

# THIS POINT

in time

NEWSLETTER

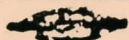
A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL X No 7

FEBRUARY, 1992

\$1.50

| SEC. | ROW | SEAT |
|------|-----|------|
| 9    | 3   | 14   |



Sid Hester, Manager

## Nelson vs. Wolgast

45 Rounds

Richmond, Cal. Feb. 22, '10

Reserved Seat \$3

RETAIN THIS COUPON

POINT RICHMOND  
HISTORY ASSOCIATION

MEETING

SUNDAY  
FEBRUARY 23, 1991  
2:00 PM

POINT RICHMOND  
COMMUNITY CENTER

Come to this meeting and see interesting,  
historic films of  
One of the greatest fights in history!

***Ad Wolgast vs. "Battling" Nelson***

This 1910 sporting event was one of the most  
exciting and memorable times in Point  
Richmond's colorful history!  
Come down to the Community Center and  
learn more about it.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED



# History Association Notes

## FROM THE PRESIDENT by Mid Dornan

A special program is planned by Anne Hanzlik for our regular meeting on Sunday, February 23rd at 2:00 p.m. in the Point Community Center.

On February 22, 1910 one of the greatest fights in history occurred in the Point. The fight matched Ad Wolgast with "Battling" Nelson so seats for 20,000 were set up. Kids sold newspapers for 25 cents each for people to sit on as it had poured rain the night before. The fight began, it rained again, and Wolgast won...in 42 rounds!

One need not be a fight fan to enjoy and appreciate this event on films which Anne will show. Come for the fellowship, enjoy the program and stay for refreshments. The Point Richmond History Association "world headquarters" building will of course be open.

Continued interest in the history archives prompts us to open on Saturdays now, beginning in February. This will accomodate those that work and those from out-of-town browsing

*Continued on page 2*

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## NEW EXTENDED MUSEUM HOURS!

**THURSDAYS**  
**11:30 - 2:00**

**AND**

**SATURDAYS**  
**11:30 - 2:00**

*From the Preseident, continued....*

the Point. The Board is committed to preserving the past and present for the future. We are depending on volunteers to staff the building for the few hours on Thursday and Saturday. You will be amazed how rapidly the time goes by and how rewarding this can be. Call 234-5334 or 235-1336 for more information or to volunteer.

Thanks.

See you on Sunday, February 23rd, 2:00 at the Community Center.

***Did you know?***

***That on November 23, 1900, Emily Tewksbury sold the property where Our Lady of Mercy Church is now located to the Roman Catholic Archbishop of San Francisco for Ten Dollars in gold coin!***

***and***

***On October 25, 1901 that same Emily Tewksbury sold the property where the Point Methodist Church is now located to the Trustees of First Methodist Episcopal Church of Richmond for Ten Dollars, legal tender of the United States!***

*a.smith*

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

**JEAN M. EGER  
THELMA HARVEY  
SHONEY GUSTAFSON  
SANDI GENSER-MAACK  
LOUISA BANKS  
HENRY A. FRANCIS  
BETTY DORNAN  
LLOYD & MELBA FARLEY  
VIRGINIA CHERNIAK  
PAT DORNAN  
MAXINE MAYER  
ALICE NELSON  
LINDA ANDREW-MARSHALL  
BERNICE O'SLEVIN  
M. ROBERTA PALFINI  
ELIZABETH McDONALD  
ED GINGRICH  
GLENN & REVA WARD  
TOM & SHIRLEY BUTT**

And a warm welcome to new members:

**CHESTER W. THOMPSON  
MARY BURCH  
ELSINE BECK TEN BROECK  
ALMA BRADEN  
WILLIAM CHAIKIN  
DORIS SILVA  
MR. & MRS. KENNETH DOLAN**

We are grateful to the following merchants for distributing this newsletter at no profit for themselves:

**SANTA FE MARKET  
POINT RICHMOND MARKET**



# Editor's Notes

*Gary Shows*

Happy New Year! You might have already noticed something different about this February issue. I am using a new computer program that will save my time. In the past I used a word processing program and then a publishing program. With this new program everything is done within the same one. I would like to hear any comments.

Again, I am happy to report that I had no shortage of material for this issue, even had to hold back a few things for March. Also everyone was just great about making the deadline, thanks a lot!

## ON CHEVRON

Because of the recent accidents at the neighboring refinery, blasting Chevron is the *in* thing to do. I feel this might be a good time to remind all Point Richmonders of the good things they have done for us. Chevron has been a valuable supporter of the History Association, without them our prized photo collection would not be what it is today, without them, our new little museum project would have been much more difficult, if not impossible.

We have all chosen to live next door to a large refinery, and there will be accidents. We should work *with* all neighbors to make this as safe and congruous a neighborhood as it can be.

The deadline for the March issue is February 21.

## *The Cover:*

*The ticket of Jack MacDougal for the Nelson-Wolgast fight, Feb. 22, 1910.*

## The Winter Issue

### Assembly Crew:

Mary Highfill

Muriel Clausen

Mid Dornan

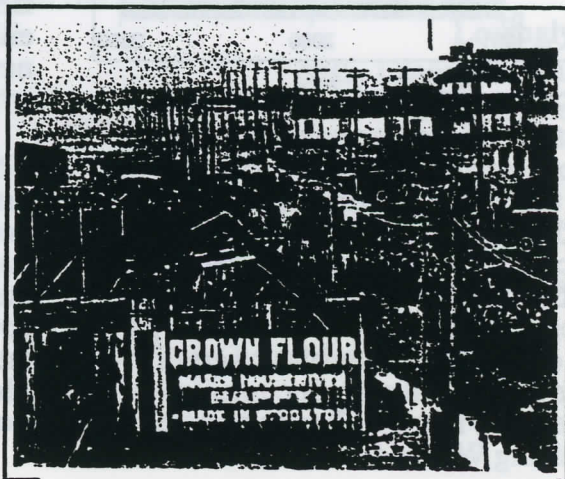
Pam Wilson

Liz McDonald

Sonja Darling

Jerry Cerkanowicz

Gary Shows



*Lines to get into the big fight, 1910*

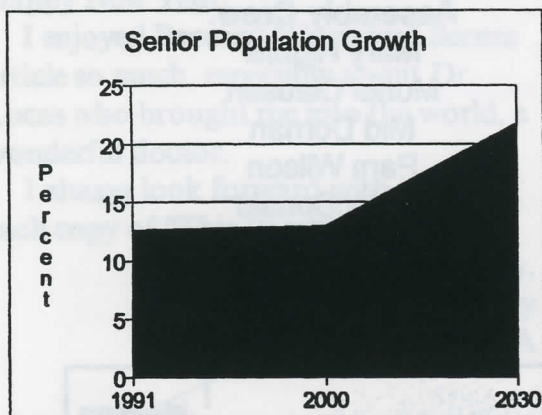
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# Senior News

by MURIAL C. CLAUSEN

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**Senior statistics of interest:** In 1991 Seniors represented 12.6% of the total population or 31.2 million persons; a 22% increase since 1980. By the year 2000 Seniors will be 13% of the population; and by the year 2030 they will be 21.8% of the population.



