

# THIS POINT

*Neighborhood Council Report!*

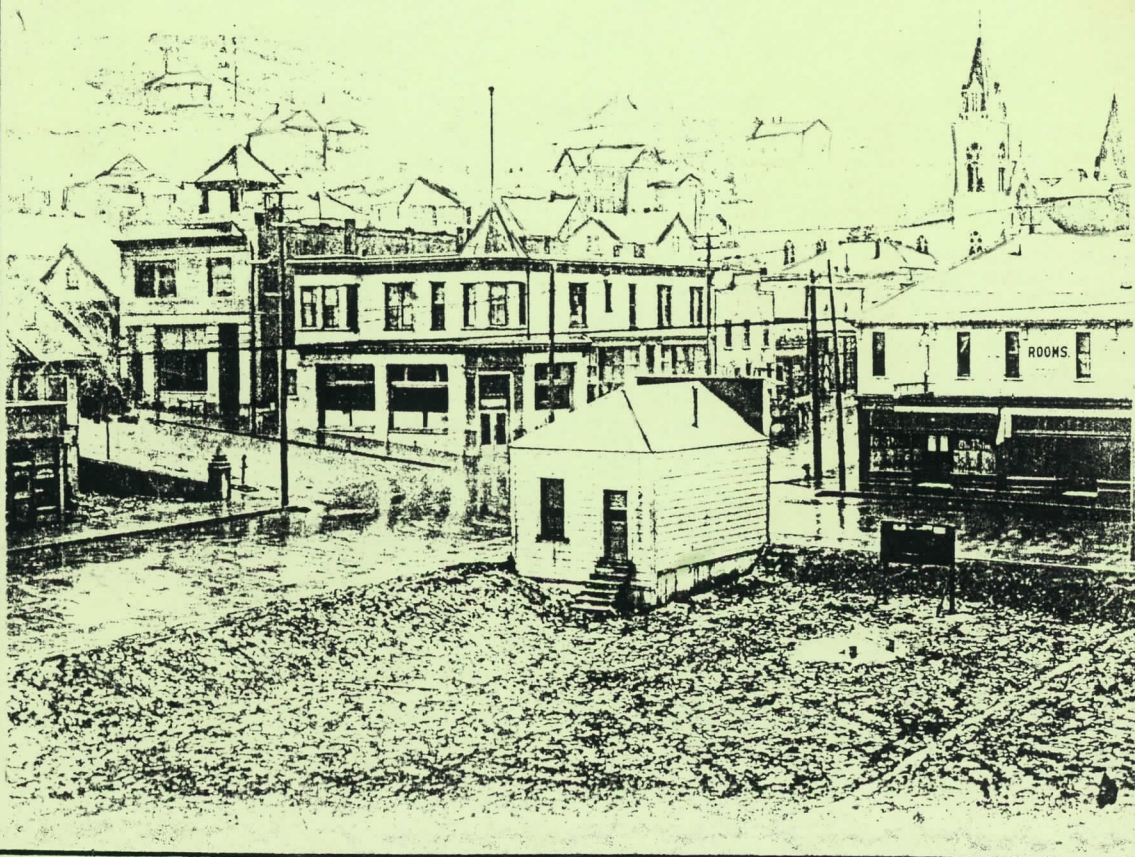
NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL IX No. 9

APRIL, 1991

\$1.00



**NEXT  
POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION  
MEETING**

**MAY 19, 1991  
AT  
POINT COMMUNITY CENTER,  
1:00PM**

**GUEST SPEAKER  
GEORGE COLES**

**GEORGE COLES IS A FOREMOST AUTHORITY ON POINT RICHMOND  
ANCIENT HISTORY.**

***DON'T MISS THIS MEETING!***



# History Association Notes

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Jerry Cerknowicz

Shortly before the March rains began Mid Dornan and I met with Gerry Peterson, a specialist in the use of historic colors for restoration. She and her husband Dan live here in the Point and have donated their services to our project. On her advice we have painted two areas on the building, each with three prospective colors. We have chosen the group we like best and one the painter has scheduled us, the exterior will be painted. Work will begin on soon on painting the interior and installing a wooden floor.

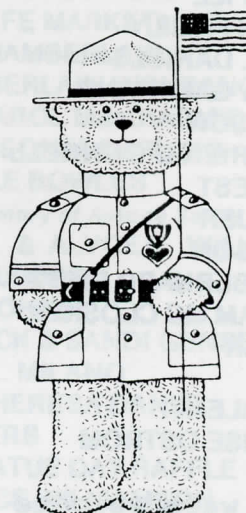
This afternoon I spent some time at the Easter Egg coloring and basket making contest. Put on by the Business Association, it is an annual event along with Valentine making. David Vincent, President of the Business Association is to be commended for his donated time and efforts to provide these activities to our community.

Hope to see some of you at the 8th birthday party at the Hotel Mac on April 10th.

*continued on page 2*

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*"From the President" cont. from page 1:*

A special welcome to our new foot patrol officer, Mark Hildebrand. He has been patrolling our streets since the end of February.

The coming May 19th general meeting will be held at the community center at 1:00pm. Our guest speaker will be George Coles, an authority on the Indian people of our area. It will be interesting so mark your calendar now, we look forward to seeing you there.



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

MARY HIGHFILL  
THE CORBIN FAMILY  
DOUGLAS L. DANIELS  
ALEXANDRA GAUTRAND  
DONNA WILSON  
MOLLIE O'BRIEN O'CONNELL  
ELEANOR BEST  
MARIAN SAUER  
R.J. ANDERSON  
DR. & MRS. BERNARD DIETZ  
MRS. WILLIAM MC CLOSKEY  
MID DORNAN  
JACK ELLE  
PAULINE VALENTI  
MARIE LOUISE OSTROM

And a warm welcome to new member:

ANN BISIO (PUCCI)

Translating another language to English can be tricky, here are some actual examples:

*\*Sign in a Vienna Hotel:*

*In case of fire, do your best to alarm the hotel porter.*

*\*Sign in a Yugoslavian Hotel:*

*The flattening of underwear with pleasure is the job of the chambermaid.*

*\*Sign in Leipzig elevator:*

*Do not enter the lift backwards, and only when lit up.*

*\*Notice in East African Newspaper:*

*A new swimming pool is rapidly taking shape since the contractors have thrown in the bulk of their workers.*

