

The Carroll Apartment building was originally a two-story brick structure and served as Richmond's first hospital, from 1908 to about 1915. While Dr. Clark Abbott was serving as lecturer in San Francisco at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, he opened an office in Point Richmond. In 1908, his cousin Ursa joined him in practice, and together they opened the Abbott Hospital. The ground floor contained a modern X-ray room, an electrical room, a

supply room, minor operating and dressing rooms, consultation rooms, private offices, a library and two private rooms for patients. On the second floor was a major operating room, a sterilizing room, bathroom, kitchen and dining rooms, a men's ward and six private rooms. The hospital had a total of twenty-five beds, and cost patients \$1.50 per day. Its financial success depended on the use of student nurses on off-hours for long periods of time. When a state law passed making it illegal to use

trainee nurses more than eight hours at a time, the operating costs became too great, and the hospital moved to Berkeley, where it merged with Roosevelt Hospital. The building on Santa Fe remained vacant for a few years, and in 1918, it was converted to apartments. A third story was added, and it remains much the same today.

From "THIS POINT in time" (the book) by Donna Roselius, Teresa Albro, Michelle Brown & Rosemary Corbin

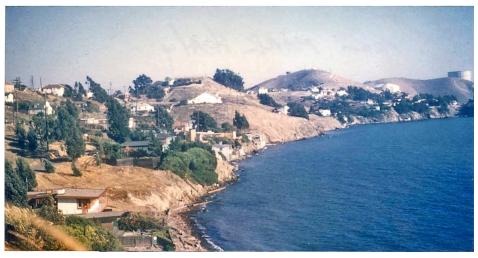


It is estimated that only two people in a hundred make a New Year's resolution. New Year's resolutions are goals we set for ourselves in the coming year and psychologists have discovered a direct relationship between the goals we set and the success we achieve. The higher our goals, the greater your chances of success. However, there are a couple of things to remember. Three out of every four resolutions are concerned with dieting or giving up smoking which seldom bring remarkable results.

On the other hand, resolving to become more of a success in the coming year pick out a quality in some successful person you know and resolve to emulate that quality. You have to mean business so tell your resolution to at least one other person. We are willing to accept our own failure but we don't like to let other people know we are weak. The hardest thing about New Year's resolutions isn't trying to keep them. It's making them. Perhaps you could make one that includes an article or incident for THIS POINT....in time. HAPPY NEW YEAR 2007

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Photo of Point Richmond beach taken from the back yard of the last house on Western Drive. Taken early 1970's. (0550-Healy from Mark Healy, enhanced by Thomas Mercer-Hursh)



This Point....in time

Thank you members for your membership renewal: Mark Healy Emile & Edwyna Pleau Family Loren Smith Dennis Amantite Bernadette Bisio Anita Christiansen Evelyn Neville Macdonald Henry Gondola Spiro Cakos

And a warm welcome to these new members: Jack Morman Evan & Debbie Jahromi Family

Thanks to the Volunteers who open and close our history museum on Thursday and Saturday: Betty Dornan Bruce and Ann Bartram Pat Pearson Mid Dornan Bonnie Jo Cullison Susan Brooks Anita Christiansen Sonja Darling Margaret Morkowski A. Casazza Alyce Williamson Zonna Kille Phylis Bogue

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



EDITOR'S NOTES

Gary Shows (510-235-1336)

Here is your December/January issue of TPIT! My usual thanks to all who supply the material that makes this newsletter interesting and to Thomas Mercer-Hursh for making it beautiful.

Thanks to Stephen Kowalski and Mark Healy for supplying photos of an earlier time in the Point. They are part of our collection and will soon be viewable on our website, pointrichmondhistory.org.

We are slowly collecting a wonderful collection of images from Point Richmond's early days, thanks especially to the late Don Church and Allan Smith. Let's build on it! If anyone has old pictures of the Point please use us to share them with others by donating them to the Point Richmond History Association. If you don't want to give up you pictures, loan them to us, we will take good care of them, scan them, add to our collection, then return them to you. Keep in mind that even 1960's and 1970's pictures can be very interesting.

Happy Holidays!

The deadline for contributions to the next issue is January 26, 2007

The December/January newsletter assembly crew, thank you all:

Jerry Cerkanowicz Gary Shows Pam Wilson Marcelina Smith Pat Pearson Bonnie Jo Cullison Sonja Darling Tom Piazza Mary Highfill Margaret Mortkowski

Thank You! Our Special Supporters!

History Makers

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

Corporate Sponsor

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History Preservers:

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

The Cover

Known now as Carroll Apartments this building on West Richmond and Santa Fe was originally Abbott Hospital. Photo by Gary Shows, enhanced by Thomas Mercer-Hursh

Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question:What is the average age of current U.S. Senators? (pre Nov. 7, 2006). Answer at end of Trivia.

Diet tip: If you are circulating at a party, try keeping your glass in your right hand or the hand you eat with. You can't eat with it if you are drinking with it. Right? Drink with your dominate hand.

Are you the one in four Americans 55-plus that belongs to a fitness center?

Seth and Rose Fenton with four-year old Andrew spent a week between holidays visiting Seth's parents. Karen is retiring from the West Contra Costa School Board after 13 years and will be heading back to Jersey City, New Jersey next February to be there when her anticipated granddaughter will be born.

Social Security checks will be up 3.3% in 2007 pushing the average monthly benefit for retired workers to \$1,044.00. The cost-of-living (COLA) increase affects 53 million people. Nearly a third of retirees depend on Social Security for almost all their income.

Richmond voters in November elected a new Mayor, Gayle McLaughlin, and re-elected Maria Viramontes and Jim Rogers to the Council. A vacancy now exits in the council as the Mayor-elect

was a Councilmember. IF the council were to chose the next highest vote getter, it would place Corky Booze in that position. Richard Griffin is retiring from the Council in January.

