

THIS POINT.... in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

www.PointRichmondHistory.org

Vol. XX No. 2

September/October, 2001

\$1.50



Our Lady of Mercy Parish, 301 West Richmond Avenue will hold its Annual Steak Barbecue on Sunday, September 23, 2001 from noon to 4:00 p.m. New York steak, salads and desserts are the fare of the day. The donation for one ticket is \$15.00. Tickets may be obtained by calling Diane Siegmund (222-5717 or Linda Lanning (234-6968) or may be purchased at the door. Prizes will also be raffled.

From the President

By Mid Dornan

The Point Richmond History Association is composed entirely of volunteers. So, when two of those valuable volunteers move, it leaves a big void. Those two would be Ellen and Dennis Schaefer, our Treasurer and Program Chairman. Unable to locate in the Point, which they loved, they have moved to Eugene, Oregon. Ellen kept impeccable records which she credited to Dennis for his input. They were both valued board members and we now search for replacements. Thank you Ellen and Dennis for your support and time for the short while you lived here. You will be missed but we wish you happiness in your new home in Eugene.

During the illness of our Museum coordinator, Betty Dornan, Mary Forbes has taken over the task of securing volunteers for the two and a half hour twice weekly duty but now Mary will soon be moving to Crockett. Thanks to Ann and Bruce Bartram, Anita Christiansen, Mary Highfill and all of you who have done extra duty filling in

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Tom Piazza and Anita Christiansen in our museum on a lazy summer afternoon, talking of old Point Richmond.

staffing the museum during the summer months. It is important to keep the museum open. Think about it and volunteer.

Thank you to the following renewing members:

Pamela Wilson
Edna Hathaway
David & Carol MacDiarmid
Joel Spinola
Linda M. Newton
David & Anne Roth
Alphonso & Donna Diaz
Bruce & Ann Bartram
Sparta Chiozza
Joe & Jody Travis
Clara Christopher Loux
Rose & Louie Barra
June Beesley Solosabal
Marilyn Darling
Henry Gondola
Josephine Palenchar
Romilda Burress
Phyllis Bogue
Tony Peter Bernabich
Zoanna Kille
Elaine B. Scott
Ted Bradshaw
Emile & Edwyna Pleau
June A. Blackburn
Jay & Karen Fenton
Dody Perry

*Walter Lamore on
West Richmond Street
in 1912*

Thank You!

To
Santa Fe Market
and
Point Richmond Market
For selling this newsletter.
To
Betty Dornan and the
Volunteers who open
and close our history
museum on Thursday
and Saturday.



Gary's Column

Gary Shows (510-235-1336)

Hope all of you had a good Summer. It's very nice to see Betty back to work in the museum after her illness.

As usual , thanks so much to all you contributors to this newsletter, I feel that I rushed some of you, so I plan to alter my usual pattern next Summer and make publication of the September/October issue a week later.

I had some computer problems with this issue, if it is obvious anywhere I apologize. I just played around with my system, too much (as is all too common for me) and crashed and had to rebuild a bunch of stuff. Some of the new headings and designs however are intentional and planned

during the Summer.

Please remember that the next issue is our only one month issue, use it to begin preparing everyone for your holiday events.

The deadline for the November issue is October 19, 2001.

The Summer issue assembly crew.

Jerry Cerkowicz

Gary Shows

Mid Dornan

Liz McDonald

Mary Highfill

Pam Wilson

The Cover:

A 1952 cover from "Standard Oiler" magazine, the newsletter for Standard Oil Company employees. We have a number of these in our archives, this particular issue was donated by LaVerne Rentfro Woolman.

From the Standard Oiler on the cover:

Apprentice glass blower Ken Townsley of the California Research Corporation Class Laboratory fastens a coil of glass in place to start a complicated piece of research apparatus.

A-Mid TRIVIA

Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question: What are the only mobile National Monuments and where are they located? Answer at end of Trivia.

Congratulations to Clara Christopher Loux who was 90 years old on August 22nd. Her family has been here in the Point since 1902. (How about some articles to this newsletter! Don't let those memories go untold).

Watch for a new light bulb by GE in September. The bulb will cost \$2.99 to \$6.99 for a four-pack and will produce clearer light by using the element neodymium to block yellow tones.

Square watermelons? In Zentsuji, Japan, melons are placed in square tempered glasses while growing. About 40 melons were grown this year, at a cost of about \$83 each. Farmers decided 20 years ago that square melons would fit more easily into refrigerators.

Sophia Havana entered the world on May 19th, 2001 'kicking', according to her parents, Elana and David Dolberg. She weighed seven and a half pounds and was welcomed by her two and a half year old sister. David is active in the Neighborhood Council and Elana in PRAM!

It's good to be a man - your last name stays put - people never stare at your chest when you are talking to them - everything

on your face stays its original color - your underwear is \$8.95 for a 3 pack - car mechanics tell you the truth.

WANTED: Part-time/on call Hotel Manger. Contact Irene Berndt at Hotel Mac. (510) 970-7922 or (510) 235 0010.

Reba Downs and children, Colin and Julia, Colorado Springs, CO., visited her brother, Larry Slagle and family before spending a few days on the Russian River with her long time school chum, Kathy Dornan Barnes and family here from Oxford, Mississippi for the summer.

Frances Smith's family and friends helped her celebrate her July 21st birthday along with an Open House Blessing at her new home in San Pablo. It didn't take Fran long to 'settle in' at her new place as plants and shrubs were in place and not a moving box was in evidence!

Sad news from Hazel Delphina Tawney. Her brother and our friend Al Franco passed away August 18th. Al will be missed by many.

Election Day a national holiday?? Let's start with creating a uniform statewide standard for counting ballots.

