

THIS POINT in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

www.alkos.com/prha

Vol. XIX No. 2

September/October, 2000

\$1.50

*Original Indian
Statue, 1909*





S.S. RED OAK VICTORY

**SEPTEMBER 10 - PANCAKE BREAKFAST
9:00 AM TO 1 PM \$5.00 DONATION
CHILDREN UNDER 6 FREE**

FLEET WEEK FLAPJACKS

WATCH THE FLEET GO BY!

THRILL TO THE BLUE ANGELS FLY OVER!

ENJOY BREAKFAST AND MIMOSAS!

GET ALL OF THIS FOR JUST A \$10.00

DONATION!

OCTOBER 15TH 9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

S/S RED OAK VICTORY

TERMINAL 1, END OF DORNAN DRIVE

From The President

Mid Dornan

A dividend being involved with Point Richmond History is meeting special people. Having lunch at Hotel Mac with two former Point Richmond pioneers was like having lunch with two celebrities as Bernie Bernes with his lovely wife, Ruth, from San Diego, and Williard Spiersch, (his wife, the former Jean Moyle had a previous commitment) from Alameda met all the criteria of a celebrity.

Both are over ninety-years old! As we talked, Bernie recalled it was his Dad's French Laundry on Standard Avenue that did all the linens for Hotel Mac in the early days and Williard said it was Spiersch Plumbing, that provided the plumbing for the hotel. Records report terrible winds in the early 1900's and Bernie said one of the wind storms took the roof off the French Laundry. Willard earned his first dollar at Kozy Cove. He spent all day sand-papering the dance floors! He learned to swim at Kellers Beach. Willard also remembered that the Neal Candy Store had real agate marbles. Much as he admired those marbles, he could never afford them.

These two remarkable Point Richmond school-day friends reviewed their roots, and still showed a pride they felt for

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Bernard Bernes and Willard Speirach at the Hotel Mac

Point Richmond. Bernie and Willard e-mail each other every week and Bernie's nephew glanced over to remark, "My 90-year-old uncle shows me things about my computer!". It felt special just being at the same table with such remarkable guests.

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

Chris Wilson
Zoanna M. Kille
Otto R. Barni
Romelda Burress
Alphonso & Donna Diaz
Elbert Rife
Al & Gerry Higuera
Elaine Scott
Edna Hathaway
Pam Wilson
Josephine Palenchar
Jean M. Spiersch
Willard R. Spiersch
Henry C. Allyn
Tony Peter Bernabich
Dixie Mello
June A. Blackburn
Claude Bisio
Bruce & Ann Bartram
Judy & Joe Travis
Marilyn Darling
Phyllis R. Bogue
Linda S. Milbourn
Amelia Drake
Emile & Edwyna Pleau
Chuck Hochgesang

Thomas Kenny
June (Beesley) Solosabal
Richard & Michelle Clements
Rose & Louie Barra
Betty Jo Nickola
Olga Maria Thomsen
Dody Perry
Sparta Chiozza
Doug & Rosemary Corbin
Donna Wilson
David Bradshaw Family
Martha & Gene Bielawski
Margaret S. Morkowski

And a warm welcome to the following new members:

Karen, Steve, Jesse Kittle
David & Anne Roth
Linda Newton

Museum Staff Coordinator Betty Dornan thanks these volunteers who staffed the History Building during the Summer.

Thank You!

Santa Fe Market
and
Point Richmond
Market

for their donated distribution of
"THIS POINT....in time

Gary's Column

Gary Shows

Can you believe it, Summer is just about over, it went way too fast! But you can't argue with life and time.....so here ya go!

Thanks to all for getting your material to me in time even though I goofed and said the deadline was in September instead of August in my reminder postcard! Thank you Dee for putting your article together to quickly!

I was very pleased to meet Point Richmond pioneer Bernard Bernes last month, please enjoy pictures of our brief meeting in this issue. I noted that he was clearly proud of Point Richmond and what he and his family and friends had begun.

Lots of exciting historical things going on in our community! Congress is apparently seriously considering a "World War Two Home Front National Park" here in Richmond. The National Park would include the Rosie the

Riveter Monument, S/S Red Oak Victory and the old Ford Plant. Could and should be a really great tribute the war effort that took place here in Richmond.

Our next issue will be November, this is the only single month issue. Contributors should use it to announce your holiday happenings. The deadline for that issue is Friday October 20th.

Thanks to the Summer issue assembly crew:

Pam Wilson
Mid Dornan
Jerry Cerkanowicz
Gary Shows
Betty Dornan
Liz McDonald

If you can help staff our History Building (2½ hours per month) call museum Staff Coordinator Betty Dornan at 232-4317.

Museum Hours:

Thursday 11:30 am - 2:00 pm
Saturday 11:30 am - 2:00 pm

The Cover:

Photo of Indian Statue taken from "Richmond California" issued by the Richmond Industrial Commission. The magazine was donated by Murial Clausen. The statue was dedicated in 1909 and included multi-creature drinking fountains at its base. It presided over the business district until 1943 when it was toppled by a local truck driver and then reduced to WWII scrap metal.

A-Mid TRIVIA

-Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question: We know February is the shortest month, whether or not it is a leap year. What is the longest month?
Answer at end of Trivia

Webster's New College Dictionary will contain 207,00 first time definitions. New words include "Gen Y'ers", "energy bar", "senior moment" (brief lapse or moment of confusion), "slamming" (change of long-distance service without customers permission) and "dot-com". 1980's words included "AIDS", "caller ID", "trophy wife" and "soccer mom". The 40's included "cheeseburger", "barf", "baby-sit" and "apartheid" while the 50's brought "area code", "Brownie point", "disco", "deadbeat dad" and "junk food".

Carla Beckerley, Will, Laura and Jackson visited here from Ohio this summer and while here, helped Carla celebrate her July birthday with friends.

Alia Smyk, will be attending Merrymount College in Southern California this fall. After her graduation in June, Alia was honored at a party at her Bishop Alley home.

George Martin was a participant in the 25th annual California Bluegrass Festival in Grass Valley at the Nevada County Fairgrounds in June. Martin is on the nine-member board of directors for the California Bluegrass Association. From age 5 he was

fascinated with this type of music and now plays with friends. (Maybe he'll consider a benefit concert in the series now held at the Methodist Church once a month!)

Next time you pull out a new \$5 bill, check the face of Abe Lincoln. Some felt the old face was an expression of sadness and the new one displays a 98-percent melancholy-free Abe. Whatta you think? (I'm content to have a \$5 bill.)

Are you one of the Americans squirreling away the new golden-colored Sacagawea dollar coins? Some 500 million of the coins were in circulation within the first four months of the year and by summer, shipments of the new coin were expected to exceed 1 billion with 6 million new coins being minted daily. While less convenient to carry than the dollar bill, don't you see vending machines being converted for its use!

The best way to assure that your flight will leave on time is to arrive two minutes late for it at the gate.

There was the avid gardener who promised to start a new crop. Her plan was to cross poison ivy with a four-leaf clover. She hoped for a rash of good luck.

