### -THIS POINT-

in time

NEWSLETTER
A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

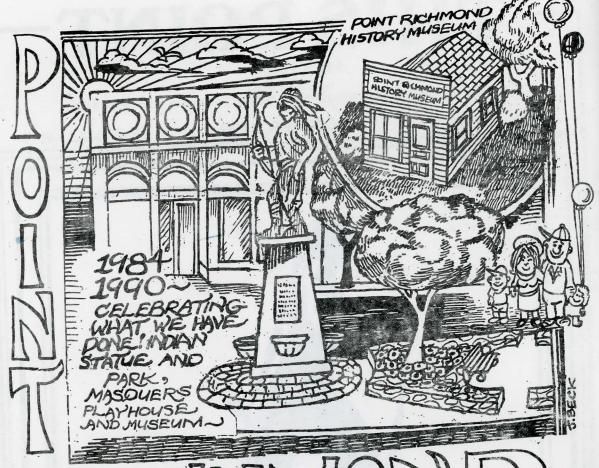
VOL IX No. 4

OCTOBER, 1990

ONE DOLLAR



Indian Statue Day, 1990



# RICHMOND

COME TO THE 7th INDIAN STATUE DAY ON THE TRIANGLE ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13TH AT 11:00 AM

THIS YEAR THE HISTORY ASSOCIATION WILL RECEIVE 50% OF THE PROCEEDS FOR OUR NEW MUSEUM!

THERE ARE SOME GREAT RAFFLE PRIZES DONATED BY LOCAL BUSINESS

SEE PAGES 20 and 21 FOR MORE DETAILS!

### History Association Notes

# FROM THE PRESIDENT by Jerry Cerkanowicz

The future home of the Point Richmond History Association is now on its foundation. The development of the project is interesting and I would like you to know how it got there, so here goes:

We needed some help to prepare the site so I called Bob Shaw, Maintenance Supervisor at Chevron and told him that we needed a few people to dig a trench in order to pour concrete for the foundation. Bob said he would get Al Finch to see what they could do to help. The next day Al called and offered us the use of a back-hoe and some helpers. Early the next morning Al, along with Ted Knotts, Manuel Ramirez, Hack Culling, James Fortson, Ron Erkman and Patrick W. Murray dug the trench and prepared the site. That afternoon Martin McNair, our volunteer contractor, and Bob Souza built the wood frame work (wood courtesy of Channel Lumber.... THANK YOU CHANNEL LUMBER) and later I helped position the rebar (those thin metal poles). The next continued on page 2

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"From the President"... cont morning the concrete was poured and the three of us (Martin, Bob and I) did what you do to smooth it out, screed I believe is the word to make it nice and smooth.

Over the next couple of days while the concrete cured Bob Souza saw to it that it was kept wet and removed the frame work. Now it was ready for the building to be moved onto the foundation.

Santa Fe had moved the building to its temporary location with a very large forklift and had offered to finish the job when we were ready. When I called them to say we were ready I learned that the forklift had been taken to Chicago and Santa Fe had nothing else that could do the job. Martin told me that there were other ways of moving the building to the foundation but it would be time consuming and hard work.

Hard work! I was worried! Since the fence around the building had been donated by Chevron and I knew that it would have to be removed to move it, I decided to call Al Finch of Chevron and asked him how long it would take to remove the fence because I thought that I had to coordinate the fence removal with the move. I told him that I now did not know exactly how we would be moving it. Al said that maybe they could figure out how they could move the building for us.

Well, just two days later,

early Monday morning a huge crane rumbled up Washington Street and after the fence was taken down, two slings were placed under the building and they simply lifted it up and over onto the foundation. Some of the workers involved were of course Al, Donald Rader, Rafael Castillo, Josh Wojcik, Manuel Pena, John Towbridge, L. Leman and Aldo Ray. After making sure the building was secure above its new plot, the fence went back up.

I really want to thank everyone from Chevron who helped with this phase of our project. Without their tremendous help and cooperation I don't see how we could have accomplished this much. THANK YOU CHEVRON!!!!!

Martin and Bob Souza are now getting the building level and the next step will be connecting the walls to the mudsill (2X4's embedded in the concrete). After that, Sonny Jackson, a roofer has volunteered to put on the shake roof.

Come by 139 Washington Avenue (our new address!) and see what has been accomplished!

I went to the opening of the John Haly show at the Richmond Museum and recommend that everyone go see the paintings, as they are wonderful.

Thanks to Dr. Thompson for speaking at the September, his talk and slides on wildflowers on Nichol's Nob were very interesting.

Again, special thanks to MARTIN McNAIR, CHANNEL LUMBER, CHEVRON, U.S.A., and SONNY JACKSON.

Thank you to the following members who have renewed their memberships:

Edith Whetstone
Mary J. Forbes
James Cheshareck, Jr.
Anne Hanzlik
Mary Highfill
Vivien E. Cook
Luis R. Cunan
Janice Hantzsche

And a warm welcome to new member:

### **Bena Salle Bowles**

Blaz Poljanec is a 16 year old exchange student living this year with the Bob Peckhams while attending Marin Catholic School which he won as a scholarship. Exchange students are not new to Bob and Marie as they have had a number students throughout the years and often host short term visits of Japanese students.

Blaz attended an international school in Germany for four years and

speaks exceptional English.

A coach's dream, the tall, handsome Blaz is an avid and excellent basketball player. Somewhat shy, Blaz can be seen helping at the Santa Fe Market when he isn't at school, visiting with friends or studying.

Blaz's father, Janez and mother, Methea and brother, Gasper, are still living in Ljubljana, Yugoslavia but are planning to visit Blaz during the year. In fact, his father plans to arrive in about a month.

Welcome, Blaz. We hope you find the Point and any adjustments pleasant.

### editors notes....

Here is the October issue of our newsletter, for some reason this month I thought that I'd never finish! I think it will be a pretty good one.

