

THIS POINT

Special Project
EDITION

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL. VIII, No. 2

MARCH, 1990

ONE DOLLAR

POINT THEATRE

N. S. STEPHENS
MANAGER

PROGRAM

February 1929



See Bebe Daniels and
Neil Hamilton in

"HOT NEWS"

Sunday, February 17th

ADMISSION

Adults 20c

Children 10c

MARCH MEETING

IMAGES OF RICHMOND

Will be presented by Deirdre Cerkowicz, photographer and former archivist for the Point Richmond History Association.

Her informal talk will feature slides of early photographs of the Richmond area from our Don Church Collection as well as the work of

Ansel Adams, Dorothea Lange, Imogen Cunningham, Judy Dater, Catherine Wagner, Henry Wessel, Chauncy Hare, Bill Dane and a few not so well known photographers.

We think this presentation will be a unique, informative and interesting view of Richmond.

(see page 5)

**The Point Community Center
at 7:30 pm**

March 29, 1990

Refreshments will be served

THE COVER

In 1913 the Point Theater, with a seating capacity of 450 was established at the corner of West Richmond and Park Place. Its opening provided an air of excitement for the entire community. Built by Ralph Tcherassy, its marble-lined lobby had tile floors, and the interior was decorated in a most artistic manner. The building was designed by C. O. Clausen, a San Francisco architect, one of its features was a restroom for mothers and their babies and for ladies generally. Original plans called for a ventilating system, but a snow storm on January 9, 1913 (a rare event in Point Richmond) caused Mr. Tcherassy to change it to a heating system. The theater opened on February 15, 1913 with a packed house, admission was 10 cents, and thereafter 20 cents.

By 1956 the name of the theater had changed to the Cine Theater, and in 1957 it had become the Miracle Revival Tabernacle. It then reverted back to the theater for a short while as the Bridge. It became a gymnasium and then sat vacant, until, 54 years after the original theater had opened, it observed another grand opening; this time with its entrance facing Park Place. The Point Orient restaurant opened in 1967, to a packed house. The name "Point Orient" refers to a point on the Bay next to Point Molate beyond what used to be the Chinese Shrimp Camp.

History Association Notes

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Jerry Cerkanowicz

The History Association has been given the small building at 139 West Richmond Avenue (Hazel Carr's former real estate office) on the condition that it be moved to a new location, as the present owners are going to build on the lot.

After consulting with Tom Butt of Interactive Resources it was decided that a good location for the building would be the area between the Library-Community Center building and Richmond Firehouse #1. Because this location is City of Richmond property we would need permission from the City to put the building there. We have talked to representatives of the City and have been informally told that as long as we keep the building neat and secure there would be no objections.

The building would be restored to its original appearance (1903-09) and be used as a little museum to display photos and artifacts collected by our organization. This would allow the public access to our interesting historical materials.

Again, Tom Butt has offered to help us move and restore

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JOIN THE POINT RICHMOND
HISTORY ASSOCIATION
NOW AS A NEW MEMBER
AND WE WILL SEND YOU
OUR 1990 WALL CALENDAR
"THE POINT"

"Drawings by Donna Roselius"
FREE!!

"From the President" continued....

the building. And, if we do accomplish our goal of moving the building, it would require regular maintenance. But we are going to need help from our members and the community to make this work. Our Board of Directors feels that given the interest in the history of Point Richmond our goal could be accomplished and has decided to back the project with some of our reserve funds.

If you know anything about the building please call or write. We have set up a special fund to hopefully finance this project, we need your help please see the centerfold of this newsletter.

We still have a supply of our "The Point, 1990" calendars remaining, so we will send one free of charge to new members for as long as our supply lasts.

I am still trying to find out more about the history of the building that houses Bradley's Garage. If anyone knows when it was built, what it originally housed or any other interesting fact about that building please write or call me at 235-1336.

We are continuing to accept our 1963 survey forms. Anyone wishing to take part in this survey on living in the Point can do so by picking up a copy at the 134 Washington Avenue lobby or at the library. The response has been good, so the results should be interesting.

I think the March 29th meeting will be a good one, I hope to see you there.



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

John & Barbara Vincent
Frank D. Lopez
Mae Mandl
Stan Nystrom Family
Maude E. Alexander
Allan P. Smith
Al Frosini
Molly O'Connell
Eleanor Best
Grace & Jerry Cerkowicz, Sr.

And a warm welcome to new members:

Tom & Shannon McGowan
C.F. Hochgesang
Patricia & E. Walton Kirk
Vivien E. Cook

**The Point Richmond Baptist Church
is going to be sold!**

**Its Baptist owners will give a
favorable deal to anyone buying the
building and using it as a church or
some other civic purpose**

Stephen Crook has ideas

**Robyn Wolf thinks child care center
and/or conflict resolution center**

What do you think?

**The church was erected in
1904**

It has a story to tell

**The Point Richmond Baptist Church
building is
historically significant
to the entire
City of Richmond**

editors notes.....

BY GARY SHOWS

We are sending this issue to a larger mailing. We hope to get the community's help in saving the oldest building in the Point at 139 West Richmond Avenue from destruction. The continued existence of this old little building could also become a working symbol of our community's awareness of its interesting past.

Feature articles in this issue include part two of Dr. William L. Thompson's "Memories of Pioneer Point Richmond Residents".

Dr. Thompson's column brought back memories to Willard Spiersch and he surprised me with wonderful article of his own! He calls it "Will's rambles in HIS Point in Time", I think you will enjoy it! Will even promises to send more.

Thanks to Alan Smith for his research that makes this issue's "Point to the Past" possible.

All of our usual items are here except for Mid Dornan's, as Mid is on vacation in the South Pacific. She will be back for the next issue.

I was surprised that I had no reaction, positive or negative, to my "save the utility poles" idea, oh well.

