

Point Counterpoint

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For the Week Beginning July 21, 1967

REPORT TO THE POINT

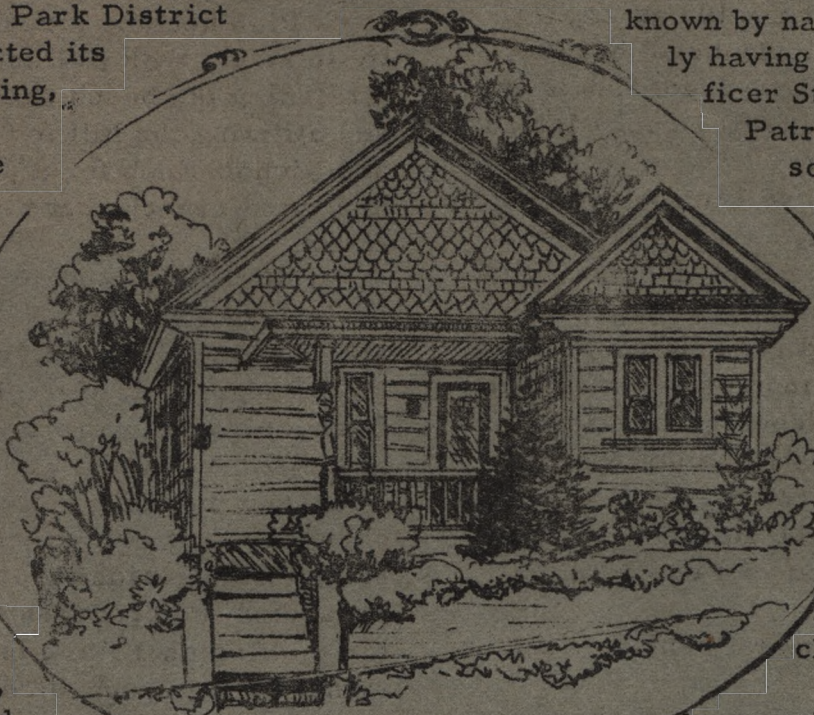
Tuesday evening, July 18, in the City Council Chambers, The East Bay Regional Park District Board conducted its regular meeting, but not in its regular place or at the usual time. Meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of each month, at 2:00 p.m., at EBRP headquarters, 11500 Skyline Blvd., Oakland.

This meeting, for the purpose of allowing Richmond residents a more convenient attendance, was well-attended. Informative summaries (page 2)

"OFFICER STEGEMAN" --AN EXHIBIT

The one policeman who is known by name by any family having children is officer Stegeman, School Patrol Director. As soon as children attend their first school year, they know this man. Small children sometimes garble the name to officer "State-ment", but his advice is always clear.

He has a very large collection of drawings, now being exhibited at the Richmond Art Center, of children's impressions of him. The imaginative impressions will be shown through July 26.



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2. (Regional Park meeting -Continued)

were given of the Regional Park's progress (present and future) in Contra Costa County.

Kennedy Grove, in El Sobrante, is expected to be completed late this summer. Opening ceremonies in late September of the first Regional Park in Contra Costa County are expected to be a very big occasion. The Richmond Symphony will present an outdoor concert, and, of course, local dignitaries will all be present.

Briones will be the largest Regional Park, north of Lafayette and East of Martinez, containing 3,100 acres.

Mr. Hornbeck announced that the application for H. U. D. funds has been accepted, for developing Brooks Island as a Regional Park.

Wildcat Canyon will probably become a Regional Park, since it is likely that The Regional Park tax of 10 cents will probably be continued.

Point Richmond is being considered and the Board has made a commitment to acquire Point Richmond land for a Regional Park. Problems do exist, in the Railroad lines and the Tops Chemical Company, but the Board is working on negotiations, and will continue to study the location.

Coyote Hills, near Fremont is in the planning stages.

The John Marsh home is an area which the District expects to acquire for protection of the scenic beauty of the site.

In eastern Contra Costa County, the Nortonville, Somersville-Stewartville Mines area is a proposed site for a Regional Park.

