

THIS POINT.... in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

www.alkos.com/prha

Vol. XI ~~X~~ No. 4

December, 2000/January 2001

\$1.50



Santa Claus
is Coming to Town!

Tis the Season!



*PRHA Little Museum Ornaments are Available
\$20.00 each (\$18.00 to members)*

Get yours at the museum (see page 2 for hours).

Or send the form below to

139 1/2 Washington Avenue, Richmond, CA 94801

Please send:

_____ Little Point Richmond Museum Ornament (s)

☐
☐

I am enclosing \$20 plus \$5 shipping for each

I am enclosing \$18 plus \$5 shipping each, I am a member of PRHA

Send my ornament (s) to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Please allow 1-2 weeks for shipping

From The President

Mid Dornan

Holidays are a time for personal reflections, participating in traditions, gathering with those we love and for the spiritual meaning of sharing. Make your holiday a merry one by doing something special anonymously for someone else.

Each year we ask you, our readers, to submit stories about life in Richmond the past century as well as pictures you might share. To keep this publication active, we count on you. Make it a new year's resolution; make it a gift to our editor.

Wishing you and the staff of THIS POINT.....in time a Happy Christmas Holiday and a New Year of Joys.

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

Madeline Albright
Evelyn Thill
Jan & Bob Burdick
Doris J. Silva
Dora M. (Beesley) Feuerhelm
Mid Dornan
Mary Valenzano
Bena Salle Bowles
Bill Vallivero & Richard Giordano
James G. Foulds
Anna Gaumer
Lucille Meyer
Adele Waymire

And a warm welcome to the following new members:

Glen Myers
David & Elana Dolberg
Michael J. Canepa

Museum Staff Coordinator
Betty Dornan thanks the
volunteers who staffed the
History Building
In November
I

Thank You!

Santa Fe Market
and
Point Richmond Market

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

Give to the Toy Drive
for the East Bay Rescue
Mission's annual Christmas
Party at the Richmond
Auditorium
Collection Locations:

- **Point Richmond Market**
- **Santa Fe Market**
- **Mechanics Bank**

Donations will be accepted until
December 15th

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

Gary's Column

Gary Shows

Here is the December/January issue, always a tough one because it comes just one month from the previous. Most of our regular TPIT contributors were understandably late and a few (not understandably) did not contribute at all. Anyway here it is, all 24 pages, hope you enjoy it.

Although this is the newsletter for the Point Richmond History Association, I would like it to be a resource for our neighborhood and offer it freely to the Point Richmond community.. I am always receptive to any community articles or information.

Thanks to everyone who has been a part of this little publication! Wishing you all a very

happy holiday season, lets all have a great new year!

The deadline for the February/March issue will now be Friday, January 19, 2001.

Thanks to the November issue assembly crew:

Pam Wilson

Mid Dornan

Jerry Cerkowicz

Gary Shows

Betty Dornan

Liz McDonald

Sonja Darling

Mary Highfill



Me installing lights on our little museum building.

*Photo by Bob Peckham
(He made me promise to print this)*

The Cover of this issue:

Santa Claus as performed by Christine Hayes, picture taken on November 14, 2000 at the Point Richmond tree lighting ceremony

A-Mid TRIVIA

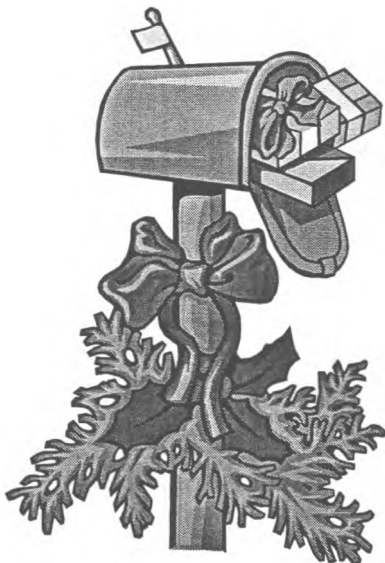
-Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question: Who was president at the beginning of the 20th century? Who was defeated? **Answer at the end of Trivia.**

He who has not Christmas in his heart will not find it under a tree

Does it seem only a year ago that everyone was worried about Y2K?

It as a four generation Thanksgiving for Oretta Eaton who spend the holiday in Modesto with her daughter, Nikki Eaton, grandson Michael Eaton and wife. Teresa and their two children! Oretta contributed her famous pumpkin pies for the holiday!



Church goers at the Methodist Church on November 26th were treated to the special talents of Nicole Hyde, New York City, and Peter Hyde Teaneck, New Jersey. Nicole is the granddaughter of the choir director, Virginia Cherniak, and has just returned from a 6 weeks course in Salzburg, Austria where she also sang Cherubim in Mozarts' "The Marriage of Figaro". Peter plays trumpet in the orchestra of "Les Miserables" in Teaneck, New Jersey. They along with Virginia's daughter, Susan Hyde, spent the Thanksgiving holiday with her.

Joining Rev. Dan Damon at Thanksgiving services was Monsignor Ted Kraus Following services a free meal was served to anyone in the community wishing to attend. This annual feast at the Methodist Church is funded by church members, local businesses and merchants. Over one hundred meals were served by community volunteers and members.

Richmond's oldest women's service club, Women's Westside Improvement Club, will enjoy a catered luncheon at their December meeting At their last meeting members voted to continue sponsoring a Many Hands class at Washington School. Alice Williamson is president.

Shannon McGowan is home after major surgery but not yet receiving phone calls or cards! Can't chance those germs! A speedy recovery is wished by her many friends.

Shirley and Tom Butt spent their 29th wedding anniversary at a Bed and Breakfast in Elk, California over the Thanksgiving week-end.

Requests and the need for a retired 'handyman' in the Point surface often. Are there any of you around?

Wouldn't it be great if we all had as much income as the companies that send out those pre-approved credit card applications think we have?

Congratulations to Bessie and Ed Squires who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in November with twenty-three members of their family at a restaurant in Berkeley hosted by daughters Janice, Pamela, Dianne and Suzanne and their families. Ed and Bessie are wished many more.

Sharon and Harry Hardwick will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a reception for family and friends at the Point Methodist Church, where they were wed, on December 10th, 1950. Their children Debbie Willis, Don Hardwick, Wendy Jones, Sandy Hardwick, and Sharry Carranza are hosting the celebration. Harry and Sharon now reside in Guerneville.

