

THIS POINT in time

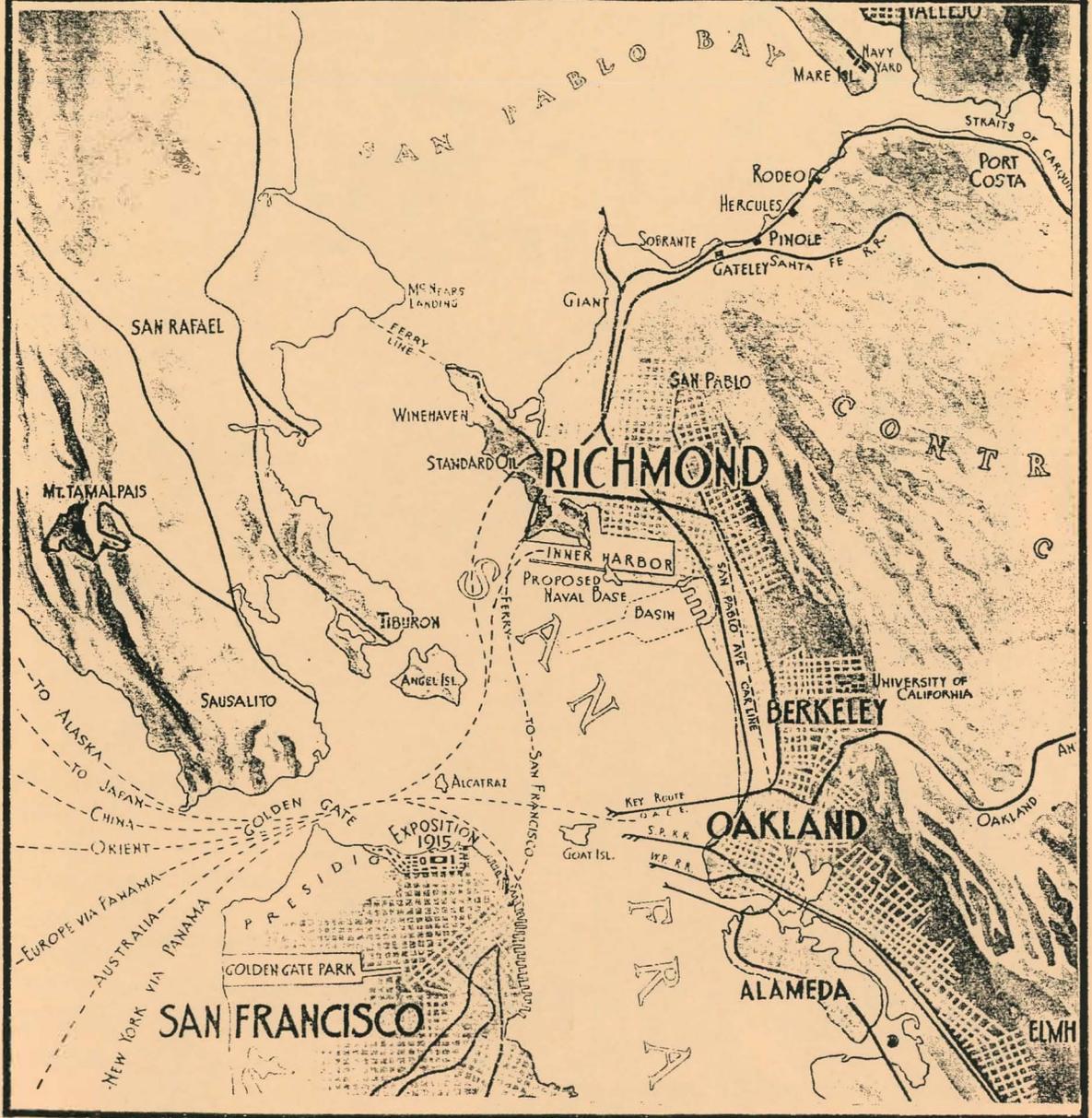
NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

Vol. XII No. 7

February, 1994

\$1.50





See Page 20

History Association Notes.....

From the President

Mid Dornan

When something runs smoothly its mechanics are often taken for granted. The Point Richmond History Association Board fits this definition. Who are these board members? So that others might know the board that is as diverse in ages as in backgrounds, the first of a series of brief profiles of the volunteers dedicated to preserving the Point Richmond history begins in this issue. It seemed only fitting that the first profile be of our Editor Gary Shows, the force behind the publishing of this Newsletter. After the interview, Gary grinned an impish smile and unconvincingly tried to imply that as Editor he had the license to "strike big black lines" at his profile! No! No! Gary!

In February we honor our Richmond Firemen. Fire hoses, pictures and other fire equipment will be on display in the history building. The week of February 14th through 19th children will be able to have pictures taken with a fireman beside the antique hose wagon.

Do stop by.

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

BOB & BETTY MENZIE
TOM & LUCRETIA EDWARDS
LINDA ANDREW-MARSHALL
INEZ A. PESTANA
LLOYD & MELBA FARLEY
ROBERTA & RICHARD PALFINI
PATRICIA DORNAN
BETTY DORNAN
ALICE NELSON
ELIZABETH McDONALD
MAXINE MAYER
SHONEY GUSTAFSON
VIRGINIA CHERNIAK
ED GINGRICH
LOUISA BANKS
MARY BURCH
ELSINE BECK TEN BROECK
GLENN & REVA WARD
AL & HELENE FROSINI
VIRGINIA LITTLEFAIR
ELIZABETH WIRTH
KEN & ISABEL DOLAN

And a warm welcome to new members:

CYNTHIA WILSON QUIST
RITA HANSEN
ROBERTA JENKINS SMITH

PHILIP H. DORN III
KATHERINE HARPS &
DALE ROBERTS
B.A. & GEORGE E. SQUIRES

THANKS TO:

Brian Sarasy of Synergy Maritime for
reproducing the map of Point Richmond
that we like to give out at the museum, it
helps visitors and saves our volunteers a lot
of time giving directions.

Spiro & Mary Cakos for a donation.

Boy Scout Troop 111 for a flag for our
museum and thanks to Phil Dorn for the
mount and its installation.

