

THIS POINT

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Vol II, No. 3

October , 1983

75 cents



Linsley Hall, 235 Washington Avenue - the old Episcopal Church

HISTORY ASSOCIATION NOTES
MEMBERS
LETTERS
THE GREAT LAND CASE
POINTS IN THE PAST
CHURCHES -

1
1
3
4
5
9

OUR BUSINESS IS YOUR BUSINESS
INDIAN STATUE
OPINIONS FROM WASHINGTON
CIVIC GROUP REORGANIZATION
PEOPLE AROUND THE POINT
POINTS IN THE FUTURE

10
11
12
13
14
16

in time

❖ HISTORY ASSOCIATION NOTES ❖

AUTHORS' NIGHT

Mark Your Calendar Now ...
A Special Night
November 17!

On November 17, 1983, the History Association will host an Authors' Night, featuring authors who've written about some aspect of local history. Susan Cole, Joseph Fabry, Malcolm Margolin and George Collier half all consented to attend.

Susan Cole, author of *Richmond - Windows to the Past*, has written a comprehensive history of Richmond, complete with old photographs of the area and its residents.

Joseph Fabry's book, *Swing Shift*, recounts the days of the Liberty Ships in Richmond, when he worked in the shipyard. Mr. Fabry tells the personal stories of the varied gang of workers on Assembly Way Five.

Malcolm Margolin is a well known Bay Area writer who has written *The Ohlone Way - Indian Life in the San Francisco-Monterey Bay Area* and has edited *The Way It's Lived - California Indian Reminiscences, Stories and Songs*. Both give readers a fascinating and thoughtful insight into the lives of these early residents of California.

George Collier, president of the El Cerrito Historical Society, has just completed a book, *The Narrative History of Contra Costa County*, which includes Brooks Island and Red Rock Island.

The authors are graciously donating their time to share the evening with the History Association. Please join us in what's bound to be an informative and interesting evening. As always, we'll meet at 7:30 p.m. in Linsley Hall.

Books (autographed!) will be available for those who'd like to purchase them.

—Michelle Brown

MEMBERS...

Thank you to the following members who renewed their subscriptions this month:

Linda Andrew and Hall Marshall
George Batten
Jean Bernes
Philip and Edith Brown
Mary Casey
Aileen Conn
Edna Delmore
Lucretia and Tom Edwards
Sheila Fostiak
Monica Haley
The Hartman Family
Mary Highfill
Hortense G. McGee
Joe and Elsie Spinola
Maude Wood

And welcome to new members:

Frank and Pat Pearson

And, a correction from last month's issue:

Marty and Janis McNair.

If a red check mark appears here _____
your membership dues are (or were) due as
of _____

To ensure receiving you next issue of "This Point in Time", and to keep it and other worthwhile projects going, please mail in your membership now — Since we are a non-profit organizations, your donations are tax-deductible, and greatly appreciated! Please fill out the form on the last page and send it to Pam Wilson, 521 Western Drive.

RAFFLE POSTPONED

Because many of us have been on vacations, not enough raffle tickets have been sold. The raffle will take place at our November 17 meeting. Prizes will be on display in 'Trannie's Window' at the Richmond Supply Co., 145 West Richmond Ave.

ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

We are making excellent progress on the Church Collection project. I picked up the second group of reproductions on September 9 and left the third set for copying. This set includes waterfront scenes, views of the tunnel and several extremely interesting panoramas of the early Point. Chevron photographers Coombs and Mckeegan are doing a splendid job!

—Teresa Albro

GREAT GUESTS AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

This meeting took place in the 'Prof. R.H. Botts Memorial Lounge', downstairs at Linsley Hall. The well-lit, carpeted room allowed a more informal atmosphere and good viewing of the wonderful old posters that Sherry Hartynyk displayed.

The posters, once used by the First Bank of Richmond (now Sherry and Bob's) were as amusing as they were historically relevant. Sherry had had the large elaborate posters framed, and they and old bank books and records provided an appropriate accompaniment to her historic account of the bank building.

One item of interest which she couldn't display was the old bank vault, which still remains in the building. Sherry thinks the main floor corner originally occupied by the

First Bank would be an appropriate site for a branch bank in Point Richmond.

-o-

Charles Oliver Clausen, a young San Francisco architect, was responsible for designing some of Point Richmond's first substantial buildings.

Muriel Clausen, wife of his nephew, Burt Clausen, presented some fascinating facts and figures from C.O. Clausen's leatherbound record book.

In 1911, one of Clausen's first designs was for the Colonial Hotel, which soon became known as the Hotel Mac. An interesting parallel occurred 67 years later, when his nephew Burt was the structural engineer for the reconstruction of the hotel after its disastrous fire in 1971.

The Rectory of Our Lady of Mercy Church was also designed in 1911. Though not a Catholic, Clausen charged one dollar for his design.

In 1912, Clausen either designed two buildings or a building plus an addition, for Sophia Peard Curtin — the apartments at 102 Nicholl Avenue. The total cost of the first was \$7,550. The second, or addition, cost a total of \$2,500.