The deadline for articles or letters in the April issue is March 23rd.



TOM EHRENFRIED 1954-1989

The Point lost a special person this past December. Tom Ehrenfried died suddenly on December 24, 1989. Tom was known to almost anybody in town who drove through or walked to and from the markets on a regular basis. He was usually sitting on the bench in front of the fire station, or if you went to the library, you would see him there also, as Tom was an avid reader. It was unusual not to see a paperback book sticking out of his back pocket. He was a special friend to us, I enjoyed Tom's company and his gentleness of humor. I could usually rely on him to carry my groceries to the car if I happened to see him when I come out of the market. He usually saw me first and knew almost ahead of time that I would ask for his help. Tom did more than carry groceries for me. He never refused a request for his assistance in something (moving furniture, cleaning the yard, repairing something that was broken, watering gardens, etc.). But most fondly, I remember the chats we had daily, usually about the Point and the folks in it. If there was someone or something I was curious about, Tom would fill me in as he seemed to know a little something about everybody and the goings on around the town. Tom was a friend and I miss him. Some goodbyes are harder than others. Tom was an especially tough goodbye for us.

from Bob and Colleen Baldino

SENIOR NEWS

By Muriel C. Clausen

FOOD PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO SENIORS

There is help available to seniors in need of assistance in obtaining proper nutritious meals. If needed there are two separate programs for seniors to tap into.

The main program is the Senior Nutrition Program, a 1.7 million dollar program sponsored by the federal government under the Older Americans' Act Title 111B. In Contra Costa County the Area Agency on Aging handles the contracting. The total cost of Contra Costa's program is from \$27,000-\$30,000 per year of which \$15,000 comes from Title 111B funds and the balance from donations. It has been 8 years since a funding increase has come from the federal government so the program is now under some financial strain.

This federal program is divided into two parts: the *congregate meals* and the *home delivered meals*. In Contra Costa

County there are 25 sites where seniors may congregate to eat a hot meal daily, five days a week (on holidays a frozen meal can be arraigned). These sites grow with need. As areas and pockets of needy are located, sites are sought for the gathering of seniors to eat together at noon. Seniors sign up a day ahead for their

meal and when they come are asked for a donation of from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per meal (the meal itself costs much more than this), these donations are kept private and confidential and the actual donation averages about \$1.08.

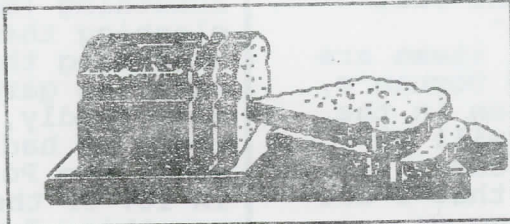
Transportation can be arranged to all of the sites through Paratransit except the Parchester Village site. The meals in all of the programs are based on government nutritional standards which are upgraded regularly.

The *home delivered meals* are for needy, homebound elderly, and are available on a 24 hour advance order schedule. In our county about 430 meals are delivered daily on 28 different routes by over 300 volunteer drivers, there is a waiting list of over 100 persons. A private and

confidential donation is requested from \$1.50 to \$4.00 per meal with an average donation of \$1.60 per meal. There is an arraignment for

an emergency situation in which frozen meals are kept ready and rotated so as not to become old or stale. If a needy senior is having an emergency food situation, the Area Agency on Aging should be contacted at 646-5233.

The other major program is "Meals on Wheels", a private organization which works to



provide hot meals for seniors five days a week (holidays are frozen meals). This is a more costly program to the recipients that the federal program. It is that same meals, however; and from the same source kitchen. In Contra Costa County there are 17 routes covering from Kensington to Crockett; but not all areas of the County. They deliver from 275 to 285 meals a day with 15 volunteer drivers who volunteer their time. They are paid \$5.00 a delivery schedule to cover gasoline and work 2 1/2 to 3 hours shifts. Drivers are always in need. "Meals on Wheels" can provide special diets where needed; all of which requires advance notice. Due to limited resources there is always a waiting list of persons desiring these meals.

With all of the discussion of the homeless in the news it is interesting that neither of these two programs receive much notice; yet they have been in operation regularly for a number of years; busy at work, daily providing healthy hot meals for needy seniors in the County; too busy to seek publicity but daily filling a great need.



A-MID TRIVIA

by Mid Dornan (234-5334)

MID IS ON VACATION THIS ISSUE.

History of Photography in Richmond or

History of Richmond in Photographs
By Deirdre Cerkanowicz

Photography turned 150 last year. Many magazines and museums featured the history of photography. Life gave us the best of photojournalism, National Geographic gave us the history of travel photography. The Oakland museum had a show, Picturing California, featuring both historic and contemporary photographs of our Golden State.

As a photographer and past archivist of the Point Richmond History Association I have seen and taken many pictures of the Point. In my studies of photography I have also come across many photographs of Richmond taken by some well known and not so well known photographers. Everyone probably knows the photos of Ansel Adams that show the pristine wilderness of the High Sierra; but did you know that he also photographed in Richmond during World War II? Or that Dorothea Lange, famous for her Dust Bowl Images also photographed the workers at the Kaiser shipyard here in Richmond? Several other internationally known photographers have found reason to come to visit or to live in Richmond and to photograph the area.

I felt compelled to compile copies of as many of these images of Richmond I could find and to find a way to share and display them. I think the people of Richmond will be very interested in seeing their city in this way. I also feel that photographers, historians, and the general public might also be interested in seeing Richmond from a different perspective. This slide show is the first step in organizing such a display or exhibition.

