

THIS POINT in time

NEWSLETTER

THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL. XI No. 3

SEPTEMBER, 1992

\$1.50



*Our Lady of Mercy
Catholic Church, 1908*

OUR LADY OF MERCY'S NINETIETH ANNIVERSARY BAR-B-QUE

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church
has planned a fine celebration on September 6, 1992.

Bishop John Cummins of the Diocese of Oakland
will celebrate Mass at Noon.

The Bar-b-que will begin at 1:00 PM immediately after Mass.
Steak with all the trimmings will be served until 5:00 PM.

There will be a nice door prize for some lucky person.
Also a 34 prize raffle will be lots of fun.

Come and help the parishioners celebrate
this wonderful milestone in their church's history.

Contribution \$10.00

Tickets may be purchased in advance by calling:

Allan Smith 510-234-5149

or

Marj Bellati 510-232-0738

Come and enjoy the activities at:
Our Lady of Mercy Church
301 West Richmond Avenue
Point Richmond



History Association Notes

FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY MID DORNAN

Richmond's history of less than 100 years pales when compared to that of recently visited Russia and Eastern Europe. We don't have 12th Century Cathedrals or 15th Century Kremlins or gold onion domes. But, we do have 90 year old churches with priceless stained glass windows and tall steeples. We have wooden, turn-of-the-century buildings being restored and maintained. Our town is recognized in the National Historic Register and our *This Point...in time* readers are documenting the life and times of our early years.

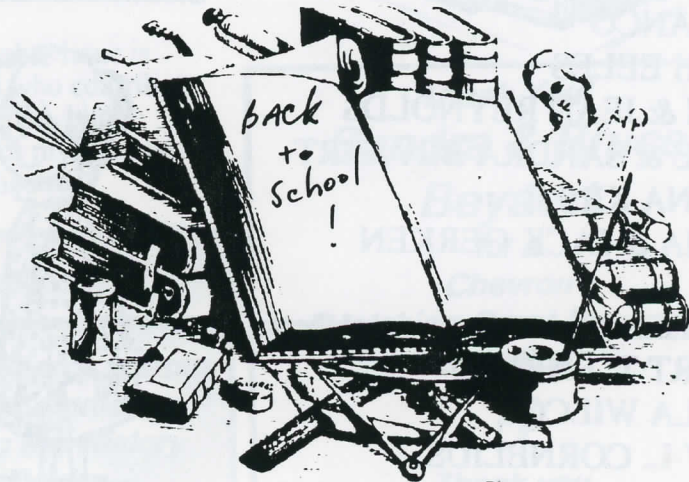
Now we need to identify with plaques those existing early buildings, i.e., the city hall, bank, movie theatre and post office, etc. Would you like to assist in this project?

Our history is 20th Century.



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"From the President" continued.....

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

VIRGINIA RIGNEY
MURIEL CLAUSEN
MARTIN & JANIS McNAIR
KAY & KAREN FENTON
GINNY E. MILLS
JERRY & THERESA DANIEL
KAY PINKERTON
LUCILLE SMITH
AL & GERRY HIGUERA
MARILYN DARLING
JOSEPHINE PALENCHAR
RUSS & SHIRLEY MOORE
LLOYD & PHYLLIS BOGUE
JUNE A. BLACKBURN
ROBERT B. FREEMAN
AL FRANCO
SARAH EELES
NORM & JEAN REYNOLDS
BRUCE & SANDRA BEYAERT
ZOANNA KILLE
NORMA & JACK GERKEN

And a warm welcome to new members:

ROBERT T. BARNES
LUELLE WILCOX
MARY L. CORNELIUS
ROBERT & DIANNA McINTOSH

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

SANTA FE MARKET
PT. RICHMOND MARKET

**Thank you volunteers for staffing
the History Museum during the
summer!**

Volunteers are still needed. Call Betty
Dornan, our Museum Staff Coordinator at
232-4317 if you can help .

Museum Hours

Thursday 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM
Saturday 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Next Issue:

"Russia As I Saw It", Mid Dornan describes
her recent trip to Russia, the Baltics, the
Ukraine and Eastern Europe.



Editor's Notes

Gary Shows

Wow Summer went by fast (as usual). Hope you had a good one, the break was good for TPIT. The break could have been just a little longer for me as I went through the "Seismic Retrofit" of the old building that houses my office supply business in Berkeley. We managed to stay open throughout the ordeal, it kept me very busy!

Anyway here is our September issue. I think it turned OK and hope you will enjoy it.

Special thanks to Dennis & Ellen Schaefer for volunteering their time to help with the newsletter production. They have comparable computer equipment, live nearby on Washington Avenue, are enthusiastic and do great work! Their participation will improve our newsletter and make my job easier.

The deadline for the October issue is September 18th. You folks who contribute to the newsletter are wonderful, but honoring this deadline makes my job easier and makes for a better publication.

The Cover:

Image of Our Lady of Mercy is from a 1908 Chamber of Commerce pamphlet donated to the History Association by Deidre Cerkanowicz.

The Summer Issue

Assembly Crew:

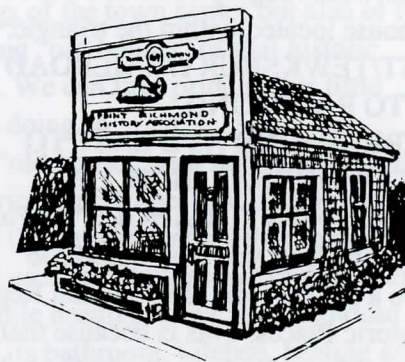
Mary Highfill

Muriel Clausen

Pam Wilson

Jerry Cerkanowicz

Gary Shows



Thank You!

Sandra & Bruce

Beyaert

for a

Chevron

***"Matching Grant Program"
Donation.***



Thank you

Chevron!

THIS OLD HOUSE...