## Durable Power of Attorney

**update:** Since December 1, 1991 any person age 18 or older who enters a hospital that takes Medicare patients is asked if they have an "Advanced Directive". This is any document that tells the medical arena whom to contact for legal medical advice in case the patient cannot speak for his or herself. There are several such documents. There is the Durable Power of Attorney, the Living Will and the Natural Death

Act Declaration. After numerous revisions since the new law became effective there is a new form that simplifies the many previous forms that we've experienced. It is realized that the Durable Power of Attorney is most applicable and so is the most widely used in California. It was quite complex in its early form requiring a legal mind to comprehend it. Now, effective early January, 1992 the new simplified version is available from medical personnel. It is easy to understand and does not require legal handling. It also does not have an expiration date that is activated by signature of two witnesses or by notary. All who have filed a Durable Power of Attorney on previous forms may continue them but they should realize that they have an expiration date either on them or implied in them. The new form should be used before or when the old one expires.

## Seniors relief for property taxes

through volunteer work in County Offices is being examined for hopeful implementation by the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County. If you are interested please send any comments that you may have to Ms. McPeak, Chairperson of the County Board of Supervisors.



# A-MID TRIVIA

By Mid Dornan (234-5334)

Did February become American Heart Month because of valentines?

\*\*\*

This is Leap Year! Why? Well, Leap Years are a mathematical necessity to make the calendar year nearly the same as the solar year—one more day than a 'normal' year. Or the time it takes the earth to circle the sun. Astronomers have worked this out to be approximately 365.2422 days or 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes and 46 seconds. On the fourth year we add a day to make up for all that extra time. Since this still isn't quite exact, we omit the extra day in "century" years three times in four centuries. 1700, 1800 and 1900 were not but the year 2000 will be a leap year. Confused? Or even care?

\*\*\*

Q: How many columns are there around the outside of the Lincoln Memorial? Answer at end of Trivia.

\*\*\*

Abraham Lincoln was born February 12 and advocated honesty because, he said, no man has a good enough memory to make a successful liar.

\*\*\*

Congratulations to Josefina and Jesse Barrios on their new baby girl, Shawna, the last baby born in West County in 1991. Just in time to become a tax deduction too! She was welcomed by two-year old sister, Michele and Grandmother Lupe Morris who was hoping to share the same birthday on New Year's Day. Jesse is a lifetime Point Richmond

resident.

\*\*\*

There is a new political party in California. The Green Party has qualified for official recognition becoming the state's sixth political party according to Secretary of State, March Fong Eu (*who is a 1940 graduate of Richmond High school.*) Green party candidates generally espouse idealistic causes and concentrate on grass roots political activities.

\*\*\*

Married: Marina Heron and Ken Pilieri by the Rev. Michael Brown on Friday, December 27, 1991, 2:00 p.m. at the Point First Methodist Church. Marina was raised in New York City but has lived here for 20 years. Ken is a native Californian and a chef at Bucci's, Emeryville. Marina has a daughter, Arielle 12, and is a reading specialist at Nomura School in Richmond. They live on Washington Avenue in the Point.

\*\*\*

On Thursday, December 5, 1991 a valve in the Chevron oil refinery unit closed improperly, sending a cloud of fine, sand-like catalyst into the sky. Four to six tons of this material drifted and settled outside refinery fences. Cleanup crews washed down streets, cars and shrubs in the area to remove the dust and prevent it from spreading. County health officials declared it non-threatening. The Point streets have never been cleaner! And every car was eligible for a free car wash. Press and TV media descended but most residents interviewed weren't alarmed expressing the "I chose to live here attitude". That night a much

needed rain fell. Could this be called rain seeding?

\*\*\*

The Postal Department considered the incident hazardous and did not provide household delivery service. Whatever happened to that 'neither rain nor snow, sleet nor dark of night' motto?

\*\*\*

Speaking of the postal department, an estimated 3.4 billion cards and letters were sent during the official Christmas mailing period that began November 16th.

\*\*\*

Funds from Proposition 70, a bond fund set aside for urban shoreline parks, will be used to purchase more than 18 acres of land in the area west of Dornan Drive and Brickyard Cove Road. The park district board of directors allocated \$3.1 million for this project, and allocated an additional \$1.2 million to implement cleanup of the oil and heavy metals contamination left behind by 100 years of use as a railroad facility.

The property will be added to Miller-Knox regional Shoreline Park and includes a railroad right of way through the existing park. Ferry Point, offering an unequalled panoramic view of the Bay, has been technically off-limits to the general public but will now provide access to the beach and fishing.

\*\*\*

Nicole Bradshaw is sporting a cast on her ankle. The broken bone was received in her 'aggressive defense class'!! Hmmm.

\*\*\*

Jean Creed is still confined with her broken metatarsal!

\*\*\*

College is no longer a young person's game. More than 3 million college students, one of every four, is 30 or older, according to the Census Bureau.

\*\*\*

Sympathy is extended the late Bob Young's family. His brother died on January 5th, three years after his brother, Bob.

\*\*\*

Corina Yamagata was the lucky winner of the beautiful lighted Gingerbread House given away after the annual Christmas Program at the Methodist Church. Made and donated each year by Paula Ferguson, the tradition began when the Baptist and Methodist Churches held joint Christmas services. After the Point Baptist church closed its doors, Paula has generously continued the tradition.

\*\*\*

WANTED: Your 'junque' for the Point Methodist Church Junque Sale on Saturday, May 2nd. Cleaning out the attic..basement...garage? They would be happy to have it. Old furniture? household items? white elephants? children's clothing? Costly re-roofing of the church continues. Call JoAnn at 233-7726 or leave a message at the church, 236-0527 for pickup or drop-off.

\*\*\*

There was a poor fellow named Will  
A doctor's call made him quite ill.

It wasn't the prescription  
that caused his conniption  
He died when he opened the bill.

\*\*\*

Were you born in  
1908..1920..1932..1944..1956..1968..1980?  
Your Chinese sign is the Monkey. In  
today's parlance you are a swinger



and because of your flair for decision making and surefooted feel for finance, you are certain to climb to the top.

\*\*\*

Mechanics Bank is closing it's 9th and Macdonald office!! Long headquarters for the Bank, it moved into this building in 1921 from its 6th street beginning. Typical of banks of those times, the elegant interior is an example of a disappearing art. Stop in the bank before it closes. Admire and appreciate the 'high, ornate ceiling and the long windows. A rare a gem in an unsuspecting location.

