

—THIS POINT—.... in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

Vol. XVII No. 4

December/January, 1998

\$1.50

Happy Holidays!



1934 "Point Richmond Mafia"
beside "Billie" Brown's Auburn

*Join us for the
Point Richmond History Association
General Membership Meeting*

at

*Point Methodist Church
Martina & West Richmond Streets*

at

2:00 pm

Sunday January 17, 1999

*We are pleased to present the film,
“The Plunge, Time Laps Through
History”*

by filmmaker Alchemedia.

(See Page 11)

*Don't miss it!
Refreshments will be served.*

From The President

Mid Dornan

The holiday season and the end of 1998 have arrived. Still needing a gift that gives all year? Consider a subscription to *THIS POINT....in time*. We'll be happy to inform you recipient of you gift.

Remember the reason for the season. Take time to enjoy the holiday offerings... caroling, Messiah, Dickens' Christmas Carol Readers, school programs, or Masquers. Or stop by Hotel Mac for the holiday atmosphere.

I wish the staff of *THIS POINT....in time* a special Merry Christmas. I thank our members, readers and contributors for making this newsletter possible.

May 1999 answer at least one of your dreams. ENJOY!

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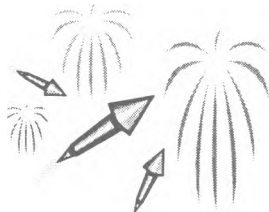
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Santa at Tree Lighting Ceremony in Point Richmond, November 28th

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

Mary L. Cornelius
Phyllis Feyder
Brenda McKinley
Mary J. Forbes
Luciano & Bonnie Forner
George L. Williams
Dean Beesley
Louis Cunan
Ted Beck
D. R. "Doc" Edmonds
Rena Nee Cairo Gonsalves
Teresa Meneghelli
Myrna Wishart
Roberta Jenkins Smith
Al & Helen Frosini
Ed Gincrich
Boysie Day
Lee Christian
Herbert Hunn
Adelle Waymire
Dee Rosier
Chester Thompson



Happy New Year!

*We look forward
To seeing you at
Our General
Membership Meeting on
January 17th
(see inside front cover)*

*Happy
New Year!*

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

Thank You!
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 Column

Gary Shows

Here is the Holiday issue of TPIT, I hope you enjoy it.

Big thanks to IlaMay (McGarvey) Dein for not only thinking of us, but going to considerable trouble to gather, document and ship wonderful additions to our archives.

Apologies to all for my error on the date of the Holiday Tree Lighting in the last issue. Hope you noticed the correction posters that I put around town and were not inconvenienced by the mistake.

As the year ends I want to extend special thanks to all of you who contribute to TPIT and make it the special little newsletter that it is. Also thanks to our members who are the Point Richmond History Association and to our volunteers who represent us at our little museum and thanks to the Santa Fe Market and Point Richmond Market for distributing TPIT. I wish all of you a wonderful holiday season and of course a happy New Year!

The deadline for the February/March issue is January 23rd with an anticipated date of assembly of February 4th.

Thanks to the November issue assembly crew:

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

The Cover:

Is from Trefry Ross. "Here's a copy of the "early Point Richmond Mafia". Sign of the times. How many kids could one find in suits these days, especially 12-13 year olds?

This picture was taken by church one Sunday probably circa 1934-35. The Auburn belonged to "Billie" Brown and Grace Westman. They kept us kids out of trouble. I wonder if this was the same Auburn Al Frosini referred to in the last TPIT. This one could use a new front tire."

Tref

Left to right:

***Ted Ross
Nathaniel Allyn
Trefry Ross
Melvin Hitch
Robert Dornan
William Allyn***

A-Mid TRIVIA

-Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question: From March 20, 1926 to June 30, 1933 what were the receipts from the Natatorium? Answer at the end of Trivia.

Why do psychics have to ask you for your name?

Congratulations and happy birthday to Bill Kollar who joins the exclusive 90-year-old club!

California students entering the seventh grade must undergo a series of three hepatitis B immunizations and they can't start school unless they get the shots. Students will not have to complete all three shots by the first day of school, they only need to have started the series. The vaccine is not controversial and provides lifelong protection.

The world would be better if everyone showed as much patience all the time as they do when waiting for a fish to bite.



The patrol on horseback in the Point during the noon hours is another charming sight in the Point

The deltoid muscle atop a woman's upper arm generally is the better developed of her arm muscles, because that's the one she exercises most in fixing her hair.

If you travel alone in the car, you know how hard it is to navigate and drive at the same time. Before your trip, read the directions into a tape recorder and play back the tape in your car as you are travelling, stopping the tape after each segment.

Look carefully at your quarters next year, George Washington might be on both sides. Five new coins are part of a 10-year program to commemorate the 50 states in the order they ratified the Constitution or joined the union. The famed picture of Washington crossing the Delaware River has been chosen to replace the American eagle on quarters commemorating New Jersey. The 25-cent piece will still feature the portrait of Washington on the front. It has appeared on the quarter since 1932, the 200th anniversary of his birth and the familiar eagle won't reappear until 2009.

When do most people open their Christmas presents - Christmas Eve or Christmas morning? Answer: 55 percent open them Christmas morning and 45 percent Christmas Eve. So say the survey takers!

Cotton goods may become more expensive next year due to do conditions that

are combining into a threat for world cotton supplies. Between 1984 and 1994 production of 100-percent cotton goods more than tripled as synthetic fibers fell by the way.

It may not have been 'over the river and through the woods' but it was over the bridge and down jammed freeways to spend Thanksgiving at their parents, Mary and Vic Highfill's, all ten of them!

SANTA VISITS Sherry and Bob's store at West Richmond and Washington on Saturday, December 19th from 2-5.

Belated get well wishes to Russ Paasch and Steve Spencer who had recent bypass heart surgery.

New owners David and Illane Dahlman are remodeling/restoring the Dunlop house on Terrace.

