

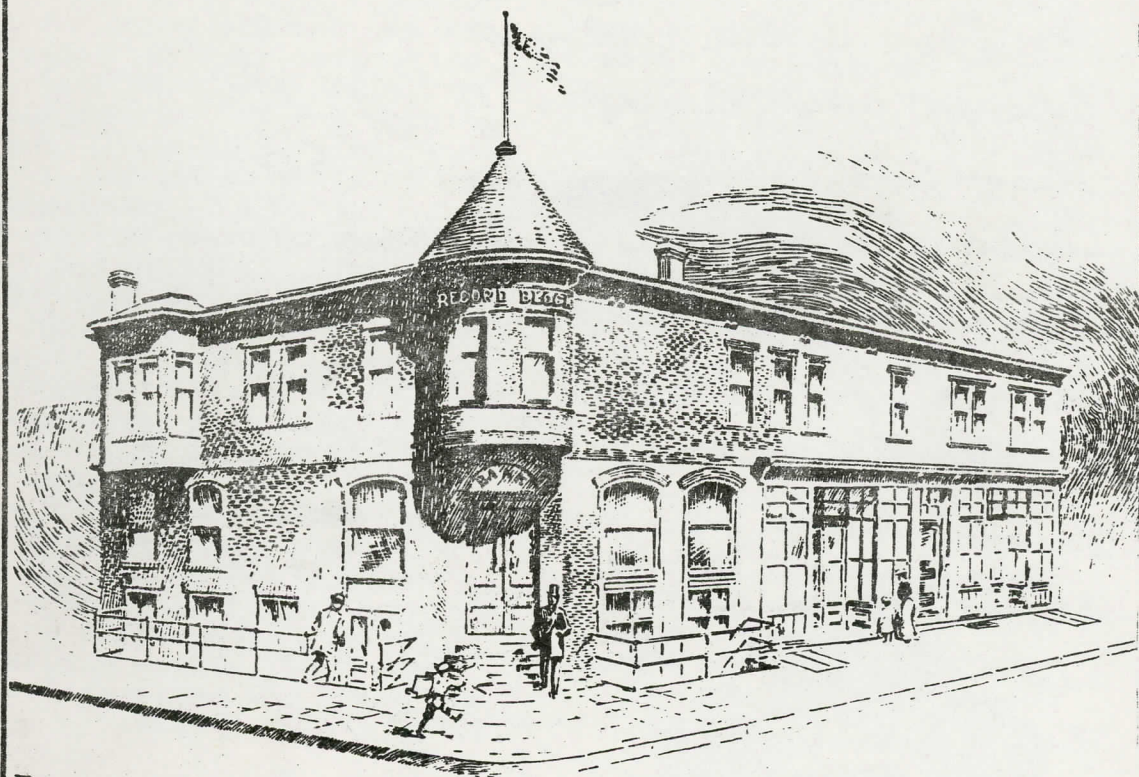
THIS POINT

in time

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL VII NO. 8 APRIL, 1989

ONE DOLLAR



RICHMOND'S FIRST BANK
1901

POINT RICHMOND

DAILY

RECORD

LYMAN NAUGLE, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

ONLY DEMOCRATIC DAILY IN COUNTY

WEEKLY EST. JULY 7, 1900
DAILY EST. FEB. 9, 1902

POINT RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA, 1903

DAILY BY MAIL \$4.00 PER YEAR
BY CARRIER 40 C PER MONTH

July 23/1903

For value received I hereby
assign and transfer to W. L.
Thompson, all my right title and
interest in and to ~~\$2,500~~ Two
Thousand, five hundred (2,500)
Shares of the Capital stock of
The World's Aerial Navigation and
Construction Company, said
stock being paid for and to be
issued upon the completion
of the company's registration in
this state. Lyman Naugle

1903 transfer of R.H. Botts "World's Aerial Navigation and
Construction Company" stock from Lyman Naugle, founder and
editor of the "Point Richmond Daily Record" to W.L. Thompson,
Dr. Thompson's father.

History Association Notes

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Jerry Cerkanowicz

The March 16th meeting at which Dr. William L. Thompson was our guest speaker was well attended and very interesting. The main topic was Prof. R.H. Botts and his "flying machine".

Dr. Thompson's father knew Botts, purchased stock in his company (World's Aerial Navigation and Construction Co.) and using a box camera took pictures of Botts' craft and hanger that was atop Nicholl Nob before it was destroyed in a windstorm. Dr. Thompson was a child at the time.

Years later upon finding very little in the history of aviation on Botts and his flying machine (it probably would not have flown) he wrote to the Smithsonian Institute Aerospace Museum. They were very interested and asked him to do an essay on the subject for them.

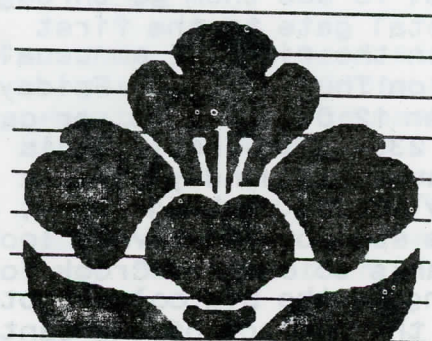
He also brought to the meeting photographs, stock certificates and other material about Botts.

Dr. Thompson was raised here and worked as a local doctor, so he knows a lot about Point history. He talked about life in the Point in the early 1900's, about the 1906

...see page 2

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SPRING

earthquake and how pieces of ash from the great San Francisco fire blew over the town. Most of the ash was small but one piece that landed at his father's feet was about 5 inches square and upon picking it up found it to be a picture of a crucifix, burnt around the edges. It is now framed and hung on a wall at his home.

We would all like to thank Dr. Thompson and his lovely wife for attending our meeting and hope to have them return soon.

There will be elections at our next Board Meeting in April and at the General Meeting in May we will present the new Board of Directors for your approval. The May meeting will be on the last Sunday in May, it will be a potluck picnic. See the May newsletter for the time and location.

We have hung more of our photos of old Point Richmond in the lobby of 124 Washington Avenue. To see them go through the metal gate to the first door on the right. I am usually there on Thursdays and Fridays between 12:00 and 2:00, or call me at 235-1336. The lobby is open everyday Monday thru Friday during working hours, so please stop by and have a look.

Thanks to Stephen Crook for loaning us the big color photo above the mailbox of the Santa Fe yard and Point Richmond. He also loaned us some negatives which we are reproducing. He used to work for Santa Fe and is now a Rail and Marine Transportation Consultant.

And thanks again to Walter Connolly for the space and for the use of the building for our meetings.

My thanks to all of you for all you have done to make this another good year for the Point Richmond History Association.