Churches

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH NEWS

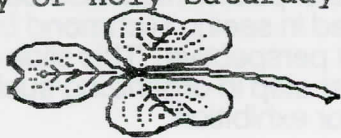
by Eleanor Hurley

Our gardener, Gertrude Rondon, is back on the job after a visit to Arizona with her daughter and to be introduced to her new grandson, her first grandchild. On her return she pruned the roses in the front yard. She also has plans to dig up some climbing roses in the back that have gotten out of control.

On Sunday, February 18th the Italian Catholic Federation came to Our Lady of Mercy for their Quarterly Communion and breakfast. John and Shirley Gerk were in charge and were ably assisted by members of their family, it was a very good gathering. These affairs are always so pleasant and enables us to see and visit with members from other Parishes.

Ash Wednesday was on February 28th and began the Lenten period for this year. Easter Sunday will follow on April 15th. Daily Masses will be at 12 noon Monday through Friday and Stations of the Cross will follow every Friday after the noon Mass. This schedule will allow people to participate in some additional devotions.

Rice bowls are available and will be taken up around Good Friday or Holy Saturday.



POINT METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

by Jean Reynolds

A shape-note singing school led by Hugh McGraw of the National Sacred Harp Foundation was held in Friendship Hall on Saturday, January 27th. More than sixty singers attended. In addition to members of the East Bay Shape Note Singers, participants came from Georgia, San Diego, Los Angeles, Palo Alto, Chicago and Colorado. While the school was in progress, expert childcare was provided by Daniel Butt and Mid Dornan.

Women of the church catered a surprise birthday dinner for Henry and Dagmar Francis on February 4th. It was especially a surprise because it was not either of their birthdays: it was a very merry un-birthday!

Sunday School classes continue at 10:00am Sunday mornings. The Jr. High/High School class started a new study entitled JESUS: GOD'S MAN FOR OTHERS. The Spring quarter will start March 4th. All ages will participate in a program that will be part of the worship service on Palm Sunday, April 8th.

Special guests at worship have been Japanese visitors Yoshimi Naoe and Aguri, hosted for three week homestay by Michael and Lynn Brown and Norm and Jean Reynolds.

A member of the AIDS Taskforce will speak at the Administrative Board Meeting on March 13th.

Sports memories

By Allan Smith

Last month I wrote about the Rifle Range in the Point and it reminded me of the building now occupied by the Odd Fellows & Rebekahs Hall at 117 West Richmond Avenue. It is located next to Eva's Exergy & Wellness Center and directly across the street from the Point Orient Restaurant. The building was originally owned by a Mr. Tcherassy who operated a general store as well as the Point Theater. (We used to call him "Fat" Tcherassy).

When it became vacant during the early 30's, a father and son used the inside as a shooting gallery for target practice for their small-bore firearms, mostly twenty-two's. The length of the building was long and ideal for target shooting.

That father and son competed in local and state rifle shooting competition and were very good, winning several medal and trophies. The son had a brief career in the boxing ring as a heavyweight fighter. The family name, if I remember it correctly, was Ljutich.

We used to watch the shooting practice and mark the targets until the gun powder smoke got so bad that we had to leave.



A typographical error occurred in Allan's last column. In case you were confused.....

"Ready on the Ready on the Left, Ready on the Firing Line"

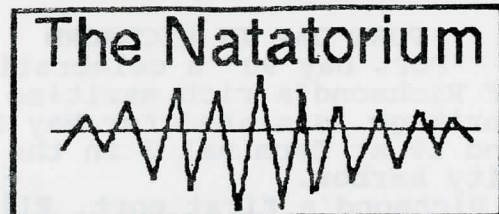
it should have been:

"Ready on the Right"

"Ready on the Left"

"Ready on the Firing Line"

Sorry about that, Gary



A revised plan to open the Natatorium on a temporary basis has been approved by the City Council. The \$20,000 job will enable the Natatorium to operate safely until permanent improvements costing \$1.3 million are done. Design work for the permanent retrofitting has already begun.

The temporary repairs will not include shoreing up the south wall so 25 to 30 feet of the pools south end will be closed off as will the tennis court on the other side of the south wall. It is expected to open to swimmers sometime in April.

Thanks go out to Jay Vincent and other pool users who worked so hard to get the pool open.

Burl Willis and Phyllis Skaglund, partners in Point Richmond Travel have offered the city's Civic Art Commission \$1000 to restore the original back wall mural of the Taj Mahal. We would like to see a picture of the original mural or talk to someone who can describe it in detail. If you can help please call Jerry Cerkowicz at 235-1336.

Point News

JERRY CERKANOWICZ

PORT DAY IN RICHMOND

"Port Day 90" a celebration of Richmond's rich maritime heritage is slated for May 18 and 19 at Terminal 3 in the city harbor.

Richmond's first port, Ellis Landing (now site of Terminal Three), was established 130 years ago. Port Day will also mark the 90th year as a Pacific port and the terminus of the Continental Railroad, and the 50th Anniversary of wartime shipping activity.

The event will feature a luncheon honoring Richmond's shipbuilders, historic displays, boat races, live music, shipboard tours and exhibits by students of the Richmond Unified School District.

DISPUTE WITH SANTA FE

A misdemeanor criminal charge has been filed against the Santa Fe Railroad Company, for blocking a roadway longer than city and the P.U.C. allows. The city ordinance states that trains while "switching" cannot block a roadway for more the five minutes; the P.U.C. allows ten minutes for switching. Richmond City Attorney Malcolm Hunter is planning to file similar charges based on numerous complaints from Point Richmond residents. Interactive Resources on Park Place keeps complaint kits available to the public.

KEY TO COMMUNITY CENTER LOST

The annual Valentine making contest was held at Eva Spenser's Fitness center because no one could find a key to Community Center. About thirty kids and adults participated. Marsha and Jeanne baked cookies and made icing, everyone had a good time.

KITE MAKING IN MARCH EASTER EGG DYING IN APRIL

On March 17th will be a great day for kids! From noon to 4:00 at the Community Center, for a small donation you will get materials necessary to build a kite. There will be prizes for the best kites in various age categories.

