

# THIS POINT

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Vol. III, No. 4

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75 cents



STATUE DEDICATION DAY, OCTOBER 20, 1984. MARY CASEY 'UNVEILED' THE STATUE

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## in time



PLAN TO ATTEND . . .  
NOVEMBER 15, 7:30, LINSLEY HALL

GOING BACK TO THE POINT  
OF PRE-HISTORY  
WITH GEORGE COLES

Here we are, with the foremost authority on Point ancient history in our neighborhood, and, unless we have enrolled in his archaeology course at Contra Costa College, few of us have had the opportunity to listen to him speak on his favorite subject — the cultures that preceded ours in this area.

On Thursday, November 15, at Linsley Hall, 7:30 p.m., the Association will host a meeting featuring George Coles, in an especially informative (and entertaining, because George is) illustrated lecture on archaeology in this area, and what is known so far about pre-historical residents here.

Besides teaching for the past 31 years at Contra Costa College, George has spent much of his own time and money researching (digging up) secrets of our local past. His wife, Corinne, has participated to such an extent that she also qualifies as an expert.

Mark your calendars now — this is one meeting that you, your kids, parents, friends, won't want to miss.



*from a photo in The Express, by Jim Lerager*

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VOLUNTEERS & FUTURE PLANS . . .

Many members have offered to volunteer time for various projects. We have not overlooked you, and we will soon be asking for your help.

Rosemary Corbin will soon provide a workshop for those willing to help in the important indexing project. We will call

those of you who indicated an interest. But if you are interested and didn't sign a volunteer form, please call us at 235-4222.

We will soon have access to a computer. Besides the word processor capabilities, it will be a boon to indexing. If anyone is interested in helping, we will soon need software to make our programs possible.



# HISTORY ASSOCIATION NOTES

## THE GREAT DEDICATION DAY ...

Perfect weather, entertaining events, varied and buzzing activity, plus a statue that turned out to be a dignified and significant work of art, made Indian Statue Dedication Day a complete and jubilant success.

The success of the day was largely due to the efforts of the Point Richmond Business Association and their president, David Vincent. Unprecedented cooperation and assistance came from local businesses, from City departments and individuals; from Mayor Corcoran, and his secretary, Peggy Young, who had been involved in the project since its inception. Chevron, USA, also provided assistance before and on the day. And, without Claudia Beall at the Point Richmond Print Shop, publicity, invitations and programs might have presented an insurmountable problem.

Results of the day were so positive that the event may become annual, with the next one celebrating an accompanying minipark. Funds have already been pledged, to pay for landscaping; and, since the third side of the pedestal can accommodate another plaque, donors to the park could be recognized.

The Masquers, who did a great deal to enhance the day, were also beneficiaries of many of the activities, adding about \$5,000 to their buy-the-building-fund. The West Side Improvement Club booth in the Peddlers' Fair alone brought in about \$191.00. (Special thanks to Marion Downey, who was a one-woman collecting station.)

The PTA Carnival area kept kids entertained and raised project money. Two individual video photographers televised the event; Larry Castro and Rosy Roselius may collaborate and edit their films for a documentary of the day.

We were happy that so many people visited the Community Center to see the displays by the Richmond Museum and our History Association. Thanks to Teresa Albrow, who set up our display, to Michelle Brown, Mid Dorman, Liz McDonald, Pam Wilson, Rosemary Corbin, Alexandra Gaudraud and Dierdre Cerkanowicz for hosting our area; and to Henry O'Hara and Leo and Laura Carey for acting as resource people

*continued on page 2*

## MEMBERS...

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

Linda Andrews	Mary Highfill
& Hal Marshall	Pauline Horner
Maud Bagley	Betty Karstens
Louisa Banks	Janet Lyons
Jean Bernes	Maxine Mayer
Philip & Edith Brown	W.J. McCutcheon
and family	Hazel Salmi
Mary Casey	Eleanora Surdam
Sarah Elizabeth Eeles	Lawrence Thole
Monica Haley	John & Barbara Vincent
Christine Demis	Alyce Williamson
	Dody Perry

And welcome to the following new members:

Richard J. Alexander	Carlotta Bresee
Linda Betts	Mr. & Mrs. Wm. McCloskey
Nancy Bruno	Mr. J. Savill
Regina Girard	Pat Sheahan
Margaret Jacobson	Mrs. Linda Webster
Doris Maske	Amber & Chuck Willis
	Frank Ziebell

Please let us know if we have made any mistakes or omissions in the listings.

A red check mark in this circle is a reminder that your membership has expired, and is due for renewal... It will be your only reminder, so please help support the Association's work by sending in your donation now.



Please fill out the form on the last page and send it to Pam Wilson, 521 Western Drive.



The only dummy in the room was our receptionist (a soft sculpture) dressed in a turn-of-the-century outfit lent to us by Adeline Miller.

The entire business district looked as if nothing unusual had happened by Monday, thanks to the Work Alternative Program, and the businessmen who took time to supervise the job.

### THE STATUE'S GENEALOGY . . .

Although we now know the facts behind the erection of the first Indian statue/fountain in 1909 by the Women's West Side Improvement Club; and how it met its end in 1943, its history goes back to the middle of the nineteenth century. Kirk St. Maur, sculptor of the new statue, chanced upon information in a book, *Discovering Pittsburgh's Sculpture*, by the U. of Pittsburgh Press.

The first prototype of the statue was created some time before 1872 by a wood sculptor, Samuel Anderson Robb, of New York. Robb was known for his Indian Statues, which were in great demand by the Tobacco industry. Indians were a popular symbol for the industry because they were first to cultivate tobacco in this country.

Two iron foundries, the William Demuth Company and J.L.Mott Iron Works, made copies of Robb's statue and began producing them in quantity because of a new zinc alloy process which made it possible to create ornamental work lighter in weight than iron.

The Indian, which appeared in both companies' catalogues, was extremely popular, and was ordered by many cities in all parts of the country. J.L.Mott had a foundry in San Francisco, which is where our Indian was ordered.

Pittsburgh's statue, named Guyasuta, suffered a similar fate to ours, in 1930, when a car slammed into its fountain base.

However, the driver's insurance company replaced their statue the following year. Guyasuta was a well known Indian chief, important to the area's history, who did a great deal to promote peace. He was offered a Colonel's commission by Washington in 1776. Statues in other cities were usually named after a locally famous Indian.

The statue won many awards – in the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition of 1876, and in Chicago and New Orleans. It was taken to the Paris Exposition of 1890 where it won a Gold Medal.

According to the book, about 20 statues remain, one as far away as Cuzco, Peru. The fountain base may or may not be part of those statues, but several people have seen one identical to the old Point Richmond fountain in Ashland, Oregon.

—Donna Roselius



The Sculptor, Kirk St. Maur and "The Sentinel"



*Comment by an observer: "That was the Indian uprising supported by the hysterical society . . ."*



*Pittsburgh's statue, named Gwaysuta, was also produced by J.L.Mott Co., of New York.*

#### THANK YOU NOTE . . .

So many people from many areas of our community, intrigued by the idea of constructing a new statue to replace the one lost 41 years ago, working together have made the re-creation of our Indian Statue a reality. I would like to thank the following City crew members who helped make this possible: Chuck Keist, Dick Glenn, Ron Branham, Rich Evangelista, Ken Smithwick, Larry Keith, Mitch Anderson, Dave Leslie and Bill Robinson. Thanks guys!