MEMBERS

*Pam Wilson, Membership
Chairwoman
521 Western Drive
Point Richmond, CA 94801*

Thank you to following members who have renewed their memberships:

R.J. Anderson, Jr.
Bernard Bernes
Jan and Bob Burdick
Verla Camren
Marie Dietz
Trannie Dornan
Jack Elle
Mary Lou & Rich Fox
Henry A. Francis
Zoanna Kille
Albert J. Kollar
Bertha McCloskey
W.J. McCutcheon
June Minor
Dody Perry
Marian Sauer
Gary Shows
Elsie Spinola
Pauline Valenti
Judy Walz
Donna Wilson

A warm welcome to new member:
A.S. Franco

EDITOR'S NOTES

By Gary Shows

Isn't Spring the best season? It's a time when the world is fresh and colorful! The only thing that I can see wrong with Spring is weeds!

I hope you enjoy this issue, I still haven't had a flood of research volunteers for the "Points to the Past" feature, so once again I have gone through archives and picked items that I think may be of interest.

I think you will like reading Ed Garrard's memories of the Point in the "Growing up in the Point in the 20's and 30's" segment. If this brings back any of your memories please send them to me and share them with our readers.

We all enjoyed listening to Dr. William L. Thompson's memories of the Bott's flying machine and a bonus of a lot more! We have copied some of his memorabilia to publish in the newsletter. He has given permission to us to reprint his essay to the Smithsonian Institute on R.H. Bott's "air ship". I hope to do so in later issues. He is even considering writing some of his memories in the newsletter. I hope he decides to do so.

Thank you to our newsletter staff for getting your work to me on time (somewhat). We should be able to get this one out in a very timely manner.

This issue has been electronically pasted up, I hope it turns out OK.

GET OFF THE EARTH

Why not? 33,000 lbs. raised one foot high in one minute's time is a horse power, while 33 lbs. can be raised by a screw propeller direct.

One sq. ft. of canvass in an aeroplane, traveling at the rate of 20 miles an hour. will carry one lb., while at 40 miles per hour it will carry 4 pounds.

The gravity of one sq. ft. of canvass in descent is nearly equal to one lb. of weight descending at 11 miles an hour.

You might as well put legs to a locomotive as to put wings to a flying machine; therefore, the rigid aeroplane with advancing and ascending, neutralizing propellers, supplemented by light and very strong power, will solve the problem. Our new engines will meet this demand.

We have constructed four propellers weighing only 40 lbs., and containing 56 sq. ft. of blade surface.

Our neutralizing, lifting propeller blades, when in action, will advance over eight different currents of air while the advancing propellers are so placed as to produce a direct lift on the aeroplane.

Our aeroplane will contain one sq. ft. of surface to each pound of weight to be carried.

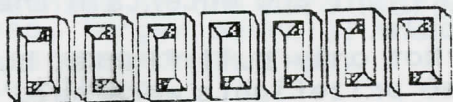
Our entire machine is constructed on plan of the bicycle wheel, the inner and outer rims of the aeroplane being strongly guyed to a central mast; and we challenge the world to produce a lighter construction having equal strength with less wind resistance, since our one-man-machine, including 8-horse-power engine, can be built, weighing from 100 to 150 lbs.

We, as a company, propose to perfect a one-man-machine first, leaving the commercial possibilities to be determined in the future, thus making no extravagant claims.

Our experiment station is located on Mount Nicholl, at Point Richmond, Cal., which is the most suitable location for experimental purposes that nature could provide.

For lowest prices on stock, and other information, address the WORLD'S AERIAL NAVIGATION AND CONSTRUCTION CO., Point Richmond, Cal.

This is the back side of a card that Prof. Botts made to promote his flying machine. The other side shows his picture and a drawing of his craft. Copied from Dr. W.L. Thompson's memorabilia. See the back inside cover for the other side.



POINTS TO THE PAST

Articles of interest from our archives

THE HISTORY OF POINT RICHMOND.. ENTERTAINMENT

by Barbara Quein

In the first years of this century, Point Richmond was the center of many and varied activities, some of them now illegal.

The August, 1902 Richmond Fiesta brought controversy because of a proposed bull fight to be featured there. George Johnson, the fight promoter, aroused public interest by stating that the bull fights would be of the kind held in Spain or Mexico. The S.P.C.A., the sheriff, the local ministers and even California's Governor Gage gave warnings to the promoters, but Johnson replied, "We will have the bull fights in spite of the sheriff, the governor, or anybody else." Evidently there was no brutality; the record stated, "The bull fights are better than any pulled off in any other California town, and while not as spirited as they may have in Mexico, they are all right and entertain the people."

Not only bull fights, but also prizefights were held in Richmond. The championship Eddie Martin and Jack McGinnis

prize fight was held on June 20, 1902 (Martin won in the sixth round). The Daily Record stated, "No occasion of the kind has ever been honored with a more distinguished crowd..."

For those who wished more frequent entertainment, there were, as there are now, many saloons in Point Richmond. However, it seemed that more than just drinking was going on in the saloons. One establishment was singled out for criticism by Lyman Naugle. He declared, "There is a saloon on Washington Avenue.... that would put to shame the lowest dive in the Barbary Coast district.... This place of (Joe) Silva's is a resort for thugs, sure-thing gamblers and lewd women."

Early Point Richmond may have been small, but it certainly was lively!

Reprinted from "The Point Counterpoint", July, 1966

THE HISTORY OF POINT RICHMOND.. THE ABBOTT HOSPITAL

by Barbara Quein

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Those of you who know of the Carroll Apartments on the northeast corner of West Richmond and Santa Fe Avenues may be surprised to learn that

the structure was Richmond's first hospital. It was originally a two-story brick building and was erected in 1908 by Doctors Clark and Ursa Abbott.

Born in Ohio, Dr. Clark Abbott was educated in Heidelberg University and Chicago's Rush Medical College.

After graduation and internship he came to San Francisco to lecture at the College of Physicians and Surgeons.

While he was at the College, Dr. Abbott opened an office in Point Richmond; Abbott worked not only with the general public but also with the Santa Fe Railroad, the Pullman Shops and Standard Oil as a physician and surgeon.

Abbott's cousin Ursa joined him in practice, and together they built the Abbott Hospital. The hospital's ground floor contained a modern X-ray room, electrical room, supply room, private offices, a library and two private rooms for patients. On the second floor was a major operating room, sterilizing room, a men's ward and six private rooms.

After the hospital closed, the building was converted into an apartment house, and a third story was added. The building's present appearance gives no intimation of its interesting history.

Reprinted from "The Point Counterpoint", August, 1966

THE HISTORY OF POINT RICHMOND.. THE FISH REDUCTION PLANTS

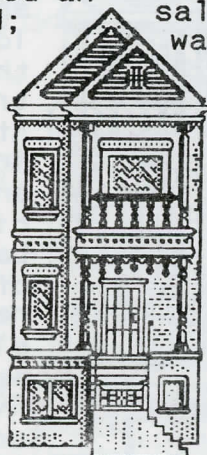
by Barbara Quein

Question: What does Point Richmond have in common with Monterey's famous Cannery Row?
Answer: The same industry, the Alaska Salmon Company, had plants and canneries in both areas.

