

THIS POINT

in time

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL. X No. 2

SUMMER, 1991

\$1.00



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cover:

RICHARD F. PAASCH

**ONE OF THE FIRST VOLUNTEER
FIREMEN OF POINT RICHMOND**

History Association Notes

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Mid Dornan

New board members were elected at the annual meeting in May. While many of the history board merely changed roles, a new member, Phyllis Skaglund, was welcomed as Fund Raising Chairman.

Jerry Cerkanowicz, who served three years and is only the second president in the 9 years of this organization, left a legacy that will long be remembered. The historic J.Q. Black building, the oldest commercial building in the Point, was saved from demolition. It was moved, amid controversy, to its present site in the triangle.

The history association continues to grow through the dedicated board but it is Editor, Gary Shows, who is the key player. His time and talents puts this monthly newsletter together which is our lifeline. Without Jerry and Gary, three years ago, when Donna Roselius moved away, this organization might not have survived. Thanks is only a six letter word, but it conveys a deep appreciation.

Electricity in the building

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'From the President' cont. from page 1:

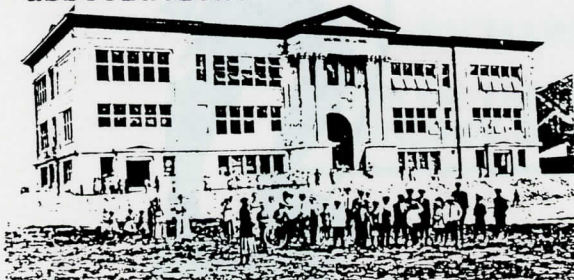
is our next priority. Inside, a second coat of paint was applied by Liz McDonald, Mary Highfill, Jerry Cerkanowicz and Mid Dornan. Fay Hawkins picked up lumber for our sign, trimmed it and Donna Roselius took it back to Oregon where she will paint the building sign for us. It seems most appropriate to keep our founder involved, right?

Four chairs and a library table have been received from Louise Navarini's estate for our building. We thank Paul Landgraf for these acquisitions.

Check this issue for our "Wish List" of things that are needed to complete our building. Can you help us? We are all volunteers and your time, talents and gifts continue to make it a reality.

We are hoping for an October grand opening date so will need all the help we can get with the summer season taking its toll in members being gone.

Our by-laws are being reviewed. Thanks for the support everyone has extended to the board and this association.



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

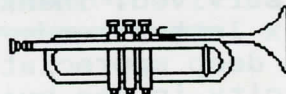
AL FRANCO
JACK & NORMA GERKEN
JIM & FLORENCE WILSON
RUSS & SHIRLEY MOORE
MAURICE A. DOHERTY
TERESA NAVAS ALBRO
MONICA HALEY
ETHEL SCHUNEACHER
ELAINE R. HARRIS
ELIZABETH "BETTY" WIRTH
SONJA M. DARLING
MYRNA WISHART
JOHN MAXWELL
ZOANNA KILLE
ALEX BATTEY
JAY & KAREN FENTON
MADELINE ALBRIGHT
BETTY GLASS MARSHALL
PHYLLIS GLASS ACKERMAN
EDNA HATHAWAY
NAOMI HUFFSTETTER

And a warm welcome to new members:

JAMES A. MARTIN
NORM & JEAN REYNOLDS
PHYLLIS FEYDER
SUSAN SALTZER
CHRISTY & RALPH JACOBSON

And **Thank You** to the following local merchants who sell our newsletter for us at no personal profit:

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 ALEX & ROBBI BATTEY
 MARGARET & MAURICE DOHERTY & FAMILY
 (Given in Memory of Ronnie Roselius Turner)

editors notes.....

BY GARY SHOWS

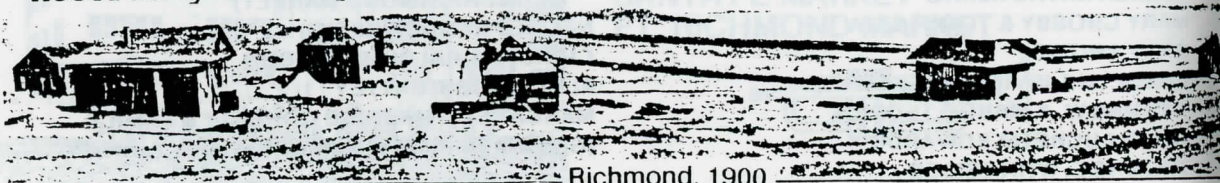
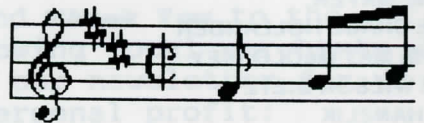
Even though this is my 28th or so newsletter the degree of detailing involved in its finishing touches never ceases to amaze me (it seems that I am almost finished for hours before I actually am). However, this issue went together rather smoothly. The extra time of the summer break might also have made it seem a little easier. Also, most of the contributors were somewhat timely, and that helped. As usual, thanks for Mid Dornan's help, Mid prepares a lot of material for the newsletter that is ready to just "paste in".

I am very excited to report that we received an audio tape from Pat Brooker Gaboury of her interviewing her mother Nellie Coward (Brooker) on her memories of old Point Richmond. Nell donated her high school "memory book" to the history association archives and in our Summer, 1988 we used one of her drawings on our cover, and sent a copy to her. According to daughter Pat she

was very pleased and decided to make the tape as a thank you. It is very interesting and I plan to transcribe it for publication. Nell has since passed away but her words of memories of Point Richmond will live again in TPIT.

In future issues also look forward to a new series from Willard Spiersch that he calls "WHEELS, Transportation in the Point", I know everyone is going to enjoy it. Thank you Will, and please send more installments as I like to get ahead on work that is not "time sensitive".

The deadline for the September issue is August 23. We will be going on a monthly basis at that time and I will be busy with my business, so these next few deadlines will be rather firm. See you in September!



