

THIS POINT.... in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

Vol. XVI No. 1

Summer, 1997

\$1.50



Standard Oil Company
When it First Started

*INCLUDES ANNUAL KID'S MEETING
REPORTS AND PHOTOS*



THANKS REUNION COMMITTEE!

What a committee it was that put together this years Kids Reunion! And hasn't capable Teresa Meneghelli endeared herself as lifetime Chairman? Fun was part of the agenda at each meeting of the committee who were: Allan Smith, Bruce and Ann Bartram, Al Frosini, Chano Forner, Julio Carrera, Mary Highfill, Liz McDonald, June Solosabal, Josephine Palenchar and Mid Dornan. Members came from Martinez and Antioch to plan. Ann and Bruce Bartram had an already paid for trip to Branson, Truman's Library, etc. before they knew the date but planned and provided paper goods and funds for other expenses of the day. With the new speaker system, an outgrowth from last year's reunion, sound made the event more enjoyable. We thank Our Lady of Mercy Church for the use of their facilities and especially to Al Smith who was always there to let us in and oversee. To Gary Shows and Jerry Cerkowicz for invitations and name tags. To all those who provided the many sandwiches, cookies, vegetables, punch and coffee, A BIG Thanks! Yes, thanks for a Great Job! Cee U Next Year!

-Mid Dornan

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
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Membership in the Point Richmond History Association includes a one year subscription to "THIS POINT...in time" newsletter (six issues) and a special publication. 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.

Contributors to this Issue:

Gary Shows	Editor
Dennis Schaefer	Asst. Editor
Mid Dornan	Articles
Don Church/Allan Smith	Historic Photos
Jerry Cerkowicz	Proof/Article
Pam Wilson	Membership Info
Allan Smith	Articles
Jean Reynolds	Articles
Dee Rosier	Articles
Teresa Meneghelli	Information
The Point Kids	Material
John Playter	Article
August G. MacDonald	Article
Willard Spiersch	Material
Edgar A. Guest	Poem

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

or
email: gary@alkos.com

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Phone Numbers

Mid Dornan 510-234-5334
Gary Shows 510-235-1336
Fax 510-233-0762

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



Also, thank you to the following members who have renewed their memberships:

Marion & Ralph Voigt
Mrs. Elaine B. Scott
Tom & Shirley Butt Family
James M. Forbes
June S. Solosabal
Barbara & Jeff Ward
Dean Beesley
Mary L. Cornelius
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Madeline Albright
Thomas Mercer Hearsh
Jim & Florence Wilson
June Minor
Zoanna Kille
Phyllis Feyder
Vivien E. Cook
William S. Kollar
Irene Patterson

And a warm welcome to new members:

Donna Buhler
Pena Baebieri
Cheryl Cherney

*Mary Highfill.....
The flowers in front
of the museum
look just great !
Thanks!*

*Museum Staff Coordinator Betty Dornan
thanks volunteers who staffed the History
Building in April and May*

&

Our usual

Thank You!

to

Santa Fe Market

and

Point Richmond Market

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



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

This Point....in time

Gary's Page

Gary Shows

Wow, this is the biggest issue I have ever done, 28 pages! I think it is a pretty good issue and its production went reasonably well. Thanks to regular staffers for being timely and welcome to new staff member Dee Rosier. Dee will be reporting for Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church as well as possible special articles. Allan Smith remains on our staff and I am hoping will have more time for "Sports Memories" and his poignant and witty "Allan's Point".

I had wonderful feedback from Augustine MacDonald's "Remembrance" series, the second and last installment is included here, he says he may come up with more at a later date...I hope so. Hope you also enjoyed our reprint of John Playter's "The Bataan Death March", I didn't want to stretch this out over the summer so this is one reason for the big issue.

Good news, at the Kid's Reunion meeting Dr. Thompson told me that he would be preparing material for future TPIT's.

And speaking of the Kid's Reunion meeting, I think it was a great success, I hope the pictures included here reproduce well. Thanks to Mid Dornan for wonderful leadership, and thanks also the capable Reunion Committee as well as to the providers of all the meeting goodies.

Did anyone get downtown and see the "Tour duPoint" bike races on June 1st. I think it was all rather exciting and good for the town, I have included a couple of last minute pictures in this

issue, and will put more on our website as well as a few color photos of the meeting. Our site is at <http://www.alkos.com/prha>.

I hope you all have a great summer and remind you to follow Augustine MacDonald's example and sit down and jot down those memories of the old Point Richmond that you grew up in, your age doesn't matter and its OK if you are not a prosaic at Mr. MacDonald, I'll help you out!

Thanks to the small but highly capable April/May issue assembly crew:

Mary Highfill

Liz McDonald

Pam Wilson

Jerry Cerkawicz

Gary Shows

Allan Smith

I expect the September/October assembly to take place on Thursday, September 4th.

Last minute squeeze in:

While updating the mailing list I just discovered that I accidentally omitted a nice letter from Vivien Cook and a note from Renee Cairo Gonsalves that I intended to print, but alas this is going to press in less than two hours. Look for them next issue, sorry bout that folks!

The Cover:

Very early photo of the Standard Oil Refinery. Reproduced from a photograph donated to the PRHA by Dr. William Thompson.

A-Mid TRIVIA

-Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question: Why was July 3, 1900 an important day for Richmond?

Answer at end of Trivia.

What have you done today for Freedom? What can you do? It's easy. Old Glories broad stripes are red with sacrifices, reminding us freedom is not something won and forgotten--our fathers and brothers, mothers and sisters have returned to dust to teach us this lesson. With pride to yourself then, fly the mighty symbol which inspires all to be free-the FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Point Richmond resident, Diane Miller, president of Miller/Thompson Constructors Inc., was named 1997 Woman Entrepreneur of the Year in the Rising Star category. In just three years, Diane has made her vision an \$8 million-in-sales-last-year success and expects to double that this year. Diane was responsible for providing the 'cherry-pickers' that enabled workers to attach lights to the top of buildings in the Point for the annual Christmas lighting.

Couldn't the Natatorium benefit from paint and brushes?

It seems the ground squirrel population at Miller/Knox Regional Park can increase faster than one can walk the perimeter!

Happy Birthday wishes to Mae Mandl on her special birthday in July! Mae served

several years as Treasurer of the Point History Association.

Those of you who reach those hoped-for-90-years of age, please let us know. We want to keep a record of you special people! Louisa Haley, Naomi Huffstetter, Louisa Banks, Charlotte Woods! Who else?

Bob Peckham is trying to be optimistic about the recovery of use of his right hand. With so much strain put on his other hand, carper tunnel has developed!

