

THIS POINT... in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

www.PointRichmondHistory.org

Vol. XXVI No. 4

February/March, 2008

\$3.00



WANTED

We all love to read about the lives of others. Isn't there one of you that would like to do an interview for this newsletter?

Be a part of Point Richmond history. Who knows what will be of interest to future generations as they peruse these newsletters.

You can be that part of history.

Just call

510-234-5334 - Mid

P.S. If you know of someone that needs to be interviewed call too.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Mid Dornan

Although a small organization, we take pride in our Newsletter, THIS POINT....in time, and feel it is the finest of any local Historical Newsletters. Other newsletters have even used some of our format. It is with regret that we learn Thomas Mercer-Hursh is no longer able to print the newsletter on his color printer. Fortunately he has agreed to continue enhancing of our photos. The Board thanks Thomas for the time he contributed. We are now exploring alternatives as color is a delightful but costly production. We share with our Editor, Gary Shows, the stress in producing this issue so keep looking forward to the next issue.

Contents of this Issue

From the President	1
Members	2
Editor's Notes	3
A-Mid Trivia	4
Church News	6
KP History	10
Out and About Town	12
Archive Photo Gallery	14
Masquer's Playhouse Review	16
William L. Thompson, MD <i>Memories of the Second World War in the Richmond Area</i>	18
Historical Plaque Update	22
Deaths	25
Cards, Letters & E Mail	26
Birthdays	27
Calendar	28



Ferry Point with San Francisco in the background.

Photo by Thomas Mercer-Hursh

Thank you members for your renewal:

John & Connie Healy
Ellen & Dennis Schaefer
Annette Jemo
David & Elsie Smith
Julio Carrera
Karen Shaw
Alphonso Diaz
Jay & Karen Fenton Family
Bruce and Ann Bartram
June Kunkel Blackburn
Bob Larsen
Dixie L. Mello
Royce Ong**
Spiro Cakos
Olivia Jacobs
Ed Squires
Don Amantite
Edna Hathaway
Richard Neidhardt & Susan Snyder
Family
Alyce Williamson
John & Nancy Mengshol**
Loren Smith
Rita Hansen
Marilyn Darling Family

And a warm welcome to these new members

Joan Carter
Barbara & Lee Gwyn*
Jane Vandenberg
Jack N. Seuberth
Joan Carter*

***Gift membership**

****Special Supporter**

Thank You!

Santa Fe Market
and
Point Richmond Market

For selling

“THIS POINT.....in time”

For us

Museum Hours:

Thursday 11:30 am to 2:00 pm

Saturday 11:30 am to 2:00 pm



*And Thanks to the Volunteers who
open and close our history museum
on Thursday and Saturday:*

- **Betty Dornan**
- **Bruce and Ann Bartram**
- **Pat Pearson**
- **Mid Dornan**
- **Bonnie Jo Cullison**
- **Susan Brooks**
- **Anita Christiansen**
- **Sonja Darling**
- **Margaret Morkowski**

The Cover

Ferry Point on January 27, 2008. Photo by Gary Shows

Enhanced by Thomas Mercer-Hursh

Theme of this issue, “Ferries in Point Richmond”

EDITOR'S NOTES

Gary Shows (510-235-1336)

Here is your February/March issue.

A sincere thank you to Thomas Mercer-Hursh for introducing this newsletter to color. Thomas advised me, taught me important stuff like the need for as many pixels as possible for better printed material. He has printed the last 19 issues on his own printer at home. Other commitments (like the ones you actually get paid for) have limited his time so he will not be printing future issues of TPIT. His has agreed to continue working on enhancing our historical photos. I have collected quite of large file of photos, expertly enhanced by him.

Also thanks to Margaret Morkowski for doing the "leg work" of finding a printer who could do this interim issue at an affordable price, but that still has a color cover.

Usual thanks to all contributors, for their good work and the timely submittal.

And speaking of our picture collection, I have scanned about 100 more and am adding them as I get time to our web gallery. I. City Views and II Architecture are redone and contain many of the new images. I will report here on my progress.

The deadline for contributions to the next issue, April/May issue is March 28, 2008.

The Winter issue newsletter assembly crew, thanks to you all:

Jerry Cerkanowicz
Gary Shows
Pam Wilson
Mid Dornan
Pat Pearson
Sonja Darling
Mary Highfill
Bruce Bartram
Ann Bartram
Tom Piazza
Marcelina Smith

Thank You! Our Special Supporters!

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Sonny Jackson

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John A. Thiella & Rosa T. Casazza
David & Anne Roth
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Janice Cook & Jeff Lee
John Helfrich
Sandi Genser-Maack & Lynn Maack
Thomas Mercer-Hursh & Theresa de Valence
John & Nancy Mengshol
Donna Wilson
Erica & Barry Goode
Pat Dornan
Paul & Zoe Mukavtz

A-MID TRIVIA

Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Q: How many days of PAID VACATION do teachers receive each year?

ANSWER at end of Trivia

National “DAV” day is February 9. ‘DAV’ stands for Develop Alternative Vices. This is a day to change your habits and improve yourself. You know..like making New Years Resolutions-but keeping them.

February is a fine month for sending Valentines, celebrating Chinese New Year of the Rat, Lincoln and Washington’s birthdays. It is a month for California’s first February Primary Election. VOTE! But, vote intelligently; read those propositions BEFORE you enter the voting booth.

The U.S. Post Office has issued a commemorative sheet featuring illustrations for all twelve animals associated with the Chinese lunar calendar.

The Trails for Action Committee, TRAC, has issued their New Years report listing the 2007 accomplishments. Richmond already has the largest existing share of the planned 500-mile trail around the Bay, thanks a lot to our Bruce Beyaert. Visit the website; www.pointrichmond.com/bay-trail/index.htm.

Sonja Darling spent four weeks in North Dakota visiting her 91 year old mother who had been hospitalized earlier but is doing well now.

Visiting her parents in Washington at Christmas was Bonnie Jo Cullison.

Scientists in Israil have concluded that a 90-minute daytime nap helps us lock information into our long-term memory. So, if you want to remember something, you should absorb the

information, then lie down and nap for an hour and a half! Work for you?? Your employer??

What does it mean when someone says, “You don’t look your age?” Does that mean he/she looks young? Or just really old?

Would you question anyone that tells you there are 15,362 drops in a quart of milk? (or care?)

Never under estimate Dody Perry! Adding to her many health problems, Dody broke her hip before New Years Day but is now at her Western Avenue home with 24-hour care. Dody, when able, was a loyal volunteer at our History Museum and we, and her many friends, wish her a healthier 2008.

SOPHI and AIDEN topped the list of most popular baby names for 2007 - according to Baby Center.com.

Donna Roselius, Port Orford, Oregon, and Founder of the Point Richmond History Association, stopped in the Point for a short visit enroute to Sonora to spend Christmas with her grandchildren Kyli and Eric Turner.

She volunteered (!) to assist with the Methodist Church Christmas Bake Sale held at Interactive Resources enabling many of her busy friends to be surprised and pleased to see her.

Do you ever have days when it takes longer to get nothing done?

Believe it! At long last our beloved POINT LIBRARY will open in February. Watch for the date. YEA!

Three great ladies! Friends Betty Dornan, Mary Tom Coe and Marie Thompson are 89-year old, 1937 graduates from Richmond High School who meet every month for lunch and chatting. Marie

drives from Martinez to pick up Betty and Mary Tom and lunch can be in Napa, San Francisco or anywhere in between. Go Gals!

HEALTH NOTE: DARK CHOCOLATE is rich in antioxidants, can lower blood pressure and might help protect your heart. Surprise: It does not spike blood sugar.

If you aren't attending the "FREE for all FRIDAYS" at the Community Center you are missing out on some great programs. Recently opened, the Community Center is staffed by Vincent Seymour, City of Richmond, and Amy Aldrich from Adult Education. All these Point activities are contingent on local support. Doors open at 10 AM, enjoy a cup of coffee before Roberta Koski begins Stretch & Get Moving at 10:30. Bring a brown bag lunch and stay to appreciate the presentation that begins at 1:00. Or come when convenient for the afternoon series.

