THIS POINT...in time

NEWSLETTER

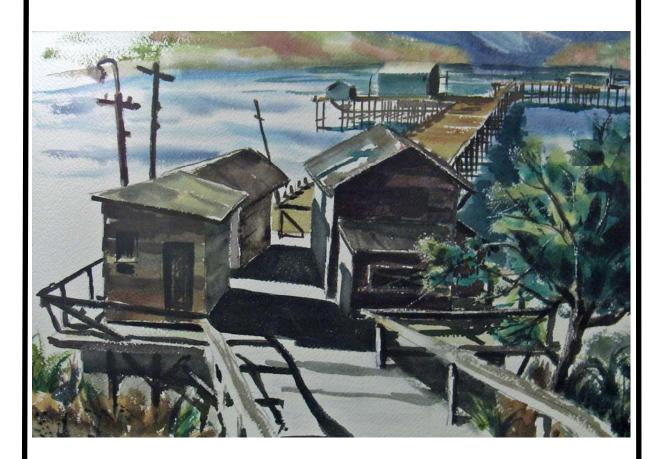
The Point Richmond History Association

www.PointRichmondHistory.org

Vol. XXV No. 5

February/March, 2007

\$3.00



Keller Beach

Painting by Gary Carter

Keller Beach.

The beach has a colorful history. In about 1910 Gus Keller built a boathouse and pier on the beach from which he rented small boats. Unfortunately Gus was killed at an early age when he was struck by a train while he was walking through the Santa Fe train tunnel. His wife Nelly Keller then ran the business for several years as her only source of income. After Nelly died her son Danny Keller and his wife ran the bar and restaurant on the pier and the rocky beach. They were known for their fried shark.

At Danny's death the park became property of the City of Richmond. In the 1960's the city gave the park to the East Bay Regional Park System to become part of the future Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline Park. It was beautifully landscaped, sand was trucked in from Black Diamond Mine. Keller's Beach remains a popular swimming and fishing beach to this day.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Mid Dornan

With the increasing number of younger visitors to our History Museum on Washington Avenue an attempt is being made to update our Washington School Class Photos.

Thanks to Rosemary Corbin, who gave us copies of the K-6th grade class photos of Diane and Jeff we have on file 1976 - 1981, a good start. But, these are only the classes her children were in leaving all those other classes the same years.

A plea is being sent to you to send us your Washington School class picture, - no matter what year. We will accept your original or we will be happy to copy it and return to you.

Next, stop by the Museum to peruse the school binder and check for names of students whose name has been forgotten. However! If you have photos of the early classes at the Standard Avenue School, we would appreciate those too. In our archives are class photos in 1905 - 2nd grade 1932, 4th grade 1933, 3rd grade 1913.

Make this a New Year's Resolution to add to our history records, be it a story or a photo.

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View from Keller Beach at sunset.

(Photo by Thomas Mercer-Hursh)



This Point....in time

Thank you members for your membership renewal:

Robert & Linda Drake Family

Gary Shows Family

Pam Wilson

Mid Dornan

Don Amantite

Priscilla Carrera

Rita (MacDonald) Hansen

Kathe Kiehn

Alyce K. Williamson Family

Marilyn Darling

Susan Snyder Family

Audrey C. Edwards

Nellie Bisio Pasquini

Royce Ong

Edna Hathaway

Doris J. Silva

Stella Giovannini Family

John & Nancy Mengshol

Bob Larsen

Julio Carrera

Jay & Karen Fenton Family

Alphonso Diaz

David B. Smith

Frank Kenny

Evelyn Thill

Edward J. McGarvey

Seth & Rose Fenton Family

Sherri Mertle

Elena Gonzales

Ed Squires

Karen & Mike Shaw Family

Ann & Bruce Bartram Family

And a warm welcome to these new members Olivia & James Jacobs Family



Thank You!

Santa Fe Market

and

Point Richmond Market

For selling

"THIS POINT....in time"

For us



Museum Hours:

Thursday 11:30 am to 2:00 pm

Saturday 11:30 am to 2:00 pm

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

Betty Dornan

Bruce and Ann Bartram

Pat Pearson

Mid Dornan

Bonnie Jo Cullison

Susan Brooks

Anita Christiansen

Sonja Darling

Margaret Morkowski

EDITOR'S NOTES

Gary Shows (510-235-1336)

Here is your February/March issue.

My usual thanks to the contributors who make this worth reading.

In case you have not noticed, Keller Beach is the theme of this issue. We plan to do a later issue with Kozy Kove as the theme. If you have anything.... articles, stories, old photos, etc., please share them with our readers. Mail or email them to me or drop them by the museum. Be sure and let me know if it is something that you want returned to you.

We remain open to your suggestions for TPIT themes and content. We usually try to pick something that we have lots of old photos of, but maybe you have a theme for which you can supply photographs.

We would also like to feature The Plunge in a future issue. Can someone help us out with material for it as a theme? We especially lack early indoor pictures of the pool and would like to add some to our photo archives.

The deadline for contributions to the next issue, April/May is March 30, 2007

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

Jerry Cerkanowicz

Gary Shows

Pam Wilson

Pat Pearson

Sonja Darling

Mary Highfill

Mid Dornan

Bruce Bartram

Ann Bartram

Thank You! Our Special Supporters!

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The Cover

A painting of Keller'Beach by famous cowboy western artist, Gary Carter. Donated to the PRHA in 1992 by the late Bernard Bernes. Mr. Bernes noted on the back of the painting that this is where he first learned to swim.

A-MID TRIVIA

Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Q: Why is April 17, 2007 important this year? Answer: At end of Trivia

(Apologies to anyone that gave information for this column and it isn't in. Blame the frustrations of a new computer and hopefully this will be corrected before the next issue!)

TO KNOW HAPPINESS YOU MUST FIRST GIVE IT.

