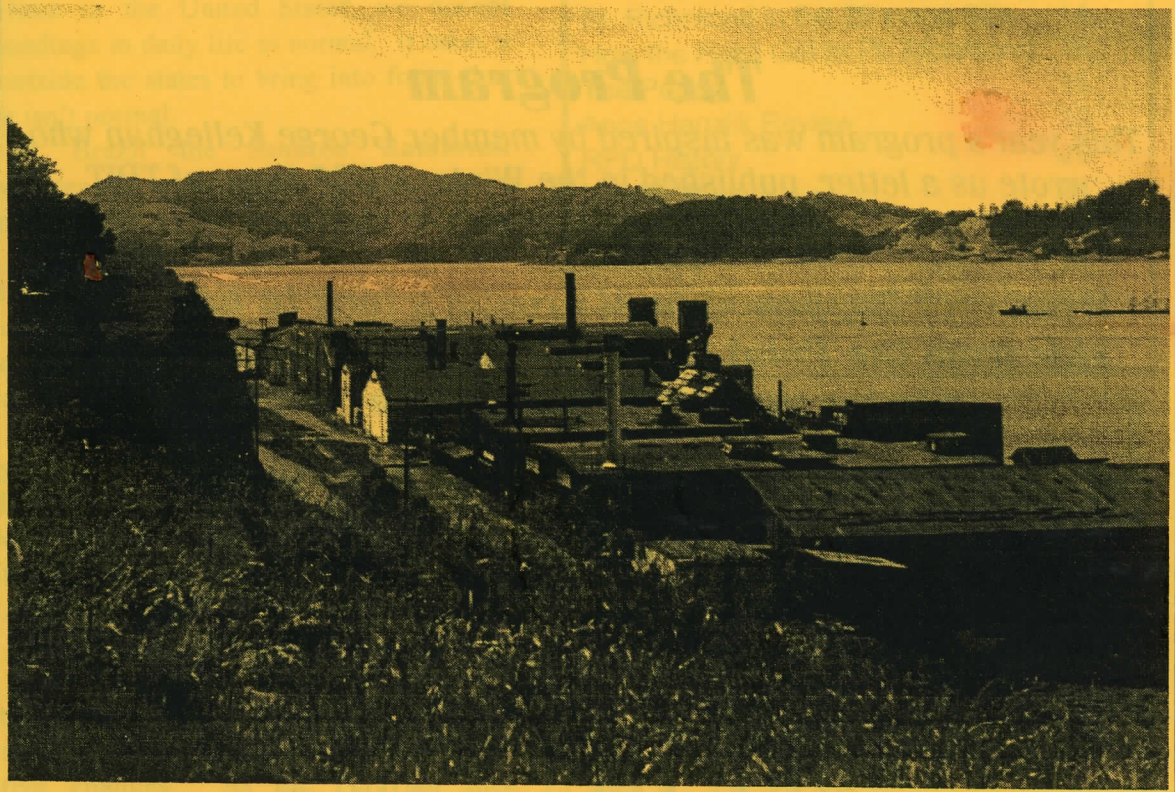
THIS POINT.... in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

Vol. XIII No. 9 **April, 1995** **$1.50**



Annual General Membership Meeting and Election of Board of Directors

is scheduled for

Sunday May 21, 1995

at

2:00pm to 4:00pm

Point Richmond Community Center

The Program

This year's program was inspired by member George Kelleghan who wrote us a letter, published in the Winter 94/95 issue of TPIT. George said:

"What ever happened to Al Frosini's idea to have all us kids from the Point to meet and discuss old times of growing up in the Point. Count me in!"

WELL KIDS! THIS MEETING IS ALL YOURS! WE WILL PROVIDE THE PLACE, THE ORGANIZATION, THE REFRESHMENTS AND WHATEVER WE CAN TO MAKE THIS A MEMORABLE REUNION! THE REST US UP TO YOU!

The rest of us will watch and enjoy! So George, Al, Al, Ed, Delfino, and all of you wonderful Point "***KIDS***" from all over the country, make your plans, give us an RSVP phone call before April 28th (if you can).

Anne Hanzlik 510-237-6797 or Jerry Cerkanowicz 510-235-1336

From the President

MID DORNAN

Living in Richmond or California or anywhere in the United States, we accept surroundings in daily life as normal. It takes a trip outside the states to bring into focus that which isn't normal.

In Brazil the Amazon Rainforest knowledgeable, you, native Silvano, has a dream...a dream to work on a cruise ship! In Peru 10 year-old peddler of watercolor paintings, Cesar, who has mastered the English language from the street tourists, wishes he could attend school after age 14 because education is no longer free and he is poor, living in a heatless, brown-sod hut in Cuzco with many other brothers and sisters. In Chile the children look dirty in face and clothes because the water comes from the glacial peaks and they don't have hot water heaters! How many such cold baths would you take?

Third world countries are in our backyard and are our neighbors. Their histories were writting before ours. Now our advanced technology is beginning to affect noticeable, positive changes. As the Peruvian Inca descendant guide commented, "We are beginning to educate our people. We have laws to get them to school. It has taken too long".

Whether it was swimming in the awesome Amazon, riding under the wildly-wonderful and

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cascading Liguasu Falls in Argentina, hiking the picture-postcard Andes at Puella, Chile or climbing the mystical Machupicchu ruins in Peru, South Americas most important archaeological site, such education cannot be found in books, Living history leaves its impact.

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

Alexandra Gautraud
Bertha May McCloskey
Anne Hanzlik
Sonja M. Darling
Marie Linesie Ostrom
Virgilia Metzgar
Thelma Heoker Harvey
Ethel Schumacher
Alma Braden
Lyle & Connee Fisher Family
Sheila Fostiak
B.A. Squires and Family

And a warm welcome to new member:

Charles Novascone

Museum Staff Coordinator Betty Dornan thanks volunteers who staffed the History Building:

&

Our usual

Thank You!

to

Santa Fe Market

for their donated distribution of
"THIS POINT....in time"

Congratulations

Diana Corbin

this year's winner of the famous Point Richmond Business Association

CRAZY HAT CONTEST

on March 19, 1995 at Golden Gate Fields

Steve Wyrick called early to identify the 1903 photo on page 13 in the Point as Idaho Street. The first house is Henry Allyn's, the 3rd belonged to Gust Allyn, the 2nd to the late Diaan Allyn Lawrence and the last to Steve Wyrick.

For your information all landscape photos in last month's TPIT (except page 17),and including the cover are from the same wonderfully clear 1903 photograph given to us by Dr. Thompson, once it is properly restored, it will be on display in our little museum.

If you can help staff our History Building (2½ hours per month) call museum Staff Coordinator Betty Dornan at 232-4317.

