

THIS POINT... in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

Since 1979

www.PointRichmondHistory.org

Vol. XLII No. 2

September/October 2023

\$3.00



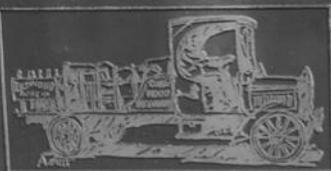
The following historical buildings have descriptive plaques:

10 Cottage Ave.	Hotel Mac
139 ½ Washington Ave.	Pt. Richmond History Museum (former Richmond Supply Co.)
160 Washington Ave.	former Critchett Hotel
201 W. Richmond	former Bank of Richmond
210 Washington Ave.	first City Hall of Richmond
214 Washington	original home of Dr. William Lucas
304 Washington	former First Baptist Church
301 W. Richmond	Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church
201 Martina	First United Methodist Church (top of driveway on left side)
135 Park Place	(inside at the bar)
411 Contra Costa St.	former Frosini House

There are also descriptive plaques at these locations:

Indian Statue Park	(4 plaques)
Kenny Park	(now mounted on the wall of the Plunge)

If you know of a building of historical significance in Pt. Richmond and would like to nominate it to receive a plaque please feel free to contact a member of the PRHA board.



THE RICHMOND SUPPLY COMPANY BUILDING

THIS BUILDING WAS BUILT IN 1903 AT 139 WEST RICHMOND AVENUE BY J.Q. BLACK WHO SUPPLIED THE AREA WITH COAL, WOOD, HAY, AND GRAIN. ROBERT DORNAN SR. BOUGHT THE BUILDING IN 1909 AND ADDED THE SERVICE OF MOVING HOUSEHOLD GOODS.

IN 1911 HE BOUGHT A TRUCK AND BEGAN THE RICHMOND SUPPLY CO., THE OLDEST CONTINUING FAMILY BUSINESS IN RICHMOND. LATER HIS WIFE, TRANNIE FREEMAN, BECAME PART OF THE BUSINESS AND AFTER W.W. II HIS SON, ROBERT DORNAN JR., JOINED THEM. THE BUILDING WAS SOLD IN 1947 WHEN THE BUSINESS MOVED INTO 145 WEST RICHMOND AVENUE. THE BUSINESS CONTINUED UNTIL 1987.

IN MAY 1990, THE BUILDING WAS SAVED FROM DESTRUCTION BY COMMUNITY ACTION. IT WAS MOVED TO ITS PRESENT LOCATION 139½ WASHINGTON AVENUE TO SERVE AS AN INFORMATION CENTER FOR THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION.

POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION PROJECT

From the President

by Bonnie Jo Cullison

In the early 2000's the PRHA under the leadership of Mid Dornan conceived of a project to recognize the historical significance of some of the earliest buildings in Point Richmond. Their plan was to mount bronze plaques with brief descriptions of the buildings' past. With the financial and physical assistance of other community members texts were composed, Andrew Butt created drawings, the plaques were cast and mounted. The first two buildings to receive plaques were the Critchett Hotel (now the Point Richmond Market) and the First United Methodist Church. That was in 2003. In the years that followed, 7 more plaques were created and mounted by the PRHA. A complete list of buildings with plaques as well as locations of plaques provided by other organizations is printed on the inside of the cover. I am not sure when the last plaque was added but I know it's been quite a few years. Identifying buildings and providing them with informational plaques has been on the to-do list for the PRHA for quite awhile. But when it rains, it pours, as they say, and I am delighted to say that we have 4 plaques at the foundry ready to be cast and another one almost there. The moving force behind this accomplishment is Jim Davis who has been doggedly persistent in tracking down and gaining permission to mount a plaque from the building owners as well as editing the texts. Caitlin Hibma provided us with wonderful drawings and James Chesharek researched and conducted the all-important fact-checking. As soon as they come back from the foundry we will be adding plaques to the Abbott Hospital, the Masquers Playhouse, the Trainmaster's building and the Hotel Mac (additional to the one it has indicating its inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places). Furthermore, we're on a roll and it won't be long before there are more!

I would like to thank Teresa Albro, one of the original founders of the Point Richmond History Association for her donation of back issues of TPIT and other Point Richmond memorabilia.

Have fun. Be safe everyone.

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Sprucing up the Wig Wags with Bonnie Jo is Dan Furtado who restored them previously.

Thank you members for your renewal:

Dee Rosier**
Diane Diani
Kathe Kiehn**
Carol Kiehn*
Alexis Lane Jenson*
Ingrid Lindemann*
Karen & Art Gagnier*
Marianne Takeda & Frank Craig*
Andrew Butt*
Lisa Hire & Thomas Young**
Ken & Nancy Reed
Dennis Amantite
Mark Kornmann**
Ruth Frassetto**
Virginia Burgess
Dave & Linda McCuan**
Lydia Jahromi Family
Arduina Smith Family
Norm & Jean Reynolds**
Ron Vandergrift**
Margaret Doherty
Patricia Dornan***
Jim Fisher**
Bonnie Jo Cullison
Richard Smith*

*Gift Membership
**Special Supporter
***Lifetime Member



Thank You To Friends at Santa Fe Market

For distributing

“THIS POINT.....in time”

*Now more than ever, it is important
to support all of our local retailers
and restaurants.*

*Visit our little museum and view our
1000+ picture slide show of historic
Point Richmond photos.*

Open Thursdays and Saturdays

*And the first and second Tuesday
of each month*

11:30 am - 2:00 pm

Thanks to the Volunteers who open and close our museum two days each week.

Linda Andrew-Marshall
Heinz Lankford
Gary Shows
Lori Kauth
Bonnie Jo Cullison
Karen Buchanan
Jim Davis

The Cover:

***PRHA President Bonnie Jo
Cullison, sprucing up our Wig Wags***

Editor's Notes

Gary Shows

editor@pointrichmondhistory.com

Here is your September/October issue of TPIT. Thanks to our contributors for your support. I hope you find this issue to be interesting and informative.

Please feel free to submit your own memories to this newsletter. Also feel good about submitting your family photos to our archives. I enjoy scanning your pictures and returning them to you if you request.

The deadline for the next issue of "THIS POINT.....in time" will be Friday November 3, 2023 and will cover November, December and January.

Thanks for addressing and mailing the last issue go to:

Gary Shows
Bonnie Jo Cullison

We are grateful to Our Special Supporters!

Lifetime Member

Patricia Dornan

History Makers

Donna Wilson
Rosemary Corbin
Kathe Kiehn
John A. Thiella & Rosa T. Casazza
Roberta & Richard Palfini
Norm and Jean Reynolds
The Bartram-Owens Family
Garry & Maryn Hurlbut
Bob Armstrong
Steven Birnbaum
Ron Vandergrift
Lynn Maack
Barry Goode
Mark J. Kornmann
Jim & Olivia Jacobs
Marcelina Smith
Rick Beal
Dee Rosier
Virginia Rigney
Chuck & Carolyn Dutrow
George O. Petty
Guadalupe Torres (New Leaf Salon)
James J. Cheshareck
Ruth Frassetto

History Preservers

Thomas & Shirley Butt

Kevin, Renee & Griffin Knee

Linda Newton
The David Dolberg Family
Bernie McIntosh
Don & Ingrid Lindemann
Mary Crosby & Tom Piazza
Norma Wallace
Victor J. Westman
Gloria & Mark Maltagliati
Anne Brussok-Roth & David Roth
Tony Lizarraga
Bobbie Swerdfeger-Lizarraga
Joanne Pike
Jeanne Pritchard
Joe Pritchard
Jim & Olivia Jacobs
Caitlin & Michael Hibma
Dave & Linda McCuan
Kathy Dornan Barnes
Tim & Roberta Montgomery
Karen Buchanan
Sandra & Bruce Beyaert
Margi Sullivan
Paul Ciabattari
Stephen, Patti, and Stephanie Kowalski
Steve Lizarraga
Sharon Halpern & Victor Morales
Kathy Sundbeck
Jim Fisher
Jack Mormon
Sarah Stierch
Lisa Hire & Thomas Young

Church News



By Dee Rosier
510-232-1387
drosier@sbcglobal.net

While others living outside of the Bay Area endure triple digit weather, we continue with our morning overcast, afternoon sun and cooler evenings – how blessed are we.

The main July event was Father's 90th birthday, July 16 – quite a goal. In his honor, a Mexican dinner was held in the church hall. The excellent food was a gift provided by Josephine Orozco, El Sol. Serving the delicious food were her sisters, Shirley Martinez and Mary Ruiz. The forty plus guests/parishioners all enjoyed the delicious food. The celebration extended itself into Sunday morning coffee/pastries, complements of David and Paula Huynh. It was a well celebrated 90th. His name will also be placed on the 90+ section of TPIT.