Congratulations to Diana Corbin, daughter of Mayor Rosemary and Doug Corbin who has passed the Massachusetts Bar. Employed in Boston, Diana lives on famed Beacon Hill.

Who remembers the July 4th, 1973 riots in Point Richmond? A helmet worn then by Officer Joel Thompson was raffled at the Point Business Association and lucky (?) Claudia Beale won it.

A relative of Albert Dorman Hurst (Mildred Thompson) is trying to find where her grandfather had a bowling alley in the Point around 1910-12. She said he often talked about it. Does anyone recall??

Aren't the Carillon bells from the Catholic church heard downtown in the Point mid-afternoon a delightful sound!

Home for Christmas these days often means it is the parent that goes home to one of their adult children! Heading for Canada to visit daughter, Stephanie, is Virginia Cherniak; Mary Forbes goes to Kansas to visit Debbie and family and Mid Dornan will see Santa arrive in Mississippi at daughter Kathy's.

When Linda Anderson performs the Messiah on December 20th at the Methodist church, she will be using a third generation copy of the Messiah belonging to her grandfather.

Almost 100 educators, parents community volunteers, business leaders and interested persons visited Washington Science Magnet School on November 12th for a closer look at reform, focused efforts and the role of the Bay Area School Reform Collaborative (BASRC). One of four such schools in the county, Washington's theme was Literacy and Technology. A visit to the exciting 6th grade algebra class (yes, algebra!) proved their advanced skills.



Carols by the Methodist church choir created the holiday spirit as the great tree in the triangle was lighted my Santa who distributed candy canes and good cheer. Thanks to David Vincent who oversees this seasonal highlight.

Whatever happened to the plan that outlined in lights the tops of all the buildings around the downtown triangle area for the holiday season? Those that have the lights make a point for the reason.

Wonder how many smokers will feel it is worth the extra dollar per pack next month. (50 cents per last Prop 10 plus cigarette manufactures and retail merchants 50 cents). The average price then will be \$2.45 a pack.

Point Richmond isn't Hollywood but Point Richmond is showing on movie screens this season. "Patch Adams", filmed partially in the Point, opens on December 25th ('tis rumored David Vincent wants to organize a group thing to attend). And Pixar's "It's A Bug's Life" just doesn't get any better! So refreshing to get sheer entertainment at a movie and come out relaxed and smiling.

Plans for the removal of a 98-year-old Point Richmond landmark? Plans that would eliminate the traffic holdups on West Richmond Avenue, plans that would provide bikers and hikers to get from downtown Point Richmond to Miller-Knox Park without having to use the noisy walkway through the Dornan Street tunnel? Sounds good to me!

Happy 80th to Jack Elle!! Helping him celebrate at Thanksgiving were his children and their families, Ingvar from Corvallis, Oregon; Roxanne Trudeau from Folsom; Karilu Crain from Vacaville; Ivar and Roger Elle from Richmond. Members of the Methodist Church had a card shower and special cake for him after church.

What happens if you get scared half to death twice?

Are you the Mother of a child under age 5? Would you like to spend time with other Moms and kids in your community? The Point Richmond Association of Moms (PRAM?) invite you to a meeting on Monday, December 7th from 7 to 9 at the Methodist Church. Questions? Call Cynd Sunderman, 236-6597. (They request no mobile children at this meeting.)

May you holidays be merry ones as you share the true spirit of the season. HAPPY HOLIDAYS WITH A GREAT AND PROSPEROUS 1999!

Answer:

Receipts included Bathing Caps, \$9,259.60, Bathing Belts, \$31.00, Ear Stopples \$584.50, Water Wings \$310.00, miscellaneous \$310.40 with admissions amounting to \$264,005. The operating profit was \$34,877.04. In 1926 there were 55 adult and 5,117 children free admissions compared to 16 adult and 17,006 children free admissions in 1933.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT CHRISTMAS?

See how you do on this Christmas trivia quiz:

1. Virginia O'Hanion was 8 years old when she wrote to the New York Sun before Christmas in 1887 to ask now famous question. What was it?
2. In what movie is Edmund Gwenn as Kris Kringle recognized as the real Santa Claus?
3. The concept of the Christmas tree was brought to the United States by immigrants coming here in the 1800s. From what European country were they?
4. Gene Autry's biggest hit recording was a Christmas song. The title?
5. Name the popular Christmas song containing the following lines in its first stanza: "The hopes and fears of all the years...Are met in thee tonight".

6. What is "wassail"?
7. O. Henry wrote a story about a wife who sells her beautiful long hair so she can buy a silver chain for her husband's watch, but he has sold the watch to buy a set of combs for her hair. What is the story? title?
8. Primary sources for the life of Jesus are the four Gospels of Mark, John, Matthew and?
9. What is the Boxing Day holiday that is celebrated each year in England, Canada and some other countries?
10. What is Santa Claus called in England?

Answers are on page 17

Church News

Our Lady of Mercy

Dee Rosier
232-1387

Why is it that when the time changes the weather also does? It is again time to get our coats and jackets out to wear to church.

Congratulations to Bonnie and Chano Forner who celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Chano is one of our willing and able helpers.

Faye Hawkins (Methodist Church member) and I took Bill Smith up on his offer to tour the Red Oak. Bill retired from Chevron after 50 years of shipping, so who better than he to give us a personal tour of the ship. Bill is a volunteer on the Red Oak and we see him daily as he walks from his home to the Red Oak. The tour was a grand experience and highly recommended to those who have interest in seeing it. Thank you Bill for the grand show!

In September my husband's bike was stolen from in front of the Santa Fe Market. It was never recovered, but the community support of those who saw it happen was outstanding. He now has a new bike and is back to his daily rides.

The Parish Council recently met and much of the discussion centered on the centennial of Our Lady of Mercy which is upcoming.

With the return of Brenda McKinley from

her trip to the Holy Land, most of our world travelers are now back safely and in their assigned seats at Mass.

Remember the sick of our Parish who are unable to attend Mass on a regular basis.

