

THIS POINT....in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

www.PointRichmondHistory.org

Vol. XX No. 5

February/March, 2002

\$1.50



Save
The
Wig
Wags!



Rally to Save the Wig Wags
Cold, rain, hail.
January 28, 2002



*This may be the
last set of double upper quadrant wigwags
in existence!*

Dan Furtado

http://www.trainweb.org/dansrailpix/save_richmond1.htm

From the President

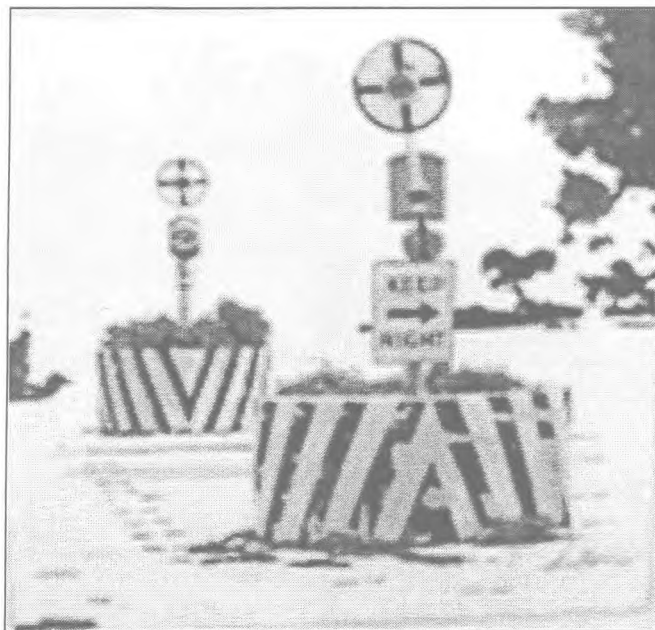
By Mid Dornan

The Point Richmond History Association has benefited from funds generated from a movie filmed in the Point last year. With a matching grant of \$5000 and an equal amount of in-kind services committed by local design professionals, including Interactive Resources and member Tom Butt, our \$15,000 Kiosk project will have three sides depicting Richmond's early history and one side for announcements and events. It will be installed in the triangle near our history museum building. A second grant proposal of \$2000 allows the beginning of a long-time-wanting-to-do-project of mine to identify our historic buildings with bronze plaques. Let visitors know these buildings were significant to our history and development. It is exciting to have funds available to enhance the downtown of the Point area of Richmond. The movie, *The Sweetest Thing*, starring Cameron Diaz is due to be released this spring.

Lastly, thank you to all who are working so diligently to save the Point Richmond historic wig

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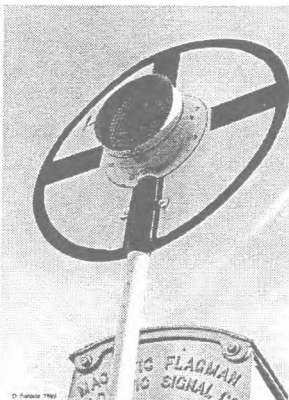


wags.

Thank you to the following renewing members:

Herbert Hunn
George L. Williams
Myrna Wishart
Viola Kennedy
Stella Giovannini
Hazel Tawney
Mary J. Forbes
Lorna Huffstetter
Al & Helene Frosini
Dean Beesley
Steve Wyrick
Lee Chistian
Roberta Jenkins Smith
Sandra & Bruce Beyaert Family
Ed Gingrich
David & Elana Dolberg Family
Beverly M. Lyon
Audrey C. Mogensen
Henry Allyn
Marion Voigt
Glen Myers
Anna S. Goumer

Royce Ong



Thank You!

Santa Fe Market

and

Point Richmond Market

For selling this newsletter.

*Thanks to the Volunteers who
open and close our history
museum every Thursday and
Saturday.*

- **Ann Bartram**
- **Bruce Bartram**
- **Bonnie Jo Cullison**
- **Anita Christianson**
- **Sonja Darling**
- **Dody Perry**
- **Betty Dornan**

Our Special Supporters:

History Makers

The Corbin Family

Corporate Sponsors:

Computing Integrity

History Preservers:

Royce Ong

Dennis & Ellen Schaefer

Sherri Mertle

Kathe Kiehn

Thank You!

Gary's Column

Gary Shows (510-235-1336)

Hey, hey! We've done another holiday season and now have Springtime to look forward too. My favorite time of the year.

As usual thanks to all contributors, and thanks for being somewhat timely. As to the physical appearance of the newsletter, I am aware of some occasional faulty spaces at the wrong place. It is a computer to printer problem that I hope to have corrected by the next issue.

I hope the membership of this organization stands firmly behind the saving of the railroad wig wags. Their destruction would be a terrible loss to the Point. If you would like to help please contact authorities and tell them that the wig wags must stay.

Call BNSF General Manager of Northern California Division in Stockton , his phone is 209-942-5510.

Call the CPUC who is supposedly mandating the changes. Tell them that there has never been a serious accident at the wig wags, they are an historical treasure and we do not want the upgrade. Trina Horner is Director of RR safety (415) 703-5132 and Ken Koss is a branch chief in engineering 415-703-1090.

If you want to help, and feel that you

can contribute, call Bruce Beyaert at 235-2835.

It is amazing how many people are involved in this project to save the wig wags, their work is appreciated.

The deadline for the April/May issue is March 22, 2002.

The December/January issue assembly crew.

Jerry Cerkowicz
Gary Shows
Mid Dornan
Liz McDonald
Mary Highfill
Pam Wilson
Sonja Darling
Rosemary Corbin



The Cover:

Speaks for itself, our wig wags were built in the 1920's, are very rare and should be saved in a working situation, should definitely not become a museum piece.