The town's first movie theater, now the Point Orient Restaurant, was designed by C.O.Clausen in 1912. The excavations, brick work and plumbing totaled \$7,550. The Richmond Elks Association contracted with him for the four-story building at 315 Harbour Way, now a redevelopment building.

The Gerlach Building, now the 'New Todd Hotel' at 1 West Richmond Avenue, was designed in 1913, and bore a total cost of \$13,150.

Mrs. Clausen took pictures of the buildings, all of which are still in good condition. Too bad C.O.Clausen's San Francisco practice grew to take all of his time.

-o-

Tea, punch and cookies accompanied the perusing and chatting that followed the meeting. We were happy to find that Frankie Greenlaw traveled up from Redwood City to attend with Hortense McGee of Martinez and Goldie Shrewsbury of Richmond! We hope you will all plan to attend the November meeting!

—Donna Roselius

NEWSLETTER LETTERS

FROM THE WEST SIDE LIBRARY...

The West Side Library is enriched by your Newsletter — it's excellent!

I'd appreciate your mentioning our BOOK SALE. Jean Skinner and I will gladly accept donations here at this branch.

If/when the City enhances revenue (e.g. taxes) there will be a substantial increase in the number of hours we are open here at West Side.

Thanks,
Betty Hall

FROM THE CORBINS IN SPAIN...

(from a letter received by Liz McDonald)

After a stay in London, the Corbins purchased a car and traveled through some of Europe's most beautiful cities and countryside, visiting castles and cathedrals on their way to Spain; and enjoying little villages in the valleys after crossing the Alps. The sunflower fields and grape arbors decorated the countryside on their trip from Florence to Marseilles.

They send greetings to their neighbors from their home (for the year) near Barcelona. They say everything is inexpensive there except tennis balls.

Except for a dock strike and customs hang-ups, their year seems to have begun 'like a dream'.

FROM CHEVRON...

I wish to thank you for the loan of the Pt. Richmond historical pictures for our Open House slide show on June 4. The show was a huge success, and everyone enjoyed the pictures. We could not have done such a good job without your help.

As promised... some prints or slides of pictures we used in our show... are being processed now, and I'll get them to you soon.

Bob Stone

AT THE MASQUERS...

"The Skin of Our Teeth" will be playing Friday and Saturday evenings through October 15 with one Sunday matinee, October 9. Their next production, "The Fantasticks" will begin November 4.

For reservations, call 526-1038.

THE GREAT LAND CASE

The Richmond area was the first part of Contra Costa County to be settled by a white man, Don Francisco Castro, but among the last to become an organized town. Martinez, Antioch, Walnut Creek, Danville and other Contra Costa towns were formed in the mid 1800's. Richmond was not formed until the early 1900's. People were reluctant to settle in the area because of the difficulty of buying land and the uncertainty of having clear title once the land was purchased.

This situation led to a number of law suits. Court action on these suits spanned a period of 40 years, and according to Joseph Whitnah in *A History of Richmond, California*, "became one of the largest and most celebrated land cases in the country." What became known as "The Great Land Case" was largely responsible for the late settling of West Contra Costa County and Richmond in particular.

The story begins in 1823 when Don Castro made formal application for more than 17,000 acres of what is now Contra Costa County. He was given immediate possession, and enjoyed the life of the Spanish Californios. However, though the Castros had the use of the land, it was not until 1834, three years after Castro died, that legal title was granted by the authorities. Castro left half of the rancho to his wife, Gabriele Berrezessa Castro, and half to be equally divided among his ten sons and daughters.

Vicror Castro, son of Don Francisco Castro, obtained title to the El Sobrante grant shortly after his father's death, adding 2,000 acres of land to the family estate. It would seem that the Castro agricultural empire was now legally safe and protected.

However, this was not the case. Through contested family wills, the selling of property to outsiders and the encroachment of squatters titles of the land were so confused that it took almost 40 years to settle the matter legally. Finally, in 1894 Judge J.C.B. Hebbard awarded portions of the rancho to 148 owners.

Some of the owners' names will be familiar to Richmond history buffs. Henry F. Emeric was awarded 1991.132 acres of the old Castro rancho. John Nicholl was awarded 344.57 acres. Emily Tewksbury received 2,546.275 acres of land. George Barrett ended up with 588.13 acres. George Ellis' final tally of acreage was 11.10; John Nyström's 70.24. John Peres received 78.44 acres and Azro Rumrill was granted 53.97. Edith Stege owned and was awarded title to 79.95 acres and .25 acres was awarded to Lucetta Wood.

The Tewksbury land and the Nicholl land comprised most of the area that became Point Richmond. Much of this property was sold shortly after the lawsuit was settled to Standard Oil and Santa Fe.

How did the Castros make out? In *Richmond - Windows to the Past*, Susan Cole says, (The Castros) "were left with a fraction of their original holding. The lawyers and land speculators did much better. The colorful, dramatic, exciting era of the Spanish-Californios had ended." Richmond was soon to be born.

