

# THIS POINT

in time

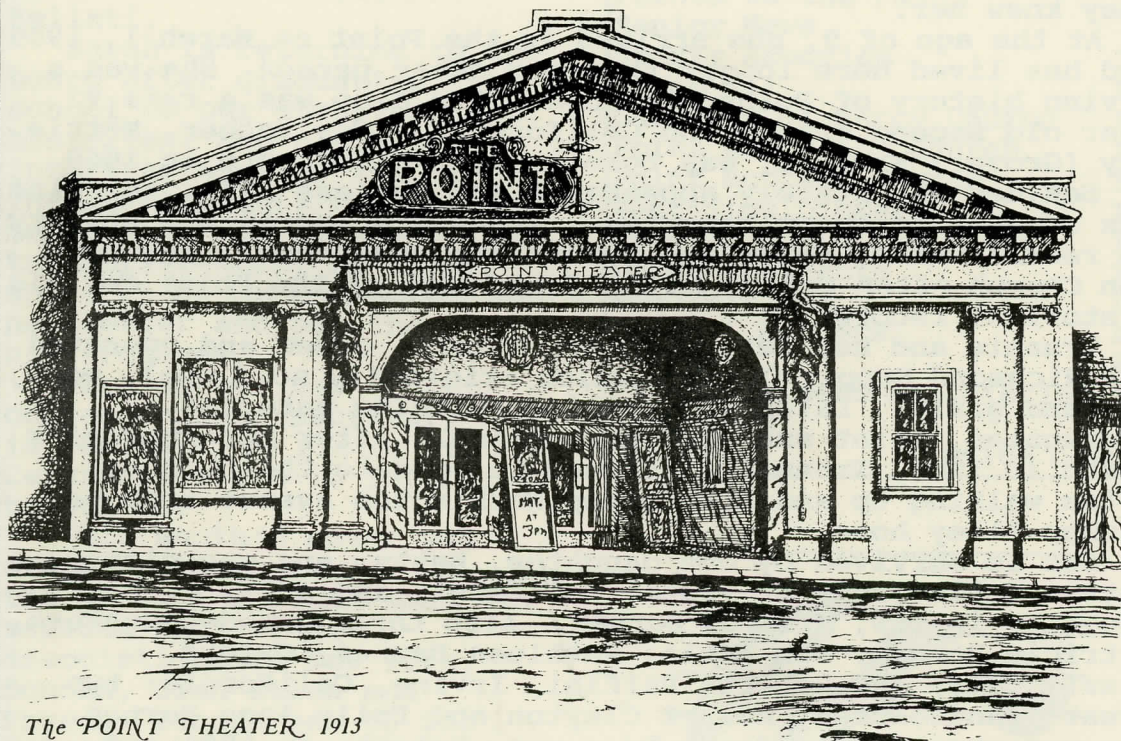
A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL. VIII

No. 2

SUMMER, 1989

ONE DOLLAR



The POINT THEATER, 1913  
POINT RICHMOND

William R. Johnson  
Aug 13 1989

**199 Park Place**

Trannie Grover Dornan  
July 17, 1895 - July 5, 1989

*See Inside Front Cover*



<p><b>TRANNIE GROVER DORNAN</b> July 17, 1895 - July 5, 1989</p>
--

A great lady is gone. Whether you were 3 year old Brianna Smyk who, when she heard her neighbor was taken to the hospital, cried and said, "Trannie is my best friend," or 101 year old friend Isabelle Silveira commenting, "She's a remarkable lady", people of all ages had loving feelings for her. Trannie knew almost everyone living in the Point...and they knew her.

At the age of 9, she arrived in the Point on March 1, 1905 and has lived here longer than any other person. She was a living history of Point Richmond. She also was a rare 93 year old second generation Californian. Her mother, Nettie May (Grover) Freeman, was born in near Sacramento in 1869.

Besides her stately appearance and ageless skin, her mind was a vault of Point memories. Trannie's incredible ability to recall names, dates and events was unmatched. The late Don Church often relied on her knowledge of the Point for his historical records.

Trannie and her late husband, Robert, owned and operated the Richmond Supply Company which originally sold coal, wood, hay and grain. Later it supplied building material, aggregates, paint and garden supplies. After her husband's death in 1966, Trannie continued to operate the business, often walking up and down steep Washington Avenue from her Bishop Alley home.

She is survived by one daughter, Betty, and one sister, Hattie Belle Potts of Vista, California and a daughter-in-law, Mildred Dornan. Also three grand-daughters, Patricia Dornan, San Pablo; Kathleen Barnes, Oxford, Mississippi; and Roberta Palfini, Irvine, California; two great-grandchildren, Robert Clayton and Emily Anne Barnes. She was preceded in death by a son, Robert, in 1981 and daughter, Dorothy, in 1939.

Trannie was the history resource for "This Point in Time." This issue was delayed in order to recognize her death on July 5, 1989. On July 17th she would have celebrated her 94th birthday.

The next issue will be dedicated to her memory. Anyone wishing to contribute an article of your memories of her is requested to send it to the editor, Gary Shows, 229 Golden Gate Avenue, Point Richmond, CA, by August 1st.

**TRANNIE WILL BE MISSED!**

# History Association Notes

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Jerry Cerkanowicz

As we begin a new year we welcome new board members Sarah Eeles and Margaret Bellati.

Sarah is returning to the board after graduating from school as our archivist/oral historian. She plans to interview some of the interesting and knowledgeable members of our community and transcribe them. We will share these interviews in our newsletter and put them in our archives.

Marg is our new correspondence secretary and is replacing my sister Deidre Cerkanowicz who is returning to school.

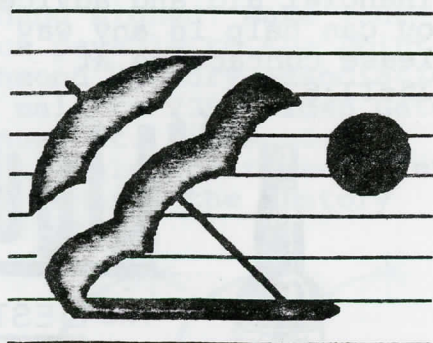
This month's cover was drawn by William Johnston. In the past he has done work for various historical associations in New York, Sonoma, Glen Ellen and Fresno. Though new to the Point he likes it here and has offered his considerable talent to the History Association.

The September General meeting will be on September 21, 1989 at 7:30 P.M. We will have a guest speaker and will furnish refreshments, please

*see page 2*

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# SUMMER



.... From the President

bring snacks. We plan to meet on the back patio of Walter Connolly's building at 124 Washington Avenue.

The little building at 139 West Richmond is to be torn down in July. Because it was originally the home of the oldest continuing business in the Point we are looking at ways to save it by relocation.

