

THIS POINT.... in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

Vol. XVI No. 4

December/January, 1997/98

\$1.50



Inside the First Bank of Richmond, 1905

Merry Christmas

Messiah!

A Gift to the Community

The Joyful Noise Choir under the direction of Virginia Cherniak, will present the third annual Messiah by Handel on Sunday, December 14, 1997 at 3:00 p.m. at the historic Point Richmond Methodist Church, Martina Street at West Richmond Avenue.

A five piece orchestra with Jean Eakle at the piano will accompany the choir.

This is a gift to the community and a thank you for their support of church projects and concerns during the year; especially for their support in replacing the costly church roof.

Point Richmond History Association

General Membership Meeting

Sunday, January 18, 1998

2:00 pm

Our guest will be a representative from filmmaker and neighbor, PIXAR. Save the date, this will be an interesting gathering!

Location in the Point will be announced soon.

Refreshments will be served.

From The President

Mid Dornan

How can it be the end of 1997 already?
Time for the holidays and the new year.

Part of the charm and charisma of the Point area is because its residents take time to be caring enough to do-something-about-it through the Neighborhood Council, the Point Business Association, the Washington School Many Hands Project, and the Point Richmond History Association.

PIXAR is one of the new local businesses that has put Point Richmond into another type of spotlight with its successful computer animated film, "Toy Story."

On Sunday, January 18th, 1998, 2:00 pm a person from PIXAR will be our guest speaker for the regular meeting. We are trying to arrange for a tour of the facilities too. You won't want to miss this.

So, when you get your new 1998 calendar, mark the date to join us. Place will be announced.

Thanks for making 1997 a time in history.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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

George LeRoy Williams
Jerry & Grace Cerkanowicz
The Shaw Family
Bruno Reveda
Mary Valenzano
Bena Salle Bowles
Stephen Wyrick
Ed Gingrich
Anna Gaumer
Dora Feuerhelm
Stella A. Giovannini
Roy Henry Gover
Rena nee Cairo Gonsalves
Audrey Edwards
Mid Dornan
Mary Crosby & Tom Piazza

90 YEAR-OLD CLUB

Naomi Huffstetter

Mae Mandl

Ruth Mullen Woods

Louise Banks

**(Anyone who has achieved this
enviable number in life is special!
Let us know when you qualify so
you can be acknowledged as a
member of this exclusive club.
Congratulations!**

And a warm welcome to the following
new members:

Paul R. Nichols
D.R. Edwards
L.S. Markarian

*Museum Staff Coordinator Betty
Dornan thanks volunteers who
staffed the History Building in
November*

&

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**

Gary's Page

Gary Shows

It's hard to believe that soon it will be Christmas. But with all the Christmas lights everywhere its hard to escape the fact. Seems that time is just passing too quickly!

Here's the December/January issue.....it came too quickly too. Because of the happenings of the holidays, this is the only time that we have two issues coming out on consecutive months. But I had lots of stuff to print and contributors were very timely, so that made it easier. As always thanks go especially to Mid Dornan, she contributes so many interesting facts in addition to her regular columns that she really "makes" this newsletter.

You will find the conclusion of Dr. Thompson's latest memory article. I am hoping that he or someone else will continue as I have none scheduled for the next issue.

We have a lot of requests for pictures of the shipyards and that era. We don't have any, so if any of you do, we would love to get copies for our photo collection. Mail them to us or call me or Mid and we will collect them and return them if you want them back.

Try to make it to the meeting on January 18th with PIXAR. I will post the location of the meeting at our museum, so if you haven't learned the location by then come by the museum on your way, as it will take place in the Point.

Sorry, but I had a last minute emergency that required my attention and necessitated neglect of a couple of pages and insertion a larger than normal stock graphic.

Wishing you all happy holidays!

The deadline for the February/March issue is January 23rd with an anticipated date of assembly of February 5th.

Thanks to the November issue assembly crew:

Mary Highfill
Liz McDonald
Pam Wilson
Mid Dornan
Jerry Cerkowicz
Gary Shows
Betty Dornan

The Cover:

Photo from our Don Church collection, caption in his album is:

"The First Bank in Richmond, located at the Point showing Mr. Waiverly Stairly, left and Cashier George Lee at the window. (Taken about 1905) Note the drop cord lights and the coal oil lamp for emergencies."

A-Mid TRIVIA

-Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question: Why were the following Point Richmond streets so named? Castro, Cutting Boulevard, Martina, Delfina, Garrard Boulevard, Golden Gate, and Lobos.

Answer at end of Trivia.

On December 15th, there are 746 days until 2000 !

The Measure H city tax, which would have paid for seismic retrofit of public buildings and namely the Richmond Plunge, was defeated by a 2 to 1 margin at the November election. The measure won the two thirds support required for passage in only three of the 50 precincts. These were in the Points



Speaking of election day, the board at the Methodist Church always eagerly await voter Elvis Peckham (Santa Fe Market with Acme French bread and assorted brie cheeses who times his vote in mid-morning!) Darlene Byers treated workers to Mocha coffees and special sundaes, and Bo Amantite provided smoked salmon! Workers receive pay for the day? Well, they chuckle with the mention of pay! About \$4.30 an hour for 15 hour {minimum} day.

Scientists are predicting a milder flu season this year with a type of flu virus less deadly than the one that struck last winter. Type B viruses will predominate.

