

THIS POINT in time

NEWSLETTER

THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL X No 8

MARCH, 1992

\$1.50



Point Museum

Wish List

Can you help?

- *Refinish four wooden chairs*
- *Point Richmond pictures and memorabilia*
- *Volunteers to man the museum on Thursdays and Saturdays*
- *Mail Slot donated and/or installed*
- *Pictures of J.Q. Black, Laura Carlin, Burt Huff, former tenants of the museum building*
- *Suitable Wastebasket*
- *Threshold*
- *Qualified Volunteer to repair and restore antique roll-up maps and wooden roll-top cabinet.*



Wishes recently granted:

**Container for donation box*

Thanks to **Tom Piazza**, who has donated a mailbox (circa 1905, from Hopland) to be used as a donation box. Thanks also goes to **Vic Highfill** for mounting it.

**Antique stools for viewing table*

This wish has been granted by **Bruce** and **Ann Bartram** plus **Patricia Milano** both have matched **Mae Mandi's** pledge of \$100.00. Thanks to these folks we will soon have stools in the back of the museum for comfortable photo viewing.

History Association Notes

FROM THE PRESIDENT by Mid Dornan

With the February publicity through TV's Bay Area Backroads, our visibility is attracting visitors who are discovering the Point and stopping at the Museum for information regarding *our town*. This is exactly why we needed this wonderful building! Also, watch for a mention of our History Association when the West County Times does a section on the Point.

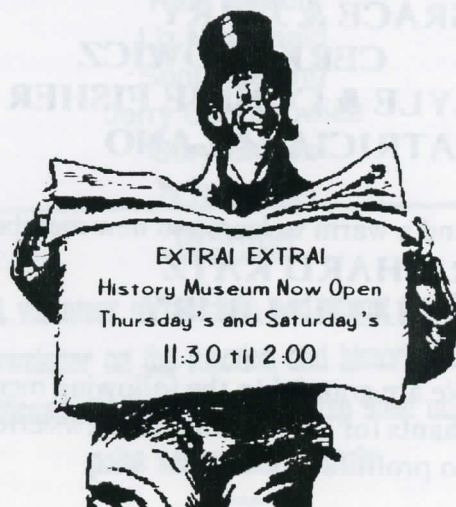
Schedules for staffing on Thursdays and Saturdays are being set up and what better person than long-time resident, Betty Dornan to be co-ordinator. It is hoped volunteers will only need to do it once every two months. However, once a person has "manned the museum", they find it so rewarding that they are eager to do it again. Thanks to board member Phyllis Skaglund of Point Richmond Travel for being keeper of the key on Thursdays. A local business is needed for Saturday's key.

Our capable treasurer, Muriel Clausen, has filed necessary forms regarding our building with the County

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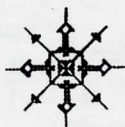
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"From the President" continued....

Assessor's office.

Thanks to you who respond to our Wish List... it is a double reward when others show their appreciation and support.



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

ANN BISIO
FRANK LOPEZ
SHEILA FOSTIAK
C.F. HOCHGESANG
ANNA BOOTH
MAE MANDL
GRACE & JERRY
CERKANOWICZ
LYLE & CONNIE FISHER
PATRICIA MILANO

And a warm welcome to new members:

RICHARD KATZ
MALCOLM BURY

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

SANTA FE MARKET
PT. RICHMOND MARKET

POINT RICHMOND STREETS IN 1947

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Allan Smith

1. ANTONIO AVENUE
 2. CALIFORNIA
 3. CENTRAL
 4. CLARENDON
 5. CLEVELAND
 6. DOWNEY
 7. ESMERALDA
 8. GARFIELD
 9. HARRISON
 10. HARTNELL
 11. LENOX
 12. MANCILLA
 13. MARINE DRIVE
 14. MCKINLEY
 15. MINTZA
 16. LINCOLN
 17. PROSPECT
 18. SCENIC ROAD
 19. TEWKSBURY CRESCENT
 20. THOMAS
 21. STANDARD AVENUE
- (WHERE IS IT NOW?)

FOR ANSWERS SEE FUTURE ISSUES OF TPIT

Editor's Notes

Gary Shows

Spring is here and so is the March edition of our newsletter. I am still learning that new computer program and am still using it along with the old one. It is making the work easier and more interesting, I hope it is also improving the publication. Thanks to our reporting staff for being very timely.

Hey, you Point "Old-Timers", I am running low on material. If you have been meaning to send some of your memories of old Point Richmond and have been procrastinating, now is the time to do it!

I am sure a lot of you watched the recent Bay Area Backroads TV show featuring the Point. I thought it was really interesting that the 9 minute or so segment required two trips here by a 3 or 4 person crew that took hours of video tape. What do they do with all of the left over material?

How about Indian Statue Day? Is there someone doing something to plan and assure that this Point Richmond event happens next October?

The next issue will be April (Vol. X, No. 9), it will represent the end of our tenth year! The deadline for that issue will be March 20th.

The Cover:

The Santa Fe Roundhouse in the 1940's. Picture is from Santa Fe Railroad Company's collection and printed courtesy of Steve Crook.