J.Q. Black began a coal, wood, hay, and grain business there in 1903. In 1909 Robert Dornan Sr. and Art Whiteside bought the business. In 1939 Mrs. Laura Larlin opened a grocery store. During the 50's A.F. Dixon had a locksmith business there and it was converted into a home. In the 60's Hazel Carr bought it, installed the large windows and opened her realty business.

If we are to save the building we will need financial aid and advice. If you can help in any way please contact me at 235-1336.

## MEMBERS

Pam Wilson  
Membership Chairwoman  
521 Western Drive  
Point Richmond, CA 94801

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

Teresa Albro  
Linda Andrew  
Edwin L. Bedford  
Margaret Burdge  
James Cheshareck, Jr.  
Robert B. Freeman  
Anna S. Gaumer  
Monica Haley  
Adele Chase Hollander  
Betty Marshall  
Marion A. Voigt  
William H. Williamson  
Pam Wilson  
Charlotte G. Woods  
Victoria J. Scholz  
Betty M. Wirth

*And a warm welcome to the following new members:*

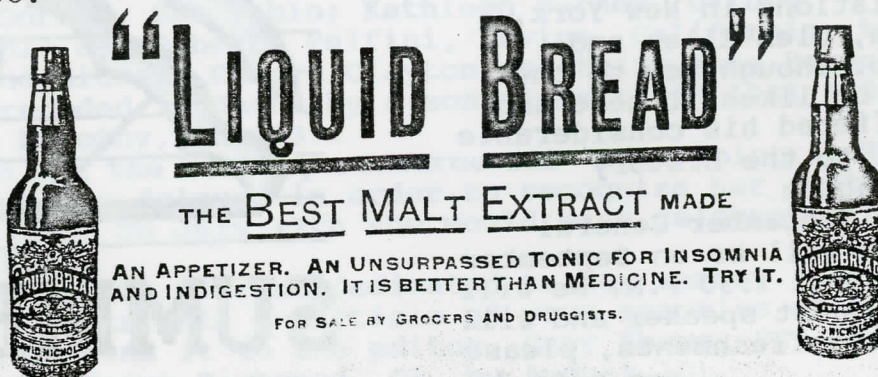
Ann V. Bartram  
Mary Beth Newmann  
June Blackburn  
Jim & Florence Wilson

**"LIQUID BREAD"**

THE BEST MALT EXTRACT MADE

AN APPETIZER. AN UNSURPASSED TONIC FOR INSOMNIA AND INDIGESTION. IT IS BETTER THAN MEDICINE. TRY IT.

FOR SALE BY GROCERS AND DRUGGISTS.





## editors notes.....

BY GARY SHOWS

Sunday, May 21st was a beautiful spring day in the Point. Until this date I had only driven by Miller-Knox Park and casually thought about it being our newest park. When it was first built it was not terribly inviting, but rather was an oddly rolling expanse of dusty bayside real estate, filled with little "trees" held up by sticks. I knew that someday this "park" had promise, and now it is time to thank all of you involved with its creation, I see your names in our archives but hesitate at this time to mention any one because of the fear of leaving out an important contributor.

Miller-Knox Park is now a beautiful "young" park and is a glowing example of the importance of setting aside open space in all parts of this Bay Area metropolis.

This was the location of the Second Annual Picnic and General Membership Meeting of the History Association and the theme was relaxation and low key discussion of the Point's past. Attendance was a little disappointing, but for those of you who couldn't make it, well, I'm sorry but you missed out on a very pleasant afternoon.

Attention freeway watchers! Caltrans says we will be driving on the

elevated portion by October!

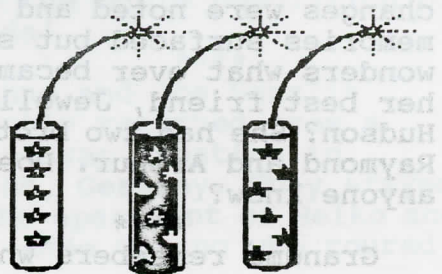
Our next issue will be September, staff please note that articles for that issue are due by August 15th. We will feature the history of Brickyard Cove in that issue.



### The Cover:

"The Point" Theater (presently home of the Point Orient Restaurant), opened February 15, 1913. The new theater, designed by architect C.O. Clausen seated 460 people. Its lobby had marble walls and tiled floors.

This new drawing is by local artist William R. Johnston. 11" X 14" reproductions of this work are available through the History Association. The cost is \$10.00 each or \$15.00 each if hand signed. Make your check payable to the Point Richmond History Association and mail to 229 Golden Gate Avenue, Pt. Richmond, CA 94801. Sales of these prints will benefit the History Association.



# A-MID TRIVIA

by Mid Dornan (234-5334)

Observing license plates on freeways makes one aware we have 50 great states each full of people who don't want to spend their summers in them.

\*\*\*\*

It was inevitable. With the many multiple choices now available in breads, one loaf should read, "Old Fashioned White".

\*\*\*\*

Researchers claim that those who exercise **before** breakfast burn off more calories. Reseachers will try anything to get late sleepers out of bed!

\*\*\*\*

Jimmy (Twomey) Seifert and her husband from Burlson, Texas, were cruising the Point on Crest Avenue looking for a familiar face, as she lived at 138 Crest in the 40's. She looked over Washington School ....and was very disappointed to learn the Baptist Church had just closed its doors as she had attended there. Lots of changes were noted and memories surfaced but she wonders what ever became of her best friend, Jewell Hudson? She had two brothers, Raymond and Arthur. Does anyone know?

\*\*\*\*

Grandma remembers when

meals were carefully thought out instead of carefully thawed out!

\*\*\*\*

Can you remember what you were doing that day of the first lunar landing, often referred to as "Moonday"? It has been 20 years since that historic day, a day that many public offices celebrated by closing.

\*\*\*\*

Friends and church members attended a retirement tea / dance and dinner at the Alameda Officers Club for Bob Yank. Bob plays alto sax in a 20 piece band. He thanked those attending but said he wanted to show his appreciation and entertain them. The Glenn Miller era music was indeed a treat for those attending.

\*\*\*\*

Melba and Lloyd Farley were off for a couple of weeks to Hawaii where family members joined them.

\*\*\*\*

Recently wed Bonita Klivans Neasham and Scott Booth honeymooned in England where they drove and toured for three weeks.

\*\*\*\*

Kathy Rohrs turned her Victorian flat in the Point into a "Gone With the Wind" theme party mansion as she dressed as Scarlett. Guests also came dressed as characters from the book.



\*\*\*\*

Q: Under baseball's big league rules, how heavy can a bat be?

A: No limit. Length is 42", diameter 2 3/4" but nothing to regulate weight.

\*\*\*\*

When Dr. Michael Chartock and Ms. Marilyn Carsella opened their 212 Bishop Alley home (former Roselius home) for an exhibit of watercolors by artist and historian Kathrine Wagner Seineke, with Renaissance Music and a Recorder Quartet, one knew they had the right environment and it was like deja vu.

