

THIS POINT

in time

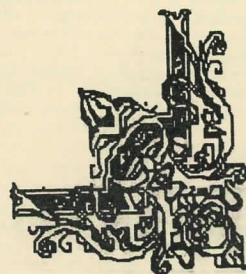
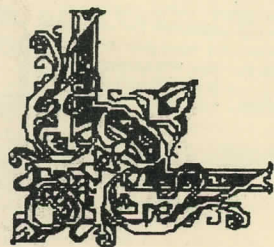
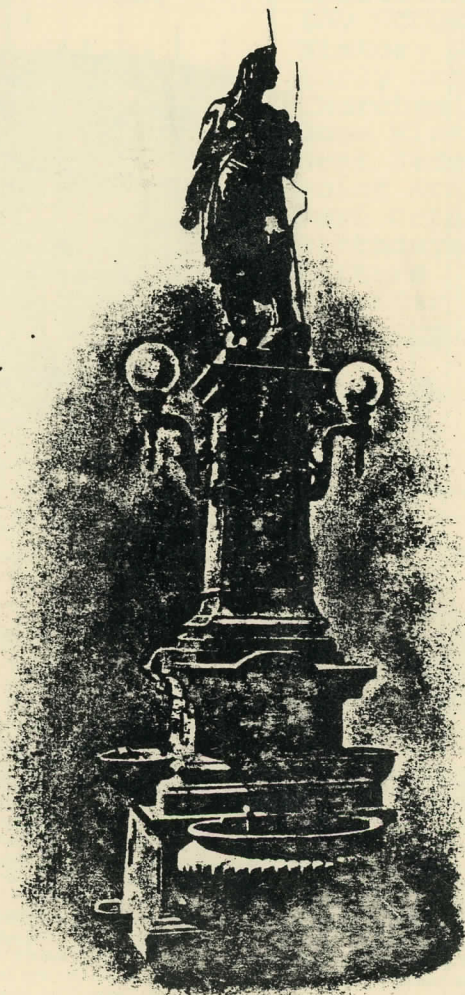
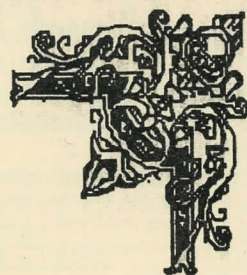
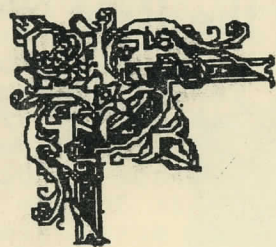
COMPLIMENTARY

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL. VIII No. 4

OCTOBER, 1989

ONE DOLLAR



1949 P.G.&E. bill insert

SEPTEMBER, 1949

P. G. and E. Progress

Record Demands Met

Peak Load Nearly Double the Top Pre-War Figure

THE P. G. and E.'s vast electric system is setting new high records for peak load and daily deliveries of energy.

An all-time-high peak load of 2,309,600 kilowatts was established on July 27.

Recent deliveries of energy also have set new records, being in excess of 44,250,000 kilowatt hours per day.

These figures dwarf pre-war records.

The peak load of 2,309,600 kilowatts was almost double the last pre-war peak of 1,217,700 kilowatts on December 8, 1941, the day after the Japanese raid on Pearl Harbor.

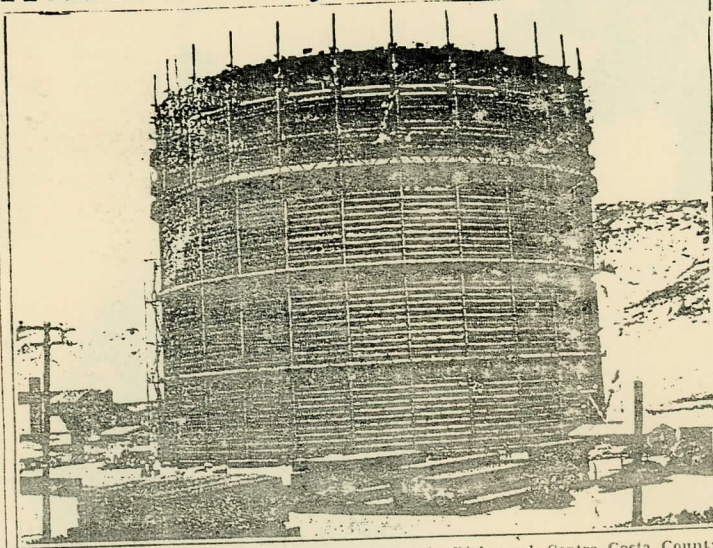
This summer's energy delivery record of 44,250,000 kilowatt hours per day almost doubled the 1941 high of 22,837,000 kilowatt hours per day.

The tremendous increases in both load and energy deliveries reflect the phenomenal population growth and industrial expansion throughout Northern and Central California.

The P. G. and E. has been able to meet the record-breaking demands for power because of the great progress made on its postwar construction program. Since V-J Day in 1945 the company has invested about 400 million dollars in new service facilities and its expenditures continue at the rate of more than 15 millions per month. Already it has built new powerhouses with a total capacity of approximately 600,000 horsepower, including a 101,000-horsepower steam-operated unit at Bakersfield, the 133,000-horsepower Elctra plant and the 21,000-horsepower West Point plant on the Mokelumne River, a 296,000-horsepower addition to Station "P" in San Francisco and the 40,000-horsepower Colgate plant on the North Fork of the Yuba River.

Still to come are new projects with capacities totaling more than 1,200,000 horsepower and by the end of 1951 the company will have added nearly 2,000,000 horsepower to its system, almost doubling the capacity required to serve its customers before the war.

Holder Built by Raising the Roof



Huge new P. G. and E. gas holder being erected in Richmond, Contra Costa County. It will be 254 feet in diameter and as tall as a 32-story building.

IMAGINE erecting a skyscraper by the process of building the roof first and raising it as each story is added.

A plan much like this is being followed in the erection of a huge new P. G. and E. gas holder at Richmond, Contra Costa County—a steel structure 254 feet in diameter and 395 feet tall, as lofty as a 32-story building. The key unit of the completed holder will be the "piston," a steel disc of the full diameter, which will ride on the gas and serve as a seal at all levels. Meanwhile it is the key unit of the unique construction method.

Let's take a look at the Richmond version of raising the roof. At the beginning of the job the holder's concrete foundation was poured, its floor laid and the first columns of its steel framework put up. Next its piston was assembled, on the floor, and the roof was built on top of it. Thereupon crews installed and welded together the steel plates forming the first tier of the holder's walls. (Each tier is 40 inches in height.)

On completion of the first tier, two

large electric blowers filled it with air and the piston and roof rode up on top of it. Then a second tier was added, more air was pumped in and the piston and roof were raised again. So it has gone for several weeks—another tier, another "blow", another tier, another "blow", with the roof rising steadily. When the last tier is finished, the roof will be in its proper place at the top.

This method has two advantages. It is easier and faster than completing the walls and then hoisting material to the top to build the roof. Also the roof serves as a working platform on which construction equipment operates and it supports scaffolds for the workmen.

The new Richmond holder will have a capacity of 17,000,000 cubic feet and will be the largest on the company's system. The project, including mains to connect the holder with the distribution networks in Richmond and Berkeley, will cost approximately \$5,000,000. Construction commenced last January and is scheduled for completion in December.

History Association Notes

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Jerry Cerkanowicz

Hopefully you will be receiving this newsletter earlier than the last issue. I didn't get mine until September 20th! They did go out on time but the good ole' Post Office lost the sack of 9480-'s somewhere in Oakland, so out of state members got their issue BEFORE Point Richmond members.... oh well.

