

THIS POINT in time

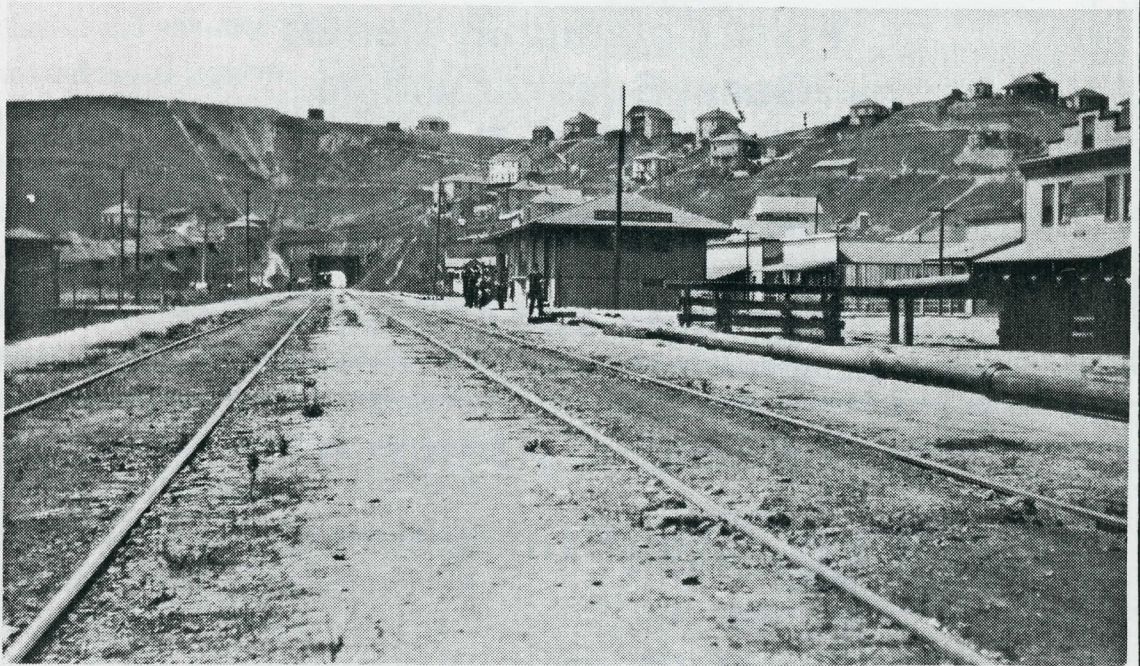
NEWSLETTER

THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Vol. XII No. *65*

November, 1993

\$1.50



Point Richmond

Depot

Before 1912

Announcements

PRHA General Membership Meeting

Sunday, November 14, 1993

2:00pm to 4:00pm

Point Community Center

Guest Speaker will be

David DeBoer

Railroad Expert

and author of

"Piggyback and Container"

Point Richmond Tree Lighting Ceremony

Indian Statue Park

at dusk

November 27, 1993

Santa Claus will be there!

Christmas carols will be sung among the luminaries!

**Event Sponsored by David Vincent
and the Point Richmond Business Association**

History Association Notes.....

From the President

Mid Dornan

Historical research is an endless pursuit and volunteers often need all around moral support. This past month Dr. W.L. Thompson, one of our favorite contributors to *This Point.....in time*, added that extra support when he dropped by the History Building bringing photos and clippings dating around 1908. Among them was the first sample ballot of Richmond dated April 26, 1909. Listed were the names of 35 men who had been nominated by friends and some without consent, for the city council. Nine spaces were given for write-ins as nine were to be elected. Women weren't allowed to vote then. The Report of the City Clerk and Auditor, June 30, 1909 confirmed the first councilmen to be E.J. Garrard, H.E. Wyatt, O.R. Ludewig, Edw. McDuff, J.C. Hartnett and J.B. Willis who was named Mayor. It cost \$10 for rental of the polling place but election costs totaled \$789.20. Councilmen

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were public servants as they weren't compensated.

These eighty-year-old records are in remarkably good condition. Are we, as individuals, saving items that might be of interest eighty years hence? Have those of you who might have old records noted on them to give them to the PRHA when you no longer have need of them?

Thank you for thinking of us.

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

VARISIE LOMETTI

BRUNO J. ROVEDA

LUIS R. CUNAN

GRACE A. HOWE

THEODORE W. BECK

TERESA MENEGHELLI

WM. L. THOMPSON

HELEN M. SKELTON

ANNA S. GAUMER

BENA BOWLES

MARY J. FORBES

JANICE & JIM COOK

PEARLE WESTMAN

MRS. DAGMAR B. FRANCIS

JEAN & WILLARD SPIERSCH

**And a warm welcome to new member:
MARY VALENZANO**

Museum Staff coordinator Betty Dornan says thank you to the following volunteers who staffed the History Museum in September:

Jerry Cerkanowicz

Mid Dornan

Bernard Christianson

Roy Jones

Betty Dornan

**If you can help
Call Betty at 232-4317**

Museum Hours
Thursday 11:30 am - 2:00 pm
Saturday 11:30 am - 2:00 pM

**We are grateful to the
SANTA FE MARKET
for distributing this newsletter at no
profit for themselves.**

NOTICE:

Secondary report cards are due for students in the West Contra Costa schools on November 12.

Editor's Notes

Gary Shows

As usual October, 1993 was another memorable one... the big destructive fires down south (and apprehension of one here brought on by the weird, still feeling the dry warm weather gives), a nasty local election (dividing our community of "millionaires"), and it was the first time I remember changing the clock (daylight savings time ends) and the calendar (October ends) on the same day! When you are responsible for a number of clocks and calendars, it makes for a formidable task!

This issue turned out pretty well, I ran out of space and had to leave out a few things. Please enjoy the conclusion of Dr. Thompson's "More Memories of Old Point Richmond, East Richmond Avenue" as next month I will begin "Memories of the Medical History of Point Richmond". This will be the last of the series of articles from Dr. Thompson and I am grateful to him for allowing me to present his wonderful works. I encourage TPIT readers who have enjoyed reading Dr. Thompson to forward your thoughts and appreciation to me I will make them available to Dr. Thompson through the newsletter.

Together, perhaps we can convince him to sit down and record more memories!

The deadline for the Winter edition newsletter is November 19, 1993.