There is nothing like a good laugh to break the intensity of a situation. Laughter causes the tissue that forms the inner lining of blood vessels to expand increasing blood flow to the heart and other organs, (Stress causes blood vessels to contract.) SO, LET IT GO!



Looking for the true Christmas Spirit? Mark these dates at the Methodist church at 5:00 pm: Sun. Dec 3: Lessons and Carols Sun. Dec 12: Messiah Sun. Dec 17: Caroling. ***

Take time to drive or walk around the Point during the holidays to enjoy the lighting and scenes others have displayed. Do something nice for someone that doesn't expect it. Send a greeting card to an old friend and volunteer at a needed spot. Remember, this is the last time of the year to give that tax deductible donation to a church or charity of your choice. ***

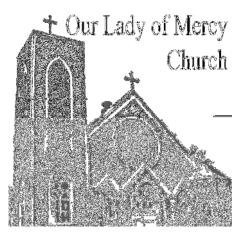
CHRISTMAS! MERRY HAPPY HANUKKAH !

Answer: The average age of current U.S. Senators is 60. The Highest in history.



This Point....in time

CHURCH NEWS



By Dee Rosier 510-232-1387

The church begins its new liturgical year with Advent – the season of renewal. During this season five years ago, the Small Christians Community was formed and is still in existence. It started with an evening group and later a day group was formed. It is a wonderful spiritual experience. The day group has a Lutheran member, Barney Dietz, who says he attends in order to share his Lutheran beliefs. Everyone is welcome to join.

Father O'Rourke has seen many needed repairs done to our church. The church hall was recently painted, and oh what a difference a little paint does to brighten it. The cabinets were emptied and a lot of its contents recycled. Father is looking into purchasing some round tables, which are more conversation oriented than the oblong ones. We are presently down to just one organ after having disposed of the other two. The church has a new carpet and a sound system has been installed. All of these are small steps which create a more welcoming atmosphere. The inside of the church doors have been painted a rich green and the outside will also be the same. Aside from being the foreman on the church beautification, Father found time to travel to Hawaii, as well as a visit with his brother in New Jersey. He has also found time to rewrite a narrative for a documentary on Utah Native Americans.

In lieu of our annual BBQ, we held a pancake breakfast. It was our first attempt and was a huge The breakfast was delicious and well success. attended. It was a joy to see so many familiar faces attend. Susan Brooks chaired the affair, along with many helping hands, which is the secret to a successful new venture. It was also discovered that the stove had a 220-volt fan motor and our system is 110 volts. So the discovery and replacement acts of sheer genius meant that our wonderful new stove could smoke to its heart content with no problem. The volunteers were rewarded with breakfast at the Mira Vista Country Club. Aside by the small setbacks, it was such a success that a repeat performance is planned for January 14.

Our neighboring parish, St. Marks, has asked for our assistance in providing toys for kids on December 21. A box will be placed in the baptistery so that parishioners may place the unwrapped toys which will later be delivered to St. Marks. In January we will hold a clothing drive to benefit Casa Esperanza, a St. Marks organization that offers assistance to those in need.

Our annual Giving Tree is at the entrance of the church. The Giving Tree uses the Jesse Tree as a parish opportunity for sharing. During the first two weeks of Advent the tree is hung with stars that have gift requests on them. We are asking parishioners to remove one or more stars; purchase the item described and return the unwrapped gift to the boxes under the tree during the last week of Advent. These gifts will then be given to the organization, Family This organization provides a warm, House. supportive home away from home for the families of children hospitalized at Children's Hospital in Oakland. These items provide supplies for the families during their stay at Family House. Please be sure that all items are new and unused.

The Italian Catholic Federation, Richmond Branch 154 will hold their quarterly Communion at

Our Lady of Mercy on January 14, 2007. The membership will join us at our pancake breakfast.

Condolences to Vince and Judy Kafka in the recent death of Vince's daughter Sue.

Condolences to Nancy and Stanley Toledo in the recent death of Stan's mother, Elvira.

Condolences to the family of Mary Shipler. Mary was a quiet lady who we all loved. Her death leaves a pair of empty shoes in our parish.

Welcome back Javier Lopez. It does not seem possible that he left us two years ago. He wasted no time signing the "Working for God" group as Acolyte, Lector and Eucharistic Minister.

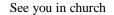
Continue to remember in your prayers those unable to attend Mass: Adolph Brossard, Dody Perry, Jack Healy, Shirley Gerk, Theresa Meneghelli and Frankie Mello.

I have officially retired as the coffee/donuts coordinator. Five years ago, Bob Peckham asked if I would do him the favor of hosting the coffee/ donuts. I feel that I have fulfilled my term and it can now move on to other hands.

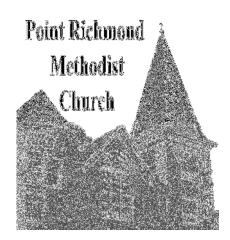
Congratulations to Brenda McKinley who was recently named as one of the 13 Women of the Year in our Diocese. The women are honored for their contributions to their parishes and community.

It was the birthday of birthdays. We went by limo to the HP Pavilion in San Jose to attend the Barbra Streisand concert. Who cared that it rained all the way to/from. Thanks to my daughter, Renee, I was Cinderella for a night.

