

THIS POINT.... in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

www.PointRichmondHistory.org

Vol. XXIX No. 1

June, July, August, 2010

\$3.00

The Richmond Natatorium



Spectacular!



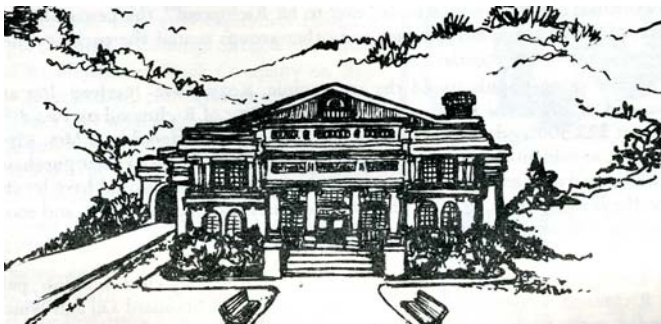
*PRHA archive photo #0432-
Stone, enhanced by Thomas
Mercer-Hursh*

Celebrating Our New Plunge!

Financed by a bond issue, the Richmond Natatorium (aka The Plunge) opened for business in 1926 with grand ceremonies as a “state of the art” swimming pool. For the next 70 years it was a destination for thousands of area residents to get together and have good, healthy fun together. Unfortunately it closed in 1997 when it was deemed to be unsafe in the event of an earthquake.

Fortunately, there were enough good people around who were determined to ***Save The Plunge*** and started a trust to do just that. And they did. Thirteen years after it closed and eighty four years after it opened as 1926 “state of the art” swimming pool it opens again as today’s “state of the art” swimming pool.

Thank you to all of you in the Save the Richmond Plunge Trust and all of those many people who made this beautiful swimming pool a reality. A special thank you to leaders Architect Todd Jersey, Rosemary Corbin, June Albonico and Sandi Genser-Maack.



From the President

By Mid Dornan

We thank *Symphonie Restaurant* in Point Richmond for making available space on Sunday, May 23, 2010, for our Point Richmond History Annual Meeting when the Community Center wasn't open. Because of the then limited time, our meeting was brief to allow our speaker, June Albonico, member of Save the Plunge Trust and longtime popular swim instructor, to discuss the recent Plunge renovation. Everyone was then invited to tour the still-under-construction and soon-to-open Plunge. Our apologies to those who were inconvenienced.

The Plunge is the jewel of the Point and brings us great pride!

Contents of this Issue

From the President	1
Members	2
Editor's Notes	3
A-Mid Trivia	4
Church News	5
WWIC News	10
Out and About Town	11
Mercer-Hursh Photo Gallery	14
Masquer's Playhouse Review	16
Meeting Report	18
Mid Dornan's Award	19
Wm. Thompson "Little Memories....."	22
Pat's Plaque Report	24
Birthdays	25
90's Club	26
Deaths	27
Calendar	28



The Plunge on its way to greatness Photo by Thomas Mercer Hursh

Thank you members for your renewal:

Evan and Lydia Jahromi Family

Doreen & Peter Minkwitz**

East Bay Brass Foundry**

Toni Cannizzaro

Lynne Erskine

Muriel C. Clausen

Seth Fenton Family

Laverne Rentfro Woolman

Frank and Dean Smith Family

Jeff Lee and Janice Cook Family

Thomas Kenny

**Jack Shoemaker and Jane Vandenburg
Family**

First Church of Christ, Scientist**

Billie Bonham Shaw

George L. Williams

David and Elana Dolberg**

Michael Lambton

Pat Houck

Beverly Bartram

Donald Amantite

Helene Frosini

Diane Diani

Virginia W. Smith

Stephen A Wyrick

Hazel D. Tawney

Viola Kennedy

Victor Morales Family

John Papadakis

Jessie West

Gilda B. Markarian

Michelle Healy**

Patricia Pearson

George and Janie Carroll

Francis L. Smith

IlaMay Dein

Sonny Jackson

And a warm welcome to these new members

Louis Stockdale

Linda Hudock

* Gift Membership

**Special Member, *Thank You!*

Thank You!

Santa Fe Market and Point Richmond Market

For selling

“THIS POINT.....in time”

For us

Museum Hours:

Wednesday 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Thursday 11:30 - 2:00 pm

*Thanks to the Volunteers who open and
close our history museum two days each
week.*

- **Betty Dornan**
- **Bruce and Ann Bartram**
- **Pat Pearson**
- **Mid Dornan**
- **Bonnie Jo Cullison**
- **Susan Brooks**
- **Anita Christiansen**
- **Sonja Darling**
- **Margaret Morkowski**

The Cover:

***Richmond Natatorium photo by Thomas
Mercer-Hursh.***

Editor's Notes

Gary Shows (510-235-1336)

I was so impressed by our tour of the Plunge that I decided that it was appropriate to dedicate this issue to celebrating our new renovated swimming pool.

This issue includes my last article from Dr. William Thompson. I have now reprinted all of his work and plan now to put them together in one publication.

My usual gratitude to our regular contributors who are the heart and soul of this newsletter.

I would like to include my thank you to **Symphonie Restaurant** for "taking us in" so that we could have our Annual General Meeting.

Have a wonderful Summer!

The next issue will be September/October and its deadline is August 20, 2010.

Thank to the last issue newsletter assembly crew:

Marcelina Smith
Ann Bartram
Bruce Bartram
Pam Wilson
Mid Dornan
Mary Crosby
Bonnie Jo Cullison
Sonja Darling
Pat Pearson
Jerry Cerkowicz
Gary Shows



Thank You! *Our Special Supporters!*

History Makers

Doug & Rosemary Corbin
Kathe Kiehn
Transcept Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Christopher Spencer

Corporate Sponsor

Timeworks Inc. Clock Company
Stephanie, Patti & Stephen Kowalski
First Church of Christ, Scientist

History Preservers:

Royce Ong
John A. Thiella & Rosa T. Casazza
Edward J. McGarvey
Gilda Markarian
Kevin, Renee & Griffin Knee
Jean & John Knox
Sandi Genser-Maack & Lynn Maack
Thomas Mercer-Hursh & Theresa de Valencé
John & Nancy Mengshol
Donna Wilson
Linda Andrew-Marshall
Margaret Morkowski
Patricia Dornan
Bob & Ellie Strauss
Norm Hantzsche
Maurice A. Doherty
Michelle Healy



A-Mid Trivia

Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Q: Which sting is the most painful, that of the hornet or that of the yellow jacket?

ANSWER at end of Trivia

Listen and silent have the same letters.

The week of May 10, 2010, Kathy Forbes Sanchez of Crockett, Cynthia Forbes of Lakeport, and Debbie Forbes Miller of Oklahoma met in Lake Tahoe to visit with their sister, Judy Forbes of Christchurch, New Zealand. Joining them was their special friend Brenda McKinley from Richmond.

Mechanics Bank has passed the torch of its family leadership of the regional bank to a new generation of executives. Dianne Daiss "D.D" Felton, 54, was elected chairman of the board and E. Michael Downer, 45, was elected vice chairman. Both are fourth-generation descendants of E.M. Downer, founder of the 105 -year-old Mechanics Bank

Graduated from their 'play groups' and now ready to celebrate coming-of-age 21 this summer are Michael and Aaron Marshall, Madison Bradshaw, Sean Nakamura and Jamie Hirano. Congratulations!

Our prayers are with Crest Avenue neighbors Anita Christensen and Mary Highfill, wishing you both healing...

The storefront flower boxes are just another reason to walk and enjoy the charm of walking in the Point business area.

Lexophiles (lover of words)

With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.

A backward oet writes invresse.

a will is a dead giveaway.

Your sleep may get better this summer as BNFS is scheduled to begin improvements on the crossing at Cutting Blvd to be completed by the end of July, 2010. That is if the equipment needed is shipped by the end of May. Upon completion, the City can establish a quiet zone by September 2010.

Opportunity may knock only once but temptation leans on the doorbell.

-unknown

Edna Hathaway has been honored as Resident of the Month in Hanford for her piano and organ playing for the residents. 91 -year -old Edna also goes to her Bridge Club two times a month and recently went to Fresno to see the play, *New Wrinkles*, with a 65 year old cast.

What is the lure of a grandchild? Every grandparent knows which is why Karen Fenton flew to the East Coast to spend a few days with her son Seth's 8 and 3 year old grandchildren. And, then brought eight-year-old Andrew home with her to spend more special time together.

Sight: After a recent rain left a big water puddle at the bottom of Tewksbury Avenue, a small boy, about 4 years old, was wistfully standing beside the puddle with his fishing pole tossed into the middle of the water. (great Ad for a camera cell phone)

When you are making a presentation and someone yawns, take it as a compliment. It doesn't mean that person is rude, tired or bored. According to Andrew Gallup, a researcher of yawning at New York's University at Birmhamton, it indicates that we yawn in response to increased

brain or body temperature, yawning cools down our brains so they function better. Yawn! Yawn!

