

# THIS POINT in time

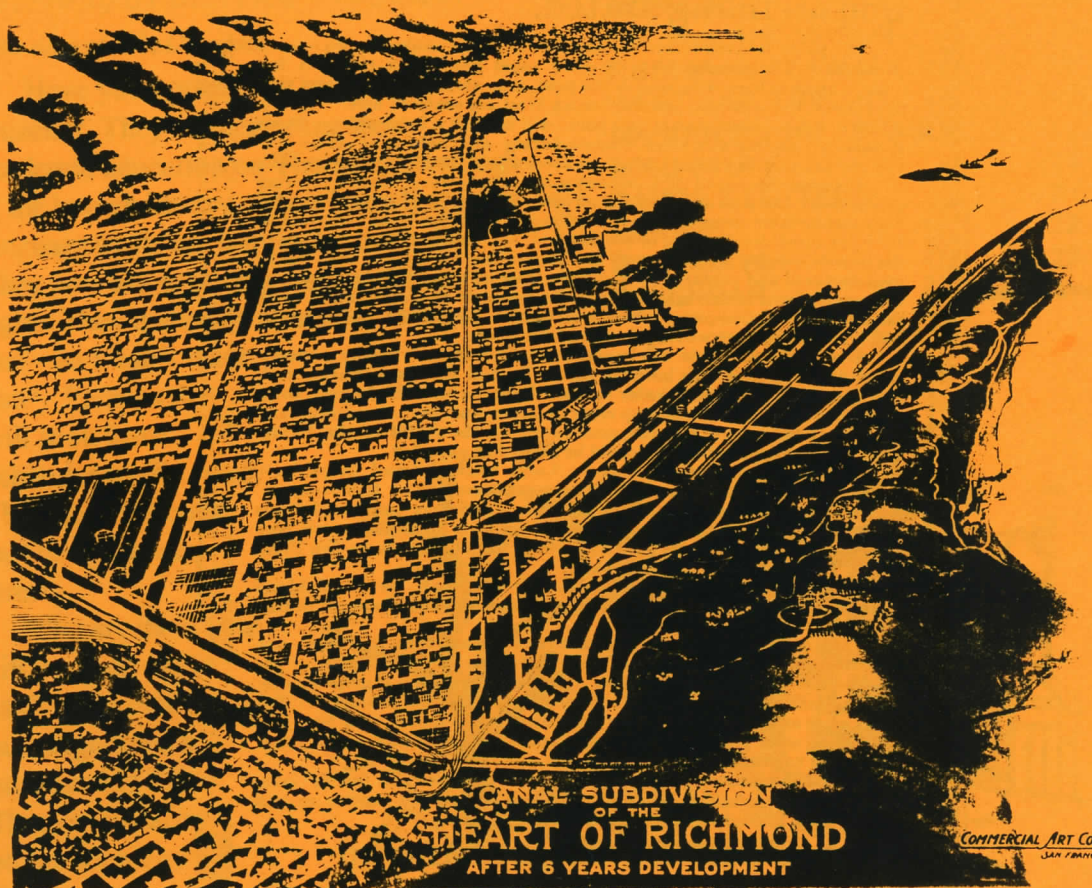
NEWSLETTER

THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL XI No 4

OCTOBER, 1992

\$1.50



CANAL SUBDIVISION  
OF THE  
HEART OF RICHMOND  
AFTER 6 YEARS DEVELOPMENT



# POINT RICHMOND

The town of all others in the Golden State of California that is growing. Only two years old and has already over 3,000 population. September, 1900 saw its first building erected, its first streets opened, its first business houses inaugurated.

The public is invited now to come and look and make its own comparisons. The prospect for a far more rapid growth in the next few years, than has been witnessed in the past, is so strongly emphasized that the eyes of all California and the Golden West are centered here. Everywhere it is recognized that at this point will be built a large city. Point Richmond's destiny as a large manufacturing and industrial center is so well defined, that in commercial circles everywhere the fact is fully credited.

The great Standard Oil Company's immense refining plant is nearing completion; the pipe line from the oil fields is being built rapidly. The tank steamers for carrying the oil to all ocean ports are being constructed. With the rapid development of the demand for fuel oil there is no limit to the possibilities for growth. All the by products of oil are also to be manufactured and prepared for shipment from here. The several miles of deep water front are to be dotted with factories of all sorts, allied with the Standard Oil Company, which will furnish them their residuum for fuel, a substance that would otherwise be a waste.

Around the peninsula will be constructed a belt line railway connecting all the industries with both the Santa Fe and Southern Pacific railway systems. With deep water on their front, where the largest ships that plow the ocean can come up close to shore and lay at anchor, and these great railways in the rear, penetrating all the states of the Union, what better shipping facilities could be desired or expected.

The Santa Fe's terminal is here. Large brick railroad shops have just been completed and hundreds of men in the employ of this company will be kept here constantly. The Southern Pacific has purchased lands for yards and wharf and will soon put a large force of men at work constructing a freight terminal with all facilities for a barge line to San Francisco. Their plans are very elaborate.

The trolley car line from Oakland is now being built by the Oakland Transit Company. Everything points to a wonderful development during the coming year.

There is plenty of good real estate yet to be had from first hand and at reasonable prices. If you don't buy and get in on the ground floor, you have no one but yourself to blame. Here is a town that is growing into a city as fast as money and men can make the transformation. A few years more and you will be telling your friends how foolish you were for not buying some property here when it could have been had for a song. You ought to grasp the opportunity.

Any of the following dealers in real estate will give you full information. They are reliable. Write for maps and descriptive matter or call and see them and inspect the proposition for yourself.

**H. A. JOHNSTON, Richmond**

**F. C. SCHRAM, 997 Market St., S. F.**

# History Association Notes

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY MID DORNAN

*Mid Dornan is on vacation, this "From the President" report is courtesy of our Vice-President Elizabeth McDonald.*

Have you noticed our many new citizens? They are beginning their academic education on Thursday mornings at the branch library. Their knowledge and language skills are improving everyday. They now know the meaning of left and right. They distinctly enunciate "I want that - no I don't want that". Perhaps they will soon learn vehicular traffic rules. They do drive quite fast on quiet level streets.