A century ago women wore unmentionables; today they wear nothing to speak of.

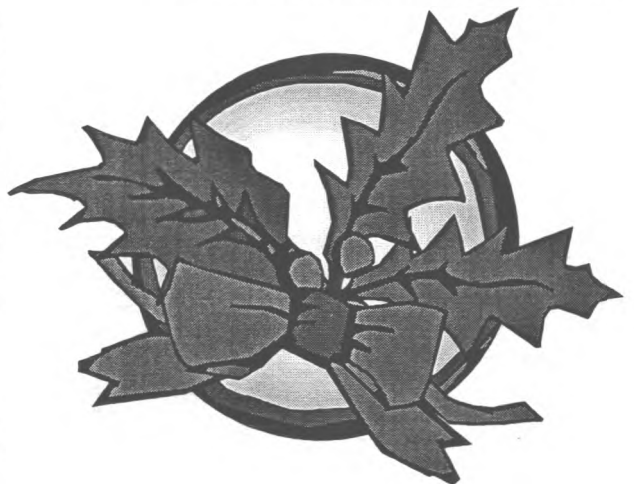
The choir of the Methodist Church again invite you to the 'Messiah', under the direction of Virginia Cherniak, on Sunday, December 17th at 4:00 p.m., their gift to you, the community.

$111,111,111 \times 111 \ 111 \ 111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$

The only two days of the year where there are no professional sports games (MLB-NBA-NHL-NFL) are the day before and the day after the Major League All Star game.

It was 'to Grandmother's house they came' on Thanksgiving as Roberta, Richard, Rachel and Robert Palfini arrived from Irvine to spend the holiday with grandparents Mid Dornan in the Point and Millie and Jim Palfini in Pinole.

The Thanksgiving holiday was a



perfect time for the David Bradshaws, Maddie, Taylor, Jackson, Regan and McKinley, Mom and Dad plus Grandma Sonja Darling, to head for Disneyland.

Wonder how the history books will portray the debacle of the 2000 Presidential election? Will the Electoral College be re-evaluated? Since it takes three-fourths of the states to ratify a constitutional amendment, the College will stay. Won't this make great trivial questions in the future!

May Cotton celebrated her 50th birthday at the Baltic Restaurant with friends.

The beauty of the old-fashioned blacksmith was that when you took your horse to be shod, he didn't find a dozen other things that needed fixing too.

Tired of getting those unwanted phone calls from telemarketers? You know the callers are just doing their job and you don't want to be rude, but oh, how annoying

they are! You can ask to have your name removed from lists used by telemarketers. Send your request to Telephone Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association, Dept. P, P.O. Box 9014, Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735.

Thought: Has the microwave 'beep' become the dinner bell?

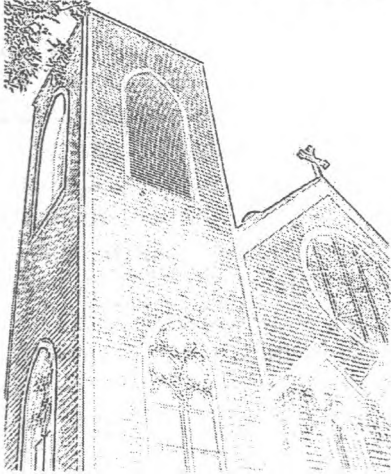
A sense of humor is what makes you laugh at something which would make you mad if it happened to you.

You've survived the first year of the 21st century. Now it is time to mark your calendar for 2001.

ANSWER: William McKinley, our 25th president along with vice-presidential running mate, Governor Theodore Roosevelt, leader of the Rough Riders during the Spanish-American War. Their theme, "Four more years of the full dinner pail." McKinley defeated William Jennings Bryan of Nebraska.

Seasons
Greetings 

Church News



Our Lady of Mercy

Dee Rosier
232-1387

Let the season begin. When you finally think that you have gathered every trace of last years Christmas tree needles it sneaks up on you and lo and behold - it's here again! I admired the full page ad in the San Francisco Chronicle where Nordstrom announced that Thanksgiving was a time for thanks and deserved its own time, consequently they would not celebrate with Christmas decorations until after Thanksgiving.

I recently worked the election board at Washington School and was impressed by the turnout of voters, especially the younger generation. We had a constant line of people waiting to vote. A gentleman approached and commented on the turnout, I replied to him

that it had been a constant all day long and that it reminded me of the attendance at Mass on Christmas. His eyes sparkled as he replied, "wise analogy said to the right person, I am a Minister."

The cold days are made warmer as you walk in front of the Santa Fe Market and see Bob and Marie taking a break from their busy day as they sit in front of the store talking to customers.

He entered our lives as a stranger and before long we were friends. It is with sadness that we bid farewell to Msgr. Kraus. He has been appointed Pastor of Santa Maria Parish in Orinda where he will play to a full house of 2000. He leaves a void in our small parish of 200. His stay was short, but purposeful. He recognized the needs of the parish, and drew us together as a community. He also went out into the community and made himself known, particularly to the Methodist congregation where a first was established when he stepped in for Pastor Dan during an emergency and took our Catholic homily into the Methodist Church. Instead of being attendees at Mass, we became participants. We were taught to be lectors and assist him in Mass. He guided us through Parish Council classes, became our mentor and showed us how to achieve success. His plans for us were many, some he will not see fulfilled. He became friends to his "Golden Girls" - Lillian, Jenn and Angie, who we learned to love. His cats, Muir and Lucy, will have a new home. Each Sunday, after the donations were counted and made ready for deposit, I drove Msgr. Kraus to the bank. A couple of weeks ago as we walked to my car a gentleman on the street said, "Msgr, I hear you are leaving. I enjoyed your homilies and will miss you"> This gentleman spoke for all us. We wish Msgr

Kraus continued success. Orinda is not that far away. We will be in touch.

The wine and cheese plus "Raise the Roof" fund raiser was well attended and a success. The fireplace at Brickyard's club house provided warmth as we sampled the wine and enjoyed the cheese, fruit, bread and meats. With the sale of the motor home, donated by Chano Forner, it brings the total roof fund to \$7,100.00. A multitude of thanks to sponsors, Margie Celucci, Herb, and the Lamberts. Hear tell that another is in the making for sometime in March and sponsored by a local businessman.

