

THIS POINT.... in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

www.PointRichmondHistory.org

Vol. XXIX No. 4

February/March, 2011

\$3.00



105 Park Place

Historic Preservation Awards, 2011

Report by Sandi Genser-Maack, Chair, HPAC Awards Committee

The Richmond Historic Preservation Advisory Committee invites nominations for the Richmond Historic Preservation Awards, 2011. The nomination form will be available in February and is due March 31, 2011.

The purpose of the awards program is to increase public awareness of Richmond's heritage by recognizing individuals, organizations, businesses, and agencies whose contributions demonstrate outstanding commitment to excellence in historic preservation, local history or promotion of the heritage of the city. Awards will be presented in at a reception in May, National Preservation Month.

In addition to public and private buildings and structures, historic preservation projects may include media, publications, presentations and exhibits, parks, burial grounds, public art, oral history, theater productions, events and video presentations.

Any individual, group, organization or agency involved in historic preservation or promoting Richmond's heritage is eligible to receive a Richmond Historic Preservation Award.

Nominations will be evaluated on the basis of one or more of the following:

Active involvement with a relatively wide variety of historic and/or prehistoric resources.

Contribution to the preservation of and/or the promotion of Richmond's historic and/or prehistoric resources.

Initiative in pursuing preservation activities that are not required by law and which do not reflect the organization's mandate.

Home Front Award: the National Park Service, through the Rosie the Riveter/ World War II Home Front National Historical Park, will sponsor a "Home Front Award" to recognize an individual, project, program or publication that preserves a home front site or structure, or that promotes recognition and understanding of this important historical period in Richmond's history.

Nomination forms will be available on the City's website: www.ci.richmond.ca.u or call HPAC Committee member Pat Pearson at (510) 234-2532 or ppearson174@hotmail.com and ask for a PDF copy to be emailed to you. You may pick up a hard copy at City Hall or at the Point Richmond History Museum.

From the President

By Mid Dornan

More visitors are stopping by our little museum as more people are taking our historic Walking Tour of Point Richmond. The Gateway Foundation's annual generous gifts to non-profit organizations for improvements in the Point are evident in the downtown triangle with the planting of new trees, landscaping, a water system, historical bronze plaques, and soon a map of the Point by the Firehouse. Also, the Point Richmond History Association, under the guidance of Patricia Pearson, will be providing historical window plaques identifying the historic buildings in the downtown Point Triangle. It is the many non-profit groups working together that keep the charm of our little community. Whether you are downtown for shopping, eating or just for a cup of coffee, stop by when our Museum is open.

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Park Place in 1953

*PRHA photo archive
#0563 From Royce
Ong*

*Enhanced by Thomas
Mercer-Hursh*

Thank you members for your renewal:

Karen Shaw
Jack N. Sevberth
William A. Smith
Bob Larsen
Jay & Karen Fenton Family
John A. Theilla & Rosa T. Casazza**
Alphonso & Donna Diaz Family
Madeline Albright
Ellen Schaefer
Dee Rosier
Pat Dornan
Fred Beesley
Susan Reynolds Prine
Shirley & Tom Butt Family
George Coles
Michael Cooper
Spiro Cakos**
Henry Gondola
Wilson & Sonja Gandola
Penny Canario
Pam Wilson
Ann Bartram
Betty Menzie
Zoanna Kille
Jim & Olivia Jacobs**
Mary Crosby & Tom Piazza Family
Thomas N. Burt, Jr.
Royce Ong**
Bruce and Sandra Beyaert Family
Judith Buhlis
Emile & Edwyna Pleau
Marcelina B. Smith
Gary Shows Family
Bonnie Jo Cullison Family
Mid Dornan
Sonja Darling

*Gift Membership

**Special Member, *Thank You!*

Thank you members for your renewal:

Warm welcome to new members:

Alan LaPointe

Sue Squires Unser

Thank You!

Santa Fe Market
and
Point Richmond Market

For selling

“THIS POINT.....in time”

For us

Museum Hours:

Saturday 11:30-2:00 pm

Thursday 11:30-2:00 pm



The Cover:

Then and now, Historic photo (circa 1953) is PRHA

Archive #0565-ONG from Royce Ong

Modern photo by Thomas Mercer-Hursh

Editor's Notes

Gary Shows (510-235-1336)

Pretty good winter so far. Plenty of rain and plenty of breaks with lots of sunshine. And Daylight Savings returns in a month, I look forward to getting home from work in daylight.

Here is your February/March 2011 issue of TPIT. I give my usual thank you to all of our contributors.

Thank you to William Sagar of the Fairfax Historical Society for sending us his research on the whaling station in Point Richmond. Look forward to reading about this interesting subject in a future issue.

Anyone care to date our aerial photo centerfold?

Thanks to my neighbor Royce Ong for giving us his early 1950's pictures. I encourage anyone who has historic Point photos to loan them to me so that I can scan them and make them available to everyone.

It is so nice to have my life return to somewhat normal after my partner Jerry's major surgery. I am happy to say that he is doing quite well, he eats a well and gets around just fine with a little help from a cane.

The deadline for articles and items for the next issue is March 25, 2011.

There were some houses of "ill fame" along Railroad Avenue, behind the Police Station and Firehouse. In the teens and 1920's we younger "kids" wondered who occupied those places! The subject among older kids was always hush-hush, so naturally it caused us to wonder.

Harold Shawl

Thank You!

Our Special Supporters!

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Gilda Markarian

Kevin, Renee & Griffin Knee

Jean & John Knox

Sandi Genser-Maack & Lynn Maack

Thomas Mercer-Hursh & Theresa de Valencé

John & Nancy Mengshol

Donna Wilson

Linda Andrew-Marshall

Margaret Morkowski

Patricia Dornan

Bob & Ellie Strauss

Norm Hantzsche

Maurice A. Doherty

Michelle Healy

Paul and Zoe Mukavtz

Spiro Cakos

Jim & Olivia Jacobs

A-Mid Trivia

Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Q: Pony Express riders carried only 34,753 pieces of mail between Missouri and California. How long did the Pony Express service last?

Answer at end of Trivia.

Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?

Sue (Squires) Unser, Carmel, and Dianne (Squires) McIntosh, (Coursugus) took time to enjoy a nostalgic swim in the new Natatorium Plunge when they attended Memorial services for their father, George Edward Squires.

Edna Wickershim Hathaway, Hanford, is looking for a 1936 Richmond High School Shield.

Does anyone have a picture of Ralph Kendrick as a Lifeguard at the old Natatorium? Call 510.234-5334 or send a message to our Museum, 139 1/2 Washington Avenue, Point Richmond, 94801.

Arlene Rodini didn't plan on celebrating the holidays restrained in her home with a broken ankle.

Point Richmond History founder, Donna Roselius, stopped in the Point enroute from Port Orford, Oregon, to Sonora where she spent her Christmas with her granddaughter, Kyli, and grandson, Eric, and their spouses. During the brief stay some old friends enjoyed visiting with her too.

Is Webster's Dictionary in danger of being obsolete? It is likely if you use a computer. With the "spell check" ability one tends to click on without really learning the correct spelling. When penning a letter how can one 'look up' a word in the dictionary without knowing how to spell it?

The new Point drive-by mailbox in the bus stop area is a convenient and easy way to drop off mail!

In January 1914, Henry Ford introduced a \$5 a day minimum wage scale.

Most American made car horns beep in the tone of "F".

Not until Herbert Hoover was U.S. President in 1929, did the U.S. Chief Executive have a private telephone in his office. (The telephone had been invented 53 years earlier). The booth in the White House hallway had served as the presidents private phone before one was installed in the oval office.

Cold, windy weather hasn't deterred many from enjoying the new facilities at the remodeled Natatorium. But, the dressing room non-functioning heaters makes for a hasty dressing and retreat after the swim.

How can two bags of groceries turn into four bags of garbage?

Check with the Point Librarian to join the Book Club which meets monthly on a Monday from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Undaunted by North Dakota weather in February, Sonja Darling will spend the month visiting her 93 year-old mother and other siblings.