T was saddened at the death of Stanley Nystrom. I enjoyed working with Stan and composing his "In Pursuit of Historical Trivia" in our newsletter. I always looked forward to what he was going to come up with next and was looking forward to his eventual return. As a local historian he will be missed in many ways. Whenever I felt I might be getting a little careless with detail such as a caption on an old picture, I would think of Stan and double check my facts, because if I made a mistake, I knew he would catch me.

I am really pleased to be able to start another series by Dr. Thompson titled "Life in Old Point Richmond", you will enjoy it. I enjoyed his presentation at the last History Association Meeting.

Also thanks to Will Spiersch, his memories are always interesting, keep it up!

And Bernard Bernes, what's going on with you? Don't be so lazy, we still haven't heard a detailed description of your old neighborhood!

Thanks to everyone else on our staff for your help. See you on Indian Statue Day!

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### senior news

By Muriel C. Clausen

Seniors have heard a lot lately about LIVING WILLS and DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY. The U.S. Supreme Court has recently made some important rulings on these subjects.

The Court has ruled that a competent person has the right to refuse life saving treatment, food and water. To assure this right an individual must clearly state a desire to have such care given or taken but this must be stated before a person is to ill to say so with clear competence. Importantly the Court also ruled that if people fail to take adequate steps in advance, then the State in which the individual resides has the authority under the Constitution to set standards of proof as to what an incompetent patient would want. The Court has given the States broad latitude in regulating these choices if previous statements by the individual had not been given in a clearly competent state.

If the person had properly appointed someone to make decisions about medical treatment in the event that he or she becomes incompetent, then the States may be constitutionally required to honor the decisions of the surrogate decisionmakers even if the States have not

previously accepted that procedure. Valid advance directives should be made in specifying in as much detail as possible what one wants to have happen and not to have happen to them in the event of terminal illness or a persistent incompetent state. Do not forget to state what you may not wish to have happen such as, some may not wish to have their lives terminated by withdrawal of treatment in such treatments. In order to accomplish this one should:

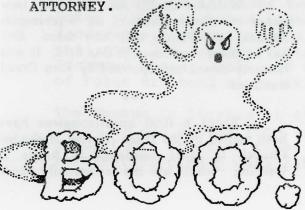
1. Write a LIVING WILL spelling out specifically any medical decisions you wish to be made should you be unable to make you wishes known.



- 2. Draft a DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR HEALTH designating a specific person or persons who is to make these decisions for you.
- 3. Have these documents witnessed by at least two persons. preferably any persons who would not benefit by your death.
- 4. Make close family members, your doctor, your lawyer aware of these two documents and where they are located. It is better to leave these copies and other medical documents with trusted persons rather than in a safe deposit box where they may not be located for some time.

More information on this subject is available by writing to the Society for the Right to Die, 250 West 57th Street, New York, N.Y. 10107.

This new Court ruling has cleared up much confusion among the States as to how to handle the problem of terminally ill or incompetent people. California now had constitutional authority for its allowance of LIVING WILLS and DURABLE POWERS OF



### Free Films for Parents

from Jean Reynolds

Focus On The Family, a series of seven films, will be shown on consecutive Thursdays, October 4th through November 15th, at the First United Methodist Church, 201 Martina St., Point Richmond.

The films feature Dr. James C. Dobson, author of such books as: "Dare to Descipline" and "Preparing for Adolescence". Dr. Dobson offers practical advice for parents and couples. The schedule of film titles are as follows:

Film 1- The Strong Willed Child

Film 2- Shaping The Will Without Breaking the Spirit

Film 3- Christian Fathering

Film 4- Preparing for Adolescence: The Origins of Self-Doubt

Film 5- Preparing for Adolescence: peer Pressure and Sexuality

Film 6- What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew Abut Women: the Lonely Housewife

Film 7- What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew About Women: Money, Sex and Children

The films will be shown at 7:30 p.m. and will be followed by discussion and refreshments. There is no charge to addend; donations will be accepted to defray some of the cost of presenting the series.

Childcare is available. If you plan to bring you children, you must sign up in advance so we can arrange good care for them. Call 235-2988 to sign up or leave a message on the Church phone, 236-0527.

Take this opportunity to meet with other parents and take a fresh look at ways to relate to members of your family. Hope you will come!

### A-MID TRIVIA

By Mid Dornan

Football is on TV again, With all its magic power. What else could have 5 minutes left And make it last an hour!

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When is something going to be done to beautify the grounds around the Point Firehouse? The 'entrance' to the business area is an eyesore and not a good 'first impression'. Let's make the area around the Directional Map attractive.

Firemen are willing to maintain the grounds if the city will just fix the sprinkler system. They say they have written letters but obviously not to the right department or

persons.

The "Peanuts" gang, created by Charles Schultz, celebrates 40 years of happiness on October 2nd.

National Grouch day is mid-October. On this day to recognize grouches, don't suggest they 'have a nice day'. Make them feel at home by grumbling under your breath.

Liz McDonald is featured in The Mirror, Richmond Museum Association Newsletter, as a weekly volunteer. Liz appreciates the historical value of the city and area as she also serves on the board of the Point Richmond History Association assisting in the month collating of this newsletter.

Could the 'missing bench' be in the garage of a Point Resident? Perhaps, one who engineered the disappearance!

It was exciting to see the CHEVRON-donated-backhoe dig a foundation for our

'historic black building', exciting to observe the concrete being poured, exciting to watch each step of the cement finishing and step back to then appreciate the skill of contractor Martin McNair and volunteers as they completed the task. The excitement was renewed a week later when Chevron brought their big crane, lifted the little box building onto its prepared site, stabilized it, then installed the protective fence around it again until it needs to be removed! So many helping hands. One of the engineers was John Trowbridge who was raised in the Point. THANKS! THANKS! TO EVERYONE INVOLVED!

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A restored Ellis Island reopened in September as a museum to those millions who passed through its portals. Among the names on the 90-year-old immigration honor wall is Robert Harper Dornan who arrived there in 1907 from his homeland in Ireland. Lee Iacocca spearheaded the campaign that raised \$156 million for the restoration, the most expensive of its kind in history.

Marian Hawkins is home after spending a couple weeks in Kaiser Hospital.

Melba Farley also spent several days in Doctor's Hospital in Pinole but is home recuperating.