He Who Has No Christmas in His Heart Will Never Find Christmas Under a Tree







By Jean Reynolds (235-2988) jeanormr@pacbell.net)

I Sing A Song of the Saints of God: Melody Hastings, an active church member and organist, played the organ on October 29 for the morning worship and passed away on October 30, 2006, at home in her sleep. On November 11, we gathered with her sons Bryan and Devin and her sister Penny to remember her life: one of music, travel and adventure. Melody helped with Vacation Bible School for the past several years, and thought it would be perfect if we had a week of adult VBS, too. During her time as a member of First UMC, she shared many stories of her New Hampshire home and travels in Europe and the East Coast. She taught us hymns that were in our hymnal, but not in our repertoire. With limited sight, she still could play countless familiar hymns and popular songs in any key you requested. Pastor Dan appreciated being able to talk "tune names" with her. Melody was always willing to take a field trip to anywhere you might like to go, and if she missed any events at the church it was usually due to lack of easy transportation and not for lack of interest. We really benefited from Melody's gifts and talents and are grateful for the time we had with her.

The Kingston Players string quartet presented a chamber concert in the sanctuary on November 12.

The Kingston Players are Fran Tannenbaum Kaye and Adelaide Tolberg, violin, Sue Nelson, viola, and Tom Fattaruso, cello. They treated us to quartets composed by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven, written in the same era but at a time of change from classical style to the romantic period. We are pleased to host them again as our string section for the Handel's *Messiah* concert on December 10.

Many friends, family, and neighbors gathered at the church on Thanksgiving for a service of thanks and a meal of abundance! Our Point Richmond (and beyond!) business community was generous with food and assistance: we had much to be thankful for! Merchants who contributed include: Point Richmond Market, The Bistro at Baltic Square, El Cerrito Natural Grocery, Rosamaria's Cafe, Santa Fe Market, The Spot, Little Louie's, Altura CafÈ, Edibles, Hidden City CafÈ, Hotel Mac, Hydrangea, and Starbucks. With such a wealth of food and with many volunteers to cook, slice, prepare, serve, and clean up, there was no reason to miss Thanksgiving dinner or to be alone on the holiday. Russ Johnson said he put extra effort and ingredients into the pan of stuffing he brought: guests might eat it and realize their dinner was made with great care and love. Pastor Dan Damon, Eileen Johnson and Tom Belton, Katy Belton's dad from Healdsburg, provided easy listening music as we relaxed over dinner, and even during cleanup. Juanita Hoffman, Pat Pearson, Christina DeLeon, Claudia LeGue, Jim Brooks, and others planned the details of the day and contacted merchants for donations. Tinna Manasala and Karen Bianchini cooked the yams: the only dish I heard frequent requests for seconds. Many people from the community showed up to help serve. Even the weather was a blessing: some people ate outside on the picnic table. It was a fabulous day! Please thank the businesses that contributed for all they do to support the people in our community.

On the Calendar:

December 10, 5:00 p.m. The Joyful Noise choir, soloists, and bonus singers from our wider

community present selections from Handel's *Messiah*, complete with the Kingston Players string quartet, trumpet, and organ. Eileen Johnson directs. The concert is free. Bring your own score or share one of ours and sing along with the Hallelujah Chorus finale.

See you at Interactive Resources on Saturday, December 16, 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., for the fifth annual Holiday Bake Sale. Did you see the crowds block the sidewalk last year as people waited anxiously to get an early choice of their favorite holiday cookies, candy, pies and cakes? These tasty homemade treats take you back to holidays past. Gift a friend, neighbor or yourself with something lovely and delectable from the bake sale. All profits benefit the church general fund.

Christmas Caroling: On December 17, join us for chili and cornbread at the church at 5:00 p.m. Caroling in the church neighborhood will follow. All who enjoy singing, strolling, and/or eating chili are encouraged to come! Call Jean Reynolds (235-2988) for information.

A Masquers' Holiday Treat: Amahl and the Night Visitors by Gian Carlo Menotti is a Christmas musical in one act for the whole family. Performances will be Dec. 21 and 22 at the First United Methodist Church, 201Martina Street; Dec, 23, 28-30 at the Masquers' Theatre, 105 Park Place, Point Richmond; all performances at 8:00 p.m. Pat Nelson directs; musical director is Joe Cravotto. Cost is \$10. Call the Masquers' for reservations, 510-232-4031. See <u>www.masquers.org</u>†for more†details.

Jazz Christmas Eve: December 24, 7:00 p.m. Sing Christmas Carols, hear the Christmas story and some special jazz offerings with the Dan Damon Quartet, Paula Helene and the Angel Choir. Enjoy the festive lights, flowers and bright dÈcor in the sanctuary. Seating for this event always overflows into Friendship Hall: the sanctuary fills to capacity. Come early to get a good seat!

Point Methodist Church History

Mid Dornan

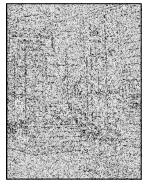
Church history is rich with contributions of women. One church group in the 1920's was the SOCIAL LEAGUE of the First Methodist Episcopal Church whose history is reflected in their minutes printed below and taken from the canvas covered, red leather cornered notebook which cost \$1.15. The minutes are printed as written. This is the 69th installment.

