THIS POINT....in time

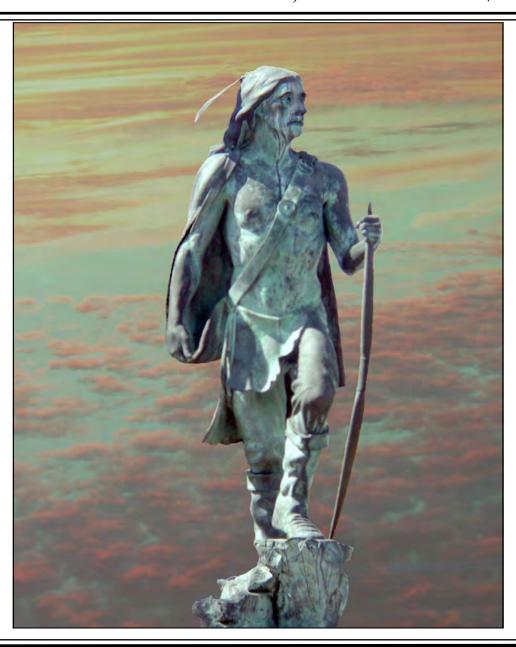
The Point Richmond History Association

www.PointRichmondHistory.org

Vol. XXIII No. 3

November, 2004

\$1.50



INDIAN STATUE DAY OCTOBER 20, 1984

wenty years ago, our Indian Statue was dedicated. This statue and the park surrounding it are there because of the dedication of many wonderfully civic-minded Point Richmonders. Many came along just to help out, others to organize and make it happen, still others like the late Joe Hanzlik dedicated much of himself to complete the park. We are proud of our Indian Statue and we are proud of our Indian Statue Park!

Sculptor: Kirk St. Maur

Dedicated: October 20, 1984

Height: "Life Size"

Material: Cold-cast bronze

Base: Nine Feet High Granite

Cost: \$35,000

The Indian Statue
Was a Project of Inter Arts of Marin

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Mid Dornan

One of the perks being associated with Point Richmond History Association is meeting and knowing some of the pioneers and founders of our great city. One of those special pioneers was Bernard Bernes. Bernie was born of immigrant parents and would have been 96 years old on November 7th, but passed away in September in San Diego. He loved Point Richmond where he grew up. parents had the French Laundry on Standard Avenue that supplied linens to the Colonial Hotel (now Hotel Mac). Bernie and his school pal, the late Dick Speirsch, kept in touch visiting each other when they were able, they were always in touch by email.

Bernie was an early computer whiz and flew his own plane. He also was an avid Ham Radio operator, a fact I did not know until the death of my brother in San Diego, who also was an avid Ham Radio Operator. They were good friends. I cherish the memories from the lunch Bernie hosted for several of us at the Hotel Mac a couple years ago on his last visit as he reminisced his love for the Point. We will miss his timely and historical articles. Another loss to our *This Point....in time*.

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Thank you members for your membership renewal:

Grace & Jerry Cerkanowicz Patricia Milano LaVerne Rentfro Woolman Al McGee Hortense Gnaga McGee Joel Spinola Rose & Louie Barra Alphonso Diaz Elbert Rife Old Ed Meagor David B. Smith **Jav & Karen Fenton Family Stanley Toledo Family** Pastor Gary & Barbara Cooper James P. Kenny **Janet & Michael Heckmann Family** Amelia Drake **Edna Hathaway Marilyn Darling** Jeff & Barbara Ward Family **Bruce & Ann Bartram Family** Otto Barni Fred Beesley Marcelina B. Smith Emile & Edwyna Pleau

And a warm welcome to the following new members:

Maxine Stoddard Fred, Diane & Hannah Frye

> Museum Hours: 7hursday 11:30 am to 2:00 pm Saturday 11:30 am to 2:00 pm

Thanks to the Volunteers who open and close our history museum on Thursday and Saturday:

Betty Dornan (Director)
Bruce and Ann Bartram
Pat Pearson
Mid Dornan
Bonnie Jo Cullison
Dody Perry
Anita Christiansen
Sonja Darling
Margaret Morkowski

Thank You!
Santa Fe Market
and
Point Richmond Market

For selling "THIS POINT....in time"

Thank You! Special Supporters!

History Makers

Sherri Mertle

Doug & Rosemary Corbin

Mohamed & Sheba Warith

Linda & Robert Drake

History Preservers:

Royce Ong

Kathe Kiehn

Edward J. McGarvey

Gilda Markarian

Kevin, Renee & Griffin Knee

Jean & John Knox

EDITOR'S NOTES

Gary Shows (510-235-1336)

How about this new look! I am very excited that PRHA member Thomas Mercer-Hursh has volunteered his help to make TPIT more attractive and interesting. Our best archive is our old photographs. Thomas knows a lot about graphic arts so we are hoping with his help to print more of our old pictures in this newsletter. He also has a color laser printer, this issue is kind of a test of logistics. If all goes well this will only be the first of many color issues.

Thank you to Marcelina Smith for a box of albums that Allan left for us. I have not had time to take a good look at them, but promise to share with you when I do.

Thanks so much to a few new contributors, we are glad to hear from you. Thanks to Margaret Morkowski, who will be keeping us up to date with the activities of Many Hands. She is also trying to get a regular short article for us from faculty at Washington School.

Contributors get your stuff together soon because the deadline for the December/January Issue is right around the corner, Friday, November 26, 2004. That issue is the best one to announce or describe holiday events your club or organization might be having.

The September/October issue

assembly crew was:

Jerry Cerkanowicz
Gary Shows
Betty Dornan
Mary Highfill
Pam Wilson
Pat Pearson
Ann Bartram
Bruce Bartram
Margaret Morkowski



The Cover:

This photograph was taken by Thomas Mercer-Hursh. The sky is obviously added because you cannot get a clear view of sky behind the statue, but it IS a a Point Richmond sky. See the inside cover for details, we are proud of our Indian Statue.

A-MID TRIVIA

Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question: What is unusual about "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer," written by Mark Twain? Answer at end of trivia.

