

# THIS POINT.... in time

## NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

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

Vol. XXV No. 1

June/July/August, 2006

\$3.00



### SANTA FE TRAINMASTER'S BUILDING

This historic building was constructed in 1903 and is one of the oldest surviving buildings in Richmond, CA

#### RESTORATION BY

Point Richmond Gateway

A Community Based

Non-Profit 501.3C Organization

#### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Martin McNair ~ (510) 232-4232

[www.pointrichmond.com/gateway](http://www.pointrichmond.com/gateway)



# NEW GATEWAY TO POINT RICHMOND

# PLUNGE RECEIVES CALIFORNIA CULTURE AND HISTORICAL ENDOWMENT FUNDS

In an unprecedented success story, three Richmond projects were selected in April for funding for a total of over \$5 million by the California Culture and Historical Endowment (CCHE), a state agency that funds projects through a competitive grant process to tell the stories of California as a unified society and of the many groups of people that together comprise historic and modern California. Richmond scored three for three in applications that included the Richmond Plunge rehabilitation (\$2 million) ~ the rehabilitation of the Maritime Child Care Center to create the Maritime History Center for Working Families in conjunction with Rosie the Riveter WW II Home Front National Historical Park and other local partners (\$2 million), and the East Bay Center for Performing Arts for rehabilitation of the Winters Building (\$1 million). These projects were selected at the top of over 75 applicants. With the funding for the Plunge, we can, hopefully, see the Plunge open in 2007!

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Mid Dornan

The Point Richmond History Association celebrates its 25th Anniversary! A fact that surfaced as preparations were being made for our annual meeting. It is hard to realize so many years of dedication.

In 1981 Donna Roselius, who had previously edited "The Point CounterPoint," gathered a group to begin the Point Richmond History Association. Incorporated as Charter Members beside Donna were Rosemary Corbin, Michelle Brown, Theresa Albro and Mid Dornan. The newsletter, "THIS POINT....in time", began. When Donna moved to Oregon in 1988, she said she could only be happy in leaving if the History Association would continue. Jerry Cerkanowicz took over as President for a year and Gary, with a new computer, agreed to do ONE issue of the newsletter. That one issue has translated into the present! Aren't we fortunate! It is a superior newsletter that has recently been color enhanced

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by Thomas Mercer-Hursh.

In 25 years, there have only been three presidents. The efficient and congenial Board of Directors get reelected each year.

Our small history museum is the oldest commercial building in the Point and staffed by volunteers throughout the year.

We are dedicated to promoting awareness of our colorful local history.

To research important events and people of the Point, collect old photographs and documents, support and help reserve historic buildings as Point Richmond is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Thank you members and friends who support and contribute to our cause.

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*Thank you members for your membership  
renewal:*

Renee, Kevin & Griffin Knee  
Janice Cook & Jeff Lee  
John A. Thiella & Rosa T. Casazza  
East Bay Brass Foundry  
Elizabeth McDonald  
Sandi Genser-Maack & Lynn Maack  
Thomas Mercer-Hursh, Ph.D.  
& Theresa de Valence  
Don & Carole Woodrow  
Marc Bisio  
Regina Girard  
Madeline Albright  
Betty Glass Marshall  
Muriel C. Clausen  
John Papadakis  
LaVerne Rentfro Woolman  
Jan & Bob Burdick  
Linda Andrew-Marshall  
Deb Miller  
Viola Kennedy  
Betty Dornan  
Anita Brougham  
George L. Williams  
Melba Farley  
Lynne Erskine  
Howard & Jan Arnold Family  
Albert J. Kollar  
Reva Ward  
Myrna Wishart  
Mary Highfill  
Brenda McKinley  
Marion Kent  
Tony P. Bernabich  
Janis Saunders Henry  
Herbert Hunn Family  
Thomas L. Kenny  
Kennis Amantite  
Thomas L. Piazza & Mary T. Crosby Family  
Alice Jordan  
Bonnie Jo Cullison  
Richard & Charlene Smith  
John A. Thiella & Rosa T. Casazza  
Ann Hathaway-Kissling

*And a warm welcome to these new members:*  
Peter & Doreen Minkwitz  
Kathleen A. McKinley

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

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

*For us*  
**Museum Hours:**

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

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

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

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



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# EDITOR'S NOTES

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

Presenting TPIT's first issue of volume **Twenty Five!** Time sure does fly.

The deadline for the September/October issue will be August 19, 2005, enjoy summertime!

The April/May issue assembly crew was:

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



*Pat Pearson and Margaret Morkowski at our May Annual Meeting*

## ***Thank You!***

### ***Our Special Supporters!***

#### ***History Makers***

Sherri Mertle  
Doug & Rosemary Corbin  
Kathe Kiehn  
Elizabeth M. McDonald  
Margi Cellucci  
TransOral Pharmaceuticals, Inc

#### ***Corporate Sponsor***

Timeworks Inc. Clock Company  
*Stephen Kowalski Family*  
First Church of Christ, Scientist

#### ***History Preservers:***

Royce Ong  
Edward J. McGarvey  
Gilda Markarian  
Kevin, Renee & Griffin Knee  
Jean & John Knox  
John A. Thiella & Rosa T. Casazza  
Catherine Burchell  
Janice Cook & Jeff Lee  
East Bay Brass Foundry  
Sandi Genser-Maack & Lynn Maack  
Thomas Mercer-Hursh & Theresa de Valence

## **The Cover**

***The historic trainmaster's railroad building now under restoration is the centerpiece of the Point Richmond Gateway Project. To learn more about this project visit [www.pointrichmond.com/gateway](http://www.pointrichmond.com/gateway) on the web.***

*(Photos by Gary Shows and Thomas Mercer-Hursh)*

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# A-MID TRIVIA

Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question: Can you repeat the Pledge of Allegiance? Refresh your memory at end of Trivia

\*\*\*

Is 94-year-old Anna Schwartz immortal? After falling and then self-diagnosing that she had broken some ribs, did she call a medic?

No! She had broken ribs before and knew what to do. Three days later - Anna is driving her car!

\*\*\*

Did you know our new Fire Chief is a local boy? His father, John Banks, attended Washington School and he is the grandson of Captain Steve and Louise Banks who lived on Washington Avenue.

\*\*\*

Hawaii isn't just for newlywed honeymooners! Second honeymooners Jean and Norm Reynolds flew there in April to celebrate their Silver, 25-year marriage.

\*\*\*

It is a boy, Zachery, for Luisa and Ron Greger and is welcomed by two year old sister, Noelani.

\*\*\*

Dody Perry's recent surgery hasn't gotten her home yet. Now in rehab at Creekside Health Center, Dody hopes it isn't long before she is walking and home: as do the rest of her friends!

\*\*\*

Claudia LeGue and Jim Brooks traveled to Minnesota to be there when her 96 year-old mother underwent successful major surgery. Her Mom appreciated having family there but was eager to be back driving and being involved with her other activities!

\*\*\*

Sydney, Australia has reduced the crime rate in most transit stations by playing classical music! Hey! It works for me.

\*\*\*

By the time this gets into print Andrew and Kim Butt may be first-time parents giving Tom and

Shirley their first grandchild. The way Shirley can love other people's children, imagine what it will be with her own!

\*\*\*

Evan Jahrom, Fairfield, visited the history museum and reminisced about his scouting days. He says 'hi' to all his old Point buddies.

\*\*\*

Bob Peckham's 70th birthday did not go unnoticed! The Taco theme refreshments reflected the Cinco de Mayo date and wall to wall guests, both inside and outside the home, expressed love and friendship while the talented Karl children and the "Just an Old Band" kept the celebration alive for dancing and listening!