Northeastern Point Richmond was the site of large fish reduction plants owned by the Union Fish Company and later owned by the Alaska Salmon Company. As the name implies, most of the fish processed were salmon; unlike today, the waters near Point Richmond used to yield billions of salmon!

In the reduction process, the fish were separated into their useable components, oil and fish meal; the oils were transferred to perfume factories and the meal to fertilizer plants. A concrete boat was employed to bring in the catch. This vessel was so large that it had enough facilities to transport tons of fish per haul, and to provide living quarters for the crew. The Alaska Salmon Company was forced to close when the salmon unexplainably disappeared from this area. The buildings stood vacant until a few years ago, but now they house an even larger company in many senses of the word (larger catches, larger orders!); the whaling station is (was) located there!

Reprinted from "The Point Counterpoint", August, 1966



HILLSIDE SEWERS TO EMPTY INTO BAY WATERS

Tentative plans for sanitary sewers to be installed in the Bay Shore tract and which will drain the hillside near Kozy Kove were submitted to the city council by City Engineer H.D. Chapman last night. The installation of the sewers will cost \$7000. The district to be drained is that east of Washington Avenue, from Crest to Bishop and towards the bay. The main sewer outlet will be into the bay at the foot of Washington avenue.

Richmond Independent
May, 1916

SPEED LIMIT IN STATE REMAINS AT 30 MILES AN HOUR

There is to be no change in the speed laws of the state, and the limit remains thirty miles an hour on the highways in the country, the same as under the old law. the movement to have the limit increased to forty miles an hour was defeated in the assembly Saturday by a decisive vote.

It was contended that thirty miles and hour is fast enough for anybody to travel, and that a faster pace would endanger life.

The assembly adopted the amendment to the motor vehicle act to prohibit discharging firearms from a moving vehicle of any kind and also the

amendment making it obligatory to notify sheriffs and chiefs of Police before dismantling an automobile.

Richmond Independent
March, 1919

TOBACCO JUICE IN CUSPIDOR MUSSES UP CITY ENGINEER

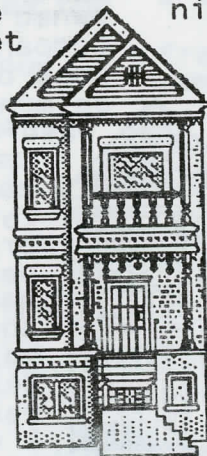
An air of deep silence permeated each nook and cranny of the council room last night. Each member of the board was scratching his cranium, knitting his brow and wearing the puzzled look of one in deepest thought. It was a very trying session, for City Attorney Hall was reading in a deeply chanting voice an agreement between the city and the Bay Counties Land company. Each member of the board strained his respective ear to catch the slightest defect. Much

money and property was involved.

Suddenly there was a splitting crash, as the good pine boards being torn assunder followed by a heavy thump and the rattle of enamelware.

One look sufficed... City Engineer Harry Chapman had stretched his spring chair, back, back, back, until it busted, catapulting him into a cuspidor which mussed him all up.

Richmond Independent
October, 1916



INSANE MAN STALKS THROUGH STREETS IN B.V.D.'s

Garbed in a suit of B.V.D.'s and brandishing a razor, a man threw quite a scare in pedestrians on Washington avenue this morning and would have probably done serious injury to someone had he not been apprehended by the police.

Where he bobbed up from or how he happened to be chasing around in flimsy underwear is a question which is puzzling the police. Passengers waiting at the Washington street waiting room for cars were the first to notice the maniac bearing down on them.

Screams of women and children soon brought Sergeant Betts and Patrolman Eigerman to the place who after a short hand to hand struggle with the man, handcuffed him and removed him to the police station where he commenced to make daylight hideous with his unearthly screams.

Richmond Independent
October, 1914

JACK LONDON PREDICTS GREAT FUTURE FOR RICHMOND

Jack London, noted author, and wife were the honored guests of the people of this city today. During the forenoon Mrs. and Mrs. London were taken on a sightseeing trip through the standard Oil refinery and Santa Fe shops following which they were tendered a luncheon by the members of the West Side

Women's Improvement Club.

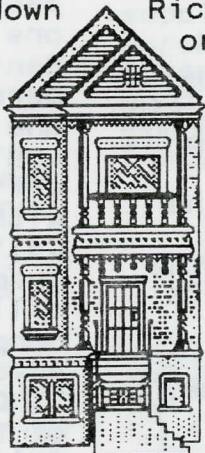
The afternoon was spent by the couple in entertaining visitors aboard their yacht, "The Roamer", which is anchored just off of the Kozy Kove amusement park.

This evening a monster invitational clam bake has been planned at which all of the city officials, together with the members of the various city clubs will be in attendance.

London was rather awed at the monster plant of the Standard Oil refinery and predicted a greater future for Richmond than either Oakland or San Francisco have as yet experienced.

A large number of invitations have been sent to prominent literary people in Oakland, Berkeley, and San Francisco who will also be in attendance at the affair this evening.

Richmond Independent
October, 1914



A BUSY STORK

The stork has been a busy old bird in these parts of late. The feathered old doc never loses a minute. During the past week he called at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J.H. O'Hara, at 312 Washington avenue, and left one of the brightest new little boys that has come to these parts in many a day.

The bespectacled old biped did not stop here, however, but on the 9th instant called at

the Brown home, in Richmond avenue and deposited a like bundle of fluffiness. The mothers and the boys are rapidly gaining strength, and there are two men to be seen on the streets, one named O'Hara and the other named Brown, who will know what you mean if you salute them with "Howdy, Pap." And maybe they don't belong to the Moose either.

Richmond Daily Independent
June, 1911

STUDENTS TENDER TEACHER SURPRISE

Miss North Ashfield principal of the Washington Grammar school at the West Side was last evening tendered a party by a number of the students graduating from the Eighth grade.

The students tendering the teacher the party were: Rita Arnold, Catherine Camerlo, Mildred Brignone, Annie Freeman, Muriel Fitzpatrick, Verna Peterson, Mary Waite, Katherine Mann, Marion McMenamin, Musetta Hopkins, Margaret Mahoney, Nort Westman, Edith Taylor, Eva Lynn Haines, James Hounsel, James Schreuder, Theodore Jones, Vernile Reed, Jephtha White, Joeseeph Mitchell, Walter Lamore, Fuller Winslow and Rexford Gordon.

June, 1915



SENIOR NEWS

By Muriel C. Clausen

Are you a Senior or are you approaching that magic age? If so there are a lot of things that you might like to know about being a Senior in California that could be helpful to you. For instance, did you know that this week: the week of March 13-17, 1989 Seniors all over California are voting for representatives to advocate just for Seniors on a non partisan level in Sacramento? We are voting for one Senior Senator and two Senior Representatives. These persons form a group known as the California Senior Legislature. Their terms of office are two years. They meet with other Senior bodies in California and cooperate with them in determining just what bills in the Sacramento bill hopper will affect Seniors and advocate them.