*Thank you Ann Hanzlik for these amusing and interesting translations.. Unfortunately this is the last of them.*

**NOTICE:**

**THE HISTORY ASSOCIATION  
STILL HAS AN OLD WORKING IBM  
COMPOSER TYPEWRITER AND AN  
ASSORTMENT OF FONT ELEMENTS  
AVAILABLE FOR SALE TO THE BEST  
FAIR OFFER. CALL 235-1336.**



**AND AGAIN, THANKS SO MUCH FOR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR  
MUSEUM PROJECT FROM:**

**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 Arell Cibattari)*

**THE MECHANICS BANK  
DORIS SILVA**

**FRANK LOPEZ**

**STANLEY NYSTROM**

**RAMON & PATIENCE ZAMBRANO**

**TOM McGOWAN**

**ROSEMARY M. CORBIN**

**VIRGINIA A. CHERNIAK**

**CHRISTOPHER PLONA**

**MAXINE MAYER**

**SHEILA FOSTIAK & FAMILY**

**ELIZABETH McDONALD**

**HOWARD S. ARNOLD**

**ADELE CHASE HOLLANDER**

**BERTHA MAY McCLOSKEY**

**DAVID VINCENT**

**MARIE WILSON DIETZ**

**AMERICAN ROCK & ASPHALT, INC**

**BARBARA A. OLSEN**

**ANNE HANZLIK**

**SANTA FE RAILROAD COMPANY**

**GRIFF AND CATHE BRAZIL**

**TERESA NAVAS ALBRO**

**MARY CROSBY & TOM PIAZZA**

**CHARLES C. EELES**

**THE DORNAN FAMILY**

**GARY SHOWS**

**CAROLYN & IRVING MOSKOWITZ**

**THOMAS W. & MARGO TEDRICK**

**CHEVRON, U.S.A., INC.**

**TOM & LUCRETIA EDWARDS**

**THOMAS E. WHITESIDES**

**INTERACTIVE RESOURCES, INC.**

**TOM BUTT & FAMILY**

**HENRY A. FRANCIS**

**JANICE A. HANTZSCHE**

**JOAN MEISEL**

**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 ROOFING, INC.**

**REMCO ROOF SUPPLY**

**PT. RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD CNCL**

**DORIS C. RASMUSSEN**

**BOB & MARIE PECKHAM**

**(SANTA FE MARKET)**

**JANICE CHAMBERLAIN**

**(CHAMBERLAIN INSURANCE ASSOC.)**

**DAVID & CAROL MacDIARMID**

**JOSEPH & SONJA DARLING**

**BENA SALLE BOWLES**

*(Given in Memory of Antone Salle)*

**WILLIAM H. & ALYCE K. WILLIAMSON**

**ROBERT HUBBART**

**ANDREW JOHNS**

**LYNN MAACK & SANDI GENSER-MACK**

**PATRICIA L. MILANO**

**JERRY & THERESA DANIEL**

**TOM POWERS**

**INDIAN STATUE DAY RAFFLE**

**WM. & ALYCE WILLIAMSON**

*(Given in Memory of Ronnie Roselius Turner)*

**GERALDINE MANN PETERSON, DESIGNER**



## editors notes.....

BY GARY SHOWS

Hello, welcome to the April issue of "This Point in Time" newsletter. There is a lot in this one (I had very little room for illustrations) and I think most of you will enjoy it more than usual. Its production has gone well and all contributors and staff writers have been just great about honoring our deadline, thank you all!

I am happy to welcome back as a regular contributor, the Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Report presented by our own Director of Oral History, Sarah Eeles. This issue contains three nostalgia articles, in addition to part three of Dr. Thompson's Triangle series, you will find a new "Will Rambles..." from Will Spiersch, and a surprise column "Do You Remember?" from Josephine Palenchar. I feel these writings are not only interesting but important because they record our local history.

We still haven't decided what to do about future printing of this newsletter with the demise of our old offset printing press. We will continue to have it printed by a commercial printer, orchestrated by Claudia at the Point

Richmond Print Shop. Doesn't it look great! If you have any ideas on a permanent solution to our printing needs please call me at 235-1336.

The deadline for the May newsletter is April 26, I have made it a little later than usual because of our summer break.

The Gulf War is over...we won, heavy March rains have taken the edge off of our drought, there are signs that our economy is improving and the recession is ending, the days are getting longer, and baseball season is just around the corner. A little good news has never killed anyone!





## A-MID TRIVIA

By Mid Dornan (234-5334)

April is a lovely month;  
Its days are quite relaxing,  
Except, of course, the fifteenth,  
Which is a day for taxing.

\*\*\*

Making out an Income Tax  
Return is a lesson in addition,  
multiplication and extraction!

\*\*\*

Overheard in grocery store  
while rain and hail fell outside,  
"Isn't this awful weather just  
wonderful!"

\*\*\*

Park Place was transformed  
into movie sets on March 12, 1991 as  
massive camera and production crews  
filmed scenes for, "Running Out", a  
TV movie to be released in May on  
CBS. Stars Ellen Burstyn, Walter  
Matthau and child star, Ryan Todd,  
descended on the surprised locals who  
watched as cameras rolled in front on  
Interactive Resource (doctor's  
reception room)? and Point Richmond  
Travel (a flower stand). The movie,  
a drama, is about a boy who lives with  
his grandmother after the death of his  
parents. When the grandmother  
becomes senile and child welfare  
officials try to take the child away,  
family friend, Matthau, contributes to  
the happy ending.

Not so popular was the lack of  
available parking for local merchants  
during the busy lunch period. The  
film company provides its own food  
van. Marin extras asked many  
questions regarding this 'charming  
Point' and were educated on Indian  
Statue Park, names the bricks and to  
watch for our October Indian Statue  
Day festival.

\*\*\*

Eight year old Brownie Alia  
Smyck, a second grader, was the

second highest salesman of Girl Scout  
Cookies in her group.  
Congratulations!!

\*\*\*

Jo Camp, Masquers founder,  
artistic director, and their best PR  
representative, has spent 35 years with  
this Point playhouse group... and not  
once has she been paid! The  
Masquers is the oldest non-  
professional community theatre in the  
Bay Area... Jo is a key factor. Jo was,  
rightfully, a front-page feature of the  
West County Times, a well deserved  
honor for one who is proof  
volunteering has its own special  
rewards.