\*\*\*

The following Tuesday, Bob underwent surgery for lung cancer. Bob's unquestioning Faith has performed miracles before and he has no reason to doubt his Faith with this operation. Not to take his situation lightly, still he was seen outside his front gate on the following Sunday, talking to friends and neighbors! Some guy!

\*\*\*

Shirley Butt traveled to Chapel Hill, North Carolina for a 40th anniversary college class reunion

\*\*\*

Men used to go to barber ships for haircuts. Each shop had a red-and-white striped pole outside. This was because barbers used to "bleed" people. It was believed that cutting a person's arm and letting it bleed could cure some illnesses. Barbers wrapped bandages around a red pole as a sign that they gave these treatments.

\*\*\*

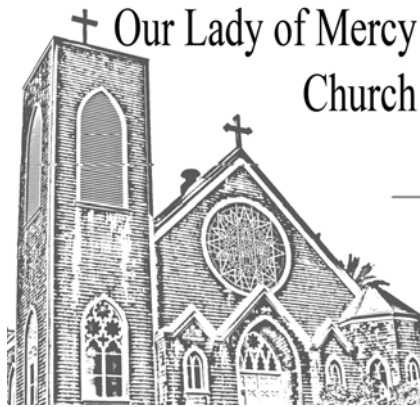
Aaron and Michael Andrews-Marshall celebrated their 17th birthday on June 5th and two days later left with their Japanese class to spend two weeks in Japan putting their knowledge to work.

\*\*\*

(Continued on page 10)

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# CHURCH NEWS



*By Dee Rosier*  
510-232-1387

Cannot believe that it is already June – the previous six months have flown by.

Speaking of flying, Father is acquiring a lot of frequent flyer miles. He was in Lithuania filming his documentary, Rhode Island, Palm Beach, Florida, and New Jersey. Another trip to Lithuania is planned. He has to come home to enjoy the wonderful splash of roses blooming in the church garden. Recently he found out the value of a little WD-40 when the garage door would not open – no longer a problem.

The Parish Council met to discuss the priorities of all of the repairs that must be done. One of the members is working on a list which will be presented to the Council. After reviewing, the Council will label those with the highest priority and within the realm of our finances. Some repair work has been done on the roof around the tower, with a new drain and new flashing installed; new fluorescent lights have been installed in the parish hall. The carpet in the church will soon be replaced. A financial report for last year is forthcoming, as well as an updated version of the parish directory. Check our webpage for updates: [pointrichmondscatholic.org](http://pointrichmondscatholic.org).

We drew a standing room only crowd for Easter

Services. The church was beautifully decorated and we enjoyed the soothing music provided by the musicians who graced our presence for Christmas services. Our Easter Catholics were not present the following Sunday. It was heartwarming to see Bob Peckham on the altar doing his Easter readings. Look forward to his singing each year. On Easter Sunday, Paige Crowley was blessed prior to their relocation to New Jersey.

Bob Peckham celebrated his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday surrounded by friends and family. It was an evening full of warmth, caring and very good food. Bob has had his surgery and now enters his recovery stage. Please remember him in your prayers and stop by to lend your support. It was heartwarming to drive by the Santa Fe Market early one morning and see Bob and his son, Mike seated in front holding court.

Coffee and donuts continue to be served on the first Sunday of each month. The month of June will welcome our new parishioners.

The Small Christian Community continues to meet on Wednesday evenings and on Thursday afternoons. All are welcome to attend. If you are interested, call Steve Shaffer at 677-2914.

Dody Perry had hand surgery and suffered complications from another health issue. She is presently at Creekside in San Pablo. She enjoys visitors. Add Dody to your prayers.

And while you are praying also remember: Teresa Meneghelli, Frankie Mello, Sue Kafka, Adolph Brossard, Jack Healy and Mary Shipler.

Congratulations to Jeffery Quist who was recently married. Jeffery is Florence and Jim Wilson's grandson. Being the small world that it is, I attended school with the bride's grandparents.

I recently attended a tea hosted by the Crockett Women's Club with my kindergarten friends. The building is used for social events and has recently been renovated. Dan and Thea Robertson, former Pt. Richmonders were also in attendance. While a local resident he wrote for The Point Counterpoint. He currently publishes a monthly issue of the, "Crockett Signal." He was impressed with the

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longevity of our friendship and will publish an article on it, as soon as I compose it.

Our April fool's Day birthday girl, Ann Schwarz got tangled up in her carpet and took another fall breaking a few ribs. It did not keep her from entertaining relative's visting from Germany.

I too entertained a friend I had not seen for 15 years. While working for the government years ago, I became friends with Katie Creamer. As you know, I value friendships and keep them forever. Thus, Katie and I have remained friends. She was only here for the weekend, from her home in Silver Springs, Maryland, but we did find time to do San Francisco, and Pt. Richmond. X-Pt. Richmond resident, Patty Canepa also worked with us.

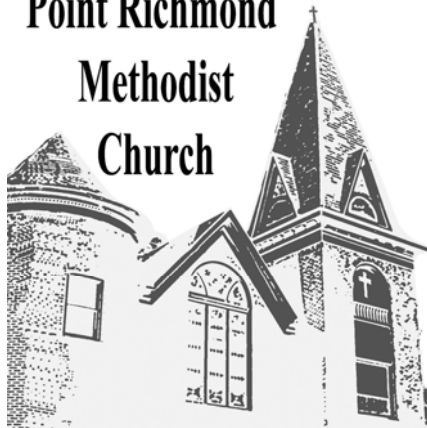
We have talent within our parish! Stanley Toledo writes 10-minute plays. He has submitted the plays to a few arts festivals and contests. So far he has had one play produced at the Panoply Arts Festival in Huntsville, Alabama with a second one taking honorable mention there. Another of his plays was included in the reading of several plays as a result of a contest in Santa Cruz. The 10-minute play is a dramatic structure where the playwright develops a full plot with a beginning, middle and end – all within the allotted time of 10 minutes. It is becoming a popular literary format that has grown dramatically in interest in recent years. Stan enjoys this type of writing as a hobby and as a way of developing his creativity. Way to go Stan!

Every 60 seconds you spend upset  
Is a minute of happiness you'll  
Never get back.

See you in church.



## Point Richmond Methodist Church



*By Jean Reynolds*

510-235-2988

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

On Palm Sunday, April 9, special music included Kit Eakle on violin to accompany the Joyful Noise choir. After worship, the community came forth to join us for our free feast: we ate all of five hefty hams and even the bones went home with feasters. Some leftovers made it to the West Contra Costa Rescue Mission, and we know our diners enjoyed the day! Christina de Leon organized the food preparation and volunteers. Juanita Hoffman sought hams. We always especially appreciate the clean-up crew.

The weather was so wet on Easter morning; we did not have to decide whether to set up the garden for the 8:00 a.m. worship. The early service was special in the sanctuary, but we missed serenading Bob and Marie Peckham across West Richmond Ave. while they enjoyed their morning coffee! We had a yummy breakfast of Methodist Eggs, sausages, juice, pineapple cut in the most beautiful rings, croissants, and muffins. The Joyful Noise Choir was pianist-free on Easter, so we sang Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" without accompaniment with some success! The rain took a break after the 11:00 worship, and the Easter egg hunt was set in the yard, just like always. Aaron Marshall, Michael Marshall, and Liam Thompson

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coordinated the egg hunt for the young ones.