According to a medical specialist, the average person who stops smoking needs one hour less sleep at night.

Mr. Potato Head, in 1952 was the first toy advertised on TV.

M: "Knock, knock."

Y: "Who's there?"

M: "Irish"

Y: "Irish who?"

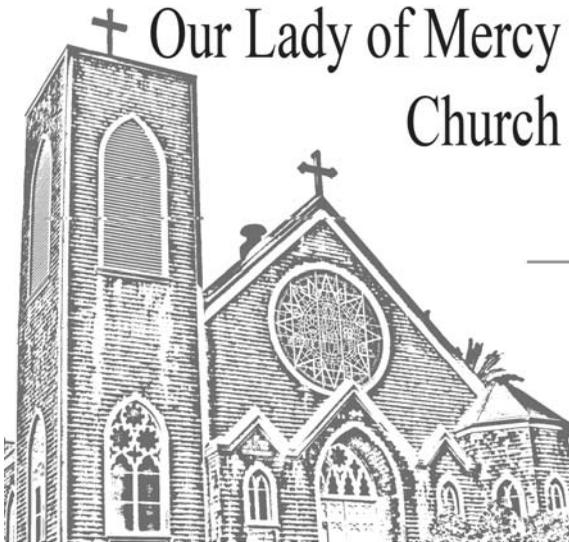
M: "Irish you a HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY."

ANSWER: Teachers DO NOT RECEIVE ANY PAID VACATION -ZERO. They get 9 sick days a year and are paid for 187 working days only. Those graded papers, extra time spent with students etc. are volunteer hours. RESPECT OUR TEACHERS!!

Below: Richmond-San Rafael ferry, 1930's (176-DC Don Church Collection)



CHURCH NEWS



Our Lady of Mercy Church

By Dee Rosier
510-232-1387

Welcome to 2008 – the Year of the Rat! Hopefully 2008 will take a slower pace since 2007 passed too quickly. Advent and Christmas Services were beautifully orchestrated. Thanks are extended to Diane Siegmund for the church and altar decorations. Congratulations to Diane and Fred Siegmund who will become grandparents (for the first time) in March and again in May (for the second time). Their new grandchildren will also have a great grandmother, Angie Fitzpartick.

Father David continues to add to his frequent flyer miles by traveling to Europe for the last stages of his documentary. He allowed himself some leisure time by driving his 14-year old car (with 154000 miles) to visit family in Santa Barbara. On one of our recent sunny days you may have caught sight of him as he enjoyed puttering in his garden. As the result of a recent storm, many broken shingles were lying in pieces around the church. Our needs far exceed our assets. Our income and numbers are up and parish life is good, but the need for repairs

grows as the church ages. Several small repairs have been made, but the previous handyman has moved on. Should you know of an available handyman, please direct them to Father David.

The 2008 weekly contribution envelopes are located in the back of the church. If you are a regular contributor, your name is on the box; if you desire to become a new contributor, please see Father.

One of the highlights of the Christmas Season was the gathering of the Small Christian Communities day group at the home of Dody Perry. Anna Schwarz arrived with her accordion and we knew a good time was about to occur. We all joined in singing carols, but the best was yet to come. Anna sang carols in German along with Barney Dietz. It was a priceless performance and one to be remembered by those attending. Anna told of her escape from Hitler's regime. Hopefully the details can be captured and written as a special article for TPIT. It is a story worth repeating. Anna has consented to tell me her story.

Dody Perry's celebration did not last long since she fell and broke her hip. Surgery was performed and, after some complications, she is recuperating at Elmwood in Berkeley. We wish her a speedy recovery and return home.

We were quite generous to those in need during the Christmas Season. The Giving Tree has become an annual event. Thanks are extended to Nancy and Stanley Toledo who willingly offer their time in both preparing the tree and seeing that the donations are delivered to Children's Hospital. Canned goods were also collected for the Richmond Food Pantry, as well as toys for Casa Esperanza. Having three different containers did cause a little confusion but, in the end, it all worked out.

Condolences:

- To the family of Rose Bozzo. Many of us attended Rose's services and were delighted in meeting her extended family; many of who spent time in their youth in Pt. Richmond

- To the family of Kathleen Genovese, who brought a touch of Ireland to our Parish.
- To the family of Loren Smith, an original Pt. Richmonder.

Continue to remember in your prayers: Dody Perry, Jack Healy, Shirley Gerk, Frankie Mello, Al Frosini, Charlie Rosier, Theresa Meneghelli and Bill Smith.

The Murray family has established a tradition by serving at the Souper Kitchen on Christmas Eve. This year there were five Murray's – daughter-in-law's and grandchildren. Way to go Murray's! The number of volunteers from our church has decreased and volunteers are being sought. If you are interested, please call Edwina Murray – 233-7529.

Pancake breakfasts resume on February 10th. Richmond's ICF Branch 154 will celebrate their quarterly Communion at Our Lady of Mercy on the same day.

A potluck dinner will be held to honor Rick and Linda Duste who are relocating to Rohnert Park. Rick and Linda entered our Christian community as strangers and leave as dear friends. It will be the first potluck not cooked by Father.

Jerry Feagley was in front of Starbucks collecting hugs. He said he wanted to collect as many as he could in 2008. A HUG IS A GREAT GIFT...ONE SIZE FITS ALL. IT CAN BE GIVEN FOR ANY OCCASION AND IT'S EASY TO EXCHANGE.

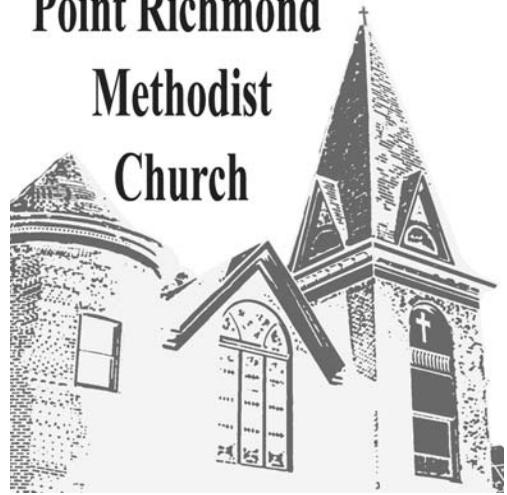
See you at the Methodist Church on election Tuesday, February 5, 2008.

Happy Birthday Grandson Griffin. Ama will always love you.

SEE YOU IN CHURCH.



Point Richmond Methodist Church



*By Jean Reynolds
510-235-2988*

Our Thanksgiving Feast in November was fun and delicious! We were able to expand our ability to cook turkey, mashed potatoes, and yams using the walk-in oven at The Barkery, Mim Drake and Kate Gebhart's Bark Stix business site. The Point Richmond business community donated generously: Please thank and support the Ginger Springs Day Spa, Point Richmond Market, The Spot Liquors, Rosamaria's Café, Bark Stix, Hidden City Café, Hydrangea, Little Louie's, Hotel Mac Bar and Restaurant, and Edibles Café. Gill Stanfield made the southern-style cornbread dressing; Judi Buhlis made the gravy. Pastor Dan Damon, Eileen Johnson, and Tom Belton provided mellow music to dine by, and families and neighbors gathered, chatted, and lingered over dinner. Paul Garnett drew on his extensive catering experience to direct the action in the church kitchen; Tinna Manansala and Mim Drake coordinated cooking the turkey, potatoes and yams. A carving team sliced turkey at the Barkery, freeing up space in the church kitchen. Shawn Henricks directed in the dining room. Several college students were home and helped to welcome and serve. Pat Pearson worked on the planning team and brought four of her family members to help the

day of the dinner. Christina DeLeon chaired the planning committee: Mim Drake, Tinna Manansala, Pat Pearson, Carolyn Kirkpatrick, Karen Bianchini, Jamela Folds, Norma Wallace and Jean Reynolds. The chefs and their crew started the morning at 3:40 a.m., and the clean up crew, supplemented with some contented dinner guests who stayed to help. ended around 5:00 p.m. We served over 200 plates of food and “clamshell” meals, and had extra food for the Contra Costa County Rescue Mission in Richmond. One of the kitchen crew at the mission was especially happy to get our leftover yams. The budget at the mission did not allow for yams for their holiday dinner. We are so grateful to Christina for stepping forward to chair the dinner, and for the friends, family, businesses, and all who helped make it a special day.