Richmond, 1900

SENIOR NEWS

By Muriel C. Clausen

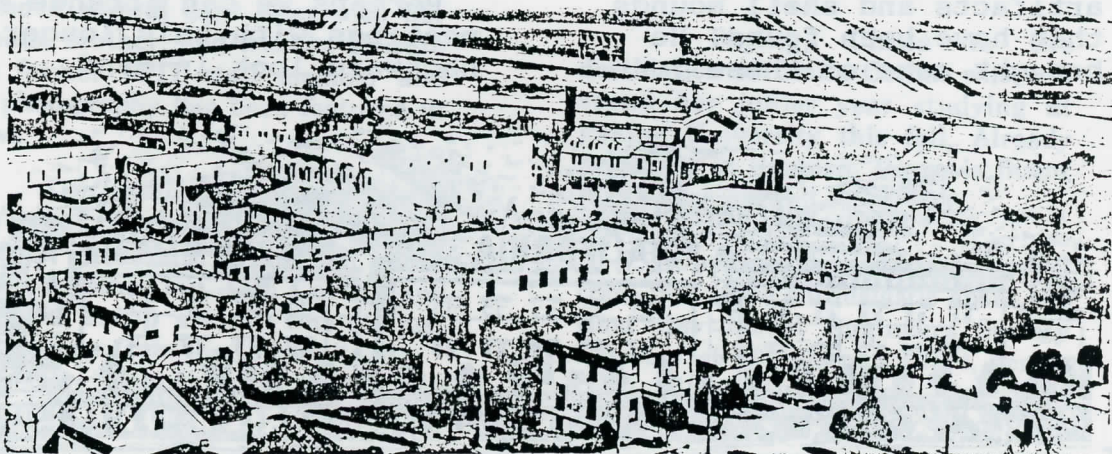
Point Richmond has a Senior Center!

A new Senior Center was opened by the City of Richmond Human Services Department on June 4th with the official Grand Opening on June 20th. This Senior Center is located in the Community Center Building right in the heart of town next to the Library. Lisa McMahon is the director and she is anticipating that the center will operate Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. until about 4 p.m. for seniors and on Tuesdays and Thursdays for pre-teens and the disabled.

Senior programs are in the development stages at this point. It is certain that bridge lessons will be taught

by Ann Fitzgibbon possibly on Wednesdays. Spanish lessons are being considered. Porcelain doll making and doll clothing sewing are in the planning stages. Many other programs are being considered. Seniors are encouraged to drop in any time Monday thru Friday and to especially come in for programs on Monday, Wednesday, Friday. If you come in early, hot coffee and cookies will be served to you.

As this is in the development stages you are encouraged to drop by and talk to Lisa and give her your ideas of Senior needs in Point Richmond.



General Meeting Report

Meeting of May 19, 1991

by Anne Hanzlik

The Point Richmond History Association dipped into the ancient past at the March 19th meeting when a window on the past was opened onto the lifestyles of the early settlers of this area.

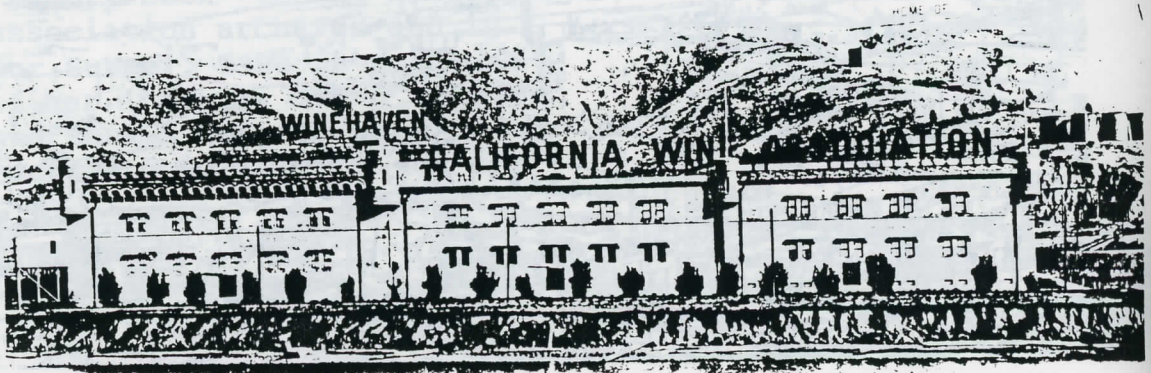
George Coles who is a retired professor from Contra Costa College and who has conducted various "digs" in the vicinity, drew a large and interested crowd to the community center that Sunday afternoon when he gave a delightfully informal lecture on the subject that he knows so well. He touched on the living and eating habits of the Indians living here, describing their daily activities of boat building, fishing, shelling, trading and gathering as best they can be reconstructed by the artifacts and shell mounds that have been found. He brought some of these

artifacts with him for us to examine.

George and his wife Corinne have had a lively interest in this subject for many years and it developed that there were others in the audience with the same interests, particularly Mr. Townsend, which made the occasion not only a lecture but a lively discussion among the knowledgeable people.

Too often perhaps we think of Point Richmond history with our interest only in the last scant hundred years of living that has occurred here. George Cole's lecture was a reminder that the Point was inhabited long before that time. We are indeed indebted to him for reminding us of a different era than that we are all so familiar.

Perhaps we can arrange more meetings with this longer backward look in mind.



A-MID TRIVIA

By Mid Dornan (234-5334)

July is National Picnic Month, a time to appreciate picnic fare that makes eating outdoors so enjoyable.

In 1776, how many people signed the Declaration of Independence? (Answer at end of trivia.)



Congratulations Graduates:

Graduating in May from the FBI Academy, Quantico, Virginia, was **Bryan Smith**, son of proud parents, Marcellina and Allen Smith. President Bush gave the graduation address. Acceptance into the Academy is not easy but Bryan's Eagle Scout honor from Troop 111 in the Point is credited with being instrumental in enabling him to become an FBI agent.

Receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Art History with a minor in Studio Arts from Mills College, is **Deirdre Cerknowicz**. She found most of her family had previous commitments before she announced the date of the graduation ceremonies so celebrations extended several days after with her parents, brother, and friends. Deirdre is a former TPIT staff member and her photography has been featured in shows.

Don't know how often students who went through Washington school together graduate from the same college together but **Jeff Corbin** and **Stephen Tripp** are two who did just that in June from the University of California, Santa Cruz.



