

THIS POINT... in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

www.PointRichmondHistory.org

Vol. XXVII No. 3

November, December, January, 2008/9

\$3.00



*Our Colorful
Muldowney Hotel or St. James Hotel or Ivy Inn*

The New Richmond Plunge Could be the Healthiest Public Swimming Pool in America?

Todd Jersey

Architect for the Richmond Plunge

Our pool water will be treated with ultraviolet technology which will eliminate the chorine and chloramines from the water making it chemical free for our swimmers. This will lead to healthier skin and hair and eliminate the intake of chlorine based chemicals into the swimmers bodies, a known danger to human health and unfortunate consequence of swimming pool use in this country.

Our pool will be 100% naturally lit during daylight hours. Studies have shown that human health and performance increase indoors if their activity is lit with full spectrum daylight. With over 170 windows, The Plunge will have over 2,000sf of glass which will provide a brilliant and beautiful interior for swimmers.

Our natatorium is 100% naturally ventilated. We will have an amazing 132 operable 3 x 4 foot windows for an astonishing 1,584 square feet of window openings in the building making the pool virtually an outdoor pool with a protective roof. If you think of this area as a vertical wall it would be 15 feet high and over 100 feet long. Most indoor pools suffer from not enough fresh air for the swimmers resulting in a muggy feeling and reduced health and performance. Our pool will have the capacity for over 10,000 times the amount of fresh air exchanges per hour than a typical indoor pool.

Our heating system is radiant heat. Radiant systems heat the bodies in the space not the air. This keeps the air moist, cool and refreshing for swimmers. Radiant heat is the only effective way to heat a building that will have so much fresh air exchange. This allows us to have the wonderful advantage of lots of fresh air and staying nice and warm while using the pool in the colder months.

From the President

By Mid Dornan

Everyday we are all a part of future history! By the time this issue of This Point....in time reaches you, you will have been a part of changing political history.

Richmond, will have gone from an unwieldy nine to seven City Council people. The White house will either have the first female Vice President and the oldest elected President OR there will be the first African-American as President. Also, to date it has been the most costly election ever which began over a year ago.

Our national economy has faltered and will it be able to rebound? Many readers lived through and remember the Great Depression.

These are unusual times and as historians should be noted even though we are mainly interested in Point Richmond History, it reflects the times.

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I SAVED THE PLUNGE !

CONTRIBUTOR TO WAYNE & GLAYDS VALLEY FOUNDATION \$500,000 MATCHING GRANT OF 2008
RENOVATION OF RICHMOND CALIFORNIA MUNICIPAL NATATORIUM - DEDICATED 1926
SAVE THE PLUNGE TRUST P.O. BOX 70443 RICHMOND CALIFORNIA 94807

Get Your Own "I Saved the Plunge" Magnet!

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

**Save the Richmond Plunge
Trust**

P.O. Box 70443

Richmond, CA 94807-0443

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

Thank you members for your renewal:

David & Anne Roth*
Jack Mormon
Barbara & Jeff Ward Family
The Dolberg Family
Patricia Dornan*
Paul & Zoe Mukavitz*
James Wilson Family
Betty Menzie
Ellen Schaefer
Louie Barra
Ken & Kay Madison
Olga Thomsen
Jerome Vloeberghs
James Kenny
Evelyn Melville Macdonald
Charoltte Birsinger Kermabon
Spiro Cakos
Anita Christiansen
Gloria Groff
Dee Rosier
Emile & Edwyna Pleau Family
Bruce & Sandra Beyaert Family
Fred Beesley
Henry Gondola
Penny L. Canario
Artrese Morrison & Alice Jordan

Family

**Premium Membership, Thank You!*

And a warm welcome to these new members

Judy Buhlis
Bernadine Moore

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



*And 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

The Cover

St. James Hotel as it looks today.

Photo by Theresa de Valencé, enhanced by Thomas Mercer-Hursh

Editor's Notes

Gary Shows (510-235-1336)

Here is the holiday issue of TPIT. Thanks as usual to our regular contributors. My sincere sympathy to Dee Rosier, our Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church correspondent for her loss of husband Charlie Rosier. My thoughts are with you and a special thank you Dee for this issue's report.

Nice to have the election over, it was a particularly intense one. When I look at our voting statistics it makes me very proud to be a part of this community.

The deadline for contributions to the next issue is January 17, 2009. The good news is that days will be getting longer by then!

The September/October issue newsletter assembly crew was a big one. Just enough for a party!

Pam Wilson
Mid Dornan
Pat Pearson
Bruce Bartram
Ann Bartram
Sonja Darling
Tom Piazza
Mary Crosby
Marcelina Smith
Margaret Morkowski
Bonnie Jo Cullison
Mary Highfill
Jerry Cerkanowicz
Gary Shows

The surprise wedding party was so special and unforgettable! Heartfelt thanks from me and Jerry.

Thank You! Our Special Supporters!

History Makers

Sherri Mertle
Doug & Rosemary Corbin
Kathe Kiehn
Elizabeth M. McDonald
Transcept Pharmaceuticals, Inc
John A. Thiella & Rosa T. Casazza
Sonny Jackson

Corporate Sponsor

Timeworks Inc. Clock Company
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Jean & John Knox
John A. Thiella & Rosa T. Casazza
David & Anne Roth
Catherine Burchell
John Helfrich
Sandi Genser-Maack & Lynn Maack
Thomas Mercer-Hursh & Theresa de Valence
John & Nancy Mengshol
Donna Wilson
Erica & Barry Goode
Linda Andrew-Marshall
Margaret Morkowski
Patricia Dornan
Paul & Zoe Mukavtz

A-Mid Trivia

Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Q: How many footballs do two teams use in an NFL game?

ANSWER : at end of Trivia

Man is a creature who buys football tickets three months in advance, but waits until Christmas Eve to do his Christmas shopping.

After collating of the last issue of TPIT, the Board of Directors honored Editor, Gary Shows and Jerry Cerkowicz on their marriage two days prior and toasted their 43 years together with a magnum of French Champagne.

Two former Point residents, Susan Reynolds and Ann Hathaway, great friends in High School, hadn't seen each other since high school graduation, 48 years ago and got together for lunch with another school friend, Melba Sims (who was not from the Point). Susan is Suzi Prine, lives in Clovis, and Ann is Ann Kissling who lives in Hanford. They shared what had taken place during the past 48 years and plan to keep in touch.

Ann took a copy of TPIT to the lunch and Susan sent a subscription. Thanks, Ann! And, Susan.

Are you supporting the Point merchants? How can you resist the hundreds of unique \$5 gifts at the Art Lounge? Or the tempting gifts and cards at Hydrangea? Or choosing where to eat lunch at the multi lunch choices here.

If you are average, you received 392 pieces of junk mail in 2007. That is more than one piece a day. Since my mail contains more, who of you are not getting your share? Try www.stopjunkmail.org or call 1-877-786-7927 to try to reverse so much junk mail.

Bonnie Jo Cullison flew to Washington to help her mother celebrate her birthday.

Betty Dornan was honored on her 90th birthday at a buffet dinner at the home of her niece, Pat Dornan. Born in Point Richmond, Betty graduated from Richmond High in 1937, and meets every month for lunch with school friends Marie Thompson and Mary Tom Coe. Among those joining Betty to help her celebrate were her nieces. Kathy Barnes, Oxford, Mississippi; Roberta Palfini, Irvine, CA; cousins, Helen Tracy and daughters, Beaverton, Oregon; and Sydney Tyler, El Dorado Hills. The following Sunday, members of the Point Methodist Church, enjoyed a birthday cake. Betty has been a member for 77 years, joining the church in 1931.

The Ford Building in Richmond has been named a national award winner by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The quarter-mile-long building, once an automobile assembly plant, opened in 1931, produced thousands of military vehicles during World War II and closed in 1956. The building today houses green businesses and has a large public gathering space known as the Craneway within its 500,000 square feet.

When washing corduroy garments, add 1/2 cup of vinegar to the rinse water. The fabric will be brighter and lint-free.

What an improvement to the Point downtown triangle business district. Not only new payment but T-markings so cars can maximize parking.

Pat Pearson and Mid Dornan returned from a three week trip to Singapore, India(the Taj Mahal being the main reason for the trip), and Nepal.