Jean Myles Eger and Howard Womack repeated marriage vows on Saturday, August 19, 2000 at 10:30 a.m. in the Killdeer Picnic Area of Miller/Knox Regional Park. Afterwards there was a potluck picnic and barbeque. The couple will live on Crest Avenue.

Best Wishes to Ann Hathaway Manley

and Chris Keesley on their recent wedding.

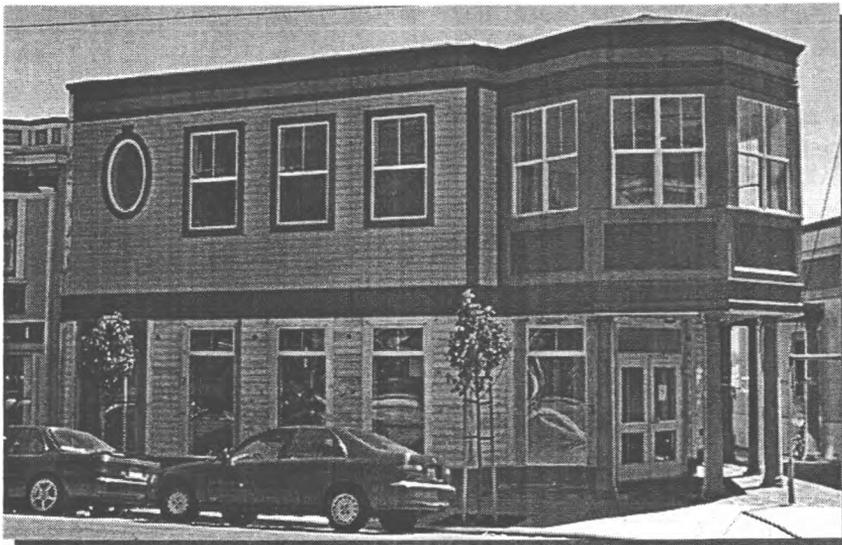
CHOCOLATE MATH 1. First, pick the number of times a week that you would like to have chocolate. (try for more than once but less than 10) 2. Multiply this number by 2 (just to be bold) 3. Add 5 (for Sunday) 4. Multiply it by 50 (being a bit mathematically slow myself, you may get your calculator.) 5. If you have already had your birthday this year add 1750. If you haven't, add 1749. 6. Now subtract the four digit year that you were born. (if you remember) 7. You should now have a three digit number. 8. The first digit of this was your original number, how many times you want to have chocolate each week. 9. The second two digits are your age. (in case you forgot). This is the only year (2000) it will work.

Green ketchup?? Yes, H.J. Heinz will introduce its most famous product in a ??????? ravishing shade of green. It is going to be a

shocker for a lot of adults, but kids don't have those hang-ups. The new green ketchup will taste just like the old red stuff, and the company hopes the unexpected color and plastic bottle, which squirts a stream so thin kids can draw with it, will pack in the fans. Heinz is also introducing a trap cap. The cap solves the problem of how to reach the ketchup without first getting the watery stuff.

From Richmond Record Herald 1915 - Mr. and Mrs. Richard Spiersch, 215 Alvarado Street, celebrated their 12th anniversary on August 16, 1915. Whist took up the early part of the evening.

Answer: October, at least in most areas of the U.S. We set our clocks back an hour to return to Standard Time on the last Sunday in October, so its an hour longer that the other 31-day months.



New building at 51 Park Place is looking real good!

The Rosie the Riveter Memorial: Honoring American Women's Labor During WWII

will be the first in the nation to celebrate and interpret women's contributions to the Home Front. Sited at the location of the former Kaiser Shipyards, the memorial will be constructed during Summer 2000 in Rosie the Riveter Memorial Park in Richmond's Marina Bay neighborhood. A dedication ceremony is being planned for October 14th, 2000.

The memorial design, by the artist team of Susan Schwartzberg and landscape architect Cheryl Barton, pays homage to the scale at which the women and men of the Kaiser Shipyard worked. A 441-foot long walkway, reflecting the length of a Liberty Ship, will include a home front timeline and quotes from former women shipyard workers. Sculptural elements evoking features of a Liberty Ship will be positioned along the walk and will hold porcelain enamel panels with photographs depicting the broad range of labor women performed across the nation. At the water's edge, a lookout platform will lead visitors to look out across the San Francisco Bay to the Golden Gate Bridge.

The Memorial design is the result of a regional competition was sponsored by the City of Richmond in late 1997 to select an artist to create the memorial. Competition announcements were sent to over 3,000 artists and arts organization in Washington, Oregon and California. Seventy-four West Coast artists and artist teams submitted qualifications for the Rosie the Riveter Memorial: Honoring American Women's Labor During WWII.

Many of the applicants wrote about their own connections to this history, including several artists who had worked in the shipyards

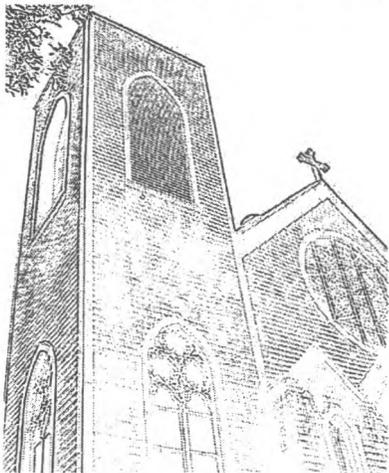
themselves. The number of responses was gratifying, but their quality was even more outstanding. A distinguished selection panel of community representatives and arts professionals was formed to review applications and select the finalists on January 16, 1998. The Rosie the Riveter Selection Panel consists of community activist Lucretia Edwards, former Richmond Planning Director Jim Farah, artist Mildred Howard; landscape architect Owen Lang, historian Gretchen Lemke-Santangelo, businesswoman Mindell Penn, artist Larry Sultan, and artist Hershell West. The panel performed the heroic task of narrowing the applications to a small group that has been invited to develop proposals.

The finalists were Beliz Brother and Ann Van Dyne (Seattle); Bella Feldman and Susan Leibovitz Steinman (Bay Area); Cheryl Riley (SF Bay Area); Susan Schwartzberg and Cheryl Barton (SF Bay Area); and Ilona Sturm and Wang Po Shu (Bay Area). The artists had the opportunity to come to Richmond for a site visit, during which they met with community representatives and City of Richmond staff.

The finalists' proposals, which will include detailed drawings of their design and a preliminary budget, were due on April 24th, 1998. A public exhibition of the finalists proposals was held in Richmond City Hall in April 1998. The public was invited to review the proposals and share their comments, which were forwarded to the Selection Panel. The Selection Panel reconvened to select the proposal that best met the Memorial goals, including the needs of the community and site and unanimously recommended the design by Schwartzberg and Barton.