CORRECTION: It was Grandpa Jack ELLE'S first grandson, seven pound, 20 inch Brian Jr., born February 19, 1997 to KariLu and Brian Crain, Sr., of Vallejo. Brian is their first child!

Is "queueing" the only English word with five consecutive vowels?

Math Magic: What's your age? Multiply your age by three and add one. Multiply that number by three and add your age to it. Knock off the last digit and there you have it your age!

Good to see Claude Bisio at the Kid's Reunion after recent bi-pass heart surgery!

Richard Dowell's heart prompted a stretcher-visit to the hospital. Hopefully, by now he doing better and is home again.

A bridal-shower-brunch on Saturday, June 14th will honor Kelly Darling who will wed Peter von York on Saturday, July 26th.

Did you know Irene Rollino Patterson, Lillian Kelleghen Ghidella and Jennie Stark Lanning began at Washington school, attended Roosevelt and graduated together from Richmond Union High in 1931.

If you retired after May 1, 1997 your Social Security payment may not arrive on the third day of the month. Instead, new retirees will get their benefits on the second, third or fourth Wednesday of each month, depending on their birthday.

Those with birth dates between the first and 10th will get their benefits on the second Wednesday of each month. Those born between the 11th and 20th will always be paid on the third Wednesday, and those with birthdays the 21st through the 31st will get their money on the fourth Wednesday. The new payment schedule is to prepare for the huge increase in the SS Administrations's workload expected when baby boomers retire.

To keep homemade cookies from becoming stale, put them in a big cookie jar stored in a room filled with children!

A little boy at a fireworks display asked, "I want to see the cost-of-living skyrocket"

Do you know what a bachelor is? It's a man who never Mrs. anything.

If you are average, you buy a watch every four years.

Fathers Day may not rank up there with Mothers Day but don't overlook it. Buy something sentimental 'cause down inside that rough husk is a "little guy" who cherishes a kind word or a plain, I love you".

ANSWER: It was on that day the first Santa Fe train left Richmond for Chicago. Two hundred fifty passengers, representatives of nearly every transcontinental railroad, had come from San Francisco to Richmond by the new ferry boat--the Ocean Wave. There were six cars--three coaches, a Pullman sleeper, a baggage car, and a mail car. Heading the six cars was Engine No. 205, steamed up ready for the long journey. The first eastbound transcontinental Santa Fe train was on its way to Chicago.

That evening the crowds cheered again as the first westbound train arrived from Chicago. It was an hour late because so many people along the way had wished to welcome the new train to California.

The train's arrival at Point Richmond terminal was a reminder to townspeople that Richmond was the western home of the Santa Fe Railway. They knew some day it would become a large city.

1998 Kid's Reunion Committee!

Teresa Meneghelli didn't turn down being Chairman again and assumes this years's congenial committee will continue with their good work with the addition of Jenny Stark Lanning and a younger generation, Linda Lanning!

Others are Chano Forner, Al Frosini, Julio Carrera, Ann and Bruce Bartram, June Solosabal, Mary Highfill, Liz McDonald, Josephine Palenchar and Mid Dornan. To join or comment call Teresa at 510-223-9371.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A NOVICE MUSEUM VOLUNTEER

Dee Rosier

It all started with Mid Dornan asking if I would substitute volunteer for her. There was a power surge due to the heavy winds and we were without light that day. The key to the museum was not at the Santa Fe Market and Point Richmond Travel gave me one that didn't work. After much assistance from Bernadette at the Santa Fe Market, Jerry came to my rescue and opened the museum. Bad omen, NO the best was yet to occur and embrace me with a memory not soon forgotten.

A young couple came in and seated themselves looking through the photograph books. A young lady walked by, hesitated and decided to come in. She said that her Grandfather had lived in the Point years ago and was seeking historical information for him. After showing her what little I could put my hands on, I asked for her name and phone and told her a more expertise volunteer would call. She was then approached by the young man who asked what her Grandfather's last name was. He told her that his Grandfather's last name was the same and lived in El Cerrito. They talked a little more and yes, you guessed it. These two young people were related and had never met. Several days later I ran into the young lady and asked if she had heard from her new relative -she had and was quite pleased. It was my lucky day to have been at that particular place and at that particular time.

Would I volunteer again -you know I would.

Allan Smith's Point

Point Richmond was well represented at the recent Chevron Retiree's Tree Planters 100th trip since it was organized 12 years ago. The event took place in the El Dorado forrest area near the town of Pioneer in the Mother Lode country. Melba Ghieri, Jack Healy, Allan and Marcelina Smith, Luciano Forner, Louie Barra and Merv Kellehan were among the 60 members who attended. The leader and organizer of the project is Walt Fauerso who also lived in Point Richmond at one time during the start of his Chevron career.

AP Smith

Luciano Forner and the Smith brothers Allan, Laren, Dean and Frank were part of the Knights of Columbus fraternal organization who placed 1000 American flags on the graves of veterans buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery in San Pablo. This is done each year for the Memorial Day Holiday.

AP Smith

PRHA member Linda Andrew-Marshall was the first to correctly identify the photo of Point Richmond Market proprietor, Mohammed Warith, as the pipe-smoking sailor in Vietnam in 1965 from last issue's Mystery Photo. Linda wants to publicly thank Mohammed for her surprise winnings of a \$10 grocery certificate which was much appreciated. PRHA member Phillip Dorn also correctly identified "Mo".

Church News

Our Lady of Mercy

Dee Rosier

232-1387

Allan Smith's shoes are much larger and more experienced than mine, but I will attempt to fill them as best I can.

Our Lady of Mercy is a small and friendly parish. The regular faithful parishioners are there every Saturday and Sunday in their self-assigned seats. Choir duties are shared by parishioners who alternate leading duties. Masses are held on Saturday at 5:30 P.M. and Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Mass is celebrated by Father Jim Clift. All newcomers are welcome. -The Parish Council meets on the first Monday of each month and the Parish Assembly is held on the third Sunday of the month immediately following Mass. Coffee and dessert are served in the parish hall along with the latest parish and local news. Recently elected to serve on the Parish Council were John Gerck and Nancy Hagel.

The Parish rejoices in the recent selection of Cynthia Young as the 1997 educator of the year. She was honored in a special ceremony at the University of California Davis on May 18. Her family was in attendance to see her receive this most prestigious award. We are most proud of her achievements including our own Parish COD program.

Our gratitude and thanks to native

Parishioner, Theresa Bernardi Meneghelli for donating a P.A. system for our Parish hall. Our thanks also go to Alan Smith who spent hours of work making the system a reality.

The Italian Catholic Federation will hold their 14th Annual Salad Bar Luncheon on Thursday, June 12 in the St. Cornelius Auditorium. Lunch will be served from 11:30-1:30. Tickets -\$6.00 each. Since I am Chairperson, you may call me for tickets.