The February Issue

Assembly Crew:

Grace Cerkanowicz

Mary Highfill

Muriel Clausen

Mid Dornan

Pam Wilson

Liz McDonald

Sonja Darling

Jerry Cerkanowicz

Gary Shows



Wanted

A volunteer to research and report for the newsletter on the function and historical significance (if there is any) of the steel utility poles around the triangle.

call Gary 235-1336

Senior News

by MURIAL C. CLAUSEN

Two new interesting services are just opening for Seniors and for which volunteers are now being sought. These services may apply to you; or being a volunteer may give you the satisfaction of helping out Seniors.

The first is called the Gateway Program with Millie Taylor as its head. This is a program that trains local businesses that deal with Seniors to be aware if that Senior is at risk of losing his or her independence. This includes firefighters, postal workers, pharmacies, banks and others who deal with Seniors in their daily lives. Should a Senior appear to be having problems of this nature the business would report this to the Senior Information and Referral Service. Millie Taylor, a trained nurse, could then arrange to visit with that Senior to determine if they need assistance. The goal of this program is to

give early assistance, when needed, in order that Seniors can retain their independence.

The second planned service is called the Senior Escort Service with Paul Knight as its head. This is a program that uses volunteers to provide errand services for Seniors. This is a **one on one** program and an **as needed** program. These volunteers can do shopping, obtain transit script, accompany Seniors on transit to appointments, etc. but cannot do their banking. The volunteer may even drive the Senior in his or her own car. Any number of helpful variations of this can occur as needed. Volunteers are also needed to help Paratransit drivers in getting Seniors with or without wheelchairs on and off transit.

If you know of a Senior needing assistance or can volunteer your services

Point Community Center Senior Citizen Activity Programs

Program	Days	Time	Date	Fee
Bridge	Wednesdays	1:30 pm	Ongoing	.25
Light Exercise	Wednesdays	3:00 pm	Ongoing	.25
Open Craft	Mondays	1:30 pm	Ongoing	.25
Piano Lessons	Fridays	12:30 pm - 5:00 pm	Ongoing	.25
Poetry Reading	Mondays	3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	Ongoing	.25
Quilting	Tuesdays	10:00 am - noon	Ongoing	.25
Science	Thursdays	10:00 am	Ongoing	.25
Spanish	Tuesdays	9:30 am - 11:00 am	Ongoing	.25

A-MID TRIVIA

By Mid Dornan (234-5334)

March is a good time to fly paper kites, send postcards to friends, wear green or orange clothes and eat green-colored food or learn a new card game.

Q: Can you make 6 out of the numeral IX by adding one continuous line? (Answer at end of Trivia)

Ash Wednesday signals the beginning of Lent for Christians and ends forty days later on Easter, April 19th.

Scout Troop 111 in the Point, the council's oldest troop, has a wonderful leader, Patrick Ferguson but he needs boys, ages 10 1/2 - 17. They meet Mondays, 7:00 p.m at the Methodist Church. Unless more boys are interested, they may lose the leader.

MARK SATURDAY, MAY 9th
FOR THE ANNUAL BOY SCOUT
PANCAKE BREAKFAST.

The Point's Christian Jazz musician, Roy Jones, is bouncy and cheerful while undergoing chemotherapy and radiation. Roy is wished a speedy withdrawal from those hospital trips (and cute nurses?).

Looking for Camp Fire Mints? Call Linda Garcia, 233-5837, a leader of two groups who is trying to help them raise funds. Unfortunately there aren't any groups in the Point!

Every day we learn of

different ways this newsletter touches others lives.

Rather than becoming a subscriber, it seems this unnamed former Point resident, borrows the latest publication from a friend. Not because he can't afford the subscription, but because it provides him a reason to visit with the friend. Of course, there is a second visit, a cup of coffee and cookie when the borrowed TPIT is returned. *(While we don't recommend this...it would undermine our budget..we think it a delightful way to keep in touch during our too-busy- life schedules!)*

If you enjoy gum chewing don't plan to visit Singapore. Beginning in January, Singapore began a crusade against chewing gum including hefty fines for importing it and even jail sentences. Tourists arriving on the island will have to declare it on customs documents!

Lola Peterson had lunch recently with former neighbor, Liz McDonald, before returning to her home in Redwood Valley. Lola's daughter, Signe Peterson, lives in Italy and plans to move to Milan where her work uses her Library science skills.

Richard Johnson is welcomed to the Point. He operates the Viking Art Center, 111 W. Richmond Avenue and teaches classes in Oil and Pastels to Beginners through Advanced. He does custom framing and paints portraits in oils and pastels of people and animals in any setting. For more information, 237-5549.

A country boy coming to the city for the first time was sent to court with a parking ticket. When asked why he parked in a no parking zone, he replied, "Because the sign said, 'Fine for parking.'"

Grace Cerkanowicz spent a week visiting her children, Jerry and Dierdre...allowing her husband to work projects at home..unsupervised!!

When the 16th amendment to the U.S. Constitution created an income tax, the promise was that only the rich would pay the toll. Then, over 98% of American families were exempt from levies. How times have changed!