What is the worth of a first tooth? The Tooth Fairy rate seems to vary by region and circumstances. If you live on the East Coast or in New York the going rate the Tooth Fairy leaves is about \$5. In most other parts of the country \$1 seems to be the norm. Often there is a bonus if there is a lot of blood, or a trip to the dentist is required. Also, this is true for a first tooth. If the tooth fairy is late she has been known to leave a couple dollars for nights missed.

ANSWER: The hornet's the worst. Next is the wasp's, then the honey bees after that the yellow jacket's.

WASHINGTON AVENUE AUTO TEST

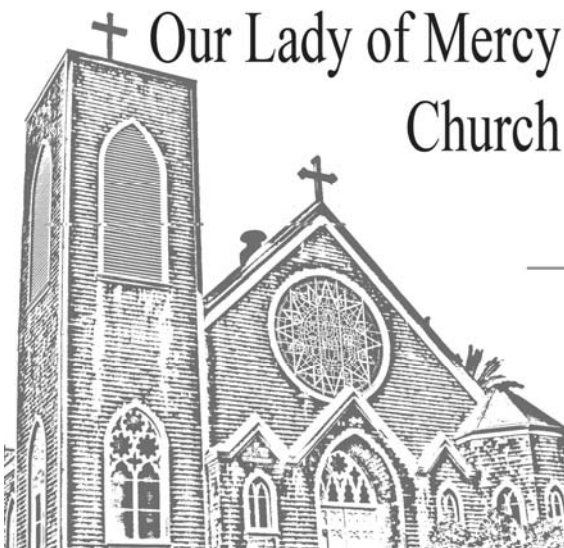
At one time, Washington Avenue was an automobile testing street. From the bottom of Richmond and Washington Avenues, to the top of Washington was the test for automobiles. For an auto to pass the test, had to start from a standing start in high gear and make it all the way to the top of the hill, in high gear. The cars that made it to the top in the best time got the best recognition. Some cars did not make it to the top!

The Hudson Super Six had the best performance, second was the four cylinder Essex built by Hudson. So car owners used to brag how well their cars could perform on Washington Avenue

I don't know how today's cars compare with the old cars.

Bernard Bernes - in 1996

Church News



By Dee Rosier
510-232-1387

drosier@sbcglobal.net

Aside from the late rain, should you need proof that it is indeed spring, walk in front of Father's residence and admire the diverse color of his rose garden. It is a known fact that Father enjoys viewing his roses blooming in his garden and does not pick them. Not knowing this, someone attempted picking some, but was caught. We do know that an exception was recently made when Anna Schwarz celebrated her 98th birthday and Father sent her a bouquet.

We are seeking local business that would be interested in advertising in the weekly bulletin. The fee would be nominal, since we only seek recovery of funds that would enable us to cover the cost of paper and printing.

Bids for the project to replace the shingles are in and, as can be expected, each one is expensive. Contrary to old pictures, it appeared there was wood siding beneath them.

The Parish Council was in agreement that a section be removed to view what was under the shingles. On the west side there is plywood and

on the southern side the original diagonal sheathing, which is very substantial. The contract will be done in two parts, thus we will not deplete our savings. Should the decision be made to move ahead with this project, the diocese would have to issue their approval, which Father will elicit. There is no doubt that the shingles are in need of replacement. Parishioners are urged to view and offer their opinion.

Father is delivering copies of the filmed taped interviews to the national archives in Lithuania and then off to spend some leisure time in Switzerland. During his absence, Father Nick Reina will be here.

Father recently had the honor of firing the gun to start the Bob Peckham marathon.

Pancake breakfasts continue on the third Sunday of each month. The generous servings prompt the return of many. Susan Brooks and her helpers continue to staff the kitchen. Raffle prizes are always in demand – should you have a donation, please call Susan. Thanks to Edwina Murray who runs the raffle and her visits to yard sales that add to our prizes.

A bit of history about words. We all have ushers in our churches, theaters, etc. They show people in, but what does the word mean? Just the opposite. The Latin “uscire” means to show people OUT. So originally, ushers were bouncers. In the old church rules, a thousand years ago, they were described as individuals chosen to guarantee that people could pray in peace and, if there were disruptive ruffians, the ushers should be men who could “explain the situation to them”

The daytime bible study group will not meet during the summer months, but will resume in the fall.

A recent uncomfortable moment at Sunday Mass has been resolved. A disturbed person entered the church during Mass and disrupted services. It was an uncomfortable moment for those in attendance. Thanks to the quick thinking of several men, the person was escorted out of the church. A restraining order has been issued and hopefully he will abide by it.

First Communion will be administered in September, and a class is in preparation. Parents

and guardians should contact Father. If the child has not yet been baptized, the preparation is for both sacraments.

We welcome Josephine and Armando Orozco back to Pt. Richmond. They will soon open “El Sol,” a Mexican restaurant. We wish them much success. Josephine is sister to Linda Drake, Mary Ruiz and Shirley Martinez.

Condolences to the family of Helen Swinton. Since there was no newspaper notice of Helen’s passing, it was with sadness that many of us did not attend her funeral services.

Condolences to the family of Bernadette Bisio. Bernadette was a native of Crockett and had a recall of days gone by in the Sugar City. Her husband, Claude was born in Pt. Richmond.

Michael and Katherine Workman were winners of the garden statuary donated for the annual stroll.

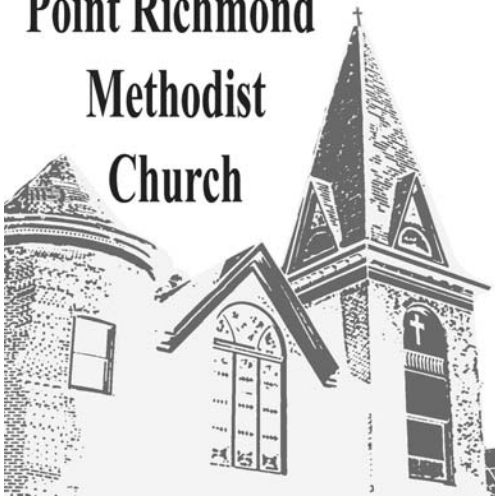
Her Imperial Highness Maria, Grand Duchess of Russia, the heiress to the Imperial throne recently visited San Francisco. A highlight of her visit was a sail aboard the Nehemiah which is home ported in Richmond/Marina Bay. Along with the Archbishop of the Russian Orthodox Church and other members of her Council, Her Royal Highness, who is an experienced sailor, boarded the 57-foot classical wooden ketch and enjoyed a voyage on San Francisco Bay. At one point she even took the helm. The Imperial standard was flown and she signed and presented it to Rod and Joni Phillips, owners of the Nehemiah.

Our support to the local Souper Kitchen continues. Our Lady of Mercy volunteers serve on the 4th Monday of each month. A special collection is taken on the 5th Sunday of each month. Connie Healy recently made a generous offering in memory of her husband Jack. If you are interested in joining the volunteer group, call Edwina Murray at 233-7529.

Get well wishes to Dody Perry who endured yet another surgery on her hand. Continue to remember in your prayers: Al Frosini, John Gerk, Frankie Mello and Bill Smith.

CARRY A HEART THAT NEVER HATES
CARRY A SMILE THAT NEVER FADES
See you in church.

Point Richmond Methodist Church



By Jean Reynolds

510-235-2988

jeanormr@pacbell.net

Easter Morning, April 4, was an especially joyful celebration. Weather initially kept the 8 a.m. worshipers inside, but finally they ventured out into the gusty wind to walk the labyrinth and witness the new spring blooms in the garden. Deby McFadyen made breakfast burritos with help from Mim Drake and Jean Reynolds. Karen Bianchini, Steve Shank, Linda Andrew-Marshall, Mark Ellis, and Lauren McLeod all helped with the breakfast provision, set-up, service or clean up. Jennifer Metz Foster and Kit Eakle played cello and violin at the 11 a.m. service. Heather Damon played percussion. The choir sang two pieces. Congregation members were invited to join the choir for Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus* and at least five crowded into the choir loft to raise the energy and volume levels a notch: Alison Feather, Alice Thompson, Mary Lee Cole, Shirley Butt, and Eileen Johnson. Arpha MacIntyre visited from Reedley, CA. Young MaryAlice Cropsey enjoyed Easter service with her parents, Tammara Plankers and Jim Cropsey; and both grandmothers, Mary Plankers and Sharon Cropsey. Easter egg hunters were not deterred by the wind, and found lots of loot hidden in the courtyard by T. Bunny and her

assistants.

Goldie Mobley attended the worship service on May 2, 2010, and celebrated her ninety-seventh birthday afterward in Friendship Hall. Goldie requested the same menu served at her party last year: if she liked it last year, it would be good this year, too! Daughter Fran Smith, great-granddaughter Frances Brausch, great-great-grandson Manuel Jesus de Navidad and members of Goldie's "church family" shared in the festivities; friend Terry Cullen prepared elegant oven-baked chicken.