Museum Hours:

Thursday	**11:30am - 2:00pm**
Saturday	**11:30 - 2:00pm**

Editor's Notes

GARY SHOWS

Here is the April issue. I think you will love Tom McGowan's literary contribution. I will probably break it into three parts. You will see the conclusion of "The Poppy", it is the signatures of all in the class, some sign in very light pencil and is almost invisible. I reproduced this old booklet as throughly as I possibly could, hope you enjoyed it.

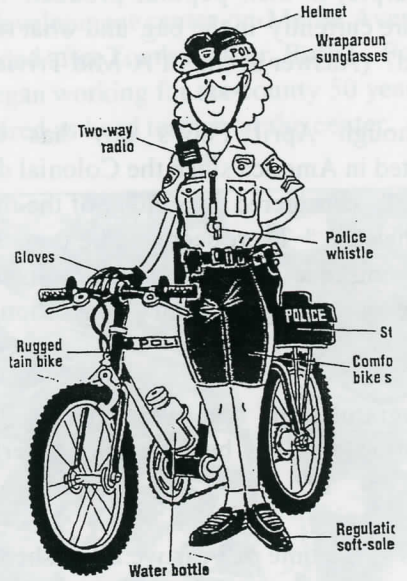
There is space coming up in the newsletter as, unfortunately several of our favorite articles are coming to their natural end. So now is the time to share your memories of old Point Richmond. Maybe you are not old enough to have old memories to share, well this is your newsletter too, maybe you grew up here or maybe you just arrived, we at the PRHA think we live in a unique community and would like to know your opinion or impressions of it. Please use this newsletter to share ideas.

Thanks to newsletter staff for your response to my pleas for deadline compliance. You did so good that I was able to spread the workload. Only one of you was B-A-D..... and you know who you are!

And best of all, the rains seem to have finally stopped, the hills are super green, the fruit trees and wildflowers are blooming and now maybe we can all remember why we have chosen to live here!

The deadline for the May issue is April 21, 1995.

The March Issue Assembly Crew:
Liz McDonald
Muriel Clausen
Mary Highfill
Pam Wilson
Jerry Cerkanowicz
Gary Shows



RPD Bike patrol fashion

Cover:

Old whaling station and rendering plant (currently being torn down with heavy equipment).

Photo taken by James Bailey a longtime resident of Point Richmond who died in 1986, and is shown here courtesy of Lee Chapman.

Correction:

Marian and Fay Hawkins celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, not just their 5th.

A-Mid TRIVIA

-Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question: M&M/Mars is conducting a survey whether to include other colors (pink, blue, purple) in their popular product. What colors are currently 'in the bag' and what ratios are used? (Answer at end of A-Mid Trivia.)

***

Although April Fool's day has been celebrated in America since the Colonial days, it has been considered a "holiday of the mind, not of the state." There seems to be something about being able to laugh at our foolishness that never changes from generation to generation .

***

Congratulations and welcome to Betty Conception who has become and American Citizen.

***

This is the time of year we all wished our streets were as beautiful as Tunnel Avenue with its blooming trees

***

And weren t the tulips and iris at 430 High Street colorful and impressive!

***

Getting married has been made easier in California with the elimination of blood tests. Like rice or bird seed at a wedding, the state law was tossed out in January. Anyone that remembers when a license to marry cost $2 may be surprised to learn that same License now costs $64.

***

Bryan Smith, headlined and pictured in the Times Sport section on March 6th as the Secret Agent Man playing professional baseball, is the son of Marcellina and Allan Smith. Former student at Washington School, St. Marys College and an Eagle Scout in Troop 111, Bryan is an FBI agent enjoying six weeks of vacation playing professional ball, without pay, for the California Angels during their strike. There are some winners during this crisis in baseball

***

From the City Auditors report March 20 1926 to June 30, 1933, receipts of the Municipal Natatorium included: Bathing caps-$9,258.60; bathing belts-$31.00; ear stopples $310.00 and water wings-$310.40.

***

The same report noted recreation expenses in the Point at Janice Park in the amount of $111.76 for labor $82.64 and water $41.57; and at Washington Park $1507.55 for labor $1307.95, lights $7.55; rock $9.13 and water $182.92.

***

Support the Annual Junktique Sale on May 6th at the historic Methodist Church.

***

National Laugh Weeks has been sponsored by the Humor Societies of America since 1945. The first 10 days of April are set aside to honor aspiring and already popular comedians.

***

Preparing for vacation usually takes time: time taken from other daily tasks, but pleasurable. Pressure from last minute details and commitments can create stress.

Who do you know that plans a three week trip to Africa, is packed and ready before departure date, takes time to exercise that

morning at the Y followed by a massage and a leisure lunch. Then with laptop computer in place, makes an unhurried trip to the airport in late afternoon. Well, that would only be Tom McGowan. No word how wife, Shannon, prepared for the trip.

***

For the first time since 1949 the Point Library has had its ceiling painted.

***

Russ and Kristi Johnson went to the Los Angeles area to help Kristi's parents celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary.

***

When Jean Eakle decided to drive to Southern California to look over her birthplace and renew childhood experiences, she didn't realize the adventure would include re-routing from I-5 because of a flood caused bridge collapse.

***

HAPPY BIRTHDAY (belated) VIRGINIA CHERNIAK...from the Methodist Church Choir!

***

Mark May 11th on your calendar for the Chamber of Commerce Point Richmond Stroll.

***

An Internal Revenue Service agent stopped in a small town to see the local preacher, an old friend. At his request, the minister showed him the church. Then he asked the agent what he thought of it.

"I'm disappointed", the tax man told him. "From the amount of money your parishioners list as donations I thought the aisles would be laid with gold "

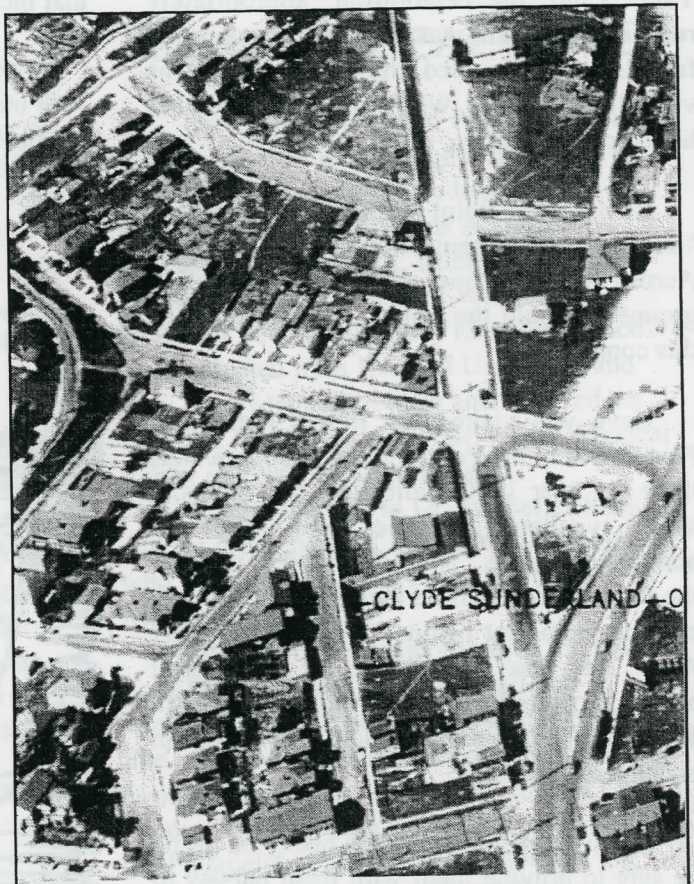
***

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, April 2nd. Set your clock ahead one hour. You'll get that hour back in October.