Ingvar Elle graduated magna cum laude from Sacramento State University and is planning to attend Oregon University graduate school to study Resource Geography. Another successful Washington School student.

Carl Hartman graduated from El Cerrito High and will attend College of Marin in the fall.

James Chesereck graduated from Marin Catholic School and will also attend College of Marin in September.

It was wedding bells for Jinni Kang and Michael Peckham on Thursday, June 13th (*no superstitions here!*). They were wed at 1:00 p.m. at City Hall in San Francisco. Best man was Brad Cosgrove and Maid of Honor was Jean Park.

Corrine Ross-Cassiday recited nuptial vows with Carl Morgan, Texas, on Saturday, June 15th with only family members attending. Corrine, daughter of Tref and Nellie Ross, is a Point native and employed by Chevron.

Beijing, China is the destination of Diana Corbin who will spend her junior year studying at Peking University this fall. Already proficient in Spanish, Diana is fluent in Chinese as well.

One doesn't need to be a model train buff to be enthusiastic about the East Bay Model Engineers Society Museum at 900 Dornan Drive, across from Miller-Knox Park. An open house was held on June 2. Since 1984

club members have been busy renovating the building and designing track layouts. When completed the railroad will encompass 10,000 square feet and be the second largest model railroading layout west of the Mississippi River.

It includes displays of vintage model railroad equipment, railroad memorabilia and artifacts as well as operating model railroads. There are three models, "O", "HO", and "H" which range in scale from 1/48 to 1/160. Tunnels, replicas of California train stations and scenery add to the enjoyment.

The club hopes to be working each Sunday this summer so when the wheelchair access is finished, the public can watch members at work.

It was inevitable...the first million dollar property for sale in the Point! Cosy Cove, 2 bed/2 bath, beach front, is currently on the market for \$1,000,000...count the zeros! (*Marian Hawkins recalled that in 1937 her father, Jesse George, could have purchased it for \$500. But, didn't have the money!*)

Stargazers were rewarded with a rare treat of the planets in June when Mars, Jupiter and Venus were in a triangle and later in line west of the crescent moon and by the end of the month reversed their relative positions in the sky. Unlike other celestial 'spectaculars' this one involved bright lights easy to find. This phenomenon hasn't occurred since 1769! And, isn't expected to be seen again for at least another 120 years.

Varsi Lometti was introduced and honored at the City Council as "Senior Citizen of the Month". Varsi

has been instrumental in the opening of the Point Community Center for Seniors aged 50 and over. She is an example of how a new resident becomes involved and gives to the new community of one's time, talents, interests and energy. She knows more people by name than many of those who have lived here for years.

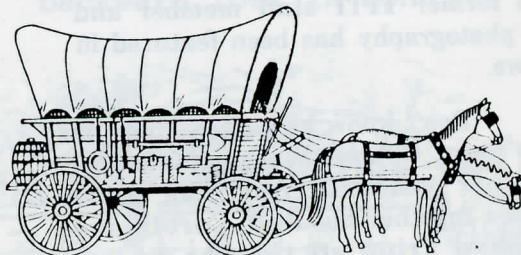
The 'City of Pride and Purpose' is establishing a program for teens 12-15 years and also one for disabled pre-teens at the center. For further information call 233-6881.

Statistical odds suggest you live within 320 miles of where you were born. Wonder if that survey included older Californians?

Tom Uren will undergo surgery for a new heart valve.

Founder Donna Roselius, enroute back to her home in Oregon, stayed long enough in the Point with Arlene Hartman to assist in several projects related to the History Building! How we miss her talents!

Belated congratulations to Everett Beane who celebrated his 80th birthday in June.



If Banker Bill Morrow's desk is uncluttered, it is because he has taken a vacation, one week of which he will spend in the Sierra's at a

family camp.

(And, isn't it re-assuring to know the Mechanics Bank, which has a Point branch, appears in the top 10 list of the safest banks in the country in the respected Veribanc Inc. report. With the current S&L track record, this "blue-ribbon" rating is good news

Sign in an Hawaiian window.
"Want a natural high? Rent a ladder."

If your car ever breaks down at the intersection of West Richmond and Castro, be sure to tell the towing company which one!

The reorganization of Boy Scout Troop III is continuing. On Monday, July 22nd a Rally will be held at the Point Methodist Church, Martina at West Richmond Avenue beginning at 7:00 and ending at 8:30. All interested boys, ages 10 1/2 and over are invited to attend with a parent to meet the new scout leaders. Eagle Scout Ben Woodson invites former scouts from the troop to be greeters. A special evening of slides and activities is planned. For more information, call 236-0527 and leave your name and phone number. Refreshments will be served. Plan to attend. Scouting can make a difference in your life!

After 40 years of water skiing, Al Frosini is still entering tournaments and remaining competitive! Remarkable when you learn Al is 74 years of age.

Mary Casey, the Point's oldest citizen, celebrated her 98th birthday with an Open House. Although confined to a wheelchair, Mary is as

alert and sharp as always and appreciates phone calls and visitors. The oldest member of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, Mary is a former city employee.

Dennis and Eileen Dornan, London, visited with family and friends in the Bay Area. Eileen came to be an attendant at her college roommates wedding in Woodside. Dennis has been commissioned to oversee the third phase of the Queen's Royal Library in London.

Kathleen and Jim Smyck and daughters flew to New York where they attended Kathleen's maternal family reunion of Coles.

The state's green-and-white disabled parking placards will expire June 30. They will be replaced with white letters on a red background and renewal forms have been sent to disabled who have the placards. New applicants must show medical proof of their disability if it is not obvious.

Answer to question: 56



CHURCHES

Our Lady of Mercy

by Eleanor Hurley

June 16 was a very happy day for our Parish. First, it was Father's Day and second, it was First Holy Communion Day for three of our children, Christine Young, Shane Quist and Theodore Vallejo. It's good to see more young people in the Parish.

Another happy affair was the renewal of marriage vows by Josephine and Edward Palenchar. Fifty years ago in this same church they took their original vows and have been loyal and faithful members ever since. Their son and daughter-in-law and two grandsons were in the renewal procession. After the brief ceremony, a wonderful reception was held in the church hall. It was hard to realize that Josephine and Ed had been married for 50 years. Both looked wonderful, and proved that a happy and fulfilled life can do wonders for a couple.

