief of police at that time, gathered the bunch in and the next day, I think, they were sent on their way.

There were "good days" and there were "bad days" in those years. I remember when Hulanski was running the old Leader (after I left) and he roasted my friend Foss. In retorting, Foss said, "If the Leader editor insists upon getting hurt, let him skin his guns and shine his barrels." This was too much for "Hull", who came back as follows: "After reading my contemporary's invitation, I can only remember the old saying, the cows stuck up their tails and ran and so did I."

There were lots of interesting incidents during those pioneering days, when it was a custom, after a city council meeting for the paving ring to set 'em up until the doors closed.

But them days are gone forever.

And after all is said and done, I rejoice with the people of Richmond over the fact that a most magnificent harbor is growing up on the east side of San Francisco bay. I have in my possession a picture showing the driving of the first stake for Richmond's great harbor. It was an imaginary spot, but later in the day at a luncheon, I was called upon for a "remark". I expressed the prediction that I would live to see the setting sun shine upon a great harbor. I feel a sense of pride over the Richmond harbor, one of the great improvements I worked for, first, last and all the time. *Teresa Albro*

M. EMANUEL, Pres

E. J. PALMER, Vice Pres

MARION CRAWFORD, Sales Manager

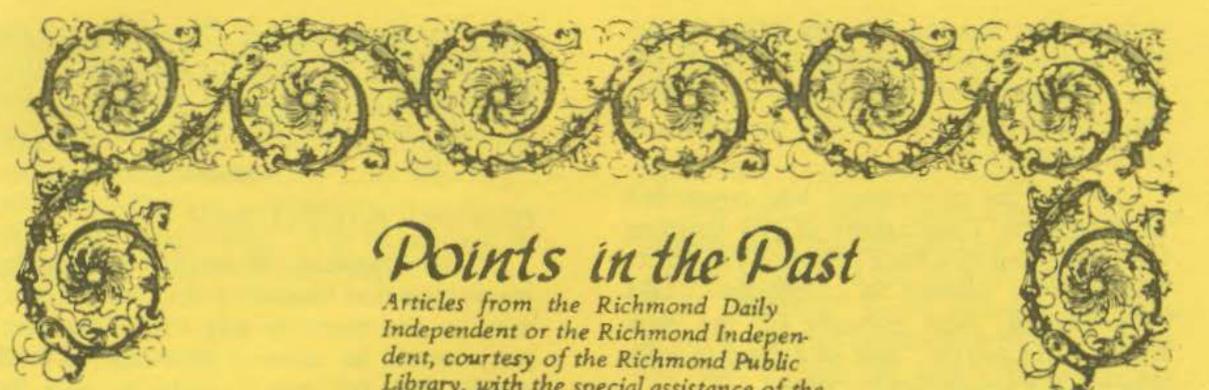
THE ELLIS LANDING & DOCK CO.

Owner of ELLIS LANDING SUBDIVISION The Waterfront Property of Richmond

TELEPHONE DOUGLAS 2270

601-602 KAMM BLDG., 717 MARKET ST., SAN FRANCISCO

ad from a 1913 city directory, courtesy of the Richmond Public Library



Points in the Past

Articles from the *Richmond Daily Independent* or the *Richmond Independent*, courtesy of the *Richmond Public Library*, with the special assistance of the *reference librarians*.

70 YEARS AGO ...

PLANS FOR MUNICIPAL TUNNEL OPENING CELEBRATION ...

"To have a huge river boat bearing commodities for some local merchant land at the very mouth of the local tunnel when completed, was one of the suggestions made during plans for a huge celebration to mark the completion of Richmond's municipal bore, now all complete but the laying of the pavement.

"It is estimated that the water near the mouth of the tunnel is about 10 feet deep, and that an average river boat can safely make a landing of a cargo without the use of a wharf for the occasion.

"Because of the importance of the tunnel and rail connection to commerce of this section, moving pictures of the affair will be taken, and shown throughout the country."

—March 4, 1915

EVENINGS AT THE OPERA HOUSE ... VAUDEVILLE & A LITTLE SURGERY

"Dr. Berry, the famous bloodless and painless surgeon and his assistants are now in Point Richmond to demonstrate the new and up-to-date methods of curing many so-called incurable diseases. The Point Richmond opera house is being used for that purpose each week day night. The doctor cures cancers, tumors, appendicitis, chronic

female disorders, sciatic rheumatism, nervous troubles and many other chronic diseases without knife, pain or blood.

"A high class vaudeville and moving picture show is given each evening free of charge, and during the evening from time to time bloodless surgery operations will be made in full view of the audience. Immense crowds attend each night.

