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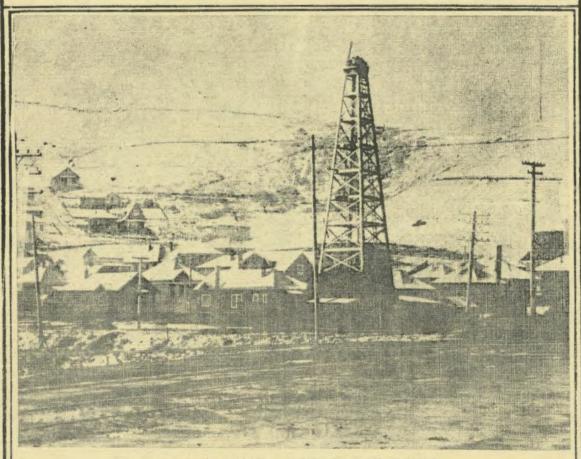
NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Vol. II, No. 5

December, 1983 - January, 1984

75 cents



The snowstorm of 1913, and John Nicholl's Oil Well

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in time

* THISTORY ASSOCIATION MOTES **

Please note that this is the December-January issue. Our next newsletter will be the February issue.

If it should happen that this newsletter arrives late, this time it might not be the fault of the Post Office. Editor Donna Roselius is expecting her first grandchild any moment and if her daughter calls, she will be off to the Jackson Hospital, leaving all the printing, collating and stapling to wait until she returns.

AUTHORS AND RAFFLES ...

A great crowd, great speakers, and great refreshments made the November meeting special, and we thank everyone who came, and participated!

Winners of the Raffle were: Jack Creed, who won Clarice Stribley's jeweled picture; Henry O'Hara, who won a dinner for four presented by the Point Richmond Gourmet Firefighters; George Batten, who won the sketch of his house and stationery by Donna Roselius; Roger Hartman, who won the woven planter by Pat Dornan; and Mid Dornan, who won a year's membership.

JANUARY MEETING . . . HOW THE YACHT CLUB CAME TO BE.

Mark your calendar now for the January meeting – Thursday, January 26, 7:30 p.m., at Linsley Hall, 235 Washington Avenue, in the Prof. Botts Memorial Lounge (downstairs). The History of the Richmond Yacht Club, who started it, how it was built, and the cooperative effort behind it are documented on slides and will be presented by George Schuldt, in colorful detail.

Refreshments will of course follow the meeting, and everyone is invited, and welcome to bring show and tell mementos.

MEMBERS

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

Catherine Burchell
Grace Mar
Richard and Donna Wilson
And welcome to new members:

Paul R. Landgraf
Bonita C. Klivans
Rhoda Ayers
Russell and Shirley Moore
Amelia Drake
Ida Giacomelli
Patrice Verhines
Albert and Alexandra Gautraud
And to 'History Preservers':
Bruce and Sandra Beyaert

Misplaced member:

Somehow a member named Robert Klehn was given the incorrect address, and since he hasn't complained, we don't know where to send his newsletter. If anyone out there knows his address, please let us know!

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

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.



The original Richmond-San Rafael Ferry Dock, as it looked in 1916.

FOR CHRISTMAS -SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

Help us start the New Year right by sharing your ideas about what you would like to see more of, less of, etc., in the newsletter. Even though we are all volunteers, those who write articles wish to make them as interesting and meaningful as possible.

Your thoughts will help — and if you would be willing to now and then contribute — with interviews, research articles, etc., please let us know that, too.

Comment	s:	
	All Indiana	

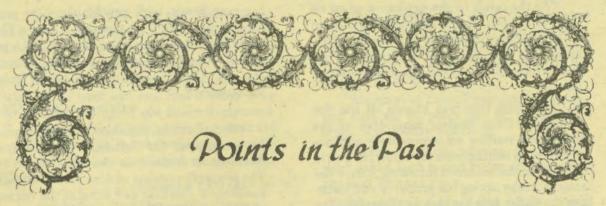
REPORT FROM THE ARCHIVES COMMITTEE . . .

On November 18 I delivered the fourth group of photos from the Church Collection to Chevron for copying. This batch depicts early school life in the Point, including pictures of entire classes of students and also of the various school buildings that were located here. Thank you, Chevron, photographers Coombs and McKeegan, and Carolyn Poage who has so graciously helped us to put this whole project together.

Michelle and Michael Brown have provided the History Association with more loan forms. These forms are extremely important to the organized receipt of items loaned to the Association, and the accurate recording of items borrowed from the collection.

We are interested in obtaining as much current information about the Point as possible, as well as items from the past, so that we can chronicle events that will some day be history. Anyone who happens to have recent pictures or newspaper articles relevant to archives of this area, willing to donate or loan them should contact either me or Donna Roselius.

-Тетеsa Albто 233-6243



70 YEARS AGO ...

"What may mean an agreeable settlement of the controversy between George Lee and the city over confiscation of a portion of his lot on Crest Avenue, which he claims the city endeavored to take for a public highway when it had no valid right to do so, was the communication from Lee read to the council last evening, in which he consents to have the property in dispute condemned by the city and the price to be paid fixed by the appraisers."

-December 2, 1913

"In a raid on a shack on Railroad Avenue yesterday afternoon, local police officers . . . arrested Jack Edwards, a recent arrival here, and confiscated 10 opium smoking outfits, and a quantity of 'Yen Chi', the drug after it has been smoked once, a form in which it is used most extensively by opium smokers. It is thought by the police that Edwards was planning to open an opium 'joint' here and had just about completed his arrangements to accommodate any residents of the city, who might be addicted to the opium habit."

-December 7, 1913

"The installation of a new self starter in the automobile chemical fire truck of Company No. 1 has been completed and the machine is now as modern as the latest chemicals turned out in the Seagrave factory, by which company it was manufactured a year ago. The new equipment on the machine makes it possible to start it, the instant an alarm is turned in, and there is no trouble, that is often experienced in cranking an engine of the horsepower generated by the chemical's engine."

-December 7, 1913

First, the good news:

"J.R. Froberg, local airship inventor and aviator, expects to make a flight in his new hydro-plane model over the city next Sunday. During the past few weeks Froberg has been engaged in trial trips with his flying boat on the local waterfront for the purpose of tuning up the machine for more severe tests with better weather conditions. Everything as far as he can ascertain now appears to be in excellent shape and he expects to have no trouble in making his contemplated flight providing of course that there is a favorable weather and it is not too stormy."