March 6, 1928

The Social League met in church parlors with Mesdames E. Jenkins and Bess Osborne as hostesses. The meeting was called to order by President followed by prayer - 27 members responded to roll call. The minutes of previous meeting was read and approved. It was moved, seconded and carried that \$10.00 be paid to Church Treasurer. It was moved, seconded and carried that \$1.35 be paid to Mrs. Schmidt for spoons. It was moved, seconded and carried that a note to Mrs. Dicely be mailed at once. The date of luncheon was changed to March 20. Menu:Leg of Pork, peas, potatoes, orange apple sauce, cake and coffee be served. Mrs. Ford to still have charge of organ fund. For the next meeting was decided to wear old clothes to a 1 P.M. luncheon April 3rd or be fined 2 bits. Following new members were: Mrs. Gray, Shaw, Hill and Grimes. A reading by Mrs. Holobrank was enjoyed very much. Dues were paid by following:

Mrs. Stender	.60	
" Vloebergh .	.60	
" Osborne	.60	
" Grimes	.60	
" Shaw	.60	
" Hill	.60	
" B. Jones	.60	
" Burdick	.60	
" Ida Jones	.60	
" Alexander	.60	
" Schmidt	.60	
	\$6.60	
Aprons. Mrs Gleary	1.75	
Plate offering	2.65	
-	\$11.00	
Old balance	32.55	
Church Treasurer	10.00	
Mrs. Schmidt spoons	1.35	
New balance	\$32.20	
	Mrs. J.J. Meese, sec	

Christian Science Church



By Jo Bycraft bycraft2@earthlink.net

If you missed our Thanksgiving Day church service, you can attend a very similar service any Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM in our Church at 112 Washington Avenue. (Upstairs from the

Reading Room).

What can you expect at a Wednesday Testimony Meeting at a Christian Science Church? We start by singing a hymn. Then the First Reader reads passages from the Bible, and from our Textbook, Science and Health With Key to the Scriptures, by Mary Baker Eddy. The subject for these readings is new and fresh each week, and designed to bless our Church, its members, and the community. Next comes a few moments of silent prayer, followed by repeating the Lord's Prayer together. Another hymn is sung, notices of interest to the members and congregation are read, and then we get to the Testimony part. Members of the congregation are invited to express their gratitude for healing, and to share inspiration they have received from studying our weekly Bible Lesson and from reading the Christian Science literature. No one is required to speak! Before closing the meeting at 8:30 PM, a final hymn is sung. No collection is taken on Thanksgiving or on Wednesday evenings. The atmosphere and dress are definitely informal, and all are welcome to attend these meetings. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sunday Church Services and Sunday School:

Church:

10:AM at 112 Washington Avenue

Sunday School and infant care: 10 AM downstairs in the Reading Room area.

WWIC ACTIVITIES

Norma Wallace 510-236-6968

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

WWIC met the second Tuesday of November, the 14th, due to elections the first Tuesday (the elections overlap both our meeting space and core volunteer team!). Members greatly anticipated this month's program focused on the library at Washington Elementary School.

Festive harvest-themed décor was set out by hostesses **Connie Lompa, Lori Nova** and **Norma Wallace** (Norma was jokingly reminded that, as board member, she'd already fulfilled her hostess function and was deleted from February's team.)

Susan Brooks shared minutes of the prior meeting; in Treasurer Sonja Darling's absence (get well soon!), members were advised that the October fundraiser luncheon netted \$110 bringing the account balance to \$480. Linda Newton graciously offered to transport today's receipts including member dues to Sonja.

President Margaret Morkowski gently reminded members of the team effort required to make our luncheons a success, encouraged participation, and announced the need for a chair for February's (Valentine's!) luncheon. The decision about the Club's annual Day Trip will be made at the February meeting. A coffee shop, "Central Perk" and the Blake Garden at UCB are under consideration – call **Margaret** with additional ideas!

Margaret announced club birthdays for November including **Betty Dornan** –the 8^{th} ; **Dextra Christensen** – the 14^{th} ; and **Alice Zeier** – the 22^{nd} .

The holiday lunch was voted on and results announced: a catered affair at the Methodist Church hall, for \$15 (members will be called regarding menu options and RSVP). Plan on staying after the meal for the annual carols led by **Anna Schwartz** plays the accordion and leads the singing with her fine, clear voice!

Many members voiced general concerns regarding the apparent disenfranchisement of Richmond voters, including but not exclusively Point Richmond residents. A motion was passed that a letter be sent from WWIC to the County regarding geographical accessibility and adequate signage. Points were made about the nearinvisibility of signage at the Brickyard Cove driveway entrance; about residents being assigned to polling locations throughout Richmond which were clearly not the closest or which had no public transit (e.g. seniors from Point Richmond being assigned to Brickyard Cove).

Margaret updated WWIC on the results of the national grant voting competition which resulted in The Plunge coming in 7th out of 25. The Plunge received a critical \$75,000 grant as a result. Thanks to all who voted early...and often!

Library Media Specialist Cheryl Meibos and 2nd grade Teacher Sally Feldman of Washington Elementary School engaged our full attention with their gracious and genuine thanks for the support of WWIC. Through the WWIC program led by Linda Newton, donation canisters have been located at retail locations and businesses in Point Richmond for the Library Book Fund including Santa Fe Market, Kate Bee's, Jan Fegley's and Questa Engineering. Sally Feldman also provided complete background on the rationale for purchasing new library books, and provided some ratios about the number of books needed to support literacy programs.

To date, WWIC has donated \$1,755 to the librarian for her use in

purchasing books. This includes a memorial donation on behalf of Judy Wolf by her daughter who works at Atchinson Village Credit Union, and a generous contribution from the Many Hands Project through the thoughtfulness of Sallie deWitt. Other contributions have been recived from members of the **Point Richmond Business Association**. and a generous contribution from **Many Hands**. Each of the 45 books purchased to date with the first \$750 from the WWIC fund (Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

feature a WWIC bookplate (provided by the Club). In general, the library seeks out literature which provides "character education" including trust, respect, fairness, caring and citizenship. The optimal result: children are excited to come to the library and genuinely overcome with "what to read next?"

If you need holiday gift clues, "Judy Moody" books are popular now with fourth grade girls; for youngsters, "The Mouse and the Motorcycle" by Beverly Cleary is popular; books on rattlesnakes or soccer are popular with the boys; "We Were There, Too!" provides a glimpse of how children have impacted US history and includes high-quality photographic reproductions; the award-winning "Dumpling Soup" portrays Korean cultural values; "The Lotus Seed" is a classic immigration story told about a family Vietnamese adapting to life in their new country.