Whatever happened to those lively little highway signs that brought lighthearted laughter to the road? Old timers may not recall the name of the creator but most will remember the Burma Shave road signs. Leonard Odell, who died recently at age 83, posted the signs to

help his father's lagging sales of the brushless shaving cream.

The standard couplet was written on 5 sequential signs but the fifth always said, Burma Shave. Example:

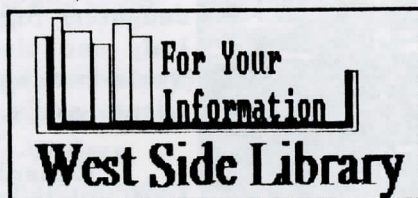
Before I tried it
The kisses I missed
But afterward--boy!
The misses I kissed!
BURMA SHAVE

The signs were popular fixtures along U.S. highways from the late 1930's until 1964. The company held annual contests for jingle writers and the ditties are still being quoted.

Every telephone area code has either a "1" or "0" in the middle. How cum?

HAPPY SAINT PATRICK'S DAY
and remember...Spring arrives on the 20th!

Answer: Trick query. Put an "S" in front. An S is a continuous line!



Jan Burdick

Tax Forms

For your convenience West Side has both federal and state tax forms (basic forms, instructions and some additional schedules) which can be picked up during library hours. In addition there are reproducible forms for other schedules. There are no duplicating facilities at West Side but this service is available at Point Richmond Print Shop.

Churches

Our Lady of Mercy

Allan Smith

Elsie Grosso (1896-1992), a parishioner of this parish for many, years passed away February 4, 1992. There was a great turnout of people at her memorial services, a beautiful tribute indeed. We offer our sympathy to her daughter, Rose Bozzo, also a member of our parish.

We were all saddened to hear of the death February 9th of Mary Houston, a friend of our parish and a leading Catholic Woman of the Oakland Diocese. She and Rev. Carmelo Mifsud, former Administrator of Our Lady of Mercy Church, started a popular monthly Cenacle meeting here 13 years ago. This is a movement in support of our Priests and vocations. Mary, with her husband Sam, personally were in charge of fabricating and shipping over one million rosaries to all parts of the world.

Ed Palenchar of our church will have another heart operation this month at Mother Seton Hospital in Daly City.

Our neighbor parish, St. Cornelius in Richmond, celebrated its 40th Anniversary on February 23, 1992. Many of Point Richmond's children attended the school associated with the parish over

the last forty years.

Our Lady of Mercy Church will celebrate its 90th Anniversary this year. Plans are now being made for this event. Assisting Father Jim with this are Varsie Lometti and Allan Smith.

Lenten services will start on Ash Wednesday, March 4, 1992. Pastor Rev. James Clift is having special services throughout this Lenten Season.



Point Methodist

Jean Reynolds

This is a lively time in the life of the church at the corner of West Richmond Avenue and Martina Street. Through the gifts of members and friends of the Point Methodist Church, and with an organization effort by JoAnn Bray, we were able to ship six boxes of food to be sent by the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) for their Soviet

Emergency Food Project. OMCOR will send our boxes, along with others like them, to the Moscow area where they will be distributed by the Russian Orthodox Church to individual families.

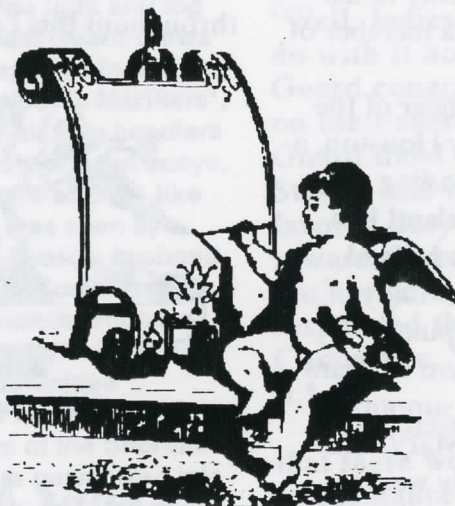
February 13th was an evening of fun and fellowship as members and friends attended a dinner theatre fund raiser for summer camp scholarships. To be able to enjoy dinner at the Hotel Mac and fine theatre at the Masquers and still benefit a worthy cause, is a real treat.

The United Methodist Women will "kick-off" the season of Lent with an Agape Meal followed by a Quiet Day Service on Ash Wednesday, March 4th, at 7:00 PM at the church. All are invited to attend this service which will be both global and personal in its focus.

The United Methodist Churches of West Contra Costa County will again host a Lenten Series on Sunday evenings at 4:00 PM. The Point Methodist Church will be the location of the first service on March 8th, with the Rev. Mr. Gary Pope-Sears of El Cerrito U.M.C. preaching. Our own pastor, the Rev. Mr. Michael Brown will preach on

March 22nd at St. Lukes U.M.C. For a complete schedule of joint Lenten services, call the church at 236-0527.

The Second Annual Juntique Sale will be held at the church on May 2nd. It will include food and entertainments as well as fine junque to be had at a very fair price. If you have donations of junque between now and the end of April, call JoAnn Bray at 233-7726, or the church at 236-0527.



United Methodist Women are meeting to work on craft projects for the annual bazaar, to be held on October 23rd and 24th, on Mondays at the home of JoAnn Bray. Evening workshops at the church will resume when the days get a little longer. I, for one, am looking forward to those 26 hour days!

