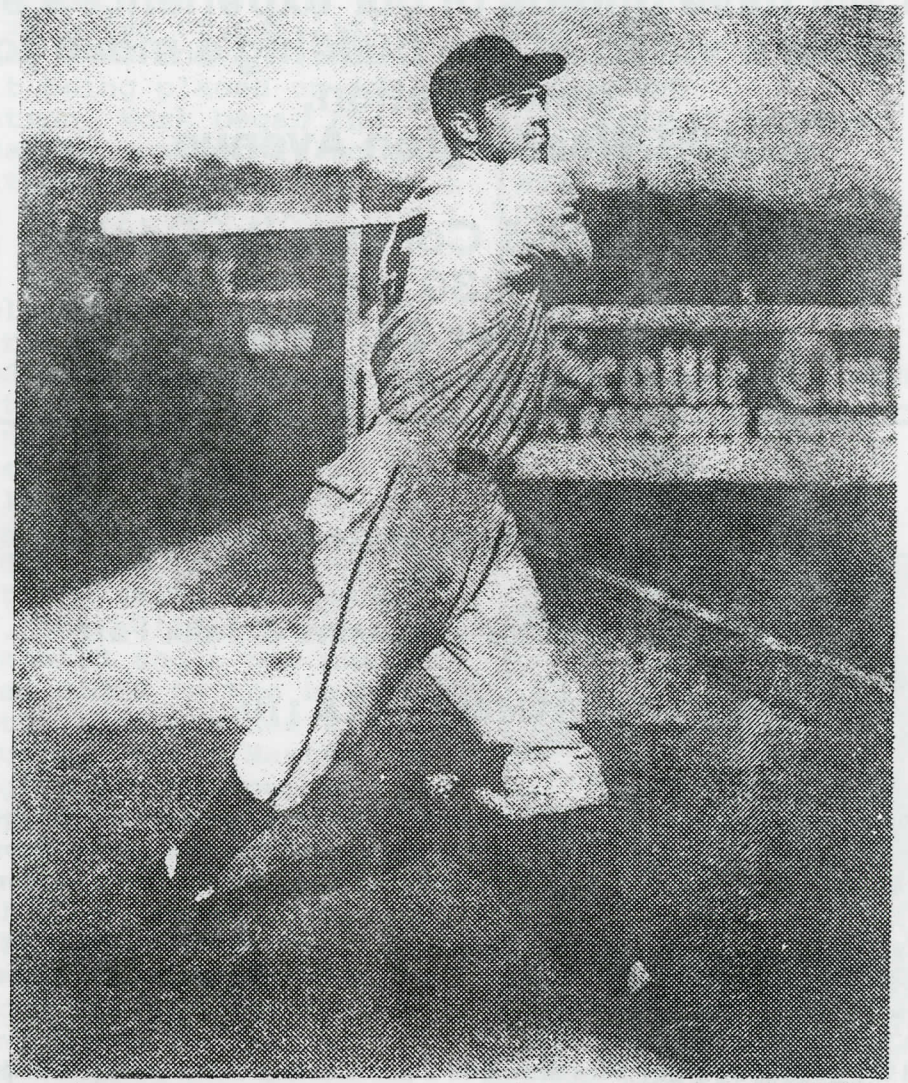
THIS POINT
in time
NEWSLETTER
A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL IX No. 5 NOVEMBER, 1990 $1.00



LOYD CHRISTOPHER - SEATTLE RAINIERS

November Meeting

**Our new little museum will be the subject.
The building will be open,
we will discuss plans for its future.
We will have photos of our experiences and will show a video of the building's move to its new location,
139 Washington Avenue**

**Point Richmond Community Center
at 7:30 pm
November 29, 1990
Refreshments will be served**

Richmond Museum's
9th
Annual Collector's Treasure & Junk Fair

**NOVEMBER 10th & 11th
Noon to 3 pm**

Do you have too much stuff? The Richmond Museum will be happy to accept your tired treasures, good junk and white elephants for this special fund raising sale. Proceeds from the sale help in funding the public exhibits and educational events at the museum.

For information on donating items please call: Dorothy Ruthnick, 232-3656 or Marian Sauer, 235-2177. Please no used clothes. The smallest and grandest donations help this event. Donations are tax deductible.

The 1990 Junque Fair has been moved to a new location at the former Ells High School Gym, 35th Street and Chanslor, just of Macdonald Avenue. See you there!

History Association Notes

FROM THE PRESIDENT
by Jerry Cerkanowicz

In my notes on our little building last month I ended with it being placed on its foundation. Work began the next day to connect it to the foundation. To accomplish this Martin McNair, Bob Souza and I jacked the building up to remove the large beams that were placed under it when it was first moved. Then it was lowered back down onto the foundation. By nailing new 2X4's next to the originals and then nailing those to the mud sill and bolting down the corners the building was secured to the foundation.

Next, by using the jacks inside, the building was straightened and a new shear wall was added to the back for strength. Then the new windows were put in, while Martin was working on the windows and the inside, Bob and I removed all of the supports that were put on for the move. Andrew Johns, a local electrician stopped by and offered to wire the building, Thanks Andrew!. The sheetrock was put in and the next day Sonny Jackson's Roofing company put on a new roof, Thanks Sonny.

continued on page 2

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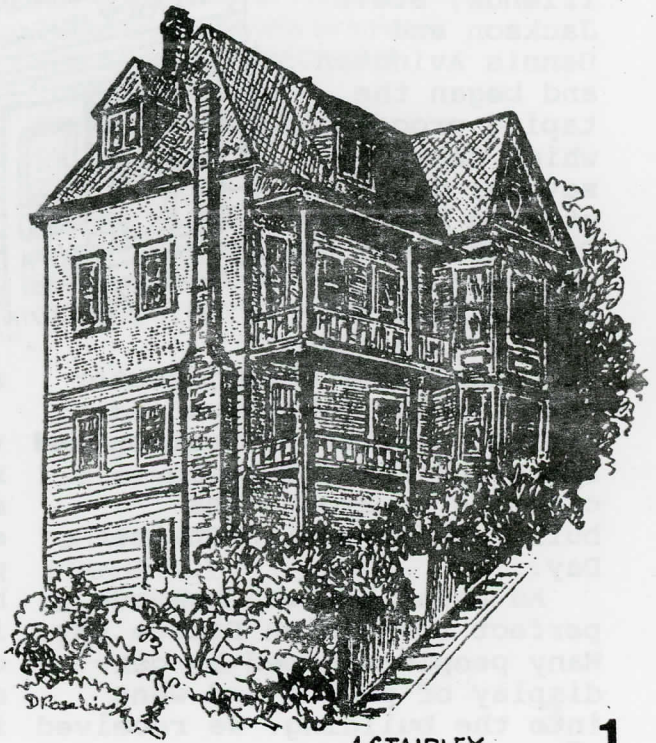


