

# THIS POINT.... in time

## NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

[www.PointRichmondHistory.org](http://www.PointRichmondHistory.org)

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November 2005

\$3.00



*The Passing of a Richmond Legend*  
*Lucretia Edwards*

1916 - 2005

# Lucretia Edwards

*by Tom Butt*

After moving to Richmond with her husband, Tom, shortly after WW II, Lucretia became a legend of community activism. She credited her mother, a "perfect Quaker lady" from Philadelphia, with instilling in her a sense of equality and fairness, as well as civic-mindedness.

Childhood summers spent at the New Jersey shore fostered in her a love of the water. It's no surprise that she married a man who worked for Standard Oil, now called Chevron, as an oil tanker docking pilot. Fifty-seven years ago, they bought a house in Point Richmond with a panoramic view of the Bay. Lucretia raised three children in that house, and she lived there until the day she died.

Lucretia, however, was much more than civic minded. She had vision. From the day she arrived in Richmond in 1948, she knew it was "ridiculous" that Richmond's 32 miles of shoreline offered only 67 feet of public access. "I was enraged by what I saw," said Lucretia. "You hardly knew that the Bay was there." Lucretia's refined manner and soft voice belied the strength of her convictions.

In addition to all of her good ideas, she knew what she had to do to get the parks built, and her commitment never wavered. "I joined the League of Women Voters and started finding buddies who agreed with me. Then we just went to meeting after meeting talking about how badly the City needed waterfront parks." She took federal, state, regional, and local officials—any officials who would listen—out to the Bay front to see the possibilities firsthand. "We took them out one at a time, so we could divide and conquer. We did a lot of walking." The women's secret weapons were gourmet picnics and lots of cheap champagne, always served liberally as if at a world class resort on Richmond's scenic beaches, islands and promontories.

She became the leader of Richmond's "Contra Costa Shoreline Parks Committee," also known as "the little old ladies in tennis shoes," who coined such slogans as "Tanks, but no tanks," to suggest that at least some of Richmond's beautiful waterfront should be used for something other than storing petroleum products.

Creating the Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline Park was one of her proudest achievements. She lobbied heavily for the park, and just as plans were solidifying, the owner of a key parcel that included the park's highest point, Nicholl Knob, decided to sell to a developer who planned high-rise apartment buildings. Lucretia wept at the news. Her husband, Tom, distraught at seeing Lucretia this way, cashed in his pension and bought the land for her as a surprise gift. The Edwards kept ownership of the land until the East Bay Regional Park District could buy it -- at the same price the Edwards had paid for it several years earlier.

Not stopping with what is now Miller-Knox, Lucretia and her friends also brought Point Pinole Regional Park into the East Bay Regional Parks District. Lucretia's Shoreline Committee and others successfully placed East Brother Light Station, the Point Richmond Historic District and the Winehaven Historical District at Point Molate on the National Register of Historic Places.

On Winehaven, which she saw for the first time in the mid-1970s, Edwards once said,

*(Continued on page 20)*

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

*By Mid Dornan*

As you read “THIS POINT....in time” it means numerous hours have gone into the finished product by many people. The job for these faithful is made easier when YOU, yes you, who are reading this, become a part of the process.

We are grateful to David Johnson, now of Carmichael, who has taken the time to visit our little museum on Washington Avenue and share an historical piece of paper. This aged paper (no date) states “ POINT RICHMOND. There has never been a town in the history of California that ever shown such a phenomenal growth and enhancement of values...we will sell you lots in this Bay View Addition for from \$200 to \$350, according to size and location. Corners extra. \$24 down \$5.00 per month.” Offices outside San Francisco, were located at 17 Washington Avenue in the Point.

This paper is being prepared for exhibit at our museum. (see Letters to Editor)

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*This photo was  
taken in June  
2003 during a  
small gather-  
ing at Lucretia  
Edwards  
Shoreline Park  
(not at the park  
dedication  
(photo by Ellen  
Gailing)*



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*Thank you members for your membership  
renewal:*

James Patrick Kenny  
Fred, Diane & Hannah Frye  
Alphonso Diaz  
Sherri Mertle  
Jeff & Barbara Ward  
Ed Ginchrich  
David B. Smith  
Stanley Toledo  
Michael & Janet Heckmann  
Penny McGee Canario  
Amelia Drake  
Prissella C. Canera  
Frank L. Moscrop  
Otto Barni  
Emile & Ewynyna Pleau  
Louie & Rose Barra  
Tom & Shirley Butt  
Stephen A. Wyrick  
Margaret Morkowski  
Edna Hathaway  
Betty Menzie  
Gary Shows  
Pam Wilson  
Donna Hood  
Bena Bewles

*And a warm welcome to these new members:*

Todd Pratum  
Dina Ultsch  
Annette Jemo  
Kent Kitchingman



*Museum Hours:*

*Thursday 11:30 am to 2:00 pm*

*Saturday 11:30 am to 2:00 pm*

*Thank You!*  
**Santa Fe Market**  
and  
**Point Richmond Market**

*For selling*  
***“THIS POINT.....in time”***  
*For us*

*Thank You!*  
***Our Special Supporters!***

***History Makers***

Sherri Mertle  
Doug & Rosemary Corbin  
Mohamed & Sheba Warith  
Linda & Robert Drake  
Kathe Kiehn  
Elizabeth M. McDonald  
Janice Cook & Jeff Lee  
Margi Cellucci

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John A. Thiella & Rosa T. Casazza  
Catherine Burchell

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# EDITOR'S NOTES

## **Gary Shows (510-235-1336)**

We dedicate this issue to the life of Lucretia Edwards who will be missed by so many in so many different ways and to many different degrees. Thanks to all who helped put it together so quickly, Tom Butt, Shirley Butt, Thomas Mercer-Hursh, and Ellen Gailing.

Thanks as usual to our regular staff and please be warned that this is the only single month issue that we do. Expect your reminder postcard in just a couple of weeks because the deadline for the December/January holiday issue will be November 25, 2005.

Because of a lack of space I have deferred Steve Gilford's Kaiser article to the next issue. The next issue will also have the third and final installment of Dr. Thompson's "Childhood Memories of the Point Richmond Triangle".

Happy Thanksgiving!

The September/October issue assembly crew was:

Jerry Cerkowicz  
Gary Shows  
Pam Wilson  
Betty Dornan  
Marcelina Smith  
Pat Pearson  
Bonnie Jo Cullison  
Margaret Morkowski  
Sonja Darling



*Lucretia Edwards, who might best be remembered as the mother of Richmond's magnificent 3,000 plus acres of shoreline parks, died peacefully on October 12, 2005, at her home. She was 89 years old. (Photo by Ellen Gailing)*

*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**  
**Alyce Williamson**

## **The Cover**

***Lucretia Edwards***

***In a portrait by local photographer Ellen Gailing, 510-236-7565***

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# A-MID TRIVIA

*Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)*

Question: Who is considered the driving force that established Thanksgiving Day?

Answer at end of Trivia

\*\*\*

Of the 102 people who arrived at Plymouth Rock, 60 died over the first winter.

\*\*\*

Shortly after Ed and Bessie Squires moved to 2100 Fowler Avenue in Clovis, CA 92108, Bessie had a stroke. She is now with her daughter, Suzanne, in Pebble Beach and has Hospice

\*\*\*

Sympathy is extended to Dan and May Cotton on the recent loss of his mother in Sheridan, Wyoming.

\*\*\*

What are the odds of Point neighbors, Pat Pearson and Margaret Doherty, crossing paths in September at the Washington D. C. Zoo?

\*\*\*

A speedy recovery is wished Stella Giovannini who recently fell.

\*\*\*

Yes! Now they are saying dark chocolate may even soothe your stomach. Works for me!

\*\*\*

Florence Wilson has a new nose job. Well, maybe not the reconstruction type usually associated with such, but hopefully removing cancerous cells.