\*\*\*

If a fine is a tax for doing  
wrong.. is a tax a fine for doing well?

\*\*\*

Bernadette Bisio is still  
recuperating with her hip problem.  
Hopefully it will soon 'go away'!

\*\*\*

If you own a 1990 luxury or  
intermediate auto or van chances are  
it is white as that was the choice of  
more than 50% of the cars buyers.  
But, red was the most often picked  
color by sports or compact car buyers.

\*\*\*

It is April and Daylight  
Saving time again. Does anyone else  
ever wish the entire year would be  
Daylight Saving time?

\*\*\*

Cartoon of the times: Two  
people at restaurant, "Forget the  
doggie bag, how can we take our  
water home?"

\*\*\*

Congratulations to Vivian and  
Elva Cook on their marriage of 60  
years. Now living in Fort Dick near  
Crescent City, Vivian is still  
undergoing knee problems. In  
November he had a knee cap  
replacement only to have it crack



before healing. After a 're-do', staff infection necessitated removal of the replacement and Vivian is now waiting for this to heal before he has further surgery. This may be in the form of a fusing of the knee. It is hoped Vivan will take time to write us his memories of the Point while he is less active.

\*\*\*

Editor Gary Shows has been busy being Bay Area tour guide for his sister, Mitzi and husband, Clay Kruse and 2 children visiting from San Antonio, Texas. The Kruse family flew into Southern California but motored up Highway 1 to visit and see the state before returning to LA and home.

\*\*\*

It is Spring! Time to clean the garage and attic of all those things you have been keeping but will never use. Why not donate them to the 'Classy Junque' sale on Saturday, May 4th at the Point Methodist Church. Members are raising funds to re-roofing the leaking parsonage on Nicholl Avenue. Since the law requires no more than 3 roofs, the steep roof must be torn off before being replaced...costly! Items may be left at the church or call chairman JoAnn Bray, 233-7726.

\*\*\*

There is sadness in the 700 block of Ocean Avenue as Jose, 17 year-old black dog of Prof. John and Monica Haley has died. He will be missed by the neighbors, Chevron employees as well as the mailman, Rick Bonds, who would slow down long enough each day for Jose to hobble from his rug beside the flower pot and accept the daily pat on his head.

\*\*\*

Remember GEORGE FENNAMEN, straight man for Groucho Marx on the Groucho Marx Show. You may not know that George was once the

playground director for our Washington School.

\*\*\*

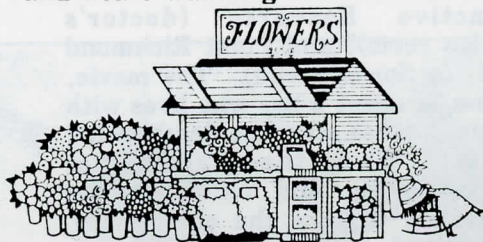
Subtract your waistline measurement in inches from your height in inches. The answer should be around 38 or more. Otherwise, tut tut, you're letting overweight creep up on you!

\*\*\*

All Methodist Sunday School children presented a Palm Sunday program but those participating in the pageant were Jim and Josh Allen, Bobby Hughes, Ricco King, Becky Price and Stewart Pearson. *(Only the director heard the reference to (unleavened) as unleaded bread or the (purist) purple wine. One reason children's programs are so enjoyable!)*

\*\*\*

Donna Roselius has returned to Port Orford, Oregon after spending six months in Sonora during the illness of daughter, Roni. The support of so many friends is appreciated and heart warming.



Mary Forbes, Teacher Aide at Nystrom School, was in the classroom scene filmed to show effects of proposed cutbacks in the schools.

\*\*\*

By the time this is in print, it is hoped our history building will be ready for paint testing. Inclement weather (we aren't complaining), decisions, holidays, vacations and availability of volunteers has delayed progress but we are eager and anxious to have it ready for public use!

\*\*\*

How come 'Due to increased postal costs.. i.e. 4¢ postal increase,



qualifies companies to add additional costs to consumers in the multi-dollar level?

\*\*\*

Spring Clean-up day in the Point is Saturday, May 11th.

\*\*\*

Psychiatrists say it's not good for a person to keep too much to himself.

The IRS says the same thing.

\*\*\*

HAPPY SPRING! SING A SONG!

## SENIOR NEWS

By Muriel C. Clausen

Seniors, your California Senior Legislators who are representing you in Sacramento are now 1990 finally appointed and will be in office for the next two years. They are, Bill Burns of Walnut Creek (939-5479), John Anderson of Orinda (254-2201) and Albert Reed of Rodeo, (758- 4141). Give any one of them a call if you have legislative activity for Seniors for which you wish to have them represent you in Sacramento....they are your voice!

The Ninth Annual Senior Information Day is coming up fast. "Seniors Leading the Way in 1991" is the theme for this event which will be held at the Richmond Memorial Auditorium, 26th and Nevin, Richmond on Thursday, May 9, 1991 from 9am to 3pm. The event is sponsored by the City of Richmond's Human Services Department, the Richmond Commission on Aging and many senior service providers.

Lunch will be served by the Senior Nutrition with a suggested donation of \$1.25 to \$1.50 for those 60 and over in age. All others will be "charged" \$3.75 for this lunch. There will be 600 tickets available on a first come first sold basis so come early and enjoy the whole event. A major item of interest to Seniors will be a round table forum from about 10:00 am to lunch (check the program) on Living Wills, Durable Power of Attorney, Trusts and other matters pertaining to wills in the Bermuda Room during this Senior Information Day event. The Senior Information Day in Richmond has become a noteworthy event over the years and now draws from all of West County Seniors to welcome often up to 3000 Seniors! We expect this year's event to "top them all". COME AND ENJOY!

# CHURCHES

## Our Lady of Mercy

*by Eleanor Hurley*

Preparations are well under way for Easter Sunday and Holy Week. On Palm Sunday, March 24th Palms were distributed at both the Saturday and Sunday Masses. On Holy Thursday Mass will be at 5:30pm, followed by private devotions and prayers until 9pm. There will be no masses on Good Friday. Starting at noon, there will be a series of meditations and Stations of the Cross. On Saturday, Easter Vigil Mass will begin at 5:30pm. The usual ceremonies will follow which usually lasts about one hour and fifteen minutes.