Finally! Point Richmond Historic Distinct signage on Hwy. 580! And, soon people will find signs to the Rosie the Riveter National Park. Don't know just who finally was responsible but count on Tom Butt and Patricia Pearson to be those included.



Alice Thompson, Primary Sunday School teacher and organist at the Methodist Church, is recovering from her second hip replacement within the last six months and is wished a speedy recovery. (Being young is a factor! Plus her helpful family, Bill, Liam and Sarah)

The Methodist Church is honoring Helen Valentine as this years Sweetheart at a dinner on Thursday, February 15th at the San Pablo Yacht Club on Cutting Avenue. Helen is known for her incredible homemade PIES. She makes up to 50 pies each year for the church's annual Country Faire. While seating is limited, reservations can be made by sending a check for \$35 to Fran Smith, 16401-424 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo, CA 94806. (This is a church fund raiser.)

Sympathy is extended to Jean Reynolds on the loss of her father in Texas. While the family was attending his services, his wife, her Stepmother, also passed away.

Good News / Bad News! Bad - the huge fire and smoke from the January 15th Chevron fire was directed toward the Point. Good News: According to Dr. Wendel Brunner, County public health director, in his report to a packed, concerned audience at Washington School, "Air samples collected in the neighborhoods during the day long fire contained no more toxins that usual for the areas around the refinery."

DO YOU KNOW YOUR PROVERBS?

1.	nothing gained.
2.	breaks the camel's back?
3.	run deep.
4.	a sinking ship.
5.	catches the worm.
6.	is in the eating.
7.	is money.
8.	die hard.
9.	serve two masters.
(data A Mid Tairda

(Answers within A-Mid Trivia)

Does anyone make New Year Resolutions? Ellen DeGeneres recommends writing them in

(Continued on page 17)

CHURCH NEWS



By Dee Rosier 510-232-1387

Welcome 2007 – please promise you will not fly as quickly as 2006.

As usual, our Christmas was festive – the church was beautifully decorated by Diane Siegmund. The church doors were painted and the wreaths were extremely visible. The music was great and we welcomed the return of Javier Lopez and his trumpet. After Midnight Mass which was celebrated earlier, everyone enjoyed hot cocoa and cookies in the church hall. Father likes to remind us that although we celebrate Mass earlier, it is indeed Midnight somewhere else.

The Giving Tree has become an annual event and, as in past years, parishioners were extremely generous in their donations. All donated items were delivered to Children's Hospital Family House by Nancy and Stanley Toledo.

A new crib set was purchased since the old one was missing two of the wise men. It was less expensive to replace the entire crib rather than the two wise men. Parishioners donated toys which were given to the children at St. Marks, our neighboring parish. A clothes drive is planned to

benefit St. Marks' Casa Esperanza.

Each year, at Christmas, we have a special Christmas offering that is an important part of our annual income. Father O'Rourke would like to thank all for their generosity.

Contribution envelopes for 2007 are located in the back of the church. As a previous contributor, you will find your name on the box. If you would like to be a new contributor, please take a box and place your personal information on the clipboard. A recent newspaper article stated that in order to deduct your contributions, the IRS will require verification from your church. It would be to your advantage to register as a contributor. Parishioner using the contribution envelopes has increased to 80.

It was a first for the Parish to host a pancake breakfast. Our first attempt was so successful; we did it again, and plan another sometime in February. The church hall was filled with breakfast aromas, which made it very inviting for those attending Mass. We welcomed our Methodist neighbors as well as the community who attended. The local branch of the Italian Catholic Federation joined us for our January breakfast. Watch for notice of the next one. With the profits of the last breakfast, four new round tables were purchased. Everyone likes the new shape. After all, we sit "a-round" a table, not "a-square" it.

The latest church directory is still a work-inprogress, but don't give up on us. Located in the



back of the church you will also find a copy of the new "Working-For-God schedule.

Another work-in-progress is the restoration of the stained glass windows. The ones in need of repair are those located on the weathered side of the church. There has been a lot of discussion and it has been tentatively decided that they will be covered with lexan (a heavy plastic). It is our hope that heirs of the original donors will donate to their restoration. Memorial plaques were also discussed. We welcome your suggestions and donations.

It is still small town Pt. Richmond when the UPS man knows that you have moved, but knows where your mother lives. My daughter's package was delivered to my home.

Condolences to the Byers family in the recent death of their father, Jim Byers.

It hasn't been cold enough here for Brenda McKinley, so she went to visit her sister in Minnesota. Think that Judy and Vince Kafka had a better idea and went to Puerto Rico.

Our kindergarten group had their last get together at the end of the year. Being our mother's daughters, as I looked around the table, I noticed that we were all wearing our mother's faces.

Continue to remember in your prayers those unable to attend Mass regularly: Adolph Brossard, Dody Perry, Jack Healy, Shirley Gerk, and Frankie Mello. A speedy recovery to Theresa Meneghelli who was recently hospitalized, and a special prayer for my husband, Charlie Rosier, who recently had a minor stroke and will undergo surgery.

Volunteers from our Parish continue giving their time to the Souper Kitchen, even on Christmas Day. (Susan Brooks)

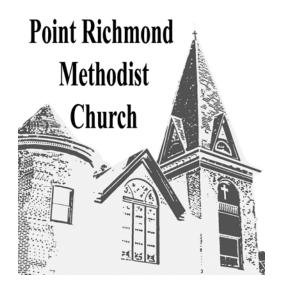
The Small Christian Community Groups continue to meet both in a day group and evening group. Everyone is welcome.

Happy Birthday grandson, Griffin and congratulations in receiving the Principal's Award – way-to-go!

ALL OF US CAN TAKE A LESSON FROM THE WEATHER –

IT PAYS NO ATTENTION TO CRITICISM!

SEE YOU IN CHURCH.



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

We welcomed new member Jamela Smith on November 26. Jamela told about her faith journey and what led her to be part of our membership. She already is active in the church: she baked and provided fabulous favors for Vacation Bible School during the summer. We are so lucky to know Jamela; husband, Cameron; and daughter, Irish.