ON VETERAN'S DAY: Let us remember the outstanding courage and commitment to freedom our troops continue to provide. Let us be thankful for these Americans who have given so much to make our country safe.. Let our Veterans know you support and appreciate them this Veterans Day.

FLY THE FLAG! HONOR OUR VETERANS.

Hoping to put a dent in the Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt decreed in 1938 that Thanksgiving be celebrated one week earlier to lengthen the Christmas shopping season (as if there were a lot of spare dimes around). He rescinded this unpopular move, and three years later, Congress passed Public Law No. 379, establishing the fourth Thursday in November as the official date of Thanksgiving. Americans' retailers, meanwhile, moved the start of Christmas shopping back to Labor Day

***.

Is the Annual Thanksgiving Day 'Turkey Shoot' still happening? Participants or spectators find their way to the West end of the Garrard Tunnel about 10:30 a.m. on Thanksgiving morning. Bring your dog, goats, relatives, bikes. Walk through the tunnel, left on E. Richmond and then down Park Place to The MAC etc.

A new design for the nickel? It has been 65 years since the U.S. Mint changed the design of its 5ϕ coin. In fact, the Jefferson nickel is one of the longest unchanged coin designs in our history. Five new designs are being issued through 2006. The first new nickel was released in March, the

second on August 2nd, and two additional designs commemorating the Lewis & Clark Expedition are being planned for 2005 with the fifth nickel issued in 2006 to be a new Jefferson and Monticello design.

Sonja Darling lived a lifelong dream as she visited family in Norway in June. Joining her brother and sister-in-law from North Dakota, she spent part of the three weeks, between visiting and sightseeing, gathering family genealogy.

They have done it again. Residents on Crest Avenue have held another of their special block parties with photos in the Santa Fe Market to make visual to others what it means to live in a 'fun' area of the Point. It appears food provides a big draw. Ha!

One of our members, June Blackburn, formerly of the Point, who now lives in Bemiji, Minnesota, was featured in the September issue of AARP in an article regarding the loss of Greyhound service as transportation in her area. She was pictured with two of her grandchildren.

TIP: Stop using ball point pens for your check writing and start using Gel Pens. They can't be washed off to alter checks.

Sandra Kinter Kokorunda is recovering from her recent knee replacement.

Do you have a package of Jello on your pantry shelf? Typically 3 out of 4 American households do.

David and Melani King, having made their first trip to China, will be more than happy to discuss it with anyone interested.

Lavina Karl is studying at the Serra Friends Center, Woolman School in Nevada City, California. Lavina plays the Harp with the Angel Choir at the Methodist Church.

Sympathy is extended to Betty Dornan on the loss of her two cousins, Bill Brockman, Bishop and Willard Egan, San Diego. Betty traveled to Bishop to visit Bill just the week before he died.

Bruce and Sandra Beyaert took a leisure trip up the Oregon coast to enjoy the coastline and give Bruce a break from his many hours chairing the Bay Trail project. On the way they hoped to contact our history founder, Donna Roselius, who lives in Port Orford, Oregon.

Shannon McGowan needs your prayers and love.

The comments regarding changing the approach into the Point on West Richmond Avenue across the railroad tracks are mainly all positive. (We still keep the Wig-Wags!)

In late September and early October, Pat Pearson's daughter, Julie, and son-in-law, Roy, treated her to a trip to Corsica, Tuscany, Florence, and Rome for an early birthday which is in December. Mid Dornan was invited to share and enjoy the trip with the three of them.

We are accepting ideas for the celebration of the Centennial of Richmond next August. A committee is already exploring ways to honor our heritage.

TIP: When you remove dirty dishes from the table, do not stack them as you would have to wash both sides.

> - David Vincent (From a Cookbook by Stephanie Pearson)

The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue.

Fran Smith and Pat Pearson will fly to Boston and New York City the day after the election to visit a few days with former resident, Virginia Cherniak. They will stay with Virginia's daughter, Susan, in Boston and take in the theater in New York.

Don't you enjoy all the home Halloween decorations around the Point? It is still a fun night for children in their costumes as they trick-or-treat the neighborhood. Did Terry Wynn's Dracula on Nicholl Avenue scare away any tricksters?

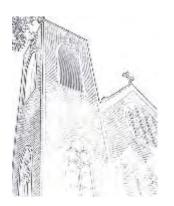
On its Pilgrim-laden voyage across the Atlantic, the Mayflower took 65 days, averaging a speed of 2 mph. Its return trip, traveling with prevailing winds, took only 31 days.

SHARE YOUR ABUNDANCE WITH ANOTHER LESS FORTUNATE ON THANKSGIVING DAY!

ANSWER: The adventures of Tom Sawyer was the first novel to be written on a typewriter.



CHURCH NEWS



Our Lady of Mercy Church

By Dee Rosier 510-232-1387

Having problems receiving snail mail? Have heard people complain that theirs was stolen, but what happens when you don't receive any? In recent months, delivery has either been made late at night or not at all. What happened to the statement that the "mail must go through?" Do we have a postmaster? The last one I remember was my neighbor, Gust Allyn. All of this leads up to the fact that my TPIT reminder card was never received and relied on e-mail to Gary for the deadline date. Consequently, this article is written in haste to meet the deadline.

The annual BBQ was a success and the weather cooperated. Everyone was extremely generous volunteering his or her time. Because we had lost many key members and benefactors during the year, we worried. Their supporters did not go astray on this day. Our local merchants were extremely generous and a listing of all donors is on display on the bulletin board in the church entrance. Copies of the list are also available, please support them.

Thanks to Susan Brooks for her tireless effort in arranging all the raffle baskets - they were outstanding - and so is she! With the wealth of raffle gifts, everyone should have been able to take one home. It was like old times seeing Angie Kirkpatrick, Shirley Gerk, Connie Healy and Marcellina Smith serving. Diane and Fred Siegmund saw to it that all ran smoothly. There were also some new parishioners helping out. Bob and Marie Peckham, how do we ever thank you for all you do for Our Lady of Mercy. This is our major fundraiser and the proceeds go to the roof fund, which becomes healthier. To all the volunteers and our continual supporters - thank you, thank you, and thank you. It soothes us to know that you are ever present. We'll do it again next year.