—December 18, 1913

Now the bad news:

In a great storm last Sunday, "The hydro plane which J.R. Froberg has been testing out on the outer harbor and which he had left on the bay shore was entirely demolished when the high tide lashed into great waves by the wind, sent piling and other drift wood crashing on top of it."

-December 23, 1913

"As the result of the explosion of an oil stove in the rear of the Yosemite Pool room at 45 Washington Avenue Wednesday afternoon Fire Company No. 1 was called out but before its arrival the blaze was extinguished.

"The first that was known of the fire was when Dave Hovitz, proprietor of the place, was waiting on a customer and noticed smoke issuing from the door. He quickly grabbed the oil stove throwing it into the street thereby saving his property and insuring the entire block which in all probability would have been wiped away had it not been for his prompt action."

-December 26, 1913

"Henry Sirrenberg, proprietor of the Louvre Saloon, is unlucky. On Thanksgiving day when he had prepared to entertain some friends at a goose (?) dinner, he had his nicely baked fowls stolen from his kitchen as they were being finally browned. Wednesday he secured a nice young suckling pig for a big feast he planned to give Christmas day and sent it to a local bakery to have it cooked not desiring to take any chances with his own kitchen again being raided. The bakers cooked the pig all right to a delicious turn but Christmas being so near decided that they would like a feast themselves and so yesterday Henry received a half of his pig instead of the whole which he had sent to have cooked. Well, it looks like Henry, famous around town for his practical jokes, has finally received his 'just desserts' or dinner, as it were."

-December 26, 1913

60 YEARS AGO ...

"The Richmond city jail has been inspected by a committee from the Richmond W.C.T.U. and has been found to be in a sanitary condition, with new blankets for prisoners, the W.C.T.U. reported today. The inspection was made after the W.C.T.U. received complaints against the condition of the jail. The complaints were found to be unfounded."

-December 19, 1923

"W.S. Lincoln, Franklin Canyon farmer, has purchased the Critchett properties on Washington Avenue on the West Side . . . The property consists of nine stores, a brick building, a dwelling and hotel at the corner of Richmond and Washington Avenues. It is reported that the value of the property was about \$25,000."

-December 26, 1923

-December 27, 1923

"Mario grasso was arrested last night in a raid on his place at 132 Tewksbury Avenue, and 300 gallons of wine and 10 gallons of jackass brandy were seized... Thirty gallons of the wine were found buried in the yard, the police claim." [Cheers!]

50 YEARS AGO ...

"Progress in Point Richmond! — Do you know that Point Richmond, once disdainfully recognized by residents of the 'other side' now has three newspapers, one more than Richmond's two; Oakland's two; and only one less than San Francisco's four?"
—December 1, 1933

"We have always maintained that there is 'gold' in these hills of Point Richmond...
But it remained for George Deemer, one of the CWA workmen, to unearth the real 24-karat variety and this he did when he brought once more to the light of day a \$5.00 gold piece of the vintage of 1836. Imbedded in the soil near Marine Drive and Richmond Avenue the coin has been out of circulation for who knows how long?"

-December 15, 1933

"In spite of the fact that Bob Dornan and Tony Valencia of the Richmond Supply Company are coming in the door, as we write, with great bags of coal and wood, we still maintain that you can travel the whole wide world over and not find a place finer to live than in good old Point Richmond. R.J. Lavery says so, and as the Standard Oil meteorologist, he is acknowledged as an authority of weather conditions on the Pacific Coast."

-December 29, 1933

Articles from the Richmond Daily Independent and the Point Richmond Progress, compliments of the Richmond Public Library.

-Teresa Albro

40 YEARS AGO ...

CITY, GARBAGE SERVICE SUED FOR FIRE DAMAGES

"A fire last June which destroyed 10 garbage collection trucks in a building at 2327 Tewksbury Avenue, today resulted in a suit for \$17,000 against the City of Richmond and the Richmond Sanitary Service by Peter Mahomed, owner of the buildings.

"Mahomed's cause of action against the city is based on his claim that a fire hydrant located near the buildings was useless and incapable of being used to combat fire.

"Mahomed asserts that he leased garage space to the sanitary service on October 31, 1941, with the lease to run two years."

— December 4, 1943

SANTA FE, S.P. PACT URGED ON SPUR TRACKS

"Representatives of the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe railroads today have been requested by the Richmond City Council to reach a settlement on the question of joint operation of tracks serving the city's southern industrial area. "At a meeting with city officials yesterday, the railroads explained that the Maritime Commission, the Kaiser shipyards and other industries in the area require the services of both lines.

"Members of council protested, pointing out that all purposes can be served by a single line jointly operated.

"At the end of the meeting, the railroads were asked for a report at the regular meeting next Monday night.

"It was pointed out that while council does not desire to clutter the industrial area with separate lines, the Southern Pacific will granted a permit for a spur track unless an agreement for joint operation is reached."

—December 1, 1943

30 YEARS AGO ...

(advertisement) MARINE VIEW

"Investigate these advantages of Point Richmond before you buy elsewhere: warmer climate, quiet district of executive type rural homes – free of all traffic noise and city 'smog'. Brand new rambling 2 story 'California Type' home with a marine view – has central floor plan, mahogany paneled living room, huge bedrooms, and a kitchen with the most attractive, artistic tile work we have ever seen. Downstairs has a terrific rumpus room, with a door to patio area. Price \$22,950. FHA terms or owner may trade. Pacific Bay Real Estate.

—December 1, 1953

CITY TO SEEK BRIDGE SECOND DECK PLANNING

"Immediate construction of a second deck on the Richmond-San Rafael bridge will be urged upon New York bond houses by City Manager Wayne E. Thompson and Mayor Ed J.J.McKeegan when they go East next weekend.

"The City Council yesterday voted them authority to seek approval of the plan during their attendance December 14 and 15 at White House conference on Civil Defense problems.

"Thompson said that \$4,000,000 already has been saved on the estimated \$62,000,000 structure by obtaining lower contracts than had been expected.

"He proposed that he and McKeegan Inform the Eastern bond houses that the 'rapid development' being experienced in Richmond and in Marin County would make the proposed one-level, two-lane bridge in-adequate for vehicle traffic.