Contra Costa County is one of the 33 divisions in California which votes for Senior Representatives, each division elects its own Senator and Representatives. The C.S.L. as they are known have been extremely successful in unifying Seniors in California to gain momentum for decisions by the Legislators that will help Seniors.

Do you know your Senior who has been elected this week to serve you? Have you sought them out to ask for their attention on your specific needs? Watch

the newspapers for the election results; and they will also be reported in the next SENIOR NEWS.

Muriel is on the Richmond Commission on Aging and on the Contra Costa County Advisory Council on Aging. This will be a regular feature in the newsletter that we hope will be informative to our senior readers.



**EASTER EGG DYING
AND BASKET MAKING**
by Jerry Cerknowicz

The second annual Easter Egg and Basket Making held Saturday, March 25th was great fun. David, Marsha, Jenny and Mike did a very good job of getting materials to be used in the contest. They would like to thank everyone who donated money and materials. Joel Beck and Bob Bardino were the judges. Karen of Gypsy Secret donated a large kite as a prize and smaller kites and books were also awarded to the winners.

The winners were:

Pre school	Ginger Paasch
Kindergarten	Jackie Moniz
1st Grade	Tony Malone
2nd Grade	Leta Swanson
3rd Grade	Billy Zeier
4th Grade	Ona Swanson
5th Grade	Kate Huges
6th Grade	Nate Fowler
7th Grade	Angel Soberal
8th Grade	Jenny Richardson
Adult	Eva Spenser

Honorable mentions went to

Rea Dorors, Theo Vallejo, Summer Downs, Susan Swanson and Tamy Devy.

After the handing out of the prizes Eva Spenser announced that she had hung a pinata, a large star shaped one outside from a tree. There is something about a pinata that causes a riot among children. In all of the excitement I could not identify the person who broke it open. There was another riot as coins, candies and toys fell all about.

The fact that money from the donation collection can was stolen (yes, there's a thief in our town) a few days before the supplies and prizes were to be purchased did nothing to hinder those involved from having a good time. Thanks again to everyone who helped make this a fun get together.



Sports
memories

by Allan Smith

Now that basketball season is here and rapidly drawing to a close, I remember several of the Point youths of the 1930's who were good basketball players. One of the most promising was Rudolph "Rudy" Stark who was a great player at Roosevelt Junior High and Richmond Union High School. Rudy was offered a full scholarship to Oregon State University. He was also an All-County player at that time. The Christopher brothers, Russ

and Lloyd played good High School basketball, as did Johnny Stark and J.D. Vincent. The late Frank Schock came to St. Mary's College in Moraga from Morris, Illinois on a basketball scholarship.

In 1939, Standard Oil Company's Richmond Refinery hired college student athletes for summer vacation work. One of these students came here from Stanford University, he was Angelo "Hank" Lusetti. Hank Lusetti was the player that revolutionized the game of basketball when he introduced the one-handed jump and hook shot. He used this new method of "shooting" the basketball to score 50 points in a college game in New York in 1938 and made basketball history. I worked with Hank in the Company's "Barrel House" Division and during the lunch period we were all entertained by his telling of his experiences of that historical game and of his basketball playing days at Stanford.



➡ IN PURSUIT OF ➡
HISTORICAL TRIVIA

courtesy of Stan Nystrom

ANSWER

The last trivia question concerned the first official use of the name "Point Richmond" to designate a townsite and its location before it was where it

is now.

In the centerfold of this issue is a plat for the town of POINT RICHMOND. It was first filed on June 3, 1899, and was the Richmond area's first subdivision. The main street, Point Richmond Avenue, was a portion of Country Road 12; and is now known as West Barrett Avenue. Atchison Avenue, shown on the left side of the plat, is now a blended-in extension of Garrard Boulevard.

By the middle of 1900, this community could boast of a grocery, a print shop, a weekly newspaper, a saloon and a "transient" post office. (The latter, however, is another story.) These were housed in two adjoining buildings located on the northwest corner of what is now West Barrett and "A" Street. The two buildings are still standing and in use; and predate any building in present day Point Richmond, which was then known as Eastyard. Eastyard was a Santa Fe Railroad designation, and when the community got a post office in 1901, it was so named. However Eastyard grew at a faster rate than the original Point Richmond, and by 1902 it acquired the name of Point Richmond for itself and its post office.

QUESTION

How high and low can you get in Richmond? A cursory review of nautical charts reveals that the lowest elevation within the city limits of Richmond is probably located underwater on

the bay bottom between East Brother Lighthouse and Point San Pablo. That poses (or is it "juxtaposes"?) the opposite question of where is the highest point in Richmond.

Hint: It is NOT the red light atop the P.G.&E. gas holder at Brickyard Cove—the answer will be determined by LAND elevation ONLY.



Churches

Our Lady of Mercy by Eleanor Hurley

Father Denis continues to improve. In fact, he attended and concelebrated a Memorial Mass for the son of one of our Parishioners in early March. He also attended the gathering of the Cenacle, which meets in our church on the last Sunday of the month. This group comes from many areas in the vicinity for prayers and talks by the several Priests who attend. A pot luck dinner followed. These were the first times Father has been in the church since his illness last year. He was welcomed and warmly greeted.

On Sunday March 12, after Mass, at our regular Parish Meeting, Rev. Frank Houdels, Director of Personnel for the Oakland Dioceses, presented to us the latest developments relating to Fr. Dennis. His

recovery seems to be progressing so favorably that it is anticipated that a re-evaluation will be taking place after Easter.

Tony Ferraira is still in charge of the volunteers from the Parish who assist at the Souper Kitchen on a regular basis.

Bob Peckham, who is preparing for the Diaconate, takes Holy Communion to the sick and elderly in the Parish after the Sunday Mass.

We are approaching Holy Week and services will be held Wednesday, Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

The Parish Council is taking form. Members have been selected to form a Nominating Committee, which will be presented to all of the Parishioners for approval. From then on, it should be only a matter of time to get things going.

The Rev. Michael T. Brown of the First Methodist Church, our neighbor, gave a very devout and inspiring Homily on Sunday, March 12 at our church. This is in line with a program for the clergy of the various denominations to exchange Homily speakers on Sundays. I was a pleasure to see some of the First Methodist regulars in our church.