Welcome to Jill Ann Delucchi, new owner of 'Shear Heaven', on Washington Avenue, the Point's only hair salon. She has 14 years experience in this field. It was formerly owned and operated by Fern Creed Eastman.

About a 1000 questionnaires have been mailed by the Point United Methodist Church to local residents in hopes of learning what are the community needs and services people would like to have available. If you did not receive a questionnaire but would like one, call 236-0527.

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Warren Barry is the new national commander of the Civil Air Patrol. During WWII, Barry served in the Army Air Corps as an instrument flying instructor which, he said, inspired him to join the CAP. When Barry is not working with the CAP, he is facilities manager of the Times publications.

On top of the files behind the customer windows in the Point Mechanics Bank is a somewhat large, but clear plastic, piggy bank. Inside are quarters but they don't seem to be adding up very fast although any person at the bank is willing and happy to feed it. Ask any teller how

'the Pig' gets fed.

Effective January lst, businesses will be prohibited from recording a consumers credit card account number on personal checks. However, merchants will still be able to request to see the credit card and write the expiration date on a check. Violation cares a \$250 fine. Be warned that some merchants may decide to stop accepting personal checks.

"Focus on the Family" is a series of seven films featuring noted Dr. James C. Dobson and will be shown on Thursdays beginning October 4th at 7:30 p.m at the Point Methodist Church. The first of this non-denominational family series is titled "The Strong-Willed Child" and deals with discipline. Everyone is invited. There is no charge, but donations will be accepted. Discussion and refreshments will follow the film.

"A Tree Grows in Richmond" is a program plan to make Richmond greener by planting more than 1000 trees a year so that by 1995, 5,000 trees will be in place. The Rubicon Program will plant and maintain the trees and already new trees can be seen along Cottage Avenue.

'John Haley's Richmond' will be on exhibit in the Seaver Galley, Richmond Museum, from September 30 - December 16. His watercolors and drawings are of the Richmond industrial area as well as of the quaint residential landscapes of the 30's and 40's to the present day. Gallery hours are Thursday, Sunday 1-4; tours by appointment at other times. Mr. Haley and his wife have lived on Ocean Avenue in the Point for many years.

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Are you a fan of limericks...the nonsense poem of 5 anapestic time? My first memory of a limerick was:

I sat by the duchess at tea
As embarrassed as I could be
Her rumbling's abdominal
Were simply phenomenal
And everyone thought it was me.

Do you have one... or more... to share?

Stranded travelers on California roadways will soon have a way to call for help as telephones in bright yellow boxes mounted on 14-foot tall poles on freeway shoulders are to be spaced every half to one mile along Contra Costa freeways by May 1991. Above the emergency telephones will be blue and white signs that read "Call Box". The phones will be powered by a battery recharged by solar panels atop the pole.

Enjoy the little trick or treaters at your door. They have had fun 'pretending' in their costumes and remember the days you went door to door!

A HAUNTING HALLOWEEN TO YOU AND YOURS! 7

### CHURCHES

### Our Lady of Mercy

by Eleanor Hurley CCD classes started Monday September 10th at 4:00 p.m. The change in date and time was necessary as Director Cynthia Young is now teaching in Walnut Creek.

Our Annual Barbecue was a great social and financial success. The weather cooperated as we were able to set up tables outdoors. There was much greeting of long time friends and much talk about early days. It was a great time to catch up on family news and changes.

The Souper Kitchen is still one of our priorities and the parishioners have been very faithful in donating the necessary cans of soup. They have also ben generous to the collection taken up the fifth Sunday of each month.

The kneelers are being refurbished a few at a time and soon all will be in a first class condition.

Karen Cheshareck was married at 11:00 a.m. on August 26th, carrying out a family tradition as her grandparents and parents also were married here. three generations. Father Joseph McGovern, retired pastor of St. Cornelius was the Priest who officiated. He is a long time friend of the family.

The Ladies Sodality is to meet on Wednesday at 12 noon in the Hall.

### **Point Methodist**

by Jean Reynolds Scrambled eggs, bacon, muffins and fruit welcomed new and returning students and their parents and teachers to Sunday School classes as the Fall quarter began September 9th. Eighteen students were present; add teachers and family members and the total served was twenty-eight. Regular teachers for Fall classes are Shirley Butt, Dorothy George, Lynn Brown, Norm Reynolds and Pastor Michael Brown. Also offering support for Christian Education are Grace Yank, Jack Elle, Melissa Kennady, Claudia LeGue, Mid Dornan and Melba Farley. Oretta, Mid, and Claudia also prepared the yummy breakfast.

Students will again be able to earn scholarships to summer camp through their Sunday School attendance. 100% attendance equals 100% of camp tuition paid by the Church, 80% attendance equals 80% paid, etc. James and Josh Allen went to camp this summer and are enthusiastic about going next summer. We hope others will take advantage of this chance to

go to summer camp.

The annual Church
Conference with the District
Superintendent, the Reverend
Mr. Jonah Chang, was held
September 18th in Friendship
Hall. Committee reports were
elected, a budget was approved
and goals were set for 1991.
All that and dessert, too!

A community questionnaire was put together by the Membership Evangelism Committee chaired by Claudia LeGue and assisted by Holtzman Frazier. It will be sent to homes in Atchison Village, Brickyard Landing, Brickyard Cove and the rest of Point Richmond. The purpose of the survey is four-fold:

- 1. To make the community more aware of the existence of the Church.
- To remind people of the potential value to them of an association with the Church.
- 3. To publicize the Dobson film series scheduled for October 4th through November 15th.
- To provide us with ideas on how to serve the community.

More than 900 surveys will be mailed; we hope for a high rate of returns!

Our annual Country Fair
Bazaar will be October 26th
and 27th and will include
Christmas and other holiday
craft items for sale, plants,
baked goods and luncheon. See
the article elsewhere in this
issue for more details.