Former teachers, parents of students and students of St. Cornelius, St. David's and Saint Paul's are invited to attend a reunion with the Sisters of Notre Dame who taught for many years in these three Parish schools. It will be held at St. Cornelius School Auditorium on May 25 from 1:00-4:00.

Brenda McKinley, President of the Oakland Diocesan Council of Catholic Women recently attended its annual spring conference at St. Jerome's Parish on May 6.

Father John Garvey was Parish Priest at Our Lady of Mercy when I registered as a parishioner. He had previously been Parish Priest in Crockett when I received my First Holy Communion.

See you in Church.

Point Richmond Methodist

Jean Reynolds

235-2988

You may have noticed the scaffolding and action centered on the roof of the church building. Winter rains caused damage and without roof replacement, more damage was sure to occur. The \$92k cost of the work is being funded by donations, money saved for that purpose, and a loan of \$35k from the California/Nevada Conference of the United Methodist Church. We are committed to keeping that great old building sound as long as it serves a purpose in the community.

Pastor Dan was gone for two Sundays as he recovered from surgery to repair a collapsed lung. We are glad to have him back, and realize how much we appreciate him!

He continues to direct the Angel Choir for children: They will meet on Saturday mornings at 9:00 AM until June 14, then will break until fall.

The Point Methodist Church had a booth at the Point Richmond Stroll, and four people won pies in the drawing we held. We passed out homebaked cookies at the Stroll, signed up students for Vacation Bible School, and had pictures and fliers about church activities.

There is still time to sign up for Vacation Bible School, which will be July 21 to 25, from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM. It will be for children ages 3 through fifth grade. The Youth Sunday School class will assist Puppeteer Linda Brooks with the puppet shows and skits. Call 235-2988 or 232-1102 to sign up.

The Monday night study group is

reading The Gospel According to the Son, by Norman Mailer. Members of this group attended a talk by author Marcus Borg, and went to a dinner with Dr. Huston Smith, author of The World's Religions. The study group will continue to meet during the summer.

The United Methodist Women will honor graduates with a breakfast on June 1. Grads and their parents (or spouses) will be the guests. Jack Elle will speak. This year's graduates are Jean Eger, Kathy Valentine, and Eamon Banta. We are proud of them!

A Fathers' Day Jazz Service on June 15 at 11:00 AM, will feature the Dan Damon Trio, the Angel Choir, and other musical offerings. Bring Dad or yourself for a special treat!



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 the First Methodist Episcopal Church whose history is reflected in their minutes printed below and taken from the canvas covered, red leather comered notebook which cost \$1.16;. The minutes are printed as written. This is the 27th installment.

May 19, 1925

The Social League met at the home of Mrs. E. L. Scofield with Mrs. Redman and Mrs. Scofield as hostesses. The meeting was opened by prayer followed by roll call. There were 22 members present.

By-Laws of the League were read. The

minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Reported dishes bought -\$26.60 for 6 doz dinner plates, 6 doz small plates, large mixing bowl, tea ball, spatula, wooden spoon, egg beater, 2 paring knives.

Moved and seconded President appoint kitchen committee -Mrs. Jones, chairman, Mrs Dustheimer and Mrs. Vluberg (Vl oebergh) .

Treasurer reported \$26.08 on hand.

Called meeting Tuesday night decided to serve luncheon for W.S. Improvement Club. Mrs. Jones, chairman.

Dec & tables -Mrs. Dustheimer Salad -brothers, Burdick, Damer Plate -Owens, Parker, D. Jenkins

Dessert -Scofield, Ford, Oehne, E. Jenkins Coffee -Seylmore, Griffin, V. Vluberg (sic) Serving -Harris, Campbell, Dingle, Diller, O. Smith

Moved and seconded and carried to omit food sale for this month having luncheon in its place.

Move, seconded and carried to levy assessment toward luncheon expense.

Menu -combination salad, creamed chicken, mashed potatoes, rolls, jelly, ice cream and cake. A motion was made that the Ladies Aid and Social League have bazaar together. Com. of three to meet with committee from Ladies Aid. Carried.

3 Presidents committee.

Meeting adjourned.

On hand

\$26.08

Mrs. Smith dues .60

Silver offering 2.25

2.95

Balance on hand

\$29.03

Irene Mythen
Sec

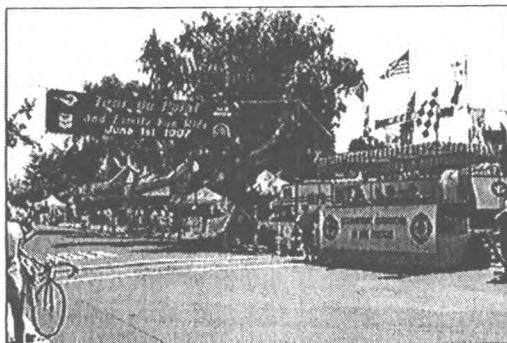
Oldest Service Club Elects Officers

The Women's Westside Improvement Club, at their regular meeting in May, elected officers for 1997-1998 with twenty-four members present.

- ◆ President: Virginia Cherniak
- ◆ Vice Pres.: Betty Dornan
- ◆ Secretary: Elizabeth McDonald
- ◆ Treasurer: Anita Christensen

Following the dessert luncheon, members were entertained by Anna Schwarz who presented humorous readings from the late Erma Bombeck's book, "When You Look Like Your Passport It is Time To Go Home."

A no host luncheon meeting on Tuesday, June 3rd will be held at the Baltic Restuarant in the Point. It is the last meeting of the summer. They will convene September 2nd, the first Tuesday in September, at their regular meeting site, the Point Methodist Church. All interested community women are invited.



"Tour du Point" activities on the triangle.



An Interview with Teresa Meneghelli

-Mid Dornan

Having been born and raised in Point Richmond, Teresa Meneghelli is well qualified to be head of the 3rd Annual Kid's Reunion. She was the last of seven children born to Bartholmew and Maddalena Bernardi -Lucia, Louis, Madeline, Angela, Joseph, Anthony and Teresa. As seven years separated her and her youngest brother, she jokingly laughs and adds, "I was kinda the..you know..one of those things!"

No one complained about the steerage accommodations aboard ship when the family arrived in Point Richmond after the San Francisco earthquake in 1907 even though her mother was carrying her fourth child. Leaving the Piedmontese area of Italy wasn't a difficult choice for her mother since in those days it was customary for married couples to live with the husband's parents and her mother wanted to live apart. His two unmarried sisters didn't understand Maddalena's love of being outside and looked down on her when she raked hay or planted vegetables.

