

# THIS POINT

in time

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL. IX No. 1

MAY, 1990

ONE DOLLAR



COMPLIMENTS OF

**RICHMOND SUPPLY CO.**

J. Q. BLACK, Manager

**COAL, WOOD, HAY AND GRAIN**

OFFICE, 133 RICHMOND AVENUE

PHONE BLACK 416

POINT RICHMOND, CAL.

1905



## *Going...Going...NOT GONE!*

What difference does it make to a community or individuals if an old, unused building is razed? How important is history preservation? What value is nostalgia? When these questions reference the oldest commercial building in the Point built around 1903, it becomes extremely important. And, when that building is to be destroyed momentarily, the issue becomes imperative for action.

Located in our National Historic Register area, it is appropriate it not only be saved and restored, but used as a room to further display local history. A place easily accessible to the interested passing public. It is appropriate that the Point Richmond History Association be the leader in this endeavor. Being a well established, competent, capable and committed group of volunteers, their interest is solely in preserving and maintaining local history. (And, ironically, in some cases, making it.)

This building represents an architecture of the 1900's with its one room, wooden frame construction. A building fronted with either dirt or boardwalks and dirt streets with horse and wagons, often mudded with the rains. The building has survived the 1906 earthquake... both World Wars... the great depression. To survive present progress of landfill construction, it had to be moved!

And, a decision was needed NOW!

The History Association is committed to this venture. I admit to an even more personal commitment. The Richmond Supply Company, owned by the late Robert Dornan and his wife Trannie (Freeman) were pioneers of the area with a history as the oldest continuing family business that began in this little black building. I think future generations will be appreciative of the efforts of todays volunteers as we have been grateful to our forefathers. Little did J.Q. Black realize in the early 1900's when he built his office that one day it would be such an important building. The History Association was in error when the decision to move the building was made while permits and moving procedures were still in process. It was not done maliciously or defiantly.

It was a decision... move it or destroy it... at that moment!

**Once destroyed, it's GONE!**

Encouraged with support by the community, the Neighborhood Council, the Westside Improvement Club, The Point Business Association, volunteers, city officials, the project appears to have everyone's blessings. Yes, it is worth the time, the effort, the obstacles to preserve something one believes in.

Ironically, J.Q. Black didn't need a permit to build the building.

.....Mid Dornan

# History Association Notes

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Jerry Cerkanowicz

With a lot of volunteer help we have successfully moved our "little building" next to the small plot of land next to our community center. Here, after it is securely on a foundation, we plan to restore it to its appearance in about 1906. It will serve as a small museum on the beginning of Richmond and act as a central office for our organization. We are still researching old photos that will help make its restoration authentic, if you have any old photos that might help, please let me know. Community support for the project, both financial and physical, has been astounding, thank you.

Unfortunately, it became necessary to move the building before formal approval was given by City Hall. The project had been so enthusiastically accepted by all levels of the community, the permit process had begun and approval by the city seemed to be a foregone conclusion. After all the hard work I didn't think that anyone would object to our premature move.

*Continued on page 2*

## CONTENTS

FROM THE PRESIDENT	1
MEMBERS	3
EDITOR'S NOTES	4
POINT NEWS	5
SENIOR NEWS	6
A-MID TRIVIA	7
CHURCHES	9
SPORTS MEMORIES	10
MEMORIES OF POINT RESIDENTS	14
WOMEN'S WESTSIDE CLUB	17
WILL RAMBLES ON...	18
WEST SIDE LIBRARY	20
BIRTHDAYS	21
POINT ARTIFACTS	22
AQUISITIONS	22
CARDS AND LETTERS	23
CALENDAR	inside cover



## IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Because of poor attendance in the last couple of years, we have decided to cancel the Summer Meeting and Picnic that was scheduled for May 20th. The next general meeting will be in September, the Summer issue will contain details.



**"From the President" cont....**

When the opportunity arises, the History Association has an obligation to preserve bits and pieces of our past. Such an opportunity did arise when we were given the little building. We chose to save the building and to work out the problems later in a rational and realistic manner. In the process of saving it, we failed to follow procedure, we broke some rules. Our actions were based solely on the interest of preservation, because when an old building is gone, it's gone for good!

### **THE PREPARATION**

In order to move the fragile old building it was decided to lighten its weight by removing as much added material as we could. So on a warm Sunday a volunteer demolition crew descended on the poor thing. Starting with the roof James Cheshareck and Daniel and Andrew Butt under father Tom's supervision began the laborious job of removing the first of three roofs (shake, shingle and plywood). The kids were ably aided in this job by a hard working David Vincent and Walter Connolly.

While this was going on outside, Mid Dornan, Claudia Beale and Gary Shows attacked the interior. The thick white carpeting that covered the walls and ceiling was slowly ripped out (slowly because it was fastened with two inch

nails every 6 or so inches!) Next came the paneling on the walls under that was a covering of red cloth, then white cheese cloth nailed to the original wood wall. On closer examination some old papers were seen inside a wall, so a few of the boards were removed and several 1905 calendars were found (see cover) along with some April 27, 1905 newspapers that were apparently used as insulation. Most of the newspapers crumbled to dust once exposed, a few have been saved.

Then came the ceiling, after removing white tiles, a thick black paper covered the plain wood slat ceiling. In the back left corner a hole was found where the coal stove chimney was, there was evidence of a chimney fire and the attic had a thick layer of soot that fell through the cracks. By the time the paper had been removed Gary was literally covered with the fine black powder.

The noise inside the building was quite loud as the banging of the roof removers continued unabated as Walter showed off his prowess with a hammer, and David with a crowbar.

My job on this project besides talking to interested bystanders was to move all the shakes, tiles, cloth, etc. to a pile away from the building. The job was finished around 7:00 and everyone was very pleased to see that we had uncovered the original board



and batten building and that now it could be made ready for the big move!

### THE MOVE

Getting the building reinforced took a day and a half. Santa Fe generously donated the use of a large forklift and three employees, Bob Schuette, Trainmaster, Tom Ison, Terminal Manager and Robert Mayberry, forklift operator to move the building. Ramon Zambrano and his assistant Zdenek Zahradnicek prepared the little building by putting large beams of lumber above the floor on the outside and around the top, crossbars were used to create a "box" effect. The decayed floor had to be sawed off and the building was raised up a foot or so to allow the forklift under the box and raise it up.

Everything went as planned. After the lift was in position Robert Mayberry began to lift the building and the small group of onlookers watched in silence and the "box" rose up and creaked. Then a cheer was heard as the machine moved on to the street.