Sharing their 10 days in India were Bob Berg and his wife, Vivian Derryck. It was only after returning home did they learn Bob, an International Consultant was a Trustee on World Academy of Art & Science and Senior Advisor of World Federation of United Nations Association and his wife, Vivian, is Senior Vice President and Director of Public Private Partnerships at the Academy for Educational Development, and on the Board of Directors of African Development Foundation. They often entertain world leaders in their Washington D.C. home.

As if these new friends weren't important enough, Pat and Mid were invited to stay at the home of Dr. Shivinder Singh Sandhu and his wife, Manveen in Amritsar, India. Dr Sandhu has international eminence as an orthopedic surgeon, started his own hospital, is deeply committed to Social issues, and has corporate responsibilities of the Khanna paper Mills. His wife, Manveen, an author, is better known for being Principal and founder of Springdale School. With over 5000 students beginning with age 2 1/2 years through high school, it is not government sponsored. The school boasts of 100% graduation. You only had to visit the school to realize why the students succeed! As guests, it was VIP treatment from the greeting at the airport, visiting a classroom,

attending the 5:30 pm nightly performance at the Pakistan/India Border Gate, to the visit to the Golden Temple, Just mention either of their names, and you were given whatever you wanted. SPRINGDALE SCHOOL is a model school.

Sacramento lawmakers are entitled to receive \$173 for each day they travel to the Capitol. Last year, lawmakers received an average of \$34,680 in per diem payments in addition to their \$116,208 annual salary,

Happiness is having a neighbor put your morning paper on your doorstep.

The will of a wealthy, but eccentric, man was being read and the relatives all listened expectantly. Finally, the lawyer said "And to my nephew, Charlie Jones, whom I promised to remember - there, Charlie."

Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year. Victor Borge

HAPPY HOLIDAYS - THANKSGIVING-CHRISTMAS-HANUKKAH-NEW YEAR 2009!

ANSWER: Rule is that the host team must have 26 inflated and ready to play.



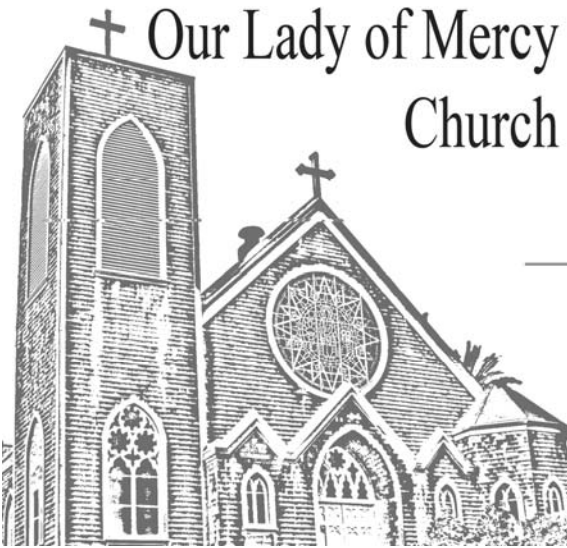
DAFFYNITIONS

- Alarm Clock: Device for waking a childless household.
- Balanced Budget:: When money in the bank and the days of the month come out together.
- Fame: What you get for dying at the right time.
- Snoring: Sheet music.
- Sarong: Dish towel that made good.
- Elephant: Proof that peanuts are definitely fattening.
- Cosmetics: Stuff used by teen-aged girls to make them look older sooner, and by their mothers to make them look younger longer.

-

Mid

Church News



By Dee Rosier

510-232-1387

drosier@sbcglobal.net

It has been an October to remember, not just leaves falling, but the entire economy. It reminds me of Chicken Little saying the sky was falling. Fasten your safety belts; we are in for a bumpy ride. Historically, October is the month when economic downturns occur. The only thing that did not happen this year in October was the time change. We regain that lost hour of sleep instead in November and we can thank Benjamin Franklin for proposing the idea of daylight savings time in 1784.

It has been a very busy time for Father O'Rourke who finally finished his production of, "Red Terror on the Amber Coast." The film evolves around the Soviet occupation of the Baltic Republic following the Hitler Stalin Pact of 1939. He excels in detail and the years that he put into the project are evident – 5 years. A viewing of the video was recently shown after Saturday and Sunday Masses. Father recently visited Lithuania and in the Presidential Palace presented a copy of the film to President Valdas Adamkus. After all of this he needed some down time. He traveled to Ireland, the home of his

ancestors, and spent time in Dublin and Killarney. We are pleased to have him in our midst again.

While Father was away we welcomed visiting priests, Father Nick Reina (Salesian High School), Father Bruno Gibson (St. Mary Magdalen, Berkeley) and Father Luke Saemkula (Uganda). Father Luke was on a mission appeal. Since the Church is an international community, it is always interesting to hear about it in other parts of the world.

A beautiful new redwood sign has replaced the previous one. All that needs to be done now is complete the electrical work. As a safety feature, the two trees beside the Shrine have been removed. The trees were hindering the lighting as well as creating a fire hazard due to the dry needles. Thanks to Jim Chesareck and Michael Workman lighting was installed inside of the church choir loft illuminating the round stained glass. Our ultimate goal is to light up the tower, making it visible from the freeway. Father likes to refer to the changes and addition of illumination as keeping the historic building safe and happy.

Father reminds parents, grandparents, friends, neighbors, etc., that regardless the circumstance all children should be baptized. He welcomes you all.

After the Saturday evening Mass on November 1, Father will again demonstrate his culinary attributes and prepare the main course for a potluck dinner in the church hall. During the dinner our local Catholic artists: Linda Drake, Amelia Drake, Maurice Doherty and Fr. O'Rourke will have their art work on display.

This year All Souls Day falls on a Sunday so Masses for the weekend will be the All Souls Mass, or the annual recalling of all our dead. It is an important time and liturgy. Envelopes with the names of your deceased will be placed on the altar for the month of November.

We bid farewell to Steve Shaffer, who was an "A" team contributor in our religious community. Steve married and has relocated to Sacramento. He will leave a void, but we wish him well as he begins a new chapter in his life. Steve was the facilitator of

the evening SCC group, acolyte, and lector, and a dear friend.

The daytime SCC group has resumed for once a month meetings at the home of Dody Perry, who enjoys every minute of being the hostess.

Congratulations to Diane Siegmund who was recently named "Woman of the Year" by the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. A Mass and luncheon was recently held at St. Paschal Baylon Church in Oakland to honor the recipients.

The last pancake breakfast of the year was held in October. All of the faithful workers will take time off and resume again in February. It is a dedicated team and they deserve a grand round of applause. The proceeds assist the parish financially. Special raffle tickets are being sold for a leather chair and desk. We were also very excited to receive a donation from a local wine distributor to add to the raffle. The wine was donated by Apan Wine Company, located in Brickyard Cove. The wine bottles feature a picture of the church. Tickets are \$5/ea or 5 for \$20.

Javier Lopez represented Our Lady of Mercy in delivering holy water from our church to the Cathedral. Water from the River Jordan, St Peter's Basilica in Rome, the shrine at Lourdes, France, and each parish in the diocese were also poured into the baptismal font during a blessing ritual.

Condolences to the family of Patti Callahan, who for a time was our Parish secretary.

Continue to remember in your prayers: Dody Perry, Jack Healy, Shirley Gerk, Frankie Mello, Katherine Workman, Charlie Rosier, Renee Fillipi, Bill Smith and Al Frosini.

Our neighborhood watch group (PROWL) recently had their annual pumpkin carving

Potluck. 150 pumpkins were carved and then distributed within our neighborhood. As last year, our neighborhood will be lit up for Halloween.

Congratulations to my daughter, Renee Knee, who was recently elected to serve on the Dominican College Board of Directors. Also elected to serve was Willie Brown. Have they met – not yet. My grandson wanted to know if this

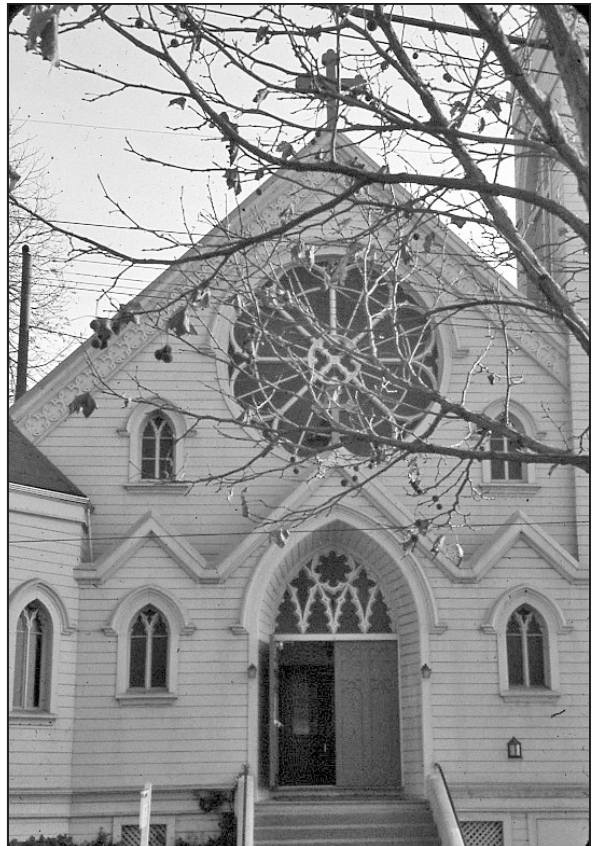
meant she has to go back to school.