### ANNUAL COUNTRY FAIRE

The Annual Country Faire of the United Methodist Women will be held on Friday, October 26, 12 - 3 and Saturday, October 27th, 10 -2:00 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church, Martina Street and West Richmond Avenue. A gournet country luncheon for \$4.50 will be served noon to 1:30 p.m on Friday. Those on a limited lunch are advised to call for reservations...Oretta Eaton, 234-0780, Jean Creed 234-1327 or Mid Dornan, 234-5334.

On Saturday a soup/chili ala carte luncheon will be served for \$3.00.

There will be booths featuring holiday handcrafted gifts including musical tree ornaments, a miscellaneous boutique, notecards, plants and the popular homebaked booth of pies, bread, candies, cookies, rolls, coffee cakes, etc.

This annual event is the sole fund raiser of the year for the women's group who work on it each Wednesday night at the church. Proceeds will fund maintenance of this historic church and parsonage as well as local community service projects.

The present church replaced the original little frame church, first in Richmond, which was located between the present church and the Catholic Church. If you haven't seen the magnificent stained-glass windows in the sanctuary, peek in during the lunch.

Don't miss the Faire!







### POINT METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

Church history is rich with contributions of women. One of the church groups in the early 1900's was the Home Missionary Society of the First Methodist Church whose history is reflected in their minutes, printed below and taken from the stiff cardboard covered notebook purchased from "Shoen's Pharmacy in the Point". This is the 49h installment.

Feb 28, 1915

Regular monthly meeting of the Home Missionary Society was held at the parsonage called to order by president. Opened by singing, 'My Faith Looks Up to Thee'. Prayer by Mrs. Gibbons, scripture lesson read from the 16th chapter of Luke by Sec, minutes of previous meeting read and approved. Committee on arranging for Day of Prayer reported that arrangements were made to meet with the Wesley M.E. society at their church.

Treasure (sic) reported \$8.64 in dues sent to district treasure and \$2.85 on hand.

Moved and seconded that we pay for last

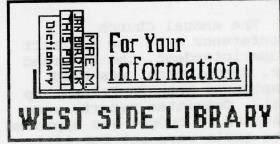
months leaflets, also for this month.

It was ordered that Society give a St. Patrick's Tea and open Mite Boxes at next months meeting. Following committee was appointed: Madams Grover, Bradley and Whalen. Mrs. Blount paid dues \$1.20. Mrs. Petersen served dainty refreshments and a social time was enjoyed.

Thank offering.

Jennie M. Totten, Sec





By Jan Burdick

New books at the West Side .....

The Bear: A Novel by James Oliver Curwood Curwood's long forgotten novel (originally published as "The Grizzly Bear" is a thriller. Set in British Columbia in the late 1800's, Thor, the giant grizzly, finds himself pursued by a new creature who carries lightning buried in a stick (rifles) and has wounded him from a long distance. Thor owns the valley in which he lives and respects but does not fear the invader. During Thor's healing period, a cub whose mother has died in a rock fall licks the older bear's wounds and is allowed to follow him about. The two human protagonists in this novel are Jim Langdon, a naturalist- hunter-writer and Bruce Otto, a grizzled old hunter who knows all about bears. Of course the time comes for a confrontation between man and beast. Read "The Bear" to find out who the opponents are and the outcome. A spellbinding read.

Saying No Isn't Enough
by Robert Schwebel
The subtitle of this timely

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book is "raising children who make wise decisions about drugs and alcohol, a positive prevention guide for all parents". In essence this sums up the book's contents. Schwebel, a psychologist/substance abuse expert bases his work on two concepts: one, empowering children to handle life's problems via unconditional love; and two, establishing rules, responsibilities and privileges keyed to their development. Practical helps, responsibilities and privileges keyed to their development. Practical helps include sample scripts, loving confrontation techniques and interim agreements.

Carnovsky's Retreat by Larry Duberstein

A midsummer morning, Brooklyn, 1955, Oscar Carnovsky, a respectable (yet hardly distinguished) middle aged man, leaves for work in the usual fashion: takes his share of the morning paper, kisses his wife good-bye, and waves back to her as he turns the corner of Linden Boulevard. He has done it precisely this way five thousand times. This particular morning, however, he waves from the corner and is not seen again, nor is he heard from, for years. Decades later (at Oscar's funeral) his daybooks come to lights - a record of the missing years and of his life as The Invisible Mensch.

This unremarkable man will

soon become an unforgettable character as you accompany him on his flight through the 50's in this highly original novel.

The Silent Brotherhood: Inside America's Racist Underground by Kevin Flynn and Gary Gerhardt

This sensational book explores the deep cultural anxiety which has mobilized superpatriotic, superracist groups. Flynn and Gerhardt were reporters for the Rocky Mountain News in 1984. They covered the murder in Denver of Alan Berg, a popular local talk show host, who routinely berated the radical right. That killing was the gruesome handiwork of the Silent Brotherhood, an umbrella group of white supremacists.

Bob Mathews is the story's central figure, the shaper of the Brotherhood. The authors say that Mathews "didn't fit the stereotype of a racists." having "emerged from an ordinary American family where a person's race was never raised as a topic of concern." His dream, in his view a quintessentially American dream, was to create a large, all-white bastion of families in Idaho, with its own army of skilled warriors.

Flynn and Gerhardt are at their best when they take the reader into the internal logic of the Brotherhood, a universe of white supremacy ideas described in a paranoid vocabulary. The is the most intimidating aspect of the story; the ideas and labels are off-track and vicious.

# Thank you!

WALTER A. CONNOLLY

BURL WILLIS & PHYLLIS SKAGLUND (PT. RICHMOND TRAVEL)

HANS & LORE SHAPER

MARIE LOUISE OSTROM

C. F. HOCHGESANG

WILLARD R. SPIERSCH
(Given in Memory of Ardell Cibattari)

THE MECHANICS BANK

**DORIS SILVA** 

FRANK LOPEZ

STANLEY NYSTROM

**RAMON & PATIENCE ZAMBRANO** 

TOM McGOWAN

ROSEMARY M. CORBIN

VIRGINIA A. CHERNIAK

CHRISTOPHR PLONA

MAXINE MAYER

SHEILA FOSTIAK & FAMILY

**ELIZABETH McDONALD** 

**HOWARD S. ARNOLD** 

ADELE CHASE HOLLANDER
12

BERTHA MAY McCLOSKEY

DAVID VINCENT

MARIE WILSON DIETZ

AMERICAN ROCK & ASPHALT, INC.