"The doctor has offices in the Hotel Anderson where he can be consulted in private."

—March 9, 1915

CITY HALL CONTROVERSY CONTINUES

The importance of City Hall was recognized by local land developers, which accounts for the comment (in 1954) by old-timer Bill Foster that, "people used to run all over town wanting to know which city hall the council met in. It will go down in history that Richmond had more city halls than any city in the U.S.A." (Each large land-owner wanted the city hall in his tract.)

"Day fireworks, a brass band and speeches by the prominent boosters of the new city hall were made yesterday at the groundbreaking ceremony and the first shovel of earth in the new project was turned by Mayor E.J. Garrard. A parade formed at the old city hall and headed by the band, by

automobiles bearing the city officials and the first loads of lumber and concrete for the building toured through the city, down Macdonald avenue and ended up at the site in the Wall tract."

"After the celebration was concluded work on the foundations of the building was continued by a force of men. 'The structure will be pushed to completion,' said G.H. Stokes, local manager for the New Richmond Land Co., 'and we expect to have it ready for occupancy by June 1.'"

And, sure enough, things started to happen. The Los Angeles Pressed Brick Company, under the direction of John Gerlach, had secured the contract to make the bricks for the new city hall and began working on the large order. By the end of the month, the foundation was completed, and with an "impressive ceremony" the cornerstone was laid.

-March 10, 23, 26, 27, 28 & 30, 1915

BUILDING PERMITS . . .

Building permits issued by Building Inspector Bert Wierda recently included one to "Mrs. M. Partridge, for the moving of a cottage at 10 Montana avenue to the west side of Seventeenth street, between Bissell and Chanslor avenues, to cost \$500." Also, "W.J. McNamara, for the erection of a modern cottage on the west side of Idaho Street, between Richmond and Buena Vista avenues, at a cost of \$1600."

STANDARD AVENUE REPAIRS . . .

"Under the direction of the City Engineer's department, a temporary street running from Standard avenue up Antonio and back to Standard avenue by way of Prospect is being laid. The street will be used during the time that the four blocks of Standard avenue bordering on the Standard Oil company's plant are being repaired. The rock for the work is being contributed by the San Francisco Quarries company, while the

San Francisco-Oakland Terminals railway and Standard Oil company are contributing their assistance. The city is paying but \$500 in cash, this being for the labor employed on the job."

-March 27, 1915

DAY OFF FOR OIL MEN . . .

"The Standard Oil company yesterday announced that beginning next month every man on the monthly pay roll of the company would be allowed one day off each month with full pay in order to visit the (Panama Pacific) Exposition in San Francisco. The announcement met with the greatest enthusiasm by the 1,500 employees of the company here."

-March 28, 1915

CIGAR HEAVEN . . .

"Ten thousand Flor de Richmond cigars were received yesterday by King Bros., the cigar merchants on the west side . . . According to the proprietors of the place, this cigar is proving popular among local admirers of good cigars and they declare that they expect to have the entire lot sold in a very short time."

-March 28, 1915

NICHOLL TO BE HOST TO THE KIDDIES . . .

"A dinner to the members of the city council, the city employees and the newspapermen and free trips for a hundred children and twenty five chaperones to take care of them is the part that John Nicholl has voluntarily assigned himself to, to help make Contra Costa Day (April 3rd at the Exposition) a big success.

"The dinner will be served from 12 to 2 o'clock at the Inside Inn and (will entitle all invitees) to be feasted at John Nicholl's expense. All the while music will be played by the Hawaiian orchestra which has been secured for the occasion."

"Yesterday Nicholl went to Key Route

headquarters and procured a hundred round trip tickets between Richmond and the Exposition grounds including admission to the grounds for as many poor children in Richmond who would have no other way to get to the celebration and twenty five similar tickets for chaperones." The tickets will be distributed by various churches.

—March 30, 1915

60 YEARS AGO . . .

PIONEER DIES . . .

"Funeral services for William S. Bonner, an employee of Standard Oil company for 21 years, who died suddenly yesterday of acute dilation of the heart, will be held . . . Thursday afternoon.

"Bonner, who came to Richmond 25 years ago when there were only a few scattered tents on the West Side, was fatally stricken while at work . . . He resided at 129 Eddy street." —March 11, 1925

REPORT FROM WEST SIDE PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION . . .

"The question of double tracking Standard avenue as soon as it is widened was discussed and it was urged that the double tracking be insisted upon by the city council.

"The removal of the old rails from Washington avenue and Park place, which are held a menace to traffic was declared costly by City Engineer E.A. Hoffman, and this matter will be further discussed with the city council.

