

# THIS POINT

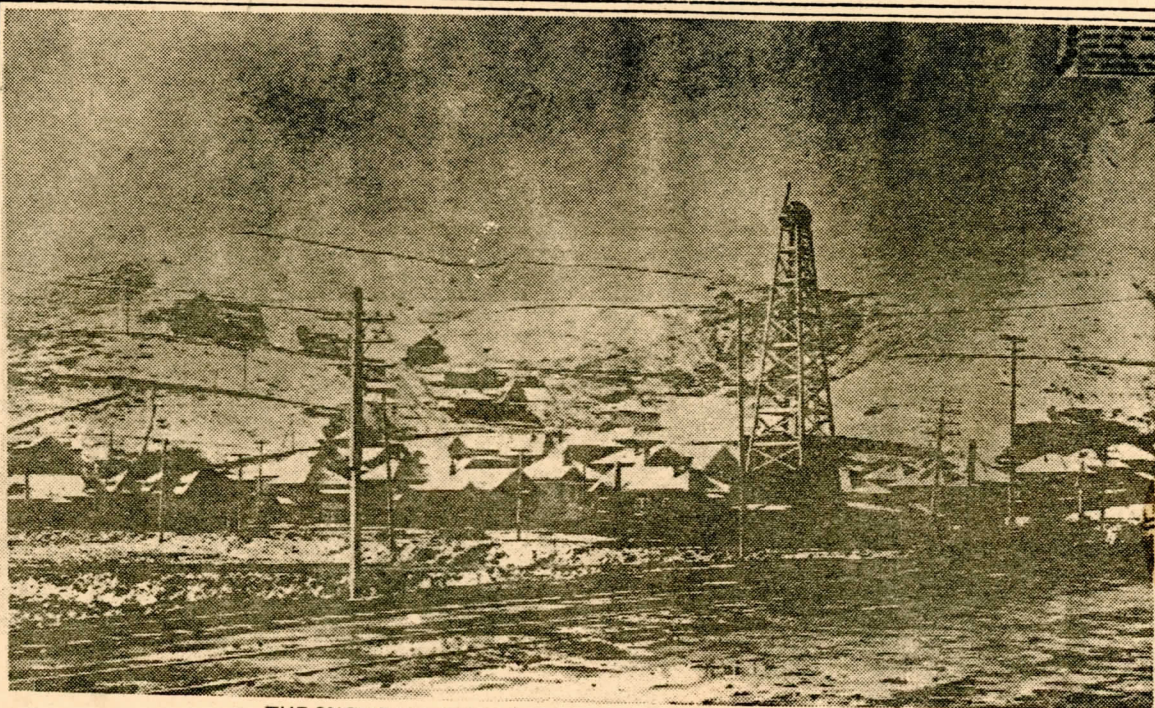
NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL. V, No.5

DECEMBER-JANUARY, 1986-7

75 cents



THE SNOWFALL THAT COVERED POINT RICHMOND

FOUR INCHES OF SNOW BLANKETED THE POINT – EVEN J.N.'S (John Nicholl's) OIL WELL, ON JANUARY 10, 1913.

The oil well was located where the present "Plunge" grounds are now, and it became the reason for building the indoor swimming pool, since instead of hitting oil, the drill hit an artesian well.

(Photo from the Don Church Collection, courtesy of Chevron USA & George Martin)

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## in time



# ❖ HISTORY ASSOCIATION NOTES ❖

## DINNER—THEATER PARTY SLATED FOR JANUARY 22

In place of the regular January meeting, the Point Richmond Historical Association will sponsor an evening of dinner and the theater for members and friends of the Association.

For a donation of \$25, participants will enjoy dinner at the Hotel Mac and adjourn to the Masquers Playhouse for a performance of the romantic comedy-drama "The Barretts of Wimpole Street".

Set in 1845, the play tells the story of the enduring love between two famous literary figures, Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning, despite her cruel and domineering father's pathological opposition to love and marriage for any of his daughters.

Based on historical fact, this is indeed an engrossing, exciting evening of theater!

Tickets for the benefit evening may be purchased from any Board member and early reservations should be made for dinner to allow time for service and a leisurely meal before curtain time.

What a marvelous gift to put under the tree for that inevitable person on your list who 'has everything'! You might even want to drop a hint to someone that you'd appreciate an evening out as your own Christmas gift.

Hey, why not make it your gift to yourself! See you there on January 22 - start the year with a truly gala evening!

## MARINERS' NIGHT — WHAT A TRIP!

You could almost smell the salt air as the veteran mariners spun their yarns about their many years on bay and ocean at the November 20 meeting in Linsley Hall.

On board for a real seafaring adventure — many of them, in fact — were Tom Edwards, James Forbes, Jim Hurley, Henry O'Hara, Allan Smith, Luciano Forner, and Louise Banks (who described life as the wife of a mariner).

Serving on ferry boats and tugs on the bay and freighters and tankers on the ocean, the panel of speakers described voyages taken, ships sailed on, and some of the hazards encountered in their sea-going or bay-sailing careers.

Some made trips on the same ships — some during peace-time — some during war time. We'll tell you more in February!

## PRHA BOARD CRUISES BAY

*by Mid Dorman*

A Point Richmond History Association junket? Well . . . yes! For information furnished about the Point by our knowledgeable and always cooperative president, Donna Roselius, for use on their bay tours, the San Francisco Blue and Gold Fleet expressed appreciation by sending her complimentary bay cruise passes. Naturally, the Board accepted Donna's kind invitation to join her and opted to use the passes on Saturday, October 25, the day of the Bay Bridge's 50th birthday celebration!

As we neared the toll plaza, the spirit and air of excitement caught us and it flowed



right along to the Wharf and aboard the boat. All this, and a perfect no-wind, warm sunny day, too - with a cloudless blue sky reflected in the deeper blue bay waters. It was a day truly made for celebrating.

As the boat approached the huge, candled birthday cake displayed on the bridge pier, spontaneous cries of 'Happy Birthday Bridge' were heard, as camera shutters clicked away.

Board members unable to stay in the City for a close-up view of the fireworks display later partied on cracked crab at the Roselius home. Next, an ideal viewing spot was selected for 'oohing and ahing' as the booming combination fireworks-laser display lit up the night sky and the glassy surface of the bay.

Tiny lights marked the parade of small boats toward the bridge and so many planes circled overhead that one wondered which would collide first, boats or planes! (Fortunately, neither!) Lasting almost a half hour, the spectacular display, with the crystal-clear lights of the City in the background, provided a perfect ending for a glorious day.

Lucky participants were Jerry Cerkanowicz, Mid Dornan, Frankie Greenlaw, Margarita Hain, Liz McDonald, Donna Roselius and Pam Wilson.