The Point San Pablo Yacht Club is the site for the Methodist Church Annual Sweetheart Dinner 'FUN'd raiser on Friday, February 18th which will

honor Robert Love of the Masquers.

On October 3, Germany paid the very last installment of the \$33 billion debt levied by the 1919 Treaty of Versailles for starting WW1. The fines crippled the German economy at the time, leading to resentment that fueled the Nazis' rise to power. Adolf Hitler refused to pay reparations during his rule. Most of the money will be distributed among private individuals and pension funds. (Hitler was a twin that died at birth. (US News)

Taylor Bradshaw, St. Mary's College Sophomore, was part of a group of students that spent three weeks in Israel studying, traveling and visiting families throughout the region.

Floria (Crim) Jones, a National Park Ranger working in Ozark National Park, is visiting family and while here is volunteering for one month in the Rosie the Riveter National

Homefront National Park. Stop by for a visit.

While her older sister, Taylor, went to Israel Regan Bradshaw, Senior at Terra Linda High in San Rafael, is leaving in February with the school Nicaragua Club for ten days to visit schools, hospitals and orphanages in Nicaragua. This is her second year volunteering and the students take gifts of clothing, toys, school supplies. A favorite of the locals is having their photos taken. Taylor and Regan are grandchildren of Sonja and Joe Darling and daughters of Chris and David Bradshaw.

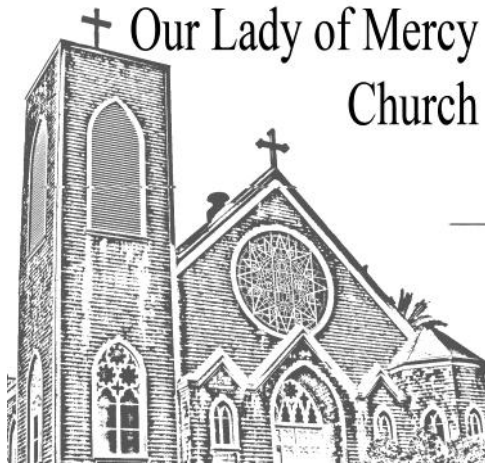
Answer: 18 Months, 21 days. The Pony Express lasted from April 3, 1860, to late October 1861. 183 men are known to have ridden for the Pony Express during its operation of just over 18 months. The Cost of Mail was \$5.00 per 1/2 ounce at the beginning. By the end of the Pony Express, the price had dropped to \$1.00 per 1/2 ounce.



*PRHA photo
archive #0713 from
Vali Cooper*

*Enhanced by
Thomas Mercer-
Hursh*

Church News



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

It seems like yesterday when a greeting was extended welcoming you to 2010 and here we are again welcoming 2011. My how time flies!

We begin the New Year with the shingle job completed. It was a much needed endeavor, as well as expensive. Aided by generous donations, we were able to pay as we went along. At one point, we were able to visually view a section of the original siding. The needed painting to all reachable parts was also completed. It was an all-American endeavor, work done by local craftsmen, the red cedar shingles purchased by an Oregon distributor – even the paint was made in the U.S.A. Now that the scaffolding has been removed, it is up to us to figure out how to remove the holiday wreath! The only injury that occurred was a Station of the Cross that fell and we are again left with how to either replace or repair.

Thanks to those that cleaned and decorated the church for the holidays. As usual, it glowed for the Christmas Masses. Christmas Eve Mass was celebrated at our usual 8:00PM time. Along with the outstanding musical presentation, we

experienced a full house. After Mass there was a social gathering in the church hall hosted by Fred and Diane Siegmund.

Father David hosted a dinner to show his appreciation to all the volunteers that help in so many ways (Acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers, lectors, ushers, parish council members, etc.).

Thanks is also extended to Nancy and Stanley Toledo who each year take charge of the Giving Tree and see that the donations are delivered to Children's Hospital.

We continue to collect food for donation to the local food banks, as well as used, clean clothing. A barrel for the food donations is available at the church entrance. Clothing can be left in the church hall. Now that we have a freezer in the church hall, items can be bought at bargain prices and frozen for later donations.

In the seven years since Father David has been with us, there have been more weddings and baptisms than in the years previous to his arrival. In December we witnessed four more children receiving their First Holy Communion.

While we were experiencing record cold and rain, Father was in Hawaii enjoying warmer weather. He took along his cell phone and laptop in order to keep in touch. While he was away, visiting priest, Father Leong brought back feelings of childhood when he conducted a question/answer session in church. We all wished we could have become invisible and not called upon.

The parish directory continues to be a work in progress. Being included is strictly voluntary, but do not desire to exclude anyone.

For the third successive year, Katherine and Michael Workman hosted our annual Epiphany dinner. Those that braved the cold evening enjoyed a superb dinner prepared by Dennis and Lynn Amantite.

Parishioners using contribution envelopes will find their assigned boxes for 2011 available on a table to the left of the church doors. Users will receive a listing of their annual contributions in January.

The Sacrament of the sick was recently administered to those who have a chronic, serious

illness or condition who could benefit from the prayers and support.

Work continues on the parish webpage – Point Richmond Catholic. More information is being added. There is a listing of parish practices and regulations for the Sacraments – baptisms, weddings, funerals, First Communion, etc. As soon as it can be figured out, the bulletin will be included, as well as Father's homilies. Also to be added will be a virtual tour of the parish, a series of pictures of the church and town.

With a respite in the rain, the roses in the garden have been pruned in order to put on their colorful splash in the spring.

If you enjoyed attending the pancake breakfasts, they resume on February 20. For the \$8.00 price you cannot beat the hearty breakfast.

The side door of the church entrance will be replaced as well as the church hall door. After mentioning the replacements at Mass, a parishioner stepped forward and presented Father with a check to cover the cost. We are indeed blessed by their generosity.

We continue to support the local souper kitchen. Volunteers who wish to assist in serving are always welcome on the fourth Monday of the month. Contact Edwina Murray – 233-7529.

The daytime Bible Study Group has resumed and meets on the third Thursday of the month. The December get together was held at the home of Dody Perry.

It seems once a parishioner, always a parishioner. During the holidays, we welcomed Rick and Linda Duste back into the fold. They presently reside in Houston. Rick even found time to volunteer as a server at the souper kitchen. Also welcome was Steve Shaffer and his family.

To celebrate her 90th birthday in February, Amelia Drake and her entire family will enjoy a Hawaiian trip.

If you thought you had seen Marie, Peckham – you did! Marie is here to support her friend, Judy Travers, who had knee surgery.

A 3-year old accompanied by his mother to

the distribution of Communion, looked up to Acolyte, Javier Lopez, and innocently said, “Can I have one?” After Mass Javier sought the youngster and explained why he could not participate. You’ve got to love them!

Continue to remember in your prayers, Al Frosini, John Gerk, Frankie Mello, Katherine Workman, Dody Perry, Bill Smith, Anna Schwarz and previous parishioner, Steve Shaffer.

Happy January birthday Grandson Griffin. Ama will always love you.

See you in church.