\*\*\*

Those folks on Belvedere and Crest Avenue have celebrated another block party and pictures of the fun can be seen in the window of the Santa Fe Market.

\*\*\*

The medium home price in Richmond in September was \$497,089 and it ranked lowest out of 40 local communities. One home sold for \$1,710,000. (Orinda's medium was \$1,681,429!) Yet, according to a survey by Mortgage Bankers Association of America, the state foreclosures rate

is lowest in the nation.

\*\*\*

Our \$5 dollar and \$50 dollar bills have had a color make over recently, now watch for the new \$10 denomination to add splashes of color to the traditional green. The new bill features a red image of the Statue of Liberty's torch on the left side of a revised portrait of Alexander Hamilton without the oval frame around his portrait, with "We the People" on the right side highlighted in red.

\*\*\*

And, it isn't just the paper currency that gets new looks. We already are enjoying the new 50 States Quarter Program. The newest nickel will go into circulation next year--Thomas Jefferson facing forward with a hint of a smile. It also features an updated image of Monticello on the reverse side and the word liberty in Jefferson's handwriting.

For the past two years, the Mint has changed the design of the nickel every six months to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark expedition, both of which occurred during Jefferson's administration. Congress is debating a redesign of the penny.

\*\*\*

Ah! the joy of driving up Washington Avenue with its new resurfacing this summer.

\*\*\*

Talented 18-year old Harpist Lavinia Karl and her equally talented 13-year old brother Violinist Luke Karl charmed and delighted a captivated audience during their recent concert at the First United Methodist Church. Of note were the large number of youth in the appreciative audience.

\*\*\*

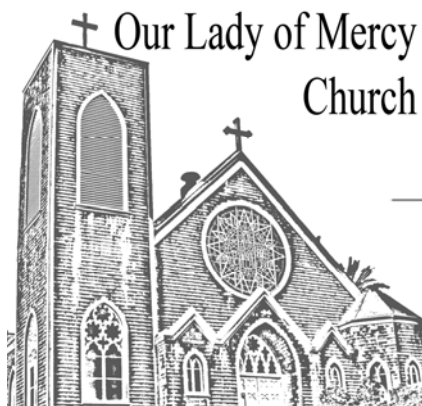
The new roses in the Point triangle have been provided by the Women's Westside Improvement Club, the oldest service club in the state, organized in 1908.

\*\*\*

*(Continued on page 14)*

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# CHURCH NEWS



*By Dee Rosier  
510-232-1387*

The weather cooperated and the sun shined as we celebrated our annual BBQ. It was like old times seeing Connie Healy, Angie Kirkpatrick, Shirley Gerk and Marcellina Smith serving. We can count on to come out of retirement annually. It takes many hands to host a successful event and we are fortunate to have parishioners who are willing to donate so much of their time. Everyone has a task to do prior, during and after. This year we initiated a few younger members, who hopefully will inherit future BBQ's. To name each individual would be difficult. They are the usuals who you can always count on and perform their tasks with expertise. A special thanks goes to Diane and Fred Siegmund who are the engineers of the annual affair. We visually missed many of our parishioners and benefactors who were unable to attend but continue to support us. Our community merchants were as supportive this year as in the past. A list of merchants is available in the back of the church. Continue to support them.

Father O'Rourke continues his busy pace. He not only oversees our spiritual needs, but has many outside interests. A trip to Kauai gave him an opportunity to wash away some of his everyday issues. A letter to all parishioners with the status of

maintaining our church is forthcoming. In the making is an "as built" engineering drawing. Because the church was built before electricity, the electrical drawings will have to be created. After the warmth of Hawaii he made a trip to Lithuania where the temperature was 35 degrees outside. Father also continues to maintain and update our parish web page: [POINTRICHMONDCATHOLIC.ORG](http://POINTRICHMONDCATHOLIC.ORG).

The stainless steel hood for our stove is now installed and ready for use. It sometimes seems like a long wait for jobs to be achieved, but oh the joy it brings when complete. Kudos to Roger Van Maren (Chevron) and the Italian Catholic Federation for their support in this endeavor. The initial use of the stove will honor the Italian Catholic Federation with breakfast prepared by Father O'Rourke.

Our weekly bulletin will soon get an updated look. The back will have additional space for advertisers. If you are interested in buying space, please call Father.

On the first Sunday of Advent, November 27<sup>th</sup>, a ceremony will be held commissioning our ministers - Acolytes, Readers and Eucharistic Ministers. It will be brief, but elegant and draws on the ancient ordination rites of the church. It is a recognized ministry in the church and merits public recognition. We are always in need of additional ministers and welcome those who would like to join.

We are small in number, but large in giving. A special collection for Hurricane Relief generated \$2,963.00. Brenda McKinley's family resides in New Orleans and lost everything as a result of the hurricane. Continual support is also given to the Souper Kitchen which has yet to find a permanent residence. If you are interested in volunteering, call Edwina Murray (233-7529)

Anna Schwarz has again retired from her role as Music Director. Samantha Jones is our new song leader. It did not go too well this past Sunday when the organ refused to play. We have two dead ones in the church hall and have tried to get rid of them without success. Back to Anna, she was recently named Diocesan Woman of the Year for her years of

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effort in the parish. At age 93 she also received a five-year driver's license renewal. (Look out on the highways!)

A classical guitar concert will be held in the church on Saturday, October 29, 7:00 PM. Two guitarists, Ben Barron and Tobin Roye will perform. Ben has been here before, performing in concert and Easter Sunday Mass.

Everyone enjoyed a recent surprise as they walked into church and Javier Lopez stood there to greet us. Javier was here for a meeting in Walnut Creek. Many hugs and kisses were exchanged.

Congratulations to Nancy and Stan Toledo on the birth of their newest grandson. Henry Joseph Hagel is grandchild number six for the Toledo's.

Bob and Marie Peckham made a quick trip to Boston to attend Bob's 50<sup>th</sup> high school class reunion.

It was a grand event celebrating a recent birthday for Amelia Drake. The party was hosted by the Drake children at the home of Linda and Robert Drake. Amelia is an artist and has recently resumed painting.

We have a new parishioner who spends time roaming the church regardless of the ceremony. Her name is Nala and she is a neighborhood cat. She has graced us with her presence on Sunday mornings, but now hear that she is attending Mass on Saturday. We miss you Nala.

Condolences to the Edward's family in the recent death of their mother, Lucrecia, who was a Pt. Richmond synonym.

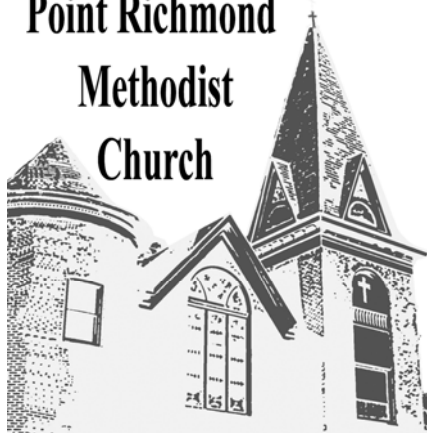
Continue to remember in your prayers our shut ins: Theresa Meneghelli, Frank Mello, Phyl Feyder, Dolores Hamamoto and Mary Shipler.

Still await Hank Allyn's article on the history of Idaho Street, so will prod him with a little trivia. Hank's grandmother, Mrs. Diffin lived on Idaho Street and took the train daily to Tormey where she taught my mother, her sister and brothers.

The trip through this year has gone much too quickly. When there is nothing left but God, that is when you find out that God Is all you need.

See you in church.

## Point Richmond Methodist Church



By Jean Reynolds

510-235-2988

[jeanormr@pacbell.net](mailto:jeanormr@pacbell.net)

The Joyful Noise adult choir has begun to rehearse for Handel's *Messiah*, as well as to practice and sing the weekly anthem. Choir meets on Wednesdays, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Pat Nelson and Pastor Dan Damon direct. **Any would-be *Messiah* singers are welcome to come for the last forty-five minutes of choir practice.** This year's *Messiah* performance will be **December 11, 5:00 p.m.**, with a full rehearsal on December 10 early in the day. We perform a selection of solos and choruses: about seventy-five minutes of the "best of," accompanied by live strings, organ and trumpet. Our sound soars from the influx of singers from the community for this special event and we welcome singers for all parts!

