

THIS POINT

in time

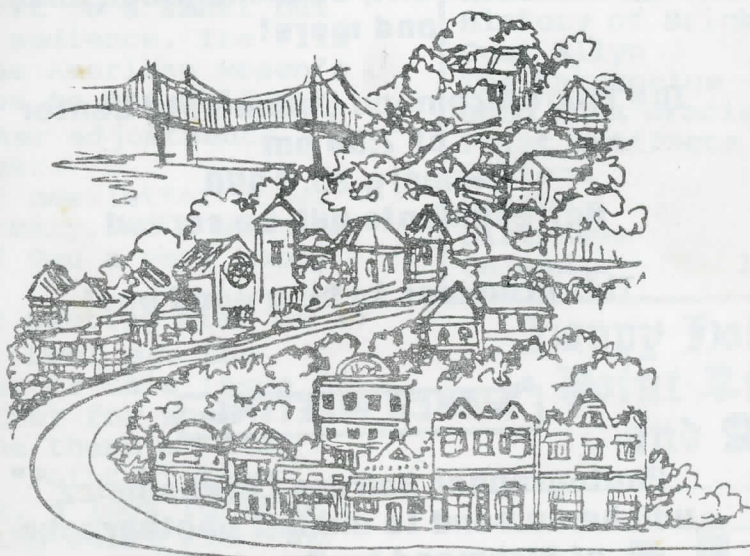
NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL. VIII, No. 6

WINTER, 1989-90

ONE DOLLAR



Season's
Greetings

JANUARY MEETING

In June of 1963 The Planning Council of the Point Richmond Civic Group published a plan for Point Richmond's future. Using this plan as a starting point we will host a panel discussion to look at both the past and future of the Point.

Lucretia Edwards and Anne Hanzlik are putting together a panel that will consist of members of the old Point Richmond Civic Group and today's local civic leaders, builders and planners including Walter Connolly, David Vincent, Councilwoman Rosemary Corbin and more!

The Point Richmond Community Center
at 7:30 pm

January 25, 1990

Refreshments will be served

This promises to be a good one!

MARCH MEETING

Photographer Deirdre Cerknowicz
will be on hand to exhibit photographs
of Richmond by Ansel Adams
and other
famous photographers.

The Point Richmond Community Center
at 7:30 pm

March 29, 1990

Refreshments will be served

History Association Notes

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Jerry Cerkanowicz

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

The November 30th meeting was different from our usual meetings. We checked out the movie "Rosie the Riveter" from the Richmond Public Library and showed it to a small but interested audience. The film is about the American women's contribution to the WWII War effort and her adjustments after the war.

The next newsletter comes out in February, so I want to wish all of you a very happy holiday!

The next meeting will be on January 25, 1990, see the inside cover of this issue of the newsletter for more details. The theme of the meeting is "Point Richmond.... a look back, a look forward."

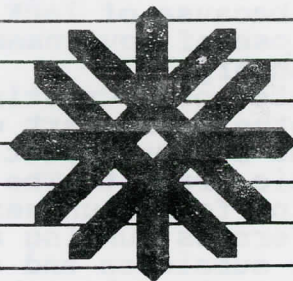
In 1963 the Point Richmond Civic Group was asked to sponsor a plan for Point Richmond. After much thought the Group decided to formulate a "plan" which would attempt to define what Point Richmond should be in the future and produced a presentation on the history, data and analysis of existing conditions and general goals. Their final presentation is available at

continued on page 2

CONTENTS

From the President	1
Members	2
Editor's Notes	3
A-Mid Trivia	4
Senior News	6
Sports	7
Churches	7
Now It Can Be Told	9
Memories of Old Point	10
History of Brickyard	12
Gust Allyn	16
The Natatorium	19
Good Luck Gracie!	20
Point Artifacts	21
Letters	21
Deaths	23
Birthdays	23
Calendar	inside flap

Happy Holidays
to Point Richmond
and All!



WINTER

"From the President".....continued
the West Side Library. We plan on the meeting being conducted as a panel discussion of that study. Some members of the panel will be Anne Hanzlik (moderator), Lucretia Edwards (original member of the Point Richmond Civic Group), David Vincent (civic leader), Walter Connolly (architect and planner) and more local planners of yesterday and leaders of today. I think this will be a very interesting meeting and I look forward to seeing you there.

NICHOLL NOB

The California Highway Patrol wants to build a new 85 foot microwave tower on the side of the existing antennas and build new buildings.

If you have an opinion on this you should attend a city council meeting on December 18th at 7:30 or for more information you can call Sandra or Bruce Beyaert at 235-2835.

THE FERRIES ARE BACK

Because of the quake, ferry service has returned to Richmond after a 50 year absence, but we might lose it soon because of lack of use and loss of government subsidy in January.

Kate Lord, Cristine Cordi and others are part of "BOAT" or the Bay Organization for Aquatic Transit. The group is looking for volunteers to keep the ferries running after the state subsidies end in January. To help out call them at 832-BOAT.

The pleasant ride from Richmond begins at South Harbor Way where there is a

secure patrolled parking lot. The trip takes 30 minutes to the Ferry Building in San Francisco. Food and drinks are available, quietly gliding over the surface of the Bay while relaxing with a refreshment and newspaper seems like a wonderful way to both start and end the day. If the weekend trips are not canceled it would be a great way to go to the City for Christmas shopping.

Please ride the ferries and thanks to the Richmond BOAT supporters for all of their work in saving the ferries.... for information and times call (415) 546-BOAT.



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

Maude Alexander
Shirley Butt
Virginia Cherniak
Louis R. Cunan
Mid Dornan
Roy Jones
Lynn & Sandi Maack
Wallace MacMillan
Richard & Roberta Palfini
Clara Perasso
Elanora Surdam

And a warm welcome to new members:

Oscar Lugo
Max Perry
Bill Pinto
Bernice Preece
Ethel Schomacher
Mrs. Conger F. Shur

editors notes.....

BY GARY SHOWS

I hope you both enjoy and approve of your newsletter. I have made a lot of changes in this publication since my first in the summer of 1988. I am somewhat pleased with its growth and thank you all for your support and patience. Some of my early issues were physically really terrible and hopefully the improvement will continue. And its also time to say thank you to our staff (both regular staff and guest staff) for your input and support. Please, everyones input is vital for a better newsletter.

This issue has a lot of information and entertaining stories from the Point's past (not a lot of room for illustrations in this issue). One of the most exciting things going on is the memories of Dr. William Thompson, these articles are true treasures to the History Association as they are not only entertaining remembrances of the past, but immediately become part of our written archives. Thank you, Dr. Thompson, keep up the good work!

You will find included a reprint of the autobiography of one of Point Richmond's most distinguished businessmen, Mr. Gust Allyn. Thanks to Mr. Allyn for setting an example for good, efficient, and honest business for future businesses to

follow.....right!