Long time church "non-member" Helen Valentine passed away after an automobile accident on May 29. Helen served as church treasurer, United Methodist Women treasurer, pie-baker supreme, candy maker, seamstress, and a quiet presence for loyalty, love and hospitality. The Christmas parties she hosted for the United Methodist Women will long be remembered, and she was unparalleled for sending greeting cards to all in a culture too ready to abandon handwritten communication in favor of digital messages. She would rise at 2:00 or 3:00 a.m. the morning of a church sale to bake pies that our buyers coveted. We had to appoint a crowd manager to keep her from being mobbed at the bake-booth at the church Country Fair. She modeled an ability to focus on her own task at hand, without being distracted by other tasks someone else could handle. It was a pleasure to work with her, and to be her friend. Friends and family held a memorial service at the church June 5, followed by a pie and coffee reception. Along with some of the usual bakers, David Vincent and Mike Carnall each contributed a pie they baked to show their appreciation of Helen. A future celebration will include more of Helen's out-of-town family members on July 17 at 1:00 p.m. at Community Park, Rose Drive and Dempsey Drive, Benicia.

Fran Smith and Jean Reynolds were International Observers in the Philippines for the newly automated elections held May 10. Eighty-six people from eleven countries attended, with at least as many people from the Philippines. Observers divided into teams and dispersed throughout the country on Election Day. Fran went to the Payatas

region near Manila where people glean from a mountain of garbage. One of the polling places she visited had 15,000 registered voters assigned to one school. Hundreds of voters stampeded to their precincts when the gates opened at 7:00 a.m. People waited in line up to twelve hours to vote. The night before the election Fran slept on a concrete floor with just a woven mat and pillow to soften the unyielding surface. On election day, Jean spoke with a candidate in Northern Mindanao. He received threatening mail that labeled him a communist, had his campaign signs removed in the night, paid voters cash to vote for him, and his running mate was shot at twice. Voters had little privacy and party monitors could easily see how they voted. Recommendations from the international observers will be compiled and sent to the Philippine government. Democracy advocates want new policies and better enforcement of current laws to eliminate election fraud and coercion. Foreign citizens and governments can put pressure on the Philippine government to hold elections that are more fair and honest.

The church had a table in the street for the **Point Richmond Stroll** held on May 12, the first day of the Farmers' Market for the season. Bethany Reynolds, Kristi Johnson, Russ Johnson, and Amber Estrada staffed the table, gave free cookies and brownies and signed up people for a free pie drawing. The following Sunday morning, the children drew winning names. People volunteered to bake eleven pies that morning: it was a new record!

We had two yard sales in May: the Junktique sale on May 1; and Junktique II for the Masquers' Community Yard Sale, May 31. Besides countless tables of merchandise outside and downstairs, the kitchen offered fresh minestrone soup made by Florence Wilson and Doreen Leighton, chili from JoAnn Bray, hotdogs, and pie by the slice. On Memorial Day, the basement was open and the kitchen sold pancake breakfast. We had to make-do without Helen Valentine mixing batter, but she was with us in spirit. Norm Reynolds worked the griddle, Bethany Reynolds ably sold and delivered

breakfasts, and Lauren McLeod set up, bussed tables, and attended to details. Fran Smith chaired the events with help from Betty Graham. Bill Thompson, Steve Shank, and Jonathan Swett picked up items from donors. Many people worked one or both sales. Everyone worked together for a couple of great fund-raisers. We may be able to make our budget in 2010!

In June, Helen Wysham encouraged us all to bring cotton socks she will send to our troops in Afghanistan. Soaring temperatures require frequent changes of socks during the day, and some soldiers say the standard issue wool blend sox are not as comfortable as cotton. Marcia Waldbillig says it is a mission we could call "saving soles".

Heard and Seen: We welcomed new members Jonathan Swett and Diane Frary on April 18. Claudia Russell and Bruce Kaplan offered special music at worship on March 28. Their band, **Claudia Russell and the Folk Unlimited Orchestra**, played a well-attended, easy-to-enjoy concert at the church that evening. On April 11, the **Angel Choir Concert** combined the voices of alums Heather Damon, David Reynolds, Liam Thompson, and Bethany Reynolds with current members Kelsey Tostenson, Lillian Karl, and Sarah Thompson. Dan Damon and Christine Silva-Netto directed. Alice Thompson and Jean Reynolds added middle harmonies where needed. Mothers received beautiful corsages on Mothers' Day courtesy of **Patricia Dornan** and delivered by the young ones in worship that day. Mid Dornan and Andrew Butt each received Historic Preservation Awards in Richmond on May 24. Mid's award was for her work with the Point Richmond History Association and the history book she wrote about the First United Methodist Church. Andrew was honored for the design work he did to restore the bank building on Washington and West Richmond Ave. **Kit Eakle** played violin at worship on June 6: the offertory was so spirited, we wanted to keep passing the plate so we could listen longer.

On the Calendar:

August 2 – 6, Vacation Bible School: 9:00

a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Children ages three to grade six meet for a week to hear stories, sing songs, do amazing art, have snacks, and play games. Helen Wysham promises to tell us all about Heifer International for our outreach project. On Friday everyone is invited for lunch. To sign up, call Jean Reynolds, 510-235-2988, or email sweetheart05@mac.com.

June 20, Sunday, Fathers' Jazz Day Special 11:00 a.m. features the Dan Damon quartet, soloists Gill Stanfield and Bethany Reynolds, and other musical surprises.

Friday, June 25, 7:30 p.m. Acoustic Music Concert Series, Dan Navarro and Sabrina and Craig. Read more about them at dannavarro.com and sabrinaandcraig.com Suggested admission is \$12.50.

Sundays, Summer Months

10:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship includes music, children's time, scripture, sermon, and prayer

During the Summer Months, Children's Sunday school, Angel Choir, and Joyful Noise Choir all take a break.

Visit the church website at: <http://www.pointrichmond.com/methodist> to see the current calendar listings.



Beginning June 16th, Arts of Point Richmond will meet 7:00 to 9:00 pm every third Wednesday of each month (except December) at the Point Richmond Community Center, 139 Washington Avenue.

POINT METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

Mid Dornan

Church history is rich with contributions of women. One church group in the 1920s was the SOCIAL LEAGUE of the First Methodist Episcopal Church whose history is reflected in their minutes printed below and taken from the canvass covered, red leather cornered notebook which cost \$1.15. The minutes are printed as written. This is the 80th installment.

FEB. 19, 1929

The Social League met at the M.E. Church parlors with Mrs. Burdick and Mrs. Gray hostesses. The meeting opened by repeating the Lord's Prayer led by our Pres Mrs. Burdick. There were 16 members present. Minutes of previous meeting read and approved. Election of Officers was held, Mrs C.B. Jones, Pres. Mrs J.C. Hill, 1st Vice Pres. Mrs Daisy Jenkins 2nd V. Pres. Mrs. E.D. Gray Sec. Mrs R.W. Kitto, Tres. Moved and seconded that new book be bot of League for Sec. (sic)

Dues

Mrs. J.J. Meece	.60
Plate collection	2.00
Use of Silver, Mrs. Brothers	-.50
	3.10

Old Bal 11.02

+3.10

14.12

Cleaning bill/Mrs Scsofield - 1.50

New Bal 12.62

Mrs. G. Shaw

12.62 - in bank

14.00 - ??

18.62 - luncheon

16.20 - candy

2.40 - dues

1.30 - plate offering

E.D. Gray

WWIC, Est. 1908

Jane Vandenburg

*Womens Westside Improvement Club
Established 1908*

When we met on April 6 to celebrate the spring holidays, we sat at festive tables decorated for Easter. Altha Humphrey, chair of the decorating committee, brought her collection of rabbits – stuffed and carved and ceramic. The other hostesses were Nancy Allen Burns, Alice Zeier, Helen Wysham, and Martha Bielawski. The Club held a silent auction as a fundraiser, which was very successful. Connie Lompa gave her report on the crepe myrtle trees on the town square.

On May 4 we met to celebrate Cinco de Mayo, helped by Josephine Orozco, who – with her husband Armando – is opening El Sol, a new family-owned Mexican restaurant at 101 Park Place, grand opening Wednesday, June 2. The Orozcos have had El Sol in Rodeo for the past 28 years.

For our luncheon the church hall was ablaze with color, decorated by Linda Drake, Josephine's oldest sister. (The Calvin girls grew up in the Point. Hostesses for this event included Linda Newton, Alyce Williamson, Anita Christianson, and Mary Highfill.

Josephine brought homemade chips and salsa as well as delicious Lumpia Santa Fe, a fusion adapted from her own Filipino heritage, made with fresh, local ingredients and Southwestern flavors.

We also welcomed speaker Michael Thornton, regional manager for the Pacific Coast Farmers' Markets, who advised us on what to expect in our own market this year open every Wednesday afternoon from 4 until 8, from May through October. He spoke of the great economic benefit to the brick and mortar businesses by influx of hundreds of people who come to town for the market who would not otherwise be in our

downtown. Hidden City Café is staying open to serve dinner on Wednesdays because of the crowds from the market.