Who are these new citizens you might ask? Why they are our neighborhood's preschool children. They enjoy each others company (between spats) and enjoy librarian Jan

*continued on page 2*

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*"From the President" continued.....*

Burdick reading to them on Thursday morning story time. They come home with new knowledge such as knowing left and right. And how they enjoy speeding on the quiet streets as fast as their little legs and feet can propel their little vehicles.

It is a wondrous pleasure to hear and observe our new citizens - our future.

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

HAZEL TAWNEY  
BERNICE SHOWS  
ETHEL SCHUMACHER  
MARY J. RUDOLPH  
ANNA S. GAUMER  
LUCIANO & BONNIE FORNER  
VIVIEN E. COOK  
WM. & ALYCE WILLIAMSON  
LUIS R. CUNAN  
EDNA HATHAWAY  
MONICA HALEY

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

SANTA FE MARKET  
PT. RICHMOND MARKET

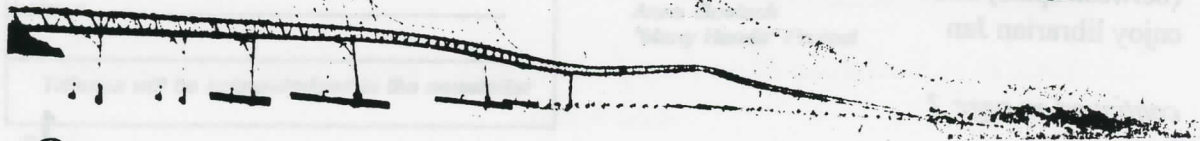
**Museum Staff Coordinator Betty Dornan says thank you to the following volunteers for staffing the History Museum in September!**

JERRY CERKANOWICZ  
PAT BEHRENS  
MARGE MILLER  
BERNARD CHRISTENSEN  
MARY HIGHFILL  
ELIZABETH MC DONALD  
VIRGINIA CHERNIAK

**Volunteers are still needed, staffing the museum is an easy, pleasant way to become involved. You just spend a couple of hours now and then watching Point Richmond go by, call Betty at 232-4317 if you can help.**

### **Museum Hours**

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





# Editor's Notes

*Gary Shows*

This month we feature several new things, highlighted by the first of Mid Dornan's fascinating account of her recent visit to Russia and Eastern Europe. This part of the world is going through such an important, interesting and tough time we are fortunate to have a first hand report with a local perspective. I think you will find it very interesting.

See page 10 for a new idea suggested by one of our members. I am calling it "Authors" and very much wish that anyone who has something to contribute will.

The deadline for the November issue (can you believe *November...already*) will be October 16th. I might be able to fit in time sensitive material as late as October 24th, nothing will be accepted after that date.

## ***The Cover:***

*I took this image from one of our Don Church albums. It has no caption and I don't know much about it. It was obviously prepared to promote the wharf, perhaps someone can tell us know more about it?*

## **The September Issue**

### **Assembly Crew:**

Mary Highfill  
Elizabeth McDonald  
Anne Hanzlik  
Jerry Cerkanowicz  
Gary Shows



**Best of luck to our**



**1992**

**Major League Baseball's  
American League  
Western Division  
Champions  
Good Luck in the Playoffs!**

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# THIS OLD HOUSE...

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Muriel C. Clausen

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## *Influences On the Early Homes of Point Richmond*

### **Chapter II Part 1**

This chapter is a reference for your review of the publication "This Point In Time, an historical view of Point Richmond", 1980, printed by the Point Richmond History Association and written by Donna Roselius, Teresa Albro, Michelle Brown, and Rosemary Corbin. The purpose is to analyze the influences and subsequent results of the time and location in which those early homes were built for and by the workers of Point Richmond from the 1900's to the 1930's. This too can help relate Point Richmond's development to that of other parts of the country during that time frame.



Point Richmond, as we have described, began as a "company town" for the workers of the Standard Oil Refinery and for the Santa Fe Railway Company. Houses built by the companies or by the

workers sprang up quickly to fill the housing demand. Shops and service buildings joined in until a small town was formed, with the shops and service buildings down on the more level area and the houses closely surrounding on the hillsides.

Where did all of the workers come from and what influenced them to build the kinds of homes that we find in early Point Richmond?

When you read the names of those who built the earliest houses, Paasch, McHenry, Lawrence, Patten, McCracken, Thole, Eakle, Stiefvater, Conn, O'Hara, Vloebergh, Renacre, Allen, Michaelin, and others you read a cross section of the "melting pot" of the many families from Europe who migrated to the United States. Gradually families drew in others of their families until certain groups of an immigrant nationality began to predominate. In Point Richmond we see a strong Italian immigrant influence that persists to this day. This is similar in pattern to the grouping of Italian immigrants in San Francisco. America is this "melting pot" of the early



immigrants with areas, cities, and towns gradually showing this same tendency for the larger groupings of immigrants. Such community gathering gave strength to the individuals and enthusiasm for the work that they eagerly chose to do as our country was getting its start.

The immigrants brought to this country concepts of the homes that they left behind; but they quickly found that conditions in this new country, that they were anxious to call home, were different and that

materials that they had to build with were mostly new to them. They quickly adapted themselves to their new environment building functional houses yet bearing memories from the homeland which were sometimes reflected in their new homes.

Workers coming to Point Richmond found a large uncluttered rancho that had recently been divided conceptually for use other than grazing cattle. It was perhaps available for the location of a town and homes; or so it appeared to the Standard Oil Company and to the Santa Fe Railway Company. With that the little town started, and very quickly at that. It was a clean

palette upon which the builders could commence work.