Also included in this issue is the final installment of Murial Clausen's "A History of Brickyard Cove from 1961". I hope you have enjoyed reading this recent history as much as I did, thank you Murial.

You will also find some surprises such as farewells to Gracie Mar, retiring from the Santa Fe Market after many years of service and Jerry's report on the Natatorium.

Thanks again, and I wish you all a very happy and properous New Year!



THE COVER:

We asked Donna Roselius to recreate a drawing of the Point for our stickers to be used for fund raising (as we somehow lost the original). That drawing is featured on our cover along with our holiday greetings.

A Christmas thought:

If you feel like going for a weekend tour and do your Christmas shopping at the same time, take a car trip down to Santa Cruz and support the earthquake ravaged merchants there who have worked very hard to set up tents that are quite attractive and have good exciting merchandise to sell. Best wishes to all who have suffered from the October earthquake, we will be thinking of you during the Holiday Season and wish you the best!

A-MID TRIVIA

by Mid Dornan (234-5334)

Grandma remembers when planning a Christmas Day meal meant fixing everyone's favorite food instead of preparing recipes based on calories... cholesterol count..or fat grams!

If it is December, it must be time for the real *Christmas* that our commercial friends have been totting since October!

Donna Wilson has been visiting Lucinda Dustin, her 98 year old mother, in Watsonville who suffered a slight stroke during the earthquake. She is continuing to improve.

"From Oregon with Love" came our Editor emeritus, Donna Roselius, who presented her jewelry and fiber at the Annual Home Show at Sharon Wheat's in Berkeley on December 1- 3, 1989. She met with local friends before returning to her businesses in Port Orford, Oregon.

CONGRATULATIONS to Tom and Shirley Butt on their 18th Wedding Anniversary!

It is a baby boy for Anne Price. Born on Friday, November 3rd, he has been named, Daniel Allen.

After 21 years at the Santa Fe Market, 'Gracie' has decided to retire and find out first hand what retirees have been telling her about a new, great life style. Her praises

were extolled at a party at Lindsley Hall where friends gathered to present her with accolades and a trip to Reno (and funds to try for the BI one). Katie Young remarked, "She has earned the retirement."

BEST WISHES to Bob Peckham and his family as they assume new ownership of the Santa Fe Market. It is appropriate that it remains a family store. In the tradition of Bob Young, they still carry quality meats, have added an organic vegetable and fruit department, a new "Mr Groceries" logo and...they deliver!

Winner of the wonderful, handmade quilt depicting scenes of Richmond made for Rosemary Corbin's campaign fund raiser for City Council was won by a Point Richmondite...Tom Butt!! He's the envy of all us who wanted our ticket drawn!

Rosemary Corbin, former Point Richmond History Association board member, easily won a second term on the City Council, receiving the highest number of votes. Congratulations, Rosemary! Four more years.

Educators, parents, students and business and political leaders were part of a three-day conference on school choice sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. The meeting is one of five such conferences in the U.S. and Richmond Unified School District was selected as a host because of the district's System for Choice Program. U.S. Secretary of Education, Laurio Cavazos, was in Richmond along with Under-secretary,

Ted Sanders, to promote systems that work; it is local decision not federal intervention. Gov. Deukmajian gave an address.

Parents find that there's nothing more touch-and-go than a college student home on vacation.

The 'charm' of Point Richmond is being tested! A tanker of liquified asphalt flipped on the freeway on Eastbound I-580 which closed the free-way for six hours, 8 a.m. until 2:pm. on Tuesday, the 28th.

Traffic was diverted off at Castro Street through the Point onto Cutting Boulevard. Some drivers experienced a three hour delay. Traffic Sgt. Mike Smith commented, "If things would have been much worse the afternoon commute would have met the morning commute still sitting on the bridge."

The following day, another truck tipped over, this time filled with lumber, that tied up traffic for another three hours, trucks and cars diverted through the Point from both ends of the freeway!!

DISASTER SCENERIO: A train has derailed, the engine across Cutting Boulevard and subsequent cars at the intersection of Garrard. How would YOU leave the Point? Where would emergency services enter? (Castro St. exit is only Eastbound.) Has the tunnel been inspected since the earthquake?

Patience over the train blocked West Richmond Avenue crossing is growing thin. There are those who won't try to come to the Point during their lunch period now as they can't count on being back to work on time.

Did you know more than ten minute delays are illegal?

Grandma says she gets all the walking exercise she needs because she keeps forgetting where she puts things.

It is time to review your last years resolutions to see if you have increased or lowered your expectations. Remember, there is a new decade ahead which ends in the beginning of a new century. Exciting!

What is Christmas? It is a time when hearts ring like bells...it is His spirit and philosophy that "it is more blessed to give than receive"... it is a season to celebrate. Christmas is the anniversary of one kind faith and selflessness.

Special thanks to the editor and staff of "This Point...in time" who dedicate their time and talents so the chronicles of history will be recorded for those in the future.

YOU ARE WISHED HOLIDAYS FILLED WITH FAMILY JOY. TAKE TIME TO SHARE AND COUNT YOUR MANY BLESSINGS OF THIS PAST YEAR AND DECADE.

A-Mid extra.....

Local artist Barbara Stanley is showing her recent monotypes now thru Christmas at 124 Washington Avenue.



SENIOR NEWS

By Muriel C. Clausen

At this writing the Medicare Catastrophic Bill is in both the House and Senate for revision, having been removed from the Deficit Reduction Bill which in itself is not yet resolved. Neither the House nor the Senate can agree on the ways to modify this tax, and unless they agree by Thanksgiving recess there will be no changes in the law!

It has been brought to our attention that the State of Florida has a homestead property law which perhaps the State of California could use. The law in Florida prevents a person's homestead from being taken from them except for nonpayment of mortgages, taxes or assessments or under a mechanic's lien (contractor's forced sale of home for nonpayment of a contract for household construction, remodeling, etc.) Thus such a bill would protect any Californian's home at financial stress times in his or her life. This would not only help Seniors but also any California homeowner. If you are interested in this for California; keep tuned as a small movement is afoot to get this idea into law in California. Thank Varsie Lometti of Point Richmond for this good idea.

Any Senior who has Health Insurance problems: Medicare, Medical, and supplemental health coverage and problems with insurance claims not

being paid may contact HICAP, a service readily available in most communities in California. In Richmond one can call the Senior Center at 2525 MacDonald Ave. and make an appointment for their volunteers who come there on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 1-3 p.m. It is possible for Medicare to err in its coverage of medical costs, equipment and skilled nursing care. There is no charge for the services of HICAP where your medical health care coverage is concerned.