We recently welcomed back Bob Perata after his open heart surgery. In like manner, it was also a welcome to Diane and Fred Siegmund who attended the August coffee/donuts.

When residing here, the Wally Darling family were loyal parishioners and readily

volunteered. The family left the Point to live in Phoenix, but we continue to keep in touch. Recently, a group of pictures was sent my way and shared with those who remember the annual BBQ's. The same hearty volunteers were always present. Steaks were donated by Bob/Marie Peckham, Santa Fe Market. The attendance was open to anyone who wished to attend. It was always a wonderful time and money maker for the parish. Included in the shared photos were one of Marilyn Darling, Alan Smith, Norma Guisti and Father Prendeville. Days of happy memories.

A new LCD project in the hall debuted last month with the showing of Red Terror on the Amber Coast, a documentary film about the Lithuanian resistance to the Soviet occupation from the signing of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact in 1939 to the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, Lithuanian survivors of the Soviet occupation post WWII graphically and candidly tell how they survived and struggled against the Soviet occupation. Produced and written by Fr. David O'Rourke, directed by Ken Gumbert.

More movies and talks to come.

The gas stove in the parish hall has been moved out of the kitchen area to make way for a new residential stove unit. If anyone is interested in a commercial two-oven door gas stove with a flat top/griddle, please contact 510-232-1843.

The National Night Out in the downtown triangle was attended by several OLM parishioners and information tables shared with our nextdoor neighbor, The Methodist Church.

Due to your generosity, the food barrel fills quickly. We could use a few monthly volunteers to sort, call and then deliver directly to the local food sites.

Funeral services were recently held for Marcellina Smith. She had been a member of OLM for 65-years and considered one of our matriarchs. She was married to Alan Smith, a prominent OLM member and Point Richmond native. She is survived by two sons, Alan and Bryan and their families. She resided in a care

facility in Moraga, which was close to her sons' residences. The services were held at Our Lady of Mercy and one could feel the love and devotion her family held for her. Due to COVID, we were unable to visit more than once.

We extend a welcome to our new Methodist Minister, Rev. Eun-Joo, who graced us with her presence at Father's 90th celebration. We look forward to sharing joint parish ventures as in the past.

As a result of the donations made at Father's 90th, \$500 went to Ukrainians Relief and \$200 for the children in the Point.

My neighbor of 25 years has moved to Roseburg, Oregon. He and his family will be greatly missed, and we look forward to welcoming new neighbors.

Please remember those who are in need of our continued prayers for health and healing and for all who care for them:

RON ACUNA
THOMAS BRADY
ASHLING CARROLL
LINDA CHESHARECK
BARARA DRAKE
RICHARD HERTZBERG
JACK HILL
MICHAEL LAMBERT
RAPHAEL LOPEZ
ROBERT MARTINEZ
MARGARET MORKOWSKI
EDWINA MURRAY
FATHER O'ROURKE
BOB PERATA
ELEANOR QUINTANA
DEE ROSIER
FRED SIEGMUND
JUDY SPENCER

First Methodist parsonage open house –
Sunday, August 27, 12:30-2PM

MY MOTHER ONCE SAID:
“HATE HAS 4 LETTERS BUT SO
DOES LOVE.
ENEMIES HAS 7 LETTERS, BUT SO
DOES FRIENDS.
LYING HAS 5 LETTERS, BUT SO
DOES TRUTH.
CRY HAS 3 LETTERS BUT SO
DOES JOY.
NEGATIVITY HAS 10 LETTERS
BUT SO DOES POSITIVITY.”

LIFE IS 2 SIDED, CHOOSE THE
BETTER SIDE OF IT.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH.

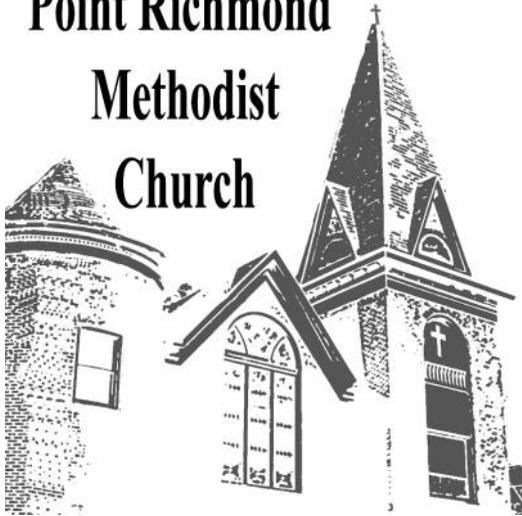


Dee Rosier

Comments made in the year 1957:

“When I first started driving, who would have thought gas would someday cost 29 cents a gallon. Guess we’d be better off leaving the car in the garage”.

Point Richmond Methodist Church



Jean Reynolds
510-734-3942
sweetheart05@mac.com

Pastor Jacey's last day preaching was June 11. Deb Benko got BBQ from Kinder's Meats, and Christina De Leon brought a special cake for our lunch following worship. People brought salads, sides, and desserts. We presented Jacey with a few mementos to honor her three years serving with us, and we know she will be a blessing to our Cal-NeV Conference as Associate Director of Intergenerational Ministries.

During worship on June 18, Hillary Perkins, director of Whippoorwill Arts, spoke about their commitment to live music and the musicians who perform it. Hillary and Jim Nunally, professional musicians who started the non-profit, provided special music, too. Whippoorwill Arts gives grants and finds gigs for musicians of color and disabled musicians and supplies live music performances to underserved communities. The church serves as office space for Whippoorwill Arts on Mondays.

Sunday, June 25, Pastor Dan Damon filled the piano bench instead of the pulpit as he gave a sermon in song. The Joyful Noise Choir rehearsed with him and practiced harmonies. It was transcendent to experience a Dan-led choir rehearsal and to sing together again in worship.

Rev. Eun-Joo Myung was appointed as full-time pastor at Richmond First UMC. We welcomed her with a special litany in worship on July 2; worship was followed by a luncheon of enchiladas, rice, and beans. Pastor Eun-Joo is already immersed in life in our community. So far, she has visited more than twenty people in our congregation, and she takes time to get to know Richmond history and visit local businesses. She met Father David from Our Lady of Mercy soon after she moved in, and he invited her to his ninetieth birthday celebration. Since then, our two churches shared a table at the National Night Out. Anne Brussok from Our Lady of Mercy, Pastor Eun-Joo, and Jean Reynolds were all delighted to be together to represent part of the Point Richmond Faith community. Pastor Eun-Joo told us at a recent Ad Board meeting: "Enjoy God, Embrace Tradition, Engage New Ideas." May it be so!

Snap Mabanta, a faith-leader and human rights advocate from the Philippines, spoke at a gathering of interested people in Friendship Hall on July 8. Snap gave an overview of the escalating instances of human rights abuse by the Philippine National Police and Armed Forces of the Philippines. The Philippine government continues to oppress the Filipino people and foreign advocates cannot visit villagers at their homes without endangering them. In addition to state-sponsored red-tagging, extra-judicial killings, and enforced disappearances, agents of the state freeze the bank accounts of church-sponsored programs to help the poor, poison village water supplies, sexually assault people, and damage crops. Snap asked us to ask our legislators to support the Philippine Human Rights Act in Congress and to encourage people to visit the Philippines.

We had Vacation Bible School August 7-11, "Sensing God's Love." Each day we featured a different sense, told a related Bible story, and did an art project that continued the theme. Alice Thompson picked our music and led us in singing on her guitar. Bill Thompson led games and learned some new ones from the kids, provided expertise for art projects, and helped with singing. Shirley Butt's loving presence brightened the week and drew kids in like a magnet. She brought two of her grandkids to attend and Cecilia came

to help. Linda Andrew-Marshall brought fresh strawberries from the farmers' market. Pastor Eun-Joo was there every day, even on her day off. She came early, did not leave until cleanup was done, explained the rite of communion, and served us bread in the same manner Jesus served his friends. Diane Frary donated uber-fancy pony beads we used to make fabulous friendship bracelets. Norm Reynolds prepared lunch on Friday. The kids did the corn "shushing," as Bill calls it, so they helped, too. Sharon Solkowitz, a member of our Wednesday book study, is Jewish and tutored me about the items on the platter for the Passover Seder to use as our lesson on taste. It was fascinating to learn about the foods, to see and taste them, and to understand a little more about the celebration and its meaning. Jennifer Metz Foster brought cupcakes the kids could decorate themselves. They hurriedly decorated and ate them in a few bites: not many photos of the results! We had so much fun sharing mornings with wonderful kids and can barely wait until next year!

