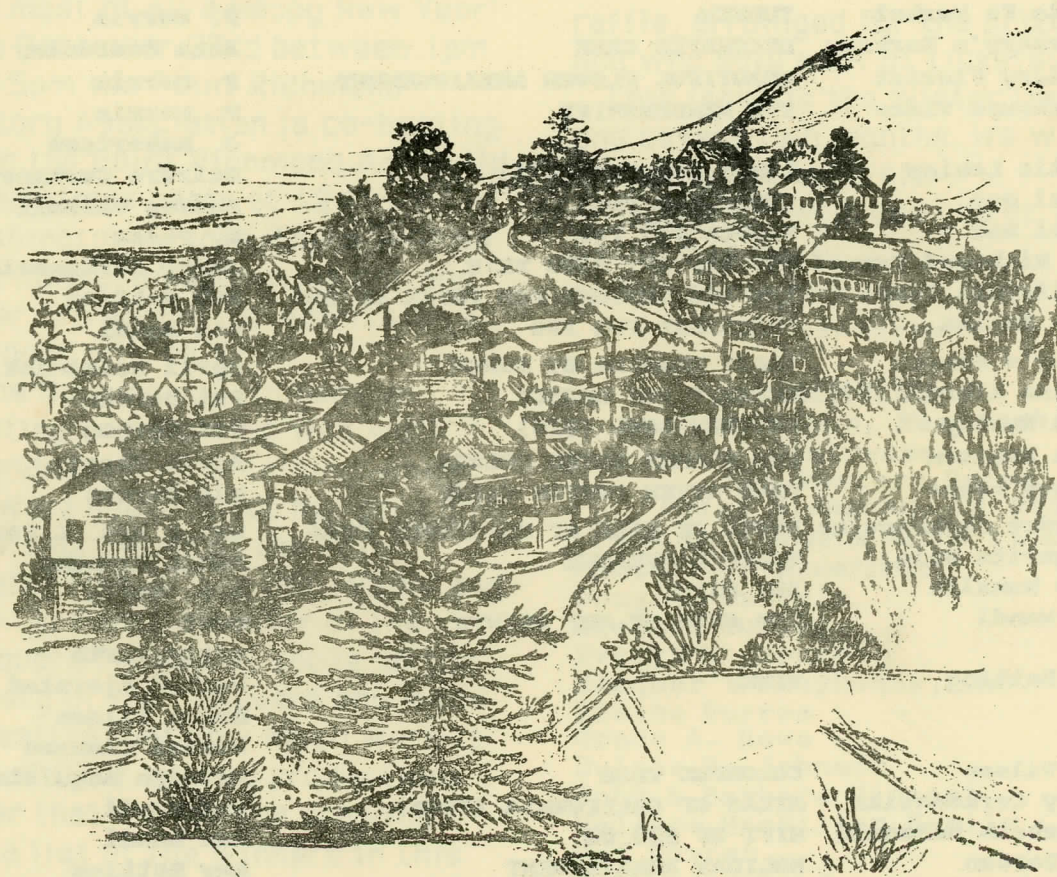


THIS POINT

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL. VII No. 5 | WINTER, 1988-9 | One Dollar



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in time

RAFFLE RESULTS

by Margarita Main

Thank you for donations from local business and individuals. Thanks also to all of you who purchased tickets, as the raffle was a great success. Here is a list of the prize winners.

Donor	Prize	Winner
Santa Fe Market	TURKEY	P. Morris
Rosemary's Barkery	DECORATED CAKE	Anna Beardsley
Gallery Florist	BEAUTIFUL FLOWER ARRANGEMENT	P. Morris
Firehouse Video	TWO MEMBERSHIPS	P. Morris
Little Louies	LUNCH FOR TWO (\$15)	J. Robertson
Hotel Mac	LUNCH FOR TWO	Deirdre Cerkanowicz
Hotel Mac	BRUNCH FOR TWO	Andrea Wassall
Pt. Richmond Travel	\$30 OFF ANY \$300 TRIP	R. Pease
California Canoe	TWO \$60 LESSONS FOR PRICE OF ONE	Jerry Cerkanowicz
Cafe Amies	BREAKFAST FOR TWO	Amy Rotting
Gypsy's Secret	TAROT READING BY KAREN	Mae Mandl
Teresa Albro	CERAMIC ART OBJECT	April Seastnick
Lynn Huntly	POTTERY BOWL (\$20)	Pat Dorman
Jean Swanson	TWO FRAMED WATER COLORS	Pat Dorman
Sydney Isobe	HAND WOVEN COTTON SCARF	Adele Chase
Deirdre Cerkanowicz	PHOTO OF KILN AT BRICKYARD COVE	Mid Dorman
Margarita Main	WOMEN'S SWEATER	Mr. & Mrs. L. Forner
Anne Manzlik	ART PRINT	Amie Brandon
Mae Mandl	TWO SETS OF ART PRINTS	A.P. Smith
Amy Rotting	WINE	Kent
Pam Wilson	COLORFUL VASE	Betty Wirth
Jerry Cerkanowicz	ATLAS OF CALIFORNIA (BOOK)	Martin Kjerstad
Elizbeth McDonald	GIFT OF \$20.00	Donna Wilson
Pat Dorman	HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENT	Muriel Clausen
		Marilyn Acquistapace
		Mae Mandl
		Mae Mandl
		Amy Rotting

Congradulations to the winners!!!