**Museum Staff coordinator Betty
Dornan says thank you to the volunteers
who staffed the History Museum in
December & January.**

**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.

Editor's Notes

Gary Shows

Happy New Year! We begin the new year with new series from Dr. Thompson, Muriel Clausen and Delphina Franco. I am also happy to report that this will not be the last series from Dr. Thompson as he is preparing a new work that will take us much farther back into Point Richmond history, the details will be a surprise.

Also of note in this issue, a very interesting and entertaining report from Bob Yank on his reunion with World War II buddies.

Thanks so much to Mid Dornan for the very flattering profile, I didn't change or censor a thing. I think she did a fine job and look forward to reading profiles on the other board members, I kind of think Mid is practicing for future oral histories. Keep up the good work Prez!

Kudos to Pam Wilson, Jerry Cerkanowicz and Linda Webster for the cards we mailed to all members as a holiday gift. Artist Linda Webster donated them when she moved away from the Point. Pam and Jerry spent several hours shrink wrapping them at my store.

Dennis Schaefer continues to ease my job by doing a lot of typing of our serial articles, his enthusiastic assistance is much appreciated.

Next month look for something from our old friend Bernard Bernes, also Vivian

Cook has sent some of his old time memories.

The deadline for the February edition newsletter is January 21, 1994.

The Cover:

This map was taken from a Dec. 20, 1914 issue of the "First Anniversary Edition of the Richmond Daily News" donated to us by Dr. Wm. L. Thompson.

The Winter Issue Assembly

Crew:

Mary Highfill

Liz McDonald

Muriel Clausen

Pam Wilson

Mid Dornan

Jerry Cerkanowicz

Gary Shows

Thanks to:

Kirk & Cindy Valentine for thinking of the PRHA when they cleaned their attic. They discovered and donated a stack of old printed railroad materials

This Old House

by

Muriel C. Clausen

Chapter V The California Bungalow:

Point Richmond

Single Story

Part One

In previous chapters we have reviewed those simple single-story houses in Point Richmond that have a distinctive Western and Northern California quality about them. This chapter will explore simple single-story houses on the West Coast that have, by contrast, East Coast and English origins and influences. These are the California bungalows, of which there are many in early Point Richmond's history.

Quite different from the previously described small house, the distinctive California bungalow was a by-product of simple, functional house designs which developed throughout the United States due to two early basic causes. The first was an indirect reaction against the ex-

cesses and bad design of English Victorianism and against the Industrial Revolution. The second was due to the need for housing for a rapidly growing middle class in the United States.

The reaction against Victorianism and the Industrial Revolution in England began as the Victorian Era gradually reached its most unforgettable and unforgivable state in the early 1850's. Previous to that the early Victorian period was exemplified by beautiful architecture and interiors such as to be copied in Europe and the United States with rapt respect. During this Victorian evolution the Industrial Revolution took place, which was a change from hand-made to mass-produced, machine-made products. Objects and designs of formerly rare beauty were machine produced in abundance using poor materials, which resulted in poor quality products.

By 1850 the Victorian style in England was weighted down with bad designs from the Industrial Revolution and with dark, heavy, ornate, gloomy, overdecorated buildings and overfurnished interiors. Out of this rose a rebellion among designers, which was brought to a head at the London Exhibition of 1851 held in the Crystal Palace. The Crystal Palace building itself brought a fresh, new concept of design inspiration. It was a building whose structure used a new material, iron, to make many glass-filled window frames which were attached together to form the building roof. This allowed the Exposition Hall to be filled with natural light, and

with a clean, airy feeling quite in contrast with the darkness of Victorian interiors.

Such a contrast was thoroughly refreshing and brought a demand for an architectural change in design. Added to this the designers focused a protest against the tiredness of industrially made products. John Ruskin (1819-1900) wrote against machine age design and heavy Victorian excesses. William Morris (1834-1896) took a more active role, providing a bountiful supply of beautiful new designs in his studio, with an emphasis on simplicity, honest workmanship and handcrafting of objects. They spoke basically the same language: change, simplicity, hand craftsmanship, and beauty in design.

Gradually, in the 1870's, under Morris' influence grew what became known as the Art Movement, and by some, the Aesthetic Movement. This was a design movement which promoted clean, simple furnishings and an art style that is noted as being more mildly decorative. Morris' style included designs in two dimensions, stylized and with fresh line and muted, blended colors. This was in contrast to the Victorian florid and multi-dimensional design excesses. Oscar Wilde became a colorful and vocal proponent of the philosophy of this movement, traveling to the United States in 1882 to es-

pouse "art for art's sake" and the Aesthetic Movement.

Gradually in Europe this movement took one direction, and in the United States it took another. It developed in Europe in the 1880's and 1890's into what is called the Art Nouveau style, a curvilinear, quiet, romantic style. In the United States the movement took a less esoteric and more practical direction, becoming, under Gustav Stickley, the Craftsman's Movement, a more masculine, structural, utilitarian style. While the above is a rather simplistic description of the much more complicated process of this design rebellion, it does point out the direction of post-Victorian design as it went one way in Europe and another in the United States.

In America, the Victorian excesses of the 1850's were less disliked than in England. Here, architecture and design had not reached the really bad stage it had in England and so it became more a change of direction of design. It was not so much a design rejection as it was a design acceptance of William Morris' concept of honest, handcrafted work. There was a great optimism and enthusiasm in the United States for Morris' structural clarity of design and handcrafted work. This had varied effects on both architecture and design. East Coast architecture for the wealthy, slowly reacted.



A-Mid TRIVIA

- Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question: 60 years ago Marie Whitesides was city auditor. In her report, what did it cost to maintain the City Jail for 1933?

Answer at end of Trivia.

Not everywhere do valentines come from a card chop or a candy store. In Sicily the young signorinas get up before dawn, stand in front of the window and watch for men. The first man to pass, it's believed, will become the lady's bridegroom within a year.

The original St. Valentine? It appears there were two of them. Not much is known about them except both were churchmen, both lived near Rome in the 3rd Century and both were beheaded!

The halfway point of winter is February 4 at 7:28 a.m. PST. 44 days of winter will have elapsed and 44 will remain.

Do you have faith in Punxsutawney Phil, that little groundhog who is considered the traditional predictor of Spring?