It took less than twenty minutes to move around the corner and place the building on blocks next to its new home. While talking to Zdenek after the move I learned that while living in Czechoslovakia he was employed in moving buildings... large brick buildings... several hundred years old. Wonder what he must

have thought about our "big move".

Thanks so much to the many of you who worked so hard to make this move possible. This is a rare, special community!

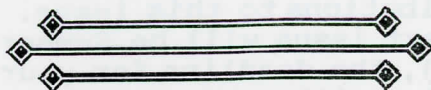


Thank you to the following members who have renewed their memberships:

Charlotte G. Woods  
Jack Gerken  
W.J. & Dorothy McCutcheon  
Al Franco  
Liz & Ed Garrard  
Willard R. & Jean Moyle Spiersch  
Russ & Shirley Moore  
Robert Feyder  
Barbara Olesen  
Howard S. Arnold  
Varsie Lometti  
Dody Perry  
Barbara & Jeffery Ward  
Maxine Forbes  
Zoanna Kille  
Jan Burdick  
Victoria Scholz  
Priscilla Minn

And a warm, special welcome to new members:

Shera Thompson & Kevin Pryne



Happy  
Mother's Day



## editors notes.....

BY GARY SHOWS

Here we have the first newsletter in a new Volume nine! Because of the interest and excitement brought about by the movement of the little building, Jerry's column is extended. And bravo to Mid for her last minute editorial on the inside front cover. Your response to our plea for help in saving the building has been wonderful.

Thank you Will Spiersch for another installment to "Will Rambles on...", your contributions are much appreciated and enjoyed. You'll find part four of Dr. Thompson's "Memories of Pioneer Point Residents", enjoy it, and don't worry, there's a lot more fascinating and informative memories to come from Dr. Thompson. Anne Hanzlik did a piece for this issue to remind us that after 82 years the Women's Westside Improvement Club is still doing good, and wants new members.

Thanks to everyone else in our writing staff for their fine (and pretty much timely) contributions to this issue. The next issue will be Summer (July), the deadline for your articles will be June 22nd.

With the Summer Issue I hope to start revealing results of our 1963-resurvey, see you then!

THE COVER is the image on the promotional calendar that were discovered inside the walls of our little building while we were preparing it to be moved. We found a number of them, all in pretty fragile condition, only one still had the 1905 calendar attached.

## Point News

JERRY CERKANOWICZ

### NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICE DAY

To celebrate National Youth Service Day the City of Richmond hosted an awards ceremony at the Richmond Memorial Convention Center on the evening of April 27th. Its purpose was to recognize the contributions of young people to the city. One of those given an award by Mayor George Livingston was James Chesharek of Point Richmond. James was honored for his efforts to rename a street for Bob Young, for his work as the youngest board member of the Point Richmond History Association and his monthly article in this newsletter and for his efforts to save the oldest commercial building in Richmond. Congratulations to James and his family.



I attended this event and was impressed by the large number of youths honored and the variety of activities they performed. If these youngsters are indeed our future leaders, things are not so bad!

# THE NATATORIUM IS OPEN

The Natatorium reopened on April 17th for at least six months. It has been closed since April, 1989 for major improvements to the boiler and plumbing system. Set to reopen in October, 1989 when it was damaged in the October quake. The City voted in February to temporarily open after much pressure from its patrons. Because the back wall has not been made earthquake safe the shallow end of the pool is blocked off. Interactive Resources is preparing a report to the city on the \$1.3 million in major improvements and seismic retrofitting.

For information on programs at the Natatorium call 620-6820.

Below is a thank you note from Ms. Cain's Core Class at Portola Junior High School. We very much enjoyed giving the tour and meeting the kids.

April 11, 1990

Dear Mrs. Dornan,

We wish to thank you and Mr. Cherkanowicz for taking the time to give us a tour around Point Richmond. Everyone particularly enjoyed the Plunge. It's one thing to study history in the classroom, but it's definitely more interesting to experience the landscape first hand and see the actual historical buildings and artifacts. We've certainly expanded our knowledge of Richmond-between our trip to Keller Beach, our walk around Point Richmond with you, and our trip to the Historical Museum. So, thank you once again.

Toomere

Sincerely,

Ms. Cain's Core Class  
Portola Junior High

Jennifer Gray  
San Choy Sae Phan  
Gina Portal  
Eloisa Nodal  
Crystal Moore  
Anna Lu  
Kenny Hill  
Shondra McGee  
Deanne Wright  
Kim Thornton  
James  
Walter Cain

Ernie Alicia  
Rachel Collins  
Michael Deneer  
Ada Yim  
Chris Larson  
Clifford  
Karen  
Liliana  
Mashana  
Danny  
Eva  
Khan



# SENIOR NEWS

By Muriel C. Clausen

Do you as Seniors ever wonder where your memory has gone or seems to have gone? This is a common complaint of Seniors and sometimes a source of worry.

Many studies are being done on this subject at this time with most of them providing reassuring simplification, one study seems to have the forefront of interest at this time: It is that as one ages one has fewer neurotransmitters at work in the brain. As a result of this, older persons have more trouble recalling isolated facts: while they tend to easily recall those facts that they use over and over again. Also, older memories such as childhood events are more firmly implanted in the memory as they were stored where when there were more active neurotransmitters at work in the brain, and these have had


more reinforcement due to time and correlation with other stored facts. With such a theory the recommendation is to be selective in the information that you wish to remember; and with repetition and cross referencing of this information with other facts this information will be retained.

Another help advised for this stage in one's life is to make it easy on yourself by having a place for everything important and being sure to put it in its place. This way one does not have to remember where the keys to the car are, or where the reading glasses are. This save the neurotransmitters for some other more important facts that need to be remembered.

What do you think? Do you think the researchers are coming up with an answer to memory loss in the elderly?

**DAILY**

LYMAN NAUGLE, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR



**RECORD**

ONLY DEMOCRATIC DAILY IN COUNTY

WEEKLY EST. JULY 7, 1900  
DAILY EST. FEB. 8, 1902

POINT RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, 1903

DAILY BY MAIL \$4.00 PER YEAR  
BY CARRIER 40 C PER MONTH

# A-MID TRIVIA

by Mid Dornan (234-5334)

For the first time in 36 years there will not be a Pancake Breakfast to benefit the boys of Scout Troop 111 in the Point. While still registered as a troop, there are not enough boys to put on this traditional affair.

The scouting program offers boys invaluable experiences and skills. The Methodist Church offers the meeting place. Dan Stallworth needs adult leadership assistance along with more boys in the unit.

Troop 111 is the first and oldest troop in Richmond. Its past history is rich and colorful, and their flags and blue ribbons attest to their competitive skills.

Are you a former scout? Would you like to assist boys? Do you have a scout age boy? Call 234-5334.