\*\*\*\*

Grandma remembers when ten cents was big money and exclaims that "dimes" have changed.

\*\*\*\*

Graduating students Seth Fenton and Todd Cort of the Point were chosen to go to the National Forensic competition in Golden, Colorado the last week of school. They represented the Golden Gate Speech Association which was allowed to send two representatives from the inclusive Bay Area to the Northern California border. Both are from Kennedy High School although from two different teams there. Congratulations!!

\*\*\*\*

Doris and Bob Maske came from Bellingham, Washington for the graduation of their

son, Todd Cort.

\*\*\*\*

Just when doctors have convinced us to avoid eggs because of high cholesterol, medical authorities now tell us it is okay to eat 3 or 4 a week. And, have you tried the newly developed "low cholesterol" egg on the market?

\*\*\*\*

Kathy and Rich Barnes, Clay and Emily will spend the month of July visiting her mother, Mid Dornan sister, Pat Dornan, Grandmother, Trannie, and Aunt, Betty. In

August they will be moving to Oxford, Mississippi where Rich has accepted a staff position at the University of Mississippi Law School from their Vermillion, South Dakota. They will attend a family reunion in Estes Park, Colorado before returning to South Dakota in August.

\*\*\*\*

Richard and Roberta Palfini were here from Irvine to spend Father's Day.

\*\*\*\*

THOUGHT: There are more retired people in the U.S. than the whole population of Canada!

\*\*\*\*

Anne and Joe Hanzlik recently returned from a house-swap vacation in Munich, Germany. They stayed in the apartment of Heiko and Mary Anne Ohling who toured

Northern California. While in Europe Joe did some archaeological work.

\*\*\*\*

Smoke from the burning 30 story PG&E tank forced nearby wildlife into the open with deer being spotted as far away as Bishop Alley.

\*\*\*\*

Our Editor, Gary Shows, has not smoked for over two months. We're proud of him!

\*\*\*\*

Debbie Miller and year old daughter, Caitlin from Edmond, Oklahoma are visiting her mother, Mary Forbes and attended the graduation of her niece, Anna Osafsky, her sister Cyndy's daughter.

\*\*\*\*

Four Point artists were among East Bay artists who

joined the sixth annual self guided tour that allowed you to see the artist create and show off their work and their lifestyles in the environments where they have chosen to work. Point artists were Teresa Albro, cermics, mixed media; Sydney Isobe, textiles and wearable painted silk, Deidre Cerkanowicz, photography and pottery and Adelle Chase painting and sculpture.

\*\*\*\*

HINT: To keep cut cheese fresh, butter the sliced edge.

\*\*\*\*

Enjoy the summer, the days are already beginning to get shorter. Mark your calendars for the fall meeting.



## POINTS TO THE PAST

Articles of interest from our archives  
from Gary Shows

PT. RICHMOND 'TRANSFORMED'  
FOR JULY 4th

Point Richmond is rapidly being transformed from a placid little community to the scene of a gigantic carnival and festival, as the annual Point Richmond Old Fashioned Fourth of July draws near.

Normally lined with cars parked by people who are visiting the excellent

restaurants or other shops, Washington Avenue, Park Place and Railroad Avenue will be lined with some 55 booths, operated by service clubs and other organizations. The booths will house various exhibits and games of skill, for the delight and edification of young and old.

Finishing touches will be put on the bandstand and booths that will provide



continuous entertainment Sunday. The work is being done by volunteers from the groups that will man the booths.

Although several thousand traditional hamburgers and hot dogs will be sold at the Old-Fashioned Fourth, many of the more than 20,000 who are expected to attend will sample the gourmet cooking of several ethnic groups, including Norwegian, Chinese, Mexican, Japanese and others.

In addition to the booths, entertainment and music, the area around the Point Richmond Firehouse and Recreation Center will be given over to an art show, which has proved to be one of the most popular facets of the annual observance. Art of all types will be displayed and sold, including oil and water color paintings, sculpture, collages, leather work, etc.

No admission is charged for Old-Fashioned Fourth of July observance, which is set up to provide a full day of fun for the entire family.

*Richmond Independent*

July 1, 1971

\*\*\*\*

OLD FASHIONED 4th AT POINT  
RICHMOND

According to its sponsors, the Richmond Junior Chamber of Commerce and the West Contra Costa Youth Foundation, Sunday's Old Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration at Point Richmond will be just that-an Old Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration.

It will be complete with

fun and games, patriotic oratory, music, entertainment, food and a general good time for all who attend. Object of the celebration is the raising of funds for American Field Service Chapters at El Cerrito, Kennedy, Ells, Richmond, De Anza and Pinole Valley high schools, so that

they may send students to foreign countries in the Americans Abroad program of the AFS.

Sunday's festivities will get under way at 10:30 a.m., when participants in the Kiddie Parade will gather for the annual march around the central triangle at Point Richmond bounded by Washington, Park Place and Richmond avenues. The parade will begin at 11 a.m., signaling the official start of the festivities.

More than 60 booths will line the triangle of streets, and the bandstand will offer





free entertainment throughout the day, with rock groups, jazz bands, banjo bands and other types of musical entertainment. a full program will be carried in tomorrow's New Vistas.

One major feature of the entertainment is the puppet show, presented by Beth Nord, to be seen at the Community Center at 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. It will be a traditional "Punch and Judy" show, as well as a version of "Little Red Riding Hood." Mrs Nord is a former children's librarian for the Contra Costa Public Library System. Admission to the puppet show is free.

Expected to draw large crowds is the exhibition of Gung-Fu and Judo, which will feature Toshi Watanabe, national Gung-Fu champion, an exhibition of Gung-Fu weapons recently arrived from the Orient. Topping off the Gung-Fu exhibit will be a traditional Lion Dance.

Many of the almost 20,000 who are expected to attend the celebration between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., will visit the Art Exhibit, which attracts more and more artists in a variety of media each year, and more and more buyers. A gala fireworks exhibit will take place atop Nicholl Nob at 9 p.m.

*Richmond Independent  
July 2, 1971*



## IN PURSUIT OF HISTORICAL TRIVIA

Courtesy of STAN NYSTROM

*Sorry....no article from  
Stan in this issue.*

## SENIOR NEWS

By Muriel C. Clausen

Of major interest to all Seniors is the availability of information on all senior issues through the Contra Costa County Area Agency on Aging. This is a staffed facility under the auspices of the Older American's Act that exists in each county in California. The Contra Costa County Area on Aging is in Concord at 2425 Bisso Lane. The phone number is 646-5233.