—Teresa Albro

#### PIECES OF THE PAST

*From "Contra Costa County — Under the Vitascope", published by the Richmond Record, January 1, 1902. Courtesy of the Richmond Museum.*

##### Part II

#### RICHMOND ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY

The Richmond Electric Light Company is a new corporation which promises to cut an important figure in the future development of Lovely Richmond. The company has just been organized, and as we go to press . . . they are erecting their poles, stringing wire and planting machinery which before another month promises to transform Richmond from a village into a blooming city. The company is well financed; Henry J. Crocker of San Francisco is the President

#### JAS. S. SHAW

Jas. S. Shaw is comparatively a new comer as a resident in Richmond, having been here in business scarcely three months, although he owned property and buildings here over a year ago. He is enterprising, as his recent purchases attest. He has built two of the handsomest connecting stores in Richmond, which were occupied as soon as finished [31 Washington Avenue] — one a drug store [Lang] and the other a gents' furnishing store [Brown & Sugrue]. He is now building two more along the same line. Mr. Shaw is a native of Kentucky, was in Carson, Nevada, sixteen years, and is well known as the owner of the celebrated Shaw Hot Springs at that place, which were named for him. It was here that Corbett trained for his great fight with Fitzsimmons. Mr. Shaw is a welcome citizen to Richmond, for it is these kind of men that push a town along.

#### D. J. McMILLAN

One of the necessary and requisite businesses in a city of this size is the barber shop.



In this connection it is a pleasure to refer to D.J.McMillan's place in the Richmond Hotel.

Mr. McMillan is considered one of the best barbers on the Coast. He does shaving, hair-cutting and shampooing in the most finished style. He has the only public bath rooms in Richmond, all finished with porcelain tubs. Mr. McMillan has been in California fourteen years and in Richmond since January, 1900.

*Mr. Naugle's comments about these early residents of Richmond will continue in the next issue, with B.E.Loomis, original owner of Kozy Kove.*

## GOOD TIMES IN OLD RICHMOND

People often worked long, hard hours in the early days of Richmond, but they always seemed to have time for fun. A few long-time Richmond residents shared some memories of good times past. The pace was slower and the entertainment simple, and very appealing.

Halloween was often more trick than treat when Caroline Davidson was a girl. She remembers wearing an old derby hat and getting doused with water by the neighbors!

Early Richmonders were great believers in celebrations. One spontaneous celebration occurred when World War I ended. Some of the businesses closed for the day, including Standard Oil, and the men paraded along Garrard Boulevard pounding big oil drums.

Another, more unusual, celebration heralded the official end of the influenza epidemic of 1918. During the preceding year every person was ordered to wear protective face masks or be arrested. Group gatherings were forbidden and schools were closed. Even taking these precautions, many people died. To celebrate the end of this terrifying

period, Point Richmonders met in the middle of town (in the Triangle) and burned their masks. What a joy that must have been!

For a time (because of a fire) the Triangle had no buildings at the West Richmond end. An excavation 8 to 10 feet deep made a perfect spot for summer evening concerts. The Richmond Band supplied music while people sat on the banks of the dugout, or in their cars parked along the curbs, and enjoyed the music. Appreciation for the evening's entertainment was a cacophony of car horns and applause.

Stanley Nystrom remembers making kites from newspapers and homemade paste. The only kite part he had to purchase was the string. He also recalls fields of wild flowers, especially poppies, in Richmond. He often spent part of a day picking the wild flowers on Easter Hill.

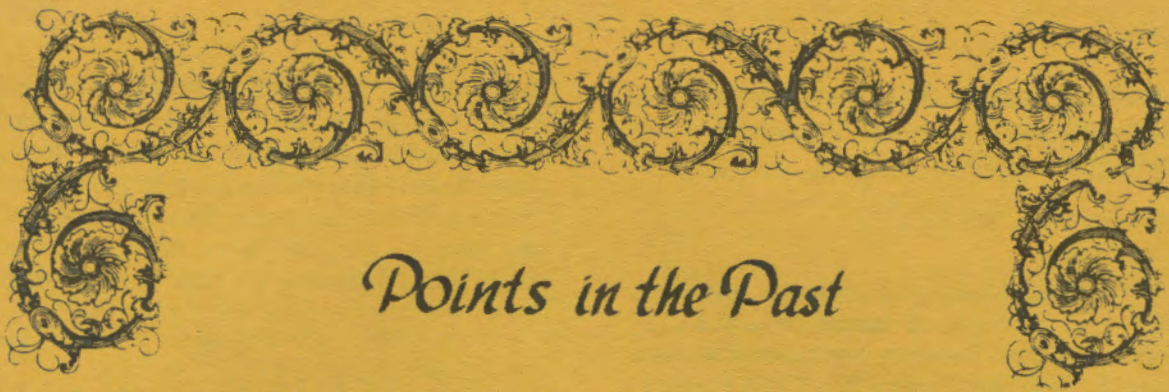
My thanks to Caroline Davidson, Stan Nystrom and Henry O'Hara for sharing these memories with us.

*—Michelle Brown*



October 18, 1984





## 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 ...

#### SERGEANT BARRY TO THE RESCUE ...

"Hallowe'en, which fell on Saturday night, passed without any great damage being done . . . Julius F. Stiefvater lay in wait for the merry youngsters almost all the eventful evening, but somehow they managed to get away with one of his wagons. Sergeant Barry saw them pulling it away, and started in pursuit. He managed to recover the vehicle but the fleet footed youngsters got away."

— November 3, 1914

#### TUNNEL FIRM WILL LOSE SHIRT AS RESULT OF SLIDES ...

"While the municipal tunnel will be finished in plenty of time to fulfill the contract, the Shattuck-Ettinger company will be fortunate if it makes any money on the deal.

"Yesterday E.S. Shattuck stated that the company had taken the bid about \$38,000 cheaper than any other firm. It figured that it would meet with no accidents, but since the strata of the ground has been learned, and the use of heavy timbers has been necessary (to prevent sliding) the company can hardly expect to do more than break even.

"Shattuck stated that he had not put Jack Walsh in place of E.J. Carrillo as superintendent. This story he declared got out

because he put Walsh in charge of the underground work, and he told Carrillo to look after that on the outside."

— November 3, 1914

#### EARLY RICHMOND RAPID TRANSIT ...

"Had the Keystone comedy company been on the job it would have secured a picture on the West Side last night, which . . . would have been the best ever.

"In the leading roles were Joe Pippin and Dick Hurst. Pippin bet that California would go wet (in the election held last Tuesday) and Hurst took the opposite view. Therefore Hurst had to wheel Pippin from Standard avenue to the city hall and back.

"It took until 7:30 o'clock for the two to find a wheelbarrow large enough to hold Pippin. When this was secured the big time was on. Hurst started out lively but had hardly passed the fountain when he was forced to rest.