### MEMBERS

*Pam Wilson, membership chairman  
521 Western Drive  
Pt. Richmond, CA 94801*

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

Rhoda Ayers	Anna Gaumer
Teresa Albro	Raymond Golden
Mary J. Basile	Zoanna Kille
Anna Booth	Virginia Kennedy
Laura R. Carey	Frank Lopez
Judge & Mrs. George	Stan Nystrom
D. Carroll	John Piazza
Lloyd & Melba Farley	Kay Pinkerton
Mary J. Forbes	Gary Shows

*Ready with lights from on high - Steve Burman is assisted by Point firemen Gene Alsbury and Fred Dent (somewhere below, controlling the rig). photo by Dierdre Cerkanowicz*



### ALL LIT UP . . .

*by Frankie Greenlaw*

It took most of the day and even a bit of the dusk, but Santa's helpers did it, at last! AND Santa, herself, made the scene to put in the plug that turned the spruce tree and the community center and firestation rooflines in the triangle a-glow with colored lights. A steady stream of visitors to the Center had viewed the works of local artists of the Point Art Guild, done a little Christmas shopping there, sampled the cookies and punch sold by the West Richmond Improvement Club members (those were home-made goodies, too, folks!), and a few had even made or ordered bricks to be laid in the park come springtime.



Roy Jones, our inimitable musician-about-town, poured out Christmas spirit from the keys of his not-so-mighty but definitely musical electric organ most of the day. With a little help from those ever-helpful elves, the instrument was carried outside as daylight disappeared.

Next, the magic moment — the lights went on in the Center and in many nearby stores and the assembled onlookers burst into Christmas carols, accompanied by Roy.

A heart-felt vote of thanks is owed by the community to those hard-working 'elves' for an early Christmas gift of light and holiday spirit!

*Thanks to all who took part, and here are the names of those we know about:*

*David Vincent, Steve Berman, Jay and Marsha Ward (elves)*

*June Davies, donor of the pole from which the tree lights are suspended.*

*Gene Alsbury, Captain, Engine 61, and Fred Dent, Engineer, Engine 61, both of the Point Fire Station, who manned the 'cherry picker' to put up the pole for the lights*

*Cash donors: Susan Lompa, Richmond Boat Works, Pat Sheahan Real Estate, American Plotterpaper Company, Griff Brazil - Hotel Mac, Lucretia Edwards, Jim Ballard, Marsha Ward, The Point Bar and Restaurant, Point Richmond Neighborhood Council, Pacific Coast Truck Repair, Paul Hughes.*

*Flyer mailing: Point History Assoc.*

## IN PURSUIT OF HISTORICAL TRIVIA

*courtesy of Stan Nystrom*

### ANSWER:

If you came up with three as the answer to last month's historical trivia question regarding women council members prior to the present day's Rosemary Corbin and LaVonne Niccolls, you are correct; but naming them is a bit difficult. One of them served four terms as Mayor, in addition. One of those terms was during the early days of World War II, when shipyard boom made such an impact on Richmond. (Until recently, mayors were selected by the council members from among their membership.)

The data below was excerpted from a listing compiled by City Clerk A. C. Faris in 1944, as it appeared in Joseph C. Witnah's book, 'A History of Richmond, California, the City That Grew from a Rancho'. (Note that this was in an era long before 'women's lib'.)

"Marie L. Ogborn: Appointed May 19, 1919 to fill vacancy caused by death of J. B. Ogborn . . . Elected for two year term . . . May

12, 1919. Re-elected in 1921 for six year term. Defeated for re-election in 1927."

"Mattie A. Chandler: Appointed August 4, 1924 to fill vacancy caused by death of M. H. Carey. Re-elected in 1925. Served as Mayor 1926-1929 and in 1942-1943. Re-elected in 1931. Re-elected in 1937. Did not run for re-election in 1943."

"Helen M. Collins: Appointed August 20, 1928 to fill vacancy caused by death of John I. Collins, to serve until June 30, 1929. Did not run for re-election."

### QUESTION:

Whether it was by automobile, bicycle, skateboard or jogging shoes, most of us have gone through it innumerable times and not given it much thought.

The subject is the vehicular tunnel in Point Richmond that connects Garrard Boulevard and Dornan Drive. The trivia question is about walking, or more exactly, marching through it.

How many Army-standard, 30-inch steps would be necessary to transit from portal to portal, in either direction?

(Note: a sincere apology to LaVonne Niccolls for misspelling her name in last month's question. S.R.N.)





## Points in the Past

Articles from the Richmond Daily Independent or the Richmond Independent, courtesy of the Richmond Public Library, with the special assistance of the reference librarians.

### 70 YEARS AGO

by Dierdre Cerkonowicz

*Not a lot of excitement this month – many advertisements for Christmas and recipes for holiday feasts.*

*Gasoline is up to 20 cents a gallon – onions \$4.50 a sack – grocers claim they are being gouged by whoesalers.*

*The highway (San Pablo avenue) isn't finished yet and the 'Plunge' is still just an idea.*

*The best headline of the year is 'Marin Water Company Will Dissolve'!*

#### BREAKS AMERICAN AEROPLANE ENDURANCE RECORD

"Miss Ruth Law, long known for her daring aeroplane feats, started a flight from Chicago to New York City, Sunday, Nov. 19, but found it necessary to land at Hornell, N. Y., 590 miles from Chicago. In flying that far she broke the American endurance record, made by Victor Carlstrom the other day, when, engaged in a similar feat, he flew 152 miles from Chicago to Erie, Pa."

December 2, 1916

#### GASOLINE(sic) UP TO 20 CENTS

'Gasoline advanced to 20 cents this morning. This is an increase of one cent over the old price and is caused according to the officials of the Standard Oil Company to the increase demand and the lessened production. That it will stop at 20 cents is still a matter of future development.'

December 2, 1916

#### FEDERAL COURT INVESTIGATES TITLE TO WHARF PROPERTY

'Whether the title of the Santa Fe railway company to about six acres of land adjoining and including a small strip of land upon which the municipal wharf is located is valid and the city must purchase it will be considered by the federal district court in San Francisco in the suit to be heard commencing next Friday. It is likely that it will be a year or two before the matter is finally adjusted through the various courts which it will likely travel.'

Under an agreement with the railway company, the city has gone ahead and improved part of the land and is now preparing to build a combination spur track and bulkhead back of the wharf to fill in the greater part of the land in question.'

December 2, 1916

#### HEAVY STORM HITS RICHMOND

'Rain that fell in torrents and with unusual volume swept over Richmond this morning turning even the highest sections of Macdonald avenue and other streets into waterways that would have floated small boats. . . The ferry steamer Van Damme tied up to the slip last evening and did not operate today on account of the high wind and heavy seas running in the channel.'

December 2, 1916



## MIRAMAR CHAPTER HOLDS MEET FOR RETIRING RULERS

Surprises and enthusiastic exemplification of the fraternal spirit marked the last meeting of the present officers of Miramar Chapter, Order of Eastern Star at Fraternal hall last evening. The retiring officers, headed by Mrs. Elizabeth Gnaga, worthy matron, and Dr. C. L. Abbott, worthy patron, surprised their officers by presenting each of the subordinate officers of the lodge with a suitable engraved spoon. . . Mrs. Gnaga was surprised to find a large special cake at her plate . . . Bluebirds denoting happiness were . . . in the decorations.'