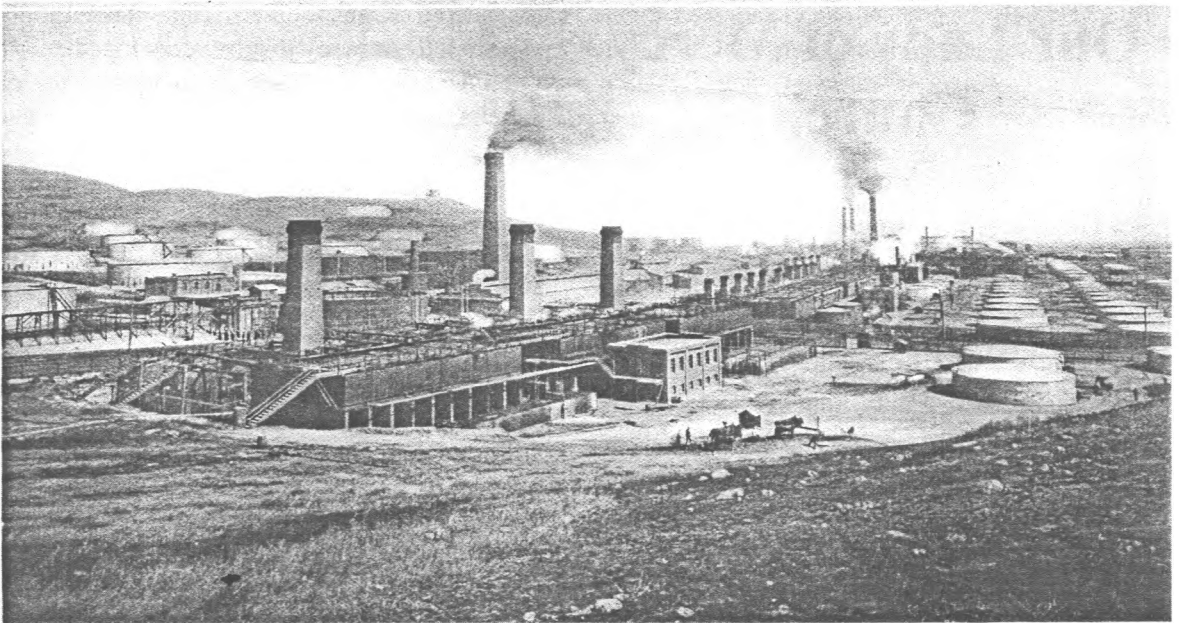
Yvonne Dionne, 67, one of 3 remaining famous Dionne quintuples, died June 23 in Montreal.

The Bank of Richmond opened August 14, 1910 on the corner of W. Richmond and Washington. Sherry's Dept store now occupies that site and the building is now up for sale.

Did you know Coca Cola was originally green?

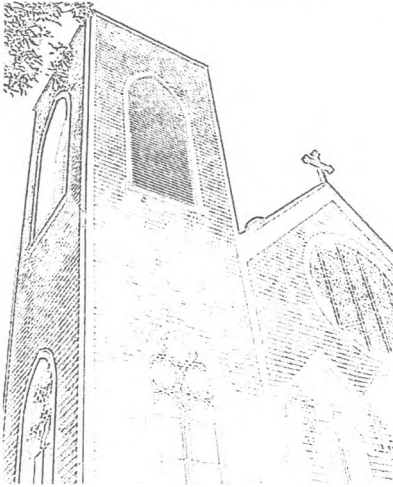
School is Open! Watch for children.

ANSWER: The San Francisco Cable Cars are the only mobile National Monument!



"Standard Oil Refinery, Richmond: largest west of New Jersey. Work is in progress doubling its capacity." from Richmond, California, issued by Richmond Industrial Commission, 1915

Church News



Our Lady of Mercy Church

By Dee Rosier
510-232-1387

Am sure that any school-age child would agree that summer came and went so quickly we hardly recognized it was happening. They still retain their youth, but the older one becomes, the more obvious you are that time passes quickly. The weather was exceptionally mild so we did not endure many hot days, perhaps they are yet to come. Our daily morning walks at George Miller Park have been cool and moist, so we have had to dig out our jackets. The brown leaves on the ground and moisture in the air are a good indicator that fall nears. School now starts in

August, and as it does my Granddaughter, Jennifer begins her high school career - talk about time flying.

Many thanks to those that responded to our request for old church pictures to be incorporated into our Centennial book. Stanley Toledo, who is compiling the publication, has dedicated much of his personal time to the gathering of information for it. When complete, it will contain interesting historical information, personal interviews and pictures.

Nancy Hagel, Centennial Chairman, will guide us into our Centennial year. With her guidance, it will prove to be an outstanding celebration. Both Nancy and Stanley have poured much energy into the upcoming event. On September 1, they will let their chairmanships rest for a while. Nancy and Stanley will wed at Our Lady of Mercy and Msgr. Ted Kraus will officiate the nuptials. We wish them many joyous years together.

A brief highlight of summer travel; Amelia Drake traveled to Italy. Diane and Fred Siegmund enjoyed Hawaii. Vince and Judy Kafka also traveled to Italy and then Maine. Nancy Hagel entertained her two grandchildren visiting from the East. I was able to enjoy several weeks at our alternate home in Calistoga.

Father Lima took a vacation from issuing our Sunday bulletins. When they begin again, they will have a new format. Our Lady of Mercy church will be pictured on the front page and the back page will be made available to advertisers.

The Finance Committee has printed a brochure showing the short and long range goals we would like to achieve for our Parish. We are all aware of the fact that we need a new roof, and this will be our first major

endeavor. An anonymous donor gifted us with a thousand dollar check. Our Parish was built almost 100 years ago, it is now our turn to make sure we preserve it for those who will be here a hundred years from now. Your suggestions are solicited.

The church parking lot is private property. During the working day hours the parking lot is rented by a local dentist. With the exception of Bob Peckham's truck, several vehicles have decided to take up rent-free permanent residence there. The Richmond Police Department has been made aware of the illegal parking and in the near future, all illegal vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense.