The Cover:

Point Richmond Depot, before 1912, probably 1902 or 1903, note the "Smokey Row" houses to the left of the tunnel, they were later moved to various locations all over the Point and many still exist today. Photo was donated to the PRHA by Dr. William L. Thompson

The October Issue Assembly

Crew:

*Mary Highfill
Liz McDonald
Muriel Clausen
Pam Wilson
Anne Hanzlik
Jerry Cerkowicz
Gary Shows*

Whoops!

The September and October issues were inadvertently labeled Vol. XII No. 4 and Vol. XII No. 5 respectively, however they were actually Vol. XII No. 3 and Vol. XII No. 4.

This Old House

by

Muriel C. Clausen

CHAPTER IV

THE SIMPLE HOUSE: POINT RICHMOND

Part Three

After these initial tent-like structures with their pyramid shaped hip roofs, the gable roof made its appearance again with the freedom of expression that we have discussed. Some early examples can be described. The first was a gable roof house built in Monterey, though it was not the very simplest gable roof house which shall be described, then very simple gable roofed houses in the Sierra foothills, and finally some in Point Richmond, each reflecting its area's needs. In Monterey the first wood frame house was built in 1850 by the Bushton family. Monterey had a very strong adobe tradition which gradually evolved into a blending of the adobe

Mexican-Spanish with the wood structured American tradition. (This blending can be seen in the still-standing Larkin House.) Continuing the initial attempts of the Larkin House to Americanize building design was this first wood frame house. It was erected on Munrus at Webster Street and existed there until 1924. This house, of wood frame construction, was precut and matched, with a clapboard finish, made in Australia, disassembled, shipped and reassembled with mortised joints in Monterey. It was one of the earliest wood frame and gable roofed houses on the West Coast, making it notable in that respect, but being prefabricated in another country. It reflected that country and had two stories with a one story wing. This makes it the earliest wood gable roofed house but not the earliest simple wood gable roofed house. The front was six bays wide. However it had American interpretations: an interior stairway, a fireplace, and glazed windows. The Bushton family designed it to meet the needs of the Monterey area in a simple, direct manner with no embellishment. This would have been a house to save!

All through the foothills of the Sierras, indigenous houses sprang up as homes for families involved in farming and grazing, and for those who decided to stay there after the Gold Rush of 1849. These were casual, small, simple, practical houses with single, front-facing gable roofs. Many can still be seen all through Tuolumne, Calaveras, and Amador Counties in this simple gable style. They can

also be seen in modest numbers in Point Richmond in a slightly different interpretation to meet the different needs and climate of this area.

This gold-country style was a small, simple, practical house built of redwood. It commonly had a 12' high pitched, front-facing gable roof covered with metal. The roof was pitched high to hopefully collect the heat of the summer. Also, because of the heat in summer, a low, one-story shed roof forming a broad veranda was wrapped about the house on three sides, giving a large shaded exterior porch. The exterior finish of the wood frame structure was lap strake redwood. The entry would be on front center into a living room with two bedrooms to one side and the kitchen to the rear. The interior walls and ceiling were tongue and groove redwood with only the redwood kitchen sometimes painted. The floors were pine. Simple detailing on the exterior front balcony posts and rails leading up to and around the front porch completed the picture. After the the 1920's an inside bathroom was often added between the two bedrooms.

In Point Richmond a few small, one-story single gable houses were built very early. The terrain in Point Richmond is much steeper than that of the Sierra foothills and often these small houses were built up the side of a hill with an under area in front to cover the slope and with a longer, steeper stairway. This under area was skirted in, providing space under the house for other functions. Here in Point

Richmond the climate is much cooler than that of the Sierra so there was no need for the wide, wraparound veranda. Often there was just a simple portico entry with a shed overhang for a roof. Later, to elaborate the style, a small gable replaced the shed overhang at the entry reflecting the larger front facing gable of the house itself. These houses were smaller than those in the Sierras due to the smaller, steeper hillside lots. However, other than those slight differences the one-story, single front gable house in Point Richmond was this locale's interpretation of that style. A few of several remaining small single gable houses in Point Richmond can be located. There is a tiny one in the 200 block of Martina; one with the gable entry portico in the 200 block of Piedmont Place; and one a bit larger with the gable entry in the 100 block of Cottage. Others can be seen plus several that have been modified. Many, many of these simple houses predate the bungalow which was introduced later and which was of distinctly Eastern United States in influence. These simple houses are more relaxed in design than the bungalow as we shall see. This gives them an intrinsic charm.

The simple houses, the "smoky row" houses, the West Coast "hip roof" cottages and the small, one story, single gable houses have characteristics that we can remember when we wish to identify them. They were small, mostly of wood construction, mostly foursquare with straight sides (no bays), and one story in height. The entry door is usually on center front

with windows on either side. There is either a hip roof or a single, front facing gable roof with a simple roof extension forming a canopy over a front porch. The height of the pitch of the gable is influenced by the warmth of the climate with roof pitches up to 12' in the very warm Sierra foothills, and much lower pitches in the cooler Point Richmond area. Often the porch is raised and reached by a flight of stairs with a simple post and rail detail at the sides of the stairs and porch. The under stair area is skirted in for storage. The warmer areas have low, wider porches surrounding the building on three sides. In Point Richmond the porches were simpler, smaller and often with gable modifications of the overhang. It is the simplest kind of comfortable house with only a few basic rooms. Later, the introduction of sewers and water, electricity, interior plumbing, kitchens with built-in cabinets, closets, heating systems, laundry rooms, garages, etc., created modifications to this simple house so that very few today represent the early simple house of the 1900's. Today the simple house, though modified, still represents the fulfillment of the basic needs for housing in the most economical manner and with a direct and honest, casual approach. Many homes in Point Richmond, while adding the needed functions, have retained the materials, the massing, and the scale of the original architectural features so that the integrity of the whole is maintained. It is this simple house that helps Point Richmond retain its historical flavor.

Concludes Chapter IV, next issue watch for Chapter V, "The California Bungalow: Point Richmond".

A-MID TRIVIA

- Mid Dorman (510-234-5334)

Four holidays trigger candy sales: Easter-Halloween-Christmas-and Valentine's Day.

Q: Which of these generates the most dollars?

(Answer at end of trivia)

Remember, you may only have one vote but if you don't use that vote you can't complain. Election Day is Tuesday, November 2nd!

In 1789 George Washington made November 26 a day of national thanksgiving for the adoption of the United States Constitution. It wasn't until nearly a century later that our traditional Thanksgiving Day was made a holiday.