BARBARA A. OLSEN

ANNE HANZLIK

SANTA FE RAILROAD COMPANY

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THE DORNAN FAMILY

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INTERACTIVE RESOURCES, INC.
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RAIL & MARINE TRANSPORTATION CONSULTANTS, S.F. CROOK

**BETTY J. MARSHALL** 

**LUCIANA & BONNIE FORNER** 

(Given in Memory of Bob Young)

HORTENSE GNAGA McGEE

(Given in Memory of Elizabeth F. Gnaga, Goldy Gnaga Shrewsbury, & Frankie Greenlaw)

**MURIEL & BERT CLAUSEN** 

MARTIN MCNAIR

**CHANNEL LUMBER** 

**EDWIN L. BEDFORD** 

THE WOMEN'S WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB

GEORGE M. BATTEN

(Given in memory of Virginia Batten)

**GRACE & JERRY CERKANOWICZ, SR.** 

**CHARLOTTE G. WOODS** 

**SONNY JACKSON** 

### THE OLDEST COMMERCIAL BUILDING IN POINT RICHMOND

A LITTLE MUSEUM DEDICATED TO POINT RICHMOND HISTORY IS ABOUT TO BE BORN IN THIS OLD BUILDING!

YOUR NAME WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE ABOVE LIST AND PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF "THIS POINT...in time"

### SEE YOU AT INDIAN STATUE DAY!

I would like to he	elp save the oldest be	uilding in Point Richmond.
	contribution of: \$_ck out to PRHA Historia	c Building Fund.
Name	3 - March Dat att Laterant	ere vad no que tor besti dilitie electricity. He
Address	No Sanah	Mail to:
City	ZipCode	Pt. Richmond History Assn.
Phone Number	o sonaeda	229 Golden Gate Avenue Point Richmond, CA 94801

### Life in Old Point Richmond

Wm. L. Thompson

William L. Thompson, often called Louis by his friends, was born in Point Richmond on February 17, 1909, lived on Scenic Avenue, graduated from Richmond Union High School and was the first native Richmondite to go through medical school. Dr. Thompson began his practice in 1940 at 9th & Macdonald. later moving to 32nd & Macdonald until that building was sold at which timehe moved to an office on Broadway. In 1979, at age 70 and after 39 years, he retired officially from medical practice. However, his many loyal, local patients continue to call him for advice.

### PART I

Life in early Point
Richmond was quite different
from what it is today. Most
of our modern conveniences
and labor saving devices had
not been developed or were
not available locally.
However these were unknown
and so not massed. Lack of
suck things were largely
offset by closer cooperation
within family groups and
between families.

Work in the home was rather simple but laborious. There was no gas for heating and little electricity. Many people still used kerosene lamps for illumination and some of these lamps were quite impressive. I recall one neighbor that had a

large lamp that hung down on cords from the ceiling and had to be pulled down to be lighted. Almost all heating was from wood or coal stoves. The kitchen was the central part of the house. In the winter it was the only room that was adequately warmed. It was the living room of the house and also was used to entertain neighbors and friends.

The Standard Oil Company cut up its used and waste wood and sold it cheaply to employees. This was the source of most of our wood supply. Some people collected wood from the driftwood along the bay. Coal was available through Bob Dornan's supply company but it was used mostly in the winter. Gas came in rather late, especially in the outlying districts. Cooking was a tedious job over a wood range. The stove had to be stoked frequently and the degree of heat was not constant and there was some danger if not carefully supervised.

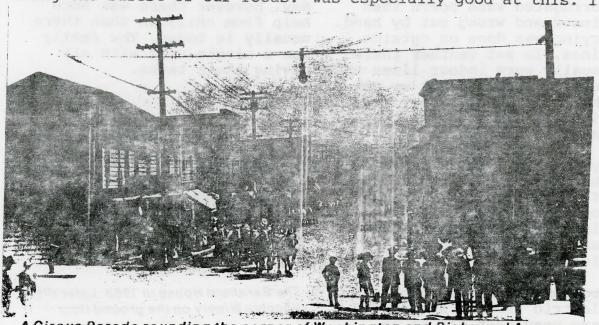
Most foods were prepared fresh. Canned foods were rather few and presented a danger of death from botulism food poisoning. The germ of botulism grows only in the absence of air so canned

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foods were an ideal place for its development. Death from this source was not uncommon in the early days. I recall an entire family of four who lived on Richmond Avenue between Tunnel Avenue and the tracks that died from home canned string beans. The germ resists boiling and takes many days to develop its toxin and requires an alkalin medium and some protein to produce the poison. Sugar inhibits its growth so canned fruits which are acid, contain little protein and much sugar are relatively safe but home canned vegetables have been the main danger. Eventually this problem was solved by workers at the University of California and properly prepared canned foods are among the safest of our foods.

In addition to canned fruits, much jams and jellies were preserved. I recall the canning process. My brother and I peeled and cut the fruit while my mother did the cooking and canning. It was a tedious process but later the canned fruits were most welcome.

Many people had gardens and raised much of their own vegetables. We raised string beans, carrots, radishes and onions. My mother had a sage bush and harvested the leaves to dry and pulverize to make dressings. There were a few fruit trees, peaches did the best, and berry vines did quite well. However, up on the hills agriculture was not too successful. We raised chickens for food and eggs. My mother was especially good at this. I



A Circus Parade rounding the corner of Washington and Richmond Avenues

don't ever recall in early years having to buy eggs. There were more than we could use during the summer so we preserved them for winter use in water glass, a silicate solution.

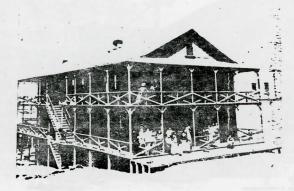
Many, including our family, raised rabbits. We boys spent much of our after school time searching the hill for vegetation to feed the rabbits. Some people had goats and a few had cows. Also we kids used to harvest wild black berries and hazel nuts in the hills.

