

POINT COUNTERPOINT

A JOURNAL FOR CIVIC COMMUNICATION

VOL. III • NO. 20

WEEKLY 10¢

POINT RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 23 TO 30, 1968



235 Arizona Ave.

WACKY WALDO NEEDS YOU!



EVERYONE LOVES A PARADE !!!

And next week every youngster in Point Richmond will have a chance to participate in the **BIGGEST EVENT OF THE SUMMER RECREATION PROGRAM.**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, the Richmond Park and Recreation Department will hold its Gala "CIRCUS DAYS" parade and Carnival. Taking part in the festivities will be children from all 30 of the city's parks and playgrounds.

The youngsters from Washington School Playground have been very busy the past week preparing their entry: "WACKY WALDO AND HIS WIDE WORLD OF WONDERS". However, Wacky Waldo's wonders are far from complete. There is room for lots more kids to join in the affair. Any interested child is urged to sign up and come along next Tuesday for all the fun and excitement.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

Those who will be participating in the parade Tuesday will be asked to meet at the Point Community Center at 9:00 sharp! Transportation will be arranged to take the youngsters and their float from there to the Civic Center.

Point Richmond's Float, bearing Wacky Waldo in person will lead the delegation, which will go from Civic Center in downtown Richmond to Nicholl Park. At the park, the judges will award two handsome trophies to the first and second place schools. And, following the parade Finale will be a Carnival, from 1:00 to 4:00. It promises by far to be the Biggest Thing Yet!

So all you who want to become part of our own Circus Extravaganza, be sure to contact the leaders of Washington Playground!

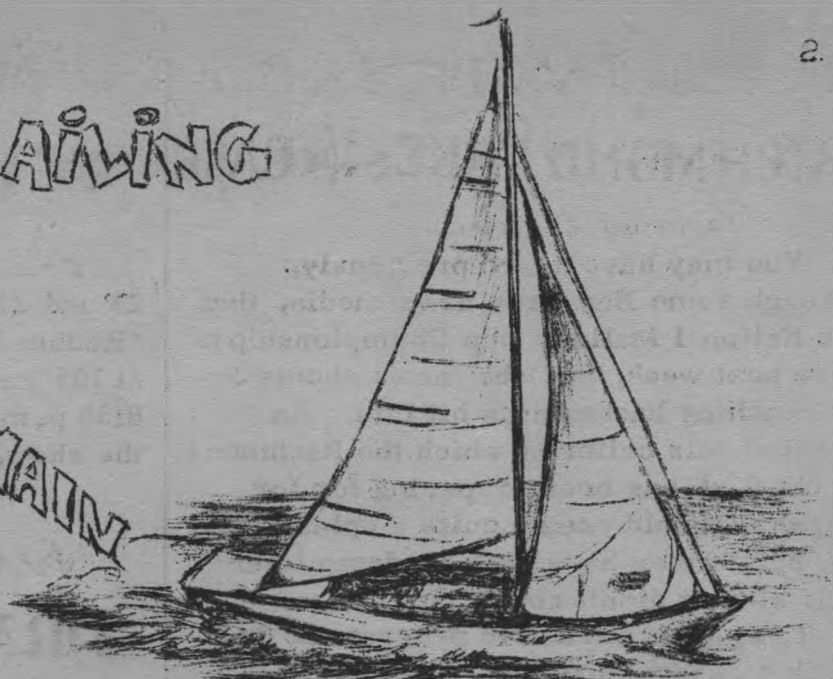
WACKY
WALDO
NEEDS
YOU!

SPECIAL NOTE: Playground activities have been transferred to the Point Community Center from now till August 30, when playgrounds will close for the summer. The schedule is as follows:
10:30 - 5:00, Mon. Tues. and Fridays.
3:00 - 5:00 Wednesdays & Thursdays.
1:00 - 4:00 Saturdays.

NOTE: In Wednesday's Independent, there was a picture of some of the Washington School Float-Makers: John Trowbridge, Nancy Giacomelli and MARC GIACOMELLI (capitalized here because they forgot to include his name).

