

POINT COUNTERPOINT

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WEEKLY 5¢

THIS GREETING, written by Fra Giovanni in 1513, is so inspiring, we include it as our greeting to everyone in Point Richmond.

There is nothing I can give you which you do not have, but there is much that while I cannot give it, you can take.

No Heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in it today. TAKE HEAVEN.

No Peace lies in the future which is not hidden in this present instant. TAKE PEACE.

The gloom of the world is but a shadow, behind it, yet within reach is joy, there is a radiance and glory in the darkness could we but see, and to see we have only to look. I Beseech you to look.

Life is so generous a giver, but we, judging its gifts by their covering, cast them away as ugly or heavy or hard, remove the covering and you will find beneath a living splendor, woven of love, by wisdom with power.

Welcome it, grasp it, and you touch the Angel's hand that brings it to you. Everything we call a trial, a sorrow or a duty, the angel's hand is there, the gift is there, and the wonder of an overshadowing presence. Our joys, too, be not content with them as

joys. They too conceal diviner gifts. And so at this time I greet you, not quite as the world sends greetings but with profound esteem, and the prayer that for you, now and forever, the day breaks, the shadows flee away.



CHRISTMAS , 1914

"WHAT THEY WOULD LIKE SANTA TO DROP THEM"

December 23, 1914

Mayor Ed Garrard - A Municipal wharf with brisk business (He got it in 1915). Exalted Ruler of Elks H. G. Biggs--200 more Elks.

Police Chief Walker - A crimeless city.

Sgt. Barry - No more complaints.

City Engineer H. D. Chapman - No more council meetings. (They had been after him over paving the streets.)

James P. Arnold - A chance to wear a sheriff's badge. (He didn't win)

Adolph Winters - An auto which will climb a pole. (He had been having many driving accidents.)

C. M. Brewer - Manager of the Western States Gas and Electric Co. - More city lights.

Pat Dean - (pioneer saloon owner) - A West Side like thirteen years ago.

R. N. Rookie Ruiz (who recently resigned from the Police Force) The days when Jim-my Arnold was Police Chief.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS in 1914

At the First Methodist Church, a Christmas Cantata was given entitled "The Shepherds and the Wise Men". Out of the cast of 43 names, only one still resides at the Point. She is Uldine Adams Nikola.

"The lengthy program" at the First Baptist Church, "Practically filled the Church." Of the 35 people who participated only two still reside at the Point; Margaret Peterson and Charles Hess.

A POTTED EDITOR

"Adolph Winters presented the Editor of the Independent with a potted fern after the item above appeared in the paper. A note attached said, "Every time I hit something with my automobile, you write me up. I think I owe you something for the publicity."

The editor wrote, "True, we have had to write Adolph up on numerous occasions, but we hope during the coming year the little Ford will quit trying to climb telegraph poles and human beings. Thanks for the fern, Adolph."

CHRISTMAS TREES

by Lisa Simpson

In nearly every window
Stands a Christmas Tree.
Sending its message of light
Into the frosty night.
Each tree adorned so beautifully,
Stars, bells and angels,
Sending Christmas wishes jubilantly.

(For those of you not acquainted with this Point Poet, Lisa is in the seventh grade.)

TO THE POINT

by William Farmer

Having received the desired response from the last article, and with the spirit of Christmas (pardon the cliché) softening my sinful nature a bit, I wish to remove my spurs and gauntlet long enough to extend to all residents of the Point the gratitude Sarah and I feel for the way we have been welcomed. Our stay in the Point so far has been rewarding, and, we hope, useful. We feel especially blessed by our good relations with Father Prendeville of Our Lady of Mercy.

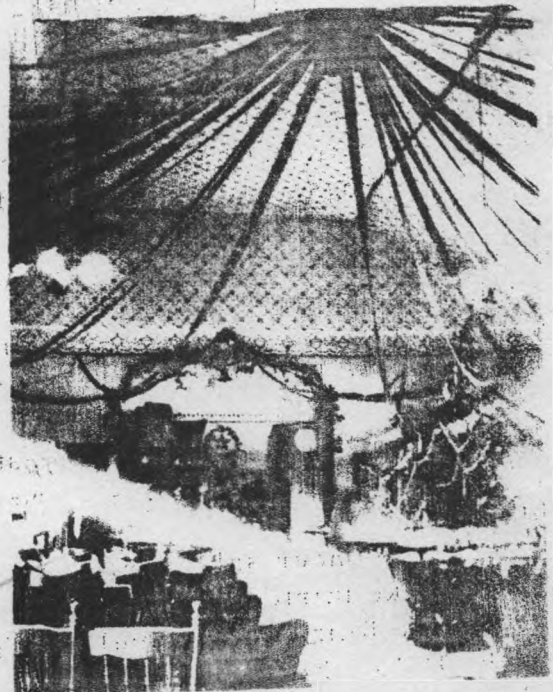
"Merry Christmas", "Season's Greetings", and other familiar yuletide salutations are a little too secular for my taste; for a Christmas wish from us to you all, I would choose a verse from Isaiah: "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people." "Com-fort", in its root meaning, denotes a "with-strengthening." The "comfort" the prophet speaks of is not a gentle stroking of the hair and smoothing of the brow, but the indwelling of the spirit of God which is a source of strength and endurance. This "comfort" from God is the iron core of serenity which transcends and transforms the self and the events that revolve (for so brief a time) around self. To be engaged in the search for "comfort" is the best wish we can think of at this time of year. The "search" is to follow the tracks of the baby we smile at in December to the place on the cross he voluntarily assumed--and (dare I say it in this enlightened age) beyond. "...and cry unto her that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned." Hallelujah.

REMINISCING WITH DON CHURCH

Humorous and interesting articles gleaned and compiled from the files of old Richmond and Point Richmond papers through the courtesy of the Richmond Museum.



On the wire, Mabel Stout Edwards, now living on Martina Street; Kneeling, Leona Adair Patterson who now resides in Diamond Springs.



The interior of the First Baptist Church, in 1912, decorated for the spectacular Christmas Pageant.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, 1912

"LIVE ANGEL AND MANY ANIMALS AT THE BAPTIST CHURCH XMAS TREE"

December 24, 1912

"A good time is promised by the Baptist Sunday School tonight when the little tots will give a number of recitations and speeches. The leaders have been busy for the past several days preparing the little folks for the big entertainment.

"Members of Dr. Horn's class, including the Misses Marguerite Davidson, Mabel Stout, Leona Adair and Mabel Dixon will favor with a tableaux in five acts. Costumes will be used throughout the entire set.

Lions, sheep and dogs will play important roles and a regular stage setting will be set up for each act which will show the birth of Christ.

"Closing the last act with a drawing room scene in which the children will be most interested, for old Santa Claus will appear from a regular old fashioned fireplace. This was built especially for the purpose.

"He will come with lots of good things for all of the children. There will be a big Christmas tree at which old Santa Claus will preside and beautiful fairies will distribute the presents. Everyone is welcome to come.