

THIS POINT in time

NEWSLETTER

THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL XI No 8

MARCH, 1993

\$1.50



WRITING YOUR OWN LIFE STORY

Point Richmond History Association

Writing Seminar

DATES: Four Mondays March 8 - March 29, 1993

TIME: 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

LOCATION: Point Richmond Methodist Church
Social Hall
201 Martina Street
Point Richmond

INSTRUCTOR: Alexandra Gautraud, Author and Historian

FEE: \$25/PRHA members, \$30/non-members
(A minimum number of eight participants needed for a class to begin.)

"Writing Your Own Life Story" is a four session class designed to get you started on this exciting road to producing an interesting, pleasurable reading for your family and friends. During the class you will learn how to get started, keep your momentum going, tips on making story-writing easy, how to organize your material, professional writer's secrets for effective and easy writing, and how to revise and pull your story together. At each session there will be an opportunity for critiques of your work and an optional writing assignments on your individual work-in-progress.

Instructor Alexandra Gautraud is a fulltime writer and author of San Mateo: A Sketchbook Tour of the San Francisco Peninsula's Past-- which won the prestigious Book Builders West Award. She is currently working on a book covering historic sites in the East Bay. Alexandra has taught writing to adults in the RUSD Adult Education program and to graduate students at the University of San Francisco.

If you are interested in attending this class, complete the form below, enclose your check made payable to Point Richmond History Association--, and send it to The Point Richmond History Association, 139 1/2 Washington Avenue, Point Richmond, CA 94801.

"Writing Your Own Life Story" Mondays March 8 to March 29, 1993
10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

\$25/PRHA members, \$30/non-members
Checks Payable to: Point Richmond History Association

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

History Association Notes

FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY MID DORNAN

*T*he Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe

Railroad Depot on Garrard Boulevard is listed as a historical building in the Historic Resources Inventory of Contra Costa County, California 1976. The depot is not part of the proposed Repair-In-Place Facility project permit, however, it is considered a phased project and addressed in the mitigation measures section of the initial study.

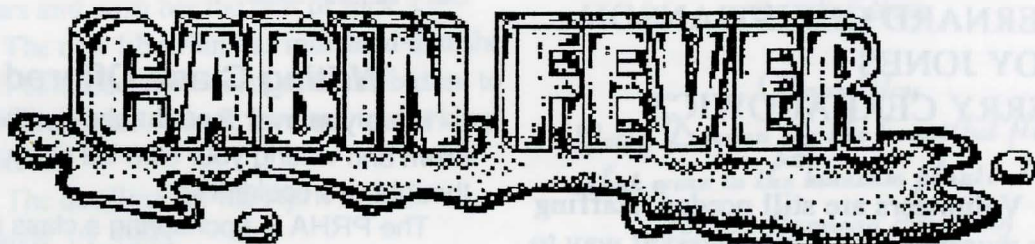
If the building cannot be preserved in place or moved to a new location, then they (AT&SF) utilize the Historic American Building Survey documentation.

AT&SF was instrumental in Richmond's development, arriving here in the late 1890's. It is important for our history records to secure and preserve

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valuable information and artifacts that should stay in the area in our museums. As this goes to press, how to do this is not clear, but any input is appreciated and will be pursued.



continued on page 2

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


AL & HORTENSE McGEE
WILLIAM S. KOLLAR
HENRY FRANCIS
TOM & SHIRLEY BUTT
ANNA BOOTH
FRANK LOPEZ
MAE MANDL
PATRICIA MILANO
C.F. HOCHGESANG
GRACE & JERRY
CERKANOWICZ
SHEILA FOSTIAK

We appreciate the generous gift from:

PATRICIA MILANO

Museum Staff Coordinator Betty Dornan says thank you to the following volunteers who staffed the History Museum in February!

VIRGINIA CHERNIAK
SONJA DARLING
BERNARD CHRISTIANSON
ROY JONES
JERRY CERKANOWICZ


Volunteers are still needed, staffing the museum is an easy, pleasant way to become involved. You don't need to be

a history expert, you just spend a couple of hours now and then watching Point Richmond go by. We want community involvement!

**If you can help
Call Betty at 232-4317.**

Museum Hours

Thursday 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM
Saturday 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

We are grateful to the SANTA FE MARKET for distributing this newsletter at no profit for themselves.

Again...

Thanks to Hazel Carr we are the proud owners of a wonderful set of original roll-up maps of the area, one of them is the first official map of Point Richmond. They are in a roll-top wooden cabinet. Both the maps and the cabinet are in need of some restoration work.

We need a volunteer with some time, patience and a little bit of knowhow to repair and restore this item.

If you think you can help, call Jerry or Gary at 235-1336.



Writing Class Offered

Have you ever thought about sitting down and writing your own life story, but thought you couldn't?

The PRHA is sponsoring a class to be taught by author Alexandra Gautraud. See inside cover for details.

Editor's Notes

Gary Shows

Yikes! I thought I had died and gone to heaven because for the first time ever, everybody in our group turned in their work before the deadline! That deserves a big Thank You!

First, the 1929 class photo was a real hit! All but nine of the students were named by several people. The new names are here, and I did have the space to include the picture again. Come on, somebody knows these friends or classmates. Name those last nine. We will do an old class photo again, probably next issue.

This issue starts a new chapter of Muriel Clausen's interesting work on the evolution of houses in Point Richmond. This chapter will span several issues and is a study on tents.

I am sorry to report that this will be the last report from faithful Jan Burdick. She explains that there will be other important tasks that will be taking her time. I want to thank her for her intelligent, useful and timely reports to TPIT over the last few years and wish her the best of luck.

The new librarian has indicated that she will continue some form of contribution to our newsletter. I look forward to working with her.

The deadline for the April issue is March 19, 1993.

The Cover:

1911 group wedding photo, the bride and groom are not shown but are to the left. I think this part of the photo captures the spirit of those early times. The photo was a gift from member Bruno J. Roveda who's parents Joseph & Pierina Roveda are the bride & groom. The entire picture is on display in our museum.