A-Mid TRIVIA

Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question: The city of Richmond was not incorporated until 1905. When did electricity first come to the Point? Answer at end of Trivia

You cannot live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you.

Jan and Jerry Feagley took a family trip in search of Jan's roots to Eatonville, WA and a farm where she lived 1960-1962. The house is no longer there but her dad's old rusty truck was and Brad and Chad enjoyed it-rust and all!

Ninety friends and relatives of Jay Vincent gathered in January at the Richmond Yacht Club to help Jay celebrate his special 90th birthday at a buffet luncheon. Accolades to his many, many contributions to Richmond and surrounding area were an inspiration to all who know him. Congratulations!

Virginia Cherniak was chosen "Sweetheart" by the Methodist Church and honored at the Richmond Country Club on February 7th. Virginia, choir director of the church, was 'roasted' by fellow Masquers as well.

World's Champion Liar's contest in Burlington, Wisconsin, is soliciting entries from anyone who isn't a politician. "Politicians

are considered professional", says the Liar's club president.

"Aunt Effie" is back! She underwent a 'body lift' in Oregon and was returned just in time to be a guest at Doug and Rosemary Corbin's big Christmas party on Crest Avenue. History Association founder, Donna Roselius, Aunt Effie's personal fitness specialist, promises to reveal a more personal history of Aunt Effie. Stop by the Museum for a visit with her!

Finally! Caltrans will begin to number highway exits with the numbers going from South to North. California is the ONLY state that does not number its exits. How much easier to serve motorists.

East Bay Symphony for free??

Yes. The City of Richmond presents the West County Concert Series of the Oakland East Bay Symphony 2001 - 2002 season in three performances at the Memorial Auditorium. Remaining dates are Saturday, March 16, 2002 and Saturday, June 8, 2002 at 7 p.m. The performances are FREE and open to the public. And, are sponsored by The Mechanics Bank and Chevron Companies. Mark your calendar.

WELCOME back to the Point Patricia (Bill) Pearson! After walking her dog along the bayside, she was heard to remark, "I wonder why I ever left here 16 years ago?"

Su Zhou (pronounced 'sue joe') held its Grand Opening in the former Point Orient Restaurant on January 18th and was overwhelmed by the response. Named after their home city in mainland China, owners, Lucy and Murray, say Su Zhou will feature Chinese cuisine and maintain a sushi bar and a traditional bar. Additional dining facilities are downstairs and provides space for banquets and parties. The owners recently operated Little China on Washington Avenue.

The Olympic Torch passed through Richmond on Saturday, January 19th. Commemorative flags flew outside City Hall as the 15-member Torch Relay Team arrived at the Civic Center Plaza about 11:00 a.m. with Richmond High school Coach, Ken Carter, carrying the flaming beacon into the Plaza. Local and state officials were on hand to share in the ceremony while the team took a short break before heading out of the city. Richmond Fire Engineer, Sal Bonilla, also carried the Torch through Richmond.

The Torch will have taken two months through 46 states on its journey to the Winter Games in Salt Lake City. Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Hawaii are the only states not being passed through. It will have visited 86 American cities, about 11,500 people will carry it more than 113,500 miles before it arrives in Utah for opening ceremonies February 8th. The three pound Torch, designed by Sam Shelton, will withstand weather ranging from minus 40 degrees to 80 degrees.

Is Chrysler developing a Town & Country Van that will run on a chemical relation of laundry soap? Borax is the key ingredient of the fuel that powers the so-called Natrium. A chemical fuel cell converts borax to electric power to run the van. Engineers note the car is not quite ready for the showroom.

Alice Williamson is now home to recuperate after surgery. Amelia Drake is recuperating after suffering a cracked pelvis, broken arm and wrist. These two long time active community members are wished speedy a recovery

People upset about smoking in Contra Costa County restaurants, bars or other workplaces can now phone in complaints to the Department of Health Services tobacco prevention program at 925-313-6214. Did you know only Hawaii, Utah and Wyoming have a smaller percentage of Smokers than California's 18.7%?

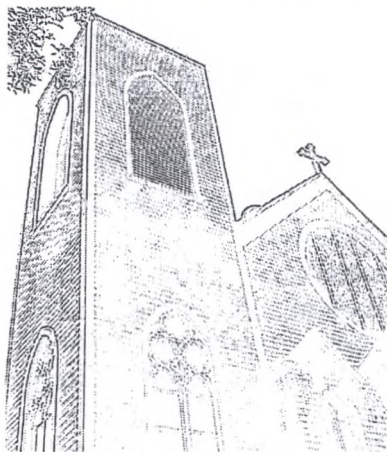
Be careful of anger--it is just one letter away from danger

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY and remember to vote on March 5th!

ANSWER: On the night of March 5, 1902 Manager H. B. Kinney, the chief promoter of the Electric Light and Power busines, turned on the juice to light the place, and there was much rejoicing over the advance of the little city.

(Note: Just think, for 100 years in March, the Point has enjoyed electric lights!)

Church News



Our Lady of Mercy Church

By Dee Rosier
510-232-1387

It began with rain and then switched to extreme cold, and so we welcomed 2002. We left behind a year that gave new meaning to our lives, as we turned to our faith and prayed for a renewed outlook.

For the second year many parishioners took stars from the Giving Tree and donated the requested items which were donated to STAND Against Domestic Violence. The items are used to keep the shelter's shelves

stocked throughout the year. Many thanks to Stan and Nancy Toledo who delivered the items. We also prepared a Christmas basket for a needy family.

Thanks to our Methodist neighbors who advertised our Christmas Eve services. We were again entertained by the musical talents of Joni and Rod Phillips and their colleagues. Javier Lopez accompanied them on the trumpet.