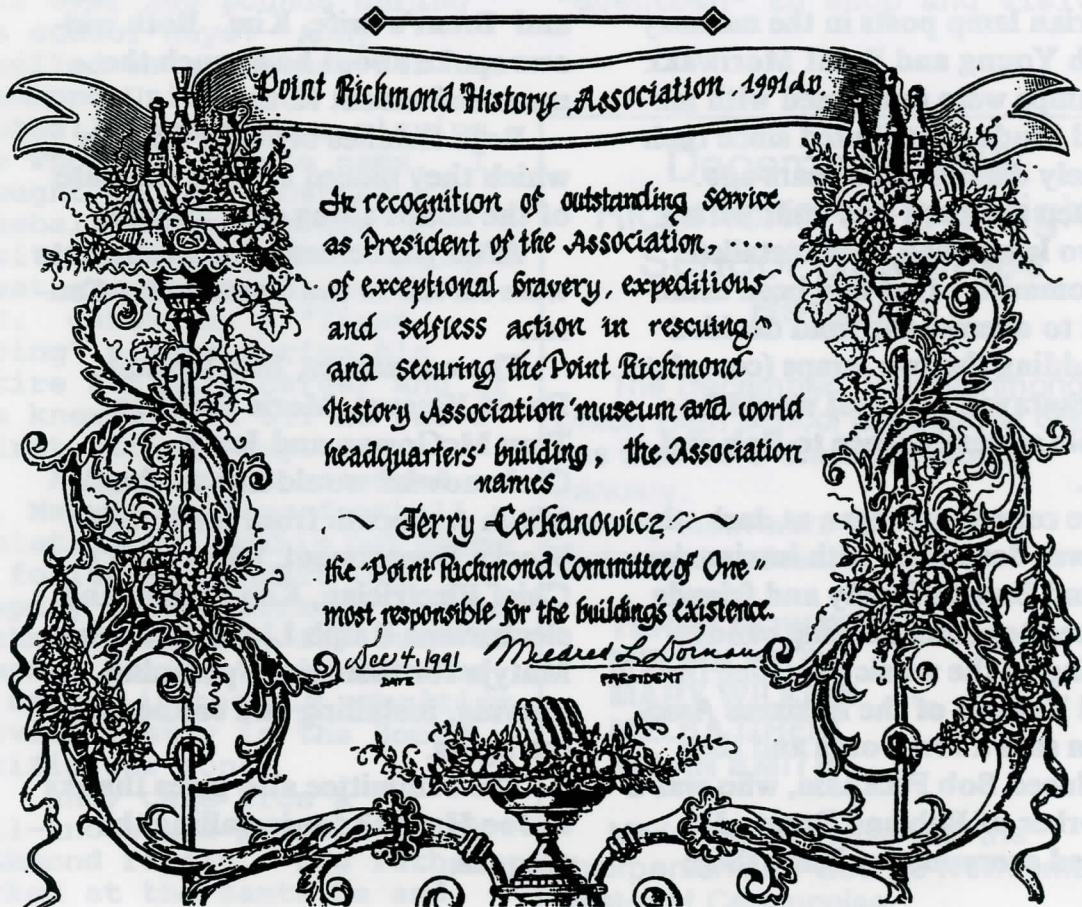
Remember.... our History Building, 139 1/2 Washington Avenue in the Point, is open every Thursday . Volunteers are needed to staff it a few hours. Won't you help? Just call: 234-5334 or 235-1336 for more information.

\*\*\*

REMEMBER SOMEONE ON VALENTINE'S DAY. THEN, REMEMBER ANOTHER SOMEONE WHO MIGHT NOT BE REMEMBERED.

\*\*\*

ANS: Thirty-six, one for each state at the time of Lincoln's death.



Award presented to a grateful Jerry by the Board of Directors, prepared by none other than artist & founder Donna Roselius

## **BOB YOUNG**

**1920-1989**

## **BRENT MORIWAKI**

**1954-1989**

On Sunday January 12, 1992 a candlelight ceremony was held at the Indian Statue Park to dedicate two Victorian lamp posts in the memory of Bob Young and Brent Moriwaki. The lamps were purchased with memorial funds contributed since their untimely deaths three years ago.

When the park was built wiring for two lamps had been installed. The committee that had been established to oversee the fund decided that adding the two lamps (complete with engraved plaques) would be a suitable remembrance to Bob and Brent.

The ceremony began at dark, the park was decorated with luminaries. Bob and Brent's family and friends gathered together holding candles listening to the music of a lone flute. David Vincent of the Business Association said a few words and then introduced Bob Peckham, who was a co-worker of Bob and Brent. He thanked everyone for being there

and remembered with all gathered some things about our lost friends, then introduced Bob's wife, Peggy and Brent's wife, Kim. Both widows spoke about how much the memorial meant to them.

Both families brought flowers which they placed around the base of the lamps along with candles.

After the ceremony refreshments were served in the Community Center.

The committee, Mid Dornan, David Vincent, Marie Peckham, Tom McGowan and Jerry Cerkanowicz would like to thank Mitch Anderson from the Public Works Department, Richmond's Chief Electrician, Ken Nelson and electricians Ralph Lloyd and John Matyja for their work planning, approving, installing and connecting the lights.

The committee also gives thanks to Joe Hanzlik for installing the plaques.



# CHURCHES

## Our Lady Of Mercy Church News

**Allan Smith**

*Eleanor Hurley, who has done wonderful reports for "Our Lady of Mercy Church News" in the past, has decided to take a "sabbatical". We will miss her excellent writings. On a temporary basis, Allan Smith will do the Church News, Thank you Allan.*

Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve was very well attended and the altar never looked more beautiful as did the Christmas Nativity scene. The large sized Christmas Nativity scene and crib was built by the late Henry O'Hara of this parish. His sister, Gladys, painted the lifelike sky background.

Pauline Valenti, long time resident passed away, December 30, 1991. Also, Fred Bota died January 3, 1992.

This year, 1992, Our Lady of Mercy Church will celebrate its 90th Anniversary. Pastor James C. Clift is planning a celebration on this memorable occasion later in the year. The Anniversary Committee requests that any items of interest offered regarding Our Lady of Mercy Church and its history will be greatly appreciated.

## Point Methodist Church News

*Sorry, no news again from the Methodists.*

## 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". The minutes are printed as written. This is the 61st installment.*

October 19, 1917

The Woman's Home Missionary Society met at the home of Mrs. Grover. Meeting opened by President Mrs. Adams with song and scripture lesson.

Minutes of last meeting approved as read.

Mrs. Gillette and Gibbons reported about missionary room and the committee was discharged. Box for indians (sic) was discussed and some things reported already at the church. Mrs. Gillette was appointed to see to the sending of the box. Mrs. Grover was asked to see about gathering canned fruit for a box to be sent to the Chinese Home.

Mrs. Weston was appointed Mite Box Secretary for the new year. A bill of \$1.00 was presented for the study course. The lessons were taken up and a very pleasant and profitable time was spent.

Refreshments were served at the close of the meeting.

Receipts .60

Nettie Grover, Sec.

# *Point Richmond: how it became an Historic District*

by Lucretia Edwards

*The last issue ended with.....*

With Point Pinole eliminated as a potential park site various alternative West County Shoreline sites were considered and in 1966 the Point Richmond site was chosen. The Regional Park District Directors, who were understandably eager to acquire still available untouched wilderness areas deep in the county were wary of the idea of spending tax payer's dollars on highly priced industrial land whose potential they could not envision. So, while the Point Richmond site had been chosen, activity ground to a halt until 1968.