The Catholic Daughters had their annual Memorial Mass at our Lady of Mercy and then enjoyed breakfast in the church hall. Brenda McKinley was chairperson.

Catholic Relief Services is currently providing food, medicine, clothing and other assistance to Honduras, Nicaragua and other Central American countries recently devastated by the hurricane. Parishioners wishing to donate are asked to send their checks to Catholic Relief Services, Hurricane Mitch Relief, Baltimore, MD 21203-7030.

Rollie Esquivel, who assists Father Jim on the altar each Sunday, has added his son Jeremy as an altar boy. His son Timothy is also an altar boy. How angelic they do look and how proud Rollie must be.

Thanks to Angie, Shirley and Amelia for their hard work on our recent Thanksgiving Parish Assembly. It drew a record crowd, and we welcomed some new parishioners. We had some steaks left over from the BBQ and sold them at a very reasonable cost. Alan Smith is busy working on a history book of our Parish. Alan gave thanks to Theresa Menegelli for her generosity in donated a PA system to our church and how beneficial it is compared to what we had. The Assembly had an engraved gift to present to Bob Peckham for his dedicated ten years as President of the Parish Council. Unfortunately Bob was not present to receive it. Thanks to Peter Lespier who painted the church foyer. We now have a welcoming entry.

"Couples in Chirst" is a new group formed by several young parishioners. They meet and study the scriptures and how it affects their married life. Anyone interested in attending can call Mary Lespier at 510-235-5276.

Dean and Michael Smith climbed as high as they could get to change the burned out sanctuary floodlights.

Our second collection this past Sunday was our Christmas offering for the support of the Souper Kitchen and afforded us the opportunity to display our generosity for those less fortunate.

Last year at this time we enjoyed the last phase of our kitchen renovation, which we used to our full advantage this Thanksgiving. This year we enjoy the addition of six feet to our living room. We no longer have to climb through a bedroom window as our hardwood floors were redone. We are now enjoying the spaciousness and newness.

Wishing you a joyous holiday season.



Point Richmond Methodist

Jean Reynolds

235-2988

Saturday, November 14, the Youth and not-so-youthful traveled by ferry and cable car to Grace Cathedral in San Francisco. While there, we walked the Labyrinth, a maze used as a meditation tool. Grace Cathedral is beautiful. We noticed that as you walk the Labyrinth, you seem closest to the center when you still have a long way to go; when you are farthest away, you have almost arrived at the core.

The community Thanksgiving Dinner was a big success again this year. Claudia LeGué organized this great event, and many Point Richmond Businesses and individuals contributed time, food and money to make it happen. A hundred or more people ate dinner. Several people came for dinner and stayed to visit with each other or to help serve and clean up. The leftover food was gratefully received by the Richmond Souper Center. It was the kind of event that makes me glad to be part of this community!

Coming Soon:

The annual Hotel Mac/Masquers' Dinner Theatre event is Thursday, December 10. Dinner starts at 6:00 p.m. and is followed by an 8:00 performance of the current musical, Sondheim's *Into the Woods*. Tickets for the evening are \$26 and proceeds pay for children's summer camp scholarships. Call Jean Reynolds for tickets (235-2988.) Many regular performances of this show are sold out!

Our Christmas Gifts to You:

Sunday, December 20, at 3:00 p.m., the Joyful Noise Choir and orchestra, directed by Virginia Cherniak, will present selections from Handel's *Messiah*. Bring your own score and join the choir for the *Hallelujah* Chorus, or borrow one when you get there. The choir has expanded to more than twenty members; the choir loft can barely contain all the members and their enthusiasm!

Friday, December 18, at 7:30 p.m., Tom McGowan directs Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* presented as a Reader's Theater. This event is a fund-raiser for the church roof-fund. A donation of \$15.00 per person is requested.

December 24, at 7:00 p.m., the Christmas Eve Jazz Service will feature The Dan Damon Trio with Paula Helene and Mark Barringer. The evening service will include stories, scripture and Christmas carols.



Point Methodist Church History

-Mid Dornan

Church history is rich with contributions of women. One church group in the 1920's was the SOCIAL LEAGUE of the first Methodist Episcopal Church whose history is reflected in their minutes printed below and taken from the canvas covered, red leather cornered notebook which cost \$1.15. The minutes are printed as written. This is the 35th installment.

Nov 3rd, 1925

The Social League met in the church parlors with Mrs. Conn and Mrs. Dusthimmer hostesses.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Dicely. The meeting was opened by repeating the Lord's Prayer. Min read and approved.

The meeting was devoted to the discussion of things concerning the coming Bazaar. The following paid dues.

Mrs. Alexander	.60
Mrs. Redman	.60
Mrs. Conn	.60
Mrs. Ford	.60

A check for five dollars was received from the Ladies Aid for their share of the expenses of the Ministers Reception.

There were twenty-three members present.

	Adjourned
	Ernestine Dusthimmer, Secy
Cash on hand	\$15.98
Receipts this meeting:	
Dues	2.40
Ladies Aid	5.00
total	\$10.65
On hand	\$26.63
silver offering	3.25
	\$10.65
	15.98
	\$26.63

The Plunge Effort

by Ellie Strauss

A year ago the City of Richmond deemed the Plunge unsafe and ordered it closed. Decorative ornamentation had fallen off the exterior wall and the engineers proclaimed it a hazard. Further investigation and outside reports convinced the City of Richmond that the Plunge was no more unsafe than "City Hall." However, reports, some new and some from a few years ago, did reveal that the building needs to be seismically retrofitted and corrosion damage is evident.

Even though the City of Richmond was persuaded, thanks to the many folks who rallied in-support, to keep the Plunge open, it made it abundantly clear that there was no money in the budget to do any of the necessary repairs. The City insurance carriers were leery of the liability as was the City. It was decided that if steps were being taken to address the problems and if signs were posted as to the risk factors involved, the Plunge could stay open.