The annual BBQ will be held on September 23rd. The date was chosen to coincide with the first Mass celebrated on September 21, 1902. Fr. Martin P. Scanlon, our first Pastor celebrated the Mass in the Richard Hall (where was this?) because the actual church was not built until the following year.

Anna is now using a cane to get around and is doing well. Doty had hand surgery again. Ruth Beardsley says that she can only come to church when she is having a good day - we wish all her days to be good. Bob Peckham has completed his chemo treatments and working on feeling better. Our neighbor, Pastor Dan, visited Bob while hospitalized during the onset of his illness. Remember in your prayers all of those not able to attend Mass due to illness, especially Nancy Hagel's mother.

Father Carmelo, one of our previous Pastors, recently made a visit to the Bay Area to visit friends and family. While here, Chano and he enjoyed dinner together.

Our small community groups continue to meet on the first and third Wednesday of each month. If you are interested in joining the evening group, call Steve Schaffer (232-1315) or for the day group call Steve Kafka (232-8218).

Condolences to Stan Toledo and his family in the recent loss of his father.

GOD IS WATCHING

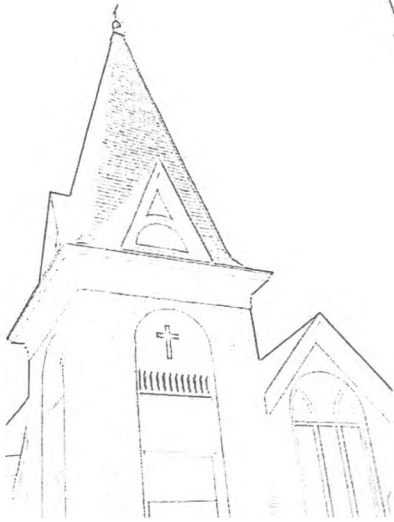
School lunch children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic school for lunch. At the head of the table was large pile of apples. The nun had a note saying, "Take only one, God is watching."

Moving through the line, to the other end of the table, was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A boy wrote a note, "Take all you want, God is watching the apples."

See you in church.

Our Lady of Mercy Parish, 301 West Richmond Avenue will hold its Annual Steak Barbecue on Sunday, September 23, 2001 from noon to 4:00 p.m. New York steak, salads and desserts are the fare of the day. The donation for one ticket is \$15.00.

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POINT RICHMOND METHODIST CHURCH

by Jean Reynolds

510-235-2988

jeanormr@pacbell.net

Vacation Bible School was a hit in July. We especially enjoyed making rattlesnakes out of neckties, and panning for gold. This year our Junior and Senior High Youth made the week special for the younger ones. Bethany Reynolds, Heather Damon and Jennifer Rosier were enthusiastic, kind, and filled many of the roles required for VBS to

be a success. Parson Dan accompanied our morning singing, and Melody Hastings was a lesson for us all just by being there: she recently regained her sight through surgery and celebrated by helping with VBS. Ronnie Martinez used his culinary skills to prepare lunch for us on Friday.

It was so special to have the week to play, sing, learn and enjoy each other.

Linda Andrew-Marshall found some great speakers to fill the pulpit while Pastor Dan was away attending two conferences, on vacation and teaching a class. We heard Peter Morris, lay speaker from Dixon on June 24, the Rev Ray Pitsker July 15 and 22, Charlene Kafir from El Sobrante UMC on July 29, and the Rev Wilbur Johnson on August 19.

The Joyful Noise Choir, directed by Virginia Cherniak, resumes August 29, at 7:30 p.m. Virginia plans for the choir to sing some special music for the September 30 worship in the garden.

The Memorial Garden landscaping and planting is complete! Come help celebrate on September 30!

September Calendar:

September 2: Art Hatchett, Executive Director of GRIP (Greater Richmond Interfaith Project), will be in the pulpit for worship at 11:00 a.m. Pastor Dan and his family will be in South Dakota for his parents' wedding anniversary. GRIP serves the community in a variety of ways, by

spawning social service organizations that address specific needs in the community, and by dealing with human rights and social justice issues. The rape crisis line, Richmond Farmer's Market, Souper Center, and Emergency Winter Shelter for Families are a few of the ways GRIP's presence is felt in this area. The GRIP Harmony Walk to End Hunger is coming up in October; it provides participants a way to contribute to the Souper Center, the local food pantries, and world hunger issues through Church World Service.

September 8: Angel Choir practice resumes at 10:00 a.m. It is one of the best 45-minute intervals of the week. Pastor Dan directs this choir for students of reading age through high school, and new members are welcome.

September 9: Sunday School for all ages begins at 9:30 a.m. with a kick-off breakfast for students and their families. Call Jean to reserve a plate or for more information: 235-2988.

September 30: Worship at 11:00 a.m. in our new garden, just east of the church on West Richmond Ave. Walk the labyrinth and celebrate the loveliness of the space. The whole community is invited!



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 53rd installment.

June 15, 1926

Church social league met at the church parlors. Mrs. Vloeberg and Mrs. Adams were the hostesses. Twelve members were present. It was moved, seconded and carried that the league buy 2 dozen flour sacks and have them hemmed, laundered twice and initialed. It was announced that we made \$23.25 clear on the dinner, 23.25 made on

	6.60	tea
dinner	6.67	
Deductions	.60	
Mrs. Jenkins	1.75	
Plate	1.50	
	25.00	
Total	.85	7.37
Previous balance		\$25.00
Total for day		22.42
Deductions	1	7.37
New balance		30.05

Social League was given credit for \$30.00 from the calendar month of July.

Mrs. W. Schmidt,
Sec.

A little more from Allan.....

I am going to steal Mid Dornan's "A-Mid Trivia idea for three WIT-WRENCHERS that have been bothering me.