Seniors (60 years or older) can also obtain help with managing finances. This is through the Representative Payee Program as sponsored by the Social Security Administration. These volunteers, well trained, can assist you with paying monthly bills, in purchasing food and clothing, and in finding help for household repairs. This program was initially developed by AARP and taken up by the Social Security Administration. To find out more about this program call Support Services for the Elders at 945-8695 or Ms. Doroz at 374-3766. They can guide you to the proper source to assist you in money managing problems.

Best Wishes
for a
Merry Christmas

Sports memories

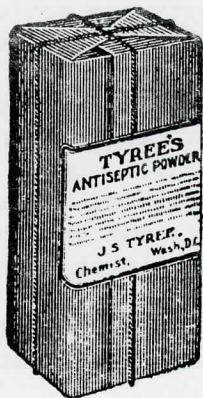
By Allan Smith

The Richmond Recreation Department, under the supervision of the late Maj. Hill, used to have a Playground Director at each grammar school in the city.

In Point Richmond's Washington School, several prominent Richmond men were employed in that capacity during their collage days. They only worked two hours after school and during school vacation four to six hours. Among those who were at Washington School were Judge Charlie Baldwin, Senator George Miller, Sr., Judge Norman Gregg, John Palmer and our own Herbie Bill of Point Richmond and the Richmond Schools. Herb, we always affectionately called him Herbie, still lives in the Point.



Antiseptic
Treatment
of
Dysentery



Churches

OUR LADY OF MERCY NEWS

by Eleanor Hurley

Father Denis celebrated the 45th anniversary to the Priesthood on November 19th with a noon Mass and a reception in the hall following. The church proper was filled and overflow was sent up to the old choir loft. Several other Priests were in attendance; Fr. Marshall, St. Catherines, Martinez, gave the homily. He is a wonderful speaker and retraced Father's life from the time he was ordained in India, through his first years as teacher and principal. After coming to the United States he obtained a Masters and then from U.C. Berkeley, a P.H.D.

He has served in several parishes in the area. After leaving us in December, he plans to spend some time in India and upon his return will be given a new assignment. Many of the friends from former parishes were in attendance. He was presented with several awards to recognize his many years of service by local organizations including the Knights of Columbus, city and county groups, etc.

The reception which followed was a very happy one with refreshments and many card of good wishes. Much credit for all this should go to Marie and Bob Peckham, Allan and Marcelina Smith and Amelia Drake and many others.

On November 11th after the 5 o'clock Mass five persons

were baptised into the Catholic faith. In addition, eleven received their First Holy Communion. Cynthia Young, in charge of CCD, was responsible for their training and is to be congratulated for a very fine job.

On Sunday November 12th after Mass there was a Parish Breakfast chaired by Shirley and John Gerk with volunteer help.

On Sunday November 26th Bishop John Cummins will be here to offer the Sacrament of Confirmation for eleven persons.

Our monthly bake sale was quite successful.

Tony Ferreira continues to attend the Souper Kitchen with his faithful helpers.....this seems to go on and on.

U.S. FLAG MISSING

The American flag that has been flying from the flag pole at Our Lady of Mercy Church has been stolen!

This flag belonged to Gertrude Rondon of Richmond and a member of the Catholic Church. It was given to her several months ago by the people of the United States of America upon the death of her beloved husband, Frank. He served with distinction in the U.S. Army during World War II in the European theater, receiving recognition for meritorious service in the Italian Campaign.

During Frank's funeral service the flag draped his casket and was presented to his wife before burial. Mrs. Rondon kindly donated the flag to the church where it has

been flying proudly continuously.

On November 22, during the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Services at the church, it was reported missing.

.....from Allan Smith

POINT METHODIST CHURCH NEWS *by Mid Dornan*

Chairman Claudia LeGue collected food items for the Richmond Rescue Mission.

The Church Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 17th at 7:00 p.m. Children as well as adults will be participating and everyone in the community is invited to join as there will be singing of Christmas music.

On December 8th & 9th, the youth will go to the Howe ranch near Challenge for the annual tree cutting. Anyone wishing a tree may call 237-3063, after 5 o'clock. Be sure to tell Pat Dornan the size and type of tree you would like.

The Administrative Board meeting and potluck is Tuesday, December 12th, 6:30 for potluck, 7:30 for the meeting..at the church.

United Methodist Women's Christmas party and potluck will be at the home of Helen Valentine in Rodeo on Wednesday, the 13th.

The community is invited to join the carolers on Wednesday, the 20th. A chili supper is served promptly at 6:30 p.m. before the carolers leave. Call the church if you know of a shut-in or anyone who might enjoy the carolers.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND MAY YOUR NEW YEAR BE BLESSED.

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POINT METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

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 42nd installment.

Nov 2, 1914

A short meeting was called by the president to determine if our Society would supply the articles needed as designated in a letter from the wife of the pastor stationed in Guerneville. A motion was made and carried that we supply the articles needed--several things were donated, the rest was bought with the contingent fund of the Society.

Jennie M. Totten,
Sec

Nov 20, 1914

Society met at home of Mrs. Wollet. Meeting opened with song and prayer. Minutes read and approved. Committee on box for pastor reported that the box would be ready to send by the following Monday or Tuesday. A vote of thanks was given Mr. Dornan for cartage and shipping of fruit. Mrs. Petersons name was added to list of members.

District Supt Dr Dennett was present and gave an interesting talk on Home Missions. A motion was carried to send Mite Box money \$5.5 to Angel Island work.

Mrs. Bradley paid dues	.50
Thank offering	.95
Pies sold	.50

Mrs. Nettie Grover
Sec. ProTem

December 1914 - No Meeting in
December.



NOW IT CAN BE TOLD STORIES

(We all have stories that at one time were thought too terrible to tell anyone. Time has a way of changing perspectives. Now, those stories are fun to tell, everyone including you gets a big laugh. We'd like to share your story(s)...bring back those childhood..or adult..memories; Either send them in or all 234-5334 and it will be written as you tell it.)

(This story was first told by Henry Allyn and then verified by Jim Wilson.)

Jim said they were in Junior High when he, Hank Allyn and Frank Kenny went to the Masonic Hall on Washington Avenue one night.

Jim's mother, Henry's mother and grandmother (Mrs. Diffin) were all active in the Order of Eastern Star. After each such meeting refreshments were served from the kitchen.

On this particular night, the boys decided they would like some Eastern Star cake so went down to the hall on Washington Avenue. Mrs. Diffin was in

the kitchen about 10 feet away, but since she had a hearing problem, the three boys waited until she turned her back in the kitchen, then snatched a whole chocolate cake and quickly ran up the hill, probably Washington Avenue. They proceeded to eat the entire cake. But, three growing boys wouldn't have any problem doing that!

