

THIS POINT... in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

Vol. XVII No. 3

November, 1998

\$1.50





You'd better watch out!

*Santa Claus
Is coming to town!*

*Holiday Lighting of the Big Tree
Ceremonies will happen at Indian
Statue Park at Dusk on Saturday,
November 27th.
28th*

*Join Santa and the First
Methodist Church Choir!
There will be Luminaries and
Candy Canes.*

Welcome The Holiday Season!

From The President

Mid Dornan

Things keep happening in the Point. Now we have the Red Oak Victory Ship which is anchored at the very end of Dornan Drive. Call Roger Johnson (925-376-9039) for information when the ship is open or make an appointment. You pass the Golden Gate State Railroad Museum at 900 Dornan Drive in route to the ship. Mid-November Pixar's "A Bug's Life" will hit the movie screens, the second animated cartoon film made here in the Point. Get a thrill out of seeing the Point Richmond credits. Don't miss this family film. On weekends and Sundays check out the Masquers Playhouse and stop by our History Museum on Saturday. We have many notable eating places plus a super Hotel Mac to keep you overnight. What more can one expect for a memorable weekend. All this, and the area still maintains its charm! Come spend some time with us in the Point.

Contents

From The President	1
Members	2
Editor's Notes	3
A-Mid Trivia	4
Westside Club	6
Plunge Memories	7
Churches	8
Viv Cook Class Pic	11
Ivan (Maj) Hill	12
Around the Point	15
Victory Ship	16
Allan Smith's Point	17
Cards and Letters	19
Deaths	21
Birthdays	23
Calendar	Inside Back Cover

*S/S Red Oak
Victory's return
home to
Richmond*



This Point....in time

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

Mary Crosby/Tom Piazza

Madeline Albright

Evelyn Mac Donald

Velma Healy

Marian Hawkins

Beatrice (Beesley) Casey

George & Bessie Squires

Grace A. Howe

Spiro Cakos

Anna S. Gaumer

Stella Giovannini

Steve Wyrick

Audrey Edwards

Helen Farres

Pena J. Barbieri

Irene Rollino Petterson

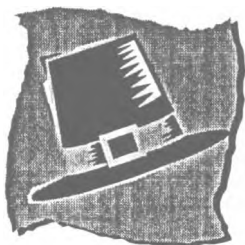
And a warm welcome to the following
new members:

James G. Foulds

Al McCook

Claire M. Lucas

Teresa Ebert



*Museum Staff Coordinator Betty
Dornan thanks volunteers who staffed the
History Building during the summer
Thank You!*

Santa Fe Market

and

Point Richmond Market

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

*A reminder that the
Robin Williams movie
"Patch Adams" parts
of which were filmed
here in the Point, will
premier in theaters on
Christmas Day! Should
be fun to see.*

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

Museum Hours:

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

Gary's Column

Gary Shows

Here is the November issue of TPIT. Contributors were very timely, thanks to you all. Ha! Ha! now let's see how you do with the December/January issue as it is the only TPIT that we publish with only a one month interval! Be sure to include all of your holiday events.

You will find some interesting things in this issue. A special thank you to Dr. Thompson, Tref Ross and artist Bill Kollar for their contributions.

The recent passing of Joe Hanzlik and remembering his tremendous contribution to the Indian Statue Park and the current upgrade project of the park by wife Anne Hanzlik in his memory has giving me an idea. How about changing the park's name to "Hanzlik Park"? I don't know how one goes about doing such a thing. But think about it, seems to me that we can call the park anything we want to call it and "Indian Statue" seems more like a description than a name. Just a thought, I would appreciate your input.

The deadline for the December/January issue is November 27th with an anticipated

date of assembly of December 10th. See you at the tree lighting ceremonies on November 21st and have a great Thanksgiving.

Thanks to the September/October issue assembly crew:

Pam Wilson

Mid Dornan

Jerry Cerkanowicz

Gary Shows

Betty Dornan

Sonja Darling



Trefry Ross adds the follow names to the Washington School Low 5th Grade class of 1933:

"#6 I think is Ruth Zermeno, who lived in one of the row houses near Clarence Street. Some of the Carrersa or Kellegans might remember her also. The spelling of her last name may not be correct."

"#2 I believe is Esther Guisti who lived on Standard just below Tewksbury, in one of he houses torn down for the freeway."

"#7 I think is Henry Tolosano."

The Cover:

Is copied from the 1926 "Anuario", the yearbook of the Senior Class of Richmond Union High School. It was drawn by member William Kollar. See page 12 for more on "Maj".

A-Mid TRIVIA

-Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question: When was the first issue of The Record Richmond's original newspaper published?

Answer at end of Trivia

Does anyone remember Sadie Hawkins Day? This used to be on November 15th and was the one day in the year that women could ask men to marry them. Now everyday is Sadie Hawkins day!

The popular Christmas song, Jingle Bells, was originally written for Thanksgiving.

New Post Office Hours! On a trial schedule, the office will be open from 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Welcome to the new clerk, Jackie!

At a recent Point Business Association meeting, Bill Burnett discussed his 20 year association with the hotel and recalled his first Mother's Day in 1978. Seems the Hell's Angels showed up with their mothers. No doubt it was the maternal influence as their presence was uneventful. Hotel Mac, the "Cheers Club"??

Chris and David Bradshaw and children Madison, Taylor, Jackson and Regan have moved to San Rafael.

What's the speed of dark?

Remember when carbon paper, two-

color typewriter ribbons and adding machines were office enhancers. And the typewriter--remember??

The cost of mailing a first-class letter will increase a cent, to 33 cents, effective January 10, 1999.

Father Clift from Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church has been hospitalized and hopefully will soon be well again.

