

THIS POINT in time

NEWSLETTER

THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL XI No 9

APRIL, 1993

\$1.50



POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 23, 1993

RAILROAD BUFF AND AUTHOR
DAVID DeBOER, GUEST SPEAKER



POINT METHODIST CHURCH THIRD ANNUAL JUNKTIQUE SALE

Saturday, May 8, 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

History Association Notes

From the President

Mid Dornan

Establishing roots in a community brings surprises and nostalgia as in the case of Michele (Horner) Griffin. This native Richmonder and former Camp Fire Girl found 'treasures' in the home of her parents, "Little Jack" & Marie Horner, where Michele and her husband now live. (Our phone call reestablished memories of Camp Fire.) Her 'treasures' were not too meaningful to them, but they suspected by virtue of age, perhaps someone might find them interesting. Letting us decide was appreciated, as the folder included war ration stamps for gas along with forms and shipyard three stamped envelopes. A copy of the Charter of the City of Richmond adopted by the Assembly and Senate in 1909 referred to the city as one "containing a population of more than 3,500 but less than 10,000 inhabitants".

These articles are on display in our History Building on Washington Avenue. We urge others not to destroy old findings, they may consider interesting but not worth keeping. Let us make that decision

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for you. Thanks for the memories,
Michele.

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

GRIFF BRAZIL

MIRIAM F. NEWHALL

BERTHA MAY McCLOSKEY

ANN BISIO

MARIE LOUISE OSTROM

JACK ELLE

ALEXANDRA GAUTRAUD

LYLE & CONNEE FISHER

BILL & GRACE BERK

BOB, MARIE & DARIAN

PECKHAM

HANS & LORE SHAPER

VEVIEN E. COOK

MALCOLM BURY

AMERICAN ROCK &

ASPHALT COMPANY

KATHRYN JOHNSON COAD

ANITA M. BROUGHAM

And a warm welcome to new member:

PHILLIP CARRERA

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

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.*

ATTENTION!

MUSEUM SPRING CLEANING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

To help prepare the museum for
the Point Richmond Stroll event.
Help is needed to wash windows,
clean and oil the floor and set up
new displays. If you can help call
Mid Dornan, 234-5334.

Editor's Notes

Gary Shows

Isn't springtime a wonderful time of the year! It's even better now that we won't have to hear the "D" word again, at least for a while.

Thanks to all of our regular staff for their good work on this issue. Also, thanks to John Allen and Marilyn Levine for their "Mac Work" and thanks to Point Richmond Print Shop for the copy work.

Mid apparently forgot to include the answer to her "A-Mid Trivia" question.....as she is not available at the time of publication.....you will either have to get in your car and drive the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge or.....wait until next month for the answer.

Our "class picture" game was a real hit, thanks to John Stephens and Will Spiersch for the idea. I had intended to have another old class picture for this issue but found myself short of time. I hope to have one ready for the May issue.

The deadline for the May issue is April 16, 1993.



The Cover:

*Slightly doctored image of
WWII Ration Coupons
donated by Michele Horner
Griffin.*

The March Issue Assembly Crew:

Mary Highfill
Liz McDonald
Pam Wilson
Mid Dornan
Jerry Cerkowicz
Gary Shows
Donna Roselius
Muriel Clausen

Thanks to

Roy Jones

the planter boxes in the front of
our museum building look really
great!

THIS OLD HOUSE

by

Muriel C. Clausen

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

CHAPTER III TENTS

Part Two

The early settlers of Point Richmond who came and eventually formed a town here were preceded, long before the Mexican landowners from whom they obtained their land, by the Coast Miwok Indians. (The Pomo Indians settled to the North and East of the Coast Miwoks. The two groups occasionally interacted). About 3,500 years ago, a number of small gatherings forming communal societies of Coast Miwok Indians were living up and down this area of the coast. (This was c. 1500 B.C.) They had a very comfortable lifestyle as food and materials were

abundant: salmon, clams, seeds, acorns, berries, black-tailed deer, and elk were everywhere they turned. They burned grasslands to provide a rich grazing land to attract the migrating tule elk for hunting. The grizzly bear, fox, otter, rabbit, coyote, mountain lion, seal, and sea lion also filled their hunting needs, providing skins and furs for covering structures and themselves in colder weather. Skin tanning using the bark of the redwood tree was a customary procedure the Indians used in their living pattern. They needed no sophisticated tools, for they were successful with bow and sharp obsidian arrow and sharp elk bone needle and pike. Tule grass was abundant along the coast and because of its strength, was used by the Indians for clothing, tepee coverings, boats, masks, baskets, and head coverings. Their dress was very skimpy as the weather was moderate most of the year. However, when it was cool, fur capes were abundantly available. The Indian women wore a skirtlike garment wrapped about their hips made of tule grasses. The Coast Miwok Indians were distinguished by their elaborate and decorative accessories: necklaces of clam shells, head dressings of tules and feathers (some with great eagle feathers for their chieftans), deer capes with deer head intact for camouflage when hunting deer, and sun visors of tule rushes. They painted their faces for ceremonies and wore their hair in varied elaborate bunched patterns with banded and feathered tule encirclements. As part of their simple

communal living, music and dance was important in their lives. They wove elaborate shell decorated baskets of tight tule that held water and food. Few of these baskets remain here, but a good collection is found in The Hermitage in Russia, collected by Russian fur traders who made contact all up and down the coast from 1812 to the 1840's with the Indian inhabitants from their fort at what we now know as Fort Ross.