Laundry was quite a task and was usually done on Monday. There were no washing machines in those days. At first we had only two round metal tubs, one for washing and the other for rinsing. Washing was accomplished by vigorous scrubbing on a corrugated wash board then rinsed and wrung out by hand. Drying was done on outside lines. In wet weather there usually were indoor lines that could be used. Later we got the so called sanitary tubs with hot and cold water faucets. With these there was a ringer but it had to be used by turning a crack to force the clothes thru the rollers of the wringer. It was hard work and often fell to us kids. The advent of the modern washing machine was a blessing.

Ironing was another problem. There were no electric irons. Flat irons were used that had to be

heated on top of the stove. About three irons were necessary, two to the heating while one was in use. The first irons were one piece. The handle was also of iron and was fused into the ironing portion. The trouble with this was that the handle got hot also. Later irons with detachable handles came into use. Another use for the flat irons was to heart them, wrap them in cloth and use them to heat beds at night. The electric iron also proved to be a blessing.

This all amounted to hard work around the clock for the lady of the house and it was much greater if there were children adept a soiling things. The husband usually was not much help in the house. He worked six days a week for eight or ten hours a day. However there was more help from children than there usually is today. The family was a single unit with all having their tasks.



The Bernhard House in 1903. Later the Vecchio Winery on the ground floor.

### Will rambles on..... HIS Point in Time

by Willard R. Spiersch

I enjoyed Dr. Wm. Thompson's series of articles "Memories of Point Richmond residents very much and look forward to the coming "Life in Old Point Richmond". Louie has a good way of presenting his material, I wish I had his way with words.

In a letter to the editor printed in Vol. IX No. 2, Dr. Thompson posed a challenge of my memory regarding the California High School Cadets. In his letter he said that I was an officer, well I did serve in that capacity as a Captain, but it was temporary. I never did receive a commission. Anyway, here is an attempt to recall those times.

The California High School Cadets (CHSC) was formed, I believe, to help furnish militarily trained men to have on hand in case of another national emergency such as the Great World War that had concluded not too many years previously. Also, I believe, that this program formed the basis of the ROTC organization that now exists in high schools and colleges today.

Major Hill, a Point resident, if I recall right, was the high school athletic coach, and was the Army representative responsible for setting up this program. The Major was a great guy and was well liked by the students. He trained his Cadets very well according to the Army standards of that time.

We had a lot of fun learning the commands of close

order drilling and carrying them out. We carried Enfield rifles (boy were they heavy), got some shooting practice on the 22 cal rifles on the indoor range, and learned the Manual of Arms. During the school year we went to a one week encampment on a ranch in the hills above Leona Heights. Believe it or not we got there on a chartered streetcar. If I remember correctly, the Leona Heights line switched at Fruitvale. This line no longer exists, but you can see where it turned off, it is now a street.

When we arrived at the ranch, we were issued ticks, then we were directed to the stables to fill them with straw. This was our mattress! We were then assigned tents with eight cots to put our ticks and blankets on. This may all sound terrible, but we were so active during the day that I never slept better in my life, we were asleep before we laid down! We wore wrap puttees, and when we stood reveille in the morning there were bedraggled sights to behold! wrap puttees were a strip of wool about 2 inches wide by about eight feet long which we wound from above our shoe tops to above our calves. It took some skill to do this and have them stay up. 17

Getting up early out of your warm sack and sleepy eyed, your coordination is not so hot.

We served on kitchen duty, stood guard, etc. We ate well, I gained weight, but for the life of me I can't remember what it was we ate or where we ate it!

The best part of our training that I liked, was the rifle range shooting. Our Enfields of which we had lots of, we did not consider as accurate as the few Springfields we had. You were considered lucky if you drew a Springfield for your target shooting.

The least desirable part of our training was working in the target pits. This duty consisted of pulling down the target frames and pasting patches over the bullet holes in the targets. You raised the target frame and marked where the bullet struck by holding a

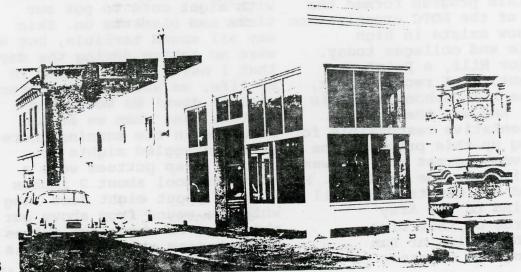
pole with a disk on the end, white was for a bullseye, black for elsewhere on the target and as to complete misses we waved the stick back and forth wildly (we did a lot of waving). We were also in telephone communication with the firing line.

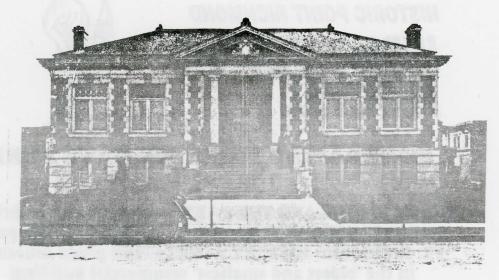
I recall one of the boys on the firing range who was so light that each time he fired, he slid back from the recoil and the coach had to pull him back up to the line by grabbing his belt and hitching

him up!

One of the night games we played, that I enjoyed was to attempt to elude the posted guards and to try to steal some papers out of the command tent. We never succeeded, in fact we were captured and thrown in the guard house!

While we all had a great time playing soldier, school was going on and we had to catch up... NO FUN!





The Carnegie library building constructed in 1910 is now Richmond's museum. (Richmond Public Library).

# Now at the Richmond Museum Don't Miss It! John Haley's Richmond

John Haley's Richmond is an exhibition of the life and regional work of nationally known Richmond artist John Haley and is at the Richmond Museum through December 16.

The exhibition includes twenty eight watercolors that Haley did of Richmond industrial sites and residential landscapes during the 30's and 40's. Haley has produced well over 200 Richmond paintings that include many Point Richmond views. John and wife Monica, have been residents of Point Richmond since 1932.