Two of our parishioners have undergone serious surgery. Remember in your prayers Angie Kirkpatrick and Vee Garcia. They are now at home recovering. Ruth Beardsley was back in church today and said that her body was 81 years old, but her mind refused to accept it. She learned the hard way as she lifted a heavy box and injured her shoulder. It's good to have her back. Remember all others who are ill and unable to attend Mass.

The last three Sunday Masses have been cause for celebration as we witnessed three infants be baptized. We welcome them to our Christian World.

Ann Dwyer, our Irish lass, is back after spending eight months in Ireland during her father's illness. Ann travels by bus from Oakland to attend Mass with us on Sundays.

The holidays draw some away from home and others to our home. Judy Spencer spent time with her family in Michigan. Nancy Hagel traveled to Kansas City. Peggy and Dick Mueller were houseguests at the home of Renee and Kevin Knee. Peggy is Kevin's mother and visiting here from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Peggy and I share the same grandson.

A "Giving Tree" will be in front of the church and provide our parish an opportunity

for sharing during the holiday season. During the first two weeks of Advent the tree will have stars hung from it with a gift request written on them. We ask that the parishioners remove one or more stars, purchase the item described and return the unwrapped gift to the boxes under the tree no later than December 24th. The gifts will be presented to the organization, "STAND Against Domestic Violence." Our gifts will keep their shelves stocked so that they can distribute as needed. Help us help others.

In lieu of the usual boxes of donation envelopes we receive at year end a new system has been instituted. All registered parishioners will receive monthly mailing for donation purposes. If you are not registered and wish to receive them, please fill out a parish registration form, found in the foyer or the church, drop it in the collection plate, and envelopes will follow.

The long awaited church directory is due to be delivered on or before December 16th. It promises to be an up-to-date register of all current parishioners. Thank you to all for your patience.

Stay well and savor the joys of the holiday season. My holiday wish to you:

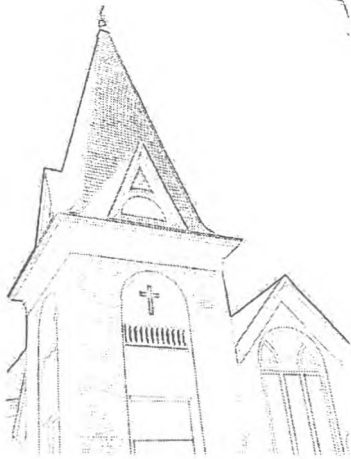
*When you're lonely, I wish you
LOVE*

*When you're down, I wish you JOY
When things get complicated, I wish
you FAITH*

*When things look empty, I wish you
HOPE*

Farewell Msgr. Kraus—you leave us with pleasant memories not soon to be forgotten.

See you in church.



Point Richmond Methodist

Jean Reynolds
235-2988

Good news from the All Church Conference held on November 16: Pastor Dan will be compensated at three-quarter time for 2001! Our church has had a half-time pastor for decades, so this is a big step for us. We look forward to another year of being able to be a positive influence in our community. Since our pastor will be more able to spend time here during the week, we should be able to serve our community more fully. It is a reason to celebrate!

Each Sunday morning, worship has been so special that people don't want to miss a single Sunday. November 19, the Angel Choir sang two anthems, with so much grace and harmony that all who heard it were transported. One piece was performed in "surround sound", with the singers stationed around the perimeter of the sanctuary, and singing in two parts. The other piece featured duets and solos by all of the singers; Sarah Thompson sang her first solo as a member of

the Angel Choir. On November 26, Virginia Cherniak's son-in-law Peter, and her granddaughter Nicole, played trumpet and sang, respectively. We benefit from holiday visitors from out of town!

The "Andrews Sisters" who performed "The Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy of Company B" at the Centennial Tea in September got to reprise their role for the Veterans' Day Celebration by the Red Oak Victory Ship in Richmond. The Andrews Sisters were Heather Damon, Katie Osborn, and Bethany Reynolds. They were coached by Tammara Stanfield and had WAC uniforms courtesy of Lois Boyle. Another charming touch was the vintage Army Jeep used to bring the "Sisters" to the stage area on Veterans' Day.

The Thanksgiving Feast was another delicious and well-attended event, thanks to Point Richmond Merchants, Chuck Wise and his staff at the Baltic, volunteers who helped peel potatoes, set tables, buy food, bake pies, serve and clean up. It is such a community builder because everyone works together and does what they especially like to do to make the dinner a success. Many of the people who attend choose to come eat dinner at the church instead of other options they have because it is just so much fun. It's a holiday tradition we want to continue.

The children plan to do a play "The Great Walled Village: A Christmas Play" on January 7 during worship.

Rehearsal begins December 2, at 11:00. The play may also be performed during the holiday break at Atchison Village, our own "Great Walled Village". It was adapted to play form by Megan Timberlake from a story

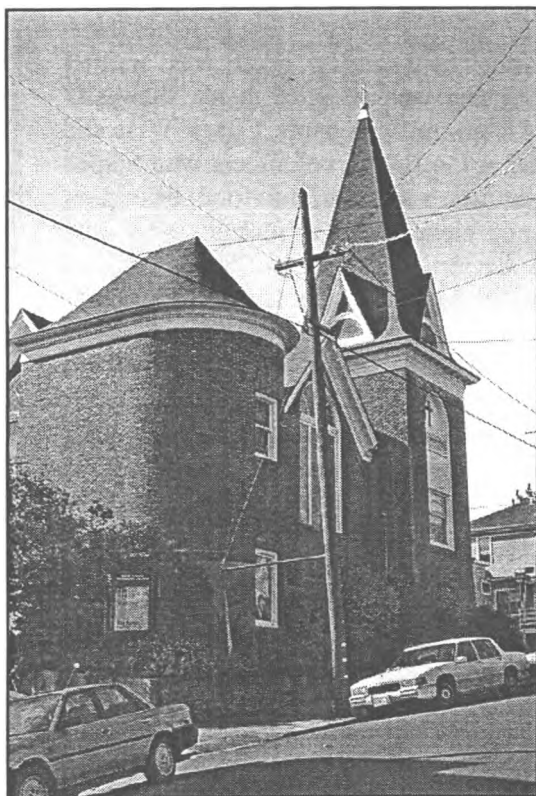
by Raymond Macdonald Alden, and is a story of what it means to give.