—Michelle Brown

GASOLINE - - COAL OIL

Parties desiring coal oil or gasoline should hang out a card or telephone me at my residence.

I. LESTER

ad from a 1904 Richmond newspaper



Points in the Past

Articles that appeared during this month, 70, 60, 50, 40 and 30 years ago, from the Richmond Independent and the Point Richmond Record, courtesy of the Richmond Library.

70 YEARS AGO . . .

"The circulation of a wild rumor that the body of a (man) . . . had been found in the big reservoir of the People's Water Company on the summit of the west side hill section after having lain there for several weeks . . . is all tommyrot."

—October 3, 1913

"Drs. C.L. and U.S. Abbott announced yesterday that the Abbott Hospital and Training School for Nurses 'will close its doors on Saturday, November 1st following the sale of the business of the institution to the Roosevelt Hospital of Berkeley . . . We have decided to devote our time and attention to our practice exclusively and to handle this have leased the upper floor of the Bank of Richmond building, where we hope to have offices of the most modern character and where we will maintain an X-ray laboratory and a modern operating room for handling all emergency cases and operations demanding immediate action in the same manner as they are now.'"

October 15, 1913

"With the new machine which he recently completed at his shops on Twenty-Second Street dismantled and packed ready for being hauled from the place of building to the shrimp camp near Winehaven on the local waterfront, J.R. Froberg inventor of the Froberg hydro-plane stated yesterday that a hangar will be fitted up in the vicinity of the shrimp camp and the hydro-plane re-assembled in the new location. As soon as it is put back together Froberg will begin his tests of its flying ability . . . (to bring) out any weakness or defects which can be corrected before the machine is finally placed on the market."

—October 19, 1913

60 YEARS AGO . . .

"The John Nicholl company has granted the city a new deed to the site of the proposed municipal natatorium on the West side . . . the deed includes a site that runs from the West Side tennis courts to Richmond Avenue, and from Garrard Boulevard to the Santa Fe." This property is estimated to be worth \$20,000.

"The site is donated to the city free of cost, provided the \$50,000 bond issue to be voted on November 6 is carried. The company made the same offer during the bond issue last year, but withdrew the offer when the issue failed to pass by the necessary two-thirds majority."

—October 5, 1923

50 YEARS AGO . . .

"In the near future, the transportation system of Richmond will be changed from trolley (Toonerville) cars to modern buses . . . The main line buses will travel along San Pablo Avenue to Macdonald and thence down Macdonald to the Standard Oil works."

—October 3, 1933

"Sidney H. Gnaga, of 440 Western Drive for more than 30 years a leading Richmond realtor, died at a local hospital last night . . . Gnaga, who was 70 years of age, was a native of Indiana. He was a pioneer Richmond resident and business man who more than once demonstrated his faith in the coming greatness of this community."

—October 18, 1933

—Teresa Albro

40 YEARS AGO . . .

MILK SHORTAGE MEANS NO NEW CUSTOMERS HERE

Distributors Hint Ration Orders Due

"When your grocer tells you you can buy only half the milk in your shopping bag, or the milk company tells you 'no new orders taken,' just grin and bear it, remembering that Bossy is one of the most over-worked souls in the country today.

"Spokesmen for a milk company here today said that because of a shortage of milk supplies from dairies, no new customers can be taken and orders of present customers cannot be increased. Most creameries have a waiting list, they said, and as customers quit, new ones are added from the waiting list.

"Very often, they stated, when dealers are short a certain percentage they cut short customers all along the line a similar percentage.

"The milk shortage will probably mean milk rationing similar to that in effect in the East very shortly, or perhaps a plan to equalize milk distribution from less congested areas to more populated zones.

"Shortage of milk is attributable to the fact that the 'cow' population has not kept pace with the human population. Farmers also have difficulty getting feed and when they do get it, it is very often inferior and not conducive to maximum production, spokesmen said. Many dairy farmers are also getting out of the dairy business. Many auctions of dairy cattle have been announced recently. Some of the cattle go to other dairy farms, but many of them are slaughtered for meat. Dairies and delivery companies are also short-handed, according to dealers here."

—October 1, 1943

PROCLAMATION

"WHEREAS, it is the duty of every citizen to do his share to achieve success on our fighting front; to uphold the morale of our allies; and to maintain strength on the home front; and

WHEREAS, the National War Fund has combined 17 great national appeals in one united nation-wide drive to save time and conserve effort on the part of the patriotic citizens who volunteer their services in seeking support for war-related causes; and

WHEREAS, our local united campaign is a part of this nation-wide drive, operating through the California War Chest, to provide vital necessary service to our men on the battle front; and

WHEREAS, this campaign, as an essential phase of our American war effort, deserves the full cooperation and support of every loyal citizen of the city of Richmond.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, F.E. Tiller, Mayor of Richmond, do hereby proclaim the

week beginning October 4, 1943, as "War Chest Week", during which time I call upon the citizens of our community to put forth every effort toward the attainment of the quota which is our share of the nationwide goal in this great war relief drive."