"Things were simple then. We were a family of modest means and didn't think anything about it as everyone else was in about the same situation. Papa worked for the Santa

Fe Railroad. He was injured there and had to retire. Of course, in those times there were no pensions. So then, my brothers went to work and they helped. Along with that, Papa kept cows. We had the milk. Mama made the butter, the cheese, kept chickens and we had eggs. During the Depression, we always had food on the table."

"I began the first grade at Washington School. The first week was very hard as only Italian was spoken at home. But, it got easier as my older brothers spoke English. When it was a windy, stormy day, Mama thought I needed to be accompanied home so she came and stood across the street from the school and looked for me."

Much of Teresa's youth was spent on the tennis courts behind the Natatorium and when she had 25¢ she would go swimming. "But, they gave you a suit and a towel for 25¢. You even had hair dryers in a room after you dressed so you could dry your hair." When asked if she remembered the Natatorium opening in 1926, she enthusiastically replied, "Indeed! I was at the opening. They had a parade and bands and everything!"

"Going to the show, too, was a quarter. If

you went on Sunday night, you got a piece of china."

"I sang in the choir at Our Lady of Mercy Church a good many years." And she attended church faithfully. Mama went to church every morning of her life, unless she was ill. Her English wasn't too good so she held back."

The family home on Posey Avenue, being out of the center of town, for many years was without running water and electricity. I tell my kids, "Hey, I was in Roosevelt Junior High, studied by a coal oil lamp and, I made A's!" She graduated from Richmond Union High School (Teresa emphasized the word Union) in 1936 and lovingly adds, "It was the beautiful school. Like the Old Washington School. It was such a pretty school."

"Arthur Meneghelli was very bashful and didn't ever look sideways when they attended high school. He wanted to take me to the Graduation Dance but, being so bashful, he waited until the last week. I already had a date! We began dating after high school but then Art went away to World War II for four years. I went to work then in San Francisco for an Orthodontist but had first worked for Dr. Rutledge, a local dentist."

When Arthur returned in 1945, he and Teresa were married and were married for 41 years before his death. They had two children. A son, Barry, is with the Kennedy Space Center in Florida and a daughter, Cecile, is a registered nurse in Foster City. Teresa comments, "Raising a child now would be a very

worrisome thing."

"Papa made wine for many, many years. He rented the press from Al Frosini's Dad as did others. You could smell the wine when you went through town, especially out on Western Drive. It was always red wine on our table. I didn't like it." Art's family had a Mama-Papa store, Meneghelli's, on McDonald Avenue at 39th Street for many years. Others remember Art when he worked at the Mechanics Bank for 18 years.

She recalled changes in the Point such as Blesio's Haberdashery on the corner of Washington and Cottage (now the Post Office), Martin's Bakery (Rosemary's Bakery), Tony Mazza's Grocery Store (Masquers), Palmateers Pharmacy (Incurable Collector), Allyn's Mens' Shop (new tenants soon) Peraults Hardware (Cafe Annie), and Elsie's Department Store on Washington.

Teresa keeps involved with the Salesian Boys and Girls Club, St. Calistus Church, the Italian Catholic Federation as well as the Point Richmond History Association. She has made several trips back to Italy and says, "The floors of Mother's house were still dirt; there is a bulb in the ceiling though !" She would like to make one more trip to Italy.

Teresa credits her good health to her Italian genes. It pleases her to see a fence up again around the homestead, across from Keller's Beach on Dornan Drive, where she was born and lived for 27 years and which will soon house Regional Park Rangers.

A big THANK YOU to Kay Pinkerton who donated four antique globe covers for our turn-of-the-century light fixture in the PRHA Museum. The antique fixture, restored and donated by Muriel Clausen, lacked the old light globe shades.

Thanks to Kay it is now more authentic.

The Annual Kid's Meeting

A current heat wave didn't deter the spirit of the Point Richmond History Association's 16th Annual Meeting and 3rd Point Richmond Kids Reunion. Once a kid, always a kid as evidenced by the age differences represented.

If one thing were to be credited to the success of the Reunion, it would have to be the wonderful new speaker system Teresa Meneghelli had installed in the basement of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in memory of her late parents, Maddalena and Bartholmew Bernardi, lifelong members of the church. Teresa affectionately remarked, "They must be 'looking down' now and feeling proud, too."

Of the ninety-eight in attendance (those were the ones that signed the guest book!), an unbelievable forty-two of them were born in Point Richmond! One of those, the Point's first and foremost medical doctor, William Louis Thompson, being born in 1909, has claim to NUMBER ONE POINT HONOREE! Eight of those born in the Point still live in the Point--Jim and Florence Ceretto Wilson, Al and Helen Raffaneli Frosini, Jenny Stark Lanning, Frank Matteucci, Allan Smith and Luciano Forner.

It was a reunion that included the Mayor and Charter member of the Point Richmond History Association, Rosemary Corbin. A day to sing Happy Birthday to Point born Bruno Roveda, who prepared information of Point businesses 1900 to

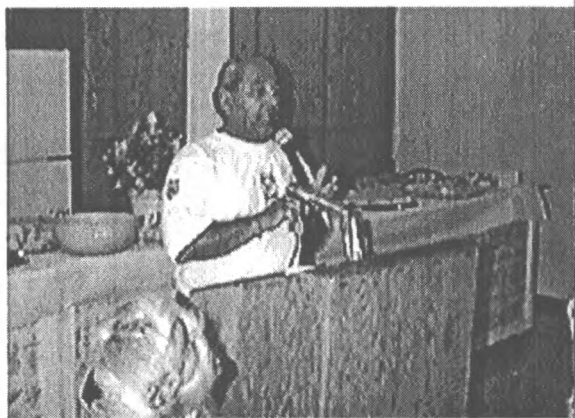
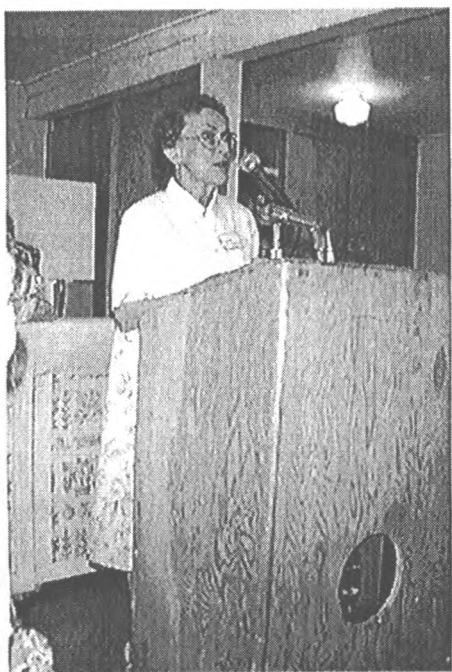
1913, giving a copy to everyone. A day Spiro and Mary Pat Cakos, gifting the history association with a bag of memorabilia, came the farthest from Phoenix, Arizona while the two Als, Frosini and Smith, debated who lived the closest! Betty Glass Marshall drove down that day from Grants Pass Oregon picking up Luella Bain Wilcox in Oroville. Then they stayed overnight to enjoy the amenities of the new Hotel Mac. Delphino Franco Tawney, Santa Barbara, became a face to go with her articles. Representatives from the 50's, 60's, 70's and 80's eras of Washington School included Les Hathaway, Pam Wilson, Patricia Dornan, Nina Williamson Yost, Linda Lanning and Rebecca Danks who had the honor of being the youngest. No claim on the oldest!