December 19th is "'Lights on for Life Day' designated by the California Office of Traffic Safety in remembrance of those who have lost their lives or been injured by impaired drivers. State, local law enforcement officers will drive with headlights on that day.

Petra and her 'Flowers to Remember' are welcomed back at 145 West Richmond Avenue, formerly the Richmond Supply Company.

Happy Birthday, Tref Ross. I'll probably forget to send a card since it follows the holidays in January!

Norma Guisti is in Vale Convalescent Hospital following a stroke.

Its a first great grandchild for Vic and Mary Highfill! A girl, Halley Keahaulani

Boykin was born October 28, 1997 in Manhattan, Kansas to Kerrie and Nathan Boykin. Excited grandparents are Roy and Kris Javellani.

Don and Bo Amantite's newest granddaughter, Zoey Fogerty, was born October 13, 1997 to Susan and Jack Fogerty. Zoey's other grandfather is of Credence Clearwater Revival fame. Bo boasts now of 5 grandchildren !

Betty Wirth will help her only great-grandchild, Kristina, daughter of Karolyn and Stephen Brandt, Martinez, celebrate her first birthday on January 16th, 1998.

Oretta Eaton barely took time off for knee surgery after the church Country Faire before she was back making coffee for the Sunday after-church social time!

History founder, Donna Roselius, stopped over night in the Point en route home to Port Orford, Oregon from visiting her grandchildren, Eric and Kyli, in Sonora over Halloween. (Shirley Butt noted she wore one of Donna's original fabric art dresses when she met the President recently")

Does anyone remember the Charles and Anna Hunt or Erik and Amanda Erikson families that lived on Western Drive or Ocean Avenue in the early 1900's? A relative, Russ Larson, in Fremont is seeking information on these families.

"What's the quickest way to cure a Socialist?" "I know a cure, but I wouldn't care

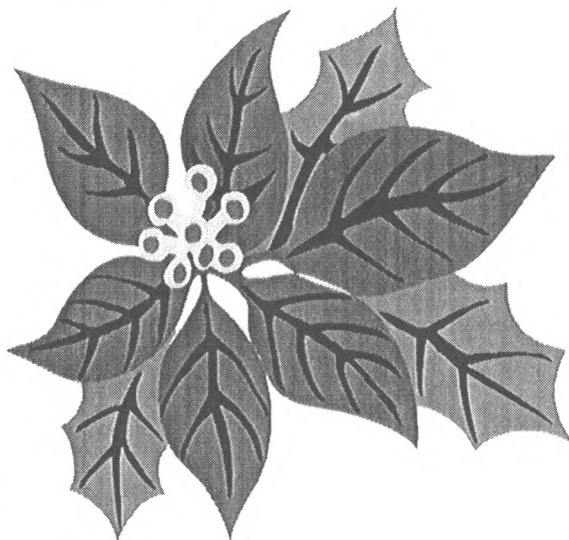
to try it myself." "Well?"

"Hand him \$10,000 and suggest that he divide it among his brethren."

(from Standard Oil bulletin.....Jan 1921)

Those attending the Nicholl Knob Reverse Ground breaking Ceremony on November 1st, were treated to breath taking, 360° panoramic views of the Bay and Richmond enhanced by spectacular sunshine weather. For this, Lucretia Edwards is to be credited as her gift of land made the view to be enjoyed by everyone forever!

Four years in the undertaking, the underground water tank is to be obscured by trees and the grasses and poppy seeds scattered by those present. Among those in attendance were Mayor Corbin, East Bay Water Company dignitaries, Neighborhood Council representatives, residents children in strollers, dogs and Councilman Tom Butt with his leashed goats in tow.



A two-alarm fire destroyed the abandoned Santa Fe Railway depot at the foot of Macdonald Avenue on Saturday, November 15th, but the cause of the fire remains under investigation.

The historic structure had not been in use for a number of years and was slated for demolition next month so the adjacent railroad tracks could be widened. How many readers remember using this depot?

A proud Grandpa David King, announced it was a boy, Cacy Jack Hedges, 8 lbs., 10 oz. born in October in London, England to daughter Whitney King Hedges, formerly of Point Richmond. Grandpa David plans a visit to London soon.

Have you noticed the redesigned \$50 bill that began circulating in late October, on schedule despite a tiny printing flaw that marred 30 million of the bills? The new bill, aimed at preventing counterfeiting, features an off-center, enlarged portrait of U.S. Grant, the nation's 18th president, on the front and an updated engraving of the U.S. Capitol on the back. The large high contrast number on the back is designed to make the bill easier to identify. 150 million bills were printed between late May and late August when it was discovered about 20 percent had a small break in the lines around the portrait. They were declared usable and circulated.

An 8-year-old girl was showing her preschool sister a picture of Mary and the baby Jesus. The younger girl examined the picture closely and then asked, "Where's Joseph?"

The older sister thought for a second and then replied knowledgeably, she's taking the picture."

Postmaster's Proverb: All things come to him whose name is on the mailing list.

Item in gift shop: "For the person who has everything; a calendar to remind them when the payments are due.

Answer: Origin of street names:

CASTRO - For first grantee of Rancho In Contra Costa, Francisco Castro.

CUTTING BOULEVARD - for Henry Colman Cutting, early land promoter.

DELFINA - for first child of ex-Governor Alvarado and his wife, Martina Castro. (MARTINA Street was named after the Governor's wife.)