Kelsey Tostenson, Ashley Anderson, Antonia Knox, A.J. Heckmann and Mitchell Heckmann are the newest singers in the Angel Choir. The former "little ones" are now the "middle ones" and have slipped easily into the roles of mentor and friend for the younger children. Some of the younger singers are in the Spanish immersion program at Washington School, so the Angel Choir will learn some songs in Spanish to take advantage of their second language skill. Angel Choir meets Saturdays

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from 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

Long-time church members Claudia LeGue and Jim Brooks celebrated their marriage in the sanctuary on September 3, followed by a reception at the Point San Pablo Yacht Club. Friends and family from far and near were on hand to witness their pledge of love and commitment and to enjoy being in such a supportive community. Members of the book group helped decorate for both events: one of the highlights were the tulle flowers-and-drape installed at the entry to the Yacht Club to soften the effect of the razor wire on the chain-link fence. A lavishly laden buffet table featured delicacies provided by the partiers and a basket of flowers artfully arranged by Jean Eakle. Jim and Claudia honeymooned in Great Britain and France, but recently returned to a life of “ordinary” wedded-bliss in Point Richmond.

To start the new Sunday School season on September 11, we served Methodist Eggs, sausages, fruit and rolls, for students, their families and all breakfast lovers. During worship that Sunday, the United Methodist Women presented Bibles to Sarah Thompson, Hannah Frye and Lillian Karl. This year, Diane Frye teaches the older elementary students, Bill and Alice Thompson teach the younger class, Jean Reynolds teaches the high school youth, and Pastor Dan moderates the adult class. Classes meet every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. through the end of May.

Lorraine Parmer planned a service on September 18 to include refugees served by the organization with which she volunteers. We heard stories from Penpa Bhuti and Tenzin Sherab, both Tibetans, and Anil Verma from Burma who shared about why they are refugees and what their hopes are for the future. Our church donates clothing and furniture to help new refugees in the Bay Area. Lorraine helps people find jobs, negotiate supermarkets, and make other necessary adjustments to life here.

On Sunday, September 18, Lavinia Karl presented a folk harp concert. More than forty people gathered to enjoy the ethereal tones Lavinia produces from her harp: traditional, contemporary, and some of her own composition. Lavinia’s brother, Luke Karl, played admirably on the violin:

both solos and duet pieces with Lavinia. We are thankful for the presence, gifts and talents of all the Roth-Karl family!

Another Concert Supreme: On October 16, we mellowed to the sounds of Sheilani Alix, on vocals, acoustic guitar, piano and upright bass; Angela Killilea, Celtic fiddle; Dan Damon, piano; Joel Weir, guitar; and Kurt Ribak, bass. The audience played percussion. This is the second concert to highlight the talents of our church neighbor and friend Sheilani Alix. Each time she performs, she reveals more facets of her musical gift! It was a treat to hear these musicians and to witness their joy in making music together.

The Praise Band “Kairos” from El Sobrante UMC performed cuts from Pastor Dan’s new CD, *like a child* on October 2 at El Sobrante UMC. The audience received copies of all of the music and sang along with the choir. Dan writes music made to sing, not just to hear! On October 30, (history, by the time you read this) a sing-along at the Point UMC will include some of those same songs (minus the praise band.) Dan’s CD is available for purchase at the Santa Fe Market’s “Meat Counter and Music Store.”

The United Methodist Women and friends waged the Annual Country Faire on October 21 and 22, with help from our Stockton SERRV connection (crafts made by poor women around the world sold here to provide an economic boost to needy communities and families.) The Point Methodist UMW is in anarchy now, with no real elected leader, but with guidance by Fran Smith and Mid Dornan, the women accomplish much, anyway. We hatched plans for the country faire at the home of Oretta Eaton as we celebrated her birthday (number ninety.) Thanks to the many friends and extended family who make such a big project doable.

### **On the Calendar:**

**Thursday, November 17: Masquers’ Theater/Hotel Mac dinner theater.** This fundraiser for the Church includes dinner, tax and tip at the Hotel Mac, followed by the musical “Dear World” at the Masquers’ Theater, all for the bargain price of \$35. Call Jean Reynolds, 235-2988, to reserve your

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place in the fun. This is an extra-special event since Pat Nelson is the director for "Dear World": it is sure to be a hit!

**November 24, Thanksgiving Dinner Feast for the Community:** Service of thanks at 11:30 a.m., followed by dinner from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. All are invited! Enjoy turkey dinner with all of the trimmings. Bring your friends, family and neighbors or come on your own. Would you like to help prepare, set up, serve, or clean up? Call Juanita Hoffman at 234-8052.

**November 27, 5:00 p.m., Advent** begins with "Lessons and Carols," music, scripture, and musings of the season. Pastor Dan Damon on piano.

## 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 90th installment.

Nov 1st, 1927

The Social League met in the church parlor with 17 members present. Mrs. Alexander and Mrs. Danner were hostesses for the afternoon. Meeting opened with all members repeating the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

Moved and carried that the following bills be paid.

\$ 2.55 - to ? for apron material

10.00 - to ? Knott on account for painting

20.00 - (ed:cannot read writing)

7.50 - remainder due ? for store

\$42.50

Mrs. Jones reported that \$27.50 had been transferred from savings account to the checking

account. Moved and carried that money from the dinner and apron sale of Dec. 6th be turned into the church fund.

Committee appointed for the dinner: Mrs. Schmidt Gen. Ch.

Program Committee appointed for the evening party to be held later:

Mrs. Scofield, Chairman

Mrs. Jones

Mrs. Schmidt

No further business the meeting adjourned.

\$20.62 - Old balance

29.50 - transfer from savings acct

\$50.12

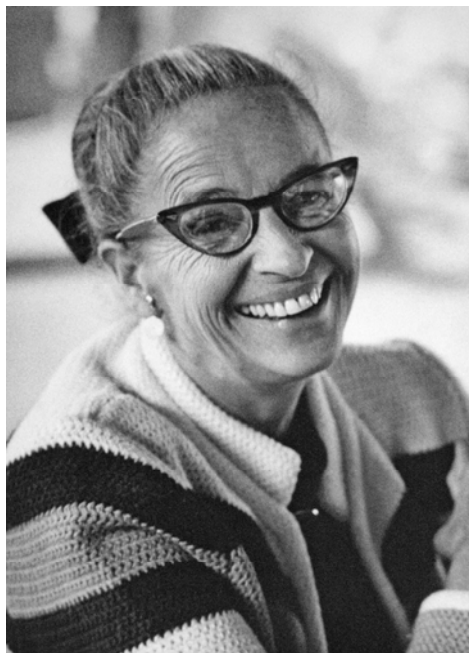
\$42.05 - bills ordered paid

6.07

1.55 - plate offering

\$7.62 -

Vernita Danner



*A younger Lucretia Edwards (Photo by Ellen Gailing)*

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# WWIC ACTIVITIES

Alyce Williamson

510-234-4219

## *The Women's Westside Improvement Club Meets at the Point Richmond Methodist Church.*

The Women's Westside Improvement Club (WWIC) had its first meeting after the summer break on Tuesday, September 13, 2005. Twenty-two of our members attended and Altha Humphrey, our Vice-President brought Maureen Morgan, her house guest, visiting from the south of England. During the social hour before the meeting, we enjoyed viewing pictures from the Centennial Parade and Picnic. Lynn Clifford and her Parade Committee had a lot of fun preparing for and marching in the August 7<sup>th</sup> Parade. A good time was had by all. Thanks Ladies.