We welcome our new Parish secretary, Beth Lilwin. Beth is a member of St. Joseph's Parish in Pinole. She recently attended one of our after Mass coffee/donuts get together. It was a pleasure to have her join us.

It's a big election day and I will be at my post at the Methodist Church, along with the other regulars who will be there to greet you with a smile, but no election advice.

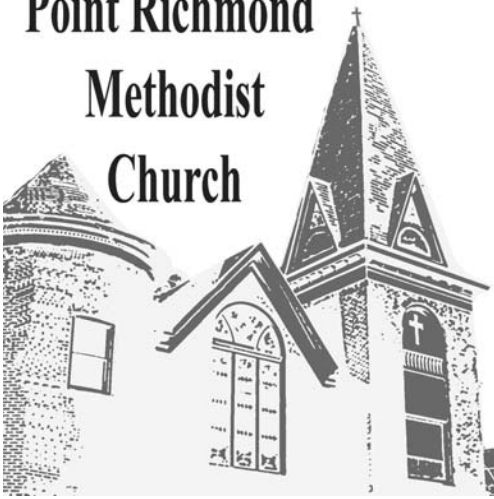
SEVEN DAYS WITHOUT GOD MAKES ONE WEAK

See you in church



*Our Lady of Mercy Church.
PRHA Archive Photo #0714-Vali Cooper*

Point Richmond Methodist Church



510-235-2988

jeanormr@pacbell.net

Harmony Walk to End Hunger and Homelessness This annual event has a name that keeps getting longer, but a cause that remains essential. Sponsored by the Greater Richmond Interfaith Program, the walk raises money to support the Souper Center and year-round Family Shelter on 22nd Street in Richmond. The Souper Center serves lunch daily to whomever comes for lunch. The Family Shelter houses clients who meet qualifications and their families. GRIP staff provides counseling, training, and assistance to help families find more permanent housing and better manage their lives. GRIP is a worthy organization to support, both with your funds and your time. Nine people from our congregation collected donations for GRIP and eight walked on October 11. We had to hustle to keep ahead of the El Cerrito High Drum Line, but they kept us on the beat!

Silent Art Auction Deby McFadyen and Fran Smith combined their talents to organize a benefit for the church. We met October 25 at the Point San Pablo Yacht Club. Attendees enjoyed finger food treats and listened to jazz pianist Dan Damon. Mild weather allowed some to relax on the deck. Members and friends of the church donated the art

pieces and food. Art of a variety of styles, sizes and price ranges allowed everyone to participate in bidding. Buyers admire the new art they purchased; some people have begun to consider what pieces to donate next time.

Amphion Music Society presented a free concert as part of one of their regular meetings on October 19 at the church. Several musicians performed a variety of music, all fabulous. They plan to use the church and its great acoustics for other meetings/concerts in the future. I will try to include their concerts on the calendar as they are arranged. You can check the church website for details.

The All Church Conference took place on September 25. District Superintendent Renae Extrum-Fernandez presided as we set our pastor's salary, elected committee members and officers, recalled the past year, and evaluated our congregational vitality. Matthew Foster is the new treasurer, after Helen Valentine served for decades, and Jennifer Metz is the new Lay Member to Annual Conference. Early in 2009, we plan to gather for a visioning day guided by Renae to plan our next decade.

On the Calendar:

Do I Hear A Waltz? Dinner Theater night at the Masquers' and Hotel Mac is slated for November 20, Thursday. The show is a musical with lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, and the cast is a particularly strong one. The Hotel Mac always serves a delicious choice of entrees. Price for dinner and the show is only \$40. Any profit benefits the church and its outreach to the community. Call Jean Reynolds, 510 -235-2988, to purchase tickets by November 17.

A Thanksgiving Feast, turkey with all the trimmings, provided by Point Richmond businesses, church members and friends: free to all. Dinner will be served **12 noon to 2:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Day.** An interfaith **service of thanks** begins in the sanctuary at **11:30 a.m.**

Christmas Concert, *Carols Old and New*: Our Joyful Noise Choir and the El Sobrante UMC Chancel Choir join again to celebrate the season, this time in El Sobrante. The concert is Sunday, December 21, at 5:00 p.m. No charge at the door.

The two churches will share a free-will offering.

Visit the church website at: <http://www.pointrichmond.com/methodist> for updates to the calendar.

Every Sunday, September through May:

9:00 to 9:40 a.m. Worship includes music, scripture, meditation, and prayer. The service is candle-free, sermon-free, fragrance-free, and spirit-filled!

10:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages meets until 10:45 a.m.

11:00 a.m. Worship includes music, children's time, scripture, sermon, prayer, and (usually) the Joyful Noise Choir and/or Angel Choir.

Saturdays: 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., Angel Choir rehearses. Christine Silva-Netto directs and choreographs. Pastor Dan Damon directs and accompanies. Young people happily sing and move. Usually the choir sings for worship once a month. Call Pastor Dan to sign up or if you have questions: 510-232-1102.



POINT METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

Mid Dornan

Church history is rich with contributions of women. One church group in the 1920s was the SOCIAL LEAGUE of the First Methodist Episcopal Church whose history is reflected in their minutes printed below and taken from the canvass covered, red leather cornered notebook which cost \$1.15. The minutes are printed as written, This is the 73nd installment.

SEPT 18, 1928

The Social League met at the M.E.

Church parlors Mrs. C.E. Adams and Mrs Gerald Shaw were hostesses, 21 members present.

The meeting was opened by prayer led by Pres. Mrs. Burdick. The minutes of previous meeting were read & approved. Mrs. J. I. Hill and Mrs. C. B. Jones were appointed to audit book. Moved and seconded that next time we draw for hostesses we have 3 entertain instead of 2 hostesses. Mrs. J.J. Meese was asked to make advertising cards for luncheons. The matter of the luncheon was brought up and the following committees were appointed.

Kitchen and Table:

Mrs. Burdick	Mrs. Redman
R.W. Jenkins	Mrs. Hill
Mrs. Vloeberghs	Mrs. Doney
Mrs. Griffin	Mrs. Oehne
Mrs. Kiitto	Mrs. Jones
Mrs. Shaw	

Mrs. Spierch was to have charge of candy table.

Dues

Mrs. Stender	.60
Hill	.60
Meece	.60
	\$1.80

Plate Offering	3.90
----------------	------

Balance	21.85
	\$25.75

Luncheon	31.85
	\$57.60

Luncheon	25¢
----------	-----

Total	\$57.85
-------	---------

Expense of luncheon

Meat	\$14.00
Groceries	7.56
Napkins	.20
milk	1.48
	\$13.64

Candy	12.80 - amt made on candy.
	Mrs. G. Shaw, Sec

WWIC, Est. 1908

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

The Women's Westside Improvement Club met on Tuesday September 9 after being on hiatus during the summer months of July and August. President Margaret Morkowski greeted the assemblage, welcoming everyone back. Guests were introduced - Diane Hirano who owns Shigoto Ya with her husband Gordon and Duane Fitzpatrick, and artist who has lived in Point Richmond for four years and has taken an active part in the Point Richmond music festival.

As it was our first meeting after the break there were no minutes to approve. Treasurer Sonja Darling reminded all that \$15 dues needed to be paid for the upcoming year (a bargain at twice the price!).

Officers for 2008-2009 were introduced. Margaret Morkowski, incumbent president, Linda Newton and Altha Humphrey, vice presidents, Sonja Darling, treasurer and Bernie Moore, TPIT correspondent.