Point Methodist members had the most active December ever, with special services for Lessons and Carols, the Messiah concert, and Christmas Eve Jazz. Church members and friends sponsored the annual bake sale at Interactive Resources, and shared chili and Christmas caroling. Several members of the congregation, and Pastor Dan, joined the Masquers for six performances of Amahl and the Night Visitors; two were performed at the church. The women of the church had a potluck dinner at Helen Valentine's home: they brought gifts for the community served by the Bay Area Rescue Mission. Congregants donated money for coats, shoes, and bicycles for deserving young people at Juan Crespi Middle School: Pat Dornan and Christina DeLeon are on the teaching staff there, and Pat alerted us to the need.

"First United Methodist Church, Richmond, Est. 1900" reads the new redwood sign on the West Richmond Ave. side of the church building. It takes the place of the long-serving driftwood sign made by Pastor Richard Smith in the 1970's. Those who miss the old sign can still see it in the basement on Junktique day!

On January 14, we marked the anniversary of Lloyd Farley's passing: his wife Melba and daughter Judy Buhlis keep a place for him in the pew. If Lloyd were still there in that pew, he would have smiled just like Melba to see our youngest preparatory member, Cecilia Butt, baptized. Gill Stanfield sang "The Lord's Prayer" to mark both events. Cecilia, daughter of Kim and Andrew Butt, plays peek-a-boo with Judy and Melba on most Sundays. Cecilia got to wear her christening dress two Sundays in a row since the photos did not turn out the first time, reaping twice the benefit of the lovely dress. She wisely kept her thoughts on the new church sign to herself when queried by Pastor Dan.

Pastor Dan has started a class for new members on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. At least six adults plan to join the church this spring: they are learning more about what it means to be a member of the United Methodist Church. The confirmation class for youth started in January, too. Diane Frye and Pastor Dan are co-teaching the young people who may choose to join the church when their classes are complete. The Monday night book group is reading Viktor Frankl's book: *Man's Search for Meaning*.

On the Calendar:

2007 Sweetheart of the Year Dinner, to honor Helen Valentine: Thursday, February 15, 6:30 to 10:00 p.m., Pt. San Pablo Yacht Club, 500 West Cutting Blvd. Cost: \$35. Sign up by mailing your check made out to "FUMC Richmond" to Fran Smith, 16401 San Pablo Ave., #424, San Pablo, 94806. It will be a pleasure to have a chance to acknowledge Helen and all of the many ways she has loved and served our community.

February 25, 5:00 p.m.: **Bobby Hall and Friends Gospel Concert.** Church choirs, the Hall family, and special guests highlight this annual event organized by Bobby and Pamella Hall.

Palm Sunday feast: April 1. For details, look for signs in the Point Richmond triangle, call the church at 236-0527, or check the church website at http://www.pointrichmond.com/methodist/index.htm.

Easter is April 8. We usually have two services, breakfast, an egg hunt, and Sunday school on Easter morning. It is a day not to be missed! Check the website above to confirm times and events, or call the Church.

New sign on the church building.



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 70th installment.

MARCH 20, 1928

Luncheon was served to the public on League's time

of meeting. A short business session was held after the luncheon was served.

A motion made, seconded and carried to buy \$8.55 Indian head from Alberts to make 15 card table covers.

A motion made, seconded and carried that the League get Margaret Davis to take care of the Prince children on Sunday for .50.

Expense of luncheon:

Napkins-Whiteside		.20	old balance	\$32.20
Piggly Wiggly	.56			32.97
Milk & Cream	1.50		new balance	\$65.17

11.70

53# meat 11.65

Groceries

Mrs. J. J. Meece, Sec

.40

\$ 26.01

Keller Beach looking out to Mount Tam (Photo by Thomas Mercer-Hursh)

salt & pepper

Expenses

- 26,01 - expenses

\$16.97 - profit

16.00 - candy

\$32.97 - profit in all

\$42.98 - took in from lunch



This Point....in time

WWIC ACTIVITIES

Norma Wallace 510-236-6968

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

The Women's Westside Improvement Club meets at the Point Richmond Methodist Church on the first Tuesday of most months.

December Meeting

The Women's Westside Improvement Club met on our regular first Tuesday of the month, December 5, 2006 for the much-anticipated annual WWIC Holiday luncheon. **President Margaret Morkowski** welcomed all with greetings for Happy Holidays, Hanukah, Christmas and Kwanza. Special welcome to **Dody Perry** and her guest **Lily**. Welcome back Dody, we have missed you. **Margaret** led a round of applause for the beautiful décor arranged by **Anita Christiansen and her son Steven.** The stunning centerpieces created by **Anita** served as door prizes for a few luck folks. The Club officers served as hostesses.

This year the Holiday Luncheon was held at our regular meeting hall at the United Methodist Church with a catered main course from Annie's Café and member potluck dishes rounding out the menu. Faced with the excellent array of homemade dishes, **Altha Humphrey** solicited recipes from all for the upcoming Centennial recipe book project.

Announcements of upcoming events included Knitting Thursday at **Altha's** and the upcoming productions by the UMC of the Messiah, December 10, and Amahl and the Night Visitors with the Masquers December 21-30. Kudos to **Mid Dornan** and others in the club for their participation in those events.

The highlight of the afternoon was the inspired singing and accordion playing of **Anna Schwartz**. **Anna** has created the beautiful tradition of leading us in singing the most popular and beloved carols – pausing between songs to share interesting tidbits about the music and some great memories. We especially enjoyed **Anna's** memory of how she played the accordion at the wedding ceremony for her second marriage. Then she commented... "It lasted nine months. The marriage, not the wedding." Badda-boom!