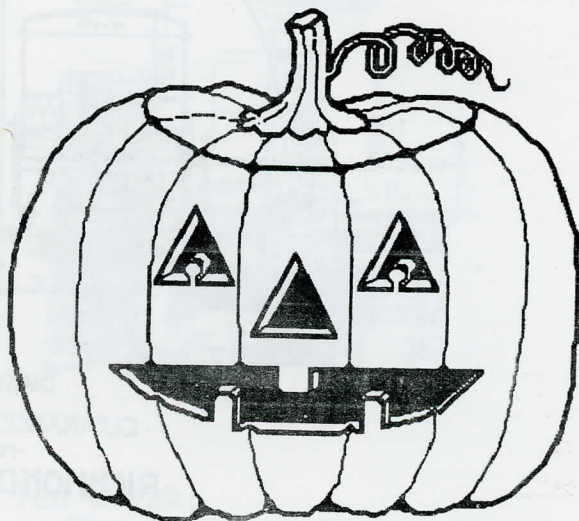
Our September General Meeting was successful and enjoyable even though the tardy newsletter caused a disappointing attendance. I had on display three photos of the old Hazel Carr building superimposed on a picture of the spot in the triangle where we would like to place it. There was also a discussion about the practical aspects of moving the building and what it would be used for.

I would like to welcome James Cheshareck as the newest member of our board of directors (Archives). James has been an active member for quite some time. Thank you also to Board member Anne Hanzlik for taking over the job of Treasurer from Mae Mandl.

Festival by the Bay on September 23rd was fun, even

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From the President cont.

though the sun came from behind the clouds for only its usual 20 minutes and the wind was blustery. Thanks to everyone who helped out at our booth and to all of those who stopped by to visit.

I look forward to seeing you on October 14th at Indian Statue Day. With the circus and all it should be a lot of fun this year. We plan on having our 1990 wall calendar for sale at our booth. It again features the drawings of Donna Roselius.

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

CATHE AMBER-BRAZIL
TOM & LUCRETIA EDWARDS
MARY J. FORBES
ELEANOR HURLEY
JOHN MAXWELL
EDITH WHETSTONE
JANICE HANTZSCHE
AILEEN CONN

And a warm welcome to new member:

IRVING RUBIN

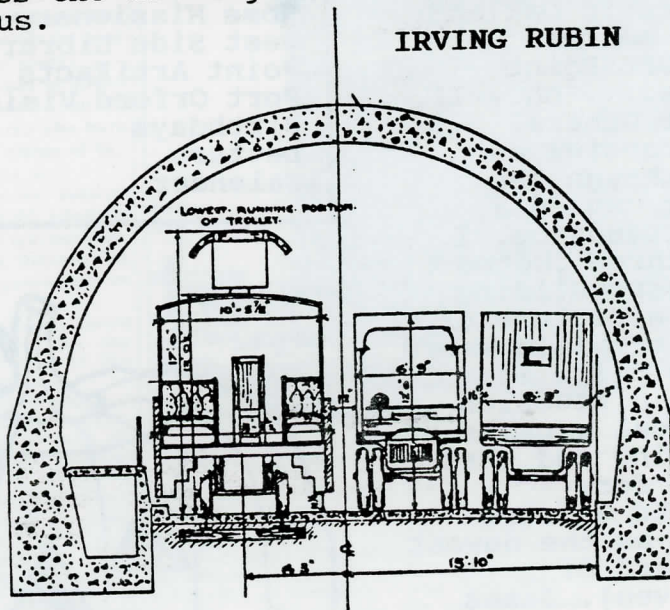
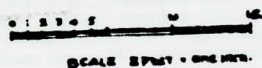


DIAGRAM N° 29
CLEARANCE DIAGRAM
FOR
RICHMOND TUNNEL

SHOWING LATEST TYPE OF SUBURBAN
ELECTRIC CAR AND TWO MOTOR TRUCKS PASSING



HAVILAND E. TIBBETTS.
CIVIL ENGINEERS.
SAN FRANCISCO.

editors notes.....

BY GARY SHOWS

Thank you to Muriel Clausen for her extensive work on the recent history of the Brickyard Cove area of the Point. The first installment of that history is in this issue, I think you'll find it interesting as Muriel's family has had a profound influence on the shaping of this waterfront community. Thanks also to Liz McDonald for the research. We plan on distributing this issue in the Brickyard area and I am hopeful that interest will be sparked by more residents who would like to research the history of the area further. I am pleased with the final result of the October issue.

Thanks to Mid Dornan for her help in the typing of this newsletter. She's purchased a computer and is learning word processing, the help is very much appreciated.

Thanks also to James Cheshareck for supplying various historical illustrations this issue.

Included in this issue is Dr. Thompson's "Memories of Early Point Richmond Schools". It is a wonderful article and I hope we hear more from him for future issues. Dr. Thompson has also allowed us to copy, and we will be reprinting his report to the Smithsonian Institution on Prof. Bott's airship.

Don't forget to get your copy of the 1990 "The Point" Calendar. It's again drawings by

Donna Roselius and we will have it at our booth on Indian Statue Day for \$4.95. See you there and GO A's!

The History Association will accept the best offer for its IBM Composer typewriter and 20 font elements. Call Jerry at 235-1336.



THE COVER:

The original Indian Statue copied from an illustration in one of the scrapbooks in our Don Church Collection.

A-MID TRIVIA

Mid Derman

October is "National Popcorn Month". There are mainly two kinds of popcorn. Mushroom corn has more of a ball shape and less ears or crumbs when popped. Snowflake corn pops all the way, no centers.

Actually, there are 3 kinds...when you include Microwave popcorn!

October 1st is the 274th day of the year...there are 91 days left in 1989 and this decade...and 85 days until Christmas. (Yer welcum!)

"Midnight Caller" viewers can watch early next year for scenes depicting a muddy, rain-soaked dirt road detour, supposedly in the Russian River area but actually filmed in the Point on August 28th about 8:00 p.m. The freeway construction 'pit' below Tewksbury and Marine was flooded with overhead power lights. Man-made rain pelted the carrier-topped station wagon as the family filled car skid and bumped over the muddy dirt road..for take after take.

In the middle of the filming, bystanders watched a "real-life" drama unfold as a dark car sped and dodged in and out of traffic, eluding the SIX, siren-piercing, blue lights flashing, highway patrol cars in chase from the bridge heading east on 580!

Rose Fahrion has returned after a three week visit to her native Germany where she visited her parents as well as doing some sightseeing.

Former Point Richmondite, Mary Schwerdfeger, now of Gardenville,

Nevada, visited with daughter, Gretchen, and family as well as many other Point friends.

Be prepared to receive as change the not-too-familiar half-dollar. None were minted in 1987 but in 1989 there were plans to stamp out 40 million.

Matt, Lucia and daughter, Aubyn Eakles, will be moving from their Tewksbury address to a new home in the Annex. They hate to leave the Point but found housing unaffordable! Lucia's sister from the east visited with them this summer and especially enjoyed the coastal beaches.

GONE..(almost and amid mixed emotions). the landmark PG&E tank at Brickyard Cove. Before the final demolition, someone sprayed, in big red letters, "Tanks..for the memory - Brickyard Landing"

The first "Monday Night Football" was on September 21, 1970. Beginning its 20th season, it is becoming one of TV's longest running prime time shows and truly changed America's viewing habits. To say nothing of relationships!

MARRIED: Melissa Tina Allyn and Kevin Fitzgerald Driscoll on September 2nd at St. Cornelius Church. Two Salesian priests, cousins of the groom, were among those performing the marriage ceremony. Melissa had five bridesmaids and used a black and white color scheme. Both the bride and groom are members of the Richmond Police Department. They honeymooned in Hawaii. Melissa is the daughter of Henry and Jean Allyn.