—October 4, 1943

30 YEARS AGO . . .

PARR LAUDED IN RESOLUTION BY CHAMBER

The board of directors of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce yesterday passed a resolution commending the Parr-Richmond company for their successful effort in promoting new business for the Port of Richmond and effecting the return of eastbound shipping to the port.

"The board pointed out the vital importance of the Interstate Commerce Commission ruling permitting the resumption of the service as being most significant to the industrial welfare of Richmond. It was generally felt that too much stress cannot be placed upon the aid this ruling will be to shipping and trucking, adding immeasurably to Richmond's claim of being 'The Western Goal of Industry'.

"Chairman Del Thompson, chamber president, announced the resignation of Gennaro Filice, president of the Filice and Perrelli Company, as a director. It was accepted with regret. Mike Filice, manager of the purchasing department of the company, was appointed to fill the vacancy.

"The manufacturers' committee was directed to conduct studies into the possibility of terminating the reserve status of Shipyard No. 3 in order that it might be returned to private industry.

"The industrial promotion committee advised that preparation of the new industrial brochure was nearing completion.

"Reports were also received from chairmen of the recreation, merchants fire prevention, public safety, education, streets, highways, housing civic affairs, traffic and trade club committees, as well as the executive board.

"A resolution was passed to send letters of appreciation to the Standard Oil Company for their part in the recent entertainment of Japanese mayors and presidents of Chambers of Commerce, and to the Richmond Export Services for their gratis packaging of gifts to the Japanese group from various cities they visited in the United States.

"A studied report of the budget and finance committee, under the chairmanship of Paul Shoemaker, revealed the chamber finances to be in satisfactory condition."

October 2, 1953

STANDARD ASKS FOR BIG COUNTY REFUND

"The Standard Oil Company of California today filed a \$42,114 claim against the county and the Contra Costa Flood Control



District as payment for relocating its oil pipelines at Maltby, near Concord.

"The company says that the county agreed to pay the cost of relocation after it was decided that a flood control project on Grayson and Walnut creeks would probably expose the pipelines to damage.

"The flood control project was completed last year, but Standard Oil, interrupted by winter rains, did not complete its pipeline relocation until last June.

"The lines, five in number, deliver crude oil from Kettleman Hills to the company's Richmond refinery."

October 2, 1953

20 YEARS AGO . . .

SHOUT 'ENOUGH' ON OVERPLANNING

"Planning groups curtail a property owner's control of his property and the only excuse for them is that they are acting for the overall good of their city.

"When a planning group - or any of its members - forgets this obligation the time has come to shout 'enough'.

"Mayor Gay Vargas voiced just such a shout recently and The Independent believes he should be commended for it. The planning and replanning going on in areas vital to our industrial growth could be endangering the future of our city.

"As Mayor Vargas pointed out, Richmond could have lost the Bethlehem Steel Co., one of the biggest advances in our city's history, through a fear of such over-planning in key areas.

"An excessive zeal to do something 'nice' for the city may further endanger the interests of the community in acquiring industry.

"The fact is that the lands along the Pt. San Pablo and Pt. Pinole areas are windy

and cold most of the year, a severe handicap for residential development.

"Granted, some might tolerate this unpleasantness in return for the closeness of the water, but the land available is already earmarked for industry. As a solution the planners say an estuary could be formed and that residential areas could be on an island or spit similar to Alameda. Where would the money for such a scheme come from?

"Another curious facet of the recent discussion on the general plan was Councilman David Pierce's observation about the 'hook' at Point Richmond. The councilman became very upset at the thought that he, his wife and his dog might not be able to watch water skiers any more. We sympathize with the councilman but would point out that perhaps he should realize that others, too, may object to some of the planners' pet projects.

"The time has come to settle down and show industry that we are a responsible, mature city, one that is eager to attract the right kind of new plants to provide jobs for our citizens.

"The argument is made that this city should be well balanced - not just an industrial town, but an area with pleasant new homes, schools and children.

"The Independent could not agree more and this is exactly the reason that this newspaper believes the planners should cease their cavalier attitude toward the area's best industrial sites. Without industry sufficient to support our citizens, Richmond could become just another bedroom community - a possibility as unappealing emotionally as it would be expensive in terms of taxes.

"We heartily agree with the warning of Mayor Vargas: 'We can sit around and plan ourselves right out of business'."

-October 2, 1963

-Pam Wilson



IT WAS WRITTEN . . .

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

Father Denis is in the process of starting a Christian Doctrine class for children. Allan Smith will be in charge of the classes, which will be held at 4:15 on Saturdays, just before 5:00 Mass. Father Denis is also updating the parish registry. Recently serving at St. John's in El Cerrito, Father Denis Arujo, Ph.D., is from Kerala, India originally.

THE METHODIST CHURCH

The following is a continuation of the first records of the Methodist Church. This is the ninth installment of the series, which reflects the developing and building of the new church and how they dealt with problems. The minutes are printed as written.