On Easter Sunday there will be the Solemn Mass of the Resurrection starting at 9:30am. The choir is rehearsing several selections under the able direction of Anna Schwarz.

Underway is the painting and repair to the garden gates as well as the painting of the back steps.

Cynthia Young is busy with the C.C.D. classes.

Marcellina and Allan Smith have returned from a very happy vacation to Panama to visit her family.

To each and everyone we hope you have a Holy and Happy Easter.

## Point Methodist

*by Jean Reynolds*

Sunday morning worship on Palm Sunday featured students from the Sunday School. Students wore costumes and portrayed some of the people who took part in the events of the first Good Friday. Participants and their roles were Ryan Anderson as the Narrator; Ricco King as Pontius Pilate; James Allen as an old shepherd; Stewart Pearson as Judas Iscariot; Becky Price as Hannah, the servant; Josh Allen as Simon of Cyrene; and Bobby Hughes as Adrian, the centurion. Daniel Andersen, Michael Reynolds, Justin Kaufman, Bethany Reynolds and Norm Reynolds joined the cast to present some special music. Ginger Paasch and Bethany Reynolds greeted worshippers at the door and presented each with a palm cross folded by the high school class. Mid Dornan directed the cast, Pastor Michael Brown accompanied the special music and Patricia Dornan helped with costuming and staging. It was a joyful event!

Summer camp schedules of 1991 have been published and it is time to apply. Scholarships will be available to students again this year based on their Sunday School





attendance; 100% attendance equals 100% of camp tuition paid. The church will raise money for camp scholarships by selling tickets to a Masquers/Hotel Mac dinner theater on August 22nd. Tickets will sell for \$25.00 and include dinner at Hotel Mac followed by the play "The Foreigner" at the Masquers Playhouse.

Pastor Michael Brown will lead a six to eight week Bible study focusing on the Gospel of Mark. It will meet on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm at the church and will begin on April 18th.

The Women's Support Group that was meeting on Monday evenings got off to a slow start and has been put on hold for the time being. It may resume at a later date if interest revives.

The United Methodist Women continue to meet for craft workshops on Mondays at 11:00am. They report several completed projects all ready for the Country Faire in

October. An evening workshop will be held on the Fourth Wednesday of each month to involve members who are not free on Mondays.

JoAnn Bray continues to gather and price items for the "Classy Junque" sale scheduled for May 4th. Lunch and entertainment will be part of the bill of faire for the day. Call the church if you would like someone to pick up your donations for the sale.

A tupperware party held at the church on the rainy evening of February 27th raised enough donations and earned "hostess points" to buy five one-gallon pitchers, five large mixing bowls with seals, and five sets of measuring spoons, plus some extras to be given to the Fred Finch Youth Center in Oakland. "Five" is the magic number.....there are five cottages, each housing ten youths at the center. Many thanks to all those who participated.



## 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." The minutes are printed as written. This is the 54th installment.*

Nov. 16, 1916

The Woman's Home Missionary Society was delightfully entertained at the home of Mrs. T. Cramer.

Mrs. Ada Lee, a Missionary from Inda addressed the Society after which refreshments were served by the hostess.

The president Mrs. Adams presented Mrs. Lee with a lovely bouquet (sic) of Chrysanthemums.

The members brought canned fruit to be boxed and sent to the Beulah Rest Home.

Nettie Grover, Sec

Dec 15, 1916

The Womans Home Missionary Society met at the lParsonage. The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Adams and all repeating the Lords Prayer. Mrs. Bradley led song by the Society.

The minutes were read and approved after correction. (Note: What the correction was to the last months minutes did not get recorded in the records!) Roll was called and 6 members present. Two visitors.

The report of the Annual Convention of W.H.M.S. was read by the Secretary.

The President appointed Mrs. Gillette as Sec. of Literature.

A motion was made and carried that the Secretary write a card

to members and tell them that dues should be paid if possible before the next Quarterly Report.

The Treasurers report was given and \$7.10 reported in the Tea fund. Half of this was to be sent to the Conference Treasurer as a Thank offering for her to use where most needed. The balance will be applied upon the Missionary Room of the parsonage. Mrs. Gibbons and Mrs. Gillette wee appointed to see about the prices and samples of plaster board for the room.

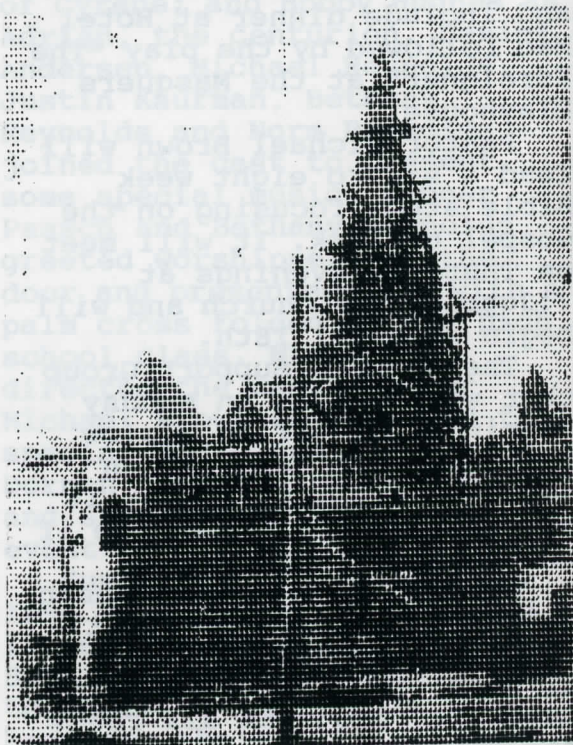
Mrs. Gillette paid dues .25¢.

Mrs. Gillette had charge of the lesson & program and a profitable & interesting hour was spent.

Refreshments were served. Thank offering, \$1.25.

Motion made & carried that the box of fruit be sent this year to the Japanese Home.

Nettie Grover, Sec





# Sports memories

By Allan Smith

My wife, Marcelina, and I have just returned from the Republic of Panama and upon our return I learned of the death of a Point Richmond native that I grew up with.

Herbert A. Bill, Jr. died on February 1, 1991. I remember Herbie, as we used to call him, as a very likeable person and also was a good baseball player playing the infield positions. He was a very fast runner.