GARRARD BOULEVARD - for Ed. J. Garrard, Richmond Mayor, 1914-17 and 1921-27.

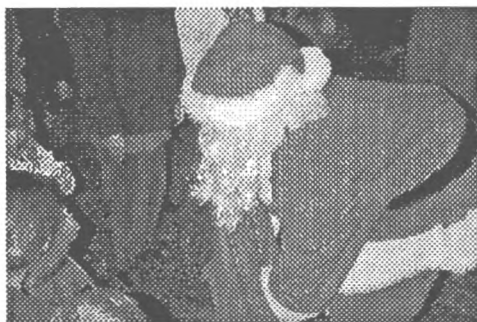
GOLDEN GATE - for unobstructed view of the Golden Gate.

LOBOS - Spanish word for wolf.





Tree Lighting Cerimony November 29



Church News

Our Lady of Mercy

Dee Rosier
232-1387

Father Paul C. Jesurajo, a Jesuit Missionary celebrated mass at our Parish. Father Paul has spent many years in India. During his studies at U.C. Berkeley he resided at St. John's in El Cerrito.

Bishops from around the world will meet with our Holy Father in Rome later this month to discuss the role of the church as we approach the new millenium. Father Antonio Valdevia, pastor of St. Cornelius will accompany Bishop Cummins as secretary to the Bishop.

Our Parish assembly was held on October 19th with more than 50 parishioners attending. Thanks to Doty, Nancy and Gertrude for the Hollween treats.

Peter Lespier has accepted the position of Vice President of the Parish Council. Peter replaces Pat Heron who has moved to Marin County.

Good to see Benny Garcia back in church. Louise Banks is now home and with the aid of a walker, doing well.

The weather change has brought back warm sweaters and jackets to the church.

Brenda McKinley has spent the Thanksgiving holidays with family in Louisiana.

Our Thanksgiving parish assembly was

recently held and at least 75 parishioners attended the potluck brunch. The food was delicious and plentiful. Our thanks to Shirley, Angie and Amelia for the great job.

We are in the process of a major kitchen/dining room remodel. Completion is due by the first of the year. Consequently the Rosier's will put the holidays on hold and celebrate at a later date. It has been an overwhelming experience and look forward to all our new amenities.

Wishing you and yours the best for the holiday season.....see you in church.

The following was sent to me by a friend and I share it with you:

Essay on God by an 8 year old

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes these to put in place of the ones that die, so that there will be enough people to take care of things here on earth. He doesn't make grown-ups, just kids. I think its because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that up to moms and dads. I think it works out pretty good. God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, as some people like pastors, pray other times besides bedtime!! God sees everything, hears everything, and is everywhere, which keeps him busy.

Jesus is God's son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and doing miracles and trying to teach people about God who didn't want to learn. They finally got tired of his preaching to them and they crucified

him. But he was good and kind like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them, and God said "OK".

His father appreciated everything he had done and all his hard work on earth, so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in Heaven. So he did. And now he helps his father out by listening to the prayers and seeing which things are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to hear you because they've got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.



Point Richmond Methodist

Jean Reynolds

235-2988

The two-day Country Fair was a big success this year. Friends gathered from near and far to serve lunch and sell hand-crafted holiday items and baked goods on October 24 and 25. The Sunday School Youth, with help from Linda Brooks, had a Haunted House in the church basement on Saturday of the Country Fair. The church basement is always pretty creepy, but it was a scary place inhabited by scary creatures when they were through with it. Jean Eger and Claudia LeGué added to the fun with a face-painting booth.

On October 26, children led the worship service in honor of Children's Sabbath. It was declared "the best service ever" by some of the children who participated. Children greeted at the door, led the call to worship, read scripture, introduced the theme of the sermon with a puppet show, sang, danced, and ushered. We have vowed not to restrict all of this great energy to just one Sunday a year!

Thanksgiving Day Feast: By the time this is published, Thanksgiving Day, 1997 will be only a memory. Now, however, many hands are making preparation for the feast planned for Nov. 27. Thank you to the many Point Richmond businesses who contributed and prepared the food and to the many individuals who

contributed time, money and food to make this joyful event happen. Thank you to those people who came to the feast: without you there would have been too many leftovers and not enough fun. We live in a wonderful community!



On the Calendar:

To help make your holidays a little brighter:

Messiah Sing: December 14, 3:00 p.m. Directed by Virginia Cherniak. Bring your own score if you would like to join with the choir to sing the Hallelujah Chorus.

A Christmas Carol: Tom McGowan directs a Reader's Theatre production of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. This beloved Victorian tale will be presented at the church on December 21 at 7:00 p.m. The performance features Jack Knox, Tom Bates, Jim DeWitt, Vali Cooper, Matt Eakle, Sallie DeWitt, John Behrens, Tom McGowan and Rick Sampson. Seating is limited and reservations are recommended. The suggested minimum donation per ticket is

\$15. All proceeds will benefit the roof fund. Call 232-1102 to reserve seats. Jazz Christmas Eve Service. December 24, 7:00 p.m. Celebrate the hope, joy, peace and love of the season with music performed by the Dan Damon Trio, and stories both ancient and modern.



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 30th installment.

August 4
(1925)

Mrs. Danner and Parker hostesses. The meeting of the Social League was held in the parlors of the church. The meeting was opened by prayer led by Mrs. Owens.