1 STAIRLEY

The day before Indian Statue Day while I was cleaning the windows Robert Hubbard came over to the building and asked me who was going to tape the sheetrock, so I asked him if he knew how to do that and he replied that that is what he does for a living. I explained that we were looking for volunteers on the project and would he like to help out. He said yes and the next morning while we were setting up for Indian Statue Day in front of the building Robert, who lives in the Point arrived at the building with two friends, Steve Jackson and Dennis Avington and began the taping process, which takes several days. He stopped by every day until the job was complete, Thanks Robert!

I'd also like to thank Jesus Gomez, Hector Nodal, Mildard Zaragua and Benito Gomez of Recreation and Parks for their help in cleaning up around the building for Indian Statue Day.

As usual the weather was perfect for Indian Statue Day. Many people stopped by our display of photos and went into the building. We received some donations for the project and met many very nice people.

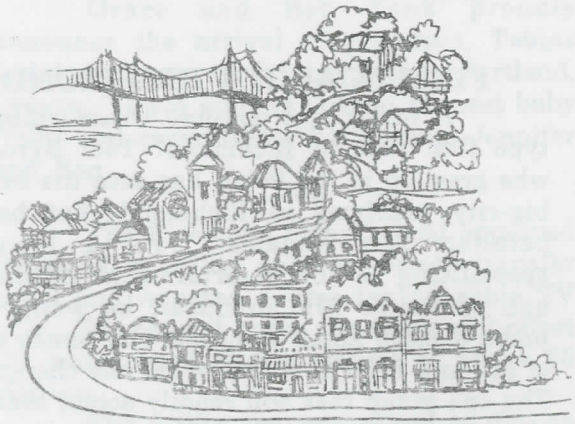
The next step was for Martin to put as much of the original siding back on the outside and to frame the windows. At the same time Bob and I removed the wood that covered the board and batten back wall. Next came the trim around the windows on the inside and outside. The last thing was the door and the cutting of new siding to replace the ones lost in moving.

On Friday October 26th Martin handed me the key to the door and said that his work was done. I want to thank Martin McNair for volunteering to be contractor for our project. He worked very hard, harder that he had expected I suspect. I enjoyed working with him and learned a lot about what it takes to build.

We will need more volunteers for the work that remains, and we hope to get some new help. We need exterior painters who can prepare and finish the buildings exterior. On the inside we will need help constructing a wooden floor and ceiling, as well as interior painting. Later we

will need display cases and cabinets built. If you can help or know of someone with these talents and would like to help out please call me at 235-1336.

While the building will not be finished in time for our November 29th meeting, we will have it open so that you can see what's been accomplished. We will show our video of the move by Santa Fe, and Mid Dornan will have photos of the second move by Chevron, see you there!



THE COVER:

Early baseball card of Loyd Christopher a Point Richmond native. The card is Loyd with the Seattle Rainiers, he later in the 40's played for the Boston Red Sox, the Chicago Cubs, and the Chicago White Sox. It was loaned to us for reproduction by Allan Smith, for more see his article on page 10.

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

MICHEAL CHARTOCK
& MARILYN CAROSELLA
ROY JONES
IRVING RUBIN
ANITA M. BROUGHAM
GRACE A. HOWE
MARY CROSBY
HELEN M. SKELTON
AILEEN CONN
GRACE & BILL BERK
THEODORE "TED" BECK
DR. WILLIAM L. THOMPSON
MRS. BOYSIE DAY
HERBERT J. HUNN

And a warm welcome to new members:

POINT RICHMOND TRAVEL, LTD.
(Burl Willes/Phyllis Skaglund)
BOB AND MARIE PECKHAM
(Santa Fe Market)
DORIS C. RASMUSSEN
EVELYN THILL
TOM SPENCER
DORRIE W. KENNEDY
KAREN, MICHAEL, MARIA & ISOBEL SHAW
GRETCHEN SHAW
JEANNE VON ZIELINSKI

And congratulations to Indian Statue Day winners of a one-year membership in the History Association:

TURA FRANZEN
JOHN GRADY
LEE NAHMENS

editors notes.....
BY GARY SHOWS

I don't know about these Octobers we've been having lately. Last one a big earthquake came along and shook up the area, this one the Oakland Athletics loose the World Series in four straight games. Makes you wonder what's in store for us October, 1991.

And speaking of baseball, thanks to Allan Smith for the loan of the baseball card that adorns the cover of this month's issue. And thank you to everyone else who has contributed to this issue, it's production has been pretty smooth (as of this writing anyway).

I would like to see more "memories" letters like Dr. Thompson's, Will Spiersch's and Bernard Bernes'. These articles are not only entertaining but they record little bits of local history, and thats what our organization is all about. So if you have any memories of old Point Richmond that you think others might enjoy, please write them and send them to me. Don't be limited to the pioneer days, the 30's, 40's, 50's even the 60's might bring interesting memories of people and events in the Point.

Thanks to Jerry and all those helping him on the little museum building, its looking just great!

FILM IN/ABOUT RICHMOND

A major and possible Oscar-winning type film shot in Richmond? Tom Byrnes, who grew up in the Point, has seen the same big-city problems in Richmond that have befallen Los Angeles. As a lawyer specializing in the entertainment business and sometime film producer, he wants to make a move about someone who comes out of jail and finds that the world has changed. The one group that will readily accept him is the gangs. A son has been born while he was in jail. Some tough decisions must be made.

Tom's latest film "To Sleep With Anger" wowed European and New York film critics and won a special jury prize from the Sundance U.S. Film Festival and a "highest rating" by the international critics at the Cannes Film Festival.

Tommie (as he was called in those early years) attended Washington School and was a member of Boy Scout Troop lll. He has two brothers, Peter and Don and his mother still lives on Crest Avenue in the Point.

Mid Dornan

A-MID TRIVIA

By Mid Dornan (234-5334)

Our American heritage is best expressed this month when Thanksgiving brings families together in prayer and gratitude for the many blessing they share.