On the calendar:

Sunday, December 3, 5:00 p.m.: **An evening of Lessons and Carols** with Dan Damon at the piano.

Sunday, December 17, 4:00 p.m.: **Handel's Messiah**. Selected choruses and solos by the Joyful Noise Choir, directed by Virginia Cherniak.

Sunday, December 24, 7:00 p.m.: with **Jazz Christmas Eve the Dan Damon Trio**, stories and carols.



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 notebook which cost \$1.15. The minutes are printed as written. This is the 48th installment.

April 20, 1926

Social League met in the church parlors with sixteen members present. Mrs. Elizabeth Jenkins and Mrs. Brothers were the hostesses. It was moved and seconded and carried that bills be paid at the

Park Florist	1.45
Laundry	.57
Alberts	7.46
Mrs. Holbrook	1.00
total	10.48

It was moved, 2nd and carried that \$10.00 be donated to the colored church.

Plans were started for a Reception and Tea to be given in May.

It was moved, 2nd and carried that thread needed for embroidery work be purchased at Mrs. Gnaga's, the League assuming the bills.

Previous balance	40.15
Plate collections	1.50
Dues Mrs. Dingle	.60
Dues Mrs. Alexander	.60
total	42.80
deductions	20.48
New Balance	22.37

New Lights on our Downtown Centerpiece Tree

Thanks to Marielle Boortz, Public Affairs Manager for Chevron Refinery, who arranged for their capable volunteers and employees (David Million and Tim Grace) to arrive with and operate the refinery's 40 foot "cherry picker" to string the replacement lights to the Indian Statue Park Tree. Thanks also to our neighbors Bruce Audretsch and David Vincent who replaced the center pole to support the 10 lines of 500 bulbs, and Marsha Ward and Pam DeWitt who assisted them and the Chevron crew to feed the new lines on to the tree. The tree is fully lit and has a red ball (or Rudolf's nose) at the top of the pole as something new this year. Again thanks to the Point Richmond Business Association which has paid for the lights over the years.

Special thanks to Tuan A. Do, local resident, for his banner poster announcing the event which was displayed in the park reminding all of the Tree Lighting.



SHHHH!



Westside Branch Library News

By Biblio Tek

Sorry no report

Mike Canepa's Memories

By Mike Canepa

Hey, thank you so much Mike. This is the sort of thing that we are asking you all to do. People enjoy reading about the way things used to be and having there own memories "jogged". Just as important you are "recording history."

Gary

In 1904 my grandfather Gus Canepa arrived in Point Richmond (then known as Port Richmond) and established his residence. Approximately one year later he sent for his wife Katherine (Perasso) Canepa and two children John and Michael to join him. From Silvano-D'Orba province of Alexandria Italy (Northwest of Genoa) they departed for the U.S. After processing through Ellis Island they traveled by train to the West Coast. Unfortunately the train transporting them was involved in a derailment in Colton, California. This derailment took the life of their mother (my grandmother) but both boys survived. They eventually joined their father in Port Richmond. Because of hard times their father was unable to properly care for them. A friend of my grandfather by the name of Giuseppe (Joe) Matteucci took by father Michael under his wing and helped raise him. He graduated from Washington in the Point and went to work at the Santa Fe Foundry, (original telephone #47). The foundry was located just over the railroad tracks west of Stege Grammar School. He

worked at the foundry until he passed away in 1943. My sister Pat and I lived in Mira Vista until our mother Mary remarried Salvator (Sam) De Phillips.

In 1944 my mother, Sister Pat, and I moved to the Point where we lived with our step-father Sam on Tremont Avenue upon arrival at the Point one of my objectives was to meet with Joe Matteucci, the man who took part in raising my father. Within a short time we met at his business across from the Santa Fe market. I recall walking into the pool hall and introducing myself as Michael's son. Joe and I discussed my father and the past which was one of the most memorable times in my life. Joe, a very caring and sensitive person, accepted me as famiglia.

I often think of "Papa" Joe and those who befriended me, Tony Petta, Ozzie Smith, Leo Forner, Ray Lanza, John Amantite, Jack Westman and an old salt, skipper by the name of Danny Keller. In his shanty just off the beach on his wharf, Danny would treat us to his shark steak sandwiches and a brewski, a few years short of being legal, (not the shark). In those days eating shark was not the seafood most people ate, but if you never had one of Danny's sandwiches you've missed a real treat. On occasion we would borrow one of Danny's surplus Navy lifeboats anchored just off the beach and row without lights to the S.O. Long Warf, until

the night the Coast Guard chased us to Campbell's Beach where we abandoned ship. End of Story!

On the south side of the tunnel up on the hill lived Mr. Bernardi, the brother of my third grade teacher Ms. Bernardi who taught at Woodrow Wilson Grammar School. A teacher's teacher!

Just beyond Bernardi's was the motorcycle club, the "Richmond Ramblers" who some believed were the original "Hells Angels". No friends at that club, but we did watch the hill climbs and injuries every weekend.

At the "Nat", Georgie in the ticket office, (who sometimes acted like my gunnery SSgt. Was a real creampuff. Ralph Kendricks, an outstanding lifeguard, whom Tony and I had the pleasure to work with, saved many drowning swimmers after they had just downed a by pasta or Chinese dinner, (statistically the two main reasons for stomach cramps). Unknown to most, he was also a professional archer, bulls eye every shoot.

Thanks to locker boy Kenneth Janes who was forgetful (?) and did not lock all windows on the tunnel side, my buddy's and I did a lot of midnight swimming at the Nat.