According to the Chinese lunar calendar this is the year of the Dog. Those born (1910, 1923, 1935, 2947, 1959, 1971, 1983) under this sign are loyal and honest with a deep sense of duty and justice. You can always be trusted to guard the secrets of others. Gung Hay Fat Choy (May you prosper)

You know you are in good shape when after checking the 35 listed support groups available you aren't in need of any of them.

Ironic! Limbaugh and Howard Stern were both born on January 12...three years apart!

The Hubble Space Telescope's blurred vision was corrected by a \$1.5 million set of "eyeglasses" built at Richmond's Tinsley Labs in Hilltop. The Hubble will be used to explore the outer reaches of the universe and when fully functional it will become the farthest-seeing telescope ever devised.

Virginia Cherniak spent her Christmas holidays in Vancouver, B.C. visiting her daughter Stephanie. Both returned for Virginia's surgery in January.

The toy table with puzzles, crayons and 4-wheel toys in the lobby of the Point branch of Mechanics Bank isn't limited to age. Seen seated at the table are adult-in their second childhood?

Tom Butt wears many hats..like the one of Santa at the Methodist Church Children's Christmas pageant.

Turns out a "Grinch" didn't steal the Memorial tree behind the History building after all. A caring city employee noticed the demise of the Blue Spruce roots, removed it and neatly filled the hole area.

Ryan Gates may have been playing soccer but it was his mouth that encountered the ball. While seven stitches were required, he managed smiles through his 'fat lip'! P.S. His team won!

Children's Christmas toys would

last much longer if the grown-ups were given some of their own to play with.

Have you noticed the "Discover Point Richmond" ads in the West County Times?

Instructor Alexandra Gautraud's seminar on Writing Your Own Life Story has nine enthusiastic members (Dorothy Ruthnick, Linda Grant, George Squires, Zoanna Kille, Mary Tom Coe, Betty Dornan, Tom Edwards, Hans Shaper and Mid Dornan) who now have work-in-progress .

Belated compliments to the merchants whose holiday decorations created the spirit of the season. How about ALL Point businesses outlining the tops of their buildings in lights next year for an effective town square! Check lights now as they are half-price.

Can you complete this nursery rhyme?

Round and round the Mulberry bush
The monkey chased the weasel

Pop! goes the weasel.

If you are superstitious about the number 13, this is a good year for you. 1994 only has one Friday the 13th...in May!

A number of new Stop signs have been posted in the Point so traffic will have to slow down and enjoy the area. How many stop signs (excluding the signal lights and yield signs) are from Keller's Beach to the Bridge, this side of the freeway? 17? 26? 37? If you guessed

37, you are right.

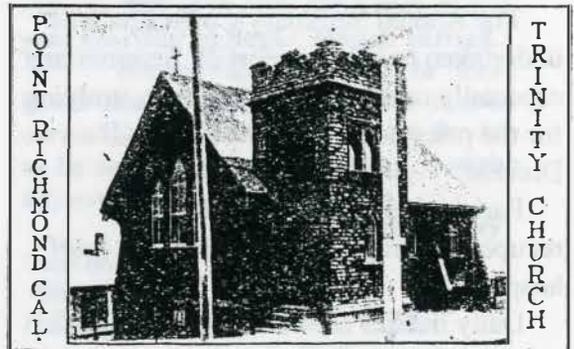
Arson fire destroyed much of the historic Ivy Inn (formerly the St. James Hotel), 61 Cottage Avenue, on January 8th. Can anyone confirm the fact that during World War II rooms were used as barracks for soldiers? Although the facts are from our records, they are being questioned.

New member George Kelleghan grew up in the house I now call home. Will George write us what it was like growing up in the Point? I know his father maintained a large garden.

TIP: When making soup and broth, add a tablespoon of vinegar to the meat bones while cooking. Extra calcium will be drawn from the bones and the vinegar will not change the flavor.

Roses are red
Violets are blue
May Valentine's Day
Be special for you.

ANSWER: \$479.21. This included fuel, feeding prisoners, laundry, lights, Matron, supplies and water.



Churches

Our Lady of Mercy

Allan Smith

A member of the pioneer Point Richmond Palenchar family passed away recently. The funeral for Joe Palenchar, 81 years of age, was held at Our Lady of Mercy Church on January 11, 1994. Joe had moved from the Point at an early age but wished to be buried near here. The Palenchar family home was originally located on upper Standard Avenue. It was purchased by Bill Stark, native Point Richmonder, and moved to a location on East Richmond Avenue across from Washington School.

Father James Clift is preparing for the 1994 Lenten Season which will begin on February 16th, Ash Wednesday, and end with Easter Sunday on April 3rd.

The Annual Seminary Collection was undertaken to help support all Seminarians especially twenty-two young men studying for the priesthood from the Oakland Diocese.

Parishioner Varsie Lometti is recuperating rapidly at home after a brief hospital stay.

Daily masses are held at Our Lady of

Mercy at 12 noon except on Thursdays.
All are welcome to attend.



Point Methodist

Jean Reynolds

During these winter months our church has assisted the Winter Shelter project sponsored by the Greater Richmond Interfaith Program or G.R.I.P. This project was designed to provide shelter, food and assistance to thirty homeless people (only families are served by this project) during the winter month. Many local churches are providing shelter for a week or more, meals for breakfast and dinner, and volunteers to accomplish this goal. The project is filled to capacity now; half of the residents are children. Our church has prepared and served one dinner and is scheduled for two more. We also prepared "ditty bags" of personal care items to distribute to the residents. Organizers plan to resume the Winter Shelter Project next winter. It is a need that is not likely to go away.

A memorial service was held January

4th for the family and friends of Roy Jones, a member of our church. People attended from four or more churches where Roy had provided music for worship services. We all remembered Roy and his music fondly, and everyone there seemed to feel Roy belonged to them or that they were part of his family. Roy Jones is a man we will remember and miss.

In December, at least two dozen people gathered for the community celebration service on the second Tuesday. With the help of Jean Eakle on the piano, we sang almost every Christmas carol in the hymnal. The next Community Celebration service will be February 8th and will start at 6:30pm with a potluck in Friendship Hall.

As a part of a series of special "Good Fridays" Services during the season of Lent, our church will have a service on March 11th at 7:30pm that is not to be missed. Kairos youth choir will provide the program. Kairos, sponsored by Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, performed last spring for a Sunday worship service and their voices, combined with the wonderful acoustics in the sanctuary made for a sound sensation! I'm looking forward to March 11th.