## **PART TWO**

At that time, frustrated by the lack of progress, the Park Committee of Point Richmond Civic Group separated from the Civic Group and became the Contra Costa Shoreline Parks Committee under the leadership of Point Richmond resident Louise Hammond. The Group took it upon themselves to remind the Park District of its pledge to Contra Costa County by launching a vigorous campaign of speeches, newspaper articles, trips, motion pictures, parties, publications ("The Tiny Tennis Shoe Press"), television shows and other means of informing the public. In addition they attended all Regional Park meetings and spoke eloquently and often for action on the Park.

In 1969, since negotiations by the Park District seemed to have stalled with the Santa Fe Railway Company (which owned the flatland and much of the hill land of Point Richmond) the Group communicated directly with Mr. John S. Reed, President of Santa Fe Railroad and discussions were promptly reopened.

While this was going on the owners of hilltop lots on Nicholl Knob (purchased in 1962 to preserve the top of the hill from potential development and to preserve it for eventual park acquisition) offered the lots to the Park District for the original purchase price plus the taxes paid on it over the years; stipulating only that the property revert to the original owners if the District failed to use it for a Park. This offer was accepted.

It was in this role of lobbyist for a Shoreline Park (in a City that had no shoreline parks and only a 60 foot boat launching ramp on Cutting Boulevard) that the Shoreline Parks Committee traversed the Richmond Shoreline by foot, by automobile and a few times by boat. It was during this survey that the East Brother Island was perceived as a possible intriguing Park; but until 1969 it was actively manned by rotating crews of Coast Guardsmen and not accessible



to the public.

In 1969 the Coast Guard embarked upon a program, for economic reasons, to automate all Light Stations and fog horns and to remove the Coast Guardsmen from lighthouse duty. The intention of the Coast Guard to raze the buildings on East Brother Light Station, to automate the light and fog horn and to remove the Coast Guard crews from the Island was duly reported in the Coast Guard's weekly "Notice To Mariners", a publication distributed to all ship handlers in the Bay Area (in which changes in buoys, lights channels, racing events and the like are reported). This notice was seen by tugboat Captain Thomas Edwards, husband of one of the Shoreline Park Committee members and by Lt. Commander Richard Moore, commanding officer at Point Molate Naval Fuel Depot, and a committee preservationist. When this news was transmitted to the members of the Shoreline Parks Committee they were galvanized into immediate action. Primarily they felt that the beautiful and historic buildings must not be destroyed and secondarily that perhaps this little island could become a Park for the pleasure and edification of the public.

***Look for Part 3 of "Point Richmond: an Historic District" in the next issue.***



## **POINT MUSEUM WISH LIST *Can you help?***

- \*Refinish four wooden chairs***
- \*Point Richmond pictures and memorabilia***
- \*Container suitable for a donation box.***
- \*Volunteers to man the museum on Thursdays and Saturdays***
- \*Mail Slot, donated and installed***
- \*Antique stools for viewing table. Take the Mae Mandl Challenge! See Below***
- \*Pictures of: J.Q. Black, Laura Carlin, Burt Huff, former tenants of the Point Richmond History Association Building***
- \*Special wastebasket***
- \*Threshold***

***\*Antique stools for viewing table. Take the Mae Mandl Challenge!***

### ***Take The Mae Mandl Challenge!***

We need three stools with backs for our viewing table. We figure they will cost no more than \$100 each.

Member Mae Mandl has offered to buy the first and challenges two other people to join her so that we can have matching stools.

**Take the Mae Mandl Challenge!  
Call Mid at 234-5334 to make your pledge.**



# **MORE MEMORIES.....**

## **of Early Point Richmond**

**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.*

*Thanks to Dr. Thompson for his valuable contributions to our archives.*

*Here is our forth series from Dr. Thompson. In this series his childhood memories fly from the Point's geography, such as the hills, the beaches and the harbor to events such as the building of the harbor and Cutting Boulevard, the Barnum and Bailey Circus, the 1915 World's Fair and the old ferry systems. Sit back and enjoy this one.*

### **PART FOUR**

There were many beaches along the Point Richmond waterfront in those days, many more than at present. They made excellent recreation sites and then, at least,

they were clean, Keller's Beach was one of the most popular because it was easily accessible. Many people, including my family, built shacks for changing into bathing suits. This beach was at least partly destroyed when the Santa Fe filled in the depression east of the tracks with dredged silt which badly silted up the beach.

Another favorite beach was over by the quarry near the San Rafael Ferry. This also was accessible by road and street car. Further north and just south of Winehaven was the shrimp camp beach where the early Chinese had had a shrimp fishing settlement. This was a fine, rather shallow sandy beach. It was especially used after people became affluent enough to own cars. There was a similar beach that we called Long Beach on the bay side of the hills beyond where Brickyard Cove is situated. This was a fine clean, shallow sandy beach and when we were children our families used to walk out there for picnics. Also there was a small rather thin shell mound there. This region was later taken over for a tank farm and was destroyed. Less prominent beaches along the shore north of Washington Point were convenient for people who lived in the area.