SAILING, SAILING

Over the BOUNDING MAIN



by Melba Farley

Men will go down to the sea (our Bay) in ships next week. The tides will come and go; the fair winds will blow (we hope!); and the men in their lovely Tempest sail boats will use all their skills as yachtsmen to prove their prowess.

For the very first time the North American Sailing Championship for the Clifford D. Mallory Cup will be held on San Francisco Bay. The Richmond Yacht Club will be honored to host this event. There will be eight teams from all over the United States and Canada participating. Teams have been selected by severe elimination competition, and will race twice each day, Monday through Thursday of next week. There are three men to each team. The course will be off Berkeley or Keller's Beach, depending on sailing conditions. Residents of Point Richmond will be able to see this outstanding event even in case the latter course is used. Press boats will cover the event.

Mr. Jim DeWitt of the Richmond Yacht Club is chairman of the event. He is the only westerner ever to hold the Cup, which he won in 1963. Mr. Cornelius Shields, Jr., who has won the competition on two occasions, and hails from New York, will be making a third try for the coveted award. Mr. Shields' father was the first man ever to win the trophy. Mr. Bill Robinson, editor of "Yachting", a

national publication for yachtsmen, will also be in attendance.

The Mallory Cup is a silver tureen, originally presented to Lord Nelson by Sultan Selim III. The Cup was first presented by the Mallory family in 1952. Clifford D. Mallory, in whose memory the Cup was presented, was the first president of the North American Yacht-Racing Union. The first winner and North American Sailing Champion was Cornelius Shields, Sr.

Two races are scheduled each day, Monday through Friday; one at approximately 11 a.m., the other in the afternoon.

SPECTATOR BOATS (for interested spectators) will be based at the Richmond Yacht Club, and will depart at convenient times for each race. A schedule of these trips will be posted at the Yacht Club, and an officer of the Club will be on deck to assist visitors.

INDEX

Civic Calendar: 17	Save What Bay..11
Current Events. 3	Sister City
Education..... 13	Relations.....7
Here & There...9	Toys8
the Old Prof....6	Want Ads16
Park News 14	Washington
Poetic Cynic ...14	Playground... 1
Recipe13	West Side
Reminiscing ...4	Library..... 10

3. MALLORY GIVES A CUP. RICHMOND TAKES ^{the} CAKE

(A RATHER EDITORIAL)

You may have heard previously, through some Bay Area news media, that the National Mallory Cup Championship is here next week, but the news seems to be reaching Richmond a bit late. An event of this calibre (which the Richmond Yacht Club has been preparing for for months) should create quite a splash locally, but it may have been so damp lately that we just didn't notice.

The slick, attractive program of the week's events features cover pictures of San Francisco "Everybody's Favorite City", and outside of the name, "Richmond Yacht Club", Richmond is ignored almost as totally as Richmond has ignored its Yacht Club. There is a picture of the attractive "Richmond Yacht Club of San Francisco Bay" -- attractive, and still in existence in spite of, not because of Richmond. There are cities in the Bay area which promote yacht clubs and related water-oriented activities. There could even be valuable commercial benefits to the city, especially when hundreds of visitors come for a Nationally important race. Benefits of this kind are lost so often to Richmond because of its short-sighted planning. The only Richmond event, outside of those at the Yacht Club itself, is a barbecue at the Standard Oil Rod and Gun Club in Point Richmond, the only large scenic park in Richmond-- used by Richmond, but not provided by Richmond.

Thanks to Standard Oil and its Rod and Gun Club, and thanks to the Point Orient Restaurant, the Holiday Inn, the Mexican Inn and the Ichthus Coffee House, people attending the races may not have to dash over to San Francisco every night after the races!



IT'S CURTAINS FOR REDHEAD

Friday and Saturday night, August 23 and 24 are the last two nights to see "Redhead" at the Masquers Playhouse at 105 Park Place. Curtain raises at 8:30 p.m. If you haven't already seen the show, hurry and make reservations!

WANT TO BE DRAMATIS PERSONAE?