The staff of the Contra Costa Facility is especially helpful and is headed by Bob Sessler, an El Cerrito resident. To carry on the work that is involved in providing information on all senior issues is a large group of Senior volunteers that form the Advisory Council of the Area Agency on Aging. Many Seniors feel that they have worked hard and long and at retirement time would like to put down the tools of their trade. There are many Seniors who feel, in doing so, that they want to and have the energy to pick up another valuable tool; the tool of Volunteerism for Seniors. Sometimes the work



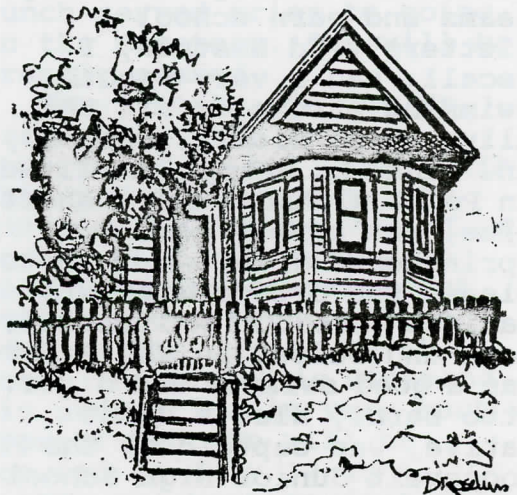
that they do is more prodigious than they had anticipated for the calls upon volunteers can be many. However, these Senior volunteers go to their new "work" with spirit and their talents to do great things for their county's Seniors.

An example of the work of one of the Volunteer Committees is that of the Housing Committee. They have recently formed a questionnaire that seeks to find all of the housing needs of Seniors in our county. This information will be placed into an updating computer file for constant referral by Seniors in our county at any time. The Board of Supervisors and the California Legislature is very impressed with this particular survey and is working to make it the standard for the State. Meanwhile this Housing Committee will start the major work of the survey by making a housing comparison survey of the Cities of Pleasant Hill and Richmond. This survey will be started quite soon with the blessing of the City Mayors and Councilpersons.

Other Volunteer Committees that operate in the Area Agency on Aging include a Health Committee, a Mental Health Committee, a Legislative Review Committee a Transportation Committee, etc. All of these Committees

are working on Legislation that affects Seniors (especially Catastrophic Health Bills) and features particular to their own committee assignment.

With the small staff at the Area Agency on Aging and a group of over 50 Volunteers there is constantly at work in your county activities and measures that can help Seniors. All of this is available to Seniors through the office in Concord. The tool of Volunteerism, is a rewarding tool to pick up as you become a Senior and for many years thereafter. If ever you, a Senior, would like to pick up an interesting tool this is it and you would be welcome to join an active, intelligent and interested group of people, all interested in Seniors, because they to are Seniors.



601 TEWKSBURY

by **DONNA ROSELIUS**



# Sports memories

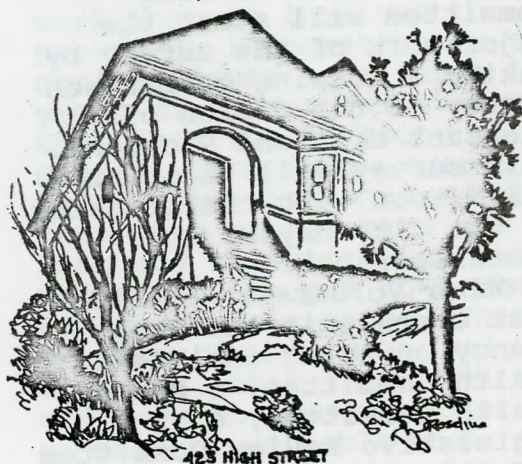
By Allan Smith

The Richmond Municipal Natatorium was a very popular swimming pool in the East Bay during the early 1930's. I remember during the summer months the huge crowds that packed the pool and made it impossible for a swimmer to take a stroke. At various times it was necessary to turn away customers. Cars were parked all over the Point as far down as the old Washington School.

As close as the "Nat" was to all residents of Point Richmond, I can't recall any Olympic potential champion swimmers or divers that were developed here. However many of the Point youths were good enough to make their High School and College swimming teams and earn school "letters". Ed Westman, I recall, had a very smooth swimming stroke as did the Allyn boys, Mickey, Sparkey, and Hank. Ed Gregg, who lived in Point Richmond for a short time, was a very good springboard diver who used to please the crowds with his various dives. Al Raffanelli, born and raised in the Point was a good swimmer and diver. Otto Barni, also a Point native, was captain of the Roosevelt Junior High School swim team. Otto, along with Al Frosini, remember the

opening day of the Richmond Municipal Natatorium in the year of 1927. In the 1970's, I think that one of the Doellstedts from the Point was a college swimmer earning school recognition.

Having worked as a locker boy at 30 cents an hour during the summer months and on weekends at the Natatorium along with Mr. Williams, the men's attendant, I got to know the facilities fairly well. Ralph Kendrick, the original lifeguard at the Nat, was an excellent swimmer as was his son Ralph, Jr. It was well in the 1950's before the first fatal drowning occurred. Will write more about our lifeguard, Ralph Kendrick, in an issue to follow.



By DONNA ROSELIUS



# TROOP 111

*from Mid Dornan*

The Troop thanks the Point Firefighters for displaying the banner, the Santa Fe Market, the Point Business Association as well as the entire community for their support of the 35th Annual Pancake Breakfast which provides funds for the scouts to attend summer camp. This is their only fund raiser during the year.

Almost the entire crew of cooks are former Eagle Scouts from this troop and many have been cooking for over 30 years. The community spirit expressed through this yearly event is appreciated.

THANKS!!

## Churches

### OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

by ELEANOR HURLEY

Sunday, May 14th was a very happy day for the parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy. Father Denis Araujo was back with us and able to say Mass. He had been released by his doctor and returned on May 10th. He looks very well and has made a wonderful recovery from the after effects of the by-pass surgery and stroke. The only appreciable sign after a

year's recuperation seems to be a slight slow down in his movements. He looks very well and his memory seems to be excellent. On Mother's Day a rose bud was presented to all the ladies of the Parish.

Father is having Daily Mass at noon Monday through Friday.

Tony Ferreira is still leading a group of Parishioners helping the Volunteers of America one day each month at the Souper Kitchen.

Work is continuing on the re-wiring of the Church.

We were all saddened by the death of Marion Downey, although her health had not been good for some time, she never gave up. She was a regular attendant at Mass and the clubs in which she was interested. Her funeral Mass was very well attended and it was her plan to have a light lunch served prior to going to the cemetery. She will be greatly missed.

Many thanks are due Fr. James Clift who gave so generously of his time while Father Denis was away. In addition to taking care of us he had Chaplain duties at hospitals and convalescent homes in our area, not to mention his duties to St. Cornelius Parish in Richmond. His dedication is very much appreciated. He will be honored on July 12 at a little celebration featuring a pot-luck dinner. Marie



Peckham and Adolph Broussard are in charge of the affair.