"A big crowd was following and joshing the participants. At the city hall Hurst shed everything to his undershirt and started on the return journey. By the time they arrived at Standard avenue Hurst was staggering and his clothes were soaked with perspiration."

— November 6, 1914

#### STANDARD OIL BAND MAKES ITS DEBUT ...

"One of the very latest additions to the musical circles of the city is a band of twenty pieces, the members of which have been selected from among the mechanics at the



Standard Oil plant. The band has been practicing often and is in shape to play all of the leading selections."

—November 12, 1914

#### COLONY ON WEST SIDE IN FEUD ...

"Walking about the streets of the West Side with a couple of long knives and a revolver, Samuel Basarich was taken into custody by Sergeant Phillip Barry last evening. He is an Austrian and asserted that he was taking no chances with some of his countrymen who had threatened his life . . . The trouble between the Austrian factions seems to be getting more bitter every day."

—November 12, 1914

#### PASTOR WILL DON OVERALLS WHEN WORK STARTS ON HIS HOME....

"Three lots are owned by the (First Methodist Episcopal) church, and upon these Reverend Petersen is planning to soon construct a parsonage.

"The mechanics connected with the church will all donate their labor and the pastor will join with them in constructing a suitable parsonage. The lumber from the old church, which is standing alongside that of the new edifice, will be used in the new structure."

—November 21, 1914

#### EXIT FETROW, ENTER ANDERSONS ...

"Thirty five rooms in the Fetrow block on Richmond avenue were emptied of their furnishings in precisely four hours on Saturday (Nov. 14) the object being the removal of Ernest F. Fetrow from the building he has occupied for the last few years, to the Led-lock block on Park Place.

"Fetrow's lease expired yesterday and he was in a quandry up to the last minute as to whether or not he would renew it. He decided negatively and the packing began."

Within a few days the owner of the building, E.B. Anderson, had completely re-

furnished the hotel and was quickly renting units. On November 23, it was announced "Mr. and Mrs. E.B. Anderson are to remove from Walnut Creek to make their permanent home in Richmond where they will reside at the hotel . . . on (149 West) Richmond avenue, which is among the fruit packer's property investments in the terminal city."

—November 17, 20, 25, 1914

#### FLYING MEN PAY VISIT ...

"Two aviators floated about in the clear air of yesterday paying the city a Thanksgiving surprise. One was Silas Christofferson, who came all the way from the Panama-Pacific expositions grounds . . . The other was John R. Froberg who was seen making the best flight of his career in his machine. It was said he had managed to fly across the bay to San Francisco, but these reports were unconfirmed."

—November 27, 1914

#### 60 YEARS AGO ...

#### LICENSING OF ALL DRIVERS TO COME ...

"Robbins B. Stoeckel, motor vehicle commissioner of Connecticut, predicts that 'The time is not far distant when, for the protection of careful motorists and pedestrians, all states will license the drivers of motor vehicles upon examination as to their fitness and will revoke licenses upon violation of any of the rules by which it is held.' (Sounds like a good idea!)"

—November 1, 1924

#### PLANS TO BUILD A PUBLIC GARAGE ...

"A permit was granted to J.O. Foster by building inspector L. Wierda, to erect a one story concrete garage in Point Richmond, near the bath house site."

—November 7, 1924

(Richmond Record-Herald)

On November 5, it was reported that President Coolidge had been re-elected, and



Charles G. Dawes elected vice-president.

On November 14, the ninth day of a post-election stock trading boom hit a high not matched since November 21, 1916.

#### POLICE INSPECTED ...

"The first annual drill and police inspection of the Richmond police department will be held tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the Washington school grounds ... As many members of the department as possible will participate."

—November 7, 1924

#### STANDARD AVE. WIDENING ...

"Resolutions for the widening of Standard avenue from Castro to Garrard boulevard were adopted by the city council last night. The avenue will be widened from 60 to 82 feet, the cost estimated at \$35,000 (not including the paving).

"Charles VanDamme, president of the Richmond-San Rafael ferry, will donate \$2,000 . . . Standard Oil will contribute \$10,000, and the city will take \$12,000 from the general fund. An assessment district will be created to cover the rest of the cost."

—November 18, 1924

#### HOLLYWOOD DIVORCE IN RICHMOND . . .

The above mentioned Charles VanDamme was divorced by his wife, Lillie Louise, who said, "A visit to Hollywood a year ago completely changed the life of VanDamme from a tractable and loving husband into a cold and indifferent one."

—November 21, 1924

JOHN WHEATLEY

Successor to

Telephone 661

#### WYLIES'S CAFE

HIGH CLASS IN EVERY RESPECT

Indoor and Outdoor Catering

55 Washington Ave. Point Richmond, Cal.

1913 ad, courtesy Richmond Museum

#### 50 YEARS AGO .....

If you want a traditional Thanksgiving Feast, here are some recipes from the November 23, 1934 Independent:

##### THE MENU:

Stuffed Celery	Baked Squash with Pineapple
Green and Ripe Olives	Holiday Salad
Roast Stuffed Turkey	Parker House Rolls
Giblet Gravy	Pumpkin Pie
Mashed Potatoes	American Cheese
Coffee	

##### STUFFED CELERY:

1 pkg. Camembert Cheese Spread  
½ Cup Heavy Cream  
1 Cup chopped California Walnuts  
Salt to taste  
1 Tbs. lemon juice  
few drops Tabasco Sauce  
Paprika

Mix together the cheese and cream until thoroughly blended. Add the chopped nuts, lemon juice, tabasco sauce and salt to taste. Fill small uniform stalks of celery with the mixture and sprinkle with paprika.

##### TURKEY DRESSING:

Mix 4 cups bread crumbs (no crusts) with 2 tsp. salt, ¼ tsp. pepper, 1½ tsp. poultry seasoning and 4 Tbs. finely chopped parsley. Moisten with 1 Cup hot milk or broth to which 6 Tbs. melted fat have been added. Add 2½ Cups finely chopped boiled chestnuts. Mix well. Dry turkey well inside. Stuff. Sew up Turkey, place in roasting pan and roast until tender and brown.

##### SQUASH with PINEAPPLE:

Halve, remove seeds and steam 1 medium-size winter squash. Peel and slice ½ inch thick. Arrange squash in layers in a baking dish, sprinkle each layer with bits of butter and 4 Tbs. crushed canned pineapple. When dish is full (squash should be top layer) place in a moderate oven and bake about 1 hour.

##### HOLIDAY SALAD:

###### First Layer:

1 Tbs. gelatin  
1/3 Cup cold water  
1 Cup seasoned strained tomato juice

###### Second Layer:

1 Tbs. Unflavored Gelatin  
1/3 Cup cold water  
1 Cup Boiling water



2 Tbs. Vinegar or lemon juice  
 1 Tbs. Sugar  
 ½ tsp. Salt  
 1 Cup finely shredded Cabbage  
 ¼ Cup finely shredded Green Pepper  
 ½ Cup finely cut celery

Soak gelatin for the first layer in cold water 5 minutes. Add seasoned tomato juice, puree or soup and stir until mixed. Pour into a small square or loaf pan and chill until firm.