Contra Loma, near Pittsburgh, is being worked on jointly with the Bureau of Reclamation.

Spokesman for the Point Richmond Civic Group, Pat Herron, urged the board to seriously consider Point Richmond, and to fulfill their commitment for a Beach Park in Contra Costa County, since it has received overwhelming endorsement in Richmond.

WHAT'S GOING ON... AT KELLER'S BEACH?

Not to be confused with the Regional Park Plans, the sketch on the next page is the City Recreation and Park Department's plan for Keller's Beach. Mr. Thomas Wilson was kind enough to let us copy the plot plan, in order to give some idea of what all the activity in the area is about.

Keller's Beach Park is scheduled for completion in October or November of this year. Should the Regional Park Plan become a reality, it will tie in nicely with Keller's Beach, stretching the beach area southward, and utilizing the hill for hiking trails, and Nicholl Knob for a scenic overlook area, reached from the hiking trails.

It might be noted here, that Mr. Irwin Luckman, Mr. Walter Tony and Mr. Richard Trudeau, as well as Mr. Paul Badger, all of the Regional Park District Board were invited to meet at the home of Mrs. Veil Hammond on Thursday morning, July 20, to exchange views and information with some of the residents of Richmond regarding the progress of the plans for the Regional Park in Point Richmond. It was suggested by Mr. Luckman during his visit that the District would have enough information soon, to warrant a meeting with people in Point Richmond. A tentative date was planned for September.

"NEW GIRL IN TOWN"

PRESENTED BY

MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

105 PARK PLACE

BOOK BY GEORGE ABBOIT
MUSIC & LYRICS BY BOB MERRILL

A ROUSING COLORFUL MUSICAL INTERPRETATION
OF EUGENE O'NEILL'S "ANNA CHRISTIE"

JULY 14 thru AUGUST 19

CURTAIN 8:30 P.M. ADMISSION \$2.00
RESERVATIONS: TR 3-5475 BE 2-3883

REMINISCING

WITH DON CHURCH--interesting and sometimes amusing articles taken from old Richmond and Point Richmond newspapers, through the courtesy of the Richmond Museum.

TERRIBLE TRAFFIC--TEMPERS FLARE--FAIR'S FAIR.....

From the Richmond
Record Herald.... July 17, 1919.

"The flared-up tempers of the motorists waiting in line at the Richmond-San Rafael Ferry have been calmed down. The practice of cutting in ahead when a space opened the length of a car, was stopped yesterday when the ferry company began issuing numbers as you bought your ticket. Any road hog who, like the Kaiser, felt that Nature intended him to have the right-of-way, found he could not board the ferry until his number was reached."

THE U.S. WAS FULL OF CANDYHOLICS.....

From the Richmond
Record Herald of July 17, 1919...

"The closing of the saloons has had a marked effect on the sale of candy owing to the fact that sugar is a natural substitute for alcohol. Those who can no longer get whiskey are turning to candy according to an article recently published in "Commercial Finance".

"In 1918, \$600 million dollars was spent on candy in the U.S. One single chain of 5 and 10 cent stores sold 89 million pounds of candy, and 21 million sticks of chewing gum. One large manufacturer of candy states that his sales are already three times greater than in 1918!" (Time to buy shares in candy co's.)

"WEST SIDE GARAGE IS UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT.".....

From the Richmond Independent
of July 22, 1922.....

"The West Side Garage has been re-opened under new management as a first-class garage and general auto repair shop, by V.H. Shof and L.E. Hale. Both men are experienced in garage work and electrical installations. Regrinding of valves will be a specialty at very low prices;

Ford valves will be \$3.50, and Chevrolet \$6.00 for regrind."