Richmond Friends of Recreation (RFR), organized in 1979 to save the Plunge back then, stepped forward and accepted the challenge of taking the steps necessary to save the Plunge. Because programs and aquatic activities had always been the thrust of RFR, a trust fund was established under the 501 c(3) umbrella of RFR to undertake fund raising for the identified repairs.

The City of Richmond and the Richmond Friends of Recreation joined in a Public/Private Partnership whereby the City would look for public moneys and keep the Plunge in its Capital investments Program and the RFR would raise funds from the private sector and keep the public aware of the Plunge and the progress of the Partnership.

A fund raising letter, a free public awareness day, "The Plunge Jam" and a forth coming newsletter are some of the avenues RFR and The Save the Richmond Plunge Trust have successfully employed to funds and consciousness.

A local film company, Alchemedia, stepped forward and offered to film the history of the Plunge as their pro-bono effort to the community. The owners of the film company, Nick and Sari Armington, are well known on the East Coast for their high quality corporate work and involvement with the I-Max films. Unfortunately for the East Coast, but fortunately for us, their decision to relocate to Point Richmond introduced them to our beloved Plunge. I believe it was love at first sight for Nick and Sari. Their dedication to preserving the Plunge, their generosity and their adherence to producing a quality film has been enormous and unwavering.

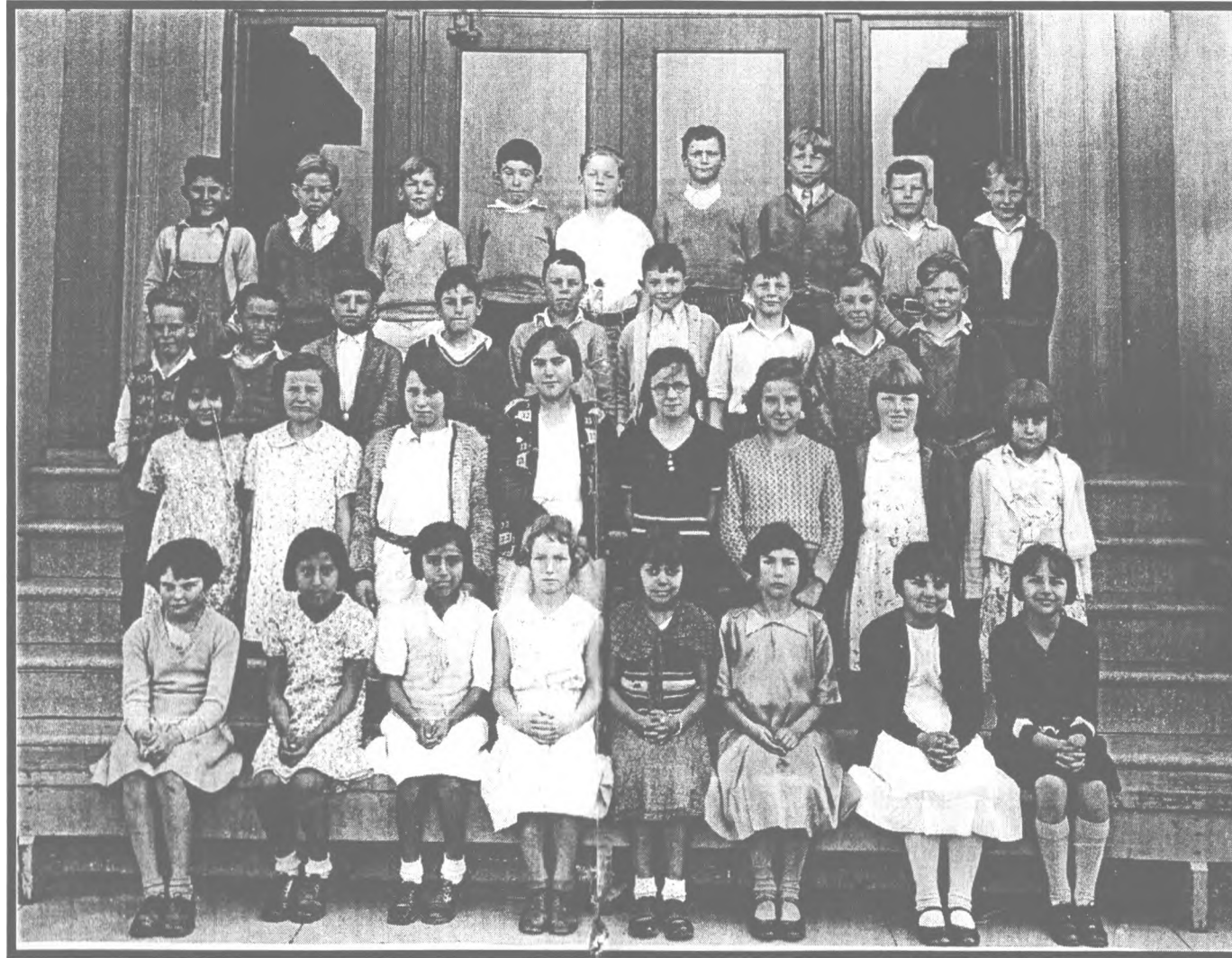
Sari probably knows more old timers and more about old times in Richmond and the Point than she cares to. Her research has been extensive and the effort will make the film very special, very factual and very moving.

The film, "The Plunge, Time Laps Through History" will incorporate oral histories, vintage photos, and current footage of the Plunge and its many programs. Patterned after the Ken Burns documentary style, the film is being shot on special film that will allow it to be shown at film festivals as well as being used as a vehicle to solicit funds from large corporations. This film will accompany every request for funding and we are hoping that it will work its magic on the decision makers: -

A Premiere evening in Point Richmond was held Wednesday November 18, 1998. This gala event started at the Hotel Mac with a champagne reception, then a 1920's dining experience and onto a private showing at the intimate Masquers Playhouse. This premiere could not have achieved such success without the generosity of the owners of the Hotel Mac, Bill and Griff and the cooperation of the Masquers Playhouse staff, board and membership. Over 100 business leaders, City officials and

Continued on page 20

Washington School, February, 1934



Top Row: Albert Raffaneeli, Keith Heinz, ???, Tom Kenney, Stewart Sanders, Robert McAfee, Bruce Bartram, James Wilson, ???