Point Richmond, December 5, 1904

Meeting called to order by Bro Calfee at the church at 8:05, those present were Bros Calfee, Lester, Odell, Dahl and Bly. Bro Calfee led in prayer followed by a song.

A motion was made and seconded that we divide the town into 4 parts and appoint a committee to collect for the currant (sic) expenses. Carried.

for the North End-Sisters Jones, Neville, Pritchard and Odell (all north of Santa Fe St or Avenue

for the Middle portion between Santa Fe and the R.R. - Sisters Shular, W. Conn, Phelps and Bradley

Southern portion from R.R. South - Sisters Shoemaker and Fernald

Santa Fe and Railroad tracks - Bros A. Odell, Dahl and Ingraham.

The stove question came up again and it was thought best to see about a stove and Bro. Neville was appointed a committee to see about procuring one.

Bro Calfee was appointed a committee to see about stove pipe. Bro Dahl was appointed a committee to see about window in rear of building.

Jas. C. Bly, Secy

Febry 6, 1905

Meeting was called to order by Pastor 7:30 p.m. the meeting was opened with singing followed by Prayer by Bro. Younglove.

Those present were Rev Calfee, Bro Younglove, O.J. Dahl, I. Lester, sister Pritchard, sister Bjornende. On motion Bro Lester was appointed secretary.

Bro Calfee had two propositions to offer in relation to building a parsonage one from The Belding Company and one from the Howe people. It was discussed at length: on motion of Bro Lester seconded by Rev Younglove that we accept the Howe proposition which is to accept money from them at 8.2% interest payable semi annually.

On motion of Bro Lester seconded by Bro Calfee, Bro Dahl, Younglove and Ingraham were appointed a committee to select piano and draw up specifications for the erection of a Parsonage of 8 rooms with modern conveniences.

On motion of Bro Younglove seconded by Bro Lester, Bro Calfee was appointed a committee to see about incorporation papers. Carried unanimously.

On motion of Bro Younglove seconded by Bro Lester, that the secretary make a Report of the financial condition of the church up to Febry 1. Carried unanimously. This statement be sent to all members and friends of the church.

Bro Bly came in late. It was suggested

that the secretary make a monthly statement to be read the first meeting in the month.

I.Lester, secy appointed

Point Richmond March 6, 1905

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Bro Calfee opened with singing "a charge to keep I have" (sic) followed by Prayer by the Pastor.

The following were present Bro A.Odell. Younglove, and sister Pritchard. Bros Lester. O.J.Dahl and Bly came in late.

Amount received for the pastor for the month of July was \$47.70 being \$236.57 for the sixth months ending Feby 28 with \$60.00 paid for rent. \$20.00 Traveling Expenses and \$6.00 paid P.Elder leaving a balance of \$150.57 for the pastor.

It was suggested that the Sunday School have an Easter Sunday Concert: that each child be given a subscription card and the child bringing in the largest amount be given a Bible . . . nothing more. The meeting adjourned at 8:15.

JAS C.BLY Secy

— Mid Dornan



OUR BUSINESS IS YOUR BUSINESS

BUSINESS ASSOCIATION BUSINESS

On Wednesday, September 14, the Point Richmond Business Association drew perhaps its largest attendance of the year, including reporters from local newspapers, to its regular noon meeting at the Hotel Mac. Two important presentations were on the agenda — one by local representatives of the Santa Fe Railroad and the other by the aspiring developers of a card room establishment in the Point Richmond area.

SANTA FE RAILROAD

Santa Fe representatives Herman Green and Cecil Lilley reviewed the railroad company's plans for fencing and landscaping the area bounded by Cutting Boulevard, Garrard Boulevard and West Richmond Avenue, including the recently paved piggy-back trailer parking area. Mr. Lilley said that Santa Fe had made a commitment to the City of Richmond for the work, that they were in the process of selecting a landscape architect, and that they anticipated the work would be completed in the next six months.

The two railroad men fielded a number of questions regarding the length of time the grade crossing at West Richmond Avenue was blocked. They said Santa Fe was in the process of completing modifications to the north end of the yard that would diminish switching traffic through Point Richmond in the next six months. They also promised to revise their switching schedules so that rush hour and lunch time vehicle traffic would not be so severely impacted. Anyone with questions or complaints regarding railroad operation in Point Richmond may phone Herman Green at 237-4056.

CARD ROOMS

A trio of representatives of the Cove Club Corporation, including owner Bill Martin, spokesman Daryl Reese and attorney Wilbur Duberstein, made the first public presentation of their plans to develop a bar and restaurant facility in "the Point Richmond area" that would include a 40-table cardroom. The proposal was carried in the local newspapers the next day and has continued to receive a large amount of highly controversial publicity. Proponents say that such a facility provides harmless recreation that can bring jobs and tax dollars to the City of Richmond. Opponents say that the proposed cardroom would breed crime, attract undesirables, and cause further deterioration to our City's already tarnished image. The City Council is preparing to consider an ordinance to legalize cardrooms in the City of Richmond that must be passed before January of 1984; otherwise the matter must be put to a vote of the citizens of Richmond.