*December 2, 1916*

## CONCESSIONS AT NEW YEARS FETE

Lodges and local businessmen are competing for the concession spaces . . . marked off in the Municipal wharf building for New Years day when celebration of completion of the first unit of the city waterfront improvements will be held. . . the building will house a specially laid dance floor 100 x 60 feet. . . decorations of the building and exterior . . . and along the tunnel and highway will be very elaborate.'

*December 2, 1916*

**Point Theatre Tomorrow**  
**SUNDAY MATINEE and EVENING**



**Positively  
my last  
appearance  
in  
Richmond  
IN  
Behind  
the Screen**

CHARLIE CHAPLIN

**Come and Laugh the Old Year Out**

1916 ad

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE URGES COMPLETION OF HIGHWAY

'A meeting of the directors of the Richmond Chamber of Commerce was held at the Elks Club today at noon. . . The matter of the slow progress of work on the state highway along San Pablo avenue was . . . thoroughly discussed . . . Secretary J. A. Long was instructed to draw up a set of resolutions urging more speedy work as this strip of road is in a most deplorable condition. . . (and these) sent to the State Highway Commission, Governor Johnson etc.'

*December 2, 1916*

## CONVICT ESCAPES SAN QUENTIN— FLEES ON FERRY 'VAN DAMME'

'First officer Ray Fahrenholtz of the Richmond San Rafael Ferry 'Van Damme' positively identified the picture of John T. Smith, known to the police as 'Forty Year' Smith, who escaped from San Quentin yesterday, as being that of a man who came across on the boat on the 2:15 trip yesterday afternoon.

According to Fahrenholtz, Smith came aboard . . . with the driver of a wagon and through some misunderstanding, got aboard without paying his fare of 15 cents. . . A reward of \$50 is offered for his apprehension.

The soubriquet, 'Forty Year' was given (Smith) at the time of a sentence of forty years in Folsom for robbery. The case was reversed by the Supreme Court of the State and Smith was given his liberty.'

*December 8, 1916*

## MARRIAGE LICENSE ISSUED

Alfredo Pucci, 42, of Point Richmond, and Fannie Lucchesi, 28, of San Francisco obtained a marriage license in San Francisco yesterday.'

*December 8, 1916*



## NYSTROMS ARE HURT WHEN AUTO OVERTURNS

Mrs. Alfred Nystrom suffered a badly sprained arm and shoulder, the three years old son of Edwin Nystrom is badly lacerated and may have a broken arm and Mrs. Edwin Nystrom is suffering from many bruises and lacerations as a result of an automobile accident nine miles north of San Rafael on the San Rafael-Petaluma road . . . last evening. All have been returned to their homes here. . . the party . . . were hurrying to catch the Richmond-San Rafael ferry. . . Al Nystrom, who was driving, . . . The car struck a sharp crown in the road and turned turtle, pinning the party under the auto.

Help arrived immediately and all were able to get out (but) Al Nystrom who was pinned down by the steering (sic) wheel. It required the effort of nearly a dozen persons to lift the car from him. He is not injured except for a few bruises. 'That I was driving only about 10 miles an hour at the time and that I had the top up is all that saved our lives,' said Al Nystrom.'

*December 11, 1916*

## GROCERS FIGHT TO BEAT DOWN ONION COST

'Help us beat the food gougers' say Richmond grocers. This appeal has also been sent to the San Francisco retail grocers association. . . . grocers want to beat down the price of onions which have gone to \$4.50 per sack. . . 'If the people will quit eating onions for three or four months the ring will be broken' say the grocers.'

*December 11, 1916*

## VIOLATE MOTOR VEHICLE ACT

'Gus B. Green, a saloonkeeper of the west side was arrested last night by the police for violating the motor vehicle act. Green left his automobile standing in the street without having any lights in evidence after dark.'

*December 11, 1916*

## CITY ASKS TIME TO ACCEPT MUNICIPAL BATH HOUSE

'In compliance with the request of the Playground Commission, the City Council will ask John Nicholl for an extension of time in which to accept (his) offer of the site for a municipal bath house.'

*December 11, 1916*

## HIGHWAY WORK MUST WAIT

'No more grading on the state highway along San Pablo avenue until the spring time is the announcement made today from the inland sea of mud about Stege Junction. The topping will be placed upon all work which has been concreted and work will then be suspended until sunshine becomes the daily menu.

The condition of the avenue this winter promises to be the worst in the half century that it has been used as a road.'

*December 18, 1916*

## MARIN WATER CO. WILL DISSOLVE JANUARY FIFTH

'The Marin County Water company has called a meeting of its stockholders for January 5, 1917, in its offices in San Francisco to take the necessary steps to dissolve the corporation.'

*December 18, 1916*

## BOARD DISCUSSES SITES

A bond issue for approximately \$150 thousand to provide the municipally owned salt water baths and three play grounds for . . . the city was tentatively agreed upon by the new Recreation Commission and the Playground Committee of the Parent-teachers association . . . last evening. . .

James T. Narbett stated that the San Rafael municipal baths had cost about \$65 thousand and that it has earned as high as \$300 per month from swimming patrons. The location of the bath house on the Nicholl site to be given free with the use of



the fresh water well was decided upon. . .

It is not planned by the committee to purchase any additional land at the Point, but to provide money to equip the present playground at Washington school. This playground is now the best in Richmond, due largely to the efforts of the businessmen and clubwomen of the west side who have been generous in supporting the project.'

December 29, 1916

### RAIN OR SHINE, CELEBRATION WILL TAKE PLACE

The New Year's celebration awaits the date only. Saturday night, weather permitting, a 'Horrible Parade', Mardi Gras, Band Concerts and dancing in the streets will 'start the ball a'rollin' and the rest of the 'big dish' will follow.

Come rain or shine, festivities will be held in the magnificent new building (on Municipal Wharf) in celebration of New Year's and completion of the Municipal Wharf and Tunnel. . . Cash and valuable prizes will be given to various contestants in the drills and contests which are to take place. . . special fancy dancing by Carrie Ellsworth . . . dancing for all the entire afternoon and evening on specially constructed floor. . . 60,000 square feet floor space for games, races, dancing and competitive drills and drum corps contests.'

December 29, 1916

### 60 YEARS AGO . . .

by Sarah Eeles

### NICHOLL WILL SUIT IS FILED

'San Francisco - . . . The complaint alleges that when John H. Nicholl made his will two years ago he was incompetent and was unduly influenced by Mrs. Minnie V. Nicholl, his second wife. Nicholl bequeathed to each of his three children by his

first wife \$5000 and no more. All the rest of his estate Nicholl bequeathed to his second wife.

Five years ago, Nicholl was divorced in Superior Judge Morgan's court by Mrs. Lily Nicholl after a division of property . . .

At one time Nicholl owned a large part of the townsite of Richmond.