***

When artist John Haley was made Mayor for a Day by Mayor Livingston did that entitle Mr. Haley to a day of Mayor pay?

***

No wonder City Planner Jerry Rasmussen stays so trim and fit. He uses his bicycle for local transportation. Environmentally applauded, he has the answer to spiraling gasoline prices .

***

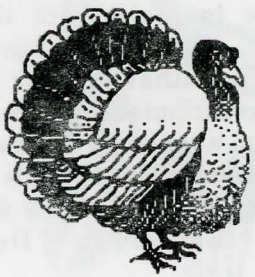
Grace and Bob Yank proudly announce the arrival of grandson, Tobias Isaiah Anderson on October 14th in Portland, Oregon. Grace went to Oregon to meet baby 'Toby' and congratulate his parents Jennifer and Ron.

***

The Richmond City Council approved increases in utility and real estate transfer taxes and imposed a new tax on cable TV bills. The council hopes the taxes will offset the anticipated budget deficit of about $5 million.

The utility tax was raised to 6%, on gas, electric and telephone bills and added 6% on cable TV. The transfer tax went to $7 per $1000 of property value.

A second vote is needed to finalize it.



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Are you aware that automakers over the years have spent thousands and thousands of dollars to make sure their door handles don't tend to break fingernails?

***

The Oakland A's are to be commended for chewing gum and bubble gum in lieu of that 'other stuff' as well as using sparkling cider for celebrations. Heros to our formative youth, the players are creating the positive image manager LaRussa and owner Haas want projected for family entertainment.

***

Has the American flag patch on the right shoulder of the player's uniforms always been in evidence at World Series?

***

One robin does not a springtime make
One swallow no summer at all.
But a point one can make
Without fear of mistake;
One lark has brought many a fall.

***

Watch for the new Life Saver 'Holes' commercials. The computer graphics were produced by Pixar...yes, here in Point Richmond. So are some of the state Lotto commercials.

***

One reader called to say a Pixar film graphic feature made in 1988 and showing with a current movie bears the Point Richmond address. It is with mixed emotions one accepts the Point becoming so visible.

***

While the women of the Point Methodist Church were preparing and setting up for their annual Country Faire, Roy Jones sauntered in and lightened the air with his brand of jazz piano music. Roy, a dislocated Baptist, made the luncheon at the Faire memorable with his piano too.

***

Former Point residents, Bea and Martin Kenoyer, now of Oregon, stopped in the Point to visit friends and yacht club neighbors. Traveling in their 'Cloud Nine' auto, Martin was celebrating his 83rd birthday. Congratulations! Very sorry to have missed you...but still remembering those great sailing days on the bay.

***

Melba and Lloyd Farley commemorated their 52nd wedding anniversary with a trip to Hawaii.

***

Have YOU had the opportunity to pass by the new Point Richmond History Museum building? Aren't you impressed with the continued progress for its completion? We will be ever grateful to the many volunteers but it will be the generations ahead who will value your generosity.

***

Without a doubt, the Point History Museum was the focal center of the Indian Statue Day celebration! Even the young fellows (names noted elsewhere) who were taping the sheetrock provided 'volunteers- in-action' for visitors for a glorious feeling of history being preserved.

***

Pam Wilson and her mother, Donna, vacationed in Southern California and Mexico.

***

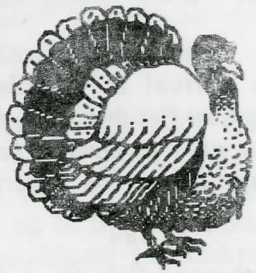
Dori Kennedy of Sausalito has purchased the Camren home on Western Drive, but will not be occupying it until next year. Wishing to become involved in her newly chosen community immediately, Dori has attended the Point Neighborhood Council and the Point History Association meetings. While many changes are occurring in the Point, people like Dori will maintain the town feeling of friendliness. Welcome!

***

At its October meeting the Westside Improvement Club voted $200 each in support of the Point Branch of the Library, Meals on Wheels and the Point Richmond History Museum. President Mary Highfill presided.

The program that day included a speaker from Volunteers of America and musical entertainment by Ned Henness, former opera singer who also has served as master of ceremonies for the Miss Universe Contest and for Bob Hope. The 82 year young Mr. Henness, and he did appear young, accompanied himself on his guitar using his compositions of lilting comic songs and ended with a community sing.

***



Quilting Ladies is a term used in Grandma's day but applies to a local group today who meet the last Thursday of the month in each others home. However, I'm told that some evenings are spent more in socializing than quilting. Members are Judy Travis, Florence Wilson, Marie Peckham, Francis Smith, Bev Scharitg, Pat Newton, Sue Munson, Olean Sprau and Lily Robison.

***

Unable to assist with the Country Faire at the Methodist Church, former member Edna Hathaway, now of Hanford, nevertheless contributed her pine-cone bells and Manstera angels by earlier bringing them for the event. The event is so popular, former members come from as far away as Sacramento, Barstow, Dublin and Rossmore.

***

Donna Roselius has been visiting her daughter, Roni Turner, and family in Sonora. Roni, battling cancer that has spread to other parts of her body since her mastectomy last year, has opted to forgo conventional chemotherapy and medications in favor of "taking charge of my own health." Mother of 6 year old Eric and year old Kyli, Roni is an inspirational and positive person to be around. She continually finds ways to help others and began a Women in Transition group for those unable to talk about cancer. A massage therapist, Roni is filled with hope from her strict diet, meditation, exercise and alternative medications that have shrunk her tumors.

***

The bench at Keller's Beach wasn't THE missing bench!

***

If a smoker would bank that $1.10 a day spent for cigarettes in 10 years it would amount to $7,943.00!

***

The City's abandoned car hot-line continues to provide a valuable source for a positive image. Such cars not only are ugly, but also annoying when space is a premium. A neighborhood owner was a bit chagrined to find the bright red tag on the windshield of his car.

***

The Pilgrims of Mayflower fame liked their beer. In fact, one of the main jobs of the youngest of them, namely John Alden, was the repair and construction of beer barrels.

***

Grandma sez this year Scotch brand transparent tape turns 60. After cellophane wrap (bet some readers don't know what this is either) was developed to seal baked goods, meat and other food items, food processors sought an attractive moisture proof way to seal the wrap. The term "Scotch tape" is virtually a synonym for the tape.