To return to the subject at hand: the Coast Miwoks' living structures and tents or tepees. Their communal "village" consisted of several types of structures. The grand "round house" or ceremonial center was the dominant feature of the "village". It was a big tepee-shaped tentlike structure. Here the chieftan would call together his people for meetings, ceremonies, teachings, praying, and dances. Our first documented record of this large central structure was in Francis Drake's records (as were descriptions of their other structures). This large structure was erected over a deep, scooped-out hole in the ground. Large tree branches were laid together outside around the large circle in tepee fashion to cover it

over, and tied together in the center at the top with deer hide thongs, leaving an open smoke hole. This frame was covered with tightly woven tule grasses and mud to keep out the weather. It was entered by a long, low, downward-sloping tule and mud-covered passageway. Other structures in the communal compound, besides the living quarters of the small family groups, included granaries, which were constructed in much the same but smaller manner to store acorns. Arbors consisting of a single central bared tree trunk topped about ten feet up with outward arbor-like spreading branches of leaves provided a shady outdoor work and dance area. Another structure, the "sweat house", was a most ingenious concept. This structure was dug out shallowly down in the ground in a long octoganal oval and covered over dome-like with tule reeds and tightly packed earth with a smoke hole deep in the far end for a fire. This too was entered through a long, low, sloping tule and mud-covered passageway. In the "sweat house" the men would sweat by the hot fire to cleanse away their human scent in preparation for hunting.

THE BAY SHORE TRACT

IS THE CREAM OF ALL THE ADDITIONS TO



A-MID TRIVIA

- Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Q: What is the total length of the Richmond- San Rafael Bridge? And, the length of the Main Structure?

Answer at end of trivia.

April Fools Day is traced back to France over 400 years ago. Legend has it that when the reformed calendar was adopted, everyone was confused. From those hazy beginnings came the custom of playing harmless pranks.

Bumper sticker aren't a new idea. They go back to the time of the Ford Model T. In those days, car owners would write on the backs of their cars. Here are samples from some old Ford:

If our tops down go on over.

Dodge, brother!

Why go to Reno to shake her?

Chicken, here's your coop.

Honest weight no- springs.

The Uncovered Wagon.

Why girls walk home.

The tin you love to touch.

Can you think of any real flowers that clash with each other when put into one arrangement?

Sympathy is extended to Donna Roselius on the death of her father, Art Boie, in Minnesota on March 16th. Many of Donna's neighbors in the Point will remember him from visits to this area. His happy, positive outlook on life contributed to the fact he would have been 94 this year.

Family and friends gathered at the Waterfront Plaza Hotel in Jack

London Square in Oakland on Saturday, March 27th, 1993 for a reception and dinner to surprise and honor Naomi Huffstetter on her 90th birthday!. Living in Concord, she formerly lived on West Richmond Avenue, now law offices of David Vincent.

Our Neighborhood Council president, Sarah Eeles, has been installed as Secretary to the Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council for 1993.

Rosemary Corbin, Richmond Councilwoman, is the first to announce that she will run for mayor of Richmond in the November 3 election, calling it 'one of the most difficult decisions of my life.'

Grandma sez , "As I grow older, I find the infirmities of age bring some fringe benefits.

If I don't want to wash windows, I take off my glasses."

"Luminous Earth Grid" noted last month has been delayed because of weather. Thanks to Lucretia Edwards who checked on exact days we learn it will now begin April 6th. For more details, contact the Benecia City Hall.

TIP: As part of your Emergency Preparedness Kit, include a white towel, rag or other form of cloth to hang outside your residence after an emergency to signal to others that you are okay.

Lori Shaper is home again after a short hospital stay. Lori suffered a stroke a few weeks ago and is

progressing in her recovery. .

With the second installment of property taxes due, a comparison of 1992 and 1951 taxes is enlightening. Naomi Huffstetter sent us her 1951 tax receipt for 125 West Richmond Avenue in the amount of \$22.68! We hesitate to imagine that tax today.

Boy Scout Troop 111 which meets in the Point Methodist Church desperately needs a leader or assistant. Wouldn't you like to make a difference in a young boy's life? If you can involve a child in the outdoors by age 11 you have given him a lifetime of appreciation of nature. Call 234-5334 for more information.

Humor Societies of America have set aside the first ten days of April as National Laugh Week. I guess that is to help override the mood change when you face April 15th and the IRS.

Hi!.. to the staff at ALKO and thanks for the kind words.

All children at Washington School are benefiting from the 'Many Hands' project. Charlotte (Knox) Woods shared ideas on being a better classroom volunteer at a meeting in Brickyard clubhouse. The PTA sponsored a Spell-a-thon and winners received prizes donated by Point residents. While all students participating were winners receiving special pencils from Tom McGowan, awards were presented to the top three. First, Cara Conde, a bicycle donated by Janis and Martin McNair; second place, Jakia Price, a Spellchecker and Thesaurus donated by the Point United

Methodist Women; and third, Ambria Rodrigues, walkman from Doris Silva.

A Dutchman was explaining the red, white and blue flag of the Netherlands to an American friend,

"Our flag is symbolic of our taxes," he said. "We get red when we talk about them, white when we get our tax bill and blue after we pay them."

The American nodded. "I know what you mean. It's the same in the U.S., only we see stars too."

As of April 1, that 6-by12-inch longbox cardboard casing around compact discs will be changed and by the end of summer CD's will be distributed in shrink-wrapped plastic jewel boxes. Until the system is in operation, some stores may display empty CD cases on library-style shelves; other retailers will encase discs in reusable, plastic longbox-size holders.