Roll was called with 16 members present. A list of the members who had paid their assessment on the last mens' dinner was read, and a short report given. A shortage of \$4 was reported which had been paid by the League.

A discussion was held in regard to carrying on the men's dinners. A personal

moved and seconded that the members of the Social League take charge of the next mens' dinner provided we know definitely two days ahead the number of guests expected and the guests be confirmed to the West Side of town.

A card was read asking for a donation for the 1st M.E. Church of Three Forks, Montana. It was laid on the table. Plans for the bazaar were discussed and the date changed from Nov. 6th to Nov. 20th as the date for the Eastern Star had been Nov. 5th. This was regularly, moved, seconded and carried. Woods' store was decided upon as the location.

The Ladies Aid had not decided just what booths they could handle but would let us know at a later date. Meeting adjourned. On Hand Aug 4-Food sale Assessment for luncheon Rev. Grant for dinner Silver offering

1.40

2.50

1.00

1.85

6.75

Pd Mrs. E F Gnaga (fancy work ____

\$27.49

Irene Conn Mythen, Sec

\$24.74



More Memories From Dr. William L. Thompson

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

In earlier issues of TPIT Dr. Thompson intrigued us with his vivid memories of the Point's early years. Thank you to the Doctor and to the folks that have talked him into giving us more of his wonderful memories here is the third installment.



I also remember walking as a small child with my family along the hills above the waterfront north of Washington Avenue. In one place we met a man was working with an old steam donkey engine to raise drift wood logs up from the beach to use for firewood. There was no gas and very little coal in the area so people had to use wood and much of it was obtained from drift wood. There was kerosene for heat and light. Later Bob Dornan and company were able to supply wood, coal and many other supplies.

One thinks of downhill sledding as a sport

reserved for regions of snowfall. Snow has been rare in Richmond. I recall only four times that snow fell in this region but only once in January of 1913 was there as much as four inches. To make up for the lack of snow we used other means for tobogganing. One was to find a good hill of rather tall brown grasses. If fairly steep, the grass gave very little friction and sliding was very good. Another was to dig little grooves in the dirt down a steep hill for the sled runners. Friction for the runners was reduced by pouring water down each runway. The result was usually good but muddy.

Another popular sport for kids of school age in the early days of Point Richmond was swimming. Long before the natatorium was built we had only the bay to swim in. The water was cold and the only means of heating it was the sun so we had to restrict our swimming to summer months. There were many beaches available along the shore. The most southerly one was the one we called long beach. This was a long, sandy beach about a mile south of brickyard cove. This had fine sand and was relatively shallow. It was excellent for small children. In one area there was a rather thin Indian shell mound. Unfortunately this has been entirely destroyed by industry at the time of the ship yards and later. It was used mostly for family picnics. People could walk down the old road on the east side of the hills.

There had probably been another beach and Indian shell mound where brickyard cove is now. The brickyard would have destroyed the beach long before it was accessible to people. Never the less, the brick yard produced another interesting swimming pool. This was a quarry pit probably made to obtain material for making bricks. It is still there and is located just south of the remaining old brickyard kiln. After the brickyard ceased to function, the pit, filled with water. It was a brackish water, some seeped in from the bay and some was runoff from the nearby hills which was a little warmer than the bay water. Looking down on it from the ridge of hills it still looks just like it was when we used to swim in it.

Beaches around Santa Fe point were too rocky for swimming but there probably had been a good beach in the cove where Miller-Knox park now exists. This would have been before the Santa Fe tracks had been laid. Keller's beach has been a popular beach since the town started. I recall the Keller family quite well. Mr. Keller was killed by a train in the Santa Fe tunnel. Before the road tunnel was made he used to walk up into town though the Santa Fe tunnel on Saturday evening for a little relaxation and I suppose, he imbibed somewhat. Walking back through the tunnel at night he was struck and killed by a locomotive. Mrs. Keller and her son Danny lived there long after. I knew Danny fairly well as we were in high school together.

Keller's Beach was very popular in the early days because it was a good sandy beach and was easily available. Many Point

Richmond people, including my father, built dressing cabins here to change into swimming gear. However, the beach was damaged when the outer harbor was dredged. The mud from the dredging was dumped into the little lake back of the Santa Fe tracks where Miller-Knox now is. The excess water came back into the bay through the drainage opening near Keller's beach and with it came quite a little mud. The result was that Keller's beach received a layer of mud. This problem has been improved some in the following years but there is still more mud there than there was originally.

Another frequently used beach was the one along Western Drive north of Washington Avenue. This was especially popular for kids of school age because of its accessibility. I recall one girl who was being teased by a boy shouting at him "if you drown me I will murder you!" Another popular beach was that below the Blake Brothers Quarry. It was not large but was easily accessible. I recall lying on this beach with my brother and John Kenny and a few others. It was just before the war. Kenny joined the Air Force soon after that and never returned. His plane apparently was shot down someplace in the Pacific.

Another fine beach was that at the Chinese Shrimp Camp near Winehaven. It was similar to the one at long beach but was not used much early because of the fishing industry and because it was not readily accessible until people had cars.