\*\*\*

It is understandable why archaeologists get so excited when they find an artifact. Imagine the excitement when volunteer crews, while removing all the many layers of walls, discovered a 1905 calendar and newspaper in the historic Richmond Supply Company building! It is time now for each of you to write us of any stories or memories connected with this building for our archives.

\*\*\*

Foxes..Raccoons..Oppossums.. Deer. Now, pheasants in the Point! White necked pheasants have been spotted on Crest and Washington Avenues. With all the building on the vacant lots, our 'wilderness' haven will disappear.

\*\*\*

Does Al Franco remember when, as a student at UC Berkeley, "we" tried to bleach a streak in his black curly hair...and it merely turned red?

\*\*\*

About 20 students from Martha Cains' class at Portola Jr. High visited the Point on a field trip. A picnic at Keller's beach preceded their walk through the historic business district.

\*\*\*

Not everyone is unhappy with the trains in the Point. When asked what she liked best about the Point, Sara Eeles answered, "The Trains". (Note: She lives on the side of the "other" side of the tracks.)

\*\*\*

Not only has the Point been "discovered"...it is being "covered". Approved by the planning commission are 7 units at 600 Golden Gate and 8 units at Clarence and Tewksbury. A walk on the Bay side shows numerous individual homes being constructed too.

\*\*\*

When Tom Butt won the quilt at Rosemary Corbin's fund raiser, everyone was envious.



Now, everyone can enjoy it as it is on display on the wall at Interactive Resources. Thanks for sharing this work of art of local scenes.

\*\*\*

There was a time when the 12 members of a jury were selected by the court astrologer...one born under each sign of the zodiac.

\*\*\*

Are you aware there is to be a bicycle path along the freeway to Point Molate? It will begin on Tewksbury near Clarence and currently is being used by hikers and joggers.

\*\*\*

Grandma remembers when May 30th was called "Decoration Day". The graves in cemeteries were decorated with flowers and wreaths. Memorial Day was changed from May 30th in 1971 for a federal three day weekend.

\*\*\*

Certainly do enjoy those memories from our former residents that are now far away!

\*\*\*

Grandma wonders if the postal increase is sponsored by the telephone companies. At 30 cents a letter, and with most telephone calls at 32 cents a minute, who can't say in one minute what 30 cents postage will carry.

\*\*\*

The U.S. Postal Service announced it has become an official sponsor of the 1992 Olympic Games. (So that is

where the added postage is to go). Being a world wide sponsor will cost between \$10 million and \$15 million but the Postmaster cited three reasons for the action: improving the image of the agency, generating increased revenues and supporting the Olympics. France and Spain will host the 1992 games.

\*\*\*

An Internal Revenue Service agent stopped in a small town to see the local preacher, the minister showed him the church and then asked the agent what he thought of it.

"I'm, disappointed" the tax man told him. "From the amount of money your parishioners list as donations I thought the aisles would be laid with gold."

\*\*\*

MARRIED: Kathy L. Forbes and Ed Sanchez. The wedding was held in the home of a special friend, Brenda McKinley, on Saturday, March 31, 1990 at 2:30 p.m. with only family members attending.

The bride and groom were attended by their daughters, Marianne Forbes and Will and Cary Sanchez. A wedding reception followed and the couple are on a honeymoon trip to Monterey.

\*\*\*

May 15th is Mother's Day. On this day, remember the one who nurtured you. Make Mom feel special!

Happy  
mother's Day

# Churches

## OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH NEWS

*by Eleanor Hurley*

Holy Week was a beautiful and prayerful time in our church. Starting Wednesday April 11, Mass was celebrated at 12 noon. On Holy Thursday Mass of the Last Supper was at 5:50 P.M., followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 6:30 to 9:30 P.M. On Good Friday, services from noon to 1:00 P.M. followed by Stations of the Cross, conducted by Fr. Alexander, from 1:00 to 2:00 P.M., reading of the Passion of St. John and Holy Communion and adoration of the Cross until 7:30 P.M. On Saturday the Easter Vigil Mass was held at 5:00 P.M. The altars had been decorated in the afternoon with Easter Lilies and Azaleas and candles, which added much to the celebration. On Easter Sunday the Mass was at 9:00 A.M. and the church was packed for the service.

On April 22nd we celebrated the installation of Fr. James Clift. The church was filled by parishioners and friends. The choir was furnished by St. Cornelius Church. The Bishop could not attend due to prior commitments, he delegated Fr. Thomas O'Shea, Pastor of St. John's in El Cerrito to officiate. Fr. James Matthews of St. Cornelius gave the Homily and Fr. Larry Young,

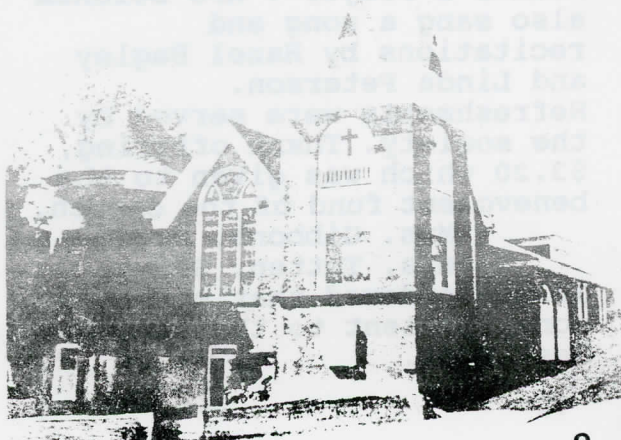
Pastor of St. Cornelius was also on the Altar.

After the 11 o'clock Mass a reception was held in the Hall, chaired by Varsie Lometti and her committee. Tables were set up in the center of the hall and were lavishly laden with finger food, decorated cakes, champagne, coffee and punch. Much talk and socializing was enjoyed by all.

After some 3 hours, food left over was packed and delivered to the Souper Kitchen. The committees are to be congratulated on a job well done. We welcome Fr. Clift and hope he will be with us for many good years!

## POINT METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

*Sorry, no Methodist News in this issue.*





## POINT METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

*Church history is rich with contributions of women. One of the church groups in the early 1900's was the Home Missionary Society of the First Methodist Church whose history is reflected in their minutes, printed below and taken from the stiff cardboard covered notebook purchased from "Shoen's Pharmacy in the Point". This is the 46th installment.*

May 7, 1915

A very enjoyable afternoon spent at the home of Mrs. James Lester with members and friends of the Home Missionary Society. Mother's Day was observed and a beautiful carnation was pinned on each person as they entered. Among the visitors present were Mrs. Rachel Bradley, Bro. Calfee who opened the meeting with Scripture reading and Prayer, Mrs. Calfee and Rev. Linder of the Wesley M.E. Church who gave a very interesting talk. Others on the programme were Rev. Petersen who sang "My Mother's Prayer". Mrs Stidham also sang a song and recitations by Hazel Bagley and Linda Peterson. Refreshments were served by the society. Thank offering, \$3.20 which was given to the benevolent fund of the church.