WISHING YOU:

12 MONTHS OF HAPPINESS

52 WEEKS OF FUN

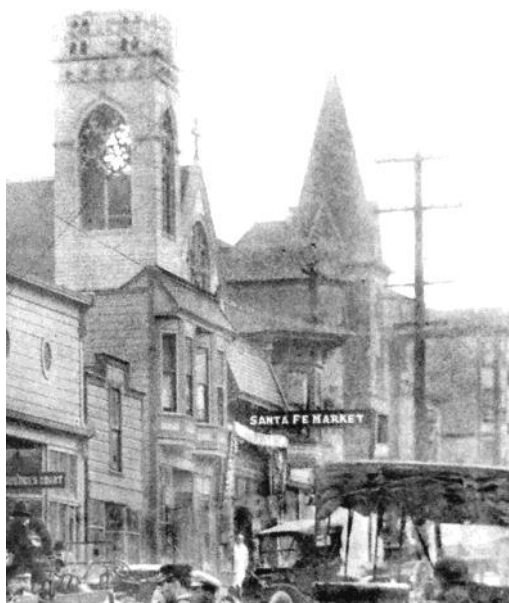
365 DAYS OF GOOD HEALTH

8760 HOURS OF LOVE

525,600 MINUTES OF BLESSING

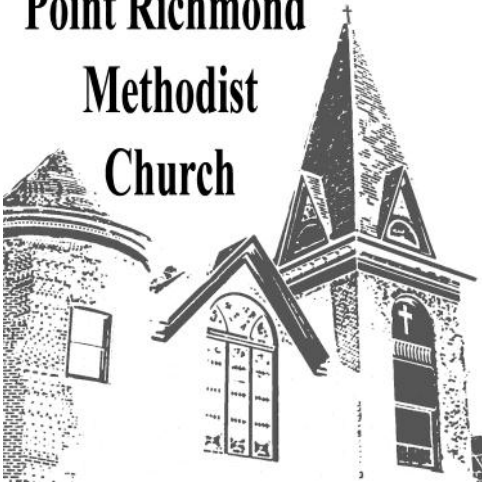
AND

3153,000 SECONDS OF JOY



*PRHA photo archive #0235 from Don Church,
enhanced by Thomas Mercer-Hursh*

Point Richmond Methodist Church



By Jean Reynolds

510-235-2988

jeanormr@pacbell.net

(235-2988, jeanormr@pacbell.net)

On November 25, businesses from Point Richmond and beyond and the church community provided and served a sit-down Thanksgiving Day feast! Eighty-three people had dinner in Friendship Hall, entertained by a live jazz trio, and waited on by an attentive team of volunteers. Sixty-seven meals went home to enjoy alone or with family. Deby McFadyen oversaw the planning and implementation of the feast. A lot of volunteers made it possible. Most of the food was prepared at Barkstix™ and in the church kitchen, guided by Paul Garnett, Tinna Manansala, and Mim Drake. After dinner, we delivered leftovers to the Bay Area Rescue Mission. Kitchen staff at the Mission received the remaining salad gratefully. They were all out of greens and due to serve Thanksgiving dinner within the hour. Contributing businesses included: **El Sol, The Spot Liquors, Little Louie's, Pt. Richmond Market, Barkstix, Pikanha's, Santa Fe Market, Café Altura, Starbucks Coffee, The Art Lounge, Point Realty, Hotel Mac, Safeway, Edibles, and Up and Under.** Thank you to the businesses, other donors, volunteers, and all who came to share a

meal!

The United Methodist Women had a potluck party on December 4 at Russ and Kristi Johnson's home in Martinez. We collected gifts for the Rescue Mission, remembered Christmases past at Helen Valentine's home, and were thankful for the start of a new tradition. Pat Dornan adopted three children to gift during Christmas, with help from church friends. Helen Wysham asked for warm socks to take to the Mission: she got a huge basketful to warm the feet of those in need. We collected new or gently used coats and blankets for the GRIP give-away during the coldest part of the winter.

We met at El Sobrante United Methodist Church on December 11 for a joint Christmas Concert: The Joyful Noise Choir, the El Sobrante Adult Choir, Hand bell Choir, Praise Band, and liturgical dancers were all part of the program. Pastor Dan was particularly versatile: in the course of the concert he played piano, accordion, sang a duet, directed the choir, moved the podium and played hand bells. Eileen Johnson took turns directing the choirs and playing the organ. She is the music director at El Sobrante UMC and has a hand in all of their musical endeavors.

On December 18, a rainy day at the Point Richmond Community Center, we sponsored a Holiday Bake Sale. Pastor Dan made the browsing more festive – he played tunes of the season on the piano. Fran Smith, Mid Dornan, and Pat Dornan sold delicious and eye-appealing holiday baked goods packaged in ribbon and cellophane for gifting or to transport home.

December 24 we had perhaps the best ever Jazz Christmas Eve service. Musical guests included Paula Helene, Dave Tattershall, Claudia Russell and Bruce Kaplan, Gill Stanfield, Heather Damon, Bethany Reynolds and the Dan Damon Quartet, with Kurt Ribak, Lincoln Adler, and Randy Odell. Kurt shuttled to several Christmas Eve programs that night, and left a spare bass at the church so he could make the transition more easily. We were glad he took extra effort to be there with us. Kelsey Tostenson sang the first verse of *Silent Night* flawlessly in Spanish. A

couple in the front pew had just flown in from Italy: they were charmed to hear the carol sung in a language that was more familiar to them than English. Manuel Navidad read the Christmas Story to a dozen or more children; Liam Thompson read from the Gospel of Luke.

On January 2, we started our new year with a Persian feast prepared by and shared with our friend Ensieh and others from the Persian American community. After the meal, we gathered for a memorial service for Ali Saremi, held prisoner for 24 years in Iran. He was executed during the Christmas holidays in 2010 to minimize Western attention. We value the connection that has grown over the past year between our congregation and our Persian American friends. We learned that political prisoners in Iran and refugees from Iran living in Camp Ashraf in Iraq suffer human rights abuses.

January 9, 2011 **Tales and sales from Bethlehem:** Claire Anastas visited us for worship and sold handcrafted items afterward made by Palestinians in Bethlehem. She brought olive wood sculptures, olive oil, scarves, icons, jewelry, and clothing. Claire shared stories of what it has been like to live as a Christian in Bethlehem. She and her husband had to seek a new livelihood since a 30-foot-high wall was built through the city; access to their business was eliminated. Several Bay Area churches sponsored her trip here so she can support her family and the artisans, and tell people of their political plight in Israel/Palestine.

On January 15, we celebrated the life of Golden Arizona Berry Mobley, "Goldie." She was born April 30, 1913. Goldie's daughter Fran Smith, granddaughter Sandra Kokoruda, great-granddaughter Frances Brausch, and great-great-grandson Manuel Navidad are part of our church community. Five generations of her family attended church here. In the past few years, Goldie lived at Brookvue Care Center in San Pablo. She knew all of the lyrics to the old songs and sang enthusiastically when Jane Carnall played piano. She had a colorful past, could tell a rollicking story, and loved and appreciated her family.

On the calendar:

Our annual Sweetheart Dinner is slated for the Point San Pablo Yacht Club, 700 W. Cutting Boulevard. The 2011 Sweetheart of the Year is the famous – dat, d'dah! – Robert Love, Managing Director of Masquers' Theater and undisputed sweetheart. On Friday, February 18, the evening festivities commence with live music at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 7:00 p.m., and a program following. Tickets for the dinner and program are \$40 each, and will surely sell out. To reserve your seat, send a check made out to Richmond First United Methodist Church to Fran Smith, 2149 Beaujolais Court, Fairfield California 94533-5870. No reservations by phone, but questions can be directed to Fran at (707) 427-3121.

Ballroom Dancing led by Tracy Barnowe will be Sunday, February 6, from 1 to 3 p.m. Singles and couples are welcome. Cost is \$5 per person.

Bobby Hall and Friends Gospel Music concert, February 20, 5:00 p.m.

Pt. Richmond Acoustic Concerts: Tickets are \$15 general, \$12.50 senior and student

Friday, February 11, 8:00 p.m.: Roy Zimmerman performs musical satire in concert. For details, see the website: www.folkunlimited.com

For updates to the church calendar, find us on the web courtesy of David Moore of Sincere Designs: <http://www.pointrichmond.com/methodist>



POINT METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

Mid Dornan

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

APRIL 2, 1929

The Social League met in the Church parlor April 2nd with Mrs. Dicely and Mrs.

Jones as hostesses.

Meeting opened by repeating the Lords Prayer led by Mrs. Ida Mae Jones Pres.

Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved.

Moved and carried the League serve the Church Fellowship dinner dinner on May 2nd.

Chairman Mrs. Burdick, Mrs Scofield, Mrs Brothers and Mrs. Meece.