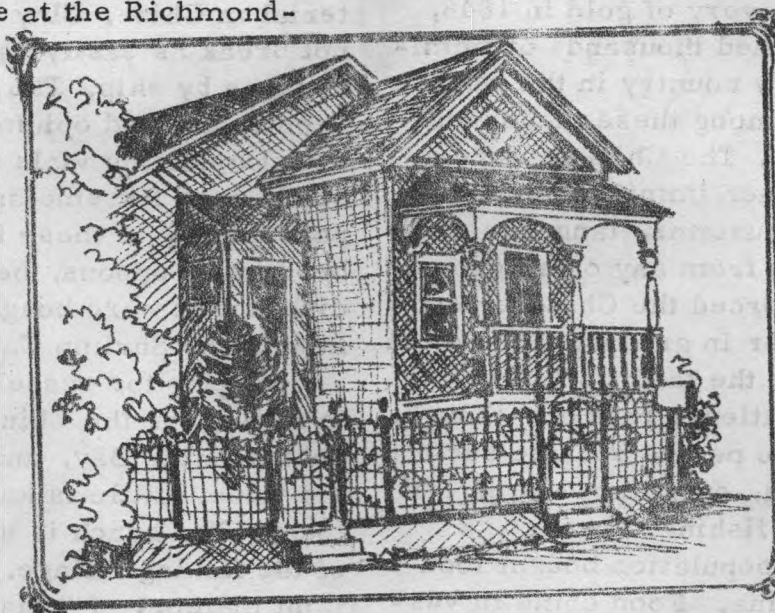
"POINT MASONS DEDICATE NEW HOME TONIGHT".....

From the Independent of
July 25, 1922.....

"With impressive and appropriate ceremonies, Point Lodge of Masons will dedicate their new home this evening. The Ladies of Point Chapter of the Eastern Star will prepare a dinner for the officers and members, under the chairmanship of Mrs. G. W. Topping.

A number of Grand Officers will be present to participate in the ceremonies. The new home... is located on Washington Ave. just above Richmond Ave.. The Masons own the entire building, having made alterations to suit their needs, in equipment and arrangement.

(This was Richmond's first City Hall, built 1909 by John Nicholson.)



BOTTLES I HAVE KNOWN

by *Marie Davis*



CHINESE BOTTLES

With the discovery of gold in 1848, California welcomed thousands of immigrants from every country in the world to her shores. Among these thousands were the Chinese. The Chinese were different from other immigrants. Their facial features, customs, language and dress were apart from any other group. Discrimination forced the Chinese people to band together in groups. They often were left to mine the tailings left by the other miners. Patience paid off, though, and many Chinese people became successful by mining, operating stores and laundries and by fishing.

The Chinese population bought food shipped from China. Food came in vessels which they sometimes broke when emptied. The custom was that any item from the Motherland which was not returnable should be destroyed rather than be buried in the soil of a new country. To describe how food vessels and bottles fit into the life of the Chinese people, I will describe life as it was in the Shrimp Camp.....

THE SHRIMP CAMP

The Shrimp Camp was located between Point Castro and Point Richmond, on the Point Molate Beach. Between 1865 and 1913, this beach was occupied by 40 or 50 Chinese fishermen and their families. These fishermen built their houses over the water, upon stilts. Their main export was dried shrimp, which they sold in China Town. The fishermen owned approximately twenty sampans, which they moored to five

wharves. Each day a Chinese fisherman made his way over the hill to Point Richmond with his baskets of fish on his shoulders. Here he sold his shrimp, clams and sometimes herring, to the residents.

These Chinese fishermen used the same Min Gei (Chinese Bottles) as other Chinese immigrants in California. They kept ginger and other spices in large jars called burial urns, and soy sauce in a small clay jug with a spout. Almost all Chinese food vessels are made of clay, for this was the cheapest packaging material in China. Clay vessels also did not break as easily as glass on long voyages by ship. The Chinese men frequently smoked opium, which came in small medicine vials and tins. Pipes and bowls used for smoking opium were possessions of these fishermen. I have been given spoons, bead games and some dishes that were bought from the fishermen of the Shrimp Camp.

Digging for vessels on the beach today is futile, for the Chinese discarded their debris in the Bay, and it was covered by the tides. Little is known of the Camp, today. The beach is bare, with no sign of the fishing village. There is only a faint memory of "Charlie Chinaman" and his shrimp.



LAST WEEK'S puzzle answer:

"Hood's Sarsaparilla is the medicine that cures."