Mrs. Gibbons, Pres

Mrs. Totten, Sec

It was ordered that mite box money be sent to the Buelah Rest Home.

## POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

President: Tom McGowan  
Vice Presidents/Planning: Mary Crosby  
Tom Flemming  
Vice President/Members: Barbara Fleming  
Treasurer: Dody Perry  
Secretary: Sara Eeles

Forty one people attended the meeting of April 3, 1990. Tom Butt presented the new slate of officers, which were accepted unanimously.

Lucretia Edwards spoke in appreciation of those who had served. Bruce Beyaert acknowledged Lyle Fisher's conscientious and loyal service as president. Lyle then spoke about his vision for the community.

Officer Morris of the Richmond Police Department reported that the problem of trains blocking Point Richmond access routes is under investigation and that Santa Fe is working on changing its schedules. Regarding vandalism in the Point, residents are encouraged to report suspicious-looking persons using 911 for emergencies and 620-6901 or 620-6903 for non-emergencies.

Larry Loder, Public Works Director, presented a city plan to vacate one side of a one-block portion of East Richmond as part of the construction plan for a corporation yard for the city.

# Sports memories

By Allan Smith

I used to talk to Tom Ehrenfried, a local Point Richmond figure about his father who played professional baseball for the Oakland Acorns (Oaks) in the Pacific Coast League during the late 30's. His father played in the infield, usually at second base and was an excellent player. I don't recall Tom's father but maybe Lloyd Christopher, Point Richmond native, who played many successful years for Oakland, can give us some information about Mr. Ehrenfried, the baseball player. Tom Ehrenfried passed away on December 24, 1989.

When Lloyd Christopher was playing with the Oakland team, he would let some of the Point Richmond kids go into the locker room and meet the players... what a thrill it was for those lucky boys!

That was **real** professional baseball when we had enough money during the 1930 depression years to attend a game at the Oakland Baseball Park in Emeryville. Whenever an Oakland player would hit a home run, the local Cardinet Candy Company would give the player a box of **Baffle Bars**, now called Milky Way. We would all run down to the Oakland dug-out for a Baffle Bar which was more precious than catching a foul ball. The

player who hit the home run would accomodate us sometime

All of you Point "youngsters" in your late sixties, seventies, and eighties... do you remember the Baffle Bar? Or how about the little candy box called Ruf-Nek, which carried an actual photo of a professional baseball player along with the candy which was similar to Rocky Road candy? Also, the Home Run Kisses candy which was very popular then? Mrs. Andrews, who owned the Andrew Store on Washington Street, would let us look into the Ruf-Nek box to choose the player we wanted. I think the candy was ten cents. If any of you "old timers" have possession of these photos, which predated the present d baseball cards by many years you possess a small fortune!



## Neighborhood Council Continued...

There was unanimous opposition to the plan.

It was announced that the Richmond Farmers' Market opens on May 4th. Hours are 2:00 to 6:00 pm.

The membership made one building recommendation and two vacation recommendations.

The public is invited to all meetings.



## THE OLDEST COMMERCIAL BUILDING IN POINT RICHMOND

WE DID IT!

IT HAS BEEN SAFELY MOVED!

On April 9, 1990 with a lot of help the oldest commercial building in Point Richmond was successfully moved to a location next to what we hope will be its home for the next hundred years!

POINT RICHMOND NOW MAY HAVE ITS OWN HISTORICAL MUSEUM!

Community response to our plea has been absolutely amazing!

*Thank you!*

Once the buiding is on a secure foundation the next task is to restore it to its original state. To make this project something that we will all be proud of will take money so let's keep Point Richmond special...this community has built a park... with Indian Statue Park as our experience and lesson

**Let's build a MUSEUM!**

If you haven't helped, now is the time, we need YOU!  
Your name will be listed in the newsletter.

**I would like to help save the oldest commercial building  
in Point Richmond.**

☐ Enclosed is my contribution of: \$\_\_\_\_\_.  
*Make your check out to PRHA Historic Building Fund.*

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ ZipCode\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number\_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:**

**Pt. Richmond History Assn.  
229 Golden Gate Avenue  
Point Richmond, CA 94801**

# Thank you!

WALTER A. CONNOLLY

BURL WILLIS & PHYLLIS SKAGLUND  
(PT. RICHMOND TRAVEL)

HANS & LORE SHAPER

MARIE LOUISE OSTROM

C. F. HOCHGESANG

WILLARD R. SPIERSCH  
(Given in Memory of Ardell Cibattari)

THE MECHANICS BANK

DORIS SILVA

FRANK LOPEZ

STANLEY NYSTROM

RAMON & PATIENCE ZAMBRANO

TOM McGOWAN

ROSEMARY M. CORBIN

VIRGINIA A. CHERNIAK

CHRISTOPHR PLONA

MAXINE MAYER

SHEILA FOSTIAK & FAMILY

ELIZABETH McDONALD

HOWARD S. ARNOLD

ADELE CHASE HOLLANDER

BERTHA MAY McCLOSKEY

DAVID VINCENT

MARIE WILSON DIETZ

AMERICAN ROCK & ASPHALT, INC.

BARBARA A. OLSEN

ANNE HANZLIK

SANTA FE RAILROAD COMPANY

GRIFF AND CATHE BRAZIL

TERESA NAVAS ALBRO

MARY CROSBY & TOM PIAZZA

CHARLES C. EELES

THE DORNAN FAMILY

GARY SHOWS

CAROLYN & IRVING MOSKOWITZ

THOMAS W. & MARGO TEDRICK

CHEVRON, U.S.A., INC.

TOM & LUCRETIA EDWARDS

THOMAS E. WHITESIDES

INTERACTIVE RESOURCES, INC.  
Tom Butt & Family



# Memories of Pioneer Point Richmond Residents

Wm. L. Thompson

*William L. Thompson, often called Louis by his friends, was born in Point Richmond on February 17, 1909, lived on Scenic Avenue, graduated from Richmond Union High School and was the first native Richmondite to go through medical school. Dr. Thompson began his practice in 1940 at 9th & Macdonald, later moving to 32nd & Macdonald until that building was sold at which time he moved to an office on Broadway. In 1979, at age 70 and after 39 years, he retired officially from medical practice. However, his many loyal, local patients continue to call him for advice.*

## PART IV

There were many other fine families in the region. I cannot begin to recall them all. On Idaho Street there was the Woods family, the Millers, the Halls and others.