We enjoyed a jazz service on December 2 at the 11:00 a.m. worship. Both choirs sang, and our new District Superintendent, Renae Extrum-Fernandez, joined us for worship and presided at the all Church Conference afterward. We had a potluck luncheon to strengthen us for the meeting and the rest of the week!

The Masquers’ concert, “Songs of the Season,” on December 9 featured a chorus of Masquers singing an impressive selection of holiday music, traditional and modern, with the benefit of the fabulous acoustics in the church sanctuary. A variety of quartets, octets, soloists, duets or the entire chorus performed the songs, providing an interesting mix of styles and settings. The Masquers’ are supportive allies in the community and donated the proceeds of the concert to the church.

Carols Around the World, a concert featuring El Sobrante UMC Chancel Choir, First UMC Angel Choir and the Joyful Noise Choir, was December 15. Eileen Johnson and Pastor Dan Damon directed. The choirs sang carols from many lands, together and separately. We enjoy the opportunity to combine our choirs with the El Sobrante choir for that Big Sound so many voices produce!

On December 22, we had last minute help from Judi Buhlis and former Pt. Richmond resident Donna Roselius at the annual holiday bake sale at

Interactive Resources. Mid Dornan made an unplanned trip to the emergency room (doing fine now, thank-you for asking,) and Judi and Donna stepped in to help Fran Smith. Shoppers selected their own assortment of holiday cookies and bars, and got a free Christmas-design china plate to pack them on. Lucky buyers got to choose from a variety of delicious cakes, pies, cookies and candy – all homemade.

On Christmas Eve more than a hundred people gathered as the seating in the sanctuary overflowed and filled Friendship Hall, too. The abundance of children at Children’s Time left children spilling into the aisle. The Dan Damon Quartet played carols and other songs of peace. The quartet featured Kurt Ribak, bass; Lincoln Adler, saxophone; Jon Arkin, drums; Dan Damon, piano. The Angel Choir, Dave Tattershall, Paula Helene, Bethany Reynolds, and Gill Stanfield sang; Hannah Frye soloed on the first verse of *Silent Night*. Liam Thompson returned from UC Davis to reprise his reading of the Nativity story as we celebrated together the spirit of Christmas and its message of hope, peace, love and joy.

On the Calendar:

Sweetheart of the Year Dinner: This year’s Sweetheart is Pastor Dan Damon. Join us to celebrate Pastor Dan’s contributions to our community at a dinner and honoree roast on **February 14**, Thursday, 6:30 p.m., at the Point San Pablo Yacht Club, 700 West Cutting Boulevard, Richmond. To reserve a seat, mail a check made out to Richmond First UMC (\$35 for each ticket) to Fran Smith, 974 Suffolk Way, Fairfield, CA, 94533.

Bobby Hall and Friends Gospel Music concert: February 17, 5:00 p.m. Bobby and Pamela Hall along with friends, family, and partners in faith offer a concert and sing-along sure to rock the house. A free-will offering will benefit the church.

Palm Sunday Feast: March 16, Sunday. The church community offers free ham dinner with all the trimmings to share with you and the neighborhood. Check the church website at <http://www.pointrichmond.com/methodist/index.htm> or the sandwich board signs downtown in March for more details.

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, This is the 70th installment.

MAY 15, 1928

The S.L. met in church parlors with Mesdames Downy and Holbrook as hostesses. A very short business meeting was held after which we enjoyed the nice sandwiches, pickles and coffee that were served.

A motion made, seconded and carried that a note to Mrs. Gnaga be written expressing our appreciation for hem stitching our luncheon cloths. Mrs. Catherine McPhail was welcomed as a new member.

Was announced that Helen Burdick was the winning one in contest . Just herd.(Sic)

Buelah Jones and her members will give the luncheon.

Dues received from:

Mrs. Adams	.60
Mrs. McPhail	.60
Total dues	\$1.20
Plate offering	1.55
	\$2.75
old balance	\$33.57
new balance	\$36.32

Mrs. J.J. Meece, Sec

Wishing the League great success in tea and luncheon. Wish I could be present but will be with my parents Mr. and Mrs. H.H. Feather at Lebanon, Kentucky.

Lula Mae



Christian Science Church

by Steven Blair

I was opening the Christian Science Reading Room a couple of weeks ago and noticed all of the extra sunlight flowing into the space, and realized that the tree in front of the building was now no longer. Have you noticed when walking by, how the entire building seems more open? It is like a newly found treasure that seemingly was hiding. The Reading Room is open to you to spend time to get acquainted with the bible and its verses better. One of the verses many Bible readers are familiar with is from Revelation "... and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."

Speaking of healing, as part of our community outreach each year, we sponsor a free lecture open to the public, and this year's inspirational talk is on spiritual healing, "The Healing Power of Prayer", by Barbara M. Fife, C.S.B., of Vancouver, BC, Canada. The talk will be on Saturday, March 8, at 3:00pm in our church, and the Reading Room will be open to care for those too young to attend.

You are always invited to drop into the Reading Room to learn about us, the Bible, more about the talk and to attend our Sunday morning services and Wednesday Evening Testimony meetings. And for those up to the age of 20, we have Sunday School.



On This Date in RP History

Steve Gilford

In some communities, employers dislike to employ women. In others, they are reluctant to hire Negroes. In still others, older men are not wanted. We can no longer afford to indulge such prejudices or practices.
President Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1942

#248 African-American Liberty Ships and the Kaiser Shipyards.

Crippled by more than a decade of the Great Depression, the US began the '40s mobilizing at top speed to carry on an overseas war. Few people were aware of how powerful a driving force for change that the war would be within America. One way was through employment. The need for workers to fill vital defense related jobs opened new opportunities to millions of Americans.

As the 1940s began, the country was sliding inexorably toward World War II. Three out of four African-Americans still lived in the South. They held the unenviable distinction of being the poorest people in America's poorest region. In the country as a whole, statistically African Americans were more likely than their white countrymen to work as unskilled laborers and when they did, they earned 40% of what whites doing the same job earned. Adjusting today's standards to the economy of sixty-plus years ago,

nearly nine out of 10 African Americans could be considered living below the federal poverty level. As the war approached, though, 2.5 million African American men lined up to register for the draft, and thousands of black women volunteered for military duty. On the home front, black Americans supported the war effort by taking jobs in war industries - when they could get them. Tens of thousands left their homes in the South for the Western states or wherever there was promise of employment. Despite the labor shortage some companies were reluctant to hire African Americans but Kaiser was not one of them. Kaiser sent recruiting teams into the Dust Bowl states and into the deep south looking for workers. As one shipyard executive said, "We do not ask what their color is."

While thousands of African Americans were working in the Kaiser shipyards along the Columbia River and in San Francisco Bay, thousands more were sailing those ships. Ten percent of the Merchant Marine Service, 24,000 men, were African Americans and they were serving on integrated ships. Unlike the Army and Navy, which were still segregated, merchant mariners served in all capacities, from the lower positions such



The importance of the black workforce was recognized in this now-famous poster of an integrated defense factory
War Manpower Commission -
1943

as messman and engine wiper up into all levels of all departments including engineering, deck officers and even a captains. Although there was discrimination, it was not as evident in the Merchant Marines as it was in the Armed Services.