Mrs. Winnie Palmateer (the drug-gist's wife who never had children) was mysteriously knowledgeable and went to the Allyn household afterwards

to discuss the theft. 'Honest Henry' confessed!! But...blamed it on Jim, he was a little older. Henry caught h... from his mother, Jim caught h... from his mother but it appeared Frank Kenny got off free.

To this day, neither of them can figure how Mrs. Palmateer found out they were the culprits.

Who actually took the cake may never be known because it varies who tells the story. But, confides Jim, it really was Henry!!

MEMORIES OF OLD POINT RICHMOND

by Dr. William L. Thompson

PART II (conclusion)

William L. Thompson, often called Louis by his friends, was born in Point Richmond on February 17, 1909, lived on Scenic Avenue, graduated from Richmond Union High School and was the first native Richmondite to go through medical school. Dr. Thompson began his practice in 1940 at 9th & Macdonald, later moving to 32nd & Macdonald until that building was sold at which time he moved to an office on Broadway. In 1979, at age 70 and after 39 years, he retired officially from medical practice. However, his many loyal, local patients continue to call him for advice.)

I remember the First World War. I was in about the 3d grade in the old Washington school. Everything was very patriotic. Down the center of East Richmond Avenue there was a strip of parkway. This was to be used for street car tracks in the future should these become needed. A similar parkway was also left on Cutting Boulevard for the same reason. At that time they were only areas of dirt and we used them

during the war for liberty gardens. Each child was allowed a small section to plant a simple vegetable if he desired. About once a week during the war there was a parade up Macdonald Avenue in the evening to demonstrate patriotism and sell liberty loans. The students of most of the schools in town marched by classes. We had to walk all the way over from Point Richmond all in ordered array with teachers with us. Some of us carried signs. I recall one boy, I think it was Joe Brazill, who carried a sign saying "let us beat the kaiser". However, a head of liberty garden lettuce had been substituted for the word "lettuce" and a red beet took the place of the word "beat".

I remember the great impromptu celebration that occurred on the morning after the signing of the armistice. There was a great parade of essentially all the employees of the Standard Oil Company.

Starting at the plant they marched in a long procession down Standard Avenue, turned down Washington Avenue and Park Place to Richmond Avenue and out Garrard Boulevard (then called Ashland Avenue) to Macdonald Avenue. I remember a little old German man who, with some help, was pulling a rather rapidly and crudely made coffin shaped box with the word "the Kaiser" painted on the sides. It was a most hilarious celebration.

I can remember the construction of Cutting Boulevard and its associated side streets through an area that had been only a salt marsh. Dredgers were dredging out for the inner harbor and huge pipelines were laid along the course of the intended street and poured huge quantities of mud and silt along the route of the street. As they progressed other joints of the huge pipes were added one after the other to the present terminus as its junction with Richmond Avenue was reached. This ridge of mud was allowed to harden and later graded to form the basis of Cutting Boulevard which was formed in two lanes for traffic and a central parkway to accommodate a possible street car line. This, of course, was never built.

I recall the old street car tracks that formed a route down Park Place and around Richmond Avenue and up to join the main line at Standard Avenue. I don't think that this was ever used but shows on old photographs. There was another similar line that branched from the main line on Garrard Boulevard and went up Ohio Street to Tenth Street and then up to Macdonald Avenue. One street car a day ran up this line each afternoon just to maintain the right-of-way.

Mention has been made in previous issues of "This Point...in time" of Carrie Ellsworth, a well known child dancer of the time. She and her family lived on West Scenic Avenue. She was a classmate of mine in the 3d and 4th grades and was known locally having danced at many local parties. At one time she and Edith Kettlehut, of the bakery Kettlehuts, put on a dance for us at school. Carrie later became a professional dancer at some of San Francisco's less savory night clubs.

The old Santa Fe Station at Richmond and Railroad Avenues has long been gone but at one time was an important depot. For Point



A view from Crest Avenue along Scenic and Terrace. From our Don Church Collection.

Richmonders it was much easier to take a train here and then the ferry to San Francisco than to take the tedious street car ride to Oakland. I recall the old 10:20 am train picking up passengers here. They usually returned about 5 pm. On one such trip my mother was on Market Street in S.F. when the famous bomb explosion occurred just one block from where she was. This occurred at the start of World War I. Street Car lines to Oakland were rather slow and tedious and I recall riding for miles along the future San Pablo Avenue without seeing a house. There was nothing between Solano Avenue and 40th Street. The cars rocked so much people got car sick.

I remember a temporary water shortage when no water was piped to houses, especially in the hill areas. The water

company brought old horse-drawn water wagons of the type once used to water the dirt streets and placed in spots around town so people could take buckets out and get the water they needed from the wagons.

During the First World War soldiers from **Company B.** made up of volunteers mostly from the Richmond area, were quartered in buildings on the lower Washington Avenue near the office of Dr. Lucas. I recall the uniformed soldiers standing and lounging in the region. They later were sent to France and served with distinctions.

(The Point History Association is grateful to Dr. Thompson for sharing his invaluable memories. In the next issue of "This Point ...in time" his "Memories of Pioneer Point Richmond Residents" will begin.)

A History of Brickyard Cove from 1961

by Murial C. Clausen

Part Three (conclusion)

The concept of the water oriented residential community built on so much water and so little land was ideal for the sailing minded members of the development group. It was conceived for the first section, (that to the west) that long curving roadways would be built by loading heavy rock fill onto the muddy bay bottom in the areas of the proposed roads. This rock would displace the mud and settle on the firm clays below. This would be built up to above the height desired and to the proposed residences. When settlement had reached the predicted degree of stability the lots

would be subdivided and sold. As houses were to be built, piers would first be driven through the rock fill and well into the clays below (15'-25'). Each pier length would be determined by the soils engineers based upon the depth to and through the firm soils below; some piers being as long as 85'.

Batter piles would be angled against selected piers to resist wind and earthquake loads. The location and angle of these batter piles was to be determined by the house design itself. Upon the piers "glu-lam", or steel beams would be placed to tie the piers together and to form a

secure base upon which a platform would be constructed. This platform would serve as the base for the house. The platform would be tied to the existing roadway by heavy timbers which were securely tied in. The timbers were covered in the builders's choice of materials and became the driveways and walkways that accessed the house. This made each house a peninsula of the roadway. This general construction concept with modifications was used to construct the second half of the subdivision and the commercial area that was proposed to join the two.