In the cove above Washington School were the Arnolds. J.P. Arnold was the first police chief of Point Richmond. His son, Howard, was a classmate of mine in school. Above them in the cove were the Spierschs who ran the pioneer plumbing business in the Point. To the east, on a prominent point overlooking the Washington School and an arm of the Bay,

the Murrays built a home. I believe that this was Jack Murray who became Point Richmond's first Fire Chief. To old timers this is still called Murray's Point. Later this home was taken over by the Hanney family.

In the regions further west were many other old pioneer families. Mr. and Mrs. Hancock arrived very early and built a small home on Terrace Avenue to the west of the Dunlaps. Mr. Hancock had been a contractor but he was away much of the time working on the Hetch-Hetchy project in

## Our Electric Iron

== \$5.75 ==

IS a combination of the best materials assembled by competent workmen in one of the largest and best factories in the world. They save many steps for the housewife, are economical in operation, and are indispensable on ironing day. Anyone of the 175 users here in Richmond will tell you why you need one. ☎ Phone 171 for iron on trial . . . . .

## Pioneer Electric Construction Company

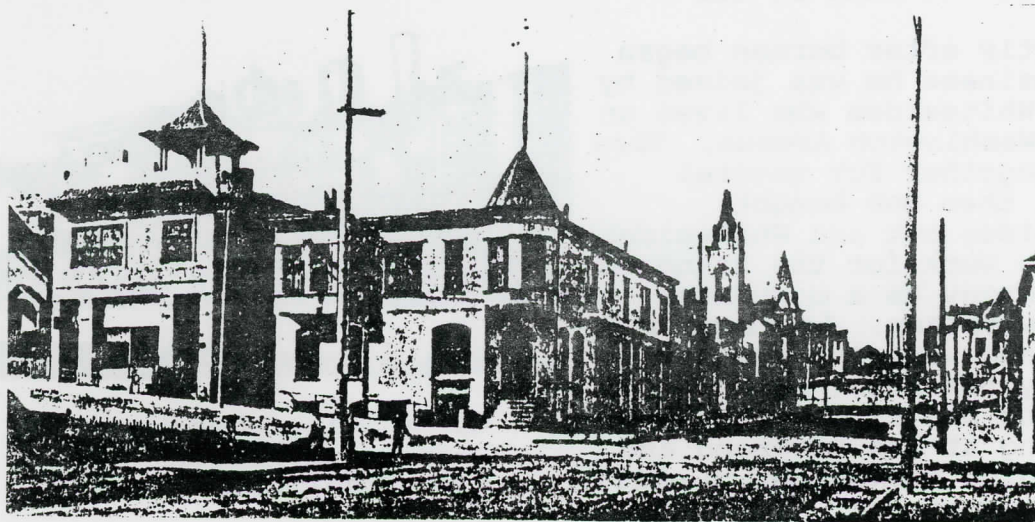
CHAS. M. CONCANNON, Mgr.  
316-318 Macdonald Ave.

the Sierra. The concrete buttresses that support Terrace Avenue as it heads down toward Washington Avenue was built by him. Mrs. Handcock was alone so much that she became a part time baby sitter for me and my brother. They eventually left and moved to Los Angeles. I have heard that the old buggy in which they arrived in Richmond is in the Richmond Museum but have not verified that fact.

The Dunlaps were a remarkable pair and a more honest and sincere couple never existed. Paul Dunlap was from the Placerville area, Diamond Springs to be exact. He was an excellent carpenter. and worked with my father. His wife, Lucetta Dunlap, was one of the Woods and Boerman family that settled in the Stege area long before there was a Richmond. She had been

an early post mistress in Point Richmond. They were a deeply religious pair in a quiet sort of way. They ran the little Point Baptist Church that I attended as a child. There never was a pastor in those early days and most of the congregation were children. In later years divinity students from the seminary would spend a little time there. One of these whose name I can't remember eventually went as a missionary to the Philippines and, with his family, were killed by the Japanese during the war.

Mr. Dunlap was so devoutly religious that he would not read a Sunday newspaper. They would not cook a meal on Sunday but prepared it the day before and ate it cold. He would not work on Sunday but in case of an emergency at the Standard Oil Company he would





help but all the money earned in that way was given to the church. They were a wonderful pair but had no children. Mrs. Dunlap was quite active in local social affairs.

Bob Dornan arrived in Point Richmond in its very early years, coming from Ireland. After a short time he opened his own business selling feed, grain, coal, hay, etc. We raised chickens and rabbits and bought our supplies from Bob at the Richmond Supply Company. As a child I recall him climbing the stairs with huge weights of coal or feed on his back. About the time I was in high school my father built a small mountain cabin on Forest Service land on the south fork of the American River. He bought some used lumber from the Standard Oil Company and hired Bob to haul it up for us and I rode along to show him the way. He had an old truck that sputtered along but we made it all right.

Shortly after Dornan began his business he was joined by a Mr. Whitesides who lived on upper Washington Avenue. They were together for several years, then Bob bought Whitesides out and Whitesides went to work for the Standard Oil Company as a carpenter with my father. Later he quit there and went into the grocery business, finally building the fine market building at the Richmond and Washington Avenues which still is a busy market. Bob

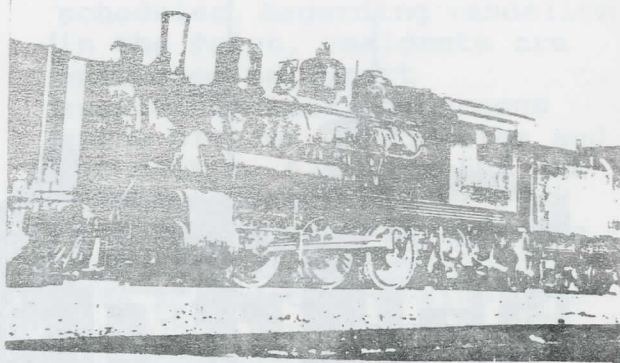
Dornan's wife, Trannie, first went to work for him in the office and later they were married and were together very many years with a daughter Betty and a son Robert who was most active in the Boy Scouts. (Ed. He also had a daughter, Dorothy, who died in her teens.)

*Continued in the Summer Issue*

**CORRECTION:** Dr. Thompson's "Memories of Pioneer Point Richmond Residents".... Vol. VII, No. 8, March 1990 issue. Page 13, column 2, paragraph 2. Insert "On the lower end of Montana were the Wilson Family." after this sentence, "This home was later occupied by the Williams family and the Ken Koht family."