Pour over this the second layer made as follows: Soak gelatin in cold water 5 minutes. Add boiling water and stir until mixed, season with vinegar or lemon juice, sugar and salt. Cool. Add shredded cabbage, pepper and celery. Pour over tomato-gelatin mixture. Chill until both layers are firm. Cut into squares and serve on lettuce with mayonnaise.

*Bon Appetit!*

### ATLANTIS ARISING?

"The mystery of the strange reddish walnut-like objects found floating along the shore of Stinson beach yesterday, found its solution in Richmond today with the disclosure by officials of the Richmond Pressed Brick company here that the round objects were not lichee nuts or sub-ocean golf balls but discarded paving material once destined for use as pavement on the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge."

*—November 27, 1934*

*—Teresa Albro*

### 40 YEARS AGO ...

#### WASHINGTON PTA TO HOLD RAG DRIVE ...

"Plans for a November 10 rag drive were discussed . . . at the regular meeting. Mrs. Rosemary Ciabotteri is chairman of the event.

"Two programs for morning and afternoon classes were presented, with a tea for teachers also held." Songs and recitations, a flag drill, a Virginia reel and a cakewalk were presented by students.

"During the tea, Mrs. Dorothy Wilkinson, principal, introduced old and new teachers."

*—November 4, 1944*

### NO LIQUOR SOLD DURING ELECTION

"No liquor can be sold in Richmond, or elsewhere in the state, during the hours the polls are open in tomorrow's Presidential election.

"Under California's state law, all such places must remain closed until the balloting is ended at 7 p.m. tomorrow night."

*—November 6, 1944*

### 30 YEARS AGO ...

#### POSTMASTER AND MRS. ALLYN RETURN FROM MOTOR TOUR ...

"The best part of their month's nationwide tour for Postmaster and Margaret Allyn of 22 Idaho Avenue, was returning home to Richmond, they declared today. The prominent duo motored through Nevada, Wyoming, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan . . . Driving on to Niagara Falls, . . . into Canada, south to New York, A tour of Civil War battlegrounds . . . Washington D.C., then a brief visit with Don Bernes at Annapolis. . . naval cadet son of Al and Jean Bernes and grandson of the Louis Bernes of the Point. Going on to Philadelphia Gust attended the Postmasters' national conclave. they drove on to Stamford, Conn., then back to Washington D.C., where they were televised with Ed Sullivan on his "Toast of the Town" program."

*—November 2, 1954*

#### LOCAL SPORTSMAN GETS NATIONAL RECOGNITION ...

"Rocky Gibbs, one of the old time active members of the Richmond Rod and Gun Club, who has served as Range Officer and handloading consultant for many moons, has attained national recognition in the field of handloading and rifle development . . . inventing and perfecting the Gibbs 'Wildecut' case-former, which he now supplies to handloaders of rifle ammo throughout the nation."

*—November 3, 1954*



## 20 YEARS AGO ...

### REZONING IN POINT . . .

"Proposed rezoning in Point Richmond . . . will be under protest before the Richmond Planning Commission when it meets Thursday night.

"In the public hearings . . . representatives of Santa Fe Railway will object to rezoning of 40 acres of filled tidelands between Garrard boulevard and the Santa Fe tracks.

"Now zoned research and manufacturing, plans call for rezoning it to residential with 6,000 square foot minimum lot sizes.

"Adolph Tiscornia, San Francisco land owner who has extensive real estate holdings in Point Richmond, is protesting the reduction of density in multiples from 1,250 square feet per dwelling unit to 1,900 square feet per dwelling unit."

— November 17, 1964

— Pam Wilson

## QUILTS IN RICHMOND HISTORY

Do you have or know of quilts made in Richmond at any time during its history? We are organizing a show of Richmond quilts for next summer at the Richmond Museum. Hopefully, every period and all types of people will be represented, with information and memorabilia to enrich the story. If you can help us find Richmond quilts of any size, please call Rosemary Corbin at 235-5779. Don't worry if they are worn or not perfect specimens. We want a well-rounded show. We are not looking for quilts brought to Richmond from elsewhere. This will not be just a quilt show. It will be an illustration of one aspect of Richmond's past — reflected in the work of her needle artists.

— Rosemary Corbin

## AREA HISTORICAL NOTES

### RICHMOND MUSEUM . . .

The Annual Collectors' Treasure and Junk Fair, an increasingly popular event, is a benefit for Museum programs. Plan to attend if you like to find treasures.

The Fair will be held Saturday and Sunday, November 10 and 11; from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, and noon to 4:00 Sunday.

The Museum is at 400 Nevin Avenue.

### SAN PABLO MUSEUM . . .

Rapidly making additions to their displays — furnishing the Blume House and accepting more items for the Alvarado Adobe — the San Pablo Museum would be a most interesting place to visit. Anyone interested in a group tour can let us know at our November 15 meeting.

More information about the past is being uncovered all the time. Recently two charts, dated 1850, were donated to the San Pablo Museum by East Bay Blueprint Company. Showing San Francisco Bay and the Farallon Islands, they were done before the first Coast Surveys in this area. In San Pablo Bay area, there is a road leading from the village of San Antonio to the rancho of Don Castro, and a village at Point Pinole. Point Richmond is designated as Point Stephens. (On earlier maps, Juan Crespi calls it Point Huchiun, and the Ayala map denotes it as Point San Antonio.) Point Molate is named Patapsco Point but San Pablo and Castro Points are as we know them.

## RICHMOND TRANSFER CO.

Freight and Baggage Promptly Hauled. Piano and Furniture Moving.

PHONE BLACK 193

CHURCH & PURSELL

from the Point Richmond Leader, 1902  
courtesy, Richmond Museum



## A POINT RICHMOND THANK YOU TO JIM AND VIRGINIA SPILMAN

As Jim and Virginia unfold Jim's 80th birthday quilt, the room fills with the love and joy shared for all these years with relatives, friends and neighbors. Jim Spilman's life and handiwork have touched more lives and homes in Point Richmond than a short interview can reveal.

In 1956 the Spilmans left their farm in Bolivar, Missouri to make their home in Point Richmond. After a year of living at 25 Santa Fe, they bought their home on Scenic Avenue and settled in with their three children. They didn't miss gathering and hauling bushels of pickling cucumbers, but all of them yearned for the open spaces of the farm.

That first summer and fall they spent most of their free time at Standard's Rod and Gun Club. The openness of the club's reserve helped to span the distance between rural and urban life. New friends were made around the picnic table and the boys played tennis and basketball. Jim was a regular at the horseshoe tournaments. In September the big company picnic always brought excitement with bingo games, door prizes, free ice cream and hot dogs.

Social contacts came at different places in their new community. Keller's Beach was still privately owned in the 1950's with a makeshift boardwalk which led to a small bar over the water. Here a small group of men would gather in the evening to sip beer, talk, and watch Al Frosini waterski off the wooden ramp. Al developed quite a water-skiing style and a social following. It was at Al's Restaurant that the Richmond Water Ski Club was formed. Al still skis competitively, and last year was in charge of the water skiing events in the Senior Olympics.