"He said that in the last four years the ferry company reported handling 1,000,000 vehicles yearly and that conservative estimates place the number of vehicles to use the bridge at 4,000,000 in the first year.

"He said, 'Engineers feel those traffic figures are very conservative and probably will be a 20 percent increase over that. I'm quite certain with the rapid development we're experiencing here and in Marin County. that the two lanes will be inadequate when the bridge is opened.'

"He urged that the second, lower level he opened in October, 1956, the estimated completion date of the bridge, in order to provide for six traffic lanes. With two decks each could be divided into three one-way lanes, according to engineers of the bridge.

"Thompson said that he felt chances were good that he and McKeegan could convince the bond houses they should finance the additional \$6,000,000 needed with the surplus saved.

"Thompson said, 'This City Council started this bridge, nobody else did. You got the engineering survey and pushed it. If the people of this area don't do those things they just don't get done.'

"He said that his and McKeegan's mission would be to persuade the bond houses to approach the California Toll Bridge authority and offer to buy the bonds needed to finance the second deck. The only alternative, according to Thompson, would be to seek \$6,000,000 from the state highway fund, an act that would require legislative approval.

"Thompson declared that if the bridge had the second lane it could carry more traffic and thus pay off its bond issue faster."

—December 8, 1953

20 YEARS AGO ...

BICYCLE SPILL INJURES BOY,9

"A nine-year-old Point Richmond boy was hospitalized last night with injuries he suffered in a bicycle accident.

"Edward Mount Jr., the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Mount of 410 Washington Ave., was admitted to Brookside Hospital for treatment of severe multiple abrasions and lacerations.

"Reports indicated that the boy was riding down the nearby hill when he lost his balance and fell to the pavement with considerable force."

-December 11, 1963

TIME HANGS HEAVY OVER MAIL STAFF

"The advent of December marked the start of one of the biggest races in town—the annual race against time at the Richmond Post Office as its Christmas mail rush went into high gear, Postmaster Gust J. Allyn noted today.

"New reports from Postmaster General John A.Gronouski in Washington to Allyn indicate an anticipated nationwide record in mail volume for this Christmas season of nearly 12 billion pieces during December. "Locally, Allyn expects December's mail volume to total 10,044,000 pieces, exceeding last December's total of 9,131,000 pieces.

"Shopping and mailing early benefits everyone," the postmaster observed. The customers who buy early get the pick of the Christmas stocks; the local economy is aided by the business activity thus created, and everyone — including the postal service — is happy about the additional time that early mailing allows.

"Early mailing also gives us time to get gifts and cards in the hands of addressees in good condition with less chance of damage or delay due to human error.

"'Our 255 employees need public help to run this race against time — and patrons of the Richmond Post Office can assist us by shopping and mailing right now and by using ZIP Code in both return and destination addresses.'"

December 6, 1963
Articles from the Richmond Independent.
—Pam Wilson

B. Schapiro & Co.

Lots 50x120. Magnificent
View. \$100 and upwards

39 WASHINGTON AVENUE

YOUR POINT OF VIEW

WHAT DO YOU MISS MOST ABOUT POINT RICHMOND?

Evelyn Moore, Alameda, California:

"I miss the times when everyone knew each other, when kids all played together – games like run-sheep-run, kick the can, etc. and family swim parties at Kellers Beach, without one stranger on the beach."

Maude Austin Bagley, Rockville, Maryland:

"I have been gone from 'The Point' since 1920 and have only memories of my four and a half years at Washington School – fourth through eighth. They were happy years for me, and of course, after leaving I missed many things . . . climbing the 'Nicholl Nob', picking wild flowers, skating – oh, skating through the tunnel was FUN and playing in the vacant lot between Montana Ave. and Idaho Ave. with the Hall girls and Butler boys and the Miller children, the Arnolds and the Windrems."

Patrice Verhines, Stockton, California:

"The roots of this Point Richmonder go deep, for until I was married, this was my only home. I miss frequent walks through the sleepy village, sitting on the cliffs in quiet meditation, the panoramic views, breathtaking sunsets, and the annual herring run. And Daddy's garden always issuing a bumper crop from the fertile soil. I feel the anticipation of a kid at Christmas when coming home to visit family, friends, and especially my beloved Point Baptist Church . . . this is the scene of my life's momentous passages. Most of all, I miss the way it was. Everywhere you looked, there was space . . . Open fields to romp, uncluttered neighborhoods, undestroyed views. I miss Point Richmond's charming simplicity - the way it used to be."

Ronald W. Yates, Vallejo, California:

"I miss how the Point used to be in the early 1950's when I was growing up there. I miss fishing at Ferry Point and climbing along the shoreline from the Standard Oil property all the way to Kellers Beach. I miss the fun I had with Troop 111, and I miss Bob Dornan."

-Pam Wilson

Louise Novarini

Louise Novarini's parents moved to the Point from Massachusetts, in 1907, when she was a baby. Though both were Italian (Novarini and Ceridono) they had lived in France. Louise learned some French and Italian, but her mother was determined to learn English, and insisted that English be spoken in the home.

The Novarinis first settled in Winehaven where her father worked. Later, they moved to Standard Avenue, to a house on Castro Street, and in 1917 to the home where Louise still lives, at 217 Washington Avenue. It had been built in 1904, and was previously been occupied by the Cruikshanks.

Louise began her schooling at the old Standard Avenue School, then attended the larger one built next to it, and ended her grammar school days in the old Washington School. After attending bigh school she, like most of her classmates, went to work. She got a civil service job in San Francisco, and for a short time she worked in Los Angeles, but had the good sense to return.

During the depression her family moved to Reno, where they started a bake shop. Louise moved back after a year, and her parents returned after four years.

Louise worked for a time for the Independent Iron Works in Oakland, but when the Second World War started, transportation became difficult, so when she was offered a job in the Richmond Shipyards, she took it. She first worked in Yard 2, then in Yard 3, where she was in charge of ordering steel for ship hulls.

Following the war, she worked for the City of Richmond, and remained there until her retirement.



Vivid in Louise's memory about the town she knew as a child was the fact that nearly every other door in the business district led to either a bar or a boarding house. Two of her uncles ran the bar and dining room in the Gerlach (now the Todd) Hotel, until they went to serve in World War I.