We apologize for this error.

## Happy Father's Day



*Typical yard switch engine from the  
1910 period.  
Photo from Don Church Collection*

## WOMEN'S WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB

*Anne Hanzlik*

Perhaps some of you readers aren't aware of the oldest organization still in existence here in the Point. The Women's West Side Improvement Club's first meeting was held July 7, 1908 when forty-one women each paid fifty cents dues to join. They met on Tuesday and have been doing so until the present date. As the name implies, they had the noble purpose of improving the town which at that time was a rough and ready place with a somewhat dubious reputation, although it was a busy growing community.

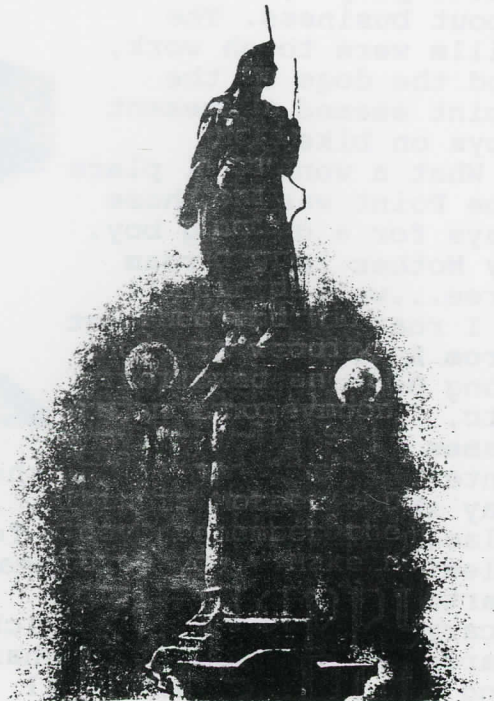
Their burgeoning membership sponsored a "Ball" in August to raise funds for their various projects, among which were a drinking fountain at Park and Washington streets, a "reading room" open to the public (that was to evolve into the present day library), plans for a hospital to be constructed by Mr. Nicholl, as well as plans for a park by the Baptist Church.

The first year's activities were to include all this and in addition they held whist parties, a pig raffle, a masquerade and a doll fair (slated for December) to finance the projects.

In the past few years we have we have tried to keep up this tradition by erecting the town map/sign at the corner of

West Richmond and Park Place and by installing the bench across from the Santa Fe Market.

As next year's secretary I hope to be able to record more projects to benefit our village. We welcome new members (\$10.00 per year) but please be our guest for a get acquainted visit. We still meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 11:30, presently in the basement meeting room of the Catholic Church on West Richmond Avenue. Cake and coffee are served and it is a splendid chance to get acquainted with many longtime residents, some of them daughters of the original members.





**Will rambles on.....**

## **HIS Point in Time**

by Willard R. Spiersch

### **A WALK DOWN THE WATERFRONT**

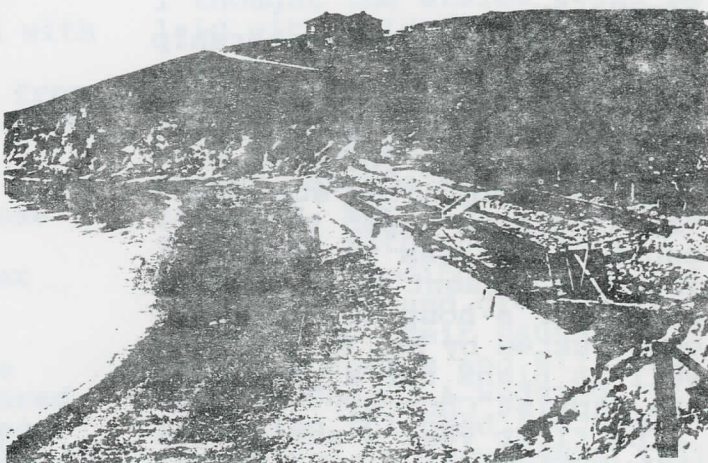
In one of my "Will rambles on...", triggered by Dr. Louis Thompson's memories of the Point, I left off describing my paper route in the Point. That route was never profitable, what with poor collections and my expensive tastes in Cardinet candy bars, which cost the huge sum of 10 cents even then!

My dear mother usually had to dig down and pay for what I lacked to pay my bill. What a great experience, though, for a young boy to learn about people, and a bit about business. The hills were tough work, and the dogs in the Point seemed to resent boys on bikes!

What a wonderful place the Point was in those days for a growing boy. My Mother let me roam free...well, almost!!

I roamed the bay front from Bull Dog Point, Long Beach, Short Beach, etc. We had our own names for all the interesting places along the bay shore. Some of these places became great spots for wienie roasts and later, beach parties. Then on past the scary deep quarry, the brick yards, to the municipal wharf and the Santa Fe pier (all

great places for crabbing and fishing). Then on to Kellar's wharf and nearby Kozy Kove with its nice beach and pretty gardens. From Kozy Kove along the shore to the Standard Oil salt water pumping station and the long wharf with its narrow gauge trolley running to the end. The Long Wharf always fascinated me, I always wanted to ride that trolley, but never got a chance. About 65 years later, I did get to the end of that wharf, but on a passenger bus! Our SIRS group from Alameda were guests of the Standard Oil Company. They treated us to dinner at the employees cafeteria. We then went on out to the Rod & Gun Club for a lecture on oil and



petroleum products and the operation of the refinery, it was a very interesting day.

Near the pumping station lived a very interest man we called Cap. He lived in a house on the beach that sported all kinds of

fascinating flotsam and jetsam. I don't know the history of this gentleman, but I'll guess it would make an interesting story if researched.

Nearby the wharf, we came to the city dump, where the rats were huge, and make good target practice with my .22 single shot rifle, then on past Blake Bros. Quarry with its huge piles of rock and gravel, to the San Rafael Ferry pier, with the good old Charles Van Damme probably pulling into the slip. From the ferry, on out to Wine Haven, the home of CALWA, The California Wine Association Winery. We particularly liked to go during wine pressing season when the grapes arrived by the gondola car load. We were allowed to take as many grapes as we could carry, my goodness, just how many grapes could a lad carry from Wine Haven to the Point, not many! It doesn't seem possible that we roamed that far!

I can't pass up Kellar's wharf without comment, as it was a great hang out for us kids. It was there that I learned to swim, simply by being thrown off the pier by the older kids, boy, can you paddle fast when you have to! We used to undress in the rocky bank, and as sure as anything, someone would tie knots in your clothes and wet them. Wow! Was it a tough job to get them untied! We always had a drift wood fire going

for warmth, gee it felt good after a dip. We would throw large mussels into the fire to roast, and pretend they tasted good, UGH!