As for music tidbits, **Anna** readjusted the shoulder straps of her accordion and reflected on the story of the first time Silent Night was played. Known in the original German as Still Nacht, a church in a remote village in the Alps – similar to **Anna's** Czech village – was debuting the piece. The pump organ refused to play, however, as mice had eaten holes in the bellows. A guitar was found to play the song that first night. Thus introduced, Anna picked up the accordion, and accompanied herself singing in German...*Still Nacht*.

The spring meeting schedule for the club is February 6, March 6, April 3, May 1 and the end-of-year Salad Potluck and Hat Day on June 5, plus a field trip or two along the way. Our February speaker will be Paula Asmus, owner of Point Richmond Optometry and in March we will have an \$8.00 fundraising luncheon. Guests and new members are always welcome. If you have any questions, please call Margaret at 234-4219 or me 236-6968.



ARSENIC & OLD LACE at the Masquers

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

Are you one of the thirteen people left in the world who has not yet seen Arsenic & Old Lace? Well, I was one and now I'm here to tell you this is an amusing script and nicely done; so get on it and go! This performance ends February 24, 2007.

The stage set is brilliant. (Rob Bradshaw and crew deserve big cheers) *Seven* stage exits give so much character and force that we *feel* when actors troop off to the basement or up the stairs, in spite of knowing the doors merely lead backstage.

Martha Brewster (Theo Collins) and Abby Brewster (Martha Leuhrmann) (photo below by Jerry Telfer) are two sisters who care greatly for their neighbours. That these elderly women are sweet and thoughtful (and sound perfectly sane) makes the lines they deliver all the more entertaining; they care for older, lonely gentlemen callers by poisoning them, a kindly service which they provide to relieve these men of their otherwise burdensome existence. This they then shortly follow with a burial service of the appropriate Christian flavour.



Teddy Brewster (Michael O'Brien) is a funny lunatic whose personality oscillates between stately and ridiculous. Before the play has been going very long, it all seems perfectly normal, which in itself is preposterous. Michael's performance is nominated for the Actor Most Enjoying Himself award; he has done a fantastic job, though he's not alone. In the lobby after the performance, Michael was overheard to say that he particularly enjoyed playing the rôle of an eight year old.

Rev. Dr. Harper (Dave Wilkerson) is a pleasant, slightly repressed minister living in the church next door, and natters sweetly to the nice old dames. He is concerned about having to wait up for his daughter to return from a date with Mortimer (because proximity to the theatre means that Mortimer might someday take an interest in it, alas!).

Officer Brophy (Noah Gomes), Officer Klein (Joe Torres) & Lieutenant Rooney (John Wilson) play policemen with quasi-Irish accents which, for me, is annoying. I have complained before that community theatre actors speaking in accents they don't own renders the language less comprehensible. For me, that makes the play less enjoyable. However, the audience did laugh a lot during the play, their ears must be more tolerant.

Officers Brophy and Klein are brash young men easily duped by the apparent kindness and generosity of the aunts, therefore they supply a number of "straight lines" for other characters to trip over.

Rooney is an older cop with a stronger and more entrenched attitude, but still hopelessly blind to the true circumstances surrounding the aunts. All of the policemen are otherwise enjoyable characters.

Mortimer Brewster (Dan Garfinkle) is a dissatisfied and reluctant drama critic with an amusing scheme to save time in his review writing. According to his aunts, he was much happier covering real estate. Of him one of his aunts says "to Mortimer the theatre has been pretty small potatoes. He needs something bigger to criticize - something like the human race." Mortimer is not a romantic character; he is testy, stiff and rather patronizing, but he does have several bright moments: having discovered what his aunts have done, he does silly things with his job, a telephone and the aunts; having proposed to Elaine, he tries to take it back; and more.

Elaine Harper (Steph Peek) is not at all pleased with Mortimer's fickle behaviour and expresses

herself most emphatically. She is a wannabe not-so-good girl and therefore most disappointed that they won't be seeing a musical when they go to the theatre, because a musical makes Mortimer a more interesting man on the drive home. She elegantly promises naughty in her looks and her voice. A smartly dressed Elaine struts across the stage, purposefully ending each promenade in an elegant finished pose, highlighting her beautiful legs, attracting everyone's but Mortimer's attention.

Jonathon Brewster (David Bintinger) is a gangster emulating, one suspects, the actor in the original production of the play, Boris Karloff. He feels a bit like someone playing someone playing a rôle, as though the rôle was not quite internalized, but, on the whole, I enjoyed him. He is a person who looks like he has been picked for his rôle because of how sinister he looks, however his stage self is likely a combination of acting and makeup. He succeeded in frightening me long before he suggested that a few miscellaneous people should die. He also delivered amusing lines in an absolute deadpan. Priceless!

Dr. Einstein (C. Conrad Cody) wins my vote for star of the show. And the great tragedy is that I can't even begin to tell you all the funny bits without giving away parts of the play that you will enjoy, particularly if they come as a surprise. Conrad's German accent is the only one which stands muster. His costume looks thrown together so perfectly we don't even realize he's been dressed up (or should I say "down," in this case?). His rôle flirts with drunkenness, obsequiousness, and fear of Jonathon, all of which he rolls together in a manner that looks fluid and incredibly easy. A true sign of genius that!

Officer O'Hara (Simon Patton) is an effervescent and boisterous man with a great deal of self-admiration. It is with great joy that he informs us about the play he intends to write. Ages and ages later, we find him still discussing the play. Like everyone's, Simon's quasi Irish accent is lousy, in spite of his preferential status as a real Brit. Having seen Simon before, I expected a magnificent performance, and I was not disappointed. Simon's performance is also nominated for the Actor Most Enjoying Himself award; in this production he is much larger than he used to be, no doubt that was his rôle

expanding all over the stage.

Mr. Gibbs (Edward Collins) is an old man with a mere 15 seconds of fame in this play. He seems an eminently suitable character, in itself an accolade.