The Masquers Playhouse, Inc., 105 Park Place, Point Richmond, will hold tryouts on September 3, 1968, beginning at 8:00 p.m. for Home is the Hunter, a comedy by Helen MacInnes. This is Miss MacInnes's first try at play writing although she has written best selling novels, such as Above Suspicion and Assignment in Brittany.

Home is the Hunter takes place in ancient Greece in the year 1177 B.C. There are roles for 11 adults.

--Suzanne Salter.

SCHOOL!

Registration for both secondary and elementary school students will be Monday through Friday, August 26 to August 30 from 9 a.m. to noon, and from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Student Orientation for Junior and Senior High Schools are scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday, August 30.

School begins Wednesday, September 4. (Which is one reason that this paper looks so blue!)



Reminiscing *with Don Church*

4.

EXCERPTS FROM EARLY HISTORY OF RICHMOND, written by Evan Griffins in December 1938. Mr. Griffins was born in 1863, and lived his life in this area. His account is filled more with affection and enthusiasm for Richmond than with statistics about it, and makes a readable bit of history.

PART I.

"For some time I have been prevailed upon to write some of my recollections of the early settlers of this community, their habits, handicaps and other adversities which they endured.

"In the early days this was known as the San Pablo Valley in which were the towns of San Pablo, Gallagher, and the Potrero, on which the Standard Oil now occupies a part and the Point Richmond section of our present city is located on another portion of it.

"This Potrero was by nature an island but the soil washed down from the hills and assisted by the efforts of Dr. Tewksbury finally made it a peninsula, so that by 1874 it was accessible at all seasons of the year. Prior to that time it was impossible to reach these hills in the winter months. The flood waters of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and their tributaries apparently had a course of their own which ran close to shore, being diverted by Point San Pablo; their waters overran the marsh land, thereby causing an inland lake

which did not recede sufficiently until March and April to make them traffic-possible.

"This flood condition prevailed to a far greater extent from Stockton to Antioch, where it was likely to occur as late as the month of June. In May, 1886, I saw the whole area inundated; but diking of the rivers and dredging for the improvement of Mare Island navy yard evidently produced a different channel, for after that these parts were not affected by the overflow. The

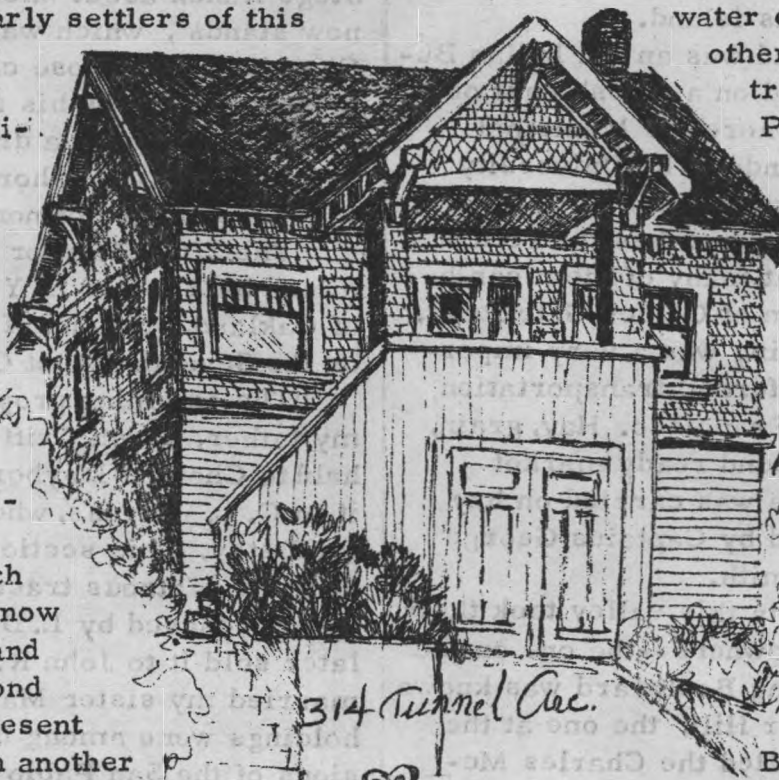
water carrying sand and other debris aided this transformation of the

Potrero to such an extent that in 1872 the government was asked to declare it a peninsula. Hence the Potrero became part of the San Pablo Rancho, which was a Tewksbury move.