"Another project that was launched was the proposal to create a new street to be known as Western Drive running along the waterfront from the municipal tunnel to Scofield avenue thence on the road to the Richmond-San Rafael ferry terminal and from the ferry terminal around the point to Shrimp camp and the Winehaven road. This

drive will be costly, and property owners are to be interviewed on the question."

—March 13, 1925

ACTION ON HARBOR . . .

The city council voted unanimously to proceed with the construction of wharf No. 2 to be located at the foot of Tenth street. "F.B. 'Drydock' Smith outlined the plans he drew for the construction of (the wharf) and said it could be built with proper approaches for \$75,000. However, with the contractor's profit, inspection fees, etc. included, Smith placed the total estimated cost at \$82,355. The city has \$75,000 of a bond issue available for construction of the wharf."

—March 25 & 31, 1925

CONTRACTS FOR NATATORIUM AWARDED . . .

"The Richmond municipal natatorium will soon be a reality. Contracts, totaling \$99,594.70 for the construction of the natatorium were awarded by the city council last night."

"The city has approximately \$90,000 for construction of the bath house at present representing the \$85,000 . . . and accrued interest. The additional \$9500 needed to cover the cost will be borrowed from some inactive city fund for the present, and replaced from revenues of the natatorium after it is in operation."

—March 25, 1925

50 YEARS AGO . . .

MEATLESS MEALS FOR LENT . . .

Lima Bean Loaf:

Two cups lima beans, cooked. Mash the beans and add 1 well-beaten egg. Add one small onion, chopped fine, and 1 tablespoons tomato ketchup. Then add 1 cup fine bread crumbs, 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce and salt and pepper to taste. Put in a greased loaf tin and bake in a moderate oven for about 30 minutes.

Filet of Sole Marguery

One and a quarter pounds of filet of sole will be required for four people. Cover sole with pieces of buttered wax paper and place in a pan with fresh creamery butter, salt, a pinch of pepper, a bit of thyme and enough wine to cover. Add 2 mushrooms, 2 shrimp and a large oyster cut in half for each piece of sole. Cook slowly in oven for 20 minutes. When finished, remove the liquid and make a sauce by beating slightly the yolks of two eggs and adding them to the liquid which has been placed in a pan. Add a few chives and cook slowly, stirring constantly until the sauce thickens. Place each piece of sole on the platter and garnish each with mushrooms, shrimps and oysters. Serve sauce over the whole.

—March 1, 1935

NATATORIUM TO OPEN MARCH 29 . . .

"After being closed during the winter season and having for the past two months undergone a thorough and complete overhauling, the Richmond Municipal Natatorium, popular swimming place for the entire east bay section, will have its spring opening . . . Richmond people and the large number from other places who take advantage of the local municipal pool, will be able to enjoy themselves at aquatic sports."

—March 22, 1935

LIBERTY MARKET 25 YEARS OLD . . .

"Twenty-fifth anniversary of the business now known as the Liberty Market, founded that many years ago by Tony Mazza, well known west side merchant, will be celebrated by Mazza and his partner Aladino Bianchini in a special event tomorrow evening at the business location on Washington avenue, Point Richmond. Part of the event will be a prize awarding in front of the store at 8:00 p.m.

"To aid the celebration the East Bay Italian Band will be present . . . and Tony

himself will take the director's baton and show what he can do in leading the band."

—March 22, 1935

LAST SURVIVOR OF DONNER PARTY DIES . . .

"Arrangements were completed today for the burial of Mrs. Margaret Isabella Breen McMahon, last surviving member of the historic Donner party.

"She was only 11 months old when the party headed by Capt. George A. Donner and Patrick Breen, her father, set out across the plains for California in 1846."

—March 26, 1935

23RD BIRTHDAY OF CAMP FIRE CELEBRATED . . .

"All over the world the week of March 17 is being celebrated by Camp Fire Girls in honor of their twenty-third birthday. It was on March 17, 1912, that the Camp Fire movement was incorporated as a national association."

"The Richmond organization of Camp Fire Girls was started in 1924 by Mrs. Dorothy Miller, a former pioneer Camp Fire Girl. She gave generously of her knowledge and enthusiasm and the movement grew under her leadership. When it became necessary for her to leave Richmond, Miss Maude Wood who had been her assistant, assumed the responsibility, carried on leadership and held together a very creditable organization."

—March 18, 1935

—Teresa Albro

40 YEARS AGO . . .

POINT SEWING CLUB . . .

"Work on the bazaar to be held in some future date was undertaken at the meeting of the Point chapter sewing club at the home of Mrs. Hazel Cross, president, 3521 Ohio

avenue. Mrs. Eva Casteel was co-hostess.