Early Thanksgiving dinners didn't include frozen turkeys, prepared dressings, flaked potatoes or canned pumpkin!

Bob and Grace Yank have sold their Sanderling Isle home in Brickyard Cove and are moving to Sonoma. New owners are Judith and Robert Ward, from San Francisco who are members of the Richmond Yacht Club. Active in the Point Methodist Church, Bob and Grace adopted the grounds beautification of this historic church as their project. They also serve on the Administrative Board and were chairman of last years Juntique Sale. They insist they will "keep an eye" on the churchyard and have promised to return in May to chairman the Juntique Sale in May again. If you

need a job done, ask the Yanks!

The Richmond Museum of History hosted a "Downtown Revisited" party at the Richmond Auditorium on October 17th. Photos, exhibits and memories provided a day to remember as reunions became part of the excitement of their Richmond. The biggest applause happened when a film of the old Richmond Union High School appeared on the screen, obviously bringing back happy, disciplined but carefree school days of yesteryear.

Elenora Surdam, hospitalized for several weeks after an automobile accident in Oakland, has been transferred to St. Rafael's Home in Berkeley and is doing well.

According to a poll of the 460,00 members of the U.S. Boat Owners Association, the five most popular names for their pleasure crafts are 1. Serenity, 2. Obsession, 3. Osprey, 4. Fantasea, and 5. Liquid Asset.

Cold cereals were unknown a hundred years ago and the Kellogg Brothers and Charles W. Post are credited with making it a 20th century phenomenon. A pet theory of Dr. Kellogg's was that people needed to chew dry, brittle food to keep their teeth in shape. Although Grape-Nuts has nothing to do with grapes or nuts, its inventor, Charles Post, in 1897 named the cereal that because of its nutty flavor and sweet taste which he mistakenly believed came from "grape sugar", a common name at the time for dextrose.

Does anyone remember the bar and restaurant at 731 Standard Avenue

in the '40's called Tanya's? Her son, Bob Buel of Redlands, California, stopped in the Point looking for Standard Avenue and wondered if anyone was still around that knew his mother, Tanya Barber. He was about 7 years old then but still had memories of his mother and grandmother cooking brown sugar to add to the alcohol brought in by seaman that they later sold in the bar. He remembers someone named 'Billy Bob' and Frank Benelli. Bob reports his mother is now living a very respectable and comfortable life in San Diego

Jeane Robertson's daily commute to Modesto, where she is studying to be an Electrolysis will soon be over and Jeane already has a job in Albany when she completes her courses.

Who remembers when refrigerators weren't automatically defrosted? (At least then refrigerators were cleaned out regularly.) Of course, there are those who can remember when you didn't plug-in a box as ice was delivered and electricity wasn't necessary. Can you also remember what happened when you forgot to empty the box under the cooler?

Great Auntie Sissie from Granville, Ohio, who just turned 80, visited Tony and Carla Beckerley.

Develop a gratitude attitude.

Count your blessings daily and not just on Thanksgiving Day.

ANSWER: (in millions) Easter with \$489 followed by Halloween, \$432, Christmas #368 and Valentine's Day \$192.

Churches

Our Lady of Mercy

Allan Smith

Our Pastor, Rev. James C. Clift, has returned from a week's vacation in Milwaukee, Wisconsin visiting his 96 year old mother. He reports all is well and that this is the time to visit that part of the country and enjoy the "autumn leaves". On November 1st and 2nd we celebrate two special days which are the Feast of All Saints and All Soul's Day.

In preparation for the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady of Mercy Church the Marriage and Baptism Record Books are being readied they are the only early written church records available. This is because the church was closed during the 1930-1933 depression years and somehow all other records were inadvertently misplaced.

The first Mass was held in Richards Hall in Point Richmond on September 21, 1902 while the new church building was being constructed starting December 14, 1902. Our Lady of Mercy Church was officially dedicated on Sunday, August 23, 1903.

An item from the July 19, 1902 Richmond Record reads as follows:
"Catholic Church - Sunday July 20 at 9 o'clock in the morning there will be a mass in Curry's Hall. After mass there will be Sunday School for all the children who have attained the age of reason. J.J. Pimentel, Rector."

Rev. Joseph Pimentel was from St. Paul's Church in San Pablo and used to come on Sundays to Point Richmond to offer Mass in Curry's Hall which was located on Standard and Washington Avenues.

Rev. Denis J. Araujo, PH.D., former pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Church from 1983-1988, is now a Senior Priest at St. Isidore's in Danville. He will be celebrating 50 years as a Catholic Priest next year.



Point Methodist

Jean Reynolds

Point Methodist Church is now a "Proud Sponsor" of Washington School Many Hands Project. We have the honor of sponsoring the school principal. Pastor Bill Gates is a "Many Hands" pair of hands and volunteers at the school on Mondays. Be on the lookout for a big kid jumping rope...it might be Bill!

Our first "second Tuesday" evening of food, music, and Bible study was enthusiastically received by all who attended on October 12th. We took some time to honor Roy Jones for his special gifts of music and spirit, and we were not quite able to stop singing at 8:30 and go home as there were just too many requests! The next "second-Tuesday service will be November 9th, and will start at 6:30pm with a potluck dinner.

Have you noticed the roses in the church rose garden drooping their heads, or perhaps a dewdrop tear trickling down a thorny stem? The roses share our sadness that our friends Bob and Grace Yank have moved to Sonoma County. Besides taking great care of the roses and the other church yard flora and fauna, Bob and Grace organized the 1993 Junktique Sale. Grace was our contact person for the Habitat for Humanity workers who helped prepare the parsonage front for reshingling. We rejoice with the Yanks as they move to a rose garden of their own, but their enthusiasm and commitment will be missed. Looking ahead to the Advent season before Christmas; as you plan your holiday, tuck away a little bit of time for our Community Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 7:00pm on December 24th. The service will provide a time to pause, sing carols, and worship with neighbors.

MISC. STUFF

New Lamps in Triangle

Two more lamps, given to Point Richmond in memory of Bob Young and Brent Moriwaki have been ordered and should be installed by Thanksgiving. One will be placed to the left of the town map and the other right of the PRHA museum.

Helmet Law for Kids

Beginning January 1, 1994 all bicycle riders under 18 will be required to wear protective helmets whenever they ride on public streets and trails. Also, children age 6 and younger will be required to wear life jackets at all times while on the water in small boats.