Despite throwing his back out carrying a new TV up the rectory steps, Father O'Rourke was able to take a trip to Italy. He is also orchestrating the marriage of a family member in New Jersey. His Santa Barbara family will be here for Thanksgiving.

A plaque to honor parish veterans has been made by East Bay Foundry and will be placed at the base of the flagpole and dedicated on Veteran's Day.

The church parking lot is private property. Recently a parade of large trucks has taken the liberty of its use and is chewing up what is left of the pavement. Boundary-defining poles have been placed in hope of alleviating the problem. Plans are in the making for its future use.

A hood for the church hall stove has been a slow moving project, but will soon become a reality.

Coffee and donuts continue to be served on the first Sunday of each month and everyone is invited to attend.

The day and evening Small Christian Communities (SCC) meet regularly. It is a wonderful opportunity to increase spiritual needs, as well as bond with members. Vince Kafka plans to address parishioners regarding SCC.

Edwina Murray, the Souper Kitchen recruiter and her volunteers continue their work at the Souper Kitchen. In October five parishioners volunteered and fed 152 people. It is rewarding time helping those in need. A list of monetary donations will be posted on the church bulletin board.

An informative brochure on the parish has been designed by parishioner, Nicole Moyer will be available to new residents and distributed to local real estate offices.

Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated at 9:30 AM with the blessing of bread. The Christmas Eve midnight Mass will be at 9:00 PM. According to Father O'Rourke, midnight Mass in Latin is Missa en Media Noctis, which means the Mass is in the middle of the night. It comes from a time before the invention of clocks, so exact time is not important. It was decided that 9:00 PM would be a good time for people to attend Mass and still be home before Santa arrives.

Many of us have aspirations of being able to sing and some of us do try, without success. There was a singing gene in my family, but it did not even come near me. When a real singer is among the parishioners, your ears readily pick up on it. This happened recently when Marilyn Mathers attended Mass. Her voice was golden. It did not take long for Anna Schwarz to approach her and before long she and her lovely voice were leading us in hymns. Hopefully she will become a permanent fixture.

People come into our lives as strangers and soon become part of our lives. So it was with Javier Lopez who came in and stole our hearts. Javier is a talented musician and fine person who was very active in our parish as Acolyte, Eucharistic Minister, Lector and SCC member. Javier has accepted a position with Verizon Wireless in Charlotte, North Carolina. He has family in Charlotte. We are saddened to see him relocate and wish him well. A parish somewhere in Charlotte will soon welcome a valued member, as we experience a void.

Beware walking either in front or inside of the Santa Fe Market, Bob is ever present with his digital camera and will take your picture to be added to the market's gallery.

Having grown up in a small community, it is always easy to recognize a Crockett face. Attending Mass recently was Crockett resident, Arnold Contestable and his daughters Carla and Lois. What brought him to Our Lady of Mercy? His daughter, Carla resides in Pt. Richmond. The world does grow smaller.

We welcome new parishioners: Theresa Bianco and Dominica Paletta. It did not take long to draft Theresa as Eucharistic Minister. She received on the spot training and performed well.

Don't forget to do your civic duty and vote. In my retirement years, I only work in an election year.

The holiday season quickly approaches – let's practice it's spirit yearlong.

See you in church.





POINT RICHMOND METHODIST CHURCH

by Jean Reynolds 510-235-2988 jeanormr@pacbell.net

On Sept. 19, a bluegrass concert featured Michael Butler on guitar and vocals, and Charlie Elliot on banjo. Charlie and Mike have both played at The Point tavern in years past, and are know to many Point Richmond music aficionados. They performed many toe-tappers and novelty pieces that delighted listeners.

Music makes a meaningful message! On October 17, the worship service was Jazz and More with the Dan Damon Trio, the Angel Choir, the Joyful Noise Choir, and moving solos by church neighbor and talented vocalist Sheila Alix. The congregation sang the sermon: a medley of Dan Damon hymns. The band left their instruments set up and treated us to a concert at 5:00 p.m., also featuring Sheila Alix. The audience basked in Sheila's easy-on-the-ear tones and appreciated the trio and blues guitar

accompaniment.

The United Methodist Women held a Country Fair on October 22 and 23, 2004. The Country Fair is a massive task, but our extended church family, everyone who stepped in to help in so many ways, made it possible, enjoyable and successful. The kitchen crew prepared chicken ala king for Friday; minestrone soup and chili for Saturday. We sold handmade craft items, holiday decorations, and home baked pies, cakes, candy, and other items made by members. Pastor Dan donated shirts printed with Heather Damon's drawing of the reed organ to sell for \$20 each for the general church fund. You can purchase shirts at the church after worship. We included a SERRV booth: items made by women around the world and marketed here to benefit the artisans. The money raised at the Country Fair helps support the Rescue Mission, GRIP, Heifer International, Mary Elizabeth Inn, Boy Scouts of America, Fred Finch Youth Home, and other projects selected by the UMW.

On the Calendar:

Second Saturday Thrift Shop: The church basement will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the second Saturday of November and December. Come see what new treasures are for sale. Do you have good usable items to donate? We have IRS receipts and we will accept donated items during the Second Saturday sales or call Jean Reynolds at 235-2988 to schedule a pick-up. (No beds, TV's, old sofas, or electronic items, please.)

November 14, Sunday, 11:00 a.m.: Homecoming service. We invite all past members and friends of the church to a special celebration. New to the community? You can come too, and see if people "remember" you!

Chuck Wise, our partner for almost a decade to

prepare the two annual community feasts for Thanksgiving and Palm Sunday, has closed The Baltic Restaurant. We will need to invent a new way to prepare all of the food for the feasts without his help. We plan our traditional **Thanksgiving Dinner for all from 12:00 noon until 2:00 p.m.** after a service of thanks at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 25. Feast on turkey, potatoes, salad, vegetables, yams, rolls and home baked pies. Relax and let someone else do the cooking and clean up, or call Claudia LeGuè (215-1813) to sign up to help.