Not all white workers were comfortable with the changes going on around them. Al Smith, an African American worker from Texas working for Kaiser in Richmond recalled that in the shipyard at the time *“a lot of those southerners, those white, die-hard southerners, that didn’t like blacks period, got here too. And those Southerners thought, ‘Well, we’re going to do exactly what we’ve been doing down in the south’, but it didn’t work. It didn’t work, you know, because it was different here.”*

One reason “it was different here” was that there was a growing understanding in Washington and among more progressive employers such as Henry Kaiser, that the contributions of African Americans had become an important part of the war effort. Such realizations led to a government decision to produce a series of Liberty Ships names after prominent black Americans. Seventeen such ships were authorized. Contracts seem to have been carefully spread over the country in order to maximize their impact the African Americans honored were:

Robert S. Abbott, George Washington Carver, Fredrick Douglass, John Hope George A Lawson, John H. Murphy, Harriett Tubman, James K. Walker, Robert J. Banks, William Cox, Paul Laurence Dunbar, James Weldon Johnson, John Merrick, Edward A. Savoy, Robert L. Vann, Booker T. Washington and Bert Williams.



Launching SS Harriet Tubman
Courtesy of US National Archives

Of the seventeen ships, Kaiser yards, specifically Yards One and Two in Richmond, received contracts to build three of them. The first was the *SS George Washington Carver*, launched May 7, 1943. Although it is well known that Dr. Carver invented a hundred uses for peanuts and hundreds more for soybeans, pecans and sweet potatoes, it’s less appreciated what a difference this made in the lives of so many people, black and white. New uses made these crops more valuable for the small farmers who produced them, saving thousands of family farms from economic failure.

(Continued on page 23)



Merchant mariner at sea - 1944
courtesy US Library of Congress

OUT AND ABOUT TOWN

Margaret Morkowski (510) 234-4219

Wow what a busy Holiday Season. In addition to enjoying all of the get-togethers with your family and friends, I hope you got to join in some of the events in Point Richmond including the Business Association's (PRBA) parade and "**Turkey Shoot**" on Thanksgiving morning. There were at least 80 people, goats, dogs and vintage cars joining in the fun. (It was the first time for the vintage cars.) We had the largest gathering any of us can remember and who among us knew that Andrew Butt could recite poetry with such conviction.



The **Thanksgiving Day Dinner** at the Point Richmond Methodist Church was a great success. This is wonderful tradition for those with single or small households in the Point, but many residents also bring all of their family, friends and guests to the event... it sure beats all that prep-work at home and it is a very special way to celebrate Thanksgiving Day.



The PRBA **Annual Tree Lighting** event was also a lot of fun. The choir from the Methodist Church was wonderful and their singing brought a warm glow to everyone in the crowd. The tree was lit with new energy saving LED lights. Did you notice, it also got a "trim" for event? Santa Claus was a great hit with everyone, especially with the large turnout of children. She handed out candy canes to all of the little ones. Following the activities under the tree, everyone was invited in to the Community Center where the Neighborhood Council (PRNC) provided cookies, eggnog, apple cider and coffee. It was a very special way to start the Christmas Season.



The **Women's Westside Improvement Club's** December 7th Progressive Dinner was a lot of fun and a great success. Those who "progressed" are still talking about what a great time they had. Thanks again to Marsha, Bonnie, Rod, Connie, Richard, Jack, Nancy, Chris, Martha and Kent for their extra efforts.



Now that the New Year is in gear, things are starting to hop. The **Save the Plunge Trust** and the **Richmond Friends of Recreation** held their Annual General Meeting dinner on January 28th. During the meeting the architect for the plunge restoration brought everyone up to date on the plans. Actual work on the structure should begin in February or March. The Boards of Directors for both groups were also elected during the meeting. Two of the new members of the **Richmond Friends of Recreation** Board are Rafael Madrigal-Farmers Insurance and Alan Baer-Armor Locksmith. They are both businessmen here in the Point and plan to sponsor kids sports teams. Wouldn't it be great to have a boy's little league or girls soccer team here in the Point? 234-4219.



On Saturday and Sunday, **March 1st and March 2nd**, **PRAM** (Parents Resources and More) will be refurbishing Janis Park, the little playground park next to the old Baptist Church on the corner of Washington and Nicholl. PRAM has received a grant for some of the material but could still use some more funds and some "labor" on the days of the event. Both days should be a fun Neighborhood Event. Make sure to stop by and say "Hi." For more information, please call Courtney Coolidge at 234-3445.



On Thursday, **February 21st**, from **7pm to 9pm**, the first meeting of the **Point Richmond Artists** will be held in the Community Center at 139 Washington Ave. A group of our local artists would like to get-together and develop some ideas to promote their endeavors. If you're an artist and would like to meet some of the artists in the Point, please attend the meeting. If you have any questions please call 232-2934.



Point Richmond Music had their first meeting to begin planning for the 2008 **Point Richmond Summer Concert Series**. Their meeting was a pot-luck dinner at one of their homes. Not only does this group put on a highly successful and professional series of concerts, they

are great cooks. If you are interested in joining the group or would like to volunteer on the day of the concerts, please call Andrew Butt at 236-7435.



As I've mentioned, the **Point Richmond Community Center** is now reopened and has been remodeled, repainted and refurnished. Stop by and see what's happening. The WCC Adult School has a great program on Fridays. In December of 2007, during the renovation of the **Point Richmond Branch Library**, additional water damage was found in the walls and floor of the library so the reopening was delayed. The last we've heard, the reopening should be in February or March. When you walk-by our library, peak through the window... the changes look great.



*The building of the Richmond-San Rafael ferry slip in the early part of 1914.
(0176-DC, from Don Church Collection)*

ARCHIVE PHOTO GALLERY

Historical Photo Restorations by Thomas Mercer-Hursh, Ph.D.



Above: The Santa Fe mole with the "San Pablo" coming in, about 1914. (597-DC from Don Church Collection)



Left: Early aerial photo showing what is now Miller-Knox Park and Ferry Point. (632-DC from Don Church Collection)



Above: The Southern Pacific Ferry slip at Ferry Point in the 1930's. They gave scheduled auto and passenger service to San Francisco. (180-DC from Don Church Collection)

Below: The original Richmond-San Rafael Dock in 1916. (181-DC from Don Church Collection)



ANGEL STREET

at the Masquers

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

Who would've thunk it? A genuine thriller full of nail biting suspense on our very doorstep. *Angel Street*, a Victorian thriller written by Patrick Hamilton, was performed first as *Gaslight* in 1938 in Richmond (London), England; in 1942 by Vincent Price on Broadway; and, on its 70th anniversary, by the Masquers in Point Richmond, California, which is directed by Patricia Inabnet.

This is a play for breaking rules.

Before writing a review, I generally avoid reading about the work because I don't want my view tainted. In this case the Director's Notes in the programme prepared my mind for the story which takes place in London, England, in the 1880s: corsets, gaslight, and a time when women were considered their husband's property. It's hard to believe the human race could have survived in this unequal framework, but I do understand boys' clubhouse games which exclude girls and are filled with silly rules which the girls ignore. Until the boys turn those rules into laws and women mayn't vote.

What must be true is that the social fabric in times past had nothing to do with law; what made people behave well was something handed down from parents to children, guidelines for decency and proper behaviour.

But what, one wonders, would happen if one met an unscrupulous person, someone who didn't want to follow those social rules? Worse yet, what if one were married to him?

Welcome to a new world. In the days where wives could disappear or get locked away....

If the character who changes most in the play is the star then Jack Manningham (**David Shirk**) is not only the leading man, but he is brilliant. He is a well dressed gentleman and almost impossibly handsome, his silver streaks so perfect I thought they were an artifice of costuming. Early in the play he seems attentive and devoted—though a bit bossy, perhaps normal for the cultural era. He's charming

and makes us laugh with his ideas about what could have been his profession. Then we see him change. First he makes a fuss about his belongings, which is childish, but minor. He takes issue with the way the house is run—which, were he a good man, wouldn't matter—but with Jack we begin to see his desire to dominate the women around him; he takes extraordinary pleasure in drawing complicity from the servants. Slowly we begin to doubt this handsome man, perhaps he looks to good to be true?