1. Brothers and sisters I have none, but that man's father is my father's son. (please explain)
2. Railroad crossing look out for the cars, how can you spell it without any r's.
3. There are 15 telephone subscribers with an unlisted number. Of the first 75 names and numbers you happen to come across, how many of them - by the law of probabilities - would be unlisted ones???



**The NIAD Art Center
551 23rd Street at Barrett
Richmond, CA 94801**

Is having and interesting show entitled "Layers", layers of images, exploration of different materials, multiple levels of meaning displayed by NIAD studio artists.

The show runs September 17 through November 16, 2001.

A special Reception Wednesday, September 19th 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

They have a website www.niadart.org for more information.

Sports Memories

By Allan Smith

I have a clipping from the Oakland Tribune, written about Richmond's great baseball player, Willie McGee. McGee played for the St. Louis Cardinals and retired after the 1999 season. The people of St. Louis had a Willie McGee Day and Weekend. Both games were sold out. There is a Willie McGee website, williemcgee.fan.com, originating in St. Louis and it shows the Willie McGee Homage page.

I wonder if Willie will be present when the new Middle School will be built at the former Harry Ells High School in Richmond where he graduated from?

Jack Scheberries, a well known Oakland amateur heavy weight boxer and former champion died recently. He was known as "Smiling Jack" Scheberries and had a huge following in Oakland in the early 1950's. The graduate of Fremont High and San Jose State was considered one of the most promising young heavyweights in

California. We used to watch him train at the Babe's Gym in Oakland.

Most of us miss the boxing matches that were presented at the Richmond Auditorium and some were televised nationally. Richmond's Earl Turner, 'The Earl of Richmond' was a great professional fighter who drew great crowds. They say he outdrew the great heavyweight boxing champion Max Baer at the Oakland Auditorium.

Do you remember Nu Nu Randle, another good Richmond Boxer?

Cleveland Hall of Fame shortstop Lou Boudreau recently died at the age of 84. He played with Point Richmonder, Russ Christopher, in 1948 for the Cleveland Indians and in a World Series. On that same champion baseball team, were the great baseball pitchers, Bob Feller and Satchel Paige, both Hall of Fame members. Lou Boudreau was one of the greatest shortstops of all time.



1943-44 Richmond Union High School Varsity Basketball Team. From "The Shield of '44" donated by LaVerne Rentfro Woolman.

Local Newspaper Clippings, Richmond - 1913 - 1932

I have this ring-binder that is full of yellowed original clippings from old newspapers. The hand inscribed front cover says "Local Newspaper Clippings-Richmond - 1913-1932". It has a documenting problem as that most of the clipped articles do not give credit to the source, most however seem to be from the "Richmond Herald-Record". I do not know who put it together. They are, however old, hand dated and interesting reading, spelling errors are not corrected here is installment #2.

Gary Shows

POUNDMASTER CATCHES ANOTHER RABID DOG ON WEST SIDE OF CITY

September 6, 1913

Poundmaster Smith, acting under instructions from Health Commissioner Black, captured another rabid dog this morning at the Point, in the neighborhood of Washington avenue.

This makes four infected canines captured by the poundmaster this week in the city of Richmond.

That a virulent epidemic of rabies has seized the dog population of Richmond is evidenced from the number of dogs showing symptoms of the disease of late.

Many Richmond people are loath to send their children to the public schools for the reason that they are fearful that their

offspring will be attacked and infected with rabies, one of the most dreadful afflictions known to medical science.

Together with the probability of succumbing to hydrophobia after being bitten by an infected dog is the question of expense.

It costs in the neighborhood of \$100 to receive the anti-rabic treatment, \$50 for the serum from the state laboratory and \$20 for the medical man's services in attending to the patient.

Dr. Blake, in conversation with a

Record-Herald reporter this morning, expressed himself as being alarmed at the spread of the disease in Richmond and stated that he hoped the city council would pass the proposed ordinance next Monday evening regulating the keeping of dogs within the limits of the city of Richmond.

Yesterday a dog attacked a child in the city hall in Oakland, and it has been ascertained that the dog was suffering from an attack of rabies.