The February Issue

Assembly Crew:

Mary Highfill
Liz McDonald
Pam Wilson
Mid Dornan
Jerry Cerkawicz
Gary Shows
Sonja Darling
Lance Shows
Sarah Eeles

Thank You

*Betty Dornan for the beautiful flowers
that were in the museum planter boxes
for our January Meeting*

THIS OLD HOUSE

by

Muriel C. Clausen

*The fascinating story of housing
structures in Point Richmond.*

CHAPTER III TENTS

Part One

The very first "houses" in Point Richmond were tents until they were rain-washed and/or blown away, which happened very quickly. A tent is a raw place; a place for basic survival; a temporary shelter. Tents have no roots. Tents have the advantage of being raised quickly and taken down quickly. They have a "suddenness"; a sudden appearance and a sudden disappearance. In today's language you might say tents are "biodegradable".

Before tents there were even more primitive structures: caves, lean-to's, earthen shelters, pit structures; any kind of overhead cover, As much as 35,000 to 40,000 years ago cave paintings made at the time depicted shelters in the cooler parts of Europe of woolly mammoth

fur covering a structure made of mammoth bone. Tomb paintings in the warmer Mediterranean cultures depicted reed and daub shelters.

Marco Polo described what we call "yurts" which were made of felted material. Animal hair was heated, wetted and pressed to form a felt "cloth" which was then placed over a vertical wood post framing set up in a round shape with a convex felt covered top. Shepherds tending sheep still use this form of shelter in the arid countries of the Mediterranean and the Near East.

A quixotic tent variation is the umbrella which was invented by the Chinese. This "portable tent" continues to be used as a functional personal accessory and is certainly often used in ceremonial processions. Much like the umbrella in concept is the garden arbor, a scant wood-supported open framing upon which plants may be trained to grow for shade and shelter in garden areas, or reeds and grasses may be placed. Neither of these protect one from the wind and cold but nevertheless could be called tents. When more headroom space and permanency was desired than was offered by a simple tent a dome-shaped structure was devised even before the Roman arch was conceived. This was constructed by continuous corbelling and is exemplified in the catacombs and in Eskimo igloo structures.

George Washington had a form of tent at Valley Forge that was fairly complex: a rectangle of canvas with a scalloped edge gable shaped top cover canvas. This proved to be so lacking in protection from the cold and so unsatisfactory to the Army Generals that the log cabin, a much more sheltered structure, replaced such tents. The simplest form of tent was used early in the American Civil War.

This was the single wedge-shape one-man army tent. More than likely this was the first kind of tent used in Point Richmond in its beginnings.

Circus tents, mostly popular from the 1820's to 1956, and continuing into the present, provide spaces that can house many people for entertainment. The largest tent in history was 4.32 acres: 188,368 square feet, erected at the Brussels Exposition in 1958. There is still the thrill of excitement when the "circus comes to town" today. The annual visit of the Cirque de Soleil from Canada is a delightful example of this when it comes in the summer to San Francisco with its BIG yellow and blue tent.

Returning to other temporary shelters of early newcomers to California, the "tents" of the Gold Rush were a great step back-wards in tent history. They were erected quickly in any makeshift shape and manner of any substance available and covered with any old scrap of cloth, wood, or paper. These were truly temporary and hardly satisfactory cover. The early tents of Point Richmond were made of somewhat more substantial stuff.

Today we have many continued uses for tents. Some forms of tents will probably never be outdated. Vacationers and campers use them. Lawn parties are protected from the elements by tents. Ground-breaking ceremonies, cornerstone layings, revivals, county fairs, outdoor wedding receptions, and numerous other events make use of tents. Shepherds still use tents. Early residents lived in these most basic tent structures until more permanence was sought.

As long as 10,000 years ago tents were replaced by more permanent structures: homes, temples, tombs, and palaces, using sturdier materials for fire and weather protection. Yet the tent persists until now as the single person's small, first housing solution until more permanency can be obtained.

With all of these tent styles we find most distinctly different structures in the "tents" used by the Indians of the Americas. We call these "tents" tepees, wickiups, and/or wigwams. These are not exactly temporary shelters, being built more permanently for shelter from cold, rain, and wind than the tents of the early Point Richmond residents. The Indians were semi-nomads and built their tepee shelters to last and to come home to. The simple tepee is basically a conical-shaped shelter, framed up with sturdy reeds forming a large circle on the ground, and brought together at the top, leaving a small hole. They are covered with grass and brush, or skins of animals in the colder areas. The Indians' only tools were those made of chipped obsidian from which they formed sharp knives and scrapers, and animal bones sharpened to form needles and pikes. They used leather thongs made of deer hide for ties for their structures. With this little basic tool knowledge they were able to make good strong tepees, boats, ceremonial housing, and stockades that lasted well through all weather and for many years. They had all the shelter they needed for their kind of living and could want for no more.

ds

NOTARY

Phone 3061

ABSTRACTOR

ODELL & STIDHAM Real Estate and

127 Washington Avenue

Point Richmond, Cal.

Insurance

A-MID TRIVIA

- Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Q; How many grooves are on the circumference of a quarter?

A: At the end of Trivia.

Have you ever tried to fast forward through a TV commercial only to realize that you weren't using the VCR?

Nine-year-old Iris Hain and Megan Mitchell are making positive statements for their future at this early age. Concerned about our earth, these two entrepreneurs set up a booth outside the Santa Fe Market selling handmade valentines, rocks and shells in baskets. They collected \$9.53 which they sent to "Save the Whales".

For those who have memories of the 5 & 10 cent Woolworth stores, you will have fun with the recently opened "98¢" "99¢" and "Good Cents" stores which are reminiscent of less inflated days.

MARCH 20th - First Day of Spring! Enjoy!

Only a few incredible ancients recall when kids got saving rather than spending money.

Congratulations to Doug and Rosemary Corbin who will celebrate their silver 25th wedding anniversary on April 6th!

Nikko, a boy, was born to Diane and Gordon Hirano on Bishop Alley. He has a three-year-old sister, Jaime.

In late March, tentatively scheduled for the 22nd, a hill off Interstate 680 north of Benicia will be aglow with "Luminous Earth Grid" a fluorescent grid the size of eight football fields with 7,000 feet of glowing light tubes. New Yorker Stuart Williams has been five years raising money and securing permits for the \$58,000 project and has had outdoor site-sculptures in Oregon, Paris and New York. Visible for only a short period of three weeks, it will be best viewed from Goodrich and Lopes Roads which run alongside the interstate.