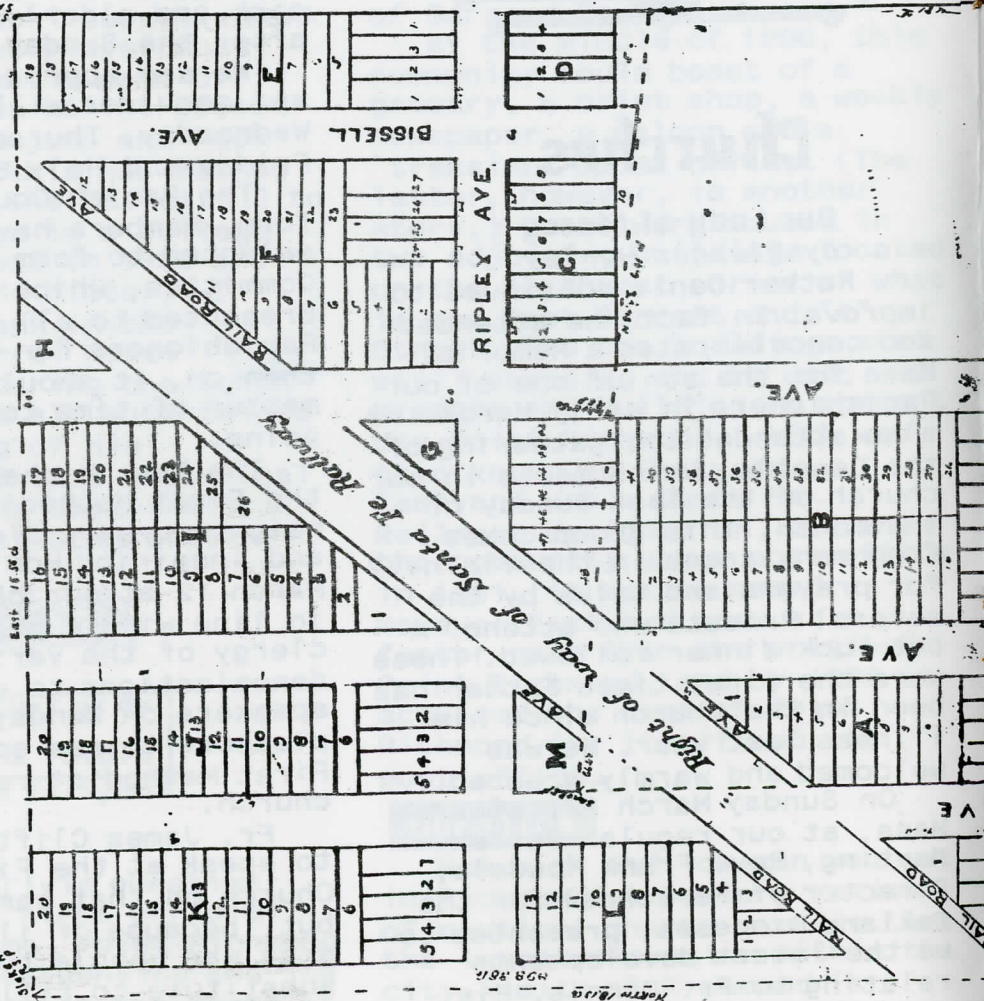
Fr. James Clift was supposed to speak at the First Methodist Church on that same Sunday, but, because of illness in the area was unable to get a substitute to fill in for him

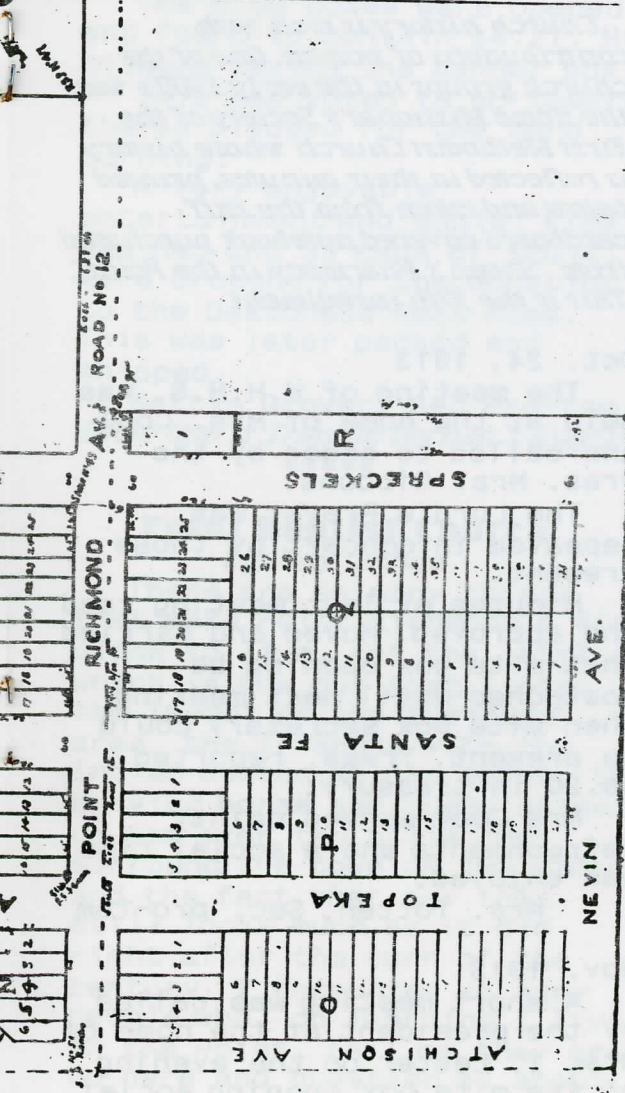
go to page 14

TOWN OF POINT RICHMOND

BEING PORTIONS OF LOTS Nos 51 & 43 OF RANCHO SAN PABLO
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CAL

Scale 100 Ft. = 1 inch





Note the title, as the locale of this 1899 plat is in a neighborhood that has sometimes been referred to as "Old Town", and is subject of the answer in this issue's "In Pursuit of Historical Trivia" (see page 10).

Point Richmond Avenue is now known as West Barrett Avenue. Atchison Avenue became "D" Street, which was later blended into the northern Extension of what is now Garrard Boulevard. Topeka, Santa Fe and Spreckels Avenues are now named "C", "B" and "A" Streets, respectively. Ripley and Nevin Avenues are still the same.

Notice that there was a Bissell Avenue (above Ripley, and in a north-south Direction). This became 1st Street, and the name Bissell Avenue Reappeared in Another part of Richmond.

Spreckel, Ripley, Nevin and Bissell were the names of high officials of the Santa Fe Railroad during that Era.

Stan Nystrom.....

at 11:00 Mass. He will appear at the First Methodist at a later time.

Happy Easter and blessing to all!

Point Methodist Church

by Mid Dornan

In preparation for the Holy Season of Easter, members of the church held Maunday Thursday services, joined with the Catholic Church for Good Friday and on Easter had an egg hunt for the children which included real eggs as well as eggs filled with Christian themes.

Troop 111 Boy Scouts had a membership recruiting and gained a new member. They meet each Monday at the church at 7:00 p.m. Anyone 11 years old and over is welcome.

A pulpit exchange with the Catholic Church was held on March 12th and more are being planned.

Honoring members Ben and JoAnn Bray, members surprised them with a "Whale of a Party" recognizing their birthdays and anniversary. An indoor Olympics was held with ribbons and prizes for a fun evening.

A new garage door has replaced the old one on the parsonage... finally! Work in the church yard continues, roto tilling and planting. Bulbs planted earlier are in full bloom but someone continues to destroy the flowers in the planter box along the street. The wisteria is surviving

despite being vandalized twice.