Family and friends gathered to celebrate the life of Lorraine Parmer on August 12. Lorraine's remarkable life was based on values we can only hope to emulate. "She loved working with foreign students, refugees, and international visitors. She was an extraordinary host, teacher, and mentor, and was known as Mom and Grandma to many around the world." Lorraine gave us an opportunity to know and provide hospitality to immigrants she knew through the International Rescue Committee. She partnered with families and provided practical knowledge about "navigating the system," furnishings, food, and lifelong friendship. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Church members donated backpacks and school supplies for six secondary students who live at GRIP, Greater Richmond Interfaith Program; Pat Dornan assembled and delivered them on August 8 along with twenty-four backpacks for elementary students there.

Jennifer Metz Foster, Pastor Eun-Joo Myung, Barbara Haley, and Jean Reynolds packaged twelve Emergency Health Kits for the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) to be distributed to people after a disaster hits. The kits have a toothbrush, nail

clipper, bandages, comb, soap, washcloth, and towel. Fresh toothpaste is added later. Barbara mailed them August 8.

Jennifer Metz Foster, our resident historian, is compiling an oral history archive for the church. She completed an entry by Mid Dornan, and is in process to complete remembrances by Barbara Haley, Jonathan Swett, Diane Frary, Russ Johnson, and Fran Smith. We are so grateful for Jennifer's expertise and for her willingness to use it to save these precious memories. Jennifer hopes to write the next volume of our church history. Mid Dornan wrote about its first century in *Point Faithful*, published by the late David Moore of Sincere Design.

Our Book Group is about to finish *How God Works: The Science Behind the Benefits of Religion* by David DeSteno. It explains how faith practices have evolved over millennia to benefit people physically, socially, and emotionally. It was easy to go from feeling manipulated to feeling grateful for the positive influence of religion in our lives. We enjoyed hearing personal stories of how religion has affected each of us. Our next book is *Building Lasting Bridges* by Kathryn Choy-Wong, Lucia Ann McSpadden, and Dale Weatherspoon. It is a workbook, and the theme is cultural competency. Each author comes from a different cultural setting and history. We hope to learn more about how to be in closer relationship with people from other backgrounds and with each other.

On the Calendar:

Junktique II: Saturday, September 9, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Don't miss the last Junktique sale of the year! Grab bags will be back! Grilled hotdogs (meat or vegi) will be available in the yard and slices of homemade pie from the kitchen. Bring your usable donations to the basement door on West Richmond Ave. on Saturday, August 26, from 11 am to 1 pm. Contact Bill if you have questions about what items are accepted. (510) 730-5274.

Visit the church website for updates <https://www.pointrichmondmethodist.org>

WWIC Est. 1908

News from the Women's Westside Improvement Club by Juelann (Juels) Klotz

The last meeting of the Womens Westside Improvement's 2022 ~ 2023 year was held on June sixth. The meeting began with President Diane Diani installing the upcoming year's newest Slate of Officers: 1st Vice President Diane Marie, Secretary Kathleen Wimer, and *This Point in Time* Correspondent Juels Klotz.

The final meeting of the year is traditionally called Hat Day. The members who attend the meeting wear a hat of their choice with a story, be it true or made up, attached to it. The stories that were associated with this year's hats were one member wore their hat while on safari in Africa, another hat belonged to a CIA Agent and was taken from a cartel drug lord in a raid, and another hat, when worn changed the wearers spoken language from English to Pig Latin. This year's hat stories provided to the group were entertaining and, for the most part, laughter filled.

During the month of July, many of the club members pitched in to tidy up the downtown gardens in advance of Point Richmond's National Night Out, which was held on 8/1/2023.

Many of the clubs members enjoyed National Night Out, all the while inviting the community to join the club as a member or a friend of WWIC. The club's information booth, shown below, was in front of their well-maintained rose garden. The WWIC gardeners are hopeful that the gardens they maintain remain beautiful for years to come, and they are confident that they will when everyone follows their "Please keep off the landscape" request.



Standing left to right; Linda Newton, Ann Langiella, Pastor Eun-Joo Myung, Leslie Hicks, Anne Brussock, Diane Diani. Seated; Jeannette Giannetta, Diane Marie. Photo by David Tow



WWIC members gardeners left to right: Diana Stork, Juels Klotz, Linda Newton, Diane Diani, Diane Marie, Saru Cownan. Photo by David Tow.



Early Minutes of the Women's Westside Improvement Club

It's amazing what's in the WWIC minutes! They date back to July 1908 when the Club started. The ladies met weekly. In the first six months they set projects in motion that we enjoy to this day: a statue a Washington and Park Place, a large drinking fountain, a park next to the Baptist Church, and the establishment of a reading room where the city hall had been in Mr. Crichton's place. Even the names are historical. These minutes are a priceless treasure of Point Richmond's history.
-Linda Newton, Past President

Point Richmond, Calif Oct. 13, 1913

Meeting called to order by Vice President Nellie Adams. Eleven members present. Reading of the minutes of meeting held Sept. 2nd and Sept. 8th read and approved.

A communication from Dr. Minorg E. Kibbe was read, the Dr's communication was in regard to Civil Service literature. Secty instructed to send to Secty of State for same.

Mrs. Whitcomb gave a very interesting talk on the work plans, etc. of the Anti-Tubercular Society. They deserved our assistance in helping boost an entertainment to be held in the near future. The members voted to assist in the sale of tickets.

No further business, meeting adjourned.

Mrs. P. Dunlap, Secty

Richmond, Calif. Oct. 20, 1913

The Womens West Side Improvement Club met in regular session in Fireman's Hall with sixteen officers and members present. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

A communication was read from editor of Club Nomau soliciting subscribers.

The President appointed a committee consisting of the following named ladies – Mesdames, Whitcomb, Gerlach, Jones and Adams to see City Hall and obtain information regarding the ownership of the Library

site and if same could be leased for a term of years. Mesdames, Stidren, Pritchard and Moyle were appointed to look up data on Bathroom proposition. Secty was instructed to communicate with Dist. Atty. A.B. McKensie-Martinez asking what steps could be taken legally to have forged names stricken from the petition that was sent to the legislature in regard to the Red-Light Dist. Bill.

Seventy five tickets were sent to Club for distribution and sale, for the Entertainment to given by the Anti-Tubercular Club.

Mrs. Whitcomb made a motion that dances be given monthly for the purpose of increasing funds for Library Bldg. – carried.

Mrs. Cramer told how many had been raised elsewhere for the sale of old newspapers. She was appointed to find out if paper factories would accept ½ car lots and the freight charges of same. Secty to write council requesting that better care should be taken of Janice Park.

Mesdames Adams and Cramer were appointed to confer with Spiersch Bros. regarding Restroom and its disposal. Mrs. Whitcomb was appointed to act as chairman of the Dance Com, she chose her assistants Mesdames Cramer, Adams and McHenry on Card Party Committee.

No further business, meeting adjourned.

Mrs. P. Dunlap, Secty

Phyllis Diller Said:

“My photographs don't do me justice, they just look like me.”

“Burt Reynolds one asked me out. I was in his room.”

“The only time I ever enjoyed ironing was the day I accidentally got gin in the steam iron.”

“His finest hour lasted a minute and a half.”

**RICHMOND SHIPYARD
RAIL WAY
SOUTHBOUND**

This Transfer is issued for you to continue your trip in the same general direction from the line and zone indicated. It will be honored only at established transfer points, before expiration of the time limit shown below, on the day of issue. Subject to restrictions shown on the back. NOT TRANSFERABLE.