Allan and Marcellina Smith have been on the go lately. In May, they left for Quantico, VA and the F.B.I. Academy to attend the graduation of their son, Bryan. President Bush was the commencement speaker. They also went to Las Vegas to attend a Merchant Marine Veteran's reunion.

At the May meeting of the Ladies Sodality the guest was

Sr. Sizzar Sleffan, CM who runs "Friendly Place" in Oakland. It is a drop-in place and day-care center for homeless women that provides the needs for toilet articles and refreshments.

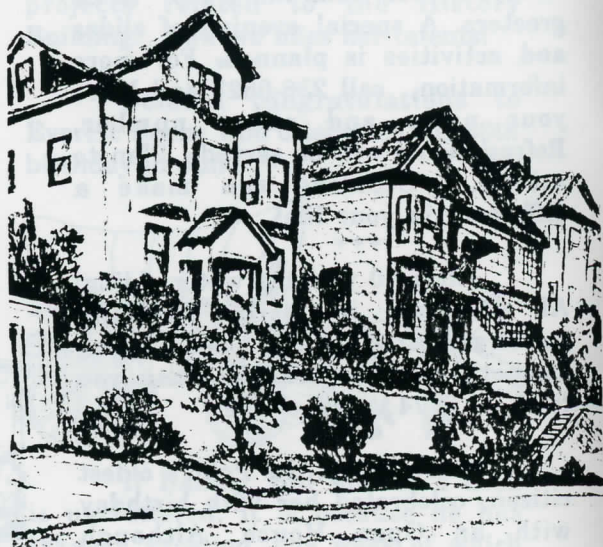
Sick!: Kay Gunza is recovering from surgery; Bill Hinkley is scheduled for surgery; Pauline Valanti looks good but is weak.

Healthy!: Mary Casey is still alert at 97....the Point climate seems to be a healthy one.

Point Methodist

by Jean Reynolds

Sorry, no report from Jean in this issue. Hope to have her back for the September issue.



POINT METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

Church history is rich with contributions of women. One of the church groups in the early 1900's was the Home Missionary Society of the First Methodist Church whose history is reflected in their minutes, printed below and taken from the stiff cardboard covered notebook purchased from "Shoen's Pharmacy in the Point". The minutes are printed as written. This is the 56th installment.

Feb 16, 1917

The Womans Home Missionary Society met in regular session at the parsonage. The meeting was opened by the President with a Scripture lesson and prayer by Mrs. Gillette.

The minutes of last meeting were read and approved. Treasurers report read and accepted. Mrs. Benson favored the Society with a vocal selection at this time, after which the President introduced Mrs. E. P. F. Dearborn of San Francisco who addressed the meeting, telling of the work of the Society in all its different lines and with helpful suggestions encouraged the workers of our own auxiliary. Refreshments were served in keeping with the Valentine season and a pleasant and profitable afternoon was enjoyed.

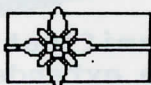
22 ladies were present.

Received thank offering - \$1.90

Paid expenses for Mrs. D. - .60

Paid for book report - .15

Nettie Grover, Sec

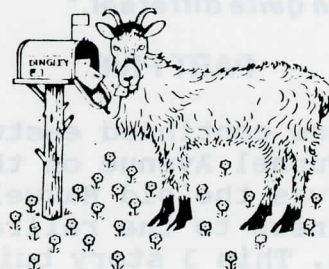


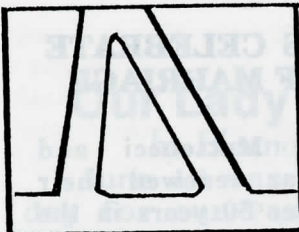
PALENCHARS CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

Josephine Matteucci and Edward Palenchar renewed their wedding vows after 50 years in the same church, Our Lady of Mercy Catholic, in which they were wed, , on Sunday, June 16th, 1991. (The original date of marriage was June 8th, 1941 performed by Father Smith) Five of their original six attendants were there to help them celebrate! Patricia Matteucci Morris, Viola Lala Kennedy, Marie Lacrouts Rouse, Merv Kelleghan and Frank Matteucci. The other attendant, Leo Matteucci is deceased.

Their son, Charles and his wife handled the preparations and decorations for the catered meal attended by 125 friends and relatives. Their two grandsons assisted throughout the afternoon. Charles asked his folks how they met. Ed responded, "She kept looking back and smiling at me in church."

Josephine, always the person behind the scene to pour the coffee, set the tables or clean up found it difficult being the "honoree". Ed, who recently underwent his third heart by-pass appeared to enjoy the friend-filled day and reception held where they have been lifelong members.