The Angel Choir performed in concert on Sunday, May 7. Luke Karl played mandolin to accompany “By the Waters of Babylon” and Lavinia Karl wowed us with two pieces on the harp. The younger members can hold their own singing rounds and other unaccompanied pieces, and everyone has gotten comfortable enough to add some choreography! Performers that day included: Ashley Anderson, Kelsey Tostenson, Antonia Knox, Alexander Heckmann, Mitchell Heckmann, Lillian Karl, Luke Karl, Lavinia Karl, Hannah Frye, Sarah Thompson, Liam Thompson, Bethany Reynolds, Heather Damon, David Reynolds, Alice Thompson, Jean Reynolds, and Pastor Dan Damon. On May 20, many of the Angel Choir members met at John Urbach’s Point Richmond studio for a two-hour recording session. We recorded only pieces we could sing a cappella or with guitar. The choir concentrated so well despite the heat: most pieces required only one or two takes!

Our April 29 Junktique sale was one of the best organized yet, due to efforts by Joanne Cheney and Fran Smith! The day was a bit overcast and misty in the morning, just like the rest of spring this year, but it did not mute the enthusiasm of shoppers or sellers. The food booth sold out of soup, chili, hotdogs and pie before the day was over. For Junktique Two, we sold “Boy Scout Recipe” pancakes in Friendship Hall on Monday, May 29. The basement was open to browsers while the Masquers’ citywide yard sale was in progress.

Ross and Lorraine Parmer, Fran Smith, Melody Hastings, Jean Womack, Pastor Dan Damon, Eileen Johnson, and Jean Reynolds took turns at the church table during the Point Richmond Stroll on Thursday, May 18. We provided freshly baked cookies for strollers, and had a drawing for four home-baked pies. Fran made fliers to distribute that listed upcoming events.

**Famous People:** Goldie Mobley celebrated her 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday on April 30. She got a cold for her birthday, so we sang to her over the phone.

Alice and Bill Thompson celebrated their twenty-fourth wedding anniversary in May.

Organist Melody Hastings is a first-time

grandmother as of May 24. Baby William Harrison Hastings is home with his parents, Devon and Rachel, in Plymouth, Minnesota, and is reported to be “beautiful”.

High school juniors Aaron and Michael Marshall leave June 8 for two weeks in Japan with a tour group led by their El Cerrito High Japanese language teacher. They will each live with a Japanese family for part of their stay.

#### **On the Calendar:**

**August 7 – 11: Vacation Bible School for kids from age three to grade 6.** We meet 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for songs, games, stories, snacks and art projects. Children and their parents are invited to stay on Friday for lunch. Call Jean Reynolds, 510-235-2988, to sign up. This summer’s offering will benefit Heifer International.

**June 11: Jazz in June.** Meet in the Sanctuary at 11:00 a.m. for your morning meditation with the Dan Damon Trio and other special musicians. It’s not Fathers’ Day yet, but bring your dad or someone you love to share the great vibes.

**June 11: “A Visit to Paris”** 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Concert of French music featuring The Tenth Street Trio with Ben Bank on piano, Phil Groody on cello, and Kit Eakle on violin playing the Saint Saens String Trio No. 1. Also, Kit Eakle on violin and Jeb Gist at piano playing works by Maurice Ravel, Claude Bolling and Joseph Boulogne (“Le Mozart Noir”). Tickets \$10 at the door. Call 510-237-5551 for more info.

**July 9: Sunday, Kurt Ribak Trio jazz concert,** 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM. Kurt Ribak on bass with Greg Sankovich on piano and Kevin Mummey on drums. Kurt has played at First United Methodist Church for special services for a few years now. His e-schedule states, “...the church itself is very nice in a simple unassuming way, and the acoustics are excellent.” Ten-dollar donation requested.

Check out the church website, [www.pointrichmond.com/methodist](http://www.pointrichmond.com/methodist) for the latest news, professionally presented by David Moore of Sincere Design (Thank you again, David!) with information updates from our media maven Linda Andrew-Marshall.

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## Christian Science Church

By Jo Bycraft  
bycraft2@earthlink.net

A recent talk on Christian Science, given by Rob Gilbert at the Methodist Church here in Point Richmond, was well attended. Pastor Dan Damon provided lively jazz music before the talk, as well as graciously allowing us to meet in his lovely Church.

As another way to reach out to our community, our church is providing gift subscriptions to the Christian Science Monitor to local high schools. The Monitor is an award-winning international newspaper, and school librarians report that it is most appreciated by the students. If you would like to enjoy reading the Monitor, drop by our Reading Room at 114 Washington Avenue to read or purchase a copy.

### READING ROOM HOURS:

Monday Closed  
Tuesday 11 AM - 3 PM  
Wednesday 3 PM to 6 PM  
Thursday 10 AM to 2 PM  
Friday Closed  
Saturday 9 AM to 1 PM

### CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM  
Wednesday Evening 7:30 PM

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

10 AM, in the Reading Room

We look forward to seeing you in the Reading Room, and at Church and Sunday School.



## 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 69th installment.*

June 17, 1928

Meeting opened with Lord's Prayer. Twenty members answered to roll call. Minutes read and approved of the (Ed: ? something-not able to read) \$1.00 paid by Mrs. Schmidt for cabinet sold to her.

Bills for \$2.80 laundry, \$1.58 Whitesides presented and paid.

\$13.00 turned in by Mrs. Scofield and Mrs. Burdick for aprons made for them. There are 5 aprons yet to be made. After discussion of luncheon.

Feb 8th was selected for the day. Mrs. Vloebergh was appointed chairman.

Meat - D. Jenkins & Mrs. Schmidt

Veg - Alexander & C. Jenkins

Dessert - Danning., Redman, ?

Side Dish - Burdick & Scofield

Table - Prince, Doney & Holbrook

Candy - Brothers & Griffin & Meese

Chairs - Adams

\$ 7.97 - old bal \$1.58 Whitesides

.60 - dues 2.80 laundry

1.90 - plate coll \$4.38

1.00 - Mrs Schmidt

3.00 - aprons

\$26.47

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# WWIC ACTIVITIES

Alyce Williamson

510-234-4219

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

On April 4, 2006 the club met at the Pt. Richmond Methodist Church. Twenty four members and nine guests were present. The theme for the day was Easter and the tables were decorated with pink cloths, Easter napkins, candy and Anita Christiansen's beautiful flower arrangements. Thank you hostesses Connie Lompa, Anita Christiansen and Linda Newton for the beautiful decorations and delightful desserts. Thank you to Steven and Dextra Christiansen (licensed physical therapists) who were the featured speakers. They gave a very informative talk on safety and accident prevention inside and outside of the home as we grow older. They gave everyone a detailed printed handout with many helpful suggestions, with emphasis on safety in the home. President, Margaret Morkowski announced that our March Fund Raiser luncheon was a great success. Approximately \$160 was added to our Treasury. Heartfelt thanks to the hostesses, servers, cooks and cleanup crew. Linda Newton reported the WWIC's School Library Project is well under way. She has distributed donation jars to the Pt. Richmond Businesses and spoke at the Pt. Richmond Business Association meeting in March and gave them an overview of the need. We can be assured this project is in very capable hands. Name tags for members attending meetings was discussed. Members felt it a very good idea and a name tag will be ready for each member at the next meeting. Election of officers will be May 2nd meeting. Alice Zeier and Marion Kent are the nominating committee. Please consider serving as an officer.