Winemaking, a part of the Italian tradition, was participated in by many of the families in the Point. Grapes were purchased either directly from the growers, or where they were shipped in, at the Southern Pacific Depot. A hand-cranked press was hauled from home to home, as each family pressed their grapes. She recalls that her family produced about 100 gallons of wine each year. The barrels left in her basement were eventually given to relatives to use as planters.

By today's standards, Louise used to be a great cross-country hiker. She and her friends spent much of their time hiking – not just around the hills of Point Richmond, and to Winehaven and the Rod and Gun Club, but around Marin County, too. After

taking the ferry, a favorite hike was Mt. Tamalpais, but she also hiked as far as Sausalito. Louise still looks as if she could outhike most of us, so we know she doesn't spend all her time knitting.

-Donna Roselius



CHURCHES

The following is a continuation of the first records of the Point First Methodist Church. This is the eleventh installment of the series and reflects the developing and building of the present church and ways they dealt with problems. The minutes are printed as written.

September 25, 1905

Informal meeting of the board met at the church with Rev. D.W. Calfee presiding.

Those present were Bro Calfee, Odell, Lester, Phelps and Bly.

It was moved by Bro Lester, sec by Bro Odell that we adobt (sic) the methodist hymnal and that we get 25 for the church as soon as possible. Carried.

It was also moved and seconded that we (get) 75 sets of envelopes, 52 being a set for 100 per set.

It was moved and seconded that Bro Calfee appoint a soliciting committee to solicit funds for the coming year. Carried. Nothing further before the meeting it was moved to adjourn. Carried.

Jas. C. Bly, Secy

November 6, 1905 Point Richmond

Meeting opened with singing followed by prayer led by Bro Calfee. Those present were Bros Calfee, Odell, Lester, Phelps, Bly and Jones.

The matter of going over the sets of en-

velopes was discussed and provisions made for placing same in hands of Members and friends of the Church for the purpose of receiving their contributions.

Upon counting up the receipts for month of October it was found the amount was \$44.70.

The business of the evening being transacted the meeting closed without motion.

J.M. Jones

Feby 5, '06 Point Richmond

Meeting opened by Bro Calfee who stated the object of the meeting was to discuss the payment or non-payment of a certain note amounting to \$110.00 same being placed in hands of Bank of Richmond for collection by W.C. Gray. It seems that the amount of the Note originally was \$330 and that a proposition was made to Bro. Rich that if the Church would pay 2/3 of this amount and that Bros Gray, Banta and Osborn would assume payment of the other 1/3 Bro Rich accordingly with the help of the people raised \$235.00 which was paid over and on order was given him for the Deed which was taken from Escrow and turned over to him. Although the Note was left. Now later on Mr. Gray claims that Bro Banta refuses to pay his share of the Note and that Bro Osborn is probably in his last sickness. Therefore, he requests that Church pay the amount.

It was moved and seconded that we the Trustees request Bros Dille, Bros E.R. Willis and Bro Rich, our former Pastor to call on Bro Gray and see if some settlement could be made, if not, that the matter be settled by arbitration. Motion carried. It was M & S that Erhel Bly and Miss Butterfield be appointed to call on some of the people and solicit pledges for Current Expenses of the Church. Carried.

M & S that the meeting adjourn. Carried. C.M.Jones, Secy

-Mid Dornan

Che Katzenjammer Pienic

June 28th and 29th, 1911

At the Nichmond Ope n Jourse, Aluder the Auspices of Monan's Ment Side Improvenent Club

Cast of Characters—Mr. Katzenjammer, George Eills: Mrs. Katzenjammer, Will Schupbach; Fritz Katzenjammer, Mitton Lipp; Hans Katzenjammer, Mitton Lipp; Hans Katzenjammer, Waverly Tilden; Fred
Walker, Stanley Dimm; Willie Mason, Jack Parks; Chauncey Olcot,
Percy Jones; Happy Hooligan, Earl
McCann: Policeman, Byron Erwin;
Kittle Cloyer, Mrs. A. R. Stromberg;
Julia Blossom, Ruby Perault; Fannie Columbine, Margaret Dwyer;
Violet Morninglory, Marie Brown;
Tablitha Primrose, Mrs. Will Runyon
Sis Hopkins, Mrs. D. C. Whitcomb.

Specialties—Overture, Star Orchestra; song, "Loretta," Angela Edwards; song, "Good Fellowa," Al. Jackson; song, "O'Rielly," Earl Mc-Cann; assisted by: Papa, Mama, Fritz, Hans, Sis, Fred, Kittle, Julia, Tabitha and the Policemin.

"Montana," Teddy Girl Song, Euretta Perault, Chrissie Forrest, Florenco Hughes, Gladys Decker, Isabel Greathouse, Waddle Mitchell.

Song, "Tittle, Tattle Tattle Tale," Buster Brown, Hugh Selvey, Mary Jane, Helen Lucas; and the Sunhonnet Bables: Clarice Carey, Verna Turley, Henrietta Michaels, Mabel Caron, Lois Woods, Matilda Mitchell, Katherine Hounsel, Ruth McMenamin, Marion McMenamin. Ruth Kane, Ruby Fox, Bernice Barnes, Lyra Freeman, Vera Childs, Esther Huston Lorene Redderson, Lola Bernardi, Josephine Silva, Uldine Adams, Mayren Pearson, Elizabeth Hounsel, Clara Munroe, Rona Bowen, Emily Kenner, Besste Johnson, Goldie Gnaga, Ada Galbraith, Miriam Shea, Margarett Turline.

Character burlesque-"Oh You Little Darling," Mrs. Will Runyon.

Sailor's Hornpipe—Wilmar Millor, Edith Selvey, Mildred Brignone, Nellie Parlier, Gladys Pearson, Muzetta Hopkins, Mildred Truitt, Cora Pope, Hazel McCracken, Freda Moyle.

Indian Specialty—"My Pretty Little Kickapoo," Florence Hughes, assisted by Marie Brown, Irene Hughes, Gladys Decker, Ruth Parton Mrs. A. R. Stromberg, Alice Greathouse, Helen Webb, Waddle Mitchel, Liberty Matson.

Quaker Specialty—Lois Woods, Uldine Adams, Marion McMemamin, Mayren Pearson, Bessie Johnson, Harold Selvey, Elbert Thompson, Elwood Luce, Stanley Lindahl, Teddy Jones.