Major Christian celebration of Easter will be April 11th. As happens more than half the time, there will be two Easter celebrations this year--one for churches tracing their roots to Rome, the second for Orthodox congregations. They will celebrate on April 18th.

An egg is dear on Easter Day.

- Russian proverb



Churches

Our Lady of Mercy

Allan Smith

Rev. Jim Clift, pastor, is preparing for Holy Week and Easter Services which will be held this year during the week of April 4th with Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday services on April 10th and April 11th. All interested persons are invited to attend. Information will be posted. There will be special Good Friday services too.

The two giant palm trees on the east side of the rectory have been removed because they were damaging the water, sewage and gas lines. No one seems to be certain on the question of who planted the trees and when. The name most often mentioned among the natives is Rev. Matthew Smith who was pastor of Our Lady of Mercy from 1934-1947. Father Smith was pastor during World War Two when the city of Richmond's population increased from 23,000 to 110,000 due to the four shipyards that were located here. Many of the shipyard employees were

Catholic and became members of the church here in the Point. Rev. Smith never owned a car and is remembered by Catholics and non-Catholics alike for his daily walk into town and the surrounding areas visiting people of all faiths. He had a vast territory to cover as there were many War Housing apartments for the shipyard workers that were built here during his jurisdiction.

Point Methodist

Jean Reynolds

Students in the Sunday School are rehearsing their parts for the play "The Littlest Donkey" to be performed at the 11:00 worship on Palm Sunday, April 4th. Bill Coolidge, graduate of Pacific School of Religion, long-time member of Good Shepherd UMC in Richmond, and cast member of the Masquer's current production "Love Rides the Rails" is our director. His theatrical experience has made him a big help to us! The cast includes Virginia Jones, Richard Cabrera,

Katrina Yamagada, Carina Stewart, Cami Gates, Trevor Gates, Bethany Reynolds, Aja Range, Ricco king, LaNette Niavez, Ruben Niavez and Matthew Niavez.

Take a moment to admire the new shingles on the front of the Parsonage at 226 Nicholl Avenue. Seven Habitat for Humanity volunteers worked on whole day to strip the old shingles, haul them away, and prepare the surface for new shingles. Our own Fay Hawkins, Bob Yank, Wally McCartney, Ben Bray...I hope I didn't forget someone...put up the new shingles. Money to buy shingles was donated "by the bundle", so many people made the project happen!

While the shingles were being replaced, another crew; Helen Valentine, Claudia LeGue, Alma McCartney, Oretta Eaton, Norm Reynolds, Grace Yank, Mid Dornan and Pastor Bill Gates did a great job white-washing the fence (where is Tom Sawyer when you need him?) and other jobs that made the grounds more beautiful (get ready to smell the roses...).



The adult classes, lead by Pastor Bill Gates, are studying Seven Women of the Bible. One class meets Sunday mornings at 10am and the other class meets on some Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm at the parsonage.

As you do your spring house-cleaning, remember the annual Classy Junque Sale to be held at the church on Saturday, May 8. Call Grace Yank (232-0655) or the church (236-0527) to arrange a pickup of any good, usable items you no longer need. Then plan to come down for the sale, have a bite of lunch, and find some new treasures (to take the

place of the things you got rid of!).

Several members of the United Methodist Women sponsored spellers for the Washington School Spell-a-thon contest. Mid Dornan was on hand to present the second prize, an electronic speller-thesaurus at the awards assembly. Hats off to the students who got sponsors, studied and spelled!

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.

Mar 1919

The Womans Home Missionary Society held the regular meeting at the home of Mrs. Bradley. Meeting opened by Song and prayer. Bible lesson read by President. Minutes of Feb meeting read and approved. Treasurers report read and accepted. Motion was made and carried to accept the invitation of Wesley Church and assist in entertaining the Convention in May. Committee of arrangements. Mrs. Gibbons, Owens and Grover. Mrs. Smith was appointed to make arrangements for the Queen Esther mite box opening.

Thank offering \$2.00 received from Mrs. Finley. Dues received Mrs. Gibbons .70 Grover .70 Gillette .40. Total \$3.80.

Refreshments were served by the hostess. Next meeting to be at parsonage.

Thank offering \$1.42

Nettie B. Grover, sec



THE MASQUERS

Playhouse, Inc.

105 Park Place, Point Richmond

PROUDLY PRESENTS

Love Rides the Rails



By: Morland Cary

Directed by: DON McCUNN

Come cheer the heroine and hiss the villain in this fun-filled sing-a-long melodrama! Will the villain succeed in foreclosing on the poor widow's cabin—or will the heroine foil his plans and save the hero before he's run over by the monstrous train?

Ron Anderson
Susanne Bagnio
Deborah Banks
Dorena Barnes
Henry Bers

Don Coles
Bill Coolidge
Carol Daly
Joyce Hughes
Jo Lusk

David Samuel
Al Schmiedeke
Tom Stimson
Marie Wedell
Debbie Winston

Linda Woody-Wood

Friday & Saturday evenings — March 26 - May 15, 1993

Sunday Matinees — April 4, 18, 25, May 2

RESERVATIONS: (510) 232-4031 (24 hours)

Reservations held until 10 minutes before curtain.

Group Rates Available

Box Office Opens at 8:00 p.m.; 2:00 p.m. for matinees.

Curtain: 8:30 p.m.

Matinees: 2:30 p.m.