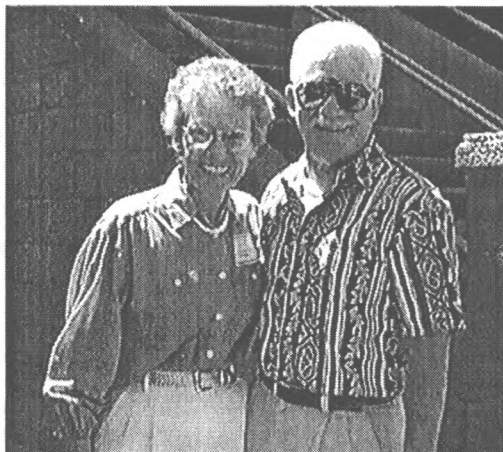
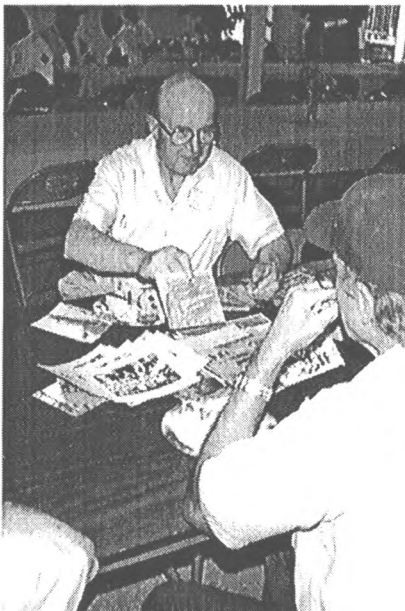
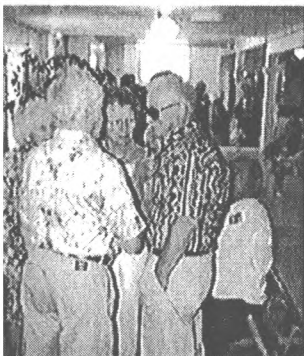
While most were former students of Washington School, those graduates of Richmond Union High School never performed better as they bellowed forth the Richmond High cheer, RI-CM-MO-ND, RICHMOND, RICHMOND! followed by their own melodic (!) rendition of the Navy Blue and Gold! Many even remembered the words! Who inspired this performance? You should have seen the energy that spewed from those ageless leaders--A] Frosini and Teresa Meneghelli!

Reno Cairo's sentiment, "I will always remember the Point as home", was echoed in chorus by those attending.

KID'S DAY PHOTO ALBUM







Who Came?

Attending from out-of-state were: Betsy Glass Marshall, Grant's Pass, Oregon, and Spiro and Mary Pat Cakos, Phoenix, Arizona.

Those from out-of-town included: Beatrice Beesley Casey, Soquel, CA; Dora May Beesley Feuerhelm, Martinez; June Beesley Solosabal, Martinez; Julio Carrera, Antioch; Terry Downey, Antioch; Art Granger, El Sobrante; Beverly Bartram, Hercules; ; Hazel Delphina Franco Tawney, Santa Barbara; Mervin Kelleghan, Pinole; Edna Wickersheim Hathaway, Hanford; Les Hathaway, Fairfield; Al Kollar, Vallejo; Reno Cairo and Rena Cairo, Manteca. (Rena was so cute and...proud of her 87 years!) Abigail and Nick Rivera, El Sobrante; Paul and Margarite Medino, Oakland; Mary Rosenberger, El Sobrante; Bob and Kay McAfee, Calistoga; Tom and Shirley Kenny, Pinole; Carol Pioazza, Visalia; Stella and Mike Giovannini, El Cerrito; Patricia Dornan, San Pablo; Luella Bain Wilcox, Oroville; and Bruno Bianchini, Santa Clara.

From Richmond came: Teresa Meneghelli, Viola Kennedy, Darrell Kennedy, Otto Barni, Steve Avalos, Tony Avalos, Lorn Smith, Bernadette Bisio, Lillian Kelleghan Ghidella, Irene Kelleghan Regalio, Claude Bisio, William L Thompson, Chet Thompson, William Kollar, Fred Beesley, Doris Foley, Nellie and Romeo Pasquini, Alice and Emeric Baxter, Kay and Bruno Roveda, George LeRoy Willilams, Rebecca Danks and Carolyn Patterson Ghiny, Mary Rudolph and Richard Smith.

Point residents included": Al Frosini, Josephine Mattucci Palenchar, Allan Smith, Gary Shows, Mid Dornan, Sonja Darling, Betty Dornan, Helene Frosini, Pam Wilson, Anne Hanzlik, Steve Wyrick, Lucretia Edwards, Frank Matteucci, Mae Mandl, Marian and Ralph Voight, Lupe Avila Morris, Jim and Florence Wilson, Donna Wilson, Mary Forbes, Jenny Stark Lanning, Linda Lanning, D. Smith, Jerry Cerkawicz, Barney and Marie Doney Dietz, and Carol Paasch, Crest Avenue in the Point was well represented with Mayor Rosemary Corbin, Mary Bianchini Highfill, Elizabeth McDonald, Fay and Marian George Hawkins, Luciano Forner, Alyce Williamson, Nina Williamson Yost and Mary Crosby.

The Bataan Death March

John Playter

After fifty years, World War II stories keep surfacing. Stories and memories so heart-wrenching they haven't surfaced because the pain is still real, still felt.

The following story was two and a half years in the making but it took 50 years before he could bring himself to tell it. So intense and emotionally disturbing was the experience of the Bataan Death March that it stayed within, and even his closest friends had heard only a few scant details of his painful experiences.