"At that time there was a dwelling about where the Standard Oil

Barrel house now stands, lived in by James Fennon, who used the northern portion of this Potrero for raising cattle and sheep. He sold the meat to farmers during the summer months. The land between his house and what is now Washington Avenue was farmed by Peter Davis, whose house was at the head of a canyon that runs up from the vicinity of the Standard Oil Administration buildings, and whose farm land lay south of Washington Avenue.

"At one time the Morgan Oyster Company operated an oyster bed on a shoal extending from this section (page 5)



at a point just opposite where the Ford Plant now stands.

"One projection of this Potrero was Point Richmond, so named by the government engineers in 1852; how the name originated there is no definite information; but nevertheless it supplied the name for this city.

"Sheep Island, known now as Brooks Island, remains in my memory as a place of horror, remote and lonely, used only for sheep grazing, with no means of contact with the mainland. We had been told about the mother who, in sheer agony of loneliness, decapitated her own child and threw her down a well so that she would escape a life on this island.

The shell mound was an old Indian Burial ground situated on a marsh east of Ellis landing, or where the Municipal warehouse now stands. The University of California has published a book on the shellmounds which describes the relics of the past. A great many of them can be seen in the museum at Golden Gate Park.

"The Ellis Landing was a very important place, as it afforded transportation for freight to San Francisco. Hay, grain, poultry and eggs found ready market there. The produce was carried on hay schooners operated by Captains George Ellis and James Smith.

"The lone hills in this valley took their names from their owners--the one on the south side of Cutting Boulevard was known as Wood and Seaver Hill, the one at the County line was called the Charles McKeever Hill, and the one now known as Bost Hill was the Boyd Hill. The Pullman Shop occupies part of the Wood Ranch. Mr. Wood arrived here via the covered wagon. He died in the early seventies and Mrs. Wood married Benjamin Boorman. The place then became known as the Boorman place.

"W. T. Coleman, who was president of the vigilance committee of San Francisco was the original owner of the Stege Ranch. It was known as the Quilfoldt Ranch, operated by Mr. Quilfoldt. I did not know until the final settlement of the San Pablo Rancho that Mr. Coleman retained any

title to the property. Some years after the death of Mr. Quilfoldt, his widow married Richard Stege, a restaurateur from San Francisco. Under Stege's management this became one of the show places of this section. His idea was to raise frogs for market. The gardens had large lawns banked by all varieties of flowers and huge trees. There were four artificial frog ponds on the grounds which totaled between three and four acres in area. These ponds were stocked with California red-legged frog and the American bull-frog. While the business was never very profitable, the ponds were most artistic.

"There was a boat landing on the Stege Ranch about where the cap factory now stands, which was operated by Captain King, whose career ended in a mystery. He took his schooner as usual in the spring to a dry dock in San Francisco, went ashore with \$600.00 and was never heard of nor seen again.

"The Walls Harbor Center tract was owned by Thomas D. Young, a resident of Oakland, and one of the first engineers on the Seventh Street Oakland Trains.

"The adjoining property was owned by my father, Owen Griffins. He sold one-half to Charles Mayborn, who later sold it to C. L. Watrous, who married my sister Betsy. This section is known as the Griffins-Watrous tract. The next place was purchased by L. D. Reynolds, who later sold it to John R. Nystrom, who married my sister Mary. The Nystrom holdings were among the first subdivisions of the San Pablo Rancho. The above three parcels of land were the first Tewksbury sale, conveyed to W. Fleming

"The Nicholl Ranch was divided into two parts by Macdonald Avenue; this large tract is now the Nicholl Macdonald tract.

"East of Thirtieth street between Macdonald Avenue and Grant, extending east to include Mira Vista was the John Davis Ranch. The Mira Vista section was considered worthless, used only for pasture.

PART II NEXT WEEK.