At the Point Theater, (now the Point Orient), Anna and Mr. Schwartz who contended with our juvenile conduct,

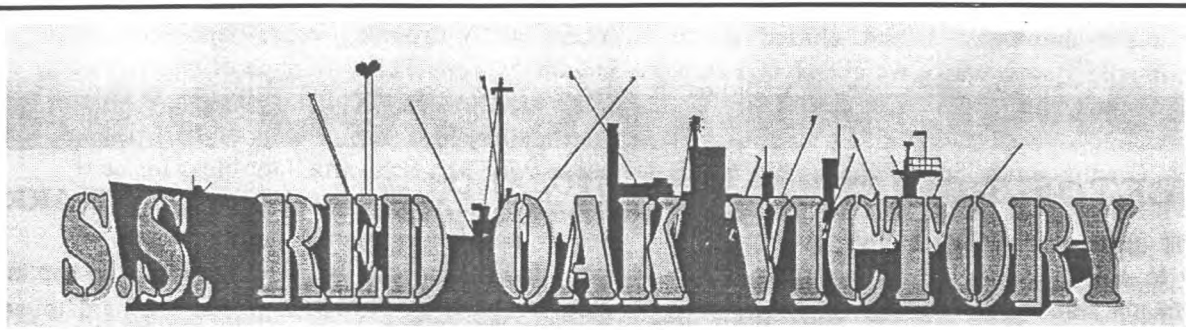
(occasionally dropping water bags from the balcony). Tony Petta, a prince of a guy, who relieved Anna in the ticket booth was our intermediary and had a way of negotiating peace with Mr. Schwartz, Got bless his soul. We all loved Anna, where infatuated with her beauty and her outstanding voice when she sang and played the organ at Father Kelly's mass in Our Lady of Mercy.

After unacceptable grades (8th) at Longfellow Jr. High and negotiating summer school with Mr. Hunn, (our principal), my parents transferred me to St. Mary's College High in Berkeley where I attended school with John Amentite. Shortly after graduation in 1949, I was hired by the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad as an apprentice in the mechanical department.

Then Came Korea!! After four years in the Air Force, returned to the railroad in southern California. Upon completion of forty years of service with the Santa Fe and seven years with the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (AMTRAK), I retired on December 1, 1994. I moved to Grass Valley, California in 1995 where my wife Francesca and I now reside.

After discovering the PRHA Web Site and reading the past issues, I deeply regret not staying in touch and communicating with my friends and acquaintances at the Point, many of whom are no longer with us. If accepted as a member, I do intend to partake in future PRHA activities.





Report

Here is information from the Red Oak Victory's website for those of you who do not have access.
Gary

Red Oak Victory Ship in Richmond A Second Life. The Red Oak Report, Restoration Progress

The cargo ship Red Oak Victory, was laid down September 9, 1944 by Permanente Metals Corp., Richmond, California, for the U.S. Maritime Commission, acquired by the U.S. Navy December 5, 1944 and commissioned the same day with Lt. Commander John S. Sayer, USNR in command.

The Red Oak was loaded with cargo and departed San Francisco for Pearl Harbor January 10, 1945. From then until the end of the war she served as an ammunition ship for various ships in the South Pacific. In 1996, the Richmond Museum of History was awarded the ship by an act of Congress.

Saved from the scrap heap, restoration of the ship continues under the direction of James Nolan, the Museum Association and many dedicated volunteers.

Renovation of the Red Oak Victory

This project of the Richmond Museum of History, is proceeding apace thanks to the efforts of many dedicated volunteers. Here are some of the recent highlights as reported by Michael J. Huntsinger, the Chief Mate and Restoration Manager. Exterior activities include the November 99 raising of a set of cargo gear at No. 4 hatch for the first time in over 30 years. There are seven such sets of

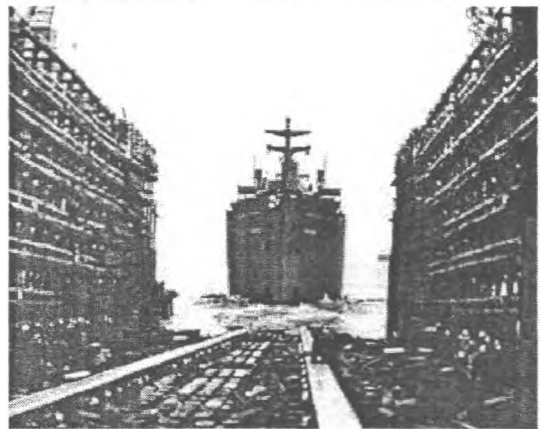


Photo Courtesy: Richmond Museum of History

booms on the ship. The anchor windlass, still fully functional, has been cleaned of old paint, acidified, and primed with gray two-part linear polyurethane (LP). The longitudinal support frames on the bottom have major rusting which will need repair in the future. In late December more guns were delivered, including two 3" anti aircraft guns and a 5" cannon. Two 20 mm guns have already been procured. The weapons came from former Naval Base Treasure Island and will eventually be mounted, giving the ship that authentic World War II appearance. Holes in the decking compound on the navigation bridge and the passageway aft of the radio room have been filled, eliminating major safety hazards as well as eyesores. Most of the exposed area of the after (gunners) house has now been covered with primer and finish gray paint.

Someday the whole ship will look as good as this structure! Much more work has been accomplished inside the ship and it is truly amazing to see the progress. Ship tours are given most days, weather permitting. The ship is berthed at Terminal One, near Ferry Point at the end of Dornan Drive. Call the ship at 510 237-2933 for current information and admission fees.



The Masquers present the inspiring holiday opera

AMAH

And The Night Visitors

BY GIAN CARLO MENOTTI

Dec. 21 and 22, 8:00 P.M., Dec. 23, 2:00 and 8 P.M.

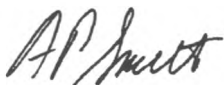
Dec. 28 and 29, 8:00 P.M., Dec. 30, 2:00 and 8 P.M.

Adults \$10 Children under 12 \$8

Reservations: 510 232-4031

Allan Smith's Point

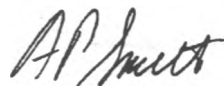
I want to thank Mayor Rosemary Corbin for agreeing to bring back the stone that contains the John Kenny plaque which was removed from Washington Park, now known as Judge Carroll Park. She wants to know where it should be placed? I am in favor of returning it to the Judge Carroll Park where it was placed after being removed from its original site when the Richmond Parkway was built. The Judge wouldn't mind. He was known as a "nice guy", even on the bench. The alternate place to put the stone is next to the sidewalk on Tewksbury Avenue at the Castro entrance to the Point. This is near the original Kenny Park.