On the calendar: The Men's Breakfast is on the last Saturday of the month at 8:00am. It will next be February 26th.

The annual Junktique sale is scheduled for May 7th. To donate your good usable household goods, call the church at 236-0527 and leave a message.

POINT METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

-Mid Dornan

Church history is rich with contributions of women. One church group in the 1920's was the SOCIAL LEAGUE of the First Methodist Episcopal Church whose history is reflected in their minutes printed below and taken from the canvas covered, cornered red leather notebook which cost \$1.15. The minutes are printed as written. This is the 3rd installment .

Tuesday, Feb 5, 1924

Social League met at the home of Mrs. Bliss Brothers all officers and eight members present.

Meeting opened with reading of few Bible verses by Mrs. Janes. Minutes previous meeting read & approved.

Luncheon in March discussed and a motion made to have luncheon in March--was seconded and on written ballot was rejected 8-4.

Move and seconded nothing further be done for time being with selling of extracts. Carried.

Fellowship dinner discussed and several donations towards it by members were made.

Moved and seconded League assume \$25 of church deficiency church year starting in Sept. Motion carried.

Moved & seconded to have silver tea in March at church--motion carried. Details & committees for tea to be settled at next meeting. League adjourned.

Emma L. Parker, Secy

Cash on hand	15.85
Silver offering	1.40
Dues-5mo-Mrs. Scofield	<u>.50</u>
	17.75

Gary Shows

A Personal Profile by Mid Dornan

When asked how he became implicated with the Point Richmond History Association, Gary muffles a laugh and says, "I was first involved through Jerry (Cerkanowicz) who was then President of the association but I kinda avoided being involved. Slowly I got to know the board (*we met at is home to collate the monthly newsletter*) and developed an interest in the Point History. I've always been interested in history; it was my best subject in school." Continuing he added, "In 1988 Mid was having difficulty reproducing the monthly newsletter so I volunteered to try one issue on my primitive computer equipment. And here I am!"

Born in San Antonio, Texas, Gary is one of five children. He has two older brothers and two younger sisters who all still live in the Texas area. He keeps in close contact with his family as well as nieces and nephews, mother, Bernice Shows, often visits. His father is deceased, Gary is one of the youngest on the board.

Before he arrived in Oakland, California in 1971, Gary had answered a newspaper ad and worked as a stock boy in an office supply retailer in Austin, Texas. Although an aircraft electrician as his first

vocation, his employment in Berkeley later led to the purchase of Alko Office Supply on Shattuck Avenue when the owner retired. He has a staff of 10 employees.

Visiting friends in 1974 at what later was to become Sweetwater Nursery, Gary immediately fell in love with the Point and moved into another apartment at Sweetwater for a short time before moving to 448 Tewksbury for nine years. An emphatic and enthusiastic, "I love it!" describes his 229 Golden Gate Avenue home. Aside from the sweeping views toward Richmond and the hills, it is the sounds he enjoys most. Sounds especially of trains! A love he may have inherited from his father who was a Southern Pacific switchman.

An avid Oakland A's fan, he envisions "the serenity of a summer afternoon at the ballpark and the game".

Speaking of the Point Richmond History Association, Gary philosophically states, "One of the problems with our society is lack of community interest and pride. In a small way the History Association brings that interest and pride to the community. I like Point Richmond-- it is a pleasant place to live."



10th Mountain Division Reunion - Vail, Colorado

Oct 1992

- Bob Yank

Formerly Platoon Sergeant

Grace and I just returned from a five-day reunion of my World War II buddies...plus 1600 other men with wives and children..in Vail. This was the favored place to meet since it was near the site of our training, Camp Hale in the Colorado Rockies, at 9,000 feet elevation. Vail was started as a ski resort after the war by 10th Mountain Trooper, Peter Seibert, and many of the other ski resorts were started by 10th guys after the war. Here we were in Colorado 50 years later...and some of the men I hadn't t seen since we were in combat in Italy in 1945. The people of Colorado throw out the red carpet for the 10th where their history is well known.

In 1941, the U.S. Army become convinced of the need for ski troops after observing the great success the Finnish Ski Troops had while facing superior numbers of Russian soldiers attempting to take over Finland. The National Ski Patrol not only convinced the U.S. Army to undertake the task, they actually handled the enlistments. It was considered an honor to be accepted for training in the new Division which would eventually number 15,000. You needed three letters of recommendation attesting to skiing or mountaineering skills and a personal interview before acceptance. I was 18 years old and reasoned that I'd rather take my chances on a snowy slope than rot in the jungles of New Guinea.

IN 1942-43 skiing was really in its infancy in this country. Most of us were college kids not long out of high school. However, the 10th had a great nucleus of top skiers and

mountaineers. We trained for 22 months in Colorado in the most severe weather conditions. Bivouacking (or camping out in the snow) was for 6-8 week periods, no fires allowed lest enemy forces could spot you, and temperatures of 40 degrees below zero. You built your own shelter from what you could find and watched over each other for signs of frostbite. Every three weeks we marched into camp for a shower of sorts, in tents on the parade grounds, then marched back to our bivouac. This was January and February in the Colorado Rockies.

The 10th was committed to combat in the Appenines of Italy in December of 1944 where the Allies had come to a standstill. The Allies had taken Mt. Belvedere, the key to the German defense, some three times. The 10th success was preceded by placing ropes on the cliffs with a whole battalion (about 3,000 men) without the Germans being aware. That following morning when they awoke, they faced the U.S. Army and surrendered.

The highlight, if there is such a thing in war, was near the end when our platoon crossed Lake Garda in amphibious vehicles, and we were told to take Mussolini's villa. We got there...it was silent...and found the villa empty. He and his mistress, Claire Petaschi, had escaped some hours before and to their ultimate demise at the hands of the partisans. All 40 of us soldiers took a turn sleeping in Mussolini's bed! We spent the end of the war in his 45-room villa.

(Note: Bob's war momentos include Mussolini wedding picture album and a Haile Selassie sword. The Yanks recently moved from Sanderling Island in Brickyard Cove to Sonoma but Grace commented, "We will always be a part of the Point Methodist Church")

Memories of the Medical History of Point Richmond

Wm. L. Thompson, M.D.