This is reprinted from the Rosie the Riveter website, for lots more information on this great project go the site at <http://www.rosietheriveter.org>

Church News



Our Lady of Mercy

Dee Rosier
232-1387

What happens every year in September and is our main event - RIGHT - our annual church BBQ. This year we will celebrate the "2000 Jubilee BBQ" under the leadership of Bob Peckham and an enthusiastic committee who have been working many hours to make it a grand celebration. Mark your calendars - SEPTEMBER 3, 2000, Noon - 4:00 PM. There WILL NOT be a Noon Mass this year. The menu will be steaks, baked potatoes, salad, beans and dessert. All are invited to attend. With the anticipation of a full house, our goal is to purchase a new stove for the parish. The old stove - and I do mean "OLD" has served its purpose well, but is now beyond repair. It was originally donated to the church some 70 years

ago by the Matteucci family. The BBQ brings together parishioners, past parishioners and Point Richmond notables together for a reunion-type affair. Come help us achieve our goal.

As an outtake of the BBQ Committee, a Social Planning Committee was formed. The Committee will be planning other events which will bring our parish and Point Richmond community together. We are a small parish, but have some youthful members who are enthusiastic and have some grand ideas for future events.

Congratulations to Bob and Marie Peckham on the arrival of their new granddaughter, Bobby Dolan born July 7, 2000. Quoting Bob - "My little girl, had a little girl." Many of us remember Bob's little girl Kelli when she worked at the Santa Fe Market.

We are very fortunate to have Claudia celebrate the mass with her outstanding voice. Occasionally she brings with her talented choir members and they raise the roof with their united voices. It is a concert-type setting. It only seemed apropos that on a recent Sunday while Claudia and her group were rehearsing "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" that Bob Peckham chose to take time off of work to attend Mass. A welcome not soon forgotten. If all goes well and her schedule allows, Claudia and her group will be performing at the 9:30 AM Mass on September 3rd BBQ Sunday.

In the last issue, mention was made of many changes to the interior of our parish. The changes that have occurred were made to greatly enhance the interior appearance of our church. If a statue or picture that you are particularly fond of has been relocated, please ask Msgr. Kraus where they are presently located. Nothing has been removed, only relocated. They say that you can judge a person's age by the amount of time that it takes

for them to adjust to change - let's not be considered OLD.

FOR SALE, MOTOR HOME. Many thanks to Chano Forner for his generous donation of a motor home for a parish sale. The purchase money received will provide the seed money toward a new church roof

August 2002 will mark the 100th birthday of our parish. Many have provided photos and other memorabilia, as well as stories. If you are willing to share these gifts with us, please contact Msgr. Kraus. Example: Did you know that the first Mass celebrated in the newly established Our Lady of Mercy Church was held at Richard Hall on September 21, 1902? This information was discovered in the first baptismal record book. It is witnessed by Fr. Scardon, first permanent Rector of the parish.

Amelia Drake has generously assumed the responsibility to prepare flowers for our weekly liturgy celebration.

Recently a crying baby drew the attention of many during Mass. At the end of Mass, a woman approached Msgr. Kraus. He naturally expected words concerning the disruption, but was quite surprised when the woman commented to him that she was elated by the crying baby, because it meant that our church had a future.

Is it a FIRST???? Pastor Dan had an emergency recently and was going to be unable to address the Methodist members for their Sunday service so who steps in - you got it Msgr. Kraus took his Catholic homily to the Methodist Church members. Good neighbors, yes and a great outlook for the future. Back in May both churches hosted the celebrant singers.

Remember all who are unable to attend Mass regularly. In your prayers remember Bonnie Garcia, my sister, Elaine Neihouse and

those that we may be unaware of who are ill.

Mark your calendars for upcoming church events:

- October 6-8: Parish retreat, San Damiano Retreat Center, Danville.
- Sometime this Fall: Confirmation for young adults, adults or those who have not been confirmed.
- Anytime: Interested in becoming a Catholic or returning to the church - call Msgr. Kraus - 232-1843.
- September 20: Knowledge of the Bible - Bible study class
- October 28: Kaiser Convention Center, Oakland - Diocesan Jubilee Procession and Concert.
- November 11: Oakland Coliseum - Multicultural Jubilee Liturgy of the Diocesan Church
- December: RENEW starts in our parish

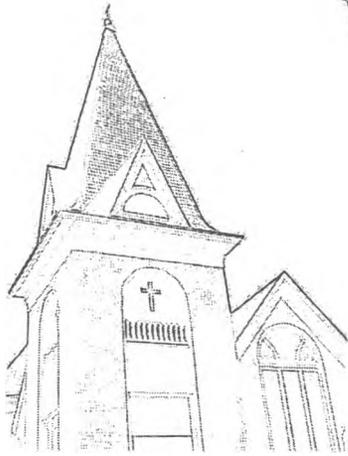
Our parish census continues, but can only be achieved by your participation. Sign up sheets have been available in the church. A general mailing is planned sometime in September.

It's vacation time and our Sunday Masses have been sparse, consequently so has our revenue. Looking forward to seeing all our familiar faces back soon. It's off to Hawaii for me - a week in Maui with my Daughter, Son-in-law and now 7 months old Grandson.

Someone has described heaven as a family reunion that never ends. What could hell possibly be like? A home video of the same reunion?

Don't forget our BBQ. Those not included in the mailing may call me for tickets. Looking forward to seeing all of you there.

See you in church.



Point Richmond Methodist

Jean Reynolds
235-2988

Vacation Bible School was a blast in July. We especially enjoyed making birdhouses with Ed Squires, and learning about people houses (Habitat for Humanity) from Doug Corbin. Jean Eger worked her magic with the art projects, and Linda Brooks turned everyone into a puppeteer. Kristi Johnson, Pastor Dan (the music man), Isela Idzerda and Donna Hyatt all were invaluable during the week. Some of the students were on hand for worship on July 23 with their own puppets, and they did a puppet show to tell a Bible story during the service.

We enjoyed a big helping of “neighborliness” on August 20: the Rev. Msgr. Ted Kraus of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church preached the sermon for our morning worship. Pastor Dan and his wife Eileen Johnson were called away due to a death in the family, and we appreciated Father Ted stepping in on short notice. It is good to be able to rely on your neighbors!

Congratulations to Jean and Howard Womack who exchanged marriage vows August 19 at George Miller Park. Jean’s son, Bill Eger, was in town for the celebration, as was her mother Naomi, and her Aunt Lillian and Uncle Paul from New Jersey. George Martin and his bluegrass band entertained at the reception following the ceremony. All the best to the bride and groom!

The Memorial Garden, which will be in the space next to the church on West Richmond Ave., will have a bricked area. Community members are invited to add their family’s name or remember a loved one by purchasing a brick to be installed in the plaza stamped with a name, date, and/or short message. Bricks can be purchased for fifty dollars. There is room on each brick for three lines with up to fourteen characters per line. Bricks may be purchased through Claudia LeGué (215-1813).

Up-coming events:

Joyful Noise Choir: Practice resumes on August 30, at 7:15 p.m. New singers are welcome. Choir director Virginia Cherniak says you do not have to be able to read music to be in the choir, but she asks that all singers sing in the same key. (Yes, Ma’am!)

Angel Choir: Directed by Pastor Dan Damon, this choir of children and youth rehearses on Saturdays from 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. They sing during the Sunday service about once a month. Their first rehearsal after the summer break will be on September 9.