While attending San Francisco State College, Herbie worked as the Washington School Playground Director in the Point. He was able to put together several Point Richmond championship teams in baseball, touch football and basketball. Among Point Richmond natives who played for Herbie were the following: Sonny Campbell, Jim Scroggins, Andy Brown, John Amantite, Carl Jenkins and Dean and Rich Smith.

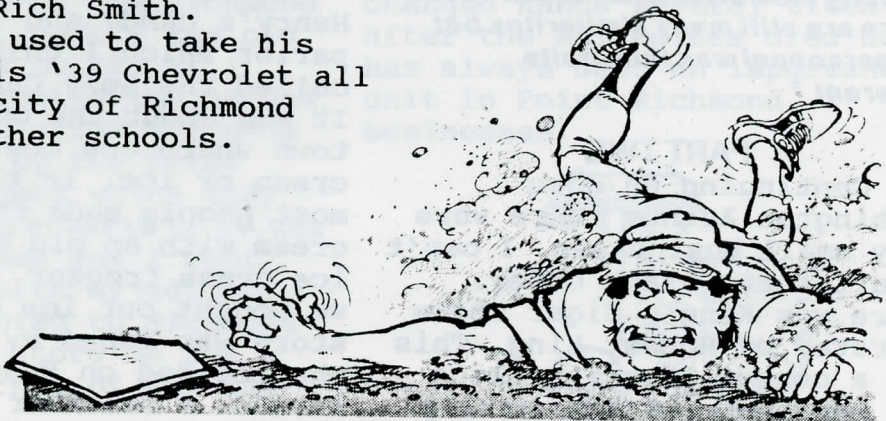
Herbie used to take his team in his '39 Chevrolet all over the city of Richmond playing other schools.

Competition was great when the West Side teams were involved. He was also one of the Point Richmond paper boys working for the Mrs. Andrews News Agency.

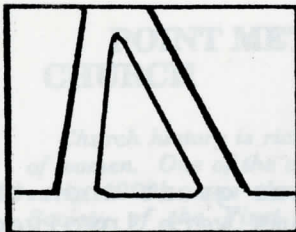
After serving in the U.S. Navy, Herbie received his teaching credentials from San Francisco State.

As a member of a pioneer Point Richmond family, he had a brother Donald who died at an early age. His father, Herbert, Sr. retired from the Standard Oil Refinery with over 40 years service. Both of his parents, Herb, Sr. and his mother, Julia, were very active in community and Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church affairs as was his sister, Patricia, who now resides in Sacramento.

Herbie will be remembered as one of Point Richmond's great athletes.







# Childhood Memories of The Point Richmond Triangle

By 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 time he 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.**