The will provides that if any heir contests it, he shall be given only \$1.00.'

December 3, 1926

### FERRY FARE TO S. F. REDUCED

'A reduction has been made in round trip automobile ferry rates between San Francisco and Richmond, according to J. T. Saunders and F. S. McGinnis, respectively, freight and traffic managers for the Southern Pacific company, it was announced from the Richmond chamber of commerce today.

Effective January 15 the round trip fare for an automobile and one passenger between San Francisco and Richmond will be reduced from \$1.55 to \$1.20.'

December 16, 1926



*Our kindest CHRISTMAS THANKS  
for a Prosperous Season*

The management of the Point Theatre wishes  
you one and all

A MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY  
NEW YEAR

**The Point Theatre**

R. TCHERASSY, Mgr.

1916 ad



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1916 ad



## OLD HOTEL ON WEST SIDE GIVEN NEW NAME

'The old Roma hotel at 117 Standard avenue, recently moved back 23 feet to permit the widening of Standard avenue, has been renamed after the birthplace of its owner, Joseph Matteucci. In the future the establishment will be known as the New Lucca hotel.

Matteucci has completely remodeled and repainted the interior and exterior of the hotel and restaurant. A specialty is being made of Italian and French-American dinners.'

*December 21, 1926*

## 50 YEARS AGO

*by Sarah Eeles*

### CAR STANDS ON NOSE IN FREAK ACCIDENT

'A strange accident in which a skidding car finally came to a stop standing on its radiator with its rear wheels up in the air, took place on the Winehaven road this morning. . . (the) machine skidded on wet pavement, ran backwards up the side of a bank and then toppled forward on its nose.'

*December 9, 1936*

### MAN BADLY BURNED PUTS OUT FIRE IN APARTMENT HOUSE

'A blaze that for awhile this morning threatened a West Side apartment house was extinguished by the Richmond fire department through an alarm turned in by a deaf mute tenant. . .

The fire broke out in the three-story Cramer apartments at 10 Nicholl avenue, when a can of paint L. E. Rich was heating over an open gas flame caught fire. . . Arthur Jatte, a deaf mute tenant . . . who lived in an adjoining apartment, discovered the blaze when the vibrations and commotion caused him to go to his door and investi-

gate.

He ran to the West Side fire station where, by coincidence, he met Louis Willett, a fireman who is able to converse in sign language. . .

. . . Rich was treated for first and second degree burns at Richmond hospital.'

*December 19, 1936*

### WEST SIDE ROSARY FOR EDWARD MCDUFF

'Rosary for the late Edward McDuff, 57, prominent West Side hotel operator, who died yesterday in his home at 112 Washington avenue will be recited . . . tonight.'

*Note: Mr. McDuff ran the St. James hotel - now the Ivy Inn - on Cottage avenue for some 30 years.*

## 40 YEARS AGO . . .

*by Pam Wilson*

### CORSAIR PAYS SHORT VISIT

'The largest pleasure yacht ever launched in the United States was a Richmond visitor yesterday.

En route from New York to Seattle, the \$2,000,000 Corsair, luxurious personal craft of the late J. Pierpont Morgan, refueled at Standard Oil's Long Wharf.

. . . Purchased from its former owners in Bermuda, the Corsair is now owned by the Skinner and Eddy corporation, and reportedly will be placed in service as an Alaska luxury cruise ship.'

*December 20, 1946*

### WASHINGTON P-TA

'Final plans for the Christmas party for the children were discussed at the meeting of the Washington PT-A held this week. Mrs. R. W. Henderson presided. B. Shreve spoke on school conditions and a report on the recent rag drive was given by Mrs. Louis McCown. . . Refreshments were ser-



ved by Mesdames Ruby Simmons and W. Geddes. . .

December 19, 1946

### TELEPHONE COMPANY TO EXPAND LOCAL OFFICE FOR DIAL SWITCH

'Improvements designed to eventually switch the telephone system from manual to dial operation and aggregating expenditures of \$1,471,000 were revealed today by local officials of Pacific Telephone Company. Announcement of the proposed change to dial operation was made some time ago, but not until today was it disclosed that the wing on the present central office building at 2105 Macdonald avenue will cost in the neighborhood of \$980,000.

... The building will house the latest type of dial central office, and the suppliers' installation forces will be putting in the dial equipment simultaneously with construction of the building so that all telephones will be cut into service immediately upon completion of construction.'

December 19, 1946

### 30 YEARS AGO . . .

by Pam Wilson

### POPULAR PAIR HONORED ON 36TH ANNIVERSARY

Honored recently on the occasion of their 36th wedding anniversary were Mr. and Mrs. Fred O. Gebhart of Western Drive, long-time Richmond residents. Robert and Frances Greenlaw, elder daughter of the popular couple, hosted a gala champagne party to celebrate the nuptial milestone at their new Pinole Estates home.

Included in the guest list, in addition to immediate family members, were members of the original wedding party who gathered at the Gnaga home on Western Drive to witness the marriage ceremony. Localites present '36 years later' on last Sunday

afternoon were Mrs. Elizabeth Gnaga, Mrs. Gebhart's mother; Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Gnaga, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. McGee, Penny and Gerry McGee, Mrs. Lyda Yeadon Mr. and Mrs. Leo Viano, Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Whitehouse, and the hosts' children, Russell, David and Laurie Lynne Greenlaw.

Out-of-town guests were Mr. and Mrs. Chester Ashley, Redwood City, and Mr. and Mrs. William Morrison, Walnut Creek.

Sending congratulations but unable to attend were Mr. and Mrs. G. K. Chapman (Gwen Gebhart) and Sydney, Whittier; Mr. and Mrs. Mark Gebhart, Reseda; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ellsworth (Esther Gebhart), Whittier; Mrs. Maude Shea and Errol Shea, Port Costa; and Emil Esola, Richmond.

December 1, 1956

**POINT**  
*Theatre*  
RICHMOND, CALIF.

LAST TIMES TONIGHT AT 8 P.M.  
ALL STAR CAST  
"Ziegfeld Follies  
of 1946"  
PLUS  
TOM CONWAY  
"TWO O'CLOCK  
COURAGE"  
NEWS

TOMORROW  
MARIA MONTEZ  
JON HALL  
"Ali Babi and the  
Forty Thieves"  
In Technicolor  
PLUS  
WILLIAM GARGAN  
MARIA PALMER  
"Rendezvous 24"  
CARTOON  
\$ LUCKY NIGHT \$

1946 ad (note the spelling of Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves)



## POINT CHURCH SETS DESSERT TEA

'A gay Christmas carousel will center the tea table on Wednesday when members of Woman's Society of Christian Service, First Methodist Church, Martina and West Richmond avenues in Point Richmond, hostess a dessert Christmas sale. Chairman Mrs. Harry Resh will display Christmas decorations. . .dessert will be served . . .under the direction of Mrs. Harry Hardwick. . .'