Mr. Witherspoon (Jerry Telfer) is the Superintendent of Happy Dale, the long term care facility to which the aunts wish to commit Teddy when they pass on. This is the first time I have seen Jerry in front of the lights in place of his usual spot behind the camera. Though a cameo appearance, he is fundamental to the plot. Except for the size of his suit, it is a serious and sweet performance.

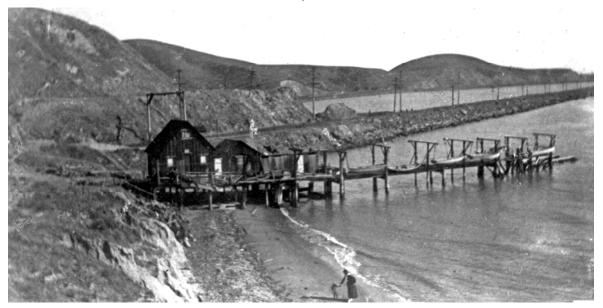
The more familiar I become with theatre, the more amazed I am at the result. Forty people got together, and, directed by Betsy Bell Ringer, took flat words off the page, gave them colour and sound, made a story come alive, made the audience hoot with laughter, and gave us all, actors and audience alike, a feeling of having participated in something marvelous today.

An enjoyable show!



ARCHIVE PHOTO GALLERY

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

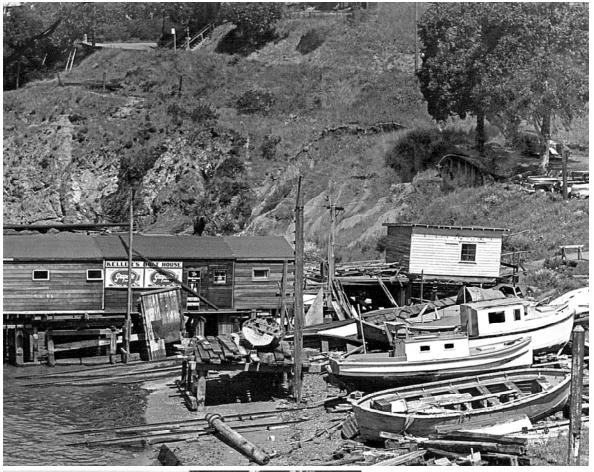


Above: Keller's wharf. Note water behind railroad causeway in the rear (0094-DC from Don Church)

Right: Keller's wharf and float in 1908. The sailboat was Harry Marland's 'Zepher' (0173-DC from Don Church)



This Point....in time





This Point....in time

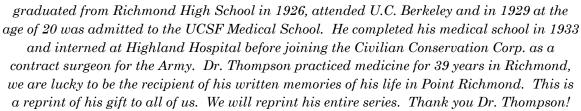
Above: Keller's wharf (0328-PS)

Left: The last of Keller's wharf in 1967. It was being dismantled to make the beach into a city park (0095-DC from Don Church)

William L. Thompson, M.D.

More Memories of Old Point Richmond-East Richmond Avenue

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



Part One

Moving east on Richmond Avenue from the Santa Fe tracks in the old days one found many items that now would be of historical interest. On the right where the natatorium now stands, was an old well with a tall derrick that John Nichol was said to have drilled hoping to find oil in a most unlikely location. Instead water was found and the well was abandoned for many years. I understand that water from this source was later used to supply part of the water for the natatorium. When the old derrick was there I remember it as the only structure in the quandrangle of Richmond Avenue, Oregon Avenue, the tracks and the hills.

Immediately past this on the right was the old double line of small square box-like houses known locally as "smokey row". These were later moved or town down to allow the access route for the road tunnel. Across Richmond avenue there was a large open area which originally had been marsh but had been filled in with dirt from the tunnel excavation. For a time this was a dirt field not far from the Washington School and was used by children for sand lot baseball and touch football. Later it was made into the mark that still occupies the area. At one time a band stand was built there to replace the one that had been located at Richmond and

Washington Avenues.

As one progressed eastward Idaho Street joined in from the right. Originally, at this point on Richmond Avenue there had been 3 small Smokeyrow-like square dwellings. The house on the corner was initially occupied by the Wake family. Mrs. Wake had made over the living room into a very small grocery store. I do not recall much of what she supplied but recall stopping there on my way home from school to purchase a loaf of bread for 10 cents. These houses were later removed or town down and the Wake family moved to a house on upper Alvarado Street across from the Dick Spiersch home. The Wake's had two sons; the elder was Freddie who later developed some mental problem. The younger boy, Charlie, for a time was in the Navy.

There are a few old time residents on Idaho Street that I have not mentioned before. There was Bob Lee and His wife who had been good friends of my father. After his retirement from the Standard Oil Company and during the early part of World War2 he eventually headed the local ration board and brought to it more rationality than there had been before. At first doctors were not allowed extra gas. This was tragic because due to the shortage of hospital beds many home calls were required. They were ordered to make their calls by taxi or common

carrier. This was insane because it took twice as much gasoline and more than twice the time. With the shortage of doctors and time this would have been disastrous. Bob Lee had this changed so that doctors and other essential carriers could be issued 'D' stamps over the usual 'A' ration coupons.

At the junction of Idaho and Buena Vista lived the Woods family. They were related to the pioneer Woods and Boorman families of the Stege area. There were several members of this family in the Point and many young people. One of the most noted members of this group was Lucetta Wood Dunlap, wife of Paul Dunlap. She was important in the social structure of the Point and had been one of its earliest post mistresses.

Harry Aine, who first organized the carpenter department at the Standard Oil Company, lived for a time on the east side of upper Idaho after moving down from his original residence on Scenic Avenue. He later moved to Mira Vista. He was a very close brined of my family's and we visited often. The first phonograph I ever heard was in his home and I was most impressed. Being of French descent he had a frog pond in his back yard which

was most interesting to us kids.

Across from the Woods family at the top of Idaho was the home of Johny Garvin. Mr. Garvin was a small active man who was said to have been a jockey in his early life. He was a foreman at the Standard Oil Company. Garvin Avenue in Richmond is named for him. This house was later occupied by the Henry Francis family. The Bernes family lived just below this on Idaho.