When I was a boy Washington

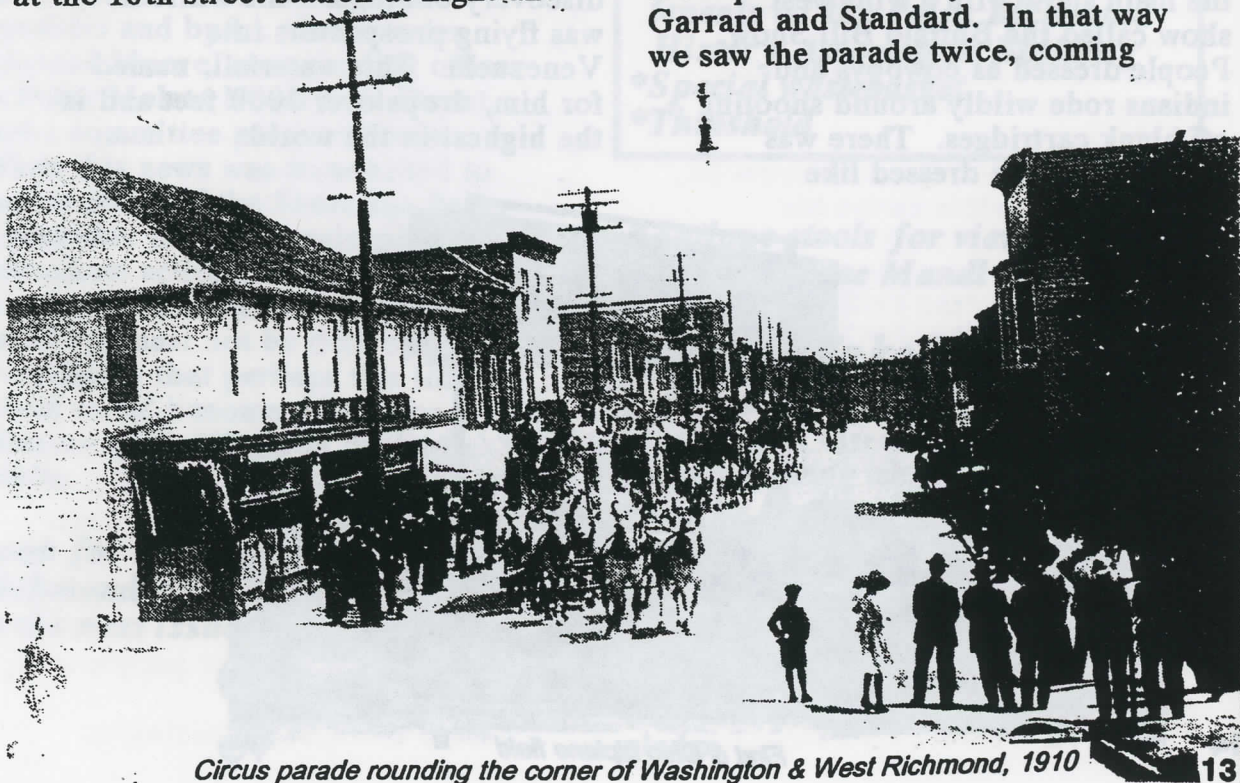


Point was barren and unoccupied by houses and we used it as a fishing location. It was fairly good fishing for pogies (black perch), rock cod and blue cod. Occasionally we caught small bass, skates and sting rays. The rocks along the entire shore at low tide were covered with rock oysters. These and many other forms of life have been exterminated by pollution.

I recall the circuses that occasionally came to town. They usually located on the open area west of first street and south of Macdonald where Atchison Village now stands. Sells Floto and Barnum and Bailey were the ones I remember mostly. They stayed only one day and arrived by circus train at the 16th street station at night and

by daylight they were actively engaged in setting up their tents. From our home on the Point Richmond hills we could see them especially if we used my father's telescope. We got up early on circus days. We could see the elephants being used to haul equipment and pull ropes to raise the tents.

By late in the morning they were thru and started their circus parade. The usual route was down Garrard Blvd. to the Point then turn right on Standard Ave. to Washington and Park Place, left on Richmond Ave. and back out Garrard Blvd. From there they went out Macdonald Ave. to 16th Street and back to the circus site. Being very smart we watched these parades at the junction of Garrard and Standard. In that way we saw the parade twice, coming



*Circus parade rounding the corner of Washington & West Richmond, 1910*

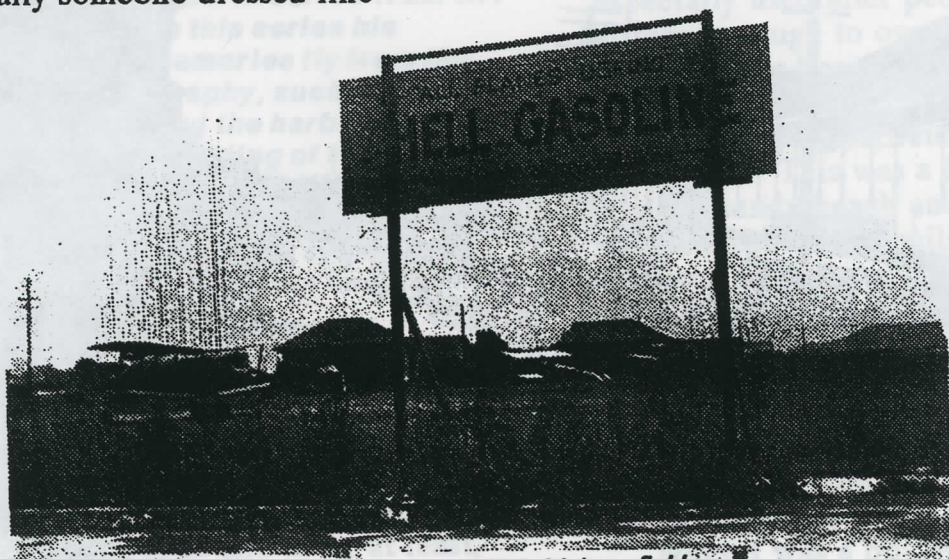


and going. There were cages of animals and wagons with bands all drawn by beautifully decorated horses. In addition there were elephants, camels and horsemen and women. Once there was an old wagon with a primitive trampoline with a man leaping and cavorting in the air. These parades drew people to the shows. There were two presentations, afternoon and evening. There was the main show, a three ringed affair, and one could walk thru the animal tent and view the animals. There was usually a side show with performing dwarfs, fire eaters, India rubber men and often a flea circus.

I think it was the Barnum and Bailey Circus that usually followed the main show with a wild west show called the Buffalo Bill Show. People dressed as cowboys and indians rode wildly around shooting off blank cartridges. There was usually someone dressed like

Buffalo Bill and it is possible that in some of the early shows it may have been him. One circus impressed us with a balloon ascension. It was all exciting, especially for kids, but by next morning it was all gone and the only trace of the show were people walking around the site hoping to find coins dropped by the customers.

An open grassy area west of First and Ohio in early days was often used by farm storming air pilots. We could see them take off and land and often go thru stunts in the air. They were old slow moving biplanes that often took up passengers for a fee. The most famous of these fliers was Jimmy Angel who often stopped by here. He is best known for the discovery of Angel Falls while he was flying prospectors into Venezuela. This waterfall, named for him, drops over 3000 feet and is the highest in the world.



*First & Ohio biplane field*





# Recollections of Point Richmond



*Nell Coward Brooker*

*This article was dictated on a tape recorder on August 15, 1988 at the home of Nell Coward Brooker in Thousand Oaks, California. The tape session was arranged by her daughter Pat Brooker Gaboury and was inspired by the cover of the Summer, 1988 issue of "This Point In Time" on which we featured a drawing made by Nell when she was a teenager. The drawing was taken from her high school "memory book" which she had previously donated to our archives. This tape was transcribed by Pam Wilson who says that she had problems at times as Nell rambles a bit making some sentences hard to understand.*

*Nell grew up in Point Richmond and was known as a bright and energetic person. She has since passed away but we are very grateful to her for this.....*

## Part Two

Steve Otter's store was down on West Richmond Avenue, and then there was another building that was quite close.

In between the two buildings there was what was called St eve Otter's alley, and we kids used to get in there after school and we'd fight, and it was quite, well, you

know, like kids fight, when they're in school, well that's what we did. The Indian was down by the library at that time and we kids used to go down there and meet by that library too. I'm so proud that they were able to get a new Indian to put up and we were up at a ceremony, it was lots of fun to be in Point Richmond, I love it.

**Nell's daughter, Pat:** *I have reminiscences of Point Richmond when I was a child, too. I remember sitting at 60 Terrace Avenue at Grandma Coward's house looking out at all those shipyards that were there that Henry Kaiser put up during World War II and boy Richmond was a real booming town in those days.*

Yes it was, all the kids I remember, we used to go up, we went to the Methodist Church at night and they'd have an epworth league, I think they called it. Then we had good times when all the kids would take all the girls home, one at a time, and the whole group went together, so when they dropped the last girl home, the boys would go individually to their homes. That was a unique way that kids did then,



different from now.