Muriel C. Clausen

Chapter I

Do you have a house in Point Richmond built between roughly 1900 and 1930? Is your house located within the triangle: CREST/TEWKSBURY/RAILROAD AVE TO RICHMOND AVE/RICHMOND AVE EAST TO FOOT OF NICHOLL NOB/ UP NICHOLL NOB "TRIANGLE" of Point Richmond? If so you may qualify to receive a plaque from the National Registry of Historic Places. This is because that section of Point Richmond was the hub section of Point Richmond when it was a "company town" first called "East Yard" then later called Point Richmond for the Standard Oil Company. It was here, near the Western terminus of the Santa Fe Railway, that a small town grew up in the early 1900's to house the workers from Standard Oil and the Railway.

If you do qualify as having one of these period houses a special contest is now being held by the National Trust for Historic Preservation for the qualified restoration of your home within the last five years. The

deadline for this award competition is Aug 31, 1992. To obtain an entry form call 1-202-673-4283.

To talk about the old homes of the 1900-1930 period in Point Richmond would be to do so in a vacuum without recognition of the history of Point Richmond previous to that time.

Before European settlers came to this area Native American Indians lived here off of the fruits of the land and sea. Their only records are in the shell mounds which we attempt to preserve. In 1823 the Spanish settlement of Rancho San Pablo occupied this land which was an island with sloughs and mudflats separating it from the mainland. In 1831 Castro of the Rancho died and the land was split up for 148 property owners. This Potrero or pasture land was then ripe for settlement. In 1897 the Santa Fe Railway Co., after filling the mudflats and sloughs built a tunnel to the S.W. point, calling it "Ferry Point", to be their far West railroad terminus. This too led the way for settlement of this area. (July 4th, 1900 the first ferry to San Francisco from Ferry Point was launched on its way.) Then in

1901 the Standard Oil Company started its refinery in this area completing the impetus for development.

Workers for the railway and for the refinery needed homes and places of business so the small town of "East Yard" was started. Tents and shacks without foundations housed the first few until they found that strong winds and spongy soil led to their demise. Quickly built hotels and boarding houses followed. Then the first homes were constructed upon the hills with the business section on the flatter, lower level. This became the "company town" that later deserved the application for title for placement on the National Registry of Historic Places. By 1905 the little town was incorporated and was hopefully dubbed "the Pittsburg of the West".

Later the little town underwent changes as city government moved further South and East with businesses following. Then, after the 1920's the Depression hit the country. While other towns became destitute, Standard Oil helped keep this town alive as they cut wages rather than cancelling jobs. Workers were still able to keep their homes and jobs in this small area. However, there was a definite slow-down in the activity of this small town, in spite of this, and hard times persisted. Then, much later, in the '50's and '60's, after World War II and its burst of energy, the little town entered a "state of confusion" as readjustment came again. Gradually, by the '70's, Point Richmond began to feel its way back to being an

organized community; and now in the '90's we have a revitalization of business and activity. Now, in conjunction with that revitalization, we have an emphasis upon retaining as much as possible of the architectural heritage of that small "company town" of long ago. Having achieved status as an Historic Town and by being placed on the National Registry of Historic Places in 1979 by the hard work of some of our community leaders we can make an effort to maintain the overall appearance of not only the business buildings of the town center but also of the remaining "old houses" of that historic triangle. We can take pride in our little town in doing so.

The "old house" need not sit neglected and untried by changes that have taken place in the almost century that has passed. Modern uses and progressive changes: the automobile needing its garage, the house needing its bathroom, kitchen, heating and electric lights, make it essential to make changes or the "old house" will surely be unloved in and unloved. However, in making the necessary changes the overall appearance can be maintained, the appearance that gives the house its character. The houses of the elite at this period of time certainly had "style" for they were designed by architects to conform to studied styles; but the houses of workers met the requirements of necessity before any concept of "style" was considered. They met a functional need and did so simply and without architects, with this,

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gaining a "style" of their own.

Without laboring the point too much the Secretary of the Interior has set some Standards for Rehabilitation, a few of which I will note:

#2 "The historic character of a property shall be retained and preserved.

The removal of historic materials or alteration of features and spaces that characterize a property shall be avoided."

#4 "Most properties change over time. Those changes that have acquired historic significance in their own right shall be retained and preserved."

#9 "New additions... shall not destroy historic materials that characterize the property. The new work shall be... compatible with the massing, size, scale, and architectural features to preserve the historic integrity of the property..."

The newcomer buying property in Point Richmond in the '90's may come face to face with this "preservation mode" without knowing that it exists. He may find that he cannot just tear down what is there and build new whatever he has in mind. This can be a shock! More and more, as time goes by, public knowledge of the "preservation mode" is spreading and hopefully, soon common knowledge will protect the newcomer. As much as ten years ago the newcomer would draw up his plans and receive full encouragement from City

Hall only to find that his new community has banded against him and stops his progress at the first Planning Commission meeting! Surprised, he turned to find out what hit him and could find no rational answer. Gradually the Neighborhood Council of Point Richmond as well as other Neighborhood Councils in other areas of the City have made an impression on City Hall that the Neighborhood Councils should be heard first before the prospective builder gets too deep with his plans at City Hall. With the Historic status of Point Richmond, City Hall is just now being impressed with the need to help retain this status. They recognize that showing the prospective builders the guidelines of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and telling them of the Historic status will be of great help to them in understanding their limitations and

opportunities. This way the newcomer does not blunder and make enemies with those whom he thought were his friendly neighbors; nor does he get too deeply into expensive planning. Now, building is no longer the simple and inexpensive construction that it was in those early days of function and necessity so that whatever anxiety and expense the newcomer can be spared is well worth it, both for him and for community understanding.



A-MID TRIVIA

By Mid Dornan (234-5334)

Q: Can you read this?

100204180

(Answer at end of Trivia)

Math was once known as arithmetic
And was taught to the tune of a hickory
stick

But now, of course, it must be quick
And taught to the tune of a computer
click.

Wonder who all those cute little kiddies
are in Janis Park? Check them out on the
photo board as you are in the check-out
lane at Santa Fe.