The long over-due and welcome recent rains have made East Bay Municipal Utility District directors indicate that they intend to pull the plug on water rationing by April 1. (*Surely they jest not with an 'April Fool' that day!*)

Public-transit busses should begin rolling across the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge in March pending a possible legal challenge by an association of private bus operators. The Golden Gate Transit will collect \$118,689 from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to run buses from El Cerrito Del Norte BART to the downtown San Rafael transit center from March 7 until June 30.

Buses will run from 5:15 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. weekdays with 30 minutes between buses during commute hours and 90 minutes midday. Weekdays service will run every 90 minutes from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The one-way fare will be \$2 for adults, \$1.50 for youths and \$1 for seniors and disabled.

Looking for an excuse to clean the garage? Get some new furniture? A new TV? Whatever! Why not donate the old to the Historic Methodist Church Juntique sale on Saturday, May 8th! Call 235-0627.

Lenten services will be at the Point Methodist Church at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 7th. All are invited.

Procrastinators take heed! At last there is an opportunity to get started with all those memories you would like to recall and leave for your future generations. Classes will begin in March...check this issue for more details.

Baby daughter Alexandra was born to Tim and Ellis Barnett on February 17, 1993. Tim is Alexandra Gautraud's son. Tim, Ellis, and daughter Paola live on Tewksbury Avenue. Paola attends kindergarten at the Washington School.

ag

When a family buys a new car the Man asks, how many miles per gallon? the Son asks, how fast? the Woman asks, what color is the upholstery? the Daughter asks, does it play CD's? And, the neighbors ask, "where did they get the money?"

Patrick: "Knock, knock."

Ryan: "Who's there?"

Patrick: "Irish."

Ryan: "Irish who?"

Patrick: "Irish you A Happy
St. Patrick's Day"

Answer: Exactly 119. A dime has almost that many--118.

Legend of the SHAMROCK

How the Shamrock became Ireland's symbol is a legend. One day, Saint Patrick, while preaching about the Trinity, realized his listeners were failing to understand his message. Plucking a shamrock growing at his feet, the saint held the three-leaved plant before the people and used its leaves to symbolize the three parts of the Trinity.

Many legends surround St. Patrick's powers, but one of the greatest wonders is the fact that more than a thousand years later, the March 17th anniversary of a saint who was not born an Irishman is still being observed with devotion by the Irish all over the world.



Churches

Our Lady of Mercy

Allan Smith

Pastor Father Jim Clift has announced the schedule for the 1992 Lenten Season which will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 24. Services will also be held in the main chapel at St. Joseph's Cemetery, San Pablo, each Sunday of Lent starting at 2:00 pm.

Rev. Larry Young, who has been pastor of St. Cornelius Church in Richmond, has been transferred to San Leandro where he will assume the leadership of St. Felicitas Catholic Church.

Research has started in preparation for the 100th anniversary celebration of our church. The only early records available are the Baptism Record and the Marriage Register. These records date back to the year 1902 when the first baptism and marriage were held in Richards Hall while the new church was being built. The absence of the early recorded history of Our Lady of Mercy Church was due to the 1930 depression years when the church was closed and used as a mission only. The parish house at the time was rented to the MacDonald family, Point pioneers (this is not the family that is living in the area now). during this time the records were either lost or transferred to an unknown location.

The church was officially dedicated on August 23, 1903 by Archbishop Montgomery of San Francisco..

Louis MacDonald, who lived in the parish house and was raised here in Point Richmond, resides in Long Island, New York but each year returns to the Point on his vacation. He retired from the U.S. Army having served as an officer.



Point Methodist

Jean Reynolds

The "first egg of the year" was discovered by the pre-/K Sunday school class taught by Shirley Butt as her class visited her chickens and goats on February 7. The kids also spotted a daffodil and go to feed the goats. God can be found all around...

A flurry of activity is planned around the parsonage on March 6th. Habitat for Humanity is donating a day of work from ten workers to thank us for our help to them. We have asked them to put new shingles on the front of the parsonage. Shingles are being donated by members and friends. About twenty bundles will be needed at a cost of \$30 per bundle. We are thankful for this great gift of talent and time from the "Habitat" volunteers and our own Fay Hawkins, Bob Yank and Grace Yank

who will coordinate the project.

Our church will again join with other Methodist churches in the area to observe the Sundays of Lent, and Good Friday. March 7, at 4:00pm, there will be a special service at Point Methodist Church with the Rev. David Schlager of El Sobrante United Methodist Church preaching. Special music will be provided by the choir of Good Shepherd UMC. The over-all theme of the services this year will be "Temptations and Choices."

As a result of the Many Hands Project information meeting held in January, the United Methodist Women voted to give \$40 to purchase the second prize award for the spell-a-thon contest at Washington School. The Church has budgeted funds to sponsor a class in 1993, and we hope to get involved in other ways, too.

The Sunday School students will be doing a play as part of the morning worship on Palm Sunday, April 4. The title is "The Littlest Donkey". A who's who list of the cast of the show will be in the April issue!

Soon-to-be grandma Mid Dornan was surprised by a shower in her honor at the home of Helen Valentine on February 13. Too bad daughter Roberta Palfini isn't allowed to travel, but, golly, we just let Mid open all the gifts for her.

We have begun to gather items for our annual Classy Junque Sale which is scheduled for May 8. If you would like to donate any items to the sale, you may call the church to arrange a pick up, the number is 236-0527.

POINT METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

-Mid Dornan

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 68th installment.

Feb 1919

The Womans Home Missionary Society gave a Social Tea on Feb 21 in the church parlors.

A very interesting program had been arranged by the committee and was enjoyed by all.

Refreshments were served. Mrs. Seating gave a thank offering of \$2.00 for the Chinese Scholarship.

A free will offering netted \$4.42. Mrs. Grover for Scholarship-\$1.00. Total \$7.42.

The next meeting to be at the home of Mrs. Bradley.

Nettie Grover, Sec



JANUARY MEETING OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

January 24, 1993

by Alexandra A. Gautraud

Guest speaker Ed Garrard opened his presentation with a reading from a history of Contra Costa County that contained a detailed account of his father Edward J. Garrard. E.J. Garrard came to Point Richmond to lay the foundations for Standard Oil and remained here to become the second mayor of Richmond. On August 14, 1905 at the Critchett Hotel now the site of the Point Richmond Market, the first meeting of the Board of Trustees for the City of Richmond was held with E.J. Garrard signing as a trustee. During his term as mayor E.J. Garrard pressed for the dredging of the inner harbor and the development of the Richmond Natatorium.