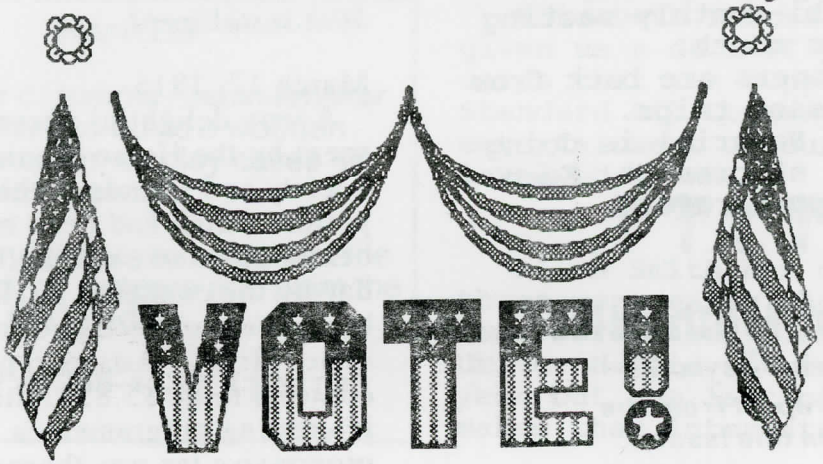
***

As if all the TV commercials weren't confusing enough, voter pamphlets arrive with all the information to make it totally confusing. Out of eight people questioned about the pamphlets, only one said they had even tried to read it.

***

HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY!

This is the one day of the year you must set aside time to list your blessings even if the only one you can think about is that you woke up this morning.



CHURCHES

Our Lady of Mercy

by Eleanor Hurley

Activities have relaxed somewhat after all the work and planning for our successful Annual Barbecue. We are back to the usual classes for the children, work of the Ladies Sodality, Parish Council, etc. We are also beginning to plan for Christmas.

Father Clift has been having some extensive dental work which has curtailed his activities. Helping out at the Souper Kitchen keeps Tony Ferreira and his helpers busy one day a month. Donations of soup are collected regularly and delivered as the barrel fills.

C.D.C. classes are held on Monday afternoons under the able direction of Cynthia Young.

Our Ladies Sodality will have its bi-monthly meeting later this month.

Vacationers are back from many pleasant trips.

Louise Navarini is doing very well at present. Keep her in your prayers.

Point Methodist

by Jean Reynolds

No news report from the Methodists in this issue.

Thanksgiving Services

On November 22nd at 9:00 am there will be an ecumenical Thanksgiving Service that will last for about 45 minutes. Participating will be Reverend Michael Brown of the Point Richmond Methodist Church and Father James Clift of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church.

Please arrange your Thanksgiving dinner so that you can attend.

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 50th installment.

March 17, 1916

A very delightful afternoon was spent by the Home Missionary Society and friends in the church parlors which had been most beautifully decorated befitting the day by the committe in charge. Mite boxes were opened and treasurer of same, Mrs. C. Adams reported their contents to be $5.85. After an interesting programme, a progressive tea was thoroughly

enjoyed by all.

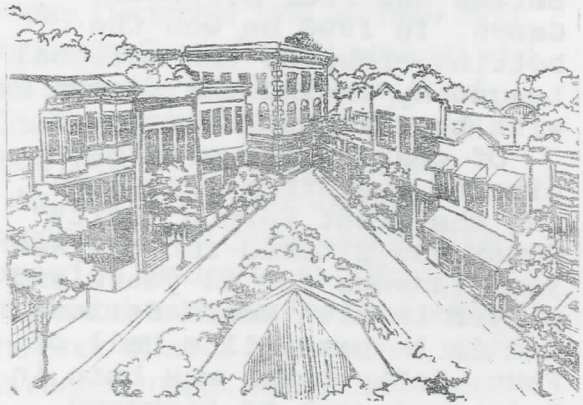
A motion was made and seconded that Mite Box money be sent to the district treasurer with instructions for him to use it where most needed.

Mrs Jennie M. Totten, sec

SENIOR NEWS

By Muriel C. Clausen

ON VACATION



WANTED

Volunteer carpenter/cabinetmaker to build or help to builld a wooden floor and later on display cases in our new little museum.

Volunteer painters to help paint the interior and/or prepare and paint the exterior of the building.

Call Jerry at 235-1336 if you can help.

ACQUISITIONS

Dr. William L. Thompson has donated to the History Association copies of his correspondence when he referred The Report on the Bott's Aeroplane to the Smithsonian Aerospace Museum. Also, there are copies of his correspondence with the Berkeley Bancroft Library.

Included are four photographic enlargements of negatives of the unique aeroplane by inventor R. H. Botts as well as two pages from a souvenior booklet published by the pioneer Richmond newspaper, The Richmond Record, dated January 1, 1902.

The photographs were taken by Dr. Thompson's father, an excellent photographer. We are grateful to Dr. Thompson for recording and providing the first hand knowledge of this historic event in the Point.

Elizabeth McDonald has given us a deck of playing cards that was supplied by The Standard Oil Company for the entertainment of our troops involved in WWII.

Allan Smith has given to us three very early photographs that were taken along Western Drive. He did not include the year but the lack of homes makes them interesting.

Sports memories

By Allan Smith

The 1990 professional baseball season is over and we must say that the "local boys did not make good!" After seeing many excellent ball games played by the Oakland A's this year..... and then to witness them lose in such and ignominious fashion in the World Series is very disappointing. An ardent fan of the Oakland A's is our "This Point in Time" editor, Gary Shows. I wonder what his comments are of the World Champions of 1989 after their dismal performance in this 1990 World Series?

I know of one Point Richmond native who played in a World Series. He was the late Russ Christopher and he pitched for the Cleveland Indians in 1948 when they won the World Series from Boston in six games. Russ was part of the Cleveland pitching roster which included the great Bob Feller, Bob Lemon, Gene Bearden and the legendary Satchel Paige.

Loyd Christopher, brother of Russ, lives in Point Richmond and still is active in baseball as a scout. I believe he was the one who signed Dennis Eckersley to the A's and was very instrumental in their successful baseball season.

A big league player who should be noted as the greatest professional baseball player ever to be raised in the city of Richmond is Willie McGee, now playing for the Oakland Athletics. Willie went to Harry Ells High School here in Richmond. Why he doesn't receive more publicity from the local newspaper is questionable. McGee has played in the big leagues for seven years, attended three World Series and four All-Star Games. In 1990 he won the batting crown of the National League by ending the season with the highest average.