The Museum is located at 400 Nevin Avenue and is open Thursday and Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. School and group tours at other times by appointment. For further information please call 235-7387.

# 7 TH ANNUAL HISTORIC POINT RICHMOND INDIAN STATUE FESTIVAL



### CELEBRATING WHAT WE HAVE DONE 1984 - 1990

INDIAN STATUE AND THE PARK with 1400 named-bricks!

MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE with its mortgage almost paid!

PT. RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION photo museum in the 'oldest and smallest' commercial building!

 $\star$   $\star$   $\star$  Join the festivities  $\star$   $\star$   $\star$ 

### OCTOBER 13, 1990 10:00 AM till 5 PM

- Ceremonies at the Bandstand at 12:30
- Continuous Bandstand Entertainment from 10 AM
  - · Arts & Crafts and Peddlers Faire
  - · Vintage and Antique Car Show
  - Face Painting—Kids Karnival of the Washington School PTA
    - Friends of the Library Book Sale
- Restaurant, Bakery & Bar 'Fun Run' with commemorative T-Shirt and drawing at end of run

· Clowns - Balloons

### RAFFLE TICKET \$1.00

Donation

You need not be present to win. Raftle is sponsored by Pt. Richmond Business Association to benefit the Pt. Richmond History Association's restoration of its museum, 139 Washington (50%) and the Volunteer Community Theatre, The Masquers Playhouse, 107 Park Place (50%)

Checks payable to Masquers Playhouse, Inc.

### 1990 PRIZES

#### TRAVEL

**GRAND PRIZE** EAST BROTHER LIGHTSTATION

Dinner, Bed, Breakfast Richmond's own Lighthouse in the Bay, \$295. Sponsors: Interactive Resources; LSA., Inc.; Pt. Richmond Business Assn.

GRAND PRIZE MARIAH WILDERNESS

**EXPEDITIONS** 

River Raft American River South Fork-1991 Season 2 Days-\$180.

SLEEPSHADE COMPANY Travel Bag filled w/products

TRADEWINDS SAILING CENTER Basic Sailing Class for 1 person

MONEY MECHANICS BANK Savings Bond-\$50

SANTA FE RAILROAD CO. \$250 Cash

FOOD SANTA FE MARKET \$50 Gift Certificate

2:40 - 3:05

3:05 - 3:30

3:30 - ?

LATTLE LOUIE'S ICE CREAM & DELL Giant Tub of Ice Creem-\$40 FOOD CATERING

**ELLIE'S CATERING SERVICE** Chafing Dish of hot/spicy meatballs

DINING

HOTEL MAC

(1) Dinner for two (1) Lunch for two

**CAFE ANNIE'S RESTAURANT** Lunch for two to \$10 Breakfast for two to \$10

Lunch for two to \$15

HIDDEN CITY CAFE Lunch for two

DRINKS

THE POINT BAR & RESTAURANT 6 Irish Coffees & Dixieland Music

WINES

SONDRAYA, DANCE FOR THE EARTH

RICHMOND MUNICIPAL BAND RAFFLE BY DAVID VINCENT

SPOT BAR & LIQUOR STORE Fine Bottle of Champagne

MARTIN B. McNAIR DEVELOPMENT One Case of Wine

YOM MCGOWAN & CO. Five Bottles Champagne STRESS CARE

ROBYN WOLF 1 hour sound stress care

CLOTHING

SHERRY & BOB'S DEPARTMENTSTORE

Wardrobe \$150 towards \$300; \$75 towards \$150: \$50 towards \$100

MERCHANDISE ITEMS

OSCAR LUGO JEWELRY STORE Gold Cross & Chain

CHEVRON USA, The Refinery (6) Cases of Oil

CHEVRON RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CO. Consumer Gift Packs (2) Cases of Oil

POINT RICHMOND PRINT SHOP Business Cards-\$40

SAMMY'S LITTLE NEWSSTAND Two Books of Choice

WHALE POINT MARINE Gift Certificate-\$10

PT. RICHMOND HISTORY ASS'N (3) Memberships includes 'This Point in Time" Magazine

HAIR CARE PARK PLACE BARBERS PROGRAM (1) Complete style \$16

BAKERY GOODS

ROSEMARY'S BAKERY

(1) 8" Decorated Cake (1) Dozen Breakfast Pastries

ART

BRICKYARD PROPERTIES-Margi Cellucci. Artist Jim DeWitt Litho "Brickvard"

CHASE GALLERY Adelle Chase Design Framed Tile-\$45

ARTIST JEAN EGER Framed Pastel

DE WITT STUDIO & GALLERY 2-8 x 10 prints, drymounted by Jim De Witt

SEASON TICKETS MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

1991 SEASON TICKETS Sponsored at \$30 each by:

Rosemary Corbin-Richmond City Council

Paula Ho-Wolper-Landscape Architect

David MacDiarmid-Richmond City Council

Pt. Richmond Travel Agency

David Vincent-Attomey

Verific Corporation (2 as 1)

11:00 - 11:25 OPENING CEREMONY, BAG PIPER OF POINT RICHMOND AND ALL CHILDREN AT **MEART MEET CORNER OF WASHINGTON AND SANTA FE TO PARADE DOWN THE** HILL WITH BORY MC ARTHUR, SETTING THE FESTIVAL INTO MUSICAL MOTION. 11:25 - 11:30 INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY MASTER AND MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES MARK, SINGER AND SONGWRITER ON GUITAR 11:30 - 11:40 11:40 - 11:55 ROBYN, SINGER AND SONGWRITER, GROUP PARTICIATION ENCOURAGED 11:55 - 12:15 BARBARA RHODES, LOCAL SINGER CONTRA COSTA CHORALE SINGERS 12:15 - 12:30 12:30 - 12:50 LOCAL OFFICIALS SPEAK 12:50 - 1:15 WALKING TUNES (SONGS OF THE 30'S AND 40'S) 1:15 - 1:40 UNKNOWN MASQUERS' PERFORMER 1:40 - 2:05 NIKKI GAGE, MASQUERS' PERFOMER 2:05 - 2:25 DANCING DARLINGS, MEL MENESSEE (SENIOR TAP DANCERS) 2:25 - 2:40 FASHION SHOW, SHERRY AND HER SEASONED BEAUTIES



### **CLARA PERASSO**

Clara Perasso passed away in July but her death was not noted in local newspapers. As a 55 year Point resident, she had many friends and was active in the Westside Improvement Club and Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church. The following is quoted from information obtained from her son, David, who lives in San Jose.