An then, also at the Community Center, on April 14th at noon an Easter egg dying contest will be held. For a small donation, egg decorating supplies will be made available. Prizes will be awarded for the best eggs in various categories.

Both of these events as well as many other events for the kids are made possible by David Vincent and the Point Richmond Business Association.

THE FERRY

Ridership on the Richmond Ferry continues to decline, making it less likely that Caltrans will continue subsidising the service after

March 23. Richmond Ferry Run, a group lobbying to retain ferry service across the Bay welcomes inquires and offers of help, call 235-6514. Red and White Fleet has a toll-free number for ferry schedules, 1-800-445-8801.

**POINT RICHMOND
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
from Bruce Begaert**

At the meeting of the council on February 6, 1990, Mr. Brewer described plans for a 2400 sq. ft. house with a 2 car garage on a 6000 sq. ft. lot at 9 Western in the Tuscornia Estate. According to Mr. Brewer, the house will comply with all Tuscornia Estate restrictions. To satisfy PRNC recommendations to the City, he will underground electricity and telephone wires to the nearest utility pole. Mr. Brewer intends to be on the April 5 Planning Commission agenda.

Ms. B.J. Miller introduced her architect Mr. Sam Hunt, who described plans to build a

3 bedroom, 2 bath house with a 2 car garage on a sub-standard 3500 sq. ft. lot running between Terrace and Scenic. Concern was expressed about the building's height being out of scale to adjacent dwellings. Suggestions were made for design detail changes to blend better in the neighborhood. Ms. Miller intends to be on the Planning Commission agenda in March.

Mr. Phil Erickson presented revised plans for 7 dwelling units on a 1/2 acre site at 500/600 Golden Gate Avenue. A motion was made and passed requesting the Planning Commission defer consideration of the proposal until its April meeting.

The process for revising the City of Richmond General Plan was described in detail by Ms. Nancy Kaufman, Mr. Rod Jones and Mr. Larry Sutton of the Planning Department and Mr. Marshall Walker of the Redevelopment Agency. Numerous suggestions were made by PRNC members. The Zoning ordinances will also be updated beginning this summer, with public participation.



View on Washington Avenue, Richmond, Cal.

A Plea from The Point Richmond History Association

We have a chance to save the oldest structure in Point Richmond. We are appealing to all members, Point residents, former residents, businesses, and anyone else interested in helping us save 139 West Richmond Avenue. We are encouraging contributions of any size and will acknowledge your contribution in the newsletter.

THE PROJECT

The little building at 139 West Richmond Avenue is the oldest building in Point Richmond. The property that it is on is now scheduled for development, and the little building is to be destroyed. The owners of the property, Ramon and Patience Zambrano have offered to give us the building if we can arrange to move it elsewhere. We have found a spot on city property in the triangle where we would like to move it and use it as our "museum" to display some of our Point Richmond archives.

To move the building and fix it up will take money. We can pay for some of the project but do not have the funds to do it all, so we are asking for your help. We have established a separate fund for this project and are now encouraging donations.

THE HISTORY

Mr. J.Q. Black began business in the building in 1903, delivering coal, hay, and grain.

In 1905, Robert Dornan, Sr. arrived here from Northern Ireland at the age of 23. He had come to see an injured brother and found work as a railroad car repairman. In 1909, Mr. Dornan and another Santa Fe employee, Art Whitesides, bought out J.Q. Black and expanded the business to include the delivery of household goods. The price to deliver a trunk from the train station was fifteen cents.

All of their work was done by horse-drawn wagons. Mr. Dornan was given a brass license plate No. 2 for his wagon; the plate is still in the family.

Johnson and Brain on Sixth Street were providing stiff competition because they owned a truck. Dornan wanted to buy a truck but his partner would not agree. So, in 1911 Dornan bought out Whitesides and purchased a truck for "three wagons (one dump, two cargo), two teams of horses and ten dollars in gold".

The business, The Richmond Supply Company, delivered feed and fuel to everyone in the Point. Newcomers used their services for moving.

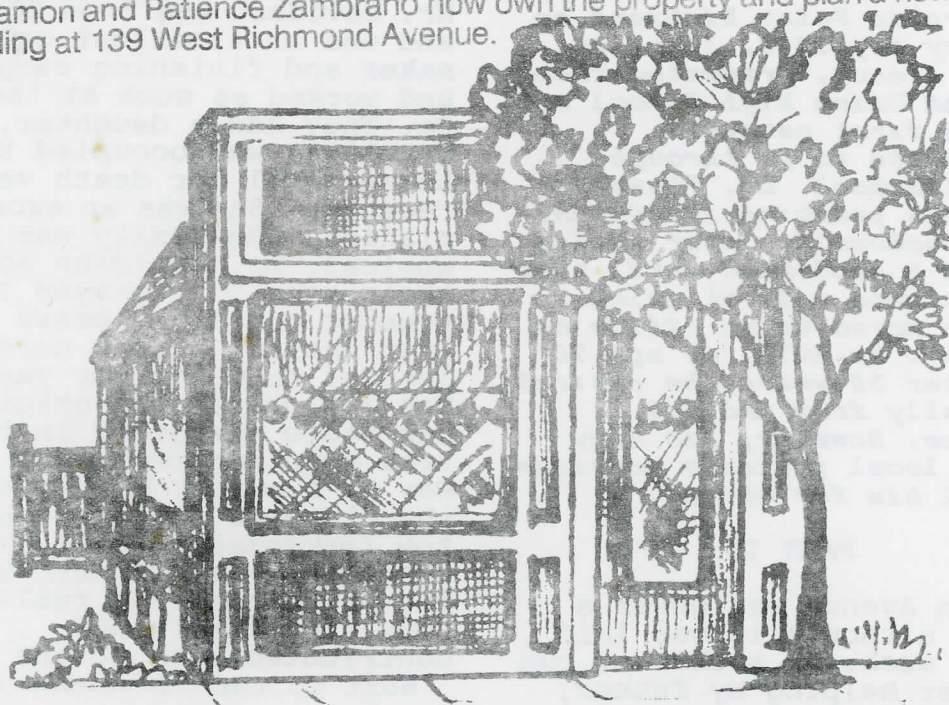
In 1944, The Richmond Supply Company was doing so well it expanded into

the empty lot next door were "The Nickelodeon", a silent movie house had been and the building adjacent to it at 145 West Richmond Avenue which had been occupied by U. Sonoda, a shoemaker and "The Apex", a shaving parlor owned by Bill Cooper.