***

At the last meeting of county supervisor Tom Powers, it was voted to rename the Richmond Health Center after him. The Supervisors also agreed to rename the Pullman child development center on Maine Avenue in Richmond after Tom's mother, Ruth C. Powers, who began working for the county 50 years ago and retired as head teacher at the center.

***



How much can you identify in this old arial photo
Photo is courtesy of Anne & Joe Hanzlik

One of Point Richmond's greatest assets as a neighborhood is the compassion shown for fellow residents. This was exemplified when Tom McGowan and Grif Brazil from Hotel Mac hosted a benefit at Tom's Investment office for Claudia Beall (Print Shop owner) who has been seriously ill and in intensive care for several weeks. (And by now recuperating at home.)

***

Another was the Requiescat in Pace for Thomas Edwards. Held at the Point San Pablo Yacht Club, the celebration, appropriately requested by Tom, was attended by scores of friends who provided the buffet, and was virtually a "Who's Who" in Richmond that honored his memory.

***

BINGO....in Point Richmond? to benefit "Social Action Organizations". Isn't the 'Bra's Across America' one of those social action groups? Should the Points claim to fame be this connotation?

***

Have you visited the newly remodeled Post Office in the Point? Now double in size, there are over 1200 mailboxes, two clerks, a stamp vending machine, and space to administer stamps. Not confirmed is whether the Point station will be included in the credit card program that begins in late May in Bay Area. The post office will be the biggest acceptor of credit cards in the country with $50 billion in annual sales. Is cash an endangered species?

***

If you serve guests a meal heavy on garlic be sure to provide them with fresh parsley to munch on for fresher breath afterwards.

***

Veggie pills? Vitamin companies are hoping to cash in on this by introducing the vegetable components, called "phyto-chemicals" after the Greek word for plant, in drug stores, supermarkets and discount places. The suggested retail price is $8.99 for a 75 pill bottle of broccoli or spinach, $9.99 for mixed veggies. Instead of "eat your vegetables it will be have you taken your veggie pill"!

***

It's Spring! And Easter has arrived. Remember when Easter signaled a new outfit that included a hat? Hats are again in vogue.

***

Confucius say: Live everyday as though your income tax returns were going to be made public.

Happy Easter

Answer: Brown (30%), Red (20%), Yellow (20%), Green (10%), Orange (10%) and Tan (10%).

Sports Memories

by Allan Smith

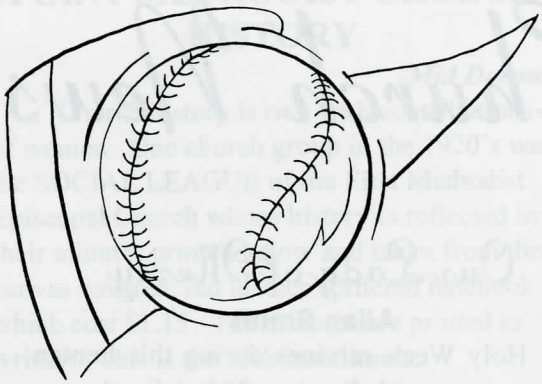
The University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) is the No. 1 in the country and top-seeded in the 1995 NCAA Tournament taking place throughout the USA at this time.

Many of the college players will become super stars in the professional basketball scene after they graduate.

I remember when Hank Luisetti won All-American honor at Stanford University in 1936, 1937 and 1938, and was elected to the Helms All-Time All-American Basketball team. Luisetti was the basketball player who introduced the one-handed jump shot that is used exclusively today by the players. Using this method of shooting, he once scored an unprecedented 50 points in one game (college) in New York which was a record for that time and it made him a national sports hero.

An interesting note: Standard Oil Company of California hired Hank Luisetti after he graduated from Stanford. The company sent him to the Richmond Refinery for a short time to learn the manufacturing part of the oil industry and it was at the "Brrel House" where we first met him. Hank was a great personality who was willing to share his national known sport achievements with his fellow employees.

Look for Allan's story of the Washington School "Bonecrushers" (see photo on page 20 March TPIT) in the May issue!



MICHELLE HEALY, M.D.

Dr. Michelle Healy of Point Richmond is now a Board Certified Pediatrician and has accepted a Fellowship in Pediatrics Rehabiliation at Rancho Los Amigos in Downey, California. Dr. Michelle, popular Point Richmonder, attended Washington Grammar School and Harry Ells High School. She graduated from Harvard University and New York Medical College and received her Pediatric Residency at Harbor, UCLA Medical Center in Torrance, California.

Congratulations to Dr. Michelle Healy and her proud parents, Jack and Connie Healy, who live in the Ocean Avenue of Point Richmond.

(When Michelle was living in the Point, I remember her as a great baseball fan. I wonder what she thinks of the game now? She learned about baseball from her father, Jack Healy and one of his relatives, Jim Cronin. Cronin was a big league player with the Philadelphia Athlics and later was a top infielder for the Standard Oil Refinery baseball Twilight League.)

Church News

Our Lady of Mercy

Allan Smith

Holy Week services during this Lenten Season starts with Passion (Palm) Sunday on April 9th. Our pastor, Rev. Jim Clift, is having special services during this period especially with Holy Thursday and Good Friday. The season will end with the traditional Easter Sunday celebration. The exact schedule will be available soon.

Andrea Puchalsky of the Wall Street Journal wrote the following: "Lent is a period of fasting and penitence for Roman Catholics, except when it comes to the Irish, St. Patrick's Day and corned beef".

"Cardinals in Detroit, New York and Boston, among other places, have intervened to absolve Catholics of a potential dilemma. Under the Catholic Code of Canon Law, Canon 1250, Fridays during Lent (the 40 days before Easter) are supposed to be meat free. But for many Americans of Irish heritage, to properly celebrate St. Patrick's Day requires the consumption of corned beef and cabbage. With St. Paddy's Day on a Friday this year, a situation that has occurred only twice since 1978, what are Irish Catholics to do? Well, call it the luck o' the Irish, or credit the Irishness of certain church fathers, but several ecclesiastical jurisdictions are granting special dispensation to allow the consumption of corned beef in observance of St. Patrick's Day. The dispensation was announced in pulpits across America last Sunday" (I must have been resting my eyes 'or stomach' when that announcement was read.).