A breakfast for all Sunday School students, their families and teachers will be served on September 10 at 9:30 a.m. This event is always well attended, because the breakfast is

delicious and the company is lively! The middle school and high-school youth have several events planned for this year. They also meet at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

A Centennial Tea is scheduled for September 23. The United Methodist Women will be serving tea and dainty refreshments at 12 noon and 2:00 p.m. in Friendship Hall, with "A Parade of Memories" fashion show at 1:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. It will be a "ten-cent tea" like the ones held here decades ago; the suggested donation is ten dollars. Some handmade items and baked goods will be available to purchase, too.

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 46th installment.

Mar 30, 1926

Social League met at the Rod and Gun Club for a picnic. It was moved, seconded and carried that all bills at the Whiteside Grocery be paid.

No business meeting was held.

Mrs. W. Schmidt, Sec.

Mar 16 Balance	40.10
Improve, club pd	+ 1.00
	41.10
Paid to Whitesides -	.95
New balance	40.15

POINT METHODIST CHURCH TO CELEBRATE CENTENNIAL

It was on October 14, 1900 that the First Methodist Episcopal Church was formally organized, being the first religion in Richmond. To celebrate their centennial, members are planning a special celebration on Sunday, October 15th. Former pastors are being invited as are all past members with special recognitions at the morning worship services at 11 o'clock.. Rev. Dan Damon has written a hymn for the occasion. A catered lunch will be provided and other plans are being finalized. Everyone in the community is invited to share in the joyous celebration.

10¢ CENTENNIAL TEA

As part of their centennial celebration, the United Methodist Women are planning a 10¢ Tea. This was the price of tea fund raisers in the early 1900's at the church. There will be two seatings for the tea because a 'Parade of Memories Program' will be presented between the tea seatings. As this is a 'fun'-d raiser, a \$10 donation is suggested for the program, with 10¢ returned to you to pay for your tea and refreshments. For more information, call 222-2999 or 234-5334.



Thoughts on the book "To Place Our Deeds" By Shirley Ann Wilson Moore

by Allan Smith

I borrowed a very interesting book from the Point Library titled "To Place Our Deeds". It was written by Shirley Ann Wilson Moore and was a doctoral dissertation from the University of California at Berkeley. The literary work is about the African American Community in Richmond, California from 1910 to 1963.

While attending Roosevelt Junior High in Richmond, I don't remember any black students but later at Richmond Union High School I recall Louis Bonapart, a black student who was also on the school football team. I graduated with one black student. In 1940, the population of Richmond was 24,000 with 270 black residents.

Black Richmonder, CHARLIE REID, was a very good friend to all of us baseball players. He was once a star pitcher for the Oakland senior professional PIERCE COLORED GIANTS and later North Richmond's recreational director. CHARLIE was a great guy we all liked. He was one of the first black baseball umpires calling the highly competitive games played at night. He held his own with some of the highly tempered players.

We all remember OLLIE FREEMAN, a black Richmond resident since 1933. He was very popular with his shoe shine stand and his Jazzland Records, a popular North Richmond record store. The book states that OLLIE was a decorated war veteran who served with the segregated 761st Black Panther Tank Battalion of the Third Army.

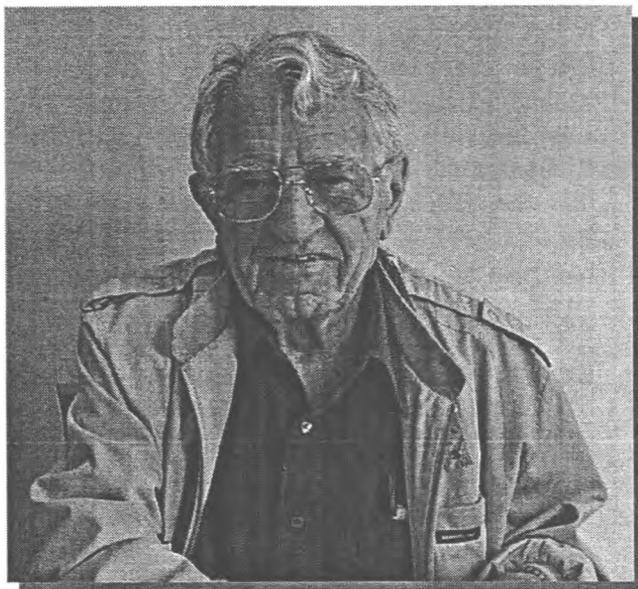
Do you remember the Richmond Café and Minnie Lues Restaurant in North Richmond. Minnie Lues served delicious "home cooking". How about the Last Man's Club located in North Richmond, a social group composed of World War One Veterans, also in North Richmond and is open all night. Tappers Inn was the most popular night spot in North Richmond during the war. The Richmond Café was the earliest black prewar business. The book said it was located on Washington Avenue and in 1905 advertised the "best meal in the city."

Lena Horne officiated at the launching of the S/S George Washington Carver, a Liberty Ship from Richmond Yard One in 1943. The whole crew were African Americans who served our country and the United States Merchant Marine with Distinction.



Bernard Bernes' Return to the Point

by Gary Shows

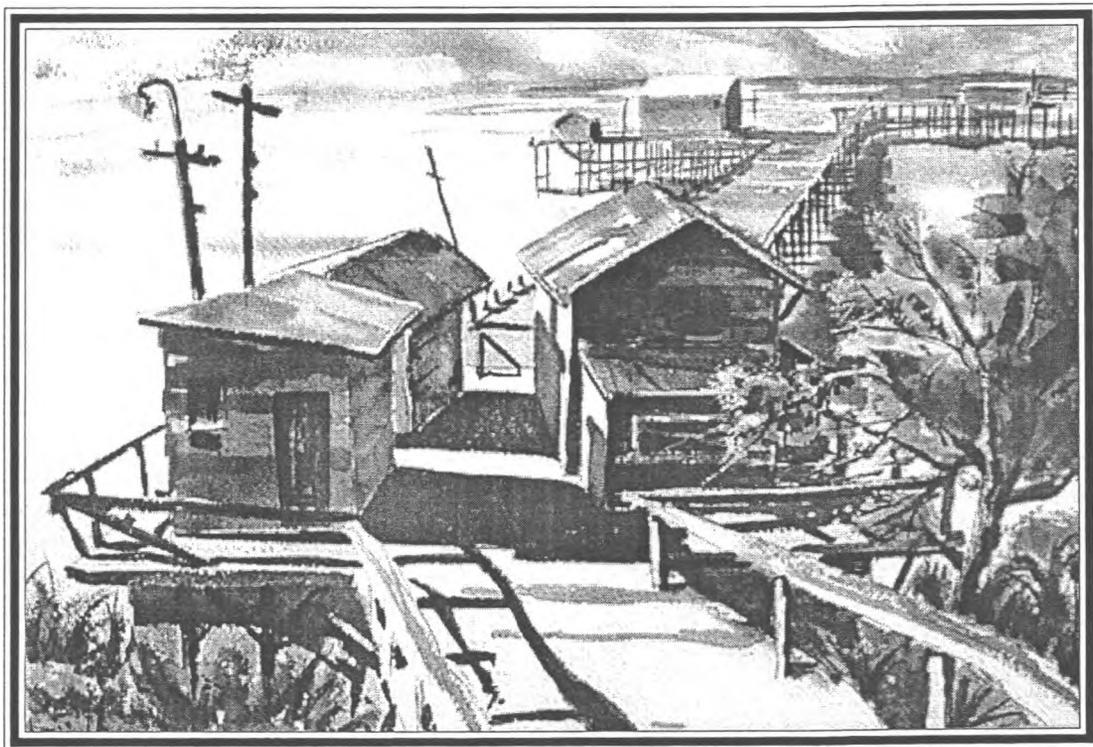


Bernard (Bernie) Bernes was born on November 7, 1908 and grew up in Point Richmond. His father owned the primary laundry business in Point Richmond, French Laundry. We were recently honored by a visit from Bernie and his wife Ruth along with his boyhood pal Will Spiersch (of Alameda), his wife Joan did not visit. Will and Bernie were classmates at the old Washington School