BORN: to Norm and Jean Reynolds of Scenic Avenue, a son, David Albert at Kaiser Oakland on Wednesday, September 13th, weighting 9lbs 3 oz. He is welcomed by sister, Bethany, and brothers, Jonathon and Michael.

COMING SOON TO THE POINT...a branch of Mechanics Bank in the new Tech Center.(Hooray!!!)

Point Orient Restaurant has a new image... new mirrored wall...new carpets... a new entrance but the same fine food.

Grandma remembers when the Washington PTA sponsored a Halloween trick-or-treat for Unicef. Each of the Point's three churches hosted parties where the coins were turned in. Kindergarten, first and 2nd graders went to the Catholic Church, third and fourth graders to the Baptist Church and fifth and sixth to the Methodist. A little over \$100 in coins (mostly pennies) were collected and were so heavy it took two people to carry them to the bank. Several OLD COINS appeared which gave speculation that someone really dug deep..or weren't aware of their time value..or even knew they were being given out!

The East Brother's Lighthouse Bed and Breakfast package is one of the most popular on the coast and advance reservations are necessary to be able to avail yourself of it. But, Hank and Jean Allyn, two Point Richmond residents did just that, even though it took almost a year, but "worth it," adds Hank.

BORN: In June, to Diane and Gordon Hirano of Bishop Alley, a daughter, Jaime Marie. This is their first child.

DIED: Verla S. Cameron of Western Drive on September 20th after a long illness. Born near the Grand Tetons in Wyoming, she lived in Wastonville where she met and married, Charles. They came to the Point in 1946. Verla was a family person and enjoyed her nine grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. She is survived by her four daughters, Judy Walz of the Point; Janice Jones, Norwood, Mo.; June Szody, Chester; and Marian Pierce, Rodeo; as well as a sister, Emma Overby, Salinas. Burial was in Watsonville. She was 68 years old.

Flush toilets in Knox-Miller Park in the Point? Yes. Watch for the construction in the immediate future.

REMEMBER when you are considering a calendar for 1990..think of the Point History Association's calendar. Funds are needed to proceed with the moving of the historic building from West Richmond Avenue.

Be sure to stop by the Point History Association Booth on Indian Statue Day, October 14th to chat and see our history books and plans for the future.

Enjoy the last leisurely days of summer with long walks and good friends.

A HAPPY AND
SPOOKING HALLOWEEN
TO ALL

SENIOR NEWS

By Muriel C. Clausen

Several items of interest have come up this month for Seniors. Of utmost importance and first priority is the Catastrophic Health Care Bill which, because of Senior pressure on their Representatives in Congress, appears to be in for a change. The hope for total repeal is slight as the Congressmen who wrote the bill would "lose face". However it appears that the surtax itself will be changed, probably to a lower rate spread over a broader base. Your letters to your Representatives should continue to flood!

Alzheimer's Disease and Diseases of Dementia are receiving more attention on the Legislative level. The caregivers for Alzheimer's Disease take a real beating as there is little if any insurance coverage for the disease. In Contra Costa County there are several day care centers which take these patients for short term times to give the caregivers a respite. There is also one center with State authorization that will take these patients on a daily basis for 9 hours a day and five days a week for \$49.00/day. Because this is a State program the patient would be screened by the State Diagnostic Board in order to qualify. This gives the caregiver a full day or a week

or more of respite to the caregiver. This facility is called the Mt. Diablo Rehabilitation Center and is on Golf Course Road across from Diablo Valley College. The emphasis at this day care center is on maintaining the level of awareness as opposed to allowing it to deteriorate, on enticing awareness and on self esteem. There is a program of activities that includes music, arts, crafts, games, exercise and cooking. Contra Costa County has over 6000 Alzheimer's and Dementia patients yet very few caregivers are aware of the program.

Educating Seniors in the use of computers is the goal of a new program that is going to be funded in Contra Costa County by Pacific Bell and sponsored by J.F. Kennedy College. This is a nationwide program that is called "Senior Net" and is just being developed in this county. At present the forming group is looking for a classroom type site to house its computers. When this is located, publicity will spread the news and will encourage Seniors to participate.



Sports memories

By Allan Smith

Ralph Kendrick, a Pt. Richmond resident, was the first lifeguard to work at the Richmond Natatorium. He held that position for many years with Olive Salt assisting him at various times during the late thirties and forties.

Mr. Kendrick was an excellent swimmer as well as being a good athlete. Ralph had a very smooth swimming stroke both freestyle and back. It seemed he just glided through the water hardly making a ripple. We always wanted to see him swim. In his younger years, before coming to the Natatorium, he participated in semi-professional prize fighting in the boxing ring.

It wouldn't seem right is Ralph wasn't seen sitting at his lifeguard perch to the left of the pool. He saved several lives during his career as well as many struggling swimmers. He would spot a swimmer in distress and would then dive from his perch to the six foot depth below to swim to and save the person.

During special festivities, Ralph Kendrick had an act where he climbed to the rafters of the building and dove to the pool below. His clothes would be saturated with kerosene and at a given moment the lights would go out and Ralph would be on fire diving as a ball of flame to the water. One time Ralph

received serious burns...it was an exciting act to watch!

Later, Kendrick took up archery and he excelled at that sport along with Margaret Broberg Thompson and her husband, both from Pt. Richmond. They were good enough to become Olympic caliber contenders. The shooting range was alongside the Natatorium next to the railroad tracks with a range of over 100 yards.

I haven't heard anything about Ralph Kendrick and his family since he retired from the Richmond Natatorium as lifeguard.

OAKLAND
GO! Athletics™
AMERICAN LEAGUE
CHAMPIONS

BOY SCOUT TROOP III

Scout Troop III, the oldest troop in Richmond, meets each Monday at 7:00 p.m. at the Point Methodist Church. Any boy aged 11-18 is welcome to just show up. A recent Court Of Honor presented scouts with advancement awards. David Creed, Benecia and former member of Troop III, has been working with the scouts for their electrical Merit Badge and Michael Brown serves as Aviation Counselor.

A dinner is planned by the scouts for their parents and as a thank you to the girls who served as waitresses at the Annual Scout Pancake Breakfast in June.

A History of Brickyard Cove from 1961

by Muriel C. Clausen

Brickyard Cove as an area has a history that exists long before this report was written and long before it was called "Brickyard Cove" by the investors whose interest began in about 1961. This description will include only that time, 1961 until the present.

Bert Clausen (W.B. Clausen) was Commodore of the Richmond Yacht Club in 1961. The Richmond Yacht Club at that time was located on Cutting Blvd. in Richmond near Canal Street; and was there on a month-by-month rental lease with the Santa Fe Railroad Company. This precarious lease motivated the Yacht Club members to always be looking for a more permanent home for the Yacht Club; the greater incentive being to own their own property. As Commodore at that time Bert Clausen dedicated himself to locating a permanent home for the Yacht Club. Research into the available or unused pieces of property on the water in this area revealed among others an area out by a brickyard on the south shoreline of Richmond that was owned by the Macdonald-Henshaw group. Mr. Clausen along with Mr. Herb Thode of the Yacht Club examined this area of approximately 143 acres (most of which was under water). They made contact with the

Realtor representing the Macdonald-Henshaw group in December of 1961 to make an offer on 14 acres of this property near the entrance from Garrard Blvd. Mr. Clausen and Mr. Thode had observed that the waters off of this area were relatively calm due to a long training wall that had been installed by the Army Engineers some years previous to create a channel into Richmond's Inner Harbor for shipping purposes. This wall afforded major protection from the waves from a Southwesterly direction. The general weather in this area was balmy and just windy enough to provide for good sailing. However the waters nearer the shore were quite shallow and would require dredging.