Ed Garrard was born in Point Richmond at 205 Cottage Ave. with Dr. Clark Abbott in attendance. Ed lived in Point Richmond on and off until the 1950s. Ed's father continued his association with Standard Oil and was Assistant Superintendent of the Refinery at the time of his death. His mother lived here for 56 years until her death. His sister Miriam, who was 14 years older, has passed away which makes Ed the last of the Garrard family.

During his presentation Ed encouraged the members of the history association to join him in reminiscing about

Point Richmond and Standard Oil. Many recalled the two-day fire after lightening struck two oil storage tanks at the refinery. This remains one of the most frightening experiences for some older residents. On a happier note people remembered the band that was organized to play in the center of town. Names flooded memories such as Gus Gill the barber at the Colonial Hotel, the McAfee children, Postmistress Lucy who intimidated the children, and Fireman Bill who trained police dogs. The markets delivered groceries by paneled truck and an old Asian sold groceries from a truck. The town also had many horse drawn delivery trucks.

Louise Banks brought an old snapshot taken outside the Liberty Market which is now Masquers Theatre. People began to recall Tony Mazza who was the manager of the market for many years and the owner Mrs. Grosso. Marie Dietz, who grew up on Nicholl Avenue, remembered her mother as a checker at the Liberty Market.

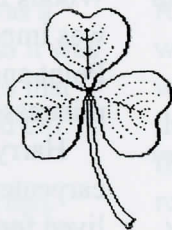
Some people remembered Friday nights at Danny Keller's wharf when the specialty was fried shark. Today's Keller Beach was the location of his wharf with dance floor, bar, and row boats for hire. Further along the waterfront, the ferry to

San Francisco left from the end of Ferry Point which is located beyond the Miller-Knox Regional Park. This was an extremely long walk from downtown Point Richmond so everyone boarded the passenger steam train at the stop before it entered the tunnel and rode the distance to Ferry Point.

Memories tumbled one upon the other as the audience recalled the fun of youth and the development of Point

Richmond. Will Berk nearly brought the house down with his youthful story of "Country Store Nights" at the local movie houses.

The meeting time came to a close with newer residents having a better sense of the early days in Point Richmond and older members feeling a bit warmer from a Sunday afternoon of remembering the "good old days."



Pioneer Edward J. Garrard Helped Shape Richmond for 22 Years

A young E.J. Garrard came to Richmond in 1901, and proceeded to serve four terms as mayor and over 20 years on the City Council.

In 1901 Richmond was a sprawling mud flat, dotted by less than a dozen homes. Four years later in 1905, it became an incorporated city.

In 1906, the community minded construction engineer became the town's second mayor, serving until 1908. He was elected the city's highest official three more times, 1911-12, 1915-16 and 1920-22.

He helped the growing community continuously from its beginning and served on the first City Council, shaping the future of his city from those chambers for 22

years.

He pushed for the Richmond Inner Harbor, convinced, the city of its need for a swimming pool and was highly instrumental in getting the key street in the city, Macdonald Avenue, paved. In July of 1916, Garrard rode as grand marshal down that newly paved thoroughfare.

Garrard Boulevard was named for Mr. Garrard to serve as an everlasting memorial to his civic contributions.

(This information was taken from an April, 1966 "Richmond Independent" article supplied by our January guest speaker Mr. Ed Garrard.)

More Memories of Old Point Richmond

East Richmond Avenue

●
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 for our written archives.

Here is our sixth series from Dr. Thompson. In this series he remembers the neighborhood and friends where he grew up, East Richmond Avenue.

PART TWO

At the junction of Idaho and Buena Vista lived the Woods family. They were related to the pioneer Woods and Boorman families of the Stege area. There were several members of this family in the Point and many young people. One of the most

noted members of this group was Lucetta Woods Dunlap, wife of Paul Dunlap. She was important in the social structure of the Point and had been one of its earliest post mistresses.

Harry Aine, who first organized the carpenter department at the S.O. Company, lived for a time on the east side of upper Idaho after moving down from his original residence on Scenic Avenue. He later moved to Mira Vista. He was a very close friend of my family and we visited often. The first phonograph I ever heard was in his home and I was most impressed. Being of French descent he had a frog pond in his back yard which was most interesting to us kids.

Across from the Woods family at the top of Idaho was the home of Johny Garvin. Mr. Garvin was a small active man who was said to have been a jockey in his early life. He was a foreman at the S.O. Company. Garvin Avenue in Richmond is named for him. This house was later occupied by the Henry Francis family. The Bernes family lived just below this on Idaho.

Sol Butler and his wife, who was one of my mother's sisters, lived in the second

house from the corner on the east side of the street from about 1915 to about 1919. They had twin boys. The Hall family and Miller family lived just above this and across the street lived the Gust Allyn family, of whom we have spoken before.

This region of the Richmond area along the hills from the Santa Fe tracks to Murray's Point, was climatically the best residential area of the region. The hills sheltered it from the winds and it was a relatively quiet and warm area. Also it was mostly away from the noxious gases that sometimes issued from the Standard Oil Company.

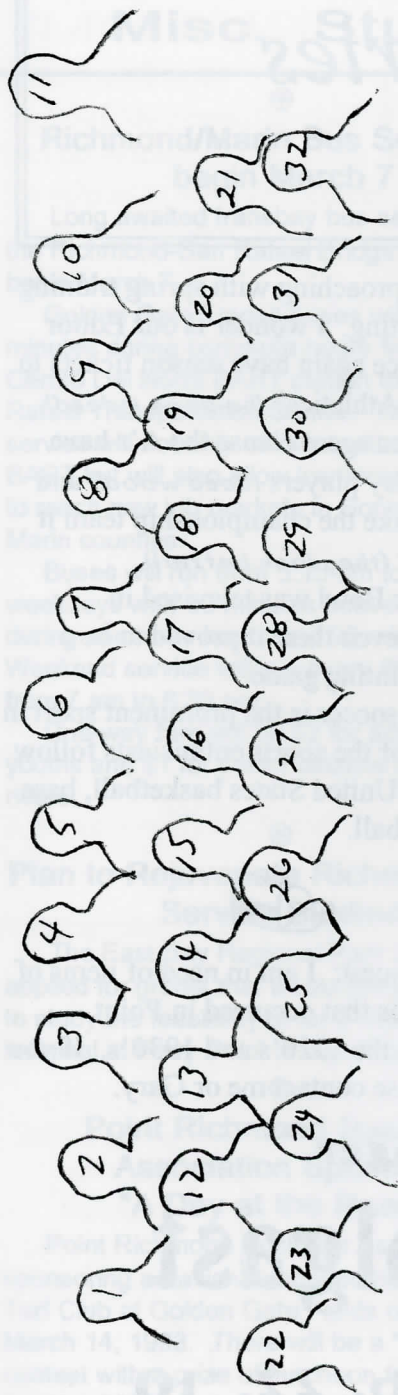
Between Idaho and Montana Streets along the hill side of East Richmond Avenue, old photographs will show a rather large unsightly barn. I recall this well and believe that it had originally been a large stable. When I remember it, it held only a blacksmith shop in its rear area. It was later