POINT METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

-Mid Dornan

Church history is rich with contributions of women. One church group in the 1920's was the SOCIAL LEAGUE of the First Methodist Episcopal Church whose history is reflected in their minutes printed below and taken from the canvas covered, red leather cornered notebook which cost \$1.15. The minutes are printed as written. This is the FIRST INSTALLMENT .

Tuesday, December 4th, 1923 at the home of A.D. Jones, 210 Cottage Ave, a group of matrons met and formed themselves into the Social League--its purpose being to encourage social intercourse in the church and such other benefits as they are fit.

Mrs. Jones was temporary chairman and on ballot was elected President.

Mrs. Helen Burdick V. Pres

Mrs. Martin 2nd V. Pres

Mrs. Merle Brothers Treasurer

Mrs. Erma Parker Secy

Terms of office to be six months, no officer to succeed themselves.

Dues ten cents a month and a voluntary ten cent silver offering each meeting of League.

Meetings to be twice a month, first and third Tuesdays.

Membership committee appointed: Mrs. Osbern, Owens and Alexander.

Club to be entertained alphabetically by members, refreshments to consist of two things--beverage and one other thing.

Vote to have food sold Dec 8th..part of receipts to go to Stovers (?) and part to start funds. Committee in charge of sale Mrs. Jones, Burdick, Brothers and Endicott.

Adjourned,

Erma R. Parker, Secy

Rev. W. P. Grant was minister.

Twenty-nine Charter members: Ethel Alexander, Ethel Beckley, Merle Brothers, Helen Burdick, Helen Endicott, Beulah Jones, Stella P. Martin, Edith Oehne, Bessie Osborn, Annie Owens, Erma Parker, Mabel Redman, Katherine Dicely, Edith Ford, Thelma Erickson, Marian Scofield, Mildred Hollingsworth, Daisy Jenkins, Elizabeth Jenkins, Char Jones, Myrtle Harris, Grace Griffin, Viola Vloeberghs, A. Glineburg, Matilda Hendricks, Irene Mythen, Anne Seymore., Dorothy Curryer and Ernestine Dusthimer.

Acquisitions

From Dr. W. L. Thompson

- Photo of Point Richmond from Ncholl Knob - 1903 (from his Mother's trunk)
- 1909 Annual Report of the Clerk and Auditor of the City of Richmond
 - Class of 1909, Washington School
 - 1st grade class of 1907 or 08 Washington School
- Picture of Santa Fe Depot before 1912 (see cover, this issue)
- Sample Ballot of Richmond's first election, 1909
- Picture of carpenter shop on Standard Oil Company, 1908-1910

Sports Memories

Allan Smith

*E*ach year during baseball's World Series time, I always think of a Point Richmond professional baseball player who once participated in that famous sports yearly classic. Russ Christopher played for the Cleveland Indians in the 1948 World Series when they won the Series by defeating the Boston Braves. Russ passed away in his Point Richmond home in 1954. During our early school days we wanted to become a Richmond Fireman, which was then (as now) one of the best city jobs. The firemen used to have a bench in front of the old fire station where they spent a lot of their "on duty" time watching the world go by. They were always very friendly to us

especially to the late Andy Cakos who was their favorite at that time.

It was from them that I, along with others, learned to play "backyard golf". This game is the familiar horseshoe pitching which was then a popular game that required accurate aim in throwing horseshoes at a stake 40 feet away. As the Point firemen had a lot of time on their hands, they all pitched the shoes, some with accuracy. The firemen let us play many times. The horseshoe court was located in the area where the present fire station is now. This vacant land was below street level that reached from park Place to Washington Avenues and it was also here that the local bandstand was located.

Horseshoe pitching was also very popular at the Standard Oil Refinery, especially during the lunch hour.

There is a horseshoe court at the west end of the Knox-Miller Park which is used by a few of today's Point Richmond people.

Westside Women's Improvement Club News

President Mary Highfill announced the Woman's Westside Improvement Club has voted to donate \$300 to the Point Richmond Library and also \$300 to the Many Hands project at Washington School, being a Principal sponsor.

The women, Richmond's oldest woman's group, meets the first Tuesday of the month at 11:30am at the Point Methodist Church. Dessert and coffee are provided. Their annual Christmas Party will be at the church on Tuesday, December 7th but reservations for the luncheon are required.

More Memories of Old Point Richmond East Richmond Avenue

●
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 sixth series from Dr. Thompson. In this series he remembers the neighborhood and friends where he grew up, East Richmond Avenue.

PART EIGHT (Conclusion)

Another pioneer Point Richmond resident that I recall was Judge John Roth. He was justice of the peace and lived on Crest Avenue. He was about seventy years old and I recall

him as an elderly white-haired man who was greatly respected. Just above the Roth home on Crest Avenue was the home of the Collins family. Charles Collins was a painter and his daughter Hazel was a classmate and good friend of my older sister.