Table chairman Mrs Oehne. Moved and carried we hold food sale on Saturday April 20th. Mrs. P.T. Osborn and Mrs Bert Jenkins in charge.

Moved and carried to pay Mrs. Burdick \$1.80 for cups and saucers purchased for the League.

Old Balance	\$33.69
Dues paid Mrs. Long	.60
Mrs. Alexander	.60
Mrs. Scofield	.60
Mrs. Elizabeth Jenkins	.60
Mrs. Hilll	.60
Mrs. Dicely	.60
Mrs. Kitto	.60
Dollar Social	1.00
Mrs A.B. Jones	1.00
Plate collection	2.00
Total	41.88
Paid out	
M.E.Church (Mrs. Aams)	10.00
Mrs. Burdick	1.80
Balance	\$30.08



Christian Science Church

From Steven Blair

GOD IS SPEAKING – ARE WE LISTENING?

In the Bible we find two wonderful Old Testament stories where the prophet had need to keep his restless thoughts quiet and seek his true source of living. They are: the Burning Bush with Moses and Elijah near a cave facing an earthquake, and then a great wind, and a fire. Yet, amidst the turmoil, commotion, and noise these two events brought, came the realization that God was right there with them. He was speaking to them, and they were listening to His Word. So how important—when we are faced with increasing crime, a stressed economy, and disasters of all sorts—that we stop and give ourselves a quiet time in prayer with our God. In this way, we can find ourselves hearing the Word of God. Again this year, the members of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Richmond, are bringing a speaker to the community to share ideas to help us reach out for the truth that comes from an all-embracing love of God. This community event, a talk, is appropriately titled “God is Speaking – are we Listening?” Our speaker is Jill Grimes from Tucson, Arizona, and she will share thoughts on how we can listen to God. **The talk will be at the Point Richmond Community Center on Saturday, February 26, 2011 at 3:00pm. All are welcome to attend this free event.** And if you’d like to find out more about Christian Science, drop by the Reading Room at 114 Washington Avenue, attend our church services at 112 Washington Avenue, or check out www.christianscience.com, a valuable source of information. We look forward to seeing our friends and neighbors of the Point and sharing the good Word of God.

Out and About Town

Margaret Morkowski (510) 234-4219

Have you ever noticed... somehow kids are always busy?



Now that the **Richmond Plunge** is open, swim teams are forming. The kids' team is the Richmond Sailfish and you only have to be 5 years old to join... there's not a lot of competition but they sure do have fun. All the kids like the idea of swimming as part of the Sailfish Team and some of them want to prepare for a future "meet." Coach John and Assistant-Coach Josie are just great and sometimes have the teenage Sailfish work with the little ones. There's always lots of laughing and giggling. By the way, if you are a "kid at heart," **Richmond Swims, Inc.** has a Masters program too. For more details on the programs for both groups, check out the Richmond Swims, Inc. web page at RichmondSwims.org or call (510) 356-8801.



The **Washington School Many Hands Project's** Spirit of Leadership Program is off to a great start. This year's theme is "Space" and Mrs. Sally Feldman, 2nd grade teacher and Many Hands Project Board Member, is well on her way organizing materials, speakers and the field trip for the "Spirit of Leadership Scholars." Mrs. Feldman is well qualified for this task since she has been working with NASA for more than 10 years developing materials and curriculum for us nation wide in elementary school. Last year Sally received the same NASA Award which was presented to the developer of the Mars Land Rover. "Way to go" Mrs. Feldman. All of the children in grades 1 through 6 may participate in the Spirit of Leadership's 5 assignment project. Each child chooses their own subject, does the research, prepares a display board as a visual aid used when giving their 2 oral presentations and then completes

an evaluation of their project. Last year 120 of the more than 340 eligible children at Washington School completed the program. They were rewarded with a Pizza Party, a field trip and a year-end "educational" award, such as night vision glasses, metal detectors or an ant farm. Their parents are encouraged to work with their children so participation in the program becomes a great family activity as well. If you would like to the join others who contribute to the Many Hands Project or would like more details please call me at 234-4219.



By the way, the **Washington School PTA** is sponsoring a fund raising Candy Sale. So if you see any kids around town calling a box of 50 candy bars ask if you can help to make his box lighter by buying a few candy bars at \$1.00 each. The PTA will benefit, you'll enjoy the candy and the kid will thank you. Please call the school at 231-1417 for more information.



You've heard the phrase "**There's a New Sheriff in Town**" well in a way, people in Point Richmond started saying that last month. In January of every year the Richmond Police Department reassigns staff at the staffs' request and based on seniority. As a result, this year we have a "New Captain in Town" who is the commander for the Southern District which includes Point Richmond's Beat 1. **Captain Anthony Williams** is the successor to **Captain McBride** who has been very helpful to many of us in the community. We would like to "Welcome" Captain Williams and the other new Officers to the Southern Division and Beat 1. We also want to "Welcome Back" the returning Officers who have been very thoughtful and responsive. Thank you all for your past service. As new members of our neighborhood we

hope you will soon join us in saying "Point Richmond is a great place to live and work." Captain Williams' phone number is 670-6990. The non-emergency phone number for the Police Department is 233-1214 with (0) for the operator.



Knit-and-Such has changed their meeting schedule. Altha Humphrey, who is very active in our Point Richmond neighborhood, leads a gathering of us who knit, crochet, craft and/or who just like getting together. Knit-and-Such will be meeting on the first Wednesday of every month in the Point Richmond Community Center from 12:30 pm until 2:30 pm. Please call Altha at 232-2934 for more details/



The Arts of Point Richmond is also changing their meeting schedule at the Point Richmond Community Center beginning in February. Please call Linda Drake at 672-0793 for the new day and time.



Don't forget to check out the "**Calendar**" page near the end of this newsletter for a list of the various Point Richmond organizations. We have lots of groups and the members always like to welcome newcomers. You'll meet lots of great people.



Remember, for an update on what's new, call the **Point Richmond/West Side Branch Library** at 620-6567 and the **Point Richmond Community Center** at 233-6881. Also check David Moore's **Point Richmond.com** to get up-to-date information on the latest in the Point.



Railroad put Richmond on the Map

By Nilda Rego

No street, avenue, or boulevard or lane is named Critchett anymore in Richmond. But old-time residents remember Critchett, as a nice street with two-story frame houses filled with immigrant families.

The street name would have been a nice way to remember Mr. and Mrs. Frank Critchett and their three sons. The Critchetts were the second family to settle on the first town site platted for Richmond in July of 1900. The Critchetts arrived in time to subscribe to the Record, which started publication July 7.

The name Naugle also seems to have disappeared. Lyman Naugle had been the first to move his family onto the first town site platted by A.S. Macdonald at what is now Barrett Avenue and A Street.

Macdonald convinced the Santa Fe Railroad to put its terminal in what became North Richmond. When he was sure the railroad was coming, he bought George Barrett's 500-acre farm for a pittance and divided it up into town sites. Barrett's farm disappeared, but the name didn't. Barrett Avenue is still in Richmond.

Naugle bought one of Macdonald's lots to build a grocery store in April 1900. That July, he decided to take advantage of his 30 years in the newspaper business to start the Record.

Because he didn't own a printing press, Naugle took his paper to Berkeley to be printed. Richmond didn't have a post office, so he went to Stege, a town that eventually annexed to Richmond, to mail his paper. He said that if it hadn't been for the Critchetts, there wouldn't have

been anybody in town to take his paper.

However, there were people outside of town. Two hundred and fifty people lived on the outskirts of Macdonald's platted town site. They worked for the railroad and lived in tents or train cabooses. Housekeeping was not easy. Water had to be hauled into the tent city by horse and wagon.

These people probably were interested in Naugles's paper, because on July 3, 1900, four days before the first issue of the Record, the first Santa Fe train left its Richmond Terminal for Chicago.