BUSINESS ON THE MOVE

Camille Zulpo-Dane's Zebra works is apparently moving from its 148 Washington Avenue quarters to a location on West Richmond Avenue next to the Point Orient in the former dry cleaning shop run for many years by Helen Warner, who died last year.

Removal of the asbestos shingles from over the original Redwood siding on The Spot has revealed a perfectly preserved 30-year old Coca Cola ad that may become a highly valued piece of pop art — the owners plan to preserve it for posterity.

The Masquers Theater has reportedly been offered a chance to purchase its building at fair market value as determined by a professional appraiser. The group will soon announce a fund drive to secure the down payment. We wish them well in their efforts

and urge the entire community to *Support Our Local Theater.*

NEXT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MEETING

Chevron will present a program that explains their pollution control efforts at the next meeting to be held at the Hotel Mac on Wednesday, October 12, 12:00 noon. Questions will be invited, and the entire Point Richmond community is invited to attend.

—Tom Butt

INDIAN STATUE UPDATE

Although we have not been able to find out where the base of the statue is, or why it hasn't arrived, it is probably safe to assume that no one has made off with it. We will continue to inquire about it.

According to Susan Pontius, Executive Director of Inter Arts, the artist has signed the contract, which is now awaiting the signatures of the necessary City officials.

Inter Arts recently sent out letters to those who donated money toward the statue. If any donors did not receive a confirming letter, they should call Cecily Clemons, at 457-9744.

DOES ANYONE REMEMBER . . .

Goldy Shrewsbury wonders if anyone remembers the Vecchio Winery that was located between Tewksbury and Standard Avenues about 1905.

OPINIONS FROM WASHINGTON

On the morning of September 14, 1983, I had the opportunity to visit Washington School. Going back to Washington School is always a treat for me, and a real nostalgia trip besides. All of the teachers and staff who were there when I was a student have gone, but the "one big happy family" feeling is still the same. My visit was made even more memorable because Marguerite Marinell was at the secretary's desk when I walked in — she was filling in for the regular secretary who was ill. Also in the office was Michelle Brown, who is the lunch clerk for the school and the treasurer of the Point Richmond History Association. (For some reason, she didn't want to be interviewed.) I was able to talk with one student from each grade and a few members of the faculty. The question was: "What do you like best about Washington School?"

Vaughn Seifers — 6th Grade:

"I think I like the teachers and I like the school because it's so close to the house. I like history."

Shannon Paden — 5th Grade:

"I like the after school classes and the plays that they have in the auditorium."

John Behrens — 4th Grade:

"Well, it's a big school, and there's lots of kids, and I have lots of friends. I like science."

Dan Ogles — 3rd Grade:

"You get to play a lot, and the homework is fun. I like reading."

Abbott Conmaa — 2nd Grade:

"I like playing the best — especially recess."

Gynelle Smith — 1st Grade:

"I like my friends, and I like reading."

Hilary Danks — Kindergarten:

"I like my playground, and I like the way my teachers show us how to do our projects."

Mr. Petroni — Principal:

"It's an old school that looks like a school should look and feels like a school should feel, and it's the parents. They're forward-looking and they're a great group of parents and children. Their ideas are fresh and exciting."

Mrs. Politeau — 2nd Grade Teacher:

"I've taught here for 14 years, and I like the climate of the school. The faculty works well together, and there's a good feeling among the students."

Mrs. Terry Stukas — Library Assistant:

"I like the faculty and the students — everyone is very cooperative and they enjoy learning. I just like working here."

To those interviewed, thank you for your time. To Mr. Petroni, a special thanks for making everything go smoothly and making it a real pleasure to be there.

—Pam Wilson

—□—

The Richmond Museum Asks ... SAVE YOUR JUNK !

The Second Annual Richmond Museum Collectors' Treasure and Junk Fair will be held on November 19 and 20.

Last year's event was most successful and they hope this year's will be even better. Proceeds will help fund Museum programs.

Donations to the sale can be made by contacting the Richmond Museum — 235-7387. Get that stuff out of your garage today! (No clothes, please).

COWS? in RICHMOND? No, but once a year there is an ANNUAL COUNTRY FAIRE!

It is time again for the Annual Country Faire at the First Methodist Church in the Point. It will be Friday, October 28, from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. While assisting you to get an early start on Holiday decorations, gifts and goodies, it also assists the ongoing costly repairs to this historic church.

A hot gourmet lunch will be served from 12 noon until 1:30, and while reservations are not required, it does assist the committee in planning. Special tables will be reserved for working people. For reservations call 234-0780 (Oretta Eaton) and be sure to note if you are on a limited lunch period.

The Faire will feature dolls this year — handmade Victorian dolls, soft sculpture dolls and clothespin dolls. Also, there will be homemade baked goods, boutique gifts, aprons, Christmas ornaments and gifts, plants and white elephants.