Margaret responded to a query that the Point Richmond library branch would open once the water damage was fixed, but had no solid details to provide.

WWIC welcomed Margaret's guest Linda Dusty; Altha Humphrey's guest Maggie LaForce; guest and new member Larraine Hernandez; Annette Jemo's guest and new member Helen.

The next meeting is the annual WWIC Holiday Luncheon on Tuesday, December 5th at

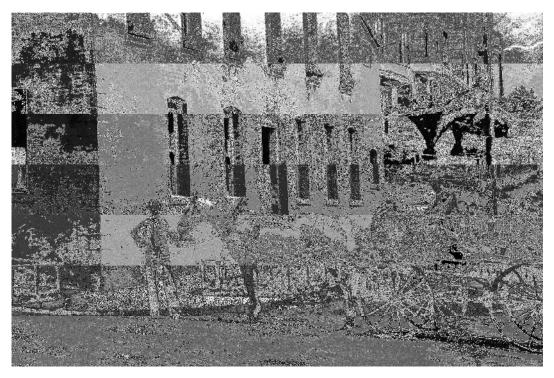


GASOLINE GOES SOARING UP TO THE SKIES

(Richmond Daily News, October 15, 1918)

Gasoline jumped two cents higher today according to a report issued by the Standard Oil company going from 11½ cents to 13½ cents. Increased consumption, causing an increased demand, without increase of supply has naturally caused the rise in price, according to George Kennedy, San Francisco manager for the Standard Oil company. Kennedy also states that the increased number of motor driven vehicles and not the war, is responsible for the raise.

(note: gasoline for 87 octane was selling for \$2.469 today)



McWhorters grocery wagon outside the Abbotts Hospital in 1912. (0030-DC from Don Church)

TRAMP SEEKS SHADE OF INDIAN FOUNTAIN TO SLEEP OFF JAG

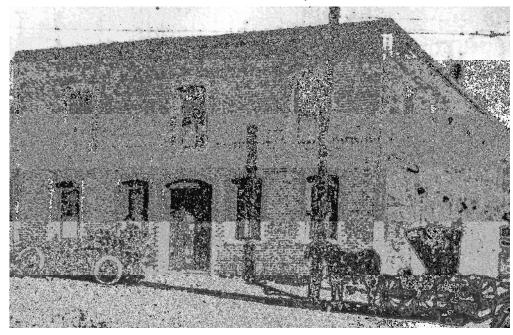
(Richmond Record Herald, October 4, 1914)

It was awfully warm today. In fact, it was so hot that Augustus McClean, a "knight of the rails" became fatigued after a long tramp from Stockton and sought shelter beneath the old Indian fountain on the west side. His appearance there wouldn't have been so bad had he been sober, but he wasn't. The perspiration which leaked from the pores in his skin as he snoozed was, according to Policeman Roy Kreamer, 99 per cent alcohol. But McClean didn't care. He was in all probabilities thinking himself some Grecian nymph bathing in the cool marble tank of some ancient Moorish castle when jarred back to civilization by the policeman's billy. He informed the officer that "he wanted to be cool," and now he is cooling in the cooler.

TPIT staff extends sincere sympathy to President Mid Dornan. Mid lost her sister in a tragic automobile accident on November 19, 2006.

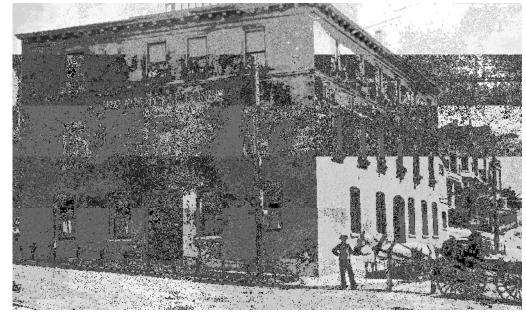
ARCHIVE PHOTO GALLERY

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



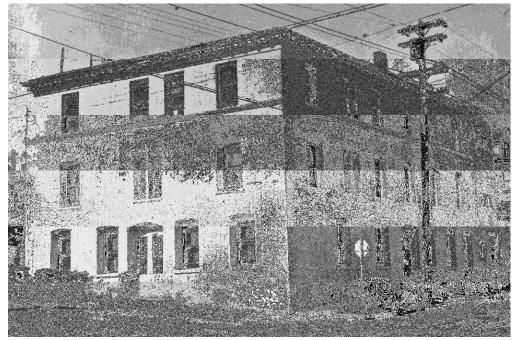
The completed hospital before it was stuccoed and before the third floor was added. (0114-DC from Don Church)

The Abbot Hospital in 1908 after the third storey was added. (0116-DC from Don Church)



This Point.....in time





After sale and conversion to apartments (0113-DC from Don Church)

This Point.....in time

William L. Thompson, M.D. *Memories of the Medical History of 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!

Part Two (Conclusion)

Dr. C. R. Blake came to Richmond in 1903 and shortly became the health officer serving Richmond and Point Richmond. He held that position with considerable distinction until well into the 1940's and was later replaced by Dr. Martin Mills.

One of Richmond's most distinguished physicians was Doctor William S. Lucas who came here in 1903 and for many years had an office on the north side of Washington Avenue between Richmond and Nichol Avenues. He was a rather small but energetic man with a wonderful medical personality. He probably he served longer and treated more Point Richmond residents than any other doctor with offices in the Point. As far as I know his entire professional life was spent here in Point Richmond. As a child I remember his automobile. Autos were not common then but he drove an old Stanley Steamer with its old slanted hood. It was recognizable where ever he went. He told me many tales of early Richmond medicine. On a wet winter night with a night call he would not hitch up his buggy and drive through the mud and slime but preferred to walk out the Santa Fe tracks to a call from the Point to North Richmond or San Pablo. Night calls were different then. There were no telephones and a member of the family had to go and get the doctor. Thus there ware fewer night calls.