The new ferryboat, the Ocean Wave, had brought more than 200 people from San Francisco to board the waiting Santa Fe train, and 2,000 people were waiting there to cheer the Chicago-bound passengers on their way. The train took longer to get to its destination because of the crowds waiting at every California station to welcome it as it stopped to drop off or board passengers. That first train had three couches, a Pullman sleeper, a baggage car and a Mail car. Heading the six cars was Engine No. 205.

The arrival of the Santa Fe must have convinced Critchett to construct a building right next to Naugles grocery store. But the last nail hardly had been hammered when Critchett sold to Henry Wanske, who opened the Star Saloon.

In August, Naugle convinced postal authorities that Richmond should put a post office in the corner of his store. However, by this time, another town site had been platted closer to the Santa Fe terminal's east yard.

Naugle was offered a lot and \$300 if he would move his grocery store, newspaper office and the post office. Critchett got the same offer if he would build a hotel.

By September, the newspaperman had constructed a new building to house his grocery store and the printing press he bought for his paper. He then hired his son and two boys to move the little post office structure that had been inside the old grocery store to the new site. Naugle must have thought someone would object, because all this work took place at night with lanterns lighting the way.

The boys got 50 cents each for their work.

The next morning, people who came to collect

their mail found a sign on the grocery store, "Post Office moved to Richmond Avenue". People were upset. It was a dusty walk over to the east yard, and in winter, the dust would turn to mud.

The U.S. postal authorities weren't happy, either. A few days after the move, two postal inspectors showed us at Naugle's new site and told him to move the post office back to Barrett Avenue that very day or go to jail. Naugle complied, but found it was just too much trouble to walk from his new grocery store to the old post office. He quit the job, and Lizzie McGann took over.

Not long after that, the people living over the Santa Fe's east yard terminal complained about not having a post office. This section on Richmond Avenue was growing faster than the older part of Richmond. Postal authorities finally agreed to establish a new post office there.

Residents were dismayed to find out that they couldn't call their new area "Richmond" because postal service authorities said there already was a Richmond post office. They wanted to give the new post office the name, "East Yard".

No one who lived in what the post office called "East Yard" liked that name. Finally, the postal authorities came up with a name that pleased all concerned: "Point Richmond". And the area has been called that ever since.

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Thomas' Photo Gallery



Early photo of Point Richmond from the air PRHA Photo Archive #0664-FP-THM_C from Frank Pearson, enhanced by Thomas Mercer-Hursh



THE MYSTERY PLAYS

at the Masquers

A review by Theresa de Valencé, TdeV@bstw.com

If you need a play to make sense, this show may not be your cup of tea. A technique common to horror and supernatural fiction genres is to dole out sense one sentence at a time. Reality shifts constantly to encompass something previously unimaginable—for a few moments the world is understood—then a new reality changes one's expectations again.

Know beforehand that *The Mystery Plays* are two one act plays with completely different styles and largely separate storylines. Neither play follows definitions of modern mystery fiction.

Still with me? Good. *The Mystery Plays*, written by **Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa** and directed by **Patricia Inabnet**, present two mysterious settings which take us on unexpected journeys. The show continues until Feb. 26.

The first play is somewhat medieval with supernatural events, a ghost and a strong moral lesson. This play has a distinct feel of *The Twilight Zone*—a show which terrified me in my youth, so I spent much of Act I expecting something unbearable to occur. Horror fiction is successful not because of

what happens, but what is inferred by the audience/reader's imagination.

I'm older now, and better hardened—the play aroused curiosity.

The second play makes much more sense and includes a crime but no detection. We begin with sketchy information about the crime and must piece together what happened while the storyline artfully flips between past and present. This play is loaded with emotional punch.

Set and lighting designer **Rob Bradshaw** had fun. The minimalistic set effortlessly transports us from a train to a supernatural world to a stuffy courthouse. The simplicity with which the prison is conjured is exquisite.

Many actors appear to be working in street clothes, then switch costumes with every change in character. Moreover, while a character dominated our attention, I found myself contemplating the repercussions of each design decision for costuming, hair and makeup. Yeah! to **Linda Woody-Wood**.

When **John Hull** walks into the floodlights, he quiets the audience with his silent, austere presence. As Narrator, he discomfits us with foreboding—we feel engulfed by spookiness. John plays five characters with fast changes of more than just costume. As Train Conductor and Detective Kinderman, he is grave and formal. For all these rôles, including the Cemetery Caretaker, he is our wise father and we gravitate toward his words like lemmings. His Air-line Steward brings laughs and a well-needed release of tension.

Why is it that playing a larger, more complex rôle makes an actor seem bigger? **George Doerr** has grown. Filmmaker Joe Manning arrives onstage looking larger than life and reduces others to pieces of scenery. He is casual and friendly—which traits cause the plot's complications. He is as confused as we about what's happening. Being familiar with the horror genre, he soon divines the cosmic purpose of the odd events. Being energetic (and a lot braver than I am), he accepts the challenge with which fate has presented him.

I disliked Nathan West (**Ken Sollazzo**) almost

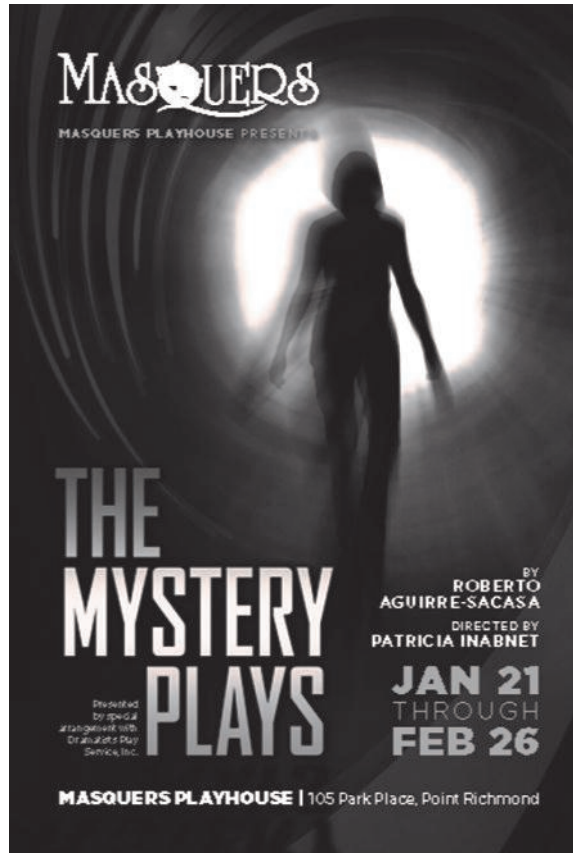


Left to right: George Doerr, John Hull and Ken Sollazzo in *The Mystery Plays*. Photo by Jerry Telfer.

on sight but now realize I was receiving subtle clues masterminded by the horror-loving minds behind this performance. Nathan West is a principal contributor to reality not being quite what you think and he conveys this ever-shifting world skillfully. Interestingly, by the time Nathan appears in his most dramatic costume, I was no longer afraid—thereby reiterating that it's fear of one's own imagination which drives horror stories. As an adult Ben Gilley, Ken conveys a disturbed personality. By the time he became the gently smiling Chauffeur, I fully expected the man to turn into a monster. But does he?

Jeanette Sarmiento is the theatrical equivalent of Clark Kent becoming Superman. Offstage she's an ordinary mortal—a diminutive, pretty brunette. In the limelight, she bursts into an amusing version of Dearest Mummy, followed shortly by Talent Agent Extraordinaire. Although the program states she performs both rôles, the lights were dim and I began to believe I'd misread—she couldn't possibly change so much so quickly. In one of her many delicious touches, unnoticed by many, she delivers closing words of some lines *a cappella*. She provides much of the show's comic thread. Sorry not to be able to provide delectable details, but rules for non-disclosure of spoilers forbid me to discuss them. You'll just hafta see the show.