November 28, Sunday, 5:00 p.m.: Start Advent with "Lessons and Carols," music and musings of the season..

Sliding Scale Singers: an informal time to sing hymns and other songs on alternate Friday evenings (November 5 and 19) from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Bring an instrument and/or your voice and join in!



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 66th installment.

June 7th, 1927

The meeting of the Social League was called to order by the President in the church parlors. Mrs. Glinnie and Mrs. Holbrook were hostesses for the afternoon. After repeating the Lord's Prayer in unison, 14 members responded to the roll call.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Rev. Grant reported that the "Fellowship" Dinner would be held in the Church Parlor sometime in October instead of Sept. as first planned. It was moved and carried that the Social League assist in a 'food' sale on June 8th for benefit of church expenses. Moved and carried that the League donate two dozen old saucers to the Washington PTA. Moved and carried that the committee for buying the dishes be given a blank check. No further business the meeting adjourned.

	Bess Osborn, Secretary
Previous bal	42.10
Mrs. Doney dues	.60
Mrs.C Jones	1.00 Organ Fund
Mrs. Vloeberghs	.50
Silver offering	1.00
	\$45.20
ck for organ fund	1.50

Christian Science Church and Reading Room

Jo Bycraft

As we were settling comfortably into our new location in Point Richmond, the members of First Church of Christ, Scientist, Richmond felt we needed a mission statement to define who we are and what we hope to accomplish. After several meetings devoted to this quest, we agreed upon the following:

Awake to Love; our mission is to heal.

In compliance with this statement, our Reading Room has been hosting informal discussion groups about twice a month. One is held on a Friday from noon until about 12:30, with the following discussion taking place on a Saturday from 10 until 12:30. Generally, those who attend are invited to bring their question(s) about Christian Science and spiritual healing. On September 11th, however, we discussed "Fear and Grief". All are welcome to attend these discussion groups.

Bring a question
Bring a snack or bag lunch
Bring an open thought
No obligations, no commitments, no

proselytizing.

Our first November discussion group will be held on Friday the 12th at noon. Keep an eye on posters in the Reading Room window for future discussion dates.

Church members Mary Jo Martin and Linda Atkins, as well as members of other Bay Area Christian Science churches, had a booth at the Black Women's Health and Healing Conference which was held at the Richmond Auditorium on September 24 - 26th. Several copies of our textbook, Science and Health With Key to the Scriptures, by Mary Baker Eddy, were sold, and many interesting conversations on spirituality and healing were held.

All are warmly invited to attend our Thanksgiving service on Thanksgiving Day at 10 AM. At this service our Thanksgiving Bible Lesson will be read, Hymns will be sung, and those attending will have an opportunity to express their gratitude for the blessings our Father-Mother God has bestowed upon them during the year. (Copies of our Thanksgiving Bible Lesson can be purchased at the Reading Room.)

Our regular Sunday services are held at 10 AM, with Sunday School convening at the same time. Our Wednesday evening testimony meetings are held at 7:30 PM. We look forward to welcoming you to our lovely church!



This Point....in time

News from Many Hands

Margaret Morkowski

As you may know, the Point Richmond business and residential community greatly value the students, teachers and staff of the local, historic Washington Elementary School. So in 1992, a group got together, called itself the "Many Hands Project" and established the goal "to encourage and provide community programs" in support of Washington School. Every year since then, the Many Hands Project has organized three major programs. Following is a description of the current evolution of these programs.

The "Adopt-a-Class" program consists of individual and business sponsors contributing \$225-\$250 for the use of each teacher to buy classroom supplies or materials for special projects. A small part of each contribution is used for other enrichment programs, admin support for Many Hands activities and tickets for teachers and staff to attend the District-wide annual "Teachers Excellence Awards Banquet." Each sponsor chooses which classroom they will support and each classroom will have three sponsors. Many sponsors volunteer in "their" classroom, some even bring cupcakes for "special" events or just enjoy the student's progress. In the fall we give a "Party" so the sponsors and teachers can get to know each other and share ideas. It is always a fun event with great food, music and a chance to see old friends and meet new ones.

The "Classroom Volunteer" program consists of individuals in the community who work through the Many Hands Project to Volunteer in the classrooms. Some volunteers work with students on reading, some work with children to improve their

math skills and some help to meet bilingual needs. You may want to work with a student too.

The "Spirit of Leadership Program" encourages Washington School students to view themselves as leaders and to strive to reach their personal potential in academics and citizenship. This year "History" is the theme for the year-long program. We are asking the participating students to focus on a City of Richmond historic event or person in preparation for celebrating the city's 100th Birthday in August of 2005. With their parents help and encouragement, each student will choose a subject and complete the assignments. Their essays will include a plan for their research activities, an outline for their oral presentations and a summary of what they've learned during the year from their project. Each child will also give oral presentations and create a display board to share at a community event. At the end of the year, the children will be invited to attend a special field trip probably to the Red Oak Victory ship, join in a celebration party and be honored at the school's year-end Awards Ceremony. They will receive special educational awards/prizes like a dinosaur bone kit or an ant farm, selected just for "Spirit of Leadership Program" scholars.

The activities of the Many Hands Project are greatly appreciated by the school and are lots of fun too. If you have any questions or would like to participate in any of the programs organized by the Many Hands Project please call Margaret Morkowski at (510) 234-4219 or Sallie DeWitt at (510) 368-0792.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MESSIAH
First United Methodist Church, Sunday, December 5, 2004
7:00 p.m. FREE to Everyone!!

William L. Thompson, M.D.

Memories of Pioneer Point Richmond Residents



Dr. Thompson was born in Point Richmond on February 17, 1909. He grew up in the Point, attended Washington Elementary School and graduated from Richmond High School in 1926, attended U.C. Berkeley and in 1929 at the age of 20 was admitted to the UCSF Medical School. He completed his medical school in 1933 and interned at Highland Hospital before joining the Civilian Conservation Corp. as a contract surgeon for the Army. Dr. Thompson practiced medicine for 39 years in Richmond, we are lucky to be the recipient of his written memories of his life in Point Richmond. This is a reprint of his gift to all of us. We will reprint his entire series. Thank you Dr. Thompson! Enjoy!