One of the saddest moments of my life was when I was called on one night to attend his death. His regular doctor was not available so I was called. Also I recall with equal horror the death of the wonderful little lady who was his wife. She was riding in an auto in San Francisco when it was struck from behind by another. The gas tank caught fire and she died in the flames. It was a most terrible event.

Of all the physicians listed in Dr. Abbott's memoirs the only one other who worked in early Point Richmond was Dr. L. A. Martin who came from San Pablo in 1911 to be resident physician at the Abbott Hospital. He left in 1914.

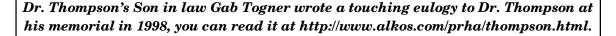
The last physician to make his office in Point Richmond and do most of his practice there was Dr. Albert Greenberg who, I believe, occupied Dr. Lucas's old office after his release from the Army after the Second World War. He practiced for a time here then moved over to Richmond due to the lack of a pharmacy here and the considerable distance to hospitals. Also he took on an associate at that time.

Most of the other medical men in Richmond did

much work in the Point although they did not have offices there. This was especially true during World War Two when the population increased by 5 or 6 fold but the number of doctors and hospital capacity remained the same. There was Dr. Cunningham, Dr. Bumarner, Dr. Guinan, Dr. Hedges, Dr. Frazier, Dr. Kaho Daily, Dr. Boomer and Dr. Peter Ross to name a few.

I started my practice in Richmond in 1940 and sweated out the war and the shipyards here at the

request of the government. I never had an office in Point Richmond but lived there throughout the war years. Having been born and raised in the Point I was well known here and much of my practice was from here. One rather strange but insignificant fact throughout in Dr. Abbott's discussion but had not been known by me was that I was the first native Richmondite to go through medical school.





Meeting of Contra Costa doctors at the home of C.L.Abbot in the 1920's. Dr. C.L. Abbot is the third from left in the top row and Dr. U.S. Abbott is in the center of the front row. Dr. L.A. Martin is at the left in the center row and Dr. Guinan to his left. (0281-DC from Don Church, enhanced by Thomas Mercer-Hursh)

The Thirty Three Year Shoreline Park Saga

By Doug Corbin

This is a curious Tale of Two Projects, one of which required a matter of a month or so to complete while the second, though similar, was more ambitious, and required somewhat more than 33 years to finish.

In 1974 Darlene and Jim Byers lived at the water's edge at the west end of Ocean Avenue and adjacent to what appeared on maps as the stub end of Harrison Street, a dedicated, but undeveloped city street. This 'street' was roughly 50 by 75 feet and its most common use seemed to be a place for rowdy youths to park their cars and chuck freshly emptied beer bottles down the rocky beach below its western edge. When the Byers called for help from the police, they were informed that this was public property and not subject to any kind of curfew laws such as those enforced for parks. So they found themselves paying \$1000 to clean up the neighboring lot, which was enough to warrant the



area an appellation park. The City Council promptly accepted and the Harrison site was cleaned up of trash and overgrowth, bollards (posts) were installed to keep out autos, and a city sign was erected declaring a park thus making a curfew enforceable. By doing this the Byers both solved the noise problem and provided a neighborhood amenity for others to enjoy. The Richmond Independent reported this successful completion of "Project #1" in November of 1974.

At about this same time, Lucretia Edwards, a long time proponent of public access to the Bay, and others were entertaining similar ideas about the remaining four stub end "paper streets" variously at Marine, Clarence, Western and Santa Fe, all of which were equally unkempt and overgrown with our favorite pests, blackberry, fennel and the like. It was feared that, sooner or later, the City Council would abandon one or more of the unused sites to adjacent property owners (as had been the custom) thereby enabling construction of a virtually unbroken "Chinese Wall" along Western and Ocean Avenues. In the winter of 1973 and in the early months of 1974, these residents, speaking in the name of the Point Richmond Civic Group (predecessor of today's PRNC) obtained the support of the City Recreation and Parks Commission for "public access" and "minimal development" of what they called "pocket parks". Further, the acting Director of Public Works went on record saying, "a pedestrian pathway is a street purpose", establishing that the proposed use would

All photos by Theresa de Valence, enhanced by Thomas Mercer-Hursh



not conflict with controlling ordinances referring to "street purpose". City Council approval was sought. Three years later a BCDC permit for a nearby subdivision required the placing of a trash can and a minimalist bench at the end of Clarence Street overlooking the water. However, perhaps because there had been no complaint that these other Bayside sites constituted sources of nuisances to neighbors in their unimproved condition, neither the City nor any other agency took further action. The record remained silent for the next 20 years while costs steadily escalated and impediments multiplied, mostly in the form of procedures and regulations applicable to Bay front development.

The effort to revive this long buried and almost forgotten corpse of a plan commenced when Maurice Doherty responded to the suggestion/directive from Lucretia Edwards to try once again to put the remaining distressed parcels to good public use. In August of 1997 with Doherty's initiation, a PRNC subcommittee was appointed that included Bonnie Satre-Daley, Bruce Beyaert and Doug Corbin, Doherty was Chair. It styled itself the Point Richmond Public Access Committee.

Local architect and volunteer Ron Gammill produced elaborate and colorful conceptual drawings for the Western Drive site which were used to gain community support, raise funds and serve as models for various other working drawings. Other architectural drawings were

prepared, pro bono, by Marcia Vallier, Dick King of AN West Inc. and Alan green of Tanaka Architect Group. With these in hand, committee members visited various waterfront homes to discuss the projects with the people most likely to be impacted and therefore most likely to take exception to the plans. They were successful in finding a number of vocal opponents. Evening sessions with neighbors and at general membership meetings of the PNRC were well attended and contentious. The more adamant objectors carried their opposition over to subsequent hearings held to satisfy CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) requirements as well as protesting to the City Council, but the PRNC committee favored the parks prevailed.