May 2, 2006 the club met at the Pt. Richmond Methodist Church. Twenty five members and guests were present. Thank you to hostesses Betty Dornan, Fatuom Al-Wareeth, Mid Dornan and Gilda Markarian. Fatuom passed out lovely name tags to each member. Thank you to the committee Linda Newton for calligraphy, Lynn Clifford for purchasing material and Altha Humphrey for inspiration and all for creativity. Alice Zeier

presented the slate of officers for the year 2006-2007: President Margaret Morkowski, Vice President Altha Humphrey, 2nd Vice President Linda Newton, Secretary Susan Brooks, Treasurer Sonja Darling, TPIT Correspondent Norma Wallace. There was a space on each ballot for any write in candidate from the floor. Ballots were to be turned in to Alice Zeier and Marion Kent and they will announce election results at end of meeting. Happy Birthday to Lynn Clifford, Norma Wallace, Marge Miller, Catherine Burchell, Dulcie Johnson and Lori Nova.

Marion Kent of the election committee announced that the candidates for officers for year 2006 - 2007 were elected by unanimous vote. Margaret opened up the meeting to the "Leisure Time Show and Tell". Many projects were presented. To name a few Dody Perry a dress and sweater she designed; Norma Wallace old books 1891 1893 1899; Linda Newton calligraphy; Peggy Fowler pottery bow & sculptor, Lori Nova soaps, Mid Doran figurines from different countries; Susan Brooks history books of white people with Indian culture 1755 1759; Jean Gatton read some of her beautiful poetry and many more to numerous to mention.

On Wed, May 23rd. eight ladies car pooled to the Bark Stix Bakery on Garrard Blvd for a tour of the bakery. Mim Drake and Kate Gebhart took us thru the process of making of the Bark Stixs from the beginning (mixing of dough) to seeing the various shapes of the "Dog Treats" emerge from the machines, baking and packaging for delivery. Dog don't know how lucky they are to have such carefully made treats. After our tour we were served "people" treats of fresh muffins and cheese, cookies and fresh made mint lemonade. It was a very enjoyable outing. Thank you Mim and Kate for having us.

This is my last article for TPIT. I find it necessary to retire. Will miss it. Norma Wallace will take over and am sure she will do a great job.

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## *MORE A-MID TRIVIA*

Sympathy is extended to Terri Wynne on the loss of her mother in Washington.

\*\*\*

We welcome Diane Anderson from PRAM and Norma Wallace, the newly elected Women's Westside Improvement Club reporter, to TPIT.

What we would like now is for someone from Washington school to report and keep us posted as to what is happening at our local school.

\*\*\*

Venice and Vienna are just two of the places Doug and Rosemary visited on their recent trip to Europe.

\*\*\*

Jeffrey Quist and Christina Flores were married on May 6th the Mira Vista Golf and Country Club. Daughter of William and Cynthia Flores, Christina is employed by the California Highway Patrol. Jeffrey is the son of Cynthia Quist of the Point and Jan Quist of Concord and the grandson of Point residents Florence and Jim Wilson. Jeff is a Locomotive Engineer for Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway.

After a honeymoon in Maui, Hawaii, the couple returned to their new home in Hercules.

\*\*\*

On a Point Richmond stroll on a recent Sunday, an Open Studio at 38 Washington Avenue beckoned visitors upstairs to Steve Hurst's studio of Clocks. His unique handmade Clocks are worth the visit.

\*\*\*

Thanks to Mary Highfill who faithfully keeps our history building flower box filled with color.

\*\*\*

Anita Christensen missed the Point Richmond Annual Meeting because of a fall in her home. We wish her a speedy recovery as she volunteers for one of our staffing days at the Museum as well as at her Christian Science Reading Room.

\*\*\*

Did you know that you are taller in the morning than at night? This is because you have

soft pads (called disks) between the bones of your spine. They expand slightly overnight, making you taller.

\*\*\*

Pam Wilson, Donna Wilson, Florence Zahar and Mary Buckley all felt their trip in April to Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Italy was too short and went too fast!

\*\*\*

The nice part about living in a small town, when you don't know what you're doing, someone else always does.

Did you know there is a lot at Oakland Airport where you can hang out in your car waiting for that cell phone call from your passenger once he/she has scored the luggage. It is located over by the old United Airlines hangar, the one you see on the right as you get close to the airport. Better than making those periodic swoops past the curb, only to hear : "Move on" from the cops.

\*\*\*

ANSWER: I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

*"Activities near the north end. Note the steam roller near the train. The oil well had been abandoned by John Nicholl." (0203-DC from Don Church, enhanced by Thomas Mercer-Hursh)*



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# ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

Mid Dornan

The rain may have prevented some from attending our annual meeting but it didn't dampen the spirits of those who did. With reason to celebrate, we are now into our 25th year, we reminisced about our contributions these past years. Two of those older attending included Tom Kenny whose parents were the original owners of what is now called the SPOT and Fred Beesley who attended Washington School over 75 years ago. Betty Dornan and Dody Perry, now both retiring, were given Certificates of Appreciation for the many years they devoted as Museum Coordinator and/or as a Volunteer.

Pat Pearson asked for those interested in putting historic plaques on their homes in the National Historic District. She will chair this project.

Member Margaret Morkowski presented the program on the Restoration of the Historic Santa Fe Train masters Building recently moved to the Point as a Gateway to the Point. Then, everyone walked or rode to inspect the building where refreshments were served and included a large cake celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the History Association

## HISTORY ASSOCIATION ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At their annual meeting, members elected the following as officers for the 2006-2007 year

PRESIDENT

**Mid Dornan**

1st VICE PRESIDENT

**Pat Pearson**

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

**Jerry Cerkanowicz**

SECRETARY

**Tom Piazza**

TREASURER

**Sonja Darling**

Filling out the rest of the Board of Directors:

CORRESPONDING. SECRETARY

**Mary Highfill**

EDITOR, *THIS POINT....in time*

**Gary Shows**

*TPit* PHOTO ENHANCEMENT, PRINTING

**Thomas Mercer-Hursh**

MEMBERSHIP

**Pam Wilson**

MUSEUM COORDINATOR

**Margaret Morkowski**

ARCHIVES

**Bonnie Jo Cullison** (also in charge of the of the museum.)

**Liz McDonald**, former 1st Vice President, will continue to do communications but hasn't been given an official title!

*History Association Board of Directors*



*This Point.....in time*

Retiring Betty Dornan was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for the years served as Museum Coordinator and Dody Perry was also given a Certificate of Appreciation for the years she has served as a volunteer staff person. We need volunteer replacements! See Margaret Morkowski.