*December 3, 1956*

## POINT EAGLES PLAN DINNER

'Mrs. George Hawley presided at the recent meeting of the Point Richmond Eagles Auxiliary in the absence of Mrs. Hugh Wilcox who is vacationing in the east.

Further plans were made for the Christmas dinner to be held Wednesday, December 12. Mrs. Andrew Anfibolo, sewing club chairman, announced that a fancy work sale will be held at the dinner. Members were reminded to bring donations for the grocery box. . .'

*December 8, 1956*

## A NOT-TALL-AT-ALL TURKEY'S TALE

*by Roy Jones*

Last Spring Dean and Winifred brought home to the Jones residence a tiny, ugly, forlorn bird from the feed store. After several months of TLC, this little bird grew into a huge, 31-pound turkey gobbler, mighty and macho, given to strutting his fine feathers wherever he found an audience.

His route each day included the post office, the launderette, the library, 'Jumbo's' and various and sundry points in between. He displayed his multicolored plumage,

posed for cameras, gobbled on cue and changed his wattle from grey to blue to red.

At first, due to our ignorance, he was named 'Tallulah'; when it became obvious that we was a tom, we, lacking imagination, settled for 'Thomas'.

Thomas, then, was fowl-ly kidnapped, but returned to us after two weeks, due to public pressure brought to bear by his devoted public on the known perpetrators.

Instinct somehow had him fighting dogs-about-town. On one occasion, this resulted in a trip to the vet and 18 stitches. (When we went to pick him up, Thomas was posing with the vet and his nurse, his pride, at least, uninjured!) Of course, he returned to attack the same dog that very day.

Thomas made more friends in the Point in a few weeks than most of us 'higher' creatures have in years. He was invited to parties, where he was the guest of honor; he loved fire trucks; he freely offered his friendship, being unaware of social classes.

These days, Thomas is visiting in the country; in fact, he is keeping company with a gorgeous turkey hen. He's very much alive and well and will return after the New Year arrives, if only for a visit. You see, it would seem our popular 'turkey-about-town' may soon have a family of his very own to think about! (Oh, well, such is life and such is the fate that often as not befalls handsome 'hunks'!)

**TOYS - DOLLS**  
And many other articles suitable for presents  
**AT LUCKETT'S**  
You are invited to call and see this stock of  
Toys and Dolls, Games and Blocks; also Fair-  
dies and Nuts, before buying your gifts for  
**CHRISTMAS**

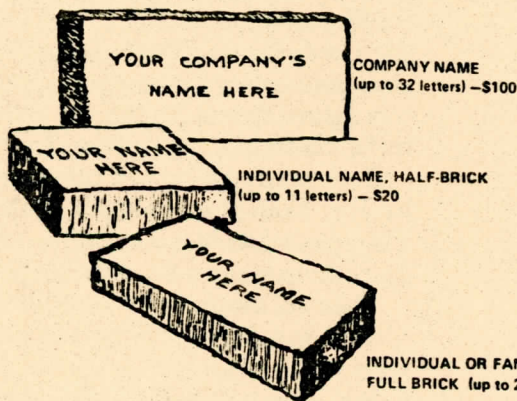
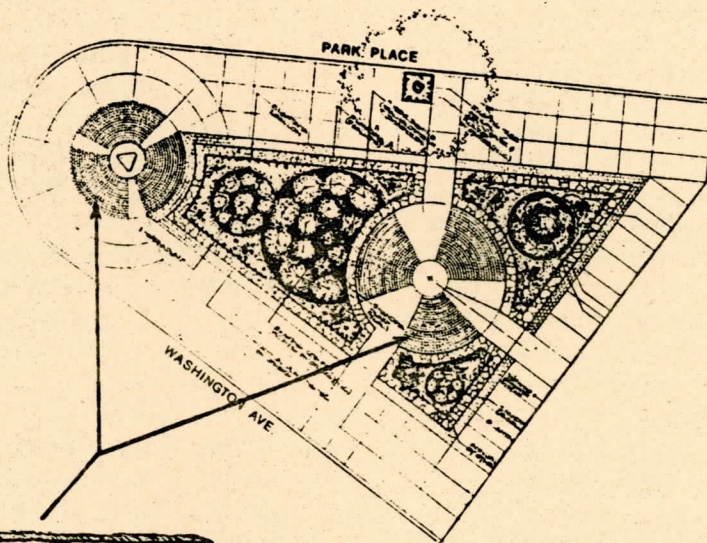
*1902 ad*



# NAME YOUR BRICK



in the INDIAN STATUE PARK..



*...a great  
and enduring  
gift for  
anyone!*

USE THE FORM BELOW  
TO ORDER YOUR  
PERSONALIZED BRICK

JOIN THE GRASS ROOTS MOVEMENT TO CREATE A PARK BY PEOPLE, FOR PEOPLE. For additional information, call 235-4222.

Send this form to the Point Richmond History Association, P.O.Box 364, Point Richmond, California 94807

Enclosed is \_\_\_\_\_, for Brick(s) inscribed as follows:

(for \$20) \_\_\_\_\_  
(for \$35) \_\_\_\_\_  
(for \$100) \_\_\_\_\_

name \_\_\_\_\_ address \_\_\_\_\_ tel.no. \_\_\_\_\_



# CHURCHES

## OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH

by *Marion Downey*

An anonymous person has donated \$10,000.00 to help build the ramp and make the rest rooms accessible to the handicapables. Also, at the last Parish meeting, it was decided to dedicate the ramp in memory of our late beloved Patricia Ann McKinley.

Tony Ferreira is the Director of Catechumenates (those wishing to become Catholics). Meetings are on Wednesdays at 6 p. m. in the Rectory.

Each Thursday, bags of groceries are given out to increasing numbers of needy families.

On December 14, St. Vincent de Paul Society will help put on a breakfast in the church hall. On that day also, the Knights of Columbus will help Santa at a party for the children.

On Thanksgiving Eve, Father Denis and a number of parishioners attended the ecumenical services at the Methodist church.

Congratulations to Michael Edwin Roberts and Pauline Ann Marie Gilder who were married November 21.

## POINT METHODIST CHURCH

by *Mid Dorman*

*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 nineteenth installment, copied as written.*

" April 21, 1909

The Womans Home Missionary Society met at the church. The meeting was opened

by the President and led in Prayer by Mrs. Conry. The minutes was read and approved. The Program was carried out with the general reading of Missionary literature on the frontier.

Mrs. Totten paid dues	.50	cts
Mrs. Bradley	dues	.50
Mrs. Conry	dues	.50
Mrs. Pritchard	dues	.50

Mrs. Shoemaker gave 10 cts. Mrs. Conry gave 35 cts for Woman's Home Missions."

"May 21

The Missionary Society met at the home of Hustons. For refreshments. \$1.05

L C Pritchard sect/s"

"June 18, 1909

The Womans Home Missionary Society met at the home of Mrs. Bradley. The meeting was opened by the Presiden in reading scripture lesson and all repeating the Lords Prayer. The Program was then given and a very interesting talk by Mrs. Younglove then a reading by Mrs. Butterfield also reading by Mrs. Truitt.