Noting that the "Project #2 lacked a cash incentive to move the City to action, the committee began looking for financing. Its efforts were rewarded with the help of \$41,000 from BCDC (CALTRANS project mitigation money) and \$60,000 from the Coastal Conservancy. Brenda Buston of the Conservancy guided the funding process and proved a great help with advice and counsel. The committee also worked closely with Tony Norris of Richmond Parks and Recreation who prepared the BCDC applications. This was essential as the project was to use City land and, hence, was treated as a project of the City of Richmond. City engineer Rich Davidson was relied on for expertise and assistance, especially regarding repairs needed to two storm water



This Point....in time



outfalls to the Bay which had to be addressed anticipatory to the commencement of the general clean up and construction. So, in the course of five years Phase #1 of Project #2 was completed, but the first spade of earth had yet to be turned by way of developing the park areas visible today.

The committee at this point realized it needed some new blood with professional expertise and found it in architect Andrew Butt. Andrew provided many of the construction drawings and recruited engineer Joyce Clark who served as our thoroughly professional project manager. It was they who transformed our precious bay side plots from neglected and nondescript patches into inviting parkland with paths, benches, vehicle barriers and open ground suitable for planting of



low maintenance, drought resistant California natives. Clark obtained railroad ties for steps) courtesy of Richmond Pacific RR Company) and selected Cleary Brothers Landscaping as contractor for the heavy earthmoving, grading, etc. Others helpful in this included Rod Satre, Bob Binsacca of AN West Inc., Sharon West and Andy Yeung of the City.

The near conclusion of this community-wide effort was celebrated by dozens of volunteers who showed up on successive Saturday mornings in mid winter 2005-2006 to spread mulch and tuck tiny plants into the ground at the Western Drive and Santa Fe sites. Some plants were purchased by Beyaert and Satre-Daley from specialized native plant nurseries, and on a wholesale price basis



thanks to the good office of landscaper Carol Burdick, and others were donated by the Watershed Project. Plants were distributed as needed from the home of Bonnie Satre-Daley and Rod Satre near the Santa Fe site where they had been delivered from the nurseries. The City of Richmond delivered the truckloads of mulch at Sharon West's request; and Beyaert organized and directed the mulching and planting work parties.

There were more than 50 volunteers involved over the years in moving this second project from dream to reality. Of course the long term success of this effort is dependent upon neighbors' willingness to remove weedy plants which will certainly try to reclaim the sites.

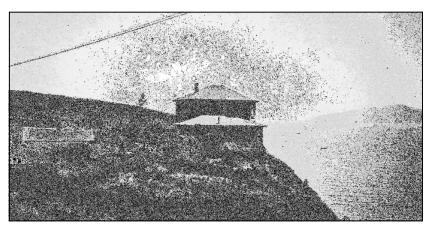
This Point....in time



30 is our last show until April, 2007! The public and all model railroaders are of course always welcome to visit us on Friday evenings from 7:30-10 PM, when we work and meet. Admission for Holiday Shows: adults \$3; seniors over 62 and children under 12 \$2; and families \$7.

Information: 510.232.4884. Handicapped Accessible.

367 Western Drive Late 1920's or early 1930's. (0544-SK from Stephen Kowalski, enhanced by Thomas Mercer-Hursh)



This Point....in time

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

Items of Interest Point Richmond, 1912

- 4-5 Nicholl well is down 500 feet, no oil or gas yet but 250,000 gallons of water daily, all at less than 100 feet.
- 4-6 Chief Arnold captures three bunco artist.
- 4-16 Ground broken yesterday for both Lincoln and Washington schools SS Titanic sunk yesterday after a collision with an iceberg.
- 4-19 Mad dogs and rabies are prevalent here.
- 4-25 E.B. Smallwood sells furniture business to L.H. Schrader. Will maintain undertaking business.
- 5-25 Standard Oil Company is paving the streets in the refinery for the first time.
- 5-28 Mrs. Sophie Burtin to erect \$7,000 apartment building on the corner of Washington and Nicholl Avenue.
- 5-30 Independent buys a new press, fastest in the county.
- 6-4 Council meeting gets hot over paving streets at the Point.
 New Hydro-Splash boat will get you to San Francisco in 5 minutes, so says J.H.
 Pierce of Oakland, the inventor.
- 6-6 Plans to reclaim 2000 acres north of Standard Avenue.
- 6-13 5 fatally injured by explosion at Brooks Id. Quarry. Tampered dynamite with a crowbar.
- 6-15 Louis Farrell on motorcycle collides with the auto of Dr. U.S. Abbott.
- 6-18 Galbraith Bros. get contract to haul 5000 yds of dirt to build up Ashland Ave from Ohio to Cutting.
- 6-17 W.F. Falla to build a \$3500 home in the Point.
- 7-2 Elks have a parade and then burn their mortgage at the new Bldg. site. Jim Owens named Mayor and Lee Windrem City Attorney.
- 7-3 Road planned to Ferry Point. The Santa Fe will give right of way along side of RR tracks from the tunnel on out.
 - Old Horowitz Millinery store to become pool hall.
- 7-5 5000 attend 4th celebration at Grand Canyon Park (I had a Zee Nut stand under the dance pavilion).
- 7-11 City gains 4 million in increased property value
- 7-13 SP double tracking the lines from Sacramento to Reno.
- 7-16 600 acres of the Biship tide lands located between Freey Point and Point San Pablo bought by Dr. Thompson of Oakland.
- 7-18 SP issues warning to parents to keep boys away from Station. Have been leaping on and off trains; playing with baggage trucks and riding up and down platforms on bicycles.