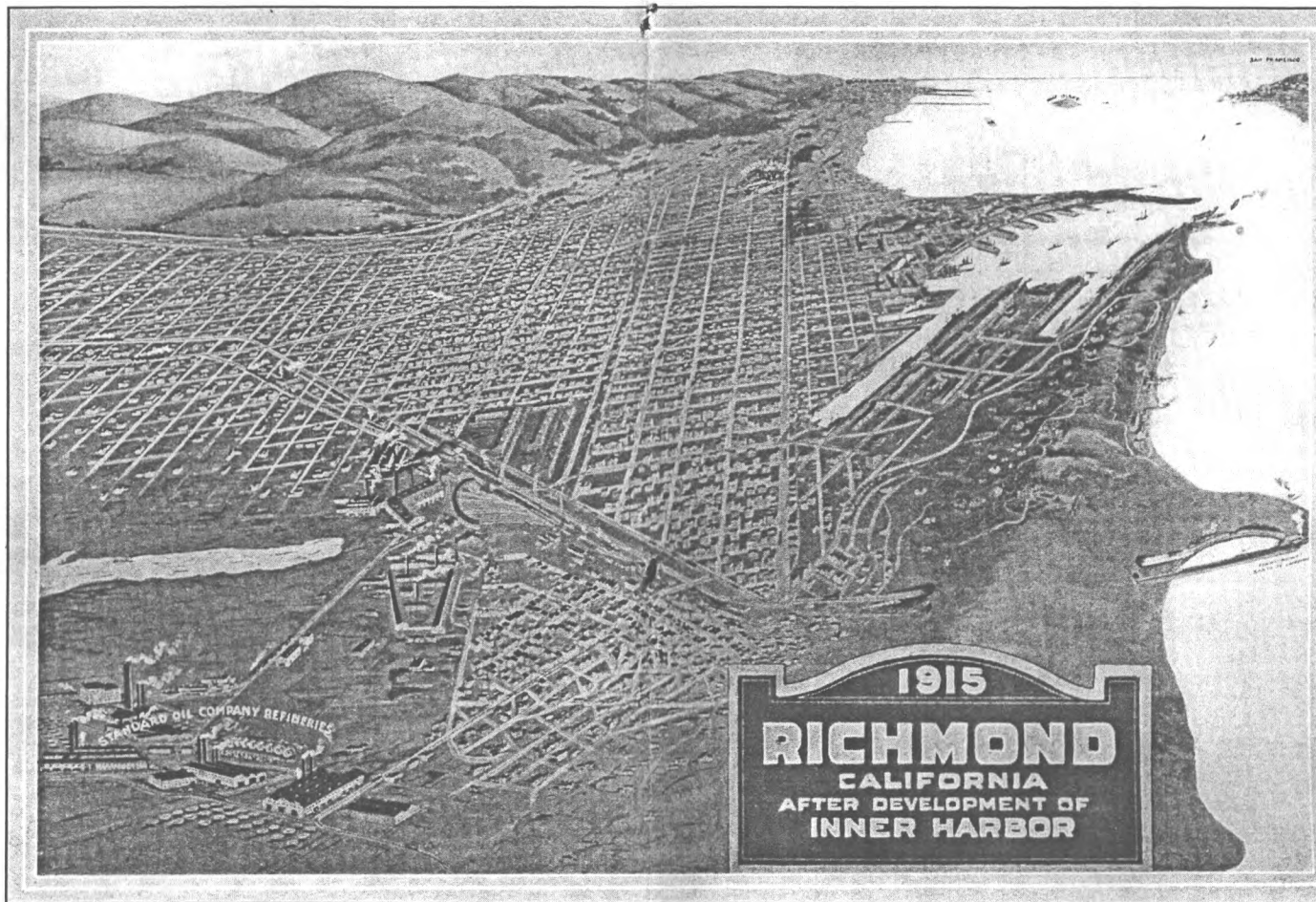
Dr. Blake states that he wishes the people of Richmond to watch their dogs, and if they show any symptoms of illness to notify his office immediately. It would be better still if the dog owners tie their pets up until the epidemic ceases.

TUNNEL WORKERS TO BE HOUSED

February 2, 1914

All the houses that formerly comprised the redlight district on Railroad avenue have been turned into rooming and boarding places for the men who are to work on the tunnel.

The men who will take up their lodgings in the former homes of the demimondes are mostly Austrians and Italians. The interior of all the dwellings have been renovated so that they are up-to-date in every respect.



Scanned from "Richmond, California, a publication issued by Richmond Industrial Commission.

**ANCIENT GALLION DUG UP BY
MYERS
February 17, 1914**

While boring a well on his place on the west side yesterday, Fred Meyers, the well-known contractor, unearthed the remains of what is thought by local archeologists, to be an ancient Spanish galleon. The old oak portion of the ship that once sailed the seas in quest of gold for the kings of Castile, was found fifty-five feet underneath the surface of the ground and no doubt marks the site of an old estuary from the bay. The pieces of the ship when brought to the surface by the well diggers were found to be almost petrified. Meyers thinks that there is a possibility of a large amount of gold being buried underneath the ground where the ship lies and will do a little prospecting on his own account.

**“NO MAISONS DE JOIE IN
RICHMOND,” SAYS RUIZ
(February 20, 1914)**

Reports Being Circulated That New Red Light District is Being Maintained in West Richmond Tract Stoutly Denied by Police Department Head—Place Closed Up a Month Ago as Soon as Its Existence was Brought to Attention of the Police

Rumors have been current on the streets of Richmond during the past few days to the effect that a red light district is being

maintained out on the West Richmond tract, in the north part of this city, and that a two-storied house was being utilized by a landlady as a den of iniquity. A Record-Herald reporter under-took to run the rumor down today and ascertained that about a month ago such a place had been opened, but when the attention of the police was called to the matter the place had been closed. The existence of the place at the time was called to public attention by the miring down of an automobile north of the Santa Fe railroad company's main line. The vehicle it is said, was being used to make regular trips to the place carrying customers to and from the house.

Inquiry at the police headquarters today revealed the fact that the place had been raided by the local police soon after it had been ascertained that it was running. Sergeant Ruiz, who is acting chief of police during the absence of Chief Arnold, made the following statement to a Record-Herald reporter today relative to the story being circulated that the bars had been let down and that a new red light district was being maintained in this city.

“If there are any people in Richmond who have knowledge of the existence of any houses of ill repute in existence in this city, if they will notify the police department of the fact I will assure them that the same will be closed up and the inmates prosecuted to law.”

**RICHMOND
CALIFORNIA**



Allan's Point

By Allan Smith

When Santa Fe Railroad left Richmond, a new company built an office at the west end of the property. They handle cargo containers. Most of the trucks hauling the containers belonged to the J.B. Hunt Transfer Services, and they had most of the country's largest retailers and manufacturing businesses. I finally found out what the initials J.B. stand for. It is for Johnnie Bryan Hunt, chairman of the company that is one of the largest transportation companies in the U.S. His company is looking for local drivers. If interested, contact the Corporate Driver personnel office at 1-800-2JB-HUNT.

The Richmond Main Library is now open after several months of refitting. The plaque honoring the 160 Richmond Military men who were killed in action During World War Two (I always pay my respects and prayers to these men having known many of them personally) is in a very inconspicuous space. It used to be at the main entrance lobby and I hope it gets moved back to a similar location of honor. The last name on the beautiful plaque happens to be the name of the last military man that was killed on the last day of World War Two.