Cover drawing by Donna Roselius

History Association Notes

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Jerry Cerkowicz

The holidays are almost here, so I'd like to wish all you the best, and most of all a Happy New Year!

On December 23rd between 1pm and 5pm the Point Richmond History Association is co-hosting with the Point Richmond Art Guild a Christmas party at 124 Washington Avenue. There will be live music, an open wine bar and other refreshments. Admission at the door will be \$1.

The November 17th general meeting and drawing was well attended and entertaining. Anna Schwarz spoke about her days and nights as owner of the Point theater (the "V") in the 1930's and 40's. Jo Camp, director of the Masquers Playhouse spoke on the history of the Masquers and made us realize just how much work is behind their quality productions. After that we had the drawing. See a list of the winners in this issue.

I'd like to thank everyone who made the raffle such a success. The merchants who donated items, the members of the Art Guild who donated works of art, the board

members who donated items, and all of you who bought tickets. A special thank you to Margarita Hain who had the idea for the raffle, arranged for the prizes, and who sold a lot of tickets!

This issue is the winter issue and covers two months. We will all enjoy the time off.

Happy Holidays, see you at the Christmas Party.

'Till next year!

=====

MEMBERS

*Pam Wilson, Membership
Chairwoman*

*521 Western Drive
Point Richmond, CA 94801*

Thank you to following members who have renewed their memberships:

Douglas Daniels
Eleanor Hurley
Evelyn M. Moore
Masquer's Playhouse, Inc.
Elaine Burres
Grace A. Howe
Dulcie H. Johnson
John & Barbara Vincent
Wallace MacMillan Family
Pat Dornan
Katherine Lord

A warm welcome to new members:
Alfred & Gayle Kaufman
William D. Shea
Robert B. Freeman
Herb & Edie Bill
John Cutler
Diana Kaftan

EDITOR'S NOTES

By Gary Shows

Here we are with the Winter edition of TPIT. This issue is for both December and January and the break is welcome! Editing this little newsletter is a lot of fun, but it sure takes a lot of my time (what in the world have I gotten myself into!!) The mechanics of putting out such a publication takes more time away from creativity and research than I thought when I took on this job.

At last we are getting some feedback from our readers, but please, more. If you have any interesting memories of the Point, let me know, and I'll share them with our readers. If you're not quite sure if your memories and experiences are interesting, send them anyway, if we don't print them they will become part of our archives.

You'll notice that "60 Years Ago..." and "50 Years Ago..." are missing from the POINTS TO THE PAST section. That's because no one has volunteered to research it for us. If you have a little spare time to go to the library each month, your help would certainly be appreciated by all. Looking through old newspapers for interesting items can be fun. If you can help please give me a call at 848-3358 days and 235-1336 evenings.

Don't forget about our "Drawings by Donna Roselius" 1989 Calendar as holiday gifts. This calendar features drawings of homes in the Point by Donna. Donna's work is really good and

I think you might enjoy a drawing of your house or the "house down the street" on your wall all year. They are available from any of our board members and at the Point Richmond Market for only \$4.95. It's a practical purchase or gift and proceeds go to your History Association. As an added bonus please be advised that it will be valid again in 1995!

Concerning the calendar I want to sincerely thank Claudia Beale, owner of the Point Print Shop for allowing us use of her binding machine. It's not often mentioned but Claudia does a lot for the History Association throughout the year.....free copies, free paper cutting, and free advice to volunteer Point Richmond History Association Editors and Assistant Editors. THANK YOU CLAUDIA!

Thanks to everyone for your help, support, encouragement, compliments, and criticism. See you in February. Have a wonderful 1989!

IN PURSUIT OF HISTORICAL TRIVIA

courtesy of Stan Nyström

No report this issue. To the fans of this column I feel obligated to reveal part of the answer to the last question: Honolulu by sea is closer to the Port of Richmond than it is to the Port of Los Angeles. Sorry, but Stan told me the mileage but I don't remember. Also, he posed the interesting geographical fact: Did you realize that Los Angeles is East of Reno! Stan, we look forward to having you back again in February!

Points in the Past

*Articles of interest taken from various
local publications with the help of
reference librarians of the
Richmond Public Library*

70 YEARS AGO...

by Deirdre Cerkanowicz

GOLD MINE FOUND IN THE POINT!

That gold and platinum in paying quantities may be found in the John Nicholl company holdings near the Nicholl's quarry east of the Richmond Pressed Brick yard on the bayshore is the information given out by Mr. Nicholl.

Albert Garman, an old time Colorado gold miner and for some time employed at the brick yard, has been prospecting along the hills for several months and has submitted assays to Nicholl showing very rich quartz there.