Michael remarked that this is one of the truly democratic American institutions, serving everyone regardless of age, class, color, race or ethnicity, gender or marital status. Of the Point's approximate 7000 residents, 15 percent are currently visiting our farmers' market. Some of the new merchants this year are Olivera Egg Ranch, whose eggs are organic, Nurenberger sausages (whose sauerkraut is amazing!) and Pappy Cakes whose scones we will all be trying soon.

Elections were held, the slots filled in this manner: Connie Lompa, President; Nancy Struck, Vice President; and Diane Marie, Secretary. Sonja Darling will continue as Treasurer. I will keep on writing this column for *This Point in Time*.

On June 1 we had Hat Day, celebrating the end of the year with a summer-themed salad fundraiser. The outgoing officers -- who served as hostesses -- included first vice president Linda Newton; second vice president, Connie Lompa; secretary, Susan Brooks; treasurer Sonja Darling; Norma Wallace, chair of the Sunshine Committee.

We celebrated everyone's dedication and hard work, thanking Margaret Morkowski especially with a tote sack for shopping at the farmers' market she's worked so hard to bring to us, along with a cookbook collection for the great dishes she's going to make now that she'll have a little time for herself.

Thank you, Margaret, for your five years of service to our club. Your tireless efforts and energy on behalf of Point Richmond and our community are an inspiration to all of us.

Always thoughtful, Altha Humphrey made certain each of the outgoing officers was given a bouquet of flowers.





Out and About Town

Margaret Morkowski (510) 234-4219



You can tell it is almost summer in town, things are BUZZING.



The Point Richmond Farmers' Market has returned to the Point and it's great. **The Point Richmond Farmers' Market takes place on Park Place every Wednesday from 4 pm - 8 pm.** The Market's farmers, cooks, bakers, artists, gardeners and our local businesses welcome you to the Point. The first Wednesday of each month is "Kids Day" with special activities for the young ones. There is live music every week, BBQ, Shaved Ice, Baked Potatoes and Kettle Corn too. Mike Thornton of the Pacific Coast Farmers' Market Association is the new market manager and the Point Richmond Business Association is the local sponsor. Please call Margi Cellucci at 237-0101 for more information.



Next up in the Summer Fun is the **Point Richmond Summer Concert Series.** This year the Point Richmond Music committee will be hosting 5 Friday-Night Concerts from **5:30 pm – 8:00 pm.** Come and join us on Park Place on **Friday Nights July 9, August 13, September 10 and September 24.** Set aside some time before and after each concert to visit the stores and restaurants in town. At the same time make sure and visit the **Arts of Point Richmond** Exhibit in the Community Center. Bring all your friends and enjoy the art and music. Call Andrew Butt at 236-7435 for more details.



Point Richmond's historic **Our Lady of Mercy Church** will be continuing their monthly **Pancake Breakfast** fund raisers. If you enjoy pancakes, eggs, sausages, bacon, fruit, coffee, tea and juice stop by the Church Hall. The donation is

\$8.00 and we serve breakfast from **8:30 am to 12 Noon** on the third Sunday of the Month. Come and join us on **Sundays - June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19 and October 17.** Call 232-1843 for information.



Thursday, May 13th was a historic day... the contractors restoring the Plunge began to fill the pool with water. It was really exciting. The 100 or so people who came to watch ranged in age from a few months to more than 90 years of age. One lady who was there on Opening Day in 1926 at age 6 was here again on May 13th. When they turned on the fire hose to fill the plunge a huge cheer went-up. It was a grand feeling. **Opening-day ceremonies for the Plunge are to be scheduled for mid-July.** Please call Rosemary Corbin at 235-5779 for information on Save the Plunge Trust. If you are interested in joining a USA children's or master's Swim Team after the Plunge opens, please call Bart Hackworth of Richmond Swims at 235-0157.



In preparation of the Plunge opening, the **City of Richmond has paved West Richmond Avenue** in front of the Plunge and they are working on Garrard Avenue and Dornan Drive. The crews have done a nice job. The smooth streets make it a pleasure to drive through town.



Altha Humphrey of the Womens Westside Improvement Club will be submitting an originally designed garment for judging and exhibit at the **Marin County Fair.** The fair takes place every year during the first week of July. Last year Altha won a blue ribbon for one of her creations - taking first place in her category. Way to go Altha. Good luck again this year. Altha organizes the **Knit-and-**

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

Such group which meets at the Point Richmond Community Center from **1:45 pm to 3:45 pm the first Wednesday** of the month. Please call 233-6881 for more information.



School is out, but the week before everyone went home for the summer, the **4th grade classes from Washington School** took one last field-trip with a walking-tour of the historic Point Richmond Business District. California 4th graders State-wide, study California history and so a tour of the historic places where Richmond began fits right into their curriculum. Pat Pearson and I were the guides for Mrs. Sullivan's and Mr. Brandow's classes and we all had a great time. **Tours of Historic Point Richmond** is a service offered by the Point Richmond History Association. If you would like to arrange a tour, just give us call at 234-5334 or 234-4219.



This year more than 125 children in grades 1-6 at **Washington Elementary School** finished the 5 assignments for the **Many Hands Project - Spirit of Leadership Program**. This year's theme was Botany and so we arranged this year's field trip for

82 of the children in grades 2-6 to take place at the San Francisco Botanical Garden on May 20th. Not to be left out, on May 21st more than 40 first graders in the program built scarecrows, created water color paintings of flowers, held worms and planted plants, all in one of the Washington School Gardens. One little first grade girl said it was "... the best day in my life." I think her enthusiasm was shared by all. Both days were a lot of fun. For more information about the Many Hands Project at Washington School please call me at 234-4219.

As you can tell, the place is a buzz. Have a great summer.

Search **PointRichmond.com** for more up-to-date information on "What's Out and About" in Point Richmond.



Filling the pool for the first time ceremonies.

Photo by Thomas Mercer-Hursh

Ford Not Far From the its Birthplace

Long time Point Richmond resident Malcom Bury is proud of his 1932 Ford. He moved to the Point in 1975 but he has driven his classic old car since 1952. He inherited the vehicle from his uncle who had bought it brand new and it was his transportation throughout his high school years, his years in the Navy and through his apprenticeship days. The classy old Ford is now retired and is used for enjoyment.... that is chauffeuring friends and grand children and “joy riding”.

What makes this vehicle really special is that it was built at our newly renovated Richmond Ford factory building (now known as the Craneway Pavilion). The five window coupe was the first V-8 year and it still has a stock flathead engine. In fact it is mostly made of stock or original parts and Malcom says that it still “runs great”

Thank you Malcom for sharing this. It makes us wonder if there are more Fords in the area that were built here. If any of our readers have one, please let us know how your long time local resident automobile is doing.



*Newly renovated Craneway
Pavilion (Ford Plant)*

An Alternative Plaque Idea

I attended a convention in Nevada City, California, as a member of the Historic Advisory Committee for the City of Richmond. During lunch break I walked around town and looked in the shop windows. Most of them had an enlarged photo of their location and original building and a card with a description of the building. The pictures and cards were very well done, and I knew our team of Gary Shows and Thomas Mercer- Hursh could more than equal the presentation.

This display would not be too expensive and could unify the buildings in the Historical Downtown area. This program would not eliminate the bronze plaque program but it would be an affordable alternative to label all and points of interest for walking tours of the downtown area.

I would appreciate some feed back on this proposal from our readers.

Pat Pearson 510-234-2532 ppearson174@hotmail.com

Photo Gallery

Photos by Thomas Mercer-Hursh, Ph.D.



The new plunge has 170 windows, 132 of them open for light and ventilation.

Awesome!