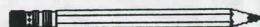
This little area, "East Yard" as it was first called, was on the West side of a vast United States and was at the Northern end of a state which differed vastly from its

Southern end. The Southern part of the state was fairly level with a background of mountains and a mild, warm climate but was scarce in wood supply and water. This Northern area was relatively far away from the South state and the East Coast and was a multitude of vertical hills with a gusty, windy, foggy climate, although mild year around. There were alot of forests, and



there was a generous supply of water in the mountains to be tapped. These distances and differences led to differences in building and differences in materials used. However, the influences of the East Coast, and to some extent those of the Southern part of the state were reflected here in Point Richmond in a special local way, yielding particularly charming results. A review of the building influences of the East Coast, of the Southern part of the state, and of local influences can be enlightening in terms of the building results found in Point Richmond.

DS



# Churches

## Our Lady of Mercy

Allan Smith

Many thanks to our Editor, Gary Shows, for the appropriate September issue cover of This Point in Time. It showed a picture of our church as it existed in 1908.

We celebrated our 90th Anniversary on September 6, 1992. PRHA's Gary Shows and Jerry Cerkanowicz were present for the festivities and showed many photos of early Point Richmond days. Many former members of the parish were also present, among them were Mr. & Mrs. Joe Hirth who were married here 60 years ago. Mrs. Hirth was the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. John Medo, pioneer church members who lived on Scenic Avenue. Her brother, John Jr. was a casualty of World War Two serving in the European theatre.

Eleanor Hurley, (1907-1992) died on September 3, 1992. A lifelong member of the parish she was a beautiful person who did much for everyone and especially her parish church. Eleanor was in charge of the altar linens as well as the altar decorations for Easter Sunday and Christmas Day.

Miss Hurley worked at one time for the Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. Later working for the Chevron Company, Richmond Refinery from where she retired.

One issue of This Point in Time featured

Eleanor Hurley on the cover and a biographical history.

Pastor Jim Clift attended the Annual Diocesan Priest's Retreat at the San Damiano Retreat House in Danville.



## Point Methodist

Jean Reynolds

No report.



POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION  
139½ WASHINGTON AVE.



## 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 67th installment.*

June 1918

Mrs. Weston 1.20

Mrs. Gillette 1.20

Meeting at the church. Opened by President. Minutes read and approved. Report of work for year read. This being election of officers, a motion was made that the Secretary cast the ballot for the present officers to hold office another year. This motion carried and the Sec. cast the ballot.

It was decided to not have a meeting in July as some members would be out of town on vacations.

The next meeting to be at the Parsonage & have a tea.

Nettie Grover, Sec

## Washington School "Many Hands" Project

Dr. Byron Lambie, Washington School principal met with Many Hands organizers and conducted a tour of the school. Dr. Lambie also listed specific school needs, all needs could be filled by volunteers.

Dr. Lambie's list of school needs:

1. Librarian Assistants
2. Computer Lab Assistants
3. Shop Teacher
4. Yard Parents
5. Teacher's Aid
6. Tutors

School volunteers work under a program called Richmond School Volunteers (which provides liability insurance, among other things. If you think you can help or want more information about a specific role call Sallie DeWitt (232-4291) or Doris Silva (234-4669).



# *Sports Memories*

*Allan Smith*

## ***Richmond Union High School in 1936***

Greg Solich, Point Richmond native and attorney, gave me a 1936 Richmond Union High School graduation year book called "The Shield".

Many Point students were mentioned in the publication and they are as follows: Loyd Christopher, J.D. Vincent, Elsin Beck, Greg Solich, Dick Wilkins, Rex Bath, Edward Palenchar, Leonard Smith, Edna Wickersheim, Bobby Perasso, Lola Machado, Albert Frosini, Stella Anellini, Marie Corr, Silvio Cecchi, Mary Wilkins, B. Adams, Don Busby, Betty Dornan and Eulalia Granado. Many of these Point Richmond people excelled in academics, music and sports. Elsin Beck was Secretary of Senior Day and also on the Honor Society as was Stella Anellini.

Stella received the "platinum pin" the highest award in the Honor Society, Marie Corr, Girls League Officer, J.D. Vincent, Hi-Y officer, president and band member (trombone). Edna Wickersheim was president of the Girl Reserves.

Richmond High sports in this year of 1936 were well represented by the Point Richmond athletes: Silvio Cecchi in basketball as well as baseball and football (quarerbback). J.D. Vincent in track and field were he won many hurdles races and was elected captain of the team. Leonard Smith and Loyd Christopher both excellent baseball players and later played professional baseball. Don Busby and B. Adams great for the swimming team and Greg Solich in baseball.

Point Richmond was well represented at the Richmond Union High School.



Photograph - Sketch of  
Richmond Union High School in DC.  
at Richmond High School, and Spring of 37



# What's going on at Janice Park

*Anne Goetsch  
Treasurer, Point Richmond Neighborhood Council  
Fundraiser, Janice Park Fund*

A year ago April, a friend of mine died of breast cancer. She was my age (33) with a daughter the age of mine, born just 4 days apart. We used to attend "storytime" at the library on Thursdays together with many other moms & kids. After a quick stop at the bakery, we'd spend an hour or two at Janice Park.

Needless to say, her passing hit me very hard. I wanted to do something to remember her by, to memorialize her silent struggle--she never told any of her friends here in the Point that she was even ill. I made a call to the city of Richmond about a park bench in her name and ended up talking to the Superintendent of Small Parks & Landscaping, Manny Rosas about our little park. He was in the process of reviewing all of the "corner parks" in Richmond for improvements so I jumped right on the bandwagon and we've been working together ever since. And the park bench is in the works, too.....

It's been one delay after another but we may have a new park by the end of the year! It looks like the new equipment (paid for by a grant to the

city) will include new swings, including at least 2 baby swings, 2 new bounce-riders, a new merry-go-round, a multilevel, multiactivity climbing structure and a "train" playhouse. The project will include new benches for tired moms and solid paths through brand new sand to the climbing structure for strollers & wheelchairs. The icing on the cake will be an ornamental iron fence around the park to keep the dogs out & the kids in!

My vision for Janice park is a multifaceted play area for kids of many ages and moms of many talents to come together and continue to share with and support one another.