Point Richmond Methodist

Jean Reynolds

Dream Breakfast A dozen dreamers met for breakfast prepared and served by the men on February 25th. The program was let by Kristi Johnson and provided an opportunity for those present to get better acquainted with each other's ideas and concerns as we strive to expand our ministry from half-time to full-time. We all felt good about the process we began and have scheduled another time to dream on May 13.

Dinners for G.R.I.P.'s Winter Shelter Program Members prepared and served dinner for homeless families in the Winter Shelter Program on March 13 and are scheduled to provide dinner on March 18. This is the second year of operation of this program which relies on churches as shelters for qualifying single women or families with children. Many of the operational needs of the program are provided by volunteers, thus minimizing the cost of operation. For many residents, it provides a temporary option for shelter while they network to find permanent housing.

Where have all the flowers gone? The altar display during this Lenten season has been an open suitcase: ready to pack for our spiritual journey. Each Sunday, items are packed (or unpacked) as we consider what might be needed for the trip.

Another dimension to the suitcase on the altar: Pastor Bill Gates will soon complete his studies at Pacific School of Religion and will be assigned to a congregation in Oregon or Idaho effective July 1st. Out "first family" of Bill, Pam, Ryan, Trevor and Cami Gates has given much to our community and we ask God's blessings on them as they journey to their new home and begin again.

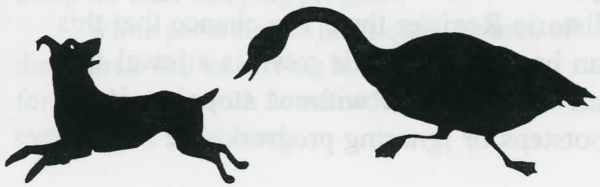
Also on a journey, the Rev. Dan Damon will be assigned as our pastor starting July 1st. Pastor Dan comes to us from Modesto and will live in the parsonage along with his wife Marion and daughter Heather. Music is one of Dan's special gifts. He writes hymns and plays jazz piano. We look forward to working with him and his family in our ministry in this community.

As Lent concludes The worship on Palm Sunday, April 9th will use drama to depict scenes from Holy Week.

There will be an Easter Egg hunt for children following the worship on Sunday, April 16th.

Special music for both of these services will be provided by the Joyful Noise Choir and worship begins at 11:00 am.

Spring cleaning anyone? The church Junktique Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 6th. Your donations can help. Call Betty Dornan (232-4317) or Marian Hawkins (235-3048) and they will be glad to arrange for items to be picked up or dropped off at the church.



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, red leather cornered natebook which cost $1.15. The minutes are printed as written. This is the 13th installment.

August 19, 1924

The Social League met at the parlors of First M.E. Church with Mrs. Vloeberghs as hostess and 15 members and 3 visitors.

Meeting opened by repeating Lords prayer led by Mrs. Owens.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

Report of by-laws committee that nothing as yet had been done.

Report by Mrs. Dicely on food sale, $36.75 cleared.

Discussion followed on silver to be purchased with proceeds. Committee appointed Mrs. Osborne, Scofield and Brothers and Jones to buy silver.

Date for bazaar set for 7th of Nov. Carried.

Next meeting of league election of officers.

Discussion of bazaar followed.

Meeting adjourned

Erma L. Parker, Secy

Cash on hand	40.32
Proceed food sale	36.75
	77.07
Silver offering	2.10
	79.17

This Old House

by

Muriel C. Clausen

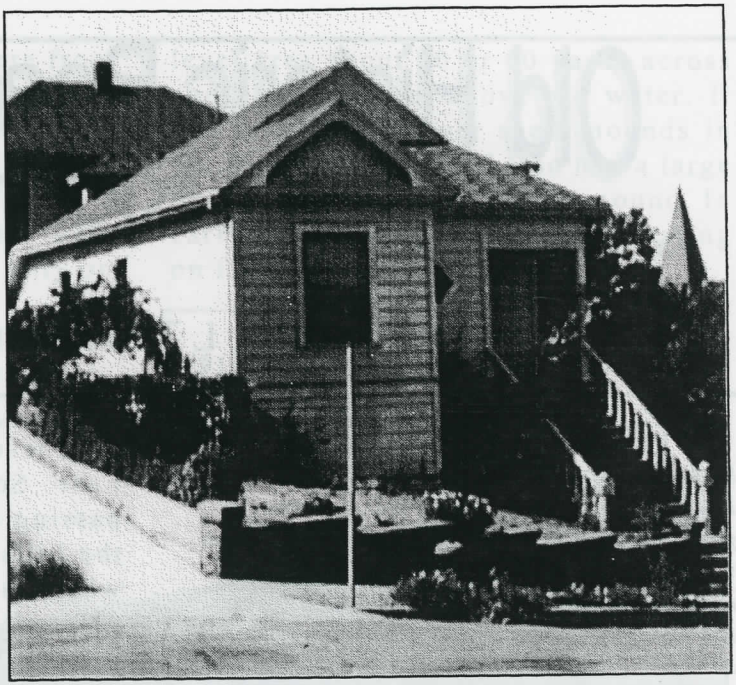
Chapter VIII
Some Final Remarks
Part Two

Following these simplest of simple houses, hip roof cottages and shelters that evolved during the Gold Rush era, some outside influences began to creep in and create minor changes. Southern California bungalows, house styles originally reflecting Southern California materials, climate, terrain, and needs, soon became a strong influence in our area. However, out of economic necessity and for speed of building, the bungalow as it was built in Point Richmond was built of local materials and built to respect our local climate and terrain, with only vague reflections of its source of inspiration and migration. The bungalow was such a satisfactory house for basic living that it became the predominantly produced house on the whole West Coast during the 20's and 30's. Even today with our more complicated way of living, the bungalow performs perfectly for many people. It is a house that is more than a basic shelter. The bungalow has space for more comfort and for more variety of functions within its shell.

Outside influences on our home designs here in Point Richmond were also felt. These were the European influences from Italy and Victorian England. Even so, these influences were modified and turned and tried as they made their way from Europe to our East Coast, across our broad country, and to our West Coast. The Italianate, the Princess Anne, and other "styles" that we have here in Point Richmond are as charming an interpretation of the original as one could want because they meet in the simplest manner possible the basic needs of this community and its workers. They were built quickly and directly with local materials to suit our climate and our terrain, and so became unique in themselves. If any pretension exists it is only in their original concept source which gives the structure a distinct "look". Here in Point Richmond these structures retain the scale, texture and quality of our community. It is simplicity and directness that melds these and other "styles" into the community to make it whole.