*The first of 320,000 gallons of water it took
to fill the new pool.*



*The new filled pool is in pristine condition in
this early tour.*

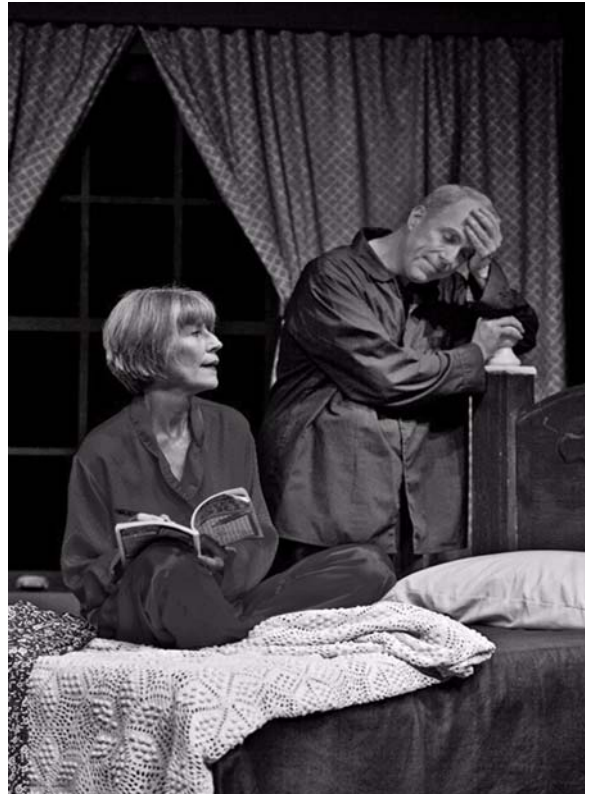
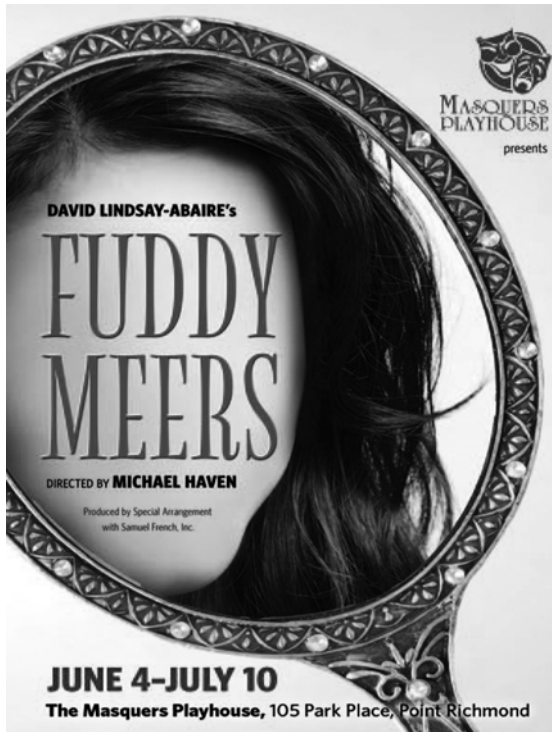
FUDDY MEERS

at the Masquers

A review by Theresa de Valencé, TdeV@bstw.com

Fuddy Meers, like the funny mirrors in a fun house carnival, is a wacky comedy. I'll tell you right now, I neither liked nor understood it. That's not to say the acting was poor; the plot and dialogue are just not my kind of humour. At intermission, I did a quick temperature test of the audience and discovered we were fairly evenly split: fully half of the respondents thought the play was side-splittingly funny. Certainly the audience howled throughout. Actually, I had another litmus test: I asked how well the interviewee liked Monty Python. Those that do, did; and those that don't, didn't. I rest my case.

First performed in 1999, *Fuddy Meers* was written by **David Lindsay-Abare** and is directed by **Michael Haven**. Claire, an amnesiac, wakes up each morning remembering nothing; so her family must



teach her who she is, every day. When she is kidnapped, her adventures really begin!

The set is a tribute to **Dave Wilkerson**, a long-time Masquer set designer who died last December. It's a complex affair, but cycles through two houses, the countryside, and over state lines. The set changes in marvellous ways: fluid and charming like a puzzle toy.

Claire (**Sondra Putnam**, *photo above, left; photo right, centre*) is the brightest character in the play; she has a sunny personality and wears the only quasi-costume: a pair of silky, brilliant red pyjamas. She flits across the stage, landing like a bird—her shiny hair swirls like a top coming to rest. Claire progresses from absolute innocence (where she remembers nothing), through developing memories, until she is able to make judgements about other characters. The transitions are smooth. She's very refreshing—direct, amiable, and ready for anything.

Richard (**George W. Adams Jr.**, *photo left, right*) is a dark horse. He begins as a solicitous, nurturing man; at the root of his person is a lone man, soldiering on in the face of life's troubles—a laudable stance. However, I didn't react well to Richard—his body language suggested to me that he's duplicitous. We learn he is a reformed man and we get flashbacks to an old story. He becomes someone new—and then he morphs again. He's an interesting character—but does one grow to admire him?

Kenny (**Michael Garrett McDonald**) demonstrates a perfect picture of rebelling youth—full of seething hostility and swearwords. We learn early in the play that he's angry, though the reason for his angst does not become clear until much later. When Claire is abducted, he and Richard give chase to the kidnappers—and it is here Kenny's character expands and his performance elevates to the magnificent.

Limping Man seems like a rôle designed for **Ted Bigornia** (*photo right, right*). He's crazy, of course, in the way that Ted often brings to his rôles—but in this play, he's keeping tight control of strong emotions just under the surface. The control slips now and then giving us a flash of the turmoil within. It's an incredible performance.

Funnily enough there's also a spot where Limping Man becomes precious, soft and loving. And I fall in love. I never would have guessed it.

Gertie (**Jo Lusk**, *photo right, left*) gives a commanding performance. She has been left with a disability resulting from a stroke, and has trouble speaking. In spite of this disadvantage, Gertie is a key player in Claire's understanding of who she is, as well as our understanding of what's going on in the play. Her actions and expressions are clear as a bell—almost completely without intelligible words. Well done!

Millet (**David Irving**) is having fun behaving like an overgrown child with numerous silly antics.



Definitely he wins my Actor Most Enjoying Himself award. His shenanigans are preposterous and the audience clearly loves him.

Heidi (**Bonnie Lafer**) is a misfit. I had trouble determining how believable she was because the plot is so bizarre; in the beginning she is a surprisingly incompetent character. However, the longer she was on stage, the more credible I found her behaviour, though it becomes clear she is completely deluded. Heidi ranges from bullying to pleading. And she delivers some priceless expressions.

Author Lindsay-Abare says this "Ideally, I'd like the audience to approach the world of Fuddy Meers the way my main character does: as a totally game, fun-loving amnesiac with few judgements and no preconceived notions of what to expect."

So, you've heard it from the writer's mouth. If you like slapstick, especially with a dark twist, then you'll love this play.

Theresa de Valencé publishes reviews of Masquers and other community theatre performances. Subscription to the electronic list is free, send an email with "subscribe" in the subject to Theresa@ReviewsByTdeV.com.

PRHA General Meeting

May 23, 2010

Gary Shows

About 40 people arrived to our Annual Meeting to find that the City of Richmond employee charged with opening the Community Center did not show. After a twenty minute wait we were invited to use the Symphonie Restaurant's facilities for our meeting. We are grateful to Symphonie for this thoughtful and timely invitation.

President Mid Dornan chaired the meeting. Because we had a time schedule to meet with the folks giving us the Plunge tour, she had to rush and abbreviate the meeting. After the organizational work was done we were treated to a talk by June Albonico, "Save the Plunge" activist and long time Richmond swimming instructor.

June Albonico says that when the Plunge opened in 1926 it's first lifeguard was Ralph Kendricks who served almost 30 years and the first cashier was Georgia Johnson who served 35 years. They used to rent bathing suites, the women had red suites and the men had blue suites.

During the 1930's they used to give out free passes to help people who were hurting because of the Depression. In the 1950's the dressing rooms changed. They did away with the upstairs dressing room and took the doors off of the women's dressing room and they supplied metal baskets to check your clothes in (in the 1960's that was changed to bags). The first map on the back wall was painted by a famous black artist, she did not remember the name.

In the 1960's the wall deteriorated very bad and was scraped clean. Synchronized swimming was very popular at the time and very elaborate shows were being put on so the Taj Mahol was then painting on the back was as a synchronized swimming backdrop. They added flowers, trees

and curtains to go with elaborate costumes. Synchronized swimming was very popular.

In the 1970's unrest caused all kinds of problems. To the credit to the city they kept prices down and that brought lots of swimmers. One teacher was likely to have 15 or 20 students. One swimming session was likely to have 3 or 4 hundred kids and the diving boards were extremely popular and at times caused big problems for us. In the summertime the kids would pay 10 cents a lesson, they would line up on the sidewalk to get in. The diving boards deteriorated and in the 1980's they were closed and in the 1990's they were taken down. You would be amazed how much this caused attendance to drop off.

A meeting that at first seemed destined to become a disaster, turned out just fine as the tour of the Plunge was wonderful. Attendees were treated to a one time view of a pristine, state of the art swimming facility that is destined to become an important East Bay destination.



Waiting for the meeting.....photo by Gary Shows

Mildred Dornan, City of Richmond's Historic Preservation Award Recipient, May 24, 2010

by Patricia Pearson

If you've lived in Point Richmond for any length of time, and worked on any community project, you will have worked on it with Mid Dornan.

I have the honor of introducing to you Mildred Dornan, winner of the City of Richmond Historical Preservation Award. Mrs. Dornan received two separate Nominations for this award.

One for her work as a Point Richmond History Preserver from the Point Richmond History Association authored by Donna Roselius and Bonny Jo Cullison.

The other nomination was for writing The Point Faithful, the first 100 years of the First United Methodist Church. This nomination was submitted by Reverend Dan Damon of the First United Methodist Church of Point Richmond and by Margaret Morkowski of the Womens West Side Improvement Club.