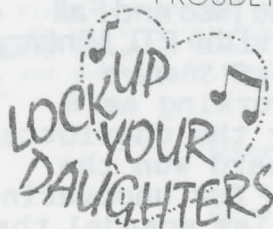


THE MASQUERS

Playhouse, Inc.

105 Park Place, Point Richmond

PROUDLY PRESENTS



A New Musical

Book by BERNARD MILES

Music By LAURIE JOHNSON

Lyrics by LIONAL BART

Adapted from the book  
RAPE UPON RAPE

Directed by LINDI BAUMAN

Musical Direction by JANET HEFFNER

Choreography by EDDIE SHINE

A bright, bouncy, bawdy musical which gleefully spoofs the manners and morals of 18th century London.

THE CAST:

George Adams	Robert Love
Ron Anderson	Paul Marsaglia
Deborah Banks	Christina Olsen
Clare Bolfig	Robert Patterson
John Dunn	Traci Robinson
Michael Frassinetti	Marilyn Smith
Tim Hart	Gerry Studier
Ann Homrighausen	Robert Taylor

Friday & Saturday evenings - March 30 - May 19, 1990

Sunday Matinees - April 8, 22, 29, May 6

**RESERVATIONS: 232-4031 (24 hours)**

Reservations held until 10 minutes before curtain  
Group Rates Available

Box Office Opens at 6:00 p.m. 2:00 p.m. for matinees.

Curtain: 8:30 p.m.

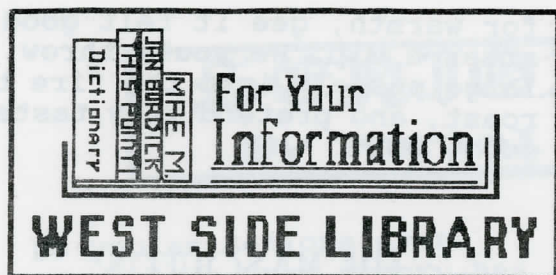
Matinees: 2:30 p.m.

Admission \$8.00

DINNER & THEATRE benefit for our building fund at HOTEL MAC, Thursday evening, May 3. Dinner and ticket to "Lock Up Your Daughters" for only \$23.00. To reserve CALL: 236-4988.

NEW ATTRACTION: "The Mac Who Came To Dinner", a comedy by Thornton Wilder.





By Jan Burdick

*New books at the West Side.....*

**Forgiven: The Rise and Fall  
of Jim Bakker and the PTL Ministry**

*by Charles E. Shepard*

While working as a journalist for the Charlotte Observer, Shepard won the Pulitzer Prize for uncovering the Televangelism scandal that brought down Jim Bakker and his empire. He expands on this work in the excellent expose' volume, *Forgiven*. Throughout his life Shepard chronicles Bakker's role as a showman from producing a variety show in high school to choosing Tammy LaValley as his wife and partner on T.V. This is an eye-opening portrait of religion used in pursuit of personal wealth.

**Parlor Games**

*by Mavis Cheek*

Mavis Cheek pokes dark and delightful fun at the "new monogamy" in this look at games people play. Here is a wicked stroll through modern suburban bliss and blight, where things are seldom what they seem, and where one woman decides to break all the rules as she discovers more than she

bargained for in here marriage, her husband, her friends and herself.

Celia has great plans for here upcoming fortieth birthday celebration. After an elegant home-cooked dinner, she arranges for everyone to play some lighthearted parlor games. But even the best-laid plans sometimes explode in your face. See for yourself when you read *Parlor Games*.

**The Widow's Adventures**

*by Charles Dickinson*

Two widows take to the road across America in this ambitious new novel by Charles Dickenson. Helene, who is blind, does the driving. Her sister, Ina, shows the way, and together they break free into the light they feared had gone out of their lives.

In *The Widow's Adventures* the author has invested these two women with a remarkable spirit. In a vast and intricate weaving of truth and memory he has created two unforgettable sisters with the courage, the wit and the tenacity to embark upon a journey that redefines for themselves and their families the kind of women they will be for the rest of their lives.

**Linda Goodman's Star Signs**

*by Linda Goodman*

"There are a multiplicity of universal codes which are beyond - yet inseparable from - astrology. As unrelated to planetary influence as numerology, color, sound,



music and speech may seem to be, they all, nevertheless, initiate from the Luminaries (Sun and Moon) and the planets, and are the star signs of wisdom." So writes Linda Goodman in *Linda Goodman's Star Signs*.

The author reveals many further insights to seekers of truth on the path of self-discovery.

Using these star sign codes will help you stay on key and keep in tune with the harmony of the universe pulsing around you... balance the colors in your personal auric rainbow... use numbers and letters of the alphabet to solve the confusing riddles of life and the frustrating puzzlements of those odd people who are your friends, relatives and loved ones - not to mention learning secrets about those even odder people called strangers, secrets that can turn them into friends.

## Birthdays MAY



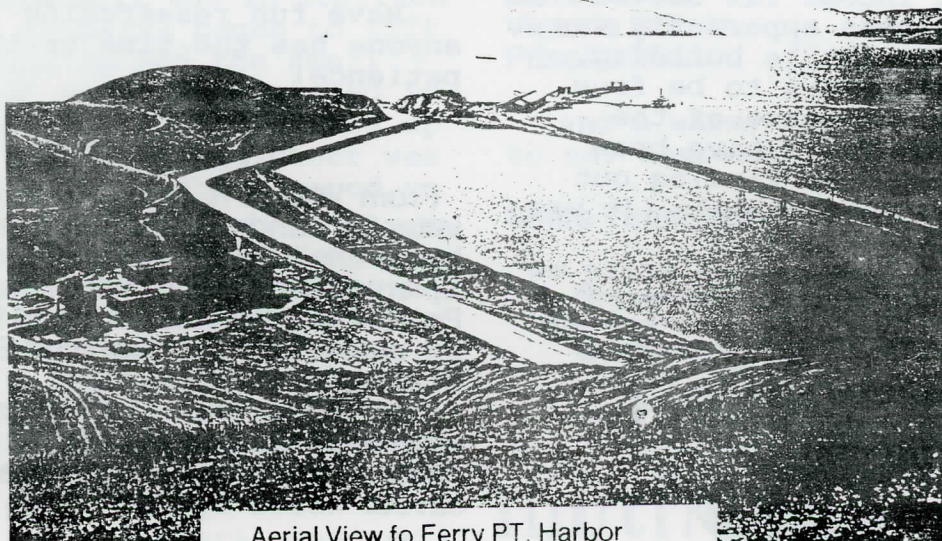
Douglas Corbin  
Diana Corbin  
Winifred Jones  
Richard Mattuecci  
Jon Doellstedt  
Vern Doellstedt  
Marcello Caceres  
Maurice Doherty  
Ruth Beardsley  
Betty Wirth  
Patricia Dornan  
Anne-Catherine  
Hadreas  
Sara Eeles