Childhood Memories of The Point Richmond Triangle

By Wm. L. Thompson

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

Thanks to Dr. Thompson for his valuable contributions to our archives.

~~~~~

**"The triangle formed by Washington Avenue, Park Place and Richmond Avenue was, from the beginning, the business center of Point Richmond. My early memories start about 1913. There are still many similarities but the personnel was then quite different."**

## PART FIVE

If one continued eastward from Tunnel Avenue on the right was the old Maxwell Hotel next to the railroad tracks. This 3 story building

later became the Curtis Hotel and is now the Todd Hotel. I believe that it had other names at other times. I believe that it had a saloon on the ground floor. Saloons seemed to be the most common business in early Point Richmond. Shortly after I started practice here I was asked by the coroner's office to assist in the investigation of a double murder in this hotel on Christmas Eve. An estranged husband, upset by the season, had returned and murdered his wife and child. In the early days we always seemed to have a murder on Christmas Eve.

Across the street on the corner of West Richmond Avenue and Railroad Avenue was the old Sirrenberg Saloon. Henry Sirrenberg was a rather obese man who was well known about town. I remember him well and can still see him reclining backward on an old chair near his saloon door in the mornings absorbing the morning sun rays. Nearby on the same side of Richmond Avenue was the old Point Theater.

Another ramification from the triangle extended up West



Richmond Avenue. There were many businesses along the south side in early days. First was the old building of the Bank of Richmond. It was a very essential business as it was the only bank available for Standard Oil employees. It stayed open late on pay days and the Standard Oil Company let out early on pay days. The result was much congestion as people waited to cash their checks. This was the first bank in Richmond and was locally owned. Old Waverly Stairley was its first president. The bank was later taken over by the Mercantile Trust Company and then by American Trust

Company. It moved to Richmond when transportation facilities became available to go there for their banking. The American Trust company was later amalgamated with the Wells Fargo Bank. A tiny account started for me in the Bank of Richmond has progressed thru all 4 banks and is still in Wells Fargo. After its closure, the bank building has been used by many other businesses.



# MEMORIES OF THE OLD POINT

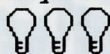
BERNARD "FRENCHIE" BERNES

## MEMORIES.....

On Standard Avenue, one block from the Standard main office there was a cafeteria, across from the truck loading docks. Many employees ate there, later Standard built an employee cafeteria. It was built on the land that had been filled, Castro Street was the south boundary and Standard was the west boundary. This had been mud flats at one time. However the cafeteria on Standard Avenue remained for many years.



Next to the Standard cafeteria was a cigar and candy store. It was operated by a blind person, called Blind Jim. He did a big business with the Standard employees.



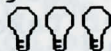
Mr. Mueller ran the Santa Fe Meat Market, he would also give a weiner, free. He had a son we called "Butch". The market was located near the corner of West Richmond and Santa Fe.



The mud flats on each side of the railroad tracks north of Standard Avenue near Mr. Dornan's and Walter Johnson's, would be an ecologist's delight.

There was a big area of tulles or cat tails. In this

area there were many redwing blackbirds. Also, when it rained the so called swamps would fill up with water and after a few days minnows and pollywogs would appear in the water. We would scoop them up in a jar and take them home, they would die shortly. At night one could hear the frogs croaking in that area. We used to go frog hunting, but were not very successful because of our fear of getting warts.



A very interesting person was Mr. Topping. His son Howard was one of the first wireless operators in the Point. He had the first radiophone station in Richmond and his station was located in his father's shop. Howard later became one of the senior engineers of the building of the Bay Bridge.

Mr. Topping had built a scale model of an old locomotive and it was a real beauty. Willard Spiersch and I would stand and drool over it, I wonder where it is now?

Mr. Topping had a repair shop on Richmond Avenue between Washington and Santa Fe. In 1922 I got my first radio vacuum tube, I burned many sulphuric acid holes in my overalls carrying my battery back and forth to Mr. Topping's shop for a charge.



## The Big Paperboy Scam

by Al Franco

One of the first things I turn to in "This Point in Time" is the sports page. It was disturbing news to learn that Herbie Bill passed away earlier this year. Allan Smith mentioned in his article about Herbie that he worked at Mrs Andrews News Agency as one of the Point Richmond paper boys. This was of particular interest to me for I too worked as a paper boy, I'm not sure that we worked together, but as I remember I think we did.


Tony, who supervised us for Mrs. Andrews, was a stickler for punctuality even if the people who delivered the papers were not. He insisted that all of us be at the shed behind the news stand promptly at a given time. Since there were several different publications to be delivered by the paper boys and since they were all brought to the Point by different distributors, there were some

times long waiting periods before we all had our load of papers, and we often found ourselves with nothing to do. The old adage "idle hands are the tools of the devil" never applied any more deservedly than to a group of young people.

One hot summer day, the distributors were particularly late and the "tools of the devil" were put

to full use. The Four of us painstakingly and laboriously strung a complete roll of kite string from every rafter, nail, screw and light fixture in the ramshackled paper folding room. Every minute was one of anxiety for all of us because we did

not want to have Tony come in before we were done and ruin the surprise we had so carefully planned for him. Shortly after our completion, Tony entered the room and to his complete amazement, he found a labyrinth of twine, a maze of string woven into an