The nominations were consolidated and Mildred Dornan was chosen to receive an Historic

Preservation Award for 2010. For those of you who have visited the tiny History Association Building, in Point Richmond, you will realize there is room in the building for only one award anyway.

Mildred Wieting was born in Norfolk, Nebraska. Norfolk is famous not only as the birthplace of Mildred but also (as she loved to tell us,) the birthplace of Johnnie Carson. Mildred completed high school in Norfolk and upon graduation decided to attend college in California. She had friends in Pasadena, so she chose to attend Pasadena Junior College. She may have had hope of being chosen as Queen of the Rose Parade or at least as a Princess. These plans were dashed when the United States entered World War II.

"Mid" (as she became known) joined the work force in Southern California as a clerk with the U S Army. She and a friend decided to correspond with soldiers who were over seas "to cheer the boys". When the war ended and the men returned home, some of them called her and made dates to meet her. It did not take long for her to choose one of them to be her husband. She married Robert Dornan Jr. in Pasadena in 1946 and they returned to his home town, Point Richmond, to make their home.

"Bob's" parents had lived in Point Richmond many years. His mother Trannie Freeman attended grammar school in Point Richmond and Richmond High School. His father, Robert Dornan Sr., came to Point Richmond from Ireland in 1909. They met at a Christmas Party at the First United Methodist Church. They married and continued to live in Point Richmond. They had three children Betty, Robert and Dorothy. Mr. Dornan started The Richmond Supply Company a family business hauling coal and wood and building supplies. in 1912.. Bob joined the business when he returned from the Service and the business continued until 1987, it was the oldest family owned business in



Mild Dornan photo by Thomas Mercer-Hursh

the City of Richmond.

Bob and Mid made their home in Point Richmond and Mid fell in love with the Point immediately. Thus began her devotion to the Point Richmond Methodist Church and the town of Point Richmond.

She and Bob had three daughters, Pat, Kathy and Roberta. When, they started Washington School Mid became active in the P.T.A. She met many people there who are still her friends today. She was President of the P T A and was awarded the highest honor given by the P T A, an Honorary Life Membership.

Meanwhile Bob became Scout master of Troop 111 of the Boy Scouts of America. The troop had begun in Point Richmond in 1915 and was the first Scout Troop in the City of Richmond. Their meetings were in the Methodist Church. Bob served as Scoutmaster for 37 years and Mid became friends with many of the scouts and their families even a second mother to some.

Their daughter, Pat became a teacher and returned to Richmond to teach at Juan Crespi Middle School until her retirement in 2009. Kathy also is a teacher. She is married to Richard Barnes and they have three children Clay, Emmaleigh, and Molly. . Kathy teaches High School. Roberta is a dentist. She is married to Richard Palfino and they have two children Rachael and Robert.

Mid decided to write a book the church history to honor the 100th anniversary of the church in 2000 and to honor her family, the only 5th generation family in the church. She wrote "For 95 years, our family names have appeared throughout Sunday School and church records." She wanted to ensure that her 5 grandchildren would know the family and the church history.

A great deal of research went into this book. In addition to in person interviews and interviews by mail, Mid spent hours at the Richmond Library straining to read the micro-fiche records. At the Richmond Museum of History, the Point Richmond History Association Museum and in the church archives, she reviewed photos, articles, financial records, minutes, and other hard copy

documents. The First United Methodist church was the first church established in Richmond. It has always been an integral part of Richmond's history, Richmond's spirit, and Richmond's humor.

Chapters include: The First Church – "The Cracker Box" (It was also the first school building in Richmond.) Temperance & Social Concern, Our Men (Including the Wars) The Women (The Ladies Aid Poem) "Sunday School, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, & Camp Fire Girls. "(All were the first of their groups to be established in Richmond) Music, Ecumenical Diversity, Our Founding Pioneers, "Stories Errata and Trivia' Recipes, Our Pastors and Our Members.

There are some humorous stories too, one about the death of a lady of ill repute that led to the money to begin building the new church and another about a minister who was asked to do a full immersion baptism, but forgot to check the tidal chart for the bay and ended up slogging through the mud carrying the lady in order to find sufficient water for the immersion.

Historic accounts in the book mention Standard Oil, the Womens Westside Improvement Club, the Richmond Pressed Brick company, The Richmond Supply Company, the Red Light Abatement Bill, the WWII Civil Defense Air Raid Wardens, Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, The Richmond, Police Department, the Richmond Fire Department, Washington School, the City Recreation Department, The flu Epidemic of 1918 and much more.

"The Point Faithful" is a history of Richmond's first established church, but, as you read, you will learn that the book relates early events in Richmond and introduces you to many people who have contributed to the Richmond we value today.

During the 1960's Mid was active as a PTA mother, as a member of the First Methodist church and in the town generally. She became interested in a small, weekly community newsletter called "Point Counterpoint a community newspaper dedicated to communication, improvement and

preservation of the Point Richmond area. She began writing a weekly article called "A-Mid-Trivia". Forty-five years later she is still writing "A-Mid-Trivia- for "This Point in Time" The Point Richmond History Association newsletter which succeeded "Point Counterpoint" in 1982

In 1980 she worked with Donna Roselius and others to form the Point Richmond History Association. Donna was the first president then In 1988 Jerry Cerkanowicz became president In 1991 Mid was elected president and continues that position today.

In 1990 she was part of a group organized to save from destruction the original home of the Richmond Supply Company on West Richmond Avenue. She and a number of supporters eventually succeeded in having the tiny store building moved onto City of Richmond Property in the Point Richmond Triangle where it is today.

Under her able leadership, the PRHA has expanded its membership and become increasingly active in community events such as the Point Richmond Stroll, the Neighborhood Council and art and craft fairs. The Association newsletter, "This Point.....in time" has columns from the Catholic Church, the Christian Science Church, the Womens West Side Improvement Club, and reviews of Masquers Plays. Mid's input is the anchor to the newsletter. She contributes her "A-Mid Trivia" column, "President's Notes", she keeps track of hundreds of birthdays, "Over 90 Club" and numerous information articles and tidbit in every issue.

She belongs to many clubs in town. She is a long time member of the Womens West Side Improvement Club, the oldest continually operating women's club in California, the Point Richmond Neighborhood council, the Point Richmond Business Association, The Point Richmond History Association, and is a life member of the Richmond Museum of History.

She has been actively involved in projects involving the preservation of historic Point Richmond. These include: East Brothers Light House, the rescue of the Santa Fe Railroad

Trainmaster's building, saving the Wig Wags, raising money to save :The Plunge".

She started and organized a program to research the history of historic buildings and to install bronze plaques on them.

Mid's dream now is to raise funds, about \$200,000 to preserve the exterior of the Methodist Church. This involves the preservation and restoration of the brick exterior which requires the repointing (replacing the existing deteriorating mortar joints of the bricks with "new" historically compatible mortar joints.) Inspired by the success of the Save the Plunge group, she plans to find a way to save the church. I believe she will find a way to realize her dream.

It is impossible to overstate the importance of Mid's contributions to the achievement of Point Richmond as a significant historical area of Richmond. If Richmond had a parade with floats from each of its neighborhoods, Mid Dornan would be Ms. Historic Point Richmond.

Not exactly Queen of the Rose Parade but may be as good as a Princess?

Congratulations Mid!

Patricia Pearson/photo by Thomas Mercer-Hursh



William L. Thompson, M.D.

Little Memories of Old Point Richmond



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, then put it all together in a single publication. Thank you Dr. Thompson!

Little Memories of Old Point Richmond Conclusion

When children were taught to write in schools, a different method was used. In the early classes writing was done by pencil but as the children progressed they had to go on to the use of ink. In those days there were no fountain pens or ballpoint pens. Desks had to be made with built in ink wells. These had to be refilled and often slopped. Sometimes you even used the ink and the pen to write on the back of the girl in front of you.

In the old days there was no welfare or food stamps therefore we had hobos who would occasionally stop by to ask for food. Living up on the hill we possibly had less of this than others. They were just bums who wouldn't or couldn't work. I never recall them causing any trouble. There was almost no crime in Point Richmond in the early days. I don't recall hearing of a single robbery. However, most people didn't have much to steal. My father said that it would be difficult for a robber to get away. On one side was the bay and on the other they had only Richmond to go through and they would probably get caught.

I recall one summer when the water supply was short and those living up on the hills couldn't get water. In those days they used horse drawn sprinkling wagons to sprinkle the dust on the

streets. They solved the water shortage by bringing up an old sprinkling wagon filled with water and parked in the street nearby. If you needed water you went out with a bucket and got it.

I also remember walking as a small child with my family along the hills above the waterfront north of Washington Avenue. In one place we met a man who was working with an old steam donkey engine to raise drift wood logs up from the beach to use for firewood. There was no gas and very little coal in the area so people had to use wood and much of it was obtained from driftwood. There was kerosene for heat and light. Later Bob Dornan and company were able to supply wood, coal and many other supplies.