Choir meets on Wednesdays, the Craft Group after Choir and Bible Study is at 5:30 Sunday at the church. The Potluck and Administrative Board meeting is on April 11, 6:30 p.m.

A new wireless microphone is being purchased through Memorial Funds for the Church.

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 37th installment.

Oct. 24, 1913

The meeting of W.H.M.S. was held at the home of Mrs. Cool and called to order by the Pres. Mrs. Gibbons.

The Lord's Prayer was repeated in concert by those present.

Minutes of last meeting read and approved. Moved and carried that mite box opening be postponed until next meeting when mite box secretary could be present. Treas. reported \$8.20 in treasury.

Mrs Cool served dainty refreshments and a social time was enjoyed.

Mrs. Totten, Sec. pro-tem

Nov. 1913

A short meeting was called by the president at the home of Mrs. I. Lester on the evening of the mite box opening social.

The resignation of Mrs. Wood as Treasurer and Mrs. Bradley as Sec. was read and accepted upon motion.

To fill the vacancy for the rest of the term Mrs. Totten was elected Sec. by acclamation and Mrs Bradley was then elected Treasurer in the same way.

The mite boxes were opened and found to contain \$4.27. Mrs Gibbons having the banner box.

This was voted to go toward the \$5 pledged for the bond burning.

A very enjoyable entertainment and social time was had and 36 cans of fruit were brought for the donation to the Deasoness Rest Home. This was later packed and shipped.

Nettie Grover, Sec Pro-tem
(Note that is Trannie Dornan's Aunt)

Point Baptist Church

by Roy Jones

There are so many things that make Point Richmond a fine place to live, not the least of which is how our town looks. the layout of the business, area, the Triangle with the Indian Statue at its point, the curving horse and buggy streets up and over the hills that surround the town on two sides and the fact that our town still looks much as it did right after the turn of the century. I encounter so many people who, on learning I live in the Point, tell me they grew up here and question me about the scenes of their youth; The

Plunge, the tunnel, Devil's Hole, the railroad tunnel (hopping trains), the four churches. I am pleased to tell them these places are still here.

Fascinated with Mr. Garard's column about growing up here in the 20's and 30's and it's good there still a street named after him. The horse manure on the streets I can believe, there was even a city ordinance passed along about 1912 that prohibited horse drawn conveyances from being parked on Washington because of the pollution. I wonder, what did he mean when he wrote "little round aluminum cans pressed in the pavement and imprinted 'The Three Merry Widows'".

For years I have wanted to publicly say thank you to Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church for those lovely hymns chimed out over our town each evening and on Sunday mornings. I hum along. Also, who among us has not seen the spry little lady, neat and proud who walks far and near, through the tunnel, up Garrard to Atchison Village, all about our streets picking up trash and putting it in a sack she carries for that purpose. Our town looks much better because of her. I thanked her once and she replied, "no need to thank me...it's compulsory". But I do thank her, we all do.

On the 24th day of October, 1903, J.L. Kennon, notary public, affixed his signature to Articles of Incorporation of the First Baptist Church of

Point Richmond. To quote in part from this document.... "that the object and purpose for which this Corporation is formed....To establish and maintain a regular Baptist Church in the town of Point Richmond for the purpose of public worship and religious teaching according to the Holy Scriptures." The Charter members are listed; names that would be recognized still in the Point. We're still here, still at the same address and we salute those devoted, industrious Christians who began a work that has lasted eighty-six years. You are most cordially invited to join us for worship service Sunday mornings at 11:00 o'clock.



A-MID TRIVIA

by Mid Dornan (234-5334)

This is the month to add up your blessings but when they become financial the IRS enters

and reduces the counting. The one thing that hurts more than paying income tax is NOT HAVING to pay an income tax.

Happy Birthday Point Newsletter. Well, the original format was the Point Counterpoint which began in 1966, 23 years ago. Editors were Donna Roselius and Sylvia Hutchins, it was published weekly for 5 cents a copy or 7 cents for home delivery. (Isn't one of those that made deliveries now on our staff??)

A business park, Point Richmond Tech Center, is being planned by developer Wareham and to be located at Standard Avenue between South Garrard and West Cutting Blvd. It will include the old Badger Meter Building as well as the eight acres known as "Frogtown", and a small triangular parcel which Caltrans uses for storage. Forty percent of the space is expected to be devoted to research, forty percent to offices and twenty percent to shipping and assembly. It could also include a bank, cafe and non-biotechnology firms. Drawings include large glass enclosed areas with fountains, benches and modern artwork in the center courtyard. Interactive Resources is doing the design which is expected to be completed in 1989.

For those of you who are organized and plan ahead, consider the package deal of dinner at Hotel Mac and a play

at the Masquers on June 22nd. Besides benefiting the Masquers you can't find a better deal anywhere. Contact anyone in the Point Business Association or the History Association. Mark your calendar...and more information will be in the next issues.

At the recent Washington PTA Founder's Day, students demonstrated for their parents the GT program offered at the school which included instrumental music, drama, ballet and chorus.

A plaque was presented to Katie Young and Kim Moriwaki in memory of Bob Young and Brent Moriwaki from the PTA.

Artie Smith was recipient of the Honorary Service Award and Lloyd and Sandy Christopher were presented with the Continuing Honorary Service Award. Congratulations to all!!

President Mary Ruiz, is to be thanked for the many hours spent preparing the yearly event and for all she does for the children at Washington School. She needs more support at the regular meetings during the year.

Billboard sign in front of local nursery: "THANK YOU FOR THE RAIN".

Thinking of "getting in shape" for the summer? There isn't a better, closer place to walk or jog than our own Knox-Miller Park. The serenity of the bay and bridges... green trees and grass... the San

Francisco skyline and Point hills... the carefree ducks in the lagoon that seem to float with a smile. Other hikers take time to pick litter along the trail and the air is fresh! It is therapy at your front door.

A Point Richmond "Paper Boy" reunion is being planned for the youths who worked for Mrs. Andrews and her News Agency during the 1930's. Tony, Bernardi, Louie Barra, Gus Cakos, Fred Beesley, Melvin Hitch and Allan Smith are a few of the Point "boys" who delivered papers for Mrs. Andrews.

They were paid according to the area of the Point they served as well as the amount of papers delivered. The monthly wages were in a range of \$13 to \$15 per month for morning and evening deliveries seven days a week.

During the height of the Depression, the carriers planned a labor strike when their wages were lowered to \$10 per month. The "strike" never materialized.

What a surprise, and shock, to arrive at the local BART station on Sunday at 7:00 a.m. only to learn they don't open until 9:00 a.m. on this day! But then, you all knew that. How do those with early day jobs commute on Sunday?