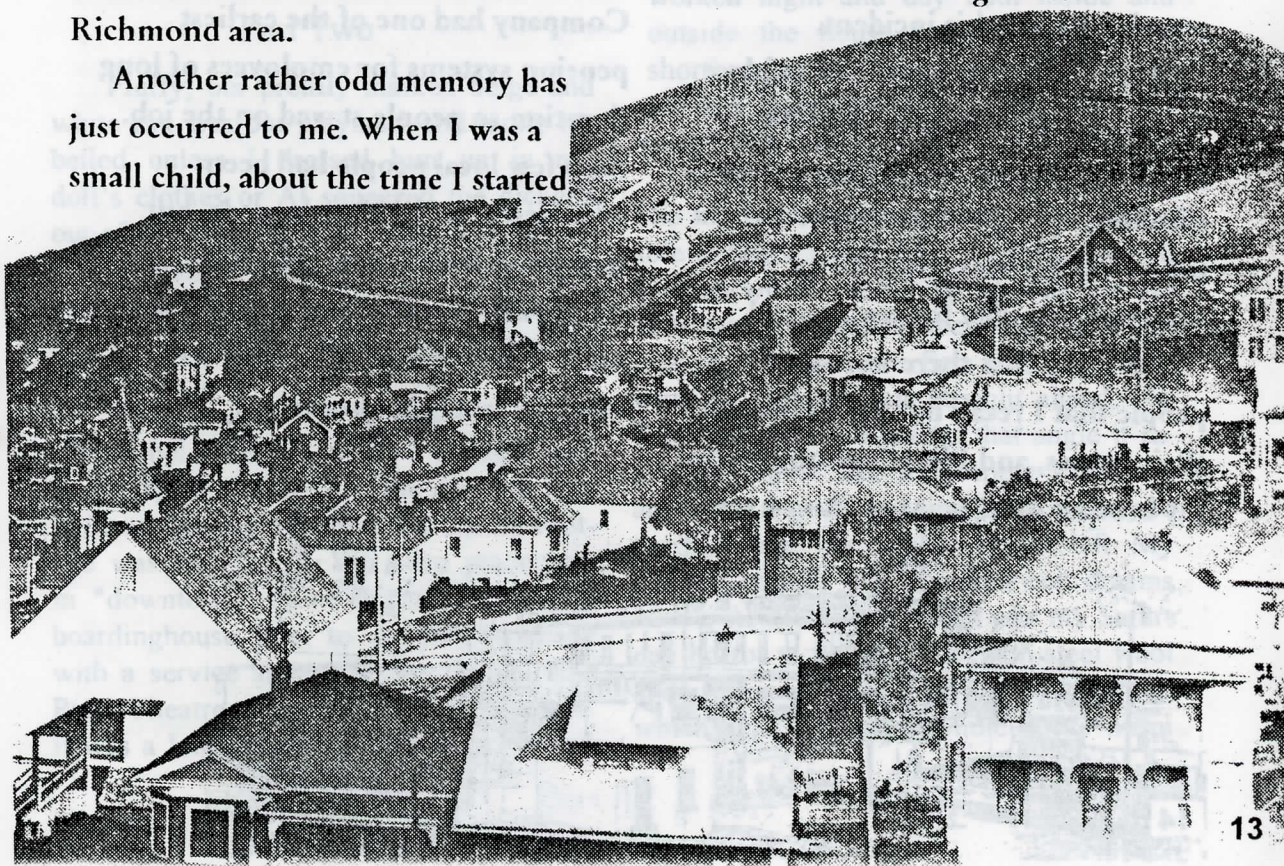
Further up Crest Avenue and just below the old Santa Fe reservoir was the home of the Ceridoni family. Lena Ceridoni was a classmate of mine thru Washington School and Richmond High. I understand that she became a school teacher. She was a quiet, studious girl and I'm sure that she would have made an excellent teacher.

There are many other families that I should mention. Among them was the Pearson family who lived on Nichol Avenue just below the old Topping house on Scenic Avenue. I recall the daughter, Mayron, who was a good

friend of my sister. She became a nurse and for many years was an excellent nurse at the Richmond Hospital. The Fisher family lived on Tunnel Avenue just above Richmond Avenue. Mr. Fisher was a welding boss at S.O. Company and I worked under him one summer as a welder's helper. The Fishers had four children, two boys and two girls. The older boy, Bill, started grammar school with me and we were together through grammar school and high school. They were a fine family and some of them still reside in the Richmond area.

Another rather odd memory has just occurred to me. When I was a small child, about the time I started

school, the roadway tunnel parallel to the Santa Fe tunnel was being constructed. At one time during this excavation there was a great explosion and a great piece of sheet metal was blown into the air to a sufficient height that it sailed down and was embedded in the north face of Nichol Nob about 200 yards above my family home. It was a large sheet of very heavy metal, five or six feet across and about a half inch thick. It was much deformed from the explosion and one edge was buried a foot or more into the ground.



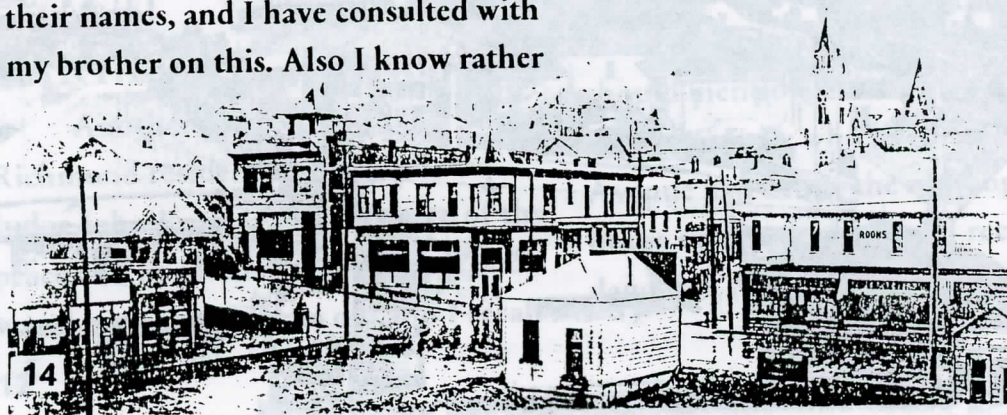
I don't know the mechanism of this explosion. It had to have been outside of the tunnel and possibly occurred where excavation was being made along the base of the hill to make the roadway now known as Dornan Drive. It certainly was more than the usual blast to have thrown that huge piece of metal that distance. I recall no other damage from the blast. There was an old partially subterranean power storage facility dug in the hillside but I don't recall that this had exploded. I recall no injuries or other damage associated with this incident.

The metal sheet remained in place on the hillside for many months, possibly a year or more. I remember climbing up the hill past it several times. Later it was removed by someone, possibly for scrap metal.

I'm sorry that there were many people that I recall but can't remember their names, and I have consulted with my brother on this. Also I know rather

little about the families living north of Washington Avenue. There was little means of travel in those days. At first there were no automobiles, and people had to visit by walking, consequently they knew people in their own region. My memory of others comes mostly from meeting schoolmates and business people. People in those days were solid, hardworking citizens. They had to earn their own way and prepare for their own retirement. There was no Social Security and pensions were rare. The Standard Oil Company had one of the earliest pension systems for employees of long duration so people stayed on the job. Also few local people had been educated past the eighth grade, but many continued their education on their own. There were few that I do not recall with respect. They have left a solid and splendid heritage.

ds



Delphina Franco moved to Point

Richmond as a child of three.

This is the first installment in a series of articles about her experiences in Point Richmond beginning in the early 20's.

Point Richmond in the 1920's

by Delphina Franco

Arrival and Homes

Part Two

Fluffy, our prettily marked beige and white cat, was our playmate and rarely rebelled unless I dressed him up in my doll's clothes or Al squeezed the dickens out of him while carrying him around. We were required to play in our own back yard, but could have friends visit. I can't remember ever going anywhere else to play.