While waiting for the blessing of the Real Estate Commission and during the long legal process that it took, the work to create the described roadways was commenced. In order to secure the harbor from the winds and waves the first work was to clamshell dredge the area to remove the mud and deepen the water where a future marina was proposed. This mud was placed where Sandpiper Spit now exists. This was started early in 1965. This was before the Bay Conservation and Development Commission came into existence. Sandpiper Spit took many lifts of mud to become the roadway that it now is as a lot of may mud was

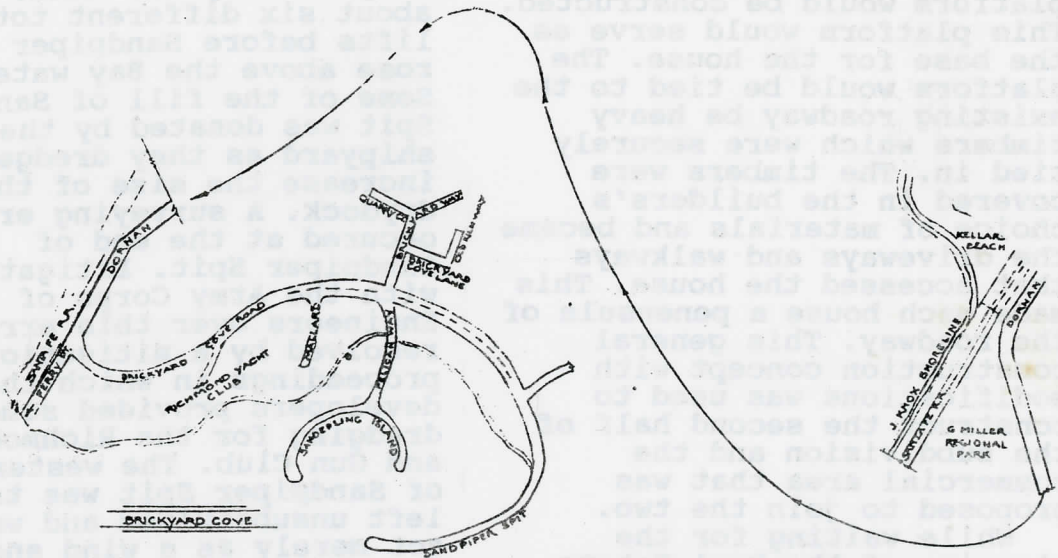
displaced by the fill; taking about six different total lifts before Sandpiper Spit rose above the Bay waters. Some of the fill of Sandpiper Spit was donated by the nearby shipyard as they dredged to increase the size of their drydock. A surveying error occurred at the end of Sandpiper Spit. Litigation with the Army Corps of Engineers over this error was resolved by a mitigation proceedings in which the developers provided some dredging for the Richmond Rock and Gun Club. The westerly tip of Sandpiper Spit was to be left unsubdivided and would act merely as a wind and wave barrier for the harbor inside. Later, rock fill as described previously would be placed on the settled mud of Sandpiper Spit to form the roadway.

The second area to be constructed in conjunction with the work on Sandpiper Spit was the construction of the roadways in the westerly section. This is where the basic principal of building on rock fill came into full play. The rock fill for these roadways came from the adjacent hillside to the east of the Richmond Pressed Brick Company. This property was owned by ARCO. They gave permission for the removal of the rock and charged royalties for each truckload removed. This required monitoring to count the truckloads. Bert Clausen's uncle, Ervin Clausen of Berkeley who was a retired manager of Johns Manville Company and a former Colonel

STANDARD MARKET
114 Washington Ave.
Phone 2062

RICHMOND MARKET
312 Macdonald Ave.
Phone 221

STANDARD RICHMOND
MARKETS
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Map courtesy the Women's Westside Improvement Club, drawn by Anne Hanzlik.

in the Army offered to do this tedious and dusy job. He did a masterful job of direction to achieve the maximum benefit with the minimum amount of material. The rock roadways were built, the rock displacing the mud under it and coming to rest upon the firm clays below. A period of settlement took place and then the road surfacing was completed.

Meanwhile a commercial area separating the westerly residential section from the easterly section was also under construction. This would be an area for small office buildings, a small restaurant and a Marina with a harbormaster's office. A rock dike was constructed by the displacement principal. This delineated the area tying the west end to the east end in an arc. A large land area was started northward of the dike by dredging mud from the

future marina and placing it behind the dike. This was the slowest area to settle out and to become useful as a great deal of water was trapped in the mud that was placed behind the dike. Many homes had been built in the westerly section by the time work was started to develop this area further.

Early in the development of the westerly section before even a roadway was available it was decided to have a typical dock constructed. Near the south end of what was to be Mallard Drive a work party gathered together, the dock was built and launched into the water with a strong land tie. Jim Dewitt built a two story houseboat and tied it to this dock using it for bothj a residence and an art studio. He was the first person to reside in the new waterfront community. The scale model of

the subdivision as well as real estate sales materials were located in the houseboat. Unfortunately a very short while later it was set on fire when Jim was away and his possessions as well as the sales material were all destroyed. The dock was later removed to a location in the commercial area of the subdivision where Jim DeWitt built a sail loft.

Finally with the Real Estate Commission's approval it was time to start home construction. The westerly section of the subdivision had settled sufficiently so that underground utilities could be installed and the road could receive its final paving. The lots were surveyed in and sales commenced. The house at 1292 Sanderling Island was the first to be constructed: starting in October, 1969 and completing in March, 1970.

This house stood alone for six month, occupied by the Bert Clausens, while the second house was under construction. This was the Bill Fisher house. Both the Clausens and the Fishers until live in Brickyard Cove, the new water oriented community. The Clausens now live at 1290 Sanderling Island having found that when the children had grown and moved away the first house was a bit large. Their former house was owned by one family for a short time and then purchased by the present owner who completely remodeled it.

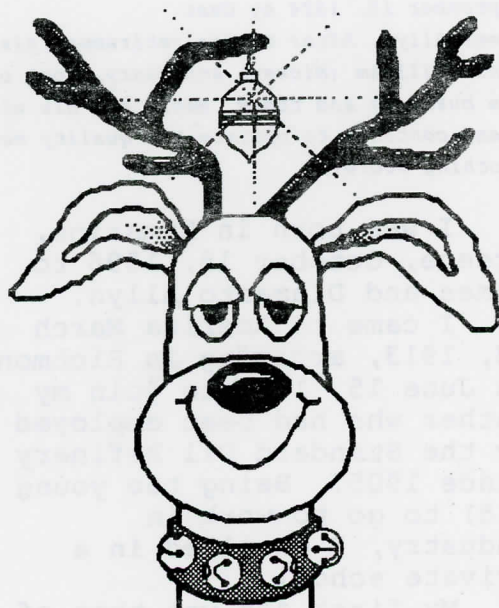
JAN BURDICK
THIS POINT
Dictionary

For Your Information

WEST SIDE LIBRARY

By Jan Burdick

Jan is still recovering from scheduled surgery. We understand her recovery is coming along quite well. Hope to have her back "in circulation" real soon!



GUST JAMES ALLYN

1896 - 1987

an autobiography

Gust Allyn was presented the "Man of the Year" award by the Richmond Chamber of Commerce in 1968. This Autobiography is the text used at the presentation.