Over the years I have been using a yearly wall calendar that is well designed and very useful, it is donated by Alko Office Supply. I decided that the next time I was in Berkeley I would stop by their office on Shattuck Avenue. Was I surprised when I saw Gary Shows, our congenial Point

Richmond History Association Newsletter Editor behind the counter waiting on customers. Seems that his office can handle any office and stationary supply needs, the only thing he doesn't carry are baseball cards, and Gary is a great fan of the Oakland A's. There were five employees working there and all were friendly and helpful. I walked out with a paper shredder. I needed that because the professional thieves are getting hold of cancelled checks and using the account number in their fraudulent enterprise. It happened that my dentist's wife who lost \$3,000 recently. Gary should open a branch office in the Point. The onlythings he doesn't carry are baseball cards

Pick up a copy of Bay Crossings. It is a free periodical that is on a newsstand in front of the local Post Office. This issue features Point Richmond very exclusively. Local resident, Tom Butt, is featured in a long article in this issue.

I was talking with Point Richmonder, Amelia Drake (Giacomelli) about her time spent on Midway Island with her husband Robert Drake when he was stationed there with the U.S. Navy in 1945. Amelia spent two years there and got to know a lot about the "gooney birds" that ruled the island. Gooney birds are the sea bird Albatross and an old sailor's superstition says that killing an Albatross brought bad luck. The most exciting event on the island was the weekly arrival of the Pan American Airways plane

and all residents dressed up for the occasion. The Battle of Midway in 1942 was the turning point in the Pacific campaign. Japan wanted Midway as a base from which to strike Hawaii.

John Viers, local barber, has been in business in Point Richmond for over 38 years and his partner, Gene, for twenty-five years. John took over the business from Mr. Acree who also has in the Point for awhile. His barbershop was located where the Post Office is now. I think there were bathing (tubs) facilities there. Also, if a worker wanted his weekly bath he could go to the Bath House (Natatorium) where several that tubs were located. Hence the name for the Nat - Bath House. Did the women's locker room have bath tubs? I'll have to ask my sister, Gloria and Ann Bartram (Vloeberghs) who both worked at the Plunge at one time with Mrs. O'Connor, the women's locker room

superintendent.

If you weren't there you missed a great Richmond History event. Sunday, August 19th on board the S/S Red Oak Victory was a celebration of Richmond's German Heritage. A German dinner with all the trimmings was served featuring bratwurst. The Richmond German Choir was present entertaining the guests and the featured speaker was Marie Hossmann speaking on Richmond German Heritage. Lois Boyle is President of the Richmond Museum of History. The museum owns the Victory Ship and is doing a wonderful job in restoring the ship. It is surprising as to what so much has been accomplished with only volunteer help. Every month there is a Sunday breakfast served, and on each Tuesday a luncheon is served. Try to attend one of these functions. Lois Boyle is a great hostess.



This sign was 36 feet high and 100 feet long and was towed in the Sacramento and other rivers to promote Richmond.

SHHH!

By Bibliotek

News From the Westside Branch

Congratulations to everyone at West Side Branch of the Richmond Public Library for doing such a stellar job in filling the gap while Main Library was closed for mold abatement. Extended hours were so well received, in fact, that the Branch's hours have been increased permanently. Praise the powers that be and pass the best seller list.

The new hours are: Monday and Tuesday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Friday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Additional staffing has been added as well. Come down and meet Stacey Agnitsch and Don Pampel who have joined Jose and Lynn behind the desk.

The Summer Reading Game provided inspiration and direction to a whole new crop of youthful readers, who enjoyed the theme of "Catch a Dragon by the Tale."

If you have some free time for a couple of weeks, pick up our copy of "A Suitable Boy" by Vikram Seth, but be careful. At 1349 pages you don't want to strain

anything. The rich, evocative prose will transport you to India shortly after independence from Britain and the partition of the country between India and Pakistan. The primary characters consist of four families whose connections with each other and collisions with the outside world demonstrate, as no history text could, the complexities of the new country. Frequent reference to the family trees at the front of the book will be necessary, but it is worth the trouble as you are introduced to the sights, sound, colors and smells of the land and the religions, politics, poetry and social stratifications of the people. Abundant use of Hindu words may make you want to reach for a dictionary, but even without knowing the exact meanings, the descriptions are so lavish that it is like a trip to a bazaar, strange but beautiful. When you have finished, you are sure to miss the appealing and nuanced characters, and will wish you knew what happened to them next.

90 YEARS AGO

July 5, 1910

The Santa Fe will not reduce the streetcar rates between here and Oakland as rumored a few days ago but yesterday announced a 30-cent round trip by either motor car or steam car. The rate is now in effect.

La Cage aux Folles


A Review by Marge Harmon

La Cage aux Folles opened at the Masquers on August 24th and will run through October 6th. The setting is a transvestite nightclub run by Georges and Albin, who are comfortable with their gay life and with their long-term relationship. They have even raised a son they adore, (the result of an unfortunate experiment by Georges.) Then, their dear son astounds them by falling in love with the daughter of a homophobic politician, and insisting that, as the prospective in-laws meet, Georges must pretend to be straight and Albin, his surrogate mother, must disappear during the visit.

The situation is a pretty kettle of fish, and the Masquers stir the pot with verve. From the moment the curtain rises, the audience is swept into a world of music, dance, and color. Beautifully arrayed in magnificent dresses, the entertainers sing about their lives with wit and humor. As Albin, John Blytt creates a warm, lovable character who can move from pathos to triumph. John

Clark as George provides continuity for the show with a strong performance.

As worlds collide with the meeting of the prospective in-laws, there is drama, pathos, humor, and lessons learned about the power of love.

 **THE MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE**
proudly presents

La Cage aux Folles
THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

Based on the Play
"La Cage Aux Folles"
by Jean Poiret

Music and Lyrics by Jerry Herman
Book by Harvey Fierstein

Albin and Georges run a transvestite nightclub in St. Tropez, but twenty years of domestic tranquility are shattered when Georges masquerades as "normal" when he meets his son's prospective father-in-law.