Conclusion

Anne Hanzlik
Reviews
The Masquers Production

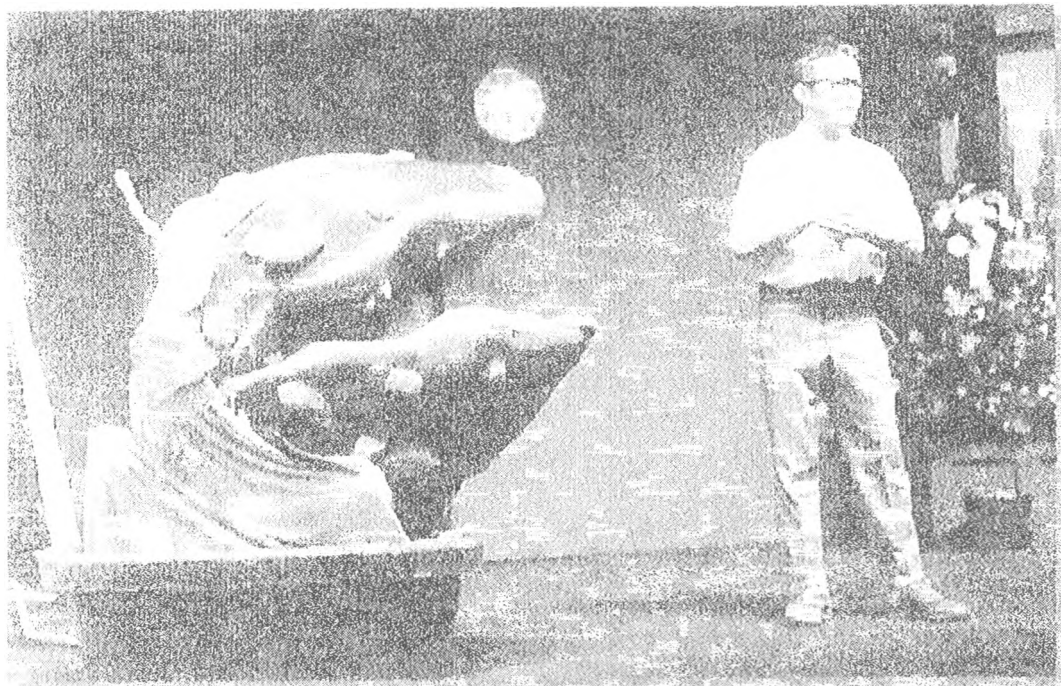
LITTLE SHOP
OF
HORRORS

October 31 - December 20, 1997

Although this show opened appropriately enough on Halloween this review will be a reminder to readers that it is still "on the boards" and will be playing until December 20th.

This is a modern fairy tale, complete with a monster, Audrey II, perhaps a scary one but a hilarious one in actuality. Audrey II manages to about dominate the small Masquer's stage. It is an amazing cast member, a gargantuan people eating plant made audible by John Marshall.

The pleasure in this production is greatly enhanced by the choreography which is charming and diverting as well as



Semour (Justin Cole, right) listens to the imprecations of Audery II.

This Point....in time

cheerful musicians in the pit.

The original was brought to the screen by Roger Corman in the '60's and later made into a musical, with books and lyrics by Howard Ashman and music by Alan Menken. The present production is the most recent addition to its history.

Steve Hill is the Director

Pat King is the Musical Director

Bridget Quinn Fearn the
Choreographer

Pat Steavens the Stage Manager

Shelli Ireland the Assistant Director

John Hull Scenic Design

Linda Woody-Wood Costumes Design

Marsha & Don Hansen Lighting
Design

Anne Collins, Properties

Pat Nelson, Production Manager

Rob Hardie, Sound Design

All these able people made the show a
big success.

The MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

presents

Opening
Halloween

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Book & lyrics: Howard Ashman

Music: Alan Menken

Based on the film by Roger Corman

Directed by Steve Hill

FRIDAY & SATURDAY EVENINGS

OCT. 31 - DEC. 20, 1997

Sun. Matinees: NOV. 9, 16 & 30, DEC. 14

Suspense! Laughter! Chills! Music! Drama!
Fifteen shop assistant Seymour attempts to win
the love of Audrey the salesgirl. He even names
a plant after her, only to discover that it requires
something special in the way of plantfood.
'Gleefully gruesome! Scream with laughter!'

THE CAST

Anna Albanese • Arthur Atlas • Justin Cole
Raymond Duval • Bridgett Fearn • Eric Fosselius
Lanie Hansen • Darlene Langston • Jon Marshall

24-Hr. Reservations: 510 232-4031

We accept VISA and MasterCard.

All reservations must be prepaid. All sales final.

Box Office opens 8PM; Matinees 2PM.

Curtain 8:30PM. Matinees 2:30PM.

Admission \$12 cash, check or credit card.

Group Rates available.