The rock is now being assayed by the University of California geological dept. and if it tests out satisfactorily the hills will be mined upon a large scale. The finding of a gold mine upon this property located within the city would add to Richmond a very unique industry.

November 14, 1918

KEEP AWAY FROM LOS ANGELES PEOPLE, THEY MAY HAVE THE FLU!

Because Los Angeles and some other Southern California "high brow" towns have enforced lightly or not at all the mask wearing ordinance, other cities

in the state are experiencing slight returns of the recent influenza epidemic. At the University of California, the students have been forced to put back on their masks because of the bringing of the disease back to the college by students from the south.

In this city the health office states that there has been no recurrence. It is not unlikely that a quarantine against people from Los Angeles or the district south of the Tehachipi coming to the north will be enacted.

December 6, 1918

HEAVY HITTING AT THE EAGLE CAFE

A battle royal was staged yesterday afternoon in the Eagle Cafe at Point Richmond when two hunters resented the action of the proprietors in ordering them out and started to "clean up" the place in a thorough manner. A call to the police station was answered by Inspector Oliver Wylie who jumped into the fray in time to prevent any serious injury to the participants. The two hunters were arrested on battery charges.

According to the proprietors of the restaurant, the men entered the restaurant and ordered food. While they were

being served it is claimed that they used loud and indecent language. The proprietors asked them to leave the place, after which the hostilities commenced. After delivering a number of knock out blows the attacking force retired to the bar next door. It was here that Inspector Wylie found them enjoying a quiet drink.

As Wylie was dragging the men toward the police station past the doors of the cafe the temptation to return to battle was too strong for them. They broke away and rushing into the restaurant resumed the attack on the proprietors and anybody else who came in reach. It was here that the inspector resorted to his trusty club and quieted the hostilities.

The hunters were later released on \$25.00 cash bail.

December 2, 1918

WWII IS OVER AT 2 P.M.!

PARIS, Nov. 7- The war is over. Marshal Foch reported to the Allied War Council this morning that the German Peace Commission had arrived at the allied headquarters at daybreak and that they had signed the armistice terms accepting all of the allies' terms for the termination of hostilities.

The armistice is effective at two o'clock this afternoon, when all fighting on all fronts is to cease.

November 7, 1918

INSURANCE FIRMS HAVE HAD TROUBLE BEFORE!

Spanish influenza, together with the great war, has put American life insurance companies to the acid test. Yet, like other American institutions, they promise to

fulfill all obligations to the public. And this despite the fact that war losses, payable to soldiers' beneficiaries, are estimated at more than \$132,000,000.

In the first twenty-three days of October the New York Life Insurance Company received claims, as the result of deaths from influenza amounting to more than all its losses due to the four years of war. This included many large policies, paid on the lives of those who went down on the Lusitania. From the beginning of the epidemic to the last week of October the Prudential Life received claims amounting to \$1,029,188. The Aetna Life received claims to \$267,463.

November 12, 1918

40 YEARS AGO...

by Pam Wilson

WEST SIDE CLUB SLATES PARTY

Women's West Side Improvement Club will enjoy a Christmas party Monday, December 6, at the home of the president, Mrs. Josephine Esser 39 Nichol Avenue. Members are asked to make reservations for the turkey dinner and exchange of gifts.

December 2, 1948

WASHINGTON SCHOOL PTA PROGRAM

The Washington PTA will hold its regular meeting Thursday, December 9, at 1:30 in the school auditorium.

The theme for their December meeting is "Music at Christmas." The program will include plays by Mrs. Jean Dudley's class entitled, "Santa Claus' Helpers" and "Christmas Eve" by Mrs. Frank Simmon's class.

A poem will be offered by the sixth grade and Christmas carols will be sung by Miss Tina Ariani's tonette band. Also on the program will be Mrs. June Sherry's rhythm band, the Glee Club, and Community singing.

December 7, 1948

30 YEARS AGO...

by Pam Wilson

METHODIST CHURCH BENEFIT

Balmy weather and wonderful vistas intrigued visitors at Point Richmond's House Tour almost as much as the Christmas decorations on display in the seven houses which were opened for the Women's Society of the First Methodist Church benefit.

The holiday house tour, given to raise funds to restore the roof on the historic old Methodist Church at the Point, was an unqualified success, with nearly 300 visitors on hand during the afternoon and evening.

Residents of the Point assisted members of the Women's Society in arranging the event, which was a capsule history of Point Richmond. Houses opened ranged from the older frame houses on the hill, to the modern houses which have been erected along the water. The tour was also a reunion of many former residents of the Point who came from Berkeley and other parts of the Bay Area to aid in restoring the old brick church.

Houses in holiday decor visited by guests were those of Mr. and Mrs. Hal Decker, the Ivan Hills, the Henry Allens, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Resh, Mr. and Mrs. William Dennis, the

Edward Crims, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Paasch.

December 13, 1958

SOME OTHER MEMORIES OF...

"Growing Up in the Point in the
20's and 30's"

by Allan Smith

I enjoyed the John Stephens article in the last issue. I remember him well, especially I remember his mother's piano teaching (25 to 50 cents a lesson to my sister Gloria).