Sol Butler and his wife, who was one of my mother's sisters, lived in the second house from the corner on the east side of the street from about 1615 to about 1919. They had twin boys. The Hall family and the Miller family lived just above this and across the street lived the Gust Allyn family whom we have spoken of before.

This region of the Richmond area, along the hills from the Santa Fe tracks to Murrey's point, was climatically the best residential area of the region. The hills sheltered it from the winds and it was relatively quiet and warm area. Also it was mostly away from the noxious gases that sometimes issued from the Standard Oil Company.

Dr. Thompson's Son in law Gab Togner wrote a touching eulogy to Dr. Thompson at his memorial in 1998, you can read it at http://www.alkos.com/prha/thompson.html.



View of John Nicholl's "oil" derrick and the remaining "Smokey Row" houses east of the tracks (0008-DC from Don Church; enhanced by Thomas Mercer-Hursh)

This Point....in time

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" and "Richmond Herald Record". It is one of the items left for us by Allan Smith.

Items of Interest Point Richmond, 1912

- Gus Green to open a new café adjoining the fire station in the Point. Will move from present location at 517 Standard Ave. (Baltic)
 SP Electric road to be built up Cutting Blvd at once. It would come along the Panhandle Blvd. and down Cutting Blvd. to the SOCo Refinery.
 John Nicholl and 2 others to visit the Blume Ranch at San Pablo. May drill for oil.
- 7-26 Local woman, wife of SOCo Capt. Larsen, uses a gun to get back money from crooked solicitor.
- 8-4 Kate Rearden is 1st woman to take out papers for citizenship under the new suffrage law.
- 8-8 James T. Narbett to draw up plans for Elks Bldg.
 Postmaster Jenkins needs 9 more mail carriers, has only 3 now.
- 8-18 The Point hills south of Nicholls Knob burned last night.
- 9-21 Gas is found in Nicholls hole at 900 feet. Well full of water but gas pressure enough to make way to top. (Any bubbles would come to the top!)
- 8-22 Mrs. Sophie Peard will erect new flats at Nicholl and Washington. 100 X 40 feet, 6 flats to cost \$9500.
- 8-25 Officer Phil Barry attacked by gang on Railroad Avenue.
- 8-31 Modern Café of Gus Green opens today. "The Baltic".
- 9-3 Dr. Horn and Don Church nearly upset in bay.
- 9-11 San Jose Charlies Chop Suey joint on Railroad Ave. on the West Side was visited by 2 customers last night: Sgt. Chas. Walker and Phil Barry, \$100 bail.

 Tom McCormick roasts Police for gambling in the city. J.P. Arnold lets him have it right back.
- 9-12 John Nicholl will allow use of 100 x 200 yds section opposite the high school for track meets, etc.
 - Frank Aguiar will haul the dirt to fill school site (Washington).
- 9-14 Tunnel to cost big sum. The bore, wharves and harbor cost will total 1/2 million dollars.
- 9-15 Arthur Carrico (Archie) kills self with gun at corner of Cottage and Santa Fe.
- 9-17 Gold found in two places by Prof. Jahnke; at the heard of Washington Ave. which assayed \$2.78 per ton and thru the bap between LAPB and the Santa Fe Ferry Point which assayed \$31.13 per ton.
 - Geo. Sontag of Sontag and Evans fame (train bandits) takes a job as bartender in John Kenny's saloon. He had been giving lectures on the folly of a life of crime.

(Continued from page 4)

MORE A-MID TRIVIA

lemon juice on parchment paper, which makes them invisible to the naked eye until you hold a candle behind it!

Abe Lincoln was born February 12 and advocated honesty because, he said, "No man has a good enough memory to make a successful liar.

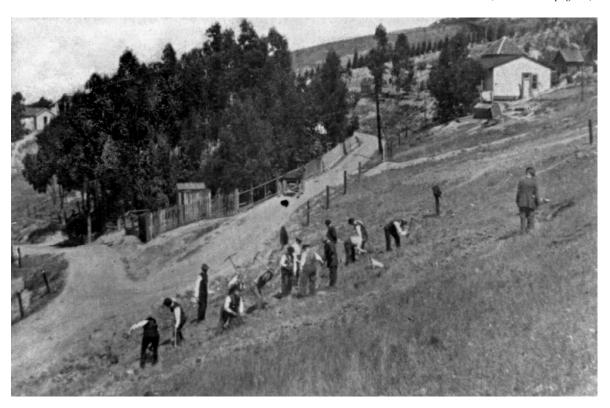
ANSWERS to PROVERBS

- 1. Nothing ventured
- 2. The last straw
- 3. Still waters

- 4. Rats desert
- 5. The early bird
- 6. The proof of the pudding
- 7. Time
- 8. Old habits
- 9. No man can

Seventy-five guests honored Ruth Woods Mullen, mother of Bob Woods, at a luncheon at the Blackhawk Country Club on her 100th birthday in January. A video of her life the past hundred years and the events associated with it was a history lesson! Ruth lived in the Point as a youth

(Continued on page 18)



This photograph is captioned "The gang at work. Note Keller's 'Cliff House' in the rear." Does anyone know who is "the gang" and what work they are doing? What intersection is this? Is the house still standing? If so, where is it located? (0036-DC from Don Church, enhanced by Thomas Mercer-Hursh)

MORE A-MID TRIVIA

but now lives at Rossmore. She joined the Methodist Church in 1920 and attended their Country Faire last October. Attending were relatives Betty and Mid Dornan from the Point.

Carol Paasch is wished a quick "GET WELL" as she recuperates in a San Leandro care facility.

Congratulations to the newly formed Albany Historical Society. Albany will celebrate its centennial in 2008 and they are interested in pictures, businesses, families, school activities, etc. that could be published in a book. Especially of interest are pictures of people. Contact Joan Larson, President, at 510-526--7769.