Mom was born in Berkeley on July 24, 1914. Her parents were Carlo and Anita Belluzzi who immigrated from Italy around 1905. She graduated from Berkeley High School.

On September 1, 1935 she married Charles Perasso. (born September 19, 1910 in Oakland.)

They lived in the brick apartment building diagonally across from the Methodist Church until August 1942 when they bought the house at 223 Cottage Ave. Dad died on Sept 19, 1979.

Mom worked for the Santa Fe RR for about 8 years. Then she worked for UC Berkeley until she retired. When they first moved to Point Richmond, Dad worked for Whitesides Grocery Store (now Santa Fe Mkt) after which he worked for the City of Richmond for over 30 years.

One aspect of their lives that many people may not remember is that they cut quite a figure on the dance floor. They were members of the Galileo Club, and others, and loved ballroom dancing. In the years since Dad died, Mom often spoke of how much she missed dancing.

Mom is survived by her daughter, Barbara Levenson and her daughters, Laurie and Shelley. I(Dave) have two children, Jacob and Patricia. Laurie provided the only great-grandchild, Jennifer, 2 years old.

She has 4 sisters, Rose Cagnone, Violet Lachenmeyer, Alma Forenti and Anita Lindquist.

Dad has a brother, Bob Perasso, and a sister, Nini Farell.

Dave Perasso



### STANLEY R. NYSTROM

Stanley R. Nystrom, 70, died on Wednesday, September 5. 1990. He was a lifelong resident of the city and the grandson of one of Richmond's pioneers. Stanley's knowledge of the city's history came naturally as his family was a part of it.

His grandfather, John R. Nystrom, arrived in Richmond in 1871 after sailing from Finland six years earlier. He began working as a handy-man for a local shipping business, rose to management and eventually purchased 70 acres of land in the area now bounded by Harbour Way, Marina Way, Ohio and Potrero Avenues. Nystrom Elementary school stands where the family home was originally.

Stan graduated from Richmond High in 1937, served in the Navy and returned to Mare Island as an electrician after WWII.

Since his retirement in 1978, he had been the Richmond Museum Association's research specialist, researching and answering questions on Richmond history. Visitors to the museum are shown a slide-show preview of early Richmond in which Nystrom does much of the narrating.

An active member of the Point Richmond History Association, Stan frequently contributed a column,"In Pursuit of Historical Trivia". Stan was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth, a twin sister to Fay Hawkins, and is survived by a niece, Melba Hall, Richmond.



### IRA W. CLUTTS

Ira W. Clutts died On Friday, September 21, 1990 at his home, 316 Martina Street in the Point at age 64. Mr. Clutts, born in Chimes, Arkansas, was a carpenter and lived in Contra Costa County for 47 years. Survivers include his wife, Marguerite, a son, Sidney Clutts and a daughter, Oneda Clutts all of Richmond. Also, a sister, Hollis Clayton of Chimes, Ark. and three grandchildren.



October Birthdays

TERRY WYNNE
JEFF ALBRO
JEAN MOYLE SPIERSCH
MARGUERITE CLUTTS
ROSY ROSELIUS
JODI BAGLEY
JUSTIN KAUFMAN
MARIAN TEDRICK
NATHAN BERMAN
TODD CORT
HELEN FROSINI
JEFF WARD
SHERA THOMPSON

KATE LORD
DOROTHY DAVIS
MILDRED PAETH
LINDA PEREIRA
TIMOTHY DOHERTY
FLORENCE WILSON
VERN VALENTINE
BRIAN TEDRICK
CHARLIE DUTROW
RICK WEIRICK
ROSE FAHRION
CHRIS WARD
JERRY DANIEL



Dear Sirs/Madams:

We have recently moved to Pt. Richmond and are presently residing at an old home on Washington Avenue. Curious about the history of the house we went to the library and found your "This Point in Time" history of Pt. Richmond. We would like to know if any more copies of this book are available to purchase and also if you could send us any information on the Pt. Richmond History Association. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Karen and Michael Shaw Point Richmon

Welcome to the Point Karen and Michael Shaw! Your letter arrived as I was putting together this issue of our newsletter, so I thought I would publish it with a complimentary copy. We still have some of the history books available, call Jerry at 235-1336 to arrange purchase of a copy. We would love to have you as a new member, please find information on page 24.







NAME		
ADDRESS		
PHONE		
Type of membership (check one)		
☐ SINGLE	\$15.00	
SENIOR (65+)	10.00	
FAMILY	25.00	
HISTORY PRESERVER	50.00	
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Membership in the Point Richmond History		
Association includes a one year subscription to		
"This Point" newsletter (nine 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 a	nd dates.	

Articles for each month's issue are due on or before the published deadline in the calendar section of this issue.

Please mail articles and items of interest to:

#### GARY SHOWS 229 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801

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Enclosed is my check payable to the Point Richmond History Association in the amount of:

In Memory In Honor

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Tributes will be acknowledged in the newsletter

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### Calendar

### **OCTOBER**

	OCIODER
October 2	Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, Community Center
October 3	1914, Abbott Hospital remodeled into rooming house
October 10	Point Richmond Business Association Meeting, Noon, Hotel Mac
October 13	Indian Statue Day Celebration Point Richmond
October 19	1915, Municipal Tunnel opens
	Deadline for articles in November "TPIT"
October 20	1984, Second Indian Statue dedicated
October 27	Festival by the Bay Celebration, Richmond Marina
	1941, first Liberty Ship launched
October 31	Halloween
November 6	Election Day
	Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting, 7:30 pm, Community Center
Nauember 14	Point Richmond Business Association Meeting, Noon, Hotel Mac