Admission: \$10.00

DINNER & THEATRE benefit for our building fund at HOTEL MAC, Thursday evening, May 13. Dinner and ticket to "LOVE RIDES THE RAILS" for only \$25.00. To reserve, CALL: (510) 236-4988.

COMING: "I HATE HAMLET", a bright modern comedy, opening June 11, 1993.

Richmond Daily Leader.

Sports Memories

Allan Smith

Eugene Corr is a member of a pioneer Point Richmond family who lived for many years at the end of East Richmond Avenue in the home now occupied by the Christopher family. Gene has a sister, Marie and a brother Chris, who passed away. They were all raised and educated in Point Richmond.

At an early age, Gene Corr was an exceptionally good baseball player. He was an outfielder and batted left-handed in a classic batting style. He could run the bases like a professional player. Gene played as a youth with older top semiprofessional baseball players in very highly competitive baseball circles.

One interesting note was that during his entire baseball career his mother would always attend the games and sat in the same spectator location.

Choosing a college education instead of playing professional baseball, Gene went to the University of California in Berkeley. At the start of World War Two, he entered

into the U.S. Navy. Later, Gene Corr became the first varsity baseball coach at Contra Costa Junior College which was located at the end of Canal Street in the Shipyard Administration building area. He had a long and successful career as the head varsity baseball coach of the college. Incidentally, Gene was hospitalized recently but is now home recuperating. Truly, one of the great Point Richmond baseball players.



A NOTE FROM ALLAN

In the "Cards & Letters" section of the March TPIT Jean Moyle Spiersch corrected a mistake I made in regards to the Jantzen designed bathing suits furnished to swimmers at the Richmond Natatorium.

I stand corrected, but what bothers me is she stated that she worked at the "Nat" for fifty cents an hour. I worked there also for several years for only thirty cents an hour. If I had only known!!

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 THREE

Another resident on upper Montana Street was the George Lee family. Lee was a real estate and insurance man. Mrs. Lee was the daughter of Waverly and Mrs. Stairley, who also resided on Montana Street. They had one daughter, Virginia. This house was

later used by the Williams family and by the Ken Koht Srs. Mr. Koht owned and operated a garage that for years stood on Garrard Boulevard between Cutting Boulevard and Standard Avenue. After retirement they moved up the county to the Concord region.

On the hill side of lower Montana was the large three story dwelling of the Stairleys, whom I have previously described. Mrs. Stairley lived in the upper story of this house until her death at the age of nearly 102. Her son Duke was a friend and patient of mine. In his youth he tended to be somewhat wild but he settled down and in later years took care of his mother. He was the last person I knew who had personally known and remembered Professor Botts and his airship.

There were three small houses on Montana Street above the Wilson house which had many occupants at various times. Ardell Ciabatarri lived in one with his family when he ran Ardell's restaurant near the Natatorium. Another resident here was Allen Kundy who distinguished himself as a captain on the Richmond police force before and during the War. One of the houses was occupied very early by

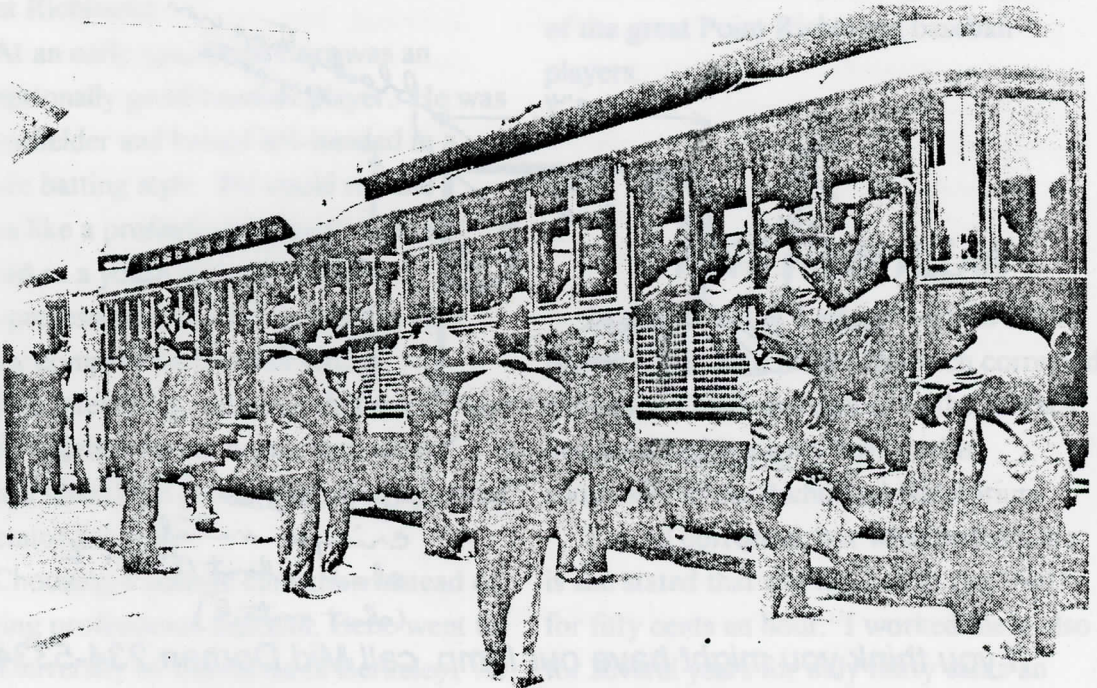
the Shawl family, who later moved over to a house on the hill below the old Richmond reservoir. They originally owned a cow and one of the boys staked it out on the hill across the street every morning to graze. There were three boys in the family, and the middle one, Harold Shawl, was a classmate of mine all through school and the University of California where he became an engineer. He later had an engineering position down the San Joaquin Valley.