I remember a different first grade teacher at Washington School, Mrs. Ruby Simmons. She was beloved by all her students and all of them remember her as the one who taught us how to read. She used to tell all the young boys that she was related to Al Simmons, that great Philadelphia Athletics baseball player who was playing great during those years. Her daughter was named Roberta.

I remember Bill Smith (no relation to me), who lived on the corner of Idaho and East Richmond Avenue, a Merchant Seaman who spent most of his life at sea. He was the most kind hearted man that I had ever met. His door was always open to the young people to encourage and give advice. It was a typically daily occurrence to see little children knock at his back door and he would present them with cookies and pastry as well as feed the birds each morning. Bill Smith owned the two houses on the south side of Idaho Street. He rented the back one to the Busby family and later to the Brazil's who appeared in the Point from Utah.

Each day Bill would start reading his huge Bible (which he willed to Jim Wilson's mother). He claimed to have read it completely 10 times. After reading and breakfast he would enjoy several games of cards, cribbage, with his good friend Mr. George Cunan of Nevada Street. George was a retired Standard Oil Asphalt Still Foreman. They both smoked pipes using Granger and Edgeworth tobacco.

Bill Smith started several of the Point Richmond "youth going to sea". Among them were Owen (Ownie) Keenan, James Forbes, Bud Koopman, Melvin (Swede) Janes and me. His tales of his sea going days especially of the South Seas and the mysterious Orient held us spellbound and anxious to "Ship Out".

If this brings back any interesting recollections of these times, let me know, I'd like to print them.

Gary

Christmas Now

SANTA CLAUS WILL MAKE HIS
HEADQUARTERS AT OUR STORE.

B. McWHORTER

The Double (B B) Grocery

PHONE 1051 BANK BLDG.

Sports

memories

by Allan Smith

Point Richmond was the location for the last of the "finish fights" in professional prize-fighting. On February 22, 1910 two men fought 42 rounds for the Lightweight Championship of the World.

Battling Nelson, known as the "Durable Dane", fought Ad Wolgast, the "Michigan Wildcat", for the title with a knockout victory awarded to Ad Wolgast in the 42nd round. This marked the end of the "fight to the finish" fights because the state ordered all professional fights be held to four rounds only. The law was soon changed.

The fight was held at the old "Polo Grounds", as Point youths named the area located at the West end of the Maritime Commission Warehouse on Castro Street next to the present freeway and railroad tracks. The late Stan Casey of the Point had a financial field day selling newspapers at the fight to the spectators. He said that a light rain was falling and the people used the papers for shelter. He was fortunate that his parents had the Point News Agency at the time. His sister Mary still resides in the Point.

There used to be a huge panoramic photographic view that was taken of the championship fight hanging in the old Columbo Hotel bar on Standard Avenue. It later appeared for awhile in the Spot Bar.

And then there was our own Francis James Neil, better

known to us as "Frankie Neil". This 50 year Point resident fought Battling Nelson in 1908 only to lose by a decision. As a San Francisco native, Frankie started his prize fighting career at the age of 17 by winning his first four fights by one round knockouts. Later he knocked out Harry Forbes in the second round to become Bantamweight Champion of the World. The next year in London he lost his title to Joe Bowker in 20 rounds. During his 10 year, 54 fight career he won 24 knockouts and lost only nine fights.

Frankie Neil came to Point Richmond in the early 20's representing the Standard Oil Company at the refinery in public relations. Frankie lived in the McDuff Apartment on Washington Avenue and later had a job with the Post Office. Most of his evenings were spent at the Kenny Pool Room later known at the Central Pool Hall. Here he talked of his prize fighting days relating many exciting experiences to his listeners and especially his time spent in New York City where he was married for a short time to a Ziegfield Follies show girl.

Frankie related how his father was his financial manager and that they owned a stable of race horses, under the Neil color, and raced at the old Emeryville Horse Racing track. He never hesitated to say that his father gambled away his fighting money.

Point youth remember that Frankie always dressed in a pressed suit of clothes, a necktie, shined shoes and wore a gray Fedora hat. He smoked

cigarettes in a long holder. He would sit in the Pool Room talking of his experiences beneath a portrait of himself in a fighting pose. James Kenny, a Point native now has that portrait.

In the late 30's Frankie was instrumental in starting the successful fighting career of Richmond's greatest professional fighter, Earl Turner. Neil could be found at the Red Robin Athletic Club in the Pullman area instructing the "Earl of Richmond", Earl Turner. Later he started the Point Richmond Boxing Club in the vacated Point Theatre with Gage Goulard, another professional fighter who had fought Heavyweight Champion Jack Johnson. Frankie desperately wanted to manage a Point fighter.

Gabe and Frankie attended services at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, always sitting in the same pew on the right side of the church. Gabe was a tall man of six foot three inches and Frankie barely reached five foot five.

Frankie Neil passed away in Point Richmond on March 6, 1970.