Meanwhile Bella Manningham (**Michelle Pond**) has fit herself into this world, a young lady who sees herself as a reflection of her husband, who expects him to be right. Normally I dislike weak and whiney women but Michelle was different. Firstly, I know her a little. Secondly, Bella is unlike any Michelle I have yet seen—even her face is different, the shape of her nose and eyes unfamiliar—which is extraordinary if you consider that I have seen her in four or five plays in recent years. (*Photo by Jerry Telfer*)

Most important is Michelle's powerful portrayal of Bella, a woman expecting to be subservient to her



husband's will. Bella is a sensitive young woman, once attractive and desirable, now nervous and flighty, on the verge of tears for the entire play. We see the effects of relentless distrust; she digresses into neurosis in front of our eyes. Bella is no longer

certain about anything—even her own sanity.

Into this maelstrom strides Rough (**Norman Macleod**, O.B.E., Esq.) a retired police detective with a long memory and time on his hands.

Bella is anxious but Rough will not be hurried; he relieves her stress with an elaborate resumé of an old case. Norman is a perfect Rough—a waffling, gently persistent, slightly tipsy, gentlemanly British fellow. The Sergeant succeeds in making Bella calmer—taking her out of herself—making her willing to listen. But the audience? Rough's antics make the audience loosen up in roars of laughter, perhaps a reaction to the tension, but he's fabulous!

Elizabeth (**Jean Rose**) is a hard working, obedient servant—one can feel the drudgery of her life. She has a warm relationship with the mistress and seems like an old familiar. Elizabeth has two stellar spots of insubordination, both key to the plot, all the more convincing from such a downtrodden maid.

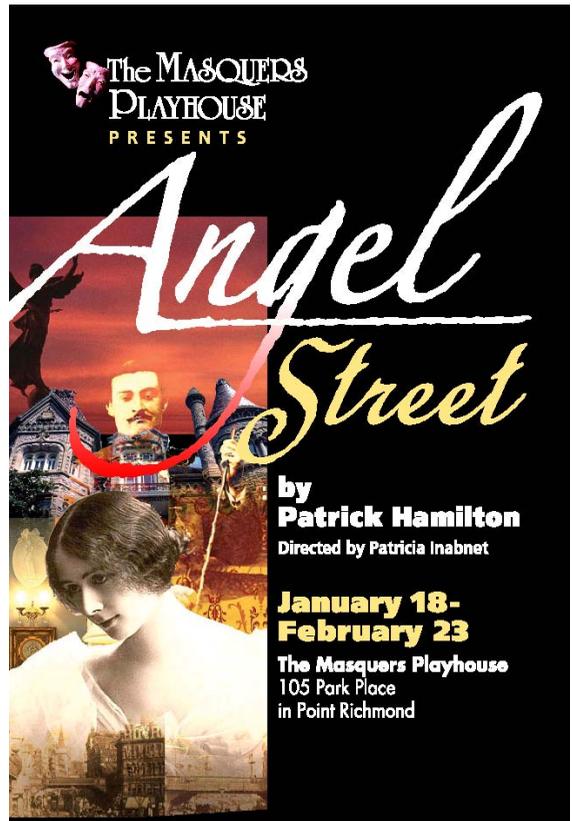
Nancy (**Heather Morrison**), another servant, adds pepper to the story—an impudent girl, just racing to get reckless—a rôle which Heather seems to be perfecting. She is my vote for Actress Most Enjoying Herself. In recent plays, Heather has been inching towards greater abandon. With Nancy, she is the most salacious yet and is evidently having a great time. She's a treat!

With the exception of the policeman (**Heinz Lankford**) who comes in at the end of the play to wrestle with the bad guy and show off great knot tying techniques, the actors are all on stage early.

Director Patricia Inabnet turns a three act play into a two act play, an improvement on the script. There were the usual mishaps: gaslights dimming at the wrong time, gaslights too bright behind Rough's head so I couldn't see his face, and my pet peeve, people playing British accents they don't own, but these trifles don't detract overmuch.

Later, as Jack Manningham evolves, his civilized shell breaks. When he became enraged, I was afraid for myself, cringing the way one does in a crowded place watching a frightened child being berated by its parent not two feet away.

I was terrified. True, I was in the front row and



The MASQUERS
PLAYHOUSE
PRESENTS

Angel Street

by
Patrick Hamilton
Directed by Patricia Inabnet

**January 18-
February 23**

The Masquers Playhouse
105 Park Place
in Point Richmond

Jack was fully ten or twenty feet away—nothing he could do would hurt me—but I didn't feel safe; I can still hear his booming voice yelling at me (Bella) to "Come here!" and I can still see his hands around her throat. I can see him mashing her face with those diabolical fingers as Bella and I cower and whimper.

It was horrific.

As the curtain fell, the audience tried to perform a standing ovation—difficult when the cast had piled out into the lobby—but we tried to express how truly stupendous was this performance.

You gotta see it.

Theresa de Valencé publishes reviews of Masquers and other community theatre performances. Subscription to the electronic list is FREE, send an email with "subscribe" in the subject to TdeV@bstw.com.

William L. Thompson, M.D.

Memories of the Second World War in the Richmond Area



Dr. Thompson was born in Point Richmond on February 17, 1909. He grew up in the Point, attended Washington Elementary School and graduated from Richmond High School in 1926, attended U.C. Berkeley and in 1929 at the age of 20 was admitted to the UCSF Medical School. He completed his medical school in 1933 and interned at Highland Hospital before joining the Civilian Conservation Corp. as a contract surgeon for the Army. Dr. Thompson practiced medicine for 39 years in Richmond, we are lucky to be the recipient of his written memories of his life in Point Richmond. This is a reprint of his gift to all of us. We will reprint his entire series. Thank you Dr. Thompson!

Part One

Before the war Richmond, including Point Richmond, was a quite industrial town of about 25,000. There were about 5,000 or more in the San Pablo area, the unincorporated area and parts of neighboring El Cerrito. The war stuck us here even before the United States entered it. The Todd Shipyard Company came here and located on the inner harbor to build ships for England. When we were forced into the war this became shipyard 31 and soon after this Kaiser came in and started shipyards #2 and #3 just east of this on the inner harbor. These three shipyards extended from Point Richmond to 10th Street. Shipyard #4 was started near the outlet of the harbor after leveling Point Potrero for fill. A small shipyard called shipyard #4½ was located on the Point Richmond side of shipyard #1 and constructed small boats, probably life boats.

Richmond's population escalated with the influx of workers from all over the west. Richmond was selected for this work because there were adequate sites available along good harbor facilities and because climatic conditions here assured little loss of working time. In a relatively few weeks Richmond's population sky rocketed to over 110,000 with possibly 40,000 more in San Pablo

and surrounding regions. Residential facilities were completely inadequate and all other community facilities were placed under great strain. Housing was non existent for most people. People lived in tents, automobiles and any other shelter they could find. Warm bed rooming houses appeared. In these beds were rented out in 8 hour shifts so one bed would serve 3 people. I doubt if linens were changed. Also people slept in theaters which were open 24 hours. One could spend the night in a theater seat, get a meal in the morning and walk to the shipyards. Spare time could be spent in saloons.

People often would buy a lot and pitch a tent for shelter. Then they would proceed to build a garage. This completed they would move into the garage and start building a house. When the house was completed they moved in and moved the car into the garage. All these various types of residences were used before government housing was completed.