Janis Park has had a "face lift" and
now needs a new protective fence. The
city will contribute \$500 toward the
\$2600 cost. Point Richmond
Neighborhood Council has donated \$400
so the balance is being raised by
donations. Why not help? How about a
\$10 donation of each grandchild or each
child.

*Could this be an Indian Statue Day
project?*

Send \$ to PRNC, Janis Park Fund,
P.O. Box 386, Point Richmond, CA
94807.

It's a boy, Pablo, Jr., born in June, for
Grace and Pablo Cooper. Grace works at
the Point Branch of the Mechanic's Bank.

Doug and Rosemary Corbin hosted a
brunch celebrating the return from China
of their daughter, Diana, and the
soon-to-be-departure of son, Jeffry who
will be taking graduate studies at the
University of North Carolina at Chapel
Hill. Jeff graduated in June from U.C.
Santa Cruz and Diana has been studying
Chinese at Beijing University for the past
eleven months. She will return to U.C.
Santa Cruz for the fall term.

Point Richmond's representative to the
Barcelona Olympics was Pamela Healy
who brought home a bronze medal! With
only one boat per country, it is honor
enough just being qualified to compete
there! Reports confirm the polluted and
trashy condition of the water. Defending
world champions, her teammate in the
women's 470 sailing class was J.J. Isler.
Pamela is the wife of Craig Healy who is a
dentist in Pinole.

Have you seen "Whatisit"... the 1996
Summer Olympic Mascot?

David Peat has joined the staff at the
Point Branch coming from the Ninth
Street office after its closure in August.
Pamela Miller replaced Nancy Transue
who was transferred to the newly opened
Kensington Bank. Did you know the
Richmond based Mechanics Bank has
been named one of two of Northern
California's best managed banks in an
annual industry survey?

If money doesn't grow on trees, how come banks have branches?

Congratulations to Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church who celebrate their 90th anniversary with the Annual Steak Barbeque on Sunday, September 6th. The main celebrant of and homilist for this Mass of Thanksgiving is the bishop, The Most Rev. John S. Cummins, whose late father once lived in this parish.

Don't you wish the Christmas promotions could come after August so we could enjoy the last of the summer season!

More than one million votes were cast by a 3 to 1 ration to choose the youthful image of Elvis Presley to be on the 29 cent stamp to be released in January. Was your vote one of those?

You can't smile or do a good deed without cheering yourself up!

Richmond's homeboy, Byron Lars, is no longer an ordinary kid. The talented 27 year-old designer has made his mark in the fashion industry. There are glowing stories of him in *Newsweek* and *Women's Wear Daily* as well as magazines in Italy, France and Japan. By September his clothes will be featured in 61 American stores including three in San Francisco, I. Magnin, Neiman-Marcus and Macy's.

Credit Tom Butt for pursuing his ideals and values. Feeling the state's unfair funding to schools results in inferior education and declining property values, he spent an \$8.56 filing fee for Small Claims Court to make a case against the state. He claims the system's unequal educational funding caused Richmond Unified School District's financial problems that led to bankruptcy. Last year it was Tom who successfully sued the state in Superior Court to get the district a \$1.9 million bailout loan.

This year's political polls tell the people what they are thinking long before they know themselves.

Remember when we all knew the date of California's admission to the Union as September 9th as it was a holiday? Can you identify California's star on the American flag?

What are YOU doing to assist the "Many Hands" project at Washington School? Don't be the only one on your block not to help out. The Spirit of Point Richmond!

R R R

SCHOOL IS OPEN...WATCH
FOR THE CHILDREN.

R R R

***Answer: I ought naught to owe
for I ate nothing.***

Churches

Our Lady of Mercy

Allan Smith

We will be celebrating our 90th Anniversary on September 6, 1992. John Cummins, Bishop of Oakland, will officiate at the Noon Mass. He will bless and dedicate the newly built outdoor shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary donated and built by Adolph Broussard and his wife Addie, both parishioners. Following these activities, a steak barbecue will be served from 1:00pm to 5:00pm.

Pastor James C. Clift and his parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church will be heard over radio station KEST (1450 AM) for one week starting August 21st. At 7:00pm each night, we will be reciting the Holy Rosary together which will be heard over the entire Northern California area. The popular Rosary Hour has been heard over local radio stations continuously for over 40 years.

Tony Gerk, a well-liked young member of our parish, passed away recently. He is survived by his brothers and sisters and parents John and Shirley Gerk. Tony lived with his parents in Atchison Village. The huge attendance at his funeral services was a beautiful tribute to this young man's popularity.



Point Methodist

Jean Reynolds

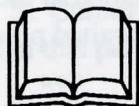
Many hands went to work to paint and clean the parsonage to make it ready for Pastor Bill Gates and his family. New carpet will be installed in the hall and on the stairway: a long awaited parsonage improvement.

The grounds beautification committee made great strides over the summer. The back lot (facing West Richmond Avenue) and the side yard of the parsonage were cleared of weeds and debris and some landscaping was done. Richardson did most of the work (great job, Richard!) with lots of help and direction from Grace and Bob Yank.

Guest speaker in the pulpit on August 9th was Jeffrey Kuan, professor of Old Testament studies at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. Also attending worship that Sunday were his wife Val and daughter Valine. Pastor Gates and his family were on vacation in Idaho.

Sunday School resumes on September 13th with our annual breakfast for returning students, their parents and teachers. The breakfast will be served by the United Methodist Women, and will begin at 9:30 AM. Classes for ages three years through senior high will be on Sundays at 10:00 AM. Students and their families who plan

to attend the breakfast should call Oretta Eaton at 234-0780 to make reservations. We are glad to have a class for three and four year olds again this year. Students in that class can look forward to taking some "discovery" walks outside with teacher Shirley Butt. Other teachers this quarter will be Elizabeth Meixel, Bill and Alice Thompson, Norm and Jean Reynolds.



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 66th installment.

April 1918

The Womans Home Missionary Society met for the Mite Box opening and business session in the church parlors.

Minutes read and approved.

Communications read & filed.