Third Row: ???, ? Kennedy, Herb Bill, ???, Peter Stark, ???, Don Fisi, Elmen Thole, Eddie Peterson, Norvell Parker

Second Row: Amelio Termino, Dorothy Dornan, Lauella Buines, Jennie Termino, Nellie Huffstetter, Doris Klinger, Shirley Lebhach, Margie McDonald

Bottom Row: Jean Cundy, Mary Granada, Ramona Granada, Mary Bianchini, Tonita Avila, Anita Baera, Barbara Nalenti, Doreen Rainaldi

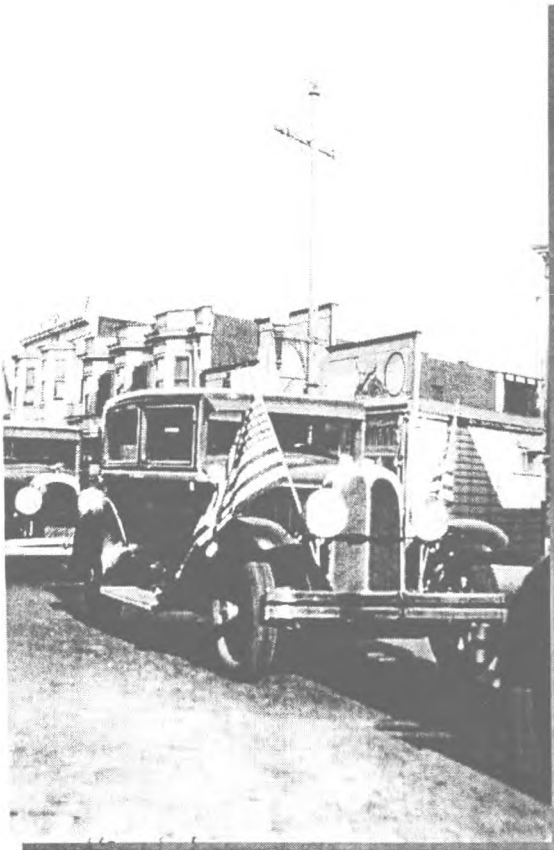
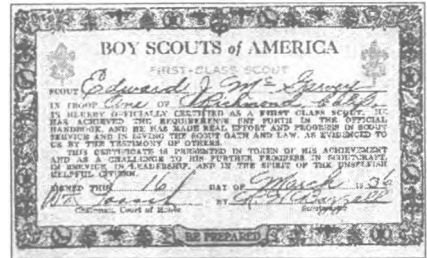
This picture is courtesy of Claire M. Lucas

From IlaMay (McGarvey) Dein

Hi Gary,

Still digging stuff out! I had plans to go to Hawaii so alerted my brother, Edward McGarvey, who lives there to look around and see what he could find that might be of interest to the museum. Also, he has some of Howard's (Arnold) things. He came up with a few and said he would keep looking. Between the two of us we came up with:

1. Sept. 1944 issue of "The Standard Oiler"
2. Dec. 1939 *RUHS Shield*



3. June 1940 *RUHS Shield*
4. Dec. 1940 *RUSH Shield*
5. Pictures taken onboard Standard Ships, the S.S. Hanna, 1930 and the California Standard, 1931.
6. Keller's Beach, June 1935
7. Washington School, good, clear photo but I didn't enlarge it because I thought you probably have pics of Washington School.
- 8 Boy Scout card from the first troop in Richmond. It met in the basement of Washington School. I know you will recognize the names at the bottom.

Also a striking pic of a parade car, maybe 1932 Pontiac? And a copy from

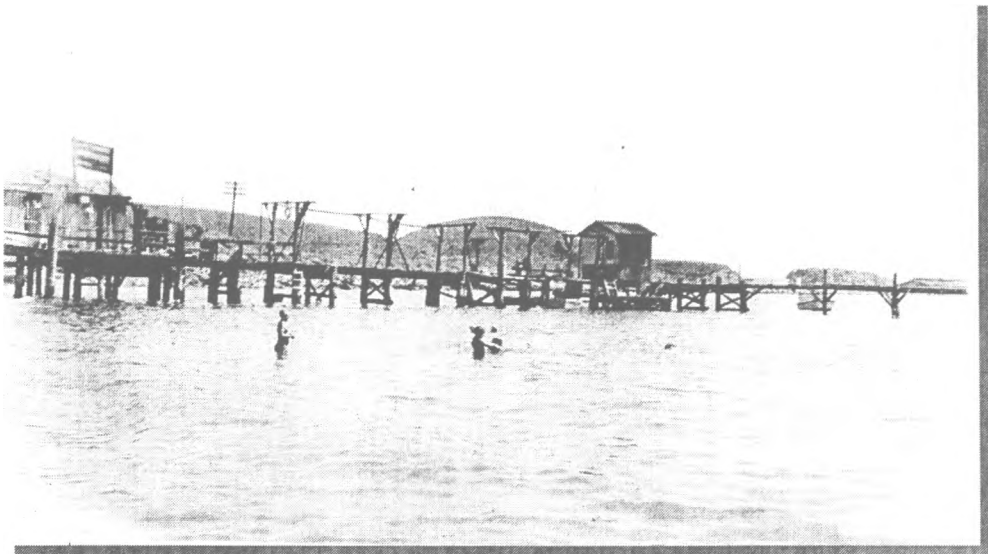
something of Benicia, pretty early it looks like.