Commemorating their upcoming Centennial in 2000, the Point Methodist Church has commissioned a 14K gold ornament of the church. This striking ornament can be purchased for \$15 by calling 234-5334 or 222-2999.

For those wondering what Donna Roselius is doing these days (and we all know this multi-talented person is never idle) well, she just finished writing a book and it is on the way to a book company for publishing. 'Route Bound' is about humorous and not so humorous experiences traveling in a motor home.

Quinn, son of Allen and Lori Palmer-Folks celebrated his first birthday with any open house that included four generations.

How can you tell when you run out of invisible ink?

A barbecue at the Redwood Grove, Samuel P. Taylor Park in Lagunitas celebrated the marriage of Paula Wilson and Moshe Israeli who were married October 13, 1998 in

Lake Tahoe. Paula is the daughter of Donna Wilson and twin sister of Pam Wilson.

Mark your busy December calendar for Sunday, the 20th at 3:00 p.m. That is the date the choir of the Point Methodist Church will present the MESSIAH as their gift to the community for the support they have provided the church and its programs. Under the direction of Virginia Cherniak and accompanist Jean Eakle the Messiah gets better and better. And isn't this the time of year you need to take time out to relax and enjoy the season!

Write your family history. Give a lasting gift to your family. Linda Joy Myers, MFA, presents workshops in the East Bay called "Remembrance of Things Past". She gives 3 hour, 6 hour or ongoing workshops in Memoir writing and encourages people to use old family photographs to stimulate stories. Call her at 524-3898 for a flier or more information.

It is a girl, born by caesarian section in San Francisco on Friday, October 23, to Chris and David Bradshaw. Excited siblings Madison, Taylor (born on the Bay Bridge), Jackson and Regan said they were going to name her "honey"!!

Alexandra Hammond, granddaughter of Louise Hammond, has a display of her photographs and drawings at Hidden City.

Remember the Plunge--help save it by making contributions to P.O. Box 70443, Point Richmond, CA 94807.

Bob and Marie Peckham are full of wonderful stories about their month-long trip to Spain where they visited Muriel Mom and Dad's birthplaces. They are also full of the wonderful local food!

There must be something about the Annual Country Faire held in October at the Methodist Church as the luncheon register noted people from, Pennsylvania, Kansas, Hanford, Fairfield, Sacramento, Walnut Creek, Sonoma, Pinole, San Rafael, Oakland, Suisun, Castro Valley, Fresno, Crockett, Alameda, Tracy, Pleasant Hill, San Francisco, Rodeo, Carmichael and Santa Rosa .

REMEMBER TO COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS AND GIVE THANKS, IT IS THANKSGIVING TIME.

Answer: The first issue was published July 7, 1900. The four-page newspaper was published once a week by Mr. Lyman Naugle who did not even own a printing press. From a few old cases of type he set up the forms and took them to Berkeley to be printed. There was no post office in Richmond and the papers had to be taken to Stege Post Office to be mailed to the handful of subscribers.

FREE

- **IBM Composer Typewriter with Font Elements**
- **Sharp SF-711 Copy Machine**
- **Gestetner Offset Press**

All of the above equipment was working the last time it was used several years ago. Interested, call Gary or Jerry at 510-235-1336.

Women's Westside Improvement Club News

Amelia Drake

Our speaker at the October 6th meeting was Robin Poindexter from the Richmond Firefighters. Her subject was "Safety in the Home". She reminded us of all those things which we well know, but become careless for our own safety, especially in the kitchen and around the home.

The members voted to give \$200 to the "Many Hands School Project."

Remember our meeting in November is the 10th or the second Tuesday. See you there.

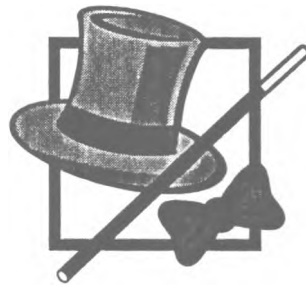
Block Party

By Sandra Beyaert

Rain threatened to cancel the September 27th Crest-Belvedere neighborhood pot-luck. But Anita and Bernard Christiansen opened their spacious and CLEAN garage to 45 party-goers.

A fabulous buffet brightened the gray day. Kate Harps and Dale Rowe barbecued hot dogs and warmed apple cider. It was a fun way to greet new neighbors and salute the old.

Why not try it in you neighborhood?



Forner's Anniversary Celebration

On October 24th Luciano and Bonnie Forner celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a dinner at Ceasar's in San Francisco. The party was hosted by children Cherié Mascarro and husband Dave and son Michael and his wife Annette. Over 100 friends and relatives were in attendance.

Hanzlik Park Upgrade

Anne Hanzlik is planning the upgrade of Indian Statue Park in memory of her late husband Joe Hanzlik. Among other things she has plans for new benches and landscaping. She requests help with her project either financial or physical. Donations can be sent to the PRHA Hanzlik Memorial Park Fund, 139½ Washington Avenue, Point Richmond, CA 94801, all donations will be used to upgrade or maintain the park. You can contact Anne at 510-237-6797 for more information.

Plunge Memories

by
Trefry A. Ross

When the time has arrived that you will be reading this, the "Plunge Jam" will be over. Sure wished I could have been able to participate. Since I didn't make it please accept my donation to help out. I practically lived at the Plunge during my youth. I still tell friends that I learned to swim before I could walk. I have enclosed a "Diploma" I received circa 1930. I was around 8 years old, maybe even younger.

Anytime there was something going on at the Plunge I was there. I later on in my life received my senior Red Cross Life Saving Certificate there. Will never forget jumping into the pool fully clothed and having to take the clothes off in the water. Getting the shoes off was hard as you had to bend over under water. And one had to learn how to turn a canoe over then right it and climb in without turning it over again.