I've been partial to **Michael Haven** for some time in part because of her courtliness. As Grace



West, she's a reserved, caring woman with whom Miss Manners would enjoy having tea. Yet as Lucy Brehm, there's something chilling about her steadfastness; she's got the same stillness, but all the warmth is gone. Michael delivers two strong but subtly different performances.

Monica Graham lights up her small rôles with truly beautiful youth. As the Hospitality Kid she is coolly efficient but as Sally Manning she radiates a sweet and bubbly warmth. She is the *only* character in the play who could look good in those pyjamas.

Common to all three of his characters, **Burl Lampert** has the staid obstinacy of minor officialdom. He bustles as Train Conductor. As Teacher he drips false joviality. He fidgets importantly as Inspector—with embarrassing results. For our

Continued on page 18



Left to right: John Hull, Marti Hoskins and Michael Haven in The Mystery Plays. Photo by Jerry Telfer..

Continued from page 17

THE MYSTERY PLAYS at the Masquers Theatre

delight, he is tetchy and disapproving.

Like other train passengers, **Bill Chessman** might as well be a an unanimated ghost. When he comes alive as Elliott Manning, he is enervated and unsure. Sheriff Davis has the calm, impersonal kindness of an expert law enforcement investigator. Old Gary Williams is funny and wry. To each character Bill brings carefully detailed mannerisms.

Abby Gilley (**Marti Hoskins**) plays a minor



Left to right: Charlie Guitron and Bill Chessman in *The Mystery Plays*. Photo by Jerry Telfer.

rôle as an ex-girlfriend in Act I and is central to Act II as a single professional with a past. Her appearance is arresting. Abby managed to intimidate me with her aloof lawyerly demeanour, address me personally and intimately at the beginning of the second act, convince me to admire her refusal to succumb to pressure, make me empathise with her turtle-like withdrawal from badgering by attorneys, shock me with her passionate surrender to fear, terrify me with the extent of her guilt, awaken pity for her undefended helplessness, and make me fervently hope that she could reach some forgiveness. All in a little over an hour. A wrenching, brilliant performance.

By the time we meet the teenaged Ben Gilley

(**Charlie Guitron**) we know there's reason to be concerned. He arrives onstage in a dramatic and menacing fashion. We're wary of what he might do—we feel altogether too vulnerable. Truthfully, we're not sure—we want to be fair—he's sweet, innocent looking and extremely handsome. But does that gentle demeanour hide something we'd rather not see? Will his facade crack and reveal seething violence? He keeps us on a knife edge. As the terrible events unfold, we are drawn into the maelstrom, agitated with fear and pity. It's a riveting performance—clearly, Charlie Guitron's career deserves to acquire a devoted following.

It was a surprise to survive the show. There I sat thunderstruck and unable to move. I was grateful to have been part of the audience, but I couldn't possibly have had reasonable expectations for the show beforehand.

The performance is hokey and funny and scary and human and sad.

But above all things, *The Mystery Plays* are an experience worth having.

This is the 8th season Theresa de Valencé has reviewed Masquers performances. All her reviews can be read at www.ReviewsByTdeV.com. Subscription to the electronic list is free, send an email with "subscribe" in the subject line to Theresa@ReviewsByTdeV.com.

THE MYSTERY PLAYS

Masquers Theatre

Friday and Saturday evenings

8:00 p.m. Jan. 21—Feb. 26, 2011

Sunday Matinees

2:00 p.m. Jan. 30, Feb. 6 and 20th

<http://www.masquers.org>

For Ticket reservations, call

(510) 232-4031

WWIC, Est. 1908

Jane Vandenburg

In November Women's Westside had a brown bag luncheon. I was the speaker. I gave a report about my time as a Fellow during months of September and October at The Djerassi Ranch in the Santa Cruz mountains, where I worked day in, day out, getting a good start on a new novel.

In December we met for our holiday luncheon, accompanied by our invited guests, to

enjoy a traditional holiday meal prepped by Altha Humphrey and her crew. Amazing food! We sang carols, joining Anna Schwartz who led us in "Silent Night" in its original German.

WWIC is very much looking forward to the awards and challenges of our various projects in the new year.



Point Triangle in 1953 PRHA photo archive #0562 from Royce Ong, enhanced by Thomas Mercer-Hursh



Early Days, History of the City of Richmond

By Bill Foster

I published this once many years ago, but not since the items are going to the internet. I think this colorful history account is clearly worth a second look. I would like to know more about Bill Foster and will share any information with our TPIT readers. Gary.

Installment #2

On upper Richmond Avenue, was the post office run by an old maid named Miss Woods. (Miss Lucetta Woods, step daughter of Benjamin Boorman). Dr. Abbott, Dr. Lucas and Dr. Campbell were the main doctors in town. Dr. Morrison and Dr. Barney were the town's first doctors. Dr. Lucas was an intern working for Dr. Morrison when by two year old brother died of food poisoning in 1903. Dr. Morrison was out of town. Dr. Gersich and Dr. Stockwell had ads in the 1901 *Record*.

Old timers such as Palen Church and George Dimmick ran express wagons to and from the depot for the town stores. (Palen Church moved to the Point in Sept 1901 from San Pablo where he farmed on the ground now occupied by the Niagara Chemical Plant.) In the winter months the streets were knee deep in mud for the horses. Al Browning drove the brewery truck for the Enterprise Brewery (Later Harry Yager). In the summers and winters he had 4 horses on a mud sled to roll the barrels into the saloon doors.

The sidewalks were built up and down the street like a roller coaster, built them to suit the door elevations. Henry Sirenburg was an old timer who ran a saloon on the corner of Richmond and Railroad Avenues. Dick Paasch ran the first blacksmith shop near the tunnel. (Wrong – John Murray did, he, he sold to Paasch). Across the tracks was a row of dirty houses called “Smokey Row”. Up Park Place, Dick Spiersch and his brother Fred, had a plumbing shop; also Oliver Walley ran the best food shop for the railroad men. He had some pretty hashers, but the railroad men soon married them off.

The people took up a collection and put a fountain at Park and Washington Avenue for horses and dogs and the general public (*Ed.: They might have taken a collection to do so, but the Westside Women's Improvement Club paid for the statue*). In 1909 Ed McDuff ran a big hotel (St. Francis) and bar too. If you wanted a job and was known at the oil company, you had to contact Ed and put up at his hotel. No put-up, no job.

We had a hand hose cart firehouse on Railroad Avenue that was later moved to face Park Place, with a big steep platform to run the cart down the road. It was built on high stilts since the tide from the bay washed under it twice a day.

I, Bill Foster, was a charter member of the first fire company. Most of the prominent men of the town were members. Joe Willitts, the chief; Dick Spierisch, Henry Sirenburg, John Murray, Oliver Willey, Ed McDuff, John Black the coal man and many others about town. The jail was back of the

fire house down in a hollow about 12' X 12'. Railroad Avenue was "Little Barbary Coast". A Chinese laundry was next to Ed McDuff's hotel. The City Council paid \$5 to the first rig to haul the fire cart to a fire. I hooked on to it one afternoon with my grocery wagon and started for the Chinese laundry and my horse balked and would not move an inch. By the time the men got the cart to the fire, no more laundry, just a bare lot.

Well, there were some exciting days in the town of 1500 population. Rain fell hard and lasted for weeks and the wind up to 70 or 80 miles an hour. The town was a mess. The women wore no high heel shoes, only boots to their knees for the mud. John Nicholl put streets all over the hills above the tunnel. To this day it is a flop. No one built there. There is today, I believe, the old Cliff House (Keller's) near the tunnel. Near the tunnel was a saloon and boat house. People in the early days walked thru the tunnel and went to the old Cliff House to go boating and sailing. Also people used to walk to Ferry Point to catch a ride to San Francisco on the old river boat the "Oceanwave" which took one hour to cross the bay from Ferry Point.

Back to some more old timers; there was John Roth who was Justice of the Peace with his long tail coat; John Matson, who ran the first bakery in town and Andrew Nelson who runs the supermarket near 23rd and McDonald. He was a kid bakery driver for his uncle John Matson for years. The uncle got him over here from Germany. I remember him well, he couldn't speak a word of English. Later his brother also came over the States.