On June 4, Mass was celebrated at 11:00 a.m. instead of the usual 9:00. This change was made to allow for a salad bar lunch to follow as a welcome back to Fr. Denis. Marie Peckham was in charge and a good gathering was had, including some former parishioners now in other areas. It was a very joyful occasion.

At the Parish Meeting on May 28 a tart time housekeeper and cook was approved for Father.

It is rather sad for some of us older parishioners to see the "For Sale" sign in front of the O'Hara residence. Henry was born and lived in Point Richmond all of his life. He was very helpful in all parish activities.

Frank Rondon, the husband of Gertrude, who has been a very faithful gardener, passed away early in June. Following Mass and burial a pot-luck luncheon was held in the hall. Their daughter Anna, gave a very inspiring and emotional talk about her father. She expressed her deep thanks to her father and her mother and to the Parish for their kindness to them.

C.C.D. classes have ended for the first six months and will resume again in the fall.



## POINT METHODIST CHURCH

By MID DORNAN

An all-church picnic at Miller-Knox Park had all the trimmings of an old fashioned picnic. Barbeque ..baked beans ..potato salad ..topped with homemade ice cream. Games included gunny sack race, three-legged race, hula hoops, nail hammer contest, for both males and females but the raw egg toss was the most enthusiastic! Tara Kaufman was the first casualty but Tom and Daniel Butt were the winners.

A salad bar dinner climaxed the United Methodist Women's year with a program of singing, readings, games and fellowship following.

Jean Reynolds and Ocetta Eaton are delegates to the Annual Conference held the third week of June in Sacramento.

Missions chairman, Claudia LeGue, hopes to have enough funds to purchase 2 goats or 1 goat and 1 pig for the Heifer Project.

Sunday School teachers were honored and presented with a book gift during church services. Honored were Jean Reynolds, Norm Reynolds, Shirley Butt, Grace Yank, John Howe, Claudia LeGue, Michael Brown and Mid Dornan. The church youth in the 4th grade were presented Bibles and younger children were given Bible Story Books. All students were present that day with the exception of



one.

A breakfast was given for those graduation. Honored were Todd Cort and Seth Fenton, Kennedy High; Clark Brown, UC Berkeley; Ken Woodson, UC Davis, and Jim Woodson, Sacramento State.

Special recognition was given Fathers on their day.

Michael Brown was auditioned for the San Francisco Symphony Chorus.

\*\*\*

*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 notebook purchased from "Shoen's Pharmacy in the Point". This is the 39th installment.*

April 17, 1914

The Home Missionary Society met with Mrs. Gibbons. Meeting called to order by president. Mrs. Bradley read 19 verses of 3rd chapter of 1st John for the days lesson followed by prayer by Mrs. Gibbons. Minutes of previous meeting read and approved. A programme of the convention to be held the 24th in Oakland 1st M.E. was read by corresponding sec. Mrs. Grover. Quite a number said they would attend.

Mrs. Bly and Adams gave their names for membership to

the Society. Mrs. Ida Lester assigned as mite box Sec and Mrs. Adams was appointed to fill her office the rest of the year. The amount in mite boxes was \$2.40. Mrs. Homer gave an excellent talk on the work in the South Land after which there was a general discussion on the race problems.

Mrs. Ellen Lester paid dues .70

Mrs. Bly .30

Silver Offering 1.10

After adjournment hostess served dainty refreshments. (One wonders just what these dainty refreshments always were!)

Mrs. Totten, Sec

August 24, 1914

The Society met with the president, Mrs. Gibbons opened with scripture reading followed by prayer by Mrs. Homer. There being no special study for the hour, those present freely discussed the work of the society. The president requested that those having large pieces left from cutting out garments would please give them to her that she might send as large a roll as possible to the Italian Museum in San Francisco. It was decided that we arrange at the September meeting for a big afternoon or evening in October when mite boxes would be opened and a decision on what study would be taken for the ensuing year.

Mrs. D. Whalin gave her name for membership.

Mrs. Bly paid dues .30

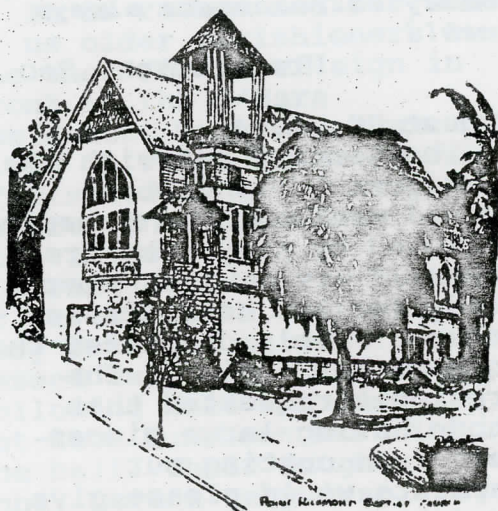
Mrs. Gibbons paid dues 1.20

Mrs. Whalin and Totten were appointed to get up a programme for next meeting. Mrs. Bly asked that the Society meet with her in September.

After adjournment hostess served delicious fruit.

Mrs. Gibbons, President

Mrs. Jennie M. Totten, Sec



By **DONNA ROSELIUS**

## **Point Baptist Church**

by **ROY JONES**

IN MEMORIAM

Point Richmond Baptist Church  
1903-1989

In the new boom town of Point Richmond on November 13, 1901, a Baptist church

was organized with eight members. In December 1901 Rev. W.A. Chapman from the San Pablo Baptist Church was called as pastor. In those days life's top priorities were (1) a home, (2) a church, and (3) a school.

Moving right along with firm intent at a business meeting held at the Henley house on January 5, 1903, the Baptists elected five trustees...three men and two women..."to establish and maintain a regular Baptist Church in the town of Point Richmond for the purpose of public worship." "To hold all property of said Association prior to its incorporation and all that may be acquired thereafter by purchase, gift, donation or otherwise." Two lots were purchased from the Nicholl Subdivision at the northeast corner of Washington and Nicholl Avenues. The inside lot was designated as the site of the church building, the corner parcel was "to be used as burial grounds for its deceased members." (These graveyards were known as churchyards). The church building was erected with remarkable speed and on a rainy Sunday in November, 1904 was dedicated in public ceremony. The corner lot was later given to the City of Richmond, for the sum of \$1.00, to be used as a children's playlot.

In 1912 a mass exodus



began from the Point to the area along MacDonald and Barrett Avenues that was to become downtown Richmond. Our church here by majority vote elected to relocate there and with members from the Calvary Baptist Church and 32 members from this church, a new church called the First Baptist Church of Richmond was begun. The Point Richmond Baptist Church became known as the Point Mission. It is difficult to think of a church being a congregation, people, rather than a building. This building held a congregation of worshipers as a Mission without missing a Sunday until 1941 when we were granted status as a fully independent church called The Point Richmond Baptist Church. A blanket letter of dismissal listing 50 names was granted to those from the church at 13th and Barrett to join this church.