Anne Price  
Diana Spinola  
John Knox, Jr.  
Becky Horn  
Lucretia Edwards  
Evelyn Essary  
Cindy Quist  
Muriel Clausen  
Nell Brooker  
Varsie Lometti  
Beverly Price  
Marg Miller  
Shoney Gustafson

## JUNE

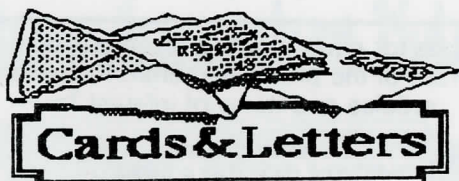
Grace Yank  
Andrew Butt  
Jan Sprecker  
Ruth Beardsley  
Joanne Lansing  
Ron Albro  
Anita Brougham  
Stacey Spinola  
Alissa Bagley  
William Shea  
Cathe Brazil  
Dianne Squires  
Jean Eakle

Rosemary  
Giacomelli  
Dan Weinstein  
Cindy Quist  
Stephanie Pearson  
Ed Mitchell  
Claude Bisio  
Dave MacDiarmid Jr.  
Nathan Berman  
Richard Fox  
Suzanne Unser  
Brian Rotting



Aerial View fo Ferry PT. Harbor  
Courtesy of the Richmond Museum





## Cards & Letters

Dear Gary:

I am an old resident of the Point. I lived there from 1930 to the summer of 1967 at 125 West Richmond, this house has quite a history itself. I have many memories of the time.

One such memory that I would like to share is the last big program given in the old Washington School in December of 1942. The P.T.A. members put on a fair of games and such in the basement with lots of fun for all, and in the evening in the auditorium a variety show for the students of the Point, both grade school and high school. I was chairman for that and we had a large number of skits and playlets that were enjoyed by all. It was a full house, I remember that a few soldiers were put up in the balcony.

The final act was a dance by the high school boys of the Point, they did it all on their own. They dressed, with all the trimmin's....as CAN\*CAN girls, giving a good dance to the music. There were six or so of them, Andy Cachus, Trefry and Tedy Ross, and sorry to say I cannot remember the rest, but if they are reading this will remember.

I was in the Point not long

ago for dinner and drove over the streets, how it has grown. There are homes in almost all places where they can be put. It's a good place to live!

Naomi Huffstetter  
Pleasant Hill

P.S. I would like to have one of your calendars if possible.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Naomi, thank you very much for writing, I'm sure many will enjoy reading it.*

*The March issue that you received was a gift from the History Association to re-interest you in our activities.... I'm happy that it worked! You should now renew your membership, in any case we will send you our calendar, thanks again,*

Gary

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Pam:

Please find enclosed my check for renewal of my subscription to the newsletter.

The name Hazel Tawney recently appeared in your list of new subscribers, when I sent her a gift subscription to "This Point", I neglected to tell you that she is my sister, known to some of those who read the publication, by her maiden name Delphina Franco. She enjoys reading the magazine, as I do, and plans to contribute articles regarding her memories of the twenties and thirties, when her schedule permits.

I'm looking forward for another year of good reading.

Sincerely  
Al Franco  
Sumner, WA

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership (check one)

- |                          |                   |         |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | SINGLE            | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | SENIOR (65+)      | 10.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | FAMILY            | 25.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | HISTORY PRESERVER | 50.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | CORPORATE SPONSOR | 75.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | HISTORY MAKER     | 100.00  |

Membership in the Point Richmond History Association includes a one year subscription to "This Point" newsletter (nine issues). Please make your check payable to the Point Richmond History Association and mail it to:

**PAM WILSON**

**521 WESTERN DRIVE  
POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801**

If you would like to have Birthdays noted in the newsletter, please include names and dates.

Articles for each month's issue are due on the 15th of the previous month. Please mail articles and items of interest to:

**GARY SHOWS  
229 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE  
POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801**

"This Point in Time" is a publication of the Point Richmond History Association, a non-profit organization at 229 Golden Gate Avenue, Point Richmond, CA 94801

All Rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part of any article without written permission of the Point Richmond History Assoc. is prohibited.

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

*Jerry Cerkowicz, President*  
*Mid Dornan, Vice President*  
*Anne Hanzlik, Secretary*  
*Muriel Clausen, Treasurer*  
*Mary Highfill, Corresponding Secretary*  
*Pam Wilson, Membership*  
*Elizabeth McDonald, Programs*  
*Gary Shows, Editor*  
*Margarita Hain, Fund Raising*  
*Sarah Eeles, Archives/Oral History*  
*James Cheshareck, Archives*

### **TRIBUTE FUND**

Enclosed is my check payable to the Point Richmond History Association in the amount of:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ In Honor \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory

of \_\_\_\_\_

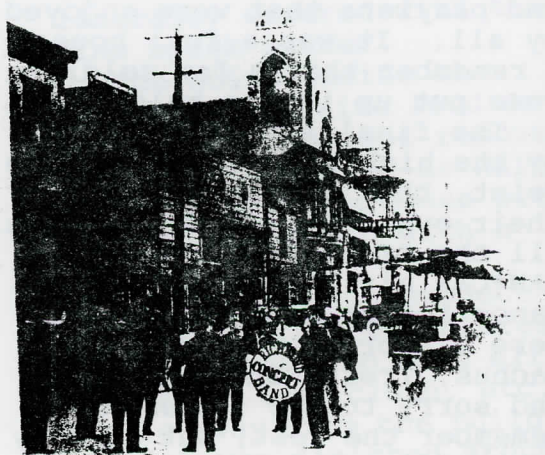
From \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please send acknowledgement to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_





# **Calendar**

- May 9** Point Richmond Business Association Meeting,  
Noon at the Hotel Mac
- May 13** Mother's Day
- May 28** Memorial Day
- June 5** Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting  
11:30 am, Our Lady of Mercy Church
- Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting  
7:30 pm, Point Richmond Community Center
- June 13** Point Richmond Business Association Meeting,  
Noon at the Hotel Mac
- June 17** Father's Day
- June 21** First day of Summer
- June 22** Deadline for articles to go in TPIT Summer issue
- July 3** Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting  
11:30 am, Our Lady of Mercy Church
- Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting  
7:30 pm, Point Richmond Community Center
- July 4** Independence Day