The Forbes family for a time lived in one of these houses and later moved over on to Nevada Street. The upper of these houses was occupied for a time by the Miller family. Mr. Miller was a carpenter at the S.O. Company and took over the foremanship of the carpenter department on

the death of my father. More recently, Edwin and Conti Armentraut resided in one of these houses until the death of Mrs. Armentraut.

Several other well-known families lived on Buena Vista Street between Montana and Idaho. The Daviasons, the Becks, and the Don Churches we have previously mentioned. The house on the corner of Montana and Buena Vista was built I think by the Rolph family, but later in the 1920's it was bought by my brother-in-law, John Rowden, and my sister Sarah. After her death in 1929 the house was taken over by Cliff Jones and his wife. I knew them fairly well. I don't know who took over the house after they left.

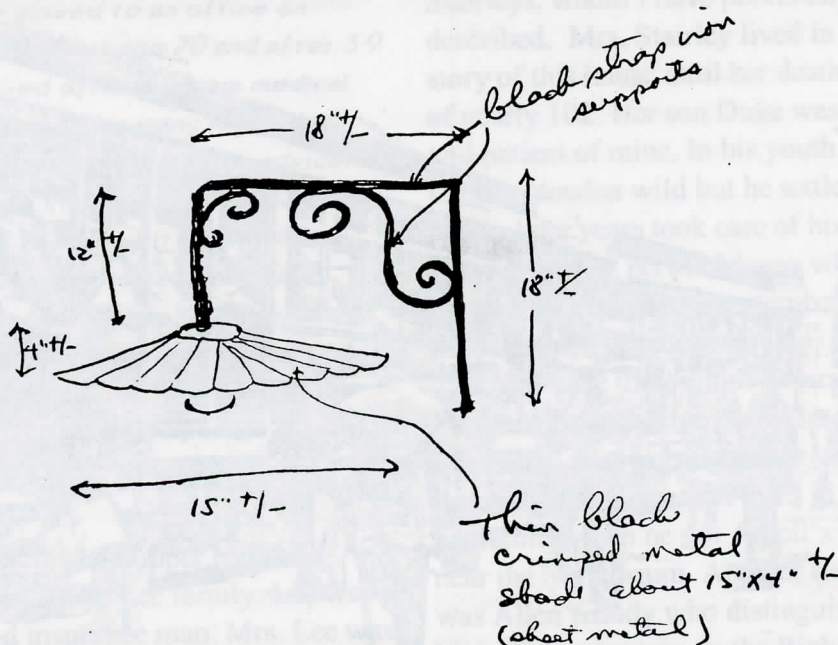
ds



Help us find a light fixture!

PRHA BOARD DECLARES APRIL TO BE "THE GREAT POINT RICHMOND SCAVENGER HUNT MONTH!"

You might have noticed that the necessary light fixture on the facade of our little museum building is pretty darn ugly and not at all historic. Well, we feel that a proper light fixture is important and have looked and looked, but we have had a tough time finding the right one. So we have decided to appeal to our members and the community to look into those closets, basements and garages and see if you might have the lamp for our museum building. We know it exists somewhere. We would like an old lighting fixture something like this:



If you think you might have our lamp, call Mid Dornan 234-5334.
Your prize will be great praise in TPIT!

On Point Richmond Barbers

Allan Smith

The first men's barbers and haircutters I have recollection of that served Point Richmond in the early thirties were Gus Gilg and Mr. Machada. Gilg had a son Edward and Machado had two daughters, Evelyn and Lola.

Gus Gilg had his shop on the corner of Washington and Cottage Avenues in the same building as the Post Office and occupied the space where Hazel Carr has here Real Estate office. Mr. Gilg of German descent experienced unfounded criticism at the start of World War Two.

After Gus Gilg retired, Bill Acree took over the shop and operated it for many years. It was in this shop that a young man first learned the trade and is now one of the leading hair stylists in the Bay Area and has his popular shop here in the Point. John

Veirs, native of El Cerrito, starting cutting hair approximately 30 years ago, a date I remember because he first cut our son Bryan's hair when Bryan was one year old. Working with John Veirs at their Park Place Barber Shop in the Point is Gene McCague who also has a popular following especially ex U.S. Navy men. Gene was a ship's barber for several years while serving in the Navy.

Another barber named Lou had his shop during the 1980's in the same building as the Post Office. It was at the west end.

Nino Garcia, a native Richmonder, who was a friend of many people from the Point, started cutting hair at the Todd Hotel in a small room at the corner of the building. Nino later had a popular shop at 16th and MacDonald Avenue in Richmond.

Race Day!!

12th Annual Vallejo Race Day Party
East Brother Light Station

May 1, 1993

⚡ Unparelled View of the race ⚡ Gourmet Box Lunch ⚡ Lighthouse Tour

Order your party tickets early.....the last event sold out!

For each Race Day Reservation, sent \$35 to:

East Brother Light Station, Inc.

Race Day Party

117 Park Place

Point Richmond, CA 94801

questions, call 233-2385

Misc. Stuff



"Writing Your Life History" Class

Mid Dornan reports that the course on "Writing Your Life History" led by Alexandra Gautraud was excellent, and the eight participants want a reunion, or more sessions. Regretfully, the announcement in TPIT came at the last minute, and left no time to procrastinate.