Part One

The population of Point Richmond exploded rapidly once the Standard Oil Company decided to locate here. Most of the people were mechanics or laborers looking for work or people hoping for business opportunities. Socially they were all at about the same level and were honest and hard working people who mixed well as a group. My memory of them was of a group of very neighborly families ready to help each other in any way.

I recall many of the old inhabitants but because of the location of our home, most that I knew resided south of Washington Avenue. This was mainly because lack of transportation facilities confined most people to their own neighborhood.

My father, William L. Thompson, Sr., arrived in the Point early in 1902. My mother returned to Sacramento shortly to have their first child, my sister, Sarah as medical facilities and home facilities here were very limited. They returned as soon as suitable living quarters were available.

Mr. Harry E. Aine started at the Standard Oil Company at about the same time. They both worked in the carpenter shop and became fast friends for life. Harry was the first foreman of the carpenter department but was soon taken in to the main office as an engineer and my father took over his job which consisted of carpenter work and construction, painting and repair work. He

held this position until his death in 1929. He and Harry built for themselves a two story residence between Scenic and Terrace Avenues one lot south of where the Dunlaps built their large home. One floor opened onto Scenic Avenue and the other, my father's, opened onto Terrace. After a time my family built a home on East Scenic Avenue above the Washington School and Harry moved to a house on Idaho Street. The original two flat home is no longer there.

About 1914 the Morrison family built next door to us. Mr. Morrison also was a carpenter and a fine practical Scotsman. He and his wife were very good-hearted and helpful neighbors. Below Scenic at its junction with Glen Avenue, the Max Henrys built a home. They were driven out of San Francisco by the earthquake in 1906 and moved to Pt. Richmond. Max was also a carpenter and had served for a time in that capacity with the Navy. Mrs. Henry was an expert seamstress and helped in that way in the region. I recall her telling of the great trouble in getting out of their San Francisco home at the time of the quake. Stairs and walls were falling all about them. Their son Charles, and the Morrison boy, James, were childhood playmates of mine and my brother, Chester.

Another Henry family resided nearby on Buena Vista Avenue across from the intersection with Montana Avenue. This family ran a candy store, I believe on Washington Avenue, and we referred to them as the "Candy Henrys" to distinguish them from the others. They had a daughter, Maude, about the age of my older sister and a son who was called Brother. I don't know if that was actually his name. He later became a piano tuner.

Glen Avenue was never a street although it was laid out as such. As a child I can remember helping my father, Max Henry and Mr. Morrison build a wooden walkway up the east side of this open way to give easy access to the several homes above. About this time Max Henry bought one of the first automobiles in the area. It was said to have been a two-cylinder Packard. I never saw it run. It eventually went over the bank.

The Shubach family built the pointed roofed house on Buena Vista next to the "candy" Henrys. I do not recall them well but they were friends of my father. They soon sold the house to the John Davidsons. Mr. Davidson was from Scotland and was an excellent cabinet maker and finishing carpenter and worked as such at the Standard Oil Company. They had a daughter, Caroline, who occupied the house until her death very recently. She was an excellent pianist. The family was quite musical. Mr. Davidson and their son, Tom, played the trumpet and other brass instruments. I took coronet lessons from him for years. Tom was one of the original ham radio operators in the area starting just after World War I. I recall listening with the old head set but was not too impressed because all there was dots and dashes. The Davidson's were really a very fine family and contributed much to the town.

Dr. Thompson's Son in law Gab Togner wrote a touching eulogy to Dr. Thompson at his memorial in 1998, you can read it at http://www.alkos.com/prha/thompson.html.

This fact diary is, I believe written by Don Church and is one of the items left for us by Allan Smith. I think it is interesting, as long as readers seem to agree, I will keep it up......Gary

Items of Interest Point Richmond, September to December, 1910

- 9-24 Fastidious goats owned by C.W. Jenkins on West Side are nuisance. To reduce stock.
- 9-29 S.O. Co. Long Whart being extended by Healy Tibbetts.
- 10-2 L.A. Times Bldg dynamited.
- 10-2 Belt Line wreck at Pt. San Pablo. Brakes fail to work.
- 10-4 Chas. Sump threatened his family.
- 10-8 1st Boy Scout Troops organized in Richmond with 4 patrols. Dr. Blake in charge.
- 10-2 Florence Coon ill.
- 10-15 Fishing Party sees snakes.
- 10-16 No. 4 Battery construction started yesterday at Refinery.
- 10-21 Dr. Lucas to build new home and office next to Runyons. Cost \$5000.
- 10-22 1st meeting in new Masonic Hall in the 3rd story of John Murray Hall.
- 10-22 Florence Coon still in hospital.
- 10-27 New Firehouse on Park Place dedicated by Company No. 1.
- 10-29 H.J. (Hershal) Ringer of Royal Theater in Stockton for 2 days.
- 11-8 Dan Sughru prominent Santa Fe Engr. dies at sanitarium.
- 11-10 John Murray marries Mrs. B.F. Dustheimer.
- 11-10 Florence Coon gets out of bed after 6 weeks in hospital.
- 11-16 Button and Ringer (Button Thompson) have sold the Royal Theater and are looking for other interests. (I was winding reels at the time). They later bought the Palm Saloon in the old Critchet Hotel (on the corner.
- 11-25 S.O. Co. Tanker Winnebago of the Indian Head line at Pt. Orient.
- 11-25 Maude Pritchard and Jim Norton wed.
- 11-26 Still wrecking the City of Peking at Pt. Orient, using dynamite.
- 12-2 1st Nat. bank opening at 6th and McDonald.
- 12-8 Lucetta Wood and Paul Dunlap will wed tomorrow.
- 12-10 Their wedding was a very popular event at the 1st Baptist Church. I was

there.