From the memory book that I sent you, that was the "in thing" to do at that period of time. I think everybody in Richmond High had a memory book which they put all the different things in that we went to, kind of like a scrap book today, but it was just something that everybody had, all of the girls. I kept mine for years and years and then when I sent it to you through Charlotte Woods, I realized that you probably didn't even know who I was because I wasn't in Richmond as a resident after 1933 or so. My parents lived there for much longer than that when they finally had to move, they had retired and they moved to San Diego for a few years then back to Richmond. When they moved back, they didn't live at the Point, and that was about the time that the Point started to be so popular that every lot was known who I was because I wasn't in Richmond as a resident after 1933 or so. My parents lived there for much longer than that when they finally had to move, they had retired and they moved to San Diego for a few years then back to Richmond. When they moved back, they didn't live at the Point, and that was about the time that the Point started to be so popular that every lot was taken over by somebody and a beautiful home built upon it with a lovely view from Cozy Cove over to Keller's Beach and to the park.

They had a lot of people in Cozy Cove park who had lots of fun, they had a dance floor there that was wooden and it was a popular place to go in those days. Cozy Cove was a little bit over to the right of Keller's

Beach as you face the bay, and later on Cozy Cove was allowed to run down and they built a house on it. The only house, when we were in school, over the hill, was Finley's house, and they had two children, Mary, and I forgot the name of the other girl, but anyway, they had quite a hike to go down to get on the bus to go to school or the streetcar and at that time we bought streetcar tickets to go to school. There were no school buses.

Nobody pampered us and we had to walk all the way up to the top of Washington Avenue and the price of the streetcar ticket was 2 cents each.... 2 cents each one way and many times a group of our Point Richmond kids just plain like to walk so we'd walk home, all the way from 23rd Street and Macdonald Avenue where the High School was located and we'd walk home and enjoy our exercising.

The streetcar came as far as Standard Avenue and Washington where we got off. It was then called Kenny's Corners and we had a real good time there with all the kids. Where the store is now on Washington Avenue, at one time there was a house there that belonged to the Hurleys, Eleanor Hurley I think.





# **Sports**

## **memories**

**By Allan Smith**

Andrew "Andy" Cakos was hospitalized for the last five months and his death in January, 1992 brought an end to another Point Richmond native who excelled in athletics.

Andy was a great football player and also great on the baseball diamond during the 1930 - 1940 era. He was always a big "kid" weighing well over 200 pounds during his school days. Andy excelled as a lineman for the Richmond Union High School football team always playing the whole 60 minute game. I thought he was a better baseball player at his position as a catcher having a great arm and he could also hit. Cakos was a "first string" player during his entire athletic career and if you knew him at all he was a "first string" guy.

Andrew Cakos received a St. Mary's College football athletic scholarship but chose to follow a Standard Oil Company career working at the Richmond Refinery for over 35 years. During World War Two he served in the U.S. Maritime Service mostly in the South Pacific war zone.

Andy came from a well-known and pioneer Point Richmond family. His father worked at the Santa Fe and there are three brothers that

survive Andy, they are Gus, Pete, and Spiro. He had two sisters who are deceased.

The Point community will always remember the "Greek" as he was affectionately called. In fact the name "Greek" is on his grave marker at Sunset Cemetery. He was the large man who looked like a professional wrestler, beard and all, who would come "downtown" to shop and visit.

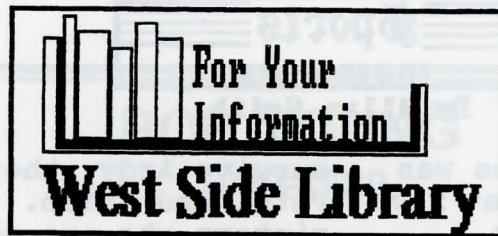
### **December 1938 Richmond Union High School Graduates Reunion**

The December 1938 Richmond Union High School Graduation Class has their 53rd Class Reunion in January.

Among them were five Point Richmond natives:

**TERRY DOWNEY  
MELVIN HITCH  
MARY WILKINS  
MELBA GHERI  
ALLAN SMITH**

Marie Kerber Heise was the chairperson and George Newcomb, Master of Ceremonies.



*Jan Burdick*

If you are tired of paying the increasing costs of magazine subscriptions, perhaps West Side has the answer for you. Magazines can be checked out for a 7 day period with two exceptions: Consumer Reports which remains in the library as a reference copy and the

current issues of all other titles.

West Side has some generous patrons who donate subscriptions. Those titles with the astericks indicate gifts. If anyone is interested in adding to the collection, please call the library at 620-6567.

*American Health*  
*\*Antiques and Fine Art*  
*Art in America*  
*Atlantic*  
*\*Car and Driver*  
*Consumer Reports*  
*Cosmopolitan*  
*Ebony*  
*Emerge*  
*Esquire*  
*GQ*  
*Glamour*  
*Gourmet*  
*Handyman*  
*Harpers*

*HG*  
*\*Honolulu*  
*Ladybug*  
*Life*  
*\*Los Angeles*  
*Mad*  
*\*Martha Stewart Living*  
*Metropolitan Home*  
*Money*  
*Motor Trend*  
*\*National Geographic*  
*\*New York Review of Books*  
*\*New York Times Magazine*

*New Yorker*  
*Newsweek*  
*\*People*  
*\*Road & Track*  
*Rolling Stone*  
*Scientific American*  
*Sesame Street*  
*Seventeen*  
*\*Smithsonian*  
*\*Sports Illustrated*  
*Spy*  
*\*Star Date*  
*\*Sunset*  
*\*Time*  
*Travel Holiday*  
*Vanity Fair*







## Noel Coward's "Hay Fever"

*A Review from Anne Hanzlik*

Written in 1925, "Hay Fever" was one of the first of a long succession of Noel Coward's drawing room comedies that have amused audiences both here and abroad for many years. His plays seemed to flow in a steady stream from his facile pen, depending largely on witty repartee rather than plot to hold one's attention.

The action in "Hay Fever" is confined to one set, the hall, or what we would call the living room of an English country house of an eccentric family of the theater and the time of the play is confined to one weekend when each of the four family members have invited their own special guests.

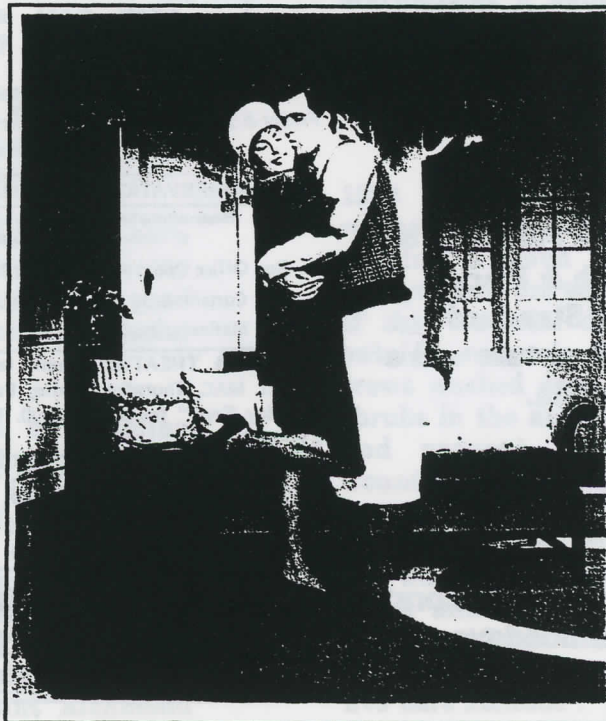
Ann Homrighausen as

Judith Bliss has the meatiest part as the temporarily retired leading lady of the stage. Her husband, David (Roger Gorrell) is a writer, spending most of his time in his study. Their two grown children, Sorel (Jane Ayles) and Simon (Lawrence Ewig) both invited their own guests down for the weekend, as so have their parents. None of these know each other. The ninth member of the cast is the maid Clara, an "erstwhile dresser" of Judith Bliss' stage career, consequently a somewhat inexperienced domestic help. She is very effectively played by Mary Kay Hallen-Worley.