The 2002 boxes of collection envelopes have been distributed. Additional boxes are available in the vestibule of the church. The use of the envelopes during the year is our main source of revenue. Spiritual calendars were again donated by our benefactor, Bob Peckham, of the Santa Fe Market. Statements for last year's contributions may be obtained by calling the Rectory on Friday mornings when the Secretary (Diane Siegmund) is there.

Mark your calendars, the Centennial Committee has a dinner dance scheduled for May 24, 2002, at the Mira Vista Country Club. More information will follow as plans progress. The Parish Council did not meet in January due to Father Lima's cold. At the February 4th meeting, a Richmond Fire Inspector will give a presentation on fire safety and evacuation plan.

For some, 2002 did not start out very well. Amelia Drake fell in her yard and suffered a broken arm and pelvis causing her to spend several weeks in a care center. She is now at home and recovering. Amelia is responsible for our monthly coffee and donut social. Because she was not available for the January social, it was canceled. Our good shepherd, Bob Peckham heard of it and offered his services by providing all the makings and offering to sponsor them monthly. There are not enough adjectives to

describe Bob and Marie and their constant concerns and kindness.. They are indeed our Guardian Angels. By the way, Bob and Marie celebrated their 33rd wedding anniversary in December and spent the evening baby-sitting at the McGowans.

At home now after surgery on January 2, our friend Bruce Young. We wish him well and a speedy recovery. He continues to be in our prayers. Also on the mend is Jack Healy who slipped and damaged his knee cap. Add to the list, born-in-Pt. Richmond, Claude Bisio, who had a hip replacement. Remember in your prayers all of our parishioners who are experiencing health problems, with special mention to Jim and Darlene Byers. There are a lot of perfect days in our lives, don't let them slip by without a thought.

Condolences to the family of Bruce Marvin Ouren, husband of Winnie, who at one time was our CCD Director. As well to the family of former parishioner, Bernadine Boggiatto.

Everyone knows Anna Schwarz or should! In December we celebrated Anna's Golden Anniversary (50 years) as Music Director. Anna was born in Czechoslovakia. After marrying in Holland, she and her husband came to the United States and settled in San Francisco. Anna worked at H. Liebes selling hats then moved on and retired from Chevron after 33 years of service. What brought her to Pt. Richmond? She and her husband heard of a movie house business for sale in the Point (a.k.a. Pt. Orient) and so we were blessed to have her join our community. Chano Forner can tell tales of Anna in her younger life, which Anna denies. On the day she was honored at

Mass, she gave a speech and said that she was now 89 (90 on April Fools Day) and that there must certainly be a replacement out there who could relieve her of her duties. So far, there have not been any volunteers. She is a spirited lady. Anna, my dear, there is no replacement for you - you are a unique person in yourself.

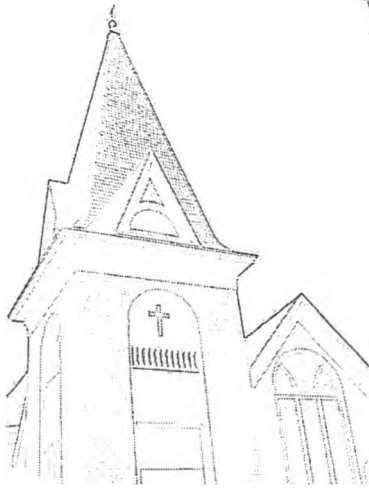
Santa Maria Church in Orinda (Msgr. Kraus) will present quarterly "Music in the Hills, a concert series featuring Bay Area artists. The series begins with a Sacred Jazz concert on January 27, 2002 at 5 PM in the church. The Dan Damon Trio initiates the series. A \$10 donation offering may be made at the door.

Catechism of the Catholic Church continues to be held on Tuesday at 10 AM. The 2002 Eucharistic Ministers schedule will remain the same as 2001, and will be included in the schedule of Lectors and Acolytes. Schedules are available in the vestibule of the church or by contacting Steve Shaffer. The evening Small Communities Group continues to meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month. Although, we have not gotten off to a swift start. In December, I hosted a holiday get together for our evening group and were pleased to have Judy and Vince Kafka, from the day group, join us. We hope to make this an annual event.

Happy 2nd Birthday to my Grandson, Griffin Lonergan Knee.:>)

TO ADD YOUR GIFT TO THE WORLD'S
GOOD CHEER
IS TO HAVE AND GIVE A HAPPY NEW
YEAR

See you in church.



POINT RICHMOND METHODIST CHURCH

by Jean Reynolds

510-235-2988

jeanormr@pacbell.net

The Joyful Noise Choir performed part of Handel's *Messiah* on Sunday, December 9, minus our director Virginia Cherniak, but led by the very capable Eileen Johnson. Eileen stepped in last year to direct when Virginia was ill, and graciously filled in this year, too. Only in Point Richmond would you attend a *Messiah* sing where the director can switch from directing the choir and strings to singing one of the soprano solos! We are blessed with versatile and

talented leaders!

More than one hundred eighty people attended the Christmas Eve Jazz service this year. This annual event has become a Point Richmond tradition in the seven years that Pastor Dan has served here. Highlights this year included a harp solo by Lavinia Roth, vocal solos by Paula Helene, a duet by Heather Damon and Bethany Reynolds, the Angel Choir, readings by Liam Thompson and Elizabeth Meixell, and a solo of "Silent Night" by Sarah Thompson. Holding it all together like glue was the Dan Damon Trio and Jab on the trumpet. We had an overflow crowd in Friendship Hall again this year, and have vowed to improve the sound system so next time those in the back can have a better auditory experience.

The United Methodist Women had their potluck Christmas dinner celebration on December 13, at Helen Valentine's home in Rodeo. This year we were prepared for some high-powered package wrapping for the Bay Area Rescue Mission. Everyone brought gifts and scissors and tape and paper and May Cotton brought lots of bows and ribbons.