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

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

Here is our seventh series from Dr. Thompson. In this series he chronicles the history of medicine as it was practiced in the Richmond Area.

Part One

Some years ago, probably in the early 1960's, Dr. C.L. Abbott published a large single article on the history of medicine in Contra Costa County. I believe that this was in the Richmond

Independent. This was fairly complete up to that date but often did not define where these medical men were located within the County. This and my own memory are the sources of this article.

The medical history of Point Richmond was, of course, rather brief but quite interesting. Very early, except for San Pablo and later East Yard, there was little need for medical men in the area due to the almost total lack of population. I have never heard of a physician in East Yard but I assume that the inhabitants were cared for thru the facilities of the Santa Fe.

The first doctor recorded in West Contra Costa County was Dr. S.J. Tennent who had married a daughter of the Spanish commandant of the San Francisco Presidio and then settled on a large land grant in the Pinole area in about 1849. He apparently did some medical practice in the region. In 1855 a Dr. David Goodale settled in the San Pablo area and apparently became the first physician to practice in the region.



During the time of the construction of the Santa Fe tracks and tunnel, a Doctor H.P. Mulligan of Martinez gave medical care in the region. Apparently he was located part time in this region and according to Dr. Abbott, should probably be considered the first doctor in Point Richmond. About 1900 and before, the very few residents of the Point Richmond area had to receive their medical attention, if any, from the rare doctors in the San Pablo district.

Dr. Tewksbury was in this area very early but was primarily a land owner. I have no knowledge of his medical background or if he ever practiced medicine on the rare inhabitants of The Point region at that time.

In 1901, Dr. L.T. Gorsuch opened an office on Richmond Avenue, and built a home on the corner of Santa Fe and Cottage Avenues. Unfortunately he soon developed tuberculosis and left the area, dying of the disease in 1903. Apparently his entire family died of tuberculosis which was quite rampant in the area for many years. Also in 1901, Dr. George W. Stockwell moved to Point Richmond from San Pablo but shortly died of appendicitis.

The first of the more permanent medical men in The Point was Dr. Palmerton C. Campbell who opened an office in Point Richmond in 1901. Later he was appointed a surgeon on the staff of Governor Pardee and was appointed to be in charge of the medical care of the victims of the San Francisco earthquake and fire. Later he continued his practice in Point Richmond for many years and many of the older inhabitants here may still recall him. He was a rather pompous, well-dressed man, not overly ambitious but quite capable and well trained for the time. I recall that he had an office on the west side of Richmond Avenue about half way between Washington and Santa Fe. If he could not be found there he was usually at Kings Cigar Store.

I recall him well because he helped bring both me and my brother into the world and treated us later for many minor complaints. He had a residence up near the top of Washington Avenue and also owned a ranch, probably a fruit orchard up near Vacaville where he later retired. He had a daughter, Palma, and a son Jack, who was a classmate of mine in the old Washington School.



Delphina Franco moved to Point Richmond as a child of three. This is the second installment in a series of articles about her experiences in Point Richmond beginning in the early 20's.

Point Richmond in the 1920's

by Delphina Franco

Schools Part One

Washington School had promotions twice a year - such as from Low First to High First, etc., but contained in the same room. Children could, therefore, enter kindergarten twice a year and since I was too young for the August beginning, I began just after Christmas. The teacher had set up the year as on ongoing program and my coming in late meant I came into a cohesive group and I had missed the slow buildup in learning what to do and in getting acquainted with the other kids. Everything was so new and strange that I felt that the teacher didn't like me, but I liked school and got along well. I felt especially bad that the dramatization of Goldilocks and the Three Bears was all cast and the house already made of large Lincoln logs, so that two or three children could get inside. There was no roof and we could step over the walls. It was fun, but there was no part for me.

Once in the grades, the twice yearly change was fun and when the teacher taught the low grade we got examples and

then had time to do the practice on our own while the teacher gave the high grade new work. Several of us were able to get our work done in a hurry and listen to the explanation for the upper grade. By the end of the six months we'd heard the explanations again and rapidly caught on to what was needed to be done. We also helped some of the kids who did not work so quickly.

The playground was divided into boys' and girls' sides and we couldn't "cross over". We even had PE with separation of the sexes. Some of us girls could play outside the fence at recess in the gravel area which separated the school and playground from the large, wide sink depression which had water in it during the rainy time of year, but no more than a few inches. There were stepping stone rocks down there, but we were forbidden to play there. The area around the depression had dirt added, it appeared, so that there were some high and some lower places like miniature hills and valleys. In the gravel area adjoining, the girls used to make "castles" by outlining the perimeters with stones and dividing the area into rooms inside. The main room was the "treasure hall" in which were placed various pieces of colored glass which we found in the gravel area. The boys used to pretend they were cowboys or something else which required horses and would gallop up and down the miniature hills and valleys, whooping and hollering as they went. What bothered the girls was that the boys would periodically raid our castles

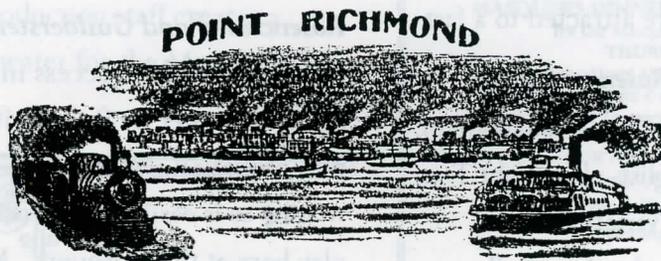
after school, carry off our treasure, and break up our castles.

While playing "castles", there seemed to have been an unwritten rule about who could be princesses and since I had long, dark curls and everyone knew princesses had long, blond hair, I could never be a princess. It was a deep grievance to me. (Now that my hair is white, it is too late to be a princess.)