torn down. Beside it were two small dwellings built in tandem fashion. One of these housed the Hackney family. Mrs. Hackney worked for many years as a maid and nurses' assistant at the Richmond Hospital.

Several names come to mind as residents along Montana Street in the old days. The Morelli family lived in a large two-story house on the east corner of Richmond Avenue and Montana Street. Mrs. Morelli was a special friend of my mother. They were a fine stable couple and I took care of them in their later years. Just above here at the corner of Nevada Street was the residence of J.O. Ford, who at one time was a member of the local school board. The J.O. Ford school was named for him. This house was rather more elaborate than most of the others in the region. In recent years it was taken over and reconditioned by Jim Wilson.







1. John Stephens (js)*
2. Harold Stone (jf)(tb)
3. Trefery Ross (tb)
4. Rudolph Stark (tb)
5. Mickey Allen (js)*
6. Catherine Anglim (jf) (jp) (tb)

12. Elio Tobacca ? (jf) (tb)
13. Ruth Dingle (jf) (tb)
14. Winifred Wickersheim (jf) (tb)
15. Myrtle Smith (tb)
17. Betty Jenkins (jf) (jp) (tb)
18. Gloria Smith (jf) (jp) (tb)
19. Theodore Beck (js)*
20. Richard Irvin (or Erwin) (jf) (jp) (tb)
21. Leroy Williams (js)*
22. Edward Gilg (js)*

23. Raymond O'Brien (jf) (tb)
24. Dorothy Shaw (jf) (tb)
25. Elaine McConnell (jf) (tb)
26. Pauline Spiersch (js)*
27. Regina Cunan (js)*
28. Yvonne (or Lavonne) Aikens (jf) (tb)
29. McDonald boy ?? (jp)
30. McDonald boy ?? (jp)
31. McDonald boy ?? (jp)
32. McDonald boy ?? (jp)

THE WASHINGTON SCHOOL CLASS OF 1929

All But Nine Named!

John W. Stephens who now lives in Cottage Grove, Oregon sent us this picture. He supplied all of the names he could and members James Forbes, Josephine Palenchar and Theodore Beck supplied a lot more. It would be nice to complete this list of names if you know any of the missing names write to Gary Shows, 229 Golden Gate Avenue, Pt. Richmond, CA 94801. I will print other old class pictures that we have in our archives in future issues.

**(js) Original John Stephens names*

(jf) Named by James Forbes

(jp) Named by Josephine Palenchar

(tb) Named by Theodore Beck

Sports Memories

Allan Smith

Our editor, Gary Shows once again produced an excellent newsletter as the cover of the last issue showing Frankie Neil the 1903-1904 Bantamweight Champion of the World was remarkably produced. I wrote about Frankie in my first "Sports Memories" article. The Champ lived in the Point for over 50 years. Complimentary copies of the February, 1993 issue are being sent to the Boxing Museum in San Francisco and the Boxing columnist of the West County Times.

My wife, Marcelina, and I have just returned from Panama visiting her relatives. Baseball season is a year round affair there and a championship series was in progress and televised nationally. Panama has contributed many outstanding and world renown athletes, especially in baseball and boxing.

The U.S. Major League Baseball season

is rapidly approaching with spring training just now starting. I wonder is our Editor Gary will once again have season tickets to the Oakland Athletics? (*he does indeed*). Due to the free agent clause the A's have lost several key players (*dead wood!*) and do not look like the championship team it was last year (*they look better!*).

The Super Bowl was televised in Panama and even there it proved to be a very disappointing game.

Although soccer is the prominent sport in Panama, all of the sports enthusiasts follow with interest United States basketball, baseball and football.



Special request: I am in need of items of sport activities that occurred in Point Richmond in the 1920's and 1930's. If you can help please contact me or Gary.

Sid Hester, Manager

Nelson vs. Wolgast

45 Rounds

Richmond, Cal. Feb. 22, '10

Misc. Stuff



Richmond/Marin Bus Service to begin March 7

Long awaited transbay bus service across the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge will finally begin March 7.

Golden Gate Transit buses will run every 30 minutes during commute hours from the El Cerrito Del Norte BART station to the San Rafael Transportation Center. The Bus service will not only connect with Amtrak and BART but will also allow low-income East Bay to reach new job markets in Sonoma and Marin counties.

Buses will run from 5:15 am to 7:30 pm weekdays with 30 minutes between buses during commute hours and 90 minutes midday. Weekend service will run every 90 minutes from 7 am to 6:30 pm.

One-way fare will be \$2 for adults, \$1.50 for youths and \$1 for senior citizens and disabled riders.



Plan to Rejuvenate Richmond Ferry Service Studied

The East Bay Regional Park District has applied for grants that would bring in \$350,000 to study the feasibility of ferry service from a terminal at Ferry Point to San Francisco.



Point Richmond Business Association Sponsors "A Day at the Races"

Point Richmond Business Association is sponsoring a "lavish" luncheon buffet at the Turf Club at Golden Gate Fields on Sunday, March 14, 1993. There will be a "Hillary Hat" contest with a prize of luncheon for two and the Hotel Mac and winners photo taken with

the another winner....the winning horse.

The affair is a benefit for the Washington School Project and Masquer's Playhouse Building Fund.

For tickets and details on how to win the "Hillary Hat" contest call David Vincent at 235-4850.