# ARCHIVE PHOTO GALLERY

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



*Above: Three holes were drilled and the core between them removed. Considerable trouble was experienced due to cave ins which delayed the completion date (0053-DC from Don Church)*

*Below: Tunnel and station about 1904 or 1905 (0087-DC from Don Church)*

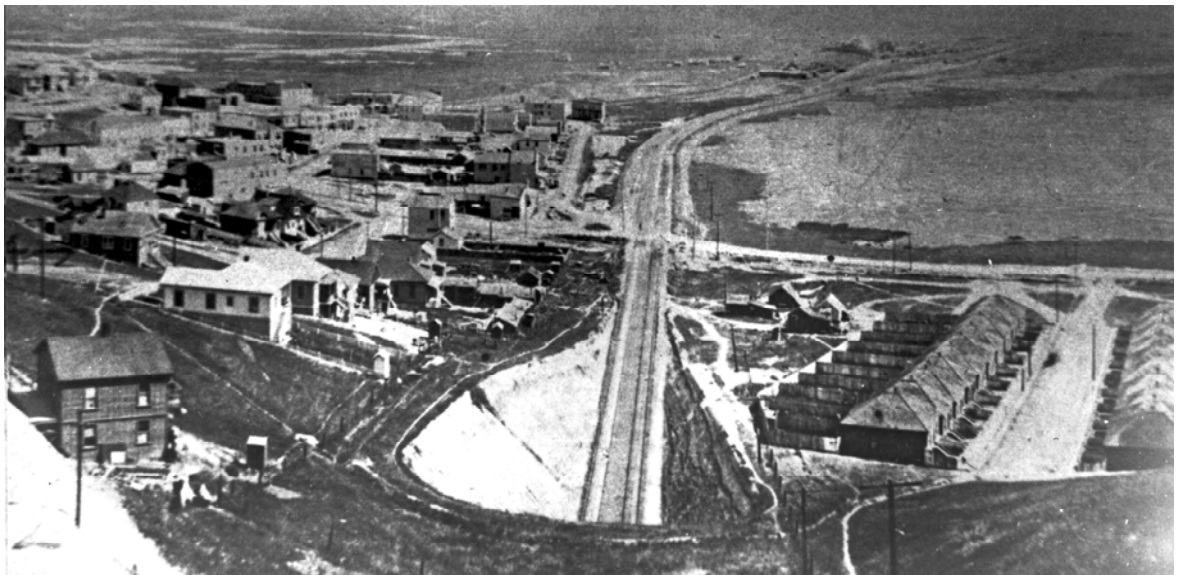


***This Point.....in time***



*Above: Railroad yards (0136-SB from Simon Burtner )*

*Below: Railroad tunnel from above (0105-DC from Don Church)*



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

# The Fantasticks at the Masquers

*A Review by Theresa de Valence, TdeV@bstw.com*

"The Fantasticks" opened off-Broadway in 1960 and closed in early 2002 after a record-breaking 17,162 performances. It was the longest-running show of any kind in the United States, and the longest-running musical in the world. This production at the Masquers runs June 9 through July 22 on Fridays and Saturdays starting at 8 pm. Sunday matinees at 2:30 pm on June 25 and July 2, 9 & 16. Call (510) 232-4031 or visit [www.masquers.org](http://www.masquers.org).

My collection of understandings about the mysteries of theatre has been augmented by this show. Somewhere in a world far away there is a whole parallel universe of other humans who have been attending theatre all their lives. That world seems full of expected actions and a shared understanding of the meaning of those actions, but from here, I can neither recognize those actions nor link to any specific shared understanding.

This is rather like a story I read wherein a woman wanted to know what a gift of yellow roses meant (as distinct from red) in the "language of flowers," as though such a language existed *and* could be capable of such a literal translation. Sometimes a rose is a rose.

And yet, there *is* something shared within the circle of theatre folks. To begin with, Director Marti Baer told me that, contrary to many shows, in this production, the cast and production teams were given significant creative licence.

The stage set was simply designed. Betty Baker Bindner played the Mute, a part apparently designed to be a component of the scenery, perhaps to give it movement and interest.

The play was slow to get started. Two next-door neighbour Dads each have a child. For some reason, there were fathers but no mothers in the play; perhaps women would have behaved more sensibly (thereby removing all basis for the plot)! The Dads though fond of their children, went

through an oft-heard tally of the exasperations of parenting.

The plot ultimately moved more swiftly. Events occurred which added tension to the romance between the kids, secrets were unveiled, and convoluted plots began. Once the plot moved apace, the story line turned into nonsense, but the show was entertaining, perhaps because of it.

The production was worth seeing for the experience of listening to these appealing voices. To my surprise I was familiar with some of the songs in the play; turns out that popular music has pinched a song or two from this play's musical score.

This was the best performance I have yet seen from Kyle Johnson (playing Matt, the son). Matt fell in love and progressed in love in a gentle believable way. Later, along with his change of heart, the eagerness with which he wanted to see the world vibrated like a low bass hum. And later still, as a world-weary, broken, jaded man (at 20 years of age!) he was poignant. Kyle delivered a moving, well-rounded, commendable performance.

I liked Bridget O'Keeffe (playing Luisa, the young daughter) better in this show also. Bridget played her character in a direct clear way, exuding less treacly sentiment, in spite of Luisa's propensity for drifting off into juvenile fantasies. As always, Bridget was beautiful with a charming voice. In the company of El Gallo, Luisa delivered a truly excellent and horrifying performance.

Alex Shafer (as Bellomy, the girl's father) puzzled me. Bellomy was an average guy (except for his appalling taste in trousers) competent and complacent, but I could not decide if his air of insouciance came from Alex's natural features (and attitude) or whether this cynic was Alex's interpretation of his part. In either case, Alex's career with Masquers deserves ongoing scrutiny.

In contrast, Keith Jeffers (playing Hucklebee, the boy's father) portrayed his character as gaudy and clueless. I suppose that one character had to be idiotic in order to account for plot twists, but it seemed awkward to see Keith in this role. Not only did Hucklebee have egregiously awful tailoring (not a sin on its own), but he was smarmy too.

*This Point.....in time*



Both Dads were gardeners and engaged in some hilarious antics on the subject. They illustrated the value of retort (by which I mean, verbal wordplay which creates tension as the exchange escalates).

El Gallo (played by Paul Macari) looked like a circus trainer, perhaps of tigers. Or maybe a gypsy. Something mysterious, a little risqué, with a soupçon of danger. From my seat in the audience, I was thrilled to my boots when he looked into my eyes. As the plot unfolded, he transformed into the perfect Master of Ceremonies for one's next garden party (Someone You Can Trust), a sleek smiling entertainer with an eye to delivering value for money.

And yet, just a short while later, he metamorphosed into a Young Girl's Worst Nightmare, a smooth-talking dance partner without compassion or remorse who casually took our young girl's soul to Hell. Sizzling!

For any avid collector of Dying Scenes (of

which, you may remember, I am one), Robert Love (as Mortimer) provided an entry that should not be missed. It has opened a whole new plateau for the genre. Like other superlative Dying Scenes, it was prolonged and so preposterous that it became increasingly funnier. Mortimer did do some other amusing things, but they paled in comparison.

Jim Colgan (playing Henry) was an ageing actor of bit parts with a tendency to fall into scenes of greater presence and humour than his part implied. Many of his lines caused the audience to shout with laughter, making the most of a doddering old fool.

There is something for everyone in this play: gorgeous voices, romance, wistful waltzes, beautiful swordplay (kudos to the choreographer, Lynn-Clar Elam), soliloquies, Shakespeare, and other supremely ludicrous delights.

Definitely add this play to your Must See list.



*El Gallo (Paul Macari) and the young lovers (Kyle Johnson and Bridget O'Keeffe). Photos by Jerry Telfer.*

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

# William L. Thompson, M.D.

## *More Memories of Early 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. Thank you Dr. Thompson! Enjoy!*

An open grassy area west of First and Ohio in early days was often used by farm storming air pilots. We could see them take off and land and often go thru stunts in the air. They were old slow moving biplanes that often took up passengers for a fee. The most famous of these fliers was Jimmy Angel who often stopped by here. He is best known for the discovery of Angel Falls while he was flying prospectors into Venezuela. This waterfall, named for him, drops over 3000 feet and is the highest in the world.

