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## ·INDEX·

ART.....3  
CIVIC CALENDAR.....17  
COMING EVENTS.....1  
CONTRA COSTA COL.....3  
FILIPINO CIRCLES.....8, 9  
HERE & THERE.....6, 11

MEXICO SL.....14, 15  
POETRY.....13  
RECIPES.....10  
REMINISCING.....4, 5  
THE OLD PROF.....13  
WANT ADS.....16  
WAVE PROJECT.....12



## INDEPENDENCE DAY

(Speech given by William Kretzmer  
on July 4th for those who didn't hear it)

A proud nation was born July 4, 1776. On that day the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence. It is the greatest patriotic holiday of the United States, a legal holiday celebrated by Americans, wherever they may be.

From a long view of history, the Declaration of Independence was the inevitable outcome of a long chain of circumstances. It was the climax of many decades of challenge and response.

On the day independence was declared, John Adams wrote a letter to his wife which has become an historic forecast of the future.

"This day," he wrote, "will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as a day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, bells, bonfires, and illuminations from this time forevermore."

The Fourth of July has been celebrated for generations ever since, with fireworks, parades, music and oratory.

This year again our country is torn by strife and dissension.

We are engaged in a terrible foreign war. We have riot and dismay at home. We have suffered in our own city. We, here in the land of the free, have seen two political assassinations within recent months--one here in our own beloved State of California.

It concerns all of us that our country shall endure. It is the duty of each of us to do what can be done.

In the words of Lincoln:

"With malice toward none,

With charity for all,

With firmness in the right, as God

gives us to see the right,

Let us strive to finish the work  
we are in,

To bind up the nation's wounds,  
To care for him who shall have  
borne the battle and for his widow  
and orphans,