After approaching the realtor the yachtsmen awaited a reply. However, the offer was rejected by the realtors and no counter offer was made. Mr. Clausen then decided to approach the owners directly. After some communication he was invited to meet with the owners, their realtors and their attorneys. Early then in 1962 Mr. Clausen, Mr. Thode and Mr. Bill Fisher of the Yacht Club met with the heirs of Macdonald-Henshaw and thier group inviting them to reconsider their offer. The yachtsmen discovered at this meeting that their previous

offer had not even been submitted to the owners. Resubmitting an offer of \$34,000.00 the yachtsmen then endeavored to persuade a sale and stimulate an interest in their offer by suggesting to them the potential increase in value of their property once the Yacht Club was established there. The group listening to them gave no definite response so the yachtsmen left somewhat discouraged. However in February 1962 the yachtsmen received a call from the realtors that an offer of \$45,000.00 for this segment of the property would be acceptable.

1962 this was still not completed but the negotiations appeared near. So, in January 1963 after much persuasion of the members of the Richmond Yacht Club a majority vote was achieved to complete the purchase agreement with the Macdonald-Henshaw group contingent on this strip of access becoming available to them. Their terms were that this strip of land would be free of any separation by a railroad track easement.

Once the vote was taken and agreed upon, the Richmond Yacht Club fell to in a hearty manner to create their facility. Starting in 1963

207 Cash Sale

Order 49327

625

158 Palace Hotel Co

122517

3,335 Robert Duveau

286797

Ledger entry for bricks sold to build the original Palace Hotel in San Francisco.

A major obstacle arose that made it difficult to achieve a majority vote of the members of the Richmond Yacht Club to go ahead with the project: There was no roadway access to the property desired. Such a roadway would have to access from the south end of South Garrard Blvd. and that would be through property owned by the Parr Company. Further negotiations commenced for a trade of property between the Parr Company and the Macdonald-Henshaw group for a strip of land that would access to the Yacht Club's proposed site. By the end of

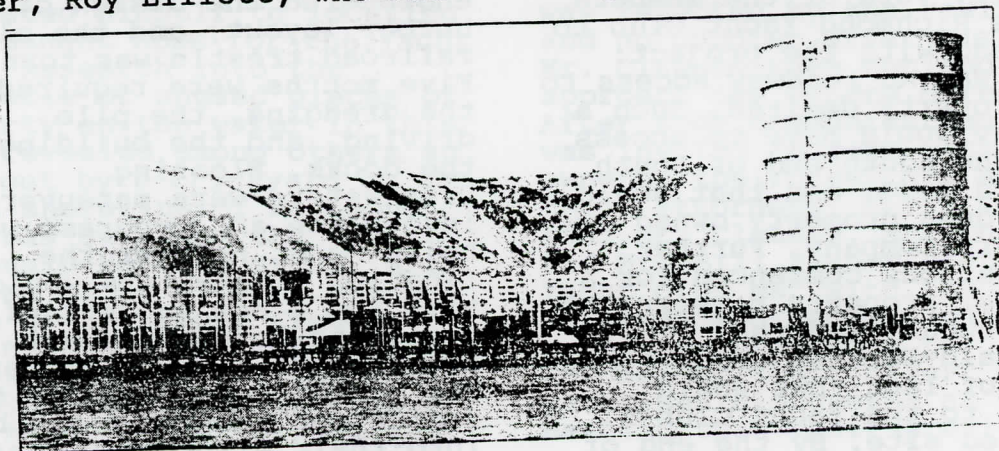
surveys were taken, studies were made, Bert Clausen engineered the design of the harbor layout, and the old railroad trestle was torn out. Five months were required for the dredging, the pile driving, and the building of the docks. Floating breakwaters were maneuvered into place and progress was being made, however the floating breakwaters would not work and a new project of designing more permanent breakwaters was undertaken. The harbor was completed for a dedication and the first boats into their slips on Sunday,

January 31st. The energy was still generating as Jens Hansen, Yacht Club member and an architect were busy designing the new Clubhouse. Meanwhile new breakwaters were rapidly being designed. The construction on the new clubhouse commenced in August of 1965 and was dedicated at its completion on April 30, 1966. The new, more permanent breakwaters were completed in September of 1966 making the Richmond Yacht Club a well established and secure facility in wat was now being referred to as "Brickyard Cove."

During the years of 1963 and 1964 Bert Clausen looked with increasing interest on the balance of the property in Brickyard Cove, and the fact that no use had been planned for it. Upon discussing this with Yacht Club member Jim DeWitt some ideas began to be generated for further use for this property. Mr. DeWitt suggested that Bert talk with another Richmond Yacht Club member, Roy Elliott, who had

often mentioned that he would like a piece of waterfront property upon which to build a boatyard. Bert discussed this with Mr. Elliott in conjunction with an idea that Bert had for a water oriented residential community. It was decided between them that an offer would be made to the Macdonald-Henshaw Group for the balance of the property in Brickyard Cove hat they owned. This was 129 acres (mostly underwater). Because of the earlier enthusiasm by which Mr. Clausen, Mr. Thode and Mr. Fisher had presented their case for the Yacht Club the Macdonald-Henshaw group would only consider a much higher price per acre than the Yacht Club had paid. Bert Clausen and Roy Elliott gathered together a small group of friends as interested investors and accepted the increased price, making a purchase of the balance of the property in early 1965.

The previous owners had no planned use for this area. They had been consulting



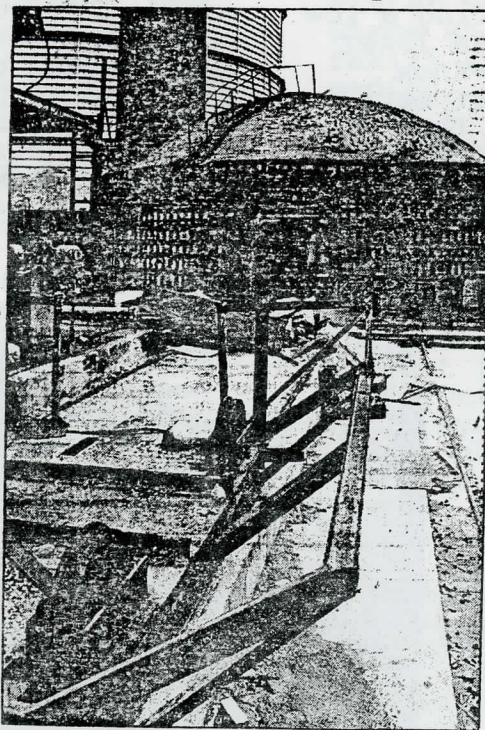
"The Tank" has since become a part of history.

persons one or two years previously about placing a dike along the bulkhead line and using the area inside the dike for a public landfill. Some would call such an idea a dump! This was not, however to be its destination.

When the new owners received title to this area they looked around to see what they had really purchased. Most of their land was underwater, some projecting out into the shipping channel. To the east on the hillside was a deep waterhole that was being used for the washing of rock by a quarry over the hill off of Canal Street. There was a scrap metal yard beyond this busily cutting up ships, cars and rail cars; piling it high to load into ships that carried it to ports of call all over the world. To the east of this was a dry dock and ship repairing yard. to the north there was a private brickyard in operation on a small scale on that hillside. Predominant to the area and just north of the newly acquired property adjacent the steep hill was a P.G.&E. gasholder thirty stories high for use in storing natural gas. It had a

substation adjacent it and the complex was fenced in for security. (This gasholder was built in 1949. It was 379 feet tall and 250 feet in diameter holding up to 17 million cubic feet of natural gas. It was in active service until 1987 and was removed in August 1989.) West of the property was the newly designed Richmond Yacht

Club and its boating marina under construction. To the west of this was Pier #1 with a large warehouse that was being used to store fishmeal. Around the warehouse was a storage facility of large tanks being used by the Parr Company for the storing of imported vegetable oils which they shipped out on a railroad spur elsewhere for processing and sales. (Later this storage facility was leased to Petromark Corporation which increased the business and the number of storage



With the PG&E tank looming in the background, this was the scene in 1981 when the old brickyard was torn down

tanks.)