A motion was made that we send a supplies box to Sinuk (*Letter "S" may be incorrect as the pencil writing is hard to read*) Mission School at Alaska. Carried, Mrs. Grover was appointed chairman to select her own helpers.

Dues were paid by Mrs. Weston .50, Mrs. Grover 1.00, Mrs Owens .50

Lenten offering of \$1.00 was brought in. Assessment of seven members paid .70. Mite boxes were then opened by the Mite Box Secretary and found to contain \$5.06.

It was voted to finish paying the Oriental Scholarship & put remaining \$2 in Japanese work.

Refreshments were served by the President.

Thank offering .75

Total receipts \$10.51

No further business meeting closed.

Nettie Grover, Sec

May 1918	Mrs. Gibbons	\$1.20 dues
	Mrs. Gillette	.50 dues
	Mrs. Adams	1..20 dues

Back Home To The Point

Luella Bain Wilcox

What a wonderful thing the mind is! You can store memories in you mind... and when you take them out to look you find that they are still joyful and clear as they ever were.

I lived at the Point from the early 30's until I married in 1946. I remember Whitesides Grocery and Dr. Lucas. I remember how we all skated all around the Indian at the library.

My sister Mary Rudolph and Liz MacDonald brought me to the museum in June. Betty Dornan was there and we had a wonderful talk. I enjoyed all of the landmarks of my childhood, the churches, Washington School, the Natatorium, all part of beautiful memories that will always be with me.

Sports Memories

Allan Smith

Point Richmond Motorcycles

The sports memory for this issue is motorcycle riding among the young and elderly Point Richmond people in the 1930's. What I remember mostly is the motorcycle climb at the Bull Dog Point area. Mr. McDonald, father of the McDonald twins Jimmy and Harry, who are the present owners of the McDonald Enterprises on Washington Avenue in the Point, used to climb frequently. He was a heavy set man who rode a classic "Indian" motorcycle at that time. We used to watch him try to make the climb to the top despite the fact that he weighed well over 200 pounds. Many bets were made on the outcome of his efforts (the betting exchange then was the the ever popular glass marbles and baseball cards.

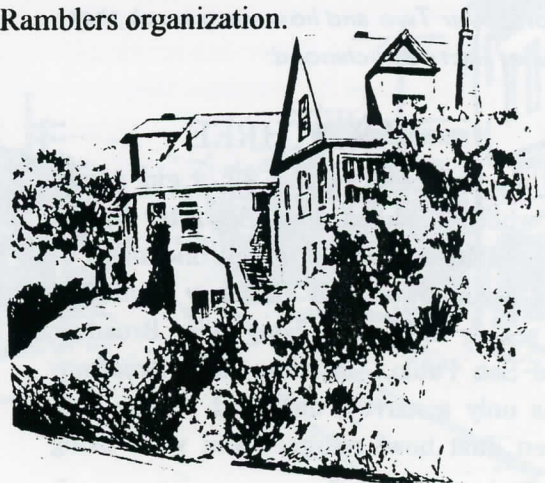
Each year when a carnival came to town during the summer school vacation they had as a great attraction a huge circular wooden tank which measured at least 50 feet high and 50 feet in circumference. A carnival motorcycle rider would ride around and around the tank, from top to bottom, at full speed, without difficulty. When the audience was asked to participate by riding tandem, very few young men would

volunteer. I remember one of the Point "dare devils", Jim Forbes, accepted the challenge and received the thrill of his life. Jim still resides in Point Richmond on Ocean Avenue.

The carnival people pitched their tents and equipment on the vacant area where Atchison Village is now and on 17th Street and MacDonald Avenue where the AC Transit bus system is located.

In later years the Richmond Ramblers, a respected motorcycle owner and rider club built a meeting hall on Dornan Drive adjacent to the Miller-Knox Park. Its clubhouse still exists on its original site but the club is now inactive.

The hills behind the clubhouse were badly scared by cyclists from other areas and was not a result of the Richmond Ramblers organization.



MEMORIES OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR IN THE RICHMOND AREA *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 for our written archives.

Here is our fifth series from Dr. Thompson. In this series he remembers what life was like in Richmond during World War Two and how very much that war effected Richmond.

PART THREE

I delivered a baby for a girl aged 13 whose husband was 16. After they left the hospital I got a call one night that the baby was ill and they wanted me to see it, they were living near Broadway and San Pablo. In those days Broadway was only a narrow dirt road. They had been dust bowl refugees and were living

in a tent a hundred yards from the road. It was raining and I had to wade through two or three inches of mud and water to get there. I found a small tent made half of canvas and half of burlap. The canvas part was fairly waterproof but the burlap part leaked badly. Things were a mess and the tiny little newborn had a respiratory infection. However even in those pre antibiotic days it recovered.

When government housing came in things got better. Atchison Village was the first development and the best built of any of the projects. It is still in use today. Esmeralda Village near the Washington School in Point Richmond was also a good project but was later torn down. Most of the other housing was in multi-apartment barrack-like structures which were built in the area south of Ohio Street. There were many unused areas there and it was fairly close to the shipyards. These crude apartment buildings were erected on all unused land often without notifying the owners. Housing development in the Point Richmond area was mostly confined to the canal area between Cutting and Garrard Boulevards.