All over America, church buildings looking much like this one dotted the landscape. A black friend recently dropped in here to run over a song and his first comment was "now this is a church." Look it over, inside and out, no one could doubt its reason for being built. The Articles of Incorporation first listed the time for which it was to exist to be fifty years. This was later amended to read "perpetual."

Look across our sanctuary, no pretense to cathedral

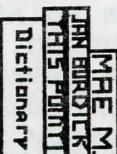
status, but the redwood-framed windows, the worn wooden floor, that magnificent old upright piano, the cross, hand carved by old Mr. Gatlin, the Communion Table presented by Faye Mainard in memory of her mother, observe the fine old Bible that has been on the table for as long as the table has been there, read the inscription inside the cover...1897. Some of you were children here, all of us were much younger. Remember our spirited son services. One man stands out to me, Dick Wilson, who simply was, to me at least, The Point Richmond Baptist Church. His bass voice enriched every note of every hymn, his devotion and generosity to his church still amazes me and I pay tribute to his memory.

There were many others, past and present, Mrs. Paul Dunlap who kept us alive during the Mission years, Mabel Edwards winging her way across the sanctuary as an angel, suspended from a wire from corner to corner, and other "little angels we have seen in countless Christmas Programs, dressed in white and playing and acting the part for brief hours, the Wilson, the Crittendens, the Prices, the Milams, the countless babies of their own, and the list goes on. We have so many fond memories of people, past and present, sad



and joyful, that there is not enough room to pay proper tribute to all who have served through the years so faithfully and contributed so much.

And so we say, for now at least, "well done, thou good and faithful servants." Be at peace knowing we have persevered and although these doors will close for the first time in 85 years, we will again see the day that this church will be a living testimony to God's goodness, mercy and saving grace.



For Your  
Information

## WEST SIDE LIBRARY

By Jan Burdick

Lots of good times will be happening for kids at West Side Library this Summer.

FLIGHT TO FANTASY is the theme of the reading club. Each participant will have a game board to play and prizes will be awarded as books are read. Children up to age 13 are eligible for the club.

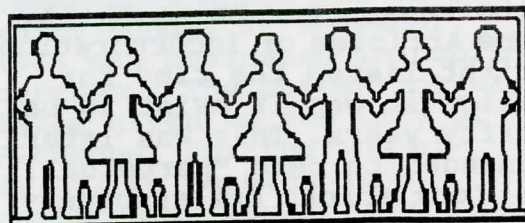
A weekly program, starting June 27th, will continue each Tuesday morning for the months of July and August. Each session will be held from 11:00 to 12:00 in the Community Center, adjacent to

the West Side Library. On June 27th Annie-the-Clown started things off with a bang with her performance. If you saw her several years ago, you remember that she appears first in street clothes and transforms herself into her character before your very eyes. Even her way of speaking changes as she assumes her very funny role of a clown.

On alternate Tuesdays an arts\crafts specialist will help children make masks and hats, do magnet fishing and various other activities. There will be four craft programs. Parents or older siblings of young craft makers are welcome to come and help little fingers cut and paste.

In addition to the first entertainment type program, there will be a session of story-telling plus visits from Nancy of the East Bay Humane Society and Vivian from San Francisco's Exploratorium. To finish off this busy summer season, there will be a party on August 29th.

Flyers with all of this information are available at West Side.





## GROWING UP IN THE POINT IN THE 20'S AND 30'S Guest Column

*By Al Franco*

I shall always be greatly appreciative to the Point Richmond History Association for sending me a copy of "This Point" and awakening my subconscious memories of my childhood and reminding me that the Point is where my roots are.

I was not privileged to read John Stephens's article on growing up in the Point, but I would like to share some of the things I remember about that era. I hope there is not too much repetition in this article.

It was always a treat for me to go from our home on Golden Gate Avenue to downtown Point Richmond to visit the wonderful merchants (no caveat emptor in those days), because we only made the trip once a week. My mother did not drive and did not look forward to a long trip on foot with two small kids in tow. Luckily in those days Mr. Whiteside's grocery store had a deliverly boy. Ten dollars worth of groceries were more than she could carry comfortably.

Ed, the butcher, was a big jovial man who delighted in offering me a hot dog and just as I was about to take it, he would let it slip into

the palm of his hand and at the same time hold out his index finger for me to take. This would amuse me so much that I would go into a fit of childish laughter which started him laughing so much that tears would come to his eyes.

The Richmond Supply Company which sold coal and animal food was run my a tall dignified woman, Mrs. Dornan. I fondly remember the oak roll top desk, the Seth Thomas clock and the group of metal leaves with spring loaded slips which held the bills for accounts receivable.

Mr. Sonada, a humble polite Oriental, was the shoe repair man. In my family's first few years in the Point, the Sonadas were our neighbors, their daughter Jean was my playmate in my preschool years. Years later at the outbreak of World War II, the Sonada family along with thousands of other Japanese (60% of them were born in the United States) on the West Coast were sent to an internment camp for being a security risk. No one who knew them thought that they could be guilty of spying, but our government said that they might be spies, so we believed them. No case of spying was ever proven. We Americans now are much too intelligent and sophisticated to believe such misinformation, aren't we?



I still remember the mellifuous tones of the softspoken druggist, Mr. Palmateer, clearing his throat as he worked in the back room on our prescriptions.

Mr. Machado, the barber to whom my dad and I went, seemed to always have detailed maps of mines drawn on his mirrors. I think he sold mining stock to supplement his income.

Gust Allyn's men's shop sold quality clothes, it was there that I bought my first suit after my discharge from the Air Force at the end of World War II. The Allyns were also our neighbors when we first moved to the Point.

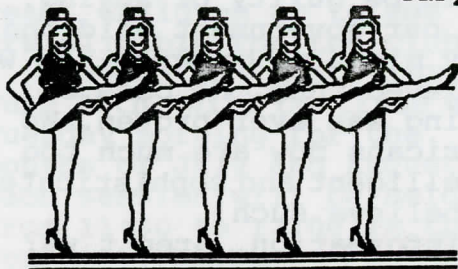
Mrs. Frosini and her haughter Frieda ran the dry goods store where my mother bought material to make dresses for herself and my sister.

I wonder how many of the similar names I see in the "Newsletter" are offsprings of these merchants.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Thanks Al, your memories of the Point are interesting to all of us!*

Gary



## **Point Artifacts** from James Cheshareck

I am 16 years old and the son of James Cheshareck. My grandfather, Frank Cheshareck (Shock), owned Shock's Variety Store at 38 Washington Avenue. My great-grandparents, Stanley and Elsie Wunderlich ran the Anderson Hotel at 149 West Richmond Avenue in the 1930's. I have been collecting bottles and antiques for over five years. My main interest now is digging up old bottles and finding old paper items in Point Richmond and I am very pleased to be able to write about my personal discoveries of Point Richmond memorabilia.