I later swam the 100 yd. Breast stroke for dear old Richmond High Swim Team.

Never got beat until the Northern California Swim Meet at U.C. in Berkeley elimination trials. I was very disappointed that the "Diploma" doesn't mention the Plunge or show a date. I thought sure I had received it via the Recreation Department and had Ralph Kendricks name on it. Its been many a year since I have looked it over. And was lucky to find it. Anyway the "School of Swimming" took place at the Plunge. I remember well Ralph Kendricks, the lifeguard and Georgie Johnson the gal at the cash register and front desk. June Kunkel spent a lot of time behind the counter with Georgie. I'll bet June could tell you some good stories.

I grew up on Martina Street and on Wednesdays and Thursdays ("free days" Wednesday for girls and Thursday for boys) you could hear the screaming and yelling of exuberant children that far away. There was no doubt when "free days" were going on.



Church News

Our Lady of Mercy

Dee Rosier

232-1387

It was a beautiful day for a BBQ - in fact a little too hot. There was an outpouring of our benefactors and past parishioners who came back to support our one and only annual fund raiser. How good it was to spend time with Fiends. Some of us braved the heat and sat outside, while others chose the coolness of the church hall. Many parishioner's hands were busy collecting tickets at the door, selling raffle tickets, and serving food. Even the West County Times ran a picture of Chano Forner and John Gerk cooking the steaks. The gross receipts were \$5813.00 with a number of late donations. The steaks were upgraded this year, consequently more was spent on them than last year. When all bills are paid, the net amount will be about \$3200.00. Thanks to Mary and Peter Lespier for chairing the event - job well done.

Father Jim has had health problems lately. In August, while at St. Cornelius, he injured his back and had a difficult time getting around. The recovery was slow and just when he was starting to mend, he developed pneumonia and was hospitalized. He is again in the recovery stage and we wish him a speedy recovery. During the time that Father Jim was unable to celebrate the Mass, we were well

taken care of by Father Devine and Father Tony. During this time Father Jim did not write a church bulletin, so I am going to have to wing this writing with fillers.

The Diocesan Council of Catholic Women recently celebrated Mass and then breakfast at Our Lady of Mercy. Parishioner, Brenda McKinley is currently President.

A recent visitor to our Parish was Father Kilian O'Malley, a Dominican Priest and Seminary classmate of Father Jim. Father O'Malley is from Chicago and was a teacher. He now devotes his time to Food For The Poor, in Jamaica, Haiti, and the Caribbean. He told us of the poverty and lack of food in these areas. How very fortunate we are.

Amelia Drake and Shirley Gerk recently cleaned out the hall storage spaces. It is so easy to just stuff an item into one of these spaces, but much more difficult to try and straighten them out.

Amelia Drake returned from a 15-day trip to Europe. She waited until she got home to get sick, but says she's now ready to go again. Varsie Lometti is back from a month in Greece and had an enjoyable stay, although she does not say the same of the plane trip. Angie Kirkpatrick spent two weeks in Michigan visiting her brother. Brenda McKinley will be leaving soon for the Holy Land. Cards have been received from Bob and Marie Peckham visiting Spain and Portugal. They have been to some very notable spots and say that they have eaten quite well.

Charlie and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary in August. Our daughter, Renee, and husband, Kevin, honored us with a surprise dinner at Hidden City. All the people that we love the most and have been Friends

with for over 40 years were all present.

On October 16, 1998, our Holy Father John Paul celebrated his 20th year as Pope. During this time he has visited 119 countries and logged in 700,000 travel miles. He is our 264th Pope.

Grapes accompanied Noah to the post-Great Flood celebration, where he allegedly planted a vineyard and got hopelessly drunk. Grapes also attended Catholic Mass in nonalcoholic form after Dr. Thomas Welch began squishing the fruit into juice in 1869 as a substitute for Communion wine.

See you in Church.



Point Richmond Methodist

Jean Reynolds
235-2988

Lloyd and Melba Farley celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary with a reception at their Point Richmond home on October 11, 1998. They are two people who continue to grow in love and wisdom. It was an honor to help them celebrate!

Pastor Dan is the music leader for a weekly Sunday Evening Jazz Service (7:30 p.m.) at the Trinity Chapel in Berkeley. A group of members from the Point Methodist Church attended on October 11, for the first service,

and we were all glad to get another chance to sing some of Dan's newest original hymns.

The United Methodist Women held their Annual Country Fair on October 23 – 24. As usual, there was a lot of jockeying for position at the Bake Booth where homemade pies, pickles, candy, and other baked goods were sold. Holiday decorations for fall and winter were sold, as were potted plants, dolls with custom wardrobes, and other odds and ends. A sit-down luncheon was served on Friday, and on Saturday soup, chili and pie-by-the-slice were available. The Country Fair is a lot of work, but the camaraderie is great. Many people help make it happen.

Sunday School Classes for children and youth resumed on September 13, with a breakfast served at 9:30. The Adult class joined us for breakfast, too, even though they don't take a hiatus in the summer. We dined on Dutch Baby oven pancakes, melon, and croissants. We all agreed that we should serve breakfast more often! Classes usually meet at 9:45 a.m.

On The Calendar:

Saturday, November 14, the Youth will go to Grace Cathedral and walk the Labyrinth. We will take the ferry and cable car to Nob Hill. The group will leave the church around 10:45 a.m. and return around 5:00 p.m.

November 22, Sunday, Pastor Schuyler Rhodes from the Wesley Foundation student ministry at UC Berkeley will preach in Pastor Dan's absence.