Besides the spur track into the Parr Company the Santa Fe Railroad had a spur track which traversed the land just north of the property to access the metal scrapping facility. West of this storage facility and south of the south end of Garrard Blvd. was

a long pier upon which Santa Fe Railroad had rail lines which they used to ship railroad cars in barges across the Bay to San Francisco. Just at the end of South Garrard Blvd. was a tiny sandwich shop which appeared to do a good business. Along the waterfront that was adjacent South Garrard Santa Fe had placed dredging spoils creating a low rise of land which was later to become the Miller-Knox Regional Park. A sheet metal building across from that activity was occupied by Tops Chemical Company which was in the business of processing ammonia and other vaporuous gasses. To the south of the property was the real reason for its purchase. A long shipping channel ran the entire east-west length of the property protected from the stretch of the Bay by a long rock training wall. This was kept dredged by the Army Engineers as a shipping channel for large ships to reach the Richmond Inner Harbor to the east of the property. This offered the perfect sailors' access to the Bay sailing waters. Beyond this channel and the training wall was a spectacular view of San Francisco. This view included a broad sweep which encompassed Albany, Berkeley, Oakland, the Oakland-Bay Bridge, San Francisco, the San Francisco Marina, Angel

Island, and a small peek of the Golden Gate Bridge. From the top of the steep hill to the north of the property one had a complete 360 degree view of the entire area including both Mt. Tamalpais in Marin County and Mt. Diablo in Contra Costa County. Access to the property was very minimal. The brickyard had its own small dirt road which connected through a security gate to the gasholder. The Richmond Yacht Club was preparing their short piece of roadway access to their property; and that was all that there was.

.....**TO BE CONTINUED**

Los Angeles Pressed Brick Works,

Richmond, California.



In 1907 there were FIVE large brickworks in operation in the area, Remilyard Brick Company, Continental Brick Company, Richmond Brick Company, Central Brick Company and the largest, Los Angeles Pressed Brick Company pictured here which employed between 250 and 400 workers.

MEMORIES OF EARLY POINT RICHMOND SCHOOLS

by Dr. William L. Thompson

The Point Richmond hills originally formed a large island separated from the present site of Richmond by marshes and a waterway. The obstruction produced by the Santa Fe tracks resulted in silting up and closure of this water passage. My mother told me that when she arrived here early in 1902 she often saw small boats and barges tied up along the south side of the tracks.

The settlement of Point Richmond owes its location to the Santa Fe Railroad and its development to the Standard Oil Company.

The Santa Fe was less concerned with the area as a residential site because their personnel resided mostly in the little settlement of East Yard located near where Atchesen Village now stands.

When the Standard Oil Company began its construction there were of course no automobiles, no public transportation and very few horse drawn vehicles. It was essential that the workers live close enough to their jobs to get there by walking. The present site of Point Richmond was ideal for this purpose.

Prior to the start of the Standard Oil Company there was little need for schools. Most of the workers who came

seeking jobs had left their families behind to arrive later when living facilities were available. My mother had her first child, my older sister Sarah in Sacramento where she could be with her family and obtain better medical care.

As soon as living quarters were available and families moved in, schools became of paramount importance.

The first school in Point Richmond was a little board, one room structure located just north of Castro Street and west of Standard Avenue. I suspect that it was constructed about 1901 or 1902. My older sister started school here in 1908 and her first teacher was Mrs. Emily Axfell, a member of the old Boorman family from the Steg area. She was a very fine person and a dedicated teacher. Later she was drafted to teach American institution in the Adult Americanization program. She received many deserved honors.

This old school soon became inadequate. I believe that it was enlarged at one time but later a large two story school was built across Standard Avenue. This also soon became inadequate and it was converted into apartments. The original little school house I believe was taken over by a local labor union.

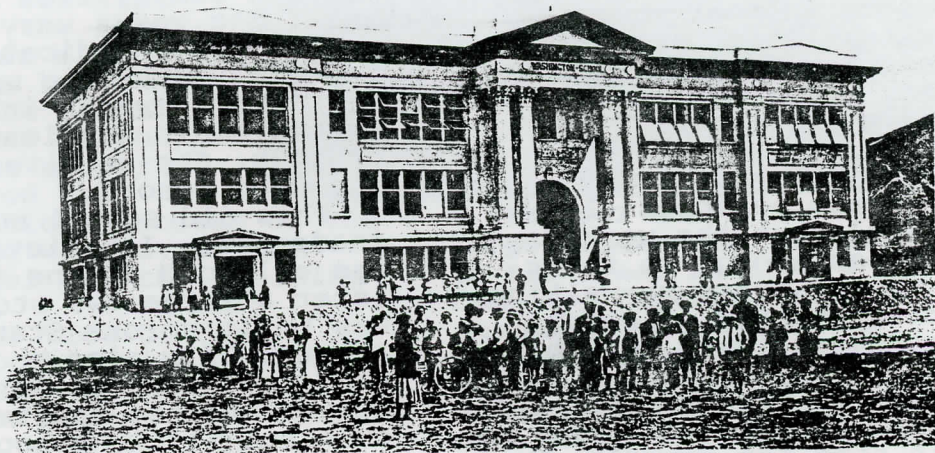
As Point Richmond and Richmond grew rapidly, larger schools were soon needed and the old Washington School was constructed on Richmond Avenue south of the Santa Fe tracks across from Montana Street. When I entered the first grade in 1915 it had been in use for several years. There was no kindergarden at that time but one was added the following year.

This school was a most imposing structure probably the largest building in Point Richmond at that time. It was three stories high and of a rectangular shape. The old Lincoln School in Richmond as well as the first two buildings of the high school near 23rd and Macdonald were nearly identical structures. It was constructed largely of concrete. The north end of the first and second floors were

taken up by a large auditorium and assembly hall. The ground floor contained two large rooms with benches, one for girls and one for boys. These were used in rainy weather when play outdoors was not possible. There was also a larger room on the south end for manual training where 8th grade boys were taught the fundamentals of woodworking. They often did good work, turning out wooden stands, library tables, etc. The rest of the lower floor was taken up for storage and workshops for the janitor.

The second floor contained the school offices and several class rooms. The third floor was almost entirely class rooms. There must have been a dozen or more classrooms.

I recall the old regime... at the sound of a bell in the morning, at noon and at



Old Washington School

recesses the students lined up by classes outside. The doors for the 1st to 4th grades were on the south end or Richmond Avenue entrance. Others had to enter at the northeast end. Classes lined up four abreast at right angles to the path leading to the doorway. Boys lined up to the left of this path and girls lined up to the right. At a sign from a teacher they marched in four abreast, class by class with girls going first. Grade followed grade marching up the stairways to their classrooms all in good order. Often one of the boys beat a drum to keep in step. I recall that Howard Arnold was one of our drummers.

Our teachers were a remarkable group and I remember each one and feel more indebted to them as time passes.

In the first grade there was Miss Bradly and in the second was Mrs. Axtell. Then in the third there was Miss Dooling and in the high third there was Miss Mikalean. The teacher of the fourth grade was Miss Belgum, the daughter of Dr. Belgum who had a mental sanitarium in the East Richmond Heights area.