"Mamma's China Twins," Muzetta Hopkins, Howard Topping.

"Whoop 'Er Up With a Whoop-La-La," Mrs. D. C. Whitcomb, arsisted by the Katzenjammer cast.

Wooden Shoe Dance—Alice Greathouse, Irens Hughes, Helen Webb, Liberty Matson, Gladys Decker, Ruth Paxton.

Frocks and Frills-Muretta cantt, Isabel Greathouse, Chrissia Forrest, Leonie Trautvetter, Anita Johnson, Merl Jenkina, Florence Hughes, Elizabeth Vidal.

Specialty—Frits and Hans, assisted by Hooligan, introducing the new song, "Heinze," and Polat Richmond's New Fire Brigade.

Duet-"Louisa Schmidt," George Ellis and Will Schupbach.

Chinese Specialty---"My Little Hong Kong Baby," Murgaret Dywer, assisted by Muretta Persuit, Isabel Greathouse, Chrissie Forrest, Gladys Decker, Anita Johnson, Merl Jenkins, Fiorence Hughes, Elizabeth Vidal, as Chinese maidens.

. Grand Spanish Dance-"Espanita." Leoin Trautvetter.

Gypsio Scene—Gypsie Queen, Mrs. A. R. Strombers: young ladics, Ruby Perault, Marie Brown, Alice Greathouse, Ruth Paxton, Liberty Matson, Waddie Mitchel; Gypsie Dancers, Josephine Silva, Katherine Hounsel, Marian McMenamin, Clara Munroe, Leona Adair, Goldie Gnaga, Lyra Freeman.

Grand Finale—"Yankee Doodle Girl," Mrs. S. P. Jenkins, assisted by Katzenjammer squad and the entire company.

Curtain.

-ELD-

This program was found by Marion Downey, among her memoirs.

PEOPLE 'ROUND THE POINT

Welcome back Hope Lee — we were 'hope'ing you would find your home here! And, we are glad to hear the second eye surgery was more successful.

Want to help at Christmas? Meals on Wheels, 2301 Rumrill Blvd., San Pablo – 235-2916 or 223-0841 can always use: stationery, stamps, plants, postcards, kleenex, cosmetics, soaps – for birthday and Christmas gifts; as well as gifts of money and memorial contributions.

Jack Elle is home after a few days 'visit' in Oakland Kaiser Hospital.

Gust Allyn, after spending several weeks at Brookside is now at Church Lane Convalescent Hospital.

Raymond Giacomelli, son of Mary Giacomelli, has been honored as West County Times' athlete of the week. Highly regarded by many coaches, Giacomelli, who wears a number 88, is a linebacker for Salesian, and is in his senior year. Raymond has also been nominated for the Chicago Catholic All-America Squad. He has been receiving letters from prestigious colleges that include Notre Dame, USC, Arizona and Cal. Raymond is the last boy of this popular family to graduate from Salesian, but he has an eighth grade sister, Rosemary, who is just as popular.

The Annual Joint Christmas Program to be presented by the church school youth of the Point Baptist and the First United Methodist Churches will be on Sunday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to this program.

A BIG THANK YOU from all the members of the Methodist Women, to those of you who 'lent a hand' to make the Annual Country Faire a success. Your continued support is appreciated. A few items that were left are now in "Trannie's Window". Because of everyone's help, a new furnace has been installed in the parsonage!

Oretta Eaton's two broken wrists have healed sufficiently to, as she gleefully announced, "brush my own teeth!".

Mabel Edwards, formerly a Washington School teacher, is now in Superior Care Convalescent Hospital, at San Pablo and Vale Avenues, and would appreciate callers! Why don't some of you former students surprise her with a visit?

Come join the Carolers of the Methodist Church on Wednesday, December 21 — meet at the church at 6:00 p.m. Because there may (!) be a pre-caroling chili feed, call 234-5334 if you plan to come so they can prepare. Everyone is welcome. Join the fun and get the true Christmas Spirit.

The youth group from the Methodist Church will again go to the Howe property to cut down trees for Christmas on December 9 and 10. Pat Dornan, chairman, says only trees that are ordered will be cut this year. Proceeds go to the Youth Fund for their yearly activities. Call 237-3063.

The day after Christmas, a caravan of 40 Scouts, parents and friends will travel to Ano Nuevo State Reserve to visit the Elephant Seals. Their breeding season begins on an island along the rocky shoreline bluffs near Santa Cruz in December when males begin to arrive. From 14 to 16 feet long and weighing up to nearly three tons, these huge bulls engage in violent battles to determine dominance. During the December-March

breeding season you can see the reserve only on one of the guided tours which are available only by reservation. The tour takes about 2½ hours, and a walk of about 3 miles. Interested friends should contact Scoutmaster Fred Hart at 232-4317.

Happy Anniversary, Bo and Don Amantite!

BIRTH: Born to Charles and Karin Brennan of Western Drive, a son, Spencer Franklin Brennan on October 3 at Vallejo Kaiser Hospital. He weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces, and measured 10 inches.

WANTED: Still needed is a regular organist for Sunday Worship, 11:00 to 12:00, at the Historic First Methodist Church in the Point. Call 234-0780.

ALSO WANTED: Your news. We can't print important events if we don't know about them. Please jot items down and send them to Mid Dornan, 225 Clarence, Pt. Richmond, 94801, or call 234-5334, eves.

DIED: Hardman G. Heiney, former longtime resident of 853 Ocean Avenue (Heiney's Brig), in Old Station, California. Age 79, Hardman retired from Standard Oil after nearly 50 years of service. He was a charter member and past Vice Commodore of the Point San Pablo Yacht Club; an honorary Skipper of the Diablo Council Sea Explorers, member of the Richmond Elks Club, and life member of the California Rifle and Pistol Association. He is survived by his wife, Veora, who will be at home, after December 15, at Lorenz Residential Hotel, Apt. 303, Yuba Street, Redding, CA 96001. Memorials may be sent to the American Cancer Society, P.O.Box 760, Redding, CA 96099, or to the Hospice Program at Mercy Medical Center, Redding, or Mayer's Memorial Hospital, Fall River Mills, CA 96028.

Darlene Byers flew up to Old Station to be with Veora Heiney for a few days after the loss of Veora's husband.