WWIC will set up a table on Indian Statue Day on Sept. 20th and will sell centennial items such as key chains, caps with saucers and re-usable grocery bags, all with the WWIC logo.

Ideas proposed for the new Gateway Grant included painting a new mural on the Keller Beach side of the tunnel, donation to Our Lady of Mercy Church and the Methodist Church, PRAM, and the Many Hands Program at Washington School.

We will be distributing funds in February for the rose garden at the Indian Statue and restoration of the street map in front of the fire station. WWIC asked for and received a grant for an arbor over the map. Shigoto Ya will build the arbor. Next proposal will be for \$1000 for a plaque for the rose garden. The HAPPY BIRTHDAY girls this summer were: Martha Bielawski, Bernie Moore, Janie Nutt, and Alyce Williamson in July, Mid Dornan, Marion Kent and Helen Wysham in August, and Enrika Garcia, Joan Gatten, Diane Marie, Linda Newton and Marie Peckham in

September.

If you would like to volunteer to read at the Washington school for one hour Thursday mornings, call Margaret Morkowski at 234-4219.

For our October 7, 2008 for a Halloween themed salad luncheon fundraiser that included yummy deserts such as a plum/apricot tart, lemon bars and cookies. Margaret Morkowski introduced the speaker, Jane Vanderburgh, a writer who has lived in the Point for a year. Jane is a published author who began her career working in publishing and became a writer after her children were born. Her first book, "Failure to Zig Zag" was written in 1989 and was optioned for the movies. Her second book, another work of fiction, is "The Physics of Sunset". Jane and her husband own Counter Point Press in Berkeley which partners with the Sierra Club. She is currently working on a memoir tentatively titled "A Pocket History of Sex in the Twentieth Century". Jane was an engaging and vibrant speaker and graciously answered all of our questions about the practice and art of writing, including that old chestnut "Where on earth do you get your ideas?"

Margaret Morkowski welcomed guests Carolyn Kirkpatrick and Cathy Keene. HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Betty Dornan, Thea Kynthia, Liz McDonald and Marion Voight.

We participated in a Halloween benefit called "Ghosts of Winehaven". Beneficiary was the Richmond Rotary Peace Project which will fund programs for youths ages 16-22 on Saturdays at the Nevin Community Center. Mentors will be paid to participate and each youth who participates will be offered a \$10 stipend. The Halloween benefit included a history of Winehaven presented by Tom Butt with historic pictures courtesy of the Point Richmond History Association. The benefit was a big success.

Editor note, see picture on page 13.

Out and About Town

Margaret Morkowski (510) 234-4219

Gee, the Holidays are here. Halloween was great fun. The **Richmond Rotary Club** held a awesome fund raising event for their Richmond Rotary Peace Project, out at historic **Winehaven**. More than 250 guests, many dressed up in fun Halloween costumes, enjoyed a great luncheon prepared by the Point's own Marsha Tomassi. Mark Howe, president of Richmond Rotary this year, (who is also from the Point) was chair of the event and dressed up as the 1902, founding President of the Bank of Richmond.



The Bank of Richmond was Richmond's first bank and Mark Howe recently restored their 1903 building, at the corner of Washington and West Richmond Avenues, to its original appearance. Mark must enjoy history a lot, why else would he have selected Winehaven, the 1907-1920 historic and once world's largest winery, as the site of the fund raiser.



Tom Butt gave a power-point presentation on the history of Winehaven and Mid Dornan plus Pat Pearson of the Point Richmond History Association were docents at the Winemaster's cottage. Guest enjoyed the 2 auctions which included various historic items and some guests strolled through the Winehaven grounds.



All-and-all, it was a fun-filled and historic Halloween afternoon. For more details on the Richmond Rotary Peace Project which includes a mentoring program for Richmond's youth, please call Mark at 215-5134.

Have you seen the new sign in the rose garden at **Point Richmond's Historic Our Lady of Mercy Church**? It looks great and seems very much in keeping with the nature of the historic rectory and church buildings that were constructed in 1902.



Up-Coming Events:

-November 6th, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., The Arts of Point Richmond **Holiday Arts & Crafts Show & Sale** to be held at the Community Center. Please call Linda Drake 234-3822 for details.

-November 27th, Thanksgiving Day. PRBA "organizes" the annual Point Richmond **Turkey Shoot**. Bring your goats, dogs, vintage vehicles and friends. Meet in front of the Plunge at 11 am. Then we'll be off to The Spot for the poetry reading and the "Shoot." Call 215-6133 for information.

-November 29th, Saturday, 5:30 pm. PRBA sponsors the Annual Point Richmond **Tree Lighting with Santa**. The evening includes caroling too. It's held at the Indian Statue Rose Garden. Call 234-4219 for more information.

-On **various dates throughout December** both the Point Richmond Methodist Church (235-2988) and Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church (232-1387) will be holding **special events and services**. Please call them for details.

- Remember, for an update on what's new, call the **Point Richmond/West Side Branch Library at 620-6567** and the **Point Richmond Community Center at 233-6881**.



Another historic building currently showing a lot more life is the Richmond Natatorium, i.e., "**The Plunge**." Since the "**Wall Breaking**" event of August 4th, you may have noticed that the walls have been tumbling down... don't worry, this is all planned. The "steel skeleton" of the building is still

in amazingly good condition and with the scaffolding and plywood walls in place, work can continue on through the winter months. The **Save the Plunge Trust** is working hard to raise funds to match the \$500,000 grant from the Valley Foundation. If you would like more details or contribute to the restoration, please call Rosemary Corbin at 235-5779.



The **Washington School Many Hands Project** (residents and business owners in the Point who contribute funds for teacher's supplies and special programs) had fun "Partying on the Beach" on October 16th. Their Board would like to thank

everyone who has contributed to the success of the event. The children are "preparing" your apples for delivery. To request your apple or if you like more details about the Project, please call me at 234-4219



Remember, for an update on what's new, call the **Point Richmond/West Side Branch Library at 620-6567** and the **Point Richmond Community Center at 233-6881**.

Happy Holidays and a Merry New Year to you all.



*A good time was had at the Halloween "Ghosts of Winehaven" event.
Photo by Thomas Mercer-Hursh*

This is from a "fact diary", a book of headlines and interesting events in Early Point Richmond. It was compiled by Don Church from the "Richmond Independent" "Point Richmond News" and "Richmond Herald Record". It is one of the items left for us by Allan Smith.

Items of Interest Point Richmond, 1913

Richmond Independent

- 10-17 The population of Richmond is 18,201 according to the new directory.
- 10-26 Work started on the 2nd track here by the Santa Fe
- 10-29 Fred Newsome has sold his stock in the Richmond Real Estate Company and will become advertising manager of the Independent.
- 10-29 John Nicholl makes a donation of \$1000 to Women's Improvement and the Richmond Women's Club
- 11-1 The Maynard Flats on Nicholl Avenue will be ready in 2 or 3 weeks.
- 11-7 Chief Arnold tells the red light they will have to close on December 1st (State Law)
- 11-9 Dedication of the 1st Presbyterian Church at 12th and Bissell.
- 11-15 Bandits hold up train and get \$1400 in one car and on SP train between Port Costa and Berkeley.
- 11-15 Drs. Abbotts in their new offices above the Bank of Richmond
- 11-16 Blume Ranch of 700 acres sold to SOCo for \$300 per acre. Blume Bros. paid \$29 per acre for 1000 in 1903.
- 11-25 Insanity charges against Miss Acchsis Downer of Castro Street.
- 11-25 George Lee has City Engineer Chapman and City Attorney Hall arrested for tearing down fence across his lot on Crest Avenue.
- 12-6 All wagons must have lights at night from now on. Too many are being struck by autos.
- 12-24 John Nystrom pioneer died at the age of 65. He was a native of Finland.
- 12-24 The Hutchinson Quarry to open new quarry next to the Los Angeles Pressed Brickyard. 12-27 Dr. L.A. Martin former house surgeon of the Abbotts Hospital accepts same position at the Roosevelt Hospital in Berkeley
- 12-28 3 men arrested at the Central Brick Yard with skiff loaded with dynamite. They were originally thought to be the escaped convicts from San Quentin. (One of the 2 turned out to be Tom Mooney. He was tried 3 times and finally acquitted.
- 12-30 One of the 3 men admits he is Thomas Mooney of San Francisco. Apparently they were going to blow up the towers of the PG&E across the Carguinez Straits. The PG&E were having labor troubles.