"Whist was played with Mesdames Ellen Matthews, Mary Moyle and Grace Higgins as winners.
—March 1, 1945

MARY GIOVANETTI WEDS . . .

"Miss Mary Giovannetti exchanges vows with Roy Brown in Alameda tomorrow afternoon in Alameda.

"The bridal party and a few relatives will hold a wedding dinner at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Regolo Giovannetti, 325 Golden Gate avenue, after which the reception to be attended by some 400 guests is to be staged at the Galileo Club at 8 p.m.
—March 2, 1945

PIONEER OF CITY DIES . . .

"A pioneer resident of Richmond, Mrs. Elvira Wees, 5 Eddy street, Point Richmond, passed away Saturday. She was 78. Mrs. Wees, a native of Michigan, lived in Richmond for 40 years."
—March 3, 1945

THOUSANDS FLOCK TO RICHMOND FOR WAR WORK . . .

"Despite the large number of layoffs in the shipyards, people are still coming into Richmond at the rate of between 1,500 to 2,000 a week in search of employment, Arthur A. Hall, manager of the Richmond office of the United States Employment Service told the city council last night.

"Hall also told the council that as a result of the increasing number of discharges at the shipyards, the number of claimants for unemployment insurance is rising rapidly and more office space is required."
—March 13, 1945

30 YEARS AGO . . .

REFINERY FOLK AND SQUARE DANCE PARTY . . .

"The Richmond Refinery folk dancers

will hold their folk and square dance party at the Rod and Gun club on Saturday at 8 p.m. Masters of ceremonies will be Richard Sisler, Bob Henderson and Roy Gill. A program of old favorites as well as new dances has been arranged to interest all dancers. Refreshments will be served. There is no admission charge and the public is invited to attend."
—March 31, 1955

HONORS FOR CITY FOUNDER . . .

"Augustin S. Macdonald, founder of the city of Richmond, will address a meeting of the Uptown Businessmen's Association at a luncheon meeting . . . Macdonald, who currently resides in Oakland, has passed his 90th birthday. It was in November, 1985, while on an unsuccessful duck hunting trip that Macdonald walked to the top of Potrero Hill to get a full view of the bay shore."
—March 31, 1955

20 YEARS AGO . . .

PROPERTIES AVAILABLE FOR WATER RECREATION . . .

"Of late there has been considerable pressure on city, state and national bureaus and departments for creation of more recreational areas along Richmond's waterfront. Some of the proposals would nullify plans of Richmond's big industries to utilize their properties, bought for expansion and new industry.

[The editorial states that property at Keller's Beach could be purchased by the city; that the city owns tideland property near Brooks Island and Keller's beach, and that Navy property at Point Molate could be purchased for recreational areas.]

"Richmond's city council and the [Regional] park directors should get together on this program and develop the two sites that the city now owns. They could be made

into fabulously attractive areas."

-March 1, 1965

SURFING...

(Man on the Street):

"What do you think about surfing as a sport?"

Marni Bradshaw, 230 Castro St., student:

"I've watched it before but I never tried it...I'd like to ... It looks real challenging to me ... If I was a surfer I'd just surf all the time."

Keith Lamble, 315 Western Dr., student:

"Oh, it's pretty good. I'd like to be a beach bum ... wear grubby clothes, like a sweatshirt, but you have to get a college education first. You need that."

Chris Peterson, 612 Marina St., student:

"It looks like fun to me. It'd be better than getting hauled in for skateboarding like four of us did on Mt. Tamalpais one time. For surfing you have to wear blue levis and a p.coat over a sweatshirt to look right."

-March 3, 1965

LOCAL GROUP TO CHEMICAL CONFERENCE...

"Scientists from California Research Corp., of Richmond, Standard Oil Company of California's research subsidiary, will be making many contributions to the 149th national meeting of the American Chemical Society to be held April 5 - 9 in Detroit.

"Dr. Maurice R. Barusch, section supervisor at the Richmond Laboratory, will preside at the sessions of the special symposium on Additives in the Petroleum Industry."