# This Point in Time

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intricate spider web. This latest episode in a long list of many such pranks, tried his patients more than he could endure. Literally frothing at the mouth, and shouting at the top of his voice, he pointed accusing fingers at all of us and predicted long penitentiary sentences for all of us. I lost track of the others, and have no way of knowing if his prediction came true. I can only speak for myself, the closest I ever came to confinement was the three and a half years that I served in the Army Air Corps during WWII.

I can't remember the names of others who were in on this little scam, but if anyone who reads this article does remember the incident (and is out of "stir") please let me know through "This Point in Time".



## **POINT MUSEUM WISH LIST** *Can you help?*

- \*Wooden floor.....installed*
- \*Refinish four wooden chairs*
- \*Two small glass display cases*
- \*Planter box appropriate for front of building*
- \*Slanted table for viewing books*
- \*Dead bolt lock installed in door*
- \*Point Richmond pictures and memorabilia*

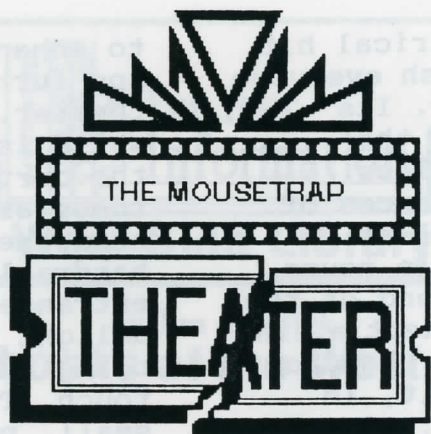
**GET YOUR TICKETS NOW FOR**  
the  
**METHODIST CHURCH'S**  
*Benefit*  
*for our Kid's Supercamp fund*

**MASQUERS/HOTEL MAC**  
**DINNER THEATRE**  
**PRODUCTION**  
**OF**  
**"THE FOREIGNER"**

*August 22, 1991*  
*\$25.00*

*for tickets*  
*call*  
*the church at 236-0527*  
*or Jean at 235-2988*





*by Anne Hanzlik*

Most of us, even those of us that aren't addicted to murder mysteries, are familiar with the name of Agatha Christie and one of her most famous plays, *THE MOUSETRAP*. It had its premiere on the London stage of the Ambassador Theater in November of 1953 and now, after more than 2000 performances later it is being presented right here in Point Richmond on the Masquer's stage. Although this is a so called amateur rendition, it doesn't at all seem like one. John Hull, their very able scenic designer, has replicated the original decor by Roger Furse as photographed for the original performance, with amazing accuracy. The ambience of a slightly shabby but most attractive English country house sets the mood of the play at the opening curtain. The architectural details are all there, the arched molding of the window and doorways, the entryway, front and back stairways and

the dramatic recessed window and window seat are all rendered in a muted green which served as a background for the elegant but comfortable furniture.

The characters are duly introduced to us and we are given a chance to perhaps suspect each one during the ensuing dialogue of the two acts. Agatha Christie's technique in her mysteries is to give the audience an opportunity to consider each one in the cast as a possible suspect. Christie's remarkably fertile imagination gave her public a strong story and she constantly stimulated them with an array of characters and possible relationships. *THE MOUSETRAP*, her first play after a long succession of mystery novels. some sixty odd, opened to a satisfactory, and ever increasing audience, with Richard Attenborough of later PBS fame in the original cast. Christie had transformed a short story, "Three Blind

Mice" into a theatrical hit that was to astonish everyone with its longevity. Its continuing run was the occasion for countless anniversary observances of its opening as well as spawning innumerable mouse souvenirs. To the end of the author's life she kept a tiny silver mouse in her handbag and was in the habit, in moments of anxiety: of stroking it gently if absent mindedly.

The Masquer's is fortunate in having Jo Camp, not only as their perennial guiding light as well as in this play, the director. There seems to be a great number of talented actors and technicians in the Bay Area to enable their productions to have a sparkle and variety not always achieved in such a small venue. The cast of eight in THE MOUSETRAP, has four familiar faces and four newcomers to the Masquer's that are most competent in their roles, they are Rob Lloyd as Christopher Wren, Dorothea Rastegar as Miss Casewell, Rachel Stallkamp as Mollie Ralston and lastly Michael Storm as Giles Ralston. Ann Armour as Mrs. Boyle, Henry Bers as Mr. Paravinci, Aubrey McCellan as Major Metcalf and Dean Starnes as Sgt. Trotter round out the talented staff and are well known to the faithful audience.

The Masquer's must be congratulated on continuing

to enhance the general decor and furnishing of the theater. The color of the walls is most agreeable and the curtain with its gold tones are repeated in the handsome natural wood handrails on each side of the entrance aisles. They are a delight visually as well as being marvellous to the touch. The lobby, though small, particularly on an opening night is handsome and inviting, a pleasant place to greet during the intermission for coffee and cookies.

Plan to see THE MOUSETRAP before it closes on July 20th!

### **And at Washington School**

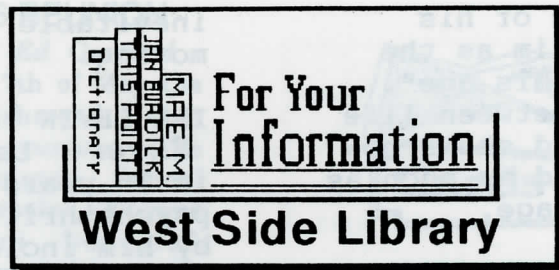
The Washington School Theatre Arts Department, the last week before summer vacation, presented a play, "Grandville Greedy's Great Grandiose Downfall", written and directed by Christine Johnson with music under the direction of Barbara Politeau.

The cast included: Kevin Christopher, Dan Christopher, Jameelah James, Robyn Danks, Ricky Ayala, Joe McBride, Raquel Ruiz, Johnathan Drake, Jenny Weaver, Tony Trotter, Steven Saddoris, Tatiana Turner, Stacia Clutts, Lorena Dimas, Jessica VanGaasbeck, Deborah Carter and Mark McKelvy.

Carol Carlisle's class provided the stage sets and the program included a chorus and dancers.

Linda Adams, Principal, the Washington PTA and cast parents were given special thanks.





by Jan Burdick

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

J. ELIAS PORTNOY

***Let the Seller Beware*** Many who have experienced the frustration of a faulty appliance, a utility overcharge, or a perpetually malfunctioning car have concluded that you can't fight the system. Not so, say Portnoy, who offers strategies proven effective from his own experience for coping with red tape and indifference. To assist in the execution of his strategy, he provides forms to use, sample letters, and suggested telephone tactics.

ROBERT INMAN