Archive Photo Gallery

**St. James
Hotel**

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



*Left: 0737
-Marilyn
Darling
“St. James
Hotel”*

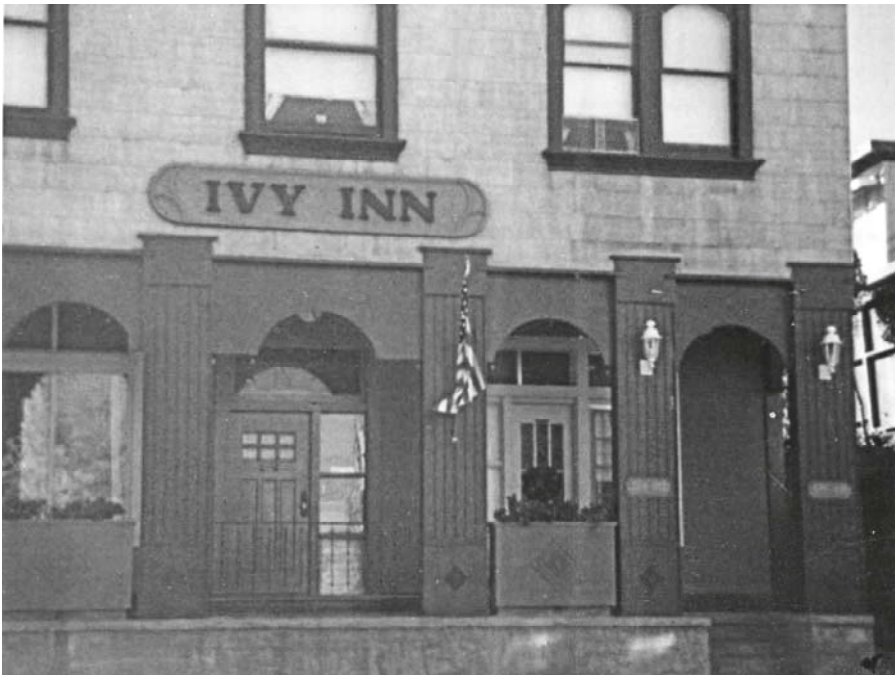


*Left:
0738-
Marilyn
Darling
“St. James
Hotel”*



Above: #0739-Don Marilyn Darling "St. James Hotel"

Below: #0740-Marilyn Darling "St. James Hotel or Ivy Inn"



DO I HEAR A WALTZ?

at the Masquers

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

How well do you understand your “secret” inner longings? Well enough that you could take advantage of an opportunity if it arose? Interesting question, and it’s not as easy as it sounds.

Do I Hear A Waltz was created by three Broadway greats: music by **Richard Rodgers**, lyrics by **Stephen Sondheim**, and story by **Arthur Laurents**. This production is directed by **Dennis Lickteig** with **Joanne Gabel** as Music Director.

Leona Samish (**Alison Peltz**, *below*), an American secretary, travels to the Fioria Pensione in Venice, Italy for a vacation. Leona acknowledges she has spent much of her life on the outside looking in and has become adept at recognizing the secret yearnings of others. But here, in her first trip out of the country, she is longing for a great romance of her own. (*Photo by Jerry Telfer*).

In this play, Leona comes upon two great dis-



coveries of travellers: one, that who we are is greatly defined by other people’s expectations, and two, being away from one’s usual world gives one the freedom to choose to respond differently, i.e. to become a different person. Taking advantage of an opportunity is rarely as simple as “take the moment, let it happen,” but Leona is encouraged by being in a brand new world. Sadly, it turns out that she is less able to read herself than she can read others.

Leona is funny and touching. Expressive with a strong clear delivery, she takes possession of the stage. Alison is a fine actress with a magnificent voice; as Leona, she is the undisputed star of this show. This is only the second time I have seen Alison; having been impressed the first time (*see She Loves Me, TPIT XXV-6*), I wonder how many other treasures *Masquers* has hidden for our future joy!

That we are all confined by other people’s expectations is a discovery made by the young American couple, the Yeagers. Jennifer Yeager (**Beverley Viljoen**) wants never to leave Italy, free now of the impressions which tied her to being a “dumb blond” and doomed to disappointment. She needs constant reassurance that she and her husband are a perfectly lovely couple, destined for lifelong happiness. A perky, frivolous character with a tragic side.

Eddie Yeager (**William Giammona**) delivers a choice solo of how to shop in Italy. He represents both halves of the barter with one of the parts female, delivered in falsetto. Magnificent!

Handsome Eddie is encouraged to find his passionate, animalistic side and free himself from others’ expectations. Eddie falls for the bait and is full of wonder at being free in a strange new land. Predictably, Eddie, having been tempted and now full of repentance, wants to remove his wife from a world which she enjoys.

The last couple staying at the pensione, the McIlhennys, are a parody of travelling Americans: wealthy, comfortable, eager for the sights, and impervious to Italian culture. Mrs. McIlhenny is deftly played by **Anna Albanese** (an old hand at the *Masquers*, to judge by the applause heard when she appeared onstage). Mr. McIlhenny (**Scott Alexander Ayres**) is a jolly man enjoying the loose friendliness of the ambiance until his puritanical side (also typi-

cally American) surfaces.

Renato Di Rossi (**Paul Macari**, *left*) is a poor Italian shopkeeper with encumbrances. An extremely attractive man with a well-nigh irresistible mane of hair, he falls for Leona. With penetrating glances, he conveys his interest to her. Renato's manner is everything any woman ever wished for: close, gently insistent, and passionate. Leona falls.

Until we are confronted by his encumbrances. Renato is chasing his own illusion; he sees a part of Leona that she does not disclose to others. But is it really there? Once the illusion crashes, irritatingly, Renato is always right about the human condition; he presents Leona with the folly of her own expectations. He mocks her and goads her, and tells her she must take a chance on life. Nicely done.

Fioria (**Ellen Brooks**), the innkeeper, is living proof that seductiveness is not a quality limited to the very young. Fioria's costumes are hugely flattering on this elegant, self-possessed woman. Fioria adds considerably to the flavour of Italian romance: she is voluptuous, desirable, and willing. I don't know Fioria's age, but she has had a satisfactory life, and she's not yet done! Excellent!

Giovanna (**Diane Ratto**) is a character who changes dramatically during the play and is my vote for Actress Most Enjoying Herself. She starts out as a taciturn, English-language-challenged, Plain Jane and ends up being a very warm character. She has great opportunity to win our hearts as she presents us with mistranslations, pantomime, and ridiculous English lessons.

Mauro (**Sylas Cooper**, *playing*, or **Christopher Urquhart**). The young Mauro is a guide for Leona. He is droll; somehow one expects such an insinuating character to be grinning from ear to ear, but Mauro knows he's funny and still he keeps a straight face. A well-crafted performance.

Vito (**Nick Hauser**) is a polite, deferential young man. A performance which had me wondering why he wasn't embarrassed by his father's antics—a bit too realistic, perhaps!

There were a few complications. While I do not appear to have as much trouble with people imitating Italian accents as I do with imitations of British

The MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS

DO I HEAR A WALTZ

Book by **Arthur Laurents**
Music by **Richard Rodgers**
Lyrics by **Stephen Sondheim**

Directed by **Dennis Lickteig**

Nov. 7 – Dec. 20


24-hour reservations:
510-232-4031
or order online at: **Masquers.org**

All tickets must be prepaid. All sales final.
We accept VISA and MASTERCARD.

All seats \$20
Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00
Sunday matinees at 2:30 on Nov. 16, 30 & Dec. 7, 14

Box office opens half hour before curtain

The Masquers Playhouse
105 Park Place, Point Richmond



accents, I didn't understand several words in songs at the beginning. I'm a relatively short person and I couldn't see over the head of the person in front of me. Hopefully the Masquers new seats will be more offset. The set, designed by **John Hull**, was lovely: the granite looked like it had been quarried, the mahogany wood detailed, the background like buildings on a canal, but there was no set change when we appeared inside the shop, so I had no cue we were talking to a shopkeeper until much, much later.

If you argue and rationalize about personal growth, has one experienced any growth? Characters in the play are offered opportunities to pursue dreams and the opportunity is taken. Some are wrecked, some try to hang on... We discover, along with Leona, that we are who we already are.

The show is often funny, sometimes sad, but satisfying.