One thinks of downhill sledding as a sport reserved for regions of snowfall. Snow has been rare in Richmond. I recall only four times that snow fell in this region but only once in January of 1913 was there as much as four inches. To make up for the lack of snow we used other means for tobogganing. One way was to find a good hill of rather tall brown grass. If fairly steep the grass gave very little friction and the sliding was good. Another way was to dig little grooves in the dirt down a steep hill for the sled runners. Friction for the runners was reduced by pouring water down

each runway.

Another popular sport for kids of school age in the early days was swimming. Before the natatorium was built we had only the bay to swim in. The water was cold and the only means of heating it was the sun so we had to restrict our swimming to the summer months. There were many beaches available along the shore. The most southerly one was the one we called Long Beach. This was a long, sandy beach about a mile south of Brickyard Cove. This had fine sand and was relatively shallow. It was excellent for small children. In one area there was a rather thin Indian shell mound. Unfortunately this has been entirely destroyed by industry at the time of the shipyards and later. It was used mostly for family picnics. People would walk down the old road on the east side of the hills.

There had probably been another beach and Indian shell mound where Brickyard Cove is now. The brickyard would have destroyed the beach long before it was accessible to people. Never the less, the brick yard produced another interesting swimming pool. This was a quarry pit probably made to obtain material for making bricks. It is still there and is located just south of the remaining old brick kiln. After the brickyard ceased to function, the pit, filled with water, still remained. It was brackish water, some seeped in from the bay and some was runoff from the hills and it was a little warmer than the bay water. Looking down on it from the ridge of hills it still looks just like it was when we used to swim in it.

Beaches around Santa Fe point were too rocky for swimming but there probably had been a good beach in the cove where Miller-Knox park now exists. This would have been before the Santa Fe tracks had been laid. Keller's beach has been a popular beach since the town started. I recall the Keller family quite well. Mr. Keller was killed by a train in the Santa Fe tunnel. Before the road tunnel was made he used to walk up into town through the Santa Fe tunnel on Saturday evening for a little relaxation and, I suppose, he imbibed somewhat. Walking back through the tunnel at

night he was struck and killed by a locomotive. Mrs. Keller and her son Danny lived there long after. I knew Danny fairly well and we were in high school together.

Keller's beach was a very popular beach in the early days because it was a good sandy beach and was easily available. Many Point Richmond people, including my father, built dressing cabins here to change into swimming gear. However, the beach was damaged when the outer harbor was dredged. The mud from the dredging was dumped into the little lake back of the Santa Fe tracks where Miller-Knox now lays. The excess water came back into the bay through the drainage opening near Keller's beach and with it came quite a little mud. The result was that Keller's beach received a layer of mud. This was improved some in the years but there is still more mud there than there was originally.

Another frequently used beach was the one along Western Drive north of Washington Avenue. This was especially popular with kids of school age because of its accessibility. I recall one girl who was being teased by a boy shouting at him "if you drown me I will murder you". Another popular beach was that below the Blake Brothers Quarry. It was not large but was easily accessible. I recall lying on this beach with my brother and John Kenny and a few others. It was just before the war. Kenny joined the Air Force soon after that and never returned. His plane apparently was shot down someplace in the Pacific.

Another fine beach was that at the Chinese Shrimp Camp near Winehaven. It was similar to the one at long beach but was not used much early because of the fishing industry and because it was not readily accessible until people had cars.

conclusion

This is the last of Dr. William L. Thompson's articles. I have reprinted them all. I hope to make a small illustrated book of all the his Point Richmond tales. We were lucky to have these thank you Dr. Thompson!

Saving the Kenny Plaque

Patricia Pearson

The Two Kenny Brothers Thomas and John came to Richmond in 1901. John Kenny bought a building across the street from the Mac and Thomas bought the building that is now the Spot. They were both active in civic affairs and each signed the incorporation papers for the City of Richmond in August 1905. John Joseph Kenny became a city councilman in the first city council.

John Kenny's son known as "Joe" followed in his fathers footsteps and became a City Councilman. When World War II started Joe left his council seat and joined the Air Corp. His squadron was sent to the South Pacific. On one mission they were flying over New Guinea and never returned. No trace was ever found of the crew or the aircraft.

The town was devastated by the loss and decided that the park at Tewksbury and Standard Avenue where Joe had played as a child should be named for him. The rock was obtained from the local quarry and the plaque was cast. The inscription was brief: "CITY OF RICHMOND - KENNY PARK - IN MEMORY OF COUNCILMAN JOHN J. KENNY WHO SERVED HIS COUNTRY IN WORLD WAR II."

The neighbors fought to keep the park open and succeeded until the state needed the property for the 580 Freeway. The State bought the property from the City and that money was given by the City to the Natatorium for the general fund.

The Plaque and the rock were moved to Washington School Park as an alternative location because Joe had attended school there. The plaque and rock were moved from that location when the park was renamed in honor of Judge Carroll. The rock was placed at the corner of East Richmond and Garrard on the grounds of the Natatorium where it stands today.

I inquired about what would happen to it after the refitting of the Plunge. One answer I was given was that it would be "Put behind the building some place" another was that it would be left where it is

and another was, "What Plaque?" (the most common reply).

I asked at a meeting of the Design Review Board that the rock and the plaque not be moved without the written permission of the Point Richmond History Association. I told them that we are concerned that the Plaque will be just "moved out of the way." It is an important part of the Historic Preservation District and should be treated as such.

I was given assurance from the Design Review Board, that the plaque will be untouched, we will have time for a story of the situation in our news letter *This Point in Time* to solicit suggestions from the general membership so we know how to proceed with preserving the plaque and its history.



Now it is the responsibility of the Point Richmond History Association to maintain a close eye on the plaque. It is possible it will have to be moved to widen the sidewalk to accommodate the Bay Trail. It is also suggested that there be a small park behind the plunge to place the plaque and maybe other plaques to honor the site. Send your suggestions or your ideas to ppearson174@hotmail.com.

Birthdays

June

Alissa Bagley	Cathe Brazil	Dave Macdiarmid, Jr.	Judy Travis
Phyllis Downey	Brian Rotting	Dianne Primavera	Lee Christioan
William Shea	Stacey Spinola	Suzanne Unser	Lillian Karl
Emeric H. Baxter	Gill Stanfield	Aaron Marshall	Luke Karl
Andrew Butt	John H. Knox	Michael Marshall	Steve Wyrick
Jean Eakle	Alice Baxter	Marcelina Smith	June Solosbal
Joanne Lansing	Rosemary Giacomelli	Maurice Doherty	Phyllis Bogue
	Daniel Buhler	Gerry Higuera	Doreen Minkwitz

July

Francis Smith	Diedre Cerkowicz	Madeline Bellando	Alyce Williamson
Amy Rotting	Allen Anderson	Albright	Martha Bielawski
Mrs. Chas Baldwin	Roger Elle	Jean Reynolds	Madison Bradshaw
Dan Damon	Alice McMahon	Ann Bisio	Dixie L. Mello
Julius Matteucci	Hilary Lord	Ed Squires	Frank Matteucci
Bea Read	Clifford (Lou)	Regan Bradshaw	
Mary L. Knox	MacMillan	Jon Healy	
Fran Smith	Loretta Mertle Lease	Golda Pettycord Howard	

August

Donna Wilson	Alice Thompson	Kelly von York	Tony Bernabich
Mid Dornan	Zoanna Kille	Rose Barra	Michael Shaw
Kevin Pryne	Mary Knox	Romilda Burress	Roy Henry Gover
Joe Darling	Karla Peterson	Bonnie Ritzenhaler	Beatrice Beesley Casey
Bernie Bisio	Alia Smyke	Wilson	Jerome Vloeberghs
Barbara Ward	Terrence Doherty	Dean Beesley	Jim Healy
Connee Fisher	Lisa Smith	R. Clayton Barnes	

Get Your Own “I Saved the Plunge” Magnet!

Send a tax deductible donation of \$10.00 or more to:

Save the Richmond Plunge Trust

P.O. Box 70443

Richmond, CA 94807-0443

And we will send your 3” x 5” magnet to you.



I SAVED THE PLUNGE !

CONTRIBUTOR TO WAYNE A. GLAYDS VALLEY FOUNDATION \$300,000 MATCHING GRANT OF 2008
RENOVATION OF RICHMOND CALIFORNIA MUNICIPAL NATATORIUM - DEDICATED 1926
SAVE THE PLUNGE TRUST P.O. BOX 70443 RICHMOND CALIFORNIA 94807

CENSUS 2010

The first Census in 1790 was mainly a head count of free, white, draft-eligible men. Total population then was 3,929,214. In 1830 a uniform questionnaire was printed for the first time. March 8, 2010, a residential notice from U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau sent out a notice in 6 languages to be delivered by the US Postal Service on March 10, 2010 with only 10 questions. Your response is required by law.