I recall mostly the medical problems which were severe throughout the war. At the onset Richmond had 11 physicians doing general work, 3 specialists including 2 RENT men and one pediatrician. The only doctor taken into the army from Richmond was Dr. Husser, the pediatrician. This seemed strange but he was the only local

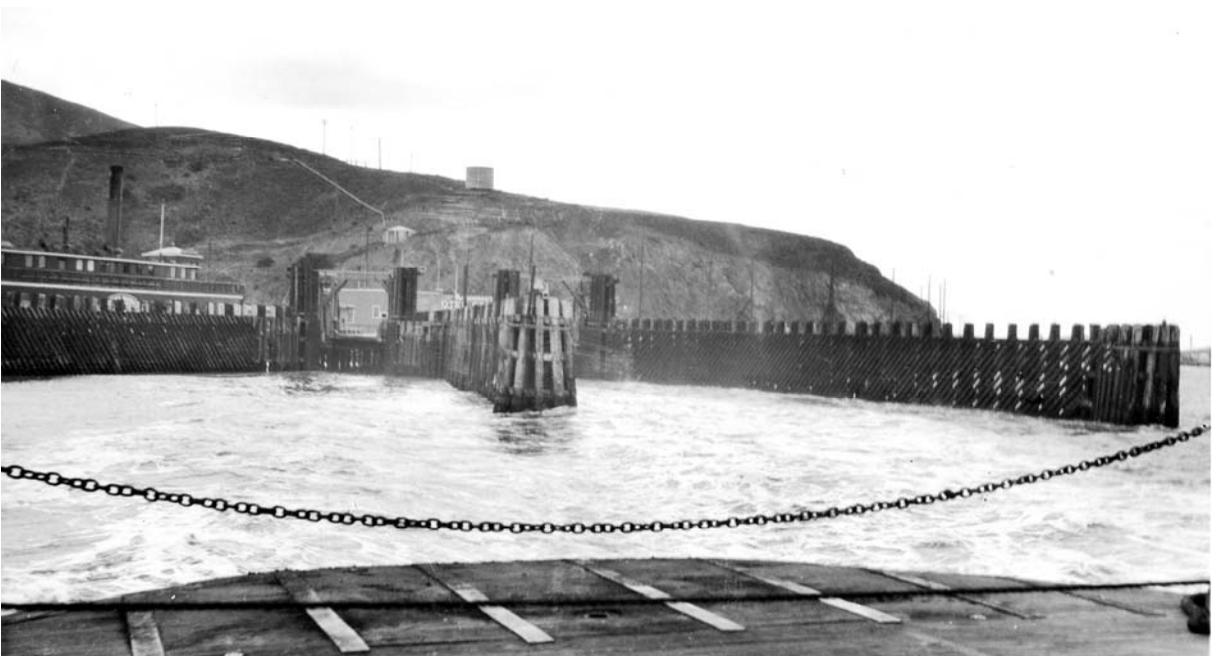
doctor who was a reserve officer. I thought that I would be called, being single at the time and having served with the army for nearly three years on a contract basis. I wrote to the Procurement and Assignment Service and volunteered but received a very prompt reply ordering me to continue on in Richmond as a critical shortage area. As conditions became worse two old retired physicians, Dr. Carpenter and Dr. Spalding returned to practice on a part time basis.

There were two selective service boards in the Richmond area and most of the local doctors served with one or the other of the boards doing screening examinations of draftees. These were not final induction examinations but were done locally to weed out physically deficient draftees to they would not have to quit their jobs and report for induction only to be turned down. Most of us put in 2 or 3 hours about 3 times a week without pay for this service. Dr. McNerney and I served on one board and examined hundreds of draftees. For compensation at the end of the war we all received

Selective Service medals. I recall that Norma Giusti of Point Richmond served with distinction as secretary of one of the draft boards.

Richmond had only one hospital, the 50 bed Richmond Hospital, at that time. This, of course, was completely inadequate for the population increase. However we were able to increase this to about 75 beds by placing beds in the halls and in any other room possible. The doctors staff room was replaced by 4 beds and other rooms of the lab and office were made into hospital rooms. The fire department objected to this but could do nothing about it. At that time the Richmond Hospital, the Martinez Community Hospital and the Contra Costa County Hospital were about the only hospital facilities in the county. These were completely inadequate and we used hospitals in Albany Berkeley and Oakland. Many patients usually in need of hospital care had to be treated at home. This occasioned many home calls and reduced the efficiency of medical care.

to be continued



0274-CC from the Contra Costa Historical Society

This is from a "fact diary", a book of headlines and interesting events in Early Point Richmond. It was compiled by Don Church from the "Richmond Independent" "Point Richmond News" and "Richmond Herald Record". It is one of the items left for us by Allan Smith.

Items of Interest Point Richmond, 1913

Richmond Independent

- 1-4 "John Kenny sells interest in his saloon to Thomas Carey, SOE bricklayer"
- 1-10 "First snow ever seen in this city falls"
 "R. Tcherassy says new Point Theater will have a rest room for mothers"
 "New Walborg Hotel on Standard Avenue in financial troubles"
- 1-22 "Prof. Jahnke patents device to send wireless phone calls 1400 miles"
 "Chief Arnold puts prisoners to work cutting up old railroad ties for the poor of the city. The ties were from the old street care line that run up Washington and Park Place, and were removed when streets were paved."
- 1-23 "Nichol ceases work on his oil well"
- 1-30 "Dr. F.B. Monroe of Battle Creek, Michigan visiting brother Capt. George Monroe of Scenic Ave. with his bride"
 "Party for Robert Osborn who is visiting his aunt Mrs. Sam Scofield. It was given by Miss Alice Adair at her home at 23 Nicholl Ave."
- 2-4 "S.F. Brakeman goes insane. Was OK when he went to bed but fails to recognize family when he got up. It is being blamed on a serious fracture of his skull three years ago."
 "Fire under bowling alleys at Point discovered before town is destroyed."
- 2-8 "First load of wood ties sent to poor family from jail."
 "Dr. C.L. Abbott and Frank King have narrow escape when car turns over."
- 2-13 "First enamel bathtub ever made on the Pacific Coast turned out here yesterday. Many on hand to witness it."
- 2-14 "The Los Angeles Brick Company turned out 9,500,000 bricks in 1912. Standard Oil Company used 6 million of them."
- 2-16 "The new Point Theater, R. Tcherassy owner, opened 1st night to a packed house."
- 2-18 "Park for west side will be taken by City (present park opposite the Natatorium)"
- 2-19 "John G. Gerlach to build 3 story brick hotel at Richmond and Santa Fe tracks for \$25,000"
 "John Nicholl elected Pres. of Bank of Richmond succeeding the late W.F. Belding"
- 2-20 "Joaquin Miller the Poet of the Sierras dies. He had visited Richmond during last year."
 "Chief of Police Arnold buys own car to improve services of department. 1913 40 HP Buick"
- 2-23 "Old soldiers dedicate new Washington Grammar School."

CHANGE LEAP YEAR DAY?

The following resolution is prepared for parties who might be interested in petitioning Congress to use its extensive powers to do something about the sorry state of Leap Year.

Whereas: April is a pleasanter month than February and has more to commend it than April Fools Day,
Income Tax Day and a reputation for rain;

Whereas: Most wage earning citizens run out of money before they run out of month - any month;

Whereas the following changes are made in the calendar relative to the extra 24 hours allotted to February every fourth year.

First: It is recommended that instead of adding an extra day to any month, one day of each fourth year should simply be declared to be 48 hours long, doing away with the necessity of redoing the calendar every fourth year.

Second: It is suggested that the lengthened day then be added to a month agreeable to a majority of the population.

Third: Further it is recommended that in making the change, the following dates be given consideration.

1. April 14 - the nation's tax payers would appreciate having a 48-hour day before the deadline.
2. The last day of school - Parents could make use of the time to ready themselves and their homes for the onslaught.
3. Almost any day in June - the extra time would be helpful in accommodating the expected increase in the number of weddings resulting from Leap Year proposals.
4. The last shopping day before Christmas - it goes without saying that for many that day is too short.
5. New Year's Day - Football fans, television networks and college football teams would appreciate the lengthening making possible 6,8, or even 10 televised Bowl games.
Also benefitting might be the sufferers of excessive New Year's celebrations. *MID*

*At the Community Center
139 Washington Avenue
Friday, February 29, 2008
at 1:00 pm*

**“Our Island Paradise,
Point Richmond”**
A History of Early Richmond
with Pat Pearson and Mid Dornan

HISTORICAL PLAQUE UPDATE

Pat Pearson, 510-234-2532

The plaque for Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church donated by Margaret Morkowski and Patricia Bill Pearson that was unveiled in 2005 has been installed. This plaque with the text by Father O'Rourke and engraving by Andrew Butt has been in the church basement since 2005 waiting for a decision to be made for its location and for a craftsman with the ability to install it properly. It was installed on the concrete stair wall adjacent to the door of the church by craftsman Mike Cooper. Father O'Rourke dedicated and blessed the plaque after Mass on Thanksgiving Day. There were three generations of the Bill family at the ceremony.