starting in 1914. For their visit into their past they were guests of the old Hotel Mac. Bernie loves to tell stories of the way things used to be and has amazing memories of the neighborhoods homes. We went for a top down automobile drive around the town he seemed to remember the names of families who lived in each and every one of the older homes in the Point. We stopped by the PRHA Museum and he seemed quite proud of what has become of his old hometown. He even encouraged questions from museum visitors. By the way, he is also proud to say that he was in the same class as famous Richmond baseball player Lefty Gomez.



Bernie now happily lives, and has for some time, in Chula Vista, CA, has become computer savvy, he and Will keep in touch regularly using email. You can write to him at bbernes@aol.com, and if you do, be sure to ask to be put on his joke list, he keeps them fresh and many are quite good. I really enjoyed meeting Mr. Bernes and hope that he is planning a return visit.



Bernie donated this painting to the PRHA in 1993. It is by the famous cowboy art painter Gary Carter and is a beautiful depiction of Keller's Pier. You can see it at our museum.

Days Gone By

PETER KELLEGHAN

by Nilda Rego

Nilda Rego is a columnist for West County Times where her articles appear in the Sunday Timeout section and are titled "Days Gone By". Nilda has written two books, "Days Gone By", Vol 1 and Vol 2 which are available through the Contra Costa County Historical Society History Center, Walnut Creek bookstores and through Amazon.com. Or, e-mail her at nilda@veriomail.com. The books cost \$15.95 plus tax and handling. The following appeared in the West County Times and we are grateful to Nilda for allowing us to reprint her articles since they were about the Kelleghan family and the Point.

I can still see her cutting holes in the meat and putting in the garlic. Roast it in the oven with potatoes, onions and carrots all in the roasting pan."

Mervin **Kelleghan** is remembering his mother, Annie Valencia **Kelleghan**, who he says was a great cook. She made all the meals on a wood stove; it was the centerpiece of the family's Point Richmond home.

She'd bake those cakes. Don't know how she did it. Wouldn't let anyone fool with that damper after she set it. Every Sunday, Mother would cook a big dinner, chicken, rabbit. Sometimes she would order a rump roast from the butcher. Roasted it all in the oven. We always had mashed potatoes and vegetables. The whole family would come over, all the in-

laws on Sunday.

"On Easter we had vinha d'alhos (a traditional Portuguese dish). She'd marinate (the meat) the day before. Lots of garlic. Pork chops, that's what they were.

"On Christmas there would be turkey, roasted in that old wood stove. We had the biggest tree you could get in the house. Bought it for 50 cents. The candles were clipped on the tree Christmas Eve. We couldn't open the gifts until morning. Used to sneak down the stairs. Every Christmas there would be these big beautiful oranges in the stockings."

Kelleghan visited the Contra Costa County History Center in Pleasant Hill recently to talk about growing up in North Richmond during the Depression. There was very little cash in the family in those days. His father, **Peter**, had to give up his fuel oil delivery business after cancer surgery. All seven of the **Kelleghan** children got jobs as soon as they were old enough to help support the family.

Everyone worked

"Pearl (the eldest) was 18 when Dad had surgery. She went to work at the (California) Cap Works. Gladys was the private secretary to Galvin and Newsom (Richmond Independent owners). They weren't there half the time and she ran it. In those days the Independent wasn't that big. Lillian worked in the Independent Print Shop, nothing to do with the paper. Irene went to work in the Cap Works. George went to work at Pullman. I went to work at Pullman for two years and then Standard Oil for 40. Earl went in the Navy and later worked for the phone company.

"At Pullman you'd work in the winter when they refurbished the cars. I worked

summers at (a fruit) cannery. It was near the Ford plant."

To help supplement the family income, *Peter Kelleghan* raised vegetables in an enormous garden while Annie raised turkeys, chickens and rabbits. She would sell the chicken eggs. He would sell corn, tomatoes and even tomato plants.

"People would admire those eggs because of how fresh they were. The yolk stood up high. The white hugged the yolk. I couldn't eat store-bought eggs for years. And oh, man, that corn."

Kelleghan remembered his father grew kale in a nearby empty lot to feed the chickens and the turkeys.

"Those turkeys, how smart they were at making nests. They would find a lot of grass growing on the hill. My mother would watch them zigzag around. They could wander two or three blocks. When the eggs hatched they would come back in the yard with all the turklings following.

"The turklings would get sick a lot. She'd put them in a cardboard box filled with rags and put them behind the wood stove. Fed them chopped green onions. She'd bring in baby chicks too. Put them behind the stove.

"Everything went behind that wood stove. The girls made root beer. They had to keep it warm; I don't know why. Sometimes it would blow up. Had 100 bottles back there. Would buy the stuff, mix it all up and cap it with the bottle capper.

"We always had 50 chickens. Mother liked to raise Rhode Island Reds and Plymouths. Didn't care much for Leghorns. We had two big chicken houses. Have to keep the doors shut against the neighbor's dog.

"The Tom turkeys followed (Mervin's sisters) all over the place. We had geese too they used to chase me."

Being kids

Besides the chicken houses and a barn, there was a small cottage to the rear of the *Kelleghan* house on Clarence Street. The *Kelleghans* called it the tiny house.

"The girls used to have plays in that house. It had two rooms. That's where we put the canned fruits, peaches, apricots, pears. We'd lay out the potatoes where it was nice and dark. Had enough for the whole year."

Annie canned fruit and made jams and jellies, all from the produce grown in her back yard.

"We had a tremendous big walnut tree, four peach trees, two or three big apricots, plum trees, pears, blackberries. We had loganberries an inch long. She'd cook 'em all, put them in jars. We'd squash the loganberries to make juice. Drink it."

When the United States entered World War II, Mervin's older brother, George, went into the Army and his younger brother enlisted in the Navy.

"I was deferred to take care of my parents. I'd walk to work from Point Richmond right down the hill to the refinery. I had a car, but I left it home.

"Dad died in September 1945. Wasn't sick long, a couple of months."