Our President, Margaret Morkowski called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone back from the summer break including two of our newest members, Joan Gatton and Norma Jean Wallace. Margaret thanked the new officers Altha Humphrey Vice-President, Susan Brooks Secretary, Sonja Darling Treasurer and Alyce Williamson Correspondent for TPIT articles, for acting as hostesses and for very cleverly decorating the room and tables in an "Aquarium and Nautical" theme.

We voted to thank Connie Lompa and the other members of the Club who worked so successfully throughout the summer to restore and improve the Rose Garden adjacent to the Indian Statue. The results are spectacular. The vast majority of the community is very appreciative of your efforts and your contributions have brought much valued and positive recognition of the WWIC.

Based on discussions among the officers held during the summer, Margaret outlined plans for the year. Since the WWIC provides activities for its members in addition to raising funds for various Point Richmond community efforts, the yearly plans for the Club are numerous and varied. The plans include a series of Fund Raiser luncheons, a Speakers program, a Christmas luncheon, the Sunshine Committee, participation in the May Stroll, the members' monthly Happy Birthday recognitions, an information exchange and maybe a series of "day trips." Guests are always welcome to

join in the fun.

Our second meeting of the year was held on October 5, 2005. Our hostesses, Pat Pearson, Mid Dornan and Dody Perry heard lots of "oos" and "aahs" from the ladies because their festive Halloween decorating theme included goblins, witches and ghouls. In the spirit of the holiday, their mango and chocolate cheesecakes were "devoured" by the "merry-making" members. In addition, Anita Christiansen made a beautiful fall centerpiece for the dessert table.

October is one of our three Fund Raising Luncheons for the year. Altha and her able crew of Marion Kent, Bernie Moore, Lori Nova, Connie Lompa and Alice Zeier greatly contributed to our successful "Lasagna Extravaganza." Our luncheon guests included Peggy Fowler, Louise Williams, Bridget O'Keefe and Mary Jo Martin with a good time was had by all. Thanks Ladies.

Our Speaker for the day was Carla Bonetti of Heifer International. Heifer International "... began July 14, 1944 with Faith, Hope, Charity and 15 cows...." This non-profit group provides animals such as sheep, alpacas, goats, pigs and cows to individuals in selected communities of disadvantaged countries. In each community, the process and goal of Heifer is to create a viable economic base. Heifer begins by educating individuals in the care and proliferation of the selected animals. Instructions also include veterinary, agricultural and business management methods to 1) produce the needed feed/produce for the animal, 2) produce "offspring" for other families and 3) produce cheese and/or meat for sale in the market place. One of our members, Jane Diokas, a long time friend of Carla, said she had known about Heifer's work but had not realized the extent of Heifer's contributions. Jane said she is very impressed with how exciting Carla's "job" really is! Thank you, Carla, for a very informative and inspirational presentation.

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# Dear World at the Masquers

*A Review by Theresa de Valence*

I don't know very much about theatre (but I know what I like). Okay, I only said that to annoy, even if both phrases are true. Pity I wasn't given the script of "Dear World," directed by Pat Nelson, or I could quote more preposterous aphorisms dropped mercilessly from the mouths of the gentry, Lady Constance (played by Theo Collins), Lady Gabrielle (played by Irene Scully) and Aurelia, the Countess of Chaillot (played by Ann Homrighausen). Some of the quips are quite funny.

What is the purpose and meaning of theatre, I continue to ask? "Dear World" has indeed contributed more data but most of the points are contradictory. So, let's start at the top:

Come and see this play. You will feel better. About everything. Bring your mother, your daughter and your nephew. (*I know, you say, I don't have time and I ...*) Exactly. I don't know anything about you, and I don't know what you'd like. Get out of your chair and come anyway. That doesn't make you get up and call for reservations? No? Well, I guess I'll have to tell you more about it, then.

First off, it took me more than a few tries to see this play. This is the third Masquers' performance where this magazine's (TPIT) publication date has required my attending an earlier rehearsal in place of a later performance.

I also have a confession to make: I am beginning to like this rehearsal business. Sunday at the theatre I watched some drab weary folks, many with plenty of grey hair. Today at the dress rehearsal; nobody was boring enough to have any grey hair.

I first saw Gregg Klein drearily resting against a wall with his eyes half-closed, at the prior visit. He was holding the script which looked tiny resting against his huge body on the bench. I was curious about him; what would possess a man like him to want to be an actor in a play?

Gregg Klein, playing the Sewer Man, nearly steals the entire show! He is huge and handsome and magnificent and warm and gentle and clever and kind. Like Lady Constance, I have fallen in love with him. I would have sat there mesmerized for another couple of hours, if only the play hadn't ended.

My other vote for thunderingly best performance goes to Aurelia, the Countess of Chaillot who was recognizable in full dress only by her stride across the stage. Oh, the metamorphosis that goes on in theatre! How did Ann Homrighausen and the rest of the production crew make this happen?

Theatre is a continuing mystery. How are all of the decisions made, and why? And in such delicate deliberate detail.

For example, consider the advertisement flyer for the play: a pair of eyes surrounded by black fingers and feathers. Who knew what canny resemblance the picture would have to the gorgeous unforgettable eyes of Aurelia? Wasn't the advertisement created long before the first dress rehearsal?

How about the two American business tycoons, both aptly named Mr. President (played by Michael O'Brien and George Doer)? What possessed whomever to mould one man large and the other small; one shaved bald scalp and chin, the other with pomaded hair and a moustache pencil-thin; both dressed to perfection in a three piece suit of delightful trim and all battened down with gold chains and watches? Add a few dance steps, we are swelling with joyful laughter! What a visual feast!

Naw, the Oil Prospector (played by Don Hansen), wal' he's a treat. One pip outta his mouth, and the audience can tell that we're in for some puns and some fun. He's perfect and the boot fits.

Nina (played by Bridgit O'Keeffe) is a charming girl. She is an awkward waitress but succeeds in love as well as any girl with magic blue shoes could want. Beautiful and earnest. Somebody told me once that women in love are always radiant and men in love look like stuffed fish.

Julian (played by Coley Grundman) is in love. Julian is also an efficient intimidated young secretary. Coley is the only actor I have seen perform

*This Point....in time*

already, so I knew beforehand to watch his hands and feet. Watching him take notes from the two tycoons was a completely distracting delight!

In the middle of some commotion or other, the Sergeant (played by Larry Schrupp) marched across the stage, taking with him the reserves of any fears I had that I might not enjoy the play. The Sergeant's explanation of how Julian came to be in the river was gratifying. The actors' resuscitation of a nearly-drowned Julian was fun, as was Julian's response to the substitution of one of his rescuers.

There were lots more developments in the plot. The Mute (played by Robert Love) was also a Mime whose voice was filled in by others. Lady Constance ends up battier than when she started

out, an entertaining development, particularly when she offered to be a witness for both sides of a court trial! Lady Gabrielle amusingly reinforced many stereotypes, but her pooch was annoying. The Waiter (played by Rob Bradshaw) had highly active eyebrows though he was not fundamental to the plot.

The deliberate attention paid to detail after detail seems never-ending. In theatre, of course, there are dozens of artists contributing creativity, not just one. As the trailing performance of 50th anniversary year of the Masquers' theatre, no doubt it retains traces of the original troop. Each of the cast and crew has added focus to the expressions and mannerism of the actors, fine points to the costumes, all of which have been honed for the betterment of the performance.