With the awesome increase of children aged two and under attending worship (with their parents, too!), we have made child care available on a regular basis during Sunday morning services. We are thankful for our senior high youth Andrew and Daniel Butt and Daniel Andersen who will be providing this service and for the families who add a new vitality to our midst.

POINT METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

-Mid Dornan

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 62nd installment.

Nov. 16, 1917

The Woman's Home Missionary Society met at the home of Mrs. Bradley. The meeting was opened by the President Mrs. Adams reading the Scripture lesson and prayer by Mrs. Conry. Song by members.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Report given from Committee having box for Indians in charge.

Upon motion \$1.25 was appropriated for sending the box.

Report given from Committee on box of fruit sent to Oriental Home. Cash value of box, \$20.40. Motion as made and carried to pay expressage, 51 cents.

The work on the Missionary Room of the Parsonage was discussed.

Motion made and carried to take a Kindergarten Scholarship at the Oriental Home, \$15.00.

Mite boxes were then opened and Mite Box Secretary reported \$5.95 in the boxes. A motion to apply remaining money of Mite Boxes to the Scholarship.

Refreshments were served by the hostess at the conclusion of the Lesson Study.

Thank offering, 90 cents.

Nettie Grover, Sec.

GO HUNGRY IN POINT RICHMOND?

~~~~~

If you have some money, you should never lack for food if you are in Point Richmond. We count no less than twenty-one establishments in our little village that one can purchase something to eat.

They are:

1. The Spot
2. Edibles
3. Little Louis
4. Baltic
5. Point Orient
6. Hunan Chef
7. Yogurt & Espresso
8. Ellie's Boarding House  
Reach
9. Santa Fe Market
10. Pt. Richmond Market
11. Little China
12. Cafe Annie
13. Hotel Mac
14. Hidden City Cafe
15. Point Pancho's Mexican Food
16. Rosemary's Bakery
17. General Frank's Hot Dogs
18. All's Fare
19. Great American Hamburger's
20. Chapala's Mexican Cafe
21. Edie's Cafe

Who wants to be the official TPIT food reviewer? Sorry, no salary or expenses!

# **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 FIVE**

There were two old brickyards in the Point Richmond area but by the time I can recall they both had stopped producing. One was on the flat across Dornan Drive from Miller

Park. We used to poke around among the old walls and kilns and de-composing rooms but it was a little dangerous because there were old pits, some quite deep. This was all flattened out for safety reasons and the area used by the police as a target range. This had long been discontinued.

The other local brickyard was the one at Brickyard Cove and here parts of the old kilns and stacks are still preserved for historical reasons.

Just south of this is a huge excavation filled with water. I suspect this was a quarry where the clay used in brick making may have originated. Whatever its use, it made a fine swimming pool and we kids used it often in the old days.

If one drives out East Richmond Avenue past the Washington School and Murrey's Point on the right one will see a great excavated cliff side. This was quarried out by the Standard Oil Company for fill for the marshes between the main plant and Castro Street to allow for the construction there of the mechanical shops, the cafeteria and other buildings.

It was rather fun after dark on a Sunday night to watch the cars coming from the San Rafael Ferry headed for Berkeley and Oakland. About every hour a caravan of 25 or

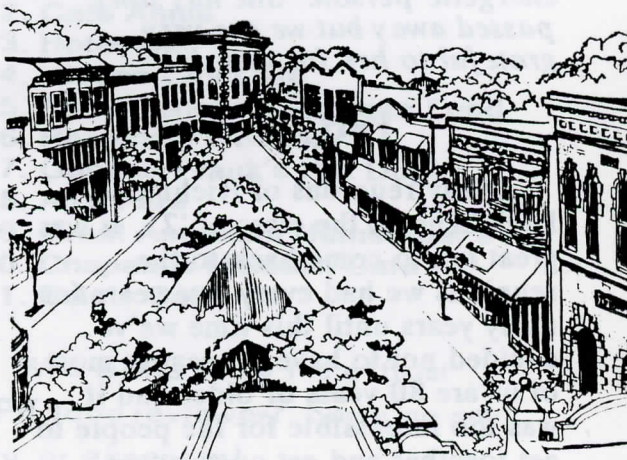


30 cars with headlights shining were seen to turn off Standard Avenue and down Park Place to Richmond Avenue and thence to Cutting Boulevard. If the leader knew the route they made it O.K. If not the procession, like a line of ants, often headed down East Richmond Avenue past the Washington School to disappear beyond. If one waited a few minutes he was treated to the sight of the entire string, still following the leader, returning and eventually getting onto the right route. This happened rather frequently.