- 12-11 Dedication of #1 Firehouse on Park Place.
- 12-18 St. Marks Catholic Church dedicated at 10th and Bissell.
- 12-20 F.M. Enders has bought the Opera House from Pat Dean and is making improvements
- 12-21 Miramir Chapter of OES installs officers.
- 12-22 West Side read for Xmas. All merchants have decorated windows with their best merchandise.
- 12-25 Eddie Baker arrested (14 years old) for stealing automatic pistol and \$5.
- 12-27 Article on Auty Duggan, well liked St. car conductor.
- 12-29 Arnold Block to be built on Richmond Ave for new Post Office.

The original Indian statue was unveiled on September 4, 1909

Speculation continues to this day about its fate. It has been reported that the statue was knocked over at 2:00 am by a person exiting a bar, getting into his truck, backing into the fountain and jarring the statue loose. Since this was 1943 it might have been carried away because the metal was needed for war-time use.

The money for this statue was raised by the Women's West Side Improvement Club

Photo from our Don Church Collection, retouched by Thomas Mercer-Hursh



This Point....in time

WWIC ACTIVITIES

Alvce Williamson

SEPTEMBER 2004

The Women's Westside Improvement Club met September 14, 2004 at the Pt Richmond Methodist Church. I hope that everyone had a wonderful summer and are now ready to begin an exciting and busy year for our club. Our President, Margaret, has an ambitious agenda for the year and it will take the help of all members to bring these plans to fruition.

There were nineteen members and one guest present. The committee for the day was the incoming officers. The theme was autumn and the tables were decorated with autumn flowers. We enjoyed our "bring along" lunch and an hour of visiting and getting reacquainted.

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 PM by President, Margaret Morkowski. Margaret welcomed everyone back and introduced her guest, Susan Brooks. Margaret thanked Anita Christiansen for her contribution to the club in Josephine Plenchar's name. The club made a contribution to the Leukemia Foundation in Josephine Plenchar's name. Alyce Williamson read a tribute to Josephine, "Don't Think Of Josephine As Gone Away".

Altha Humphrey read the minutes of the May and June meeting for Secretary, Marion Kent, who was absent due to her husband's serious illness. Margaret introduced the officers for the year 2004 - 2005: President - Margaret Morkowski, First Vice President - Altha Humphrey, Second Vice President - Anita Christiansen, Secretary - Marion Kent, Treasurer-Sonya Darling, Correspondent for TPIT articles Alyce Williamson.

Margaret outlined her plans for the year. Speakers, Fundraisers Luncheons October, March & June Salad Pot Luck, May Stroll, Sunshine Committee, Birthdays of the month, Magazine exchange table & Distribution of the Club's Contributions & Day Trip. Anita Christiansen will organize the Club's second annual "Day Trip." Margaret asked that members present any ideas that they might have to her to present to the members during the year. All ideas and suggestions are welcome.

Birthdays over the summer were: June: Catherine Burchell, Dulcet Johnson & Lori Nova; July: Alyce Williamson & Wendy Nelson; August: Mid Dornan, Marjorie Moore & Marion Kent. Happy Birthday Past to you all!!

Altha has the hostesses sign up sheet for the coming year. Each member is asked to please sign up to serve once during the year. Three hostesses are needed each month. Annual dues of \$15 are due this month and October meeting. Please pay Sonya.

Margaret posted a chart with prospective speakers for the coming year and gave each member a strip of colored dots to vote for your preference. Those getting the most votes will be asked to be speakers for the coming meetings. Please cast your votes before leaving.

Before adjourning we went around the room and each member told what they did during the summer. Many interesting stories were told, too numerous to mention here. Many took trips, some stayed home, some like me just "puttered around" but it seems a nice summer was had by all.

The meeting was adjourned with an Inspirational Thought by Anita Christiansen.

Next meeting is October 5, 2004. It is Fund Raiser Surprise Luncheon \$7.50 per person. You will be told the "Surprise: menu in your "reminder call". See you there. Bring a guest and or a new member.

OCTOBER 2004

The Women's Westside Improvement Club met October 5, 2004 at the Pt Richmond Methodist Church. There were 26 members and

guests present. The theme for the day was "Halloween." This was our first "fund raiser" and the committee Altha Humphrey, Lori Nova, Claire Crawson and Margaret Morkowski decorated the tables with pumpkins, goblins, ghosts and other Halloween decor. The tables were very festive. They served a delicious lunch of Hors d'oeuvres, lasagna, salad, garlic bread, coffee, tea, cookies & brownies. We were individually served like "Royalty." Very deluxe and delicious. It will be hard to return to our "bring your own bag lunches." Kudos to Altha and her committee for organizing the delightful luncheon.

Shirley Butt of Interactive Resources was our speaker for the day. She gave a presentation on the plans and progress of the remodeling project at Washington School. Shirley's two sons attended Washington School as did many of our member's children and no doubt some of the members themselves attended Washington School at one time. It was very interesting to see the plans for the school and it will be a beautiful asset to Pt. Richmond when it is completed. Washington School is a "magnet school" and has a high scholastic rating. Shirley reported that all the portables are in place and working well in the interim. Her presentation was enjoyed by all.

Margaret introduced the guests Linda Newton, Lynn Clifford, Marilyn Brite & Andrea & Mia Sasse. I'm happy to report that all guests became members. Of course Mia will be an associate member for some years as she is only a few months old. We will look forward to watching her grow up. Welcome aboard ladies!

The meeting was called to order by President, Margaret at 1:00 PM. Secretary, Marion Kent was still absent due to her husband's illness and the September minutes will be read at the November meeting. Altha Humphrey is acting as Secretary in Marion's absence. Treasurer, Sonya reminded us that annual dues of \$15 are payable today.

Margaret announced the ranking of speakers from the September meeting: Carla Binette with Heifer...Third World Efforts; Marsha Tomassi of

The Inner Cook; Laura with "Goodies Goodies": and the maker of the "Doggie Goody Baskets" sold at Santa Fe Market. We have some interesting programs coming up.

Birthdays of the month are Liz McDonald Oct 4th and Marion Voight Oct 24th. Happy Birthday ladies!! We were saddened to hear of Catherine Burchell's loss of her son, Bill. A card of condolence was sent from the club.