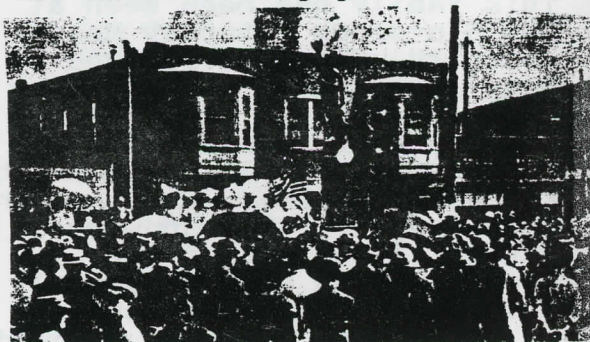
Miss Strauss was in fifth grad and proven to be a tough old teacher but very fair and honest. In the low sixth there was Miss Morehouse, and in the seventh Miss Lynch. Finally in the eighth grade there was Miss Lucas, who taught us well and managed our production of a very simple yearbook.

The principal was Nora

Ashfield and a finer faired but stricter administrator never lived. In addition there was Mr. Hunn the manual training teacher who later became principal of one of the Richmond schools. And last but not least was a very likeable and helpfull janitor whose name I don't recall.

This was a very wonderful group of dedicated helpful teachers and I and the others remember them well and owe them a lot.

The old Washington School was torn down in later years because it was said to have been not earthquake proof. Maybe that was so, but I remember that it took them many days with a huge metal demolition ball and constant battering to destroy it. It was so solid and sturdy that a real earthquake would have given up the task much sooner. It seemed to me to have been the most earthquake resistant structure in town. However, its three stories and a roof cornice probably were considered dangerous. It was replaced by the present little group of single story wooden structures. I was sorry to see the old building go.



Churches

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH *by Eleanor Hurley*

Autumn has come in with thunder, lightning and beautiful rain, which we needed so much.

Cynthia Young will be starting C.C.D. classes for the children, particularly for those who are eligible to make Confirmation. Any adult who has not been confirmed is also welcome. Please see Fr. Denis or Cynthia if interested. Cynthia had a wonderful summer vacation in Europe.

Pauline Valenti has returned to her home from the hospital. She is feeling much better but has a way to go to recover her strength.

During the Depression years our parish was without a Pastor and was made a Mission of St. Marks. The Parish House was rented out to a MacDonald family and their children. This family has been seen at the 5 o'clock Saturday Mass recently. This has revived many memories of those trying times.

Tony Ferrira and his crew still serve one day a month at the Souper Kitchen. Last month they prepared 300 sandwiches, but still ran out as 350 people showed up. Fortunately there was plenty of soup.

Mary Casey recently enjoyed

a barbequed steak at home that was delivered by Bob Peckham.

POINT METHODIST CHURCH *by Mid Dornan*

Sunday School resumed with a breakfast for students, teachers and parents. Beginning at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday, all children are welcome. Teachers are: Norm and Jean Reynolds, Shirley Butt, Melba Farley, Lynn Brown and Mid Dornan.

Holtzmann Frazier led three, two hour planning workshops for members which led to goals for community effectiveness of the church.

Funding made it possible for the congregation to purchase four goats for Missions Abroad, a Heifer Project International.

The United Methodist Women are preparing for their Annual Country Faire on October 27 & 28, two days this year.

Administrative Board meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month with a potluck dinner preceding at 7:00 p.m. All church members are part of the board.

Members voted to undertake the costly Parsonage foundation repairs as soon as possible.

Church services are at 11:00 a.m. each Sunday, the Rev. Michael Brown in the pulpit, following with a coffee social at 12:00.

HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY

(Church history is rich with contributions of women. One of the church groups in the early 1900's was the Home Missionary Society of the First Methodist Church whose history is reflected in their minutes, printed below and taken from the stiff cardboard covered notebook purchased from "Shoen's Pharmacy in the Point". This is the 39th installment.)

Sept 18, 1914

Society met with Mrs. Bly ..called to order by President; opened with scripture reading and prayer by Mrs. Pritchard. Minutes of previous meeting read and approved. Unfinished business taken up. An evening meeting at the home of Mrs. Gibbons was arranged for. The admission fee being a jar of fruit. It being mite-box opening, Mrs. Adams, Sec. of Mite-boxes was appointed to arrange a programme for the occasion. Mrs. Walker favored the society with an instrumental solo after which Miss Lawson, Deaconess, gave a very interesting talk on the work of the W.H.M.S. and what the Society is doing toward spreading the Gospel and uplifting humanity.

Mrs. Wollet gave her name for membership and paid dues \$1.20. Mrs. Pritchard paid dues, \$1.25 and asked that her name be dropped as a member of the society. Thank offering \$1.35.

After adjournment hostess served dainty refreshments.

Mrs. W.T. Gibbons, Pres
Jennie M. Totten, Sec

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POINT ARTS GUILD

Art Gallery • Crafts Shop

OPENING RECEPTION

Friday October 13TH

6:00-8:30 pm

Come celebrate with us the Art Guilds' 4th year and the opening of our new gallery. Showcasing local talent in a variety of media, including: Painting, Ceramics, Jewelry, Photography, Weaving, and more.

OPEN NOW!! 11 am to 6 pm Wed - Sat

Artists:

Teresa Albro
Dierdre Cerkawicz
Joan Champion
Sidney Sander Isobe
Bill Eisenlord

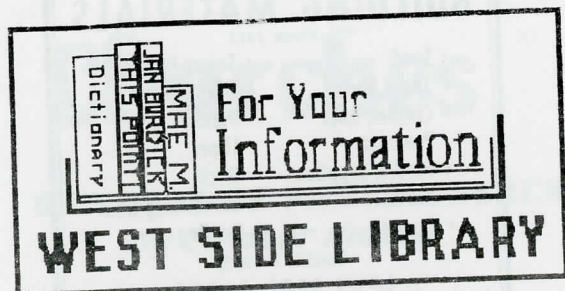
Lynn Huntley
Susan M. Klein
Gina Green Kozak
Connie Lopez
Jean Swanson

POINT ARTS GUILD

Gallery Hours 11am to 6 pm Wed - Sat

(415) 232-5648
26 West Richmond Ave.
Point Richmond, CA





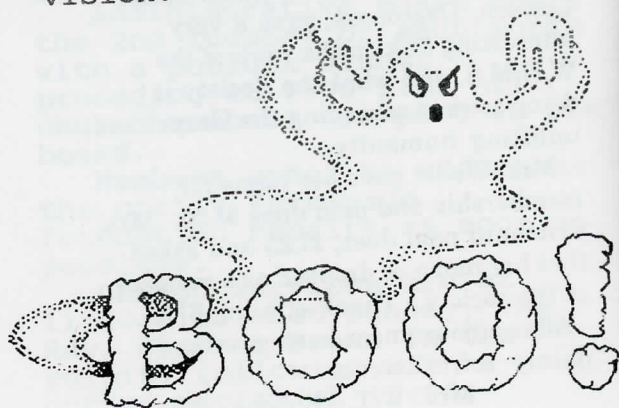
By Jan Burdick

Anyone who has had the remotest connection with children's literature knows the Romona Quimby books or such character as Henry Huggins or Ralph S. Mouse. In her wonderful autobiography *A GIRL FROM YAMHILL: A MEMOIR*, the author of these books introduces herself to us. We know her as Beverly Cleary, but her book brings more than her own story. It speaks of growing up on a farm in Oregon, then life in Portland. Her memories of school, home, discovering books will remind readers of their own childhoods. What is especially delightful is catching glimpses of her life that later became part of her books. This book can be found in the J section of the library (J means Juvenile) but will be enjoyed by all ages.