Ferry service to San Francisco was instituted by the Santa Fe before there was a Point Richmond. There were ferries to carry their passengers across the bay and ferries that carried cars, usually freight or gondola cars, across. After the town was established a railroad station was placed beside the tracks near the junction of Cutting and Richmond Avenue. Many local residents found it easier to go by ferry to San Francisco to shop rather than take the long, tedious jouncing ride by street car to Oakland. A short train ride and a restful 50 or 60 minute boat ride was welcome. I don't know what the fare was but it couldn't have been much. The only time I was ever car sick was on a bumpy swaying car ride to Oakland.

When the 1915 World's Fair was in San Francisco there was a ferry service direct from ferry point to the fair itself. I think that this ran only on Sundays and holidays but it was a

wonderfully convenient way to get to the fair unless there was a fog. That fair was wonderful, much larger than later fairs and especially impressive to a child. We could even enjoy it without leaving Point Richmond. A short walk at night to the crest of the hills and one could enjoy the brilliant display of light from the Tower of Jewels and other lighted features. I was especially impressed one night when the Pacific Fleet was anchored off of the marina and put on a brilliant display of search lights fanning across the sky. The first airplane I ever saw was at that fair not too many years after the Wright Brothers. Art Smith, a young flier, had a plane that looked more like a box kite than a modern plane. It was not too different from the Wright brothers plane. It took off and landed on a field where the Marina green is today. It did not go up very high but made low dives and landed. There were two other fliers there at the time. One flew a sea plane. One was killed in a crash.







# 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 Three**

Many reunions of Richmond High School, the class of '25, it was great fun to come back to the reunions we had every five years for many years until this time we've decided not to have it because most of us are 80 years or older and it was too impossible for the people to get together and get on to some

restaurant where we could meet and reminisce some more. There's lots of the class still living. There's Charlotte Woods and Eleanor Hurley and the Poochy girls and I've just forgotten how many of Point Richmond kids were there. Harold Shaw was one and I don't remember just all the names, but it was a wonderful class, we kept together for so many years, for over 55 years.

I know I can see every house that I knew and I had many of them, I can't tell you exactly where the addresses were. We lived at 60 Terrace Avenue, and next door was Miss Kneebotters, and there were a lot of people living on Tunnel Avenue. I've kept up with the Allyn's, Gust Allyn just passed away. Gust Allyn and his children built their homes very close together on Idaho Street. The Fishers also lived there on Tunnel Avenue.

We used to skate out through the tunnel and out to the wharf, the Parr Terminal. I remember the day that Parr Terminal opened, it was real exciting, they had a great big party with lots and lots of food and practically everybody in town was

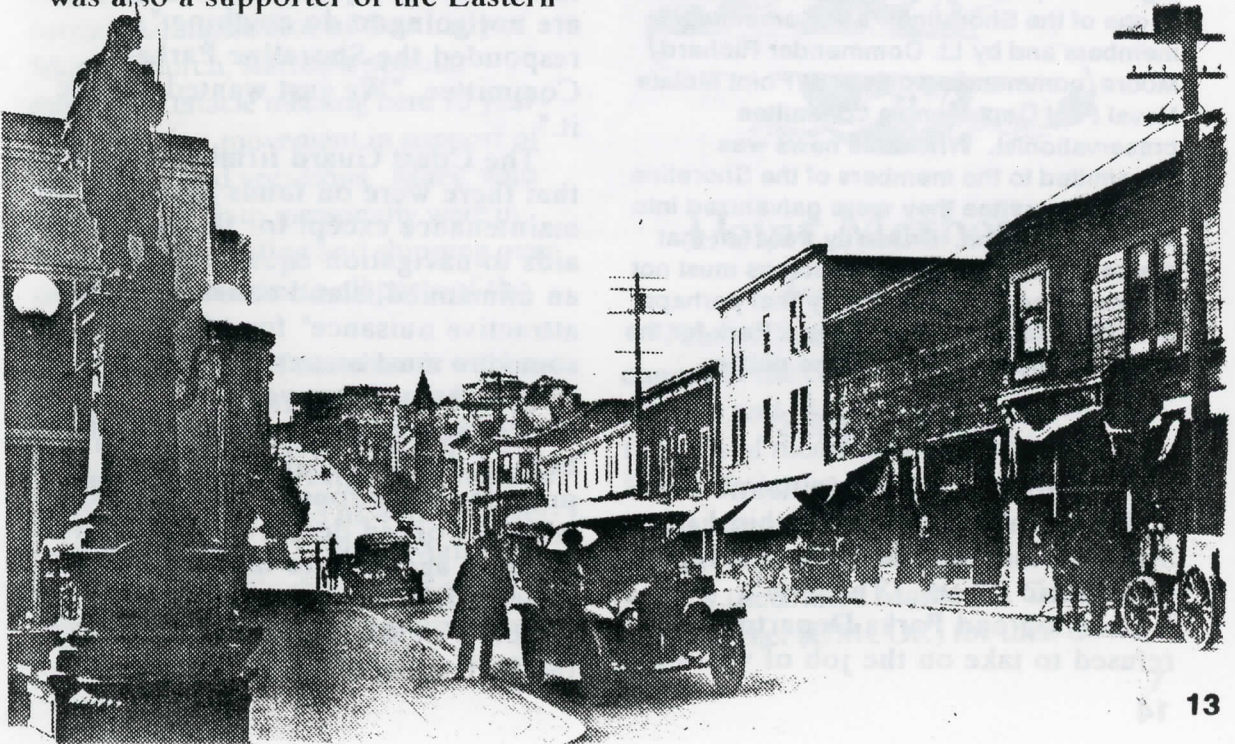


at that opening. I can't remember years very well, so I don't know when that was. All I remember is that we came in 1910 and I was 2 years old and by brother, Bert was 4, so both of us went into schools in Richmond, and I remember Miss Ashfield, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, and a very wonderful person.

Between me and my brother, it seems like I was the one who was always getting into trouble, well I guess I got blamed for a lot of things that I didn't do. We did have fun playing "Run Sheep Run" over the hills there chasing each other, why I'll never know, but we did it. We had a very active PTA there at the time and our mothers were ardent supporters of the group. My mother was also a supporter of the Eastern

Star. They had a meeting hall upstairs, I think it was just about over Steve Otter's store, and every year they gave the children of the Eastern Star people a masquerade party, I think around Halloween, we had good times there.