So keep your fingers crossed for Christmas and if you would like to contribute towards the new fence, send checks to:

**Janice Park Fund  
P.O. Box 386  
Pt. Richmond, CA 94801**



# AUTHORS

*Point Richmond has been the home of a number of famous authors. We know of at least seven, and suspect that there may be many more. We thought it might be both fun and interesting to compile a comprehensive list of past (and present) Point Richmond authors, so we are asking for your help. If you know of any famous or not so famous Point authors who are, or were Point Richmond residents let us know their names, where they live or lived and what notable text did they write. We will add your information to our list. Send all information to :*

**TPIT/Authors  
Attn: Gary Shows  
229 Golden Gate Avenue  
Point Richmond, CA 94801**

*If we get some participation from our readers, perhaps in a later issue we can do a similar listing of past and present Point Richmond artists, your involvement is important.*

*Thanks to one of our members (who wishes to remain anonymous) for the concept of this article and for most of the factual information. Also,*

*thanks to our always helpful and enthusiastic librarian Jan Burdick for her research.*

## FAMOUS AUTHORS WHO LIVED IN POINT RICHMOND

### **1. Bertha Damon**

She lived on Western Drive and had written:

- ☛ A Sense of Humus
- ☛ Gramma Called it Carnal.

### **2. Harold Davis**

Mr. Davis also lived on Western Drive and wrote two novels on early Oregon:

- ☛ Honey in the Horn
- ☛ Beulah Land

### **3. Eugene Burdick**

Another Western Drive resident, he wrote:

- ☛ Ugly American
- ☛ Ninth Wave
- ☛ Fail Safe



#### **4. Bob Reid**

Mr. Reid lived on Park Place. He had written restaurant reviews, notably two or more editions of:

☛ The Underground Gormet

with collaboration:

☛ The Barns of the Abbey of Beaulieu

☛ The Plan of St. Gall

☛ The Forgotten Hermitage of Skellig Michael

#### **5. Weldon Kees**

Yet another neighbor on Western Drive, Mr. Kees wrote poetry, notably:

☛ The Last Man

☛ The Fall of the Magicians

#### **7. Gertrude Harris**

Lived on Ocean Avenue and Cypress Point Road. She wrote:

☛ Pots and Pans

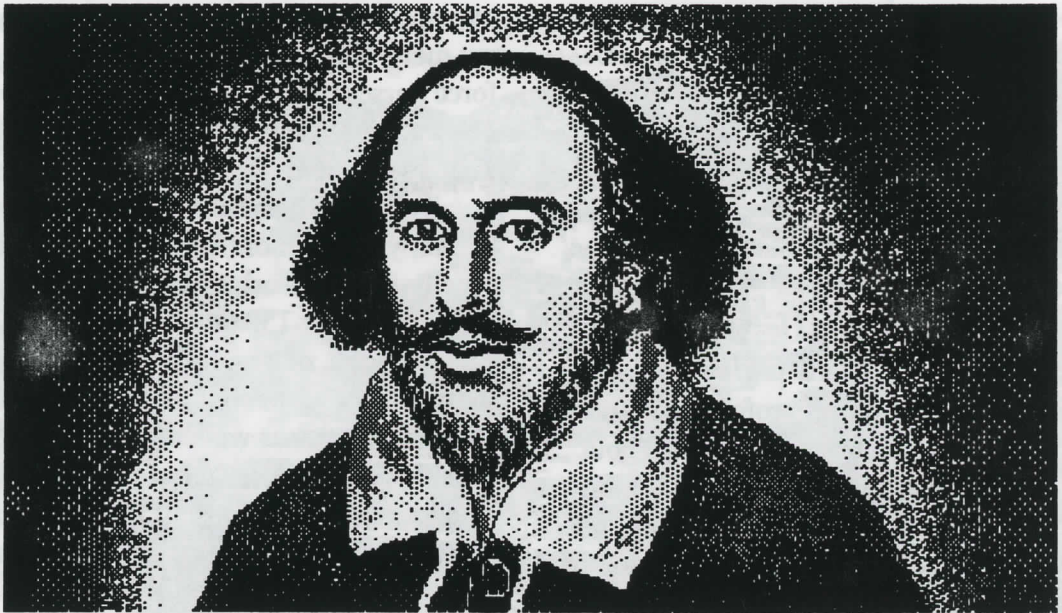
☛ Pasta International

☛ Manna—Foods of the Pioneers

#### **6. Walter Horn**

This Professor Emeritus, Art History at the University of California lives on Western Drive. He wrote, sometimes

8. ???



# MEMORIES OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR IN THE RICHMOND AREA

*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 FOUR

Most of the medical profession in those days worked long hours. A 75 or 80 hour week was the usual and often it was more. Pay was poor. There was almost no insurance and most people had little to spend. Most of us took care of the families of servicemen without charge. Emergency

care was given in the emergency room at the Richmond Hospital and doctors were assigned on first and second call by the week. On one weekend around a New Years' Day, I saw 44 emergency cases and was paid only 6 dollars. One man had Union Oil Insurance.

Nursing service was poor, not because of incompetence, but because of a shortage of nurses. Those working did heroic work. The government was partly responsible for this. All salaries were set by government orders and the lowest salary scale of all were nurses. The cleaning women in the hospitals got more. The reason for this was to try and force nurses into the service. Women were not drafted so they could not force them in. The low salary method didn't work. They usually left the hospital and went to work in the shipyards at more than twice the pay, usually for less work. One nurse employed in our office for 150 dollars a month, the allowed wage, quit and went to the shipyards for 450 dollars a month. All she had to do there was walk around wearing a metal hat and look for unsafe things.

During the war, most of us had to do work usually done by specialists such as neurosurgery and orthopedics. More specialists than general men were taken into the Army. At the Richmond Hospital, we



had only one nurse anesthetist so we had to do much of our surgery under local or spinal anesthesia. Even so the anesthetist was badly overworked, being on call for all emergencies day and night. At times a few of us would get together and give anesthesia for a day so she could get a day off.