In 1949 the *Kelleghans* sold their house on the hill in Point Richmond and all the men in the *Kelleghan* family got together and built a new one for Annie on Dunn Avenue in Richmond. It had all the modern conveniences. It was to this house that Mervin brought his bride, Lorraine Suine, to live in 1950.

"You know, there were seven of us children and no divorces."

Annie *Kelleghan* died in 1967. Mervin and his wife live in Pinole.

SHHH!

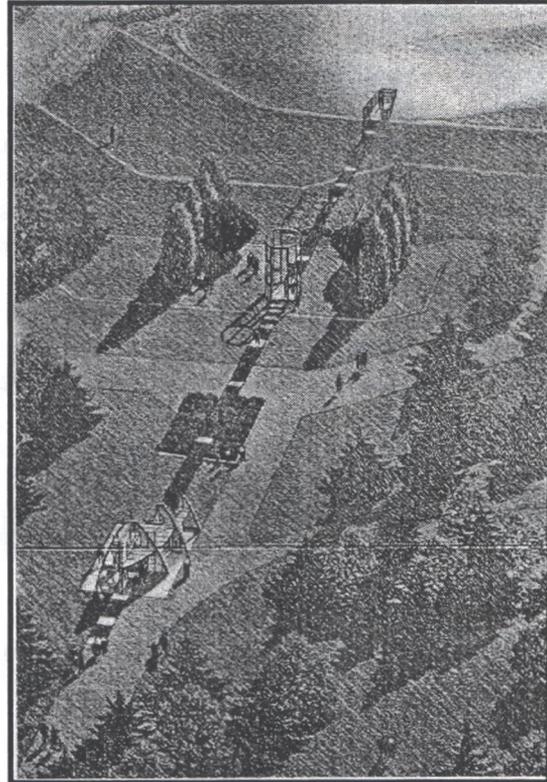
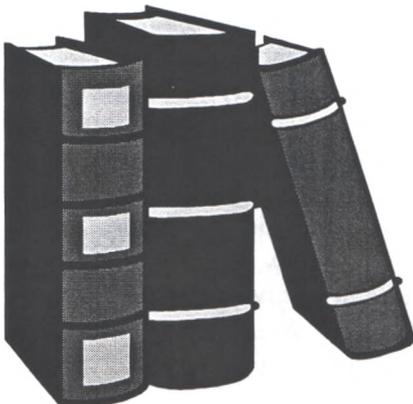
By Biblio Tek

Westside Branch Library News

Summer time and the living was busy. The Reading Game is coming to a successful completion, and we have had a number of wonderful children's programs. Many thanks to Kathy, Keith, Lucy, Jose and Rosanne for filling in while Lynn was away attending a course at Oxford on the history of garden design.

Serendipity reigns worldwide. When Lynn returned she found there had been many gifts of books to the library including several on garden design and a new Colin Dexter mystery set in Oxford! A special thanks to you who remember Westside Branch by donating the books you have read and enjoyed.

There has been active use of our new computers with their internet access for research and to read and send e-mail. Soon we expect to have new computer desks to put under them. Everything's up to date in Point Richmond!



The Rosie the Riveter Monument is now under construction, it is the length of a victory ship and full of information.

Allan Smith's Point

By Allan Smith

I recently noticed that the stone honoring Native Son John Kenny, Jr. that was placed at the end of Washington Park on Dornan and Cutting is missing. This monument was originally placed at a small park, named Kenny Park, located at Castro and Tewksbury. The park was removed to make room for the Richmond Parkway and the new 580 Freeway. John Kenny was the oldest son of Point Richmond pioneer John Kenny, Sr. who owned the Kenny Building and Pool Hall on Washington Avenue, which is now known as Little Louie's. To this day when I enter Little Louie's I can still smell the odor of stale beer and hear the sound of the bowling alley that was there.

John Kenny, Jr. was a prominent politician in the early thirties in the City of Richmond. He was reported as 'missing in action' during WWII while serving in the United States Air Force in the South Pacific. His brother Jim Kenny served our city as both councilman and mayor. Washington Park was recently renamed Judge Carrol Park. Why wasn't it named Washington, Kenny, and Carrol Park? Seems like a park's name should be somewhat permanent, what will Judge Carrol Park become? We have to watch these 'Johnny and Jane Come Latelys', they will change the whole setup.

Rev. John Malloy, of the Salesian Order, was recently honored for his 50 years as a Catholic Priest. Our Lady of Mercy Church always claimed Father Malloy as coming from our parish here in the Point. He was once principal of the Salesian High School in Richmond. Father Malloy is now Pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Surrey, British Columbia.

The Coast Guard Cutter named POINT RICHMOND, is a 80 foot patrol boat that spent its whole 30 year career in Anacortes, Washington. it must have been named after our town. Its primary mission was search and rescue, law enforcement and fisheries. It was decommissioned on June 30, 1997 and later sold to the Ecuador Coast Guard. It is used in counter-narcotic effort by the Ecuador government. I wonder if Point native son, Bob Hartnyk, Jr. ever served on this ship as he was a member of the United States Coast Guard at that time.

Sophia Warith, daughter of Mo and Sheba Warith of the Point Richmond Market was recently elected to the board of the Point Richmond Business Association. She is a graduate of Sacramento State University with a degree in business and human resources and should serve quite well.

Sports Memories

by Allan Smith

Baseball season is almost over for the minor league players but the big leagues have another month to play. Have you seen a ball game this year?

Several years ago, the old Pacific Coast League remembered some of the former Oakland Oaks players, living and dead. This tribute was sponsored by the Pacific Coast League Historical Society. Many Point Richmond and Richmond residents will recall these players. Some of them, all from the East Bay were: ERNIE LOMBARDI, CHICK HAFEY, LEFTY GOMEZ, WILLIE STARGELL, FRANK ROBINSON, JOE MORGAN, BILLY MARTIN, RICKEY HENDERSON AND DENNIS ECKERSLEY. I remember East Oakland's product, BUZZ

ARLETT ranked by the Society for American Research as the greatest minor league hitter of all time. He used to play at the old Richmond First Street Ball Park.

On July 4, 1929 Oakland's ROY CARLYLE hit a ball 618 feet. His home run remains the longest in baseball history. LES SCARSELLA of Richmond, turned down a major league offer just to stay and play in Oakland.

In 1948, the Oakland Oaks won the Pacific Coast League title, managed by Casey Stengel with a team including LOYD CHRISTOPHER (from Point Richmond), BILLY MARTIN, COOKIE LAVAGETTO, ERNIE LOMBARDI, RUGGER ARDIOZA, MEL DUEZABOU and DARIO LODIGIANI.



Addenda from Dee Rosier

Our Lady of Mercy recently hosted a meeting of local parish councils from neighboring parishes represented by St. Johns, St. Marks, St. Cornelius and St. Patrick's. They expressed their views of past achievements and future plans. We all shared our concerns for the future of our parishes.



CARDS & LETTERS



Dear Ms. Highfill:

My name is Trudy Corbo Ehlbeck and I live in Daytona, FL. I have been working on my Corbo family history for several years and I have found that my grandfather Salvatore Corbo resided in Richmond from 1917? until his death in September 1939.