<<>>

The purpose of this Sports Section is to recognize sports achievements of our local residents past and present. I would appreciate any information of interest for future articles as well as any corrections or additions.

*211 Delfino Avenue
Richmond, CA 94801*

Note: Photographs of Frankie Neil are on display at the San Francisco Boxing Museum located on the third floor of the Civic Auditorium in San Francisco.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

by Gary Shows

Here are some articles that I have taken from a Don Church album recently donated to us from Allan Smith (Thanks again Allan).

POINT RICHMOND ONCE AN ISLAND; EARLY DAYS TOLD AT ROTARY LUNCH

In what was one of the most interesting programs ever given to members of the Richmond Rotary Club. Henry V. Alvarado, son of the Mexican governor of California from 1836 to 1842 and the man who knows more about Contra Costa county from actual experience than any other living being was given an ovation when he completed a 30 minute address upon early days in this section. He told of the times the west side hills were a bay island and the schooners from the river points going to Oakland crossed what is now the Santa Fe terminal instead of the outer way, of times when it took three days to make a round trip to Martinez and of many incidents that received great interest.

September 8, 1922

248 AUTOS ARE LISTED IN CITY

An exact tally of the number of automobiles in Richmond, now in the hands of Deputy County Assessor Frank G. King shows that there are 248 machines listed from this city. The array of machines represents everything from a one-lunger to the majestic six and eight cylinder cars.

King will use the list in

making up local assessments. When one thinks how much average cost each car represented it shows that a very large amount of money is invested in machines in Richmond.

April 8, 1915

CAMP FIRE MEMORIES

courtesy of Mid Dornan

Maude Wood was a Camp Fire Girls leader in the Point, 1932-33. A scrap book of their activities, "Diary of the Pikida Wakan Camp Fire Group" was kept by Pikida, Kokokoho, Wakada, Wapoo Moma and Tanda, Indian names the girls chose for themselves. This is the 19th installment of excerpts from the diary.

NEW YEARS COUNCIL FIRE

The Council Fire was held the Friday before New Years by the Pikida Wakan and the Onchiota groups. Ruth Dingle, Jean Williams, Betty Williams and Betty Dornan gave talks for their Fire Maker's rank. Ruth's talk was based on Campfire Girls, Jean gave the Rededication or Credo, Betty Williams gave a talk on Camp Fire in the new year, Mary Wilkins gave the Creed and Betty Dornan gave a talk on Frances Elizabeth Willard.

The girls then cut a limb off of the Christmas tree and tied a New Years resolution to them and burnt them on the candles of Work, Health and Love. This was a very pretty ceremony.

The Pikida Wakan and the Onchiotas groups each sang a solo. The evening was closed by the girls singing the Council Fire song. Taps was played on the bugle by Mary Wilkins.

Betty Dornan
formerly,
Wakoda

The final installment of Camp Fire Memories will appear in the next issue of TPIT

Churches

Point Baptist Church

by Roy Jones

To our Editor Gary, always quick to compliment and encourage the Staff of TPIT, let compliment and encouragement be given. TPIT never looked better nor was more interesting. Nice going, Gary. Your hours of work contributed to our paper are appreciated, particularly when one considers you work elsewhere full time.

Tom and Donna Powers have beautifully restored the old Episcopal Church to look as it did some 80 years ago. The building at Washington and Nicholl is now Linsley Hall (Linsley after the first Episcopalian minister soon after the turn of the century.)

Our church has long been supportive of the Scandinavian Seamen's Mission in San Francisco. In June, 1949, Thorbjorn Olsen of that Mission wrote to our pastor to thank him for our participation and listed some of their activities: "Since May 30, 1949, 2,733 meals served, 5,000 seamen contacted, 300 hospitals visited by Rev. Olsen, 2,000 Christmas parcels distributed on ships." Rev. Olsen was from Norway and had some harrowing experiences with the Nazis during the war. Visiting seamen from Scandinavian countries were taken on sightseeing trips; an average of six men every night of the year are given food and lodging.

Notes from long-past business meetings of our church tell a story of Point people and the work involved in keeping our church open. For instance from a business meeting Sunday evening February

9, 1941:

Business meeting called to order by Moderator, Mr. Harlow, after Sunday evening service. Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$10.65 on hand. Ruth and Naomia Guild are to sponsor a fellowship social on 2/28/41 to commemorate completion of social hall in basement. Pastor Kelly reports in his first full month with us 26 calls made, 8 conferences attended and 20 letters written. Our church was handling its own finances. Report from Mr. Harlow that our Baptistry was unsafe for further use until repaired. It was moved and seconded that that all youth activities be under adult supervision. Our budget report was read for the month; Pastor's salary \$85.00, Custodian \$7.50, Marie Bunte Sunday school teacher from Berkeley Divinity College, \$5.00, Postage \$5.00, Misc. \$5.00, and Utilities \$5.00.

A total monthly expenditure of \$112.50!