The van-load of gifts stayed at Helen's house that night: a rain storm started while we were warm and cozy inside and so we waited for a dry day to transport them to the Rescue Mission.

On the Calendar:

Thursday, February 7, we will celebrate Virginia Cherniak as "Sweetheart of the Year" at the Richmond Golf and Country Club. Virginia is the director of the Joyful Noise Choir and is an honorary member of the Masquers Theater. Masquer Robert Love will be the Master of Ceremonies. Tickets for dinner are \$30 each and may still be available from Fran Smith (510-964-9901)

Sunday, February 24, at 5:00 p.m., Bobby Hall and Friends will perform gospel music. The suggested donation at the door is \$10 per person.

Visit the church web site for information, photos and updates at:
<http://www.pointrichmond.com/methodist/home.htm>



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 54th installment.

Oct. 5, 1926

Social League met at the home of Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. Burdick assisting her as hostess. First vice-president Mrs. Redman presiding. Fifteen members were present. Mrs. J. P. Smith gave a report of a meeting of the presidents of the different societies, in regards to the ministers reception For the reception committee were Mrs. Bradley, Mrs. Gibbons, Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Burdick. For the refreshment committee, Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Conn, Mrs. Sanford, Mrs. Dicely, Mrs. Holbrook, Mrs. Smith. For the decorating committee, Mrs. Redman, Mrs. Dingle, Mrs. S tedham, Mrs. Elizabeth Jenkins, Mrs. Olney. Mrs. Holbrook was to invite the various ministers. Moved and carried that we accept the report given by Mrs. Smith. The committees having power to alter the plans for the program and refreshments.

Moved and seconded that we set Friday, the 10th as the night of the reception. Motion carried. Moved that Mrs. Scofield purchase a plant to be presented to Mrs. Grant. Motion carried.

It was decided that Mr. Glineburg be asked to present the plant. Dues from Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Redman, Mrs. Griffen, Mrs. Vblueberch (sic), Mrs. Ida Jones. Mrs. Brothers turned in a check for 50¢ from the

Improvement Club. Meeting adjourned.

Dues	3.00
check	.50
Plate collections	1.25
Previous balance	37.65
	41.40

Rose Dingle, Sec.

Sports Memories

By Allan Smith

When our congenial Editor, Gary Shows, attends a major league baseball game this year he will see 18 millionaires and multimillionaires playing against each other. Most of the players will be wearing their uniforms down to their ankles looking like a high school kid. They will be chewing bubble gum and blowing bubbles and also adjusting their jock straps. Thank God, most of them will not be chewing tobacco and snuff! How can a present day player hit 74 home runs in one season when the best player in baseball history, Babe Ruth, could only hit 60 homers? I asked our son, Bryan, who played several years of professional baseball, how this could be accomplished? He said the players are all in better shape physically and don't wait for spring training to start their conditioning. Could it be that the baseballs are made differently which would make them livelier and the baseball bats of a different type of wood? Sometimes the pitching does not seem big league to me. Can you believe spring training in baseball starts next month? No comment at this time about professional football. The playoffs kept me from getting my literary piece to Editor Gary Shows in time. What about it Gary, am I the only one that doesn't get to church on time? What a job Gary does in putting out this Point Richmond History Association Newsletter together on a volunteer basis.

The Richmond oil Refinery of the Standard Oil Company of California, now

Chevron Oil Company, had employees that were ex-professional baseball and semi-pro players that were very good baseball players. The Refinery had a league that they called the Twilight League and played ball every Tuesday and Thursday during the season. The games were played at the old baseball park on First Street and McDonald Avenue. It was a very popular league, and the players were lucky because they could get off work an hour earlier so they could participate in the game.

I was talking to Point native, Bruce Bartram, if he was related to the Bartram that played in the league. Bruce said it was his father. I became very interested and did some research without the use of a computer and the internet and came up with the following information: Fred Bartram came to the Standard Oil Company in 1916. Bruce's dad spent all of his service in the Filter Plant and was a supervisor. Fred Bartram was quite a baseball player playing eight years in the Twilight League. He was noted for his heads-up play on the baseball diamond. He was a great infielder playing shortstop. A shortstop in baseball has a key position on the team. I will ask Bruce to give me more info about his dad's baseball career and of the Twilight League.

Speaking of computers, Dr. Bill Wattenberg of radio station KGO, where he is a talk show host, gives young kids who call his show with questions the following advice; 'forget the computer, read books all

you can, learn to write and speak well and then start computing.' Dr. Wattenberg went to the University of California in Berkeley on a scholarship at the age of 15. How about that? Dr. Bill is a nuclear physicist. Speaking of 'speaking well', I saw on a TV newscast a man who said he could cure stuttering over a weekend. His name is Rich Outman and he lives nearby in Alamo. I called and asked him is he was related to Bill Outman, a Richmond Educator and Sports Coach, especially baseball. Bill Outman is Rick Outman's father. I remember when Bill Outman was the coach of an excellent Richmond American Legion Baseball team. They played for the championship in 1935 at the Oakland Baseball park in Emeryville losing the second game of a double header and the championship. Some members of the team were Loyd Christopher, Earl Moore, Chip Checci, Leo Costa, Joe Vargas and Leonard Smith. I'll tell more of the Rick Outman method of curing stuttering later. So far, what I have experienced seems to be working.

A boxing champion of the world died on January 16, 2002 and his death rated only page 8 of the sporting section of a large East Bay newspaper. It was Carl 'Bobo' Olson of Hawaii and San Francisco who was 73 years old and died from Alzheimer's disease. This is the same symptom as another former champion of the world has and he is rating page one of most newspapers. I just can't forget the Viet Nam war and this world's champion.