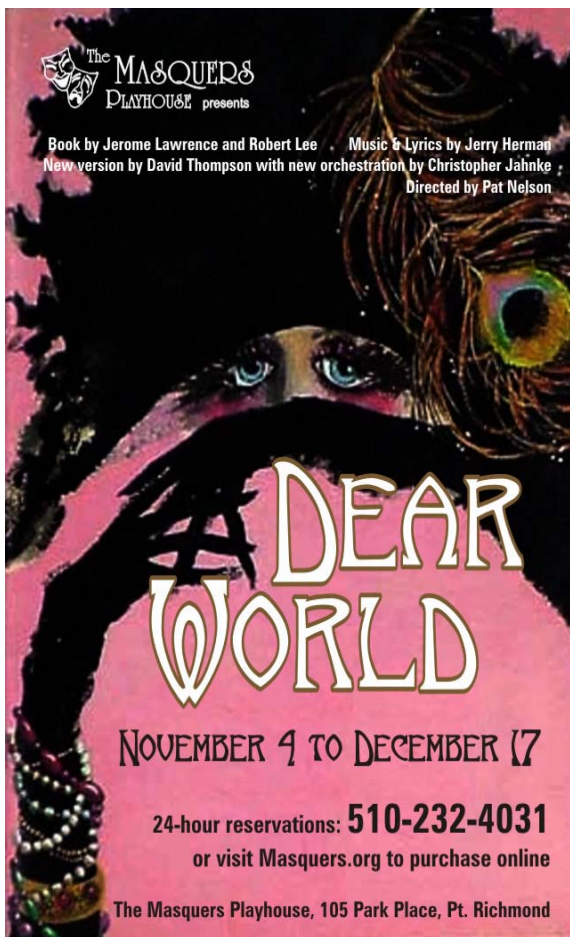
Why not for the benefit of the audience? Because the audience doesn't really matter, Silly, (just ask Lady Gabrielle). All of these theatre people are playing to themselves, for themselves, not even for each other. I know, I saw them before the rehearsal began. There could be nothing else which explained why a bunch of people elected to give up regular dinners as well as their evenings to put on a play. Even says so in the play: ask the republicans.

You know, though, here's that serendipity again. As these normal everyday folks sauntered onto the stage, not yet in costume, the pianist began playing scales. One or two of these folks started singing along. As the notes mounted the scales, the actors' voices grew stronger and louder. They shuffled closer together and turned to face the audience. As the volume mounted, so did the pitch and intensity. They became bigger and bigger and I forgot the Me who was observing Them.

Many of us are too disconnected to get around to doing something truly useful with our lives like saving the world, but you know, it doesn't mean that we don't aspire to this renaissance. As the Countess of Chaillot told us, it will all be different tomorrow.

In the end, it does come down to the cast of "Dear World" saving the day, which is handy.

Moreover, it can be done from a theatre seat.



*This Point....in time*



# ARCHIVE PHOTO GALLERY

*Historical Photo Restorations by Thomas Mercer-Hursh, Ph.D.*

## Lucretia Edwards' Legacy

*Right: A working Ferry Point, now a park (0360-AS from Alan Smith)*

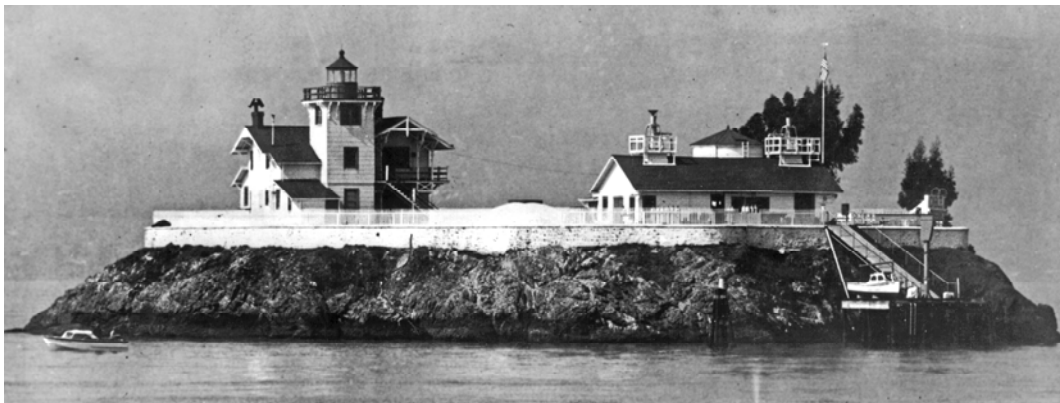


*Left: What was to become Miller-Knox park before it was filled (0089-DC from Don Church)*

*Right: What was to become Miller-Knox park part filled with dredging (0473-RMH from The Richmond Museum of History)*

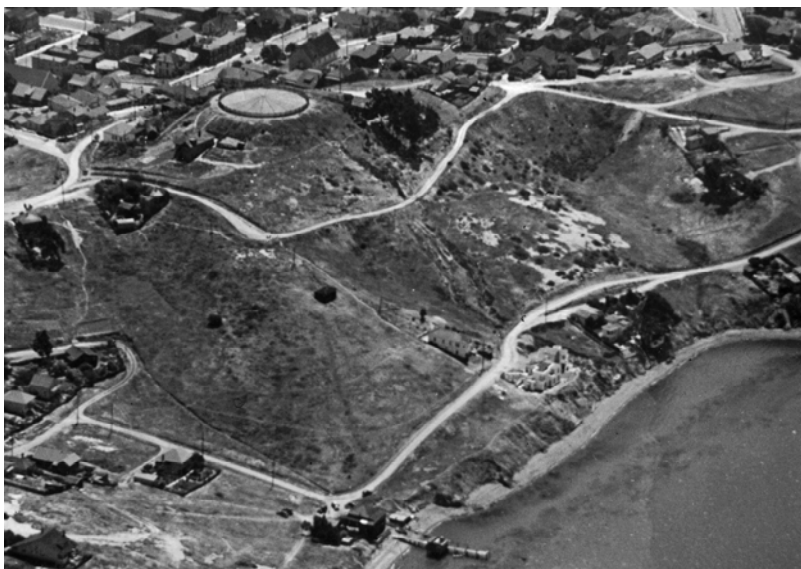


***This Point.....in time***



*Above: East Brother Light House (0142-00, source unknown)*

*Right: The area between Pacific and Western would become the Tiscornia Estates Open Space over which many battles have been waged (0208-FP from Frank Pearson)*



*Below: Winehaven (0145-DC from Don Church)*



***This Point.....in time***

## *MORE A-MID TRIVIA*

*(Continued from page 4)*

County Supervisor John Gioia, rotating monthly meetings, was greeted with standing room only when he sat down over coffee at Cafe Rosamaria to discuss important county issues and to answer questions.

\*\*\*

The new retaining walls on the north side of Santa Fe Avenue between Cottage and West Richmond are reassuring to those walking along on the sidewalks. Old newspaper clippings show some of those walls were put in by the city in 1915.

\*\*\*

Be prepared on Election Day to see your ballot 'counted' by a machine on site. No chance for error or 'hanging chads' here.

\*\*\*

Forgettable?

Four-year-old Bobby was helping himself to a cookie when his mother walked in and caught him. "Bobby, what did I tell you would happen if I caught you getting into the cookie jar?" his mother asked. "That's funny that you forgot, Mommy." Bobby said with a sigh of relief, "because I don't seem to remember either."

\*\*\*

We welcome to the Point new member Todd Pratum and his soon to be opened Antiquarian and Scholarly Books Store. Located at 5 West Richmond Avenue, it is next door to Altura Cafe.

\*\*\*

Support our local merchants. We like them, need them and they need YOU.

\*\*\*

A big THANKS to the Point Richmond Summer Music and Arts Festival Committee. Even the weather cooperated as thousands enjoyed the festivities. Losers were those not attending the free 7:30 p.m. Concert held in the Christian Science Chambers.

\*\*\*

Bob and Marie Peckham returned in October from Boston, where he attended his 50th High

School Class Reunion, in time to be at the Our Lady of Mercy BBQ benefit on Sunday. Bob had to be back so he could enter the Marathon - you know, where you run 26 miles - up in the Redwoods! Bob is living proof of what Faith, Love, Attitude and Goals can mean! Bob insists he will qualify for the Boston Marathon soon!

\*\*\*

The Methodist Church Joyful Noise Choir will present THE MESSIAH as a gift to the community on Sunday, December 11, at 5:00 p.m. Interested singers are invited to join rehearsals on Wednesday nights at 8:15 p.m. at the church. MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 11th. It gets better every year!