KEY SYSTEM

THIS LETTER and the NUMBER of this TRANSFER establish the DATE of issue

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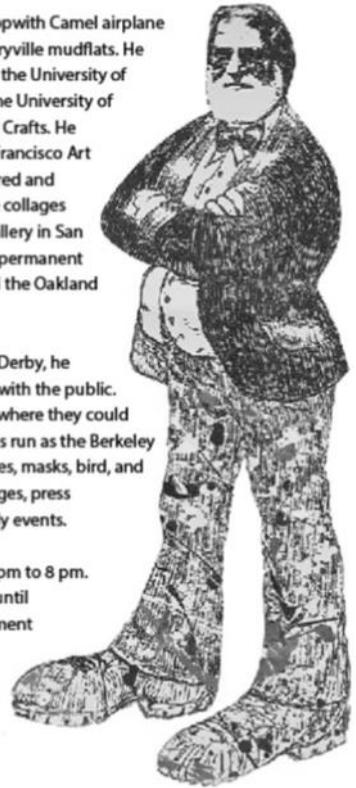
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7 "			20
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Form No. 1154

Point Richmond Gallery

Is pleased to announce its next exhibit featuring the work of:
Tyler James Hoare: Mudflat Artist, August 25, 2023

Tyler is known for his iconic Red Baron and Sopwith Camel airplane sculptures exhibited in the Berkeley and Emeryville mudflats. He grew up in Joplin, Missouri and studied art at the University of Colorado, the SculptureCenter in New York, the University of Kansas, and the California College of Arts and Crafts. He taught at the University of Berkeley, the San Francisco Art Institute, and San Francisco State. He discovered and worked with Xerox Color Processing to create collages that were featured in exhibits at the Bolles Gallery in San Francisco, the Richmond Art Center, and is in permanent collections in New York, Washington D.C., and the Oakland Museum.



Early in his life, after the SFMOMA's Soap Box Derby, he discovered that he wanted direct interaction with the public. He began to exhibit his work in the mudflats where they could be enjoyed by the travelling public. During his run as the Berkeley Mudflat Artist, he produced abstract sculptures, masks, bird, and fish sculptures, and filled books with his collages, press clippings, correspondence, and entries of daily events.

The show opens on Friday, August 25 from 1 pm to 8 pm. Thereafter, the show will run weekends only until October 1. You can also schedule an appointment by calling 510-219-0450 or 415-286-6298.

Point Richmond Gallery
145 W. Richmond Ave.
Point Richmond, CA 94801

PRHA Photo Archive #1075 - Royce Ong



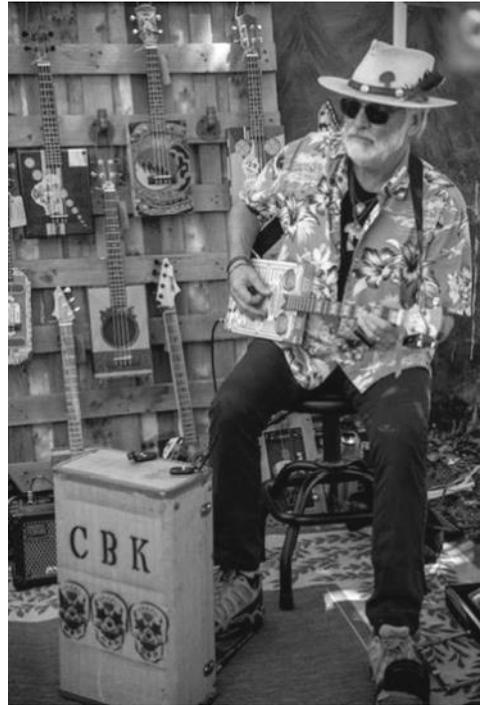


From
Anna Froker

Arts of Point Richmond is a non-profit, volunteer organization of over 150 artists who strive to enrich their community by supporting and promoting local artists, art exhibitions and events. AOPR is always happy to welcome new members and you don't have to be a professional artist to join. For more information, go to <https://www.artsofpointrichmond.com/>

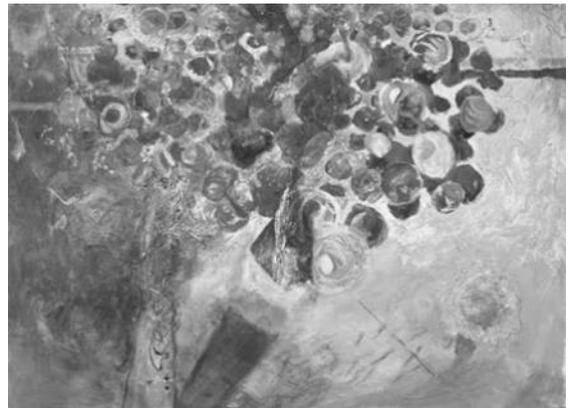


Point Richmond's Post Office windows feature paintings by *Gayle Asali Dickson (above)* until September 18, followed by an exhibition of work by *Steve Kowalski*, on display until November 6. AOPR Summer Exhibition at Lara's Fine Dining in Marina Bay. Enjoy a meal by the bay and a variety of work by AOPR artists.



Above: Artist Series Guitars, crafted by AOPR member *Steve Zwetsch* and decorated by AOPR artists are now on display at El Cerrito City Hall in the upstairs gallery space, 10890 San Pablo Ave.

Below: "Conversations", paintings by *Judy Rattner*, at the Linda Lee Drake Memorial Gallery at El Sol Restaurant, 101 Park Place in Point Richmond. "Bloom" oil on paper below.



More Interesting Facts About All of Those Cars at our Port

by James Cheshareck

I was pleasantly surprised to read Oliver Pollak's article "Ro-Ro, Where Ocean, Railroad and Automobile Meet" in the last newsletter. It just so happens that I board the vessels (including a few he mentioned by name) and climb into the auto rack railcars he wrote of. I have been in the automotive transportation industry for 28 years, in the field of new vehicle logistics, damage inspection, and quality control. I will give a brief history and overview of new vehicle marine and rail operations in Richmond. I will explain best as I can without breaching confidentiality and proprietary material.

Richmond's Point Potrero automotive facility (once commonly referred to as "Pasha") originated when the Pasha Group leased port property in the early 1970's from the City of Richmond that stretched close to Brickyard Cove. Vessels containing Volvo, Toyota, and Volkswagen product made Richmond a port of call. Japanese imports followed in the mid-1970's. Pasha and the city had an acrimonious relationship, as neither were willing to invest money to fully develop Point Potrero and lure additional auto manufacturers. It has been said by some that Pasha once had an opportunity to purchase Point Potrero from the city but declined. However, Pasha managed to tear down three WW2 warehouses that were in poor condition (Rosie the Riveter) long

before the remaining warehouses still standing were designated historical landmarks. I once had an office in the old Pasha building at 1301 Canal Blvd. The historical landmark WW2 era building once housed part of Contra Costa College and is now in disrepair. In the mid-1970's Pasha landed a contract with Honda, who once owned the vessels carrying their product. Japanese-built Honda vehicles began discharging in Richmond. Once the vehicles were discharged and parked at first point of rest, Pasha processed each vehicle and attached the Monroney label (dealer sticker) in preparation of dealer delivery. Vehicles were then transported by car carrier truck to the assigned dealership. Porsche was another auto manufacturer that once discharged vehicles in Richmond. Though there are roughly 90 acres of land at Point Potrero, the surface was once crude. Instead of asphalt, the ground was covered in gravel, and prior to discharging a vessel, water trucks hosed down the ground to keep dust at a minimum.

In the automotive industry, we refer to automotive vessels as just plain "ships", but we are well acquainted with the term "ro-ro". I will use the term "vessel" for simplicity. Most vessel shipmates are men from the Philippines, but Chief Mates and Captains vary in nationality. I've interacted with Japanese, Russian, Ukrainian, Croatian, and English Chiefs and Captains. The



***Old Contra
Costa
College
building
1301 Canal
Blvd., former
headquarters
of Pasha .***

***Photo by
James
Cheshareck***

crews discharging vehicles in Richmond are “longshoremen” from the International Longshore and Warehouse Union. Most vessels that dock in Richmond do not contain exclusively Richmond-bound vehicles. Most vessels load and discharge vehicles at multiple ports of call and contain vehicles from multiple manufacturers ranging from Asia to Germany. National City (San Diego), Benicia, Long Beach, Tacoma, and Portland, are some ports of call one automotive vessel may discharge in or load vehicles at. Although railroad track infrastructure exists, some Mexican-built vehicles are transported via vessel on “short sea” voyages. Many vessels have upwards of ten decks

railcars known as “auto racks” transport vehicles. There are generally three types of auto racks used in Richmond operations, Tri-Level, Bi-Level, and Articulating. Tri-Level auto racks have three decks and are used for cars with lower rooflines, and generally accommodate 15 cars, Bi-Level auto racks have two decks and are utilized to accommodate taller vehicles such as trucks and SUVs, and generally hold 10 vehicles unless vehicles are of excessive length. Articulating, or “Auto-Max” have three decks, but can be configured to accommodate a mix of vehicles and hold up to 22 small cars. The Auto-Max was designed by Honda in the late 1990’s, and the BNSF Railroad had to shave their



*Vehicle Off
Loading in
Progress.*

*Photo by James
Cheshareck*

with compartments, ramps, and hatches. When the ship is loaded, and hatches sealed, ladders are used for access. I have climbed many ladders when inspecting the stowage of vehicles and bumped my head many times as well. A conventional elevator will take you up to see the Captain or Chief. All vessels are boarded by and cleared by U.S. Customs and Border Protection before discharge may commence. I’ve shared in the crews’ frustration when Customs take too long and get in the way. I’ve been aboard both new, state of the art vessels, as well as broken down barges that are on their last leg. The largest discharge from a single vessel I witnessed at Point Potrero was 4,200 Hondas, and the ship still had other ports of call.