When I was about seven we moved to 14 Tunnel Avenue, which I thought was much bigger, but beyond the addition of a utility room, I don't think the square footage was any larger. We were practically in "downtown" Point Richmond, with a boardinghouse next to us and a garage with a service station on the corner. The Point Theatre was across from the garage. It was a longer walk to school but Al and

I walked together, and in all it was about five blocks, I believe. When I first started to school, the teacher used to take the children on walks across the railroad tracks until we were in third grade.

When I was almost ten years old, my folks cashed in their Standard Oil stocks, we bought a used Chevrolet, and put a down payment on the house at 307 Golden Gate Avenue (later the number was changed to 453). It was a good buy since there were two houses, an apartment, and a little well on the property. An Italian neighbor told my dad how good the well was: "Take 'em out in the morning and fill 'em up at night!". It was a fixer-upper, but both my parents worked night and day both inside and outside the house to improve it, and shortly after the Second World War began, they were able to sell the property for many times what they paid for it.

It was my favorite home back then. The kitchen was quite large and we were able to buy a whole wall of cupboards and drawers where everything fit. The kitchen table was situated at the window which looked out over the San Francisco Bay with the Golden Gate straight ahead, Mt. Tamalpais to the right (at that angle it really DID look like a Sleeping Princess), and with a good imagination I could see the San Francisco skyline on the left. My mother bought the stove of her dreams with a stainless steel top (it was my Saturday horror to help clean it with steel wool and lemon juice), and a trash burner, which kept almost the whole house warm

in winter, particularly when my mother baked homemade bread, pies, or cakes. We were able to get kindling and mill-ends at the Dornan Coal and Feed Store. My mother also got chicken and rabbit feeds there, because she raised the animals for food and even cured the white rabbit skins. To this day I think my favorite dress was pink corduroy trimmed with white fur, for I felt like a Persian Princess right out of the "Arabian Nights".

I used to sit by the hour drawing what I saw from the kitchen window, but I never knew where to begin or where to end my picture as I knew nothing of composition. It was fascinating to just watch the activity on the Bay. The Standard Oil tankers docked at the wharf and the Delta Queen plied the Bay twice a day back and forth from Sacramento (a few years ago, I took a trip on the Delta Queen on the Mississippi because of my fond memories). It was a side-wheeler which splashed water over the top of the wheel. A new renter once galloped up our back stairs shouting, "Look at the wet-ass boat!" There were less glamorous watercraft, single barges or several strung together, fishing boats, or just plain rowboats. The sea breeze brought a salty freshness to the air and on a foggy night I still long for the two-toned "BO" of the foghorns, a lullaby for people too old for a children's song.

Mrs. Casey lived across the street with her daughter Mary, who worked for the city, and her two sons, who were stevedores when it took muscle to move

cargo. Next door was the Lewis family with their children Violet, Nestle, Jim, and Bub. There were just the two houses on our side of the street. Across the street there were three houses, and at the other end of the block from the Caseys was the Kingsley family, who lived in a house which looked to me like a castle, even though I doubt a shingled castle ever existed. Part of the roofline was crenelated, I believe, and my imagination supplied the rest of the royal architecture. Down the hill closer to the Bay were the Frosinis, Cecchis, Ghieries, and other families whose names I've forgotten. It was a further communication link, because some of the families subscribed to an Italian newspaper. Every time I did something which was important, my name, Delphina Franco, appeared in the paper and our family was told about it. I suppose the reporter thought the name was Italian instead of Spanish.

For several years in the depths of the Great Depression, we didn't live in the Point, but my folks were able to make the interest payments on the house, if not payments on the principal, so after three years we moved back, and I completed Richmond High and then UC Berkeley, and Al, after RUHS, went to Marin shortly before the Second World War. For us, as for many other families, World War Two changed our lives and our homes. I still remember the solid foundation we had in our growing years, and I hope that children who came after us enjoyed the quiet congenial village life as much as we did.

Profile:

ROY JONES

from Mid Dornan

Most people know Roy Jones for his Gospel Jazz at the piano. What they don't know is much of his background.

Roy came to the Point in 1948 to live with his aunt on Scenic Avenue in her three-bedroom house that rented for \$45.00 a month. He came from Beverly Hills which attributes to his showbiz style.

Born in Oklahoma "so close to Arkansas you could spit on it" he was the youngest of eight children, five boys and three girls.

Roy is the youngest...by one hour.

Although one-of-a-kind, Roy has a TWIN brother. He taught at Washington School and later at the Ford Motor Parts on Canal Boulevard.

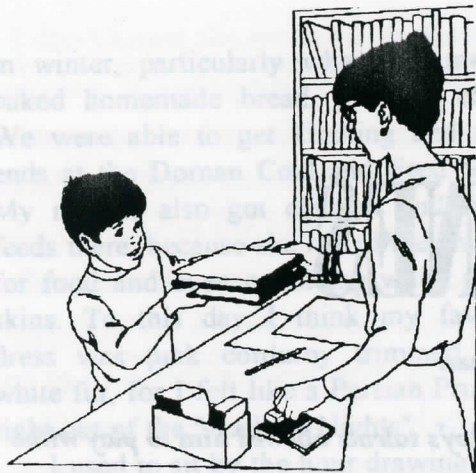
Always fond of Gospel music, which he describes as not necessarily religious, he never had a piano or music lesson. "I always wanted to do it," he explains, "I willed myself to do it".

Roy's talents allowed him to play with Billy Graham. He also traveled with the famous evangelist, A.A. Allen who liked his kind of music, although Roy admitted he didn't approve of the evangelist's lifestyle.

When the Statemen Quartet toured the deep south Roy traveled with them and was with them for their performance in the Oakland Auditorium. Roy played for the Point Baptist Church with "get down singin'" as he fondly refers to his music. After the closure of the Baptist Church, Roy didn't want to leave the Point so joined the Point United Methodist Church where he shares his talents each Sunday morning to the delight of the members.

You can meet Roy as he is a regular volunteer on Thursdays at the Point Richmond History Building.

And...in January he will become a first time Grandpa!



What's Happening at the West Side Library?

by Lucy Meinhardt,
Librarian

Judging by the quantity of mystery titles coming and going across the checkout desk at the West Side Library, Pt. Richmond is home to numerous fans of this genre. This TPIT contribution is especially for you.