The annual Christmas meeting of the Methodist Women will be at the Vacaville home of their treasurer, Helen Valentine, on Saturday, December 17. Invited for lunch, members will have a gift exchange. Anyone needing a ride, call 234-5334.

Greetings to all you college students . . . former Pointers . . . out-of-town relatives . . . home for the holidays. 'Home' for the holidays includes Kathy and Rich Barnes, of Vermillion, South Dakota, and Roberta and Richard Palfini from Irvine, CA. Seems like Christmas with everyone around!

It would be hard to choose just one Christmas tradition – love them all, but I can't imagine the Holiday season without an evergreen tree or greeting cards. In the words of Dickens' Tiny Tim, "God Bless You, Everyone."

Reminder: send your news to 225 Clarence, or call 234-5334, eves.

-Mid Dornan

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FROM POINT TO POINT

BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

The next Point Richmond Business Association meeting will be a social occasion, the annual Business Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 14, at 4:00 p.m. in the Hotel Mac. Everyone in Point Richmond, business or not, is invited to attend. There is no important business on the agenda, except the kickoff of the 1984 membership drive. Police Ckief Ernest Clements has been scheduled as a speaker for the January meeting.

BUSINESSES ON THE MOVE

FEX Leasing has moved into 35 Park Place next door to New Whitney's. The firm leases refrigerated containers.

Traxelvision, an organization headed by John Schulberg, that provides promotional videotapes of resorts, has leased space at 125 West Richmond. This is the yellow and green cottage which was rehabilitated by David Vincent and partners.

Judy Jarvis' JMJ Floral has moved from 101 Park Place (the old Mariner Tavern) to 159 Park Place. She also operates a flower cart in front of that location during the noon hour each day.

Next to her new Zebra factory at 26 West Richmond, Camille Zulpo-Dane will also open a gift shop called Sonrisa. The name is Spanish for "smile". The store will deal in both unusual and common gifts as well as seconds from Zebra.

REHABILITATIONS

Work continues by owner Bob Reed on the old Central Pool Hall building at 49 Washington Avenue. A seismic bracing system has been installed, and restoration of the front facade and storefront will begin soon. The building was built by the Kenney family around the turn of the century and was purchased by Bob about five years ago. James Kenney, the son of the original owner, served as a City Councilman and Mayor of Richmond as well as a Contra Costa County Supervisor.

The Gallery Building at 147 and 149 West Richmond Avenue is now ready for occupancy of fourteen rehabilitated apartments on the second and third floor. Jay and Adele Hollander were able to preserve much of the interior character of this 80 year old building.

June Davies has applied for controlled development approval of a three-story addition to The Spot. There will be additional ground floor retail and commercial space plus an increase from 17 to 28 units upstairs. She plans to restore the original redwood siding on the existing building and duplicate it on the new addition. The public hearing is set for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, December 1.

BEAUTIFICATION

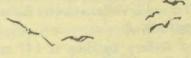
With a \$150.00 grant from the Point Richmond Business Association, our local version of "The Monkeywrench Gang" has sown a mixture of native California wildflower seeds on the grassy area belonging to Santa Fe, across from the Richmond Plunge. Keep your eyes on this area next spring and summer.

-Tom Butt

THANK YOU...

To Mary Casey, who has loaned us a 1908 yearbook, "The Richmond Rodeo", and other memorabilia from her high school days.

RECENT HISTORY – THE MILLER-KNOX REGIONAL SHORELINE PARK



VI

A series of articles on the park its birth and development, continued from Vol. II, no. 4

While the shabby triumph of Quarry Products filled park devotees and marina and port people alike with distaste, not to say dread, it was hoped that the many conditions and restrictions placed on the permit for quarry operation would serve to prevent, or at least curtail, the continued exploitation of the land.

In balance there was good news to lift the hearts of open space and park lovers. It will be remembered that the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978 left the State, the counties, the cities and special districts such as the East Bay Regional Park District, in considerable disarray, for no one knew precisely what effect the measure would have upon funding. As far as George Miller Jr. Park was concerned, while land acquisition had been superbly engineered - through a combination of Federal funding, State monies, matching funds and special grants for acquisition and development - there were a number of large and small parcels of land necessary for park completion, not yet in District ownership. Of particular concern were the headlands, at the southern end of the ridge of hills on the peninsula. These tall rocky bluffs afford an unparalleled view directly across the Bay to San Francisco, with equally stunning vistas to the South and North.

The headlands had long been looked upon covetously by Miller Park supporters, but were held in ownership by mighty interests, historically recognized to be more motivated by profit than esthetics. Santa Fe Land Improvement Company owned the property at the western end of the bluffs, adjacent to an abandoned brick manufacturing plant and quarry. PG&E property with its vast tank lies East of the Brickyard property, adjoining Atlantic Richfield still farther to the East and overlooking the Harbor Channel and the Inner Harbor.

Since any land along the Bay is costly, and since esthetics and beautiful views were beginning to be equated with profit (which drove the asking price higher still) prospects for obtaining any of the property seemed dim, especially in the fiscally tipsy-topsy Proposition 13 climate.

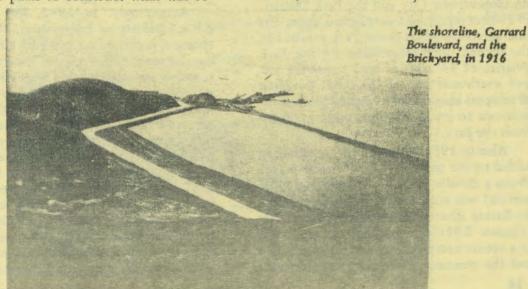
But it was at this juncture that the good and unexpected news came. In 1980 the local representative in the State Assembly, John T. Knox, decided to retire after many long years devoted to service in the legislature. Mr. Knox had been interested in the Shoreline Park since its inception, and instrumental in writing and nurruring legislation that aided the Park District in many ways, not the least of them financially. He had been a great friend of State Senator George Miller, Jr., for whom the park was named, and had in general kept a sharp and friendly eye on the progress of the park. Knowing of his interest in the George Miller Jr. Park, and in tribute to his shrewdand able years of service in the Assembly, members of that body gave him what might be called a 'going away present' of \$2,000,000 in the State Budget, primarily for supplemental land acquisition for the park. As an additional tribute, the East Bay Regional Park District Board of Directors re-christened the Park to the George Miller Jr./John T. Knox Regional Shoreline Park.