Honors were given Lucretia Edwards, Point resident for over 40 years, as she was named the Eleventh Assembly District

Woman of the Year. Her civic involvements began as a member of the League of Women Voters in 1950 and have never ceased. One wonders if even she can recall all of her accomplishments. She is to be admired for pursuing her ideals. Congratulations Lucretia.

The 35th Annual Boy Scout, Troop 111 Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for May 20th. Mark the calendar now so you don't forget. If you want to be contacted regarding purchasing a ticket, call Scoutmaster Dan Stallworth at 235-2082.

Have you always wanted to take a rafting trip but were afraid to do it alone? Opportunity is knocking. On July 30th, Mariah Wilderness Expositions are scheduling a trip down the American River for Point residents, and friends. You will be transported to and from the River. For more information call 233-2303.

George Mohr, Troop 111, and perhaps the longest tenured Committee Chairman in the District suffered a slight stroke and was hospitalized. Imagine his surprise, as well as the surprise of the hospital staff at Brookside, when the entire troop of boys from the Point literally "trooped" in for a visit to his bedside. They chided him that he only had a few weeks to recuperate as he was essential to the

annual pancake breakfast in May. George has been transferred to Letterman Hospital in San Francisco for therapy.

Tokumbo Oddfin is the newest boy to join Scout Troop 111. Welcome to the oldest troop in Richmond.

What's that "happy" chemical secreted by the brain when you're feeling good? Known as PEA (phenylethylamine), there are claims there's a lot of it in chocolate. Pass the fudge.

All the recent rains bring spring flowers. Or so it says poetry. However have you noticed the intense color orange of poppies on the hillsides? And the fragrant liliacs, the perky daffodills and the green hills. Yes, Spring is here!

Be prepared to consider a "drug tax" at the next election. Councilman David MacDiarmid proposed it first as a city tax and it is now learned that the County Supervisors are also considering it for the county.

If you were at Bimbo's 365 Club in S.F. on February 11th, we KNOW you gazed frequently at Dolphina, the girl in the fish bowl. Did you know Dolphina was none other than the Point's Donna Powers?

Over 165 people filled the basement of the Catholic church

on March 4th as they gathered to pay tribute and thank Dave McElroy for his special and outstanding service as a mailman to those living north of Washington Avenue. However, there were those from the "other side" who claimed connections as an excuse to join the festivities.

The potluck meal was a gourmet delight topped with a cake from Rosemary's!

Dave has spent the past 7 years in the Point delivering mail and making many friends. Among those in the group was Dixie Copeland, another "friendly" mailman who retired a few years ago.

Dave was presented with a money tree and many good wishes. He plans to play golf and do lots of fishing. He officially retired on March 1.

Jerry Cerkowicz and Marj Mellati were the organizers of the successful party. And... what other neighborhood have you ever heard of that recognizes retiring mailmen!!

Alexandra Gautrand has authored a new book entitled, "San Mateo, Sketchbook of the San Francisco Peninsula's Past". She was available for autographing at the Savoir Faire in March.

Donna Wilson played Grandma while Pam Wilson and Paula Ferguson played Auntie for Patrice Verhines children while she and her husband vacationed in Hawaii. Don't know who had the best time!

Roberta Dornan, DDS, Irvine, did a poster presentation at the American Dental Research Institute Convention in San Francisco. She is on the staff at UCLA Dental school and has a practice in Tustin. While in the area, she attended the Point History Association meeting to hear Dr. Thompson... who delivered her into the world.

Anne Hanzlik spent a week in Vermont and Quebec where she visited her cousin. She found the sunny but cold weather was made beautiful with the snow. The lovely old white, colonial houses and spired churches were a great contrast to the local California landscape. She told of giving a ride to a woman who was walking back to her home from a monastery 12 miles away. It was 8 degrees outside but the woman thought nothing of it.

Editor Gary Shows will have his Mom, Bernice Shows from San Antonio as a guest for the first two weeks of April. They plan to take a short trip down the coast to the Hearst Castle.

Corrine and George Coles stopped on their way through Oregon at the Whale Cove restaurant in Port Orford and had dinner with the Roselius'.

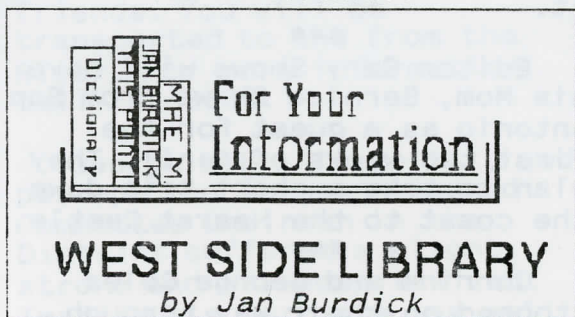
And speaking of Port Orford ...and in case others are wondering what's new there. The State Arts Council is impressed

with the week long celebration the town has scheduled, it is one of only two cities in the state to have such an event. Naturally, looking at the week long events, one knows it was Donna's talents that made this possible. Yes, our loss is certainly Oregon's gain.

The Bob Young Walk-a-thon, sponsored by the Washington PTA, is on April 8, 1989, begins at 9:00 a.m. at Washington School. Proceeds will go toward the planned Memorial. Contact Mary Ruiz, 232-1961 or Washington School, 232-1436 for more information.

Whether it is good news or bad news, you have until April 17th to submit your IRS tax report. It takes more brains to make out the form than it does to make the income.

HAPPY SPRING!!



"I found myself in a wonderland of collaboration with some of the most inventive and original personalities anyone could hope to meet." So says Marva Marrow in her new book *Inside the L.A. Artist*

which is a collection of photographs of 82 artists taken in their studios with some of their most evocative work as backdrops. Short narratives accompany the pictures.

Great Yachts and Their Designers is a beautiful book by Joseph Eastland. It begins with the Yacht Britannia (1890) and chronicles famous yachts and designers through the century to the present day with special emphasis on America's Cup racing. This stunning book is full of excellent color photographs and black and white drawings.

When the credits roll at the end of a movie, do you know what a gaffer, movie editor or producer actually does? Eric Taub in his book *Gaffers, Grips and Best Boys* interviews some of the most successful artists and technicians in the motion picture business today, going beyond the glamour of Hollywood for a look at the people who prepare, produce and promote the "movies".

One gets the feeling that Jake Baker might have a wad of chewing tobacco in his mouth as he tells the story of himself and his friend Lucas Kraft in *All the Western Stars* by Phillip Lee Williams. These are two of the least likely candidates to become friends, Jake having been a construction Worker while Lucas was a famous novelist. They meet in an old folks home where the reader quickly realizes neither belongs. They realize it to and "break out" heading west to

become cowboys. The unfolding account of their travels makes for a thoroughly entertaining book.

All these titles and more are available at Westside. Remember our hours are 12-8 on Monday and Tuesday, while the rest of the week (Wed.-Fri.) the library is open from 12-5.

Growing up in the Point in the 20's & 30's

by Ed Garrard

In the last issue I mentioned the postmistress and now her name has come back, it was Lucy Kellem. She was Uncle Sam when I bought a 2 cent or 3 cent stamp for my mom. I think she had the same aversion to kids as did W.C. Fields.