\*\*\*

Good News for neighborhood residents near railroad crossings in the Point. City officials have worked out an agreement with the Federal Railroad Administration to create a "quiet zone" at night and "No Train Horn" signs are being installed that should be in effect November.

\*\*\*

Wanna know the most popular baby names last year? Boys: Jacob, Michael, Joshua, Matthew and Ethan. Girls: Emily, Emma, Madison, Olivia and Hannah.

\*\*\*

Why isn't phonetic spelling spelled the way it sounds?

\*\*\*

Congratulations to Kim Butt, who passed exams for California Architecture Board. Becoming a fully licensed architect in California requires: 5 years of Architectural School, being an apprentice with a licensed architect for 3 years, pass 9 written tests including Building design and site planning using computer aided Design and finally an oral exam. Kim is married to Andrew Butt and was recently appointed to the Richmond Historic Preservation Advisory Committee.

\*\*\*

Why is it when you transport something by car it's called a shipment, but when you transport something by ship it's called cargo?

*This Point.....in time*

\*\*\*

Experience is a wonderful thing; it enables you to recognize a mistake every time you repeat it.

\*\*\*

Vic Highfill is home after a brief hospital stay but must have 24 hour care. Cards are always welcome. Vic is the husband of our Corresponding Secretary Mary Highfill.

\*\*\*

Sorry to hear our beloved Theresa Meneghelli is not well

\*\*\*

The daughters of Don and Bo Amantite are honoring their parents on their 50th Wedding Anniversary on December 3rd at the Galileo Club. Does it seem people still look young while celebrating this milestone? Remember when you though anyone aged 50 was over middle aged?

\*\*\*

One would have imagined it was a Camp Fire Leaders Reunion at the luncheon at the Country Faire at the Methodist Church in October. Seated around the tables were former leaders: Lily Robinson, Adeline Miller and daughter Donna from Suisun, Olean Sprau, Fran Smith, Angie Kirkpatrick and daughter, Pat Newton, Dorothy Ruthnick and Mid Dornan.

\*\*\*

If you had wondered into the West Lobby of Marin General Hospital in Greenbrae recently, you would have been able to enjoy the watercolors of Point Richmond resident, Spencer Compton.

\*\*\*

ANSWER: Sara Joseph a Hale, editor of the magazine, "Godey's Lady's Book" is credited as the driving force to establish a national Thanksgiving Day. In nearly 20 years of

campaigning during the mid-19th Century, she urged governors and Presidents to consider the holiday as a means of promoting national unity. But she thought that Thanksgiving should be celebrated on July 4.



(Continued from page 9) *WWIC ACTIVITIES*

The speaker at our November 1, 2005 meeting will be the author, Jennifer Fox Bennett. Jennifer, a poet, was one of only 15 U.S. writers invited to read their work at the International Literary Festival which was held in Amman, Jordan in August and September of this year. If you would like to be our guest or have questions, please call Margaret at 234-4219.



### POINT BOOKSTORE OPEN HOUSE

Everyone is welcome to the opening of a new book store on Friday, December 2 beginning at 10:00 until ?? at 5 West Richmond Avenue. Meet owner Todd Pratum.

The PRATUM BOOK COMPANY will feature:

- New..Old..Rare..Scholarly books.
  - Books Bought, Sold, Traded & Searched.
- It is the home of
- The Todd Lew Pratum Literacy Services
  - The Homeless Children Project
  - The Hermetic Library
  - Library of Educational Alternatives

In 2006 they hope to establish the Pratum School

## SEEKING HISTORIC COMMITTEE MEMBER

In June 2005, the Richmond City Council made the Richmond Historic Advisory Committee official. Members are needed to serve on this committee. Are you interested in preserving our heritage? You do not have to live in Richmond. Would you like to represent the Point Richmond History Association on this committee? For more information contact

[Tombutt@intres.com](mailto:Tombutt@intres.com).

*This Point.....in time*



# William L. Thompson, M.D.

## *Childhood Memories of the Point Richmond Triangle*



*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 Two**

Continuing on down Washington Avenue there were many small businesses. I can't recall their exact order. There was King's Cigar store operated by Robert King. This was a common lounging place for men who were not working. Almost always there were many men standing about outside smoking and talking. It was the town meeting place for the idle.

In the same area was Niedecker's Drug store operated by Henry Niedecker. I recall Niedecker very well. He was a friend of my father and had originally come from Eldorado County. He was a fine druggist and his store was quite modern for the time. Elmer Conn, who later became a well known druggist in Richmond, served an apprenticeship here. Niedecker later moved to Oakland and started a drug store in the Grand Lake region of Oakland. His store here was taken over by Palmateer who ran it until his death in 1956. That ended drug stores in the Point.

In the same area was Henry's candy and Ice Cream parlor which I think was called the Kozy Candy Parlor. It was about the only place in town where one could buy ice cream or ice. In those times most people made their own ice cream with an old hand cranked ice cream freezer. When needed we

bought our ice here. The store was owned my W.E. Henry who resided on Buena Vista Avenue. I remember getting ice from him every 4th of July to make ice cream.

In this same region was a hardware store run by Virgil Fenner who later became a city councilman. He was a good friend of my father who, being a mechanic, often traded there. His daughter was a good friend of my older sister. When Fenner retired the store was taken over by Gordon Perault who was raised in the Point.

Sometime later Gust Allyn, who I have written about elsewhere, established his clothing store. This has been an essential part of the Point business community for many years, probably longer than any other single business. The store continues under the management of one of Gust's sons.

There have been other businesses in this block but I recall very little of then. The old Critchett Hotel, one of the earliest Point Richmond buildings stands at the corner of Richmond Avenue. In the old days it served as the first meeting place of the Richmond City Council, before the old city hall was built. If I remember correctly the ground floor of this structure once was occupied by the Pulse Brothers Grocery which they called a "grocertaria". It was well patronized and I went

*This Point.....in time*



there often with my mother. They later moved to Richmond and opened a store on the northwest corner of 4th and Macdonald.

On the northeast corner of Washington and Richmond Avenues there was a small rectangular board building that I remember as a real estate office. It was on the edge of the depressed lot that at one time held the bandstand.

Along the base of the triangle on West Richmond Avenue, were many key businesses of early Point Richmond. The grocery store on the southeast corner of Washington and Richmond Avenues was not as early as the others. It was built by Arthur Whiteside. The Whitesides were good friends of ours and at one time we vacationed together in Mendocino County. At first Art was a

partner of Bob Dornan's in the Richmond Supply Company. After a few years he left and built the grocery store. Originally they lived on the east side of upper Washington Avenue but when the store was completed they moved into the apartment on its second floor. The store has changed hands several times after the Whitesides died but has always been an important unit in Point Richmond businesses.

The old Anderson Hotel, the three story building east of Whiteside's is very old. As with most business buildings of the triangle, the upper floors were rooms for workers. The street floor here was occupied by the McWhorter's grocery one of the very early grocery stores in the town. It was run by Beecher McWhorter. I remember it well having shopped there many times with my mother.