"Bobo" Olson won the middleweight championship in 1953 and had a good record of 99 wins and 12 defeats. Carl "Bobo" Olson fought the best of the middleweight

fighters but lost his title to "Sugar" Ray Robinson. Olson later belonged to the San Francisco Teamsters Union. They say he used to come with his son to the Chevron Refinery Marketing area for deliveries and pick-ups.

Speaking of boxing, Point Richmond's boxing instructor, Al "Spider" Frosini, has won another National Award. At this time, I don't know what it is for, probably water skiing. A note to Point Richmond fathers with young children: they can learn the art of self from Al Frosini. His garage boxing ring is always open to them at no cost. My two sons attended Al's school which they have appreciated every day. How old is that guy anyway.....he must be 84?

I ran into a son of Joanna Sumpter recently. Joanna is a long time resident of Point Richmond. Her son is Dale Johnson from New Mexico who is here for the holidays. Dale was asking me all about the friends he used to know when he was living here and going to local schools. He told me how they used to play ball locally and that the Catholic Church parking lot was their favorite playground. Also, he was like many of us who used to ride the rails of Santa Fe down to Ferry Point when they made a daily run. That was possible if Point native Jerry Solich has the locomotive engineer and welcomed them aboard. Dale Johnson told me that one of his friends had a serious accident trying to hop on a moving train. Dale was working in Los Alamos, NM when they had a serious fire, and that it almost turned into a disaster in that very strategic area.

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 #5.

Gary Shows

**"DOUSING" OF REDLIGHT GLOW
IN RICHMOND IS NOT
ENTHUSIASTICALLY GREETED
WOMEN OF SEGREGATED DISTRICT
ARE NOT STRICKEN WITH PANIC ON
ACCOUNT OF APPARENT APATHY
OF MINIONS OF THE LAW WHO
SEEM TO BE PASSING
RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INITIATIVE
FROM ONE TO OTHER
December, 1914**

District Attorney McKenzie, "I shall enforce the law to the best of my ability, but owing to the fact that my term of office is about to expire in a few weeks would feel that I would be treading on the toes of my successor were I to start an active campaign

against the closing of all houses of prostitution in Contra Costa County."

T.D. Johnston, District Attorney Elect, "I do not care to be quoted on the matter at all."

Chief of Police Walker, "I will follow the instructions of the district attorney, as it is in his hands that the matter rests."

Such are the angles that are being considered in the enforcement of the Redlight Abatement Law which goes into effect tonight at the hour of low 12. Just what action will be taken in the matter is a subject for conjecture. With the present district attorney charry (*sic*) as to something just at the end of his term of office, and the District Attorney-elect reticent as to his plans, and the police department saying that it will abide by their decisions. The women of "red light" districts are not apparently perturbed with the prospects of strenuous action upon the part of the minions of the law, neither have they made any hurried arrangements as to beating a hasty retreat for "rescue homes" or portions of the United States where the laws are not so stringent against the nefarious traffic. In the windows of the three houses operating in Richmond there appears glaring signs "Rooms to Rent".

In view of the fact that San Francisco, Oakland and many of the other large cities of California will extinguish the red lights tonight at the appointed hour, it is probable that Richmond will appear as a haven of refuge for the many women who are deprived

of a means of earning a livelihood by the operation of the law.

The new law declares a nuisance any building or place where acts of lewdness, assignation or prostitution occur, and general reputation admissible to prove existence of nuisance; prescribes procedure for abatement thereof; requires removal and sale of fixtures and movable property used in aid thereof, closing premises to any use for one year unless court releases same upon bond of owner; prescribes fees therefore, making same and all costs payable from proceeds of such sale, requiring sale of premises to satisfy any deficiency; makes lien upon interest in premiums.

INFLUENZA DEATH TOLL IN STATE VERY LARGE

January 11, 1919

SACRAMENTO, Deaths from influenza and pneumonia in California for November totaled 6,492 as against 5,381 for October. George D. Leslie, director of the bureau of vital statistics, State Board of Health, reported today.

Deaths from all causes of November totaled 9,786 against 8,721 for October. In November, 1917, the deaths number 3,438.

The deaths from influenza and pneumonia in the larger cities during November follow:

Los Angeles, 1,023; San Francisco, 840; Sacramento, 320; Oakland, 297; San Deigo, 133; Berkeley, 51; San Jose and

Alameda, 20.

"The death total for influenza and pneumonia was somewhat less for leading cities as a class for November than for October," said Leslie, "but it was greater in the smaller cities and rural districts."

HILLS TOO STEEP; NEED GRADING

November 16, 1915

City Engineer H.D. Chapman was last evening instructed by the city council to prepare tentative plans and specifications for the reduction of the present grade on Clarence street that it might be made more passable during the winter months.

The street at the present time is nothing more than a portion of the hill which extends from Golden Gate avenue to Pacific street and in some places has a grade elevation of twenty-one per cent.

Arthur Howell, residing on the street protested its present condition.

DEAN TO CLOSE HIS CAFÉ FOR TWO WEEKS

May 23, 1916

Following on the heels of a recent controversy regarding the sale of a retail liquor license with the sale of bankrupt fixtures, the city council last night granted P.M. Dean permission to close the Berkeley Café, 1 Washington avenue for two weeks.

Allan's Point

By Allan Smith

The Catholic Church parking lot has private parking signs in five places on the lot but that doesn't mean anything to some people. Some days our own parishioners can't find a place to park to attend the daily services at the church. As parking in the Point is at a premium, so what? It is a good thing that our new Pastor is kind and not enforcing the law of having cars towed away if parked without permission. There are now 5 cars that are abandoned and have been here for six months. Why not have them towed away? The police won't go into private property and the towing company charges 84 dollars.....that's why! Don't tell Father Lima, our Pastor, but one of my cars is sitting there getting rusty. I'll have to ask Rev. John Lima if there is an insurance problem involved here.