The first play I was in, I was to be a red tulip. The casting had nothing to do with talent. The teacher simply asked who had a red dress and who had a yellow dress. I had a red dress. Another girl had a yellow one. We learned a little song and squatted down at the beginning and as the song progressed, we rose gradually, "growing" like tulips in the springtime. I was delighted for a time. Suddenly one morning I woke up with red spots all over my body, and Dr. Lucas came to say I had measles and put a yellow quarantine sign on the door. The shades were drawn and I was not allowed to play except in the dark room. My mother got me some miniature furniture to play with, but that fun was overshadowed by my sadness that I was not going to be a red tulip. I was not go-

ing to be over the measles until after the play. There was nothing that could be done to speed up the process, and even praying to angels or fairies (I confused the two) had no effect. My heart was broken. Al and my parents tried to make me feel better by telling me that in reality I was a red tulip and if I didn't believe it to look in the mirror. They thought such levity was funny. I thought they were heartless. There were other school plays without mishap, one of which was "Six Who Pass While the Lentils Boil", and both Ed Garrard and I had a part in it.

Others in my class were Fay Hallstrom (until the El Segundo plant of Standard Oil opened up and her father was transferred), Helen Oehne, Jean Williams, Teresa Bernardi, Eugene Corr, Norma and Alexander, who came to school every day in a taxi from Winehaven, and J.D. Vincent. I remember that the teachers all tried to get J.D. to give them his names, but he swore that he had none, only initials. He lived out by the brickyard and his family had a sailboat. Elsie Beck (whose father captained a San Rafael Ferry), Betty Dornan and Marie Corr were in a lower grade not far behind.



ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD

By Tom Stoppard
Directed by Steve Hill



A Review from *Anne Hanzlik*

If theater goers are attracted to a fast paced amusing show, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* should satisfy them. The contemporary English playwright Tom Stoppard intended his variation on Shakespeare's *Hamlet* to be first of all a

comedy. It has a boffo or slapstick quality about it, that as one of his director's said of his plays, "you have to be foreign born to write English with that kind of hypnotized brilliance."

Tom Stoppard is just that. He was born in Czechoslovakia in 1937 and because of the Nazi invasion of that country the family was transferred to Singapore where later his father was killed and Tom and his family went to Darjeeling where Kenneth Stoppard, a British army major married Tom's mother and so after the war they returned to Britain. Tom left preparatory school at seventeen and went to work as a reporter, but after making contact with the Old Vic Repertory company he decided to make theater and playwriting his main occupation. He joined a group of young writers in London known as "The angry young men". Success came early to him and his first play known as "A Walk on the Water" was produced in Hamburg shortly after that. At about that time he began working on what was to become *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*. It became a London success in 1965. Although a prolific writer he finds writing hard and his preoccupation with language colors his writing as is easily observed in the present play here at the Masquers. Much of the

dialogue seems pointless or like double-talk although it has been much analyzed about the implication of some of the episodes such as the coin toss in the opening scenes.

Recently Stoppard has shown a more serious side in his interests with his involvement with Amnesty International and his visit with Vaclav Havel about Human Rights.

Stoppard, although still young has been a major playwright for some time but his viewpoints have been changing and he has said, "I don't respect people who are rigorously consistent.."

The two main characters in *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* have the spotlight for almost the whole play, but they also share it with the Player and the Tragedians. Robert Hamm as Rosencrantz and Daniel Galant as Guildenstern do a splendid and capable job and Jim Fye as the Player is more that adequate. The whole cast as well as the director deserve praise for presenting this intriguing play so brilliantly, and as usual the production staff creates a very professional theater for the Masquers 40th Anniversary.



The Masquers Playhouse
proudly presents

ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD

By Tom Stoppard
Directed by Steve Hill

This play propelled Stoppard to the forefront of contemporary drama. It tells the story of Hamlet from the bewildered standpoint of this most famous pair of walk-ons. "A brilliant comedy" - NY critic Clive Barnes

THE CAST

Linda Ellinwood	Robert Hamm	Douglas McGann
Jim Fye	Tim Hart	Al Schmedieke
Daniel A. Galant	Paulette Herring	Ellie Ohara
Katheryn Gilbert	Esther Hersh	Montano Sokolow

Friday & Saturday evenings: JAN. 21 - FEB. 26

Sunday Matinees: JAN. 30 FEB. 6 and 20

24 HR. RESERVATIONS: (510) 232-4031

Reservations held until 10 minutes before curtain.
Group Rates Available.

Box Office opens at 8PM; 2PM for matinees
Curtain 8:30PM Matinees 2:30PM
Admission: \$8⁰⁰

MASQUERS DINNER & THEATRE BENEFIT
for the Masquers Building Fund
THURS., FEB. 24

Dinner at the Hotel Mac followed by performance
of *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*
for only \$25. To reserve, call (510) 236-4988.

OUR NEXT ATTRACTION...
the classic American comedy
You Can't Take It With You
Opening March 25



What's Happening at the **West Side Library?**

by *Michael Senturia,*
*Temporary Branch
Librarian*

The Westside Library, located in Point Richmond on 135 Washington Avenue adjacent to the Fire House and Community Center, is open 12:00 to 7:00pm, Monday and Tuesday, and 12:00 to 5:00pm, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, with a special half-hour Thursday morning, 10:00-10:30 am, for children's story time. Come introduce yourselves, and meet temporary branch librarian Michael Senturia, library assistants Mary Ann Goodman, Catherine Nichols and Don Pampel, and library aides Linda Cisneros and Leo Leong. Let us know what you would like at your library!

TAX TIME

Yes, tax time is painful. But if you need federal or state tax instructions and forms, Westside Library has both. We also have a copy of the Federal Tax Guide for Individuals and a copy of the Federal Tax Guide for Small Businesses for use in the Library.

NEWS

Westside Branch carries subscriptions to the San Francisco Chronicle, the West County Times, the Sunday New York Times, Newsweek, and, as a gift, receives the Wall Street Journal. Current issues of our fifty periodicals are available for use in the library; other issues of periodicals may be checked out for seven days.

CHILDREN'S STORYTIME

Storytime at Westside, every Thursday morning, 10:00-10:30 am, is a wonderful opportunity for preschool children, children with special needs, and their parents to come have Westside all to yourselves for a half-hour of stories, songs and play with our talented children's staff. And parents, while you're here, it's an ideal time to check out books for your youngster and for yourself.

NEW TITLES

New titles due to arrive in March include Harold Coyle's Code of Honor, Dr. Robert Giller's Natural Prescriptions, Jack Higgins' On

Dangerous Ground, Dan Durnzman's, Lift to Die, Robert Litell's The Visiting Professor, and Jean Plaidy's, The Rose Without a Thorn. We borrow current fiction and nonfiction items from the Main Branch on a rotating basis for use by Westside patrons. And if you're in the library and don't find what you want, be sure to let us know. We will try to come up with it for you.