There were two old brickyards in the Point Richmond area but by the time I can recall they both had stopped producing. One was on the flat across Dornan Drive from Miller Park. We used to poke around among the old walls and kilns and decomposing rooms but it was a little dangerous because there were old pits, some quite deep. This was all flattened out for safety reasons and the area used by the police as a target range. This had long been discontinued.

The other local brickyard was the one at Brickyard Cove and here parts of the old kilns and stacks are still preserved for historical reasons. Just south of this is a huge excavation filled with water. I suspect this was a quarry where the clay used in brick making may have originated. Whatever its

use, it made a fine swimming pool and we kids used it often in the old days.

If one drives out East Richmond Avenue past the Washington School and Murrey's Point on the right one will see a great excavated cliff side. This was quarried out by the Standard Oil Company for fill for the marshes between the main plant and Castro Street to allow for the construction there of the mechanical shops, the cafeteria and other buildings.

It was rather fun after dark on a Sunday night to watch the cars coming from the San Rafael Ferry headed for Berkeley and Oakland. About every hour a caravan of 25 or 30 cars with headlights shining were seen to turn off Standard Avenue and down Park Place to Richmond Avenue and thence to Cutting Boulevard. If the leader knew the route they made it O.K. If not the procession, like a line of ants, often headed down East Richmond Avenue past the Washington School to disappear beyond. If one waited a few minutes he was treated to the sight of the entire string, still following the leader, returning and eventually getting onto the right route. This happened rather frequently.

Ferry service to San Francisco was instituted by the Santa Fe before there was a Point Richmond. There were ferries to carry their passengers across

*This Point.....in time*



the bay and ferries that carried cars, usually freight or gondola cars, across. After the town was established a railroad station was placed beside the tracks near the junction of Cutting and Richmond Avenue. Many local residents found it easier to go by ferry to San Francisco to shop rather than take the long tedious jouncing ride by street car to Oakland. A short train ride and a restful 50 or 60 minute boat ride was welcome. I don't know what the fare was but it couldn't have been much. The only time I was ever car sick was on a bumpy swaying car ride to Oakland.

When the 1915 World's Fair was in San Francisco there was a ferry service direct from ferry point to the fair itself. I think that this ran only on Sundays and holidays but it was a wonderfully convenient way to get to the fair unless there was a fog. That fair was wonderful, much larger than later fairs and especially impressive to a child. We could even enjoy it without leaving Point Richmond. A short walk at night to the crest of the hills and one could enjoy the brilliant display of light from the Tower of Jewels and other lighted features. I was especially impressed one night when the Pacific Fleet was anchored off of the marina and put on a brilliant display of search lights fanning across the sky. The first airplane I ever saw was at that fair not too many years after the Wright Brothers. Art Smith, a young flier, had a plane that looked more like a box kite than a modern plane. It was not too different from the Wright brothers plane. It took off and landed on a field where the Marina green is today. It did not go up very high but made low

dives and landed. There were two other fliers there at the time. One flew a sea plane. One was killed in a crash.

Another Point Richmond ferry was the auto ferry with a slip between the Santa Fe ferry and Richmond Terminal No. 1. This was most convenient. When I was in school in San Francisco I walked back and forth to the ferry, catching the 6:30 A.M. boat and had 55 minutes to study en route. Many Point Richmond residents worked in San Francisco and took this ferry daily. There was a bus down to meet every ferry. This, of course, went out of business when the bridge was built.

A third Point Richmond ferry was the Richmond-San Rafael Ferry. It is hard to imagine how one could get from the East Bay to Marin County before this ferry was started. It was a most welcome and important transit system. In addition to carrying autos there was a street car line out to the ferry in its early days. Captain Beck, the father of Theodore and Elsie Beck, was in charge of one of the ferries. When the bridge was finished and the ferry was outdated he called me on the phone and asked if my two young daughters would like to ride the last ferry across with him in the wheelhouse. Unfortunately they were on vacation at Tahoe and couldn't make the trip.

Another temporary ferry system went from San Francisco direct to the shipyards during the war, docking about shipyard 2 or 3 in the inner harbor. I know very little about it. It, of course was discontinued when the shipyards closed.

*To be continued*

### **THANK YOU MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS**

We thank all those volunteers who give a couple hours of their time once a month to staff the museum. This staff serves a valuable service as reflected in our guest book. This past year, visitors came from two foreign countries -- Germany and Canada. They came from 7 different states -- Alaska, Arizona, New York, Florida, Oklahoma, Oregon and Massachusetts.

Visitors also came from 38 different cities in California -- San Francisco, San Geronimo, Oakland, Bolinas, San Pablo, Cottonwood, Ukiah, El Sobrante, Fairfield, Vallejo, Santa Cruz, Pinole, Sonoma, Berkeley, Oakley, San Jose, El Cerrito, Pittsburgh, Fairfield, San Leandro, Emeryville, Walnut Creek, Greenbrae, Lafayette, Sacramento, Benecia, Santa Rosa, Los Angeles, Oakland, San Rafael, San Bruno, Tiberon, Novato, Hercules, Oroville and Alameda.

Visitors from Richmond and Point Richmond more than tripled from past years.

*Mid Dornan*

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

# On This Date in KP History

by Steve Gilford

May 15, 1942

## On This Date Sixty Years Ago

### Managing explosive growth, HJK's 1<sup>st</sup> Liberty Ship, and the poet from Oakland

May 15, 1942 was only five months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor had awakened the America that Admiral Yamamoto, who'd planned the assault, called a "sleeping giant". Due to Henry Kaiser, Richmond, California was well along its transformation from a quiet small industrial city with a small town feel into one of the most vital industrial centers of the Home Front. May 15, 1942 was a landmark in Richmond.

Slightly less than a year before the Japanese attack, Henry Kaiser's crews had begun building what would turn out to be only the first of his shipyards on San Francisco Bay. It wasn't to build Liberty Ships - as yet there were no Liberty ships. Henry Kaiser had bid on, and won, a contract to build 30-freighters for the British government. It didn't seem to bother him when he'd won that contract that not only didn't he have any experience building ships, he didn't even have a shipyard. He later would say rather proudly that when he and "his boys" had gone into shipbuilding, he'd known so little about ships that he talked about the "front end" and "back end" of vessels. Even so, he had convinced British who were desperate for new ships to underwrite the costs of building a shipyard and to give him technical help. In return, he would see that they got their ships on or ahead of schedule. The challenge of a totally new field seemed to energize him.

He also saw a potential in shipbuilding that went far beyond this single contract. War seemed inevitable. When it came, it was going to be fought on two oceans but most US shipyards were on the East Coast. A West Coast shipbuilder would have major advantages. Kaiser was sure he could keep the Richmond yard busy after he'd finished the 30-freighters for England but he would need to have steel which was already in short supply. With the whole nation arming, building tanks, jeeps, artillery, and aircraft, he was sure the shortage would only get worse. He lobbied for permission to build a steel plant in Southern California to manufacture his own steel plate. He also located accessible iron ore deposits to supply the plant which was yet to be built and sent men to develop that source so they could begin mining operations.

Around this same time, the US Government announced the Liberty Ship program. It was the biggest ship building project in history and HJK was determined to carve out a chunk of it for his company. To get the contracts, though, he would need more facilities. He immediately sent his older son, Edgar, to Portland / Vancouver to buy land. Edgar purchased eighty-seven acres on the Columbia River and began constructing what would become Oregonship, the first of three Kaiser Northwest shipyards.