Writing Seminar Offered

Local author Alexandra Gautraud is producing a seminar to be held at the Methodist Church. The focus of the gathering will be learning to write your own life story. It should be an interesting class, plus the proceeds will benefit the PRHA. See the inside front flap for more details and a sign up form.



City Human Services Director Apologizes to PRHA

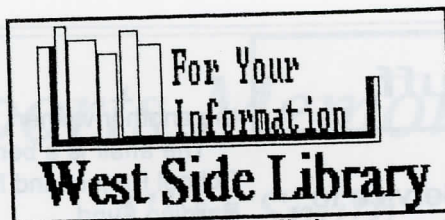
Angered by the extremely untidy condition of the Community Center when we held our January meeting, President Mid Dornan wrote a letter of complaint to the City of Richmond Human Services Department.

Department Director Barbara Moran responded with a letter of apology and has not only assured us that the facility will be in good condition for future meetings but has ordered a refund of the \$37.50 we had paid for facility use.



Local Playwright Premieres

"In the Best Interest of Anna Freud" a play written and produced by Point Richmonder Richard Katz opens this month in Berkeley. The world premiere will be on March 19th at 8 pm in the ballroom of the Berkeley City Club. Richard had designated this as "Point Richmond Nite". For more details see page 20.



Jan Burdick

This will be my last contribution to TPIT, as retirement (and foot surgery plus recovery time) will be a full time job. Maybe I'll see some of you when I am visiting West Side Library as a fellow patron.

Story Hour will continue to be held on Thursday mornings at 10 o'clock.

...Jan

What's New at the Westside

ASSEMBLING CALIFORNIA

John McPhee

This conclusion to McPhee's *Annals of the Former World* is an account of a geological field trip made by McPhee and Eldridge Moores, a University of California tectonicist. The book is a cross section in human and geologic time, from Donner Pass through the foothills of the Mother Lode, to the wine country of the Coast Ranges to the San Andreas family of faults. Presented here is a sweeping narrative of maps in motion, of evolving and dissolving lands.

POLAR DREAM: THE HEROIC SAGA OF THE FIRST SOLO JOURNEY BY A WOMAN AND HER DOG TO THE POLE

Helen Thayer

In 1988, fifty-year-old Helen Thayer became the first woman to ski solo to the North Pole, in a grueling, dangerous 27-day adventure, with a husky named Charlie as her only companion. She encountered attacks by huge polar bears, violent storms, near starvation, and nearly drowned several times. Here is her account of her extraordinary journey.

HAND IN GLOVE

Robert Gaddard

Tristram Abberly was a renowned English poet, a hero killed fighting in the Spanish Civil War. But when, nearly fifty years later, his sister Beatrix is slain in what looks like a robbery, her niece Charlotte inherits the legendary Abberly estate and begins to explore her family history, only to uncover long hidden secrets that implicate people she has trusted all her life.

BLACK BLADE

Eric Lustbader

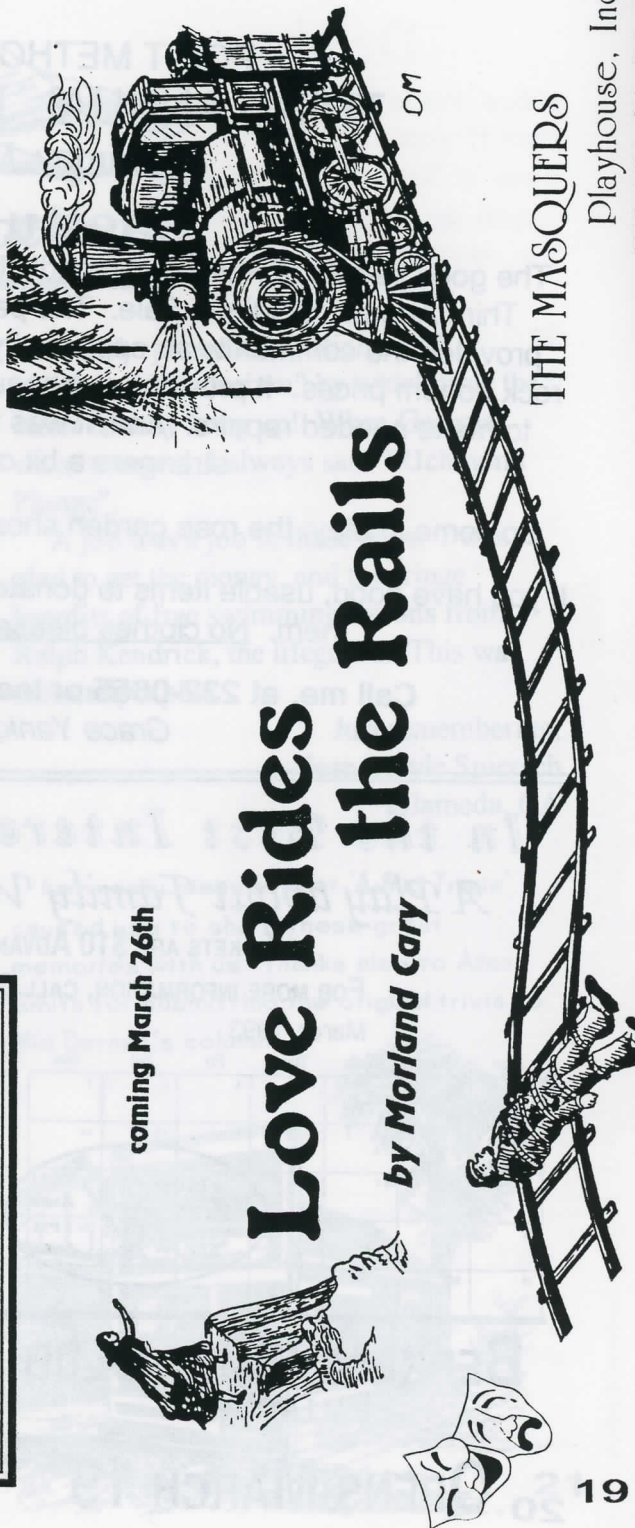
Wolf Matheson, the chief of New York's special Homicide Task Force, has been brought in to solve the murder of a local real estate tycoon. But Wolf soon discovers that murder is the least of many crimes that have been committed.... crimes that will lead him back to his Native American heritage, and into an uneasy alliance with a Japanese woman who may be his savior or his killer.