Further down the shore where the Miller-Knox Park is located today, the Spilman children walked among the reeds and swamp water to watch rabbits and birds. Virginia recalls even taking her grandchildren to this refuge away from the urban sidewalks.

In the evenings the street and sidewalks of Scenic Avenue were filled with children playing. But in time the street quieted and families began to leave Point Richmond. Then, Jim's firstlove, to restore, repair and refurbish homes began to surface, even before he retired from Chevron Research in 1969.

One of Jim's early restorations came when his son bought the Post Office building in town and discovered one of the walls had shifted off the foundation. Jim reasoned, "The force that had shifted the wall could be used to move it back onto the foundation." So they proceeded to use a series of jacks between the two buildings and applied sufficient pressure to push the errant wall into place.

Many times Jim has used the good common sense of his early Texas years to ferret out the problem that has been hidden from other minds. The City of Richmond refused to grant final permission for *Sonrisa* gift shop and pottery to open last year because water continued to run down the inside walls. Plumbers and roofers had sought the source of the difficulty but without luck. Camille Zulpo presented the problem to Jim who looked on the flat low roof for the solution. Presto! what had eluded all others was immediately apparent to Jim.

"A barrel of water lay spread on the flat roof without any drains," he recalls. "The only way out for the water was through a small drain hole to the roof next door, but the tin lining on the drain hole had rusted away and the roof water ran down the inside wall."



So, with a small pipe to line the drain the problem was solved and *Sonrisa* opened its doors. Camille like so many others in the Point has been touched by the clear, practical approach that Jim offers to problems. His probing approach also reaches into the future of Point Richmond.

"It would be nice to have a bank, a good hardware store, maybe a drugstore," he said. "Otherwise, I'd like to see Point Richmond just like it is. I think we are fortunate to have settled in this area."

Virginia is equally firm in her assessment. But to this she adds, "It's the weather that makes Point Richmond such a perfect spot."

The last year Jim and Virginia were in Bolivar, Missouri the temperature was over 100° every day but people kept threshing and hauling oats.

"Coming to Point Richmond was the best move we ever made," Jim concludes. "We have lived here longer than anywhere else in our lives."

And in turn, Point Richmond celebrates their decision to leave Missouri with a great "Thank you" to Jim and Virginia Spilman.

—*Alexandra Gautraud*

In response to a note in the 'A-Mid Trivia' column about Foxes in Point Richmond, Bruce and Sandra Beyeart of Belvedere Avenue inform us that Foxes are relatively common in the Point, and have been for some time. Fox sitings have been noted by observant Pointers for several years. The Beyearts have 'adopted' three of them who come to visit almost nightly, and are fed peanuts in the shell and berries. They have named one of them "Cinnabar". One was recently found dead near Nicholl Nob, and they hope that it died of natural causes.

## SPINOLA'S HISTORY In The Point CELEBRATED

One hundred seventy five friends, relatives and school chums gathered at the fiftieth Wedding Anniversary party honoring Joseph and Elsie Peterson Spinola at Linsley Hall on Washington Avenue.

The long time Point residents were feted by their two sons, Donald and Joel, their spouses, and grandchildren, Cynthia, who coordinated the affair. Stephanie and Stacie Spinola. Guests were treated to champagne, dinner and a five-tiered wedding cake.

Mr. Spinola, who worked for Standard Oil for 37 years, has been a member of Pipefitters and Plumbers Union no. 159 for 36 years, is a member of the Oakland Scottish Rite, and in 1981 he received the Hiram award from the Point Masonic Lodge.

Elsie attended Washington Elementary School, and was delighted later to be elected President of Washington's PTA. She received the PTA's Service Award in 1951.

The Spinolas have been active members of the Point Masonic Lodge, the Eastern Star and Shiloah Shrine, where Elsie served as Scribe for nine years. In the good old days they were also actively involved in the Boy Scout Troop 111.

Congratulatory gifts included a framed Certificate of Commendation from Supervisor Tom Powers and greetings from President Reagan and Governor Deukmejian.

Fiftieth Wedding Anniversaries are a tradition in Elsie and Joe's families; both of their parents celebrated theirs, also!

For many years, passers-by on Washington Avenue have admired the vegetable garden flourishing under their care. They have shared their vegetables and the delicious breads and goodies from their kitchen with their many friends.



## CHURCHES

*Church history is rich with contributions of women. One of the church groups was the Home Missionary Society of the First Methodist Church, whose history is reflected in the minutes, printed below from the stiff card-board-covered notebook which was purchased from "Schoen's Pharmacy in the Point". This is the third installment.*

Point Richmond, Calif. March 29th, 1907

The Home Missionary Society of the M. E. Church met at the home of Mrs. Bradleys. The meeting was opened by the President in singing and prayer and all join in the Lord's Prayer. The minutes of our last meeting was read. Then Mrs. Younglove spoke of the mite boxes to be sent to those in need. Mrs. Palmer paid \$1.00 in advance of this meeting. New Business one Bill presented which the Ladies Aid paid. The Missionary Society owes the Ladies Aid \$3.04. Then the question was discussed (sic) and on motion and carried to have the Missionary Society independent from the Ladies Aid. One new name Mrs. N.J.Pritchard then on motion and carried they will have their Regular Missionary

Meetings on the 3 tuesday of each month at Half Past 2 o'clock. The mite boxes was distributed. Then a reading on questions and answers on missions also a reading by Mrs. N.J.Pritchard. Refreshments were served for which the amount was \$1.10.

L.C.Pritchard, Sect

Point Richmond, Calif May 16, 1907

Met at the church an informal meeting of the Missionary Society only 5 members Being present. Mrs. Worth district President was present and gave a very interesting talk on mission work. The Missionary district meeting will be held in Oakland May 9th all members are cordially invited to attend. Mrs. G.Gerard and Mrs. Pritchard elected delegates. Mrs Mount and Mrs. N.J.Pritchard alternate delegates.

*(Minutes not signed and printed as written)*

—Mid Dornan

## THANKSGIVING SERVICES . . .

The second annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve worship service will be held on Wednesday night, November 21, at 7:30. The location will be announced.

The Rev. Russ Moore of the Point will officiate. The service will follow the traditional evening prayer service of the Episcopal Church. Call 236-7511 for information.



Residence T. D. Higgins.



Residence Wm. Flanagan.  
Residence Wm. Atkinson



Residence J. A. Whiteside.

CAN YOU IDENTIFY THESE HOUSES? THE PICTURES WERE TAKEN IN 1901  
from Contra Costa County-Under the Vitascope, courtesy, Richmond Museum



## A-MID TRIVIA

Reba, Jim and baby Colin Downs from Niceville, Florida spent several weeks visiting Reba's mother, Velma Slagle in the Point and the Larry Slagles in San Pablo as well as their many friends here. It was 9 month old Colin's first visit. Jim, graduate of the Air Force Academy in Colorado is stationed in Florida.

-o-

Have you played the new game sensation 'Trivial Pursuit'? — Hardly on the market long enough to become a well established fad it is already being put into computer form for people who really want to become experts at — trivia!