It is to be hoped that Point Richmond can retain this basic charm as the years go by. Certainly with the town being on the Historic Register there is a chance that this can happen. Our little town is a jewel that can be preserved without stopping in its footsteps or ignoring progress. We hope to

retain this feeling of unity and preservation as we continue to move on into the new era of cyberspace. We all still need a basic shelter that works for us, one that functions for us and is comfortable. While we may expand our space to meet growing household functions and the needs of our new world, we hope that these expansions can be carried out with simplicity and directness, leaving out pretension and retaining the scale and texture of our little town. These "old houses" make up Point Richmond as we know it, a historic place.



Annual Junktique Sale

The Annual Junktique Sale of the Point Methodist Church will be held on Saturday, May 6th 8:30 - 4:00. Proceeds help restore and maintain the physical facilities of this historic church. Clean those garages, attics (does anyone still have an attic?) and shelves! Wanted: Children's clothing and toys, furniture, books, pictures, dishes, pots and pans, bicycles, garden tools, tools, clocks, jewelry, plant containers, TV's, linens, radios, appliances, knick-knacks, miscellaneous. Leftover items are donated to a Boy Scout troop for their camping program.

While perusing the junktiques, women of the church will be serving homemade soups for lunch along with homemade pies. Come even for the great food.

"Senior of the Year" Nominations Being Accepted

The 1995 Senior Information Day Planning Committee representing West County wishes to pay special recognition to a senior who has made a difference in the "quality of life" for others in the community through his or her volunteer services. A representative is appointed from each city in West County to serve as a judge.

Special recognition will be given to the senior chosen as "Senior of the Year" and each nominee will receive a certificate of appreciation.

To obtain a nomination form or receive more information, contact Nancy Nielson at the Richmond Senior Center at 307-8085.

Old Historic Road Grades in the Point Richmond Hills

Wm. L Thompson

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 ninth series from Dr. Thompson, in which he describes the early road grades he has discovered in our hillsides

Part Three

Conclusion

Part Two ended with:

The two old road beds which joined at the cut continued on as a single bush-covered path around the marsh side of the range of hills tending slightly downward. After a short distance this trail was intersected by another which joined it at a right angle from below. This began at a primitive brush-covered road which passed along just above the base of the hill and was somewhat like the Glen Avenue grade mentioned before. This area now is the section covered by the sewage disposal plant and an area of large warehouses.

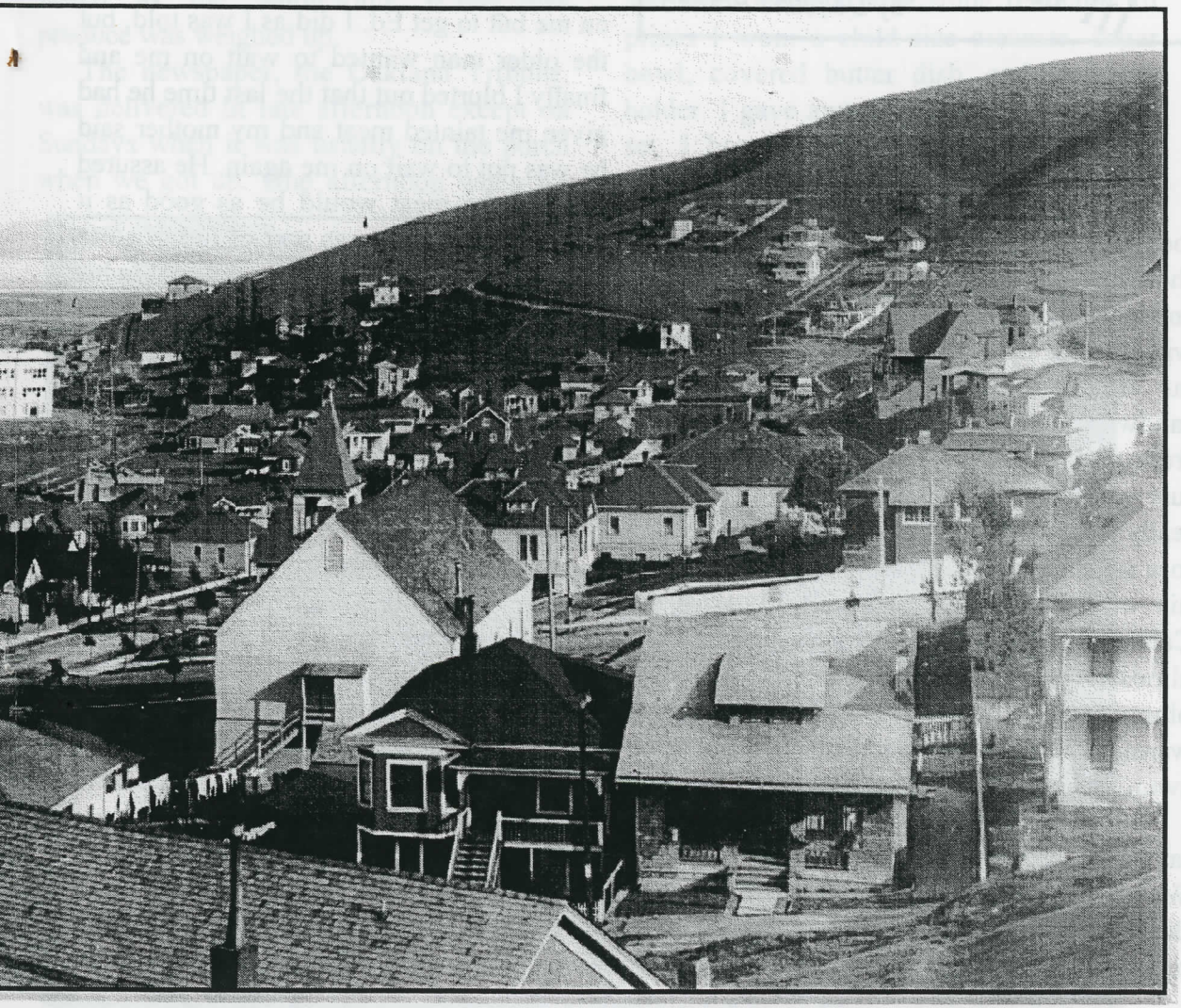
These two old roads, one from the East Scenic trail and the other passing along just above the base of the hills finally merged at the point where a long gentle ridge extends down from the crest of the Potrero Ridge. At this area there had been another grade which extended on up to the top of the ridge. Originally it had been barely visible, but at the start of World War Two, this road was repaired by the military and lightly paved to give access to an antiaircraft battery which had been installed on the ridge to give protection to the shipyards. Traces of the gun settings and old dugouts still remain.