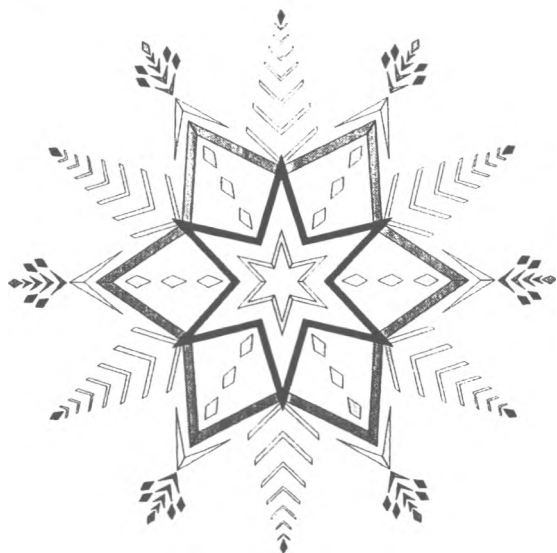
MASQUERS DINNER & THEATER BENEFIT

THURS., DEC. 18

DINNER at Hotel Mac

And "Little Shop of HORRORS"

\$25. Call (510) 236-4988



A DIFFERENT WORLD BUT IN MANY WAYS THE BEST OF TIMES

(An essay for the class of 1936)

It is said there are three ages of women: Youth, Middle age, and "you haven't changed.!" But change is the name of the game. Consider" Graduates of the class of 1936 were before the pill and population explosion, which, inexplicable, went hand in hand.

We were before television, before penicillin, polio shots, antibiotics, and frisbees. Before frozen food, nylon, dacron, Xerox Kinsey. We were before radar, fluorescent lights, credit cards and ballpoint pens. For us, time-sharing meant togetherness, not computers; a chip meant a piece of wood; hardware meant hardware, and software wasn't even a word.

We were before pantyhose and drip-dry cloths. Before ice makers and dish washers, clothes dryers, freezers and electric blankets. Before Hawaii and Alaska became states. Before men wore long hair and earrings, and women wore tuxedos.

Before Leonard Bernstein, yogurt, Ann Landers, plastics, hair dryers, and 40 hour week and the minimum wage. We got married first and the lived together. How quaint can you be?

In our time closets were for clothes, not coming out of and books about two young women living together in Europe could be called "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay."

Bunnies were small rabbits and rabbits were not Volkswagens. We wore Peter Pan

collars and deep cleavage was something butchers did. Pizza, Cheerios, frozen orange juice, instant coffee and McDonald's were unheard of. We thought fast food was what you ate during Lent. We were before FM radio, tape recorders, electric typewriters, word processors, Muzak, electronic music, disco dancing---and that's not bad.

In our day, Coke was something you drank, Grass was mowed, and pot was something you cooked in. We were before day-care centers, house-husbands, baby-sitters, computer dating, dual careers and computer marriages and Speed was how fast you were at typing.

In our time there were 5 and 10 cent stores where you could actually by things for 5 and 10 cents. For one nickel you could make a phone call, or buy a Coke, or buy enough stamps to mail one letter and two postcards. You could by a new Chevy coupe for \$650.00, but who could afford that in 1936? NOBODY! A pity, too, because gas was 10 cents a gallon. If anyone had asked us to explain CIA, MS, NATO, UFO, NFL, SATS, JFK, BMW, ERA, or IUD, we would have said "alphabet soup." We were not before the difference between the sexes was discovered but we were before sex changes. We just made do with what we had. And we were the last generation that was so dumb as to think you needed a husband to have a baby.

Submitted by Al Franco

Allan Smith's Point

Andy Anderson/J.A. Vincent

At a recent Chevron Retiree gathering, I was talking with Andy Anderson who worked in the Chevron Chemical Division with Ed Loux and Mr. Dingle, both from the Point. Andy was seen so often in the Point we all thought that he was born here instead of Richmond. He was an avid tennis player competing with Johnny Stark, Ted Beck, Carl and Battle Peterson and others. He was the envy of us as he got to 'crew' on Captain Clark's mahogany hulled sail boat named the "Ace".

Reminiscing with him we talked about Roosevelt Junior High School where we both attended and the name J.A. Vincent came up. Andy said J.A. won an ROG award. "ROG" stands for Rise Off Ground. The contest involved the student making his own self propelled airplane or rocket and the highest and longest performance won first prize, which was a trip around the United States visiting the historic locations.

J.A. Vincent lived down at Ferry Point where his father ran the Santa Fe docks. He was instrumental in getting Richmond's Farmer's Market organized and functioning. Now he is trying to get a year round Fisherman's Market on 25th and MacDonald. J.A. why don't you write something for TPIT? You must have lots of memories you could share with us.

Lockheed P-38

The Lockheed P-38, called the "Lightning" during World War Two was called the "Fork-tailed Devil" by the Germans. The P-38's twin boom configuration was unmistakable. It performed well in every World War Two theater, especially in the Pacific against Japan's fast, nimble "Zero". The Lewis brothers from Point Richmond were in the U.S. Air Force and one of them flew the "Lightning" during the War. Jim Forbes, Point native, was in the Air Force stationed in the jungles of Panama and his outfit was composed of P-38's. According to him they were dangerous planes to fly and had many accidents during landings.

The Undertaker's

Count Ferninand de Lesseps once known as "The Great Frenchman", built the Suez Canal but later was renamed "The Great Undertaker" when he tried to build the Panama Canal. Yellow fever and malaria defeated him. The first undertaker from the Point was Bert Curry who operated his business around 1902. Relatives of his still live in Richmond. Bruce Bartram and Jim Forbes, native sons, took up and both retired from the profession. Emmett McClauhlin is often mentioned to Don Church's Point Richmond memories also became an undertaker. He was from a pioneer Richmond family.

Sports Memories

by Allan Smith

I am not sorry that the 1997 Major League Baseball season is over. I did not see one game, couldn't stand the baseball millionaires playing in their respective positions chewing bubblegum or saying we're having fun playing ball. It will not be long before baseball will NOT BE our National Pastime.