Come on, you people donate a few bucks for the privilege of trespassing!



The Steamship Historical Society meets at the Catholic Church hall and at a recent meeting I met a member, Theodore Marcollo. Asking him if he was related to Richmond's Marcollo family, "Yes, he is a cousin", he said. He gave me some information of the Marcollo family especially Bill Marcollo whom I went to school with. Ted Marcollo gave me a copy of the 1905 telephone directory of this area covering local towns and part of Alameda County. It had the names of telephone owners even in Niles

where both of my parents were raised. It did not give the phone number of my mother's family business named "The Quartaroli Winery." I gave the 1905 Telephone Directory to our editor, Gary Shows, for our historical records. I was on the ship S/S President Cleveland when Ted Marcollo was the Chief Purser. A purser has a very important position on board a ship, especially a passenger liner. All paper work and money Morcollo family have me more history of Point Richmond and Richmond as he remembers.



I'm going to start a new series that I think will interest Point Richmond people. It will be about some of the Standard Oil employees I knew when I was working at the "Oil Works". The first personality will be about a 'nice' guy I knew who came from Genoa, Italy and became an employee in 1911. He joined a large group of Italians who worked for the company at that time. He started his service working at the old Can Factory at Point



Mario Grosso

Orient, his name was Mario Grosso and he had to walk back and forth from his home in Point Richmond to the Can Factory at Point Orient. This was about an hours walk, at least. Try it someday! Mario was a good Bocci ball player, I think the Bocci field was by Joe Mateucci's Roma Hotel. Mario owned and operated Point Richmond's Liberty Market, also named the IGA Market, with his wife and daughter Rosie. Rosie still lives in the Point and has wonderful historical information that we must tap.

Rosie is in contact with Spiro Cakos, Point Richmond native, who now resides in Arizona. Spiro has donated many items to

the PRHA and I hope he can find more to give. Rosie Bozzo (Grosso) is known to me as the "Calistoga Kid". She has a nice place in the area which the family has owned for many years.

The Cakos and Grosso families were next door neighbors for many years. Spiro's brother, Pete, has passed a way and I wish I could find some of the sport's writings of his when he was sport's editor for the Richmond High Nus, which was the high school's weekly paper. He once said at school that he would mention my name but I never did see it.

Allan's Mystery Guest

Who is the young man standing alongside his Captain of their ship? He later became a great contributor to PRHA and was just a wonderful "guy". This photo about 1921. Answer somewhere in the next TPIT.



A One Dollar History Lesson

Take a dollar bill and look at the left-hand circle, you will see a Pyramid. Notice the face is lighted, and the western side is dark. This country was just beginning. We had not begun to explore the West or decided what we could do for Western Civilization.

The Pyramid is uncapped, again signifying that we were not even close to being finished. Inside the capstone you have the all-seeing eye, an ancient symbol for divinity. It was Franklin's belief that one man couldn't do it alone, but a group of men, with the help of God, could do anything.

"IN GOD WE TRUST" is on this currency. The Latin above the pyramid, ANNUIT COEPTIS, means, "God has favored our undertaking." The Latin below the pyramid, NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM, means, "a new order has begun." At the base of the pyramid is the Roman Numeral for 1776. If you look at the right-hand circle, and check it carefully, you will learn that it is on every National Cemetery in the United States.

It is also on the Parade of Flags Walkway at the Bushnell, Florida National Cemetery, and is the centerpiece of most hero's monuments.

Slightly modified, it is the seal of the President of the United States, and it is always visible whenever he speaks, yet very few people know what the symbols mean.

The Bald Eagle was selected as a symbol for victory for two reasons:

First, he is not afraid of a storm; he is strong, and he is smart enough to soar above it.

Secondly, he wears no material crown. We had just broken from the King of England.

Also, notice the shield is unsupported. This country can now stand on its own. At the top of that shield you have a white bar signifying congress, a unifying factor. We were coming together as one nation.

In the Eagle's beak you will read, "E PLURIBUS UNUM," meaning, "one nation from many people."

Above the Eagle, you have thirteen stars, representing the thirteen original colonies, and any clouds of misunderstanding rolling away. Again, we were coming together as one.

Notice what the Eagle holds in his talons. He holds an olive branch and arrows. This country wants peace, but we will never be afraid to fight to preserve peace. The Eagle always wants to face the olive branch, but in time of war, his gaze turns toward the arrows.

supplied by Al Bernes
(to be continued)

SHHH!

By Bibliotek

News From the Westside Branch

"I love coming to West Side. They have the best video collection." So sayeth a happy patron of West Side Branch Library, and who are we to disagree?

Thanks to careful selection and generous donations, Lynn the Librarian has been able to assemble a wonderful media collection. The videos range from classics such as "North By Northwest" to more recent fare such as "The Insider," "Shall We Dance?", "Straight Story," and the documentary "Jazz" by Ken Burns. The children's choices include "Mr. Toad's Wild Ride" with John Cleese, "Spy Kids," and "Magic School Bus."

Always keeping up with the times, the options now embrace a fledgling DVD collection, which includes "Dish," "Hurricane," "O Brother, Where Art Thou?", "Pollock," and the first season of "The Sopranos."

Books on tape are also available for both children and adults for those rainy afternoons and long commutes. Where ever

possible, Lynn chooses unabridged versions of popular fiction.

Special thanks to Steve Fowler whose generous donation added significantly to the branch's multi cultural children's materials, especially current atlases and Spanish language books. There was also a contribution from a Chevron employee from Scott Brendidge which was matched by his employer. This gift went towards the purchase of classic audio books for children. With money from Friends of the Library, the branch was able to update many of its travel guides.