Now two million dollars sounds like a glorious sum, but in terms of property prices for the headlands it was inconsequential. However, it was just what Hulett Hornbeck, head of the District's department of land acquisition, needed to begin negotiations with those who owned the headlands properties.

While it was patently absurd to expect that two million would purchase all of the property involved, the area of greatest importance for park users and hikers was the strip running along the edge of the steep bluffs, affording spectacular views of the Bay to the South and West. Mr. Hornbeck is an uncommon magician; and whatever alchemy he used, acquisition of the coveted land began. In 1981, through some combination of wheedling, threatening, persuasion, and assuredly lots of money, he finally consummated a deal for 34 acres of land at the eastern end of the hills, from Atlantic Richfield.

This good news was balanced by ominous news, since, in November of the same year, the Innisfree Company of Sausalito announced plans to construct what was to be called "The Brickyard" on 38.2 acres of hillside land above the old brickworks and quarry, north of Brickyard Cove Road, opposite Brickyard Cove. The proposal called for 310 condominiums, 200 of them in four-story structures on the lower (level) portion, and 110 units in three-story hillside structures. A funicular, or cable tramway would serve the residents in the hill condominiums. All parking would be located in and around the lower units, and a commercial and recreation center would include playing courts, a pool, jacuzzi and sauna, and a few shors.

While it had been implicitly, if reluctantantly accepted that some enterprising developer(s) would purchase the hill lands and put view residences on them, a project of this magnitude understandably disquieted many people. Residents of Brickyard Cove, directly below the proposed "Brickyard" raised questions about drainage, parking, sewage, erosion, fire safety, noise (bouncing off the hills and back to them from the condominiums and recreation area), parking (only two spaces per unit, possibly forcing overflow cars onto their already crowded streets, and the saleability of those units in



close proximity to PG&E's big gas tank, as well as the noise level engendered by filling, drafting and testing.

Next door, Point Richmond residents expressed concern about the number of units and what the approximately 620 residents would do to traffic through the Garrard Boulevard access road and narrow tunnel, shared by the two neighborhoods and already crowded. A loop road was recommended, joining Garrard and Canal around the Bay end of the peninsula, a suggestion rejected by Brickyard Cove for security reasons. Concern was also voiced about the capacity of Washington Elementary School to serve the potential number of children from the "Brickyard".

Park lovers registered chagrin and frustration at the loss of the hill view lands behind the "Brickyard". Even though the developers promised that no units would be built on the ridgeline, it was apparent that three of the proposed hill structures would be visible up to 25 feet above the ridgeline from the park, intruding on the peaceful isolation cherished by hikers and park users.

After intermittent meerings among the developers, the City and the Park District, in 1982 compromises were agreed upon. The one affecting Miller-Knox Park resulted in the agreed upon acquisition by the Park District of 14 acres of land across the top and northwest side of the ridge. Innisfree developers also agreed to move eight condominiums to avoid visual intrusion on views from the park.

Also in 1982, several more parcels were added to the park. One 27.68+ acre parcel (from a division of 45.38+ acres into three parcels) was acquired from Santa Fe. It immediately abutted Innisfree property. An adjacent 2.81+ acre parcel was designated as a scenic easement retained by Santa Fe, and the remaining 14.89+ acre parcel was

also retained by Santa Fe. This site consists largely of the slopes and ridge crest of the southwest spur of the Potrero Hills.

Mr. Louis Bernardi, whose family home is tucked into a fold in the hill beneath Nicholl Nob on .36 acres, also decided to give in to the Park District's stated desire to obtain his property in 1982. Feeling that he and his brother were "not so young as they used to be," it would be wise to move to a less isolated place where medical facilities were available. They remained in the house their father had bought in 1907 until August, 1983.

And, in 1982, Mr. William Bottoms of Quarry Products decided to buy the ARCO land on which he held an option. This was not for renewed quarrying operations, as those who had followed the famous quarry fight of 1978-81 feared, but for yet another luxury condominium development. Mr. Bottoms had apparently heeded the impassioned statements made during the quarry battle, about the beauty of the site, and the undeniable potential financial benefits of using extraordinary view properties for people, rather than demolishing them for industrial (quarrying) purposes.

Accordingly, in 1983, Mr. Bottoms, d.b.a. Middletown Enterprises, the project sponsor, proposed to construct a residential development called Seacliff Estates with associated commercial and recreational uses, including a marina, on a 44 acre site overlooking the Bay, adjacent to the PG&E property and tank. Above it, the Potrero Hills ridge, along the northern boundary, is owned by the East Bay Regional Park District (the 34 acres purchased from ARCO in 1981) and is maintained as open space. Immediately to the East of the Park District land is the quarry owned by Middletown Enterprises, but not considered a part of their project. Land along the northeastern project boundary is owned by ARCO and contains storage

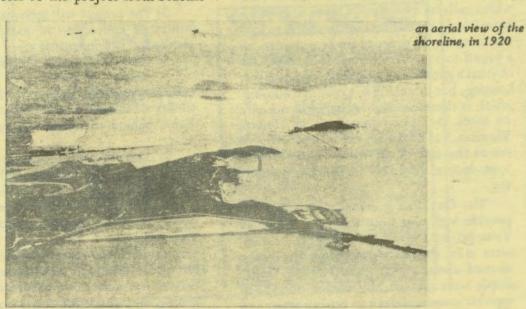
tanks. Adjacent land to the East and Southeast is owned by the City of Richmond and includes Shipyard 3, Levin Metals and Pasha Truckaways storage. The shoreline forms the southernmost boundary to the site.

Seacliff Estates would be clustered at the base and on the lower slopes of the Potrero Hills Ridge. 310 units would be villagestyle two-story condominiums (10% studio, 10% one-bedroom, 70% two-bedroom and 10% deluxe two-bedroom) in multi-unit structures, and ten units would be one-story or split-level single family homes. A 200 to 250 berth marina and concrete sheetpile breakwater would be developed in the southeastern portion of the site, with a small marina-oriented commercial center, and a public observation deck to assure public access.

An abandoned quarry pit, now filled with water and designated as "quarry pond", would be a recreational focus, with a restaurant and community clubhouse, canoeing and rowboating. This development would have its own internal network of roads, with primary access to the project from Seacliff

Drive via Brickyard Cove Road. Seacliff Drive would also connect with Canal Boulevard, but this connection would be used chiefly during the construction phase of the project, after which it would be 'gated' and used only as an emergency road.