The meeting was then called to order by Mrs. Younglove and new business Mrs. Younglove and Mrs. Garrard would act on committee to visit with the girls.

Then on motion and married the society will pay \$5.00 for paint for the seats in the church.

Mrs. Stout, Mrs. H. Gover, Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. I. Lester gave their names for meber ship in the society. Mrs. Totten paid dues .50 Mrs. I. Lester paid dues .20

Mrs. H. Grover paid for the year. \$1.10

Mrs. Butterfield paid dues .40

	2.20
for refreshments	2.00

Total \$4.20

L C Pritchard sect/s"



## POINT BAPTIST CHURCH

*Quotes and Comments  
by Roy Jones*

In the past two issues of our Point newsletter, we had begun to present a chronological list of past ministers that served our church, starting in 1901 with Reverend W. A. Chapman, followed by Reverend A. C. Austin. Next came Reverend W. M. Riddle – the year, 1911 – followed by a certain Reverend Frank Horn. Reverend Horn came to us from the Baptist Church in King City, CA, and our church exonerated him of charges of dishonesty at that church. The column last week left off with Reverend Horn having ordered 300 church directories from a printing company. That company writes us on March 15, 1913, after we had to cancel our order with them.

It seems that Reverend Horn was up to his old tricks and had spent the money donated for the directories elsewhere! (No one is perfect!) A. A. Shelby Co. of Los Angeles writes, as follows:

'We sincerely regret the shadow your Rev. Horn cast over the church and trust that you now have a pastor that is in every way worthy of his high calling. . . 'Hoping to hear from you and trusting that I may yet be able to furnish your church with a directory that will be in every way satisfactory, I remain yours truly, A. A. Shelby/s'

We will get along with this list of pastors in the next issue. There is so much happening here and now that I want to mention – great goings on in the Point!

The Thanksgiving Eve celebration last Wednesday at the Methodist Church was indeed a blessing to all attending. Four men, all ministers of the Gospel, combined hearts and minds to conduct a beautiful, meaningful service that prompted us all to count our blessings.

We had Father Denis (Catholic), Reverend Rick Knott (Baptist), who gave the devotional, Father Russ Moore (Episcopal), and the host church's Reverend Charles Smith (Methodist). Reverend Smith, with his impeccable manners, homey friendliness and sincerity, afforded us an evening of worship that will long be remembered and discussed.

The music at the service was varied and well presented – Tricia Robles, with her exquisite technique at the organ; Mike Mirabella, with his guitar and songs of freedom and of praise; the uplifting gospel songs of the Gospel Pointers Quartet; and the joyous a cappella voice of Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds and their Sacred Harp Quartet. Sacred music at its spiritual finest to truly set our souls and hearts in a spirit of Thanksgiving!

To draw the evening to a fitting close, marvelous homemade pastries, coffee, and warm fellowship made all of us glad to have been there for a service of gratitude and praise for Thanksgiving, 1986.

Keep in mind that the annual Christmas program will be held this year at the Point Baptist Church at 7:00 p.m., December 21. How right it seems that the Point churches can get together, combine talents, and cooperate in presenting these programs.

A last bit of history – here on the desk beside the typewriter is a program from the Point Richmond Baptist Church, corner of Washington and Nicholl avenues, dated November 22, 1936 – a Thanksgiving Celebration fifty years ago, almost to the day! Our pastor then was Reverend O. Graves of Richmond. He offered these words as his expression of gratitude –

*'For freedom to greet and worship the Great Spirit in the only way I know – with an abiding trust that He who holds the stars in place will guide me safely through Eternity. For these, today and every day, I am grateful.'*



## CAMP FIRE MEMORIES

by Mid Dorman

*Maude Wood was a Camp Fire Grils leader in the Point, 1932-33. A scrapbook of their activities, 'DIARY OF THE PIKIDA WAKAN CAMP FIRE GROUP' was kept by Pikida, Kokokoho, Wakada, Wapo Moma and Tandy, Indian names the girls chose for themselves. This is the fourth installment of excerpts from the diary.*

"November 17, 1933 Garbage Can Play

Friday the 17th the girls went to the high school play instead of having a meeting. Three of the girls went with Miss Wood. They were Eva Garloff, Betty Williams and Betty Dorman. The plays, The Kelley Kid and Thursday Evening were enjoyed by everyone. After the play, Miss Wood drove the girls over to Berkeley and they all got a hamburger with pickle, onion and garnished with hamburg in between. The hamburger was mostly half cooked onions, but we got it all for a nickel.

Then Miss Wood took us all home and thus was the end of a happy evening.

Wakoda/s"

"New Years Council Fire

The Council Fire was held the Friday before New Years by the Pikida Wakan and the Onchiota groups. Ruth Dingle, Jean Williams, Betty Williams and Betty Dorman gave their talks for their Fire Maker's rank. Ruth's talk was based on Campfire Girls, Jean gave the Rededication or Credo, Betty Williams gave a talk on Camp Fire in the new year, Mary Wilkins gave the creed and Betty Dorman gave a talk on Frances Elizabeth Willard.

The girls then cut a limb off of the Christmas tree and tied a New Years resolution to them and burnt them on the candles of Work, Health and Love. This was a very pretty ceremony.

The Pikida Wakan and the Onchiotas groups each sang a solo. The evening was closed by the girls singing the Council Fire

song. Taps was played on the bugle by Mary Wilkins.

Betty Dorman, formerly  
Wakoda/s"

1916 ad

### Now Is the Time

January first is the time when you can transfer your deposits from outside banks to your home bank without loss of interest. Bring your savings books to us and we will collect your principal and interest, handling the whole transaction without expense. Nothing assists in the upbuilding of Richmond more than the depositing of your funds in our local banks where they may be used for the development of our city.

**Bank of Richmond**

POINT RICHMOND

**WEST SIDE LIBRARY**

by Jan Burdick

The holiday season is one of the busiest times of the year, except for libraries. With shopping to do, cards to write and homes to decorate, patrons find there are no spare minutes to read, let alone borrow books. Circulation figures plummet and library statistics for December show major declines. In this world of data, success is often based on numbers. So—remember your local branch as you turn your 1987 calendar and give those stats a boost in the coming year.

There will be a major attraction at West Side, starting mid-January. VIP Associates will be mounting a photographic show, "Images of Richmond". This group of older adults started as a class with the VISTA college meeting in Albany. They definitely progressed beyond the student stage, as their work will signify. Do make it a point to stop in and see their works. Books on photography will be featured in January.



## A-MID TRIVIA

by *Mid Dorman*(234-5334)

The pre-Christmas rush may do us greater service than we realize. With all its temporal confusion, it may just help us to sense that by contrast, Christmas itself is eternal.

-o-

A new Christmas stocking will be hung at the Eakles home to welcome Aubyn Rose, born November 18 to Lucia and Matt. This is their first child.