(Allyn's Men's Shop, 136 Washington Avenue, now the Point's oldest continuing family business, was founded 65 years ago on September 18, 1924 by Gust James Allyn. After Gust's retirement, his sons, William (Mickey) and Henry, took over the business and today, Henry and his wife, Jean, continue to operate the quality men's clothing store.)

I was born in Kamarion, Greece, October 15, 1896 to James and Diamanto Allyn.

I came to America March 28, 1913, arriving in Richmond on June 15, 1913 to join my father who had been employed by the Standard Oil Refinery since 1905. Being too young (15) to go to work in industry, I enrolled in a private school.

My first job was that of a water boy for the Oakland Traction Company, known now as A/C Transit. The company was engaged in laying streetcar tracks on Macdonald Avenue, the main street in Richmond.

My second job was with the AT & SF Railroad and on April 4, 1916, I went to work for the Standard Oil Refinery where I remained until June 1917. I resigned from Standard Oil to enter business.

A friend of mine and I purchased the Eagle Restaurant, better known as Wylies Restaurant, 57 Washington Avenue, in Point Richmond. In 1919 I sold the restaurant and opened the Marathon Cigar Store and Pool Hall. In 1924 I sold half interest in the pool hall and opened a men's furnishings store in Point Richmond on September 18 of that year. Later, I disposed of my entire interest in the pool hall and devoted full time to the clothing business.

I was married April 2, 1921 to Margret Diffin of Selby, California, daughter of Elizabeth and Henry Diffin, both natives of Contra Costa County. Mrs. Diffin taught school in this County for 34 years before retiring as principal of the Selby School in 1937. Mrs. Allyn is a member of two pioneer Contra Costa County families. We have

resided at 22 Idaho Street, Point Richmond for 40 years (Ed note: This was written several years before his death).

We have three sons, William D., Nathaniel C., and Henry C. and one daughter, Mrs. Diaan Lawrence. William and Henry are now the owners of Allyn's Mens Shop in Point Richmond, Diaan is employed by the Richmond School Department and Dr. Nathaniel C. is the Director of Admissions of Stanford Graduate School of Business.

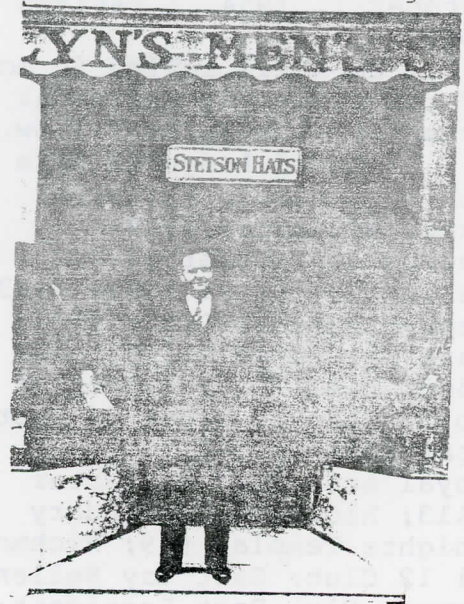
I became a citizen in 1922 and entered public service in 1937 when I was elected to the Richmond Union High School District Board of Trustees. This position was held for 12 years; 5 of those years I was the Chairman of the Board. This period covered the crucial war years when the enrollment in Richmond schools jumped from 6,500 to 33,000. During this time I also served on the planning commission for the City of Richmond.

In 1946 I was appointed to serve a portion of a short term in the City Council upon the death of Virgil Fenner. During this period, at my recommendation, the City Council adopted a resolution to establish Book Mobile Library Service to outlying areas where it was difficult for citizens to come into the Main Library. this service was established and is still serving all of the outlying

areas. When I ran for election to fill the balance of the unexpired term, I was defeated by a margin of 25 votes. Two years later in 1949, I ran for the City Council and was elected by the largest vote any candidate had yet received in a Council race.

In July 1951, I was selected to serve as Mayor of the City of Richmond a for one year term and in July 1952 I was again selected by the Council to serve another term. I served until June 12, 1953 when I resigned to take the job as Acting Postmaster of Richmond.

During the time I served as Mayor, one of the most important things I worked for- from the standpoint of the welfare of this area- was the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge.



Many trips were made to Sacramento with former City Manager Wayne Thompson and others to urge the Legislature to provide funds for the project which would link Contra Costa and Marin Counties. This became a reality in 1956 when a double deck three lane bridge replaced the ferry boats.

I was also among the Mayors from Pacific Coast Cities who were invited to attend the Mayor' Conference in Tokyo, Japan. We were the first official representatives to arrive in Japan after the Treaty was signed, and we were accorded a royal welcome by the Japanese people. We traveled through many cities and were shown many places of interest.

I received my appointment as Postmaster of Richmond on October 1, 1954. I retired in 1968.

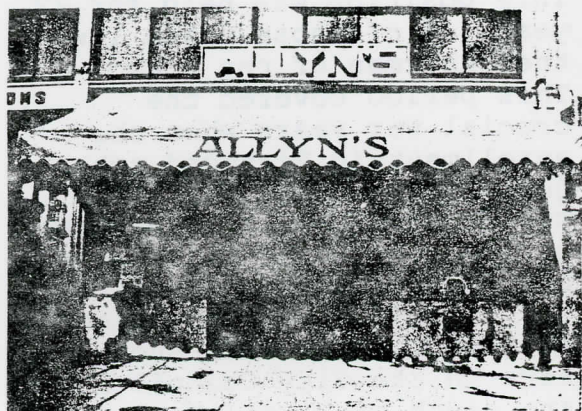
I am still active in most of the Civic and Fraternal Organizations which follow.

Richmond Lodge of Elks #1251; Richmond Fraternal Order of Eagles #354; Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Eclipse Lodge #403; Zephyr Rebekah Lodge #263; Past Master of Point Lodge #503, F&AM; Past Patron of Point Chapter Order Of Eastern Star #394


Royal Arch Masons Chapter #113; Richmond Commandary Knights Templar #59; Richmond Hi 12 Club; East Bay Hellenic Square Club Past President;

Past Masters Association Point Lodge; Past Matrons and Patrons Association; First President of Richmond Hellenic Community Center; National Association of Postmasters; President

1955 & 1962 County Postmasters Association; Life Member of Richmond Museum Association (Organized in my home while Mayor, 1952); Salvation Army Advisory Board for 9 years; Richmond Rotary Club; Chamber of Commerce; Advisory Board of Jobs Daughters Point Bethel; National Association of Boys Club of America; Former member and District Chairman of Boy Scouts of America 1953-54 Member of BSA Committee for 26 years.