I can remember Jimmy McVittie, once the City Manager in his old greasy overalls sitting in George Drew's cigar store spinning yarns. He also was an oil worker for years. Jimmy Arnold was the first Chief of Police. Hell, a bunch of us fellows started the first lodge of the Native Sons in the first city hall. I was a charter member and also a past president in San Francisco. I also got up the first Retail Clerks Union and was president three times. Pay nights were a big event. There were drunks shooting it out on the main drag. I have seen as high as

ten thousand dollars on a table in gold.

There was no cemetery in the area. If anyone died he was buried in Martinez. Old Billy Veale held down the Sherriff's office for more than 30 years. There was one lawyer in town, Lee Windrem (another named Grady) who had a poor practice because business was slow. People took the law in their own hands. A man named Tewksbury owned a lot of land out near the oil refinery and did well for houses. They named a street after him at the bend of Standard Avenue.

Coleman and sons ran the first wood and coal yard on that street. My father, W.A. Foster, ran the first plant for the Prestolite Company, putting gas in tanks for auto lights. It was also located back of Curry's livery stables in the swamps near the railroad. Tilden and Eakle ran a lumber yard nearby. Later Eakle killed himself with a gun at his home on top of Washington Avenue.

About this time a big boom started and homes went up fast, property was very cheap. Lots were as low as \$50 with \$5 down and \$5 a month.

Living costs were very low. If a person bought \$5 worth of groceries it had to be delivered. Today you take it home in a 10 cent sack. The people of the town were very sociable. They built a big hall on Washington Avenue (Shads) and had old fashioned dances twice a week. Other nights the hall was used for lodge purposes. Woodmen of the World met there. I was also a charter member of it and an officer.

The people of the town had fear in their hearts at all times. First the Powder Works would blow up and shake the town from Pinole. Then one would go off at Giant which would rock the town and to top it off about every month an agitator would blow her top at the Refinery and out went most of the windows in the town. Then came the big shake, the 1906 Earthquake; hills rolled, chimneys came down and the Santa Fe round house folded up and a lot of brick work at the Refinery collapsed, especially chimneys. The refugees came pouring into the town which was another busy place tents went up on every lot in town with people cooking in the streets and sleeping here and

A Short History of How the Neighborhood Councils Started in the City of Richmond

By Lucretia Edwards

*Lucretia Edwards wrote this history of
Richmond's Neighborhood Councils some years
ago. We thought a reprint would be interesting.
Here is the conclusion of her history.*



*Lucretia Edwards
Photo by Ellen Gailing*

1958

Four Neighborhoods were active. The program was financed by the Columbia Foundation, the City of Richmond (under contract) and the Redevelopment Agency.

1959

Six Neighborhood Councils were active. The Program was financed by the Columbia Foundation and the contract with the City of Richmond. The Columbia Foundation funds were running out. An exploration of other funding sources, including a request to the United Crusade, for financial support was unavailing. The Columbia Foundation gave an additional \$1,500 as a "rescue" grant.

1960

Eight Councils. Program financed by the Columbia Foundation and the contract with the City of Richmond. (The Redevelopment contract was not renewed.) There was a request in the 1960-61 Budget for two staff jobs for this program, which was turned down due to an austerity budget.

1961

Fourteen Neighborhood groups were clamoring for staff services. Financial support under contract with the City of Richmond now provided twenty hours per week to the program, or half of one job. The Columbia Foundation funds were exhausted (staff member, Gertrude Hall, replaced by Arnie Leonard).

1962

The Neighborhood council program is to continue on a half-time basis until July 1st, at which time the City will once again consider its contract with the West Contra Costa Community Welfare Council (staff member Arnie Leonard replaced by Ed Grosselfinger).

The problem faced by the Neighborhood Council movement was not failure, but success. The idea, once launched, was instantly popular, and with good staff work and training, the Neighborhood Councils were speedily organized. They made many requests of the administration and City Council of the City of Richmond through the Coordinating Committee of Neighborhood Councils, requests that were reasonable and usually granted.

But the City Council was increasingly alarmed at the growing power of the citizen groups, and refused to budget funds for staff that would accelerate the progress already made.

Gradually funds were squeezed down, and when the proposal was made to have a Human Relations Commission in the City of Richmond, it seemed a natural development and a comfortable solution that funding for staff should be diverted to the new commission.

So for a time, the Neighborhood Councils, as a viable element in the life of the City, went into a decline through lack of the nourishment of robust funding. But an interesting thing happened. During the few stimulating, triumphant years of the Neighborhood Councils early development (1956-1963) a network had been established throughout the City. Black and white people worked together on projects for their neighborhoods, and then for larger projects that affected all the neighborhoods. Friendships were made, trust was created, and success was experienced. People realized that what they did, working together, made a difference and that they could be responsible for change. Citizens had experienced democracy in action, and it was exhilarating!

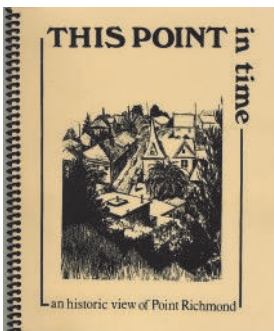
During President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty, Richmond, because of its history of problems, was eligible, and the recipient of, federal funds for many different projects. One of them was the Model Cities Program, and it was because of it that the Neighborhood Councils experienced a renaissance. One of the stipulations for acceptance of a Model Cities Program was a Citizen Participation element. Remembering the success of the Neighborhood Councils, the City reactivated the Councils in order to meet the criterion.

The original Councils had been a grass-roots

movement, and had drawn their strength and vitality from the needs of the chaotically disorganized neighborhoods after World War II. The second wave of Neighborhood Councils was opportunistically superimposed from above, to serve a bureaucratic requirement, and to some extent backed by the spontaneity and enthusiasm that had marked the first, very successful program. However, under capable staff guidance, the concept flourished, and the 30 Neighborhood Councils (and their attendant Coordinating Committee of Neighborhood Councils) today are a significant and positive element in the framework of the city's life.

The Neighborhood Council provides the machinery for citizens to function directly in shaping their own community life. When people help to plan programs and shape policies, as they do in a Council and in the Coordinating Committee of Councils, they understand and believe in what they are doing far better than when this work is done for them and presented as an accomplished fact. For along with the long hours, hard work and responsibility needed, goes an accomplished fact. For along with the long hours, hard work and responsibility needed, goes a sense of pride and involvement. The Neighborhood Council ideas can restore the old-fashioned meaningfulness and friendliness of cooperative community living, and can enrich the lives of those willing to undertake the creative work necessitated by this form of group dynamics.

End



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"THIS POINT in time"

"A Historic View of Point Richmond, California"

By Donna Roselius, Teresa Albro, Michelle Brown & Rosemary Corbin
Written in 1980 and published by the Point Richmond History Association.

This book contains stories of early Point Richmond, detailed descriptions of historic homes and commercial buildings and is illustrated throughout with drawings and maps by the talented Donna Roselius.

Get your copy at the PRHA Museum on Wednesday or Thursday between 11:30 am and 2:00 pm, the cost is \$15.00

Cards, Letters & E-Mails

Dear Pam & Friends,

We miss you and hope to visit in 2011, at last. It's been 10 years since leaving our beloved Point. Hop everyone has a lovely season, we will be thinking of you all.

Love,
Ellen & Dennis
Portland, OR

Dear Pam and Gary Shows,
Keep up the great work. We enjoy every edition of TPIT. We only lived in Point Richmond for 1½ years, 1946 to 1947. We loved it then and still do. One time the fog horn sounded while we were very close to shore. I think me and my boat jumped 2 feet in the air!

Lots of great memories.
Emile Pleau

LEXOPHILES (LOVER OF WORDS)

(From *CALRTA*, West Contra Costa retired teachers news letter with thanks to **Linda Newton**.)