-o-

The under-the-weather list includes Caroline Davidson, who has been in Doctor's Hospital in Pinole; Genevieve Smith, Alameda Hospital; Christine Dennis, diagnosed with an ulcer (!); Trannie Dorman is suffering from shingles.

-o-

Coming to the November Point Richmond History Association's 'Mariners' Night' in November were the Herman Ostroms of Calistoga. Herman is a former mariner and long-time Richmond resident.

-o-

Stumped for Christmas gift ideas? Why not a dinner and theater ticket or two? The History Association is sponsoring a 'Night at the Theater (benefits both the history group and the Masquers) on Thursday, January 29. For a mere \$25, you get dinner in the Point PLUS a seat at the Masquers' production of 'The Barretts of Wimpole Street'. Just in time to fill someone's stocking. (Call any Board member for information and tickets.)

-o-

Congratulations to Helen and Vern Valentine for 40 years together. Hosting a celebration on December 20 will be their four 'D's' - David, Don, Dee and Dori. Married in Minnesota, they came to Rich-

mond and lived in the Village for many years. Vern began as a salesman for the Shangri-la Cleaners in El Sobrante and eventually became the owner. Retired, Vern and Helen now live in Suisun but maintain their many friendships in the community. Helen still serves as treasurer of both the Point Methodist Church and its United Methodist Women.

-o-

On December 12 - 13, the youth and adults from the Methodist church will make their annual trip to the Howe's in the mountains to cut Christmas trees. Pat Dorman is chairman of this project and notes that funds raised will go to the youth and related activities.

-o-

Sonja Darling spent a week in Hawaii recently and hated returning to face the 'real life'.

-o-

Remember when homes had only one telephone (if you were lucky) and that was either an upright pedestal model or a good-sized black box on the wall, both with a separate speaker and receiver. You held the receiver to your ear with one hand and spoke into the mouthpiece on the box or the pedestal. (You had to be a sturdy soul to talk for long - those receivers were heavy and hard to hold. And you often talked so loud you might even have been heard over long distance without benefit of telephone wires! Hope you teenagers appreciate those princess phones and push-buttons!

-o-

When do most Americans do their Christmas shopping? A survey says three out of every four gifts are purchased during the five shopping days immediately prior to Christmas Day. (Would you be one to contest the survey?)



The world is divided into those who open presents Christmas morning and those who open theirs on Christmas Eve – but not evenly divided – morning, 45 percent and eve, 55 percent. When do you celebrate?

-o-

Superstitious? If you take a bath between Christmas and New Year's Day, superstition says your spirit will be purged and you'll have good luck in the coming year. (In our superclean American households, that should mean a whole bunch of lucky folks, right?) Also, if a bayberry candle lit on Christmas Eve burns to the end without going out, you'll have good luck in the coming year . . . unless your house burns to the ground, that is!

-o-

Welcome back to the Point for the holidays, all you former Point Richmonders. There really is 'no place like home'. We're always happy to see and hear from you. Let us know when you arrived and whom you visited so those you missed will know that you were 'home for the holidays'.

-o-

MERRY CHRISTMAS . . . are you waiting as fast as you can?

May at least one of your dreams come true in 1987!



Office of Richmond's first newspaper, the Record, early the century. Don Church collection photo

## POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

by Linda Andrew

### HOLIDAY LIGHTING

Treasurer Jay Ward reported \$420 balance for the Holiday Lights Fund with \$50 pledged from Pacific Coast Truck Repair and an undetermined amount from jeweler Oscar Lugo. This brings the fund to near \$500, assuring plenty of lights for the tree-lighting celebration at Triangle Park on Saturday, November 29. David Vincent and Jay Ward will be in charge of setting up the lights on the spruce tree and on the roofline of the Community Center. Businesses in the area have been asked to turn on their holiday lights to coincide with the lighting of the tree at dusk.

### INDIAN STATUE DAY

David Vincent reported that Indian Statue Day activities netted \$2,000 from the sale of raffle tickets, T-shirts and crafts tables. To date, \$8,000 has been received from personalized brick sales, with expenses yet to be deducted. Orders for bricks will be taken through the winter as well as at the tree-lighting day. A mailing using a Richmond Chamber of Commerce list and local organizations' lists will be sent out, with the Point History Association paying postage. These should total about 1100 announcements with brick order blanks on them.

### FREEWAY RAMP

David Vincent relayed a recent conversation with Tom Koch of Supervisor Tom Powers' office regarding the interchange for the Knox Freeway at Castro street or the possible change to Canal boulevard, as rumored. This will be a continuing issue as the North Richmond Bypass is planned in this area. An Environmental Impact Report



has not yet been done on the North Richmond Bypass.

more more more

### PLANNING COMMISSION

Linda Andrew raised the issue of PRNC representation at Planning Commission meetings. She said Commissioner Sidney Pucek had questioned the lack of appearances by the Council at some meetings. Allen Romano will bring agendas and material he receives to PRNC meetings in future for our review. He also will contact Pat Sheahan to explore the possibility of her joining this group as liaison to the Planning Commission. The two then could alternate attendance at Commission meetings.

### NEW STORE

Comment was made that a store opened recently in the old Friendly T V shop location. The shop has not displayed a sign and appears to be selling knives and questionable toys such as guns, survivalist and camouflage gear. No one was sure who owns the store or what plans are for the business. Members of the PRNC expressed concern, since many children pass this location on their way to school.

### QUARTERLY MEETING

The next Point Richmond Neighborhood Council General Public Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 8, 1987, at 8:00 p.m. at the Community Center

## L. E. A. P. PROJECT

### GIVE THE GIFT OF READING

Reading is a lasting gift you can give by becoming a volunteer at the Richmond Public Library's Adult Tutoring Program. The program is called L.E.A.P. — Literacy for Every Adult Project.

You can join the thousands who are part of a statewide adult literacy effort and help an adult start 1987 with the gift of reading.

A four part training program will begin January 15 and 16 with 3-hour orientation sessions, then each Saturday morning January 17, 24 and February 28.

Call Sharon Pastori at 620-6565 for more information.



1976 ad

Ad in a 1902 Richmond newspaper



## TISCORNIA PROPERTY DECISION

by *Lucretia Edwards*

On November 17, 1986, the Richmond City Council adopted a compromise plan for the Tiscornia property in the Point, reducing the number of homes to be built there from 35 homes to 28.

The property, bounded roughly by Western Drive, Santa Fe Avenue and Pacific Avenue, was among many land purchases in the Bay Area made during the 'Great Depression' by Adolf Tiscornia, an attorney expert in condemnation suits and legal matters involving real estate.

Using expertise, skill and foresight, Tiscornia amassed real estate holdings worth millions and was then able to hold on to them as they grew in value to many times their original purchase price. Following his death in the 1970's, a small group of neighborhood residents talked vaguely about a joint purchase of the local site to preserve views and open space in the area. Before they (or the developer of adjacent property) could act, however, the land was sold in

1978 to Harvey Shean, owner-operator of a construction and investment firm in Los Gatos. A contractor of the old school, he had little patience with city ordinances or romantic notions of neighbors as they pertained to development of his property.