ENVIRONMENTAL/HEALTH SOURCES

Westside has on hand copies of the City of Richmond General Plan and Zoning Ordinances,

the Chevron EIR's on the Reformulated Gasoline project, the 1993 Contra Costa Congestion Management Plan, the draft EIR of the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan, reports on the Port of Richmond Shipyard #3, and a copy of President Clinton's Health Care Plan.

GIFTS

The Library accepts donations of books, which may be added to the permanent collection or turned over to the Friends of the Library for sale.

Sports Memories

Allan Smith

*E*ach year, as long as I can remember, in January and February the most important food fish in the world have been coming to the shores of Point Richmond. The female herring deposits eggs that cover the rocks along the shores near the Santa Fe tracks. Most fishermen in the past tried their luck fishing for shiners, pogies, and bass from the Point Richmond shores, but the thrill of using a large net to catch the herring at the foot of Garrard Blvd., now Dornan Drive, and along Ferry Point can never be forgotten. My brother, Len, had a favorite spot that he fished from daily during the early morning hours of the "herring run". Thousands of fish were given to people who came with containers and promised to salt them down and not use them for fertilizer.

Standard Oil Refinery's Salt Water Station

at the foot of the Long Wharf was an ideal location to catch the herring. The company provided an employee to net and distribute the fish to anyone with the appropriate bucket or container.

The herring industry locally has become a lucrative business and you can see San Francisco Bay spotted with many herring boats that come from all California ports that were lucky enough to win a license. Herring are well formed with numerous bones but the eggs are the delicacy and attraction as the Japanese have discovered and are paying exorbitant prices for them.

Will we ever again see the rocks along the Santa Fe tracks towards Ferry Point looking like snow due to the female herring egg deposits?

MISC. STUFF



Contra Costa Local History Week Proclaimed

On January 4, 1994 the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors issued a Proclamation which designated May 15th through 21st as Contra Costa County Local History Week. Your ideas are encouraged as to how we should celebrate, suggested are; walking tours and designated old time dress days.



Jones Grandchild Born

Robert and Winifred Hooten are thrilled to announce the birth of their

little boy on January 16, 1994. Austin Roy Hooten was born at 6:15 pm at Kaiser Hospital in Vallejo. He is the grandson of Roy and Maxine Jones.



Valentine Making Contest

Young and old are invited to a Valentine making contest and party on February 13th at the Community Center. The cost is 25 cents per person and all materials will be supplied. Judges will give awards for the various categories. This event begins at noon.



Washington School Class of 1950

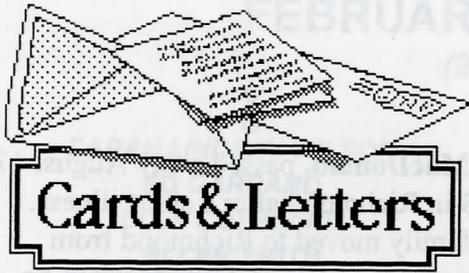
Left to Right

Top Row

Center Row

Bottom Row

1 _____	1 _____	1 _____
2 _____	2 _____	2 _____
3 _____	3 _____	3 _____
4 _____	4 _____	4 _____
5 _____	5 _____	5 _____
6 _____	6 _____	6 _____
7 _____	7 _____	7 _____
8 _____	8 _____	
9 _____	9 _____	
10 _____	10 _____	
	11 _____	



Cards & Letters

Dear PRHA:

Enclosed find check for \$10.00 as a donation. I enjoyed looking at the "Happy Holiday" cards sent to me, especially the one showing the Hotel Mac. I grew up and went to school in Point Richmond and Richmond with Maurie, Robert, Edward and Jim McAfee. We used to live on Cottage and Santa Fe Avenue.

I left in the mid 1940's. Looks like the town has now gotten a new face lift.

Thanks,
Spiro Cakos
Phoenix, AZ

Thanks for the letter and donation, and we are glad that you enjoyed the cards, it was fun to be able to send them.
Gary



Dear Mr. Shows:

Attached, please find copy for the Westside Branch Library my contribution to the next issue of This Point in time.

I have enjoyed perusing back issues of your Newsletter, and look forward to becoming better acquainted with this lively and special community.

Sincerely,
Michael Senturia
Temporary Branch Librarian
Westside Branch Library

Welcome Michael and we all thank you for your excellent first report, it looks to me like we might soon be asking you to drop that "Temporary" in your title.
Gary

Dear "TPIT":

Thank you very much for the beautiful note cards of Point Richmond scenes. I especially like the one of the bay and buildings beside it on the hillside. It brings back memories of my childhood when I knew every stretch of beach in Point Richmond.

Also my husband and I enjoy so much "TPIT". It is so much fun to recall the places and names in the newsletter. You and your staff do a real service and I thank you very much for it.

Sincerely,
Elsine Beck Ten Broek
St. Helena, CA



Dear Pam:

We've really enjoyed "This Point in time" during the past year, and have recognized many of the Washington School names. I went to R.U.H.S. with some of them, graduating in December 1938. The latest 1932 picture in the Holiday 1993 issue has many familiar faces.

The articles about the homes and the families who lived in them are so interesting, great old pictures, too. Thanks for the memories!

Inez Pestana
Patterson, CA



Dear Friends:

My husband and I want to express our thanks for the lovely note paper which we received from you at Christmastime. It is a lovely gift and I'm sure we will find many times to use it.

Sincerely,
Lloyd & Melba Farley
Point Richmond

Deaths...



Roy Jones died on Sunday, December 26, 1993 of cancer. He was 70. Memorial services, led by the Rev. Bill Gates, were held January 4, 1994 at the historic Point First United Methodist Church. Born in Jet, Oklahoma, he had lived in the Point the past 38 years and was retired as an accountant with Ford Motor Company.

Although Roy never had a music lesson he was a talented pianist often sharing his music with different denominations of churches. When the Point Baptist Church closed their doors, Roy joined the First Methodist Church. People came to enjoy his special gospel jazz music on Sunday mornings. Throughout the years Roy played for Community Sings held at the church. Roy's southern background surfaced as he good-naturedly denounced certain songs in the Methodist hymnal as "Yankee Music" not worth playing!