Directed by George Johnson
Music Direction by Pat King
Choreography by Kris Bell

FRIDAY & SATURDAY EVENINGS
August 24 - October 6
Sunday Matinees:
September 9, 16, 23, 30

Produced by special arrangement with
SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.

THE CAST
John Blytt • Douglas Braak • John Clark • Anne Collins • Adam Elsberry
Suzanne Gamble • Michael Garcia • Coley Grundman • Ronn Hanson
Rana Kangas-Kent • Michelle Pond • Chaz Simonds • John Stenger
Wendell Wilson • Heidi Wolff • Linda Woody-Wood

24-Hr. reservations: 510 232-4031

We accept VISA and MasterCard. All reservations must be prepaid. All sales final.

Box Office opens 7:30 PM, Matinees 2 PM • Curtain 8:00 PM, Matinees 2:30 PM

Admission \$14 cash, check or credit card. Group Rates available.

NOW AIR CONDITIONED!



Dinner at the Hotel Mac and "La Cage aux Folles"
Thursday, September 20 and October 4 - \$28 -
Call (510) 236-4988 for Reservations

Memories.....Growing Up as told by Mid

Bob Dornan, Tref Ross and Ken Koht set a small fire on the school bus. Bob and Tref admitted their involvement but Ken Koht didn't. Years later Ken bragged about getting off but Bob and Tref had other thoughts of him!! As a punishment, it seems the school Principal, a Mr. Shallenberger hit Bob on the hands, hard, with a wooden paddle and then handed the paddle to Bob to administer like punishment to Tref. Bob didn't hit Tref very hard. Well, the principal took the paddle from Bob and said, "I'll do it again on you and see if you can do it right." Bob said it hurt so bad he could hardly hold the paddle but was determined not to have his hands hit again, so gave his all to Tref.. Another time while reminiscing about growing up in the Point, which Bob and Tref often did, they told about pulling a light plug one night while the Catholic Church was holding a Whist party. They got caught and "put in the Point jail"! After an hour, it seems the deputy said they could go home if they promised never to do it again. They were so scared the police didn't even notify their parents! Bob and Tref were expelled from school for three days for some reason I don't recall. Bob's Dad never knew about it so Bob and Tref had to hide out in the Point each day, pretending to go to school. Trouble was that Bob's Dad made deliveries all day so they had to watch out so he wouldn't see him.

Mid Dornan



Go see this play. Marge was really excited about it, in fact she says nice things about Masquers plays but this time.....she REALLY MEANS IT!

Gary

The Few

Few people follow their dreams, but those who do can move mountains.

Few people follow their instincts, but those who do can make the right choice in a critical moment.

Few people follow their hearts, but those who do can find true love without looking.

Few people follow the flow of life, but those who do will succeed in what they do.

So you see, following isn't all bad.

- Jestin Drebes

Cards and Letters

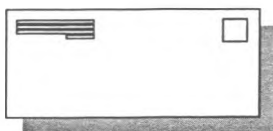
Dear Pam:

Due to Declining (young) age and failing eyesight, after 64 years at my old address, I am now living at CREEK SIDE LODGE in San Pablo.

Please renew my membership to our History Association and thank you all for doing a great job in reviving treasured memories of a wonderful childhood in our own unique "Treasure Island", Point Richmond.

Although transportation is now difficult, I look forward to future meetings with all our Pt. Richmond friends, new and old. When our family moved back to the Point from San Francisco when I was six years old our friends in the city told us how lucky we were to be leaving the city streets where we had to play and being able to live in the Point where I continued the first at dear old Washington School. How true those words were!

Again, Best Wishes and Thanks,
William S. Kollar
Born December 23, 1908



Dear Pam:

Received a letter from Rena Gonsalves today and she mentioned to me that she has not received my news from the Point Richmond History Association. I noticed that her name is in the renewed

membership list and I am hoping that she will receive "This Point". Can you check on this to make sure she will receive one? Pt. Richmond is always home for her and I know she does want to hear from the Point Richmond History Association.

Thanks for your help,
Nellie Pasquini

P.S. Love the picture on "This Point" cover.

We get this inquiry often about from out state members. Our newsletters are mailed at non-profit rates. Seems that local delivery is usually overnight, within California one or two weeks and outside of California delivery takes from two to four weeks, I can't imagine where they are for this long period of time.

Gary



Dear Editor:

I married Mae Terek, 800 Western Drive in 1939. She died last year as did my sister Irma Amentite. I went to school with Don Garrard, Swede Johanson and Elton Brombacker. I played football for coach Frank Ribble. Swede married Juliet Pasquinni and played and lost in the Rose Bowl for Stanford. Emily and George Terek were born in the Point. Both are now dead. Pop, Leonardo Canelelo owned the Richmond French Laundry and Pete Boljat

Saloon. We lived at 217 Delfino Ave. and I helped raise Helen Rafanelli Frosini.

Silvio Canelelo
Fair Oaks, CA



Hi Gary and Jerry and all the PRHA Gang!

We are safely ensconsed in Eugene and had a VERY smooooth move, if such a thing is possible. All 18,000 lbs. (it took 9 hrs. to load the van) arrived with nary a scratch, and we now are still in the throes of putting everything in its proper place. The house is beginning to look like home, and we know we made the right decision to at last buy a place of our own. The primary thing we have noticed is the pace of things here, no traffic, 10 minutes to everything you might need without getting on a freeway (including the airport!). That may account for the smiles on faces and the friendliness we absorb, no one is stressed out by their environment. Nice. We miss the Point, tho!! How is everyone doing? Hope your summers are cheery and busy with fun things. Love to hear from you and keep up on the latest.