-o-

Love comes in many forms, and for some needy people around the world it is a warm blanket! Members of the Point Methodist Church are purchasing blankets for \$5.00 from Church World Service, and are setting a goal of 40 blankets to be sent out from the Church. If you wish to help, you may send a donation to the Methodist Church, P.O.Box 237, Pt. Richmond 94807.

-o-

Q: Why was the first week of November chosen as the time for national elections?

A: Because it came after the harvests and before roads got too gummed up to make it into town. An 1845 law set the time.

-o-

Good news — Richard Wilson of Western Drive has been released from the hospital after two months, and is now on the mend at home.

-o-

People watching . . .

No binoculars were needed to appreciate the colorful plumage (umbrellas and rain-coats) donned by school children during the season's first rain.

Seen only near schools, School Crossing

Guards can be identified by their bright yellow and red uniforms and helmets. Though their calls are similar, some take their responsibility seriously, while others playfully enjoy their sense of power.

Usually only seen between 8 and 9:00 a.m., their pattern leading from Atchison Village to the Point and back, along Garrard Boulevard, walkers and joggers are appearing in increasing numbers. Especially colorful are three gentlemen who don holiday hats to match the seasons.

-o-

The East Bay Regional Park District needs contributions to help sustain a tradition of public service. Useful gifts to enhance their programs could include rain jackets and rubber boots in assorted sizes to loan to youngsters in wet weather, binoculars of any kind (used or new) to be kept in visitor centers for short-term loan. For more information on these and other park needs, contact Linda Chew, chief of development and public information at 531-9300.

-o-

Answers to questions you may (or may not) have asked . . .

There are 220 students enrolled at Washington Elementary School this year....

The blue reflector dots at seemingly random spots on our streets designate the location of fire hydrants, so that firemen can find them quickly at night....

According to Social Security, individuals 65 and over receiving Social Security are allowed to earn up to \$6,960 in 1984.....

28,000 miles of paper was used to print 10 million copies of this year's voter pamphlets, which weighed 4 million pounds and cost us \$1.9 million — have you taken the time to get your money's worth by reading the one sent to you?

-o-

Linda Mitchell assisted by Shirley Butt, led the worship service on Laity Sunday at



the Methodist Church celebrating the ministry of lay persons in the congregation.

-o-

There is always something to be thankful for if you take time to look for it — next time you look in the mirror think how nice it is that wrinkles don't hurt!

-o-

Our American heritage is best expressed this month, when Thanksgiving brings families together in prayer and gratitude for the many blessings of this land.

-o-

The Bruno Family — Tony, Nancy, Amy and Rebecca — will be missed by friends and neighbors in the Point. They have moved to Lafayette.

—Mid Dornan (234-5334,eves)

## CRISIS AND SUICIDE INTERVENTION

A successful support program for unemployed workers is being expanded to cover West Contra Costa County. Volunteers are being sought to serve as counselors in this new program.

The program, called ASK for US, helps people deal with adverse financial, physical and emotional effects of unemployment. It is funded by the Private Industry Council and Board of Supervisors of the County.

To date, more than 1,000 people have been served in other parts of the County. Volunteers to serve in Richmond will undergo a two-week training program. Classes begin Tuesday, October 30, 1984 at 1 p.m. in the Richmond Employment Development Department Office at 217 Harbour Way. After completing training, volunteers work a weekly 3-hour shift, 9 to 12 or 1 to 4 weekdays. Those interested should call Mike Rogers or Michelle Brown at 939-1916.

## ART AMIDST THE TANKS

Most of us who travel down Dornan Drive either stop and turn around before we pass the aging Bray Oil tanks or avert our eyes in reverence to the view beyond.

That may be the reason why, though they have been there for a year, the sculptures tucked around the yard, emerging like blooming succulents from infertile ground, have been noticed by few people.

Sculptors Brad Sinclair and Joe Hawley spend much of their time here. Brad, who lives in San Anselmo, works mostly in marble; Joe, who lives in San Francisco and is an instructor at San Francisco State, produces massive ceramic pieces. With their Doberman, "Olive Oil", they enjoy the space the large yard and warehouse afford.

Brad and Joe plan to use the former office building for a gallery and reception area, allowing those interested to view some of their finished sculptures. However, Joe says, most of their work is done on commission, and is removed from the yard as soon as it is completed.

—Donna Roselius

## SCOUT TROOP 111 —

### A Project to Help Us Help Others

As a community service project, boys from Scout Troop 111 will be distributing bags for the Salvation Army on Saturday, November 3. Now is the time to clean out your closets, attics, garages, cupboards or whatever and make room for the holiday gifts that will soon be appearing. You help others as well as yourself. The Scouts will then pick up the filled bags on the following Saturday, November 10.

If you have articles too large for the bags, call Scoutmaster Fred Hart at 235-1046. Let's help the boys help us help others!

—Mid Dornan



## POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

October was National Crime Prevention Month and in keeping with that emphasis, the Point Richmond Neighborhood Council's October meeting focused on crime prevention. Special guests at the meeting were Ernestine Outlin, Crime Prevention Coordinator for the City of Richmond and Officer Patrick O'Keefe from the Richmond Police Department. Mrs. Outlin described the Neighborhood Watch Program, Operation I.D., and discussed various security devices.

Richmond's Crime Prevention Program is interested in developing block groups throughout the city. These groups serve as a vehicle for encouraging people to know their neighbors and watch out for each other. An aware and supportive neighborhood is usually the best deterrent to crime. It was stressed that if you notice any suspicious activities in your neighborhood, you should call the police to investigate. The old adage "better safe than sorry" certainly applies when preventing crime. For assistance in starting your block, contact Mrs. Outlin at 231-2018.

The City is also working on other programs to improve neighborhoods, including a mandatory garbage ordinance and an ordinance to restrict public nuisances such as abandoned vehicles and trash in yards.

Our next Neighborhood Council meeting will be held in January, 1985.

—Janet Lyons

## STALKING BUSINESS IN POINT RICHMOND

### BUSINESS ASSOCIATION . . .

The big topic at the Point Richmond Business Association meeting of October 10, 1984, was the upcoming Indian Statue Dedication Day. The event was a big success and is covered elsewhere in this month's *This Point in Time*.

The featured speaker was Markku Pellanne, director of the Richmond Seaman's Center. The Center, which is located on Canal Boulevard, is a non-denominational Christian organization that provides a home away from home for crew members of ships from all over the world. The Seaman's Center recently lost the use of the spacious quarters (originally a shipyard infirmary) leased for \$1.00 a year from Pasha. The Baptist Church in Point Richmond was targeted as a replacement until, at the last minute, Pasha volunteered another, smaller building in the same Canal Boulevard area.

Besides providing religious materials for visiting crew members, the Seaman's Center provides a phone for calling home, and arranges quick tours of the Bay Area. Because of the high cost of dockage fees, ships remain in port only the few hours it takes to load or unload cargo. Often, Point Richmond is the only part of the Bay Area crew members have time to visit.

The next Business Association meeting will be on Wednesday, November 14 at the



Tilden & Eakle Lumber Company, 1901. Courtesy Richmond Museum



Hotel Mac Banquet Room. Items on the agenda include reports on the Indian Statue Dedication Day and progress toward repairing the Railroad Avenue parking project landscaping.