The small but energetic group of women continue to involve other neighbors and friends who work to keep this 80 year old church repaired and available for the community.

While you are at the Faire, stop in the Sanctuary to admire the priceless stained glass windows and the octagonal redwood ceiling with the 'antique' filament ceiling lights, as well as the converted gas lights around the edge of the room.

Don't miss this event!

—Mid Dornan

F. Palmer

R. E. Tiffany

Palmer & Tiffany

House, Sign, Carriage Painting
Paper Hanging and Tinting

Corner Richmond and Martini Aves.

REORGANIZATION OF THE CIVIC GROUP

Pro-tem co-chairmen Jan Herrero and Ellie Strauss opened the meeting with proposed by-laws composed by an ad-hoc committee.

The well-organized presentation became hung up in a discussion of what should constitute a quorum. To expedite matters a committee was appointed to solve the problem. Thus, the by-laws and the slate of officers will be voted on at the next meeting.

The length of time traffic is held up at the Santa Fe crossing on West Richmond Avenue was discussed. It was recommended that, if you are stopped by the train, you keep a written record of the date, time and how long the train blocked the road — and also call the police to inform them, if the blockage is inordinately long.

The condition of the tracks at the crossing and the damage done to autos was also discussed: calls to the Public Works Department to the Santa Fe's Assistant Superintendent were recommended.

Dan Seifers, who acts as liaison to the City for Brickyard Cove, reported on the Petromark plans. The hearing, he said, has been postponed once more to October 16. He is part of a Point Richmond committee researching and working against the Petromark expansion plans. The group voted to continue to be represented by the committee and everyone was encouraged to attend City Council hearings on the matter.

The proposed Cardroom was discussed, and the group voted to oppose a Cardroom in Point Richmond; they also voted against allowing a Cardroom in Richmond.

A favorable vote for a six-month utility tax to balance the City budget was given.

The next meeting will be called when the quorum committee has prepared its recommendation.

PEOPLE 'ROUND THE POINT

Thoughts for
October . . .

Seems to me we need Daylight Savings more in the winter when the days are shorter ! . . . Christopher Columbus holds the world's record for economy mileage. He crossed the seas with just three galleons . . . Better your relationship with the school, the teachers and your child - attend back-to-school night.

-000-

Traveling to the Shakespearean Festival in Ashland, Oregon were Pam Wilson and Paula Ferguson. They said they planned to stay until their money ran out!

-G-

The former June Kunkle, now living in Minnesota, was in the Point recently catching up on all the news and changes and visiting old friends, but missed many who were away on vacations.

-O-

Have you tried one of 'Colonel Franks' special hot dogs? Located on Tewksbury Avenue in the Point, they have achieved recognition on local radio stations. They happen to be in one of the Point's finest remodeled wooden buildings, with stained glass, victorian lights, and beveled glass windows and doors!

-O-

Richmond High School's class of '33 celebrated its 50th anniversary last Saturday, September 24, at the El Cerrito City Club. Marjie Ellis Stone, daughter of long-time Golden Gate Avenue resident Ruby Ellis, was in attendance, as well as Margaret Broburg Thompson, who lived on Castro Street, and later on Washington Court. Alice Bagley Clark, one of the classes' teachers attended, as did school secretary Mary Gately.

-O-

Raulo Ferrari, resident of Casey Drive, died last week at the age of 71. Mr. Ferrari, a native of Oklahoma, attended Richmond schools, and was a cabinet maker. He had lived here for 62 years.

-O-

Back, brightening up the world around them are Mary Casey and Virginia Bryant. Recently returned from hospital stays, Mary mentioned making some blueberry muffins the other day, and Virginia attended a Club Mendelssohn meeting - and both were welcomed back at the West Side Improvement Club meeting last month.

Dorothy ('miracle woman') Davis went into and out of the hospital, and is recovering at home, after operations.

-O-

The Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary celebration of Raymond and Gladys Johnson of Golden Gate Avenue was greatly enhanced when their three daughters and families all arrived for a surprise celebration.

-O-

Luigi and Antonio Bernardi will soon be moving from their home on Dornan Drive to the Salesian Retirement Home in Richmond. Luigi has lived in the family home since 1907. It is hoped that the Regional Park will keep the house as an historic building.

-O-

Stanislaus Casey celebrated his 80th birthday on September 11.

-O-

The KO KI Campfire Girls resumed their meetings in September at the home of their leader, Bev Price, on Tunnel Avenue. Meetings are held on Wednesdays at 3:45 and they have an opening for one more girl. Members are Lynn Darling, Katheryn Fong, Lisa Oglès, Anne Price and Kelly Darling. Members will be selling Safety Kits at \$4.00 - a convenient, compact, useful kit that should be in everyone's home and car.

On October 15 they will go to Marriott's Great America, returning in time for dinner at Spengers.

Their Magazine Sale is from now until December. Anyone wishing to start or renew a subscription to most magazines may do so through the Camp Fire program. The group retains 40% of the cost, making it tax deductible and convenient. So check your subscription renewals and call Bev Price, 232-2660 for more details.