Thursday, November 26, Thanksgiving Dinner, served from 12:00 to 2:30 p.m. for the Point

Richmond community, follows Thanksgiving worship at 11:30 a.m. All are welcome to come for a delicious dinner provided by the church and many Point Richmond businesses.

Sunday, December 20, at 3:00 p.m., the Joyful Noise Choir, led by Virginia Cherniak, and joined by several instrumentalists, will present selections from Handel's *Messiah*. Bring your own score and join the choir for the *Halleluia* Chorus, or borrow one when you get there.

December 24, 7:00 p.m., Christmas Eve Jazz Service featuring Pastor Dan's Jazz Trio.

Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* Reader's Theater produced by Tom McGowan. As yet unscheduled. Check in at the church or watch for fliers in town for details about this event.



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 34th installment.

Oct. 20, 1925

Social League met in the church parlors, with Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Vloeberghs hostesses. Called to order by the President, Mrs. Dicely.

Opened with the Lord's Prayer. There were nineteen members and two visitors present.

Minutes of previous meeting were approved as read.

The following bills were paid.

Mrs. Scofield for cakes	\$6.40
Mrs. Dicely, supplies	5.47
Mrs. A.D. Jones, flowers	1.00
Mrs. Dicely, fancy work	.80
Richmond Rose, flowers	1.00

Mrs Schmidt was welcomed as new member. Motion to hold Bazaar in the store formerly occupied by Wood & Wood. Carried

Adjourned,
E. Dusthimer, Secy

Cash on hand	\$20.70
Pd out for reception	-12.87
" " " this meeting	-1.80
Bal	6.03

Receipts of meeting	Dues:
Mrs. Dingle	.60
Mrs. Ida Jones	60
Mrs. J.P. Smith	.60
Mrs. Schmidt	.60
Mrs. Griffin	.60
Mrs. Owens	.60
total	\$3.60

Paid on Pledges	2.00
Left-overs sold	1.88
Tea fund	2.00
Dues	3.60
total	\$9.48
On hand	\$15.56
Silver offering	.42
total on hand	\$15.98



Member Vivian Cook passed away last December at the age of 89 years. His wife Elva sends us this class photo.

Back row, left to right: David Owens, Vivian Cook, Emil Westman
 Second row, left to right: Forrest Mathis, Boyd Wilson, Don Corse, Willam Kollar
 Third row, left to right: Al, Ferrel Mathis, Jane Johnson, Mary, Billie Brown

"I found this picture of Viv's graduation class, he knew most of these teenagers by name. Viv was working at the Union Oil Co. when we got married in 1930 and made \$50.00 every two weeks. We rented a little apartment for \$15.00 a month and when we paid our bills the end of the first month we had only 12 cents left so his mother gave him 50 cents so he could get his hair cut."

"Viv was a good husband and father and I think everyone that knew him, liked him. We were married 67 years, I loved him dearly, now I miss him so much."

Elva Cook

Ivan (Maj) Hill

By Dr. William Thompson

I thought that it might be worth while to write a brief article about "Maj" Hill. The Maj was a rather prominent Richmond resident who lived much of his later years in Pt. Richmond. His home was on Western Drive between the road and the bay and across the street from the old Janes home.

Maj came to Richmond in about 1920 to teach physical education at the Richmond Union High School. I first met him when I entered the Richmond High in 1922. He taught physical education and ran the high school cadet program which was part of physical education at that time. Also he was coach of the football team, the track team, the baseball team and the basketball team. I played on the football team in the fall of 1925 and on the track squad in 1926. Now days it would take 3 or 4 men to accomplish all of this.

The high school cadet program at that time, was similar to the later high school and college ROTC programs and it was this part of his work that gave him the title of major. I understand that he had been a sergeant in the National Guard. Being in command of four companies he was a major. The cadet program was voluntary and was popular because of the recent World War 1 and also because of the

spring camp.

Maj. was very popular with the boys and his teams won most of their games. Our football season in 1925 was a success. We won 5 games, tied 2 and lost one by the unbelievable score of 3 to 2. Our greatest success was our 32 to 0 win over Sacramento High. The Maj. was delighted.

The high school cadet program was a military training program. Willard Spiersch will remember it well as he was an officer in it. On one weekend every year we had a camp. During my time this was held at the National Guard training center at Leona Heights back of Oakland. It was quite exciting. We stayed in large army tents and slept on sleeping bags stuffed with straw. We ate army mess and served on guard duty. Also we fired army rifles on the National Guard range and also served in the target pits recording the other's results. The cadet program was discontinued at the end of my junior year.

The Maj served at the Richmond High for many years and got along well with the students. When he left the school job he worked for some years for the city of Richmond as head of the recreation department.

When I returned to Richmond to practice medicine I again met the Maj and got to know him very well. I recall attending a meeting in his honor at the Richmond golf course. There were over a hundred in attendance, all had played on his athletic teams. Some came long distances to attend. One I know came from Elko, Nevada. It was quite a gathering.

The Maj and his wife became patients of mine and we became fast friends and I visited them several times. Sometimes I told them of my travels in the wild areas of the west and the Maj decided he wanted to take a boat trip down the Glen Canyon before it was destroyed by the dam. Because both of them had some degree of coronary heart trouble, I decided that I had

better go with them. I contacted Frank Wright, a friend of mine who took river trips on the Colorado. On the trip, I took a large bag full of medical supplies just in case. We flew in from Page to Hite on the river and over some remarkable scenery. We drifted down the 150 mile canyon in a week. They both did well and enjoyed the trip immensely.