My father was real active in the Masons. The Eastern Star and the Masons was really a lot of the social life in those days, I's say in the 20's it was prevalent. And there wasn't anything else to do, that was their social life, going to the lodges which I always thought was really terrific. But you see, we didn't have radio, even, only a few little homemade rigs to pick up radio and of course no television and people went visiting each other and it was a lot of clean, good fun.





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

by Lucretia Edwards

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

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.

## **PART THREE**

Greatly daring, an application was made to place the East Brother Light Station Island on the National Register of Historic Places. The City's Recreation and Parks Department refused to take on the job of writing

the application but agreed to be a sponsoring agency. To everyone's astonishment and pleasure in 1970 the application was accepted. But the joy of the Contra Costa Shoreline Parks Committee was dashed when the local Coast Guard Agency said, "Well, ladies, what are you going to do with it now?" (Initially the Coast Guard congratulated the Committee on their success since the Coast Guard liked the East Brother Light Station and historically granted favored duty station there for a reward for exceptional service.) "We are not going to do anything," responded the Shoreline Parks Committee, "We just wanted to save it."

The Coast Guard firmly explained that there were no funds allocated for maintenance except for the actual aids to navigation equipment and that an unmanned island constituted "an attractive nuisance" for which someone must assume responsibility.

For the next ten years the Shoreline Parks Committee with the help of the Coast Guard (who provided numerous boat trips to the island) worked desperately to interest a public agency into taking on the Island Light Station. Legislators, Officials of the Maritime Museum, the University of California and the



East Bay Regional Park District were all taken out to the Island and plied with lavish picnics and champagne and glowing tales of how much each and every one of them needed to have a Light Station Island. All of them agreed but none of them offered any funds from their budgets for such a delightful and risky venture. All were obliged to turn down the anxious Shoreline Parks Committee.

At last a marvelous solution seemed possible when the County School Department agreed that they would like to assume responsibility for the Island as a classroom for students from all over Contra Costa County. These students could be taught about the tides, the winds, the weather and about plankton, fish and conservation of the head of the sun and the power of wind and water in an Island life. All was happiness until Proposition 13 was passed. The hopes that had been raised were crushed because the School District was no longer able to take on an unproved and risky venture like an Island.

It was at this point in 1979 that East Brother Light Station, Inc. was formed; a non profit corporation that became the last hope of preserving the East Brother Light Station and making it available for public use. The organization was particularly fortunate to have two of the people who assumed leadership roles. One was Tom Butt, who was young, energetic and with a background in architecture, construction and preservation and who saw the East Brothers Light

Station Island as a challenge for registration in the National Registry of Historic Places. The other was Walter Fanning; older, quieter but no less dedicated than Tom Butt to the salvation and restoration of the island and its buildings. Walter Fanning was the grandson of John P. Kofod who was the keeper of the East Brother Light Station from 1914 to 1921; during which time Walter Fanning became familiar with the island and its operation as a lively little boy with a taste for mechanics, ships and light houses. Walter Fanning had founded and operated the Oakland Machine Works from 1951 until 1975 when he retired.