A very exciting series of early evening programs for school aged children has been funded with a grant of \$1900 from Pride. More details will be available shortly.

West Side Branch Library - not only the best video collection, but your best all around spot for all media, books and programs. Come spend part of your day with us.

RICHMOND
CALIFORNIA



Morning's at Seven

A Review by Marge Harmon

The Masquer's production of "Mornings at Seven" opened January 18th and will run through February 23rd. Set in a Midwestern town in the 1930's, the play tells the story of a family living their lives in patterns set years before, and how change enters their lives.

The impetus for change starts with a bachelor son who finally brings home the

fiancée he has been dating for 12 years, and continues as aunts, uncles, and parents throw off the bonds of old habits and start anew.

The play has a sweetness and charm which the Masquer's bring to life with a seamless ensemble performance. Each character grows and we learn that it is never too late to change.



Marilyn Kamelgarn, Lorelee Windsor, Ann Armour, and Dory Ehrlich portray four sisters trying to resolve their own relationships when one's son brings home the woman he's been dating for 12 years. A Paul Osborn production, Theo Collins directs this Tony winning play. Masquers photo by Jerry Telfer.



The
MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

presents



Morning's at Seven

By Paul Osborn

Directed by Theo Collins

The Cast

George Adams • Ann Armour • Eddie Collins •
Dory Ehrlick • Tom Flynn • Marilyn Kamelgarn •
Siobhan O'Brien • Walter Phelps • Lorelee Windsor

January 18 through February 23

Box office opens half hour before curtain

Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00

Sunday matinees at 2:30

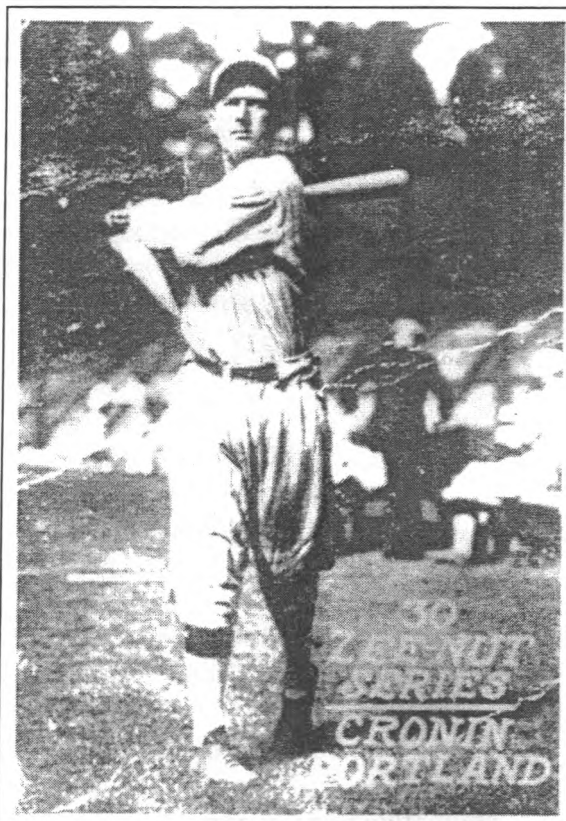
on Jan. 27, Feb. 10, Feb. 17

All seats \$12 For reservations call 510-232-4031

All tickets must be prepaid by cash, check or credit card. All sales final.



Dinner at the Hotel Mac and *Morning's*
on Thursday, February 21 for only \$28
Call 510-236-4988 for reservations



Jim Cronin

Played with the
Philadelphia A's.

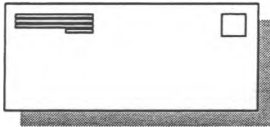
He retired from the
Standard Oil Company of
Califoronia as Fire Chief.
Jim is a Point Richmond
Native Son

Cards and Letters

From PointRichmondHistory.org

Finding that there is a museum for the Point means more to me than you'll ever know. I left there (not by my own choosing) when I was only 12 years old and I truly left my heart there. I have never been able to move back there but I go as often as I can just to drive around and look at my old house on Castro Street which I do plan to try to entice the owners into letting me go in and walk around inside so I can truly retrieve my soul. I will for sure stop into the museum on my next trip which will be soon. I am also thrilled to see that the Plunge has been saved.

Thank You For All You Do
Linda Foshee
amdnarg@hotmail.com



Dear Pam:

Enclosed is my renewal check. I really enjoy reading TPIT. In nearly every issue I read familiar names from the time I went to School in Richmond.

I moved here to Modesto and got

married to an old friend. I'm using the name on my birth certificate, MOGENSEN, so please use that name in my mail.

It was not easy to leave beautiful Maui after nine years there but I'm happy here and slowly trying to get adjusted to the climate. It'll take time.

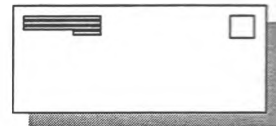
Sincerely,
Audrey C. Mogensen
(formerly Edwards, and Curtis in school)
Modesto, CA



Dear Pam:

Thanks for your continued effort to maintain this special group of people. I look forward to the next reunion.