I made a call one night in a house in the south of Ohio area. When I got

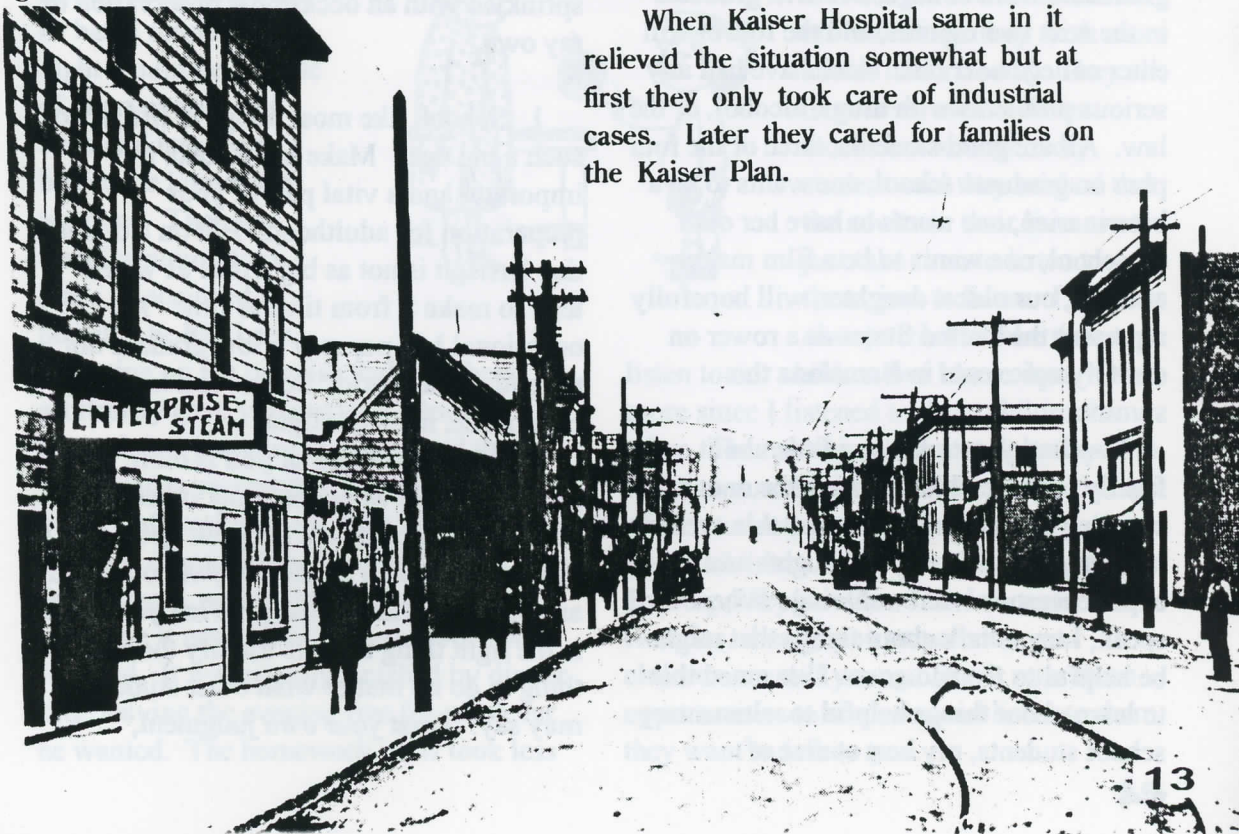
there I met another doctor just leaving and as I turned to go another doctor drove up. They had called three doctors and took the first one who arrived. The others were sent home.

On another occasion I was called one night to see a man who was said to be having a heart attack. When I arrived there I found a noisy, combative man with no evidence of a heart attack but with a strong odor of alcohol. I told the family that he was only drunk. They said that they know that but called me to give him a shot and quiet him down so they could get some sleep. They added that if they had told me he was only drunk I wouldn't have come. They were right.

Dr. Hedges told me that he was called out one night to see a baby in a coma. When he got there he found a child of about 1 1/2 or 2 years unconscious but with a strong odor of alcohol. They had been giving the child beer and it was dead drunk. Treatment consisted partly of bawling out the family. The child survived.

I was called out one night to see a delirious little girl of about 7 or 8. Questioning revealed that an aunt had been telling her ghost stories and horrible tales of demons and such. The child was scared to death. The treatment consisted of a mild sedative for the child and a bawling out of the aunt. I never saw them again.

When Kaiser Hospital same in it relieved the situation somewhat but at first they only took care of industrial cases. Later they cared for families on the Kaiser Plan.



Growing Up

by

Tom McGowan

Point Richmond businessman Tom McGowan gave the following talk to Washington School students at Founder's Day Festivities on April 29, 1992. It's a good speech that deserves a reprint, so here it is.



My wife, Shannon, a former teacher, has her masters degree and works as a psychotherapist specializing in cancer patients and their families. We have been blessed with four children. One has graduated from college, two will graduate in the next two months, and the fourth will enter college next fall. None have had any serious problems with drugs, alcohol, or the law. All are good students, three of the four plan on graduate school, one wants to be a veterinarian, one wants to have her own preschool, one wants to be a film maker, and one, our oldest daughter, will hopefully represent the United States as a rower on our Olympic team in Barcelona this summer.

I wanted you to know a little about our family because although I am the one standing up here talking to you this evening, it is largely my family's thoughts and experiences we will be sharing. Whenever I speak, I try to talk about things that might be helpful to the audience. I reasoned that to learn about things helpful to elementary school students, my best source of

information would be my own children since they have successfully made the transition from elementary to college and beyond and done it recently enough to have better recall than I would have looking back through the mist of the forty years since I left Marshall Elementary School in Eureka.

So, in preparation for tonight's talk I wrote each of our four children and asked them one question, "What things do you wish you had known when you left elementary school?" What follows is a compilation of their thoughtful comments sprinkled with an occasional observation of my own.

1. School, like most things in life, is not such a big deal. Make no mistake it is important and a vital part of your preparation for adulthood. But on a day to day basis, it is not as big a deal as we all tend to make it from time to time. An occasional late paper or a low grade is not the end of the world. School is a learning experience, not a gunfight.

2. What you think of you is more important than what you think others think of you. Your peers are not your gods. Cliques have only as much power over you as you allow them to have. What you think is the right thing to do is usually the right thing to do no matter what other students may say. Trust your own judgment,

personal power is the key, and only you are in charge of that. The best way to make friends and be liked is to be nice to others and to be yourself, period. Be aware that it may not always seem that that is true but it always is.

3. Those who get too cool, too quickly, often mess up their lives. Don't be in a rush to be an adult or imitate adult behavior. It is hard to act like an adult when you really don't know how and it is not nearly as much fun as being a kid.

4. It is so much easier to just sit down and do your homework or start on that term paper or study for that test than to put it off.