## WEST CONTRA COSTA BAY SHORE COUNCIL . . .

A group of Richmond residents and business people have formed an organization called the West Contra Costa Bay Shore Council which has as its principal objective ensuring that the Richmond shoreline will be developed in the public interest.

Charter members of the group include Bob McNeil, Bert Clausen, Bill Bottoms, Janet Lyons, Ellie Strauss, Jerry Feagley, Tom Powers, Hans Shaper, David MacDiarmid, John Knox, Dan Seifers and Tom Butt.

Additional members will be sought in a membership drive commencing in November, when all shoreline area businesses and residents will be contacted.

At the October 3 meeting, the Bay Shore Council charter members elected Tom Butt as Chairman, Bob McNeil as Vice-Chairman, Muriel Clausen as Secretary and Jerry Feagley as Treasurer.

Following are excerpts from an article in the October 10, 1984 Oakland Tribune about the Bay Shore Council:

*Butt describes the council as a citizens' group "dedicated to development of the Richmond shoreline in the public interest." Other members include former state Assemblyman John Knox, and Richmond City Councilman David MacDiarmid, a builder, and former president of the East Bay Municipal Utilities District employee union.*

*"Richmond's shoreline is one of the best sites for job-creating industry, housing, recreation and international trade facilities in the state," Butt said. "It is a major city asset. Its potential as prime mover in solving the city's employment and revenue problems is tremendous. We want to see it happen now, not 20 or 30 years down the line."*

*Concerned with shoreline from Point San Pablo*

*to Point Isabel facing San Francisco Bay, the council hired Carol Crowther, who has a background in legislative affairs and public interest projects to do an economic study on a portion of the shoreline.*

*"The committee is made up of experienced business people," Butt said, "and we're not announcing a master plan for the shoreline. In the next couple of months we plan to follow up funding solicitations with a public meeting. Downtown will perhaps look at the council as a bunch of Point Richmondites who want to preserve their view. That's not the issue."*

*Butt said, "scandal, shame and mismanagement" marred shoreline development from its inception. He said lack of "coordination and cooperation" resulted in a heterogeneous mixture of housing, tank farms, scrap yards, marinas and shipping facilities.*

*"The city really has ultimate control," he said, "but all they're doing is reacting to various proposals. It no longer is taking an active part in guiding development. Each project is planned and executed in a vacuum."*

*"Richmond needs to plan for the long range," he said. "We need to cooperate on some immediate problems like Petromark expansion, the port, Marina Bay, and the dislocation that construction of the Hoffman Freeway will bring.*

*"We hope we can help city officials, business people and other citizens cooperate in taking a new look at the shoreline. The stakes in terms of employment and desperately needed city revenues are enormous."*

*-Tom Butt*



October 18, 1984: Redding the Statue. David Vincent almost atop the pedestal



## AT THE MASQUERS . . .

### BELL, BOOK AND CANDLE

The Masquers winter production is a special comedy, *Bell, Book and Candle*, by John Van Druten, about the misadventures of a modern witch living in a Manhattan apartment. When she falls in love with a publisher living in the same building, the action begins, and involves other witches, warlocks and humans, as well as a clever cat named Pyewacket.

The play opens November 9 and runs through December 15, with matinees on November 18, December 2 and 9, as well as the regular Friday and Saturday evening performances at 8:30.

If you enjoy being bewitched, bothered and bewildered, join the Fall witch watchers and have fun. The show is directed by Jo Camp. Reservations and information may be obtained at 526-1038, day or night.

### AUDITIONS . . .

Auditions for the Masquers' production of *6 Rms Riv'ra* by Bob Randall will be held November 19 and 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Place. There are parts for three men, ages 30 - 40; three women ages 25 - 35; one male 45 plus and one female 50 plus. The director for this comedy will be Rhoda Plymack. Phone 654-7752 for information.

### CREATIVE DRAMATICS for YOUNG PEOPLE . . .

Thursday afternoon classes are being held at the Community Center at 3:30, directed by Shirlee Mannheimer. Involving pantomime, improvisation and theater games, the ten-week course will culminate in a celebration on December 15, for which students will create the costumes, scenery and script. Shirlee has also been teaching drama in area schools, with emphasis on puppetry and film making.

## ONSTAGE GAMES OFFSTAGE

A workshop directed by Chris Forest is being held on Tuesday nights for adults, at 8:00 at the Community Center. For information about the classes, call 232-3888.

## WEST SIDE LIBRARY

West Side Library enjoyed participating in the gala event for the dedication of the Indian statue on October 20. Approximately 130 people stopped in, many for their first visit inside our doors. It was interesting to hear some of the older residents reminisce as they looked at old photos of prior locations of West Side. The first budget for this branch, 1910, produced some amused expressions as one read of a total budget of \$182.50. This display will remain through November, so please stop in if you missed it on the Twentieth.

Remember if you have read a book review or heard about a "great" book from a friend and you'd like to read it yourself, you can fill out a request/reserve form. This is sent to the Main Library. If the book is not owned by Richmond Public Library, the form will be sent to the Inter-Library Loan department. West Side patrons have received books from both academic and public libraries in California, i.e. U. C. Davis, Long Beach and Beverly Hills Public and as far away as Cortland, New York from the library of the State University of New York located there.

Books are pulled from the New Books section at the Main Library twice a month. At West Side, they are located on the New Book shelves near the circulation desk. These books stay here for two months, so the next time you're in take a minute to browse in this area. It's always changing.

-Jan Burdick 17



## THE WASHINGTON (School) REPORT

This month I'd like to give you an impression of what the Resource Teachers do at Washington School.

Suzanne Chinsky, our Resource Specialist, works with children of average or above average intelligence who are for various reasons working below their grade level. She makes it possible for them to start from their achievement level and reteaches skills they haven't yet acquired. Each child has an individualized plan that has been fully discussed with his or her parents. Every effort is made to help students reach a high degree of success, improving their chances of re-entry in the regular classroom program. Ms. Chinsky sees each child one to two hours a day during school hours, and covers regular classroom subjects.

Lynn Jones is our Reading Resource Teacher. After evaluating the needs of each child, she works with them in small groups to bring their reading skills to their grade-level. An example of the progress motivated by reading that is relevant to students' interest was seen in a recent "Doughnut Day" sponsored by Ms. Jones' class. After reading about the predicament of a boy suddenly left in charge of his Uncle's doughnut factory, students got recipes, made (and ate) their own doughnuts. They then set up a temporary business, buying doughnuts from a bakery, advertising and selling them after lunch to other students. It was not only a positive experience, but it involved a great deal of reading which was necessary for the success of their business venture.

Greta Gordon is our Speech Therapist. She comes to Washington twice a week to work with students who have language or speech problems. Ms. Gordon works with one or two students at a time, assisting them to overcome stuttering, slurred speech, voca-

bulary problems or the inability to organize their thoughts for effective oral communication.

Mr. Curtis Vaughn, our Guidance Counselor, comes to Washington School each Tuesday to consult with our teachers on effective ways to deal with children who are displaying unacceptable behavior. He will also meet directly with some children whose problems can't easily be solved within the classroom, and often consults with families' counselors, making every effort to help disruptive students become productive members of their classes.