The next meeting will be discussion & distribution of our contributions. Margaret asked for ideas for Christmas Lunch. She passed out a list of local restaurants for each member to rate as their 1st, 2nd, 3rd preference. These and any other ideas will be presented at the November meeting. Can you believe we are talking about Christmas already. Where has the year gone??? Margaret also announced activities that will be held in Pt. Richmond the month of October.

The meeting was adjourned with Inspirational Thought by Anita Christiansen. Due to election the next meeting will be Tuesday, November 9, 2004. See you there. Bring a guest and or a new member.







This Point....in time

CARDS, LETTERS & E-MAIL

Dear Pam,

Enclosed is my check for my membership dues.

My husband, Allan is no longer with us, therefore I'm taking his place at least with the membership and newsletter, *This Point.....in time*. I wish I could be as knowledgeable as he was.

Sincerely Marcelina B. Smith Point Richmond



I enjoy "This Point" very much. Otto's name belongs in the over 90's. As of October 8th, 2004 he will be 91. "Thanks to all"

> Carlene Barni Richmond



Dear Pam.

Thank you for letting me know about my dues. My last sister Joan Wiekersheim Davis passed away in August. She lived in Cressent City. CA and leaves seven living children. I enjoy the paper so much and was sad to hear about Allan Smith. He was a next door neighbor when I grew up in the Point.

Thanks again, Edna Wiekersheim Hathaway Hanford, CA



Dear Pam.

I wish to thank Betty Dornan for her efforts to help us locate Mark Gebhart who lives in Hemet California, as near as we can detect. He is my sister Goldy Gnaga Gebhart Shruvsburg's husband Fred Gebhart's brother and the last of his siblings, as far as we know.

As I cannot drive very far and not at night at all, I am mostly unable to attend the Association's meetings. So I enjoy "This Point" to keep in touch.

My love and all my best to all the dear people who keep the news coming.

Hortense McGee Vallejo, CA

P.S. I was so sorry to hear of Allan's passing and my condolences to his family and friends.

Hortense



Dear Pam:

Just a few lines to tell you what a nice friend Allan Smith was to the Point History. I had a Mass said for him at St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Berkeley. I remember the Smith's, Stark's, Barnardi's, Keller's Beach and Jim Hurley. They were a good part of my short life in Point Richmond (1913—1941).

Sincerely, James P. Kenny Albany, CA



Dear Gary Shows, Mid Dornan:

I'm enclosing \$2.00 which I hope is enough to cover the cost of mailing me another copy of the last TPIT, the one in which you reported the death of my old friend Josephine Matteucci Palenchar. The issue was received by my husband at home, but he has lost it.

I want to report that I wasn't a riveter during WWII, but I did work at Shipyard #3 as a secretary in the Planning Department. We built the troop ships which were built in drydocks until they were ready to launch, when the gates were opened and the water came in to float them then they were finished out of drydock, the water pumped out and

(Continued on page 22)

another keel laid for the next ship.

The Public Relations man was a friend of mine and got me into a lot of activities. I signed on as a waitress for the Sea Trials that were held on Liberty Ships being built at Yard #2, when we went out the Gate into the ocean and tested the ships for crash stops, full speed ahead, turns to port and starboard, etc. It was very exciting especially the last one, when the weather turned bad and the empty ship "rocked & rolled" & almost everyone below decks got sea sick. Luckily I wasn't one of them, but it did make the work harder for the few who didn't get sick.

I have stories of the old days when we lived in Pt. San Pablo & sent to Pt. Richmond once a week for mail, shopping, and a real treat, a meal at the Roma Hotel. Our P.O. Box was #2 and our doctor was Dr. Lucas.

Inez Pestana Modesto, CA

Thank you Inez! What a wonderful letter, we would all love to hear more of your stories, especially about coming to Point Richmond to shop, what stores you went to, who was there and what they were like, even what you bought!

Thanks again, Gary

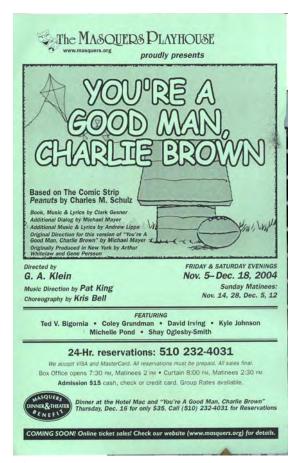


Dear Gary,

You asked for feedback regarding the fact diary left by Allan Smith. Not only did I enjoy it in general, but on the third page of it (TPIT,p.16), there was an entry regarding the plan to build our building, "10-21 Dr. Lucas to build new home and Runyans. Cost \$5000." What a treat. That leads directly to me asking for information regarding "Runyans."

Please continue printing the fact diary. I hope someone will keep it up to date as well.

Thank you, Linda Newton Point Richmond



This Point....in time

DEATHS....

Bernard Joseph Bernes was born on Nov. 7, 1908 in San Francisco, the son of French immigrant parents. He graduated from the University of Calif. Berkeley. He lived a long, healthy full life and was a role model for many. He was adventuresome and loved to travel. He was a ham radio operator and touched many lives especially during the Vietnam war when he ran thousands of phone patches for wounded on hospital ships. He also ran radio communications for the Tuna Fleet in San Diego. He will be greatly missed by his loving family and friends. He is survived by Ruth his loving wife and three daughters, Marilyn Wegner, Bonnie Angle and Adrienne Bock, also three grandchildren, Laura Kaino, Robert Young and Wade Fox, four great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. He has four step children, nine step grandchildren and two step great-grandchildren. Services Friday Oct. 22 at 2:00 P.M. Little Chapel of the Roses 3838 Bonita Rd, Bonita. Donations to San Diego Hospice or San Diego Humane Society are suggested.

Hans Shaper on August 20, 2004. Age 89. Born in Essen, Germany, he came to the states from Nazi Germany with his bride, Lore, in February 1939. He served in the Army During WWII and founded Shaper Lighting Products in Richmond in 1952. A long time Point Resident, Hans is survived by his son, Andrew, daughter Margaret Jordan, and three grand-daughters. Memorial services were held at Hotel Mac.