An elegant buffet to honor the marriage of our own Winfred Elizabeth Jones, native Pointer, to Bobbise Haralambos Bozikis, of ZAKYNTHOS, Greece, was served at our church Nov. 6th. Superb food, fine gifts, fantastic decoration by Bev Milam and a 3-tiered wedding cake by Paula Wilson made it a truly festive occasion.

Here comes the holiday season again, so soon! There will be kin folk and company and carols and cooking, all as it should be. But it might be an even more rewarding season if you come to church, Sunday mornings at 11:00 o'clock, we have good preaching and good music, how long has it been

since you joined in singing
*Amazing Grace, In the Garden,
The Old rugged Cross, Silent
Night, and Joy to the World?*
Come to the old white church.

Point Methodist Church

by Mid Dornan

The Christiam New Year begins the last Sunday in November, known as Advent. Then the preparations begin for Christmas, Christ's celebrated birthdate. The church youth will go tree-cutting at the Howe's near Challenge on Dec. 9th and 10th and anyone interested in a tree may call 237-3063.

The annual church conference with the District Superintendent is December 8th. United Methodist Women will celebrate with a potluck/gift exchange at the home of Helen Valentine in Rodeo on Wednesday, the 14th. The busy church season continues with A Christmas Program at the church, all Point churches participating, on Sunday evening, the 18th. Everyone is invited to join the caroling on Thursday, the 22nd at 6:00 p.m. The traditional chili supper prepared by Oretta Eaton will precede the caroling. It is great fun and catches the "spirit of Christmas". Food and cash gifts were collected and presented to the Richmond Rescue Mission for their Thanksgiving baskets and dinner. An ongoing mission project, anyone interested may just bring things to the church.

Brenda Bartelt and Joe Noia were married on November 5th at 5:00 p.m. in the church before parents, family and friends.

Outside improvements of the church continue with a new concrete driveway complete. Rains have halted further plans for the area.

Walk or drive by the new lighted shadow box in the West Richmond Avenue window of the basement. It was created by Michael Brown and Fay Hawkins.