It was an amazing period in this now sixty-year-old man's life. As huge an undertaking as his shipbuilding program was becoming, it was certainly not overtaxing his energies. He kept looking for additional business opportunities. Only a month after HJK sent Edgar to build the Oregonship facility,



*Edward Rowland Sill  
1841-1887  
Poet and Educator*

*This Point.....in time*

Kaiser received Federal clearance to build a magnesium plant at Permanente, CA. Lightweight metals were needed by the US military for planes and munitions. Kaiser realized that by integrating the heat processes used in the production of magnesium with those needed in cement manufacture, he could produce magnesium cheaper and more efficiently, than was currently possible. He put a crew to work building a magnesium plant at Permanente Cement. Amazingly, with all of this going on simultaneously, there was still excess organizational energy! By December 1941, on the eve of World War II, Kaiser was already building a second shipyard in Richmond. It opened just a month after Pearl Harbor and the number of workers quickly doubled to 30,000. Only days after that, he signed a contract to build Yard #3.

Yard #3 was to be different. Rather than being another emergency, temporary, yard, this one was to be an industrial hub. The shipways were to be dry docks where ships could be repaired and maintained as well as built. Within weeks of Pearl Harbor, Kaiser was already planning for the post war period!

As Kaiser employment rolls grew, it became obvious that there had to be better health care available. HJK's younger son, Henry Kaiser, Jr. took on that task. He asked Sidney Garfield to come up from Los Angeles to survey the shipyards and the now-overwhelmed East Bay medical resources.

HJK, Sr. felt he could apply the principles that had proven so successful at the big dams and building roads to the building of ships and he was proving to be right. Now Henry, Jr. wanted to see if Garfield could apply the lessons that he'd learned at Grand Coulee to health care for the new shipbuilders. He detailed some of his people to help the young doctor. In a matter of weeks, Garfield's plan was approved by Kaiser and by the insurance companies underwriting the shipyard's Workmen's Compensation plan. Garfield

located a hospital that could become the cornerstone of the new medical program. With the help of Henry, Sr., he'd arranged a combination purchase plan and interim agreement for beds in local hospitals until the totally renovated Permanente Fabiola Hospital was ready. He'd rented temporary medical office space and begun recruiting staff for the new program. Simultaneously, on a muddy lot on Cutting Boulevard, Garfield and the Kaiser company were helping the US Maritime Commission design and build what would become the Richmond Field Hospital.

However, the real business in Richmond was building ships and May 15, 1942 was a milestone. On that date, Kaiser launched his first Liberty Ship. Because he'd had to build shipyards first and he was still building the British freighters, Kaiser was not the first to launch a Liberty Ship. Other yards had been turning them out for about a year before his first Liberty Ship slid down into San Francisco Bay. Even with his late start, Kaiser would revolutionize the way these ships were built and provide lessons that would speed up shipyards all over the country.

That first Kaiser Liberty Ship was the *Edward Rowland Sill*. Since Kaiser had some authority to name the ships in this class from a list of prominent Americans, I thought it would be interesting to see who Edward Sill, was. The first reference to him I found to was in a book of quotations for having said: "*Be satisfied with nothing but your best.*" That certainly fit in with Henry Kaiser's thinking!

It turns out that E.R. Sill (1841-1887) was a nationally known poet from Oakland where he'd been a teacher and, then for a while, the superintendent of schools before moving to Palo Alto to become a professor at Stanford. He was a favorite of poet Robert Frost as well as of HJK. After reviewing Kaiser's life during this period, I could imagine Henry Kaiser enjoying this poem by Sill about the nobleness of doing the best you can with what you have to work with.

(Continued on page 20)



*Contemporary map of Kaiser industrial interests across the West, the East Coast, Mississippi River Valley and Gulf of Mexico.*

## Opportunity

This I beheld, or dreamed it in a dream:  
There spread a cloud of dust along a plain;  
And underneath the cloud, or in it, raged  
A furious battle, and men yelled, and swords  
Shocked upon swords and shields. A prince's banner  
Wavered, then staggered backward, hemmed by foes.  
A craven hung along the battle's edge,  
And thought, "Had I a sword of keener steel--  
That blue blade that the king's son bears,-- but this  
Blunt thing--!" He snapped and flung it from his hand,  
And lowering crept away and left the field.  
Then came the king's son, wounded sore bested,  
And weaponless, and saw the broken sword  
Hilt-buried in the dry and trodden sand,  
And ran and snatched it, and with battle-shout  
Lifted afresh he hewed his enemy down  
And saved a great cause that heroic day.

Now 60 years old and still picking up speed,  
Kaiser certainly had a sense of his own mortality

even as he was accomplishing more, getting more  
done, spreading out into more areas, than he had  
been able to do before in a lifetime already filled  
with notable achievements. It is easy to think of  
him reflecting for a moment on this verse by the  
man for whom his first Liberty Ship is named.

## Life

Forenoon and afternoon and night,--  
And day is gone,--  
So short a span of time there is  
'Twixt dawn and evensong.  
Youth,--Middle life,--Old age,--  
And life is past,--  
So live each day that God shall say,  
"Well done!" at last.

The Edward Rowland Sill, the first Liberty  
Ship off the Kaiser ways, took part in the  
Normandy D-day invasion in 1944. She returned  
to San Francisco Bay in 1967 where she was  
scrapped.

© Steve Gilford Sageprod@aya.yale.edu

## Want an Historical Plaque for your Point Richmond Home?

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

Home owners have expressed interest in having an historical plaque on their homes. I own the Frosini house and plan to put a plaque proclaiming the building as "The Forsini Family Home" I have talked to other home owners also interested in this project.

Some of our homes are not in the official Historic Preservations District. This does not prevent us from placing plaques on our buildings.

The plaques and installation will be paid for by the owners. In order to provide some continuity to the program the wording would have to be approved by the History Association. Research needed to document the age and ownership of the property shall be done by the home owner with some assistance from the History Association.

The size of the plaque can be whatever the homeowner wants. Prices are based on the size of the plaque and the number of lines of print. The plaques will be ordered from East Bay Brass.

If you are interested in this project, please call or e mail me.

*This Point.....in time*

# *CARDS, LETTERS & E-MAIL*

*Friends often ask about Donna Roselius and below are excerpts from a letter I received prior to our annual meeting. Mid Dornan*

Dear Mid,

I want to send everyone my love. I really do miss everyone, even though it's nice living in a quiet little town by the ocean. Trouble is, I have very little to talk about, unless it concerns Rosy. He is slowly recovering from a horrible (truly ugly, awful) staph infection that started as a sore on his butt. I thought I was doing full-time nursing before, but this has caused extra work. But the work has paid off, and instead of being sent to the Medford Wound Center, we just have about two more weeks of antibiotics and the treatments. If the tests turn out o.k. then, I can relax a little bit, he's improving a bit.

The only art and music I've had any time for is the assignment by a local pottery/glass artist, who is having me make bas-relief sculptures for molds for his lead crystal pieces. I should have pictures of them, but I've not downloaded them yet. If I do, I'll send one or two.

Kyli is 17, and is finishing her junior year, immediately after which she will visit us. Yayyyyyyy. Just about a week, but we'll manage to have some fun I'm sure.....she's at the top of her class, and looking at places that are offering scholarships. she's great. Eric has just changed jobs, and is working, at least for the summer, as a counselor, etc. in a church camp. Could be that they will be open year-round, and he may stay there for awhile. He's great with kids. He's great, period. (I'm allowed to say that as a grandmother, even if it is true.)

Plans for any travel will have to wait indefinitely. One of these days, we could change that anything's possible.

Please give everyone a hug for me. Wish I could be there!!!!!!  
Love, Donna

Hi Pam!