I have read an article in your website on Richmond recollections and am hoping someone my remember Salvatore Corbo and his wife Elvira. I will keep the story short, so here goes it.

Salvatore was originally from Italy. He went to Richmond maybe around 1917 or sooner. He left his wife and children in New York and took up with Elvira Fasanaro. Elvira was 20 years younger than Salvatore. Salvatore owned the Subway Market at 1600 MacDonald Ave. After Salvatore's wife died in New York in 1927, Salvatore and Elvira supposedly married and were divorced the following year, but she still operated the market with him.

There is no record of any marriage or divorce between them. Right after the divorce she married Tony or Antonio Bruni. When Salvatore died in 1939 she and Toni were still married and operating the market. She contested Salvatore's will, won and got the market and the other properties involved. Elvira claimed they had a sort of pre nup agreement that in exchange for taking care of him when he was ill, she would get the property. The property was to go to my Dad and his brother and sister but all that changed. Elvira was a schemer. She then operated the store with Toni until they divorced in 1955 and

she signed the store over to her niece and nephew Luigi and Elvira Bragazzi.

There is a lot more to this story, too much to write about now. Elvira was such a witch and a character, I figure someone may remember her and all that went on from 1939 to when she died in 1978. I also wonder what is at 1600 MacDonald Ave. now? I would appreciate any information anyone can provide. I as in Richmond for a short time 3 years ago, but did not know all I know now. I found someone on a genealogy website last year who dug up all this information. She even sent me pictures of Salvatore's grave. Elvira is also buried in the same cemetery.

Yours truly,
Trudy Ehlbeck
145 Bryan Cave Rd.
South Daytona, FL 32119-4401
904-767-8385
email; tru1937@aol.com

Your letter is very interesting. We have many Richmond 'old-timers' who subscribe to our newsletter, maybe someone will be able to give you the information you need.

Mary Highfill

Dear Pam,

I am happy to renew my membership. I really enjoy each issue, you all do a great job to keep in touch of the past and the current times. Keep up with the good work.

As Always,
June (Kunkel) Blackburn
Bemidji, MN

Deaths....

Grace M. Mar, died on June 7, 2000 at Manor Care in Walnut Creek. Born January 20, 1920 in in Pescadero, CA. Resident of Walnut Creek for one year prior resident of Oakland. She retired from the Santa Fe Market in Point Richmond and was also self-employed in the brocery business. An active member of many Catholic organizations. Active member of both St. Louis Bertrand Church of Oakland and Corpus Christi Church in Oakland. She is survived by daughter Margaret Ann Mar of Danville; brothers Hiro Kajloka of Redwood City, Masato Kajloka of Seattle, WA; sister Mary Nakashima of Stockton; grand-daughter Stephanie Lee Ow. Predeceased by husband, William Mar in 1972.

Michael P. Filice died on April 20, 2000 in Moraga. A native of Gilroy, CA and an Orinda resident of 42 years. Age 82. Loving husband of 46 years to Jean. Dear father of Michael P. Filice, Jr. of Poway, CA and Nancy Ollanik of Bounder, Colorado. Cherished grandfather of Michael and Brian Filice of Poway, CA and Alysa and Nicholas Ollanik of Boulder, CO. Devoted brother of his sister, Delphina Filice of San Jose, CA and brothers Gennaro A. Filice Of Discovery Bay, CA and George C. Filice of Alamo. Mr. Filice was a graduate of U.C. Berkeley, Class of 1939. Served as a Captain in WWII in the Army Air Force from 1941-1946. Was V.P. at F&P Canning Co. in Richmond, CA with plants in Richmond, Gilroy and Merced which became part of California Cannery & Growers, Inc., General Partner in the San Jose Athletic Club; Member of Orinda Country Club; an Honary Paul Harris Recipient of Orinda Rotary Club; Member of the Galileo Club of Richmond and Richmond Elks Lodge.

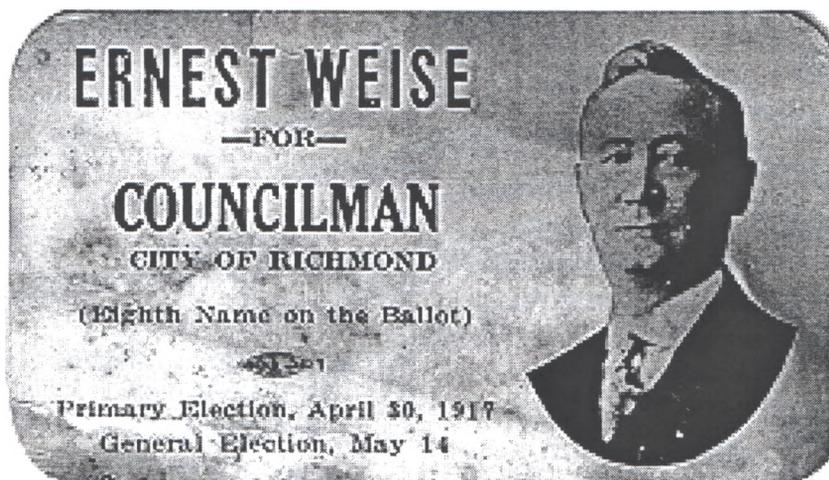
Richard Dowell died June 26, 2000 at home on Clarence Street. He was 76 years old. Richard retired after 25 years as a Richmond police officer. A native of Yakima, Washington, he lived in Point Richmond for 55 years. He served in the Marine Corps in WW II. His wife, Noraleen, a school secretary, preceded him in death. A sister, Elizabeth Sanford of Richland, Washington survives him.

Paul A. Howe died July 23,2000 at Kaiser Hospital in Sacramento. He was 72 years old. Paul was an active member and served many years on the board of the Point Methodist Church. When he retired in 1988 after 31 years of service with Pacific Gas and Electric, he moved to Challenge, California where he could fish and hunt. He and his wife Nona recently celebrated 49 years of marriage. Paul is survived by his wife, Nona; two sons, Clifford of Newark, Delaware and John of San Jose; two sisters, Vera Howe and Helen Roach of Alameda and one brother, John, also of Alameda.

Vanna Grant Prince a Commercial artist, died at a Daly City medical center: She was 67. The Reno native lived in Richmond for six years and previously lived in San Francisco. Vanna was educated at the University of Nevada and was active in the Point Richmond Garden Club, Women's West Side Improvement Club and Masquers Playhouse in Point Richmond. She is survived by sister; Beth Miramon of Reno; and nephews, Auguste and Dan LeMaire, both of Reno.

Virginia Lee Spilman died April 23. The North Liberty, Iowa native was 84 years old. She is survived by her loving children, James C. Spilman of Richmond, Mazie L. Spilman of San Jose, and Don T. Spilman of Myrtle Point, Oregon; Sisters, Alberta Piemmons of Spokane, WA and Lowanda Ort of Fort Madison, IA. Virginia also leaves to cherish her memory, 3 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Murlyne Knox Gerber who retired as an assistant vice president at a bank died on September 6, 2000 of a stroke in a Richmond hospital. She was 65.. The Meridian, Texas, native lived in Point Richmond for 13 years. She is survived by her husband of 14 years, Marvin; daughter, Debra Knox of San Francisco; sons, Mike, Paul and Robert Knox, all of Texas; step-daughter, Sandra Gerber Dolan of Novato; stepson, David Gerber of Los Angeles; sisters, Pam Minter and Gay Smith, both of Texas; and seven grandchildren.