I guess Willie McGee, Richmond School educated but born in San Francisco, will be recognized as the best big league baseball player to come from Richmond. He has great company from this area in Lefty Gomez and Johnny Babich. The former, born in Rodeo and later lived in Albion, California. They all were educated in Richmond. John Babich married a local Point Richmond girl and he pitched his first big league game for the Brooklyn Dodgers when he was only 21 years old. Babich is in his 80's now and going strong. looks like he could pitch ball again, he should exhibit his baseball memories in Richmond's Museum for a short period of time. Johnny DeFabio, ball player from Richmond has seen John Babich's "scrapbook" and enjoyed the baseball history very much. There were only three players born in Point Richmond that made it to the major leagues; Russ and Loyd Christopher and Jim Cronin.

I'll have to ask Charlie Navascone, good Richmond baseball player in our time, if Jiggs Wright, pitcher from Richmond ever played big league ball. Jiggs owned a bar on MacDonald

Avenue name "Jigs" where many local baseball players gathered after visiting Banduccis Basehit Bar on 4th and MacDonald in Richmond. Banduccis were a great baseball family. Jiggs Wright was a good friend of Red Strader, St. Mary's College football coach with Slip Madigan and who later coached the San Francisco 49ers football team. Jiggs and Red used to help out our successful American League baseball team. Jiggs had a curve ball none of us could hit..

A local resident passed away recently. I only knew him by the name of Brownie. Mr. Brown was a long time Point resident and companion of Hazel Carr, one of the Point's early realtors. He was a good friend of Slip Madigan, legendary St. Mary's College football coach and Brownie used to relate to me many of his experiences with Slip. Brownie was a talented vocalist who performed in Sweets Ballroom in Oakland and with local dance bands. He gave me several of his taped vocals which I will donate to the Museum.



DICKEN'S CHRISTMAS CAROL

Sunday, December 21, 1997

7:00 p.m.

Point Methodist Church

Martina and W. Richmond Avenue

Come share the spirit of Christmas and enjoy the beloved Victorian tale. And, assist the church in paying off the roof. loan.

What a formidable cast!

Tom McGowan, John Knox, Tom Bates, Vali Cooper, Jim DeWitt, Sallie DeWitt, John Behrens, Rick Sampson, Matt Eakle! Who will be Scrooge? Ghost of Christmas Past? Tiny Tim?

Following refreshments, a traditional Gingerbread house centerpiece, created by talented Paula Ferguson, will be given to a lucky program holder.

DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL HOLIDAY PRESENTATION!

For more information call 236-0527 or 232-1102.

***WEED PATCH TO MINI PARK
CREST AVENUE NEIGHBORS PITCH IN***

-Mary Highfill

Many thanks to Elizabeth, Rosemary, Anita, Linda and Mary C. for contributions of a cherry tree, bulbs, plants and friendly labor.

A special thanks to new neighbors, Charlie and Linda, for the park design, the aggregate bench and planting. Also for the frequent watering in the dry times, What grand neighbors!

And a welcome to new neighbors, Elizabeth and Brian, who recently purchased the Palko house on Crest Avenue.

(Crest Avenue has an enviable reputation for being good neighbors. Over the years they have served as a model neighborhood. It is the first street Camp Fire Girls and Girl Scouts rush when selling their candy, cookies or calendars! It boasts of several Eagle Scouts and the neighbors share a rare commraderie. Recently, a new (?) neighbor was transferred and the neighbors hired a limo to transport them in style to the airport as a farewell! They hold block parties. Now they took over an area that serves as an entrance to their street. Well done!.....Mid)

CARDS & LETTERS

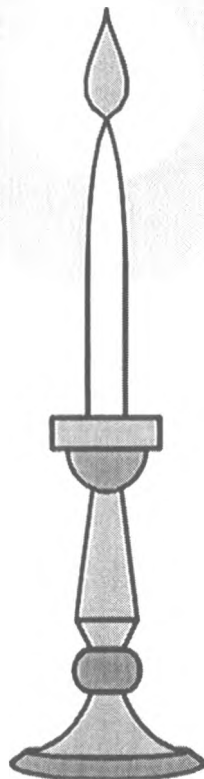
Dear Gary:

I've had this article in my "things to keep" for years. I don't remember where or when I got it. It has nothing to do with Point Richmond, but it is about the 1930's. I enjoy reading it from time to time, and I hope your readers will too.

How nice it would be if the pictures of "the Kids" in TPIT had captions. For those of you who have grown old gracefully in the company of many of the people in those pictures, it is easy to tell which face goes with which name, but (on the other hand) for me it is next to impossible to match faces and names since the last time I saw anyone from the Point was about 25 years ago. I've been told that the memory goes when one gets older.

Al Franco
Sumner, WA

Thanks for the cute article, it is in this issue, also I will try to caption pictures of the next Kids reunion, thanks Gary



Point Richmond Food Drive

Remember to bring your donations to the following locations
before December 9th

The Santa Fe Market	155 West Richmond Avenue
West Side Library	135 Washington Avenue
Point Richmond Market	160 Washington Avenue
Interactive Resources	117 Park Place
The Mechanics Bank	1001 W. Cutting Blvd.
Pixar	1001 N. Cutting Blvd.
Rosemary's Bakery	101 Park Place
Washington School	565 Wine Street

Losing a Friend

Ann Hanzlik

Time and circumstances conspire to have the people we know and value develop and change in our lives. Distance in time and place contribute to the evolution of friendships during the course of ones life.