About 1947, Mrs. Laura Larlin opened a small grocery store in the little building. Then, during the 50's Mr. A.F. Dixon had a locksmith business in the front and converted the rear into living quarters.

In the '60's Hazel Carr bought it, installed the large windows you see today, and opened her Point Richmond Real Estate and Income Tax Service.

Ramon and Patience Zambrano now own the property and plan a new building at 139 West Richmond Avenue.



I would like to help save the oldest building in Point Richmond.

☐ Enclosed is my contribution of: \$ _____
Make your check out to PRHA Historic Building Fund.

☐ I think that I may be able to help move the building, please call me.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ZipCode _____

Phone Number _____

Mail to:

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

Memories of Pioneer Point Richmond Residents

Wm. L. Thompson

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.

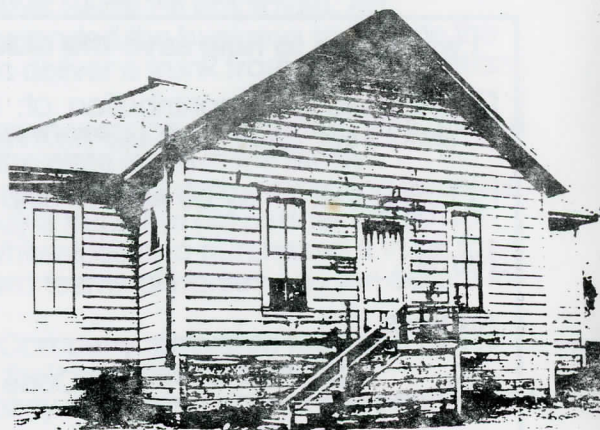
PART II

Glen Avenue was never a street although it was laid out as such. As a child I can remember helping my father, Max Henry and Mr. Morrison build a wooden walkway up the east side of this open way to give easy access to the several homes above. About this time Max Henry bought one of the first automobiles in the area. It was said to have been a two-cylinder Packard. I never saw it run. It Eventually went over the bank.

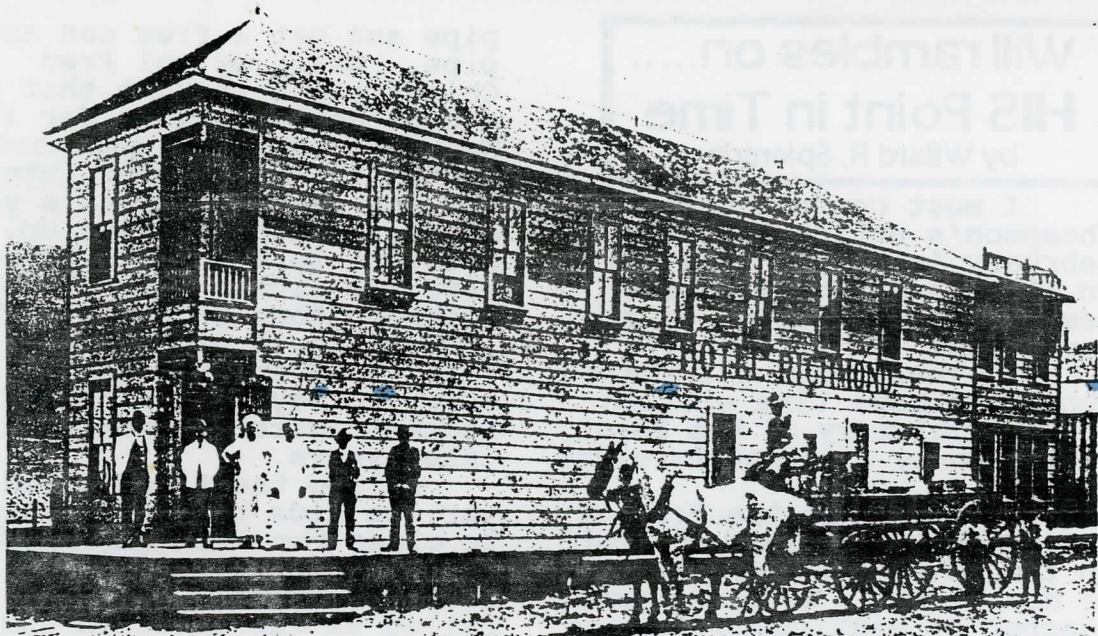
The Shubach family built the pointed roofed house on Buena Vista next to the "candy" Henry's. I don not recall them well but they were friends of

my father. They soon sold the house to the John Davidsons. Mr. Davidson was from Scotland and was an excellent cabinet maker and finishing carpenter and worked as such at the S.O. Co. They had a daughter, Caroline, who occupied the house until her death very recently. She was an excellent pianist. The family was quite musical. Mr. Davidson and their son, Tom, played the trumpet and other brass instruments. I took coronet lessons from him for years. Tom was one of the original ham radio operators in the area starting just after World War I. I recall listening with the old head set but was not too impressed because all there was was dots and dashes. The Davidsons were really a very fine family and contributed much to the town.