The public response to this proposal was in marked contrast to the heated objections voiced during the hearings on the quarry project, which was under the same sponsorship. At a community meeting on Seacliff in February 1983, the Environmental Impact Report hearing in June 1983, and the September 1983 certification of the Report by the Richmond Environmental Impact Panel, the major project-related issues were traffic circulation and parking problems which would result from 640 additional cars: noise; visual aspects (including building locations and materials); public access; the possibility that the breakwater would increase sedimentation and pollution, and interfere with navigational access in the pier area; and the appropriateness of residential use near surrounding industrial use. However, despite these objections the tone of the meetings



was sweetly reasonable as compared to the quarry meetings, which must have mildly astonished and pleased the developer. While the proposal for the Seacliff project was presented with professional smoothness, and accepted without public outcry, there were basic issues concerning land use, which while raised by the Port and by Petromark (the industry leasing land from the City at Terminal I), and acknowledged, were never explored in depth.

The issue, and conflict, is whether the City of Richmond feels it can more profitably encourage expensive residential condominium housing on the dramatic headlands, or whether industrial development in this area would bring in more money to the depleted city coffers.

Richmond is in dire financial straits and desperately needs money. The Port and port related industries are obviously one source of revenue, though the Port's financial productivity history has been chequered.

On the other hand, the housing good health of the City is spelled out in the Housing Element of Richmond's General Plan, which calls for a balance of types of housing, from costly through middle income, to low-cost housing, in order to make provision for a broad socio-economic and racial mix. Our city has a good stock of middle and low cost housing, but is lacking in expensive housing, which is therefore highly desirable, not only to meet the requirements of the Housing Element, but because it can be very productive to the city in net fiscal impact through 'own-source' revenues such as the property tax.

The City had previously attempted to provide high cost housing in the Villa Mira Vista project, which turned out to be a disaster area, due to the fact that those who warned about building on the steep fragile slopes were ignored, and erosion during bad weather caused slides and broken sewer and

water pipes. Brickyard Cove, an island-lagoon community begun in the 1960's, has suffered various vicissitudes in arriving at project completion, due to restrictions on building in the Bay by the Bay Conservation and Development Commission and the State Lands Commission. But this luxury marine housing has been very successful, and has paved the way for the further development of the nearby hillslopes and flatland in projects like 'The Brickyard' and the proposed Seacliff. While the Richmond Environmental Impact Panel certified the final E.I.R. on Seacliff Estates in September, 1983, as being in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and the State CEQA Guidelines, the proposed project was found to have a significant effect on the environment in that it would clash with its industrial neighbors;

1] Residents would be exposed to the sights and sounds of adjacent industrial use such as Shipyard 3 and the PG&E tank;

2] The project will restrict the expansion or intensification of industrial uses on adjacent land;

3] The project will increase pressure for continued conversion of industrial land to residential development;

4] There will be an increase in traffic;

5] Water run-off will be increased as open land is built upon, and there is a possibility of increased sedimentation and pollution behind the proposed marina break-water.

6] Loss of wildlife habitat and vegetation habitat (especially eelgrass) on the land and in the Bay;

7] Potential interference with navigational access to the western side of Pier 7,

Shipyard 3.

In addition to these significant impacts on the surrounding environment, Seacliff Estates was not in compliance with the site zoning, and was requesting a rezoning from the existing residential (R1-A6) and industrial (M-3) zoning to Planned Area (PA). This later was granted to them in a first reading by the City Council on November 21, 1983. Following a second reading approving the re-zoning, Middletown Enterprises will be in a position to take their Seacliff Estates proposal to the Planning Commission. The only interests to raise serious objections to the idea of this high-priced and revenue-producing development are the Port and industry. Richmond with a pressing need for money and an industry-oriented history is faced with a crisis of choice. The way in which it is resolved will be interesting to watch.

-Lucretia Edwards



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jean Allyn
Edna Hathaway
Les Crim
Sherry Hartynyk
Teresa Albro
Seth Fenton
Christopher Creed
Debbie Seaburg
Christine Hayes
Bill Dennis

Marian Hawkins
Mark Stevens
Richard Wilson
Gerrie Kretzmer
Marilyn Darling
Tom Potts
Roni & Mike Turner & ?
Fern Eastman
Hazel Paasch

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Bryan Smith
Ed Paasch
Gina Green
Jack Healy
Sara Strayer
Jim Wilson
Henry Prances
Michael Seawell

Dwight Eaton
Jennie Mitchell
Janine Dollarhide
Doug Greiner
Sonja Darling
Cindy Rosier
Henry Allyn
Joe Travis

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POINTS IN THE FUTURE

DECEMBER -

- 4 Annual Art Center Bazaar, Richmond Art Center, 9:00 to 5:00
- 17 Last performance of the Fantasticks at The Masquers
- 17 & 18 The Tinkers and Peddlers Fair, Linsley Hall, 235 Washington Ave., Point Richmond - 10 to 6:00.
- 21 Christmas Caroling: meet at 6:00 at the Methodist Church, and call 234-5334 if interested.

JANUARY -

- 26 Next meeting of the History Association, 7:30 p.m., Linsley Hall.
- 27 The Dark of the Moon begins at the Masquers.

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POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801

DECEMBER DATES

1- Hanukkah begins (8 day celebration, the Feast of Lights in Jewish homes and Synagogues)

19- School Holidays begin

22- Winter begins 25- CHRISTMAS

31- New Year's Eve

DECEMBERS PAST ...

- 18- 1865, Adopted 13th Amendment abolishing slavery
- 27- 1900, Carrie Nation staged her first 'raid' in saloous in Wichita, Kansas

JANUARY DATES ...

- 1 New Year's Day
- 2- When most people find it easier to break a resolution than a habit
- 3- End of School Holidays
- 15- Martin Luther King Holiday

JANUARYS PAST ...

- 10- 1870, John D. Rockefeller incorporated Standard Oil Co., in Cleveland
- 21- 1906, New York City enacted an ordinance making it illegal for women to smoke
- 24- 1908, First Boy Scout troop organized in England.

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

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Illustrations: Donna Roselius

Layout: Jodi Roselius, Deirdre Cerkanowicz

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.