Beyond the point where the old road ascended the ridge, the old extension of Scenic Avenue continued on originally above the old Schmidt home to a low point in the crest of the ridge. Here it passed over to the Bay side and continued along on this side to the end of Potrero (Bulldog) Point. On the Bay below this depression was a very fine beach which we knew as Long Beach. This was shallow and was an excellent

beach for children. The road here from East Richmond Avenue to this point was passable for cars and I recall automobiles using it at the time I was in high school. Beyond the point where the grade crossed the ridge, the route was badly eroded and passable only on foot.

Potrero Point at the very end of the ridge originally had been a relatively level area about 50 or 60 yards across and about 50 feet above the water. It had one of the larger shell mounds in the Richmond area and also had a large buckeye tree growing on the mound. In early life I had done a little excavating on this mound.

Below
1913 Photo from Don Church Collection.



Delphina Franco moved to Point Richmond as a child of three. This is the fourth and final installment in a series of articles about her experiences in Point Richmond beginning in the 1920's and 30's

Point Richmond in the 20's & 30's

by Delphina Franco

Day by Day

Part Two

Summer days, when the foggy mornings looked as though they were going to be short-lived, my mother would pack a lunch and we three would set out for the beach with towels and with swimsuits on under our clothes. The lunches were not just a sandwich, but also homemade cookies, fruit, and lemonade. Most of the time we just went to the quarry beach, but if we really felt up to the five mile walk, we went to a sandy beach. One time a neighbor and his wife took us all with his family to Calistoga where the medicinal waters were almost hot. We swam in the other cooler plunge. We couldn't dive well in the warmer pool and it was really too hot to swim for very long, but we had a great time.

Some summer days got quite hot and the tar on the road got all squishy and gushy. We pulled it up and chewed it. It was fun at the time, but I wonder how many germs we had to triumph over in the process. Also, in the warm afternoons the milkman would deliver the milk. The bottles were packed in ice and if we teased enough, the milkman would give us some ice to suck.

At times my mother would send me down to the meat market (there was some kind of meat on the table three times a day). I had my instructions about the kind and size of the purchase and one time she cautioned me not to let the older man wait on me but to get Ed. I did as I was told, but the older man wanted to wait on me and finally I blurted out that the last time he had given me tainted meat and my mother said he was not to wait on me again. He assured me that the meat would be as good as it turned out to be. It was sort of fun to go to the meat market as Ed always gave Al in his stroller a hot dog, and Al giggled appreciatively. When I was alone, the butcher would write out a slip with the price per pound and the quantity and I would take it to Vi who lived up the street from us and she would put down the total price that would be added to our monthly bill. I was always cautioned to check that she had not made a mistake and if there was one, to immediately take it back for correction. Very few times did I have to take it back, but I was proud when I caught a mistake.

It was a time when the rag-bottle-sack man shouting "rags, bottles, sacks!" came in a black covered wagon drawn by a horse almost any time during the day. (Sometimes families called him the "bogeyman" and said if the kids weren't good, he would come and get them. My mother didn't

believe in frightening us.) Housewives would go out with their accumulation and either give or sell the commodities to him. Another peddler who usually came in late afternoon was the green grocer with a wagon that had cloth sides that rolled up and a scale. My mother liked to go out and get the fresh fruits and vegetables. The evenings were usually balmy and it was fun to stand and watch as the wholesome homegrown produce was weighed up.

The newspaper, the Oakland Tribune, was delivered in late afternoon except on Sundays when it was usually on the porch when we got up. One afternoon when we lived at 16 Idaho (then owned by Mr. Nichols) the paper boy on his bike sailed the paper hard against the window and broke it. It was a mistake, but my mother went out and said, "I hope you don't think that Nichols is going to pay for this.", to which he replied, "No ma'am, I guess it's going to take dollars". The Aunt Elsie page interested me and there were from time to time contests and even today I have some remnants of prizes I won: a child-size creamer, sugar bowl, covered butter dish, and teaspoon holder. I gave away a battered pot and pan set. I hope the new owner had as much pleasure from them as I had.

How the Point got in Point Richmond

At least according to distinguished Point Richmond resident and businessman

Tom McGowan

The small town in which I live has a curious geometric obsession. I had lived here for over thirteen years before I really became aware of it. As I began to observe and study it in detail, I became increasingly amazed at the extent of the obsession. Only after months of research was I able to locate the origin of the phenomenon, but I am getting ahead of my story.

One day, as I strolled the sidewalks with a visiting client following lunch, my client commented on our pleasant "town square". I replied that it was really a "town triangle" rather than a square as it is bordered by three streets rather that four and comes to a very sharp point at the north end. At the north end of the small, block long triangle is a tiny park. At the tip of the park, on a triangular shaped column, stands the bronze statue of an american indian. As the statue is a replica of the original which had been melted down to help our doughboys win "the big one", the plaque on the column calls it "The Sentinel". This romanticized title, a far cry from the name of the original statue, masks a fascinating story of intrigue, cunning and treachery but again, I am getting ahead of my story.

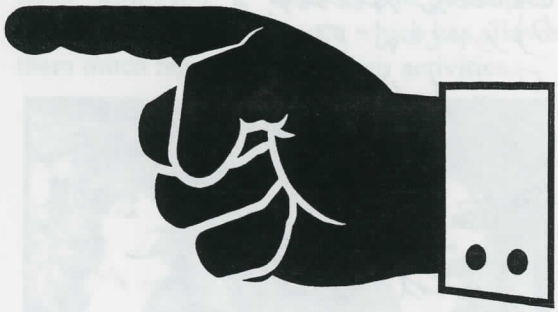
In the weeks following the stroll with my client, I began to look more carefully at the streets of the town. Your first impression is that the town is a network of gradually meandering streets. It is not. Of the 81 intersections that comprise our town, 48 are at odd angles, 24 are at acute angles, and only 9 new ones are at right angles. Additional turns along various streets are also invariably at acute angles. This street pattern makes for a crazy quilt of property lines and lot shapes. Everywhere one looks on the map,

you are met with sharp pointed shapes.

Our town is the only town on a very small island in San Francisco Bay. The island is about six miles long and three quarters of a mile wide at the widest section.. At each of its two ends, the island comes to a very sharp point. In modern times, a land bridge has been created to connect the island with the eastern shore of the bay but about 90% of our original shoreline is still intact.

The largest corporate presence on the island, Chevron, has chosen the stylized triple point of an arrowhead as their corporate logo. Various other smaller businesses have also incorporated the word "point" into their names. (the Point Bar, Point Orient Chinese Restaurant, Point Beath Productions.) A popular singing group comprised of women dressed and coifed in the style of the nineteen forties when shipbuilding ruled the island, call themselves "The Pointer Sisters". The two local active churches and the two privately owned former churches all have pointed bell towers. The most striking feature of the now Tech Center development is two walls that meet at an exceedingly acute angle to form a dramatic point. The town is even often called, "The Point".