Next to the Davidsons on the



Richmond's Original School 1791



east lived the Janke's. They were an elderly couple with two grown sons, one of whom worked for the S.O. Co. on Bahrian Island in the Persian Gulf for several years. Across the lower end of Glen Avenue from the Janke's the Gilmore family built a home. Mrs. Gilmore was a native Hawaiian. This home was later taken over by the Clinger family who had two daughters.

There had been originally a home on upper Scenic Avenue next to the Morrison home. I do not recall the name of the people who first had it but recall that the wife died of Typhoid Fever. Some time later this house was taken over by the Cibattari family when they arrived from Michigan, probably about 1919. Soon this house caught fire and burned completely. A neighboring side of the Morrison house also was partly burned.

Across upper Glen Avenue and above Scenic was a small house

which I think was originally built by Al Mason who worked at the S.O. Co. It was later inhabited by several other families. Below the Masons and across Scenic was an old structure with a rather large vegetable garden around it. This belonged to Charlie Richardson, a bachelor who worked around the water, mostly on the dredgers and other marine structures.

Near the upper end of Montana Street was the home of George Lee with one daughter, Virginia. Mr. Lee was in the Real Estate and Insurance business. This home was later occupied by the Williams family and the Ken Koht family. They originally had a small simple home on the rear of the property but later built a modern home in front. A son, Jim, still lives in the area and is quite active in Point Richmond affairs.

(to be continued next month)

Will rambles on.....

HIS Point in Time

by Willard R. Spiersch

I must confess that Dr. Thompson's article in the February issue of "This Point in Time" has tickled a few memories of the Point on my part also!

Dr. Thompson and I share about the same time slot in the past history of the Point, as I am only five months older than he.

Two things in the February issue did this tickling, one, on the cover was the picture of Mrs. Axtell, my first grade teacher at Washington Grammar School. I remember her well, she taught me a lesson of respect for the authority of teachers that I held out throughout my school years.

For some reason, the class displeased her and she lined us all up around the room and gave us each a whack on the palm of our hands! I didn't give her a bad time again after that!

The second tickler was the picture of Kenny's news stand on the corner of Washington and Standard Avenues. The Kenny's had a sale as I recall, buy one can of Prince Albert tobacco and a

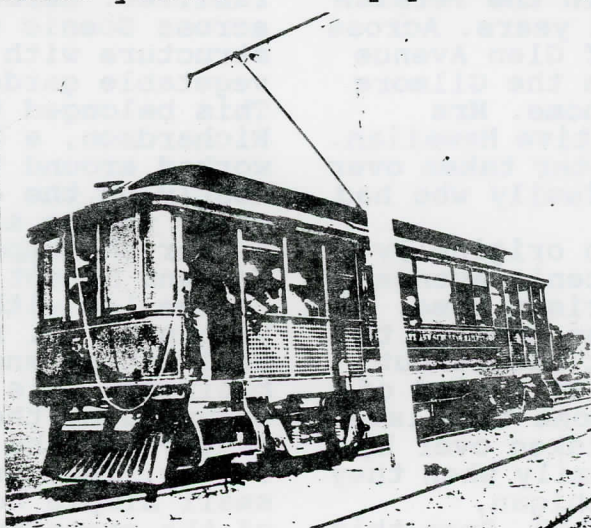
pipe and get a free can and pipe. Well, my pal Fred Childs and I thought that was a good deal and went for it. We knew that a new pipe had to be broken in, so we went into a box car down by Dornan's yard and proceeded to light up. Needless to say there never were two sicker boys in Point Richmond then or since! The lesson stayed with me for life, I never smoked, but I'm sorry to say that Fred did become cigarette smoker in later years.

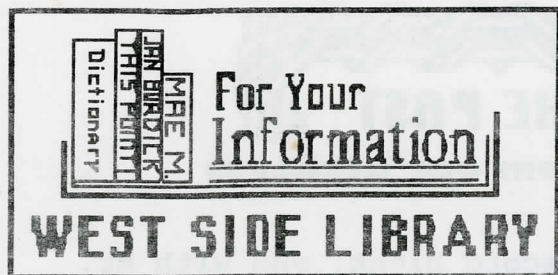
During the first world war, we kids brought 25 cents to class for which we received a war stamp to affix in a booklet. When the booklet was filled we turned it in and received a War Bond. After the war, my father turned them in for cash with which I bought a bicycle. I then got a paper route, our papers were

delivered by street car at Kenny's corner, and were thrown off the car by the conductor.

Yes, they had conductors as well as motormen in those days! We then picked them up, opened the bundles, counted them, (sometimes we got an extra that we could

sell). We then rolled and bagged our papers and started our routes. Boy, was that a tough job traversing our steep Point hills!





By Jan Burdick

GEORGIA O'KEEFE: A Life

by Roxana Robinson

This biography, the first to draw on sources unavailable during O'Keefe's lifetime, and the first to be granted her family's cooperation, offers a persuasive feminist analysis of the life and work of an iconic figure in American art. Ms. Robinson's detailed sensitive critique of O'Keefe's work, tracing the development of the artist's esthetic, alternates with an absorbing intimate narrative of O'Keefe's personal life to provide a resourceful imaginatively rendered portrait of the dauntingly difficult subject.

SENSES AND SENSIBILITIES

by Jillyn Smith

The book reveals the world of the senses providing tidbits of interesting information about ourselves, other animals, our physical world, and the interactions among us. Given a topic of this nature, scientific and technical terminologies are inevitable, yet science writer Smith presents the text with humor and in a blend of science, history, folklore and personal anecdotes. This approach makes an otherwise

serious subject rather lively and entertaining.