The Natatorium



A Preliminary Post-Earthquake Structural Evaluation has been prepared for the City by Roy H. Andrewson of Interactive Resources. After describing detailed observations, such as "cracks in the back and north wall, cracks in the floor and movement in columns, Mr. Andrewson states:

"In our opinion the building has suffered moderate structural damage. Dangerous condition(s) are believed to exist. Entry by owner is permitted only for emergency purposes and only at his own risk. The building should not be used on a continuous basis. Entry by public is not permitted. Of particular concern is the immediate area around the building due to the falling hazard created by the hollow clay tile walls. There is a possibility of major hazard in the case of a significant aftershock."

The report further explains that the report is based on a limited walk-through and visual observation of the building and recommends that this evaluation be followed by a detailed structural review by a qualified engineer.

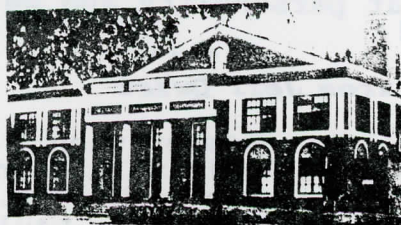
This report was introduced at a November 20th meeting of the Richmond City Council. The repair task ahead produced a tentative reopening date to be estimated to be August of 1991!

The pool has already been closed since April for a thorough renovation of non-structural improvements and was scheduled for reopening about now.

Pool regulars led by civic leader Jay Vincent feel that this repair delay is not necessary and contended to the council that funds are available from the sale of Kenney Park to temporarily repair the building for safe use while permanent repairs are being made. Says Mr. Vincent, "The pool is a very important element to the community, especially to people who have physical problems or are recovering from illness." The City had suggested that patrons can use a pool a YMCA pool on Macdonald Avenue (but it is currently closed) and other local pools (but they are outdoor pools.)

An assistant to the city manger, Linda Harris said, "The consultant will be looking at when the pool is going to reopen and if we can afford the repairs. Hopefully we'll be able to afford it."

We certainly hope the City can afford it...this building has a significant historical heritage for this community and the City as a whole. All efforts should be made to save this building and to maintain its existing appearance.



Best of Luck Gracie!

from James Chesboreck

On Sunday, November 13, 1989 a retirement party was held for Gracie Mar, cashier at the Santa Fe Market for the past 21 years. Gracie was a most distinguished cashier at the market and will be deeply missed.

The party was held at Linsley Hall and hosted by Donna Powers. Catering was done by Ellie's Catering and Lee Chapman did the floral designs. There was a great turn out at the party (which turned out to be a very fun event).

Speeches were made by Hanson Louie and Katie Young, widow of Bob Young. Gracie received several gifts. She was given a three-day, two night trip to Las Vegas, \$500 in gambling money, a glass encased design of roses made of one dollar bills, and various other gifts.

Both Hanson Louie and John Behrens were on hand to video tape this wonderful tribute to Gracie. I would like to dedicate this page of the newsletter in recognition of her long hours at her register (and our long hours waiting in line). Gracie, you have a great personality and we love you!

and from Jeff Quist

I can remember when I was little, I would walk down to the store with my Grandma. When we got there, Gracie would let

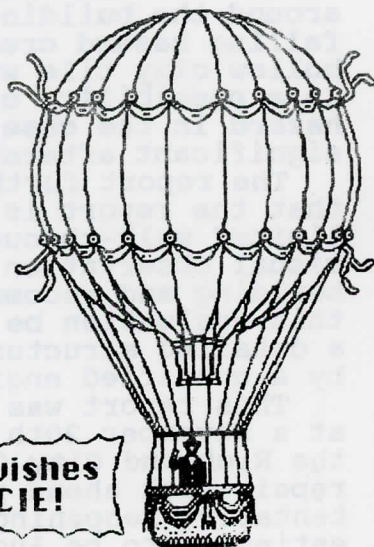
me go under the cart run and pretend it was a little house. While I was busy playing, Gracie would be talking to my Grandma like the day wouldn't end. Sometimes it was fun to listen and other times I had no idea what they were talking about.

When I think back on all of the things that Gracie did for me and other people, I feel sad that she is leaving.

^^^^^

from Linda Chesboreck

I remember the first day I met Gracie. She was standing at the cash register, it was April of 1969. I was new in town and asked if I could pay for my groceries with a check. Gracie sent me back to see Bob who said it was OK (since I knew the Shock family). As the years passed, Gracie became like family. She was always cheerful, a constant reminder of why I live small towns and "mom & pop" stores.



Point Artifacts

from James Cheshareck

ARDELL'S or TEDDY'S FOUNTAIN?

While reading the "Cards and Letters" section of the November issue, I came across something very interesting. Josephine Palenchar and Allan Smith answered Betty Glass Marshall's question about the name of "the beanery across from the Natatorium". Both remembered it as being "Ardell's", owned by Ardell Ciabattari.

Recently, I came across an old ashtray labeled "Teddy's Fountain, Point Richmond Calif.". I asked one person, an old timer, if they remembered Teddy's Fountain, and they said that they remembered it as being located where Ardell's supposedly was and as being owned by Ted Ciabattari. I have also talked to a member of the family who tells by that the restaurant was called Teddy's Fountain.

So, this month's question is, *was it called Ardell's or was it called Teddy's Fountain.* I suppose it could be possible that this restaurant had two different names at two different times, or maybe people referred to it as "Ardell's" because the owner was Ardell Ciabattarias many of us referred to the Santa Fe Market as "Bob's", because Bob Young was the owner.

Please write if you can help me to figure this one out.

Dear James:

There is a little controversy in regards to the name and ownership of the "corner store across from the Natatorium: Ardell sold the business to his brother Ted and the store name was changed to Ted's Fountain; then Charlie Slussar of the Point was in business as was Bill Baccus (?). Bill later took over the "greasy spoon" next to Ed Wendall's Garage (now Bradley's). This little building is still attached to the garage.

Ardell is seriously ill at this time and is in a local hospital.

sincerely,
Allan Smith

This was received from Allan Smith just prior to publication. Does anyone have any memories to add?

James

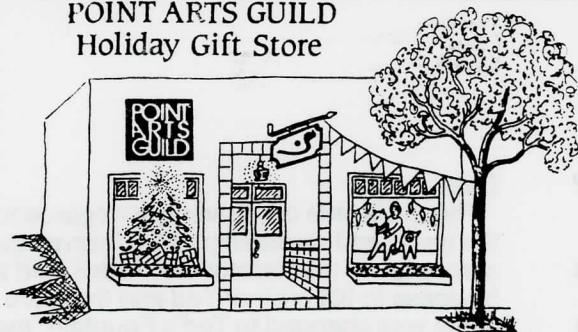


Dear History Association:

In 1906, at age 4, I was one of the refugees from San Francisco. Very much enjoyed your history of Point Richmond, which was sent to me by our niece, Mrs. Barbara Middlemar. Enclosed is a check for membership.