John Flemming was one who came to mean a lot to me in the ten or more years what he was part of our group here in the Point.

He seemed very much at ease in our modest social circle despite his much wider role in life that began 78 years ago in his distinguished family's impressive Berlin mansion. Schooled in England, Essex and Oxford he emigrated to Australia with his family after the war.

His distinguished career took him from Canberra to Boalt Hall at the University of California at Berkeley. He was best known for his much respected treatise 'The Law of Torts', a guide to the laws and changes in the legal system concerning personal injury. His influence was far reaching here and internationally. He also at one time supported an initiative to curb legal fees.

But withal he was charming and entertaining friend, a collector of art glass, an enthusiastic reader and conversationalist. He was a sparkling companion in our too infrequent meetings.

His family, his colleagues and his friends shall all miss him and his contribution to life. The tragedy of an incurable disease, Lou Gehrig's disease, cut his life much too abruptly.

Deaths....

Rose Lee "Nicki" Ackerman retired registered nurse from Highland Hospital in Oakland, died November 8, 1997 in Sacramento. She was 77. A native of Eureka Springs, Ark., she lived in Sacramento two years and was a former longtime resident of Point Richmond. She is survived by a son, Laurence Ackerman of San Luis Obispo; and a daughter, Katherine Ackerman Dona of Sacramento.



Edward 'Red' John Peralsky, a math teacher who retired after 29 years at Richmond High School, died Monday in Reno, Nev. He was 74. The Oakland native lived in Portola and was a former Point Richmond resident. The Navy veteran was a member of Jehovah's Witnesses, attended Richmond High School and graduated from St. Mary's College in Moraga. He is survived by sons, Bruce Peralsky of Portola and Donald Peralsky of Pacific Grove; and stepson, Cliff.



Elisa V. Frausto, a homemaker, died November 12, 1997 in a San Pablo hospital. She was 79. The Smithville, Texas native lived in West County 47 years and was a member of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Point Richmond. She enjoyed sewing, gardening and dogs. She is survived by her brothers, Eulogio and Faustino Frausto, both of Richmond, and Antonio Frausto of Delano; and a sister Frances Frausto Gonsales of San Antonio, Texas.



Hildegard Sitz MacDiarmid, formerly a teacher with McHenry Country Schools in North Dakota for 10 years died November 24th in a San Pablo hospital. She was 86. The Towner, N.D., native lived in San Pablo for 35 years and was a member of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Richmond. She was a former member of the Women's Auxiliary of Carpenters union 642 in Richmond and former fund-raiser for the American Cancer Society in Richmond. Her husband, Donald L. MacDiarmid, preceded her in death. She is survived by a daughter, Marilyn Loskot of Platina; sons, Ivan MacDiarmid of Washington state and David DacDiarmid of Richmond; sister, Eva Hass of North Dakota; 10 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.



December Birthdays

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

Marian Hawkins
Inez A. Pestana
Mark Stevens
Gerrie Kretzmer
Jeff Corbin
Marilyn Darling
Mike Turner
Eric Turner
Michael Cheshareck
Teresa Meneghelli

Tom McGowan
Lauren Nason
Christina Nagatani
Toni Turner
Thomas Mercer Hursh
Linda Mertle
Jerry Feagley
William S. Kollar 89

January Birthdays

Henry Allyn
Cindy Rosier
Sonja Darling
Joe Travis
Linda Marshall
Bryan Smith
Doug Greiner
Trefrey Ross
Ed Paasch
Jim Wilson

Lupe Morris
Betty Moore
Diana Kaffan
Mary Highfill
Elaine Harris
Ann Bartram
Louis Cuanan
John Cutler
Les Hathaway
Kristina Hollbrook

Marilu Fox
Tom Brennan
Jeff Quist
Robert McIntosh
Saryl Weinstein
Les Hathaway
Richard Palfini
Diana 'Mertle' Chavez
Marian Sauer
Donna Buhler



December means tenth month but it is the 12th month. January was added to the calendar 1,742 years ago.

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.

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Jean Reynolds	Article
Dee Rosier	Article
Dr. William Thompson	Article
Al Franco	Article
Anne Hanzlik	Article
Mary Highfill	Article

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

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

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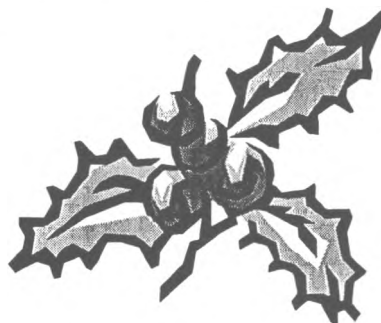
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Calendar

December and January, 1997/98

December 10
Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Christmas Party
5-7 pm, Mechanics Bank, Point Richmond Branch

December 21
Sunday

First day of Winter

December 23
Tuesday

Hanukkah, Begins at Sunset

December 25
Thursday

Christmas Day

January 1
Thursday

New Year's Day

January 14
Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting
Noon at the Hotel Mac

January 18
Sunday

Point Richmond History Association General Meeting
Movie maker PIXAR will be guest, see inside front cover

January 19
Monday

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 23

Deadline for TPIT Newsletter, February/March Issue