On the rail side of automotive transportation,

Franklin Canyon tunnel due to the Auto-Max’s extra height. I have inspected vehicles in auto racks that caught on fire, auto racks that derailed, some that hit the ground on their side, as well as vehicles in auto racks that shifted during transport and were damaged. Since only two small railroad track spurs for auto racks existed at the Point Potrero auto facility, it allowed only limited capacity for inbound or outbound rail operations. Auto racks with domestic, Canadian, and Mexican produced vehicles are shipped from the manufacturing plant to various automotive railheads and marine terminals nationwide. Most vehicles unloaded from auto racks are already preassigned to a dealership and are transported to the dealership via car carrier truck. However, some auto manufacturers, such as Tesla,



***Discharging of
Vehicles***

***Photo by James
Cheshareck***

export a portion of vehicles to foreign countries via vessel. Nissan last shipped domestic vehicles to Point Potrero via auto rack, that were trucked to dealerships. Point Potrero rail infrastructure was insufficient to handle the volume of auto racks required for large-scale, nationwide distribution of vehicles discharged from vessels. Neither the city nor Pasha were willing to invest in improvements to Point Potrero, but Honda's import volume increased in accordance with its rising vehicle sales and necessitated a substantial increase of auto racks to facilitate distribution.

Santa Fe railway (later BNSF) railway stepped up to the plate in 1986, and improved their old intermodal yard on Canal Blvd. between Wharf Street and W. Cutting Blvd. The facility had 4 lengthy track spurs capable of accommodating more than 40 auto racks. Vehicles were shuttled by drivers from Point Potrero to the ATSF Wharf Street facility where they were loaded onto auto racks. Outbound auto racks shipped Honda vehicles to destinations such as Newark, N.J., Houston, Phoenix, Jacksonville, FL, and Denver. The record number of vehicles loaded onto auto racks in one day was 1,100. Honda also began railing domestic vehicles on auto racks to the BNSF Wharf Street facility which were trucked to mainly Northern California and Northern Nevada dealers. Honda was the first Japanese automaker to open a manufacturing plant in the United States, which was built in 1982, and located in Marysville, Ohio. Honda was also ahead of the game in

developing a hybrid vehicle. I recall in 1995 driving a crude prototype, a right-hand-drive Honda Civic, loaded with batteries in the rear passenger compartment. In the 1990's, Honda again wanted to further expand marine operations, but the city and Pasha still wouldn't invest in improvements, and negotiations fell through. Honda pulled their marine operations out of Point Potrero and relocated them to the Port of National City in 1996. Honda continued railing

North American-produced vehicles to the BNSF Wharf Street facility that were trucked to Northern California dealers. In 1998, Nissan pulled their inbound rail operations out of Point Potrero, and relocated to the BNSF Wharf Street facility, owing to the greater rail track infrastructure.

Pasha Terminal manager Jim Matzorkis (b. 1952) left Pasha for the position of City of Richmond Port Director. Pasha was relegated to handling sporadic used rental return vehicles, remarketing vehicles, and distribution of personal vehicles for members of the military. Pasha's body shop continued repairing Honda and Nissan vehicles that sustained minor damage. The original body shop operated out of the now Rigger's Loft warehouse until the roof caved in and had to move to the large warehouse next to the concrete General Warehouse building. In 2004, Pasha vacated Point Potrero and Jim Matzorkis secured "super fund" money from the E.P.A. to make the land suitable for improvements. Soil was trucked in, raising the land height by several feet, and the area capped off



Subarus are now accessorized in the historic warehouse where Pasha's body shop once operated.

Photo by James Chesharek

was discontinued. In late-May, Glovis returned to Point Potrero and resumed marine and rail operations for vehicles distributed to certain regions. Only 11 days away from retirement, Port Director Jim Matzorkis died 12/20/20 of complications of Covid-19. BNSF significantly expanded operations in 2012 when they converted an intermodal yard into an auto facility in their main switching yard. It has been expanded over the past 10 years. The last expansion in 2021 used portions of old Standard

and North Railroad Avenues. Richmond's Point Potrero automotive facility utilizes its large, historic WW2 warehouse to accessorize new Subaru vehicles. It is where the old and new coalesce, and Japan and America meet, only this time under cordial terms.

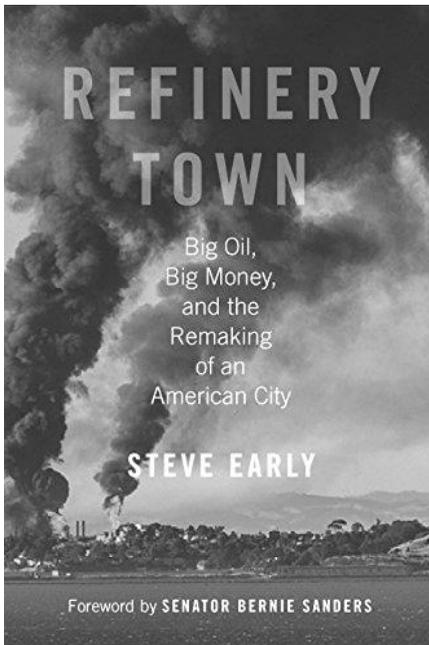
with asphalt to seal in the toxic soil from years of military and industrial usage. Instead of rocks, the port was paved and had paint striping for parking or "staging" vehicles discharged from vessels. In 2005, Glovis (Hyundai and Kia) began discharging vessels at Point Potrero. Auto Warehousing Company was the new processor and still is to this day. In 2009, Glovis pulled their marine operations from Point Potrero, leaving the port vacant again. Prior to Glovis' departure, Jim Matzorkis was already in the process of negotiating a collaboration between BNSF, the City of Richmond, and American Honda. The deal Matzorkis brokered significantly improved Point Potrero, including the addition of 6 rail track spurs which eliminated the need to shuttle vehicles to the BNSF Wharf Street facility. Another 6 spurs were added to the BNSF Wharf Street facility to accommodate track switching for inbound and outbound auto racks. After nearly 15 years, Honda resumed marine and rail operations at Point Potrero. Subaru of America soon followed, relocating their California Nevada, and Arizona vehicle region vehicle traffic, previously in Vancouver, WA, to Point Potrero. Subaru's are now accessorized in the historic warehouse where Pasha's body shop once operated. For a time, Ford imported the Mexico-built-Fusion, and the EcoSport models until production of the Fusion



The Book Corner

by Jim Davis

Richmond and the Elephant in the Room



A Review of Refinery Town

By Steve Early

At the end of the last column, I mentioned that I had bought the book under review at a San Francisco book store. That may leave the impression that you have to go to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Boston or some other large

metropolitan area to find impressive authors. If you know anything about the cultural history of Point Richmond, you know that this is not true. At various times we have hosted such literary luminaries as Jack London and Eugene Burdick. More recently, two prominent authors have chosen to decamp from one of America's traditional literary epicenters (the Boston area) to locate in our own gentle hills of Point Richmond, Suzanne Gordon and Steve Early. As it turns out, as husband and wife they share both household and literary interests.

Steve has written a book that should be in the library of every Richmonder and Point Richmonder: *Refinery Town: Big Oil, Big Money, and the Remaking of an American City*. The American city is Richmond, and you will find many characters in this book that are familiar if you spend any time at all reading the local press (such as it is) or other regional news sources.

The book fits comfortably into a venerable heritage of American non-fiction writing. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, what some historians have called America's second industrial revolution ushered in an urban transformation. Cities filled with a large ethnic industrial work force, fed by a river of immigration, mostly from Europe. With the wealth of the cities came pollution, labor strife, and urban machine politics. Reform authors, writing for such publications as McClure's Magazine and large-circulation newspapers, courageously exposed the dark underbelly of this new era. In non-fiction books that have since become classics of reform writing, such authors as Lincoln Steffens (*The Shame of the Cities* [1904]), Ida Tarbell (*The History of the Standard Oil Company* [1904]), and Jacob Riis (*How the Other Half Lives* [1889]) shined a floodlight on the underbelly. Soon known as muckrakers, these writers launched one of the great periods of reform known as the Progressive era.