Most people assume that is is named after "Point Richmond" which appears as a small protrusion on the west side of our island on nautical charts of San Francisco Bay. Until I began to research the "Indian Statue" as it is called by all but the most politically correct of locals, I had also. Nothing could be further from the truth. The name and the obsession which accompanies it both have their origin in the early history of what is now California.



Gotcha!

To learn more about the origin of "The Point" you are going to have to wait until May, and.....if you're not a PRHA member (who can sit back and tip his/her cap to the friendly smiling Point Postman who delivers your TPIT while you tinker in your garden sipping iced tea) you'll have to shell out another $1.50 at the Santa Fe.

Gary

By the way, Tom welcomes and encourages your comments, 231-0244.

The Poppy

Washington School
June, 1922

This 6" X 9" faded green construction covered booklet has an orange crayon poppy on the cover and is tied together on the left side with a faded half-inch wide orange satin ribbon. The purple mimeograph lettering is also faded with age. The original writing insed is by hand. This is the seventh and final installment.)

Joe Palenchar
Theodore Ciabattoni
Edith Hunt
Vivien Cook
[illegible]
[illegible]
George Lalich
Fred Corset
Walter Wadley
Cornelius Gannon
Joe Brazil
Forrest Mathis
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
Glenn Wilson
Dengell McCann
Joseph [illegible]

Alfred Renicone
Fred Child
Caesar B McCann
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
Herbert Hunn

Thanks Guys!

The Matchmaker

By Thornton Wilder

A Review from Anne Hanzlik

Thornton Wilder is one of America's outstanding authors and playwrights, who has taken a version of an old established plot and story and made it his own in the ***Matchmaker***. The original version was in English in "A Day Well Spent" in 1835, then in German in 1842, and eventually in America as "The Merchant of Younkers", later as "The Matchmaker" and lastly in the musical "Hello Dolly". And now "The Matchmaker" is delighting the audiences at our own Masquers.

Opening night went smooth as silk with all the cast in excellent form with enhancement of the striking and complicated sets defining all four locations of this period piece of a farce. The time frame is in the early 1900's and area in New York City and its suburb (borough) of Younkers.

The play is ripe with juicy parts, to give Robert Wood as Horace Vandergelder, Walter Phelps as Malachi Stack, Ann Homrighausen as Dolly Levi, Joan Nelson as Irene Malloy and also Virginia Cherniak as Mrs. Flora Van Huysen great scope for their many talents to make this classic farce once again a delightful evening in the theater. This is not to slight the more than adequate portrayals of Bruce Lundy, Bull Chessman, Mark West, Kathryn Gilbert, Wendy Littler, Charles O'Keefe (who is actually director Robert Love) and Robert Taylor in their supporting roles.

Of course theater requires much more to achieve a production than the cast of characters. All of the contributing staff from the director, Robert Love, the scenic designer John Hull (special kudos for the aforementioned sets), the costumes by Nancy Wilson and the rest of the list down to Linda Ellinwood as the lobby manager. All are a necessary and integral part of what is necessary to keep the Masquers many years of theater what it is today. Many thanks to one and all for the pleasure and satisfaction they give to all of us!

For the next issue of the newsletter we have been promised a tour of the Masquer's (relatively) new work space which has allowed them much more scope for their activities.

Ann Homrighausen as Dolly Levi and Robert Wood as Horace Vandergelder

THE MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE
PRESENTS
THE
MATCHMAKER

BY THORNTON WILDER
Directed by Robert Love

Horace Vandergelder, a rich Yonkers merchant, employs matchmaker Dolly Levi to find him a wife, but Dolly has ideas of her own in this classic American farce. "Loud, slap-dash and uproarious, original and funny." "Rolls along merrily and madly."

THE CAST

Virginia Chemiak	Bill Chessman	Katheryn Gilbert
Ann Hornrighausen	Wendy Littler	Bruce Lundy
Joan Nelson	Charles O'Keefe	Walter F. Phelps
Robert Taylor	Mark West	Robert Wood

Friday & Saturday Evenings:
MARCH 24 – MAY 6
Sunday Matinees: APRIL 2, 23 & 30

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: $9.00 cash or check

MASQUERS DINNER & THEATRE BENEFIT
for the Masquers Building Fund
THURS., MAY 4
Dinner at the Hotel Mac followed by performance of *The Matchmaker*
for only $25. To reserve, call (510) 236-4988.

OUR NEXT ATTRACTION...
The Musical Double-Feature
A Day In Hollywood/A Night In The Ukraine
Opening June 2

RPD History

from Officer Joel Thompson

Richmond Police Patrolman Joel Thompson has collected some old police photos and has offered to share them in future TPIT issues along with his own commentary. His first loaned photo is one of multiple portraits of Department personnel in 1926, unfortunately it is a little too dark to reproduce well, but here is the Captain taken from that photo.

.....Gary

The 13th Annual Senior Information Day

Will be held on Tuesday, May 9, 1995.

The theme for this year's event will be "Come Alive in 95".

This years Senior Information Day will feature health care information, earthquake preparedness, personal safety and protection, and health screenings by local hospitals. There will be entertainment, a variety of booths for seniors to sell arts and crafts and baked goods, as well as informative representatives from various agencies that provide services for older adults. Lunch will be provided by the Contra Costa County Nutrition Program with a $1.75 suggested donation for seniors 60 and over, and $3.75 for those under 60.

For more information on this event please contact Nancy Nielson at the Richmond Senior Center at (510) 307-8085.

Mark you calendar today!

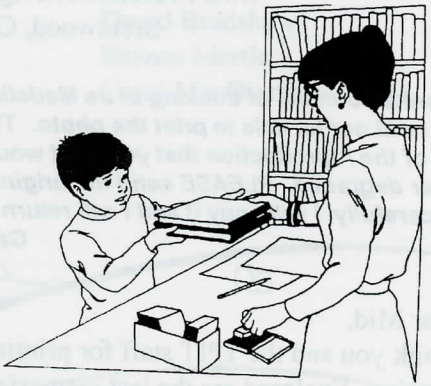
The Historic Women's West Side Improvement Club

by Betty Dornan

The next meeting of the West Side Improvement Club will be held on Tuesday, April 4th at Friendship Hall in the First Methodist Church on Martina and West Richmond at 11:30 AM.

Officer Dave Parsons of the Richmond Police Department will be the guest speaker. Interested women in the community are invited to attend.

For more information call 233-3343 or 232-4317.



Your Westside Library What's New at the Westside

By Lynn Whitson
Branch Librarian

No report again from the Westside! This informational column has served the community for many, many years. We would very much like to see it continue.

Cards & Letters

Hi Gary Shows:

I really enjoy the newsletter, keep up the good work.

I'm enclosing a copy of Washington School photo of all the children starting from 1st grade to 7th or 8th and on the banner it says "Washington School". There's no date but it is really old.