Ivan Hill was a remarkable man and had a beneficial effect on the young people of his time. There were no teenaged gangs and little teen crime. He was a patient of mine until he died in the Richmond Hospital on April 25, 1968. The Hills were a fine couple and deserve to be remembered.



Red Oak Victory Ship Comes Home!

A part of Richmond's past history returned on Sunday, September 20, 1998 when the Red Oak Victory ship sailed back into the Richmond harbor to the cheers of hundreds of onlookers. World War 11 fighter planes performed overhead as the ship was escorted under the Richmond-San Rafael bridge and was welcomed by fireboats and the Richmond High School band playing "Anchors Aweigh".

Mothballed in Benicia, the former 53-year old veteran of WWII, Korea and Vietnam wars is one of the only Victory ships still afloat of the 747 ships built in Richmond's Kaiser shipyards during WWII.

Credit Don Hardison and Lois Boyle from

the Richmond Museum of History with foresight, action and team work to rescue the ship from overseas scrap developers.

Mayor Jim Johnson from Red Oak, Iowa was on hand to greet the ship and the 350 dignitaries aboard who rode from Vallejo to the harbor. The ship was dedicated as "a memorial to those who died in WW 11 from Montgomery County, of which Red Oak is the county seat. They lost 50 of their 5000 people, 1 out of 100, the highest per capita of any county in America."

Red Oak is temporarily docked at Terminal One at the end of Dornan Drive, the former Petromark dock.



Photo by
Linda
Marshall

Michael and Aaron Marshall enjoy festivities, S/S Red Oak in background.

By the following Tuesday volunteers were already aboard to continue with the much needed restoration. Capt. James Nolan said plans are for the ship to be a floating museum as well as an operational ship and available for film sets. Check with the Museum for when it is open to the public.

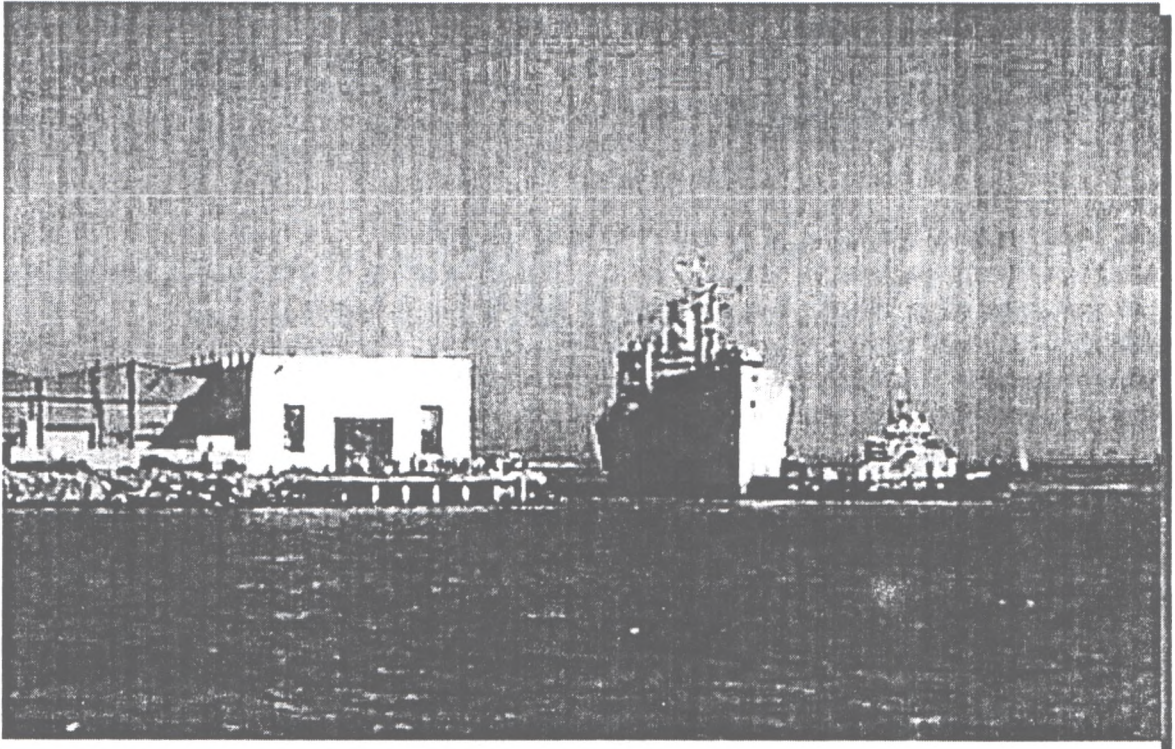
Mid Dornan

Our congenial editor, Gary Shows, had an appropriate cover for the last issue of TPIT. It showed the dedication of Richmond's Terminal No. 1 (Outer Harbor) that took place in 1915. The photograph was from the Ila May McGarvey donated collection. Ila was raised in the Point and now resides in Paradise, CA.

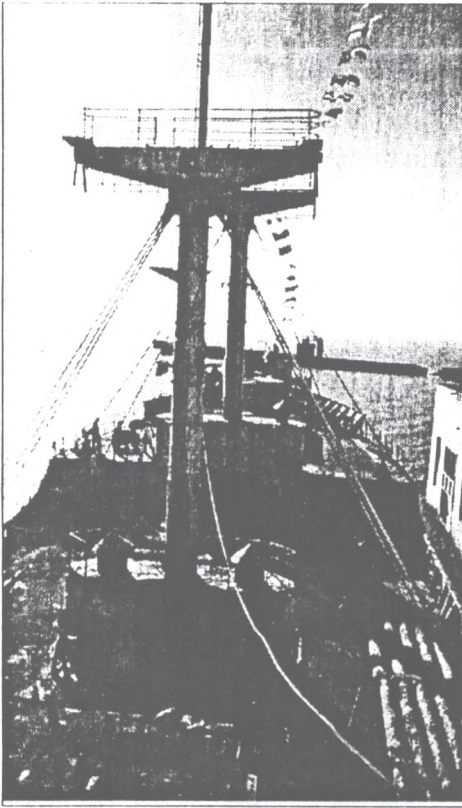
This wharf is located through the tunnel at the end of Dornan Drive.