School Nurse, Pat Gates, comes to our school once a week, and is responsible for checking the records of immunizations and the state-required physicals. She also administers visual and hearing tests, sees children about a variety of health problems, and is in charge of health education. She gives students information about nutrition, exercise and substance abuse. She speaks to fifth and sixth grades about growth and development. Since not all emergencies can be scheduled for the one day a week Ms. Gates is here, she makes sure that first aid supplies are available to the school staff.

Also available once a week is the librarian, Mrs. Stuckus. The music teacher, Jim Martinez, comes to us on Monday mornings to direct a band for fifth and sixth graders. Natalie Knox works as a therapist for visually impaired students, and Paula Adsit works with children who have special speech problems.

All of these teachers perform a special service directly to our students, and those who work with students having problems are committed to promoting a positive attitude and an improved self image in their students. Sounds like a winning combination to me!

*-Linda Mitchell*



## LETTERS

A letter from Mr. J. Savill of Burlingame, accompanying his membership dues, notes that he sometimes takes tours with Betty's Tours, but missed the one that came here in August. He sent copies of a page from a 1902 Point Richmond Record. Among the stories was a report on the new Santa Fe depot, "long promised" and soon to become a reality. Another article promises that a trolley line would soon connect Point Richmond and Oakland. An editorial states that Point Richmond should have a public wharf. Information for our archives is always appreciated!

-[]-

A copy of the following letter to the Planning Department of Richmond was sent to us by the West Contra Costa Bay Shore Council:

Dear Mr. Woodward:

We realize that the October 4 deadline for submitting written comments on the Petromark EIR has passed, but an additional item has come to our attention of such importance that we feel it should, if at all possible, be addressed.

No mention has been made of the historical significance of this particular site, although its own unique history places it in one of the most important roles in our City's history. In fact, the City of Richmond was named after it.

In the nineteenth century, the point of land now proposed for the Petromark Expansion was known and identified on maps as "Point Richmond". It was the single most striking feature in this area's coastline. In fact, its distinguishing geographic features, protrusion into the Bay and adjacent deep water, caused it to be selected, in 1897, as the western terminus of the Atchafalaya, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway.

The railroad completed a ferry terminal at Point Richmond on July 3, 1900, where

passenger trains were shipped across the Bay to San Francisco until April of 1933. Even carloads of convicts including such characters as Machine Gun Kelly and Pretty Boy Floyd used the ferry to reach Alcatraz without leaving the special lock-up prison cars. The pier and ferry continued to be used for freight cars until it burned earlier this year.

Shortly after the railroad arrived, a town grew up to serve it as well as the nearby Pacific Oil Refinery (later assimilated into Standard Oil). The town took on the name of "Point Richmond" while the original Point Richmond became "Ferry Point".

When the town grew into a city of 2,118 inhabitants and incorporated in 1905, the name stuck but was shortened to "Richmond".

In 1978, the original town of Point Richmond was recognized for its uniquely preserved turn-of-the-century appearance by becoming successfully nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Although Ferry Point, the original "Point Richmond", is not included in the historic district boundaries, it certainly would be eligible for such inclusion. The old ferry slip may be eligible for inclusion in either the historic district or individually in the National Register of Historic Places. It may also be eligible to become a State historic landmark or a point of historical interest.

It seems clear that the historic associations of the City of Richmond's most prominent geographical feature and its namesake should be carefully considered before the original Point Richmond is consigned forever to the use of a second-rank tank farm.

We respectfully request that this information be transmitted to the EIR consultant as well as to the City Council and Port Commission of the City of Richmond.

Sincerely,  
Thomas K. Butt, AIA



## DEATHS

Eleanor M. Armstrong died October 19, at the age of 60. Eleanor came to Richmond as the bride of Louis Armstrong, native Point resident, and in 1952 they built their home on Golden Gate Avenue where she resided until her death. Graduating from Mt. Zion Hospital in San Francisco, she worked for many years for Drs. Gadwood and Whitson. Eleanor is survived by sisters Lydia Haller, San Leandro; Erna Glanville, Palo Alto; Loretta Hipps, Florida and brothers Walter Schreck, Redwood City and Edwin Schreck, San Jose; and her husband Louis and their daughter Susan.

Rebecca Kakos, long a resident of the Point, died on October 1 at the age of 72. Her sister Helen and brother Andrew live in Point Richmond; and she is also survived by three other brothers.

## SPECIAL DAYS IN NOVEMBER . . .

- 6 - ELECTION DAY
- 11 - Veterans' Day (Legal Holiday)
- 14-21 - Elementary School Conference days
- 14 - Elementary Report Cards
- 16 - Secondary School Report Cards
- 22 - THANKSGIVING DAY
- 22, 23 - School Holiday

## NOVEMBERS PAST . . .

- 1, 1964 - Postal money order system began
- 7, 1874 - Harper's Weekly ran first cartoon depicting the elephant as Republican party symbol
- 9, 1924 - Nellie Ross of Wyoming elected First Woman Governor
- 10, 1922 - John Nicholl, jr. born
- 12, 1628 - Mayflower arrived at Cape Cod Harbor
- 13, 1894 - California adopted a state constitution
- 13, 1890 - Peanut Butter invented in St. Louis
- 21, 1877 - Thomas Edison announced invention of his 'talking machine'.

## POINTS IN THE FUTURE . . .

- Nov. 3 - Nov. 10 - Troop 111-clean-up program - bags for Salvation Army
- Nov. 6 - 12 noon, West Side Improvement Club meeting.
- Nov. 9 - Dec. 15 - Bell, Book and Candle at the Masquers
- Nov. 10, 11 - Annual Collectors' Treasure & Junk Fair, Richmond Museum.
- Nov. 14 - Point Richmond Business Assoc. meeting, noon, Hotel Mac. noon.
- Nov. 15 - POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION meeting, 7:30 p.m. Linsley Hall
- Nov. 19, 20 - Auditions for the Masquers

### Personal Historical Note

My face in the mirror  
isn't wrinkled or drawn  
My house isn't dusty,  
the cobwebs are gone.  
My garden is lovely  
and so is my lawn.  
I don't think I should  
put my glasses back on!  
(anon.)

## HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY . . .

Jack Elle	Clare Doherty
Kevin Fong	Margaret Doherty
Mary Ann Gaspard	Paul Cort
Kirk Weirick	Ann Greiner
Lynn Darling	Jason McGill
Chris Darling	Craig Seaborg
Gertrude Paasch	Elsie Spinola
Kenny Paasch	Bo Amantite
Adeline Miller	Marianne Forbes
Hal Marshall	Betty Dornan
Dorothy McCutcheon	Dennis Dornan
Jan Overholtzer	



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Editorial Staff (Board members):

Donna Roselius, Teresa Albro, Michelle Brown,  
Dierdre Cerkanowicz, Mid Dornan, Lucretia Ed-  
wards, Paula Ferguson, Frankie Greenlaw, Liz  
McDonald, Pam Wilson: Trannie Dornan, advisor

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Please mail articles and items of interest to:  
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Questions? Call 235-4222.

Items may also be dropped off at Richmond  
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