Good news -- Charles Rosier, husband of Dee, is recuperating, though slowly, from his recent stroke.

Storage is where I stow away stuff that later I throw away. Jean Sherburne

Unless something is done soon for the pothole in the 200 block on Clarence Street, it may become an alternate for the Plunge.

Speaking of the Plunge, a glowing report was given that stage one and stage two are being done and you should be able to put your foot into the waters within the year.

It is said that one in every four Americans is unbalanced. Think of your three closest friends. If they seem OK...You're in trouble.

ANSWER: The due date to file federal and state taxes for 2006 has been pushed back two days to file tax returns and make payments. The traditional April 15 deadline falls on a Sunday and the following day, April 16, is Emancipation Day, a public holiday in the District of Columbia.



Keller Beach (Photo by Thomas Mercer-Hursh)

This Point....in time

The Color of Love

Roses are a good gift whether you snip them from a yard or get them at a florist. Roses do best if planted in an area that allows full sun and is at least 4 feet from other plants. And, when gifting a rose, the color should be appropriate.

- PURPLE roses signify the giver has fallen in love with the recipient at first sight.
- CORAL and ORANGE roses signal desire.
- YELLOW roses symbolize friendship
- PINK roses are an expression of gratitude and appreciation.
- WHITE roses can mean reverence and humility, as well as purity.
- RED roses express Love.

Of course, those that love roses, any color means love when they are received!

Mid Dornan

Historic Plaque Project

I am putting a plaque on my house identifying it as "The Frosini House".

Anyone else owning a historical building in the Point who is interested in doing the same is encouraged to do so. The plaques are to be paid for by the owners. The Point Richmond History Association would like to check the text of the plaque for accuracy if you plan to include our certification.

So far, four people have contacted me expressing interest in the project. I had to put the project aside for a month or more but now I have current information on the price and possibility of someone who will be available to install the plaques. Mine is at the foundry and should be ready in six weeks.

If you are interested in having a plaque made for your home, please call me at 510-234-2532 for more information.

Pat Pearson

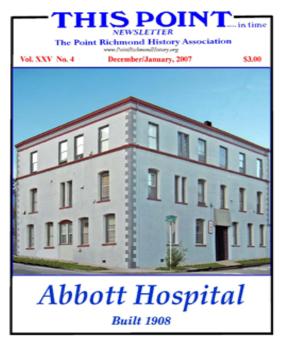
More on the Previous TPit

This additional information is from "Richmond: The Early Years", Independent Printing Company, 50th anniversary booklet. Thank you to Mrs. A.J. Lasson for getting it to us.

Richmond's first hospital was built in 1908 by Dr. Clark L. Abbott and his cousin Dr. Ursa S. Abbott. The Abbott Hospital was a two story brick structure located at the corner of Richmond and Santa Fe Avenues. Today, with a third story added, it is still in use as an apartment house.

The ground floor contained private offices, consultation rooms, x-ray room (very new for that day), electrical room, minor operating and dressing rooms, drug and supply room, a library and two private rooms for patients. On the second floor was a kitchen and dining room, bathroom, sterilizing room, major operating room, a men's ward and six private rooms. It was planned to add a solarium on the roof for the use of convalescing patients.

Dr. Clark L. Abbott was born in Seneca



County, Ohio, October 5, 1874. After receiving his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Heidelberg University in Ohio, he attended and graduated from Chicago's Rush Medical College in 1900. Dr. Abbott then interned in Chicago, after which he came to San Francisco to serve as lecturing physician in the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

At the same time he opened an office in San Pablo. Shortly thereafter, he moved to Point Richmond, opened an office for the general practice of medicine and acted as physician and surgeon for the Santa Fe Railroad.

On October 12, 1908, Dr. Abbott was elected to the Board of Freeholders who prepared a charter for the city of Richmond. During the same year, he and his cousin, Dr. Ursa S. Abbott, who had recently joined him in Richmond began operation of the new hospital.

The Abbotts were local surgeons for the Pullman Shops, Atlas and Giant Powder Company, and on the staff of surgeons for Standard Oil, in addition to the Santa Fe Railroad.

Mrs. Lasson also sent this. It is taken from San Pablo Historical Society's "The Museum Mirror".

"Dr. Camp, a very good country doctor who would come when summoned, enter by the kitchen and help himself to a cup of coffee before he would attend to the patient. Later Dr. Bennett came along. When Dr. Bennett left San Pablo, he was replaced by Dr. C.L. Abbott, and much criticism was aroused because of his youth. But they soon found him a most capable and efficient doctor. He proved to be one of the best physicians known. Also I recall when Dr. Abbott made a sick call to a Portuguese family at their dairy. Dr. Abbott could not understand them, and the Portuguese people could not understand him. So when the doctor discovered that I spoke American and Portuguese fluently, he had me interpret instructions. From that time on, he would pick me up to go on this type of farmers' sick calls. I was 13 or 14 at the time."

Victor J. Montoya

CARDS, LETTERS & E-MAIL

Dear Gary,

Included is the article from the January, 2007 "Railroad Model Craftsman" on the Southern Pacific's Western Division. The article tells how Lloyd Roberts came to model the Western Division. I also included a picture of the Union Pacific M-10000 (p.38) that Mr. Roberts saw pass through Richmond in 1936.

On page 78 the author describes his plan to model the Pullman Company repair and maintenance facility in Richmond. I can remember seeing the facility when my dad would drive south on Bayshore highway in the late 1940's and early 1950's. It might be that Mr. Roberts could be a member of the "Golden State Model Railroad Museum" and would share pictures of the facility with the PRHA.

It was wonderful talking with you and knowing you can see my old home from your home office. "THIS POINT.....in time" is showing signs of maturing. Keep up the wonderful job!