MURDER BY REGION

A recent article in *Publisher's Weekly* (Oct. 11, '93) describes the growing popularity of regional mystery books. Most often the authors, whose murder-solving heroes or heroines practice their sleuthing in one locality in the U. S., themselves live in that locality.

Among the most popular of these are Tony Hillerman of Albuquerque, New Mexico (creator of Navajo tribal policemen Jim Chee and Joe Leaphorn) and Joan Hess, Arkansas resident, who has two series going: one with Arly Hanks, the feisty female sheriff of the fictional town of Maggody, Arkansas and another with Claire Malloy, bookstore owner and part time sleuth. Good news for their fans: both of these writers have a new title either already out, or on its way.

Sacred Clowns, Hillerman's latest, was

published in September, and resides comfortably on many best seller lists already. West Side's copy is expected to arrive soon. The story involves two murders one day apart. The first, the death of a teacher, takes place at a mission school on Navajo Reservation in Chee and Leaphorn's jurisdiction. Uneasily, they work on it together, assuming the solution to the teacher's murder will be straight forward. The second murder occurs on the day of the tribal ceremony at the Tano pueblo. The strange behavior of a runaway teenager provides an unexpected link between the two crimes. The mysteries of the ancient and the modern must be unveiled by the duo before the truth comes to light. reviews have been quite positive.

Hess's newest, expected to be published this month, features Sheriff Arly Hanks in Little Town of Maggody. A superstar country singer returns home to Maggody to do a Christmas holiday benefit for the town. But a record company executive is found murdered, the source of some of the singer's lyrics comes under scrutiny, and Arly Hanks learns more about the music industry than she wanted to

know.

Other up and coming regional mystery writers whose works can be obtained through Richmond's libraries, include: Julie Smith and her New Orleans cop, Skip Landon; Linda Barnes, who writes of Boston investigator-cab driver Carlotta Carlyle; and Earl Emerson, creator of Mac Fontana, Seattle fire chief.

The works of these and other regional mystery writers are currently featured in a display at West Side Library. The Publisher's Weekly article is also available for our readers' perusal. Anyone at anytime may request any titles of these authors or any other authors through the West Side Library.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU

On behalf of the entire community, we wish to express our thanks to the West Side Women's Improvement Club for their generous monetary donation to the West Side Branch Library. Further, we wish to thank the Many Hands group for underwriting snacks for the Homework Club. (See "ONGOING EVENTS below")

WINNERS

J.R. Gonzales, Miguel Hidalgo, and Nick Wesser were the first place winners in the library's "Name the Baseball Stadiums" Contest. They each named all 12 stadiums correctly. Nick won the drawing for the first prize, a copy of the 1994 Beckett's Baseball Card Price Guide. Other contestants won packages of baseball cards.

Oscar Shine took home the library's pumpkin after coming the closest to guessing its correct weight. The pumpkin's weight was 12 pounds, 2 ounces; Oscar's guess was 12 pounds even.

VOLUNTEERS

We still need additional helpers for the Homework Club. Junior high and high school students, as well as adults, are encouraged to become helpers.

COMING EVENTS

At the Pt. Richmond Community Center

Thanksgiving Crafts

Wed., Nov. 24, 1993: 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Holiday Stories and Crafts (Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah)

Wed., Dec. 22, 1993: 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Ongoing Events

Story Hour - every Thurs., 10:00 a.m. in the library followed by crafts, games, tumbling, and films in the community center.

Homework Club

every Wed., 2:00 p.m. in the community center; light snacks and an active learning game, followed by homework help at 3:00. On fourth Wednesdays, special programs will replace the game.

NEW REGULAR HOURS

12:00 - 7:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday

12:00 - 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

135 Washington Avenue, Richmond, CA 94801,
620-6567.

Richmond Human Services Department
Wheelchair accessible.

Se Habla Espanol.

KISMET



A Review from **Anne Hanzlik**

The nostalgic tunes of "Strangers in Paradise" and "Baubles, Bangles & Beads" set the mood for the old but new version of *Kismet* at the Masquers, whose able orchestra lend so much to the background music of Alexander Borodin,

(adapted by Robin Wright and George Forrest). The entire theater is enhanced by the striking and imaginative sets and is a wonderful background for the multitude of beautiful costumes of the cast. This is most rewarding theater whether it is a little or a big production.

Under the adaptation and direction of Patricia Nelson, Don Waight and Joan Nelson (no relation) the entire cast is steered through the theme of *Kismet* (which in Arabic means man's fate or fortune). From the first version in 1911 by Edward Knoblock it has seen many film and stage versions, and a non musical version with Ronald Colman and Marlene Deitrich. It is a spoof on the classic tales of the Arabian Nights and is instead a more modern treatment making the Hajj, a street wise poet, convince the superstitious Baghdad crowd that he is a magician.

There are numerous talented singers in the cast. First, George Adams as Omar Khayyam, with a larger role than in the earlier versions. Don Waight plays the poet Hajj and Joan Nelson is Lalume, the Caliph's wife, together again after their

previous co-starring successes at the Masquers. Amy Nawata is Marsinah the Hajj's daughter and Eric Nieman is the caliph.

The choreographer, Samantha King has the talent of many able dancers including Linda Woody Wood as Princess Zubbediya, all who manage with remarkable agility to navigate the many levels and ramps on the stage which thrusts out over the orchestra pit and even to the first row of seats.

Once again the set design under Robert Love's direction has achieved a wonderful ambience not only on the stage but on the walls of the theater (and the proscenium) with desert scenes as background. Too bad they can't be a permanent decoration!

It's wonderful to not only see the expertise but the enthusiasm of all the Masquers, so much in evidence, particularly on opening night.

Kismet will be at the Masquers weekends until December 18th. It behooves one and all to see and enjoy it!



THE MASQUERS

Playhouse, Inc.

105 Park Place, Point Richmond

PROUDLY PRESENTS



By: Charles Lederer and Luther Davis

Directed by: Pat Nelson

The 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.

THE CAST

George Adams	Paulette Herring	Joan Nelson
Anna Albanese	Bree Iasnopolski	Ellie Ohara
Susan Amacker	Douglas McGann	Luanne Rogers
Arthur Atlas	Leslie McMurray	Jerry Telfer
Henry Bers	David Mendelsohn	Donald Waight
Davey Cruz	Amy Nawata	Bonnie Whatley
Robert Eichberg	Eric Neiman	Linda Woody-Wood
Monica Garcia-Orsorio		

Friday & Saturday evenings — October 29 - December 18

Sunday Matinees — November 7, 21, December 5, 12

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: \$10.00

DINNER & THEATRE benefit for our building fund at HOTEL MAC, Thursday evening, December 16. Dinner and ticket to "KISMET" for only \$25.00. To reserve, CALL: (510) 236-4988.