-March 8, 1965

-Pam Wilson



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EAST BROTHER: History of an Island Light Station

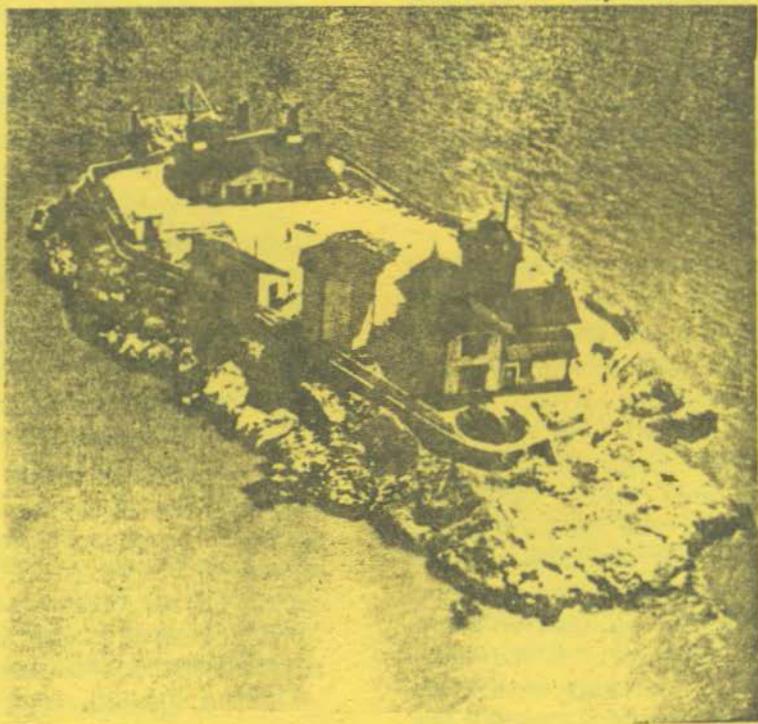
East Brother Light Station, Inc., a non-profit corporation licensed by the U.S. Coast Guard to restore and operate East Brother Light Station as a public service, has published a book on the island's history, written by Frank Perry.

Following is an excerpt from the chapter titled "A Light Station for East Brother":

"San Francisco Bay proper stretches from Alviso near San Jose in the south to Points San Pablo and San Pedro in the north. Between these two points lies San Pablo Strait. The two islands called The Brothers mark the east side of the strait, a quarter mile off Point San Pablo. On the west side are two similar islands named The Sisters. It is not known who named these two sets of islands nor when they were named. It has long been a tradition, however, to name two

or more similarly-shaped islands or mountains in this way. Two islands also called The Brothers lie just south of Cape Mendocino in Humboldt County. The names for the San Francisco Bay islands became official in 1851 when the U.S. Coast Survey used them in preparing the first accurate map of the bay.

"Besides providing shelter for boats, San Francisco and San Pablo bays also link the vast Sacramento and San Joaquin river systems to the Pacific Ocean. Much of the river water comes from melted snow in the Sierra Nevada, and some of it flows as much as four hundred miles before reaching the ocean. During the Gold Rush, the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers were important transportation routes, helping link San Francisco with the Sierra. In the 1850s and 1860s dozens of boats regularly ferried mail, passengers and freight between San Francisco and inland ports as far north as Red Bluff and nearly as far south as Fresno. By



AERIAL VIEW OF EAST BROTHER, MAY 11, 1945
(U.S. Coast Guard), from *East Brother*

the 1870s railroads started taking much of the business away from the river boats, but even today freighters unload and pick up cargo at Sacramento — a hundred miles inland from the sea.

“In 1854, when the federal government established a Navy shipyard at Mare Island near Vallejo, ship traffic through San Pablo Strait further increased. By 1866 the Mare Island fleet numbered nearly 700 ships.

“In response to the continued growth of the San Francisco Bay area, three sites overlooking the bay waters were recognized in the early 1870s as needing lighthouses and fog signals. These were Yerba Buena Island between San Francisco and Oakland, the east side of San Pablo Strait, and the southern tip of Mare Island.

“Previously, in 1851, the Coast Survey had anchored a marker buoy over Invincible Rock, a submerged hazard about one half mile southwest of The Brothers. By the early 1870s other buoys marked hazards bordering the strait, but ship captains who regularly navigated these waters needed a better buide at night and during fog. On March 3, 1871, Congress appropriated \$20,000 for construction of a lighthouse and fog signal for this purpose.

“After passage of the bill, lighthouse engineers examined land at Point San Pablo and tried to negotiate with the land owners for purchase of a suitable site on the mainland. The owners, however, refused to sell. This left the government with no choice other than to file suit against them for condemnation of the land. In July, 1871, at a special proceeding of the state Fifteenth District Court, the jury awarded the land owners \$4,000 for the 12.8 acres wanted by the government. The Lighthouse Board thought that this judgment of the land's value was excessive, but being anxious to begin lighthouse construction, accepted the

ruling. The owners of the land apparently thought this was not enough, so they appealed the case to the California Supreme Court.

... “Soon two years had passed since plans were first made for a lighthouse. . . and mariners who regularly traveled this route were growing impatient with the delays. In January, 1873, a number of captains from steamers and other vessels presented a petition to the lighthouse inspector in San Francisco urging that the lighthouse be built instead on nearby East Brother Island since the federal government already owned this property. The inspector agreed and on January 28 forwarded the petition to the Lighthouse Board for consideration.