To do all which may achieve and  
cherish a just and lasting peace among  
ourselves, and with all nations."

~~~~~

*Good News...*

for all the children and recreation leaders at Washington School. A building to be used for a recreation center on the playground/park has been included in the preliminary budget by the city council.

Responding to a last minute phone call from a representative of the park department asking if anyone from the FTA would be at the meeting on Wednesday night to speak for the need for such a building, Frances Smith attended the meeting to describe the situation at the school last year.

All the councilmen present (Silva, Eates, Grydyk, Livingston and Wagerman) were in favor of a building and after searching through the budget found that some money was available. They were not in favor of a temporary type structure and their decision was to build a permanent building. They urged the city manager to begin plans immediately while explaining that the earliest it could be completed would be in a year.

So please bear with the inconvenience for a while. It won't be long.

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Personal to D.C.: We miss you very much and did not move over to the other side to get away from you. You're always welcome.

From the S's.



# REMINISCING

4.

BY DON CHURCH

Interesting and sometimes amusing articles from old Richmond and Point Richmond newspapers, courtesy of the Richmond Museum.

1925

From July 25, 1925:

"WEST SIDE CLUB STARTS PLAN TO HAVE GALA EVENT"

"Plans for a gala celebration on the completion of Richmond municipal natatorium about September 15th.

A decision was reached to make the celebration a city wide one. Plans were also made to bring other portions of the county into the celebration as considerable patronage is expected from outside the city."

From July 23, 1925:

"EXTRA! EXTRA! GOLD NUGGETS ARE FOUND HERE"

"J. G. Porter, resident of the waterfront at the foot of 30th St. and J. W. McAllister of South 28th St. found two pieces of gold while combing the beach. The gold appeared in the form of nuggets, but was probably melted up from coins or jewelry in a house fire. Each piece is valued from \$30 to \$50."

From July 25, 1925:

"OFFER MADE ON KOZY KOVE AS CITY RESORT"

"Kozy Kove which has been suggested as a municipal resort can be purchased by the city for \$9,000 according to information received by the

West Side Progressive Ass'n. from Nelson and Nelson, San Francisco attorneys, who have charge of the Shinkel estate. The property can be sold to the city for the price under arrangements fixed by the city."

From July 27, 1925:

"SKUNKS OCCUPY TRENCHES; WAR DECLARED"

"The skunk population of Richmond is being materially decreased by employees of the East Bay Water Co. Each morning of the past week, ditch diggers for the water company have been forced to engage in a battle to the death with the odoriferous animals

before they venture to begin the day's work. The skunks held the trenches effectively through no efforts of their own but

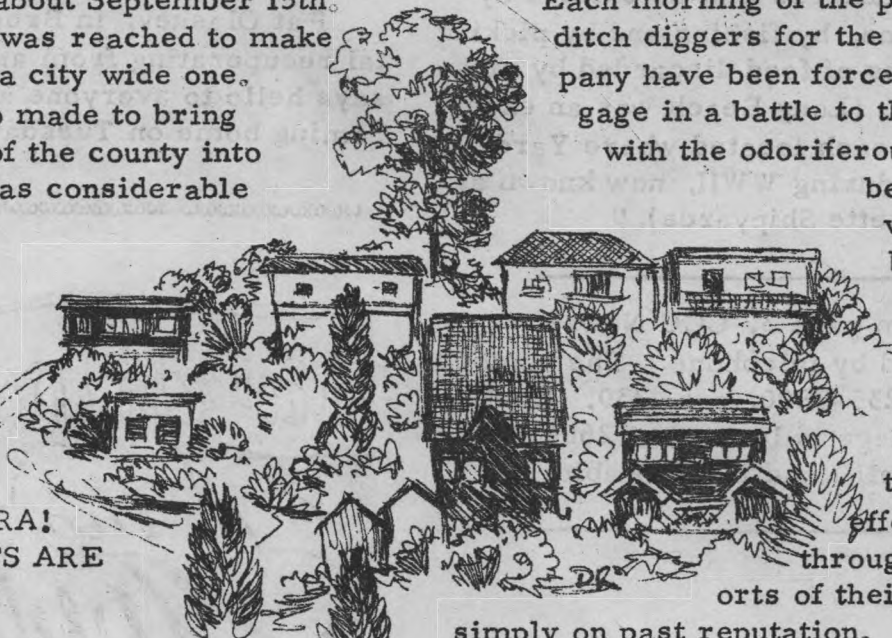
simply on past reputation.

Scores of skunks, during nocturnal excursions, fall into the ditch, 16 inches wide and 4 feet deep, which was dug by the water company for pipe lines on Esmond avenue from 23rd to San Pablo Avenue. Once the animals fall in the trench, they are unable to get out with the result that they fall an easy prey to the workers in the morning."

From July 21, 1924:

"POLICE ARREST CITY'S HERMIT"

"The wanderer and hermit of the Long Beach road has been arrested. For years the man, Louis Facini, (con't on next page)



40 and able bodied, has been seen about the environs of Richmond and in all that time police say he was never known to have worked for a single day. Facini is a familiar character to the police and a search was instituted for him following complaints from people that scores of chickens and eggs had been missed in the vicinity of the Long Beach road. Facini, according to officers was alert and wary and never permitted himself to be seen during the day. So in the still hours of last night, police went to his abode in an abandoned rock crusher and found him asleep.

He told officers that he existed by digging clams, by fishing and by picking up the scraps of food discarded by picknickers. (Long Beach was an excellent sandy beach located where Yard No. 3 was built during WWII, now known as the Williamette Shipyards). "

(cont. from page 3. CCC News)  
be obtained by telephone. The number to call is 235-7800, ext. 230. Contra Costa College is located at 2600 Mission Bell Road in San Pablo.

## "REDHEAD"

"Redhead," with book by Herbert and Dorothy Fields and music by Albert Hague is playing at the Masquers Playhouse at Pt. Richmond, every Friday and Saturday night through August 24th. Showtime is at 8:30 and reservations can be made by calling TH3-5475 or BE2-3888.

This is a fun melo-musical comedy with a great Keystone Kop style chase borrowed directly from Mack Sennett.

Stephanie Cherniak, in the role of Essie Whimple, has appeared in several Masquers productions in her budding career. She studied music at Lewis and Clark University in Oregon, where she had a featured role in

## "Plain and Fancy."

Charles Schlaudt, as hero Tom Baxter, is new to the Masquers. He previously has appeared locally with the Actor's Ensemble of Berkeley and the Squirrel Hill players where he also directed.

Scott Campbell, playing Tom's sidekick George Foppett, received his training from Pasadena Playhouse and has run the gamut of roles of romantic leads to elderly character parts. Scott has directed locally and with the Masquers his latest having been "Absence of a Cello" last fall.

Pat Olaskey, in Brookside Hospital recuperating from an operation, says hello to everyone and will be coming home on Tuesday.

*Grand Opening*

*The Apple Tree*

**BAKE SHOP**

IN THE OLD FIREHOUSE

**AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup> 2<sup>ND</sup> 3<sup>RD</sup>**

10 am to 6 pm

**FREE COFFEE**

145 PARK PLACE, POINTE RICHMOND