Sunday School meets each week at 9:45 a.m. and there is Bible Study at 5:30. The monthly administrative board meets on the second Tuesday with a potluck preceding at 6:30. And of course, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25th, CHRISTMAS, there will be services as regularly scheduled at 11:00. After all, this is the reason for the season.

~~~

*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 34th installment.*

May 1913

The Woman's Home Missionary Society met with Mrs. Grover. The President gave a review of the convention held in Oakland. Moved and carried to subscribe five dollars to the bond burning at next Annual Convention.

Moved & carried to provide bed tick and comfortor (sic) for Indians in Upper Lake Country (sic). Some tracts were given out for reading. The hostess served dainty refreshments.

Adjourned,  
Mrs. C. Bradley, Sec.



## A-MID TRIVIA

by Mid Dornan (234-5334)

I think that I shall never see  
A Christmas tree with symmetry.  
They look all right upon the  
lot,  
but when I get them home..  
they're not.

\*\*\*

For Sale: The song "Happy Birthday to You". Are you aware this song is still under copyright? It is one of the three most popular songs in the English language (why not, we all consider it to be 'our' song.) along with "Auld Lang Syne" and "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" according to the Guinness Book of World Records. It was first included as a song in "Song Stories for the Sunday School" by sisters Patty & Mildred Hill in 1893 in Kentucky. "Happy Birthday" brings in about one million dollars a year and the 75 year copyright expires in 2010. The company that now owns it is offering it for sale.

\*\*\*

Rose Parade fans may be interested to know Shirley Temple Black, who as a 10 year old child movie star was the Grand Marshall of the 50th Rose Parade in 1939, will lead the 100th parade this January. This annual floral extravaganza down Pasadena's Colorado Blvd. will be held on January 2 since January 1 falls on a Sunday.

\*\*\*

Don't get a flat tire in the Point! The nearest "air" is way off on Harbour Way. Our Point Chevron station seems to have "lost" their line.

\*\*\*

Point Richmond artist Jim Eakles was the subject of a West County Times interview. It was a great article except... never once in the report did they spell his name correctly!

\*\*\*

It will be happy holidays for the Barusch Family as both boys will be home. Larry will be coming from Salt Lake City while Ronald will be coming from Washington D.C. It has been a number of years since they were all together.

\*\*\*

Question asked by the Point Business Association: "will there be another Indian Statue Day?" Answer: "We certainly hope so!"

\*\*\*

AFTER ELECTION NOTES:  
California voters approved a record \$6 BILLION in nine separate bond issues! Father Denis Araujo, who is progressing after such intensive illness showed up to vote. Allan Smith is credited with his transportation... It was a lengthy ballot and one voter was overheard to say, "How quickly you can finish when a baby cries!... Interest to know how conscientious Point residents are when it comes to voting? Well, with two precincts in the area, the turnout was 86.6%. Voters at the Methodist Church turned out at 90%. This includes the absentee ballots. Pretty impressive, right!

\*\*\*

What you learn at a Point Richmond History Association meeting. Besides hearing all about how the Point Orient was formerly the "V" movie theatre, owned by Anna Schwartz and her

late husband, she told of being the matchmaker for her cashier, "Freddie who married Leo Giacomelli.

\*\*\*

Statistic: The Worldwatch Institute in Washington announced that 50% of the volume of all household waste is now in packaging and...that Americans now spend more for packaging than our farmers make for growing it!

\*\*\*

Recipe for a sponge cake:  
Borrow all of the ingredients.

\*\*\*

Our President Jerry Cerkowicz had a week-long visit from his parents, Grace and Jerry Cerkowicz, Sr. They drove up from their home near San Diego. They were treated to dinner at the Baltic Restaurant to celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary, had a crab feed at Jerry's house, and Grace cooked a wonderful holiday feast of turkey, dressing and all of the trimmings.

\*\*\*

BORN: A son on September 20th to John and Chelly Knox, Bishop Avenue. Named Joseph Alexander, he will be called Alex. Brother, Carlos as well as grand parents, Jack & Jean Knox, welcome him.

\*\*\*

BORN: A daughter, their first child, to Umesh and Debbie Kurpad of Crest Avenue. She was named Danielle.

\*\*\*

Don't forget the preschool story hour that is held at the Point library every Thursday at 10am. Those attending this story hour may then check out their very own books immediately after this story

hour. What better friends than books!

\*\*\*

TEARS! Real tears.....for ALL the wonderful trees in the grove and those that lined Tewksbury Avenue between Marine and Contra Costa Streets. Literally ripped from the ground by their roots, they are now "free firewood". Years of growth felled in a few short days! All this vast expanse of emptiness just intensifies the ugliness of that progress known as freeways! It was Joyce Kilmer that said it so well, "I think that I shall never see, a poem as lovely as a tree....."

\*\*\*

I wouldn't be Christmas without children! That's by the household around 225 Clarence will be "spirited" as Emily & Clay Barnes and their parents Kathy (Dornan) & Rich arrive to spend the holidays.

\*\*\*

If you like to carol, think about joining those who gather on the 22nd at the Methodist Church at 6:00 p.m. The more voices the better. The only requirement is that you LIKE to sing.

\*\*\*

I would like to join the Point History Association staff in wishing our editor emeritus, Donna Roselius and her family, as well as our readers, a happy holiday season and a coming year of many blessings. Our PRHA staff is one of the finest and I count it a privilege to share their congenial friendships.

\*\*\*

May 1989 be everything you hope for!

\*\*\*



## Donna Makes First Visit

### Back to Area!

by Mid Dornan

Point Richmond History President Emeritus, Donna Roselius, on a whirlwind trip to the Bay Area from her Port Orford, Oregon home, her first since leaving, stopped long enough in the Point to have dinner at the Hotel Mac and visit with friends. The short notice for those able to be contacted brought out 23 for hugs and a quick visit.

Talented Donna was in the area for the Annual Home Show of fiber work artists in Berkeley. Her painted silks and satins are well known throughout the state but commitments in Oregon do not allow her enough time to fill orders that are received in the mail.

Nostalgically, Donna glanced up and down the downtown area remarking, "There's something special about this Point!" Of course, she put so much of her love in preserving and unfolding its history while a resident!