An application for \$67,000 Maritime Preservation Matching Grant funds was awarded to the East Brother Light Station, Inc. by the Department of the Interior and the opportunity to participate in the rehabilitation of the Light Station on an island was widely publicized. The response testified to the unrequited, deeply romantic yearnings of the public who signed up for the hard, dirty, often cold and wet jobs of tearing the buildings down to the basic foundations and then building them up in painstaking conformance with the original design obtained from the National Archives; restoring them to their original 19th century appearance.

***Part 5 of "Point Richmond: how it became an Historic District" will appear in the April Issue.***



# *Sports Memories*

## *Allan Smith*

Point Richmond's Al Frosini should be recognized as one of the great Point athletes. I remember Al (spider) in the early 30's as a very aggressive athlete especially in boxing. He was also good at sand lot football at the old Polo Grounds in the Point, and was known to use his boxing expertise while playing (at times the games were a bloody battle).

Any fathers of young boys interested in boxing should take advantage of Al's willingness to teach the Point kids how to "box". The 75 year old athlete has weekly boxing lessons and training in his garage gym on Santa Fe Avenue.

I plan to write more about this interesting man in a future issue.

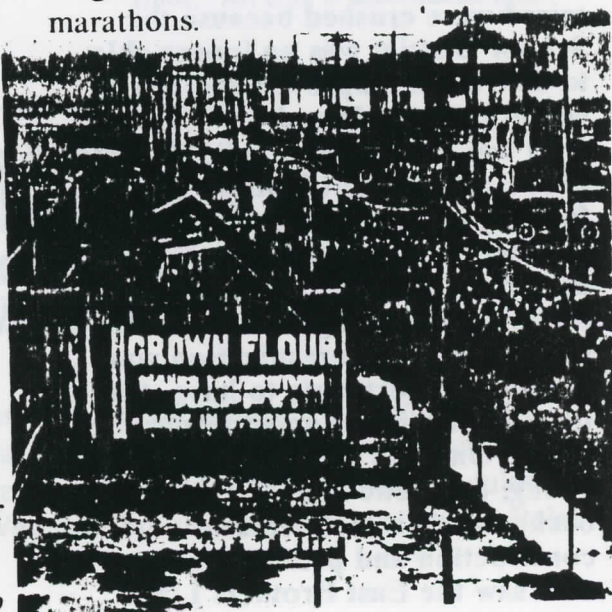
Incidentally, Al Frosini holds the Senior Championship in a water skiing senior category!

Point Richmond boxing (and history) fans were present at the recent community showing of the Nelson-Wolgast 1910 World Lightweight Championship films. This 42 round fight was held in the Point at the Polo Grounds which were in the location of the Maritime Warehouse (just across the present-day 580 freeway). Many thanks to Anne Hanzlik and the History Association for

arranging for the showing of this film. It was last shown at the recent East Bay Boxing History Exhibit at the Oakland Museum last year.

Baseball spring training is here much to the delight of our great Editor (*humble sigh*), Gary Shows. Gary is an ardent baseball fan and is an Oakland A's season ticket holder.

The Santa Fe Market will be asked in the near future to sponsor a Little League Baseball team as they have done over the past years. Thanks to owner Bob Peckham for his support. Bob was a good athlete in his younger days and was recently very active in running the long distance races, especially the local marathons.







***"Point Richmond is a special community because those who live here are caring and concerned."***

*Mary Highfill*

## ***Thank You***

### ***From the Community To:***

**Lyle Fisher** for spearheading the drive to fill some needs to help the children at Washington School.

**The Women's Westside Improvement Club** for donating two VCR's to Washington School.

**Tom McGowan** for teaching a Public Speaking class at Washington School.

**Luciano Forner** for volunteering to

refinish and oil the wooden frame around the "Point Map".

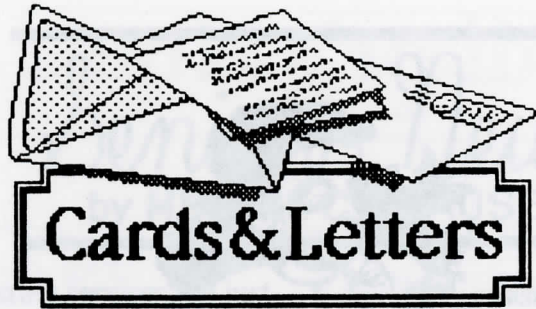
**Pt. Richmond Neighborhood Council** for donating \$1000 for student needs at Washington School.

### ***And From The History Association To:***

**Mary Crosby** for donating a hand carved broom from the Appalachians.

**Tom Piazza and Bruce and Ann Bartram** for granting our wishes (see the wish list inside the cover).

**Vic Highfill and Fay Hawkins** for taking care of various "honey do's" around the Museum.



## Cards & Letters

Dear Mid:

I was so great to be back in Point Richmond October 17-21, 1991 for my Richmond Union High School 50th class reunion. It had been 8 years since I'd been here, so I saw many changes and yet many places are the same, especially the older homes like mine at 49 Idaho Street.

I so enjoyed driving over every inch of the Point and remembering the homes and the people who lived there when I did.

It was so good to spend a Sunday morning at my Point Methodist Church, talking to Betty and Mid Dornan again. Visiting the new library and walking the triangle, talking to Hank Allyn and Anita Christenson. Seeing the new fire house where long ago I remember a band shell and concerts.