In 1939, there was a well known Richmond fishing boat named the "Goodship Little Caesar". Margaret Doherty has a photo of the boat that pictures 10 local fishermen showing their striped bass limit caught in San Pablo Bay in 1939. The Captain was Caesar Malock. The Doherty's own home on Washington Avenue where the late Captain Clark once lived. The photo was found in the basement of the home. Check out the Richmond Library for an oral history of Point Richmond and the Richmond—San Rafael Ferry given by the late Captain Allan Clark.

Richmond's Librarian was asked where is the beautiful bronze plaque that was placed at the lobby entrance to Richmond's Main

Library. The plaque honors Richmond's military people who were killed during World War Two. Their names are printed on the ornamental plate. (One of these men was killed on the last day of the war). I was told that it was removed because of remodeling anticipation to the lobby. Mary Ellen Covell, Richmond Native, was informed that the removal was against possible theft.



Junior Burke, Richmond native, is a great friend of many Point people and has memories of the Point and the Standard Oil Refinery. He was asked whatever became of the large statue of a Polar Bear that was placed in front of the Refinery's original hospital, and was seen by all people who had to use the only road to the San Rafael Ferry? I thought it was given to the University of California as their sport teams are known as the Golden Bears.



I have in my possession, on a temporary basis, an autograph book of clients of the famous Ondine Restaurant located on the Sausalito waterfront. This restaurant was once owned by the late father of Ron Martinez who lives in the Point. It contains signatures and comments by the following: Tennessee Williams, Lucy Ball, Frederic March, Casey Stengel, Bob Feller, Sandy Koufax, Alfred

Hitchcock, Ed Sullivan, Herb Caen, Mary Costa, John Forsythe, Lena Horne, Barry Goldwater, Allan Sherman, Connie Haines, Joan Baez, David Byers, Helen Hayes, Ernest Borgnine, Rosemary Cloony, Jim Nabors, Pierre Salenger, Edie Adams, Dick Martil, Jimmy Dean Ben Gazarra, Richard Widmark, John Joseph Cardinal Carberry, King Hussein and Allan P. Smith. These are just a few of the autographs contained in this album. Any one interested in seeing this collection is invited to give me a call.

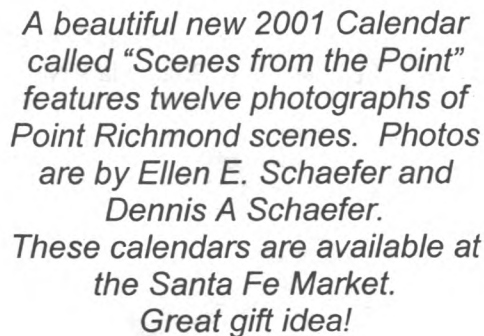
The autograph album is for sale and I am having it appraised by Butterfield and Butterfield. The last time I visited this organization was with Ross Dixon, popular Richmonder and former owner of the Schmidt-Dixon Funeral Home in Richmond. We brought in to be appraised, five oil paintings with ornate frames painted by a well known marine artist. The paintings were the property of Spiro Cakos, Point native and frequent contributor to the Point Richmond History Association. He inherited them from his late brothers, Andy and Captain Pete Cakos. Spiro gave them to

Ross and I to give to the S/S Jeremiah O'Brien. The O'Brien is one of two remaining Liberty Ships that were built during World War Two and is still sailing. It is berthed in San Francisco.

I used to volunteer on the S/S Jeremiah O'Brien and I remember at one time someone brought in many photos of Liberty Ships built in Richmond during World War Two. I wonder whatever happened to them? Also, where are the photos of the Victory Ships built in Richmond?



I used to know the names of all the Postmasters of Richmond, but not the present one. I want to inform him that it is a crime to fly the U.S. flag that the Point Richmond branch post office uses. The colors are all faded, the flag is old and wrinkled and starting to tear. It should be replaced. Where has Ron, the postal clerk gone?



*A beautiful new 2001 Calendar
called "Scenes from the Point"
features twelve photographs of
Point Richmond scenes. Photos
are by Ellen E. Schaefer and
Dennis A Schaefer.
These calendars are available at
the Santa Fe Market.
Great gift idea!*

Sports Memories

by Allan Smith

Richmond Union High School always played against Oakland's McClymonds High School in all sports. There is an exhibit at the Oakland Main Library's Oakland history Room celebrating the life and times of McClymonds High. There are many sport greats among the graduates including Bill Russell, basketball great, Frank Robinson and Curt Flood who became baseball stars. This free exhibit can be seen in the Oakland History Room, 125 14th Street, through December 30th.

Why didn't they let Joe DiMaggio rest in peace? Someone has dug up his past personal history and wrote a book about it that is fast becoming a best seller. It is very disturbing as to what the author has written, especially to someone who grew up with DiMaggio and followed his baseball career. Joe DiMaggio is rated as one of the best baseball players of all time.

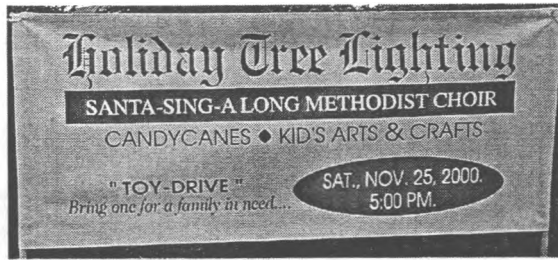
Speaking of baseball, read "Take Be Out to the Ballpark". No doubt the baseball book of the year is a history of all Big League

Ballpark stadiums. Minor and Negro league ballparks are also included. The author is Joe Leventhal.

Len Gabrielson passed away recently. He played professional baseball for eleven years after signing out of Oakland Tech High School with the New York Yankees. He played in the Pacific Coast League for the Oakland Oaks, the Seattle Rainers and the Hollywood Stars. His son, Len Jr., played seven years in the Big Leagues from 1963 to 1970.

You are with me if you can remember Idora Park and Neptune Beach. Idora Park was a popular family destination; it was opened in 1903 and was closed in 1928. It was located in Oakland on Telegraph Avenue between 56th and 57th Streets down to Shattuck Avenue. Idora Park contained all the features of a park which provided thrills, amusements and recreational facilities including a baseball park that was used when the 1906 earthquake ruined the original Oakland Oaks baseball park. More of Alameda's Neptune Beach in the next issue.