As John Playter related his story as a prisoner of war to his local Rotary Club, his voice broke up on repeated occasions and he fought back tears in the telling. John Playter lives in Bolivar, Missouri but visits his relatives in El Cerrito and Bodega Bay. It is through his niece, Joann Bray, that this amazing, touching and historic story is available. What to many was another incident of a horrible war becomes a tearful sharing of pain and patriotism.

Conclusion

After Christmas of 1943, time drug heavily but we heard that another shipment of Red Cross packages was due. It was needed desperately, as the camp hospital was full of men. In the middle of January 1944, 100 men were sent to Davao to work on an airfield and a rumor circulated that 650 men would go to work on another airfield in February.

The Red Cross shipment arrived late in the month of February. It contained four general weekly food packages per man, a limited quantity of medical supplies, 1,200 pairs of shoes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, razor

blades and shaving cream and a small quantity of clothing.

The last week of February 1944, the Japanese camp commander sent orders that 650 able-bodied men were to leave for Lasang, about 15 kilometers to the south, on March 2, 1944. Even though there were about 1,800 men at Dapecol, barely 650 of us were strong enough to do heavy work. Those were the ones who regularly worked on the rice details.

Three days prior to our departure, our commanding officer presented a written protest to the Japanese. It quoted facts concerning the rules of land warfare and also referred to the Hague and Geneva Conferences regarding using POW labor in an active war zone. It was like whistling in the wind, because on March 2, 1944, a large contingent of trucks arrived to take us to Lasang. One could only wonder, what next, what next? The new shoes previously issued to us were taken away.

Realizing that we would be working on an airstrip currently being used against Allied forces, we agreed to go to the airstrip but would do nothing in the way of work. The following morning, at 6 a.m., we were organized into working groups of 50 men each, and in a column of fours we were marched to the Lasang airstrip.

Extra guards were on hand, apparently in

anticipation of trouble. The airfield was a single, coral runway about 1,600 feet long. There were six Japanese transport planes, ten fighter planes and six bombers parked along the runway.

Anger welled up within us at this affront to our loyalty to the United States. Unquestionably this was a combat field and we were, once again, a part of a war zone but on the Japanese side. We refused to work and this infuriated the Japanese and the civilian supervisors present to direct the work.

The work that needed to be done was to dig ditches along each side to control drainage. Confrontation after confrontation took place. We were sent back to camp many times, then speeches by the Japanese urging and threatening us. Meals were cut to one a day. The weather was even against us as it rained heavily every day. We were continually cold and damp. But to keep from starving, a plan had to be worked out.

What finally resulted was-- each day our officer in charge negotiated what work was to be done that day. It wasn't always easy but it seemed like the best. As a result, we usually got back to camp early after having done darn little work.

Lasang and life there were detestable. But things did change one afternoon when we returned to camp and discovered the northeast one third of the compound covered with locusts. They were several inches deep, and completely stripped the ground of grass or weeds.

Catholic Chaplain Joseph Lefluer, who

incidentally was one of the finest Christian gentlemen I ever met, just stated casually, as we walked in the gate, that scripturally speaking, John the Baptist lived on locusts and wild honey. While we only had half of John's menu, plans began to formulate to eat some of these locusts.

The shaving cream that came in the last Red Cross package was Barbasol. As practically all of us had accumulated ways of cooking any moving thing we found on work detail, pots of Barbasol were soon boiling. You can imagine the rest and they were not bad. Mennen Shaving cream was too highly scented.

Doing just enough work to get two poor meals a day, time drug on until Aug. 4, 1944. It began to appear that final preparations were being made to leave Lasang. The airstrip was bombed that night and we all shouted with joy. The next day we received our last Red Cross box of food and we were given back our shoes.

For five months we had been waiting for this package which we really needed, as the issued food was terrible. Our morale went sky high. But still, we were kept in the compound.

The next day we were told to turn in our shoes again, and practically all food was cut off. But even so, it was an exciting time, as we knew that the Yanks were not far away. We had had four trying months of war and two and a half years in prison camp, so we had been through very difficult times. But the question still remained, "How do we gain our freedom?"

Finally, at 6 a.m. on Aug.20, 1944, the guards lined us up in companies. They tied

heavy rope around the waist of each man and linked him to the man in front and back. Two guards for every four prisoners stood over us. Machine guns and automatic rifles were mounted on trucks in front and to the rear of the column. Chances of escape were zero!

With faith and hope in our heart, it was good to be leaving Lasang, a place we detested and which had compromised our loyalty to America.

By noon, 400 were crowded into one hold and 350 into another of a freighter anchored out in the Gulf of Davao. There was not room for all to sit down, so we had to take turns standing. Three five-gallon cans and two latrine boxes were put in the middle of the hold for toilet purposes.

That evening, the ship moved but did not leave the harbor. Early the next morning, there was an air raid and a tarpaulin was pulled over the holds. This cut off all air and put us in total darkness. In complete desperation, Colonel Rogers screamed to be heard and begged for the removal of the tarpaulin. How sad it was to hear our leader beg like a child just for air to breathe.

The tarpaulin was left on for ten hours the night of Aug.22. Morning found everyone in an unbelievable condition. By Aug.24, we had crept along the shoreline to the Port of Zamboanga. We learned where we were from men who carried the toilet cans up. Just one time, we were permitted on deck, hosed down with sea water and then returned to the hold. It was hardly a bath but it did revive us.

We remained docked at Zamboanga for

ten days. Air raids were frequent, hence tarpaulins were on most of the time. Very unexpectedly, we changed ships the morning of Sept.5, and started up the coast. We were part of a convoy that included two other freighters, a tanker ship loaded with crude oil and at least two Japanese destroyers.

Slowly proceeding up the shoreline, on the afternoon of Sept.7, we heard small arms fire by the guards on deck. We had no idea what they might be firing on but later we decided it must have been at the wake of two torpedoes coming toward our ship.

Very shortly, there was an explosion followed by a second one. One torpedo had entered the forward hold in which there were 500 men. The second hit the stern in which there were 250 men. As the men in the forward hold were below the water line on the ship, the only men who got out were those in the center, as the water rushed through the gaping hole and instantly filled the hold. Those of us in the rear hold saw the deck blown off above us and men mangled that were right over where the torpedo struck.

Our ship had been destroyed by an American submarine. I had been sitting against the side of the ship and the metal side to my right was just pushed in around me. I was covered with four stunned men. With a hand from Lt. Jim Vann, I was able to get up and climb to the portion of the deck that had not been blown off. Several guards were firing at Americans in the water, in the hold and on the deck. By this time the ship was listing forward and those in the forward hold were drowning, trapped in the hold.

To this good day, I can hear the ship cracking as it futilely tried to lift the stern as the bow went down. I dived off the side just about the time the whole thing started under and was struck by something, slashing my left leg, left forearm and shoulder and wrist.