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

Our Colorful

Muldowney Hotel or Saint James Hotel or Ivy Inn

from Marilyn Darling

Martin Muldowney built the front section of the Muldowney Hotel located at 19 Cottage Avenue in 1903. Mr. Muldowney was Henry O'Hara's uncle. Henry's mother married Martin. The O'Hara family were long time residents of Pt. Richmond and Henry gave us some background before he passed away.

Henry wrote:

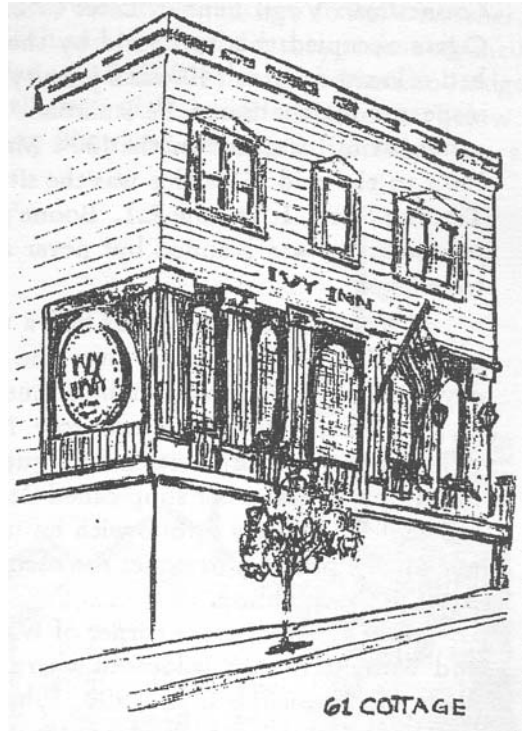
The front section withstood the 1906 earthquake and the Muldowney's operated the hotel for several years. They most likely built the back section also and then sold it to James Coffey. Mr. Coffey was killed in a car accident in Los Angeles in 1915. So it again went up for sale and that is when Mr. & Mrs. Edward McDuff purchased it. We assume that is when the name was changed to St. James Hotel. They operated a saloon and eating establishment in the front of the building. They set up a barracks in the lower back section of the hotel where they housed military people probably service folks from World War One. The McDuff's cashed the checks for the employees of "Standard Oil" as well as packed lunches for their resident Standard Oil employees.

After many years the McDuffs sold the St. James Hotel to Jon and Lillie Jue. Then in 1955 the Jue's sold to a young single man, Wallace Johnson. Wallace was going to rejuvenate the hotel, but there were just too many codes and obstacles in his way as the City had condemned the section to be used as rental rooms. To maintain his investment he divided the hotel into 3 apartments where he housed families.

Then in 1957 along came another ambitious couple that purchased the hotel. Wallace and Marilyn Darling bought the condemned hotel for a price of \$16,750. They had lots of energy and dreams. They were able to work through the

obstacles with the City and with much hard work and determination on the structure they were finally able to get started decorating and furnishing the rooms. In the late '50's a room would rent for \$25.00 per month.

At that time they changed the name to "Ivy Inn" because they used a lot of ivy in the landscaping so thought it might change the image of the building that was known as an old run-down dilapidated St. James Hotel. They also rented to "Standard Oil" employees, railroad employees and retired folks. There was a Community Kitchen where the residents could prepare their meals. The cozy and friendly room



for the residents was a nicely furnished lobby where they could watch TV or visit.

The Darling's renovation included adjustments in the front part of the building where they developed a 3-bedroom apartment for their own living quarters. They had one child when they moved in but the younger four of their children were born while living at the "Ivy Inn". This was their home for twenty years where the children all learned how to clean and learn about the hard knocks of running a business as well as learning how to do business with the clients.

During the 1976-77 drought, the water company cut back the amount of water for the hotel, which would have resulted in the loss of landscaping as well as shut down the laundry machines available to the hotel residents. Instead of

letting that happen, Wally Darling constructed a recycle water system that pumped water from the washing machines up to barrels that he installed on top of the hotel. The grey water could then feed the community bathroom toilets. In addition water was collected from showers and used to water the plants.

The Darlings built a home in El Sobrante in 1979 so the Ivy Inn went to an investment company from San Rafael. They didn't run the business for probably more than two years and it was sold to Tom Spencer and he changed the name back to "St James Hotel".

In January 1984 an arsonist or angry ex-tenant started a fire that damaged the whole building. Again there was an ambitious owner that rebuilt it back to a little more modern residential hotel without changing the exterior appearance.

Plunge photo update for our "Out of Town" Members



*Photos by
Thomas Mercer-
Hursh*

William L. Thompson, M.D.

Memories of Old Point Richmond



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

Part one of two

One of my first memories of any unusual event was the snow storm. As you know snow is rare in the Richmond region. I believe that it was in 1913, probably January, and I would have been about 4 years old. On the level about 3 inches of snow fell but there was an inch or more on the hills. We, my brother and I, were too young to appreciate it. We knew only that it was very cold white stuff. Older children had snowball fights and my older sister made a snowman. That evening an owl came and sat on the snowman's head. We thought it was very funny.

There have been other snow falls in past years but there was only one that I recall collecting on the ground and that only in the hills. My neighbor's boy, Jim Morrison, had chicken pox and could not go out and play in the snow.

In the old days, people had few facilities for shopping and preserving food. There were no automobiles and very few had horses and buggies. People had to do their shopping on foot and carry it home. There were no refrigerators and the rare ice boxes were confined to markets, restaurants and bars. Food such as meat had to be cooked on the day it was bought or it would spoil. I recall running downtown after school to purchase lamb chops (they were called mutton chops in those days) at the

butchers shop on West Richmond Avenue for our evening meal.

A godsend to the wives and mothers was the delivery services. Milk was delivered daily by horse and wagon except, I think, on Sundays. We kept this and other perishables in a little screened cupboard outside on the coolest side of the porch. If milk soured it had to be used in pancakes or other such food. The delivery people often had trouble. I recall that the milk delivery wagon tipped over on the sharp U turn where Scenic Avenue and Buena Vista meet above the old Spiersch residence. One of the Corse boys was the driver and took the turn too fast. It was quite a mess. Fortunately for us, he had just completed our delivery. The milk was delivered in quart glass bottles.

There was an old vegetable peddler who drove by irregular intervals in an old horse and wagon. We kids called him "Veggie". He would stop out front and announce his arrival by blowing an old tin horn. He was a good sort and his deliveries a great help. A baker also came by with his horse and wagon. Mostly he knew what everyone wanted and it was usually bread. Many people baked their own bread in those days however. There was no such thing as "wrapped, sliced" bread. If bread got stale it was used as toast or bread pudding.

One of the more interesting peddlers was the Chinese shrimp man. He came at irregular intervals on foot, probably all the way from the shrimp camp. He was dressed in the old Chinese way with a black, long jacket and a little round skull cap and with his hair braided in the old Chinese queue. He trotted tirelessly along with a long rod across his shoulders, passing the back of his neck. On each end of this was balanced the large baskets of shrimp. I believe he announced his coming by either a bell or horn. He would not come up the hill for which I couldn't blame him. He sold cooked, unshelled shrimp by the scoopful and we had to furnish our own pan. They were good shrimp.

Another rather seedy character was the junk man who came by in an old wagon at rather rare intervals shouting "rags, bottles, sacks" so we kids called him the "rags, bottles and sacks" man. He bought these and other used items at a very small price. No doubt his was a rather primitive

recycling service.

I recall the construction of the roadway tunnel to Ferry Point. It was started from each end at the same time and not accurately in the center. A platform had been constructed above at the place where Scenic Avenue curves out above the east end of the tunnel. Much of the Materials used in construction was skidded down from here to the work area below. During the construction of this tunnel a double row of small square, identical houses had to be eliminated. This was known as "Smokey Row" houses and had been quickly built to house the great number of workers coming for the Standard Oil Company. Most of these were sold and moved and I can still see little "Smokey Row" houses about town even yet. This row of little square 4-roomed houses had been built on a street that would have been a continuation of the present Oregon Avenue up to the base of the hill.

Part two and conclusion in the next issue.



*Chinese Shrimp
Camp taken in
1913. PRHA Photo
Archive #0148a,
this photo was
enhanced by
Thomas Mercer-
Hursh.*

In the pre-prohibition years there were many saloons along Standard Avenue, the route later used for the 580 Freeway. The odor of stale beer in that part of town was very noticeable. After prohibition came into effect (1919) most of the saloons went out of business.