“The Lighthouse Board responded enthusiastically to the new site proposal. Besides avoiding the legal problems, having the light on the island would increase its arc of useful visibility and place it closer to shipping lanes. The primary disadvantages of the site would be the lack of fresh water for household use and operation of a steam-powered fog signal, the necessity of providing boat transportation, and the lack of adequate space for a keepers' garden.

“The Brothers and The Sisters had been reserved for military purposes by President Andrew Johnson in 1867. At that time the islands were still unclaimed. Johnson had been advised that it might someday be necessary to erect batteries on these islands in the event enemy ships tried to reach Mare Island Navy Yard during a war.

... “The Secretary of War granted a fifty-year lease under the condition that the station “. . . shall give way to fortifications whenever it shall be required for that purpose.” He added, however, that it was not likely that these islands would be needed as sites for batteries for many years, if at all.

(To be continued in installments. Reprinted courtesy of East Brother Light Station, Inc.)

CHURCHES

POINT METHODIST CHURCH . . .

Church history is rich with contributions of women. One of the church groups was the Home Missionary Society of the First Methodist Church, whose history is reflected in the minutes, printed below from the stiff cardboard covered notebook purchased from "Schoen's Pharmacy in the Point". This is the sixth installment:

Point Richmond, Calif August 20, 1907

The Home Missionary Society of the M.E. Church met at the church. The meeting was opened by singing "Jesus Savior Pilot Me" and the President reading the 91st Psalm and prayer by the President and song No. 253 and then a reading by the President the Treasu (sic) and Corresponding Secretary being absent. The question in regard to the orphan children. The committee reports on seeing to getting home for the girl. Then it was moved and carried that Mrs. Gnaga see to getting up the Program for the next meeting. Also to see to paying the bills for the children which they have had in charge. Then on motion and carried that Mrs. Charles Adams should be chairman for supplies instead of Mrs. Butterfield. The object of our next meeting is to raise funds to pay the bills for the children. The next in order is that we elect Mrs. Conry as President. Term till January. Question is that Mrs. Gnaga act as first Vice President. Carried. Then on motion and carried Mrs. Mount shal (sic) act as critic for the society. On motion and carried Mrs. Mount and Mrs. Stout will act as visiting committees. Mrs. Conry paid 25¢ dues and 10 cts incidentals.

L.C. Pritchard, Sect.

—Mid Dornan

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH . . .

On Holy Saturday, April 5, the following people will be brought into the Catholic Church: Gary Nielson, Kay Arnold, Frank DeValle, Tom Santiago, Edward Lovasich

and Gregory Miles. On the same day, confirmation will be made by Joan Marie Strauss, Alexandra Pangelina, Kassandra Allen, Kateri Lynn Pangelina, Tangerine Kateri Pangelina, James Ruiz and Shannon Clutts.

Allan Smith, Jr., son of Allan and Marcellina Smith has agreed to sing at 5 o'clock Saturday Mass.

Regular parish choir rehearsals will be held on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. During Lent, Monday through Friday, Father Denis will conduct noon Mass.

—Marion Downey

A-MID TRIVIA

Lee's Flower Boat marked its Third Anniversary in February! What other flower stand celebrates an anniversary by sharing freshly roasted chestnuts, wine and kisses (Hershey's)? Lee is a delightful addition to the Santa Fe Market corner. Whether a single rose or a bouquet of spring blossoms, her flowers are an expression of happiness. Who doesn't love flowers!

The Point hills have challenged many joggers, hikers and cyclers, but the skill and strength they have promoted in kids of the Point, who manage to maneuver up, around and over them on roller skates, is amazing.

Vacationing in Mexico for a week are Amy and Marcos Rotting and year-old son, Christopher. Sons Lance and Phillip remained at home to attend school and be spoiled by Grandma and Grandpa Fletcher.

Michael and Michelle Brown and family are planning a short trip to Israel in the spring.

An open house – rather, an “Open Kitchen” party was held by Sheila Fostiak, to celebrate the culmination of construction, and the commencement of culinary enjoyment for this well-known Point artist.

-o-

trivia question:

How accurate are atomic clocks?

So accurate that, in 100,000 years, they would gain or lose only a few seconds.

-o-

remember when

They couldn't even use the word “pregnant” on TV, having to refer to the condition as “with child” or “in a family way”?

When violence and profanity didn't exist on TV. . . (or movies) ?