XANADU

Jane Yolen (edited by Jane Yolen)

A collection of fantasy stories that includes the best literary and genre writers of today. It contains Ursula LeGuin's first new fantasy story in several years, plus new works by William Stafford, Robert Abel, Nancy Kress, Steven Brust, Anna Kinwan-Vogel, Pat Schneider, and a dozen others.

THANK
YOU
JAN!



coming March 26th

Love Rides the Rails

by Morland Cary

THE MASQUERS

Playhouse, Inc.

POINT METHODIST CHURCH THIRD ANNUAL JUNKTIQUE SALE

Saturday, May 6, 1993

Save the date!

The good people of Point Richmond's United Methodist Church will stage their Third Annual Junktique Sale. The past two years highly successful affairs provided the community an opportunity to find treasures and needed items at rock bottom prices. It provided our beautiful old church, built in 1895, with funds to make needed repairs. And, it was fun.....meeting neighbors and showing strangers a bit of our community.

So come in May; the rose garden should be in bloom and it will be a fine day.

If you have good, usable items to donate prior to that date we'd be happy to have them. No clothes please, except for baby clothes.

Call me, at 232-0655 or leave items in the church yard.

Grace Yank, Chairperson

In the Best Interest of Anna Freud *A Play about Family Values by Richard Katz*

TICKETS ARE \$10 ADVANCE, \$12 AT THE DOOR

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 510-486-ANNA (486-2662)

March 1993

April 1993

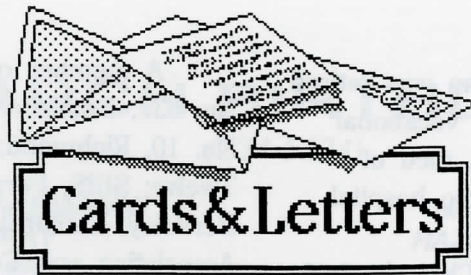
Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	8 PM ANNA	8 PM ANNA	2 PM ANNA
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	15 8 PM ANNA	20 8 PM ANNA	21 2 PM ANNA	12	13	14	15	16 8 PM ANNA	17 8 PM ANNA	18 2 PM ANNA
22	23	24	25	26 8 PM ANNA	27 8 PM ANNA	28 2 PM ANNA	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		

BERKELEY CITY CLUB
BALLROOM

2315 DURANT, BERKELEY

20 OPENS MARCH 19

510-486-ANNA



Cards & Letters

Dear Mid:

In "A-Mid Trivia", February issue one of your pieces on the old Natatorium said that the provided suits were definitely not "Jantzen" designed. Well, may I correct that statement as they were indeed Jantzen designed.

I know because I went to work as Georgie Johnson's assistant the day the Natatorium opened. I was paid fifty cents an hour when I started and when I quit 10 years later, I was still getting fifty cents an hour!

Back to the swim suits; they were made of harsh, ugly, black cotton. All had skirts, men's and women's alike, and we knew the sizes by the number of stripes on the skirt.

Georgie instructed me to always give a size larger than that asked for. So if a swimmer wanted a size 36, they were given a size 38. In those days swimmers were not allowed to use their own suits or towels.

The Jantzen salesman came around twice a year. He always presented Georgie with a really nice suit. She kept these suits in the safe and never went in the water! I always hoped she would ask for a suit in my size, as I swam all the time!

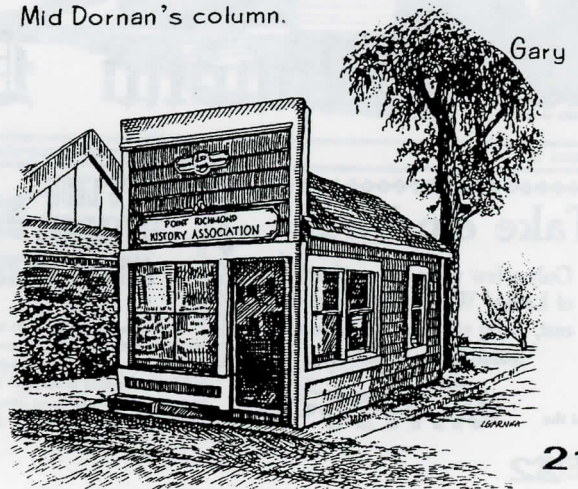
Georgie always insisted that we

answer the phone with "Richmond Municipal Natatorium" by which time the caller usually hung up! When Georgie wasn't around, I always said "Richmond Plunge".

A job was a job in those days. I was glad to get the money, and the fringe benefits of free swimming lessons from Ralph Kendrick, the lifeguard. This was definitely a plus.

Just remembering,
Jean Moyle Spiersch
Alameda, CA

I am really pleased that "A-Mid Trivia" caused you to share these great memories with us. Thanks also to Allan Smith for submitting the original trivia to Mid Dornan's column.



Deaths...

Lillian Frances Paasch, who was retired after 17 years as a licensed vocational nurse at Brookside Hospital, died of natural causes in a San Pablo hospital. She was 86.

A native of Redwood City, she had lived in Richmond for 46 years. She was a member of the Native Daughters of the Golden West, Cerrito de Oro Parlor No. 306, El Cerrito.

She is survived by her daughter, Patricia St. John of San Juan Bautista; son, Jack Paasch of Richmond; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.



N.A. Jack Diffin of San Pablo died at 89 on February 20, 1993. Native of Byron, California, husband of the late Muriel Fitzgerald Diffin, Uncle of William "Mickey" Allyn of Richmond, Nathaniel C. Allyn of Palo Alto, Henry C. Allyn of Point Richmond and Harry S. Curry of Sacramento.

A member of Point Pinole Lodge No. 337, F&AM; American Legion Post No. 10, Richmond; Richmond High Twelve; SIRS, Peralta Branch No. 12, Berkeley; California State Firemens Association and Contra Costa County Public Employees Union Local No. 1. A U.S. Navy Veteran of World War I, World War II and the Korean Conflict.



James S. Morrison, a retired tax consultant for the IRS, died February 2, 1993 in Alameda. He was 81. A native of Point Richmond, he lived for many years on East Richmond Avenue. James was a member of the McKinley Lodge of Masons, Eagles Lodge # 354 and active in the Richmond Seniors Dance Club. He was a Navy veteran of WWII.