April 1, 2010, was Census Day! The day you were counted. May to July, Census takers visit householders that did not return questionnaire by mail. On December 31, by law, the Census Bureau delivers population count to the President. March 2011, by law the Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states. Title 44, United States Code, Section 2108, lets Census data become public after 72 years and can be used for family history and historical research. If you send in your questionnaire it costs the federal government (that's you) 42¢ but if you need a house call (they will try six times) it is about \$57! An interactive map on the Census Web site gives worker pay that varies by the region. You can make \$22 an hour in Oakland and \$11:50 an hour in Boone, N.C. Workers will work with a handheld computer. In 1960, Patricia (Davis) Pearson and I were Census Takers in the Richmond Annex area. We were greeted and invited into homes by showing our badge. Our questionnaire was several pages and took at least 15 minutes and one of the few questions I remember was "how many TVs " in each house. We were paid 3¢ for each name, an amount one person interviewed said was the same as she had received two decades previous. We were paid for instruction time plus mileage and my two plus weeks of service netted me \$90.

Mid

EXCLUSIVE OVER 90 CLUB

An impressive list that grows each month.

Mark Gebhart - 96
Gretchen Van Tassel Shaw - 92
Ed Squires - 93
Anna Schwarz - 97
Viola Lala Kennedy
Al Frosini - 92
Lee Christian - 93
Shoney Gustafson -94
Madelilne Bellando Albright -93
Charlotte Kermabon Birsinger-92
Jerome Vloerbergh - 94

Lupe Padilla Lopez - 95
Goldie Mobley-96
Delphina Franco - 93
Reva Ward - 97
Steve Wyrick - 95
Bernard Dietz 95
Avis Blanchette - 96
Roger Wiese - 93
Ann Hanzlik - 96
Thelma Mae Harvey - 93
Eunice Ruth Hursh - 94
Dody Perry - 93
Betty Dornan - 91

Edna Hathaway - 91
Mary Tom Coe - 90
Jerry Cerkowicz, Sr. - 90

100 Year Club

Rena Cairo Gonsalves - 100

Please send corrections and additions to "Over 90 Club" to midornan@sbcglobal.net

Deaths.....

Gloria Smith Groff died March 27, 2009. Age 88. Gloria was a lifelong resident of Point Richmond, and a 1939 graduate of Richmond High. She was employed at the Natatorium and Standard Oil before working at International Harvester. During WWII she worked at the Kaiser Shipyards 2 and 3. She is survived by her brothers, Bill, Dean, Richard and Frank of Richmond and was preceded in death by her husband Charles Groff, her parents, siblings Leonard, Allan P, and Lorin Smith and many nieces, nephews and grand nieces and nephews. Funeral Mass was April 6 at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Point Richmond.

Ruth “ Bernadette” Bisio died April 13, 2010. Age 87. Bernie worked for the City of Richmond and later the Bank of America where she retired after 30 years. Bernie was active in St. Cornelius Catholic Church. She was a member of the Point Richmond History Association attending their Annual Meetings whenever possible. She was married to the late Claude Bisio for 60 years and is survived by her son, Marc, and sister, Bertha. Also by four grandchildren and 10 great- grandchildren. Funeral Mass was April 23d at St. Cornelius Catholic Church.

Silvio ranada died May 6, 2010. Age 83. Silvio was born in Point Richmond to Nicanora and Nicolas Granada. and was one of 12 children. He retired from Standard Oil. He is survived by his children Glenn, Richard, Lynn McGerverey , Connie Granada and stepchildren Raymond and Melilnda Lingerfelt ;brothers John, Nicolas and Jesus Granado; sisters Maxine Irwin, Martha Milandovich, Julia Sanchez, Mary Perez, and Ramona Loera; 16 grandchildren; and 12 great- grandchildren.

Helen R. Valentine died after a car accident May 29, 2010 at the age of 85. Helen is probably best known as the PIE LADY at the Methodist Church as she usually made more than 40 pies for their Bazaars and Fund raisers with people coming from as far away as Sacramento to be in line for a pie. Others offered double the price of pies to have a pie saved if they couldn't arrive early. Helen received an Honorary Life Membership at Washington School, was active in Boy Scout Troop 111 in the Point, and an icon in the First United Methodist Church serving as Church Treasurer for over 35 years, Treasurer of the United Methodist Women, and the Memorial Fund. She was an assistant to the Pa-Ka-Nena Camp Fire Girls. Helen loved sewing and baking and always brought refreshments for after Sunday services. She is survived by her children David Valentine, Suisun, Donald Valentine, Kentucky, Dori Freitas and Dee Pitta, Benecia; 13 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren. A Memorial was held on June 5th at the historic First United Methodist Church.

Anita Christensen died June 12, 2010. Obituary in the next issue.....

CALENDAR/DIRECTORY

ARTS OF POINT RICHMOND

Meets third Wednesday of each month 7-9 at the Pt. Community Center, Contact: Linda Drake, 510672-0793

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE READING ROOM

510-223-0487

GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM AND EAST BAY MODEL ENGINEERS SOCIETY

900 Dornan Drive, Miller/Knox Regional Park. Sunday 12:00 to 5:00. Special openings on Saturdays and Holidays. 510-234-4884 for details.

MANY HANDS PROJECT TO SUPPORT WASHINGTON SCHOOL

Contact, Margaret Morkowski, 510-234-4219

MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

Quality productions, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm, Sunday Matinees at 2:30 pm. Tickets are \$18-\$20. Dinner at the Hotel Mac and the play on Thursday, for only \$50. Call 510-232-4031 for reservations.

PARENTS, RESOURCES AND MORE (PRAM)

A volunteer, nonprofit organization serving families with children 5 or under. Playgroups, social events, educational opportunities, Information go to <http://www.PRAM.net> or call 510-215-1734.

PARENT, TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Becky Jonas, President, 510-235-0157

POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Meets 2nd Wednesday each month, Hotel Mac, 12-1:30, Contact: Margaret Morkowski, 510-234-4219.

POINT RICHMOND COMMUNITY CENTER

Info: 233-6881

POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Museum is at 139½ Washington Avenue, and open Thursday's 11:30 to 2:00 and Saturday 11:30 to 2:00 and as of May 12th, Wednesday 4:30 to 7:00 and Thursday's 11:30 to 2:00. The deadline for the next issue of TPIT is Friday August 20, 2010. Info call Pres. Mildred Dornan at 510-234-5334.

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meets last Wednesday each month, Point Richmond Community Center; 7:30 P.M Contact: Peter Minkwitz, President, 510-232-3663

POINT RICHMOND VILLAGE

"Helping You Help Yourself" Contact: Linda Newton, Chairman 510-235-0081

POINT RICHMOND/WEST SIDE BRANCH LIBRARY

Information call 510-620-6567

RED OAK VICTORY

Open Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday 10am - 3pm. \$5 donation for adults, \$4 seniors, \$2 children. Sunday Breakfast September 10th and October 12th, 9 am - 1 pm, \$6 adults children FREE

SAVE THE PLUNGE TRUST

Contact: Rosemary Corbin, 510-235-5779

WASHINGTON SCHOOL

Washington School at 565 Wine Street offers traditional and Spanish dual immersion curriculum, K - 6th grade. Contact principal Lisa Levi at 231-1417 for more information.

WOMEN'S WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB (established 1908)

Richmond's longest standing women's club. Contact: Margaret Morkowski, President. 510-234-4219.

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Type of membership (check one):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Single	\$20.00
<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 (five 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
email: gary@alkos.com

"This Point...in time" is a publication of the Point Richmond History Association, a non-profit organization at:
139 ½ Washington Avenue
Point Richmond, CA 94801

All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part of any article or image without written permission of the Point Richmond History Association is prohibited.

Board of Directors:

Mid Dornan, President
Pat Pearson, 1st Vice President
Jerry Cerkonowicz, 2nd Vice President
Tom Piazza/Mary Crosby, Joint Secretaries
Sonja Darling, Treasurer
Pam Wilson, Membership
Gary Shows, Newsletter Editor
Thomas Mercer-Hursh, Newsletter
Bonnie Jo Cullison, Archives, Museum Manager
Margaret Morkowski, Museum Staff Coordinator

Main Contributors to this Issue:

Gary Shows	Editor
Mid Dornan	Various Articles
Thomas Mercer-Hursh, Ph.D.	Design/Photo Enhancement
Don Church/Allan Smith	Historic Photos
Jerry Cerkonowicz	Proof/Information
Pam Wilson	Membership Info
Jean Reynolds	Article
Dee Rosier	Article
William Thompson, M.D.	Article
Theresa de Valencé	Article
Margaret Morkowski	Article
Jane Vandenburgh	Article
Donna Roselius	Line Drawings
Pat Pearson	Articles
Malcom Bury	Information

Phone Numbers

Mid Dornan	510-234-5334
Gary Shows	510-235-1336
Fax	510-965.0335

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
139 1/2 Washington Avenue
Point Richmond, CA 94801

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE EXPEDITE!

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
RICHMOND, CA
PERMIT NO. 301