Vera Jeanne Winkelstein on September 15, 2004 at her home in Point Richmond. Vera retired after a career with the University of California and loved her garden. She served on the board of the Masquers and did extensive traveling throughout the world. Vera is survived by her husband, Dr. Warren Winkelstein, children, Norman Smith, Dawn Heiler, Dale Kerrigan and Debra Kerrigan,: her stepchildren, Rebecca Yamen, Josh Winkelstsein and Shoshana Walcott; sisters Alma Church and Martha Samse; nine grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Memorial services were held at the First United Methodist Church in Point Richmond.

Kattie Amantite on October 15, 2004, age 91. Kattie's parents moved to Richmond in 1917. She was a cosmetologist and an accomplished seamstress. A member of the Latter Day Saints, Ward #2 in Richmond, her family tree dates back to the early 1600's in this country. Kattie married Silvio Amantite in 1931 and they were wed 60 years before his death in 1991. She is survived by a son, John Amantite, Prescott, Arizona, three grandchildren, one great-grandchild and two great-great grandchildren. Services were held at Wilson & Kratzer Mortuaries on October 21, 2004.

Dr. Pina J. Barbieri peacefully succumbed to longevity in her home on August 14, 2004 at the age of 94. Dr. Barbieri was born March 28, 1910 in Borghetto Borbera in northern Italy. She was the first born of Giuseppe Barbieri - one of the founding partners of Richmond Sanitary Service. In the summer of 1910,

seeking a better life for his family, Giuseppe left his young wife, Rosa Mignacco, and their new baby in the care of the Mignacco and Barbieri families to join his brother and uncle in America. After three years working in his uncle's San Francisco bakery, he sent for Rosa and 3-year-old Pina. The Barbieri's first made their home in San Francisco where they added another daughter, Nora, to their family. When Pina was seven, they took their belongings and boarded the ferry to Pt. Richmond where Giuseppe joined his brother, Gion, in Richmond Sanitary's fledgling predecessor scavenging business. The very next day after their arrival, Pina was enrolled at Washington Elementary School. With her mother's encouragement, Pina enjoyed and indulged a ravenous appetite for education, always saying it was at Washington School that she decided to dedicate her life to teaching. By the tender age of 12, Pina was helping her father with his business paperwork. A few years later, Giuseppe fell ill and was unable to work. His partners divided his collection route and 16-year-old Pina stepped up to help. Upon Giuseppe's death in 1929, the partners agreed to let his family keep his partnership share on condition that 19-year-old Pina continue to take care of the company's "business affairs". That launched Pina's 72-year business journey that took a small immigrant family endeavor to prominence in the waste management industry. Richmond Sanitary remained a family-owned enterprise until its sale in mid-2001. While tending to the partnership's "business affairs", Pina was continuing her quest for education. She graduated from the University of California in 1931.

Bill Burchell, age 52, was lost at sea on September 21, 2004 in the sudden sinking of the F.V. Marion Ann. A native of the Point, he attended Washington School and Kennedy High. Bill lived in Eureka where he was active in fishing and civic activities giving much of his time in helping others and at half-way houses for recovering alcoholics. Bill leaves his wife, Suzy, and daughter, Juli. He also is survived by his parents Catherine and Bob Burchell, and brothers Bob and Tom. A Memorial was held at the Faith Center in Eureka on September 9.



BIRTHDAYS

November

LaVerne Rentfro Chris Bradshaw Woolman Heinz Lankford Charlotte Birsinger Ann Greiner Jason McGill Lynn Rendler Betty Dornan Jack Elle Mary Ann Gaspard Shirley Butt

Clare Doherty Bo Amantite Dennis Dornan Kenny Paasch Lance Rotting Joe Savile Fay Hawkins Shane Thomas Liam Thompson Hal Marshall

Linda Feyder Nicole Vargo Spiro Cakos Bethany Reynolds Matthew Berman Kathrvn Pinkerton James Cheshareck, Sr. Aubyn Eakles James Cheshareck, Jr. Audrev Edwards Ida Giacomelli

Claudia LeGue Katrina MacDiarmid Albert Kollar Viola Kennedy David Dolberg Gary Shows Mohamed Warith Maxine Stoddard Jay Fenton

Bobbies Boziki

Linda Chesareck



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Anne Hanzlik Lupe Padilla Lopez Louise Hammond (91) Laura Kuntz (90)

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Reva Ward Mark Gebhart Jim Kenny

Alice Helseth (94) Goldie Mobley (91) Dulcie Johnson (91)

Anita Brougham **Dorothy Rudnick** **Ethel Schumacher**

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POINT RICHMOND ASSOCIATON OF MOTHERS (PRAM)

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

Museum at 139½ Washington Avenue, open Thursday's and Saturday's, 11:30 to 2:00 The deadline for the December/January, 2005 issue of TPIT is Friday November 26, 2004.

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meets last Wednesday each month, Pt Richmond Community Center; 7:30 P.M Contact: Don Woodrow, President, 234-3107.

RICHMOND ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND

The REDF is 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. Citizen support is encouraged. Further information, call 510-215-6100. General membership public meetings are held monthly. Details of current meetings are available by calling 510-232-0405.

WASHINGTON SCHOOL

Contact: Anita Vasarhely, Secretary 510-232-1436.

WOMEN'S WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB

Contact: Margaret Morkowski, President. 510-234-4219

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

Main Contributors to this Issue:

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Mid Dornan	Various Articles
Don Church/Allan Smith	Historic Photos
Jerry Cerkanowicz	Proof/Photos
Pam Wilson	Membership Info
Thomas Mercer-Hursh, Ph.D.	Design/Photos
Jean Reynolds	Article
Dee Rosier	Article
Alyce Williamson	Article
William Thompson, M.D.	Article
Jo Bycraft	Article
Inez Pestana	Story
Margaret Morkowski	Article

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

Please mail articles and items of interest to:

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> or fax 510-965-0335

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