Railroad Buff Scheduled For Summer Meeting

Program Director Anne Hanzlik is preparing the program for our May 23rd Annual Meeting. She is hoping to introduce David DeBoer as guest speaker. Mr. DeBoer is a Walnut Creek resident who is fascinated by freight trains. He has written a book about the history of container shipping by rail and owns a library of 900 railroad books and artifacts including a chair from Western Pacific headquarters.



San Pablo Historical Society "Back in Business"

After some experimenting with the

best opening times for their Blume House Adobe, they have settled on Sunday. As of March 31st the library will open every Sunday at Noon.



Hotel Mac Turns 82!

The Hotel Mac will be celebrating its eighty-second birthday between April 25th and May 8th. Every night during this time they will have a special menu with entrees at special birthday prices, this will be in addition to their regular menu. Also, during this period they will present nightly Dixieland Jazz and complimentary Hors d'oeuvres every afternoon.

Wednesday night, May 5th, has been designated as "Point Richmond Business Association & Point Richmond History Association" night. Reservations are suggested.



Washington Field House Closed for Rehabilitation

The Washington Field House at 110 West Richmond Avenue will be closed from March 16 through April 16 for rehabilitation.

During this period the after-school program activities will continue.

Services will be provided by a mobil unit staff from 2:45pm to 5pm, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Wednesday hours are 2:15pm to 5pm. Program activities will include arts, crafts, games and organized sports. Programs will not be offered on rainy days.

Any questions, call Keith Jabari, Community Programs Supervisor at 620-6792 or 620-6791.



Senior Information Day Coming Up

May 11th is Richmond's Senior Informaion Day. It will happen between 9am and 2pm at the Richmond Memorial Auditorium. See the next issue for more details.



Business Directory To Be Published

A new Point Richmond Business Directory is going to be published soon. Anybody downtown or homebased business that would like to be listed can get information about prices and programs from Carol Elliott (415-495-5966) or Deirdre Cerkanowicz (510-235-2954). The deadline is April 26th.



County Emergency System Tested

On Wednesday March 24th, Contra Costa County officials tested the

computerized phone system that would be used to give you and your family important information and instructions in the event of an emergency in our area. Parts of Point Richmond were included in this test.

The people who were called in the test were told (if this were a real emergency) to turn on the radio to KKIS 92.1 FM for information on the nature of the emergency and to stay "in place", close all windows and doors, close damper or flue on fireplace.

If you live in contra Costa County and your phone number and address is not listed in the current telephone directory, or if you need T.D.D. translation, please call 646-2286 during regular business hours.



East Brother Light Station Sponsor Race Day Party

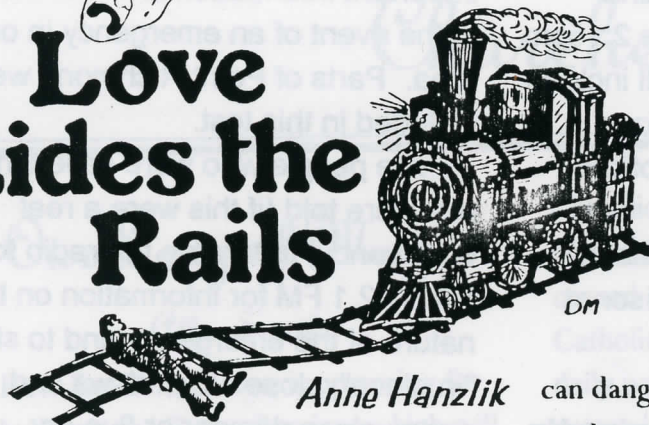
East Brother Light Station, Inc. invites you to enjoy an unparelled view of the Vallejo Race, the largest competition of the Bay Area sailing season. Hundreds of sailboats with spinnakers flying will pass almost within touching distance of East Brother Island on their way to Vallejo. Lunch and a tour is included for \$35, call 233-2385 for more details.



THE MASQUERS

Playhouse, Inc.

Love Rides the Rails



Anne Hanzlik

The Masquers Theater was full of good humor last night at opening of Love Rides the Rails or Will the Mail Train Run Tonight?, as the audience participated in the latest offering of the Players, a spoof on the classic melodramas of the turn of the century.

The parody, actually written around the forties by Morland Cary has its locale in our own Point Richmond, with the railroad as the center of action, and local venues such as the Hotel Mac and allusions to Martinez and Walnut Creek as well.

The play has the classic cast of characters, the heroine, Prudence Hopewell (Deborah Banks), her aged mother Widow Hopewell/ Hopeless (Marie Wedell), the requisite villain Simon (Tom Stimson) and

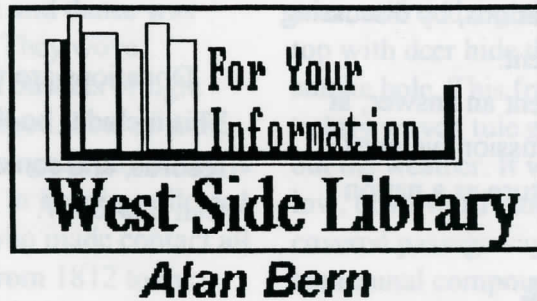
his accomplice, Dirk (Al Schmiedeke), as well as the hero (Ron Anderson), and also Harold (Bill Coolidge).