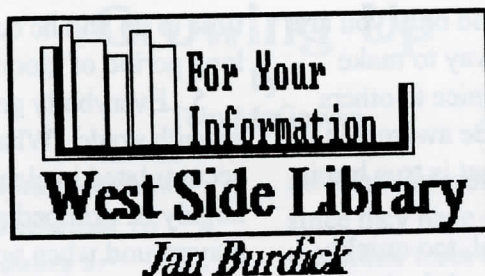
Our youngest son went through a period when he hated school. Each night would be a battle of angry words and tears and late hours before the homework got done. Then a transformation took place, it occurred to him that he had been operating on the premise that "teachers arbitrarily gave you grades." Once he learned that you earned grades and that what grades you receive depend on what quality of work you do. His school life changed dramatically, he would come home from school, go straight to his room, and not leave it until all of his homework was finished. It was usually finished by dinner time leaving the evening free for whatever he wanted. The homework itself took less



time to do and he completely skipped the long period of gloom and dread and guilt.

5. Everybody gets a fresh start in the seventh grade. Whatever baggage you have accumulated in elementary school will largely be dropped at the edge of the playground when you leave here. Your new school will be enough larger that you can make totally new friends. If you want to change some things about yourself. Junior High is a new stage on which to do so.

In closing, I want to share something with you that I learned from Mr. Shores sixth grade class here at Washington Elementary. I had asked the class to write and deliver one minute talks on "the things they wish more adults understood." They all, of course, used different words but almost every student said they wished that the adults in their lives would just take time to listen to them, just to listen. I have always tried to take time to listen to our children but I have done it even more since I listened to these children's talks. The one thing I cannot do today is to listen to our children then they were the age of the students here. My and my wife's young children don't exist anymore, they grew up, they're all in their late teens and twenties. I envy you as parents, your children are still young. Don't miss these opportunities to sit down and listen to them, they want to talk to you.



It's been quite a summer at West Side. No doubt, you have seen the scaffolding in front of the door so you know a new roof is being installed. No more worries when the winter rains come (keep the faith that they will). In addition the public bathrooms have been totally redone and an automatic front door provides accessibility. Through it all, you the patrons have been faithful about coming, in spite of the dust and the noise. This is being written as if the project has been completed as you read this article. If it isn't, well we all know about delayed deadlines.

Terrific Tuesdays through the months of July and August provided a variety of programs for children. The attendance this summer was the best since TT's were started three years ago. Lisa McMahon, from the community center, lent her expertise with the arts and crafts projects. Thank you Lisa!

On a year round basis, Story Time for Pre-schoolers is held every Thursday morning from 10:00 to 10:30. It's a good chance for newcomers to Point Richmond to share this experience with their children and met other parents and their offspring.

The following paperbacks are recent additions to West Side's collection:

Darkness
Beast
Two Girls, Fat and Thin
H is for Homicide
The House of Thunder
Woman Without a Past
Quiller Bamboo
*Joy Luck Club
*Kitchen God's Wife

John Saul
Peter Benchley
Mary Gaitskill
Sue Grafton
Dean Koontz
Phyllis Whitney
Adam Hall
Amy Tan
Amy Tan

*These are also available in hard back at West Side. Because both titles are popular, paperbacks were added for those patrons who like this format.



THE MASQUERS

Playhouse, Inc.



THE GIRL OF THE GOLDEN WEST

by DAVID BELASCO

directed by ROBERT LOVE

A Review from

Anne Hanzlik

The Masquer's stage is full of local color this summer season, that is local color of a hundred & fifty years ago.

The play takes place in the mining camp in the gold country of California, reminiscent of Virginia City atmosphere which most of us are familiar with in the set of Minnie's Polka Saloon and even her mountain cabin shown in the second act. Also the mural painting on the theater walls and is seen through the saloon's windows expertly rendered by Ruth Fox extends the illusion of the Sierra Nevada and the general area. The scenic design crew of Robert Love (also the

director and make up man) with Robert Bradshaw and John Hull have achieved a very authentic atmosphere to the Play's sets. The costumes of both Minnie and Wowkle, the Indian squaw are attractive, particularly the hats. The only criticism is perhaps that the leather chaps and saddle for the other actors looked distressingly new and unused.

David Belasco's play and later Puccini's opera of the same name and now on the Masquer's stage has a cast that is more than adequate and with a few familiar faces such as Tim Hart (the Indian) who is an old standby (and now a Point Richmonder), Eileen Smith as Minnie is returning to the Masquer's stage after an interim since being in "Candide" and "Amahl and the Night Visitors". Robert Taylor too as the bartender is returning in this production after a couple off years.

Belasco was born in San Francisco about the time of the gold rush and had written and acted in more than a hundred plays by the time he left San Francisco for the east coast and by 1900 he was securely established there and brought to the theater a new approach to melodrama as well as to other productions and with remarkably elaborate stage effects. This production although modest

lives up to his standard. A new addition to the stage is a drop curtain, used most effectively to set the mood of the play with projected photos and paintings of the era.

Another successful production should be chalked up for the Masquer's and should spur the project for their expansion.



Pamela Ciochetti (Wowkle) and
Tim Hart (Billy Jackrabbit)



THE MASQUER'S

Playhouse, Inc.

105 Park Place, Point Richmond

PROUDLY PRESENTS

"THE GIRL
OF THE
GOLDEN WEST"

By David Belasco
Directed by Robert Love



The Classic American drama about the redemptive power of a woman's love.

THE CAST:

Bill Chessman
Pamela Ciochetti
John Hale
Tim Hart
Gene Kahane

Don Mariano
Steve McLaughlin
Helen Nace
Edward Nason
Steen Sellers

Scott Slone
Eileen Smith
Robert Taylor
Dave Wilson

Friday & Saturday evenings — August 21 - October 3, 1992
Sunday Matinees — August 30, Sept. 13, Sept. 27

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, October 1. Dinner and ticket to "The Girl of the Golden West" for only \$25.00. To reserve, CALL: (510) 236-4988.

COMING: The ever-popular musical 'Fiddler on the Roof' opens October 30.