Down and down I went but finally I began to feel myself coming back to the surface. As I surfaced, I yelled at Lt. Gene Dale from Enid, Okla. He smiled and said, "Let's get out of here. We're free men". We could plainly see land two and a half miles away which did not appear to be any problem. I took a life jacket off a dead guard. But it was made from capok, a native material that would never sink but absorbed a lot of water. I soon did away with it.

As Dale and I started toward shore, we met Jim Light. Jim had served with PT boats and was a tall, handsome fellow who I had

worked with on the woodcutting detail. After Jim got off the ship, he had been shot in the back of his right shoulder and the bullet opened a tremendous hole in the front of his right shoulder. He was desperately holding on to some wreckage with his left arm and his feet.

We made every effort to help him, but the rough water hindered us. Two more buddies tried until Jim finally said, "Boys, I'm losing so much blood I'm never going to make it. And if you guys stay with me, you won't make it either."

It was not easy to leave him, but more guards were out in life boats shooting those in the water. The tanker that had run aground was leaking crude oil which covered the area where we were swimming. Luckily, we reached shore about dark. Only 83 of us made it to shore, leaving 667 dear friends to a watery grave.

Conclusion



Remembrance

Augustine G. MacDonald



Some memories are transient floating separately from the swirling mass. Walking the shoreline in the area now developed into Brickyard Cove looking for treasures washed up by the tide. The Police Firing Range where we collected lead bullets to melt and make sinkers for our fishing lines. Memories best forgotten such as swimming in the Quarry at the Brickyard and climbing the walls to find a high diving platform. Other memories invoke sorrow: schoolmates with polio, braces and the iron lung. Recurring memories: fishing from the platforms under the wharves at the ferry slips, the water churning at our feet as the ferries arrived and departed. Fishing from the long wharf with the sharks sucked in through the water intake pipes. We could watch fascinated until noticed by the workers. Memories of the oil tankers, sailing off to foreign ports and adventures. Winehaven and the beach, was it Strawberry Cove, or was that the beach at the brickyard? The shell mounds on the beach near Winehaven where our vain attempts to find artifacts are probably being cursed by scholars and archaeologists to this day. They will have to get in line behind the surveyors.



Other memories reflect the times. Set the Memory Catcher at Economics and press START, then PRINT. Boys at the side of the railroad tracks watching the trains pass and counting the BUMS riding the tops of the freight cars. Not really bums, simply men traveling the country seeking work, any work, and shift, any pay. Frequently as many as 100 of them on each train. Coming home to find a stranger in the yard cutting firewood in exchange for a meal, a common experience. The Hobo Jungles on the outskirts of each town with a railroad stop. Here they cooked and shared their meals and slept before moving on.



Set the Memory Catcher at Transportation. The Model T, the all time holder of the record for the most memories connected to autos. Everyone had Model T stories, it was the memory creator of our generation. Mostly these memories concerned cranking, broken arms from cranking, and backing up a hill someplace. The Model A and B not identified by manufacturer like Ford Model A and B are somehow related to their Rumble Seat. If you are just a wee bit older that the average and the recollection of the Rumble Seat makes you smile then it is best that our Rumble Seat memories remain just

with us. Press SAVE.



Point Richmond could also boast of a CORD, surely one of the most beautiful autos ever built. I believed it was Antone Salle who owned it but I wouldn't bet the farm on it, nor on the spelling of his name. The "big kids" will remember.



Remember the streetcars carrying passengers back and forth between the Point and Richmond? The passengers rode inside, where else? We rode on the outside hanging on the Cowcatcher on the rear of the car. Ours was the most exciting ride, also the cheapest.



The Memory Catcher appears to be empty. Program it to catch the image of a boy running like the wind with a bouquet of poppies in his hand. Press SAVE and EXIT. Wait, we have caught a new memory, its faint, and perhaps a repressed memory. Now its clearing: boys running like the wind with their pockets, and shirts, full of someones peaches and apricots. This simply cannot be a Point memory. Na-a-a-a. No way. Press DELETE and EXIT.

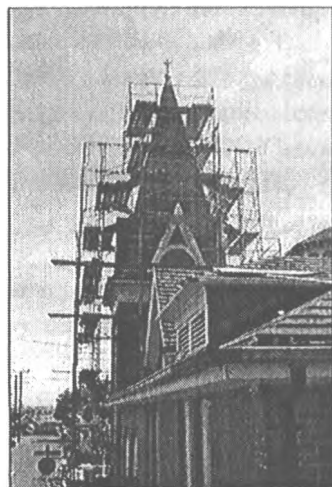
Congratulations!

CYNTHIA ANNE YOUNG HONORED

Cynthia Anne Young of Ocean Avenue, Point Richmond, has been honored as one of the nations outstanding educators by the 1997 SDB Teacher Recognition Program sponsored by John Hopkins University and the University of California. The Teacher Recognition Program honors teachers and administrators identified as committed professionals who are skilled at meeting the needs of academically able students. It is truly an honor to be selected as one of California's exceptional educators. Cynthia teaches in Walnut Creek.

PAT DORNAN GIVEN AWARD

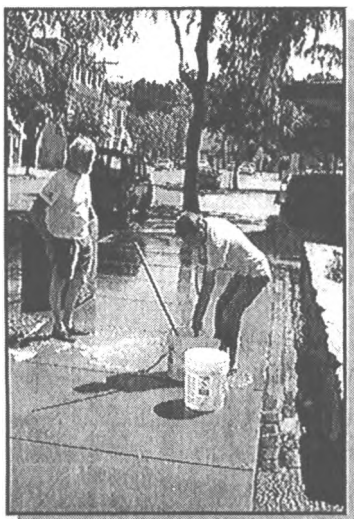
Congrats to Pat Dornan, teacher at Juan Crispi Jr. High School for being given an Honoary Service Award by the school's Parent Teacher Student Association.



The Methodist Church getting a new roof.



These Point Richmond residents were born in the Point: Frank Matuchuchi, Jenney Lanning, Al and Helene Frosini, Chano Forner, Allan Smith and Jim and Florence Wilson.



Did you know.....

That David Vincent and Jerry Cerkowicz give one of their Sunday's each May to clean up the Indian Statue Park. They thoroughly scrub the bricks, sidewalks, benches and statue base with elbow grease and disinfectant.

Notes from the Point's Past

HOUSEWIVES FIND THAT THEY WERE STUNG AGAIN BY VISITING PEDDLERS

(from Richmond Daily Independent Saturday, October 26, 1912) "Again?" Yes, ladies, that is the sad story. It was only a short time ago that hustling peddlers carted a wagon load of wicker ware rocking chairs about town that sold all the way from \$10 to \$15. Many a wise woman of the household thought that she was securing a bargain. The peddlers explained that they had no store room rent to pay, no clerks to hire and other good lines of "bull."