Refinery Town fits squarely into this tradition of urban reform writing. It does for Richmond what the muckrakers did for the new industrial powerhouse cities of the Midwest and

Richmond was impossible to understand without Standard Oil. Take Standard Oil away, the refinery executives wanted us to believe, and you take Richmond away with it.

The publisher went to great lengths to situate *Refinery Town* into a modern era of reform writing. Blurbs from Mike Davis (*City of Quartz*—A tale of architectural dread about Los Angeles) and Robert Reich (former Secretary of Labor) adorn the back cover, and just to gild the pedigree, there is a foreword from Bernie Sanders. Then we get Richmond. This is a familiar tale to locals, the dramatic rise of the left-wing Richmond Progressive Alliance (RPA) pitted against Chevron and its political check book. But there is also a lively account of “Big Soda” and its successful effort to flood the zone with cash and quash a local initiative to tax soft drinks to fund local sports and recreational programs. The story unfolds with a familiar cast of characters. Nat Bates, Corky Booze, Gayle McLaughlin, Jeff Ritterman, Tom Butt, and a host of others turn up in hard-fought elections and acrimonious city council meetings. Some of the judgments are harsh, such as this one about Nat Bates: “Over the past 50 years, few Richmond politicians have paid more consistent fealty to Big Oil than Nat Bates.”

Toward the end of book we arrive at rent control. Now the real estate lobby joins Chevron, Big Soda, and certain unions as the stand-in Goliath against the RPA David. Here I think the narrative goes soft a bit, and rent control is let off the hook. Few things in recent years have been more divisive than rent control. In fact, it has fractured what proved to be a delicate Progressive alliance, as evidenced by the election that took place just months ago, decided in more than one race by votes you can count on both your hands. Moreover, it is far from clear that rent control works. Does it really ease housing pressure on low-income people? Has it ameliorated homelessness? The votes are not yet in on this one.

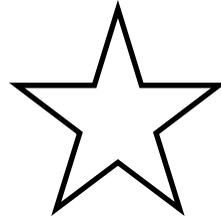
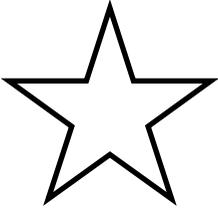
This book is definitely a page-turner if you care anything about local politics and political personalities. You learn about Corky Booze and

his business dealings, Gayle McLaughlin and her relationship to Peter Camejo and the Socialist Workers Party, Tom Butt and his goats, I found the McLaughlin biographical material particularly interesting, for it reveals the connection between RPA and the East Bay radical tradition of the 1960s. Chevron, as it turns out, is not the only mega institution to cast a large shadow over Richmond. The Berkeley Campus of the University of California does as well. (I do have one adamant quarrel with *Refinery Town*. Although it has references in the back, it lacks an index, an absence that makes any self-respecting historian frustrated, to put it mildly.)

For final thoughts on *Refinery Town* we can loop back to our opening discussion about the earlier Progressive Era. We remember the reform age by what certain iconic presidents accomplished, especially Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson. They are the tip of the Progressive pyramid. Arguably, though, the base of it carries greater weight. The movement began at the local level, with writers, and mayors, and governors. There were reform movements in San Francisco, California, New York, and in Galveston and Detroit that paved the way, that offered models of reform, above all, that built momentum. Now that Richmond has its own book (with a foreword by Bernie Sanders), could the city and its RPA help form the base of a new pyramid of reform? Stay tuned.

Steve Early, *Refinery Town: Big Oil, Big Money, and the Remaking of an American City* (Boston, 2017). Beacon Press.





I received these from a former Pt. Richmonder who now lives in Phoenix - The Darling Family. An annual BBQ was held, with steaks donated by Bob/Marie Peckham, Santa Fe Market. Most of the town attended and it was always a venue to look forward to. There was always lots of volunteers. Steaks were set aside and Father had the Hotel Mac prepare a steak dinner for them and it was another get together. Good memories of days gone by.

Dee Rosier



*Left to right: Father Prendeville, Alan Smith, Norma Guisti, Marilyn Darling
PRHA Photo Archive #1348-Marilyn Darling*



PRHA Photo Archive #0111-Marilyn Darling



PRHA Photo Archive #1315-

Roxy Miravalle Standard Oil in 1920

AUTOMOTIVE Oakland Tribune **S**ECTION
 OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA
 AUGUST 2, 1931

Great Industrial Plant Built on Shore of Bay

These views show the location of the new Ford Motor company assembling plant at Richmond. The upper view shows the construction of the plant, with its "saw-toothed" roof to insure light and air. The factory is located on deep water so that ships can be

docked and unloaded and the material sent into the factory in one operation. Officials of the Ford Motor company plan on shipping parts by water to this factory. The lower photo shows the location of the factory in relation to the country in Richmond. The map

shows the way to drive to the plant from Oakland. The Ford factory will be in operation all this week with visitors allowed to see the men at work assembling cars. The hours are one to ten in the afternoon and evening during Ford open house week.



*Thanks to Roxy Miravalle for posting this on PRHA Facebook.
 Richmond Ford Plant Grand Opening.
 Oakland Tribune • 02 Aug 1931*

Point Richmond History Assoc. T-Shirt
 A gray t-shirt that features a colorful drawing of our little museum on the town triangle drawn by the PRHA founder, the late Donna Roselius. They are now in stock in all sizes available at the museum or online.



\$20

Mail your shirt to:

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Small	Medium	Large	X- Large	2X- Large	3X- Large

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144 Castro Street, Point Richmond, CA 94801

Prefer to pay online by credit card?

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<https://go.dojiggy.io/prha/>

James Cheshareck has been working for months on a thorough history of Kozy Kove and will be presenting his results to us at a later date. James did send me a little teaser from his project:

"On Sunday 6/24/1917 Court Italia held an all day and evening outing that was widely advertised. Lizzie Schenkel brought in stunt divers for the aquatic sports, admission was 25 cents and free for ladies, and children. A sizeable percentage of Richmond's largest immigrant group crowded the beach for a day and evening of swimming, food, and sunny weather. Odds were, the Standard Avenue Italian Colony was somewhat uninhabited that day. Live music and dancing followed in the afternoon and evening. The press reported that the event was a success, and Point Richmond's most influential Italian resident, Ben Brignone, commented 'I simply had the time of my life.'"

"Nellie Keller did not have the time of her life the following day when Lizzie Schenkel filed suit to have her ejected from the beach and demanding \$1,000 in damages. The Kellers were nearly destitute, and their living quarters principally a small shack after Gus died. Wilbur S. Pierce came to Nellie Keller's defense and represented her free of charge. Pierce was the same attorney who represented Tilden and Eakle in their suit against Kozy Kove for the unpaid timber bill. Once again, Lizzie Schenkel staked claim to the beach, while Santa Fe claimed the tidelands, which the company leased to Nellie Keller. Perhaps, by clearing out the Kellers, Lizzie Schenkel strategized she could coax Santa Fe to demolish the rinky-dink boat dock she abhorred, and secure whatever tidelands patents the railroad held. The lawsuit was unsuccessful, and the question as to who owned what remained unanswered. Bafflingly, Lizzie Schenkel was once in Nellie Keller's predicament when her late husband's family sought to have her ejected from her home."

James Cheshareck



Kozy Kove was opened in 1914 by Mrs. Schenkle. There was dancing, picnic areas and swimming. The whole place could have been bought for \$5,000 during the depression.

PRHA Photo archive #0050

The Northern Regional Library Facility and the UC Richmond Field Station

By Oliver B. Pollak©

The Northern Regional Library Facility (NRLF) is located at the University of California Engineering Field Station in Richmond. You can catch a glimpse of the nondescript entry, at 60 miles an hour from the John T. Knox Freeway section of Interstate 580 (Golden Gate Fields to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge), between Bayview Ave (Exit 11) and Regatta Blvd (Exit 10B). The RFS is bounded by Regatta Blvd., Meade Street, S. 46th Street and the Bay Trail. From Regatta and Meade you can see the enormity of the red and brown “bar coded” building.

Native Americans once fished and harvested shellfish here. The California Cap Company, incorporated in 1883, made “dynamite caps, bombs, powder, etc.” They closed in 1947. The G.I. Bill fueled explosive growth of postwar higher education. Following three years of negotiation the University of California purchased the property in 1950 for \$644,000. The Richmond Field Station has the charm of prairie grass, wetlands, birds, street waddling geese, and

eucalyptus trees.