STREETS OF FIRE

by Thomas H. Cook

Set in Birmingham,

Alabama in May 1963, amid the social upheaval of the freedom marches led by Martin Luther King, Jr., this powerful crime novel evokes all of the emotionalism that prevailed at the time. The body of a little black girl is found in a shallow grave in a football field in Bearmatch, a poor black district of the city. Homicide Sergeant, Ben Wellman, uses all of his tolerance and training during the investigation which meets with prejudice from the police and black community. The author ably creates realistic characterization and vivid narrative, then wraps it all up in this tightly crafted mystery.

LIVING BUDDHISM

by Andrew Powell

In this large format, generously illustrated volume, various schools of Buddhism are treated with an emphasis on historical background, fundamental philosophical concepts, and special attention to their place in the contemporary world. The succinct text complements the expressive and evocative photographs which eloquently reveal the depth, gentility and beauty of this complex and influential tradition. With a fine glossary and a bibliography leading to other basic work on this subject, this volume makes an excellent starting point for the general reader.



POINTS TO THE PAST

Articles of interest from our archives

ARM YOURSELVES!

Point Richmond citizens had better load up their shotguns with a good quantity of bird shot for there's a tough gang of hoboes in town and judging from their appearance they would not hesitate to rob, or even murder to secure plunder. There are between fifteen and twenty in the gang.

December 7, 1902

Richmond Daily Record

THE FIRST RESIDENCE IN RICHMOND

Few know Richmond's first residence.

Many have often argued the matter with no result.

Of course the first buildings to be constructed in what is now termed the city limits were four shacks erected at the Chinese shrimp camp.

But the first residence to be occupied by white people was what is now the Milton house located at the corner of Washington and Richmond avenue, erected by John Nichol in August, 1900.

October 16, 1914

Richmond Record-Herald

CRICHETT PITCHED TENT

Two years ago today Point Richmond may be said to have received its first inhabitants. On that day Frank Crichtett pitched his tent on the lot now occupied by the

Record block, and with Mr. Crichtett and Will Mason took up their abode here. The Pioneer store building and the Crichtett Hotel were immediately started, and from that day to this it has been a constant enlargement and expansion. One week after the arrival of the Critchetts, the Naugles came over from Oldtown and pitched their tent on the lot where Mr. Crichtett's cottage now stands. The store was opened and the Record was soon spreading the news weekly to the crowd of workmen at the yards and to the scores of strangers that arrived daily from the surrounding cities.

What a world of experiences have been endured since then, and how interesting has been the development. We used to think things were moving mighty slow, but when we become reminiscent we invariably thought we were getting along pretty well. At that time Point Richmond was in the manner of an experiment. We did not know, notwithstanding we had faith, whether or hopes would ever be realized or not. We were working and spending our money in the dark. Time has shown that our faith was not misplaced.

Point Richmond is no longer an experiment. It is a great and glorious reality. The next two years will show a

greater growth than have the past two. There is more ground for this faith than there was at the beginning for the present attainment. A city of unlimited proportions is planted and the seed will grow to full fruition in the rich soil of our surroundings.

Richmond Daily Record
September 6, 1902

AUGUST KELLER

For twenty years in the Ferry branch postoffice at San Francisco, is now a full-fledged business man of Point Richmond. Mr. Keller built the Cliff House and now has opened up a splendid catering establishment and is giving it personal attention. August Keller has many friends in Point Richmond and there is a surety he will get a good trade.

Richmond Daily Record
August 23, 1902

SALOON KEEPERS UNITE

Point Richmond saloon keepers sent a delegation to Martinez today to protest against the board of supervisors granting the prayer of the petitioners to restrict the issuance of licenses for selling liquor. At the last session of the board a petition of something like 3000 names was presented asking that no licenses to sell liquor be hereafter granted except the person requesting such privilege first secure a majority of the legal voters of the precinct to a petition. This action on the part of the temperance people of the county has aroused the liquor men and they have contributed funds to

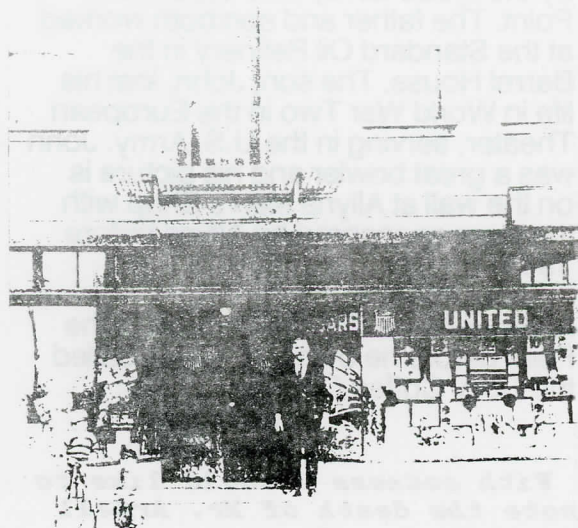
defeat the measure, if possible. They have employed Eli R. Case to argue the matter before the board and are putting us as good a fight as they know how. As we go to press advices from Martinez conveys the information that fully seventy-five people are present and the saloon keepers and "antis" are having it hot and heavy. The ministers are representing the petitioners and are resolved to fight the thing to the bitter end.

Richmond Daily Record
September 3, 1902

NEW CHURCH IN POINT RICHMOND

Rev. Father M. P. Scanlon, pastor of the Catholic church at Point Richmond informs us that during the coming week ground will be broken for a handsome church edifice on the lots of that denomination at the corner of Richmond and Santa Fe avenues.

Richmond Record-Herald
December 14, 1914



Point Artifacts

from James Cheshareck

TROLLIES IN POINT RICHMOND?

A few years ago, during freeway construction, at the intersection of Castro and Standard Avenues, I came across a set of old railroad tracks that had been dug up. They ran along Standard Avenue, I saved a few of the spikes. I later learned that trolley cars used to use these tracks. I'm a current Point Richmond teenager and I'm interested, would someone tell me more about this trolley system.