The final resting place of the Dornan building as the museum is truly a great and nice way to pay tribute to the Dornan family and to the community of Point Richmond.

Marian Hawkins my childhood

friend and Fay made my stay at their home truly a memorable one. The late night talks, drives, class reunion, hearing the fog horn again, the view of the bridges, San Francisco's lights and the S.O. Long Wharf was a lovely sight, as only the Bay Area can be.

Thanks for the memories!

As Always,

June (Kunkel) Blackburn  
Bemidji, MN



Dear Pam:

Enclosed is my check for my membership which expires in March. I enjoy by "This Point" magazine very much as I lived at the Point till I was 14 years old, when our house burned down to the ground leaving my family homeless.

I graduated from Washington School and am now 85 years old, so I have really *seen* Richmond.

Thank you,  
Ann Bisio  
Richmond



## Deaths

**Elsie "Pena" Grosso** died of natural causes on February 4, 1992. She was 95. A native of Genoa, Italy she lived in Point Richmond for 75 years and was a member of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church.

Pena and her late husband, Mario, worked at the IGA Market on Washington Avenue, later opened their own Liberty Market, now the site of the Masquers Playhouse. From there they operated a Liquor Department in what is the current Food Bowl on Rumrill Road until retirement.

She is survived by a daughter, Rose Bozzo of the Point, a brother, Lawrence Moglia of Castro Valley, many nieces and nephews as well as great and great-great nieces and nephews. Services were held at the Schmidt & Dixon Funeral Home.

# HAPPY



# BIRTHDAY!



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

(234-5334)

*Bernice Shows*

*Karolyn Macdiarmid*

*Virginia Cherniak*

*JoAnn Bray*

*Carol Darling*

*GIRL SCOUTS*

*Carl Paasch*

*Noraleen Dowell*

*Allan Smith, Jr.*

*Janice Jones*

*Marie Wilson-Dietz*

*CAMP FIRE GIRLS*

*Brian Richardson*

*Alexandra Gautraud*

*Susan Berman*

*Dale Hawkins*

*Carol Paasch*

*Wendy Wirth*

*Jim Morrison*

*Don Hain*

*Dolly Frosini*

*Reba Downs*

*Rich Schuld*

*Phyllis Feyder*

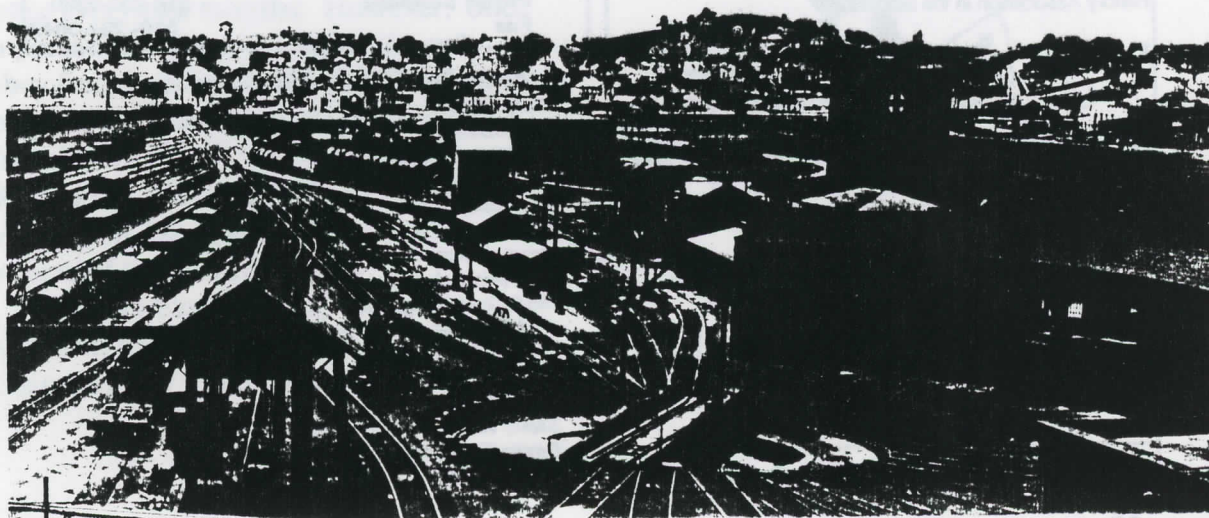
*Jean Knox*

*Winnie Guisti*

*Ben Bray*

*Isabel Dolan*

*Maxine Mayer*



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

"THIS POINT in time" is a publication of the Point Richmond History Association, a non-profit organization at:  
139 1/2 Washington Avenue  
Point Richmond, CA 94801

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*Gary Shows, Editor*  
*Phyllis Scaglund, Fund Raising*  
*Sarah Eeles, Archives/Oral History*  
*James Cheshareck, Archives*

### 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:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Tributes will be acknowledged in the newsletter*

### TELEPHONE LISTINGS

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|------------------|---------------|
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| Phyllis Scaglund | 510-232-2280  |
| Fax              | 510- 232-0842 |

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*Don Church (photo collection)*  
*Members of the PRHA*  
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*Lucretia Edwards*  
*Nell Coward Brooker*  
*Pat Brooker Gaboury*  
*Pam Wilson*  
*Allan Smith*  
*Jean Reynolds*  
*Steve Crook*  
*Santa Fe Railroad*  
*Mary Highfill*



# ***Calendar***

***March, 1992***

**March 3**  
(Tuesday)

**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**  
(Wednesday)

**Ash Wednesday**

**March 11**  
(Wednesday)

**Point Richmond Business Association Meeting,  
5:00 - 6:00 PM, Hotel Mac**

**March 17**  
(Tuesday)

**St. Patrick's Day**

**March 20**  
(Friday)

**Deadline for the April TPIT issue**

**First Day of Spring**

**March 27**  
(Friday)

**"New Girl in Town" Opens at Masquer's Playhouse**

**April 1**  
(Wednesday)

**All Fools Day (Lirpa Loof)**

**April 5**  
(Sunday)

**Daylight Savings Time Begins**

**April 7**  
(Tuesday)

**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**

**April 8**  
(Wednesday)

**Point Richmond Business Association Meeting,  
Noon, Hotel Mac**

**April 12**  
(Sunday)

**Palm Sunday**