The university planned the Field Station to accommodate forest products research, engineering, electronics, hydraulics, metallurgy, transportation and traffic engineering, sanitary engineering, ship-towing tank and model basin, and earthquake engineering. 1950 plans did not include a library facility. Names change. In 2012 it was known as Richmond Bay Campus, in 2014, Berkeley Global Campus, and in 2016 it reverted to RFS.

The buildings are a hodgepodge of weathered wood framed cottages and bungalows converted to offices, vintage industrial buildings and mid-1950s elementary school looking complexes. Building signage includes: Forest Products Laboratory, Earthquake Simulator Laboratory, Center for Tissue Engineering, Pavement Research Center, Transportation Sustainability Research Center, Technology Transfer Institute, the U.C. Bindery, Automated Vehicle Test Track for self driving autonomous vehicles, and the prized:



The RFS projects a friendly, outdoorsy, slow paced atmosphere. The streets names, with a couple of exceptions, honored birds, Avocet Way, Commodore Dr., Crow Dr., Egret Way (someone had taken white tape to make “Regret”), Heron Dr., Jay Way, Lark Dr., Owl Way, Plover Dr, Robin Dr., Seaver Ave, Starling Way, and Wren Drive. The 170 acre property has 100-acres of uplands with the remainder being marsh or bay lands. There is one traffic light and several Stop signs.

In 1931 Ford built a \$3.5 million assembly plant, now Craneway Pavilion, which they abandoned in 1955 when relocating to Milpitas. In 1960, UC paid \$1.8 million for the factory to house the University of California Press operations and store 1.1 million low circulation books. In 1977 Richmond wanted the property to develop a container port. UC relocated temporarily in 1979 to the old SCM (Smith Corona Marchant Building) business machine complex at 67th and San Pablo where Berkeley, Emeryville and Oakland meet, now a USCF/John Muir Health Health facility and City Sports Club. The Richmond Field Station was to house books.

The NRLF website described four building phases. The 1980 master plan estimated that \$32.7 million would house eleven million volumes in up to six modules. The \$8.7 million, four-story, 98,000 square foot building, with appropriations guided by Assemblyman John T. Knox, was dedicated in October 1982. A 84,000 sq ft annex was added in 1990. In 2005 – 67,000 sq ft included a new reading room. In 2020 the 25,000 sq ft structure contained 30 foot “high bay shelving modules” with 28 shelves.

The 481,850 linear feet (91 miles) of shelving containing single, double or quadruple book stacking has a 10.7 million volume capacity. In July 2022 the facility contained 7.61 to 7.87 million items. About 36,000 items per year are loaned out as part of the Inter Library Loan program. Accessions run about 150,000 per year.

The multi campus multi library UC system, with over 40 million books is continually expanding. The Southern Regional Library Facility established at UCLA in 1987 houses 7.1 million volumes. The NRLF stores low circulation books from Davis, Merced, San Francisco, Santa

Cruz, and the California State Library.

The NRLF is open to the public, Tuesday through Thursday. Parking is free. The atmosphere of the reading room is blissful quietude. Ensnconced in leather chairs, readers enjoy old growth eucalyptus trees perhaps dating back to the California Cap Company days.



Phase 4, 30 foot high book cases.

In the Reading Room I spied a coffee table book, Irwin Klein’s (1933-74) black and white photos of “hippies” who had migrated to New Mexico in the mid-1960s. Irwin’s nephew, Benjamin Klein, who teaches European and World History at California State University, East Bay, edited *Irwin Klein and the New Settlers, Photographs of Counterculture in New Mexico* (University of Nebraska Press, Bison Book, 2016). I have a photographer relative in New Mexico, and

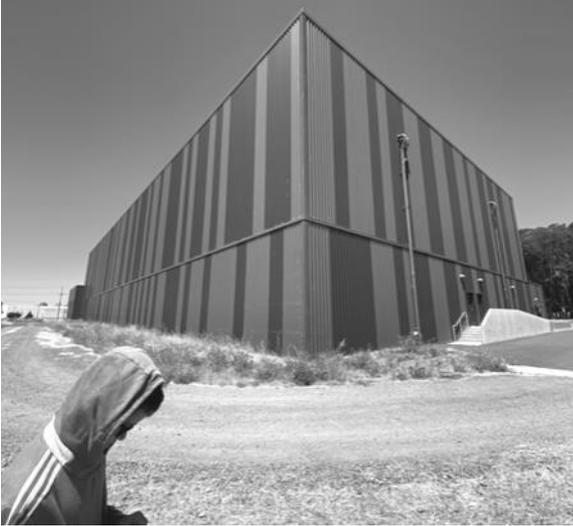
(Continued on page 24)

(Continued from page 23)

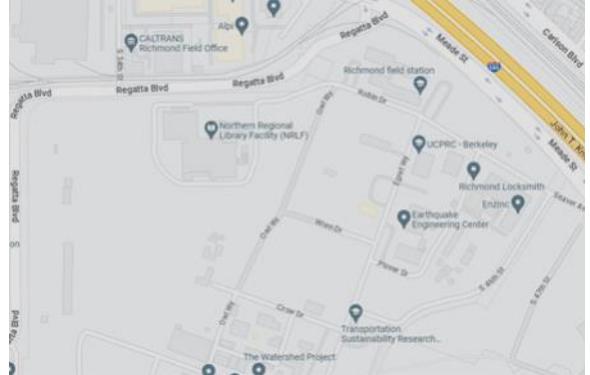
The Northern Regional Library Facility and the UC Richmond Field Station continued:

I lived in Nebraska for 42 years. I turned the pages and saw Ben's five-line upper case block letters title page inscription:

TO THE ENTIRE STAFF AT NRLF,
THANKS FOR PROVIDING ME WITH
A QUIET PLACE TO COLLECT MY
THOUGHTS WHILE PUTTING THIS BOOK
TOGETHER



Module #4. Red and brown represent bar codes.



Reading Room

Writers, researchers, readers, libraries, off-site book storage facilities, bookstores, book clubs, and newspapers are continually adjusting and adapting to the rapidly developing technology of electronic information revolution including digitization and zoom. Readers may enjoy Henry Petroski's *The Book on the Bookshelf* (1999).

This story is based on online digitized newspapers and conversations with Tim Converse, Michael Foley, and Jaikob Pollak.



Girl: "When we get married, I want to share all your worries, troubles and lighten your burden"

Boy: "It's very kind of you, darling, but I don't have any worries or troubles."

Girl: "Well, that's because we aren't married yet."

Birthdays September

Pam Durrow Horn
Carol Kiehn
Marie Peckham
Ivar Elle
Daniel Butt
Emileigh Barnes
Greg Brougham
Frank Christopher
Linda Newton
Roberta Wilson
Bonnie Jo Cullison

Ingvar Elle
Simeon J. Burtner
Gayle Kaufman
John Hadreas
David Reynolds
Kenneth Dolan
Theresa Daniel
Lorin Buhler
Maria Shaw
Audrey Lee Rentfro
Stephen Kowalski

Stephenie Kowalski
Gene Smith
Diane Frosini Diani
Margaret Morkowski
Sonja Gandola
John Bailo
Alice Jordan
Elisa Delatorre
Nancy Shows Eardley
Jackie Lizarraga
Craig Healy

Bobbie Swerdfeger
Lizarraga
Ken Comer
Michael (Mike) Pippin
Frank Lazaro
Betty Menzie
Steve Lizarraga

October

Terry Wynne
Isobel Shaw
Ingrid Lindemann
Kate Lord
Florence Wilson
Timothy Doherty
Don S. Crowe
David Vincent

Jan Burdick
Jody Bagley
Jeff Ward
McKinley Bradshaw
Tim Montgomery
Brian Tedrick
Rich Weirick
Marc Bisio

Chris Ward
Chad Feagley
Isabel 'Boo' Shaw
Jerry Daniel
Otto Barni
Maria Inchauspe Smith
Abigal Munoz Rivera
Toni Cannizzaro

Frank Craig
Carolyn Dutrow
Peter D. Stark
Sharon K. Halpern
Valerie Frosini-
Gutierrez

You share your birthday with about 9 million other people in the world!

EXCLUSIVE OVER 90 CLUB

Martha Bielawski - 103

Mary Bianchini Highfill - 99

Victor Morales - 95

Billie Bonham Shaw - 101

June Beesley Sosabal - 100

Donna Wilson - 93

Florence Wilson - 93

Alphonso Diaz - 95

Christopher Wilson - 100

Patricia Jackson Kierce 91

Frank West - 90

Altha Humphrey - 90

Paul Ciabattari - 90

Please help me keep our lists current, send additions, subtractions, corrections or updates to our "Exclusive Over 90 Club" or "Birthdays" to Gary Shows, c/o PRHA, 139½ Washington Avenue, Point Richmond, CA 94801 or email to editor@pointrichmondhistory.org



Hard to believe I once had a phone that was attached to a wall, and when it rang, I picked it up without knowing who was calling.