***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>.***



*Lucretia Edwards, always a woman of spirit! (Photo by Ellen Gailing)*

***This Point.....in time***

*This fact diary is, a book of headlines and interesting events in Early Point Richmond was compiled by Don Church and is one of the items left for us by Allan Smith.*

## Items of Interest Point Richmond, 1911

- 11-2 Santa Fe making vast improvements to shops, sheds and wharf.  
Thinss are booming on Ohio Street.
- 11-4 S.P. business in and out of Richmond almost doubled last year.
- 11-5 Frobergs aerohydroplane may bring fame to our city.  
2 Santa Fe coaches are guarded and quarantined at Ferry Point, Scarlet fever.
- 11-8 Hundreds flock to new Hydroplane factory on 21st Street.
- 11-12 S.O. Co. buys Blume Ranch which includes the Tar Section.
- 11-15 Nicholl will start drilling oil well tomorrow.  
Home building in progress everywhere - no spare homes  
Big Richmond sign damaged in Oakland on barges.
- 11-16 J.P. Arnold is making drunks paint the jail while serving sentences.
- 11-18 New Ferry Contra Costa now in service.
- 11-19 Mrs. David Ralston wife of Rev. Ralston of 1st ME Church dies.
- 11-22 Entire city bowed in grief as Mrs. Ralston's funeral.
- 11-23 Oliver Wylie feeds City officers.  
Nicholl hits hard rock in well
- 11-24 New Pullman car shops are a wonder.
- 11-25 Nicholl well strikes artesian water well at 9,000 gallons per minute.
- 11-26 Post Office to be consolidated.  
PG&E makes great strides in laying gass mains in City.
- 11-29 A comedy of errors- Ludwig smoke house fire  
Home of Isaac Lester on Scenic Avenue is raised 1 1/2 stories.



## BIG GUNS PASS HERE ON WAY TO NAVY YARD

*(Richmond Record, July 1915)*

Twenty big guns intended for Mare Island were unloaded from the Santa Fe at Ferry Point last evening upon a barge. With the big guns, which were brought from Washington on ten flat cars, were five box cars of ammunition. The smallest of the guns was forty feet in length. A record run across the continent was made by the train which reached here five days after leaving the capital. The train was guarded by Marines.

***This Point.....in time***

# ***Washington School - News from “Many Hands”***

*Margaret Morkowski*

*510-234-4219*

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. The Many Hands Project coordinates several 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. Each contributor/sponsor chooses a classroom to support and each classroom will have three sponsors. Many sponsors volunteer in “their” classroom, some bring cupcakes for “special” events and some sponsors just enjoy the students’ progress.
- 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 “Art” is the theme for a series of assignments for the year-long program. Among other activities, Jim deWitt will provide the students a special program at Pam’s deWitt Gallery & Framing on Park Place. At the end of the year, the children will be invited to attend a special field trip, 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 “Brain Strain,” a “Finger Print Lab” or a “Biosphere,” all selected just for “Spirit of Leadership Scholars.”
- The “Send a Child to Summer Camp” program is new this year. Jan and Jerry Feagley came up with this great idea and are gathering sponsors to send children in the third through sixth grades to the YMCA camp next summer. If you would like to participate in this program or have questions please call Jerry at 237-3908.

The activities of the Many Hands Project are greatly appreciated by the school and are lots of fun too. If you have any questions call Sallie DeWitt at (510) 368-0792.

*Hello Washington School supporters! Last year, your donations of used printer cartridges and old cell phones raised over \$1000 for Washington elementary school! Those funds were used directly for activities for kids. This year again, Washington School is participating in the recycling program. Please donate your used printer cartridges and old cell phones. There is a donation box at the Santa Fe Market where you can simply deposit your items. Or, you can contact Diane Anderson, 234-3333, to arrange a pick-up. Thank you for your support! Diane Anderson, President, PRAM*

***This Point.....in time***

"I fell in love with the buildings. They are so astonishing, those great red-brick castles. They're so out of place, it just made me laugh!"

In the 1980s, there was a move by the master developer of Marina Bay and the City of Richmond to shift some of the previously master planned Marina Bay waterfront park sites to locations of less prominence and to replace them with housing and commercial development. Lucretia sued the City and settled only after the City committed to preserve the original park sites, one of which later became Lucretia Edwards Park, (also part of the Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historical Park), dedicated in 2002,

Shirley and I first met Lucretia shortly after moving to Richmond in 1973. She spotted me as a "live one" and made sure I was immediately so immersed in community affairs that I didn't know what had hit me and was never able to extract myself. She took me under her wing, and in short order, I became president of the Point Richmond Neighborhood Council, a charter member of the Richmond Community Development Commission and, later, president of the Point Richmond Business Association. Lucretia served as treasurer of my campaign committee for all the years I ran for office.

In 1978, Lucretia took me to East Brother Light Station, and I became hooked. Lucretia had found out from her husband, Tom, a tugboat captain for Chevron, that the lighthouse was slated for demolition. We subsequently formed a non-profit corporation, [East Brother Light Station, Inc.](#), and restored the lighthouse, still operating some 25 years later as a bed and breakfast inn in order to maintain the historic structures. Lucretia was a founding member and served on the board of directors of East Brother for many years.

But Lucretia was more than a savior of shorelines and a historic preservationist. In 1989, she was recognized by Congressman George Miller in the *Congressional Record* for being chosen the Eleventh Assembly District's Woman of the Year by Assemblyman Bob Campbell. The California State Senate and Assembly honored her and 101 other distinguished women at special ceremonies sponsored by the Women Legislator's Caucus. Her involvement in civic affairs began in the 1950's as a member of the League of Women Voters. She was a leader in the establishment of Richmond's neighborhood councils and served on numerous city and county commissions and advisory boards, including the John T. Knox Freeway affirmative action committee and the citizens committee to approve plans for the San Pablo Wildcat Creek Flood Control Project.

Lucretia also worked hard in the race riot years of the 1960s fighting racism in Richmond, where she was one of several founders of the North Richmond Neighborhood House.

Her files on Richmond were also legendary. She could access reams of information on City activities going back decades, citing key municipal actions sometimes conveniently forgotten years later by most. She has authored numerous pieces on Richmond's tumultuous but always fascinating history, including *Port of Richmond 1901-1980*, as a project of the Richmond Area League of Women Voters, and *A Short History of How the Neighborhood Councils Started in the City Of Richmond, California*.

By far, Lucretia's most enduring legacy is the inspiration she has left for the generations that follow her footsteps, providing an example of how just one tenacious individual can change a city forever and make it a better place for all.

*This Point.....in time*

# CARDS, LETTERS & E-MAIL

Gary,

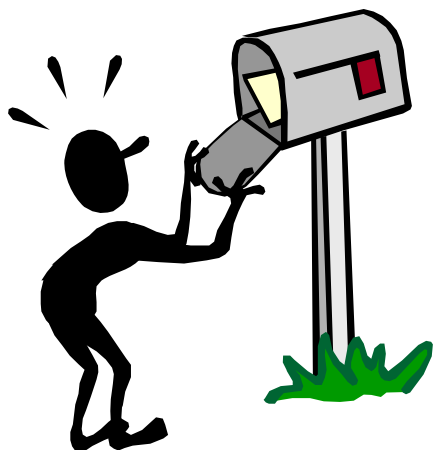
Anna Gaumer, a long-time member of the Point Richmond Historical Society, passed away last month.

I am Anna's daughter-in-law. My husband, Chris and I are still in the process of cleaning out Anna's house and we get several calls and messages a week from people wanting to make donations of historical value to the various museums and historical societies that Anna held so dear. I have been directing them to the various museums/historical societies, as my husband is still grieving heavily.

When my husband is ready, we will contact you to donate some Anna's possessions that may be of historical interest to the Point Richmond Historical Society.

Tracie Gaumer  
Traciegaumer@cs.com

*Please accept my sympathy. We will take good care of any archives you would care to pass on to us. Gary*



Dear Friends,

I wish to transmit to your association the following paper item of historical significance to early Point Richmond.

POINT RICHMOND-FOREVER-WATER  
FRONT LOTS

REICHERT & McKENZIE REAL ESTATE

This appears to be a real estate promotion/prospectus circa 1900 on newsprint, is showing signs of deterioration typical of newsprint, and is in fair condition for its age.

I purchased this piece around 1970 from a second-hand/used furniture store located on Cutting Boulevard in Richmond, along with several photos of American warships of the Spanish-American war era, and assume that all were originally together. Having owned an art gallery and frame shop at one time, and knowing something regarding the preservation of paper, this news print piece will not last all that long, especially if it is put on display. It would be a good idea to get a professional photographer who knows how to handle and photograph this sort of thing to make a copy for display if this piece turns out to be unique and valuable to your collection.