Now located at the dock is Richmond's own *S/S Red Oak Victory*. This ship was built in the Richmond Shipyards in 1944. Terminal No. 1 will be the ship's temporary home for nine months because the area will be demolished and will be replaced with...who knows? This place would be a natural for the *S/S Red Oak Victory*'s permanent home and the huge existing warehouse could be the location of Richmond's Museum of History. This ship restoration is a 'dream' of Lois Boyle of Richmond Museum of History and it appears to be coming true.

Allan Smith



Tugs putting Red Oak in position at its temporary home



*Photo of
Red Oak
deck
by Linda
Andrew
Marshall*

Welcome Mr. Mayor

A surprise but welcome visitor stopped by the Point Richmond History Association Museum on Saturday, September 19th while he was enjoying a short stroll through the Point's business section. The distinguished visitor was Mr. Jim Johnson, Mayor of Red Oak, Iowa. He was in town as the guest of the Richmond Museum of History to partake in the arrival ceremonies of the World War Two cargo ship "S/ S Red Oak" to its new home in Richmond.

The "Red Oak" bears the name of the county seat of Montgomery County, Iowa, who lost one of every one hundred men during World War Two.

Although Mr. Johnson was an honored guest at the ship's arrival at dockside, he in turn honored the many visitors to the festivities by singing "God Bless America". Welcome back home "Red Oak" and thank you Mayor Johnson for assisting in honoring the special occasion.

B.E. Christiansen

SHHH!

By Biblio Tek

Westside Branch Library News

Sorry, no article from Biblio for this issue



This Point....in time

Allan Smith's Point

In our time, there were two amusement parks located near Richmond similar to the popular Cliff House in San Francisco. Idora Park in Oakland and Neptune Beach in Alameda were enjoyed by the Point Richmond young people. Both parks permanently contained all kinds of amusement activities similar to the Santa Cruz Boardwalk and Long Beach's Pike. Incidentally, Standard Oil's Richmond Refinery or the Company used to rent the Santa Cruz amusement park for their employee's annual picnic and even furnished train transportation from the Point to Santa Cruz.

Idora Park and Neptune Beach are history now except for the Neptune Beach area, now known as Crab Cove at the Alameda Crown Memorial Beach. This location was taken over by the War Shipping Administration in 1940 and a school was built in the area for the United States Maritime Service. It was used to train future USMS engineering and deck officers to serve on the Liberty and Victory ships and other maritime craft built during World War Two. Over 3000 ships were built during this time. The Maritime Service Officer's School graduated 200 students a month to sail as officers aboard American merchant ships. Among several Point Richmond young men who graduated from the school were Melvin Janes, Peter Cakos and Allan Smith.

Serving at the school for over ten years as a Machinist and Instructor was Ross Dixon from Richmond. He has been associated many years with the Schmidt Dixon Funeral Home in Richmond. This establishment has a memorable past as far as Point Richmond history is concerned. Their association with the Point and Richmond goes back to the turn of the century.

I held a United States Maritime Service Officer's reunion this month at the school. There were Captains, Chief Engineers, Assistant Engineers and Mates attending the reunion in Alameda. We looked over the small exhibits that are remaining from a once huge educational complex. Old photos and a movie of the school taken in 1943 brought back fond memories. Needless to say, only 30 former students attended. After all, it has been a long 70 plus year voyage for all us graduates.

On the trip home to Point Richmond from Mare Island aboard the S/S Red Oak Victory, I was talking to a nice couple from Red Oak, Iowa who were here representing their city. They were telling me how the city is saving their railroad depot that has a memorable past. What happened to your railroad history? They couldn't wait to burn down the old Santa Fe Depot that existed before the turn of the century. The Southern Pacific Passenger depot is never mentioned anymore.



Plunge Memories

by
Trefry A. Ross

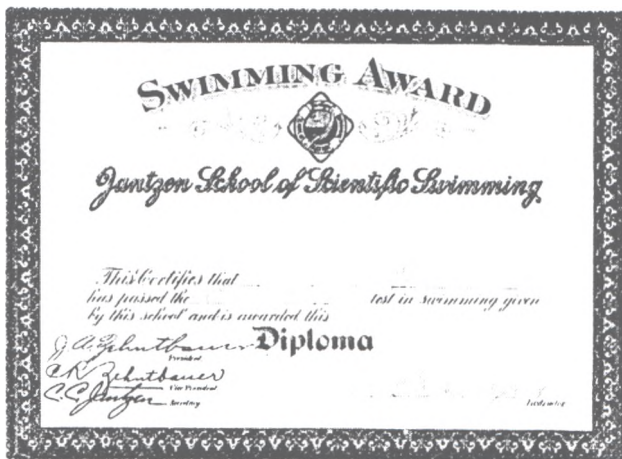
When the time has arrived that you will be reading this, the "Plunge Jam" will be over. Sure wished I could have been able to participate. Since I didn't make it please accept my donation to help out. I practically lived at the Plunge during my youth. I still tell friends that I learned to swim before I could walk. I have enclosed a "Diploma" I received circa 1930. I was around 8 years old, maybe even younger.