She may miss us, but a resounding "We miss you, Donna" comes from us. Do come back for a longer sentimental journey.



## DEATHS.....

IDA MAE JONES, age 86. Native of Kennelworth, Arizona, she lived in Richmond since 1905 and many years at 78 Montana Street in the Point. Ida never had any children and was active in the Order of the Eastern Star. Ida is survived by a nephew and three nieces. Services were held on Saturday November 26th at Wilson and Kratzer. Her husband preceded her in death a number of years ago.

MAURINE CLEMENTS JONES, age 75 died in Concord. A native of Colorado she lived in the Point for 10 years before moving to Concord. During World War II she was a nurse in the Kaiser Richmond shipyards and later was director of nurses at Kaiser Hospital. Her late husband owned and operated the Standard Oil service station on the corner of Castro and Standard Avenue before it was replaced by the freeway. The area is now a bus turn-around. She is survived by a son Gene Clements, Mission Viejo; and daughters Faye Merola of Walnut Creek and Patricia Quigley of San Leandro. No services were held.

## :: ELSIE'S ::

### Our Christmas Greeting

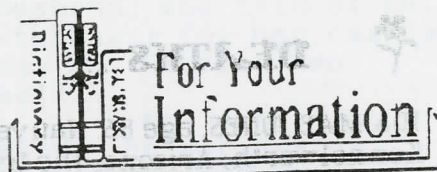
Is that we wish a full measure of all good things for our customers and the people of Richmond during this Christmas.

## - - - ELSIE'S - - -

THE STORE WITH A REPUTATION

The Largest Ladies and Gents Furnishing House in Richmond

111-113 WASHINGTON AVENUE AND PARK PLACE



## WEST SIDE LIBRARY

by Jan Burdick

Long Ride Back is poet John Jacob's first novel. In its telling, he has created one of the most complete and credible evocations of the Vietnam War era. The hero, Travis Jones, spends the first half of the 1960's as a soldier in the jungle. Then, after his discharge, he joins the campus protestors of the late 60's and early 70's.

Barbara Wood's skill as a writer of well crafted, impressively researched romances is already established. In Green City in the Sun, she brings the reader an engrossing saga, set in Kenya from the early 1900's to the present day, tracing the intertwined destinies of two families over three generations.

For more than a half century, beauty photography, a distinct from fashion pictures, has been a primary concern at Vogue, the magazine of style and sophistication founded in 1893. Beauty Photography in VOGUE by photography critic Martin Harrison presents a vivid full-color assemblage to underscore this point. Plates from various periods are grouped in categories: nude, action, close-up, etc.

The presence of the Masquers Playhouse is solid evidence of interest in theater in our

community. For those involved in a hands-on area of play production, The Theater Props Handbook by James Thurston is a valuable guide. Professional tricks are offered and the use of excellent photographs illustrate the precise instructions.

Joe DiMaggio is a legend in his own time and a local hero. Streak: Joe DiMaggio and the Summer of '41 by Michael Seidel is a detailed account of his extraordinary 56 game hitting streak. In addition it's the retelling of an era, filled with nostalgic and poignant remembrances of the spring and summer right before America's entry into World War II.

## Birthdays

### December

Jean Allyn  
Hazel Paasch  
Fern Eastman  
Sherry Hartynyk  
Teresa Albro  
Roni Turner  
Mike Turner  
Eric Turner  
Jim Vandergriff

Seth Fenton  
Cris Creed  
Debbie Seaburg  
Christine Hayes  
Marian Hawkins  
Mark Stevens  
Gerrie Kretzmer  
Marilyn Darling  
Teresa Meneghelli

### January

Henry Allyn  
Cindy Rosier  
Sonja Darling  
Linda Andrews  
Doug Greiner  
Henry Francis  
Jeff Corbin  
Jim Wilson  
Sara Strayer  
Lupe Morris  
Louis Cunan

Jennie Mitchell  
Joe Travis  
Janine Dollarhide  
Bryan Smith  
Trefrey Ross  
Gina Green  
Ed. Paasch  
John Trowbridge  
Betty Moore  
Mary Highfill



## ✉ ✉ LETTERS ✉ ✉

MEMORIES AND COMMENTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN THIS NEWSLETTER. LET US HEAR FROM YOU ABOUT SOME INCIDENT YOU REMEMBER. SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF HISTORY WITH US AND OUR READERS.

Dear Mid,

Recently I received a complimentary issue of the Point Richmond Historical Association newsletter.....

I can't tell you all the memories reading about the Point of the past bring to mind. One that I would like to share with you is my memory of the library.

The librarian in the late 1920's and early 30's was Miss Hodges. She had a strict rule of conduct. She would not allow anyone to speak above a whisper, not even herself. The trouble was that her whisper was so loud and harsh that it was more annoying than if she had spoken in a normal, moderate voice.

The newsletter also started me wondering how much of the Point had remained the same as the good old days and how much had big business taken over from the small merchant. I wonder, are there are any super markets or chain drug stores in the old section of town? By the list of contributors I would guess no, for I saw none of their names.....

Al Franco

*Al Franco lived and grew up in the Point in the 700 block of Golden Gate Avenue. He now lives in Sumner, Washington.*

*And to Al.....no, there are no "golden arches" in the Point.*

# For the Kiddies

|                                |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| DOLLS.....                     | 15c to \$4.95          |
| DOLL BEDS.....                 | \$1.00 to \$1.87       |
| DOLL BUGGIES.....              | \$2.50                 |
| GAMES.....                     | 25c to \$1.50          |
| TOY WAGONS.....                | 15c up                 |
| TOY BOATS.....                 | 25c and 75c            |
| TOY BOOKS.....                 | 5c to \$2.40           |
| NAVAL WAR TOYS.....            | 75c                    |
| TOY BANKS.....                 | \$1.25                 |
| BUILDING BLOCKS.....           | 30c and \$0.90         |
| DRUMS.....                     | 75c, \$1.00 and \$1.25 |
| DOMINO and CHECKER BOARDS..... | 30c up                 |
| PRINTING SETS.....             | 35c                    |
| <b>AIR RIFLES—DAISY—</b>       |                        |
| Single Shot.....               | \$1.07                 |
| Repeater.....                  | \$1.75                 |
| Military.....                  | \$3.50                 |
| KIDDIE KARS.....               | \$1.25 and \$1.75      |
| VELOCIPEDES.....               | \$2.50                 |
| TRICYCLES.....                 | \$5.00                 |
| TRI-KAR.....                   | \$8.00                 |
| JUNIOR CARS AND COASTERS.....  | \$5.00                 |
| POLICE PATROL.....             | \$12.50                |
| ROAD KING—2-passenger.....     | \$12.50                |
| FAST MAIL ENGINE.....          | \$16.00                |

*When decorating the Children's Christmas Tree, remember, we have TREE ORNAMENTS AND CANDLES.*

## EBERHART'S

THE GIFT SHOP

721 Macdonald Avenue

Richmond, Cal.