Rejecting cheap mass-produced items as aesthetically unappealing, the Arts and Crafts movement integrated beauty and practicality by using quality materials and construction to create household objects with simple, straightforward designs. *TREASURES OF THE AMERICAN ARTS AND CRAFTS*

MOVEMENT, 1890-1920 by Tod Volpe and Beth Cathers showcases these objects, featuring furniture, ceramics, metal and silver, lighting and windows plus miscellaneous items in numerous beautiful illustrations. Separate chapters examine the designers, architects and firms that offered various interpretations of the movement's philosophy.

Penelope Lively won the Booker Prize (Britain's most important literary award) for her most recent novel *MOON TIGER*. Now Ms. Lively demonstrates her skills as a writer of short stories. This collection of 34 stories under the title *PACK OF CARDS* represents work done in this past decade. Whether she writes about a widow on a visit to Russia, a guide escorting a group of tourists in Egypt or a housewife hallucinating in suburbia, Lively captivates and entertains with the strength and abundance of her unique vision.



Point Artifacts

from James Cheshareck

This month's topic should be a little easier than last month's about Koht Box Cutterry Co. I would also like to mention that I will take replies from any previous "Point Artifacts" topic.

Our topic now is the L.H. Schrader Company. I have an old yard stick from this store that sold draperies, furniture, dishes, rugs, linoleum, and stoves. There were two locations, one at 701 MacDonald Avenue and one at 145 Washington Avenue. I checked out the Washington Avenue spot and I believe that the building was probably located about where the old Hazel Carr building is planned to be moved, just west of the library.

The yardstick is probably from the 30's or 40's judging by its phone number. It is RICHMOND 1062 which is before BEacons or LANDscapes, which came out about 1950.

If you remember anything about Schrader's or any previously topic please write to:

Point Artifacts
Point Richmond History Assn.
229 Golden Gate Avenue
Point Richmond, CA 94801

Your replys will be printed!



S.S. JEREMIAH O'BRIEN SAILS AGAIN!! from Allan Smith

The only Liberty Ship built during WWII by the United States that is still in operating condition is the S.S. Jeremiah O'Brien. The O'Brien is berthed at Fort Mason in San Francisco and at various times during the year it is taken on the bay under its own power for a special five hour cruise.

Labor Day of this year, Point Richmond was well represented aboard the S.S. Jeremiah O'Brien when the ship made a trip around the bay and berthed at Jack London Square in Oakland for several days. The Pilot on board in charge of the ship was Captain Alan Clarke, a former Point resident. Serving in the engine room was Allan Smith, his wife Marcelina worked in the ship's galley.

Passengers on board from the Point were James Hurley and Albert Kollar.

Last year, Mid Dornan made the voyage on board the S.S. Jeremiah O'Brien from Fort Mason in San Francisco to the Port of Sacramento.

The ship is opened to the public each day of the week at Fort Mason.



Port Orford Visited

And, what a delightful experience! Seeing our History Association founding editor, Donna Roselius and Rosy, was joy in itself but the 'casual gourmet' meal (as she described it) was beyond belief. The ambiance as you enter the Whale Cove Restaurant is the preview of what is to follow...fantastic! Of course, you know that Donna would have live mood music and this night it was the Harpsicord and Piano for our treat, Donna herself on the Harpsicord.. With windows overlooking the ocean waves crashing over the rocks just below, the outside view joined with the interior decor which features silk waves and whales from the ceiling. There were fresh flowers in the unusual double candelabra centering the cloth covered tables. The magnificent, four foot square stained glass window centering room divider was 'whipped up' by Donna two days before the restaurant opened!

The meal was even more than hoped for! Were the memory more committed, the unbelievable chef would be named as well as the French entrees on the menu. For lack of that, the cream of asparagus soup with fresh salmon (came with dinner)..edible nasturtium atop the salad served on a chilled glass plate..the picture perfect entre plate with fresh ling cod surrounded by a pastry cornucopia of miniature fresh vegetables topped with a tasty seaweed bean..fresh fruit garnishes and the indescribable desserts with a fine wine accompaniment.. Ahh...it brings a return of hunger as well as checking the calendar for the first chance to return. Besides the brief stop didn't

allow a visit to the rest of the area or the "From Oregon With Love" boutique. A souvenir tee shirt of Whale Cove Restaurant is available.

After your meal, you can stroll behind the restaurant to the Roaring Sea Gallery where local artists have items on display and for sale..



ANNUAL COUNTRY FAIRE

Mark your calendar now for TWO DAYS for the Annual Country Faire this year to be held on October 27 & 28th at the historic Point Methodist Church, Martina Street at West Richmond Avenue. The elegant country luncheon will be on Friday but chili and homemade soup will be served on Saturday. Browse the hand-craft booths which feature Christmas items and ornaments, home-baked goodies, aprons, potpourri and Halloween and holiday decorations. Don't miss this chance to have lunch with many of your neighbors and friends as well as former Point residents who return for this event.

Plus, it is a great chance to do some early holiday shopping or treat yourself and the family to some home-made desserts.

Make your reservations for the Friday luncheon with Oretta Eaton, 234-0780 or Jean Creed, 233-1327. See you at the ANNUAL COUNTRY FAIRE.

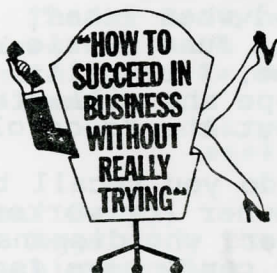


THE MASQUERS

Playhouse, Inc.

105 Park Place, Point Richmond

PROUDLY PRESENTS



Music & Lyrics:
Frank Loesser

Book by:
Abe Burrows

Directed by:
Rhoda Plymack

Music Director:
Pat Nelson

Choreographers:
Carol DeChaine &
Lynn-Clar Elam

A 1960's zany musical about a guy who goes from window-washer to president of the company in 3 fast weeks with the aid of a "How To" book and a lot of chutzpah!

THE CAST:

Noel Ampel	Linda Ellinwood	Duncan Inghram
Henry Bers	Diana Giese	Albert Meyers
Susan Carter	Wayne Hanson	John Tessman
Francine Cole	Tim Hart	David Vincent
Carol DeChaine	Robert Hulin	Robert Wood
John Dunn	Patricia Inabnet	

Friday & Saturday evenings - October 27 - December 16, 1989

Sunday Matinees - Nov. 5, Nov. 19, Dec. 3, Dec 10

RESERVATIONS: 232-4031 (24 hours)

Reservations held until 10 minutes before curtain.

Group Rates Available

Box Office Opens at 8:00 p.m.; 2:00 p.m. for matinees.

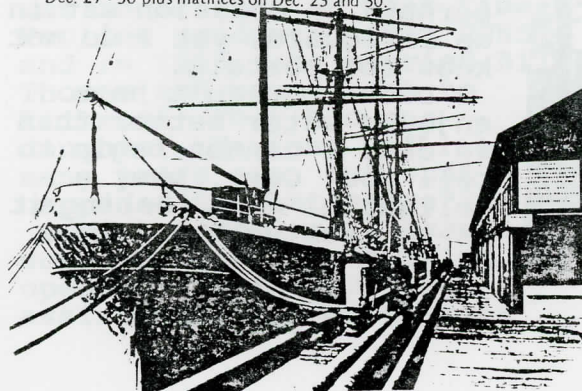
Curtain: 8:30 p.m.

Matinees: 2:30 p.m.

Admission \$7.00

DINNER & THEATRE benefit for our building fund at HOTEL MAC, Thursday evening, Dec. 14. Dinner and ticket to "How To Succeed" for only \$22.00. To reserve, CALL: 236-4988.