**Thanks to Dr. Thompson for his valuable contributions to our archives.**

~~~~~

**"The triangle formed by Washington Avenue, Park Place and Richmond Avenue was, from the beginning, the business center of Point Richmond. My early memories start about 1913. There are still many similarities but the personnel was then quite different."**

## PART TWO

Continuing on down Washington Avenue there were many small businesses. I can't recall their exact order. There was King's Cigar store operated by Robert King. This was a common lounging place for men who were not working.

Almost always there were many men standing about outside smoking and talking. It was the town meeting place for the idle.

In the same area was Niedecker's Drug store operated by Henry Niedecker. I recall Niedecker very well. He was a friend of my father and had originally come from Eldorado County. He was a fine druggist and his store was quite modern for the time. Elmer Conn, who later became a well known druggist in Richmond, served an apprenticeship here. Niedecker later moved to Oakland and started a drug store in the Grand Lake region of Oakland. His store here was taken over by Palmateer who ran it until his death in 1956. That ended drug stores in the Point.

In the same area was Henry's candy and Ice Cream parlor which I think was called the Kozy Candy Parlor. It was about the only place in town where one could buy ice cream or ice. In those times most people made their own ice cream with an old hand cranked ice cream freezer. When needed we bought our ice here. The store was owned my W.E. Henry who resided on Buena Vista Avenue. I remember getting ice



from him every 4th of July to make ice cream.

In this same region was a hardware store run by Virgil Fenner who later became a city councilman. He was a good friend of my father who, being a mechanic, often traded there. His daughter was a good friend of my older sister. When Fenner retired the store was taken over by Gordon Perault who was raised in the Point.

Sometime later Gust Allyn, who I have written about elsewhere, established his clothing store. This has been an essential part of the Point business community for many years, probably longer than any other single business. The store continues under the management of one of Gust's sons.

There have been other businesses in this block but I recall very little of them. The old Critchett Hotel, one of the earliest Point Richmond buildings stands at the corner of Richmond Avenue. In the old days it served as the first meeting place of the Richmond City Council, before the old city hall was built. If I remember correctly the ground floor of this structure once was occupied by the Pulse Brothers Grocery which they called a "grocertaria". It was well patronized and I went there often with my mother. They later moved to Richmond and opened a store on the northwest corner of 4th and Macdonald.

On the northeast corner of Washington and Richmond Avenues there was a small rectangular board building that I remember as a real estate office. It was on the edge of the depressed lot that at one time held the bandstand.

Along the base of the triangle on West Richmond Avenue, were many key businesses of early Point Richmond. The grocery store on the southeast corner of Washington and Richmond Avenues was not as early as the others. It was built by Arthur Whiteside. The Whitesides were good friends of ours and at one time we vacationed together in Mendocino County. At first Art was a partner of Bob Dornan's in the Richmond Supply Company. After a few years he left and built the grocery store. Originally they lived on the east side of upper Washington Avenue but when the store was completed they moved into the apartment on its second floor. The store has changed hands several times after the Whitesides died but has always been an important unit in Point Richmond businesses.





# *Will Rambles On...The Point*

## **Willard R. Spiersch**

On Saturdays if we kids could raise a nickel, we would go to the Point Theater. That was the day they ran the serials, the hero or heroine were always in dire straights at the end of the picture. You just HAD to go to see how it all came out! Mr. Tcherassey would sometimes let us raise the curtain with all the adds on it if we were well behaved. Mr. Tcherassey was pretty tough on us kids, he demanded strict decorum. Some kids would roll marbles down the sloping floor and as they hit the chair legs on the way down they would make a terrific noise! He would estimate where they originated and eject all of the kids in that area, both innocent and guilty!

There was a large cast iron stove in one corner which Mr. T. would keep stoked up on cold days. Just in front of the stage was a wonderful Wurlitzer player piano. Mrs. T. played on weekday nights. Sometimes Frieda Stephens played it on weekends (She told me that it raised hell with her social life, and that she missed out on a lot of fun events in the Point!). This player piano had marvelous sound effects, it would play drum rolls, blow whistles, ring bells and so on in addition to the piano music. She would pull on cords and

push this and that to get the various sounds. This piano had two rolls, and the film came with a que sheet.

Once while we were playing in the sunken lot next to the theater, the projectionist invited us in to see the trial run of the nights film. It was an absolutely fantastic experience to be in that booth with its huge projector!

If we had accumulated another two cents, we went next door and bought a sno-cone with the pretty colored syrup that all tasted about the same.

Someone asked about the garage across the street from the theater on the corner of Tunnel and Richmond Avenue. I think the name of the people running this garage was Foster. The gas was pumped up by hand into a glass container. When it was full and the nozzle at the end of the hose was inserted into your tank, the gas ran out by gravity into the tank, the level of the graduation determined how much gas went into your tank. Oil was pumped into a copper one quart container with a swivel tube at the bottom.

Across Park Place from the Theater was another sunken lot with a grand stand in it. The Richmond Municipal Band played there in the summer evenings.



We kids had a lot of fun while the band was playing. The music was great, the spectators would clap loudly for the pieces they liked. The people parked in cars in the area would add to the din by honking their horns.

The shaved ice sno-cone shop next to the theater may have been Ardelle's, I'm not sure. Anyway, I have a slightly amusing story involving Ardelle. Ardelle had a shop on East Richmond Avenue near the Natatorium. We also lived on East Richmond Avenue about three

blocks from Ardelle's business, in a little cottage owned by Newel Stephens. My wife, Jean, received a phone call from Ardelle, "Mrs. Spiersch, your daughter is here wanting to buy some candy and charge it, shall I give it to her?". Her answer was good Lord no! Jean thought Joan was safely playing in the fenced in yard. Needless to say Jean broke all records for the 100 year dash to recover her precious child. Joan was three years old at the time!

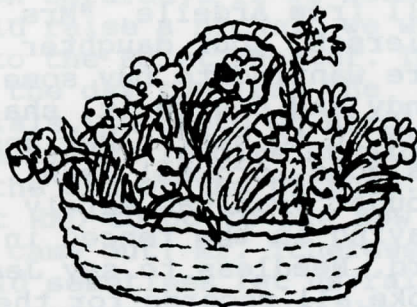


This picture was taken by Dick Spiersch, a fire had occurred that burned to the ground Shads Hall, a two story building, located where our fire station is now.



# Women's Westside Improvement Club NEWS

ANN HANZLIK



## A HARBINGER OF SPRING

The storms of early March gave a brief respite for the Women's West Side Improvement Club's long anticipated fashion show on March 5th. The sun shown brightly on the colorful dresses of the nearly one hundred spectators who gathered in the meeting room of Our Lady of Mercy Church to have dessert and coffee and watch some of the club members model an assortment of outfits furnished by the Gold Hanger Shop in El Cerrito.

Each table for eight had a large centerpiece basket

planted with spring flowers which were surrounded by unbelievably green grass. The yellow place mats on the tables echoed the colors of the dessert, lemon filled meringues, that the audience was served, along with flavorful Peet's coffee.

The affair was a most successful team effort of the club, organized and spearheaded by Marj Belloti, who was just recovered from a bout with pneumonia in time to enjoy the affair. Lets hope that a fashion show becomes an annual event of the club.

The next meeting will be May 7th at about 12:30 pm, and the club is pleased to announce that our Westside librarian, Jan Burdick will give one of her incitful reviews of current books available at the library.



*"When I was a little girl, my mother would sew colored material to fit around eggs, then boil them in water with ashes mixed in. The colors and pattern from the material would transfer to the 'Easter Eggs'."*

.....Bernice Shows



# Point Richmond Neighborhood Council

## **REPORT**

*from Sarah Eeles, Secretary*

It has been awhile since we've been heard from here in "This Point in Time" but the Point Richmond Neighborhood Council is as active as ever with 138 households in its current membership. Under the leadership of President Tom McGowan, Vice Presidents Mary Crosby and Tom Piazza and Barbara Fleming, Treasurer Dody Perry and Secretary, Sarah Eeles, the council has continued as a forum for community concerns.

Although much of each month's agenda consists of development issues, the meeting time consumed in looking over various plans for home and office construction has recently been reduced due to the establishment of the P.R.N.C. Land- Use Subcommittee. This group meets each month to review designs and to ferret out controversial issues to bring before the council. Members currently composing this committee are Jay Betts, Tom Butt, Spencer Compton, Hans Shaper and Roberta Vanderblyden.

A number of non-development issues were discussed at the March