Sincerely, Simeon J. Burtner El Paso, TX

Thank you Simeon, I also enjoyed your call.
Will use your information in future issues and share
it with model rail enthusiasts. Gary

More on the previous issue

The small houses in the rear of the old Abbott Hospital (Carroll Apartments) are relocated "Smokey Row" houses (meaning that they were once just east of the railroad tunnel). They served at nurses quarters for the old hospital.

(Photo by Gary Shows)

Dear Gary Shows,

Enclosed are items I have collected regarding the History of San Pablo.

I read the December/January, 2007 "This Point" that told about the Abbott Hospital.

Yours truly Mrs. A.J. Lasson Berkeley

Thank you Mrs. Lasson for sharing, see opposing page. Gary





DEATHS....

Hazel Dawson Dunniger died on January 12, 2007. She was a member of the Richmond Union High class of 1938.

James S. Byers, passed away at his Ocean Avenue home on January 22, 2007. Age 85. Born in Dodge City, Kansas, he grew up in Albany, CA. Jim had an extremely successful business career which included owning a life insurance agency, a life insurance company and commercial real estate properties. The crown jewel of his business pursuits was the restoration of the Hotel Mac to its original grandeur just as it was magnificent in 1910 when it was built. Jim was preceded in death his wife, Darlene and son, Steven. He is survived by his daughters, Karen Byers Mays of San Diego and Judy Byers Salvestrin of Petaluma, six grandchildren, and one great -grandson. Memorial services were held at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church on Saturday, January 27, 2007.



Specific purposes for the formation of the Point Richmond History Association as a non-profit organization:

- To collect and preserve recorded materials and significant objects which are relevant to the understanding of the history of Point Richmond.
- 2. To publish information relating to the history of Point Richmond.
- 3. To make local historical information available to the public.

Printed FYI from PRHA organizational records.

BIRTHDAYS

February

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA Mark Gebhart Sarah Wilson Steven Mertle Fred Beesley Dixie Copeland Billy Bob Karl Chris Rotting Walter MacMillan Connie Healy Helen Valentine Marcos Rotting Arlene Rodini Landow Howe Rowene MacMillan Dody Perry Ethel MacMillan

Kim Ward Velma Healy Anne Brussok-Roth Jared Bigard Lupe Padilla Lopez Adele Bruno Waymire

March

GIRL SCOUTS
CAMP FIRE GIRLS
Sheba Warith
Dale Hawkins
Karolyn Macdiarmid
Carol Paasch
JoAnn Bray

Carol Darling
Claire E. Crowson
Dolly Frosini
Reba Downs
Rich Schuldt
Kathe Kiehn
Ben Bray

Janice Jones Jean Knox Lavinia Karl Avis Blanchette Brian Richardson Susan Berman Mary Valenzano

Isobel Folson Rachel Palfini Myron Pestana Delphina Franco Tawney Lorna Huffstetter



Exclusive - Over 90 Club

Mark Gebhart 92 Gordon Miller 98 Anna Schwartz 94 Bena Bowles 92 Romilda Burress Jim Patrick Kenny 93 Alice Helseth 96 Steve Wyrick 91 Jean Moyle Spiersch 95 Goldie Mobley 92 Rena Cairo Gonsalves 94 Anita Brougham 93 Ann Hanzlik 95 Dulcie Johnson 92 Lupe Padilla Lopez 91

Rose Grosso 91

Laura Kurtz 94

Louise Hammond 93

Thelma Mae Harvey 92 Reva Ward 93 Avis Blanchette 92 Maxine Stoddard 92 Bernard Dietz 92 Ruth Mallette 95 Eunice Ruth Hursh 90 Lee Christian

Oretta Eaton Welcome new 90 year-old Melba Farley

100 Year Club

Ruth Wood Mullen - January 8, 1907

Age is mind over matter. If you don't mind, it don't matter.

CALENDAR

GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM AND EAST BAY MODEL ENGINEERS SOCIETY

900 Dornan Drive, Miller/Knox Regional Park. Interested in Museum Membership? Museum is open to the public Saturdays and Sundays and July 4th and Labor Day noon to 5 pm. Closed January through March except for business meetings and workshop on Fridays 7-10 PM. 510-234-4884.

MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

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

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

PARENTS, RESOURCES AND MORE (PRAM)

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

POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Meets 2nd Wednesday each month, Hotel Mac Banquet Room, 12-1:30, Lunch Reservations \$11. Contact: Paula Aasmus, O.D. 510-235-5228.

POINT RICHMOND COMMUNITY CENTER/FIELD HOUSE & PLUNGE

Info: 233-6881

POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Museum at 139½ Washington Avenue, open Thursday's and Saturday's, 11:30 to 2:00 The deadline for the April/May issue of TPIT is Friday March 30, 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				
Addre	SS:			
Phone	:			
Type of membership (check one):				
	Single 7	\$20.00		
	Senior (65+)	15.00		
	Family	25.00		
	History Preserver	50.00		
	Corporate Sponsor	75.00		
	History Maker	100.00		

Membership in the Point Richmond History Association includes a one year subscription to "THIS POINT...in time" newsletter (six issues). Please make your check payable to the Point Richmond History Association and mail it to:

Pam Wilson 521 Western Drive Point Richmond, CA 94801

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

Main Contributors to this Issue:

main Contributors to this issue:			
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Mid Dornan	Various Articles		
Thomas Mercer-Hursh, Ph.D.	Design/Photos/		
	Printing		
Don Church/Allan Smith	Historic Photos		
Jerry Cerkanowicz	Proof/Information		
Pam Wilson	Membership Info		
Jean Reynolds	Article		
Dee Rosier	Article		
William Thompson, M.D.	Article		
Doug Corbin	Article		
Theresa de Valence	Article		
Norma Wallace	Article		
Margaret Morkowski	Article		
Bernard Bernes	Image		
Gary Carter	Image		
Mrs. A.J. Lassen	Information		

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

fax 510-965-0335

email: gary@alkos.com

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

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