This column will deal with these old artifacts. Since I'm only 16, I need the help of some of you long time Point residents. I hope you will write to TPIT if you think you can help identify items mentioned, some of them might even bring back some memories.

I first started collecting Point Richmond artifacts when I unearthed a medical bottle with embossed letters reading "The Schoen Pharmacy, Pt. Richmond". Upon finding that bottle, I called Jerry Cerkanowicz to tell him of the find. I called the Richmond Museum but all they could find out is that in a 1907 directory, a man named



Fred Schoen lived at 107 West Richmond.

My most recent find was on Standard Avenue. I dug up a "Richmond Soda Works, Pt. Richmond" bottle with a broken off top. If you have any interesting information about anything about Richmond Soda Work's or Schoen's Pharmacy, please leave a note at Jerry's desk at 124 Washington Avenue or write to THIS POINT at 229 Golden Gate Avenue, Pt. Richmond, 94801.



## ACQUISITIONS

BY GARY SEOWS

From Rosemary and Doug Corbin, a cedar box containing interesting printed Point Richmond memorabilia, newspaper clippings, cards, etc. Contains much valuable information on the "Old Firehouse". The History Association is very appreciative.

\*\*\*\*\*

From the San Pablo Historical and Museum Society, "Long Road to Rancho San Pablo", a new book by Frances Conley. It tells the story of Francisco Castro, whose family in 1846 owned all of western Contra Costa.



Dear Pam Wilson:

Attached is my renewal check for the History Association and "This Point in Time" newsletter.

Thank you for publishing my articles. My writing is lousy because when I went to Washington School Miss Cameron, the traveling writing teacher, forced me to switch from the left to right hand writing. (One of Washington's educational errors.)

In the April article it was copied "Violet Rag Gasoline", the correct product was "Violet RAY". The gasoline was dyed purple.

The spelling of bocai balls should have been "bocci".

Smile & Be Happy,  
Ed Garrard

*Sorry for the typos Ed, I'm good at them! Roy and I are still wondering what you were referring to in the*

March issue when you mentioned "little round aluminum cans pressed in the pavement and imprinted 'The Three Merry Widows'".

\*\*\*\*\*

To the editor:

As I received my May copy of This Point in Time, it was with joy that I saw the front with an up-to-date plot plan, on its cover. I dropped what I was doing to get a better look under a magnifying glass and then turned the page. The President, Jerry Cerkowicz started a sentence with shocking news. Nothing, but nothing stops that sinking feeling.

I lived next door to "Frankie" Gebhardt in the 1920's 1930's and early part of 1941. I knew her when she was youthful, vivacious, and she may have even had the world by the tail. I was pals with her younger sister, Gwen, later called Rusty (who's real name is Shirley). Their father was intelligent, witty and had such a zest for life! After I lost my own father to a heart ailment at a tender age of my life, it was very easy to appreciate him as a paternal figure. Their mother was a fine figure of a lady and we were privileged to be their neighbors on Western Drive.

Undoubtedly Frankie inherited much of her drive and "need to achieve" from her father. If you will recall, there was not too

much emphasis placed on the women achieving anything beyond a clean house and raising the next generation in those days. Entering into the Marines after college must have been a colorful experience and it would only have added to her abilities or allowed her to progress beyond the norm.

The name Mary Bianchini Highfill jumped out of the page at me. We were in Washington Elementary and Roosevelt Jr. High School, possibly Richmond Union High as well. Yes Mary, Frankie loved the Point. It's because it is not just a place to park one's life as a means to an end, it's yesterday, today, and forever rolled into a meaningful experience in a style unique only to that part of the globe. You cannot live there and take it for granted. In every aspect, it is special. Those of you that are still there are very fortunate, indeed!

I am glad that Frankie had someone that looked in on her and Sarah Eeles did what those of us could not do, because we were so far away. It was good to know that Sarah did not allow Frankie's "bark" to interfere in their relationship.

The accounts written by Mary Harlow Rudolph and Donna Roselius were fantastic. I was surprised to learn that Mid Dornan came to the Point in 1946. I must have her



mixed up with another Dornan, perhaps a relative of hers. Even as a child Frankie had a deep infectious laugh. She opted not to have a heart transplant, but I wish she would have. She will be missed.

I wonder if somewhere in her memorabilia is an autobiography, or fragments of one?

Betty (Glass) Marshall

\*\*\*\*

Dear Pam Wilson:

My childhood friend sent me the "This Point in Time" issue paying tribute to Frankie Greenlaw. I can honestly say that it was wonderful and told it how it was with Frankie. I grew up playing with her sister Gwen (Rusty) so I did know Frankie and remember her well.

I was born June Kunkel September 21, 1923 at 127 Cottage Avenue (our home). By 8 years old we moved to 49 Idaho Street, where I remained until March, 1946 when my husband had returned from WWII serving in Europe. We moved to Walker, Minnesota and I fell in love with this area, summer is so beautiful and green (we have thunderstorms) we live in a forest area. After 43 years here I can't decide which season I like the best.

We raised a son and daughter here, the son lives in Madison and daughter lives in a suburb of the Twin Cities. I have a 21 month old

granddaughter.

I was last home to Point Richmond in 1984 and I love coming back to my roots. The Point in many ways is the same and quaint, I shall come back from time to time as my heart will always belong to the Point. I am proud to say that I grew up there.

I enjoyed your publication and the history as well as the names of people I did know or knew of, that I hadn't thought of in years. Yes, I do remember that "red brick restroom for kids" at old Washington School.

Enclosed is my check for 1 year's subscription, it will keep me up to date and also I can remember when.....

Sincerely Yours,

June (Kunkel) Blackburn

*Thanks for your letter....because it was handwritten I had a little trouble....hope this is OK. Great hearing from you!*

\*\*\*\*

Dear Jerry:

On May 15th I met with Leveron Bryant to discuss changing the name of W. Richmond Avenue to Bob Young Avenue. The meeting went well, he was impressed with the number of signatures (1077) and forwarded a copy to the Public Works Department.

The next step is for council committee to decide whether to let it go to the full city council or not. It is at these council meetings



that I will really need everyone's support!

Thank you all for the help so far. Special thanks to W.Richmond Ave. residents and business owners (all 54 of you!) who signed the petition.

Again, the council meeting is the big date! Watch for my flyers announcing the date.

Thank you all,  
James Cheshareck

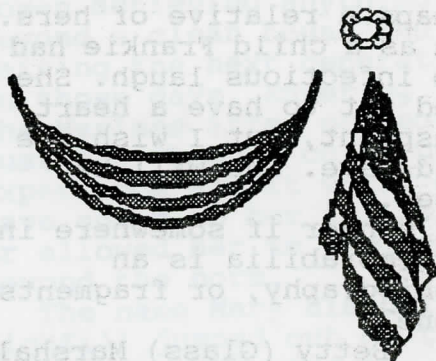


## Deaths.....

HELEN KOCKER, 217 Bishop Avenue, on June 2 in a Richmond hospital. A retired teacher, Helen taught at Contra Costa College for 20 years and wrote a book, "Success With Sentences". Helen is survived by a sister, Katherine Kern of Fort Wayne, Indiana, a nephew and 2 nieces. At her request, no services were held but memorial are to be made to Contra Costa College Memorial Scholarship Fund. She was a Point resident for 38 years.