The donors of the plaque dedicated it to:

- Margaret Morkowski's mother, Amelia Morkowski who was a devout Catholic who, after her retirement, attended mass daily until her death.
- Pat Bill Pearson's parents, Herbert Bill

and Julia Waite Bill. Julia Waite's family were members of the church since 1906 when they came to Point Richmond as refugees from the San Francisco earthquake, Julia married Herbert Bill in the church in 1922. They resided in Point Richmond until their deaths, Herbert in 1962 and Julia in 1985.

The plaque for the Point Richmond First Baptist Church, donated by Pamela Wilson for her family and also unveiled in 2005, is still not in place.

A committee is working on a Plaque for the Point Richmond History Association building that we hope to have in place in time for our Annual May Meeting.

For more information on our plaque project please call Pat Pearson at 510-234-2532.



*A donation has been made to the Point
Richmond History Association
by Spiro Cakos*

*In Loving Memory of
Rose Marie Bozzo
who
Passed Away
November 7, 2007
Aged 92*

* *A donation has been made to the Point* *
* *Richmond History Association* *
* *by Kathy Kranzser Schmitten* *
* *Wishing a Happy* *
* *Birthday to her* *
* *Uncle* *
* *Jim Kenny* *
* *who* *
* *is 95 this February* *
* *November 7, 2007* *

(Continued from page 11)

Carver also developed agricultural techniques that rescued the farmland itself, exhausted from growing cotton, and allowed it to remain productive. Even though his discoveries could have earned him a fortune, Carver patented very few of them. Most he gave away so as many as possible could benefit from them.

The launching of the *SS George Washington Carver* was a festive event. Al Smith, raised on a sharecropper farm in rural east Texas and working at Kaiser Yard #1 was still fairly new in Richmond at the time. He remembers how impressed he was with the festivities surrounding the launch. *“I remember the time that they launched the George Washington Carver ship. [laughs] I had never seen such fantastic looking black people in all of my life. The ladies with the heels and I think they even had fur stoles on. And I just could’ve stared with wonder - and I just went, ‘That is something else.’ I lived the way they presented themselves. The lady hit the ship and the champagne flew all over and the ship went down into the water.”*

The second of the three ships, *SS John Hope* was launched January 30, 1944, also at Richmond Yard #1. John Hope (1868-1936) spent his life in the struggle for racial equality through the education of African American youth. He also participated in the founding of the NAACP.

The *SS Robert S Abbott*, launched at Kaiser Yard #2 on April 13, 1944 was named after the publisher of “The Chicago Defender”, one of the longest running national news organizations dedicated to informing African Americans about national and world events from a black perspective. Robert Abbott, (1869-1940) is considered to have been

one of the outstanding black spokesmen of his time.

Some notes about the *SS George Washington Carver*:

For the last part of the war, the vessel was converted to a hospital ship and her name temporarily changed to *USN Dogwood*. In 1946, at the end of her specialized service, her original name was returned to her and she spent several voyages as a troopship carrying soldiers home from overseas. In 1964, after twenty years of service, the Carver was returned to Oakland where she was broken up for scrap. However, one year later, the name that first went to sea on a Kaiser-built ship was back on board a ship once more. In 1965, the United States submarine, SSBN656 was christened the *USS George Washington Carver*. Fittingly, a plough representing Dr. Carver’s agricultural achievements was made part of the submarines official insignia.



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sageprod@aya.yale.edu

Let There Be Lights

The Big Storm Outage in Point Richmond

by Pat Pearson

The storm of January 4, 2008 left many of us without power. My block, Contra Costa Street and Tremont, was without power from Friday morning to Monday morning. We soon discovered that it was frustrating to call the phone numbers provided by P.G.&E.. It was much more productive to talk to the men who drove around in pickups. Their job was to discover the source of the problem so the proper crew and equipment could be sent to do the job. There is a local angle to this story.

My profound gratitude goes to the P.G.&E. crew who arrived at 1:30am on Monday January 7th, to work on Tremont Street. They worked through the night until 6:30 am when the power was finally restored. When I thanked them enthusiastically for their work, I asked the young man who had just climbed down from the pole, where he was from. (I had heard they were

bringing people in from all over the west). He said "I am from here. I lived in Atchison Village and attended Washington School."

He left to start work on the transformer. I went to thank a man in a pickup truck. I assume he was the foreman because he was in the truck and out of the rain. I asked for the lineman's name. I wanted to write an article for the newsletter and knew the lineman was a local person. He told me the you man was David Carter, then he said, "I am also a local person." He told me his name was Keith Sondersen and he had attended Roosevelt Junior High and Harry Ells High School. I told him that I would see they received a copy of the newsletter and thanked him again and returned to my soon to be warm house.

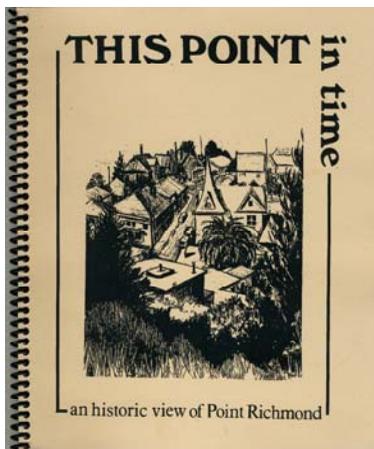
Lessons learned from the power outage: Be sure you have a warm sleeping bag, fresh batteries and lanterns, a flash light, and most importantly a "landline phone". Your "roam phone" will not work during a power outage. A useful addition to your disaster supplies is a hand crank power radio and a flashlight combo, some will even charge your cell phone. The most important thing is to know and to help your neighbors.

"THIS POINT in time", the book is available once again!

By Donna Roselius, Teresa Albro, Michelle Brown & Rosemary Corbin. It was 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 talented Donna Roselius. You can get yours for \$15.00.

Pick up your copy at the museum (Tuesday/Thursday 11:30-2).

Or mail your check (made out to PRHA) for \$15.00 for each copy you want and add \$6.50 for UPS shipping. Mail it to: TPIT Book, 229 Golden Gate Avenue, Richmond, CA 94801.



DEATHS.....

Nikki Eaton died on December 20, 2007 in a Modesto hospital after a massive heart attack. Nikki lived in the Point growing up. A member of the Point Methodist Church, she was Youth Director there in the late 70s. Nikki is survived by her son, Michael, two grandchildren, Mikhaila and Gabriel; her mother, Oretta Eaton and sister, Gail Saverese. No services were held per her wishes.

Evan Anderson died on January 30, 2007, thirteen months after an automobile accident that left him a paraplegic. Many will remember him as the former popular pastor of the Point Baptist church. He is survived by his wife, Janice, daughters Kristi and Melanie and four grandchildren.

Stella Anellini Giovannini passed away on December 18, 2007, age 89. Stella was born in Richmond, graduated from Richmond High and later from U.C. Berkeley. She taught in the Richmond School District for more than 30 years, at El Cerrito High and Portola Jr. High School. Her husband, Dominic, of 52 years preceded her in death. They traveled often to Italy where they also had a home. She is survived by her son, Michael Giovanni, and her daughter Mary Moran; and two grandchildren. Stella was a member of the Point Richmond History Association, often attending the Annual Meetings and "Kids" Reunion. Internment was at St. Joseph's Cemetery in San Pablo.

Loren Daniel Smith Sr., age 73, died December 5, 2007 in the VA hospital in Martinez. Born in Point Richmond, Loren was the fifth of eight children to John and Ada Smith. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Virginia Smith; son, Vincent Smith of Pinole; daughters, Gina Rose, San Lorenzo, Theresa Heinold, Santa Clara, and Anna Boccio, Dublin; 2 grandchildren; sister, Gloria Groff, and Brothers Bill, Dean, Richard and Frank Smith. Loren served in the Korean War receiving honors including the Presidential Purple Heart. He was employed at the Richmond Refinery of Chevron for 39 years. Loren was a devoted and active member of the Catholic Church.