"The awakening." Schraders, the big furniture emporium at Macdonald avenue and Seventh street--a store that would be a credit to any city and presided over by a Richmond citizen who does his part in making this city what it is, is selling them today, ladies, for \$5.95. Do not take The Independents' word for it, but go and see them. This is not an advertisement, but a little sermon on peddlers.



CARDS & LETTERS



Dear Mr. MacDonald:

I hope there will be more "Remembrance" stories in "This Point....in time". What memories it brought back. I lived in Point San Pablo until I was five and my sister was six. There was only one company house out there and no school bus so my parents bought a place in Richmond Annex. My father worked at a vegetable oil refinery in Point San Pablo.

I remember the herring runs at Ferry Point. My father punched holes in a bucket and he would lower the bucket and pull it up full of herring and the water would drain through the holes. My mother made pickled herring in a big crock.

When I was about 13 I often used to ride my bicycle to Keller's Beach in the summer. It was about five miles each way. Ah, those were the days when a girl could ride alone through the tunnel with no fear and never had to worry about her bicycle being stolen while at the beach.

I also remember swimming at Blake's Beach and what fun it was to float on the waves when a ferry went by on its way to the City from Vallejo.

I knew an August MacDonald when I was in high school and don't know if it was you. I graduated in June of 1939 and I think he was a year or two ahead of me.

Hoping to hear more stories in the future.

Sincerely,
Audrey (Curtis) Edwards
Kahului, HI

Dear Gary,

Enclosed find the conclusion of the article "Remembrance" which you were kind enough to print. Thank you also for the kind words in your description of the article and the layout which improved it a great deal.

I enjoy your newsletter so much and I look forward to each issue. You all deserve great credit for keeping the Point a unique and caring community.

I hope I will be able to contribute more, if inspiration strikes, for we are all getting to the age where we forget more than we remember.

Best wishes,
"Augie" Mac Donald
Farmington, NY



Dear Gary:

Nice to see my name "in print" in Mid Dornan's A-Mid Trivia in the April/May issue.

Would you pass on to her the following items (just proving that I'm getting around more and more).

Our son Ron who lives in Frankfurt Germany was home for a month's visit in April followed by a visit from Jan's younger sister, Carol and husband Tony from New York state. In June Bob and I are driving to Calgary, in Alberta Canada to visit Rosemary (originator of Rosemary's Bakery) and husband Martin. We'll say hello from everybody in the Point. While there, we'll visit the major parks in that part of Canada and come back through Yellowstone and Grand Tetons.

Thanks,
Jan Burdick
Richmond

June Birthdays

ALISSA BAGLEY
WILLIAM SHEA
ANITA BROUGHAM
JEAN EAKLE
CATHE BRAZIL
BRIAN ROTTING
CLAUDE BISIO
JOHN H. KNOX
ROSEMARY GIACOMELLI

DAVE MACDIARMID, JR.
DIANNE PRIMAVER
AARON/MICHAEL
MARSHALL (TWINS)
THOMAS KENNY
CINDY QUIST
GILL STANFIELD
EMERIC BAXTER
ANDREW BUTT

JOANNE LANSING
DAN WEINSTEIN
STACEY SPINOLA
NATHAN BERMAN
ALEX BAXTER
SUZANNE UNSER
GERRY HIGUERA
DANIEL BUHLER

July Birthdays

JOSEPHINE PALENCHAR
AMY ROTTING
JULIUS MATEUCCI
MARY KNOX
DIEDRE CERKANOWICZ
ALLEN ANDERSON
ED SQUIRES
ALICE MCMAHON
HILARY LORD
CLIFFORD (LOU)
MACMILLAN
LORETTA 'MERTLE' LEASE

MADELINE BELLANDO
ALBRIGHT
JEAN REYNOLDS
ED SQUIRES
AL FRANCO
LOUISA BANKS (92!)
STELLA ANELLINI
GIOVANNINI
MAE MANDL
FRANCIS SMITH
MRS. CHAS BALDWIN
BEA READ

AL MCGEE
JEAN CREED
MADISON BRADSHAW
ROGER ELLE
BETTY CONCEPTION
LIZ GARRARD
ANN BISIO
FRED BELLATI
REGAN BRADSHAW
JULIUS MATTEUCCI

August Birthdays

ORETTA EATON
MID DORNAN
BEA KENOYER
NIKKI EATON
BARBARA WARD
ALICE THOMPSON
ANNE-THERESE AGESON
KARLA PETERSON
TERRENCE DOHERTY

CARL WESTMAN
BONNIE RITZENTHALER
WILSON
ETHEL SCHUMACHER
R. CLAYTON BARNES
THELMA HECKER HARVEY
DONNA WILSON
KEVIN PRYNE
JOE DARLING

BERNIE BISIO
CONNIE FISHER
BERNICE PREECE
ZOANNA KILLE
ALIA SMYKE
LISA SMITH
KELLY DARLING
DEAN BEASLEY

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) and a special publication. 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.

Contributors to this Issue:

Gary Shows	Editor
Dennis Schaefer	Asst. Editor
Mid Dornan	Articles
Don Church/Allan Smith	Historic Photos
Jerry Cerkowicz	Proof/Article
Pam Wilson	Membership Info
Allan Smith	Articles
Jean Reynolds	Articles
Dee Rosier	Articles
Teresa Meneghelli	Information
The Point Kids	Material
John Playter	Article
August G. MacDonald	Article
Willard Spiersch	Material
Edgar A. Guest	Poem

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

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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Point Richmond, CA 94801

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Anne Hanzlik, Programs

Gary Shows, Newsletter Editor

Sonja Darling, Fund Raising

Betty Dornan, Museum

Allan Smith, Archives

Phone Numbers

Mid Dornan 510-234-5334

Gary Shows 510-235-1336

Fax 510-233-0762

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



Calendar

Summer, 1997

June 11
Wednesday

School's Out in Richmond!

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting
Noon, at the Hotel Mac

June 14
Saturday

Flag Day

June 21
Saturday

Summer Solstice (longest day of the year)

June 22
Sunday

Father's Day

July 4
Friday

Independence Day

July 9
Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting
Noon, at the Hotel Mac

August 13
Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting
Noon, at the Hotel Mac

August 14
Thursday

V J Day

August 22
Friday

Deadline for the September/October Issue of TPIT

September 1
Monday

Labor Day

September 2
Tuesday

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

Sepetember 4
Thursday

First Indian Statue Dedicated, 1904

September 10
Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting
Noon, at the Hotel Mac