Hope you can use the photo. ***(She now names several of the children in the photo)***

Mrs. Madeline Albright
Brentwood, CA

Thanks so much of thinking of us Madeline but I will not be able to print the photo. The quality of the reproduction that you sent would be further degraded. PLEASE send the original, pack it carefully, I will copy it and I will return it.
Gary

Dear Mid,

Thank you and the TPIT staff for printing my memories. Enclosed are the last memories of that time. It is amazing that there were so many incidents so vivid in detail for me from the twenties. It was a pleasure writing them and seeing them in print. Al also appreciated knowing things that happened when he was too you to remember. I hope they triggered memories for others of that age group and furnished insight for those who are young today.

When I was in Point Richmond in August I took many snapshots of places and houses and landscapes. Some day my children and grandchildren might find them interesting. The Point is still a beautiful place and I am glad there is a caring group who live there.

In fond memory
Delphina Franco
(Hazel Delphina Franco Nielsen Tawney)
(Special Hi to Betty!)
Santa Barbara

As editor, I was pleased to receive your articles we all enjoyed them, but I hope that you understand how much enjoyment you gave to the folks who also grew up here in the twenties. Especially for them, I say thank you!
.....Gary

Dear Pam Wilson:

Please find enclosed my new mailing address, please correct your records.

I don't want to miss a single copy. I enjoy reading about some of the people I know who live there, and about things that are going on in Point Richmond.

Thank you,
Virginia Littlefair
Richmond

Dear Mr. Shows:

Imagine my pleasure and surprise, when I received the March Issue of TPIT. On page one, there I was in my father's arms.

The blond with her hand on my dad's shoulder is my sister 14 years my senior (My mother always told me I was wanted).

The had dad was wearing was a "doozie", probably purchased from W.S. McCraken on lower Washington Avenue.

I enjoy the Franco articles very much.

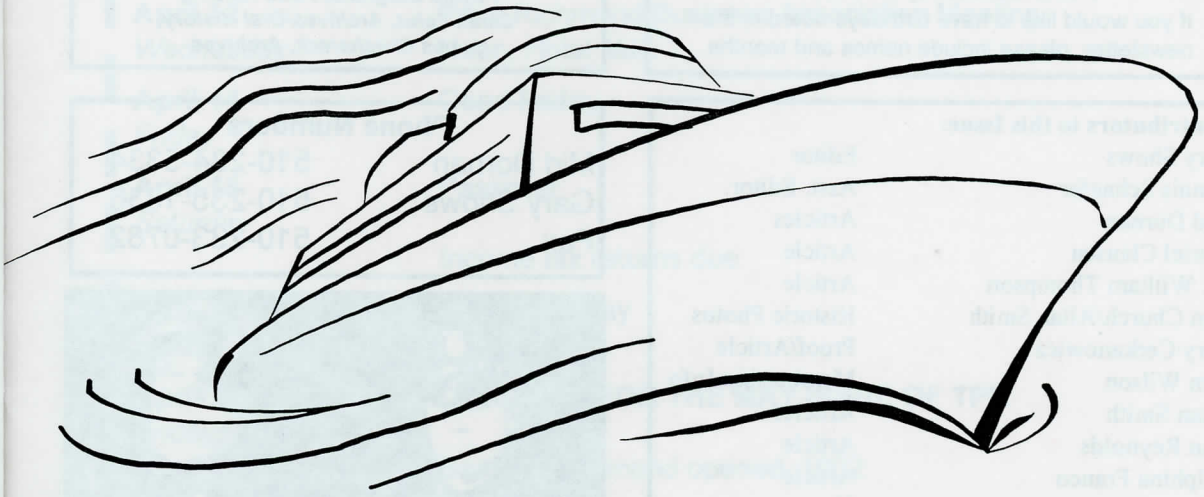
Sincerely,
Ed Garrard
Sonoma, CA

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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
Roberta Jenkins Smith
Kathy Barnes
Bruce Bartram
Dori Freitas
Ruth Wilson
Paula Ferguson
Don Amantite

Lisa Ogles
Anna Schwartz
Elnora Surdam
Eric Hoiland
Melissa Driscoll
John Maxwell
Rosemary Corbin
David Bradshaw
Sharon Mertle
Carol MacDiarmid



nything concerning the Ambassador's swimming pool must be referred to as water storage tank not as swimming pool.

-internal State Department memo, U.S. Embassy, Vientiane, Laos

I would like to join the P.R.H.A.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Type of membership (check one):

☐	Single	$18.00
☐	Senior (65+)	12.00
☐	Family	25.00
☐	History Preserver	50.00
☐	Corporate Sponsor	75.00
☐	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 months.

Articles for each issue are due on or before the deadline printed in the calendar section.
Please mail articles and items of interest to:

Gary Shows
229 Golden Gate Avenue
Point Richmond, CA 94801
or
fax 510-233-0762

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Point Richmond, CA 94801

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Officer Joel Thompson	Photos
Richmond Senior Center	Information
Tom McGowan	Article
Anne Hanzlik	Article
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James Bailey	Photo

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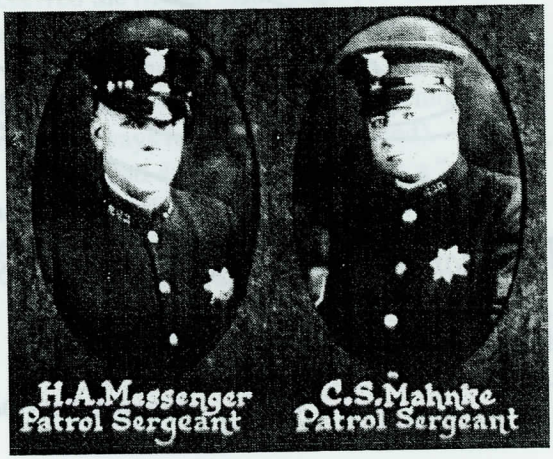

Calendar

April, 1995

April 1 *Saturday*	All Fools Day
April 2 *Sunday*	Daylight Savings Time Begins!! Set your clocks 1 hour ahead Saturday at bedtime
April 3 *Tuesday*	Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting, 11:30 am, Point Richmond Methodist Church
April 4 *Tuesday*	Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting, 11:30 am, Point Richmond Methodist Church
April 9 *Sunday*	Palm Sunday
April 12 *Wednesday*	Point Richmond Business Association Meeting Noon, Hotel Mac
April 14 *Friday*	Good Friday
April 15 *Saturday*	Passover Income tax returns due
April 16 *Sunday*	Easter Sunday
April 21 *Friday*	**DEADLINE FOR THE MAY ISSUE OF TPIT** Bank of Richmond opened, 1902
April 25 *Tuesday*	Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting 7:30pm, Point Community Center
May 6 *Saturday*	Point Methodist Church Junktique Sale 8:30am to 4:00pm, lots of good stuff to buy