-o-

Every Friday during Lent, the doors of the Methodist Church at Martina and West Richmond Avenue will be open for commuters to avail themselves of a quiet time before work from 6 a.m. to 7:10 a.m. Communion will be offered to any that so desire. The Reverend Charles Smith will be present. Anyone is invited to drop in for as long or short a time as he/she wishes.

-o-

Art Boie, father of Donna Roselius, was here for three weeks in February, joined for one week by his granddaughter, Cheryl Boie from Cincinnati, Ohio. Since he was trying to escape from the Minnesota winter, you can attribute the three weeks of summer directly to him and his positive attitude. He

filled the three weeks with activity, including three visits with great-grandson Eric. He even attended granddaughter Jodi's aerobic exercise class. After last year's visit, he began jogging on a 'rebounder'. Soon to be 86, he jokes, “If I had known I was going to live so long, I'd have taken better care of myself.”

-o-

According to “In One Day” by Tom Parker (Houghton Mifflin Co.) every day 200 Americans become millionaires. (so, when is it my turn???)

-o-

Doug Clark, formerly of the Point and now a resident of Olympia, Washington, has just had his fourth book published, entitled *How to Prevent Crime in Small Businesses*. His first book was *How to Start a Small Business in California, Oregon and Washington*.

-o-

When baseballs, bats, mits and fathers re-surface, can Little League be far behind?

-o-

DEATHS:

Lillian (Bucci) Biaocchi died suddenly in February at the age of 77. A member of the West Side Improvement Club, Lillian was born and raised in Point Richmond, having lived on Golden Gate Avenue. An energetic, sharing, popular woman, she will be missed by all who knew her. She is survived by her sister, Alice Nelson and son, Anthony.

-Mid Dorman (234-5334)

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ad from a 1915 directory, courtesy Richmond Public Library

LETTERS

As interest in Point Richmond's History mounts, due in no small way to the endeavors of the History Association, it becomes ever more apparent that our local artifacts, photos and general memorabilia should at last be collected under one roof, forming an exhibition germane to the westside specifically and Richmond generally. I suggest, therefore, that a convenient structure in the westside be designated as the Point Richmond Museum.

I suggest, therefore, that a convenient structure in the westside area be designated as the Point Richmond Museum. Perhaps staffed in part or wholly by members of the History Association, the museum would provide permanent housing for memorabilia now scattered in various locations (and rarely viewed), and would allow for citizens to make provisions in their wills for bequeathing artifacts.

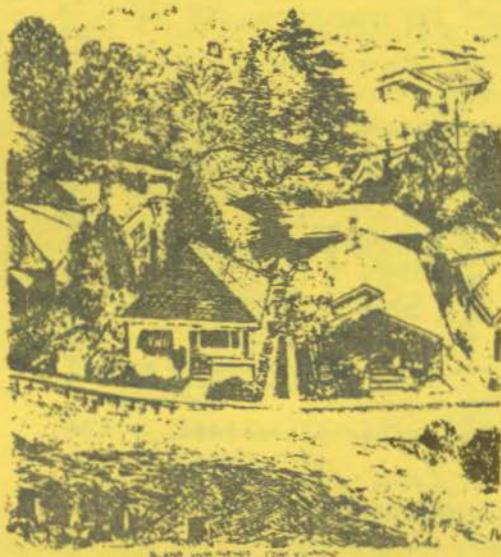
If history truly is the attempt of humanity to remember, then encouragement of of this recall becomes not only a collective pleasure but a civil necessity. Allowing our past to dwell once again in the milieu of of its origins will not only enrich the lives of all Richmond people but will, through time, nurture a civic unity that cuts deeper than surface politics and the ad hoc issues that send us staggering from one controversy to the next. Not the darling of a narrow special interest, the Point Richmond Museum would truly be a center, a daily vibrancy for citizens of all ages. In sum, we'd be placing our mementos where our memories are.

I invite the Point Richmond History Association, together with Richmond Museum and city officials, to weigh the feasibility of this proposal, bearing in mind Samuel Johnson's admonition that "nothing would ever be attempted if all objections must first be overcome."

With appreciation for your consideration of this project,

Sincerely,
Bernard Johnston

cc: Mayor Tom Corcoran
The Richmond Museum
Pt. Richmond Business Association
Parks & Recreation Dept.
East Bay Regional Park District
Councilman David MacDiarmid
Supervisor Tom Powers
Pt. Richmond Neighborhood Council



NAMES IN BRONZE FOR THE MINI PARK

Donations are now being accepted for the mini park surrounding the Statue. Donations of \$200+ will be memorialized by a plaque on the third side of the pedestal.

When sending your donation, please specify clearly how you wish the name printed on the plaque.