It's me, Debbie Forbes, glad to see you are still living in the Point & working on the paper. Say to Paula too.

Thanks,  
Debbie  
Edmond, OK

*Hi Deb, thanks for the nice note! Pam*

Hello,

Time to renew my membership, I will not be able to attend the yearly meeting this May, so, see you in 2007.

I'm going to be traveling to Canada for a few weeks. Thanks for all your time spent with the History Association.

Janis Henry  
Cupertino

A few years ago I walked into our living room and found my mother chuckling to herself. When I asked her what had brought on that bit of special Irish laughter she replied, "Just reminiscing." When I pressed her to let me in on what must be a happy thought she said, ok.

She reminded me that when I was an infant my sister, Evie Cunan, thought I was the cutest baby in Point Richmond. When she learned there was to be a baby beauty contest she asked mom if she could enter me as she was positive I'd win first prize. Mom wasn't so sure about that, but gave her the go ahead.

She dressed me up and proudly carried me to the competition. In a short time she came running home, took me into the bedroom, and gave me a spanking. My punishment for not winning first prize, in fact, not even the booby prize!

Regina Girard of San Rafael

*This Point.....in time*



## Exclusive - Over 90 Club

### *An impressive list!*

**Ruth Wood Mullen (99)**  
**Anna Schwarz (94)**  
**Jim Kenny (93)**  
**Bena Bowles (91)**  
**Lee Christian**  
**Ruth Mallette (93)**  
**Alice Helseth (94)**  
**Jean Moyle Spiersch**  
**Rena Cairo Gonsalves (94)**

**Anne Hanzlik (95)**  
**Dulcie Johnson (91)**  
**Lupe Padilla Lopez**  
**Louise Hammond (91)**  
**Laura Kurtz (90)**  
**Anita Brougham (93)**  
**Goldie Mobley (91)**  
**Oretta Eaton (91)**  
**Maxine Stoddard (90)**  
**Reva Ward (92)**

**Steve Wyrick (91)**  
**Bernard Dietz (91)**  
**Gordon Miller (98)**  
**Avis Blanchette**  
**Rose Bosso (91)**  
**Mark Gebhart**

### *An even more exclusive club!* *Our 100 YEAR CLUB:*

**Bonnie Kirkman (102)**  
*Have we missed anyone?*

## *DEATHS.....*

**Margaret Mary Kennan Donaldson** in Butte, Montana. Age 89. Margaret was born and raised in Point Richmond graduating from Richmond High. She lived on Park Place and also on Standard Avenue. A member of the Marine Cooks and Stewards Union she put in almost 20 years on the S.S. Monterey with Matson Lines as a waitress or room steward. She is survived by her sister Roseanne Field, and brother James Kennan of Santa Rosa, CA.

*(Thanks to Tom Kenny who brought this information to our attention.)*

**Evelyn Ruth Bird Lizarraga** , age 79, on May 28, 2006 in her Point Richmond home. A lifelong Richmond resident, she was originally from Giant (now Pt. Pinole Regional Shoreline) and graduated from Richmond High with the class of '46. She worked for Matson Navigation in San Francisco for 18 years. Evelyn is survived by her husband, Hector, son John, stepsons Tony and Steve, seven granddaughters and five great-grandchildren, also, a brother Frank.

**William "Bill" J. Kretzmer Jr.** on May 23, 2006 in Roseville. Age 86. Kretzmer graduated from Cal's Boalt Hall School of Law in 1947, going on to open a private practice he maintained for 40 years. He built a home on Western Drive in the Point. Future Assemblyman Jack Knox was one of his partners. He served on the Richmond Redevelopment Agency Board and later as city attorney in El Cerrito. He also was active in the Chamber of Commerce, Knights of Columbus and the Contra Costa Mental Health Association. Other interests include reading, jazz and the Oakland A's, trains and history. He is survived by his wife Glenda, daughters Kathleen Kretzmer and Leslie Gordon, stepchildren, Sharron Wooten, Gene Brady, Rick Brady, and sister Evelyn Case. Formerly married to the late Geraldine Kretzmer.

*This Point.....in time*

# ***BIRTHDAYS***

## ***June***

Alissa Bagley	Brian Rotting	Daniel Buhler	Maurice Doherty
William Shea	Stacey Spinola	Dave Macdiarmid, Jr.	Gerry Higuera
Emeric H. Baxter	Gill Stanfield	Dianne Primaver	Judy Travis
Anita Brougham	John H. Knox	Suzanne Unser	Lee Christioan
Andrew Butt	Alice Baxter	Aaron/Michael Marshall	Lillian Karl
Joanne Lansing	Zachary Crowson	Thomas Kenny	Luke Karl*
Cathe Brazil	Rosemary Giacomelli	Marcelina Smith	Steve Wyrick

## ***July***

Francis Smith	Madison Bradshaw	Madeline Bellando	Alyce Williamson
Amy Rotting	Ed Squires	Albright	Martha Bielawski
Deborah Stearns	Roger Elle	Jean Reynolds	Dixie L. Mello
Julius Matteucci	Alice McMahon	Ann Bisio	Frank Matteucci
Doreen Minkwitz	Hilary Lord	Regan Bradshaw	Isabella Ultsch
Mary L.Knox	Liz Garrard	Jon Healy	Richard M. Smith
Diedre Cerknowicz	Clifford (Lou) MacMillan	Golda Pettycord Howard	
Allen Anderson	Loretta 'Mertle' Lease	Stella Anellini Giovannini	

## ***August***

Oretta Eaton	Reva Ward	Dean Beesley	Eunice Ruth Hursh
Donna Wilson	Zoanna Kille	R.Clayton Barnes	Linda Smith Delatorre
Mid Dornan	Mary Knox	Tony Bernabich	Marlene Smith
Joe Darling	Karla Peterson	Thelma Hecker Harvey	Kent Kitchingman
Nicholas Ultsch	Alia Smyke	Michael Shaw	Diane Frye
Nikki Eaton	Terrence Doherty	Roy Henry Gover	Marion Kent
Bernie Bisio	Lisa Smith	Beatrice Beesley Casey	Molly Kathleen Barnes
Barbara Ward	Kelly von York	Jerome Vloeberghs	Sarah Thompson
Connee Fisher	Bonnie Ritzenthaler	Jim Healy	
Alice Thompson	Wilson	Patti Kowalski	



***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 September/October issue of TPIT is Friday August 18, 2006.

## **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. Information, call 510-215-6100. General membership public meetings are held monthly. Details are available by calling 510-232-0405.

## **WASHINGTON SCHOOL**

Contact: Roz Plishner, Principal 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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Type of membership (check one):

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**Pam Wilson**  
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**Point Richmond, CA 94801**

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

### Main Contributors to this Issue:

Gary Shows	Editor
Mid Dornan	Various Articles
Thomas Mercer-Hursh, Ph.D.	Design/Photos/ Printing
Don Church/Allan Smith	Historic Photos
Jerry Cerkowicz	Proof/Information
Pam Wilson	Membership Info
Jean Reynolds	Article
Dee Rosier	Article
Alyce Williamson	Article
William Thompson, M.D.	Article
Theresa de Valence	Article
Margaret Morkowski	Article
Pat Pearson	Article
Steve Gilford	Article
Jo Bycraft	Article

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

Please mail articles and items of interest to:

**Gary Shows**  
**229 Golden Gate Avenue**  
**Point Richmond, CA 94801**  
or  
**fax 510-965-0335**  
or

**email: gary@alkos.com**

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

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