H. Shawl

Evan Griffins' 1938 Memoirs

Permission has been given by the Griffins Family to publish these memoirs. Thanks to Bruce Beyaert for getting this to us and to Suzanne Loosen for recommending it. Thanks also to Tom Panas and the El

Cerrito Historical Society who published these memoirs previously.

Griffins' memoirs go beyond the scope of Point Richmond and much is before the Point was populated but it is nevertheless an interesting account of the history of our region. We will publish it in several parts.

Fourth Installment:

I can recall the many weary hours that I was compelled to listen to my father and the neighbors argue over the school question as to whether the district was too large, whether the Catholics had any right to share in public money, about their religious convictions, the proper way to raise a family and the correct procedure to educate the rising generation, all according to their own immediate needs. It can be readily seen that this great difference of opinion would eventually lead to a demand for better school conditions by the more broad minded ones of the section. This resulted in the Sheldon School district being formed. This district was formed at the eastern end of the San Pablo school district beginning at what is known as Skow's ranch. The main issue of education was apparently overlooked and that was that some attention should be given to the education of the parents. For a long time there was no leader of these people. They must be made to realize that they owed a duty to the community in which they lived, that the education of their children must be their first consideration, as these children in a few years would have to face conditions in a different world than that in which they themselves then lived.

Some may think that the above statement and the subsequent assertion has no place in memoirs but when I recall conditions that existed sixty-five years ago and attempt to analyze such by the aid of observation and experience I can realize what a task it must have been to even attempt a transformation. This state of affairs was not wholly due to ignorance but to indifference,

disappointments, and a desire for wealth.

Education was a secondary consideration. Children went to school when they were not needed at home. The parent seemed to think that the more that was produced within the family, the sooner that prosperity would arrive. It was the few who brought this community out of this unconcerned state. These people could be led, not driven, so as always happens, there appeared one who had been silently working for some time among these inhabitants, who slowly, but surely was raising them above their environment. This he accomplished by force of example, honesty of purpose and kind advice.

This man was Azro Rumrill.

He succeeded in improving our school system which today is second to none in California. That this condition does exist might be justly termed the lengthening shadow of this broadminded man. The foundation he succeeded in building is being carried on and advanced at this time by his son-in-law, our present Superintendent of Schools of this city, Walter T. Helms.

Mr. Rumrill was elected trustee of the district and one of his first moves was to establish a school at the county line called the Castro school. It was afterwards moved to the site of the St. John's church on San Pablo Avenue. This supplied a needed want in that part. Soon after this, another branch school was built a short distance beyond the office of the Standard Oil tank farm but on the opposite side of the road. The gum trees still mark the site. The late J. E. Rogers, for many years a county clerk of the county and later a senior member of the law firm of Rogers and Bray of

Martinez, was one of the first teachers of that school.

My recollections of my early school years and the difficulties and crudeness which I endured has never been dimmed by the lapse of years. I was sent to school in the summer of 1869. Our school was the first unit of the school system. A part of the building still stands near San Pablo Avenue and is now used as a saloon. The seats were a long wooden bench on which sat ten or twelve boys or girls who were supposed to keep absolute silence. My first teacher, Miss Ida Walsh, saw that this order was kept. My first equipment consisted of a slate, pencil and a primer. No provision was made for the cleaning of the slate so we had to resort to primitive methods of wetting our fingers with our tongue but in my case that was not necessary as I shed enough tears to supply all the moisture that was needed due to the bullying by the older boys. The next year conditions improved and we had double desks. What caused my most minute embarrassment was the economic conditions of the community.

I have told how all the freight from San Francisco was carried here by the Ellis Landing schooners. The goods intended for the different ranchers had to have their initials marked on the freight. Most of the goods came in sturdy flax sacks and our supplies were designated by O.G. (Owen Griffins). Many of these sacks came around the horn or else from New Zealand . The New Zealand sacks came in a better grade of material so mother used them for various necessities, among which were blouses for me and in every case that O.G. came in the middle of my back. It was no use to object as it was a necessary economic measure and I suffered the humiliation. This torture was insignificant compared to a few years later, when my father, an ex-trustee who was extremely positive considered it his duty to visit the school and cross-examine the students in regard to their history and geography. If he considered the answer wrong even if it was right, he would try to correct the student, in which case the teacher would

endeavor to correct him and this resulted in a very strong rebuttal. The first principal that I remember was H. S. Raven who took up horse raising at Walnut Creek . He was followed by H. C. Wilson who resigned before completing his fourth year. H. Tillotson followed and he also resigned to engage in mercantile business in San Pablo . Mrs. Vincent finished his term.

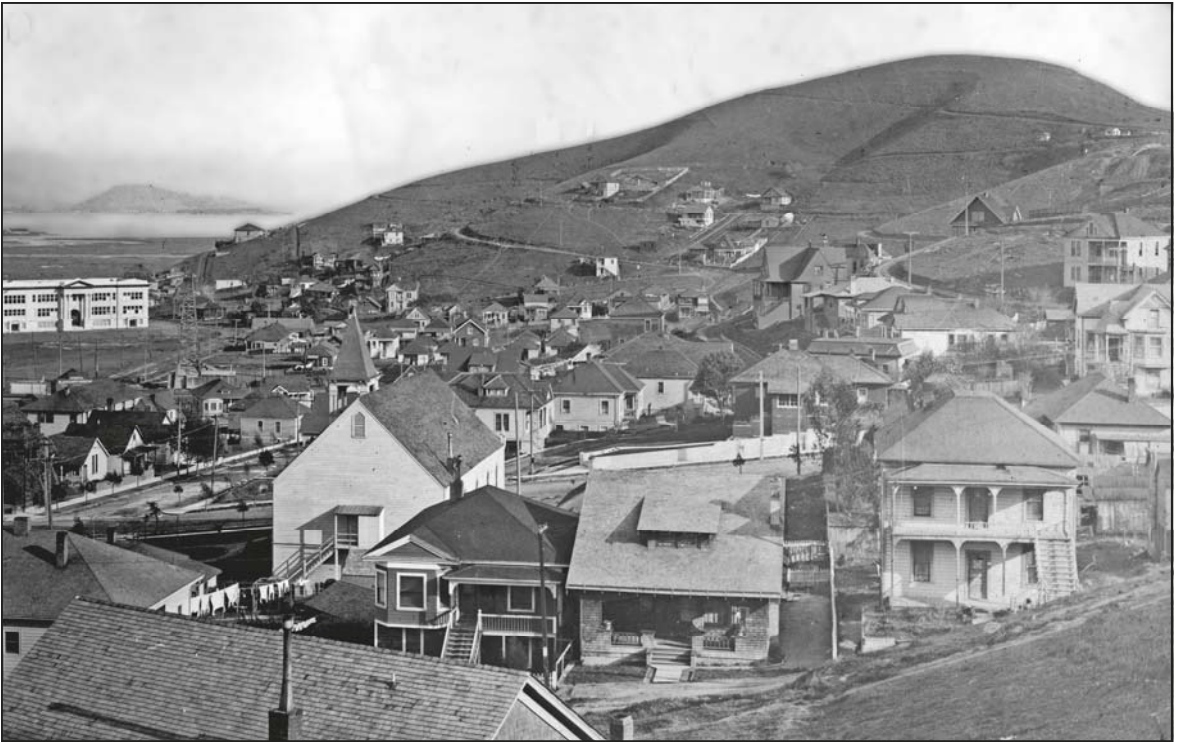
In 1877 Alfred Dixon was installed principal and I will always have an admiration for Mr. Rumrill's judgment in employing Mr. Dixon. Both these men realized that at the best these older students would have but a few years at school so that an effort must be made to give them the most essential things in a limited time.

When boys reached the age of sixteen and sometimes much less it seemed to be necessary that they assist in the maintenance of the family so that many of us were put to plow at the age of thirteen. I was one of those boys. Opportunities for learning a trade were nil. If by chance a boy did have a trade offered him, he was paid only \$2.00 per week which was not sufficient for his maintenance so that any money needed for his upkeep had to be provided by his parents. This condition prevailed also in the professional lines and in so many cases it was not financially possible to provide a livelihood. Another factor that contributed to these conditions was the shortage of men for manual labor.

When the first transcontinental railroad known as the Central Pacific between Oakland and Ogden was being built, labor was impossible to obtain. To get sufficient help the builders adopted the expedient of importing Chinese. This class of labor continued for what is now known as the Southern Pacific lines, so that soon we had a sizable Chinese population which upon completion of the railroad entered into other lines of business. This labor was chiefly as cooks in restaurants, hotels and homes as well as for manufacturing bricks and explosives.