Roy was a regular volunteer in the Point Richmond History Museum and kept the candy jar filled for the kids that might come in and often added flowers in the outside planter boxes to "give the building a little class!"

Roy is survived by his wife, Maxine, a daughter Winifred Hooten; stepson Rick Dustin; stepdaughters Debra Brindisi, Roxanne Salyer and Cindy Toth; brothers Richard and a twin, Ray Jones; sister May covey and Hallie Whaley.



Pat MacDonald, passed away August 17, 1993 in Richmond after a short illness. His family moved to Richmond from Prince Edward Island, Canada when he was 7 years old. They lived at what is now Our Lady of Mercy's parish house. He went through Richmond Schools and graduated in June of 1934 from Richmond Union High School. He served in the merchant marines, was active in Sons in Retirement #73. He retired from P.G.&E. after 28 years of service.

Pat is survived by his wife Evelyn, daughter Evelyn Meadows, two grandsons, Patrick and Steven of Rodeo, brothers Augustine and Lewis MacDonald, and sister Rita Hansen.



Gordon Campbell, died January 14, 1994 in Gardenville, NV of natural causes, he was 76 years old. Gordon lived in Point Richmond for over thirty years and was especially well remembered for his parties. He was a California Highway Patrolman and later operated Quarry Products.

Gordon is survived by his wife Barbara, one son and three daughters.

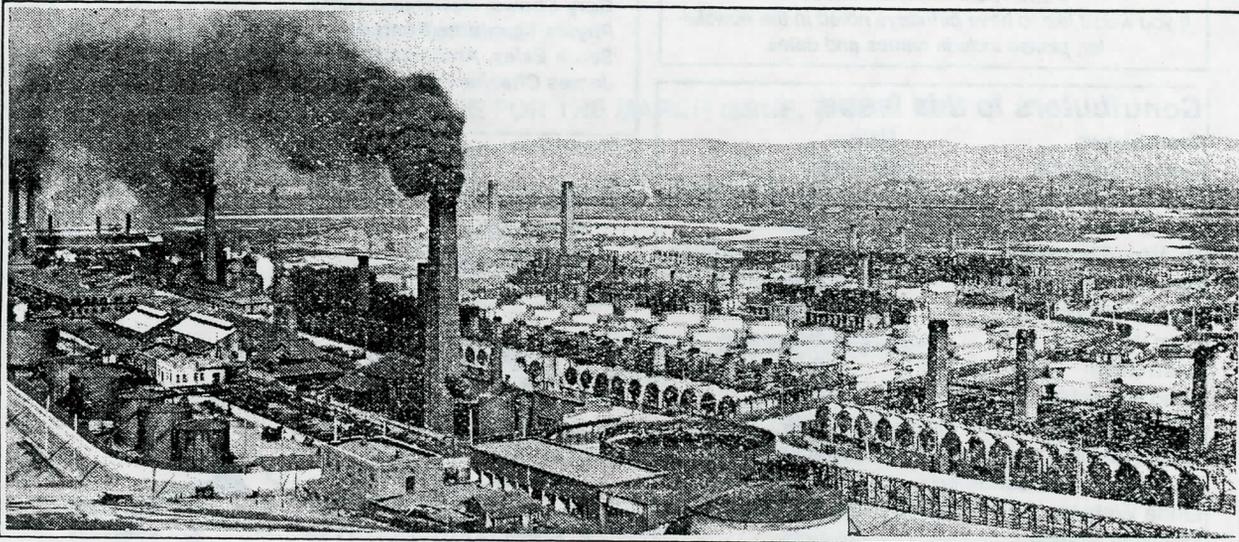


FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

(234-5334)

SARAH LINDSAY WILSON
ED GARRARD
DIXIE COPELAND
ALLAN SMITH
CHRIS ROTTING
HELEN VALENTINE
BESSIE SQUIRES
ROWENE MAC MILLAN
DODY PERRY
ETHEL MAC MILLAN
WALLACE MAC MILLAN
ARLINE RODINI HARTMAN
HORTENSE MC GEE
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

KIM WARD
BILL WILLIAMSON
FRANK PEARSON
DOUG BUSBY
MITZI KRUSE
BARNABY EDWARDS
MARCOS ROTTING
CONNIE HEALY
PEARLE WESTMAN
LANDOW HOWE
DAGMAR FRANCIS
MARV SHUR
PHIL DORN



A VIEW OF THE STANDARD OIL WORKS, RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA.

*I am a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work
the more I have of it.*

- Stephen Leacock

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.

Contributors to this issue:

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Dr. Wm. Thompson	Article/Illustration
Don Church/Allan Smith	Historic Photos
Jerry Cerkanowicz	Various
Pam Wilson	Membership
Allan Smith	Articles
Jean Reynolds	Article
Michael Senturia	Article
Anne Hanzlik	Article
Marilyn Levine/John Allen	Mac Work
Linda Webster	Illustrations
Delphina Franco	Article
Anne Hanzlik	Article
Bob Yank	Article
Sheila Fostiak	Photo
Evelyn MacDonald	Article

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

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Point Richmond, CA 94801

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Calendar

February, 1994

- February 1**
Tuesday Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting,
7:30pm, Point Community Center
- February 2**
Wednesday Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting,
11:30am, Point Richmond Methodist Church
- February 9**
Wednesday Ground Hog Day
- February 12**
Saturday Point Richmond Business Association Meeting,
Noon, Hotel Mac
- February 13**
Sunday Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
- February 14**
Monday Valentine Making Contest and Party, Noon
Point Richmond Community Center
- February 16**
Wednesday Valentine's Day
- February 18**
Friday Ash Wednesday
- February 21**
Monday DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE, TPIT
- February 22**
Tuesday President's Day Holiday Observed
- March 1**
Tuesday George Washington's Birthday
- March 1**
Tuesday Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting,
7:30pm, Point Community Center
- March 9**
Wednesday Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting,
11:30am, Point Richmond Methodist Church
- March 12**
Saturday Point Richmond Business Association Meeting,
Noon, Hotel Mac
- March 17**
Thursday Day at the Races, and Crazy Hat Contest
- March 20**
Sunday St. Patrick's Day
- March 20**
Sunday First Day of Spring