Of course, the greatest pitcher ever from this area was the great Vernon "Lefty" Gomez who pitched for the New York Yankees for 13 years and played in five World Series and is in baseball's Hall of Fame. Lefty Gomez was born in Rodeo and went to Richmond Union High School.

LOYD CHRISTOPHER

POINT RICHMOND HOLIDAY-TIME FOOD DRIVE

Contra Costa County is a beautiful county, and it is a very wealthy county. Unhappily there is a dark side to this prettiness and prosperity, compounded by unemployment, homelessness, hunger and poor health, which means that 10% of the residents of Contra Costa County live in, or near poverty. Over a dozen volunteers from Point Richmond have been hard at work for the past few weeks organizing a four day canned food drive. The drive, to take place Tuesday, December 11th to Friday, December 14th, will raise food for Contra Costa County residents who are served by the Community Food Coalition, Contra Costa's non-profit food bank, a United Way agency.

About a week before the drive, specially printed grocery bags will be placed on the doorsteps of Point Richmond residents. The bags will list the kinds of foods most desired, such as canned meats, peanut butter and dried fruit. Between December 11th and 14th it is hoped that people will bring their bags of food to the drop-off barrels. The locations of these barrels will be stapled to the bags, and posted in a number of spots around Point Richmond.

The food that is collected will be distributed during the holidays to individuals and families who cannot afford Christmas dinner. Many recipients, such as young children will be referred by county social workers. Over 2,300 low- income senior citizens will receive special holiday food baskets through the Food Coalition's "Brown Bag" program.

Throughout the year growers, manufacturers, and retailers donate food to the Community Food Coalition. However, much of this food, such as fresh produce, bread and milk products is perishable.

Canned food drives such as we hope to have in December help to provide non-perishable, high-protein food for people in need. We know that many of you are involved in special projects, or have long established patterns of giving and sharing, but we hope you will be able to join us in the neighborhood effort to show that POINT RICHMOND CARES.

Submitted by
Lucretia Edwards

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

CHRISTOPHER 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

HENRY A. FRANCIS

JANICE A. HANTZSCHE

JOAN MEISEL

RAIL & MARINE TRANSPORTATION CONSULTANTS, S.F. CROOK

BETTY J. MARSHALL

LUCIANA & BONNIE FORNER
(Given in Memory of Bob Young)

HORTENSE GNAGA McGEE
(Given in Memory of Elizabeth F. Gnaga, Goldy Gnaga Shrewsbury, & Frankie Greenlaw)

MURIEL & BERT CLAUSEN

MARTIN McNAIR

CHANNEL LUMBER

EDWIN L. BEDFORD

THE WOMEN'S WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB

GEORGE M. BATTEN
(Given in memory of Virginia Batten)

GRACE & JERRY CERKANOWICZ, SR.

CHARLOTTE G. WOODS

SONNY JACKSON ROOFING, INC.

REMCO ROOF SUPPLY

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

DORIS C. RASMUSSEN

BOB & MARIE PECKHAM (SANTA FE MARKET)

JANICE CHAMBERLAIN (CHAMBERLAIN INSURANCE ASSOC.)

DAVID & CAROL MacDIARMID

JOSEPH & SONJA DARLING

BENA SALLE BOWLES
(Given in Memory of Antone Salle)

WILLIAM H. & ALYCE K. WILLIAMSON

ROBBERT HUBBARD

ANDREW JOHNS

I would like to help save the oldest 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

Life in Old Point Richmond

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 timehe 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 II

The husband took care of outdoor work much as repairs and garden work. The care of the chickens and other animals usually fell to the children if old enough. The automobile did not get a start until after 1915. I recall no automobiles in my earliest memories. Merchants and other business people did their work with horse and wagons. The average person did not own horses and did his travelling on foot or by common carriers. My father got his first car in 1917 and that changed our life greatly. There were few repair shops and most car repair and all lubrication had to be done at home by the owner. However, cars were much simpler in those days. At first, the motor had to be started with a crank and this proved to be somewhat dangerous. Unless one held his grip just right the motor could kick back and cause a fracture of the wrist. Even after I started practicing medicine we occasionally saw a fracture from this source. The so called "self-starter" was a later development and at first could not be depended on entirely so done still carried a crank for use in an emergency.

The first automobiles were rather simple. Some only had two cylinders. All the early cars were open cars. The sedan was a later development. They were equipped with side curtains that could be put on in case of rain. Usually the rain came in anyway and one usually got wet putting them on. Also there were no windshield wipers and in a severe storm one had to stop and get out and wipe the glass. The next improvement was a wiper like present ones except that it had to be worked from inside by a little crank. Taking a drive in winter could be quite a task.

Gas stations were not very common but gasoline was all of one kind and quite cheap. I recall 10 or 12 cent gas. There was a gas station near one gate at the Standard Oil

Company refinery where employees could get their gas. Also the company sold coupon books so that employees could get gas at a reduced rate. Drivers licenses and driving tests were not required at first but with later great increase in automobiles these became a necessity.

Schools were quite different. Families took them most seriously because most of them had not had the benefit of a good education. Most had not gotten by the 8th grade. In many parts of the state there were no schools beyond that. Families cooperated with the teachers well and assisted their children with their work at home. During the influenza epidemic in 1917 and 1918 everyone had to wear a flu mask. It was odd to walk on the streets and see everyone with his face covered. In some it was an improvement. Children in school had to wear masks and the schools had to keep a supply on hand in case a child forgot and came to school without one. The masks did little good except to keep the peoples mind on the disease.

There were no school buses and few families had transportation for their children so they had to walk. For some the distance was quite great. The walk from the region of the Standard Oil Company to Washington School was over a mile and on rainy days this was quite a problem and pupils often got quite wet. Because of this the schools had warming benches usually in the halls where students could sit and dry off. Also these were sometimes used for punishment.

When we started to junior high school the distance was 2 or 3 miles. We went by street car and the car company issued books of student tickets at about two and one-half cents a ride. That was fine except that these tickets were not good after 5 P.M. or on Saturdays or Sundays. Those of us who went out for athletics often were not through with practice until after 5 and we either had to walk or pay the seven cent fare.

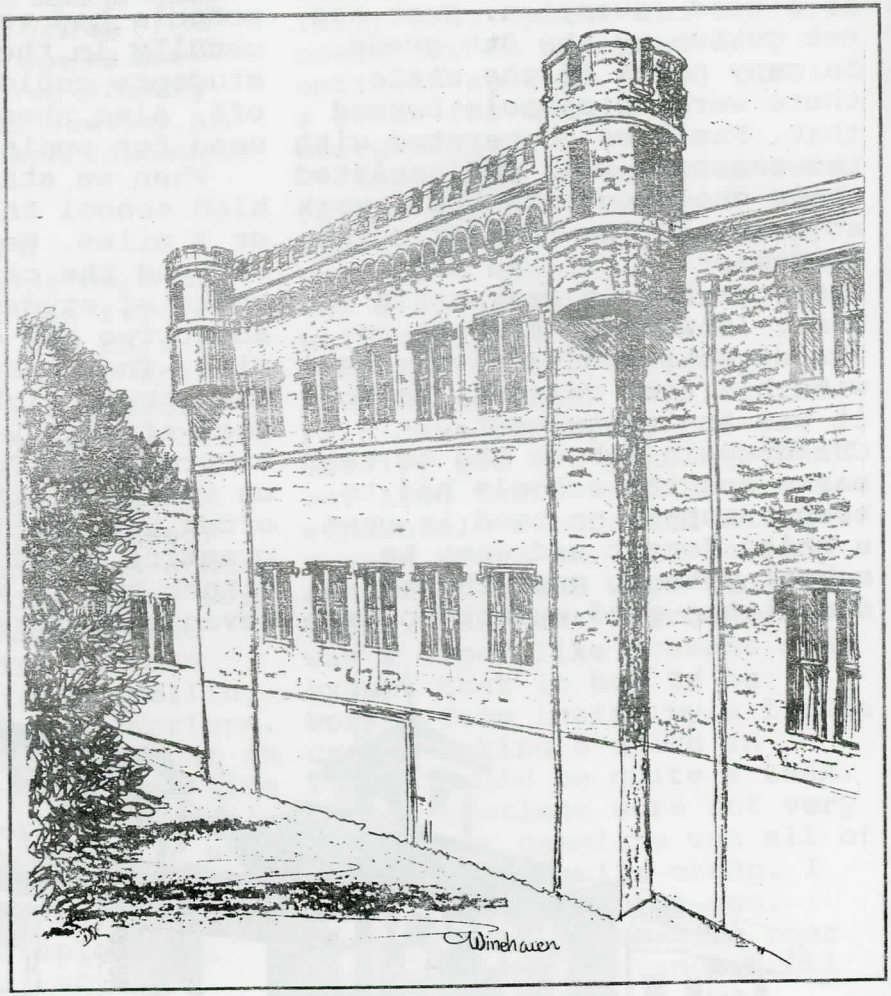
Memories of an Old Friend On the Point

Bernard Bernes/AKA Frenchie

Winehaven in 1918
(or before Prohibition)

Winehaven was built for the California Wine Association. It was the largest winery in the world at that time. It had its own electric generation plant, its own electric railway system, a long wharf where ships came to load wine for export to foreign countries and housing for its employees. The superintendent had the largest and highest house on the hill across the road from the winery. Before the company housing, some employees and families lived either on an old abandoned river boat, some small houses near the winery, or in the Point. The winery gave the employees a monthly wine allowance. On Sundays many persons from the Point would walk out to the winery for free sampling of the wines. This sometimes had less than good results!

The winery itself looks like a fortress or a castle. It was built of stone.



Starting at the south end, winery operations were conducted from separate buildings. First there was the fermentation building where the grapes were crushed and fermented. The grapes were brought by railroad trains from Napa, Sonoma, and San Joaquin valleys. This was only done in the fall when grapes were available. Wine was produced only once a year, as they had no refrigeration to store the grape juice. Today's wineries store the grape juice in huge frozen container tanks so that they can ferment wine all year.

Next were the huge wine cellars where the wine was stored to age. First it was stored in huge redwood tanks holding about 1000 gallons. Next it was stored in 50 gallon or 100 gallon barrels to finish ageing, a process that took one or two years.

Moving north the next building was the bottling and shipping departments, the wine was shipped in bottles, barrels, and bulk. The bulk shipments were shipped in tank cars, or by ships from their long wharf.

There was the building in which they distilled the dregs from the wine production, to make alcohol and brandy. The brandy was aged in charred oak barrels.

Finally on the north end was the cooperage shop, where they made all of their own oak barrels.

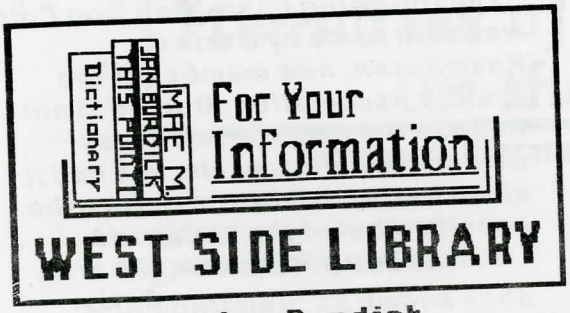
The following poem "Bull Dog Point" was sent to me by Doris C. Rasmussen, new member of the History Association. Doris did not include the date the poem was written, but tells me she has had it since before WWII and before the construction of the shipyards..

In case you don't know, the area once known as "Bull Dog Point" streches from Keller's Beach south to Brickyard Cove from the hilltop to the bay. I thought you might enjoy reading it.

Thanks Doris.

by Edward Hall
Point Richmond

Oh, Bull Dog Point, farewell, farewell
We'll know thee now no more.
Thy hill-top, gully, crag and dell,
Thy beach along the shore.
No more are free to such as me,
The signs "No Trespass" bane.
And the shade of thy spreading buck-eye tree.
Oh, BullDog Point, we'll remember still
The pleasure that thou gave:
The fresh, pure air upon thy hill,
Thy beach with lapping wave.
Alas! for the places of the wild-
(Old Bull Dog Point was such!)
Are daily being more defiled
By man's commercial touch!



By Jan Burdick

New books at the West Side.....

Frommer's California With Kids
by Carey Simon

The word "comprehensive" should somehow be added to the title of "California With Kids", because it is the most complete guide of its kind. It is well researched, planned and written. Not just a travel guide with add-ons for children, "Kids" is written with them uppermost in mind, including how to travel, what to see and do, where to stay and eat.

The Catholic Myth
by Andrew M. Greeley

Armed with Social survey data and state-of-the-art software, Andrew M. Greeley, sociologist, priest, novelist and self-styled maverick, battles two myths about Roman Catholics, cherished by two different constituencies. One holds that American Catholics are blue-collar reactionaries whom it is hopeless to court for liberal political coalitions. The other says that those Catholics who are educated and middle-class have wised up and left the church.

In fact, claims Father Greeley, American Catholics are better educated and more affluent than Protestants and more liberal on virtually every political issue.

Some of his survey findings include the following:

Protestants are more likely to read the Bible than Catholics are, Catholics are more feminist than Protestants and more accepting of Science.

The book is more than a compilation of answers, especially the concept of "sacramental" imagination and "dialectical" imagination.

Zen In America
by Helen Tworkov

Since the "Zen Boom" of the 1950's and '60's, a substantial minority of well-educated Americans have been molding the Zen lotus into an American shape. A first generation of homegrown American Zen teachers has emerged, teachers whose authority has been validated by their Japanese masters.

Helen Tworkov's reflective profiles of five Zen teachers from this first generation are neither adoring hagiography nor suspicious criticism. She has on the whole succeeded admirably in her attempt to find a "middle way", writing a sort of Zen sociology that gently portrays these teachers not as saints but as human beings, warts and all. The five teachers she has chosen -

radical pacifist Robert Aitken of Hawaii, Jakusho Kwong of Sonoma, baking impresario Bernard Glassman of the Bronx, Pianist Maurine Stuart and the controversial Richard Baker, former abbot of San Francisco Zen Center - are respected for their gifts, but not adored.

Family Pictures
by Sue Miller

Sue Millers's virtuoso new novel, "Family Pictures, presents itself modestly. The style is clear, specific, but almost plain. Just a little story inside a house, but the house contains a conundrum in the form of Randall, the autistic brother, who never speaks, but is not quiet, who grows but fails to change.

Ms. Miller shifts into and out of four different points of view, jumps backward and forward in time, raises complex themes again and again in order to redefine and reconsider them. She rites with ease about the tensions between the parents, David and Lainey, about the births of the later children. Ms. Miller's narrative technique is dazzling and illuminated by details that are exactly right, so that when Nina, the eldest daughter, at last questions her mother about Randall, Lainey reveals the fruit of her experience. And that too is right, a truth that is at once wise and moving and surprising.

The following poem was sent to me by Naomi Huffstetter and I thought you might enjoy it, its author is not known.

A Senior Citizen's Lament

Thought I'd let my doctor check me
Cause I didn't feel quite right,
All those aches and pains annoyed me.
And I couldn't sleep at night.
He could find no real disorder,
but he wouldn't let it rest,
What with Medicare & Blue Cross
it wouldn't hurt to do some tests.
To the hospital he sent me,
though I didn't feel that bad,
He arranged for them to give me
every test that could be had.
I was fluroscoped & cystoscoped,
my aging frame displayed,
Stripped upon an ice-cold table
while my gizzards were X-rayed,
I was checked for worms & parasites
for fungus and the crud,
While they peirced me with long needles
taking samples of my blood.
Doctors came to check me over,
probed & pushed & poked around
And to make sure I was living,
they wired me for sound.
They have finally concluded:
(their rusults have filled a page)
What I have will someday kill me,
my affliction is OLD AGE!

Deaths.....

Eva May Doney died on September 30, 1990. Wife of the late Edward Doney, she was the mother of Marie Wilson Dietz of Point Richmond, Charlotte May Stribley of San Pablo and Glen Doney of San Pablo. She is survived by five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. The last great-grandchild, Madeleine Marie Huston was born at 2:30 a.m. and Eva died at 6:30 a.m., both on September 30th.

Eva, as a young mother, worked as a checker at Whitesides Market (now Santa Fe Market) to help support her family during an illness of her husband.

She was a 60 year member of Beacon -Point Chapter #383, OES, WWI Widows, AARP. Eva's love of the Eastern Star, its ceremony and fellowship was evidenced by the many honors she was awarded from the California Grand Chapter of Eastern Star.

A former member of the Point Methodist Church, her services were conducted by the Rev. Michael Brown and OES #383. Remembrances may be sent to the Point Church, at 201 Martina Street, Point Richmond 94801.

THE MASQUERS
Playhouse, Inc.
105 Park Place, Point Richmond
PROUDLY PRESENTS

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC

Book by
HUGH WHEELER

Music & Lyrics
STEPHEN SONDHEIM

Director:
PAT NELSON

Music Director:
JOE CRAVOTTO

Choreographer:
GEORGE ADAMS

A merry and mischievous love story in three-quarter time set at the turn of the century.

THE CAST:

Anna Albanese	Robert Love	Nicole Peters
Betty Baker Bindner	Joan Nelson	Jane Rateaver
Debra Blondheim	Sandy Ormeo	Robin Steeves
James Douglas	Mark Patino	Wayne Vargas
Deborah Garrett	Robert Patterson	Don Waight
Donald Lopez	Lisa Peers	Robert Wood

Friday & Saturday evenings—November 2 - December 22, 1990
Sunday Matinees – Nov. 11, 25, Dec. 9, 16

RESERVATIONS: 232-4031 (24 hours)
Reservations held until 10 minutes before curtain.
Group Rates Available

Box Office Opens at 8:00 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, December 13. Dinner and ticket to "A Little Night Music" for only $23.00. To reserve, CALL: 236-4988.

COMING: "Veronica's Room", a suspenseful shocker by Ira Levin, opens January 18, 1991.

Happy Thanksgiving

by Anne Hanzlik

A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY STEPHEN SONDHEIM
PRESENTED BY THE MAQUERS PLAYHOUSE
November 2 thru December 22, 1990

The current season ends with an ambitious production of "A Little Night Music" which Stephen Sondheim adapted from Ingmar Bergman's film "Smiles of a Summer Night".

The Masquers has been revamped to accommodate an orchestra pit, no small accomplishment in such a small space. The five musicians who presented the score were a great addition to the whole performance it must be emphasized. The decor of the sets extends to the wall of the theater proper, with an attractive tracery of silver birch trees, which are the theme on the stage as well, very effective against the dark blue of the walls. The new arched proscenium is also a new attraction as well the sparkling curtain.

All this is a suitable setting for the sophisticated and witty musical laid in Sweden at the turn of the century in the country house of Madame Armfeldt, amateur and worldly hostess. The house is filled with the delightfully costumed people gathered there. Madame's daughter Desiree has invited several of the weekend guests as a consequence of her romantic liaisons past, present and future. At Madame's house are her current lover, Count Carl-Magnus Malcom and his wife Charlotte and her past and future lover Frederick Egerman and his wife as well as his son Henrick who is soon to run off with his child bride. All the action is described in Sondheim's amusing and explanatory lyrics and is finally happily sorted out, plus some attractive vignettes with the Ergamand's maid, Malla, with her

rendition of "The Millers Son" the five person Chorus aids with explanations of the plot also.

My companion and I found that the acoustics had been altered with the addition of the orchestra pit so that the complicated lyrics were hard to follow in our front row seats although people farther back found them clearly distinguishable. Each song that is sung by the cast whether solo or in duet is a commentary on love or "liaisons" as Madame prefers to call them, all of them wordy and more often than not cynical, but charming nevertheless.

Robert Love deserves special mention as Mr. Erlanson and he also looks the part of an urbane Swedish lawyer. Joan Nelson as Desiree Armfeld gives her usual competent performance, although her delivery of the best known song, "Send in the Clowns" was not audible enough for those of us in the front.

However, as with most of the Masquers productions, the entire cast acquitted themselves admirably. The show runs almost to the Christmas holidays, closing December 22nd and is sure of a successful run, even though not quite as long as the original 600 New York performances.

Editor Gary Shows:

I too was saddened by the death of Stanley Nystrom. He and I went thru school together starting with Nystrom Elementary and graduating together from Richmond High School in 1937. I remember him as a very friendly and accomodating person. He will be missed by all.

Sincerely,
Herbert (Pete) Hunn
47560 North Courtland Rd.
Clarksburg, CA 95612

Dear PRHA:

Please add one family membership and the following two senior memberships to your membership lists.

Also does anyone know any history of 324 Washington Avenue other than it being known as Hank O'Hara's house? When was it built and by who? Was Hank the only owner and who is/was Hank anyway?

Thanks,
Karen, Michael, Maria & Isobel Shaw

*****

If one of Henry O'Hara's friends would kindly answer the Shaw's questions, I will print it in the next edition of TPIT. ...Gary

Dear Sir:

I know many a person in The Point, why I'm 90 as of August 24th, I came to the Point in 1903, my dad retired from S.O. Company. Me, I retired from Union Oil Co. I started my career in the Point with a paper route, a milk route, junk route. As I grew older more work was added such as carrying wood from the beach for my mother's stove to cook for us.

I now enjoy enjoy gardening and dancing in our retirement home with my 88 year old (good looking) wife. Jerry has visited our home.

Yours Truly,
Carl Westman
Bay Park Retirement Home
Pinole, CA

It is great hearing from your Carl, I hope things are still going well for you. I appoligize for being a little late in printing your letter, write again and I'll get it in sooner. I decided to include Mrs. Westman's letter next.

.....Gary

Dear Pam:

A beautiful article was written in your magazine in 1982 about Carl's and my wedding. Before our marriage I was married to Jack Diller. We came to the Point in 1924 and lived at 17 Montana next to J.O. Fords.

Carl and I have been married for more than seven years and look forward to receiving our "This Point in Time" newsletter, as he really is a pioneer.

After living in Point Richmond for 60 years it was finally time to pull up stakes. So we moved to this beautiful retirement home, Bay Park Retirement Home in Pinole and are very happy. Carl still has a garden.

Mrs. Carl Westman
Bay Park Retirement Home
Pinole

Thanks for the letter, sorry to be so late in publishing it, write again to update us.

.....Gary

November Birthdays (234-5334)

ANN GREINER
JASON McGILL
BETTY DORNAN
ELSIE SPINOLA
CLARE DOHERTY
KEVIN FONG
DENNIS DORNAN
DOROTHY McCUTCHEON
JAN OVERHOLTZER
MARIANNE FORBES
LES CRIM
HAL MARSHALL
NICOLE VARGO
MATHEW BERMAN
JAMES CHESHARECK, SR.
JAMES CHESHARECK, JR.
IDA GIACOMELLI
LINDA CHESHARECK
CLAUDIA LeGUE
TED BECK
GARY SHOWS
PAUL CORT
ALBERT & GEORGE KOLLAR (Twins)
LYNN DARLING
MARY ANN GASPARD
CHRIS BRADSHAW
CRAIG SEABORG
BO AMANTITE
KENNY PAASCH
LANCE ROTTING
JOE SAVILE
MIKE PRICE
SHANE THOMAS
LINDA FEYDER
BETHANY REYNOLDS
KAY PINKERTON
AUBYN EAKLES
MICHAEL BROWN
BOBBIES BOZIKI
SHIRLEY BUTT
JACK ELLE

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

_____

PHONE_____

Type of membership (check one)

☐ SINGLE	$15.00
☐ SENIOR (65+)	10.00
☐ FAMILY	25.00
☐ HISTORY PRESERVER	50.00
☐ CORPORATE SPONSOR	75.00
☐ 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 or before the published deadline in the calendar section of this issue.
Please mail articles and items of interest to:

GARY SHOWS
229 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE
POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801

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$_____

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From_____

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The Richmond Museum
Betsy
Allan Smith
Lucretia Edwards
Bernard Bernes
Doris Rasmussen
Edward Hall
Anne Hanzlik
Naomi Huffstetter

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

November 6	**Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting, 7:30 P.M., Community Center**
	Election Day
November 10 & 11	**Richmond Museum's 9th Annual Treasure & Junk Fair, Ells High School Gym, Noon to 3pm**
November 11	**Veteran's Day**
November 14	**Point Richmond Business Association Meeting, Noon, Hotel Mac**
November 22	**Thanksgiving Day**
	Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, 9:00 am, Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church
November 23	**Deadline for articles in "This Point" newsletter Winter edition, or sooner if possible**
November 29	**History Association General Meeting, 7:30 P.M., Point Richmond Community Center**
December 4	**Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting, 7:30 P.M., Community Center**
December 11-14	**Holiday-Time Food Drive begins, fill your bag**
December 12	**First Day of Hanukkah**
	Point Richmond Business Association Meeting, Noon, Hotel Mac
December 25	**Christmas Day**