***Old Dogs and Children*** If you are a fan of "Cold Sassy Tree", by Olive Burns, you'll love Inman's deft fictional blend of past and present. Making use of artfully constructed flashbacks, the author allows readers to live alongside protagonist Bright Birdsong during her 68 years in a small Southern town. Her story reminds us that mistakes are a part of life,

correcting them both an obligation and an opportunity. This is a page-turner whose subtleties make it well worth savoring at leisure.

PETER ACKROYD

***Dickens: Life and Times*** In this monumental 1184 page biography, Dickens has acquired a contemporary voice. His biographer, Ackroyd, ceaselessly and artfully captures the great author's personality, experience, times, and fictions, even his style - precise, rich, varied, subtle.

The story is familiar: the deprived, overworked child; the industrious youth learning shorthand, law, journalism; the young man, age 21, starting his literary career and his family (a wife unsuited to domestic duties, which he performed himself; ten children to support, along with improvident relatives); travels to America, public readings, a romance with Ellen Ternan,

the dissolution of his marriage, acclaim as the "chronicler of his age". Moving easily between life and art, Ackroyd shows how Dickens invented as much as reflected that age.

GAIL GODWIN

**Father Melancholy's Daughter** It is hard to imagine a more unfashionable subject for a novel in 1991 than a conscientious Episcopalian clergyman in a small Virginia town and his relationship with his wife and daughter. But Godwin, who proceeds often in a deliberately 19th-century manner, has brought such empathy and understanding to these quiet lives that it is as if she has discovered a whole new and unexamined stratum of human experience.

Walter Gower is a good man, earnest but unstuffy, and when his much younger wife, Ruth, leaves him, running off to New York with a cynical but adventurous stage designer, a woman friend from her youth, he makes every excuse for her errant behavior. Daughter Margaret, however, is profoundly upset and becomes ever more attached to her deserted father, anxious about the occasional dark depressions that cloud his normally cheerful temperament, unable to strike out on her own.

Godwin's resolution is utterly unexpected but, in retrospect, seemingly

inevitable - and certainly moving.

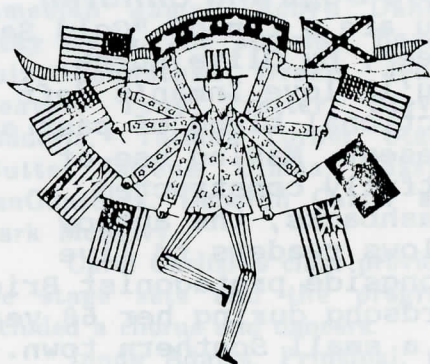
IRA LEVIN

**Sliver** Levin's first novel in 15 years is a nervy psychothriller - other books by him include "Rosemary's Baby" and "The Boys from Brazil". In this tale, Kay Norris, a successful single woman of thirty-nine, moves into the posh Carnegie Hall district of Manhattan's Upper East Side, into an apartment in a slender high-rise, a "sliver" building.

A man watches her. He watches her unpack, watches her make her bed. He owns the building; a shocking secret is concealed within its brick and concrete.

"Sliver" is a sinuous, erotic thriller, a hypnotic story of obsession, suspense, and stunning surprises. ick and concrete.

"Sliver" is a sinuous, erotic thriller, a hypnotic story of obsession, suspense, and stunning surprises.





## CLASSES OF 1936 REUNION

-Ed Garrard

On Friday the 17th of May the Classes of 1936 of Richmond Union High held their 55th reunion. The graduates of Washington School attending were Al Frosini, Eugene Carr, Paul Novarini Lundgraf, Theresa Bernardi Meneghelli, Stella Anellini Giovanni, Edna Wickersheim Hathaway, Ed Palenchar, J.D. Vincent and I, Ed Garrard.

It is noteworthy that we were at Washinton School in the late 20's and like the Eveready Rabbit, "still going strong".

*(It is also noteworthy that when Ed Palenchar left the party, he found his car stolen from the Richmond Golf Club parking lot. It was found later in Montalvin Manor but about \$1500 damage resulted.)*



### Ross' and Morgans Visitors to the Bay Area

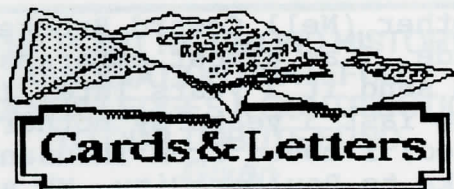
-N. Huffstetter

Trefry and Nellie Ross of Tucson, Arizona recently visited to attend the June 15th wedding of their daughter Corene Cassidy to Carl Morgan. The rites were held at their new home in Richmond.

Also visiting were Carl's parents, Rodney and Marita Morgan of El Paso, Texas; his brother Vincent of Modesto and Corene's daughter Kaza.

Among the guests were grandmother Naomi Huffstetter, Rebecca and William Citeo and their son Justin, all of Pleasant Hill and Dale and Lorna Huffstetter of Clear Lake.

The Ross' spent the week following, showing the senior Morgans the area. It was their first visit to the Bay Area.



Dear Pam:

I am utterly fascinated with TPIT, the pictures, the words that create a familiar "ring". Now that the Point Richmond History Museum is painted (strange colors, but should be eye catching) it should be fun stocking it with yesterday's memorabilia.

Tell Mary Highfill to write to me although she may not remember me. *(Ed. note: Mary read this and said "of course I remember Betty!")*.

There is nothing quite so dear as "yesterday" before "taxes" and the "vicissitudes of life" set in, and how the Government freely receives from us and rarely gives services of direct benefit in return. And yet, we still live in the best country in the world, when contrasting our existence with that of other countries.

Kindly renew our memberships with the enclosed check.

Thank You,  
Betty Glass Marshall  
Los Angeles

\*\*\*

Dear Jerry:

When I spoke to you 3 years ago I told you that I was going to send this tape my

mother (Nell Coward Brooker) made. I am almost embarrassed to send it 3 years late. In the last 3 years my mother died; I moved from Thousand Oaks to Boulder City, NV and retired from school teaching in the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Losing my Mom was difficult as it is for all children but I had her for 80 1/2 years, so I was lucky.

For some unknown reason I took the tape from my desk and listened to it today and then decided to make a copy for myself and mail it to you.

Sincerely,  
Pat Brooker Gaboury  
Boulder City, NV

*The old saying "better late than never" could not be more appropriate! I will transcribe the tape and share it with our readers in later issues.*

Thank you,  
Gary

## Birthdays



### JULY

Josephine Palenchar  
Joe Palenchar  
Julius Matteucci  
Mary Knox  