Point Richmond
History Association

Washington School "Many Hands" Project

Information taken from Project Bulletin No. 2

For more information contact Doris Silva at 510-234-4669

The Washington School "Many Hands" Project was launched in June, 1992, to coordinate and encourage community efforts to revitalize the school. The project's goal is to re-establish Washington School as a top notch educational institution.

The community has shown tremendous enthusiasm and support for the project. In fact new helpers call nearly every day asking how they too can become involved. Many are volunteering to form or join new committees to address special areas of interest, such as student discipline and self-esteem, fund raising and creative student activities.

Adopt-a-Class Program Successful!

Local businesses have volunteered to "adopt" Washington School's classes. Each business adopting a class has pledged \$150 to support teachers inside the classroom. They expect to sign up three adopting sponsors per class, which means over \$450 per class--a total of \$3,600 pledged to the school from the Adopt-a-Class program alone. All of this will be coming from small businesses in town (plus the local branch of Mechanics Bank).

Businesses who have signed up to adopt a class at Washington School are planning various programs. Most reflect the business's own orientation and the personal interests of the individuals involved. One

employer plans to write letters to all their students and encourage an exchange of letters; another will offer to bring musicians in for special programs. Others envision field trips either to their own business or elsewhere. These programs will develop more after the sponsors and teachers become better acquainted.

A number of businesses involved plan to adopt the same class through several years, getting to know at least some of the students well and hopefully assisting them as friends on into the future.

If you are interested in adopting a class, contact Tom McGowan at 510-231-0244.

The "Many Hands" project has other well thought out goals including one to pinpoint the specific needs of the teachers and if possible fulfill those needs.

Another goal is to revitalize the PTA. They feel that parental involvement appears to be a common denominator among successful schools. Even the smallest effort put forth by a busy parent tells their children how important education is. "Actions speak louder than words"--a parent can say learning is important; action which support the school say much more to the students.

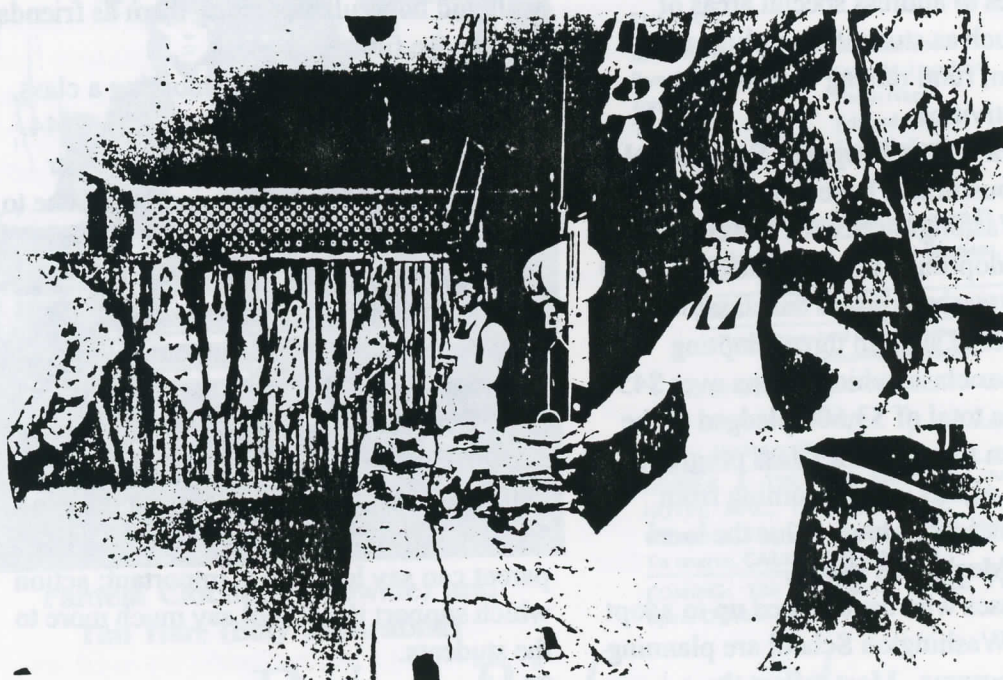
Their motto: Many Hands Make Light Work--*Get Involved!*

AND FROM MR. JOE SAVILL

*Mr. Savill is a longtime member of the History Association, he lives in Burlingame.
We appreciate his keeping in touch.*

Dear Jerry,

This is my grandfather's butcher shop in Point Richmond. His name was J. Savill. Note: in your calendar two years ago, I believe you called it Santa Fe Market. I seem to remember it was on a block like a flatiron shape. Maybe an early map will show such a block. You could come in from one street and go out the other street. The back of this original picture is marked 1902. That's my dear Dad up front with a curl hanging over his temple. The other man in back I don't know. Grand-dad isn't in the picture. Keep this picture for your Historical Society of Point Richmond. Thanks for the calendar.



Keep up the good work.
Joe Savill

AND FROM MR. JOE SAVILLE

Dear This Point In Time,

In your May newsletter, page 7, you mentioned John Dooling, 1913. Yes, he was elected and he was my uncle. We called him Uncle Jack or John D. While he as in office they once went on a trip to Santa Barbara, California.

My dear Mother used to tell me many happenings in her day. In 1887, her and Jack Dooling's mother was a widow with 6 children to raise. The first thing she did was sell a bull for \$100 to feed them. They lived on a rented ranch now 23rd Street in Richmond, believed owned by the McClure family, about 1/4 or 1/2 mile South of where the Santa Fe Railroad and the Southern Pacific Railroad cross one another, she bought 30 acres, part of the Emrick Ranch about two miles North of this crossing, now Richmond High School. Uncle Jack (John) was the businessman of the family and helped the family sell to the Richmond High group. That must have been in the 1920's.

When the McClure youth sold his 23rd Street property, mother had receipts, help in proving family ownership. The result was that the family gave Jack, Pete, and Thomas Dooley (brothers) part of the land to live on.