1. A bicycle can't stand alone, it is two tired.
2. A calendar's days are numbered.
3. When a clock is hungry it goes back for seconds.
4. You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
5. A will is a dead giveaway.
6. The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully covered.
7. A backward poet writes inverse.
8. With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.
9. Local Area Network in Australia: the LAN down under.
10. A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion.

Submitted by Mid



PRHA photo archive #0242 from Don Church, enhanced by Thomas Mercer-Hursh

EXCLUSIVE OVER 90 CLUB

An impressive list that grows each month.

Gretchen Van Tassel Shaw - 93

Anna Schwarz - 99

Al Frosini - 93

Shoney Gustafson 95

Madelilne Bellando Albright - 94

Charlotte Kernabon Birsinger - 94

Lupe Padilla Lopez - 96

Steve Wyrick - 95

Bernard Dietz - 95

Avis Blanchette - 97

Roger Wiese - 95

Eunice Ruth Hursh - 94

Dody Perry - 94

Betty Dornan - 92

Edna Hathaway - 92

Jerry Cerknowicz, Sr. - 91

Mark Gebhart - 97

Delphina Franco Tawney -93

MORE EXCLUSIVE OVER 100 CLUB

Rena Cairo Gonsalves- 100

Age is not a number, it is an attitude.

Please send corrections and additions to “Over 90 Club” to midornan@sbcglobal.net



During the 1917-1920 era, we would attend the Saturday afternoon matinees to breathlessly watch Elmo Lincoln escape from the clutches of the villain. These serials always ended at a critical point in the plot and of course, we had to wait to see what happened next week. Mr. Tcherassy was the theater manager or owner and the movies cost 5 or 10 cents. There was also a pianist who played appropriate music during the exciting moment of the movie. The theater was around the corner from the Police Station.

Harold Shawl

Prior to about 1928, our domestic water was supplied by the Peoples Water Company. Thereafter, with the formation of the East Bay Municipal Utility District, the Peoples was taken over by the newly formed District. The circular reservoir on top of the hill was then still in use.

Harold Shaw



Birthdays

February

Mark M. Gebhart
Sarah Wilson
Mary Shur
Steven Mertle
Fred Beesley
Doug Busby
Chris Rotting

Mitzi Kruse
Walter MacMillan
Barnaby Edwards
Connie Healy
Arlene Rodini
Ladow Howe
Rowene MacMillan

Dody Perry
Anne Brussok-Roth
Ethel MacMillan
Kim Ward
Kay Mayfield Madison
BOY SCOUTS OF
AMERICA

Velma Healy
Anne Brussok-Roth
Carrie Wickman Dorn
Adele Bruno Waymire
Lupe Padilla Lopez

March

Sheba Warith
Karolyn Macdiarmid
Dale Hawkins
Carol Paasch
JoAnn Bray
Carol Darling
Kenneth Madison
GIRL SCOUTS
Dolly Frosini

Carl Paasch
Reba Downs
Rich Schuldt
Kathe Kiehn
Janice Jones
Jean Knox
Lavinia Karl
Avis Blanchette
Delphina Franco

CAMP FIRE GIRLS
Brian Richardson
Ben Bray
Susan Berman
Mary Valenzano
Rachel Elizabeth Palfini
Myron Pestana
Elizabeth Buhler
Lucile Cottingham

Meyer
George LeRoy Willims
Isobel Folsom
Edwin Loux
Kara Piantidosi

*PRHA photo archive #0471-
RMH from the Richmond
Museum of History.*

*Enhanced by
Thomas Mercer-Hursh*



Deaths.....

Richard Wellington “Duke” Nissen passed away on December 26, 2010 at his home. Age 77. Duke attended Washington School and was a member of Boy Scout Troop 111 in Point Richmond. At the annual boy scout famous pancake breakfast of the troop, Duke often was one of the egg cookers. He retired from Chevron Research in 1986 and served in the military during the 50s. An avid 49’er fan, Duke also enjoyed going to Las Vegas and Reno to participate in the World Series of Poker tournaments and for 35 years he saw the world from many cruise ships with his wife Mary Ann. He is survived by his wife Mary Ann; his sister Donna Luciano, Alameda; and sister Betty Howbert, Topeka, KS. Neptune services will be in March.

Anne M. Gondola died July 6, 2010 in San Pablo. She was born in Crescent Butte, CO in 1912. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Henry P. Gondola. Henry, Virginia and Walt wish to thank Pathways Home Health Hospice and the staff at Emeritus Creekside Lodge for their loving care and support. Private services were held with burial at St. Joseph Cemetery in San Pablo.

Richard Larry Prenger, Jr. was born on February 16, 1968 in San Diego, California. Larry passed into the arms of Our Lord on December 16, 2010 after a 21 year battle with Multiple Sclerosis. Larry is survived by his sisters Teri Meister, Patti Greer, Richele Padilla, Vicki Prenger and 6 nephews and 5 nieces. Larry is also survived by a very special cousin Lori Gonzales who gave him time and special loving care. Thank you Lori. Larry was predeceased by his parents Patricia Prenger and Richard Larry Prenger, Sr. Larry moved to Point Richmond at the age of 4 and Point Richmond was his home.



CALENDAR/DIRECTORY

ARTS OF POINT RICHMOND

Meets third Wednesday of each month 7-9 at the Pt. Community Center, Contact: Linda Drake, 510672-0793

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE READING ROOM

510-223-0487

GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM AND EAST BAY MODEL ENGINEERS SOCIETY

900 Dornan Drive, Miller/Knox Regional Park. Sunday 12:00 to 5:00. Special openings on Saturdays and Holidays. 510-234-4884 for details.

MANY HANDS PROJECT TO SUPPORT WASHINGTON SCHOOL

Contact, Margaret Morkowski, 510-234-4219

MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

Quality productions, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm, Sunday Matinees at 2:30 pm. Tickets are \$18-\$20. Dinner at the Hotel Mac and the play on Thursday, for only \$50. Call 510-232-4031 for reservations.

PARENTS, RESOURCES AND MORE (PRAM)

A volunteer, nonprofit organization serving families with children 5 or under. Playgroups, social events, educational opportunities, Information go to <http://www.PRAM.net> or call 510-215-1734.

PARENT, TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Becky Jonas, President, 510-235-0157

POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Meets 2nd Wednesday each month, Hotel Mac, 12-1:30, Contact: Jake Smith, 510-231-4787.

POINT RICHMOND COMMUNITY CENTER

Info: 233-6881

POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Museum is at 139½ Washington Avenue, and open Winter, Thursday's 11:30 to 2:00 and Saturday 11:30 to 2:00 and Summer, Wednesday 4:30 to 7:00 and Thursday's 11:30 to 2:00. The deadline for the next issue of TPIT is Friday March 25, 2011. Info call President Mildred Dornan at 510-234-5334.

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meets last Wednesday each month, Point Richmond Community Center; 7:30 P.M Contact: Peter Minkwitz, President, 510-232-3663

POINT RICHMOND VILLAGE

"Helping You Help Yourself" Contact: Linda Newton, Chairman 510-235-0081

POINT RICHMOND/WEST SIDE BRANCH LIBRARY

Information call 510-620-6567

RED OAK VICTORY

Open Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday 10am - 3pm. \$5 donation for adults, \$4 seniors, \$2 children. Sunday Breakfast September 10th and October 12th, 9 am - 1 pm, \$6 adults children FREE

SAVE THE PLUNGE TRUST

Contact: Rosemary Corbin, 510-235-5779

WASHINGTON SCHOOL

Washington School at 565 Wine Street offers traditional and Spanish dual immersion curriculum, K - 6th grade. Contact principal Lisa Levi at 231-1417 for more information.

WOMEN'S WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB (established 1908)

Richmond's longest standing women's club. Contact: Connie Lompa, President. 510-237-7888

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Type of membership (check one):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Single	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior (65+)	15.00
<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 (five 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
email: gary@alkos.com

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Visit our website
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Thanks ALKO office supply for hosting our site

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