Laboratory technicians were also in short supply. My future wife was a technician at the Richmond Hospital and at one time for several weeks she was the only technician in the lab. In addition to a heavy day load of lab work, she had to do all night, weekend, and emergency work. It was quite a strain.

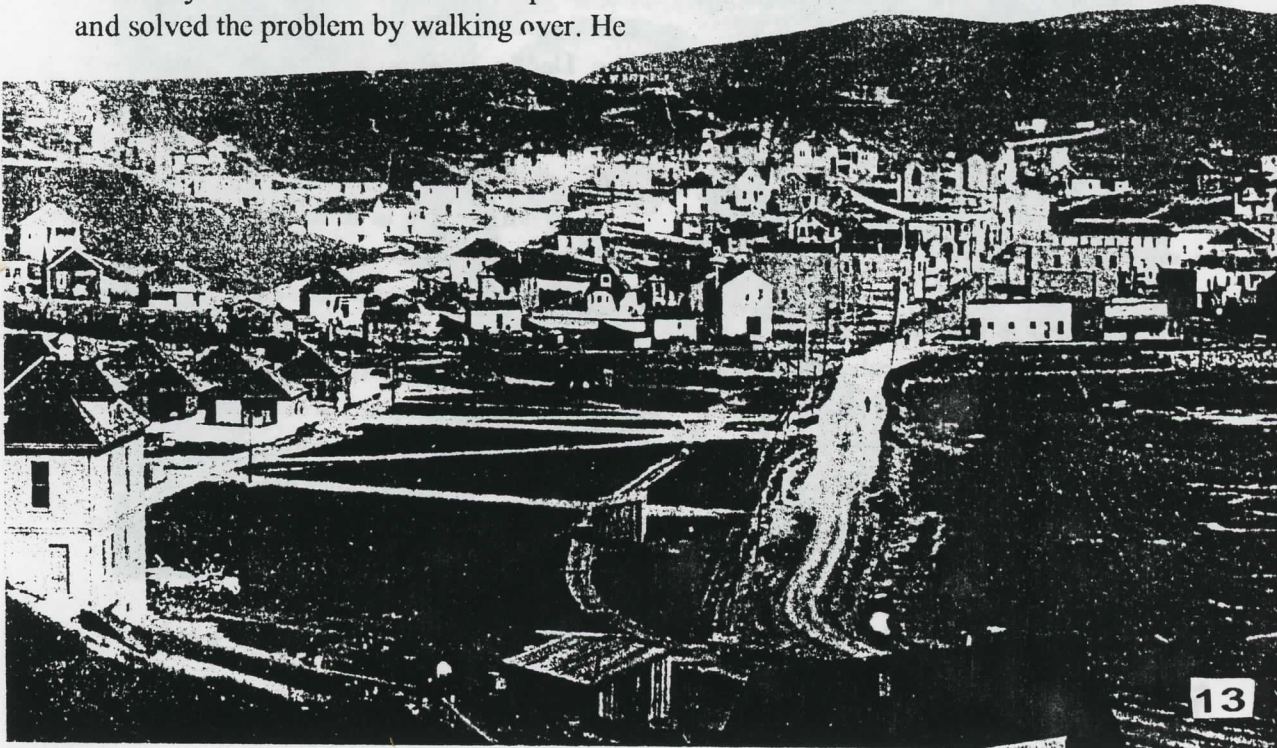
Blackouts made some trouble especially for maternity cases. During a blackout one couldn't drive to the hospital when called. Often if a woman was in labor at night we would stay at the hospital. Dr. Boomer lived only a few blocks from the hospital and solved the problem by walking over. He

would come when needed for any doctor on the staff that was unable to come.

Fortunately blackouts were few and not of long duration. On one occasion I was caught in a blackout only a few blocks from my office. I turned out my lights and crept along to the office. There I could enter an X-ray darkroom where I could turn on the lights. I read until the "All Clear" sounded.

Maternity work was heavy at Richmond Hospital. We were delivering 150 to 200 babies a month. The hospital stay had to be correspondingly short. There was only one delivery room and one minor surgery room which could be used, so deliveries often had to be completed in labor rooms or other rooms. I recall delivering a baby on a cot in the hall before the elevator during visiting hours with only some screens around. However, we had few complications.

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# Russia As I Saw It

Mid Dornan

*My recent trip to Russia, the Baltics, the Ukraine and Eastern Europe was dramatic, bizarre and magical. Travelers interested in visiting Russia and its neighbors should be prepared for an educational rather than vacational trip. Formerly, the Russian government planned where and what for tourists. Now, everything has changed. With passport and visa in hand, I went freely almost everywhere. I do not feel qualified to debate the political movement and threatening problems or the impact of the agreement with the International Monetary Funds with stabilizing the ruble. It has been 7 months since the breaking of the Soviet Union and Boris Yelsin is President of the reformist government. Russia is now trying to put together a workable Constitution.*

*My feelings and observations are just that--mine. It was a memorable trip in historic times. I went with a long-time friend from Stockton. Only St. Petersburg, Moscow, and the "Golden Ring" in Russia are discussed.*

## St. Petersburg

Arriving in St. Petersburg, Russia on an old, run-down Russian train from Finland, my first impression was that Communism didn't work. There is shocking disrepair everywhere. The city is a mixture of old and new. The old was magnificent, ornate and stately; the new (after 1948) is large gray

concrete blocks, 8 million people live in 800,00 of the 90% government owned apartments. There are no single homes in St. Petersburg. A three bedroom apartment is spacious by Russian standards and waiting lists for an apartment are from 6-11 years. As there aren't garages with the apartments, cars are stored in small, run-down, storage-locker sized buildings outside of town. It takes 40 minutes to get the car of one of our married guides who takes the Metro to get there. Her father is the only one that drives and they go to their Dacha, small country home, on weekends. The Dacha is about the size of our two car garages and may or may not have water and electricity but always has space for a small garden.