Thomas Mercer-Hursh Extra



Beautiful restoration of this Don Church picture. Looks like it is taken from the living room of TPIT Editor's house. PRHA Archive Photo #0086-DC

A FEW LITTLE KNOWN FACTS

from Linda Newton

Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than the U.S Treasury.
The state with the highest percentage of people who walk to work is Alaska.

It is impossible to lick your elbow.

The most popular boat name for boat owners is "Obsession".
The cost of raising a medium-size dog to the age of eleven is \$16,400.

Men can read smaller print than women can; women can hear better.

(and finally, at least 75% of people who read this will try to lick their elbow!)

Deaths.....

Shawna Gai Griffin died October 28, 2008 complications from a condition she had battled her entire life. She was born August 1, 1969 to Irma and Herbert Rubit. She was raised in Richmond and attended St. Cornelius Catholic School. She attended Presentation High School in Berkeley and graduated from San Francisco State University in San Francisco. After graduation she started her career with the City of Richmond, that turned out to be a bright and productive career. She was the city's Recreation Program Coordinator and was noted for her bright smile and cheerful disposition. Shawna is survived by her father Herbert Rubit, mother Irma Rubit and husband of ten years Alec, as well as daughter Taylor, and brother Kenneth Rubit and his wife Adrienne.

Charlie Rosier, a lifelong resident of Richmond, passed away on November 2, 2008: he was 74 years of age. As a young man, Charlie faithfully served in the United States Army as a member of the 187th Airborne regimental combat team, Fort Benning, GA. He was proud to have worked for more than 35 years with Chevron, retiring as a Maintenance Foreman. Missing him greatly are his loving wife of 50 years, Dolores "Dee" Rosier of Point Richmond; his two daughters Renee Knee of San Rafael and Rahne Rosier of Point Richmond; two grand-children Jennifer Rosier and Griffin Knee; brother Edward Rosier of Geyserville; and many more family members and lifelong friends. A Funeral Mass of Christian Burial was at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Point Richmond on November 8, 2008. A gift in memory of Charlie Rosier may be sent to the Oakland Children's Hospital, 2201 Broadway, Suite 600, Oakland CA 94612.

A Special Note from Shawna's Friends in the Point

The Point Richmond Community will miss you, we have appreciated all of the wonderful ideas and programs you made possible for our enjoyment at the Point Richmond Community Center. Shawna was the creative force behind Richmond's 4th of July events, the Snowball and Senior Ball. Her love of the community and work on many senior programs have been appreciated and will be missed. Our prayers go out to her family. Shawna leaves behind her daughter and husband Captain Alec Griffin of the Richmond Police Department.

Cards, Letters & E-Mail

Hello Pam and all friends of TPIT,

Oregon continues to enchant us; so much so we've not had a chance to come down for a visit. But please know we think of you often and our wonderful years in a very special community.

Hugs all around,
Ellen & Dennis
Eugene, OR

It is always good to hear from you two. I am happy Oregon has turned out good for you! Gary



CHECK OUT THE NEW CREATIVE COFFEE CRAFTERS!

- Where: Point Community Center
- When: Mondays 10:30 -12:30
- Cost: FREE
- Who: YOU and people who enjoy making cards, crafts, socializing. Neighbors who want to meet each other, share, laugh, relax and have fun.

Bring your "thing" to work on, or share, your talent, or just come check out the group over a cup of coffee.

Talented Terry Wynn has volunteered her time to start this group.

EXCLUSIVE OVER 90 CLUB

An impressive list that grows each month.

Welcome to new member:
Betty Dornan - 90

Dody Perry - 90
Ed Squires - 92
Viola Lala Kennedy - 90
Mark Gebhart- 94
Anna Schwarz 96
Jim Patrick Kenny 95
Bena Bowles 94
Lee Christian
Alice Helseth 98

Jean Moyle Spiersch
Rena Cairo Gonsalves 98
Lupe Padilla Lopez 93
Anita Brougham -95
Goldie Mobley-95
Maxine Stoddard- 93
Reva Ward 95-
Steve Wyrick - 93
Bernard Dietz 93
Avis Blanchette 94
Ruth Mallette - 96
Ann Hanzlik - 95
Roger Wiese - 92
Al Frosini - 90

Eunice Ruth Hursh - 91
Madelilne Bellando Albright 90
Charlotte Kernabon Birsinger 91
Jerome Vloebergh 91

100 Year Club

Ruth Wood Mullen - 102
Gordon Miller - 100

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

Birthdays

November

Betty Dornan	David T. McCarthy	Hal Marshall	Bobbies Boziki
LaVerne Rentfro	Clare Doherty	Linda Feyder	Linda Chesareck
Woolman	K. Patrick O'Higgins	Nicole Vargo	Katrina MacDiarmid
Heinz Lankford	Jason D. Crowson	Spiro Cakos	Albert Kollar
Ann Greiner	Bob Larsen	Bethany Reynolds	Viola Kennedy
Paul Cort	Dennis Dornan	Kathryn Pinkerton	David Dolberg
Jason McGill	Kenny Paasch	James Cheshareck, Sr.	Mohamed Warith
Lynn Rendler	Lance Rotting	Aubyn Eakles	Charlotte Birsinger
Mary Ann Gaspard	Joe Savile	James Cheshareck, Jr.	
Shirley Butt	Shane Thomas	Audrey Edwards	
Chris Bradshaw	Liam Thompson	Ida Giacomelli	

December

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

January

Henry Allyn	Jeff Quist	John Cutler	Bena Bowles
Donna Buhler	Ed Paasch	Diana Kaffan	Diana Mertle McHenry
Cindy Rosier	Jan Burdick	Marilu Fox	Brad Feagley
Tom Brennan	Jim Wilson	Elaine Harris	Marian Sauer
Sonja Darling	Robert McIntosh	Kristina Hollbrook	Sparta Chiozza
Linda Marshal	Mary Highfill	Louis Cunan	Frank Kenny
Bryan Smith	Lupe Morris	Les Hathaway	Les Hathaway
Doug Greiner	Ann Bartram	Richard Palfini	

Many auto salesmen used to test the ability of their car for potential customers, in negotiating the steep climb on the street where Mark Gebhart lived. (I have forgotten the name of the street). The object of the demonstration was to get a good running start below and try to make it to the top, in high gear. They were frequently not successful.

H. Shawl

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 Sundays 12:00 to 5:00. Also special openings on Saturdays and Holidays. Admission is \$4.00 for adults, \$2.00 for over 65 and under 12, maximum family admission \$9.00, call 510-234-4884 for details.

MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

Quality productions, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm, Sunday Matinees at 2:30 pm. Tickets are \$18, cash check or credit card. Reservations and program, 510-232-4031.
Dinner at the Hotel Mac and the play on Thursday, for only \$45. Call 510-232-4031 for reservations.

PARENTS, RESOURCES AND MORE (PRAM)

Parents, Resources and More (PRAM) is a volunteer-run nonprofit organization serving families with children ages 0-5 in the greater Richmond area. The group offers playgroups, social events, educational opportunities, and a community center for infant and preschool enrichment. For more information go to <http://www.PRAM.net> or call 510-215-1734 or call Courtney Coolidge at 510-234-3445.

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 next issue of TPIT is Friday January 17, 2009. For more information call President Mildred Dornan at 510-234-5334.

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meets last Wednesday each month, Pt Richmond Community Center; 7:30 P.M Contact: Robin Carpenter, President, 510-232-8175.

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

WASHINGTON SCHOOL

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

WOMEN'S WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB

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):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Single	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior (65+)	15.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	25.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	History Preserver	50.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Sponsor	75.00
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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
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Thomas Mercer-Hursh, Ph.D.	Design/Photo Enhancement
Don Church/Allan Smith	Historic Photos
Jerry Cerkowicz	Proof/Information
Pam Wilson	Membership Info
Jean Reynolds	Article
Dee Rosier	Article
William Thompson, M.D.	Article
Theresa de Valence	Article/Photos
Margaret Morkowski	Article
David Vincent	Material
Evan Griffins	Article
Todd Jersey	Article
Bernie Moore	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
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or
email: gary@alkos.com

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Visit our website
PointRichmondHistory.org

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Red Oak Victory Information 510-235-7387
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