How long was it there?
Where did it go to?
How much did it cost to ride?
How fast did it go?
Who rode it?
What was it like?

+++++

James,

About The Bank Club.....

I recall when the business was owned by the Medo family who lived in the Point. The father and son both worked at the Standard Oil Refinery in the Barrel House. The son, John, lost his life in World War Two in the European Theater, serving in the U.S. Army. John was a great bowler and his picture is on the wall at Allyn's Men's Shop with the team sponsored by Allyn's before 1941.

About Ardell's.....

Another name of Ardell's place in the Point before he owned it, it was called the Cozy Coffee Counter.

Sincerely,
Allan Smith

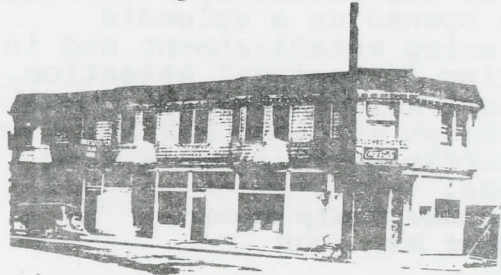
With sadness I would like to note the death of Mr. Ardell Ciabattari, James.



Deaths.....

ARDELL C. CIABATTARI, 80, died February 26th. Mr. Ciabattari had lived in Richmond for 70 years, was a retired real estate agent and owned Ardell's in Point Richmond from 1941 to 1970.

He is survived by his wife, Emily Ciabattari; sons, Richard Ciabattari of Hercules and Daniel Ciabattari of Rodeo; sisters, Florence Morton of Richmond and Vernetta Ciabattari of Napa; and four grandchildren.



THE MASQUERS

Playhouse, Inc.

105 Park Place, Point Richmond

The Next
Attraction is

"Lock Up Your Daughters"

A Musical Comedy
opening March 30, 1990

RESERVATIONS: 232-4031 (24 hours)

Reservations held until 10 minutes before curtain.
Group Rates Available



Dear Gary:

Thank you so much for the missing pages to my "This Point in Time...an historic view of Point Richmond" book, perfect!

Also thanks for the terrific calendar of Point Richmond art by Donna Roselius, she is good!

Love your magazine, brings back lots of good memories of the Point.

Regards,
Will Spiersch
Alameda

Thanks Will, your past participation in our Point Richmond neighborhood helped make it something that we current residents are very proud of today, also thanks for the enclosed contribution and more than anything, for the memories you are sharing in your "Will rambles..." article! Speaking for other members, yes we would love to have more and look forward to it.

Gary

#####

Dear Gary:

I read with nostalgia and sadness of the death of "Caroline" Rollino. She played a part in my early development and she and Eugenio were great people. Having been gone from the Point for 48 years, my memory

still is sharp about them and their daughter.

To Irene, my sorrow, and I know Caroline is with the angel and my mom, Anna Garrard.

Sincerely,
Ed Garrard
Sonoma

#####

Dear Editor:

I would like to propose an idea for the future development of Point Richmond.

I suggest that except for specified hours, we close the downtown area to automobile traffic, leaving it open to bicycles and pedestrians. We would have to build one or more parking facilities, perhaps on Railroad and/or Santa Fe. A shuttle bus could be provided for those who want to ride closer. The downtown mall in Santa Cruz proves that this can be done successfully.

The result would be more community feeling in the center of town, less polluted air from car exhaust and I believe that the atmosphere of a mall would draw people here to shop.

Robyn Wolf
Point Richmond

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Karolyn MacDiarmid	Rich Schuldt
Ben Bray	Don Hain
JoAnn Bray	Dale Hawkins
Jean Knox	Carol Seawell
Carol Darling	Wendy Wirth
Ramona Robbins	Jim Morrison
Carl Paasch	Dolly Forsini
Martin Busby	Bernice Shows
Noraleen Dowell	Virginia Cherniak
Reba Slagle Downs	Allan Smith. Jr.
Brian Richardson	Phyllis Feyder
Susan Berman	Winnie Guisti
Marie Wilson Dietz	

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

Type of membership (check one)

- | | | |
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| <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

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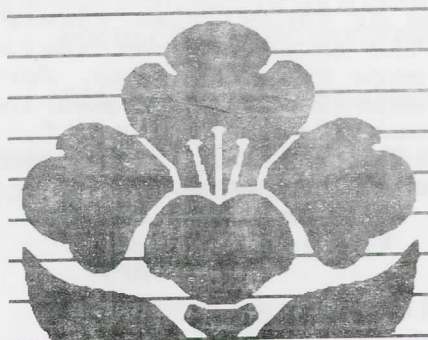
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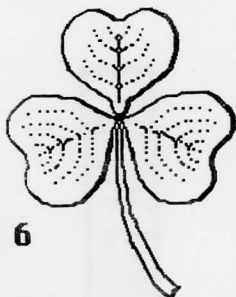
Please send acknowledgement to:

Name _____

Address _____



SPRING



Calendar

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| March 6 | Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting |
| March 14 | Point Richmond Business Association Meeting,
Noon at the Hotel Mac |
| March 17 | St. Patricks Day |
| March 17 | Kite Making Contest, Noon - 4:00 pm
Point Richmond Community Center |
| March 20 | First Day of Spring |
| March 23 | Deadline for TPIT April issue |
| March 29 | History Association General Meeting, 7:30 pm
Point Richmond Communtiy Center |
| April 1 | April Fools Day (Lirpa Loof) |
| April 3 | Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting |
| April 11 | Point Richmond Business Association Meeting,
Noon at the Hotel Mac |
| April 14 | Easter Egg Dying Contest, Noon - 4:00 pm
Point Richmond Community Center |
| April 15 | Easter Sunday |