Privitization is a word used often but few have rubles to buy. For over 70 years the Communist Party supplied everything free..... free education, free medical as well as free holiday centers and summer camps. Workers didn't have to think about making life better so there wasn't any incentive or motivation. Consequently, they became "lazy".

Lazy is a word used often to describe the Russians by the guides



who are educated, young and well-dressed. They talked freely and openly and felt Americans overreacted to conditions within their country last year my not visiting. With so many changes in recent months, one young guide commented, "I must carry a Passport now but I feel like I am without a country!" She also expressed fear of another coup.

80% of Russian industry is military with the best housing going to them. When asked how many people were employed in a big office or factory the guide replied, "We are never told that." Nor were we allowed in the large office buildings.

I saw few food lines as people do not have rubles to buy it. Their markets pale when compared to even our "Mom 'n Pop" stores. Meats are displayed so buyers can literally 'pickup and choose' and when the cow's eye was included in one cut of meat, my stomach revolted! The biggest lines were for Petro. Trucks were lined up almost a mile at a



station not open and cars were known to wait several days for petrol. Outside the cities and in the surrounding countryside these lines were few. One of our drivers self-serviced at an austere, 2-pump island installed in an open area corroded with oil-soaked dirt. With Russia rich in oil reserves, it seems

ironic to have the gas lines as you learn the oil is being sold to neighboring countries for greater profits!

Statues of former Russian leaders are everywhere but most of the Lenin statues have been removed. Some disapprove adding, "Lenin is a part of our history so let him remain." The people have lived through Stalin,

Lenin, WWII and the fall of Communism, all of this is reflected in their unsmiling faces. This aura of sadness belies the kind and good-hearted people that we encountered. On my third day in St. Petersburg a young girl about 12 years-old misunderstood my shrugged shoulders and furrowed brow as I searched my bag for rubles to buy an ice cream on the street. She walked

up to me, smiled, said something in Russian then handed me a 10 ruble (9 cents), gave me another big smile as she skipped away to join her friends, looking back over her shoulder.

Bewildered at first and confused, I realized what she had shared and as I ate my ten ruble ice cream, a tender memory was made indelible.

Nevsky Prospekt is a long, crowded street where some things are sold in rubles but most want "hard currency". A cookie is 4 cents and a ride on the Neva River is 30 cents. If you are an American, they insist on dollars unless you are persistent. I was told they know we are Americans by our shoes and good teeth. Children grab your legs and beg for "dollars" and become intensely annoying and must be literally pushed away. I was warned to watch my purse as the police rarely take action since they are paid off. However, I felt safe and it lacked the KGB image associated with Russia. You can't drink the water and the only water to buy is "mineral water, water with gas" for \$2 hard currency. Not good water.

It was a shock to learn American Travelers Checks were almost

uncashable except for rubles and no one wanted rubles. My thanks to John Morley, world traveler, lecturer and

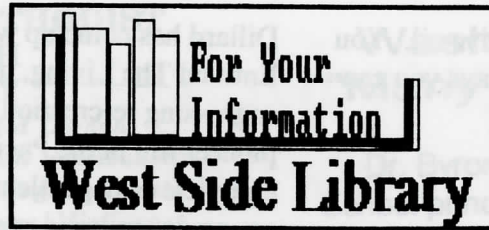
correspondent traveling in our 8 member group through Russia who cashed the checks for American dollars so that I was able to shop!

Experiencing varied foods is one reason to travel. Most Russian meals were served in courses and always

included cucumbers, sometimes a tomato, very hard roll, and unknown cuts of meat. Platters of cooked, sliced fat came with the evening meal. Once the meat was so tough, it couldn't be cut! Their Borscht was excellent and I enjoyed the corn and pineapple salad. Caviar was served often. Juice was little more than colored, sweetened water but provided needed liquid. I never did get used to the coffee with grounds and when the coffee was scarce, only a half cup was included in the meal. If you wanted a full cup, you paid extra. Alcoholism is a concern but when Gorbochev banned it, they didn't observe the ban and he lost favor. Bread and Vodka are their staples! Regardless of how much I complain about the food, no weight was lost!







*Jan Burdick*

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**West Side is still hanging in there behind the scaffolding and under the dust. Books do still arrive, and here are some relatively recent titles.**

***BIBLIOHOLISM: THE LITERARY ADDICTION***

**Tom Raabe**

Could it be that such a noble avocation - the buying and reading of books - is addictive? In this humorous confession Tom Raabe addresses the problem of book addiction and offers sympathy to fellow biblioholics.

For the thousands of souls who are unable to state their desire to buy, read, collect and admire books, Raabe discusses physical symptoms (browser's neck) as well as compulsive emotional habits (buying books instead of food). He offers many practical tips for solving difficult problems, such as reading at dinner parties and while walking, and presents dozens of other hints designed to give the terminal biblioholic a sense of hop. A fun read.

***MEXICO: SOME TRAVELS AND TRAVELERS THERE***

**Adams**

Adams explains why she has had a

long-time love for Mexico. Having visited many times, she is particularly fascinated by the fact that many first-time visitors bring their own preconceived ideas to the country. This author writes beautifully - patrons who read her book will long to be her guest on a future trip. She shows a different side of Mexico from the guidebooks. In some ways her portrait is bleaker, but in others more colorful and exotic.

***A PASSION FOR POTATOES***

**Lydie Marshall**

The ebulliently titled second book of New York cooking school director Marshall is aptly named. The humble and nutritious potato does deserve a volume all its own, and this one demonstrates the author's skill and sophisticated taste. Entire chapters are dedicated to classic potato dishes. For example there's one on potato salads (which includes an unusual barbecued version as well as the more familiar American variety). Another chapter on mashed potatoes features a sweet potato puree, and

garlic mashed potatoes with olive oil. You will be surprised how many ways you can fix this household vegetable.