Sincerely,
Mary Santini Shur
Darien, CT

**POINT ARTS GUILD
Holiday Gift Store**



The Point Arts Guild is proud to announce the opening of their art gallery and craft shop in downtown Point Richmond, it is located at 26 West Richmond Avenue and features art work created by the Guild's members. It is open Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Hand-dyed and woven scarves, unique jewelry, functional and decorative ceramics, as well as paintings and photographs are available. At the Point Arts Gallery you can buy something new and exciting to wear, shop for an unusual gift or have a portrait commissioned. Prices for these original works of art range from \$2.50 for a card to \$600.00 for a large painting.

The Point Arts Guild is composed of local artists who meet regularly to share artistic experiences, support one another and exhibit together. Guild artists currently showing at the gallery are:

Teresa Navas Albro

>> functional ceramics and clay masks

Deidre Cerkowicz

>> photographs of Baja

Joan Champion

>> watercolors, T-shirts and cards

Sydney Sander Isobe

>> woven and dyed silk scarves

Bill Eisenlord

>> silver jewelry and semi-precious stones

Susan M. Klein

>> hand painted boxes, felt jewelry, collages

Gina Green Kozak

>> pastel paintings and portraits

Connie Perez

>> paintings and raku jewelry

Jean Swanson

>> pottery, watercolors and photography

THE MASQUERS

A classic Christmas story of a crippled peasant child and the visit of the three kings, the offerings of the shepherds and townspeople and a miracle.

Special reduced prices of \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under 12 are being offered for this special show. For reservations call 232-4031.

*A Holiday Offering to our
Community, Patrons, and Friends.*

An All-Masquers Production of

AM AHL and the NIGHT VISITORS

a Christmas Opera
by
Gian Carlo Menotti



MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

105 Park Place
Point Richmond

Wednesday	Dec. 20, 27
Thursday	Dec. 21, 28
Friday	Dec. 22, 29
Saturday	Dec. 23, 30*

For Reservations call:
(415) 232-4031

Call early; seating is limited!

\$5 - Adults — \$3 - Children (12 and under)

*Dec. 23 & 30 - both matinee and evening performances.

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

Curtain: 8:30 p.m. / Matinees: 2:30 p.m.



Deaths.....

Anthony (Tony) Bernardi, 89, in San Pablo on Thursday, November 16th. Tony was born and lived in the same house on Dornan Drive (formerly Garrard Blvd) across from Keller's Beach for 73 years. Five years ago he and his brother, Louis, went to live in a care home in Richmond.

Tony loved to fish, a love that provided him income. Gourmet food and fine wines were also savored. Although artistic, he was never encouraged to pursue this talent

He worked in San Francisco at Belding & Clark (later J.P. Coates) and retired after 17 years from the University of California, Berkeley. Tony was a veteran of WWII U.S. Army.

One of seven children, Tony is survived by his sisters, Teresa Meneghelli, Richmond; Madeline Tucker, Fair Oaks; Angela Canellos, Burlingame; and brothers Louis, Richmond and Joseph, Albany. Four of them are in their 80's.

A Scripture Service was held on Monday, November 20, 1989.

Maude E. Wood, 89, died on Saturday, November 18th in a San Leandro convalescent hospital. A native and life resident of Richmond, Maude was a retired Point librarian and a leader of Camp Fire Girls. Her years as leader of the PIKIDA WAKAN CAMP FIRE GROUP, 1932-33 were recently serialized in "This Point...in time" and taken from a scrapbook kept by Camp Fire girl, Betty Dornan. Maude's love of Camp Fire over the years was evidenced when she donated \$200 for the Camp Fire name to be placed on the bronze plaque of the Indian Statue.

Maude was survived by many friends and at her request, no services were held.

Happy Hanukkah

Birthdays!

DECEMBER

Jean Allyn	Seth Fenton
Hazel Paasch	Cris Creed
Edna Hathaway	Debbie Seaburg
Fern Eastman	Christine Hayes
Sherry Hartynyk	Marian Hawkins
Teresa Albro	Mark Stevens
Toni Turner	Gerrie Kretzmer
Mike Turner	Marilyn Darling
Eric Turner	
Teresa Meneghelli	Nellie Ross
Richard Barnes	Lauren Nason-1st
Christina Nagatani (1st)	
Michael Cheshareck	

January

Henry Allyn	Cindy Rosier
Sonja Darling	Joe Travis
Linda Marshall	Bryan Smith
Doug Greiner	Trefrey Ross
Henry Francis	Ed Paasch
Jeff Corbin	Jim Wilson
Sara Strayer	Betty Moore
Mary Highfill	Lupe Morris
Janine Dollarhide	Ann Bartram
John Cutler	Diana Kaffan
Marylou Fox	Elaine Harris
Kristina Hollbrook(1st)	Louis Cuna

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

Type of membership (check one)

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | SINGLE | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | SENIOR (65+) | 10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | FAMILY | 25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | HISTORY PRESERVER | 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | CORPORATE SPONSOR | 75.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | HISTORY MAKER | 100.00 |

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

"This Point in Time" is a publication of the Point Richmond History Association, a non-profit organization at 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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of _____

From _____

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Please send acknowledgement to:

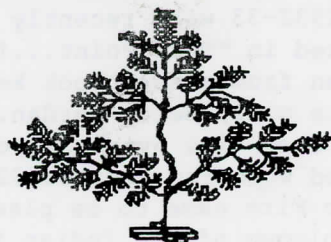
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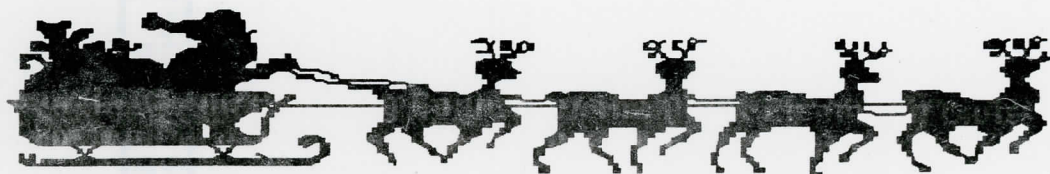
Address _____

The History Association wishes to gratefully acknowledge a donation made to the association's

Tribute Fund
by
Mildred Dornan
given in memory of

MAUDE WOODS
ANTHONY BERNARDI





Calendar

December 10	The Point Arts Guild host to "Christmas Tea", 2 pm -4 pm, everyone invited!
December 13	Point Richmond Business Association Meeting, Noon at Hotel Mac
December 23	Hanukkah
December 25	Christmas Day
January 1	New Year's Day
January 15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 20	Deadline for the February issue
January 25	History Association General Meeting, 7:30 pm, Community Center
March 29	History Association General Meeting