Directed by Don McCunn, who has most successfully incorporated a long list of favorite old songs in which the audience is urged to join with the chorus (song sheets provided). The can

can dangers and assorted railroad workers/chorus all are enthusiastic participants in this theater romp, glamorized too by their colorful and imaginative costumes by Marie Wedell and her staff. As usual the sets by John Hull are fun, especially the drop curtain of the Point Richmond, -etc. -etc. Railroad, (which I hope will be preserved for some future use).

This spring offering of the Masquers makes a light and successful contrast to the more serious selection of this seasons repertory.

The members of the Masquers, which now number some 100, many of whom are part of the actors ensemble should be applauded for being such a viable and venerable organization which is surely appreciated by a large Bay Area audience, as well as by the people in the Point itself.



What's New at the Westside

This Point in Time I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new librarian, Alan Bern. This is his first of what I hope to be many reports.

SYLVIA

Leonard Michaels

San Francisco: Mercury House
1992

In his *Fictional Memoir* local writer and U.C. Berkeley English Professor Leonard Michaels based *Sylvia* on his own first marriage. Michaels not only lets us in on the extremely painful details of a troubled relationship, but he also presents a graphic portrait of New York City in the 1960's in all of its vitality and confusion.

As in most of Michael's writing, he is able to capture important specific details in a prose style that is both poetically evocative and bluntly straightforward. The illustrations by Sylvia Bloch put cigarette

smoke in our eyes, as does Michael's prose. When we find ourselves tearing, however, we stop to wonder whether there's more than smoke that's made us cry.



RACE: HOW BLACKS AND WHITES THINK AND FEEL ABOUT THE AMERICAN OBSESSION

Studs Terkel

New York: The New Press
1992

In *Race* the great Studs Terkel has done it again: he has coaxed out the truth about this country from its average citizens. Then, listening hard, he has written down the many voices of our country like no one since Walt Whitman. Many of his previous books have been about past, about memories. In *Race* he tackles perhaps the most complex and difficult problem in the

United States, race relations, by discussing it primarily in the present.

If he does not present an answer, at least he reopens a discussion we must continue. Our very future as a nation depends upon it.



Story Hour continues every Thursday morning at 10am at the West Side Branch; tumbling and crafts follow in the Rec Center next door.



Donations are welcome at the Library. This includes books, videos, audio tapes, records, and some magazines. Questions? Call 620-6567.



We also welcome volunteers to help kids with their homework in the Recreation Center (next to the library), every Wednesday from 3pm to 5pm.



MODEL RAILROAD

EXHIBIT

TO OPEN SOON!

Have you ever been fascinated by model trains and the time and energy put forth in their proper display? Did you know that we have one of the finest model train museums around right here in Point Richmond?

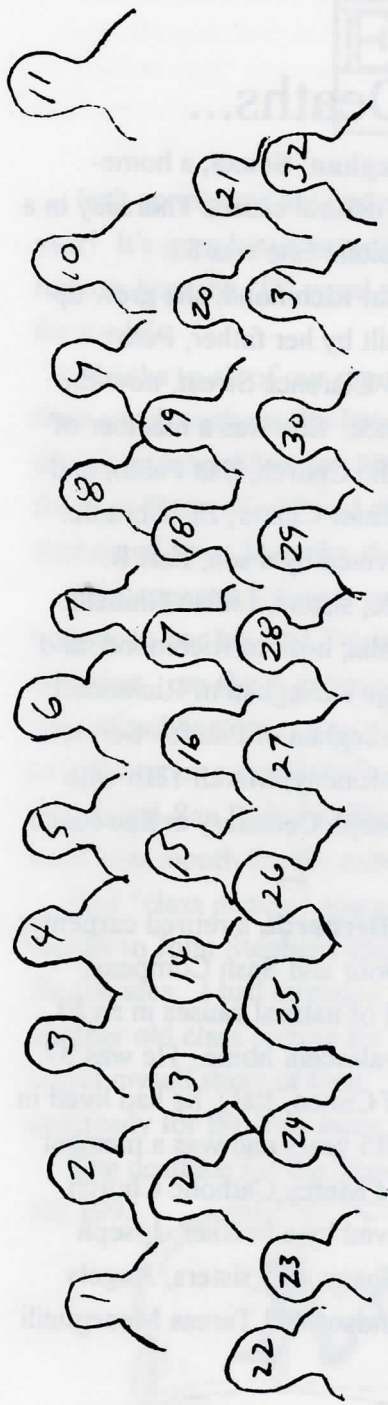
The East Bay Model Engineers Society has announced the start of their second Season at their Point Richmond Golden State Model Railroad Museum. The event will take place in their 10,000 square foot

museum building opposite the main entrance to the Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline Park.

Their big Spring Show will take place on Saturday, May 1 and Sunday, May 2, from 1:00pm until 5:00pm. The public is invited, they appreciate a small donation (\$2/person, \$1/child or senior, \$5/family). After that the museum will continue to be open to the public every Sunday afternoon from May through October with the final Fall Show on October 30 and 31.