CARDS, LETTERS & E-MAIL

Dear Pam,

In regard to the "Memories of MacDonald Avenue" here are some of the things I did as a child on the Point and in Richmond.

- I watched the first ships launched at Kaiser Shipyards.
- Went to the theater for 10¢
- Shopped at Albert's, Penney's and Kress's
- Went to the old Washington School, Roosevelt Jr. High and Richmond Union High
- Fished at Keller's, played football in the mud flats
- Had a world of fun
- Richmond had a population of 10,000 and the Point had very little
- Watched baseball at the old Ball Park on McDonald, the Standard Oil League, loved it!

I lived there from the mid 1920's until the mid 1940's. I spent time in the U.S. Merchant Marine and the U.S. Army. As a child, McDonald Avenue had lots of treasures. Now it is a concrete jungle.

Good luck with your magazine, Spiro Cakos Phoenix, AZ

p.s. These were very good memories.

Hi Pam,

Enclosed are my membership dues and also a photo that I would like to donate. I had it printed from a slide that I had (I did not take the picture). I think it was taken from the backyard of Mr. Tedrick. He lived in the last house on the end of Western Drive, next to the refinery.

You guys can probably put a date on it. I'll guess early 1970's.

Happy Holidaze, Mark Healy Mount Shasta, CA



Dear Mid,

I'm glad that years of retirement have afforded me time and opportunity to develop the desire of my childhood to paint watercolors. I sometimes write stories about the paintings when the mood hits me. When TPIT for Sept/Oct arrived I was in Ireland - a trip I enjoyed immensely.

I wish for the Staff of TPIT both a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas/Happy New Year. Every news story in Contra Costa Times about Point Richmond/Richmond I read avidly. New businesses are due for you in near future, but I hope they will never extinguish the neighbor-liness of the little village I think of as <u>Home</u>.

> Delphina Franco Tawney Walnut Creek, CA



This Point....in time

Exclusive - Over 90 Club

An impressive list!	Goldie Mobley 92	Avis Blanchette 92
Ruth Wood Mullen 99 Mark Gebhart 92 Gordon Miller 98 Anna Schwartz 94 Bena Bowles 92	Rena Cairo Gonsalves 94 Anita Brougham 93 Ann Hanzlik 95 Dulcie Johnson 92 Lupe Padilla Lopez 91 Rose Grosso 91	Maxine Stoddard 92 Bernard Dietz 92 Ruth Mallette 94 Eunice Ruth Hursh 90 Lee Christian
Romilda Burress Jim Patrick Kenny 93 Alice Helseth 96 Steve Wyrick 91 Jean Moyle Spiersch 95	Louise Hammond 93 Laura Kurtz 94 Thelma Mae Harvey 92 Reva Ward 93	Have we missed anyone? Age is mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter



DEATHS.....

Mallory Penfield Tripp died on October 31, 2006 after losing a battle with cancer. Age 63. Mallory was born in Los Angeles but grew up in the Bay Area. She moved to Point Richmond in 1975 and was an active volunteer, serving as President of the Richmond Art Center, and volunteering at the Richmond Souper Center. She was active at St. John the Baptist Catholic church in El Cerrito and was active in local politics. Mallory was the wife of the late Minot Trip, Jr., and is survived by sons Stephen and John Tripp, by her father, Raymond Penfield and sister, Holly.

Joyce Louise Carlson, on November 19, 2006 in Cheyenne, Wyoming after an auto accident. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Ray, daughter Susan Fabian, sons Paul and Rich; three grandchildren. and a sister Mid Dornan.

BIRTHDAYS December

Jean Allyn Seth Fenton Hazel Paasch Cris Creed Edna Hathaway Donald Smith Debbie Seaburg Fred Frye Christine Hayes Marian Hawkins Jeff Corbin Mike Turner Lauren Nason Marilyn Darling Linda Mertle Michael Cheshareck Eric Turner Teresa Meneghelli Richard Barnes Jean Eakle Christina Nagatani Thomas Mercer Hursh Jerry Feagley Ilana Dolberg

January

Henry Allyn Donna Buhler Cindy Rosier Tom Brennan Sonja Darling Linda Marshal Bryan Smith Doug Greiner

Jeff Quist Ed Paasch Jan Burdick Jim Wilson Robert McIntosh Mary Highfill Lupe Morris Ann Bartram John Cutler Diana Kaffan Marilu Fox Elaine Harris Kristina Hollbrook Louis Cunan Les Hathaway Richard Palfini

Diana Mertle McHenry Brad Feagley Marian Sauer Sparta Chiozza Frank Kenny

Kayla Dolberg

Bob Burdick



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 Geronemo, Oakland, Bolinas, San Pablo, Cottonwood, Ukiah, El Sobrante, Fairfield, Vallejo, Santa Cruz, Pinole, Sonora, 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



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 139 ½ Washington Avenue, open Thursday's and Saturday's, 11:30 to 2:00 The deadline for the February/March issue of TPIT is Friday January 26, 2007.

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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

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 **RICHMOND ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND**

The REDF is a non-profit dedicated to ensuring that development is well-planned, sensitive to the environment and in lawful. Information, 510-215-6100. Public meetings held monthly.

WASHINGTON SCHOOL

Contact: Roz Plishner, Principal 510-232-1436.

WOMEN'S WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB

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

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

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

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Type of membership (check one):

Single	\$20.00
Senior (65+)	15.00
Family	25.00
History Preserver	50.00
Corporate Sponsor	75.00
History Maker	100.00

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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.

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