My parents married at San Pablo in the priest's front room. Dad was a Protestant. Now they are buried across San Pablo Avenue in St. Joseph Cemetary, plot D-0-7-4. I think they were married in 1902 or 1904.

My Grand-dad Joseph Savill owned the Santa Fe Market at your Point. Dad worked as a butcher, those days driving a meat wagon to ranches, etc., and cutting meat from the wagon even in the rain and wind. Dad used to tell me it was d----- rough at the time selling meat at Dooling, sometimes called Dolan, Ranch, where he met my dear Mother, Esther Dooling.

Mother lived and attended high school in Oakland and went home once a week by train to Richmond, then called San Pablo or Stege. Her commercial learning was a great help after the '06 Earthquake, when dad managed a Burlingame branch of a small meat chain on the Peninsula, called Peninsula Meat Market.

I have a newspaper from September 8th, 1902 called the "Point Richmond Record", containing my parents' marriage announcement. Other headlines were: "Santa Fe to Build Depot", and "Trolley Line a Reality". I may photocopy it for you.

I enjoyed Sunday's television program, Bay Area Backroads, about Point Richmond. Keep up your good work.

Yours Truly,
Joe Savill

Joe did send photocopy of 1902 Point Richmond Record over the summer, will do something with it in future issues, thanks Joe, Gary.



Dear Pam:

Have meant to join for months, but just procrastinated until I decided- DO IT!

Love TPIT, my sister Mary Rudolph let me read all of her back issues. I love the happy memories! ☺

Luella Bain Wilcox
Oroville, CA



Dear Ms. Wilson:

I was delighted to receive a copy of your Newsletter. Although we left "The Point" in 1919 or 1920 for Solano County, I spent a quite a bit of time visiting there over the years.

Our next door neighbors, Fred and Mary Neu were our point of contact during that time. Also the "Richmond Independent" was received regularly.

I have no plans to travel to California in the foreseeable future, but one of these days, I am sure, I'll get out there. I hope that will give me an opportunity to meet you.

Robert T. Barnes
Bowie, Maryland



Dear Ms. Wilson:

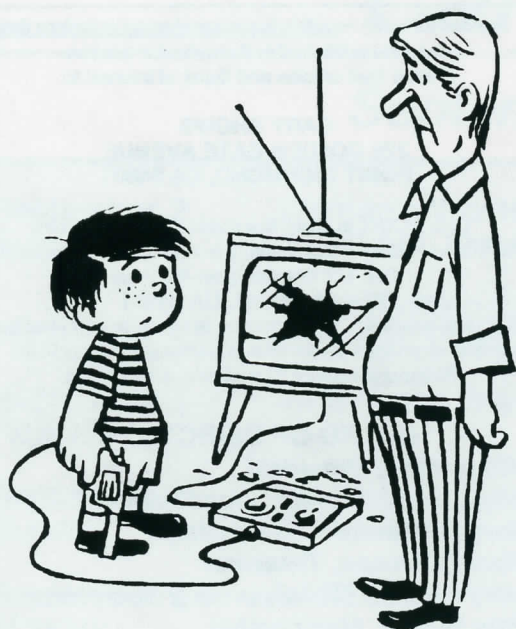
My second complimentary copy of your newsletter crossed in the mail with my application for membership. Thanks for keeping my name on the list.

I particularly enjoyed the article by Bernard Bernes on all the street vendors. I'm not sure that the people I've told about that really believed me. It was nice to see it in print. One that he didn't mention, that I think I remember, was the Oriental men with the long pole over their shoulder and baskets on each end of the pole. I think he sold fish or shrimp.

I too remember getting a weenie at the butcher shop when I would go there with my Dad. I remember the name Pucci. I thought it was he, but it may have been one of his neighbors whose son was in the army over seas during WW1. He would write to his father in Italian, but since the father didn't read, my Dad would bring the letters home from the post office and read the Italian words, which he did not understand, then the translations would be given by the boy's father.

Finally, I was delighted to see a picture of the Charles van Damme. I really enjoyed saying that name when I was five years old!

Many thanks,
Robert T. Barnes
Bowie, Maryland



And Point Richmond is on
Bay Area Backroads tonight!



"If you worry about missing the boat...remember the Titanic"

-Sidney Bolon

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

(234-5334)

DORIS MASKE

IVAR ELLE

SARA WARREN SMITH

EMILY ANNE BARNES

HATTIEBELLE POTTS

ROBERTA WILSON

BERNARD DEITZ

STEPHEN BERMAN

GAYLE KAUFMAN

ROXANNE TRUDEAU

DAVID REYNOLDS

PLYLLIS GLASS ACKERMAN

JUNE KUNKLE BLACKBURN

THERESA DANIEL

SUSAN ARMSTRONG

DANIEL BUTT

JOANN BUSBY

AL FROSINI

SHANE EASTMAN

MARY FORBES

INGVAR ELLE

WILL SPIERSCH

JOHN HADREAS

KENNETH DOLAN

JERRY CERKANOWICZ

NANCY EARDLEY

DONNA ROSELIUS

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.
Please mail articles and items of interest to:

GARY SHOWS
229 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE
POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801

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

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Phone _____

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Joe Savill
"Many Hands" Project
Tom McGowan

Calendar

September, 1992

September 2 <i>Tuesday</i>	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
September 4 <i>Friday</i>	First Indian Statue dedicated, 1904
September 6 <i>Sunday</i>	Ninetieth Anniversary Bar-B-Que at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, 1:00, <i>see inside front cover.</i>
September 7 <i>Monday</i>	LABOR DAY
September 9 <i>Wednesday</i>	Point Richmond Business Association Meeting, Noon, Hotel Mac
September 18 <i>Friday</i>	DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF TPIT
September 28 <i>Monday</i>	First Day of Rosh Hashanah
October 6 <i>Tuesday</i>	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
October 7 <i>Wednesday</i>	Yom Kippur
October 12 <i>Monday</i>	Columbus Day
October 14 <i>Wednesday</i>	Point Richmond Business Association Meeting, Noon, Hotel Mac