-O-

Goldy Gebhart Shrewsbury shared pictures of her Kindergarten class of 1905, at the Point History meeting. Kindergarten, in those days, was optional, so a private class was held in the old wooden Methodist Church, with Miss Little teaching. Goldy was confirmed in Linsley Hall, which was then the Episcopal Church.

-O-

The Degree of Chevalier was conferred upon Douglas Busby, and his father, Martin E. Busby received the Cross of Honor Degree from the East Bay Division, Northern California Jurisdiction, Order of DeMolay, at the Scottish Rite Temple in Oakland. Special recognition was given to Bob Peckham, with the Investiture of the Legion of Honor. A reception followed the ceremony.

-O-

Boy Scout Troop 111 is in full swing after summer and is meeting every Monday, 7:00 to 8:30 at the First Methodist Church. Scoutmaster Fred Hart invites eligible boys to join at any time.

On October 1, the boys will go to Camp Lindblad in the Santa Cruz mountains for their Conservation and Good Turn Projects. This is an overnight trip. Parents and interested friends are invited to a Court of Honor on Monday, October 17 at 7:30. Camp advancement awards will be given at this time.

Seven boys, Mike Modi, Todd Cort, Mario Allen, Robb Bury, Chris Ward, Seth Fenton and Shawn Fernandes will attend the Patrol Leaders Development School at Camp Herns on October 21 and 22.

-O-

After hearing her father enthusiastically describe the family's camping trip to a friend, little Sharon Flores remarked, "Gee, Dad, that sounds more fun than it was!"

-ooo-

-Mid Dornan

If you have any 'people' news, please call Mid Dornan (eves) at 234-5334, or leave a message, at 235-4222.



Point Richmond's
Tinkers and Peddlers
CHRISTMAS FAIR

December 17 and 18

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

at

Linsley Hall
235 Washington Avenue
Point Richmond

We are looking for people who would like to sell handcrafted items at the first Tinkers and Peddlers Christmas Fair to be held December 17 and 18, 1983.

A small registration fee of \$25.00 covers your stall space for 2 days and advertising. If you are interested in participating please contact Donna Powers at 235-7338.

Richmond Public Library
BOOK SALE

Saturday, October 15, 1973

9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

in the

Library Patio

Macdonald Avenue & Civic Center Plaza

Donations will be accepted at all Richmond Libraries prior to the sale. For information, call 321-2115.

oooooooooooooooooooooooooooo

OCTOBER

HAPPY BIRTHDAYS...

Florence Wilson	Todd Cort
Charles Dutrow	Jack Sprecker
Marian Peterson	Rich Weirick
Jodi Roselius-Bagley	Gust Allyn
Rosy Roselius	Mildred Paeth
Leo Matteucci	Linda Pereira
Justin Kaufman	Jeff Albro

IMPORTANT DATES... for OCTOBER

- 10 Columbus Day (observed)
- 12 Columbus Day
- 12 Cornerstone laid for White House (1792)
- 4 Back-to-School, Elementary Schools
- 11 Back-to-School, Juniro High Schools
- 13 Back-to-School, Senior High Schools
- 22 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 24 United Nations Day
- 31 HALLOWE'EN

POINTS IN THE FUTURE - OCTOBER

- 12 Point Richmond Business Association meets - Hotel Mac, 12 noon.
- 15 BOOK SALE - Richmond Library, 9:30 to 4:00, Main Library.
- 28 COUNTRY FAIRE - Methodist Church, 12 to 4:00. See article in this newsletter.

NOVEMBER

- 17 AUTHORS' NIGHT - Thursday, 7:30 p.m. at Linsley Hall, downstairs(the Prof. R.H. Botts Memorial Lounge) - see article in this newsletter.

NAME _____	
ADDRESS _____	
TELEPHONE NO. _____	
TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (CHECK ONE)	
<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR CITIZEN (65 +)	5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY	20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> ORGANIZATION	25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORY-PRESERVER	50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORY-MAKER	100.00
<p>Membership in the Point Richmond History Association includes a subscription to this newsletter.</p> <p>Please send membership forms to:</p> <p>PAM WILSON 521 WESTERN DRIVE POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801</p>	

"This Point In Time" is published by the Point Richmond History Association, 212 Bishop Alley, Point Richmond, CA 94801.

Editorial Staff: Donna Roselius, Teresa Albrow, Michelle Brown, Mid Dorman, Lucretia Edwards, Liz McDonald, Judy Spediacci, Pam Wilson.

Illustrations: Donna Roselius

Layout: Jodi Roselius, Deirdre Cerkowicz

ARTICLES FOR EACH MONTH'S ISSUE ARE DUE ON THE 20TH OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

Please mail articles and items of interest to: 212 Bishop Alley, Point Richmond, CA 94801. Questions? Call 235-4222.

Items may also be dropped off at Richmond Supply Co., 145 W. Richmond Avenue.