Diedre Cerkanowicz  
Kathryn Fong  
Ed Squires  
Alice McMahon  
Hilary Lord  
Clifford (Lou)  
MacMillan  
Betty Conception  
Madeline Albright

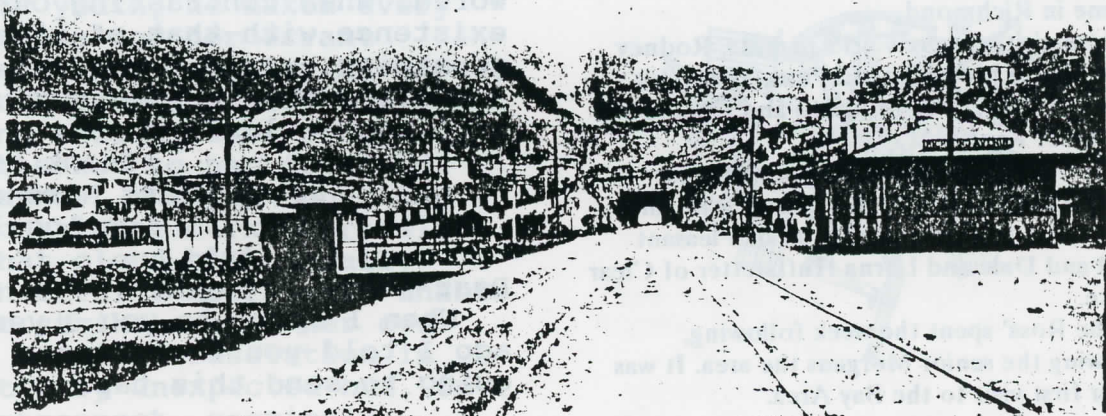
Jean Reynolds  
Loretta "Mertle"  
Lease  
Francis Smith  
Amy Rotting  
Clara Perasso  
Brian Pease  
Jean Creed  
Allen Anderson  
Roger Elle  
Betty Enos  
Liz Garrard

### AUGUST

Oretta Eaton  
Veora Heiney  
Kevin Pryne  
Bea Kenoyer  
Nikki Eaton  
Bob Maske  
Anne-Terese Ageson  
Karla Peterson  
Terrence Doherty  
Carl Westman  
Bonnie Ritzenthaler  
Wilson  
Connie Fisher

Barbara Ward  
Donna Wilson  
Mid Dornan  
Joe Darling  
Bernie Bisio  
Alice Thompson  
Zoanna Kille  
Alia Smyke  
Lisa Smith  
Bernice Preece R.  
Clayton Barnes  
Ethel Schumacher  
Lynn Brown

*The secret of staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly, and lie about your age.*  
-Lucille Ball





## Deaths.....

SILVIO JOHN AMANTITE, on May 30, 1991. He lived in the Point most of his life and was a 30 year employee of Chevron before retiring. He is survived by his wife, Kattie Amantite of Point Richmond; a son, John Amantite of Yorba Linda; a sister, Mary Ferrari of Point Richmond; three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He was 77 years old.

WILLIAM JOHN McCUTCHEON, on June 13, 1991. He lived in the Point for 40 years and was a retired carpenter after 38 years. William is survived by his wife, Dorothy McCutcheon of Point Richmond and a sister, Margaret Pick of Kensington. He was 81 years old.

FLOYD M. GREEN, JR., on June 21, 1991 after a lengthy illness. Floyd was a 40 year resident of the Point and served as a restaurant chef for 45 years and was a veteran of the Army. He is survived by a sister, Marie Butler of Richmond and a brother, Thomas Green of San Pablo. Floyd was 65 years old.

JOHN CARL MARTIN, on May 21, 1991 in a Berkeley hospital of natural causes. He was a carpenter and a 12 year resident of the Point. He is survived by a brother, Larry E. Ritter of Cottonwood, AZ; and two sisters, Dawn Anderson & Renae Ritter both of Cottonwood.

THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY  
ASSOCIATION GRATEFULLY  
ACKNOWLEDGES A CONTRIBUTION  
TO OUR TRIBUTE FUND

Given

IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE  
of

**MRS. ELMER H. HOMO**

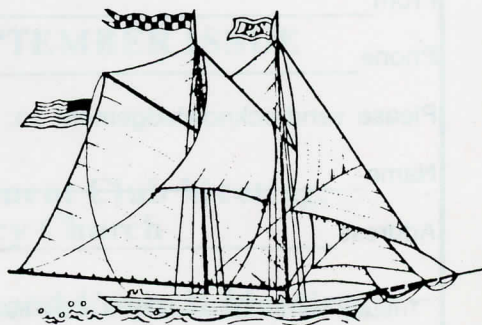
nee

PAULINE ELIZABETH SPIERSCH

Pauline was born in Point Richmond, August 16, 1921, residing in the Point until her Mother, Karin "Carrie", passed away in November 1935.

After her mother's death, Pauline, then a teenager, was raised jointly by her sister and brother-in-law, Willard and Jean Spiersch. After she reached her majority, she made it on her own.

Married to Elmer Homo, she resided in the Richmond Annex, raising two fine sons. After Elmer's death, Pauline sold her home and moved to Modesto to be near her son and grand-children. She passed away, untimely, on May 18, 1991. She will be sorely missed.



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership (check one)

- |                          |                   |         |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | SINGLE            | \$18.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | SENIOR (65 +)     | 12.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | FAMILY            | 25.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | HISTORY PRESERVER | 50.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | CORPORATE SPONSOR | 75.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | HISTORY MAKER     | 100.00  |

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

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

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

Articles for each month's issue are due on or before the published deadline in the calendar section of this issue.

Please mail articles and items of interest to:

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

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

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

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

of \_\_\_\_\_

From \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please send acknowledgement to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tributes will be acknowledged in the newsletter

### PHONE NUMBERS

|                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Mid Dornan</b>       | <b>234-5334</b> |
| <b>Gary Shows</b>       | <b>235-1336</b> |
| <b>Phyllis Scaglund</b> | <b>232-2280</b> |
| <b>FAX</b>              | <b>232-0842</b> |

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**Jan Burdick**  
**Donna Roselius (drawings)**  
**Don Church (photo collection)**  
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**Betty Glass Marshall**  
**Pat Brooker Gaboury**  
**Jean & Willard Spiersch**  
**Jerry Cerkowicz**

.....thanks



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# CALENDAR

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JULY/AUGUST

*Summer at the West Side Library through the months of July and August there will be weekly programs on Tuesdays from 11 to 12 o'clock. Special guests will be featured and programs will include puppets and animals. On alternate weeks there will be arts and crafts activities.*

*Parents are invited to accompany their children to any of the programs if they wish.*

- July 2**      **Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting,  
11:30 AM, Our Lady of Mercy Church**
- Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting,  
7:30 PM, Point Community Center**
- July 4**      **INDEPENDENCE DAY**
- July 10**     **Point Richmond Business Association Meeting,  
Noon, Hotel Mac**
- July 27**     **Brickyard Cove's SAILABRATION! 11 AM - 5 PM**
- August 6**    **Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting,  
11:30 AM, Our Lady of Mercy Church**
- Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting,  
7:30 PM, Point Community Center**
- August 14**   **Point Richmond Business Association Meeting,  
Noon, Hotel Mac**
- August 23**   **DEADLINE FOR TPIT SEPTEMBER ISSUE**
- September 2**   **LABOR DAY**
- September 3**   **Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting,  
11:30 AM, Our Lady of Mercy Church**
- Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting,  
7:30 PM, Point Community Center**