meeting of the P.R.N.C. These included water conservation, concern over the lack of parking in the Point and how to support Washington School during the current crisis in the Richmond Unified School District. The council unanimously passed a proposal to "adopt" and support Washington School as much as possible, helping it to raise money and obtain needed volunteers. Volunteers are needed to serve as tutors, library assistants, crossing guards and teachers of special classes (any subject you have expertise in may be offered to the school). Why not phone the school and offer to participate as a volunteer!

Meetings of the P.R.N.C. are held on the first Tuesday of every month in the community center. All are welcome and memberships are available at only \$5.00 per year. Bring you concerns for the Point and join in to make this an even better community.

The P.R.N.C. is making the history that the History Association will look back on in future years.

# DO YOU REMEMBER?

by Josephine Palenchar

Do you ever think of the good old days of Point Richmond? During the war we had a boom town, yes a boom town! I remember the ration books that we needed to get our food and other things.

Remember the old municipal band stand that was by the Fire House? It looked like a dome and this was where we met all our friends and really had fun.

Remember the rainy day sessions that we had at the old Washington School? The teachers let us go home early so we wouldn't get wet....and the girls made mud castles in the back of the school because that was where the mud was abundant and there were no boys to break down our pretty castles.

I remember the day Mrs.

Raeder sent me to the office because she thought I had candy in my mouth and wouldn't take it out. But the nurse said that I really had the mumps and had to go home! I gave the mumps to several kids and Mrs. Raeder was again mad at me because we were practicing for the Maypole dance and many of the kids had to be absent.

I remember the old library on the corner, where Mrs. Hodges always put her fingers to her lips to hush the noisy kids. The more she hushed us, the more noise we made.

Those of us with sweet teeth had lots to choose from. I remember the smell from the Torino Bakery that baked all of those delicious Italian and French breads.

Remember Marter's Ice



Cream parlor and Smiths snow cone truck that was by the natatorium; we sure did get a lot of candy for a nickel.

I remember Bill the fireman who trained all those dogs and birds by the old firehouse, and Mr. Snel the man who took those old fashioned pictures with the cloth over his head and the smoky flash bulb that scared the wits out of all of us. He really loved children and he took a lot of our pictures for free.

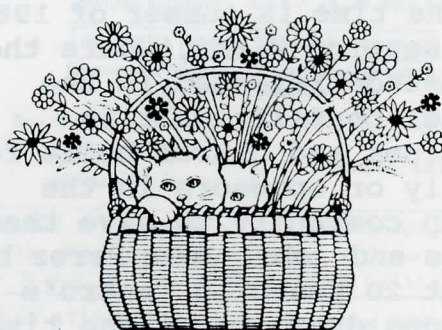
Just think of how many dishes and glasses we used to get at the Point Theater, where the Point Orient is now.

And don't forget Mr. Andrew's Variety Store. He had everything from soup to nuts, no matter what

you wanted, he had it someplace in that messy store.

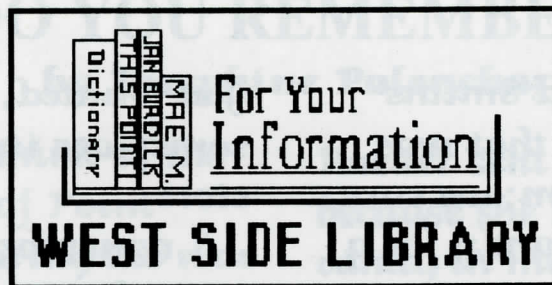
I remember the red brick triangle across the street from the Bath House that had beautiful flowers and two rest rooms and the bench that went around the triangle, we kids spent hours there.

I remember that the other Point Richmond newspaper was Harry Burt's "The Progress".



*Thank you so much for this contribution to our newsletter. Since your piece was handwritten, I hope I spelled names correctly.*

*.....Gary*



By Jan Burdick

***New books at the West Side.....***

CHRISTINE BELL

***The Perez Family.*** As much about hope and dreams sustained against all odds as about Cuban exiles in Miami, the second novel by Bell is often wise, warm, affecting, but never sentimental.

The characters, the Cuban life in exile, and Miami itself are all there - vital and memorable. A wonderful read.

The time is summer of 1980, the setting Miami, where the thousands released in the Mariel boatlift wait in stadiums and church halls for family or sponsors in the Cuban community to give them homes and jobs. Juan Perez has spent 20 years in Castro's prisons dreaming of the time he would be united with his wife and daughter in Florida; but when he arrives in Miami, he is bewildered, unwell, and not even sure that his wife, Camela, will have remained faithful. Juan is taken in hand by the remarkable Dottie,

a former prostitute, who has come to America to find her John Wayne, to enjoy rock-and-roll, and to have nail polish.

SETH GOLDSMITH

***Choosing a Nursing Home.***

Guides to nursing-home selection have become an important part of consumer health literature: over a million people enter long-term care facilities each year. Goldsmith (health policy and management, University of Massachusetts, Amherst) visited nursing homes all over the country to prepare this guide. He provides a detailed checklist for individuals and families to use in evaluating nursing homes, along with sample admissions forms, agreements, and fee schedules.

MARINA VAIZEY

***Christo.*** Christo's art is a paradox. Massive, yet delicate, his projects built of plastics and metals look



like naturalistic interventions in the "Real World". In this attractively illustrated book, art historian Vaizey interprets Christo's productions as theater and public performance. Christo has erected cheerfully painted POP storefronts and a wall of empty oil barrels; he has wrapped a Paris bridge in shimmering gold fabric; closer to home was the Running Fence across Marin County.

**NICHOLAS SHAKESPEARE**

***The Vision of Elena Silves.***

Shakespeare writes with an elegance and a flair for scene-painting unusual in a tale so drenched in harsh actuality. His story of the great love between a revolutionary of Chinese immigrant descent, Gabriel Lung, and a religious young woman, Elena Silves, is a compelling one. Set in Peru, he focuses on the jungle town of Belen, which enjoyed prosperity during the rubber boom early in the century but now is down at the heels except for money from the cocaine trade. Elena stirs up the town when she has a vision, thought to be of the Virgin Mary, and is spirited away to a convent. Meanwhile, Gabriel joins the Shining Path, a Maoist group. The Catholicism and the Revolutionary ideology that keep the lovers apart also give them stature.



**THE MASQUERS**

Playhouse, Inc.

105 Park Place, Point Richmond

PROUDLY PRESENTS



Book:  
N. RICHARD NASH

Music:  
CY COLEMAN

Lyrics:  
CAROLYN LEIGH

Directed & Designed by  
JOHN HULL

A rollicking, high-spirited, "Hey, Look Me Over" musical comedy!

THE CAST:

|                  |                |                 |
|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Katie Brennan    | Kathe Kiehn    | Joel Swandby    |
| Michael Clark    | Heinz Lankford | David Vincent   |
| Duncan Clemishaw | Robert Love    | Marie Wedell    |
| Janet Fauerso    | Adam Morrison  | Mindy White     |
| Wendy Fontana    | Sandy Ormeo    | Dave Wilson     |
| Tura Franzen     | Lisa Peers     | Linda Whitehand |
| Robert Hulin     | Tom Stimson    |                 |

Friday & Saturday evenings — March 22 - May 11, 1991

Sunday Matinees — April 7, 14, 28, May 5

**RESERVATIONS: 232-4031 (24 hours)**

Reservations held until 10 minutes before curtain.

Group Rates Available

Box Office Opens at 8:00 p.m.; 2:00 p.m. for matinees.

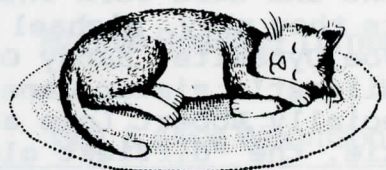
Curtain: 8:30 p.m.

Matinees: 2:30 p.m.

Admission: \$8.00

DINNER & THEATRE benefit for our building fund at HOTEL MAC, Thursday evening, May 9. Dinner and ticket to "Wildcat" for only \$23.00. To reserve, CALL: 236-4988.

NEXT ATTRACTION: The record-breaking Agatha Christie thriller 'The Mousetrap', opening June 7, 1991.







# WILDCAT THEATER

*by Anne Hanzlik*

WILDCAT may be described as a delightful romp on stage, an evening at the theater that is calculated to have the audience chuckling and humming when they leave, after three hours of fast paced action.

Wildcat has all the proscribed ingredients of an old time musical comedy, memorable songs (Hey Look Me Over), comic characters and best of all a lovable and offbeat heroine. There is a touch of nostalgia too about wildcat oil drilling in Texas. Lucille Ball was the original "Wildcat" back in the '60's. Lisa Peers in that role is a real charmer. Her enthusiasm - dancing, singing and drumming is infectious, but in fact she is only one out of the many outstanding "amateurs" who put talent and hard work into the parts they play. Michael Clark as Joe Dynamite, Sandy Ormeo as Wildcat's sister Jane, and especially Robert Love as Sookie, the "dirtiest old man." Actually all the parts

add up to a successful entire cast.

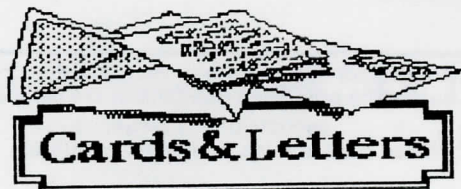
The stage set is adequate for the constricted size of the stage and of course the more than adequate musicians in their new orchestra pit makes the Masquers seem like a real "big time" theater.

Wildcat was written by N. Richard Nash, music by Cy Coleman and lyrics by Carolyn Leigh.

The opening night audience is usually made up in large part by friends and supporters of the cast and their support is understandable, but I predict that all those who go to see Wildcat in the ensuing weeks of the run will be just as pleased with the production. It runs from March 22nd through May 11th, with four Sunday matinees. Better be prompt with your reservations, March 22 was sold out.







## Cards & Letters

Dear Gary:

Thank you for having published the article by Dorothy Lipp. She's an old friend, and such an elegant lady, wise and witty.

You are doing a fine job with the paper; what a great service it is for our old village.

Best Regards;  
Roy Jones  
Point Richmond

*Good hearing from you Roy, I have to give Mid Dornan full credit for the preparation and editing of Dorothy Lipps column. And thanks for the compliments, glad you enjoy the newsletter.*

*Roy included material for the newsletter to be used now or later, thanks!*

Gary