Donations may be sent to:
Point Richmond History Association
c/o Mae Mandl
808 Western Drive
Pt. Richmond, CA 94801

WEST SIDE BRANCH LIBRARY

It was especially appropriate to present a book talk at the February meeting of the West Side Women's Improvement Club; appropriate because it was this club that organized the West Side Library in 1909. A variety of current fiction and non-fiction titles were introduced. If there are other groups interested in this type of program, please contact Jan at 232-7169.

The audience for the Thursday preschool story time is growing. The more the merrier, so join us on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m.

During February non-fiction books from the 300's/ social sciences were borrowed from the Main Library to supplement West Side's collection. They will remain on our shelves until August.

March to the Music will be the theme for this month and books on display will feature different aspects of music. Make a note to stop in.

-Jan Burdick

*Ad from March, 1925 newspaper,
courtesy Richmond Library*

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A COMMUNITY INVITATION

... to Council Candidate Corbin's
Kickoff Party ...

A kickoff party for City Council Candidate Rosemary Corbin will be held Sunday, March 10 from 2 to 5 p.m. at Linsley Hall, corner of Washington and Nicholl. All interested residents are invited. A \$10 donation is asked, to initiate her campaign. Refreshments and music by the Kammeroque Trio will add to the festivities.

Rosemary has been a Librarian at the Richmond and San Francisco public libraries; active in numerous community organizations, she is perhaps best known locally for instigating and completing several years' worth of beautiful handmade quilts which Washington School raffled off as fund-raisers. She was listed in the "Outstanding Young Women of America" in 1975.

CALIFORNIA LITERACY CAMPAIGN

More than 150 Richmond area adults are learning a new and hard-earned skill - reading. They are students in the Richmond Public Library's Literacy for Every Adult Project (LEAP), now in its second year.

LEAP offers free tutoring in basic math and reading with the help of volunteer tutors. The program is currently recruiting both adult students and volunteer tutors.

If you can help someone as a tutor for a few hours per week, orientation for volunteer tutors will be Friday, March 8, from 9 a.m. to noon, or Tuesday, March 12, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Training for tutors will be Saturday, March 16 and 23, from 9 a.m. to noon. All meetings are at the Richmond Library Auditorium. Call 231-2116 or 231-2151 for details.

SPECIAL DAYS IN MARCH . . .

- 12 - Girl Scouts' Birthday
- 15 - Washington PTA Founders' Day
- 15 - Ides of March!
- 17 - Camp Fire Girls' Birthday
- 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- 20 - Spring Arrives!
- 26 - Open House, elementary schools
- 27 - Open House, junior high schools
- 28 - Open House, senior high schools
- 31 - Palm Sunday

MARCH PAST . . .

- 2, 1923 - First issue of "Time" magazine published
- 9, 1822 - False teeth patented
- 10, 1909 - Dr. Samuel Crumline asked railroads to provide paper cups on trains and abolish the common drinking cup.
- 16, 1926 - First liquid fuel rocket flight
- 17, 1953 - The last price controls set up during World War II were discarded
- 16, 1882 - The senate approved a treaty making the U.S. a member of the Red Cross.

POINTS IN THE FUTURE

March . . .

- 10 - Kickoff party for Rosemary Corbin
- 13 - Point Richmond Business Association meeting - Hotel Mac, noon.
- 28 - POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION MEETING - Linsley Hall, 7:30 p.m. (see page 1)

Thursdays at 10 a.m. - Preschool Story time at West Side Library

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY . . .

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Carol Darling | Dale Hawkins |
| Ben Bray | Noraleen Dowell |
| Jean Knox | JoAnn Bray |
| Karolyn Macdiarmid | Carl Peasch |
| Heidi Hartman | Reba Slagle Downs |
| Martin Busby | Rich Schuldt |
| Ramona Robbins | |

NAME _____	
ADDRESS _____	
TELEPHONE NO. _____	
TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (CHECK ONE)	
<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR CITIZEN (65 +)	5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY	20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> ORGANIZATION	25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORY-PRESERVER	30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORY-MAKER	100.00
<p>Membership in the Point Richmond History Association includes a subscription to this newsletter.</p> <p>Please send membership forms to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PAM WILSON 521 WESTERN DRIVE POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801</p>	

"This Point In Time" is published by the Point Richmond History Association, 212 Bishop Alley, Point Richmond, CA 94801.

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ARTICLES FOR EACH MONTH'S ISSUE ARE DUE ON THE 20TH OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

Please mail articles and items of interest to:
 212 Bishop Alley, Point Richmond, CA 94801.
 Questions? Call 235-4222.
 Items may also be dropped off at Richmond Supply Co., 145 W. Richmond Avenue.