Linda Bauman's direction of the play is more than adequate as the action and the repartee move smoothly through-

out. Of particular interest is the accomplishments of the costuming staff. Jo Lusk and Julie Cravotto have made the second act when everyone is in evening clothes visually arresting and almost bizarre with the imaginative twentyish dresses and head dresses.

It's remarkable that such a



nostalgic and mannered theater piece achieves a most pleasant evening in our intimate little theater. It's up to the audience to guess why Coward titled the play "Hay Fever", surely a puzzle as to its connection to the subject of the play.

The cast is drawn from a large Bay Area group of amateurs that spread their talents among the many little theaters in the area. Some of the cast are new to our stage and others are familiar faces at the Masquers.

## Acquisitions

1. Two photos of the fire (in progress) that occurred October 25, 1905 on the land that the fire station now occupies. The fire destroyed the Shads Hotel and a two story building that had a store on the ground floor and two flats upstairs. Image supplied by Richmond Fireman Bill Gunther.

2. A photograph of the February 4, 1911 wedding of Joseph & Pierina Roveda, owners of the Standard Hotel. This wonderful picture was a gift from Bruno J. Roveda.

*Thank you!*

**Thank you to Airco for decorating your round liquid nitrogen tank with colored lights for the holidays. It was appreciated not only by commuters on the freeway but by all of us on the Point Richmond hillsides.**



THE MASQUERS

Playhouse, Inc.

105 Park Place, Point Richmond

PROUDLY PRESENTS



By NOEL COWARD

Directed by LINDI BAUMAN

It's an evening of playful wit and verbal pyrotechnics as the eccentric Bliss family entertains weekend guests. Expectations of a conventional visit collide with the unusual and amusing performances of the hosts!

### THE CAST:

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Jane Ayles            | Bob Boemer       |
| Lawrence Ewing        | Roger Gorrell    |
| Mary K. Hallen-Worley | Ann Homrighausen |
| Marguerite Hughes     | Richard Krabbe   |
| Michele Stadtmiller   |                  |

Friday & Saturday evenings — January 24 - February 29, 1992

Sunday Matinees — February 2, 16, 23

**RESERVATIONS: (510) 232-4031 (24 hours)**

Reservations held until 10 minutes before curtain.

Group Rates Available

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

Curtain: 8:30 p.m.

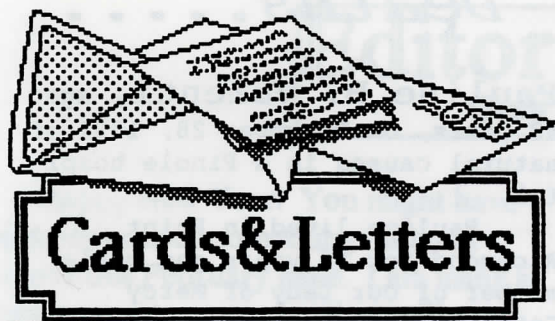
Matinees: 2:30 p.m.

Admission: \$8.00

DINNER & THEATRE benefit for our building fund at HOTEL MAC, Thursday evening, Feb. 27. Dinner and ticket to "Hay Fever" for only \$25.00. To reserve, CALL: (510) 236-4988.

COMING: NEW GIRL IN TOWN, a colorful musical based on Eugene O'Neill's 'Anna Christie', opens March 27, 1992.





Dear Gary:

I am so grateful to have received the treasured "TPIT" issues that were missing! I am delighted to know it was easy to locate by computer rather than a postal error.

It is so sad to me that the sneezing sh-wheezies plus temperature came along to spoil my plans for the November 10th bash.

Bernard Bernes said he was giving you a water color of Keller's Beach. This has a familiar sound. Would it be possible to superimpose it on a front cover for a future TPIT? It is total enjoyment to read the articles presented by people who lived at the Point in the old days.

And as for June Kunkel Blackburn in Bemidji, Minnesota: Next time you plan a trip west, let me know when. We could meet at the Hotel Mac for lunch or dinner. I want to check out the bricks in our family's name by the Indian Statue near the library. Don't forget to pack your swimsuit so we can do a few laps at "Ye Olde Natatorium", afterward we could take a short hike to

Washington School or drive through the tunnel.

Rita Lanze Caccavello and I used to sit on the sand at Cappy's Beach, scooping wet sand into our one-piece swim suits stretching them as far as we could and then attempted to waddle slowly into the waves. We giggled at each other and called ourselves "fat ladies". Alas it was just a game then, but today I don't need the sand!

I wonder if the trolley still toots a whistle as it travels out the Standard Oil Long Wharf by the Salt Water Station also adjacent to Cappy's Beach.

The invitation to the Grand Opening of the Point Richmond History Association building at 139 1/2 Washington Avenue was so well done, the front is set off by the eight foot sign created by Donna Roselius. It came out rather well on the parchment paper, I thought.

Again, I am sorry I could not attend, but there will be another time, hopefully in the not too distant future.

Lovingly,  
Betty Glass Marshall  
Los Angeles

*It's always great hearing from you Betty! Your newsletters should arrive in a timely manner from now on. I haven't seen the picture offered by Bernard Bernes yet, I will use it for a cover if it will reproduce OK.*

*Where was "Cappy's Beach" and the "Salt Water Station"?  
Keep in touch.*

Gary

Dear Pam Wilson:

Enclosed is my dues for one year for TPIT, which I have been enjoying thanks to my brother, Theodore Beck who has loaned me some copies.

It is fun to read names of people I knew long ago when I lived in Point Richmond from the age five to twenty--one.

Congratulations on your dedicated projects. You seem to get things done!