Stephen Anthony Banks age 81, died November 24, 2007 and **Evelyn Della Banks**, age 85, died November 30, 2007 within a few days of each other. They are survived by their children, Connie Johnsruf, Gary Banks, Kurt Banks, Kevin Banks and Kelli Banks, 5 grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. Evelyn was born in North Dakota and served in the U.S. Navy. She retired after 20 years with the Oakland School District and was associated with the planning of the San Rafael Bridge. Stephen and Evelyn met and married in 1942. Stephen was born in San Francisco to Stephen and Louisa Banks and lived in Point Richmond. He trained with the elite underwater strike force of the Navy known as "Frogmen", now called the Navy Seals. He was a self made master craftsman. Burial will be in the Spring of 2008 in North Dakota.



CARDS, LETTERS & E-MAIL

Dear Pam,

It pleases me to renew my membership to "THIS Point.....in time". Keep up the good work! I am adjusting to living near St. Paul Minnesota now. My daughter's family lives in Moylewood and I get to go to my 12 years old grandson's Casey's hockey games, its great as my son Earnie played hockey from 9 years old through college and Judy my daughter figure skated so I am right in the swing of it all!

My son's family lives in Madison, WI, so I will see them more often now too!

I lived in Bemidgi, MN for 61 years but that's life, you move on and make the most of it.

I do enjoy the TPIT so much as it keeps me up to date on the Point and people I knew and the new changes too. My heart will always belong to the Point!

My best to the people in the Point that I knew and know me. Take care of yourselves!

June Kunkel Blackburn
Maplewood, MN



Hello Pam and the TPIT Family,

All is well in beautiful Oregon, but we do miss you and think of everyone and the Point often. Bed and board here for any welcome visitors!

Warm wishes,
Ellen and Dennis Schaefer
Eugene, OR



Dear Pam,

Enclosed is my membership and an extra donation in memory of a long lost friend, Rose Bozzo. I have known rose from the 1930's to the present. I traded at the Liberty Market for years. I stopped by to visit Rose and Elsie throughout the 56 years that I lived in Phoenix. My brother

Andrew lived next door to Rose for years. Rose will be missed.

Spiro Cakos
Phoenix

Spiro, I have prepared a small memorial to Rose Bozzo on your behalf in this issue.

Gary



Dear Gary:

I hope someone may be able to help me with this situation.

I met Fran Brucker on our trip through the Panama Canal. She and her husband were part of the Point Richmond - Brickyard tour group organized by Cary Haskell. When I told Fran I had attended Washington School, she asked if I knew any of the Givlin or Monks family at school. I told her I remembered Jackie Givlin. She said he was her uncle.

Edna Monks (Fran's mother's family lived near the Givlin family in the apartments at Santa Fe and Cottage Avenue. They attended Washington and Roosevelt Junior High. Edna married Patrick Givlin, Jack's brother. I was very sad to hear that Fran did not get to know her uncle, because at the age of 19, he was killed in World War II.

Fran asked if I might know anyone who knew the Givlin and Monks Families as she would like to hear about their lives in Point Richmond and know more about her Uncle Jack. There are not many of us left. I think Jack may now be about 83 years of age. I am hoping that someone reading this will know something of the families and be willing to talk to Fran about them.

Please contact me if you have any memories that you would like to share with Fran.

Thank you,
Pat Pearson
email: ppearson174@hotmail.com
phone: 510-234-2532

411 Contra Costa St. #A, Richmond, CA 94801

BIRTHDAYS

February

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Mark Gebhart
Sarah Wilson
Steven Mertle
Fred Beesley

Billy Bob Karl
Chris Rotting
Walter MacMillan
Connie Healy
Helen Valentine
Marcos Rotting

Arlene Rodini
Ladow Howe
Rowene MacMillan
Dody Perry
Ethel MacMillan
Kim Ward

Velma Healy
Jared Bigard
Anne-Brussok-Roth
Lupe Padilla Lopez
Adele Bruno Waumire

March

GIRL SCOUTS Sheba Warith CAMP FIRE GIRLS

Dale Hawkins
Karolyn Macdiarmid
Carol Paasch
JoAnn Bray
Carol Darling

Dicely Frosini
Claire Crowson
Reba Downs
Rich Schuldt
Kathe Kiehn
Ben Bray
Janice Jones
Jean Knox

Lavinia Karl
Avis Blanchette
Brian Richardson
Susan Berman
Mary Valenzano
Isobel Folson
Rachel Palfini
Myron Pestana

Delphina Franco Tawney
Lorna Huffstetter
LeRoy Williams
Henry Marchitiello
Evan Jahromi

EXCLUSIVE OVER 90 CLUB

*An impressive list that grows
each month.*

Melba Farley - 90
Mark Gebhart - 93
Anna Schwarz - 95
Jim Patrick Kenny - 95
Bena Bowles - 94
Lee Christian
Alice Helseth - 97
Jean Moyle Spiersch
Rena Cairo Gonsalves - 98
Dulcie Johnson - 95

Lupe Padilla Lopez - 93
Louise Hammond - 95
Laura Kurtz - 96
Anita Brougham - 94
Goldie Mobley - 95
Oretta Eaton - 92
Maxine Stoddard - 93
Reva Ward - 94
Steve Wyrick - 92
Bernard Dietz - 93
Gordon Miller - 99
Avis Blanchette - 94
Romilda Burris

Ruth Mallette - 96
Ann Hanzlik - 95
Thelma Mae Harvey - 92
Eunice Ruth Hursh - 90

100 Year Club

Ruth Wood Mullen 101 on
January 8, 1907

*Remember that Age is not
a number, it's an attitude.*

*Please send additions and updates to our "Exclusive Over 90 Club"
to Mid Dornan, c/o PRHA, 139½ Washington Avenue, Point Richmond, CA 94801*



CALENDAR

GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM AND EAST BAY MODEL ENGINEERS SOCIETY

900 Dornan Drive, Miller/Knox Regional Park. Interested in Museum Membership? Museum will be open for holiday enjoyment. see page 23 for details 510-234-4884.

MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

Quality productions, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm, Sunday Matinees at 2:30 pm. Tickets are \$13, cash check or credit card. Reservations and program, 510-232-4031.
Dinner at the Hotel Mac and the play on Thursday, for only \$28. Call 510-232-4031 for reservations.

PARENTS, RESOURCES AND MORE (PRAM)

Regular meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month from 7-9.110 East Richmond Avenue (The Field house). For more information call President Diane Anderson at 620-6843.

POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Meets 2nd Wednesday each month, Hotel Mac Banquet Room, 12-1:30, Lunch Reservations \$11.
Contact: Paula Aasmus, O.D. 510-235-5228.

POINT RICHMOND COMMUNITY CENTER/FIELD HOUSE & PLUNGE

Info: 233-6881

POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Museum at 139½ Washington Avenue, open Thursday's and Saturday's, 11:30 to 2:00
The deadline for the April/May issue of TPIT is Friday March 28, 2008.

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meets last Wednesday each month, Pt Richmond Community Center; 7:30 P.M Contact: Don Woodrow, President, 234-3107.

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

WASHINGTON SCHOOL

Contact: Roz Plishner, Principal 510-232-1436.

WOMEN'S WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB

Richmond's longest standing women's club. Contact: Margaret Morkowski, President. 510-234-4219 for more information.

To update or add your organization or event to our calendar, please contact Gary Shows, 510-235-1336, or email him, gary@alkos.com, or send your request to 229 Golden Gate Avenue, Point Richmond, CA 94801

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

Name: _____

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If you would like to have birthdays noted in the newsletter, please include names and months.

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

Please mail articles and items of interest to:

Gary Shows
229 Golden Gate Avenue
Point Richmond, CA 94801

or
fax 510-965-0335

or
email: gary@alkos.com

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