ANNOUNCING a very special holiday presentation of "Amahl & The Night Visitors" for a limited run - Dec. 20 - 23 and Dec. 27 - 30 plus matinees on Dec. 23 and 30.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Linda Pereira

Jeff Albro

Timothy Doherty

Florence Wilson

Justin Kaufman

Vern Valentine

Brian Tedrick

Genevieve Smith

Rose Fahrion

Kate Lord

Rosy Roselius

Mildred Paeth

Jodi Bagley

Helen Frosini

Nathan Berman

Marian Tedrick

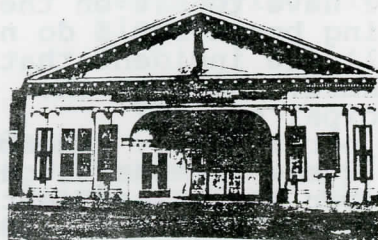
Dorothy Davis

Todd Cort

Jean Moyle Spiersch

Marguerite Clutts

(Want a birthday listed? Call: 234-5334)



Deaths.....

VERLA S. CAMREN, 68, died at a San Pablo hospital. She had been a resident of Richmond since 1946 and was a homemaker.

She is survived by her daughters, Janice Jones of Norwood, Mo., Judith Walz of Richmond, June Szody of Chester and Marian Pierce of Rodeo; a sister Emma J. Overby of Salinas; nine grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 984, El Cerrito, CA 94530-0984.

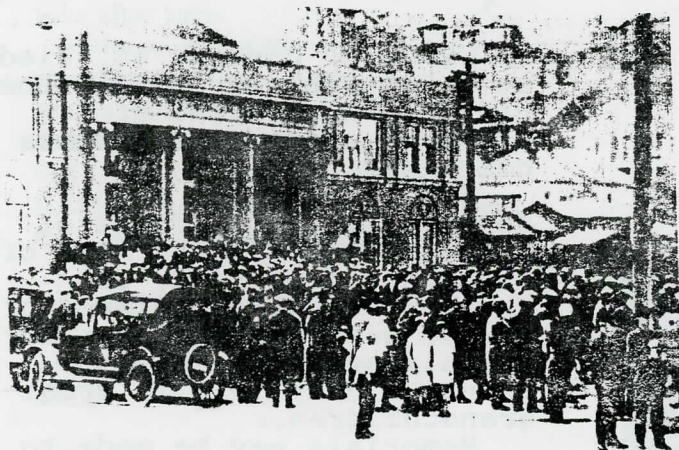


Cards & Letters

Dear Gary,

I was happy to hear from Josephine Matteucci through your column "Cards and Letters." I do remember you Josephine. I am amazed that you could recall so many of the teachers that taught us in Washington School! Only once did I have to sit on the warming bench but I do not recall the incident that got me there. What was the Principal's name?

I particularly remember Mrs. Rubie Simmons. I can remember seeing her cutting figure 8's at the Oakland Ice skating rink. She is a terrific teacher in our first structured training, and the



Opening of the "Nat"

motivating factor in my life. What an inspiration to young minds was this lady!

Dr. Lucas sounds familiar. He may have been the doctor my parents called when I had scarlet fever. June Knuckle, now Blackstone, I recall vividly. I hope she will write some more about the "good old days."

Josephine do you recall the name of the owner (or worker for that matter) who dispensed "The Big Mac" candy bars (and other candies as well) from the big glass case at the beanery across the street on the same side as the Natatorium? My sister Phyllis asked me that question recently. It was more of a coffee shop than a beanery, come to think of it. The street between the two establishments led to the tunnel and to Cozy Cove and Western Drive.

I sincerely hope that John Stevens and Al Franco will write about our life guard, Ralph Kendrick, at the Natatorium in one of the upcoming issues of TPIT. Mr. Kendrick had a son that was also an excellent swimmer and perhaps on occasion sat in as lifeguard, yet I do not know for certain.

Ducks couldn't have enjoyed water better than we did. I cannot begin to tell you, Gary, what a delightful warm feeling it is to receive the issues of THIS POINT IN TIME, just to be able to transcend yesterday,

today.

Sincerely,
Betty Glass Marshall
Los Angeles

Thanks Betty...in case you missed it take a look at Allan Smith's Sports Memories column!

Gary

Dear Gary,

Regarding the house at 214 Washington Ave., it was occupied in the mid 20's by R.H. Wood and his wife. They ran a variety store, first on Richmond Ave., and later at the corner of Washington and Richmond Avenues. Dorothy Curryer was their daughter. At that time she shared the house with her parents and her three children, Joyce Curryer, Phillip and Pauline Carlin. Pauline and I were "best friends", and I must have been in and out of that house many times, however, I have no memory of what happened to it. The Woods eventually sold the store and moved away from the Point.

Dorothy Curryer married two more times. I last heard from her about 20 years ago. She was in Arizona at that time. Pauline graduated from RUHS and in 1935, she married Bill Thomas and moved back to Richmond. They had one daughter, Marion. Pauline died many years ago, but what happened to that house??

More memories; I started working at the Natatorium on opening day in 1926, as assistant cashier. Georgia

Johnson was head cashier. Mr. Carpenter was the engineer who kept things running. Mrs. O'Conner was the women's locker room attendant. One of the job "percs" was free swims before and after work. Ralph Kendrick, the life guard, took us kids in hand and taught us to swim really well. He also made us all pass the Red Cross Life Saving Tests. I may be at an advanced age today, but I still enjoy swimming. By the way, my starting salary was 50 cents an hour; when I quit in 1935 I was still getting 50 cents an hour!

Jean Moyle Spiersch
Alameda

Dear Gary,

The September issue of "This Point..in time" which was dedicated to Trannie Dornan, was well done and appreciated by the family. Donna Roselius' sketch of her..I think it was done around her 80th birthday...was the frosting of the issue. Donna was not only her neighbor, but a special friend. Thank you, also, to those of you who contributed your memories of her.

With her death, the Richmond Supply Company ended as the oldest continuing family business in the Point. A true Point Historian, she added many chapters to our History Newsletter.

Thank you, Gary for the sensitive job you did.

Mid Dornan
Point Richmond

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE No. _____

Type of membership (check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	SINGLE	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	SENIOR (65+)	10.00
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Membership in the Point Richmond History Association includes a one year subscription to "This Point" newsletter (nine issues). Please make your check payable to the Point Richmond History Association and mail it to:

PAM WILSON
521 WESTERN DRIVE
POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801

If you would like to have Birthdays noted in the newsletter, please include names and dates.

Articles for each month's issue are due on the 15th of the previous month. Please mail articles and items of interest to:

GARY SHOWS
229 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE
POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801

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Enclosed is my check payable to the Point Richmond History Association in the amount of

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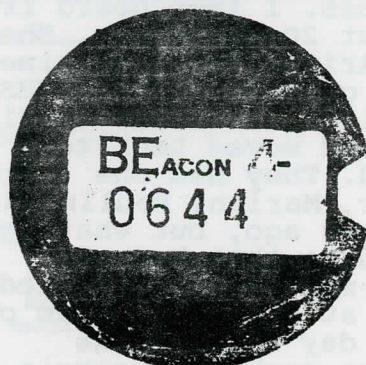
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The History Association
 wishes to gratefully
 acknowledge a donation made
 to the Association by
 MAE MANDL, given in memory
 of TRANNIE DORNAN.



Trick or Treat!

CALENDAR

OCTOBER 11	POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MEETING (HOTEL MAC, NOON)
OCTOBER 12	COLUMBUS DAY
OCTOBER 14	INDIAN STATUE DAY
OCTOBER 20	DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES TO "THIS POINT IN TIME" NOVEMBER ISSUE
OCTOBER 31	HALLOWEEN
NOVEMBER 7	ELECTION DAY
NOVEMBER 11	VETERAN'S DAY
NOVEMBER 24	THANKSGIVING DAY
NOVEMBER 30	HISTORY ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING
JANUARY 25	HISTORY ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING
MARCH 29	HISTORY ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING