

# —THIS POINT—

in time


NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL IX No. 6

WINTER, 1990 - 91

\$1.00



HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS

**NEXT  
HISTORY ASSOCIATION  
MEETING  
January 31, 1991  
Community Center 7:30 pm**

**ROMAN GATES  
PAINTINGS & DRAWINGS  
November 30 thru December 30, 1990**

**Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10-3pm  
and by Appointment  
415-233-2921 or 415-233-7510**

**GALLERY OPENING RECEPTION  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1990  
7-9 pm  
THE ARTIST WILL BE PRESENT**

**GATES FINE ARTS  
203 Tewksbury Avenue, Point Richmond, CA 94801**



# History Association Notes

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Jerry Cernanowicz

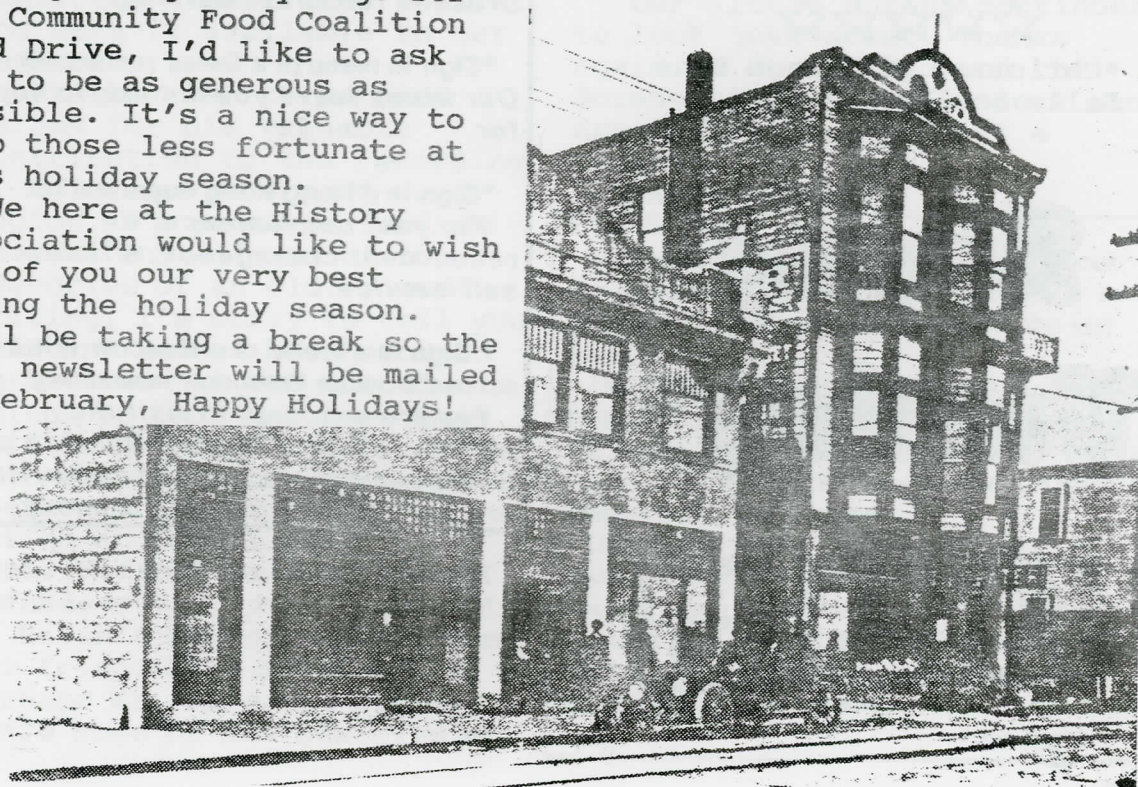
Work on the little building will continue with preparation and painting of the exterior. We have decided to pay for a professional job so that the work is done right. Next we will begin finishing work on the walls, ceiling and floor of the interior.

As one of the volunteers handing out grocery bags for the Community Food Coalition Food Drive, I'd like to ask you to be as generous as possible. It's a nice way to help those less fortunate at this holiday season.

We here at the History Association would like to wish all of you our very best during the holiday season. We'll be taking a break so the next newsletter will be mailed in February, Happy Holidays!

## CONTENTS

|                            |              |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| FROM THE PRESIDENT         | 1            |
| MEMBERS                    | 2            |
| EDITOR'S NOTES             | 3            |
| A-MID TRIVIA               | 4            |
| CHURCHES                   | 7            |
| SPORTS                     | 11           |
| BUILDING CONTRIBUTORS      | 12           |
| LIFE IN OLD POINT RICHMOND | 14           |
| MEMORIES OF AN OLD FRIEND  | 17           |
| LIBRARY                    | 19           |
| LETTERS                    | 22           |
| DEATHS                     | 22           |
| BIRTHDAYS                  | 23           |
| CALENDAR                   | INSIDE COVER |



## MEMBERSHIP

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

ANNE ANDERSON  
SANDI GENSER-MAACK  
& LYNN MAACK  
BERNICE PREECE  
GINNY MILLS  
ALBERT & HORTENSE McGEE  
MARY SANTINI SHUR  
DAVID & CAROL MAC DIARMID FAMILY

And a warm welcome to new members:

MR. & MRS. LEO GARDNER  
MARY BOGUNAVICH VALENZANO \*  
MELBA GHEIRI LOGAN \*  
GARY SCHAEFER



\*Christmas gift from Bena  
Salle Bowles

Seasons  
Greetings



Translating another language to English can be tricky, here are some actual examples:

**\*Sign in Tokyo hotel-**

*It is forbidden to steal hotel towels please. If you are no person to do such thing is please not to read this notis.*

**\*Sign in Athens hotel -**

*Visitors are expected to complain at the office between the hours of 9 and 11 daily.*

**\*Sign in a Bangkok dry cleaners -**

*Drop your trousers here for best results.*

**\*Sign outside a Paris dress shop -**

*Dresses for street walking.*

**\*Sign in menu of a Swiss restaurant -**

*Our wines leave you nothing to hope for.*

**\*Sign in a Hong Kong supermarket -**

*For your convenience, we recommend courageous, efficient self-service.*

**\* Sign in a lobby of a Moscow hotel**  
*across from an Orthodox monastery -*

*You are welcome to visit the cemetery where famous Russian and Sovet composers, artists and writers are buried daily except Thrusday.*

Thanks to Anne Hanzlik for the above list....more in the next issue.



## editors notes.....

BY GARY SHOWS

Here is your 1990 Winter Edition of TPIT! I sincerely hope you enjoy reading it.

You will find part 3 (and conclusion) of Dr. Thompson's "Life in Old Point Richmond". We are indebted to Dr. Thompson for giving us so many interesting memories to read and record as an important part of our local history. Enjoy this issue's installment and you should look forward to the next series, "Childhood Memories of the Point Richmond Triangle". I plan at some point (when I have time) to publish Dr. Thompson's writings in a complete, illustrated booklet and make it available to our members.

Thanks also to Bernard Bernes for his valuable contribution to the recording of written history of our region. I'm proud to include another installment of his "Memories of an Old Friend" writing. I'm sorry to tell you that Mr. Bernes has informed me that he has run out of things to write. I hope that this is not true but if it is, then we should pause now and thank him for his interesting and detailed contributions to our history records.

Haven't heard anything from our friend Will Spiersch, perhaps Mr. Spiersch will share some of his memories of

the Point Richmond Triangle, since his roots are deep in this area of the Point.

Once again, there are many more of you out there who have memories of old (and not so old) Point Richmond that would be interesting to our readers. Stop procrastinating and write them down and mail them to me.

To the "Senior News" fans, Muriel assures me that her article will return with the next issue. She has had a lot of unexpected business to attend to lately.

It was great seeing Donna Roselius at our November meeting.

Our little museum continues to look just great. Thanks again to Jerry, Mid and the dozens of other volunteers who are making this project a reality.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

CORRECTION: (whoops!)

Just a polite correction to your note about the location of Bull Dog Point in reference to the poem by Edmund Hall printed in the last issue.

I'm sure Bull Dog Point is the area from the Richfield Terminal on Canal Street down past the Pasha area to the ship drydock. This is on the city side of Nichol Nob and where Kaiser Shipyard #4 was located.

During the 1930's Depression years, several families lived in that area and in houses along the waterfront and they had to contend with the bull dogs owned by one of the men living there - hence the name Bull Dog Point.....As I remember.

Allan Smith

## A-MID TRIVIA

By Mid Dornan (234-5334)

The Wise Men, who came from the East,

Knew which way to travel, at least.

For as they went West,

They knew they were blest

By the way that their wisdom increased.

\*\*\*

**HINT:** An easy way to buy the right length of shoelaces for shoes is to count the total number of holes on one shoe and multiply by three.. That's the length in inches to buy.

\*\*\*

Welcome to the Point, FLUOR CORPORATION, pre-engineers of Chevron's huge re-structuring project. Their offices are located next door to the Point branch of the Mechanics Bank.

\*\*\*

Recognize National Children's Book Week by encouraging the enjoyment of reading to children. Buy an extra book for a child for the holidays.

\*\*\*

It's a Boy for Rick and Wendy Schuldt of Bishop Alley. Russell Helmick Schuldt was born on October 28th and was named after Rick's father's family whose German ancestors date back to Gettysburg.

\*\*\*

Do you think your one vote counts? Well, English rather than German was selected as the official language of the United States in Congress after the American Revolution by just one vote!

\*\*\*

Election day can be a long one for precinct workers who arrive at 6:30

a.m and work until about 9:30 p.m. What a delight to have one of the first voters bring in really fresh Acme bread with a favorite cheese from his store at snack time. Then, in the late afternoon (no time after 4:00 for breaks) another favorite voter supplies cookies and ice cream...for energy! The Point Methodist church is a great place to serve on an election board!

\*\*\*

Because there aren't enough people willing to work on election boards, people from outside the precinct must travel to the Point to serve. If you are civic minded, call the county elections clerk and offer to serve the next time around. It has its rewards. (see above)

\*\*\*

The Community Food Coalition has distributed bags for the county's food bank. Take time to fill your bag and drop it off in the Point so the many less fortunate than yourself like Senior Citizens, Single Mothers, Working Poor, Children and those without homes will benefit. You'll feel good about yourself too.

\*\*\*

It's not the minutes of a meal that add the extra pound but rather it's the seconds that tend to make us round.

\*\*\*

Did you know you can order postage stamps by phone, all day, every day?

Customers can buy stamps using major credit cards by calling 1-800-782-6724 (1-800-STAMP-24). Stamps will be sold at face value plus a \$3 service charge per order, and mailed to the buyer. They are available in sheets of 50, rolls of 100 or 500 and booklets. The service also



will sell postal cards and stamped envelopes.

This service can be important to small businesses as well as elderly or handicapped for whom a trip to the post office can be difficult or time-consuming.

\*\*\*

Stamps can also be purchased by mail, no service charge, which will be delivered to your mail box. See your postal carrier for an order form.

\*\*\*

Bernice Shows visited her son, Gary (our editor), for a week doing the touristy, sightseeing and visiting bit before returning to San Antonio, Texas.

\*\*\*

**CONGRATULATIONS** Bob and Marie Peckham! They celebrated their one year anniversary at the Santa Fe Market by treating the staff to dinner out.

\*\*\*

Speaking of dinner, the Peckham's had real reason to celebrate on Thanksgiving when wall-to-wall tables and chairs seated 31 family members. Well, maybe a couple were babies unable to sit, but they were family!

\*\*\*

Grace and Jerry Cerkowicz will arrive from Carlsbad, California to spend holiday time with son, Jerry and daughter, Deidre, making the Christmas season more meaningful.

\*\*\*

Frustration!! After spending countless hours expressing concerns of proper use of Point land parcels at the Neighborhood Council, City Planning Department, City Planning Commission, Design Review Board and City Council, the referred to parcels are now posted, "For Sale"!

\*\*\*

Watch for 'Maria's Yogurt Espresso Emporium', operated by Maria Martins, which will be opening in the new Zambrano building at 139 West Richmond Avenue.

\*\*\*

Donna Roselius, our multi-talented history association founder, participated in the Annual Home Show of works in fiber, ceramics, jewelry, basketry and painting at the Berkeley home of Sharon Wheat. From her Port Orford, Oregon studio, Donna brought her jewelry and hand painted silk fiber clothing.

\*\*\*

A friend explained he was giving money as Christmas gifts this year as it was the cheapest thing he could find.

\*\*\*

Phyllis Skaglund (Point Richmond Travel) gave a birthday party for her husband and invited 50 people! And, she did all the preparations of food!

\*\*\*

Deneen Winter's two Siamese cats not only are treated to a special

# Merry Christmas

'cat video' that features birds, squirrels and animal sounds but even have a special chair on which they sit while viewing it!

\*\*\*

A third reunion of former and present Richmond police officers was held at the Concord Hilton with over 200 members and wives attending. It has been about eight years since the last one with the farthest officer coming from Maine. Attending from the Point were Fay Hawkins, Dick Dowell, Bill Williamson, Tom Doyle and Bob Peckham.

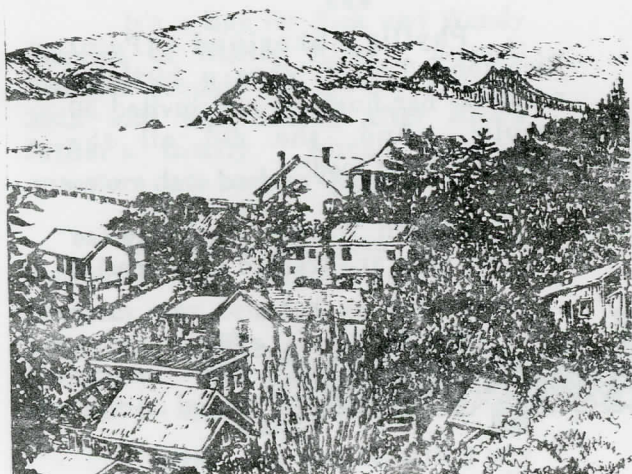
\*\*\*

January is a time for resolutions and new beginnings. Keeping them depends upon whether you have increased will power or lower expectations.

\*\*\*

**WISHING YOU A JOYOUS  
CHRISTMAS AND HANUKKAH  
SEASON  
AND A YEAR OF FULFILLMENT  
IN**

**1991!**



## A-MID EXTRAS

*from Anne Hanzlik*

Our favorite librarian, Jan Burdick had a suitably astonished expression when she came home with her husband Bob last October 28th from a Sunday brunch in Marin. About forty guests, all out of sight from the front door sang out "Happy Birthday!" when she walked in. Bob and Carol and Ron, their children had engineered the celebration with great efficiency so that unlike many surprise parties, it truly was one. It was Jan's 60th birthday, quite a milestone, and was celebrated with good wishes and many toasts. There was barbecued chicken and lots of other good food and of course, a cake and the lovely fall sun shown brilliantly on the festive affair.

\*\*\*

*from Allan Smith*

Students from Point Richmond attending Richmond Union High School in the 1930's were given free bus transportation from the Point to the High School. Each month they were issued a 20 ride ticket.

Some of the Point's young entrepreneurs would sell their ticket to students from El Cerrito and Pinole who did not get free rides. By doing this they could earn \$1.00 or .75 cents which would be used to buy the delicious "slop burgers" served in the union at the school.

How did they get to school? Joe Bailo, who lived out at Devil's Hole, which was next to the Brickyard, had a 1919 Dodge that ran good and also, Donald Busby had a Model "T". They were "good guys" who would always give you a lift - small donation for gas. Several times, no ride to or from, so it was a long walk to school and back to the Point.

\*\*\*





# CHURCHES

## Our Lady of Mercy

by Eleanor Hurley

Sorry, no report from Eleanor

## Point Methodist

by Jean Reynolds

More than thirty

responses were received from the community survey sent in October. Thank you to everyone who responded. The results of the survey will be used to help us plan new ways to meet community needs.

December events scheduled at the church include the annual Sunday School Christmas program on December 16th at 7:00 p.m. The students will put on a play, provide special music and help us all get into the spirit of the season. Refreshments and festivities will follow the program.

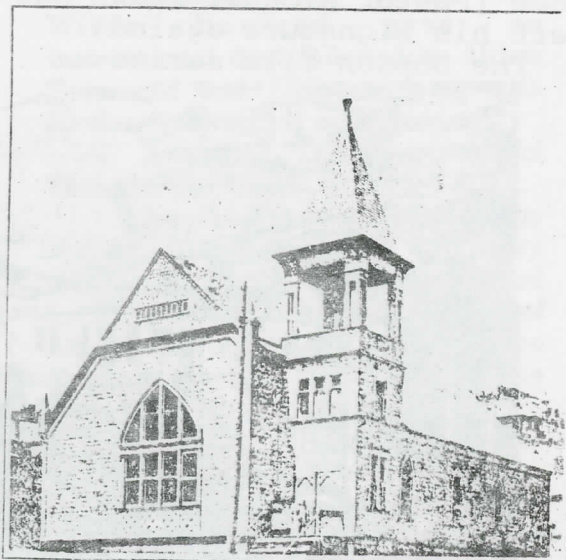
If you hear Christmas Carols floating through the night air on Tuesday, December 18th, it may be the voices of First United Methodists, powered by Oretta Eaton's chili supper at 6:00 p.m. Anyone who feels like singing with us, call 234- 0780 to reserve a bowl of chili.

The United Methodist Women will meet on Wednesday, December 19th at the Rodeo home of Helen Valentine for their potluck

Christmas program. Members are requested to bring an unwrapped toy for a child and/or a gift for an adult to be given to the Rescue Mission.

The Annual Country Faire Luncheon and Bazaar held on October 26th and 27th was very successful thanks to hard work by the United Methodist Women and our loyal supporters. I feel like one of the fortunate to have had the privilege to buy a jar of Oretta Eaton's pickled beets and two of Marion Hawkins' sturdy market bags. If you missed it this year, put it on your calendar for next year, October 25th and 26th.

The church's "Rose Garden", "Friendship Garden" and surrounding areas



Baptist Church.

continue to thrive under the loving care of Grace and Bob Yank and JoAnn Bray. A new mow-strip was installed in front of the parsonage. It has a graceful curve to it and looks a little like a musical note (Pastor Michael Brown has left his signature again!).

The Dobson film series "Focus on the Family", concluded November 15th. For seven weeks about a dozen people gathered in the sanctuary on Thursday evenings to watch one of the films and discuss it. Many people helped to make the program a success. Dorothy George, Helen Valentine, continue to thrive under the loving care of Grace and Bob Yank and JoAnn Bray. A new mow-strip was installed in front of the parsonage. It has a graceful curve to it and looks a little like a musical note (Pastor Michael Brown has left his signature again!).

The Dobson film series

"Focus on the Family", concluded November 15th. For seven weeks about a dozen people gathered in the sanctuary on Thursday evenings to watch one of the films and discuss it. Many people helped to make the program a success. Dorothy George, Helen Valentine, Oretta Eaton, Elenora Surdam, Grace Yank, Mid Dornan and JoAnn Bray provided childcare.

Refreshments were supplied by Maureen Frazier, Jean Creed, Claudia LeGue, Anne Goetsch, Helen Valentine and Mid Dornan. Pastor Michael Brown and Holtzman Frazier lead the discussions. Norm Reynolds was the projectionist.

Special thanks to Linda Andrew-Marshall, who helped spread the word; to Anne and Roger Goetsch who let us use their home for childcare one week; and to Chevron Research and Technology Company who loaned us a projector.





(ed. note: And thanks to Jean Reynolds who coordinated the series including the childcare and refreshments)

The monthly Administrative Board meeting and potluck supper will be Tuesday, December 11th.

Church youth will be going on December 7th and 8th to the Paul Howe's in Challenge to cut Christmas trees. Anyone interested in a tree or wanting to join the group to cut your own tree should call Pat Dornan, 237-3063 or leave a message as to kind and size of tree along with your name and telephone number on the church message center, 236-0527.

An Inquirer's Class is scheduled for three Thursday evenings beginning on December 6th and continuing on the 13th and 20th at 7:30 p.m. It covers such topics as to what Methodists believe, how to live your faith, what belief means, etc. and is not limited to church members.

Sunday School meets at 10:00 a.m. and Worship Services begin at 11:00 a.m. each Sunday at this historic church.

Joy!

## 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". The minutes are printed as written. This is the 51st installment.*

June 16, 1916

The Womans Home Missionary met for an all day session at the home of the President.

One comforter was tied for the Indians of the Greenville Mission and one for the Pastor's wife at Greenville.

At noon Hostess served a dinner to 10 members.

In the afternoon meeting several friends enjoyed with the Society a very pleasing program arranged by Mrs. Adam.

Misses Vera Childs and Wilda Howland gave an instrumental duet followed by Althea Townsend and Uldine Adams with Brother Petersen as accompanist.

A reading "The most beautiful Thing in the World" by Mrs. Seaton.

An instrumental solo by Master Claud Gibbons. A story reading by Uldine Adams and closed by all present singing one verse of America. After the program the Business meeting was opened by the President with prayer.

Reading of Communications by the Corresponding Sec.

Bills for material for Comforters presented - 4.64. Upon

motion the bill was ordered paid.

The next order of business was the nomination and election of Officers. The following ladies were nominated and elected by acclamation.

President: Mrs. Charles Adams

V. President: Mrs. D. Y. Whalen

Sec: Mrs. H.A. Grover

Treas. Mrs. C. Bradley

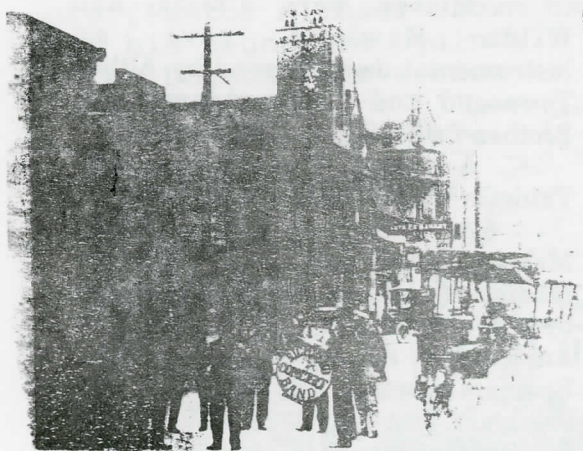
Mite Box Sec: Mrs. Wm Seaton

Upon due consideration it was thought best by the Society to combine the Corresponding Sec with the Recording Sec and this was done. Upon motion, the month of July was to be Vacation Month.

No further business meeting closed. (sic)

Mrs. Bradley, Sec. Pro

Tem



שלום

## Tech Center Awards

The Point Richmond Tech Center, Phase One was given a grand award by the National Association of Industrial and Office Parks in its Design '90 Annual Design and Development Awards Competition. The Interactive Resources project is the first phase of a 50 acre master development that will eventually encompass five buildings. Phase Two is to be completed in 1991.

Interactive also won an award from the Portland Cement Association for its restoration work on Coit Tower. The restoration involved carefully matching new concrete with old to duplicate the original color, texture and durability.

Interactive has a staff of 65 and is currently working on the master planning of the 60 acre Richmond Marina Business Center, a project which will eventually include up to 1.2 million square feet of new construction.





# Sports memories

By Allan Smith

The Richmond Yacht Club was organized in 1932 and was first located at the foot of South Eighth Street and was later moved to South Second Street and then in 1939 to Bull Dog Point or also known as Point Potrero.

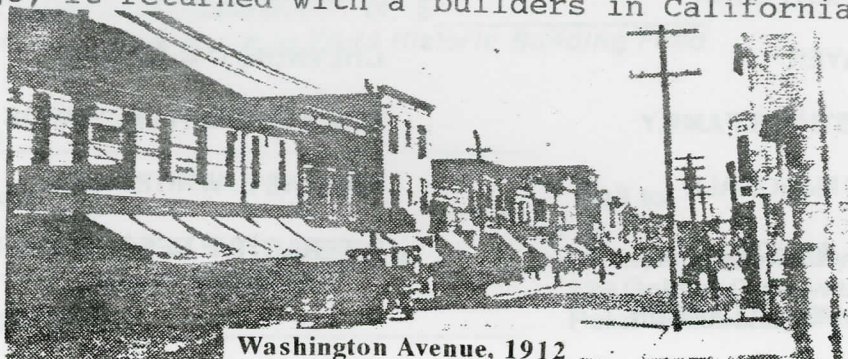
The membership was well represented by "sailboat" sailors, several of them from Point Richmond. One of them was Captain R. H. Clarke who was one of the original organizers of the club, he also began the Richmond-San Rafael Ferry. If, as a young boy, you were privileged to be asked by Captain Clarke to sail on one of his boats you were immediately the envy of the town. Not many of us had that opportunity, including me.

Captain Clarke and Leo Carey of the Point owned a black varnished hulled boat called the ACE. We all liked that sailboat and would watch it in the races and it was a winner many times. In one race to Vallejo, it returned with a

broken mast due to very heavy weather.

The first race sponsored by the Richmond Yacht Club was won by Captain Clarke aboard his "Star Class" boat DIABLO. That boat was known all over the Bay Area because of its winning record. I also remember a Star Class boat called THREE STAR, sailed by Glen Waterhouse and Woody Metcalf of the Richmond Yacht Club. Those two also raced the THREE STAR in the 1936 Olympic Games held in Kiel, Germany. They came in fifth in a bad weather race. The "Snipe Class" sailboat was popular then and the Point's Kollar twins, George and Albert owned one. They would take us all for a sail frequently.

Lee Conn, of the Point, was also a Charter Member of the club and built three well known boats called the LARK. His LARK III won several Yacht Racing Association Championships. Lee is known as one of the most skilled boat builders in California.



Washington Avenue, 1912

# 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. FELES

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

ROBERT HUBBART

ANDREW JOHNS

LYNN MAACK &  
SANDI GENSER-MACK

PATRICIA L. MILANO

**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

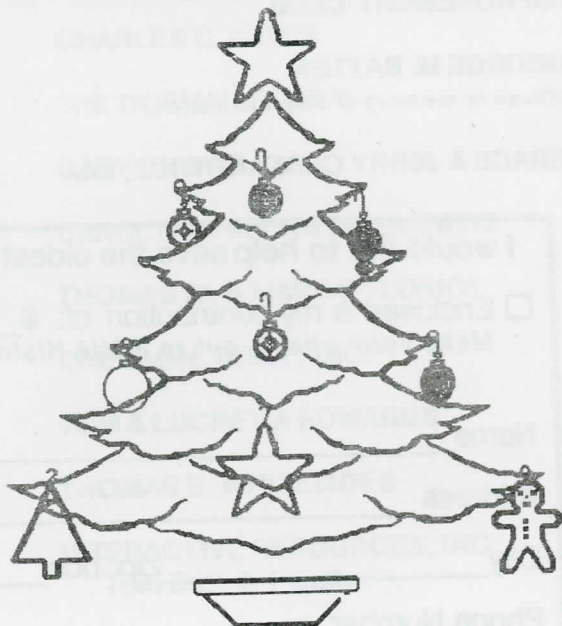
*William L. Thompson, often called Louis by his friends, was born in Point Richmond on February 17, 1909, lived on Scenic Avenue, graduated from Richmond Union High School and was the first native Richmondite to go through medical school. Dr. Thompson began his practice in 1940 at 9th & Macdonald, later moving to 32nd & Macdonald until that building was sold at which 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 III

Holidays were quite different then. Christmas was, of course, the greatest, especially for the kids. I look back on the huge amount of work that fell on my poor mother. For her it was not much of a holiday. However often 2 or 3 families would get together for the holiday and all of the wives and some of the men and children would pitch in and help. We usually had Christmas trees but in those days almost all of the trees were douglas fir from up the coast. The red or white fir, often used today were not available. They grew high in the mountains and the roads here were usually closed by snow. There were no Christmas

tree lights at first and we had to use candles. There was a danger of fire, especially for children. Candles had to be placed carefully so as not to ignite a branch above and they were not allowed to be lit unless there was a responsible adult in the room. Children were not allowed to light them. Toys were rather few and simple but were greatly valued.

Like many men my father went to church only on Christmas and Easter. One Easter while sitting in church he suddenly began to laugh. Looking back he saw his friend Lee Dicely, who was just entering, suddenly look up at the ceiling to be sure that





the church would not collapse as he entered. These church festivals were simple celebrations and the children took part with recitations and songs.

Radio, or wireless as it was then called, did not come into use much before 1920. At that time and for some time after they were almost all crystal sets. These worked with a sensitive crystal and a fine wire called a "cat's whisker" which made the connection. There was no speaker, only a headset. I remember my brother and I listening to the first broadcast of a Stanford-California football game. I think this was in 1922. There was only one head set connection so we had to take

the headphones apart so that each would have one earpiece while we plugged the other ear with a finger in order to hear. It was quite primitive.

The Sears Roebuck catalogue was a great institution in those days. I don't recall Montgomery-Ward until some time later. They were valuable for ordering needed supplies where transportation was poor. Also they were entertaining to thumb through for us kids. Most interesting was the toy section. They were used throughout the year and when no longer of use were sent to the out house to be used as toilet paper.

There were few baby sitters in those days. My older sister often acted as one for us and occasionally a neighbor would



*A "modern" apartment building on Nichol Avenue  
about to be completed, 1914*



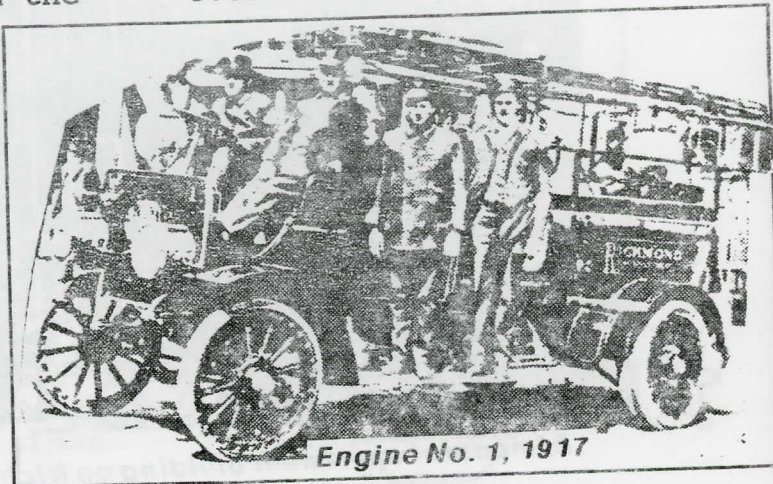
help. However my mother invented a very dependable method to use in case she had to run to the store or a neighbors for a short time. She saved all the Sunday funny papers, there was only two sheets per funny in those days, and sewed them to form a huge funny paper book. She had two of these and when she left she placed them on the floor. We would lie on our tummies hardly moving for an hour or so reading these comics.

Another memory from the time around 1920 was of the Standard Oil twilight league. These baseball teams were recruited from various parts of the S.O. Co. and played in evening after work and before dinner. They played only 7 innings so as not to run too late. Some of these men were old professionals and many had been well known big leaguers. At first there were several teams but this later was reduced to 4. There was one from the barrelhouse, one from the refinery, one from the mechanical shops and one from the offices. Games were played at the old ball park at First and Macdonald which has long been replaced by a housing development. There was spirited competition. Most of the players knew one another and there was much friendly rivalry and friendly banter. The games were well

attended and the spectators, the players and even the umpires had great fun.

I recall some of the rather well known old pros Frank Schulte had played for 10 years; I think it was with the Philadelphia Athletics. After retiring from baseball he came to work for the Standard Oil Co. Biff Schaller was another old big leaguer who also later played in the Pacific Coast League. He was a heavy built, Babe Ruth type of out fielder and home run hitter. They told a story about a time when his team was playing in Salt Lake City and his hitting had dropped off somewhat. When asked he replied "I think it was because of the high multitudes up there".

The old field was rather run down and was later torn down and replaced by housing units. The fences had been in poor repair even when the S.O. League was playing there. I recall home runs that went under the fence rather than over it.





## Memories of an Old Friend

### On the Point

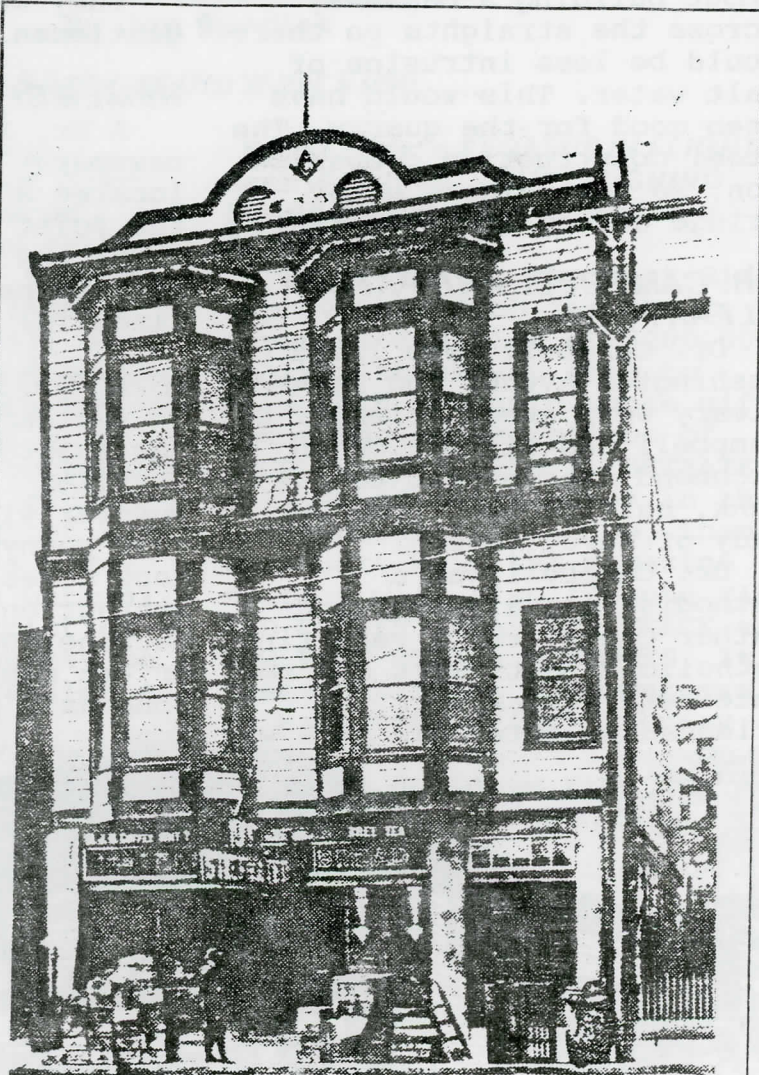
Bernard Bernes/AKA Frenchie

#### **BLAKE BROTHERS QUARRY..... BEFORE THE BRIDGE**

Blake Bros. Quarry, west of the Standard Oil Refinery, on the bayside was a big operation of processing sand, rock, and gravel out of the hill. It had facilities for shipping sand and gravel onto big barges on the bay. The result of their loading barges caused a lot of gravel to be spilled along the beach nearby. This created the beautiful sandy beach near the original Richmond San Rafael Ferry wharf.

We used to swim out to the barges and lay in the sun. The workers lived in a boarding house near the quarry. There was a string of small buildings for rooms, and there was a big dining room where all of the workers had all of their meals. The owner of the boarding house was a widow, I don't know for sure but I think that her husband might have been killed at the Quarry.

She had several children. Things rocked there every day at about noon when the blasting was carried on. It



117 West Richmond  
still there, but much changed



kind of rocked the Point also, but we got used to it!

There was a small narrow gauge steam train that carried the rock to the big rock crushers. I thought that I would like to be the locomotive engineer.

At one time there was talk about building a causeway across the straights so there would be less intrusion of salt water. This would have been good for the quarry. The steel construction companies won, so now we have a bay bridge across to San Rafael.

### **DR. CAMPBELL AND FATHER CLEARY**

Dr. Campbell, who lived on Washington Avenue and Father Cleary were great friends. Dr. Campbell had his office on Richmond Avenue next to the bank, half a block from Our Lady of Mercy Church.

Dr. Campbell was a Methodist and a Mason, and Father Cleary was a very fine Catholic Priest. This did not interfere with their friendship, after all this was

during Prohibition!

It seems that Dr. Campbell being an M.D. had access to good Irish whiskey, and Father Cleary had access to good sacramental wines. This friendly combination worked out real well for them and they had many friendly visits.

They were both very fine gentlemen.

### **REMEMBER MR. BURT?**

A Mr. Burt started a newspaper in the Point. It was located a few doors east of the Point Theater.

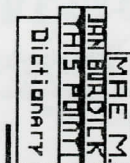
He was unable to continue his newspaper due to lack of financial support.

### **HOW ABOUT CHARLIES'?**

Another business next to the theater was called Charlies'. Charlies' was popular with us, because he sold penny candy, sodas, and snow cones. His biggest attraction was his penny slot machine. We could win a five or ten cent candy bar or snow cone as a prize, it was great fun!







For Your  
Information

## WEST SIDE LIBRARY

By Jan Burdick

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

The leasing of books through the McNaughton Plan has enabled the Richmond Public Library System to have a high percentage of the books on the BEST SELLERS lists available. However, all of these titles might not be on the shelf for browsing because of the possibility of a request list in the computer. To facilitate a more rapid turnover, the McNaughton books are checked out for a 7 day period. If a book is unusually long, this time restriction is waived and the book may be circulated for the regular 4 week period. You can anticipate West Side's having John Le Carree's newest, *THE SECRET PILGRIM*; Anne

McCaffrey's *PEGASUS IN FLIGHT*; Mark Salzman's *THE LAUGHING SUTRA* and Muriel Spark's *SYMPOSIUM*.

Thank you to the West Side Improvement Club for their generous donation of \$200.00. Another thank you goes to Elizabeth McDonald whose gift means the subscriptions of *PEOPLE* and *SPORTS ILLUSTRATED* will be on the shelves in the magazine section. Also, thanks to Stuart Weis the magazine section will also include *CAR AND DRIVER*, *ROAD AND TRACK* and *NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS*. It seems Christmas has come early to West Side Branch Library.

Happy Holidays from the  
staff: Jan, Jo and April.



Best Wishes  
for a  
Merry Christmas

## A Poem of the Point

A poem of the Point is what I thought  
to make tonight,  
but to gather words and thoughts  
together and not seem much to trite,  
was proving to be a problem with  
which I couldn't cope,  
so I let my mind a-wander and held a  
feeble hope,  
that mental images would sort out in  
my brain,  
and create a verbal pattern that  
would soon explain,  
the alure and angst of living on these  
mounds,  
surrounded by refineries, bay views,  
and noisome sounds,  
trains and sirens and many house  
alarms,  
all jumble up together to fashion for  
us charms,  
that are just not present in suburbia  
cross the hills,  
and as for garbage, I just don't care  
which canyon that it fills.  
My mind has wandered off again, as  
shown by that last line,  
so once again I guess I've failed to  
generate a fine,  
grand poem to the nature of the town,  
so I'll sit and think and watch my  
plants turn brown.

-----Jeff Ward  
Point Richmond



## THE MASQUERS

Playhouse, Inc.

105 Park Place, Point Richmond

PROUDLY PRESENTS



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 Kateaver |
| Debra Biondheim     | 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.



# Merry Christmas



# SENIOR NEWS

By Muriel C. Clausen

Muriel is "Recovering from her vacation".



*I chose this local newspaper article from a Don Church album. It is dated April 18, 1916 and is a and was part of a 'Ten Years Ago Today' series.*

April 18, 1906 was a chaotic one in Richmond, for that was the time of the big fire and earthquake in San Francisco. Old-time Richmond Citizens will remember the incident when the major portion of San Francisco was reduced to ashes, after being rocked and twisted by the terrific temblor.

The quake occurred very early in the morning and what few inhabitants there were in Richmond at that time ran from their homes to seek protection in the open air and away from falling walls. But there was not a great deal of damage in Richmond and none at all at the Point. There were no buildings along Macdonald avenue this side of Fourth street and for the most part these were scattering. Henry Johnston's brisk store at Second street was the best structure in the town and that was terribly wrecked by the earthquake. The windows in front were all broken and the walls cracked. Aside from the injury to the Santa Fe roundhouse and the falling of the chimneys the damage to Richmond property was nominal.

But much of the misery of San Francisco people was witnessed by the people of Richmond and east bay cities. They came to us for help and for many weeks, while martial law held sway in Oakland and across the bay Richmond was almost swamped with the tougher element of the destroyed metropolis.

But matters gradually adjusted themselves and tranquility reigned after a few weeks. Those who attempted to rob and steal and murder were dealt with by the officers of the law and it was not long before the owners of the destroyed homes in San Francisco set to work with an effort to restore their property, with what success may be determined by the splendid city which has been built on the site which was a seething furnace for hundreds of blocks.

Originally printed April 18, 1916



## Deaths.....

Dear PRHA,

This is in response to the inquiry from the Shaw family re: the home at 324 Washington Avenue.

Celebrating the 1st anniversary of the 'Point Counter-point' on April 9, 1967, the PCP staff published a limited edition of 'Historic Houses of Point Richmond'. All drawings were by editor Donna Roselius and included the home mentioned.

This is what was printed.

"The late Mr. and Mrs. James H. O'Hara were early Point Richmond residents, having settled in the Point in 1902, when Mr. O'Hara was transferred here by Standard Oil Company from the Whiting, Indiana plant.

Mr. and Mrs. O'Hara acquired this home at 324 Washington Avenue in May, 1906, after it was built by W. H. Conn, an early Richmond contractor. It has been occupied by members of the O'Hara family since that time." That family included a daughter, Gladys, and son, Henry.

Henry, 'Hank', O'Hara, was also employed for 40 years by the Standard Oil, later Chevron, where he retired as a marine personnel supervisor of shipping. Upon his death on January 2, 1989 the house was sold as he left no immediate relatives.

Hoping this is the information requested.

Mid Dornan

DEATHS: Robert Norman Feyder died on Sunday, November 18, 1990 in a San Pablo hospital where he was a patient for many years. He had lived in Richmond and the Point for 48 years and was a native of Hartford, South Dakota. Bob lived on Water Street and was a landscape architect. He was a member of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, Richmond Elks Lodge and American Institute of Architects.

He is survived by his wife, Philomena; a daughter, Linda Feyder of the Point, a son, Michael Feyder of Los Angeles; a sister, Rosemary Muratore of Richmond; and two grand-children. Children were especially fond of him.

Memorials may be sent to any charity.



Walter George Hess, 79 died Tuesday in a San Pablo hospital. A native of Richmond, he had lived in Point Richmond for 15 years.

Mr. Hess was a manager for International Harvester for 25 years. He was a member of the UC-Berkeley School of Business Alumni Association and was a veteran of World War II.

He is survived by a son, Terrence Hess of Richmond; a daughter, Eileen Mary Bustos of Los Angeles; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Burial was at Sunset View Cemetery in Kensington.





## GIFTS FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS

### ◆ 1990 HOLIDAY ◆ ART SHOW & SALE

CERAMICS - PHOTOGRAPHY - WATERCOLORS - OIL  
PAINTINGS - JEWELRY - COLLAGE - APPAREL - BAGS  
T-SHIRTS - SILK & WOVEN SCARVES - ART CARDS

TERESA ALBRO  
JOAN CHAMPION  
DEIRDRE CERKANOWICZ  
JOYCE DEAN  
JANE ERICKSON  
CINDI HARPER  
MEI-RUNG HUANG  
SYDNEY ISOBE  
SUSAN KLEIN  
MEI-YU LO  
MIRIAM MASSEY  
LISSA PAAK  
COLLEEN PUTNAM  
NATALIE SMITH  
SUSAN SPAULDING  
JEAN SWANSON  
HOLLY TAYLOR

*December 7, 8 & 9  
December 14, 15 & 16*

*Fri & Sat 11:00 - 5:00  
Sun 12:00 - 5:00*

*Also open by Appointment, 849-4994*

210 THIRD STREET, STE 4  
BERKELEY, CA

(At the Railroad Tracks across  
from China Station Restaurant)

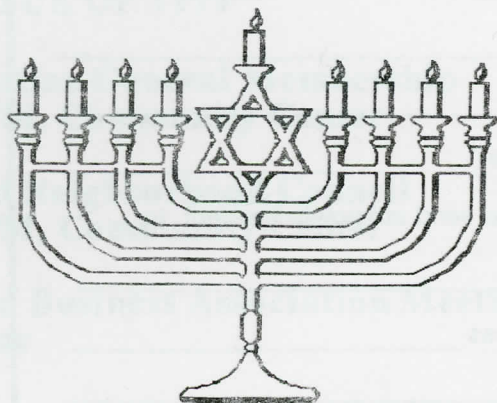
# Happy Hanukkah

## December Birthdays (234-5334)

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Jean Allyn         | Michael Cheshareck |
| Hazel Paasch       | Seth Fenton        |
| Edna Hathaway      | Cris Creed         |
| Fern Eastman       | Debbie Seaburg     |
| Sherry Hartnyk     | Christine Hayes    |
| Teresa Albro       | Marian Hawkins     |
| Roni Turner        | Mark Stevens       |
| Mike Turner        | Gerrie Kretzmer    |
| Eric Turner        | Marilyn Darling    |
| Teresa Meneghelli  | Lauren Nason       |
| Richard Barnes     | Jeff Corbin        |
| Christina Nagatani | Russ Moore         |

## January Birthdays (234-5334)

|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Henry Allyn        | Joe Travis      |
| Sonja Darling      | Bryan Smith     |
| Linda Marshall     | Trefrey Ross    |
| Doug Greiner       | Ed Paasch       |
| Henry Francis      | Jim Wilson      |
| Jeff Corbin        | Betty Moore     |
| Sara Strayer       | Lupe Morris     |
| Mary Highfill      | Ann Bartram     |
| Janine Dollarhide  | Diana Kaffan    |
| John Cutler        | Elaine Harris   |
| Marylou Fox        | Louis Cunan     |
| Kristina Hollbrook | Richard Palfini |
| Cindy Rosier       |                 |



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 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

"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 \_\_\_\_\_

Tributes will be acknowledged in the newsletter

#### PHONE NUMBERS

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Jerry Cerkowicz</i> | <i>235-1336</i> |
| <i>Mid Dornan</i>      | <i>234-5334</i> |
| <i>Gary Shows</i>      | <i>235-1336</i> |
| <i>FAX</i>             | <i>644-1286</i> |

#### CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

*Jerry Cerkowicz*  
*Gary Shows*  
*Mid Dornan*  
*Eleanor Hurley*  
*Dr. Wm. Thompson*  
*Jan Burdick*  
*Donna Roselius (drawings)*  
*Don Church (photo collection)*  
*Members of the PRHA*  
*Betsy*  
*Allan Smith*  
*Lucretia Edwards*  
*Bernard Bernes*  
*Anne Hanzlik*  
*Jean Reynolds*  
*Jeff Ward*  
*West County Times*



# CALENDAR

DECEMBER / JANUARY

- 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**
- January 1**      **New Year's Day**
- January 2**      **Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting, 7:30 PM, Community Center**
- January 9**      **Point Richmond Business Association Meeting, Noon, Hotel Mac**
- January 21**      **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
- January 24**      **DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IN THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF TPIT**
- January 31**      **History Association General Membership Meeting, 7:30 PM, Community Center**
- February 5**      **Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting, 7:30 PM, Community Center**
- February 13**      **Point Richmond Business Association Meeting, Noon, Hotel Mac**
- February 14**      **Valentine's Day**