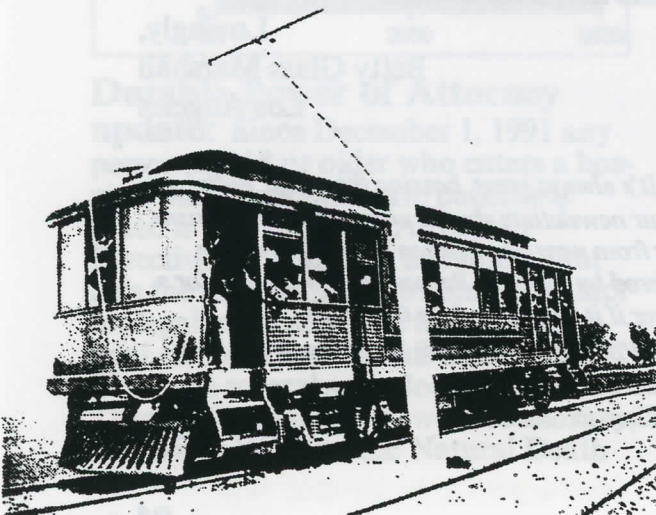
Sincerely,  
Elsine Beck Ten Broeck  
St. Helena, CA

Happy New Year!

I enjoyed Bernard "Frenchie" Bernes article so much, especially about Dr. Lucas who brought me into the world, a wonderful doctor.

I always look forward with joy to each copy of "This Point".

Fondly,  
Thelma Harvey  
Orinda, CA



## Deaths.....

**Pauline B. Valenti**, aged 83 years, on December 28, 1991 of natural causes in a Pinole hospital.

Pauline lived in Point Richmond for 30 years and was a member of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church. She is survived by a son, Eugene Valenti of Vallejo; sisters, Alberta Waite and Mary Zampa, both of Richmond; brothers Stanley and Edward Rusich, both of Richmond and Gasper Rusich of Antioch; four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Burial was a St. Joseph Cemetary, San Pablo.

**Andrew "Andy" G. Cakos**, aged 69 years, died on December 21, 1991. A native of Oakland, Andy was a lifetime resident of the Point. A graduate of Richmond High School, he served as a seaman for Chevron for 35 years and was a member of Native Sons of the Golden West, Lodge No. 217, Richmond. Andy is survived by brothers, Spiro Cakos of Arizona, Gus Cakos of Los Angeles and Peter Cakos of Texas. Burial was at Sunset View Cemetery.

**Marian Frances Church**, died Wednesday, January 8, 1992, age 83 of natural causes. Wife of the late Don Church who provided the many, many pictures in our



history archives, Marian lived in the Point for 39 years before moving to Concord. She was a member of the Order of Eastern Star, Richmond.

She is survived by a daughter, Marilyn Grafft of Santa Clara; a son, Russell Church of Pleasant Hill; sisters, Ramona Deal of San Joaquin and Anis Armstrong of Los Angeles; five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

No services were held and burial was at Rolling Hills Memorial Park, Richmond.

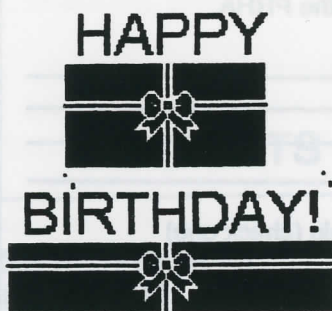
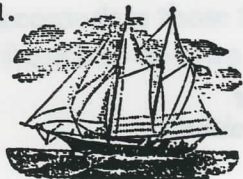
## Frank Alan Andrews

III, of natural causes, aged 70 years. Frank was retired as a self-employed dental lab technician, and had lived in Point Richmond for 12 years. He was a member of the Baptist church and an Army and Air Force veteran of WWII. He was manager of the 18 unit apartments on Cottage Avenue.

Frank is survived by a son, Frank A. Andrews IV of San Pablo; a daughter, Beverly Price of Point Richmond; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

His daughter, Beverly, had a memorial for him on Sunday, January 19th at her Tunnel Avenue home.

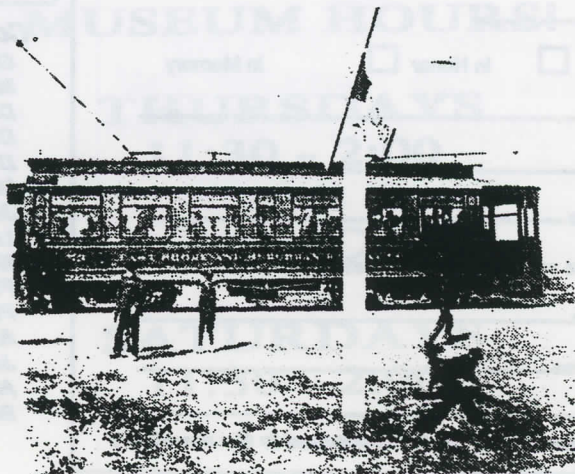
At his request, no services were held.



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Ed Garrard  
Bill Williamson  
Dixie Copeland  
Allan Smith  
Chris Rotting  
Helen Valentine  
Bessie Squires  
Rowene MacMillan  
Dody Perry  
Ethel MacMillan  
Wallace MacMillan  
BOY SCOUTS OF  
AMERICA

Frank Pearson  
Doug Busby  
Barnaby Edwards  
Marcos Rotting  
Connie Healy  
Pearle Westman  
Landow Howe  
Dagmar Francis  
Mary Shur  
Mitzi Kruse  
Arline Rodini  
Hartman  
Hortense McGee



I would like to join the PRHA

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership (check one)

- |                          |                   |         |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Single            | \$18.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Senior (65+)      | 12.00   |
| <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 in time" 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 or before the deadline published in the calendar section of the newsletter.  
Please mail articles and items of interest to:

**GARY SHOWS**  
229 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE  
POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801

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139 1/2 Washington Avenue  
Point Richmond, CA 94801

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### Tribute Fund

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

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐

In Honor

☐

In Memory

Of \_\_\_\_\_

From \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please send acknowledgement to:

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*Tributes will be acknowledged in the newsletter*

### TELEPHONE LISTINGS

|                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
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| Gary Shows       | 510- 235-1336 |
| Phyllis Scaglund | 510-232-2280  |
| Fax              | 510- 232-0842 |

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*Don Church (photo collection)*  
*Members of the PRHA*  
*Jerry Cerknowicz*  
*Lucretia Edwards*  
*Nell Coward Brooker*  
*Pat Brooker Gaboury*  
*Pam Wilson*  
*Allan Smith*  
*Jan Burdick*  
*Anne Hanzlik*  
*Betty Glass Marshall*



# *Calendar*

*February, 1992*

- February 4**      **Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting,  
11:30 AM, Our Lady of Mercy Church**
- Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting,  
7:30 PM, Point Community Center**
- February 8**      **Valentine Making Contest & Party, Noon, Point  
Community Center**
- February 12**      **Abraham Lincoln's Birthday**
- Point Richmond Business Association Meeting,  
Noon, Hotel Mac**
- February 14**      **Valentine's Day**
- February 17**      **George Washington's Birthday**
- PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY**
- February 21**      **DEADLINE FOR TPIT MARCH ISSUE**
- February 23**      **Point Richmond History Association General Meeting,  
2:00 pm, Community Center, see inside front cover.**
- March 3**          **Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting,  
11:30 AM, Our Lady of Mercy Church**
- Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting,  
7:30 PM, Point Community Center**
- March 4**          **Ash Wednesday**
- March 11**        **Point Richmond Business Association Meeting,  
Noon, Hotel Mac**