Anytime there was something going on at the Plunge I was there. I later on in my life received my senior Red Cross Life Saving Certificate there. Will never forget jumping into the pool fully clothed and having to take the clothes off in the water. Getting the shoes off was hard as you had to bend over under water. And one had to learn how to turn a canoe over then right it and climb in without turning it over again.

I later swam the 100 yd. Breast stroke for dear old Richmond High Swim Team.

Never got beat until the Northern California Swim Meet at U.C. in Berkeley elimination trials. I was very disappointed that the "Diploma" doesn't mention the Plunge or show a date. I thought sure I had received it via the Recreation Department and had Ralph Kendricks name on it. Its been many a year since I have looked it over. And was lucky to find it. Anyway the "School of Swimming" took place at the Plunge. I remember well Ralph Kendricks, the lifeguard and Georgie Johnson the gal at the cash register and front desk. June Kunkel spent a lot of time behind the counter with Georgie. I'll bet June could tell you some good stories.

I grew up on Martina Street and on Wednesdays and Thursdays ("free days" Wednesday for girls and Thursday for boys) you could hear the screaming and yelling of exuberant children that far away. There was no doubt when "free days" were going on.





CARDS & LETTERS



Dear Ms Wilson:

I discovered the Point Richmond Web site recently and I am impressed with what the Point people have done with it. I copied the first pages and sent them to my Dad and he really enjoyed them.

We built the house at 602 Cypress Point Road in 1951 but had to move in '56 to El Segundo when my Dad was transferred to the Standard refinery there. In spite of our relatively short time at the Point it has always been an important part of our lives.

Our neighborhood was a very tight group with numerous parties and informal gatherings. Our friends included the families of Veil Hammond (who was responsible for luring us to the Point), Punk Vaughan, Chuck Reynolds, Don Washburn, Morrie Baruche, Bill Miller, Professor Horn, and of course, Lucretia Edwards, (whose name graces your web page) and many others.

My Dad will be 86 on October 21. He is doing quite well and his wicked sense of humor is still in tact. My Mom is presently in a nearby convalescent facility fighting the pain of a nasty back injury.

I've enclosed a check for \$12 for membership for my Dad in the History Association. I know that the time is short but if you could get the History Magazine to him by that date he'd be thrilled. His name is James G. Foulds and for anyone interested his phone is 831-642-9056.

Sincerely,
Kit Foulds
San Dimas, CA
Kfoulds@earthlink.net



Dear Pam:

Enclosed is my check for my renewal for "This Point". I am so glad Mid put a note inside the cover that it was renewal time. Usually a sticker is attached that alerts us. I't hate to miss any copies.

You all do a great job.

Thank you,
Evelyn Mac Donald
Richmond



"Happy Memories"

My dear Mother received a letter from Mrs. Dornan inviting me to lunch and to go to the Richmond Natatorium for a swim. Betty and I enjoyed every minute and that was the beginning of a lovely friendship, which will never be forgotten.

My thanks to you and Gary, I enjoy every issue.

Yours truly,
Helen Farres
Sacramento



Dear Pam,

I would like to renew my sister Audrey Edwards membership, I include my check.

We both enjoy the TPIT so much and even my husband, an Oakland "boy" likes to read it before I file it away. Before he retired in 1976, he was in construction and worked on jobs at Standard Oil and met many Point people.

Sincerely,
Inez A. Pestana
Paterson, CA

Dear Pam,
Here is my renewal.

I have enjoyed the magazine very much also "Kids Day" in May. While I don't recognize some people, many names ring a bell! Plan to be at the next "Kid's Day".

See you then,
Beatrice (Beesley) Casey
Soquel, CA



Dear Pam:

Enclosed is my check for my membership for the coming year.

This has been a very tough year for me. I lost my wife of 44½ years in August to Leukemia. My brother Gus died in August, also. I still enjoy the "This Point Newsletter". One of my classmates (RUHS) of the June 1943 class, Bill Ringer, enjoys it also. We work with St. Vincent De Paul many days per week here in Phoenix. Keep up the good work.

Thanks,
Spiro Cakos
Phoenix



Deaths....

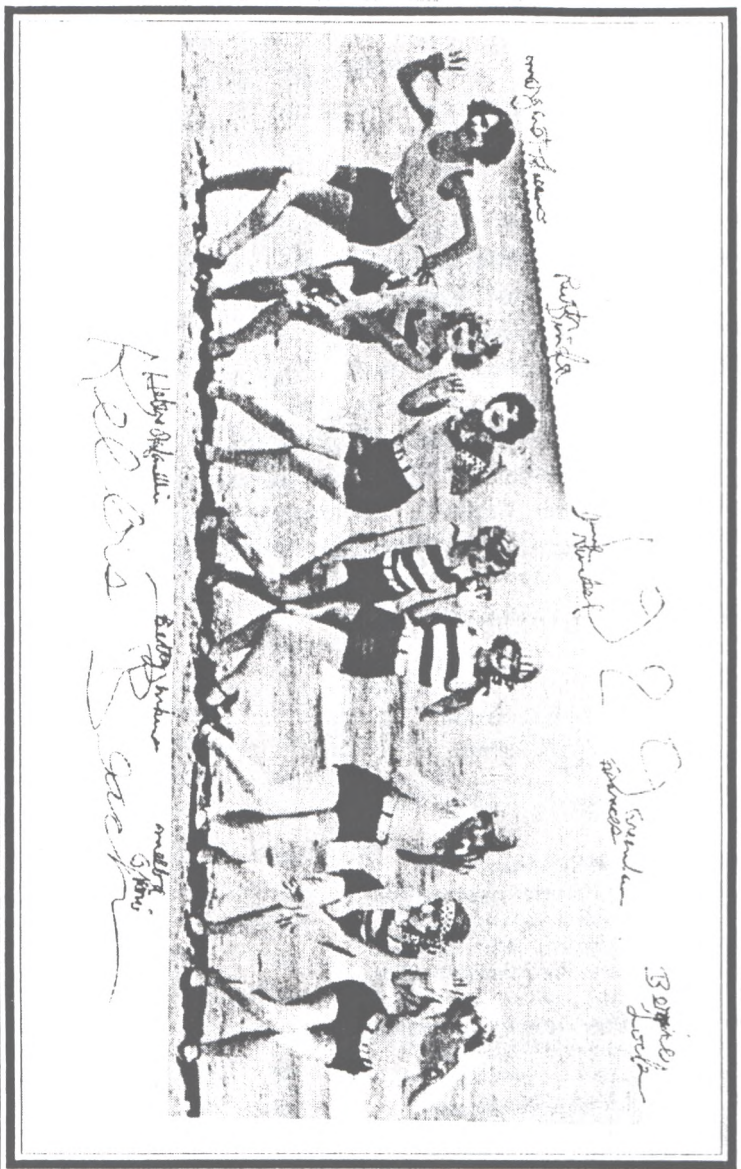
Martin Kenoyer, age 90 in Vacaville on September 2, 1998. He was an avid sailor, loved his Bear boat, and was a long time active member of the Richmond Yacht Club. Until his retirement he lived on Western Drive, when he later moved to Ventura. He is survived by his wife, Bea, his son Bill and two grandsons.