## ***BURDEN OF DESIRE***

**Robert MacNeil**

If you are a watcher of the MacNeil-Lehrer News Hour, you may already know that James Lehrer has authored several novels. As for Robert MacNeil his published works have been nonfiction. Burden of Desire is his first novel. The story begins with a bang - literally, as a munitions ship blows up in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1917 in what will be the biggest, most destructive manmade explosion until the atomic bomb. Picking up the pieces in the well-evoked ruined city are young parson Peter Wentworth, and Stewart MacPherson, a psychiatrist. The two read a diary accidentally lost in the wreckage, belonging to Julia Robertson, a young unconventional woman whose beauty and self-acknowledged sensuality ensnares each of them in turn. Which man does she choose after her husband dies a hero's death at the front? Read and find out.

## ***THE LIVING***

**Annie Dillard**

The popular Pulitzer-winning Annie

Dillard has come up with a novel at last. Entitled The Living, it is a panoramic and engrossing re-creation of 19th century pioneer life in the Pacific Northwest - complete with gentlemanly gold miners, avuncular railroad speculators, misty-eyed sweethearts, assorted schemers and dreamers, and even a three-card-monte player or two.





# Masquers '93

THE MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE 1993 SEASON

## AMADEUS

AMADEUS

January 22 thru February 27

We will never know who really killed Mozart, but we can see his last years through the envious eyes of the man who was his greatest rival, Antonio Salieri. Strong language that may be offensive to some people is included in this show by Peter Shaffer. Directed by Betty Baker Bindner.

## Love Rides the Rails



LOVE RIDES THE RAILS

March 26 thru May 15

Come cheer the heroine and hiss the villain in this fun-filled sing-a-long melodrama. Will Simon Darkaway succeed in his diabolically devious plot to foreclose on the poor widow Hopewell's cabin and win her daughter's heart? Or will Prudence be able to retain her virtue and foil his plans by saving Truman from the railroad tracks before he is run over by the monstrous mail train? By Morland Cary. Directed by Don McCunn.

## I Hate



I HATE HAMLET

June 11 thru July 24

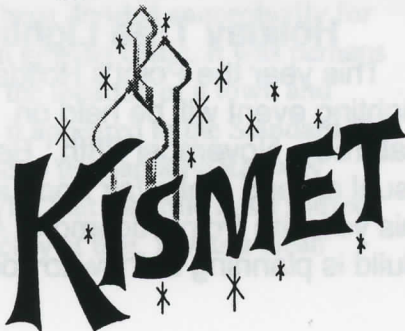
In the medieval New York apartment of the late great John Barrymore, Andrew Rally prepares to play Hamlet. When the ghost of Barrymore shows up to coach him in the role, it takes a sword fight, the balcony scene, and a lot of champagne for Andrew to agree to do the part. But can he pull it off? Comedy, love and magic make for an evening of great theater. By Paul Rudnick. Directed by Shelli Maximova.

## SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER

SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER

August 20 thru October 2

An old fashioned situation comedy (sit-com) that might have been written for TV, if they had had TV! Pretty girls, handsome men and an irrepressible prankster converge in a romance of mistaken identity. By Oliver Goldsmith. Directed by Theo Collins.



KISMET

October 29 thru December 18

This musical Arabian Nights weaves a lush tapestry of romance and melody around a beggar-poet masquerading as a sorcerer with magical powers. There's a wicked wazir, his flirtatious wife, and two young star-crossed lovers awaiting Kismet (fate) to play its hand and set the ancient enchanting fairy tale city of Baghdad on its ear. Music and lyrics: Robert Wright and George Forrest from themes of Alexander Borodin. Book: Charles Lederer and Luther Davis, based on a play by Edward Knoblock. Directed by Pat Nelson.

## Misc. Stuff

### **Richmond/Marin Bus Service Finally Coming Soon!**

Requests for bids to operate the planned Marin-East Bay bus connection via the San Rafael- Richmond Bridge have gone out. Proposals from potential bus operators would then be due in mid-October and the bid will be awarded in December. It is expected that actual service will begin on January 1, 1993.

*courtesy Golden Gate Bridge District  
Newsletter*



### **Historical Info Wanted on Home at 510 Washington Avenue**

Mrs. Christy Jacobson is collecting historical information about her 510 Washington Avenue home in Point Richmond (Rile Residence). If you have information for her call her at 237-9395 or you may write Gary at TPIT.



### **Caller ID Approved**

The California Public Utilities Commission voted June 17 to approve Caller ID, a telephone service proposed by Pacific Bell, GTE-California and Contel, which displays the caller's telephone number on a small screen attached to the subscriber's phone.

To protect customers' privacy rights, the PUC required phone companies to offer three free blocking options which enable customers to prevent their numbers from being displayed on a Caller ID device, call Pacific Bell for blocking details.



### **Richmond Sanatary Fall Clean-ups**

If you live in Point Richmond, expect your Fall Clean-up pick-up on :  
**Saturday October 3, 1992,  
elsewhere:**

**On October 5:** Parchester Village & Carriage Hills (Monday Customers)

**On October 7:** Hilltop Green & Carriage Hills (Wednesday Customers)

**On October 10:** Within the Richmond City Limits - Barrett Ave., South!



### **Trefry & Nellie Ross Celebrate Anniversary**

Trefry A. and Nellie N. Ross who now live in Arizona will celebrate their 50th anniversary on October 31, 1992. cards can be sent to them at:

8701 Kolg Road South  
Space S-176  
Tuscon, AZ 85706



### **Holiday Tree Lighting**

This year the Point's Holiday Tree Lighting event will be held on Saturday, November 28th. Beside the usual art and crafts fair and luminarias this year the Point Richmond Arts Guild is planning a show to coincide.





## Cards & Letters

Dear Pam:

Enclosed find my check for yearly membership renewal. I am in my 80's and could pay senior dues but am proud to pay regular dues.

Thanks for the NICE write up in the last edition. I think I have pictures of the 1st ferry boat to cross the bay and of 1st engine to go to Oakland. I have a 1914 California drivers license that was my dad's (he was a very progressive Point Richmond businessman), I hope to send you a photo copy.