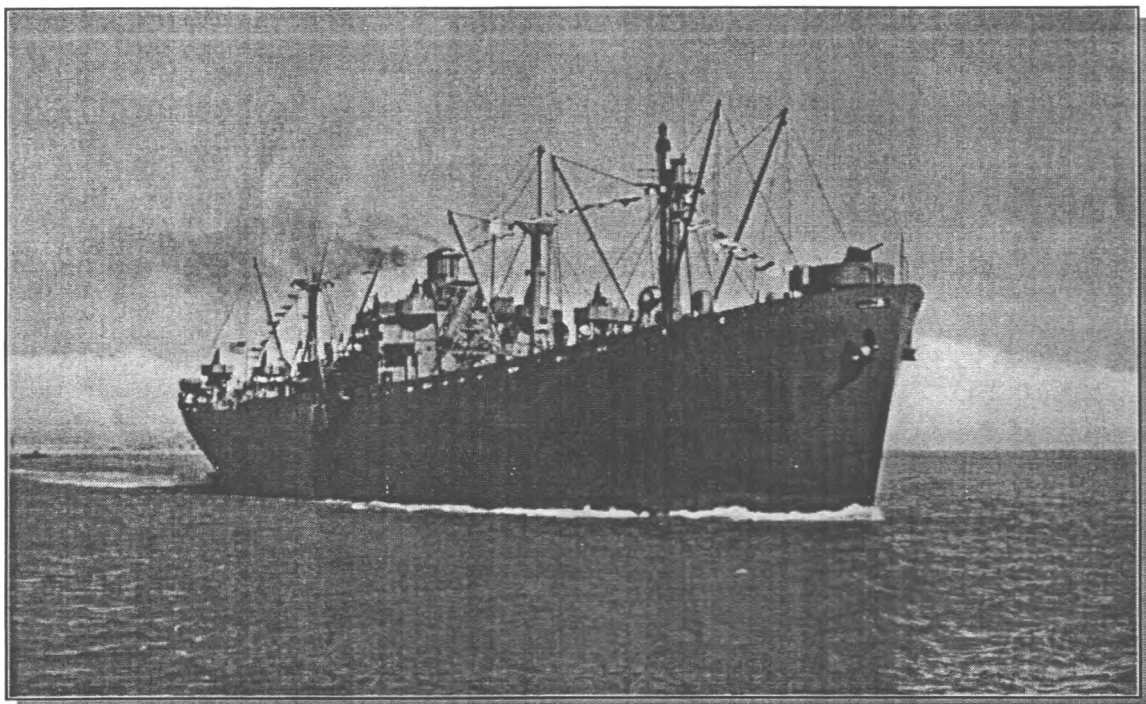


There was a good turnout for the 2000 tree lighting ceremony. The Methodist Choir led in caroling. Santa (Christine Hayes) soon arrived along with the Chief Elf (Robin Johnson) to light the tree and give goodies to the children who had been good.

The Community Center was decorated for the season. Hot cider was being served as well as a wonderful selection of cakes and cookies. A cookie decorating table was even set up for the kids and a barrel was available to deposit toys for needy children.

Kudos to the Point Richmond Association of Mothers, Point Richmond Business Association and the Point Richmond Neighborhood Council for sponsoring this new and successful event.





Dear Mr. Shows,

Enclosed is a picture of a ship captioned: "The Last of 519 Liberty Ships From The Permanente Metals Corporation Joins The Fleet". This picture was given to my mother, Clara Juel Johnson Rentfro, along with the inspiring letter from the "Office of the Vice President and General Manager", and signed by C.P. Bedford. That letter is dated June 15, 1944. My mother was employed as supervisor on swing-shift in the IBM Filing Department at Shipyard number 2 from 1943 until the shipyard closed. Notice on the back of the picture there are signatures and comments by employees in that department. I telephoned the PRHA office to ask about the interest in this picture and letter. The other ship picture will be mailed to you soon.

The Picture brings many memories. I was a young student at RUHS during the time represented in these pictures. I'll be 73 years "young" tomorrow.

I appreciate the work of the Point Richmond History Association. If I still lived in Richmond I would be offering my help, retired widows can be dedicated volunteers.

L. LaVerne Rentfro Woolman
Rescue, CA

The picture is beautiful! Thank you so much, it will be well taken care of.
Gary



Deaths....

Shirley Ann Ramirez, a Waitress at Jumbo Burger in Point Richmond and Joe's Pizza in El Sobrante for 30 years, died on November 27th in Richmond. She was 65. The native of Alden, Michigan, lived in San Pablo for 57 years. She was a member of St. Paul Catholic Church in San Pablo. She enjoyed Reno trips. Shirley is survived by her husband of 44 years, Emil; daughters, Pamela Gutierrez and Linda Martinez. Both of Vacaville, and Kimberly Chreech of Pasadena; sons, Emil Ramirez, Jr. of Crockett and Robbie Ramirez of Vacaville; sister, Patricia Dias of Michigan; brothers, Richard Parks of Clearlake, Robert Parks of Pablo and James Parks of Richmond: 15 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.



New World War II Book

'Survivor', by John Playter, has just been published and is his personal story of the Bataan Death March during World War II. John was incarcerated at prison camps in the Philippine Islands and escaped from the Japanese "Hell ship" Shinyo Maru, enroute to Japan and more internment camps when the ship was destroyed by American torpedoes. After fifty years, John has finally been able to write his memoirs and tell his unique personal perspective of the historical events. His story educates us of how precious and how costly our freedoms really are!

Courage, valor, patriotism, faith and determination plus the will to survive are evident as the story of survival is a stirring memorial to those who did not live to tell their own stories.

(John is a personal friend and anyone interested in obtaining a copy can contact me at (510) 234-5334. It would make a great gift.)