Now a question, would you be interested in some 16mm home movies of the Point? They were taken by my grandfather, Jas. P. Arnold, in the 1930's. Included, from what I remember, are a couple of parades, one in color, the wedding of Rose Grosso, the wedding party going into the church and coming out I think, but not inside. Grosso's had the IGA Market. Wasn't it the Liberty Market also? I can't think of anything else at the moment, but if you

would be interested you are welcome to them. I had them all put on video a few years ago for my kids. There were some performing dogs too, just on the street corner, but the background must show some buildings someone will remember. If you are interested I can run the video and give you more information.

Guess that's it for this time.

As ever,
IlaMay (McGarvey) Dein



Really great picture of Kellar's Beach

Women's Westside Improvement Club News

Amelia Drake

At our November 10th meeting we were delighted to have as our guest, Head Librarian, Joe Green. He brought with him many beautiful books. He gave a brief summary of each, and we were then able to personally look at and enjoy the books.

Ellie Strauss brought us up to date on the funds for the retrofitting of the Plunge. We have a long way to go but we will save our Plunge!!!!

Anne Hanzlik, who is our secretary, explained briefly her plans for upgrading the Indian Statue Park in memory of her husband, Joe. What a wonderful tribute.

Finally but not least the members of the WSIC unconditionally endorse Mildred Dornan for the 1999 Sweetheart of the Year. Certainly her community service to our town is well known.

Our members on December 1st enjoyed their annual catered Christmas Luncheon.

Remember there will be no meeting in January. A blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.



Point Methodist Church Holiday Dates to Remember

December 18-Dickens' Christmas Carol Readers Theater. Tom McGowan and his exuberant ensemble will once again invoke the spirits of Christmases Past, Present, and Future. Cookies and hot drinks will be served after the performance.

December 20 – Christmas Messiah –
3:00 pm The Joyful Noise Choir, accompanied by a string quartet, a trumpeter, a pianist and four soloists will bring us this great music. All those who love to sing are invited to join in for the Hallelujah Chorus.

December 24 – Christmas Eve Jazz Service – Pastor Dan and a group of musicians will be joined by Paula Helene for both traditional and contemporary music performed in incomparable style.

SHHH!

By Biblio Tek

Westside Branch Library News

No report again from Biblio. Biblio is writing anonymously so all I can say is "Hey Biblio, come back, we have all enjoyed your work, it was wonderful having the Westside Branch back in TPIT!"
Gary

Allan Smith's Point

Point Richmond's Ellie Strauss, Treasurer of the Richmond Friends of Recreation, was the hostess presiding over "Save the Plunge" fund-raising. This was held November 18 at the Hotel Mac and the Masquers Playhouse here in the Point.

Trefry Ross, a Point native, wrote a very interesting article for the November, 1998 issue of TPIT Newsletter in regards to Plunge memories. I remember Tref as a very good swimmer and a member of the Richmond Union High School Team in the late 1930's, all during his high school career. He was always at the Nat, as I recall, as I was the Locker Boy then earning thirty cents an hour.

The fun photo that Tref donated to this November issue brought back fond memories of Point Richmond's beautiful girls whom all should have been "Miss Point Richmond". The

names are familiar but not the faces and 'figures'. Who can forget Margaret Tolosano, Ruth Dingle, Helene Rafanelli, June Kunkle, Betty Jenkins, Melba Ghieri, Frances Greenlaw (Gebhart?) and Bernice Locke.

Ardell Ciabattari, Raised in Point Richmond, had a very successful restaurant business in town. It was in the building now known as The Great American Hamburger and Pie Company located next to the Plunge. The Plunge business was a 'natural' at the time because of the great popularity of the Plunge. Ardell was so successful there that he invested later in a Richmond and a Pinole business.

Florence Ciabattari, Point native who passed away last month used to work for her brother at this restaurant which was then known as the Kozy Koffee Kounter and then later as 'Ardells'.

ANSWERS TO "WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT CHRISTMAS" from page 7

1. She asked if there really was a Santa Claus.
2. "Miracle on 34th Street" (1947)
3. Germany, although the custom of lighted Christmas trees began in the U.S.
4. "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" (1949)
5. "O Little Town of Bethlehem."
6. It's an English beverage that includes roasted apples and several spices, and which is served hot. "Waes hae!" means "Be in health" or "Here's to you."
7. "The Gift of the Magi."
8. Luke
9. Boxing Day is celebrated on the first weekday after Christmas. On that day, Christmas boxes (gifts) are given to employees and others with whom the givers come in contact during the year.
10. Father Christmas

by Mid Dornan

Sports Memories

by Allan Smith

I visited the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. earlier this year with my wife but we failed to notice if Ernie Lombardi had his features forged in brass and pinned to the wall of the museum.

Ernest Natalie Lombardi was the finest hitting catcher in all of baseball when he played 17 years in the National League of the Major Leagues from 1931-1947. Ten of those years were with the Cincinnati "Reds" where he was the Most Valuable Player in 1938 when his hitting average was .342, leading the National League. I remember Ernie Lombardi, nicknamed "The Schozz" and "Bocci", when he played for the Oakland "Oaks", also known as the Oakland "Acorns", of the Pacific Coast League. He was born in Oakland, CA in 1908. A very imposing catcher standing 6 feet 3 inches tall and weighing 230 pounds (no base runner would try to steal home on him). After Lombardi left baseball in 1948, he returned to Oakland and existed working part time at a gasoline station and living on a \$330 a month baseball pension and Social Security. Wells Twombly, local sports writer wrote, "To ignore Ernie Lombardi is shameful. It is one thing to

know that you belong to the past, it is another thing entirely to feel that you have no value". That is where Ernie Lombardi stood in 1977.

Do you recall when Ernie Lombardi once worked in the Press Box at Candlestick Park with the San Francisco Giants when there was only one Major League Baseball team in the Bay Area? He left for reasons that were never satisfactorily explained.

Ernest Natalie Lombardi died in 1977. In 1986 he was posthumously voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

The following are two baseball records that will probably never be broken (like the home run records were):

1. Johnny Vander Meer, pitching for the Cincinnati Reds of the National League pitched two successful, back to back, no-run, no-hit games in 1938.