COMING: "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead", by Tom Stoppard. An hysterical spoof of Hamlet from the point of view of Shakespeare's most 'minor' characters.

1962 Washington School 6th Grade Class Picture

This picture was in the September Issue (if you missed it, there are still some copies available).

Here are the names that we have been able to come up with if you can help fill in the blanks , please let us know. By the way we sent a copy to teacher Elizabeth Bailey, she called to say that she was thrilled and wants us to say HI to all her students and friends in the Point.

1 Pam Wilson	9 Cindy Wilson	17 Billy Huffsteder	25 Susan Cemer	32 Michael Petta
2 Cindy Carlin	10 GeorgeGuittard	18	26 Susan	33
3 Helen Wheeler	11Michael Solvang	19	Beardsley	34 Michael Forner
4 Carmen Macing	12John Paulson	20	27	35 Del Quest
5 Cindy Forbes	13 Robert Drake	21Mrs. Bailey	28 Loretta Chase	36
6 Karla Tedrick	14	22 Susan Petta	29 Paula Wilson	37 Steven
7 Sandy Walker	15	23 Offie Essary	30	Christenson
8 Carla Conlin	16 Leo Carey	24 Lynn Moore	31	38 Peter Stark

Deaths...

Clayton Pinkerton died September 28, 1993 at the age of 62 years, Clayton, a well known artist, came to Richmond at the age of one month, attended Richmond schools and later lived on Western Drive. After leaving the Point, Clay moved to Carmel and later to Amador City where he lived at the time of his death. Around age twenty, as his first venture in business, Clay bought the old Lang building, now Edibles, to display his work.

He received a Fulbright Fellowship to the University of Paris in 1957 and did his painting in the south of France. After receiving a Fine Arts Degree from the College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland he became an art instructor there for more than twenty years. His art has been

exhibited all over the world and paintings are on display in the Art Gallery of Michael Himovitz in Sacramento.

Clayton is survived by his parents, Kathryn and David Pinkerton and a sister, Velma Healy in the Point.



Marguerite D. Marinell retired after 26 years as secretary for the Richmond Unified School District, died at a San Pablo Hospital. She was 75 years old.

A native of Rodeo, she was a lifelong resident of West County. She is survived by her husband, L.R. "Lefty" Marinell of Richmond; daughters, Arlene Marinell of Richmond, Laverne Marinell-Bell; sister, Lucille Berg of Vallego; and two grandchildren.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

(234-5334)

ANN GREINER
JASON MCGILL
BETTY DORNAN
ELSIE SPINOLA
CLARE DOHERTY
KEVIN FONG
DENNIS DORNAN
JOE SAVILL
MARIANNE FORBES
LES CRIM
HAL MARSHALL
NICOLE VARGO
JAMES CHESHARECK, SR.
JAMES CHESHARECK, JR.
IDA GIACOMELLI
LINDA CHESHARECK
CLAUDIA LeGUE
MICHAEL BROWN
ALBERT KOLLAR
GEORGE KOLLAR
LYNN RENDLER

MARY ANN GASPARD
CHRIS BRADSHAW
CRAIG SEABORG
BO AMANTITE
KENNY PAASCH
MIKE PRICE
GARY SHOWS
SHANE THOMAS
LINDA FEYDER
BETHANY REYNOLDS
KAY PINKERTON
BOBBIES BOZIKI
SHIRLEY BUTT
JACK ELLE
AUBYN EAKLES
MARJ BELLATI
LANCE ROTTING
MATHEW BERMAN
PAUL CORT
THEODORE BECK



*We probably wouldn't worry about what people think of us if
we could know how seldom they do.*

- OLIN MILLER

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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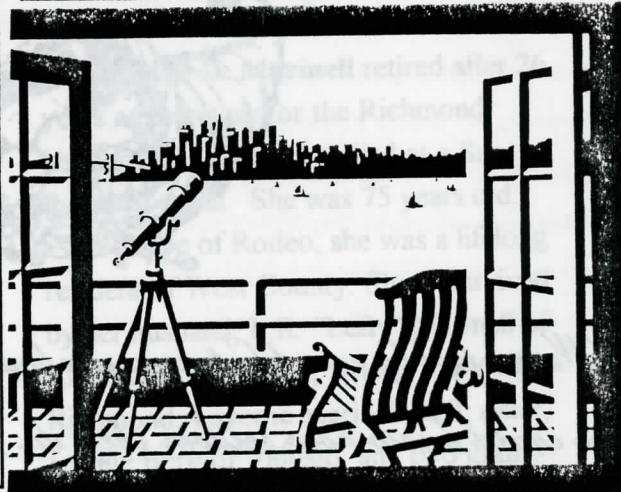
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Contributors to this issue:

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Dennis Schaefer	<i>Asst. Editor</i>
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Muriel Clausen	Article
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Don Church/Allan Smith	Historic Photos
Jerry Cerkanowicz	Various
Pam Wilson	Membership
Allan Smith	Article
Jean Reynolds	Article
Lucy Meinhardt	Article
Anne Hanzlik	Article
Marilyn Levine/John Allen	Mac Work
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Donna Powers	Article
Delphina Franco	Article
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Calendar

November, 1993

November 2
Tuesday

Election Day

**Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting,
7:30PM, Community Center**

**Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting
11:30AM, Point Richmond Methodist Church**

November 10
Wednesday

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

November 11
Thursday

Veteran's Day

November 13/14
Weekend

**Richmond Museum of History's Annual Junque Fair
10:00am to 3:00, call 235-7387 for location**

November 19
Friday

DEADLINE FOR THE WINTER EDITION OF TPIT

November 25
Thursday

Thanksgiving Day

November 27
Saturday

**"Official" Point Richmond Tree Lighting Ceremony
Dusk, Indian Statue Park**

December 5

Richmond Art Center, Holiday Arts Festival

December 7
Tuesday

Pearl Harbor Day

**Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting,
7:30PM, Community Center**

**Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting
11:30AM, Point Richmond Methodist Church**

December 8
Wednesday

**Point Richmond Business Association Christmas Party
5:00pm at the Hotel Mac**

December 9
Thursday

First Day of Chanukah