Thanks,  
Mr. J. Savill  
Burlingame

*Good hearing from you Mr. Savill, we appreciate your thinking about us with any Point Richmond memorabilia.*

Gary



Dear Pam:

I might have forgotten to renew my PRHA membership as I have not received an August newsletter. Please send it as I find much of interest in each issue.

Please note the following birthdays in the newsletter:

Alfred Franco (my brother)

July 7

Delphina Franco (mine with maiden name)

March 29

Enclosed is my check for the next year.

Thank You,  
Hazel D. Tawney  
Santa Barbara

*Thanks for writing Mrs. Tawney, we publish TPIT nine times a year, there was no August Issue, it was covered in the Summer Issue.*

*Because we do not publish every month folks sometimes think they might have missed an issue, so here is our schedule.*

### **TPIT Yearly Schedule:**

**May**

**Summer (June, July & August)**

**September**

**October**

**November**

**Winter (December & January)**

**February**

**March**

**April**

Gary



## Deaths...

Dear Mid Dornan:

Per your A-Mid Trivia column, please accept this small donation for the Janice Park renovation, in memory of the only time I ever played hookey from good ole Washington!

My pal Arthur Hoover and I had accumulated a few bucks for some project we had in mind. Of course we wanted to protect those funds, so we convinced our teacher to let us off to go to the bank at the corner of Washington and Richmond Avenues, to open a savings account.

Well, you guessed it. The day was sunny and warm, so we figured it was no use to go back to school for such a few hours! So we went up to Janice Park and laid down and enjoyed the sunshine, and took a nap.

Needless to say, we faced the fury of our teacher the next day, and learned a lesson I never forgot!

By the way, I have seven grandchildren and eight greats at last count! So forgive me if I gave \$10.00 per head I'd be broke!

Keep up the good work Mid.

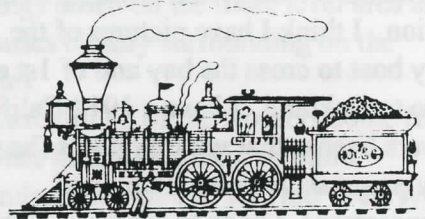
Very truly yours,  
Will Spiersch  
Alameda



**Eleanor J. Hurley** died September 3, 1992 of natural causes in a San Pablo convalescent home. She was 85.

She was retired after 20 years as an accounting clerk with Chevron USA, Richmond. Born in San Francisco, she had lived in West County for 76 years and was a member of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church of Richmond.

She is survived by brother James J. Hurley of Richmond.



## Acquisitions

**From W.H. (Bill) Williamson**

- \*Employee manual from 1943 "Richmond Shipyard Number Three of the Kaiser Company, Inc."
- \*1945 Department of Justice manual "Classification of Fingerprints"
- \*1949 law book "5000 Criminal Definitions"

**From Glenn Hawkins**

- \*1919 personal letter and photograph

*Thank You!*



# OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

(234-5334)

**SHERA THOMPSON**  
**TERRY WYNNE**  
**JEFF ALBRO**  
**JEAN MOYLE SPIERSCH**  
**MILDRED PAETH**  
**MARGUERITE CLUTTS**  
**LINDA PEREIRA**  
**ROSY ROSELIUS**  
**TIMOTHY DOHERTY**  
**HELEN FROSINI**  
**FLORENCE WILSON**  
**JUSTIN KAUFMAN**  
**BETTY GLASS MARSHALL**

**JERRY DANIEL**  
**NELLIE BISIO PASQUINI**  
**KATE LORD**  
**MARIAN TEDRICK**  
**JODI BAGLEY**  
**VERN VALENTINE**  
**BRIAN TEDRICK**  
**CHARLIE DUTROW**  
**RICH WEIRICK**  
**TODD CORT**  
**NATHAN BERMAN**  
**MARJ BELLATI**  
**JERRY DANIEL**  
**CHRIS WARD**



*"School is a building that has four walls - with tomorrow inside"*

-Lon Watters

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

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

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*Muriel Clausen, Treasurer*  
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*Anne Hanzlik, Programs*  
*Gary Shows, Newsletter 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 acknowledgment to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

*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

### Contributors to this issue:

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*Mid Doman*  
*Muriel Clausen*  
*Dr. Wm. Thompson*  
*Donna Roselius (illustrations)*  
*Don Church (photo collection)*  
*Jerry Cerkanowicz*  
*Pam Wilson*  
*Allan Smith*  
*Jan Burdick*  
*Dennis Schaefer*  
*Ellen Schaefer*  
*Anne Goetsch*  
*"Many Hands" Project*



**THIS POINT.....in time**

# ***Calendar***

***October, 1992***

<b>October 3</b> <i>Saturday</i>	<b>Festival By The Bay</b> <b>Richmond Marina</b>
<b>October 6</b> <i>Tuesday</i>	<b>Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting,</b> <b>11:30 AM, Our Lady of Mercy Church</b>
	<b>Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting,</b> <b>7:30 PM, Point Community Center</b>
<b>October 7</b> <i>Wednesday</i>	<b>Yom Kippur</b>
<b>October 12</b> <i>Monday</i>	<b>Columbus Day</b>
<b>October 14</b> <i>Wednesday</i>	<b>Point Richmond Business Association Meeting,</b> <b>Noon, Hotel Mac</b>
<b>October 16</b> <i>Friday</i>	<b>DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF TPIT</b>
<b>October 20</b> <i>Tuesday</i>	<b>Second Indian Statue is dedicated, 1984</b>
<b>October 25</b> <i>Sunday</i>	<b>Daylight Savings Time Ends</b> <b><i>Set your clock back 1 hour at bedtime</i></b>
<b>October 30</b> <i>Friday</i>	<b>"Fiddler on the Roof" Opens at Masquer's Playhouse</b>
<b>October 31</b> <i>Saturday</i>	<b>Halloween</b>
<b>November 3</b> <i>Tuesday</i>	<b>Election Day    <i>Get out and Vote!</i></b>
	<b>Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting,</b> <b>11:30 AM, Our Lady of Mercy Church</b>
	<b>Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting,</b> <b>7:30 PM, Point Community Center</b>