2. Frank Smith, local Point native and still residing here, pitched a no-run, no-hit game in 1969 playing for the Cleveland Indians farm team in Reading, Pennsylvania. On the same day another Cleveland Indian farm hand, pitching for Portland of the Pacific Coast League, Sam "Sudden Sam" McDowell, had a no-run, no-hit game to his credit. So, two perfectly pitched games by two pitchers of the same organization on the same day. They say, "Records are made to be broken".





CARDS & LETTERS



Dear Pam:

I started going to Washington School in Point Richmond on the day the first world war ended (November 11, 1918) but only went there for a short time. My family moved to Richmond and I went to Lincoln School there and graduated into high school, did go to Richmond Union School, but never graduated. Got Married in 1938. My husband was from Pennsylvania. We went back to visit his family in 1938 and both happened to get jobs. He worked for the Light Company out of Pittsburgh and I worked for a small steel fabricator for 48 years back there.

We never had any children and when we started talking about adoption, my husband passed away in 1964. I continued to work until our small company was sold to Textron, Inc. now located in Wayne, PA. They made it mandatory for retirement at age 65, so since I still had three brothers living in California, I sold some things, packed some and had them set back and have never regretted my decision.

I was 90 years old last July and in very good health, take no medication. Am the only one left of six brothers and one sister who died at birth many years ago.

When I moved here in 1965 I got a part time job with a State Fame Insurance Agent and worked for him until 1985, (20 years) so I have only been retired for about 11 years.

In case you are wondering where

Willows is, we are about 85 miles northwest of Sacramento. It gets quite hot in the summer, so we all have air conditioners and, of course, all cars are also air conditioned.

In enjoy getting "This Point Newsletter" and am enclosing my check for the coming year. Thank you and god bless.

Sincerely,
Mary L. Cornelious
Willows, CA

P.S. The "L" stands for "Lewis", my maiden name

Mary thank you so much for sharing that with us! We are proud to have a wonderful person like you be a member!

Gary



Dear Gary:

I read Louie Thompson's article on Leona Heights (*ed. TPIT Nov. 98, Ivan (Maj) Hill*). Very, very interesting, but he forgot to mention that we went to Leona Heights by streetcars from high school.

Also Louie Schroeder hit Howard Read in the eye and gave him a big black eye. Never knew why. Also, I was put on report and had to march around the campgrounds for one hour, Bob Owens was the sergeant who drilled me.

Harold Shawl was probably the

smartest person in our class ('22?). We called him "Professor". He was the editor of the first issue of the "Poppy" Washington School annual, which Miss Lucas directed. She was a wonderful teacher. Harold, a U.C. Berkeley civil engineer grad, went to work for the Salyers Land Co. in the San Joaquin Valley. He also had an older brother, Louis who went to Washington School and became a commercial artist in San Francisco.

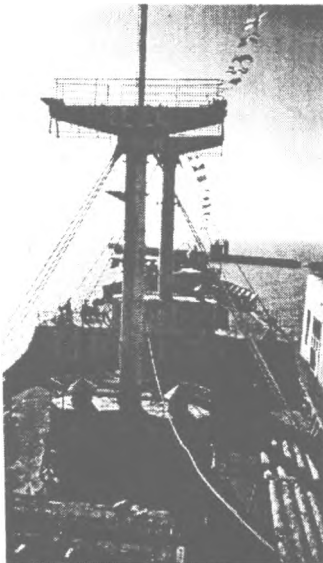
The main reason that I am writing is to tell you the following:

There are three nonagrarions (sp) who went to the old Washington School, still living.

- 1 Louis Shawl, 93 commercial artist
- 2 Willard Speirsch, 90, born Sept. 1908
- 3 Myself, Bernard Bernes, 90, born Nov. 1908

Maybe there are others?

Regards to all my old friends,
Bernie Bernes
bbernes@aol.com



*Deck of our
Red Oak
Victory Ship*

Continued from page 11

members of the West County community were in attendance. This gala premiere was geared to solicit business sponsorship of the film and to garner the support of the Plunges business neighbors.

Early Spring of 1999 (date to be determined) a Community premiere will be held in the Richmond Convention Center. This event will be well publicized and will be for the sole purpose of giving the community a chance for a viewing.

The film will be able to be viewed at the Richmond Museum of History after the final sponsorships have been included. The Richmond Museum of History was very cooperative with their treasures and we hope they will show the film often.

Spring of 1999 the RFR will begin to book showings of the film to all the local service groups. 1999 will also see the film entered into West Coast Film festivals.

All in all, it has been a momentous, difficult and exhausting year for the Richmond Friends of Recreation, and The Save the Richmond Plunge Trust. Among our many accomplishments we can count:

- 1 Raising over \$100,000
- 2 Solidification of the boards, their goals and objectives
- 3 2 successful events, the Plunge Jam and the Premiere Evening
- 4 Publication of our first newsletter
- 5 Cementing relations with the City of Richmond to grow a strong and effective Public/Private Partnership
- 6 Developed a web page to aid in awareness and fund raising (web site:) www.pointrichmond.com/plunge

To everyone who has helped in any way to make this beginning effort such a success, a million Thank-yous!!

If anybody wants to join in on the efforts to Save the Plunge, call or write:

Save the Richmond Plunge Trust

P.O.Box 70443

Richmond, CA 94807-0443

510.235.0738 voice 510.412.9978 fax

Inquiries From the Website www.alkos.com/prha

My birth name is Maureen Collins and I have a photocopy of an article which appeared many years ago in a news paper local to Point Richmond. I do not have the name of the publication, nor do I know the date the article appeared save that I believe it to have been sometime in the 1920's or early thirties. I have reproduced the article as well as it will copy and attached it to this E-mail should you be interested in downloading it. The article is about my Great Uncle, John Lawrence Collins who had been appointed Pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Church, Point Richmond, CA. John and his brother Patrick left their father's farm Nr Scariff in County Clare Ireland, John to pursue the priesthood, Patrick to work at whatever he could find at the time. There is a story that Patrick became an employee of Standard Oil but that is all that is known of either brother except that it is known they were in touch with one another from time to time. It is not known where in California Patrick lived or even if he had a family. John & Pat had three other brothers, James remained on the farm which is still run today by his Granddaughter. Thady (Timothy) my Grandfather emigrated to England, where I live, and Michael who died a young man in his home village. I have had in my possession for many years a photograph of a very young Fr John taken before he left Ireland, but none of the family knows when or where he and/or Patrick died. It would be of great interest to know what became of them.