Geroge "LeRoy Williams
Richmond

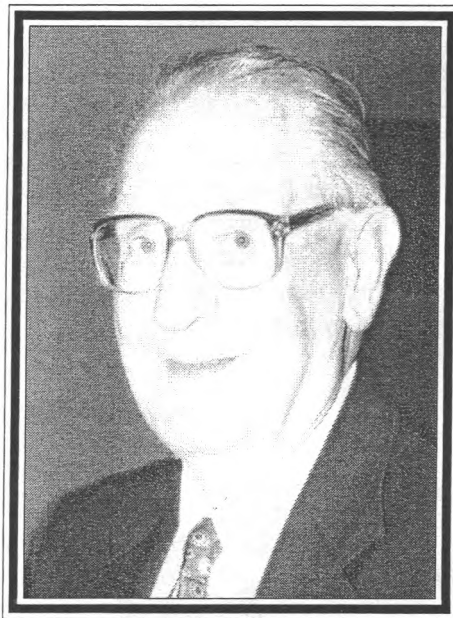


Dear Allan Smith:

You knew my brother very well as you and he went to high school together and were on the same merchant marine

ship together. I am hoping that you can help me find out more about my school friend, Ruth Curry. If anyone has information about her I would appreciate hearing from you. My maiden name is Smith (no relation to you) and I graduated from Richmond Union High in 1943.

Sincerely
Claire-Eugene St. Onge
#52
1551 Sixth Avenue Drive
Kingsburg, CA 93631
559-897-7089



WILLARD R. SPIERSCH
1908 - 2001
POINT RICHMOND PIONEER

Deaths.....

WILLARD R. SPIERSCH died on December 2, 2001. Cherished husband of Jean and adored father and father-in-law of Joan S. and Don Brammer, and Fredrich Spiersch of Merced; and Thomas and Suzanne Spiersch of Alameda. Beloved grandfather of Katie (& Rich Stubblefield) Brammer, Lisa (&Neil) Schertz, Jennifer (&Rory) Randol, Timothy Spiersch, Matthew Spiersch, Sara (&Matt) Fike and Michele Spiersch. He was a great-grandfather to 12 children, ages 22 to 1 year. Growing up in Point Richmond, he belonged to the Richmond High School Cadets and the Citizen's Military Training Camp in the 1920's and attended Washington Grammar School and Richmond Union High school. He courted and wed his high school sweetheart, Jean Moyle, in 1931. Will was a production controller for Alameda Naval Air Station for 27 years. Prior to WWII, he worked in the aircraft sheet metal trade for Boeing in Oakland and Northrup-Douglas and Lockheed in Los Angeles. Will was active in many organizations: Will and Jean celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary this past June. They traveled the world together and he loved photography, gardening, playing games and keeping touch with family and friends on his computer. He was a kind and fun loving person who never had a harsh word to say about anyone.

BERNADINE M. BOGGIATTO, on January 12, 2002. A long time Point resident she was 89 years old, and a member of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church. Bernadine was the wife of the late Keeno Boggiatto and is survived by numerous nieces and nephews which include Dennis Amantite, Point Richmond, Richard Amantite, Glen Ellen and Gary Amantite, El Sobrante. Also a cousin, Mary Harding of Pinole. Services were held on January 14, 2002 with committal in St. Joseph Cemetery in San Pablo.



Birthdays!

February

Mark M. Gebhart
 Sarah Wilson
 Hortense Gnaga McGee
 Mary Shur
 Steven Mertle
 Fred Beesley
 Dixie Copeland
 Billy Bob Karl
 Allan Smith
 Doug Busby

Chris Rotting
 Bessie Squires
 Walter MacMillan
 Barnaby Edwards
 Connie Healy
 Helen Valentine
 Marcos Rotting
 Arlene Rodini
 Landow Howe
 Rowene MacMillan

Dody Perry
 Ethel MacMillan
 Kim Ward
 Phillip Dorn III
 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
 Velma Healy
 Carrie Wickman Dorn
 Adele Bruno Waymire
 James Kenny
 Anne Roth

March

Karolyn Macdiarmid
 Dale Hawkins
 Virginia Cherniak
 Carol Paasch
 JoAnn Bray
 Wendy Wirth
 Carol Darling
 Jim Morrison
 GIRL SCOUTS
 Dolly Frosini
 Carl Paasch
 Reba Downs
 Rich Schuldt

Allan Smith, Jr
 Phyllis Feyder
 Janice Jones
 Jean Knox
 Marie Wilson-Dietz
 Lavinia Karl
 Avis Blanchette
 Delphina Franco
 CAMP FIRE GIRLS
 Winnie Guisti
 Brian Richardson
 Ben Bray
 Alexandra Gautraud

Maxine Mayer
 Susan Berman
 Mary Valenzano
 Rachel Elizabeth Palfini
 Myron Pestana
 Elizabeth Buhler
 Lorna Huffstetter
 Lucile Cottingham Meyer
 George LeRoy Williams
 Isobel Folson
 Edwin Loux
 Kathe Kiehn

Exclusive - Over 90 Club

Mae Mandl
Pina Barbieri
Ruth Wood
Mark M. Gebhart

Bernard Bernes
William Kollar
Thelma Hecker Harvey
Alice Helseth

Clara Christopher Loux
Rena Gonsalves
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

"Mornings at Seven" Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm, January 18 through February 23. Sunday Matinees at 2:30 on 1/27, 2/10, 2/17. Reservations 232-4031.

Dinner at the Hotel Mac and "Mornings at Seven" on February 21st for only \$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 April/May issue of TPIT is Friday March 22, 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 support of all citizens of the extended Richmond area is cordially invited by the Richmond Environmental Defense Fund, a non-profit corporation dedicated to ensuring that future development here is well-planned, sensitive to the environment and in compliance with City, State and Federal laws. Further information, call 510-215-6100. General membership public meetings held monthly. Details of current meetings are available by calling 510-2322-0405.

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:

139 ½ Washington Avenue
Point Richmond, CA 94801

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Jerry Cerkowicz	Proof/Photos
Pam Wilson	Membership Info
Allan Smith	Articles/photos
Jean Reynolds	Article
Dee Rosier	Article
Biblio Tek	Article
Marge Harmon	Article
Bruce Beyaert	Info/Photo
Katie Brammer	Info/Photo
Dan Furtado	Info/Photo

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Allan Smith	510-234-5149

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/>