Please accept this with my best wishes and thanks for the Point Richmond Historical Association and for your efforts to preserve the history of Point Richmond. I would also appreciate it if you would accept this piece in memory of one of the Point Richmond boys who died in the Viet Nam war, Michael Lizzariga, with whom I associate growing up, even though I, myself, grew up in Atchison Village.

Sincerely yours,  
David Johnson

*Thank you for thinking of us. Our archive director Bonnie Jo Cullison will be or has been in contact with you. Gary*



# *DEATHS....*

**Lucretia Edwards**, Born May 15, 1916 Philadelphia, PA. Died October 12, 2005, Point Richmond, CA. Richmond, CA ardent conservationist, preservationist and environmentalist, Lucretia Edwards came to the Bay Area from the East Coast in 1947 at the time of her marriage to native son and tugboat pilot, Thomas Edwards. Outside of her family, her consuming interest during the ensuing years was for the City of Richmond, which she saw as a prototype demonstration of democracy in action. Her life was devoted to involvement in innumerable boards, commissions and projects in and about Richmond. Of them all, she felt most privileged to have been one of the initiators of the vigorous Neighborhoods Council movement, which she found to be participatory democracy at its liveliest. Much of her time and effort was spent in working for property and public access to San Francisco Bay shoreline park, notably the Miller-Knox Park in Point Richmond, which she felt to be beneficial balance to the pressures of urban life. She is survived by her three children: Barnaby, Hannah and John David Edwards; and her grandson, Sam Edwards. Lucretia was preceded in death by her beloved husband Thomas Edwards in 1995.

**Anna Soito Gaumer** passed away on August 1, 2005. Born June 5, 1925 in Richmond, California. A fifth-generation native Californian, she lived all her life in the area. After retirement from West Contra Costa Unified School District, she volunteered for Contra Costa County Senior Legal Services, and taught Floral Design. A docent for 25 years, she was President of the San Pablo Historical Society, past President of the Bay Area Floral Arrangers Guild, a member of the California Retired Teachers Association, the Contra Costa County Historical Society, the Point Richmond Historical Society, and a volunteer for the Contra Costa County Adult Probation Department.

Predeceased by her parents, Henry and Lucia (Bernardi) Soito, and her brother Paul Soito.

Children: Dean and Pat Gaumer of Davis, CA; Bill and Ruth Gaumer of Colorado Springs, CO; Bill and Roseanne Chamberlain of Sacramento, CA; Gene Gaumer of Lafayette, CA; Chris and Tracie Gaumer of Benicia, CA

Grandchildren: Erik Gaumer, Davis, CA; Dale and Erin Lucia, Richardson, TX; US Army Sgt. Amy Gonzales of Fayetteville, NC; Heather Gaumer, San Pablo, CA; Heath Gaumer, San Pablo, CA; Ian Gaumer, Colorado Springs, CO; Julia Chamberlain, Berkeley, CA; Tim Chamberlain, Sacramento, CA. Great-Granddaughter: Danielle Gonzales, Fayetteville, NC.

Special lifelong friends: Barbara Turner; Betty Pennebaker; Sheila Smith; Suzanne Renee Lerner.

***Contributions for funding the planting of native plants at the new scenic overlook mini-parks in Point Richmond in honor of the life of Lucretia Edwards can be made to the Point Richmond Neighborhood Council (PRNC) - Scenic Overlook Committee. If you would like to assist in prep and planting to be done this Fall please e-mail [andrew.butt@intres.com](mailto:andrew.butt@intres.com).***

***Contributions can be dropped off or mailed to the following address:***

***PRNC - Scenic Overlook Committee  
C/O Interactive Resources  
117 Park Place  
Point Richmond, CA 94801***

***This Point.....in time***

# ***BIRTHDAYS***

## ***November***

LaVerne Rentfro Woolman  
Heinz Lankford  
Charlotte Birsinger  
Ann Greiner  
Paul Cort  
Jason McGill  
Lynn Rendler  
Betty Dornan  
Mary Ann Gaspard  
Shirley Butt  
Chris Bradshaw  
David T. McCarthy  
Clare Doherty  
K. Patrick O'Higgins  
Bo Amantite

Jason D. Crowson  
Dennis Dornan  
Kenny Paasch  
Lance Rotting  
Joe Savile  
Fay Hawkins  
Shane Thomas  
Liam Thompson  
Hal Marshall  
Linda Feyder  
Nicole Vargo  
Spiro Cakos  
Bethany Reynolds  
Gary Shows  
Matthew Berman

Kathryn Pinkerton  
James Cheshareck, Sr.  
Aubyn Eakles  
James Cheshareck, Jr.  
Audrey Edwards  
Ida Giacomelli  
Bobbies Boziki  
Linda Chesareck  
Claudia LeGue  
Katrina MacDiarmid  
Albert Kollar  
Viola Kenned  
David Dolberg  
Mohamed Warith



## ***Exclusive - Over 90 Club***

### ***An impressive list!***

Ruth Wood Mullen (98)  
Anna Schwarz (93)  
Jim Kenny  
Lee Christian  
Ruth Mallette (93)  
Alice Helseth (94)  
Jean Moyle Spiersch  
Rena Cairo Gonsalves (94)  
Anne Hanzlik (94)

Lupe Padilla Lopez  
Anita Brougham  
Al McGee (92)  
Reva Ward (91)  
Lloyd Farley (90)  
Oretta Eaton (90\_in August)  
Avis Blanchette (91)  
Mark Gebhart  
Bena Bowles (91)  
Laura Kurtz (90)

Dulcie Johnson (91)  
Louise Hammond (91)  
Goldie Mobley (91)  
Otto Barni (92)  
Maxine Stoddard (90)  
Dorothy Ruthnick (92)  
Steve Wyrick (90)

### ***An even more exclusive club!***

### ***Our 100 YEAR CLUB:***

Bonnie Kirkman (102)

***This Point.....in time***

# CALENDAR

## **GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM AND EAST BAY MODEL ENGINEERS SOCIETY**

900 Dornan Drive, Miller/Knox Regional Park. Interested in Museum Membership? Museum is open to the public Saturdays and Sundays and July 4th and Labor Day noon to 5 pm. Business Meetings and Workshop on Fridays 7-10 PM. 510-234-4884.

## **MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE**

Quality productions, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm, Sunday Matinees at 2:30 pm. Tickets are \$13, cash check or credit card. Reservations and program, 510-232-4031.

Dinner at the Hotel Mac and the play on Thursday, for only \$28. Call 510-232-4031 for reservations.

## **PARENTS, RESOURCES AND MORE (PRAM)**

Regular meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month from 7-9.110 East Richmond Avenue (The Fieldhouse). For more information call President Diane Anderson at 620-6843.

## **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 issue of TPIT is Friday November 25, 2005.

## **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: Roz Plishner, Prinicipal 510-232-1436.

## **WOMEN'S WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB**

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

*To update or add your organization or event to our calendar, please contact Gary Shows, 510-235-1336, or email him, gary@alkos.com, or send your request to 229 Golden Gate Avenue, Point Richmond, CA 94801*

***This Point.....in time***

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+)	15.00
<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 510-965-0335**  
or  
**email: gary@alkos.com**

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

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#### **Main Contributors to this Issue:**

Gary Shows	Editor
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Don Church/Allan Smith	Historic Photos
Jerry Cerkonowicz	Proof/Information
Pam Wilson	Membership Info
Jean Reynolds	Article
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Alyce Williamson	Article
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Theresa de Valence	Article
Margaret Morkowski	Article
Ellen Gailing	Photos
Tom Butt	Article
Andrew Butt	Information

#### **Phone Numbers**

Mid Dornan	510-234-5334
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Visit our website

**PointRichmondHistory.org**

*Thanks ALKO office supply for hosting our site*

Richmond Museum of History	510-235-7387
Red Oak Victory Information	510-235-7387
Rosie the Riveter Park	510-232-5050

Point Richmond History Association  
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