If any members of your historical Association can help with any information which will help me close a chapter in my family tree book, I would be most grateful.

Maureen McIver
momciver@aol.com

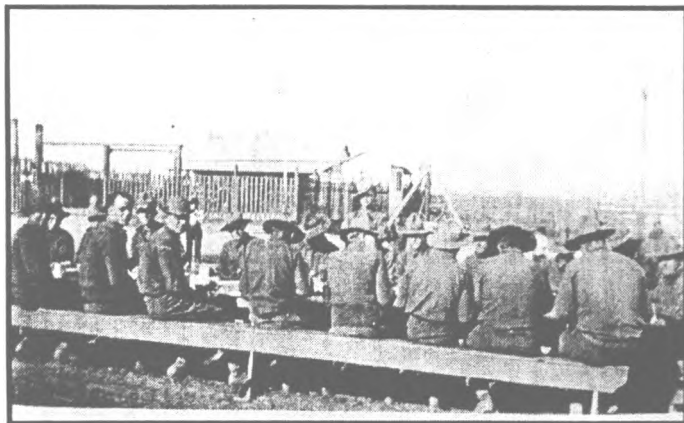


My minister has acquired a 1948 Ford that was produced in the Ford plant in Richmond. He is trying to find out more about the history of the plant, and if any of the production records are available (e.g. what serial numbers were produced on what day during 1948). Any information you could provide would be greatly appreciated. Thank you very much.

Edward Mehlenbacher
dejelm@earthlink.net



My grandfather Salvatore Corbo lived at 1602 Macdonald Ave. from approx. 1920 to 1939. He died there on Sept. 17, 1939. His occupation was listed as vegetable man. He was born in Italy, immigrated to NY and then went to Richmond with a woman named Elvera Bruni (not my grandmother). I was in Richmond in Mar. of this year, but at that time I did not have this information. My question is does 1602 Macdonald Ave. still exist? And he was buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Sept. 20, 1939 is there a way I can get a copy of his obituary if there was one? I will gladly pay for the service. I already have a copy of his death certificate. Thank you. Any help will be greatly appreciated. P.S. He was waked at Ryan's Funeral Home.
Trudy Corbo Ehlbeck
Tru1937@aol.com
Phone 904-767-8385



In 1917 Army soldiers were stationed in Point Richmond to protect the Standard Oil Refinery during WWI.



Photos are compliments of Jerry Feagley.

Deaths....

Elsie Alfreda Spinola, a homemaker and former blueprint supervisor with Kaiser Shipyards in Richmond, died Saturday October 31, 1998 in a San Leandro hospital. She was 83. The buffalo, N.Y., native lived in San Leandro for nine years and previously lived in Point Richmond for 65 years. She was a member of Beacon Point Chapter 383, Order of Eastern Star in Richmond, Shiloah Shrine 29, White Shrine of Jerusalem in Richmond, Parents Backers Club of Boy Scout Troop 111 in Point Richmond and Washington School PTA in Point Richmond. She is survived by her sons, Donald J. Spinola of El Cerrito and Joel Spinola of San Leandro; brother, Edwin A. Peterson Jr. of El Cerrito; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Her husband, Joseph, died previously.

December Birthdays

JEAN ALLYN
HAZEL PAASCH
EDNA HATHAWAY
DEBBIE SEABURG
CHRISTINE HAYES
SHERRY HARTYNYK
MARIAN HAWKINS
MARK STEVENS
TONI TURNER
MIKE TURNER

MARILYN DARLING
MICHAEL CHESHARECK
TERESA MENEGHELLI
RICHARD BARNES
CHRISTINA NAGATANI
THOMAS MERCER HURSH
INEZ A. PESTANA
SETH FENTON
CRIS CREED
FERN EASTMAN

JEFF CORBIN
GERRIE KRETZMER
LAUREN NASON
LINDA MERTLE
ERIC TURNER
TOM MCGOWAN
JERRY FEAGLEY
WILLIAM S. KOLLAR

January Birthdays

HENRY ALLYN
CINDY ROSIER
SONJA DARLING
LINDA MARSHALL
DOUG GREINER
TREFREY ROSS
JIM WILSON
MARY HIGHFILL
ANN BARTRAM
JOHN CUTLER
MARILU FOX

KRISTINA HOLLBROOK
LES HATHAWAY
RICHARD PALFINI
DIANA 'MERTLE' CHAVEZ
MARIAN SAUER
DONNA BUHLER
TOM BRENNAN
JOE TRAVIS
BRYAN SMITH
JEFF QUIST
ED PAASCH

ROBERT MCINTOSH
LUPE MORRIS
SARYL WEINSTEIN
DIANA KAFFAN
ELAINE HARRIS
LOUIS CUNAN
BRAD FEAGLEY
SPARTA CHIOZZA
BENA BOWLES



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

Please mail articles and items of interest to:

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Visit us at our website
<http://www.alkos.com/prha>



Calendar

December/January, 1998/99

December 9
Wednesday

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

December 13
Sunday

Hanukkah, Begins at Sunset

December 21
Monday

First Day of Winter

December 25
Friday

Christmas Day

January 1
Friday

New Years Day

January 13
Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting
Noon at the Hotel Mac

January 17
Sunday

Point Richmond History Association General Meeting
See inside cover for details

January 18
Monday

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 23
Friday

DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY/MARCH ISSUE

February 10
Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting
Noon at the Hotel Mac