John Paar Cox, aged 80, died in San Francisco. John was retired from business as President of Parr-Richmond Terminal Co. Richmond Council members were often entertained in his S.F. home. He represented Richmond in Shimada, Japan Sister City program. Because of his humanitarian efforts to assist Japanese-Americans during WWII (He provided rice and fish for their diets while in the internment camps) he was decorated by the Emperor of Japan with the Third Order of the Sacred Treasure, the highest honor that can be given to a living person, and also knighted by Pope John XXIII into the ecumenical order of St. Birgitta of Sweden for the same reason. A memorial was held in his honor at the S.F. Bohemian Club where he was a pillar of the organization. He is survived by his daughter, Cathleen Cox-McCarrol and grandchildren, Benjamin, Bonnie and Blythe as well as his brother John Paar Cox who built Parchester Village.

Point Methodist Church
seeks nominations
for
1999 Sweetheart of the Year

Who will be the 1999 Sweetheart of the Year? Someone who has contributed in a positive way to the Point Community, to the school, a church, or to civic activities. The selection committee at the Point Methodist Church is seeking suggestions from readers of This Point In Time. Send the name of the person you think should be chosen as Sweetheart of the Year to the Methodist Church c/o Russ Johnson, 201 Martina Street, Point Richmond, CA, by December 31st. The decision will be made in January and the winner will be announced by January 20th. The Sweetheart Dinner will be held the second week of February. More news about this event in the next issue of TPIT.

Fun Photo from Trefry Ross
Look for more in the next issue!



November Birthdays

ANN GREINER
JASON MCGILL
BETTY DORNAN
MARY ANN GASPARD
ELSIE SPINOLA
CLARE DOHERTY
GARY SHOWS
KEVIN FONG
DENNIS DORNAN
DOROTHY MCCUTCHEON
JOE SAVILE
SHANE THOMAS
HAL MARSHALL
NICOLE VARGO
BETHANY REYNOLDS

MATTHEW BERMAN
MARJ BELLATTI
JAMES CHESHARECK, SR.
JAMES CHESHARECK, JR.
MICHAEL BROWN
IDA BIACOMELLI
LINDA CHESARECK
CLAUDIA LEGUE
ALBERT KOLLAR
PAUL CORT
LYNN RENDLER
JACK ELLE
SHIRLEY BUTT
CHRIS BRADSHAW
CRAIG SEABORG

BO AMANTITE
KENNY PAASCH
LANCE ROTTING
FAY HAWKINS
LIAM THOMPSON
LINDA FEYDER
TED BECK
KATHRYN PINKERTON
AUBYN EAKLES
AUDREY EDWARDS
BOBBIES BOZIKI
KATRINA MACDIARMID
BERNARD BERNES



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
Mid Dornan	Articles
Don Church/Allan Smith	Historic Photos
Jerry Cerkowicz	Proof/Article
Pam Wilson	Membership Info
Allan Smith	Articles/photos
Jean Reynolds	Article
Dee Rosier	Article
Dr. William Thompson	Article
Frances Smith	Article
Elva Cook	Picture
Linda Andrew Marshall	Photos
Trefry A. Ross	Pictures/Article
Sandra Beyart	Article
Amelia Drake	Article
Mary Highfill	Information
B.E. Christiansen	Article
William Kollar	Art
David Vincent	Information
Ila May Dein	Historic Images

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:

**139 ½ Washington Avenue
Point Richmond, CA 94801**

All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part of any article or image without written permission of the Point Richmond History Association is prohibited.

Board of Directors:

Mid Dornan, President

Elizabeth McDonald, Vice President

Jerry Cerkowicz, Secretary

Mary Rudolph, Treasurer

Mary Highfill, Corresponding Secretary

Pam Wilson, Membership

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

Visit us at our website

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





Calendar

November, 1998

November 3

Tuesday

Election Day
Please Vote!

November 10

Tuesday

Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting

November 11

Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting
Noon at the Hotel Mac

Veteran's Day

November 21

Saturday

Lighting of the Big Tree in Indian Statue Park
Dusk in the Park

November 26

Thursday

Thanksgiving Day

November 28

Friday

DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER/JANUARY ISSUE

December 9

Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Holiday Party