The Golden State Model Railroad Museum is a nonprofit organization, dedicated to the preservation of our railroad heritage through the construction and operation of detailed models. Membership is open to the general public, call Paul Soito (510-758-6288) for more information.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



1. Ed McAfee (rd)
2. John Stephens
3. ????????
4. Harold Stone
5. Trefery Ross
6. Dean Beasley (hf) Jim McAfee (rd)
7. Rudolph Stark
8. Vernon Dutrow
9. Mickey Allen
10. ????????
11. Catherine Anglim, teacher

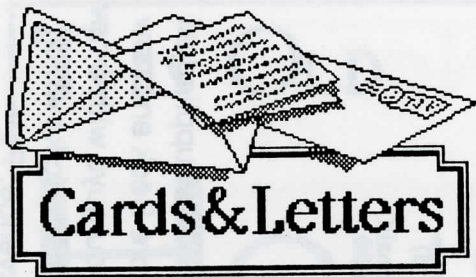
12. Elio Tobacca
13. Ruth Dingle
14. Winifred Wickersheim
15. ????????
16. Myrtle Smith
17. Betty Jenkins
18. Gloria Smith
19. Theodore Beck
20. Richard Ervin
21. Leroy Williams
22. Edward Gilg

23. Raymond O'Brien
24. Dorothy Shaw
25. Elaine McConnell
26. Pauline Spiersch
27. Regina Cunan
28. LaVonne Aikens
29. ??? Beasley (rd)
30. ????????
31. Lupe Avila (rd)
32. Louis MacDonald

THE WASHINGTON SCHOOL CLASS OF 1929

Good Work!

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, Theodore Beck and now Ruth Dingle supplied a lot more. It has been a lot of fun, next month we will test you guys with a new challenge photo. We will stop with the Class of 1929, however there are still four more folks which remain nameless, if you can name them write to Gary Shows, 229 Golden Gate Avenue, Pt. Richmond, CA 94801 and I'll let everyone else know.



Cards & Letters

Dear Mrs. Dornan:

My dad was Duane "Little Jack" Horner and my mom is Marie Louise Horner Ostrom. Mom is a member of the PRHA and passes your newsletters on to me.

To make a long story short, we were cleaning out my husband Don's den (We bought mom and dad's house when she married Herman Ostrom 13 years ago). We were remodeling Don's den... building a computer center, when to my surprise we ran across these interesting old items... I've enclosed them as I thought the Point Richmond museum would like and appreciate them.

Keep up the good work in your newsletter. I really enjoy reading it when mom gives it to me.

Sincerely,
Michele Horner Griffin
Richmond



Deaths...

Pearl E. 'Kelleghan' Souza, a homemaker, died of natural causes Thursday in a San Pablo hospital. She was 83.

Born in Point Richmond, she grew up in the home built by her father, Pete Kelleghan, 225 Clarence Street, now the Dornan residence. She was a member of St. Paul Catholic Church, San Pablo, and St. Callistus Senior Center, El Sobrante.

Pearl is survived by a son, Earl R. Souza of Pinole; sisters, Lillian Ghidella and Irene Regalia, both of Richmond; and brothers George Kelleghan of Richmond and Mervin Kelleghan of Pinole. Services were held on Monday, March 15th with burial in St. Joseph Cemetery in San Pablo.



Louis James Bernardi, a retired carpenter for Western Door and Sash Company, Berkeley, died of natural causes in an El Sobrante convalescent home. He was 87.

A native of Cuneo, Italy, he had lived in West County 85 years and was a member of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church.

He is survived by a brother, Joseph Bernardi of Albany; and sisters, Angela Canello of Windsor and Teresa Meneghelli of Richmond.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

(234-5334)

LOOF LIRPA
ROBERTA PALFINI
KARI LU CRAIN
TARA KAUFMAN
JUDY WALZ
PAM WILSON
JOEL PETERSON
MICHAEL HORN
BONITA NEASHAM
MONICA DOHERTY
WILLIAM KRETZMER
ALISON LORD
JOHN MAXWELL
GORDON MILLER

TAYLOR BRADSHAW
KATHY BARNES
BRUCE BARTRAM
DORI FREITAS
RUTH WILSON
PAULA FERGUSON
DON AMANTITE
LISA OGLES
ANNA SCHWARTZ
ELNORA SURDAM
ERIC HOILAND
MELISSA DRISCOLL
ROSEMARY CORBIN
DAVID BRADSHAW



"Death and taxes may always be with us, but death at least doesn't get any worse"

-Los Angeles Times Syndicate

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

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Point Richmond, CA 94801

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TELEPHONE LISTINGS

Mid Dornan	510- 234-5334
Gary Shows	510- 235-1336
Phyllis Scaglund	510-232-2280
Fax	510- 232-0842

Contributors to this issue:

Gary Shows
Mid Dornan
Muriel Clausen
Dr. Wm. Thompson
Donna Roselius (illustrations)
Don Church (photo collection)
Jerry Cerkanowicz
Anne Hanzlik
Pam Wilson
Allan Smith
Dennis & Ellen Schaefer
Marilyn Levine
John Allen
Alan Bern
John Morrison
Ruth Dingle Abbott
Marie Dietz
Jean Reynolds
Grace Yank
Point Richmond Print Shop

Calendar

April, 1993

April 1
Thursday

All Fool's Day

April 4
Sunday

Palm Sunday

Daylight Savings Time Begins!
Before bed Saturday, set your clock ahead one hour.

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 Coloring & Basket Making Contest
Noon, Point Community Center

April 11
Sunday

Easter Sunday

April 14
Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting,
Noon, Hotel Mac

April 16
Friday

DEADLINE FOR THE MAY ISSUE

May 1 & 2
Saturday & Sunday

Golden State Model Railroad Museum
Spring Show, 1:00pm - 5:00pm, 900 Dorman Drive

May 4
Tuesday

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

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

May 8
Saturday

Point Methodist Church, Third Annual Junktique Sale
at the church, AKA "Classy Junque Sale"