~~~~~

Dear Pam:

I am a member of the W.I. Club and have been for about 20 years. I wasn't born in the Point but came there with my folks at 6 weeks old, being born in Sonoma.

I am 84 years old now so you see I lived here practically all my life. Enclosed is my check for 1 year, thank you very much.

Sincerely,  
Ann Bisio (Pucci)

## Birthdays

### APRIL

LOOF LIRPA  
ROBERTA PALFINI  
KARI ELLI  
TARA KAUFMAN  
JUDY WALZ  
PAM WILSON  
JOEL PETERSON  
MICHAEL HORN  
BONITA NEASHAM  
MONICA DOHERTY  
WILLIAM KRETZMER  
ALISON LORD  
JOHN MAXWELL  
CAROL MAC DIARMID  
ROSEMARY CORBIN

KATHY BARNES  
BRUCE BARTRAM  
DORI FREITAS  
RUTH WILSON  
PAULA FERGUSON  
DON AMANTITE  
LISA OGLES  
ANNA SCHWARTZ  
ELNORA SURDAM  
ERIC HOILAND  
MELISSA DRISCOLL  
JOHN MAXWELL  
SHARON MERTLE  
GORDON MILLER



The Point Richmond  
History Association  
wishes to gratefully acknowledge  
a contribution made to our  
Building Fund  
given in memory of:

**Ronnie Roselius Turner**

by  
Wm. & Alyce Williamson

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership (check one)

- |                          |                   |         |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | SINGLE            | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | SENIOR (65+)      | 10.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | FAMILY            | 25.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | HISTORY PRESERVER | 50.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | CORPORATE SPONSOR | 75.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | HISTORY MAKER     | 100.00  |

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 and 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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*Gary Shows, Editor*  
*Margarita Hain, Fund Raising*  
*Sarah Eeles, Archives/Oral History*  
*James Cheshareck, Archives*

### TRIBUTE FUND

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

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ In Honor \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory

of \_\_\_\_\_

From \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please send acknowledgement to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tributes will be acknowledged in the newsletter

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<i>Mid Dornan</i>	234-5334
<i>Gary Shows</i>	235-1336
<i>FAX</i>	644-1286

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*Jan Burdick*  
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*Don Church (photo collection)*  
*Members of the PRHA*  
*Allan Smith*  
*Anne Hanzlik*  
*Jean Reynolds*  
*Muriel Clausen*  
*Willard R. Spiersch*  
*Sarah Eeles*  
*Josephine Palenchar*  
*Roy Jones*  
*Ann Bisio (Pucci)*

.....thanks



# **CALENDAR**

## **APRIL**

- April 2**                      **Women's Westside Improvement Club  
Meeting, 11:30 AM, Our Lady of Mercy Church**
- Point Richmond Neighborhood Council  
Meeting, 7:30 PM, Point Community Center**
- April 10**                      **Point Richmond Business Association  
Meeting, Noon, The Hotel Mac**
- Business Association/History Association  
Dinner Celebrating Hotel Mac's 80th Birthday**
- April 15**                      **Income Tax Returns due**
- April 26**                      **DEADLINE FOR TPIT MAY ISSUE**
- May 7**                        **Women's Westside Improvement Club  
Meeting, 11:30 AM, Our Lady of Mercy Church**
- Point Richmond Neighborhood Council  
Meeting 7:30 PM, Point Community Center**
- May 9**                        **Point Richmond Stroll**
- May 12**                      **Mother's Day**
- May 13**                      **Point Richmond Business Association  
Meeting, Noon, The Hotel Mac**
- May 19**                      **Point Richmond History Association Meeting  
1:00 PM, Point Community Center**
- May 27**                      **Memorial Day Observed**
- June 4**                        **Women's Westside Improvement Club  
Meeting, 11:30 AM, Our Lady of Mercy Church**