James is survived by his wife, Laura Morrison, a son, James E. Morrison of Pinole and three grandsons.



Richmond Daily Leader.

An ad. in the Lead every day costs more than it would in any other paper. Seven carriers cost Richmond.

NO. 194

POINT RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1909

VOLUME 10.

Take 'em Away

Only a few more left—a fine line of Ladies' Waists direct from the east, going at . . \$1.50 each
Splendid patterns and good values

at the

Gutter's

WOMEN'S CLUB ENTERTAINS AND INSTRUCTS

The banquet given last night by the Richmond Women's Improvement Club was one of the most brilliant social functions of the year. It was more than a mere social affair, as it took on many of the features of

ADMINISTRATOR FOR ESTATE OF MR. WILLIAMS

The local Blacksmith's Union, of which the late John Williams was a member, interested itself last night and this morning in the arrangements which had been made to hold a private funeral service at ten

ODD FELLOWS IN LIMELIGHT TOMORROW

The following from the Examiner this morning, tells in few words the plans of the Odd Fellows for tomorrow:
"Arrangements have been completed for the laying of the corner-

THE Nettleton AGENTLEMAN'S SHOP LOOK AT YOUR SHOES

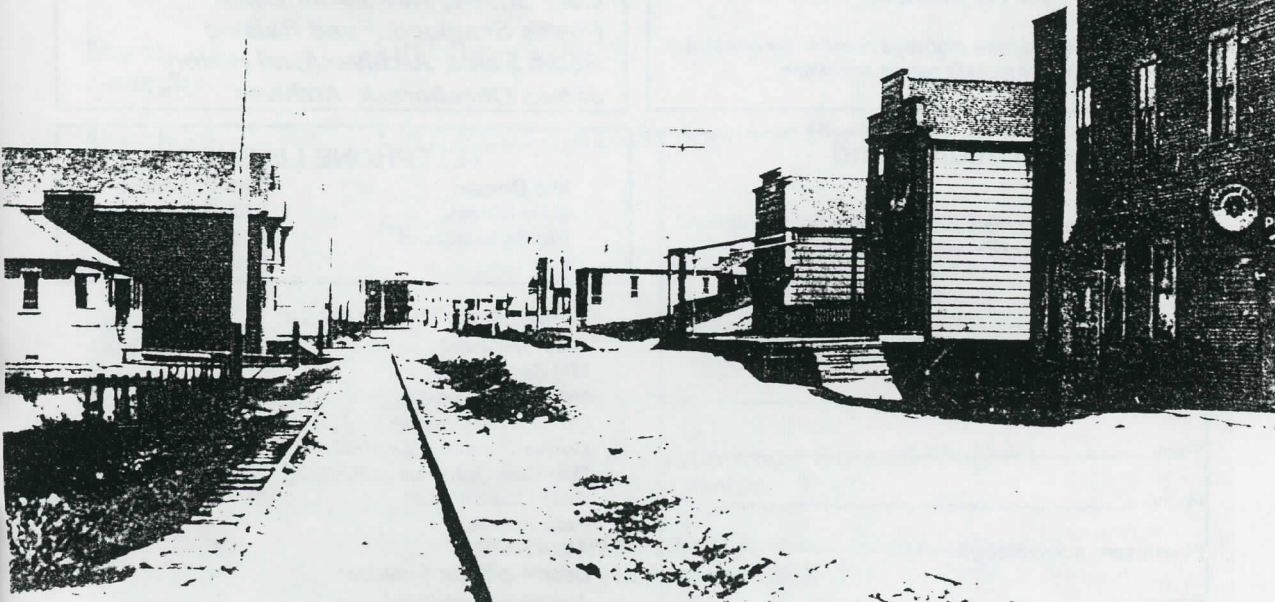


MARCH BIRTHDAYS

(234-5334)

KAROLYN MACDIARMID
BEN BRAY
JO ANN BRAY
CAROL DARLING
RAMONA ROBBINS
BERNICE SHOWS
THE GIRL SCOUTS
CARL PAASCH
NORALEEN DOWELL
JANICE JONES
MARIE WILSON-DIETZ
MAXINE MAYER
BRIAN RICHARDSON
WINNIE GUISTI
VIRGINIA CHERNIAK
ISABEL FOLSON

NAOMI HUFFSTETTER
HAZEL FRANCO TAWNEY
DALE HAWKINS
CAROL SEAWELL
WENDY WIRTH
JIM MORRISON
THE CAMP FIRE GIRLS
DOLLY FROSINI
REBA DOWNS
ALLAN SMITH, JR.
DON HAIN
RICH SCHULDT
SUSAN BERMAN
PHYLLIS FEYDER
JEAN KNOX



"Frustration is not having anyone to blame but yourself"

-Bits & Pieces

I would like to join the PRHA

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 in time" 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.

Tribute Fund

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

\$ _____

IN HONOR

IN MEMORY

Of _____

From _____

Phone _____

Please send acknowledgment to:

Name _____

Address _____

Tributes will be acknowledged in the newsletter

Articles for each month's issue are due on or before the deadline published in the calendar section.
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 nonprofit organization at :
139 1/2 Washington Avenue
Point Richmond, CA 94801

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Marilyn Levine
John Allen
Jan Burdick
Jean Reynolds
Grace Yank
Richard Katz

Calendar

March, 1993

March 2
Tuesday

Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting.
7:30PM, Community Center

Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting
11:30AM, Point Richmond Methodist Church

March 10
Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting,
Noon, Hotel Mac

March 14
Sunday

Point Richmond Business Association "Day at the
Races" & "Hillary Hat Contest" Benefits, see inside.

March 17
Wednesday

St. Patrick's Day

March 19
Friday

In the Best Interest of Anna Freud opens at Berkeley
City Club, "Point Richmond Night", 8 pm, see inside

DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL ISSUE

March 20
Saturday

First Day of Spring

March 26
Friday

Love Rides the Rails opens at the Masquers Playhouse

April 1
Thursday

All Fool's Day

April 4
Sunday

Palm Sunday

April 6
Tuesday

First Day of Passover

Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting.
7:30PM, Community Center

Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting
11:30AM, Point Richmond Methodist Church

April 9
Friday

Good Friday

April 10
Saturday

Easter Egg Dying Contest
Noon, Point Community Center