A bitter six-year dispute ensued, with Shean attempting to sell off individual parcels for piecemeal development and neighbors fighting for an overall development plan which would preserve the quality of the site, with its spectacular views of San Francisco Bay. Meanwhile, Shean's company went bankrupt in 1981 and he died in 1984.

Next, the City Council placed a moratorium on development of the property pending completion of an environmental impact report and a special study of the 12-acre site. Consultants Wagstaff and Brady were chosen to do the EIR and Special Study, and an Advisory Committee was appointed, made up of two members named by the Point Richmond Neighborhood Council and two from the group of Tiscornia property owners. One of the latter rep-



Washington Avenue looking East, Richmond, Cal.

*An Early Postcard, courtesy of the Peterson family*



resented Del Mar, the major land owner resulting from the Bankruptcy Court decision regarding Shean's company.

During the following year, the committee met many times with the consultant to discuss the detailed land study and numerous alternatives by which the eccentricities of the steep terrain could be overcome for development of the site to the mutual accommodation of the owners and the neighboring residents. The study had disclosed soil problems, slides and underground waterways, making only seven of the twelve acres suitable for building.

While the majority of the advisory group leaned toward the consultant's alternative permitting only twenty homes on the site, Del Mar felt that this would not provide an acceptable level of financial return. Compromising, the committee then voted (three to one, with Del Mar dissenting) for an alternative proposal for twenty five homes, including a plan for placement of these to provide view corridors and open space.

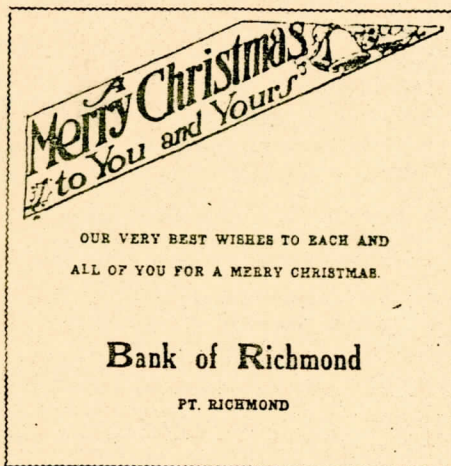
A majority of the Point Neighborhood Council approved this plan, although Del Mar continued to press for thirty five homes, seven of them on a knoll which provides, according to the neighborhood group, the prime view point of the site.

Although the Planning Commission voted October 2, 1986, to accept Del Mar's thirty-five home proposal, the final decision rested with the city council, due to its involvement in the eight-year dispute and the creation of the moratorium.

Following attempts by legal counsel representing the committee and Del Mar to reach a compromise, the matter was heard as an agenda item by the City Council on the 17th, as scheduled. After listening to many opinions presented, the 28-home compromise was adopted, with the proviso that no homes be built

on the small knoll.

The decision leaves Del Mar with some eighteen buildable sites (the remaining ten are individually owned), and all owners of the property faced with solving problems of financing necessary public capital improvements, legal mechanism to implement necessary land swaps, and determination of responsibility for maintenance of the open space mandated by the decision.



1916 ad

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY...

### DECEMBER

Jean Allyn  
Hazel Paasch  
Edna Hathaway  
Fern Eastman  
Les Crim  
Sherry Hartynyk  
Teresa Albro  
Roni Turner  
Mike Turner

Eric Turner  
Seth Fenton  
Cris Creed  
Debbie Seaburg  
Christine Hayes  
Marian Hawkins  
Mark Stevens  
Gerrie Kretzmer  
Marilyn Darling

### JANUARY

Henry Allyn  
Cindy Rosier  
Sonja Darling  
Doug Greiner  
Linda Andrew  
Henry Francis  
Jeff Corbin  
Jim Wilson  
Sara Strayer

Jennie Mitchell  
Joe Travis  
Janine Dollarhide  
Bryan Smith  
Trefry Ross  
Gina Green  
Eddie Paasch  
John Trowbridge  
Betty Moore

Lupe Morris



Please fill out and return this form to renew your membership, or to become a member of the Point Richmond History Association, a non-profit corporation. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

#### TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (CHECK ONE)

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE            | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR (65+)      | 7.50    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY            | 25.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ORGANIZATION      | 35.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HISTORY PRESERVER | 50.00   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HISTORY MAKER     | 100.00  |

membership in the Point Richmond History Association includes a year's subscription to "This Point in Time" newsletter (nine issues).

Please send membership forms to:

PAM WILSON  
521 WESTERN DRIVE  
POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801

Articles for each month's issue are due on the 20th of the previous month.

Please mail articles and items of interest to: Donna Roselius, 212 Bishop Alley, Point Richmond, CA 94801, or call 235-4222.

Items may also be left with Trannie at 145 W. Richmond Avenue.

This Point in Time is a publication of the Point Richmond History Association, a non-profit corporation, at 212 Bishop Alley, Point Richmond, CA 94801

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#### POINTS IN THE FUTURE -

##### DECEMBER:

- 12, 13 - Methodist Youth Christmas Tree Trip
- 14 - Roy Jones Sing-along, Methodist Church
- 21 - Joint Methodist/Baptist Church School Christmas pageant at Point Baptist Church, 7:00 p. m.
- 22 - School Holiday starts
- 24 - Christmas Eve Services
- 25 - MERRY CHRISTMAS
- 27 - HAPPY HANUKKAH

##### JANUARY:

- 1 - HAPPY NEW YEAR
- 5 - Back to school
- 6 - West Side Improvement Club meeting, 12 noon, Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church hall
- 8 - Point Richmond Neighborhood Council General Public Meeting, Community Center, 8:00 p.m.
- 14 - Point Richmond Business Association meeting, Hotel Mac, 12 noon
- 19 - Legal Holiday, Martin Luther King
- 22 - Dinner-theater benefit, Point Richmond History Association
- 26 - Secondary School Holiday
- 29 - Elementary report cards

#### POINTS IN THE PAST ...

##### DECEMBER

- 12, 1792 - Ludwig van Beethoven, 22, paid 15 cents for first music lesson
- 13, 1781 - Day of Prayer and Thanksgiving observed to mark end of Revolutionary War
- 16, 1773 - Boston Tea Party protesting tea tax
- 18, 1965 - Gemini 7 returned to earth after first manned space rendezvous
- 20, 1820 - Missouri imposed a \$1 bachelor tax on unmarried men over 21 and under 50
- 25, 1818 - 'Silent Night, Holy Night' sung for first time in Austria

##### JANUARY

- 9, 1793 - First balloon flight in U.S.
- 21, 1954 - Launching of first atomic powered submarine 'Nautilus'
- 23, 1964 - 24th Amendment to the Constitution, eliminating poll-tax in federal elections ratified
- 30, 1981 - New York City gave a ticker tape parade to American hostages released by Iran