Mid Dornan

December Birthdays

Jean Allyn
Seth Fenton
Hazel Paasch
Cris Creed
Edna Hathaway
Debbie Seaburg
Fern Eastman
Christine Hayes
Sherry Hartynyk
Moe Warith

Marian Hawkins
Jeff Corbin
Mark Stevens
Toni Turner
Gerrie Kretzmer
Mike Turner
Lauren Nason
Marilyn Darling
Linda Mertle
Michael Cheshareck

Eric Turner
Teresa Meneghelli
Tom McGowan
Richard Barnes
Christina Nagatani
Thomas Mercer Hursh
Jerry Feagley
Inez A. Pestana
William S. Kollar*

January Birthdays

Henry Allyn
Donna Buhler
Cindy Rosier
Tom Brennan
Sonja Darling
Joe Travis
Linda Marshall
Bryan Smith
Doug Greiner
Jeff Quist

Ed Paasch
Jim Wilson
Robert McIntosh
Mary Highfill
Lupe Morris
Ann Bartram
Saryl Weinstein
John Cutler
Diana Kaffan
Marilu Fox

Elaine Harris
Kristina Hollbrook
Louis Cunan
Les Hathaway
Richard Palfini
Sena Bowles
Diana Mertle Mills
Brad Feagley
Marian Sauer
Sparta Chiozza

Exclusive—Over 90 Club

**Member of the Exclusive—Over 90 Club*

*Mae Mandl
Ruth Wood
Bernard Bernes
William Kollar
Thelma Hecker Harvey*

*Charlotte Wood
Pina Barbieri
Chet Thompson
Mark M. Gebhart
Willard Spiersch*

*Louis Shaw
Alice Helseth
Rena Cairo*

Have we missed anyone?

Calendar of Events

Alphabetical by Group

GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM AND EAST BAY MODEL ENGINEERS SOCIETY

900 Dornan Drive, Miller/Knox Regional Park. Interested in Museum Membership? Business Meetings and Workshop on Friday's 7-10 PM. 510-234-4884. Special Holiday Shows on Saturday, December 23rd and Saturday December 30th, 1—5 pm.

MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

"The Secret Garden" Friday and Saturday Evenings November 3 thru December 18. Reservations 232-4031.

"Amal and the Night Visitors", December 21 and 22, 8:00 pm; December 23, 2:00 and 8:00 pm; December 28 and 29, 8:00 pm; December 30 2:00 and 8:00 pm. Reservations: 510-232-4031.

POINT RICHMOND ASSOCIATION OF MOTHERS (PRAM)

Mondays, at 7:00 PM; , December 11 on Mondays at 7 PM, Methodist Church, 201 Martina Street. Information on the December meeting call 273-9959.

POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Holiday Party, December 13th, 5 to 7 pm at Point Richmond Branch of Mechanics Bank. There is no business meeting this month.

Contact: Paula Aasmus, O.D. 510-235-5228.

POINT RICHMOND COMMUNITY CENTER/FIELD HOUSE & PLUNGE

Info: 233-6881

POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

The deadline for the February/March issue of TPIT is Friday January 19, 2000.

The next General Meeting of the Point Richmond History Association will be in May. Check a future issue of TPIT for details.

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meets last Wednesday each month, Pt Richmond Community Center; 7:30 P.M Contact: Rod Satre, President, 232 5059.

RICHMOND ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND

December 5, 2000 at 7:30 , First United Methodist Church, 201 Martina Street, Point Richmond.
Info: 234-2706 or 215-6100

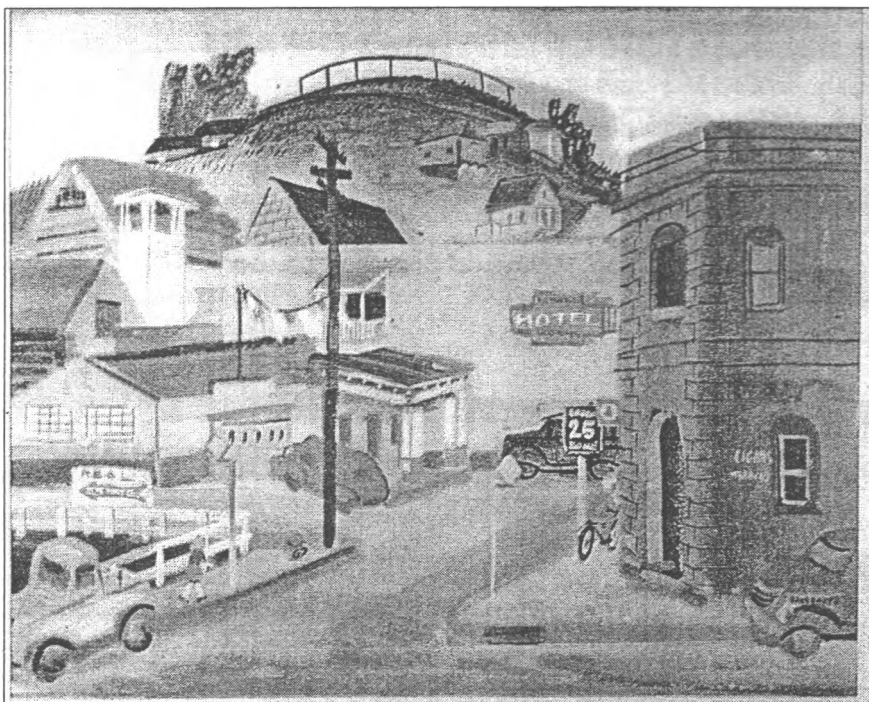
WASHINGTON SCHOOL

Contact: Miss Jones, Secretary 510-232-1436.

WOMEN'S WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB

Contact: Alyce Williamson, President at 234-6167

For comments, corrections or additions to the TPIT Calendar of Events contact:



*Watercolor by
the late
John Haley,
Courtesy of
Monica Haley*

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

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 (six 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.

Main Contributors to this Issue:

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Mid Dornan	Various Articles
Don Church/Allan Smith	Historic Photos
Jerry Cerkowicz	Proof/Article
Pam Wilson	Membership Info
Allan Smith	Articles/photos
Jean Reynolds	Article
Dee Rosier	Article
David Vincent	Calendar/Photo
LaVerne Rentfro Woolman	Photo
Mike Canepa	Article
City of Richmond	Information
Richmond Museum of History	Information

Articles for each issue are due on or before the deadline printed in the calendar section.

Please mail articles and items of interest to:

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229 Golden Gate Avenue
Point Richmond, CA 94801

or
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or
email: gary@alkos.com

"This Point...in time" is a publication of the Point Richmond History Association, a non-profit organization at:

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<http://www.alkos.com/prha>

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Red Oak Victory Information 510-235-7387
For Red Oak Project information visit:
<http://www.rosietheriveter.org/>