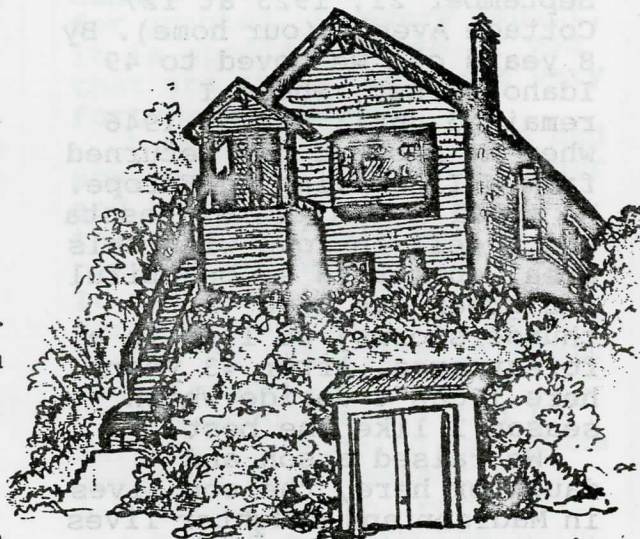
PEARL PEMBERTON died in May, she was 92 years old. A resident of Atchison Village, she had lived in Richmond for 74 years. She was preceded in death by her husband, son, Bob Pemberton and daughter, Rae Weirick as well as grandchildren Nancy Weirick-Welch and Kirk Weirick, but is survived by 3 other grandchildren and 5

great-grandchildren.



The Point Richmond History Association wishes to gratefully acknowledge gifts made to the Association in the memory of  
**FRANCIS "FRANKIE" GREENLAW**  
from:

BETTY GLASS MARSHALL  
JANICE HANTZSCHE



537TEVKS80RY

by DONNA ROSELIOUS



**POINT RICHMOND  
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

report by Jerry Cerkanowicz

Bill Eger was guest speaker at the June 14th meeting. Bill is home from West Point to visit with his proud mother Jeannie Eger. He spoke of how he entered West Point after serving four years in the Army.

Plans were made for the annual clean-up of the business area.

The subject of parking in the the downtown area was again discussed. There will be a meeting with Larry Loder, Director of Public Works to try to find a remedy for the parking problems.

Plans are underway for the sixth annual Indian Statue day on October 14th.

It was announced that there was still space on the river raft trip on July 30th.



**THE MASQUERADE**

Playhouse, Inc.

105 Park Place, Point: Richmond

PROUDLY PRESENTS



**OLIVER!**

**OLIVER**

**JUNE 2 thru JULY 22**

A heart-warming musical based on Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*. Such familiar characters as Fagin, Bill Sikes, the Artful Dodger and Mr. Bumble are all here, plus Fagin's "boys," the young urchins of London in training to become expert pocket-pickers! Enhanced by a wonderful score, this English musical, a solid hit on Broadway and on film, has drama, comedy and pathos. There is magic here! Directed by Betsy Bell Ringer.

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



# IN THE NEXT ISSUE.....

**A look into history of the Brickyard Cove area.**

## BIRTHDAYS

### JULY

Josephine  
Palenchar  
Joe Palenchar  
Julius Matteucci  
Mary Knox  
Brian Pease  
Cathy Smith  
Jean Reynolds  
Kathryn Fong  
Betty Enos

Alice McMahon  
Frances Smith  
Amy Rotting  
Clara Perasso  
Trainnie Dorman  
Diedre  
Cerkanowicz  
Jean Creed  
Allen Anderson  
Hilary Lord

### AUGUST

Oretta Eaton  
Veora Heiney  
Bea Kenoyer  
Nikki Eaton  
Alice Thompson  
Bob Maske  
Karla Peterson  
Terrence Doherty  
Carl Westman  
Donna Wilson

Mid Dorman  
Joe Darling  
Bernie Bisio  
Clay Barnes  
Alia Smyke  
Linda Mitchell  
Lisa Smith  
Anne-Therese  
Ageson

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE No. \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership (check one)

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

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

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

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

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

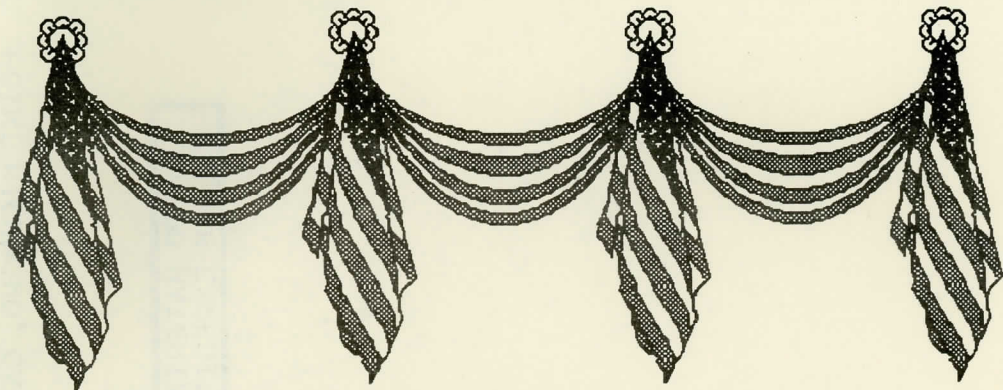
**GARY SHOWS**  
229 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE  
POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801

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

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# CALENDAR

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| JULY 4       | INDEPENDENCE DAY   |
| JULY 12      | POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON<br>MEETING, noon Hotel Mac      |
| JULY 15      | FINGER PRINTING OF CHILDREN AT EVA'S KARATE<br>SCHOOL                        |
| JULY 30      | BUSINESS ASSOCIATION RIVER RAFTING TRIP                                      |
| AUGUST 9     | POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON<br>MEETING, noon Hotel Mac      |
| AUGUST 15    | DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES TO THIS POINT SEPTEMBER<br>ISSUE                       |
| SEPTEMBER 21 | POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION GENERAL<br>MEETING, 124 WASHINGTON AVENUE |
| SEPTEMBER 23 | FESTIVAL BY THE BAY  |
| OCTOBER 14   | INDIAN STATUE DAY  |

Stan Nystrom  
of our "In Pursuit of Historical Trivia" feature  
is ill and will be taking a break. See the September Issue  
for the answer to "What's with Apian Way?"  
We wish Stan a speedy recovery.