Hugs all around!
Ellen and Dennis Schaefer
Eugene, OR

Hey, we miss both of you, thank you for all of your help and the best of luck and happiness, I hope we do keep in touch, Gary



Dear Mr. Shows,

The November 1952 issue of "The Standard Oiler" is enclosed.

As an employee of "California Spray Chemical Company" (The Ortho Company) from February 1946 to October 1954, I did receive the Standard Oiler at times, due to Standard Oil being the parent company.

I do enjoy "This Point".

Sincerely,
LaVerne Rentfro Woolman
Rescue, CA

LaVerne, you just keep the goodies coming for our archives, we all thank you very much. Look for images from Standard Oiler in TPIT.
Gary



Dear Mid:

I received word this morning that my brother Alfred Franco, had passed away yesterday afternoon after a massive heart attack. It's too bad his heart wasn't healthier instead of being so big.

Sorry this is a message of bad news. A line in TPIT for his friends would be good.

Best wishes,
Hazel Delfino Tawney
Santa Barbara

Sincere condolences from the PRHA.

Deaths.....

Ross J. Dixon died Monday, May 21, 2001. He is survived by his wife of over 61 years, Winifred, a daughter, Lynn Dixon-Stoddard of Point Richmond and son Jim Dixon of Klamath Falls, Oregon. Ross ran the Richmond Funeral Home Mortuary on MacDonald Avenue until his retirement.

Althea Townsend Simmons, Point Richmond Methodist Church's oldest member, would have celebrated her 100th birthday on August 4th. Living in Rossmore, Althea died peacefully on July 20th while watching a baseball game. She and her late husband, Jim, were married in the church June 20, 1927 and a picture of the church hung in a prominent place in her home.

Alfred Franco passed away on August 19, 2001 after a massive heart attack. He was 80 years old. Al was a long time member of the Point Richmond History Association and his death will greatly sadden many.



Birthdays!

September

Susan Armstrong
 Marie Peckham
 Ivar Elle
 Daniel Butt
 Sara Warren Smith
 Joann Busby
 Emily Anne Barnes
 Will Spiersch
 Al Frosini
 Frank Christopher

Roberta Wilson
 Shane Eastman
 Bernard Dietz
 Mary Forbes
 Stephen Berman
 Ingvar Elle
 Gayle Kaufman
 Roxanne Trudeau
 John Hadreas
 David Reynolds

Donna Roselius
 John T. Knox
 Jerry Cerkowicz
 Kenneth Dolan
 Theresa Daniel
 Jan Feagley
 June Kunkle
 Blackburn
 Lorin Buhler

October

Terry Wynne
 Kate Lord
 Florence Wilson
 Liz McDonald
 Jean Moyle Spiersch
 Maria Shaw
 Marguerite Clutts
 Linda Pereira
 Rosy Roselius
 Timothy Doherty

Jodi Bagley
 Jeff Ward
 Todd Cort
 Marian Tedrick
 Brian Tedrick
 Nathan Berman
 Rich Weirick
 Charlie Dutrow
 Chris Ward
 Helen Frosini

Chad Feagley
 Isobel 'Boo' Shaw
 Jerry Daniel
 Grace Cerkowicz
 Otto Barni
 Nellie Bisio Pasquini
 Betty Glass Marshall
 Maria Inchauspe Smith
 Abigail Munoz Rivera
 Willard Speirch

Exclusive - Over 90 Club

Mae Mandl
 Pina Barbieri
 Ruth Wood
 Mark M. Gebhart

Bernard Bernes
 Willard Spiersch
 William Kollar
 Thelma Hecker Harvey

Alice Helseth
 Clara Christopher Loux
Let us know if we have missed anyone.

Calendar

GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM AND EAST BAY MODEL ENGINEERS SOCIETY

900 Dornan Drive, Miller/Knox Regional Park. Interested in Museum Membership? Business Meetings and Workshop on Friday's 7-10 PM. 510-234-4884.

MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

"La Cage aux folles" Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm, August 24 through October 6. Sunday Matinees at 2:30 on 9/9, 9/16, 9/23, 9/30. Reservations 232-4031.

Dinner at the Hotel Mac and "La Cage aux folles" on September 20th and October 4 for \$28. Call 510-236-4988 for reservations.

POINT RICHMOND ASSOCIATION OF MOTHERS (PRAM)

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

POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Meets 2nd Wednesday each month, Hotel Mac Banquet Room, 12-1:30, Lunch Reservations \$11.

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

POINT RICHMOND COMMUNITY CENTER/FIELD HOUSE & PLUNGE

Info: 233-6881

POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

The deadline for the November issue of TPIT is Friday October 19, 2001.

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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

RICHMOND ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND

The REDF meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 , First United Methodist Church, 201 Martina Street, Point Richmond. Call David Michener, 510-232-0405 for details of the meeting. Info: 510-234-2706 or 510-215-6100

WASHINGTON SCHOOL

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

WOMEN'S WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB

Contact: Alyce Williamson, President at 234-6167

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Type of membership (check one):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Single	\$18.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior (65+)	12.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	25.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	History Preserver	50.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Sponsor	75.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	History Maker	100.00

Membership in the Point Richmond History Association includes a one year subscription to "THIS POINT...in time" newsletter (six issues). Please make your check payable to the Point Richmond History Association and mail it to:

Pam Wilson
521 Western Drive

Point Richmond, CA 94801

If you would like to have birthdays noted in the newsletter, please include names and months.

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 510-644-1286

or
email: gary@alkos.com

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

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Point Richmond, CA 94801

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Betty Dornan, Museum

Allan Smith, Archives

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Pam Wilson	Membership Info
Allan Smith	Articles/photos
Jean Reynolds	Article
Dee Rosier	Article
Bibliotek	Article

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Visit us at our website

PointRichmondHistory.org

Richmond Museum of History 510-235-7387

Red Oak Victory Information 510-235-7387

For Red Oak Project information visit:

<http://www.rosietheriveter.org/>