Memorials.....

Marcelina Batista Smith, a 64 year resident of Point Richmond, California, passed away on May 31, 2023 at the age of 98. She passed very peacefully at home with her family at her bedside. Marcelina was born on the 18th of June, 1925 in the small village of Chatal, in the Republic of Panama. Marcelina's parents were Isidoro Batista and Cristina Beitia Villareal. She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother Isidoro Jr. Marcelina was married for 45 years to her beloved husband, Allan Peter Smith of Point Richmond before he passed away in 2004. She is survived by her two sons, Allan Jr of Moraga, CA and Bryan of Lafayette, CA and their spouses, Maria Inchauspe and Kara Piantidosi Smith. She was a loving and doting grandmother to her three amazing grandchildren, Julian, Lourdes and Perri. Marcelina immigrated to the United States in 1952 from Panama to pursue her education in teaching. She became a US citizen in 1963 and was very proud of her dual citizenship. Marcelina earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from San Francisco State University and a Master of Science degree from California State University, Hayward. She had a long and enriching career as an elementary school teacher in the Berkeley Unified School District where she taught for over 30 years. Later in her career, she also was a consulting teacher specializing in teaching Spanish to travelling business persons in Mexico. Beginning her career as a teacher in Panama and continuing in the US, Marcelina valued the pursuit of education for all as her lifelong calling and she had a profound impact on the many students she taught throughout the years. Her quiet, indefatigable strength and dedication to her calling was respected and valued by all whom she met, taught and worked with. Marcelina was devout Catholic and was an active member of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Pt. Richmond. She was also a member of many Catholic charitable organizations throughout the Bay Area and across the country. She also had a great love of music, art and travel and was able to travel the world with her family throughout her life. Marcelina's kindness, positivity and tenacity will be missed by all who knew and loved her. A Celebration of Life will be held at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Point Richmond on July 14th at 11:00am. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Berkeley Public Schools fund.

Joseph Cyril Darling of Point Richmond, CA passed away June 7, 2023, with his daughters Christine and Kelly by his side, in San Rafael, CA. He was 81.

Joe was born in Langdon, North Dakota, August 22, 1941, with his twin sister Mary the youngest children of Madelyn and Cyril Darling. He graduated from Langdon Area High School in 1959, then served in the United States Army from 1959-1961, stationed in Germany. Afterward, while attending the University of North Dakota, Joe met Sonja Fuglesten, the love of his life. They were married in April of 1962, then relocated to California, where they started a family, and remained together until Sonjas passing in 2012. During that time, their home was always open for friends and family, whether vacationing or in need of a place to call home.

Joe worked as a machinist at the Chevron refinery from 1964 until his first retirement in 1989, then enjoyed a second career working for the city of Richmond until 1995. He spent his free time with the extended family who lived nearby, and was an active member of the Sons of Norway. He enjoyed being outdoors and hunting with his brothers, nephews, cousins and friends. He appreciated the art of firearms, was an expert mechanic, and an inveterate tinkerer. His home and

garage were always filled with projects in varying states of repair, from door locks to appliances to engines small and large.

Joe loved to spin vivid (and often circuitous) yarns about his grandkids' antics when they were young, adventures during his military service, or life growing up on his parents farm in North Dakota. He was always willing to help a friend or neighbor in an emergency or with a project, would stop to help a stranded motorist, and was an avid reader and self-taught expert in anything that interested him.

He is survived by his daughters Christine Darling (David Bradshaw) and Kelly (Peter) von York. Both daughters were a loving, fierce, and steadfast presence throughout his illness. In addition he is survived by his beloved grandchildren Madison (Blake) Hufford, Taylor Bradshaw (Ryan Lee), Jackson Bradshaw, Regan Bradshaw, McKinley Bradshaw, and Isaiic Healy (Kayla), his great-grandchildren ("the little men") Michael and James Hufford, his brother Larry, sisters-in-law Marilyn, Virginia and Carole, brothers-in-law John (Loretta), Gary (Deb), Gene and sister-in-law (Lorna), and a large network of nieces and nephews, to several of whom he and Sonja provided a loving home during times of need in their young lives.

He is predeceased by an infant son, his parents, sisters Dorothy and Mary, his brothers Jack, Wallace, and Bill, sister-in-law Judy (Donald), brother-in-law (Dave), sister-in-law (Kathy), and brothers-in-law Glen and Robert.

Joe embodied and transmitted the heartland values taught to him by his parents: family above all, hard work, self-reliance, love of country, and generosity to those in need. Many loved him. Many will miss him deeply.

A memorial gathering will be announced at a future date.



871: A view of Park Place, Richmond, California.

CALENDAR/DIRECTORY

ARTS OF POINT RICHMOND

Art is for everyone, the artist, the viewer, the Point is art. Contact: Pat Tostenson, jptostenson@gmail.com

More info: <http://www.artsofpointrichmond.com>

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE READING ROOM

114 Washington Avenue, Point Richmond, 510-223-0487

GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM AND EAST BAY MODEL ENGINEERS SOCIETY

900-A Dornan Dr. From April-Sept. open Sundays 12noon to 5pm with trains running, open Saturdays 12noon to 5pm for viewing only (free, but no trains running). Oct. to Dec. we close at 4pm on both days. We usually have extra holiday shows in Dec. see our website www.gsmrm.org for more info. When trains are running, Adults \$5, children 4-11 and seniors 63+ \$3, families \$10, children under 4 free. 510-234-4884 for details.

MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

105 Park Place. Newly renovated and open for the 2022 Season. For more information see the website, <http://www.masquers.org>

PARENTS, RESOURCES AND MORE (PRAM)

A volunteer, nonprofit organization serving families with children 0-8 years old. Playgroups, party rental, social events, educational opportunities, Information go to <http://www.PRAM.net>

Washington Elementary School PARENT, TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Kelleen Peckman, President

POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Contact: Andrew Butt, 510-236-7445

POINT RICHMOND COMMUNITY CENTER

Info: 510-620-6905

POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Museum is at 139½ Washington Avenue, and open Thursday's 11:30 to 2:00 and Saturday 11:30 to 2:00. See the Editors Notes on page 3 for next TPIT deadline. For information call President Bonnie Jo Cullison at 510-412-2202.

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meets last Wednesday of each month, Point Richmond Community Center; 7:30 P.M.

Contact: Philip Rosenthal, President

POINT RICHMOND/WEST SIDE BRANCH LIBRARY

Information call 510-620-6567

RED OAK VICTORY SHIP

Open Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, 10am to 3 pm. \$10 Donation/Boarding fee.
Pancake Breakfasts one Sunday a month, April - June, August - October, \$9/adults, \$5/kids under 8 years.,
For more information call the ship at 510-237-2933 or visit www.richmondmuseum.org

RICHMOND MUSEUM OF HISTORY

400 Nevin Avenue, Richmond. Open Wednesday-Sunday, 1:00 to 4:00 pm. For more information call 510-235-7387

RICHMOND SWIMS

The Children and teens "Sail Fish" and Masters swim teams at the Richmond Plunge. Contact: Coach John Schonder, 510-504-0330 - More info at <http://www.richmondswims.org/> or call 415-892-0771

ROSIE THE RIVETER NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK VISITOR CENTER

1414 Harbour Way South, Oil House next to Ford Craneway. For more information call 510-232-5050 or visit www.nps.gov/rori.

GREAT movies all day

WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Washington School at 565 Wine Street offers a Spanish/English dual language immersion curriculum, K - 6th grade.

Contact principal Mr. Juan Carlos Alvarado

WOMEN'S WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB (established 1908)

Richmond's longest standing women's club. Contact: Diane Diani, President. Email: italiandiane@gmail.com

RICHMOND TENNIS ASSOCIATION (RTA)

Adult/Youth Lessons and USTA League Play, Hurlbut Tennis and Garden Park (Plunge)

Contact: Garry and Maryn Hurlbut, WWW.RTA-CA.ORG, 510-547-8111

Additions/Corrections to this Directory/Calendar? Email Gary Shows, editor@pointrichmondhistory.org

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

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- Single \$20.00
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- History Maker 100.00
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Articles for each issue are due on or before the deadline printed in "Editor's Notes" on page 3
Please mail articles and items of interest to:

Gary Shows

**229 Golden Gate Avenue
Point Richmond, CA 94801**

or

email: garyshows@gmail.com

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/prhafan/>

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