September Birthdays

Susan Armstrong
Marie Peckham
Ivar Elle
Daniel Butt
Sara Warren
Smith Joann Busby
Emily Anne Barnes
Al Frosini
Frank Christopher
Roberta Wilson

Shane Eastman
Bernard Dietz
Mary Forbes
Stephen Berman
Ingvar Elle
Gayle Kaufman
Roxanne Trudeau
John Hadreas
David Reynolds
Donna Roselius

John T. Knox
Jerry Cerkanowicz
Kenneth Dolan
Theresa Daniel
Jan Feagley
June Kunkel Blackburn
Lorin Buhler
Isosbel Shaw

October Birthdays

Terry Wynne
Kate Lord
Florence Wilson
Liz McDonald
Jean Moyle Spiersch
Maria Shaw
Marguerite Clutts
Linda Pereira
Rosy Roselius
Timothy Doherty
Jodi Bagley

Jeff Ward
Justin Kaufman
Todd Cort
Marian Tedrick
Brian Tedrick
Nathan Berman
Rich Weirick
Charlie Dutrow
Chris Ward
Helen Frosini
Chad Feagley

Isobel 'Boo'Shaw
Jerry Daniel
Grace Cerkanowicz
Otto Barni
Nellie Bisio Pasquini
Betty Glass Marshall
Maria Inchauspe Smith
Abigail Munoz Rivera
Willard Speirch 92

Exclusive—Over 90 Club

Mae Mandl
Pina Barbieri
Ruth Wood
Bernard Bernes
Willard Spiersch
William Kollar

Louis Shaw
Thelma Hecker Harvey
Charlotte Wood
Alice Helseth
(have we missed anyone? Let us know.)

Calendar of Events

Alphabetical by Group

GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM AND EAST BAY MODEL ENGINEERS SOCIETY

900 Dornan Drive, Miller/Knox Regional Park. Interested in Museum Membership? Business Meetings and Workshop on Friday's 7-10 PM. 510-234-4884. Museum Hours: May—October, Sundays 1-5 PM.

MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

August 25—September 30

"The Rivals", Richard Brinsley Sheridan's 1775 English classic comedy; \$10, Friday—Saturday, 8 PM, with some Sunday matinees at 2:30 PM. Reservations: 510-232-4031.

September 15, Thursday 5—7 PM

The Masquers and "Save the Plunge Committee" are co-hosting the Richmond Chamber of Commerce "Mixer" at the Plunge. Refreshments and Plunge tours. Ellie Strauss at 235-0738.

November 3—December 16

"The Secret Garden", a musical; \$12, Friday—Saturday, 8 PM with some Sunday matinees at 2:30 PM. Reservations: 510-232-4031.

POINT RICHMOND ASSOCIATION OF MOTHERS (PRAM)

Mondays, at 7:00 PM; September 11, October 16, November 13, December 11 on Mondays at 7 PM, Methodist Church, 201 Martina Street. Info: 273-9959.

POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Meets 2nd Wednesday each month, Hotel Mac Banquet Room, 12-1:30, Lunch Reservations \$11, Contact: Paula Asmus, O.D. 235-5228.

Annual Holiday Tree Lighting (new lights this year!), Indian Statue Park, Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 25, 5:00 PM, Methodist Church Choir and Santa Claus. There may be expanded late afternoon children's activities. Look for notices in November.

POINT RICHMOND COMMUNITY CENTER/FIELD HOUSE & PLUNGE

Info: 233-6881

POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

The deadline for the November issue of TPIT is Friday October 20, 2000.

The next General Meeting of the Point Richmond History Association will be in January. Check the November issue of TPIT for details.

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meets last Wednesday each month, Pt Richmond Community Center; 7:30 P.M Contact: Rod Satre, President, 232 5059.

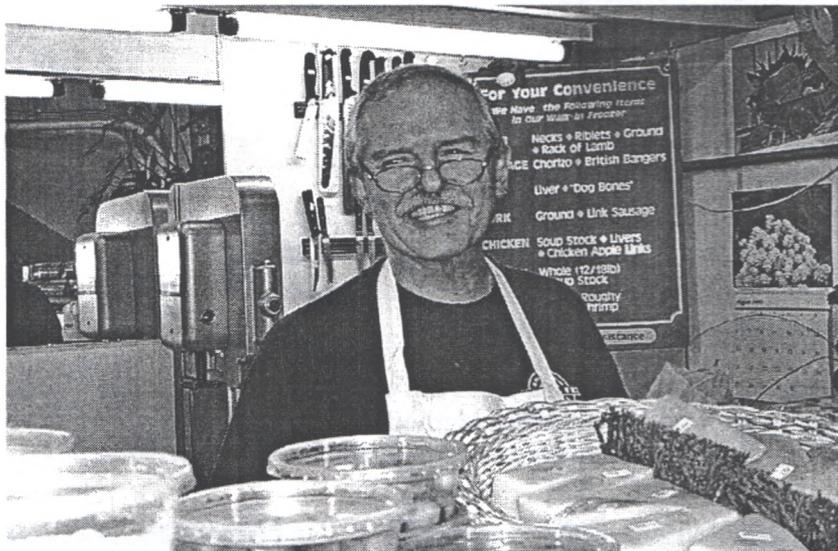
WASHINGTON SCHOOL

First Day of School: August 29, 2000. What happened to the good ole' days with school starting after Labor Day. Probably depends on which generation you ask! Contact: Miss Jones, Secretary 510-232-1436.

WOMEN'S WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB

Contact: Alyce Williamson, President at 234-6167

*For comments, corrections or additions to the TPIT Calendar of Events contact:
David Vincent*



*Bob Peckham is very photogenic, especially 'home' in his Point store.
Thank you Bob for your fun and enthusiastic support!*

I would like to join the P.R.H.A.

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 (six 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 months.

Articles for each issue are due on or before the deadline printed in the calendar section.

Please mail articles and items of interest to:

Gary Shows
229 Golden Gate Avenue
Point Richmond, CA 94801

or
fax 510-217-2429

or
email: gary@alkos.com

"This Point...in time" is a publication of the Point Richmond History Association, a non-profit organization at:

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Main Contributors to this Issue:

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Don Church/Allan Smith	Historic Photos
Jerry Cerkanowicz	Proof/Article
Pam Wilson	Membership Info
Allan Smith	Articles/photos
Jean Reynolds	Article
Dee Rosier	Article
David Vincent	Calendar/Photo
Bernard Bernes	Information
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Biblio Tek	Article
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Visit us at our website

<http://www.alkos.com/prha>

Richmond Museum of History 510-235-7387
Red Oak Victory Information 510-235-7387

For Red Oak Project information visit:

<http://www.redoakvictory.com>
<http://www.rosietheriveter.org/>