Now let me remind you of some more old time Point merchants. There was Bernes French Laundry, Shaw's Poolroom, Marten's Bakery, U. Sonoda Shoe Repair, Ben Verneti Shoe Repair, Mr. Machado's Barber Shop, Randolph Wood's Candy Store, "Tony" and Mr. and Mrs. Andrews newspaper agency, Mrs. Gianassi's dressmaking shop, Mrs. Frosinsi's notions store, H.G. Stidham the realtor, Mr. & Mrs. Graga's real estate agency and Ardell's Fountain across from the "Nat". Then there was George Tapping's plumbing shop with the marvelous model steam engine that given by his son Howard to the California Railroad Museum in Sacramento.

It has been restored and is on prominent display with full credits.

If you needed gasoline in those days you could go to Henry Bill's Standard station at the corner of Standard and Garrard, there I remember the gravel yards and hand cranked pumps. You also could get Shell gasoline at the Westside Garage from Ken and Al. There was Bennett's Garage on lower Tewksbury and his station at Castro and Standard. Bennett was also a Dort dealer ("Dort" was an old time automobile). You could get General Petroleum, "Violet Rag" gasoline at Fosters station and garage at Tunnel and Richmond Avenues.

There were unused street car tracks from Richmond Avenue and Railroad down Park Place and Washington Avenue to Standard Avenue. Their usage pre-dated me but I know that one of our cops was killed when his Indian Motorcycle got caught on one of the rails.

Allan Smith mentioned in his column a picture of the Wolgast-Nelson fight at the Colombo Hotel. There was also a huge picture of the fight in Jim's shoe shine parlor.

I remember Richmond Supply with Bob Dornan Sr.'s ruddy and smiling face.

Before ecology was invented we were a town of great odors. I can remember chatching the streetcar to go to Roosevelt Jr. High at Santa Fe and Standard Avenue and smelling the beautiful odors of the

Colombo Bakery combined with the stink of the old refinery. These smells combined with the smell of burning tires from a Prohibition day operation are still vivid.

I remember soot balls as big as bocai balls rolling in the gutters when a good southwest wind was blowing. Also, the old lead paint peeling from homes would foul the air. The foul air was our bread and butter.

Jerry Vloebergh and I used to explore the shoreline from Keller's Beach to the long wharf saltwater station. The beaches and rocks were coated with tar and the water would contain blocks of tar floating in it. We've come a long way in air and water quality since then.

I remember the "Herring Run" and the intake at the old saltwater pumping station being just loaded with fish.

Well, I've gone on and on in the memory sector of 65 years ago.

Impressions of youth are indelible.



Dear Jerry:

Words cannot express how grateful my wife and I are for all the kind things you all have done. I hope you can express this to everyone in your next newsletter. I was not able to get all the names of those who contributed, but a very special thanks to your organization

and those who worked so hard to bring it (the retirement party) about, to Rosemary, Judy and all the lovely people in the Point.

Love, Dave

Dear Pam:

Enclosed please find a check for \$10.00 to cover my dues for the coming year.

I was sorry to hear about Nellie Coward Brooker leaving us. I went to Washington Grammar School, high school and U.C. with her. She was a nice gal!

I may be of interest to you, to recall we who attended school with her.

The following graduated from the Washington Class of 1921, or was it 1922?

Howard Arnold, Joe Condon, Jack Donenwirth, Cornelius Gannon, Howard Huhges, Arthur Hoover, Stanley Jenkins, Lionel Lahiff, Robert Owens, Alfred Perricone, Joe Prolo, Harold Shawl, Willard Spiersch, Chester Stanley, Carl Strohammaier, Coburn, Smith, Henry Toth, Louis, Thompson, Joe Bernardi, Harry Carlson, Jack Campbell, Bernard, Bernes, Iola Beeson, Nellie Coward, Marie Beckman, Alice Dicely, Jenny Frambini, Theresa Fracchia, Helen Giannella, Virginia Hopkins, Margaret Lee, Bea Strohmaier, Terez Verneti, May Young, Alice Pucci, Alice Bagley.

Sincerely, Bernard Bernes
P.S.: I was known as Frenchy.

Dear Editor:

Once again, I thank all of those who have signed the petition to rename W. Richmond Avenue to BOB YOUNG AVENUE.

So far, there are over 960 names

on the two petitions located in the Santa Fe Market and at the Gallery Florist.

As I said in my last letter, we are in need of supporters who live or own a business on W. Richmond Avenue.

Levran Bryant, the Assistant City Manager of the City of Richmond is now working on the petition.

I'd also like to thank the PRHA for giving me space in their newsletter about this memorial for Bob Young.

When Mr. Bryant is through working on the petition, we will get a date to present it to the City Council. At that time I'd really appreciate it if you would please attend the meeting.

Thanks to all of you who have given me positive comments about this project, comments like "I don't think they're going to do it James", have decreased.

If you have not had a chance to sign the petition, please sign it at the Santa Fe Market or at the Gallery Florist.

Much Thanks, James Cheshareck



DEATHS.....

JAMIL S. SINAWI on February 19, in Richmond, age 31. Jamil is the son of Patricia Sheehan of the Point and Samir Sinawi of France. He is survived by brothers Hisham, Zaid and Laith, and sisters May Cranford and Neda Sinawi. A Memorial Service was held at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in the Point.

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**MARNI BRANDSHAW** on March 1 in a Reno hospital, age 39. Marni was a long time resident of the Point, attending Washington School and was a member of the Girl Scouts, but moved to Reno 4 years ago. She is survived by a daughter, Nicole, her father, Jack Bradshaw, brother David and two half-sisters, Carolyn Huber and Rolene Luis.



## THE MASQUERS

Playhouse, Inc.

105 Park Place, Point Richmond

PROUDLY PRESENTS

Let's dance.  
Without music?  
I'm in love!  
I'm never  
without music.



## UNDER THE SYCAMORE TREE

This delightful comedy is set in an ant colony. In the interest of science, the ants study humans and discover modern warfare, politics and even love. Written with subtle wry humor by Samuel Spewack; directed by John Hull.

The Cast: Joan Combs-Nelson, Robert Wood, George Adams, Henry Bers, Sarah Irvin, Roy Goodman, Mark Kramer, Linda Kramer, Anna Taylor, Erin Taylor, RYANNE BANKS, Sarah Allison, Sylvia Eilers and Zura Young

Friday & Saturday evenings— March 31 - May 6, 1989  
Sunday Matinees — April 9, 16, 30

**DINNER & THEATRE** benefit for our building fund at **HOTEL MAC**, Thursday evening, May 4. Dinner and ticket to "Under the Sycamore Tree" for only \$22.00. To reserve, **CALL RESERVATIONS: 232-4031.**

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

Curtain: 8:30 p.m. } Admission: \$6.00  
Matinees: 2:30 p.m. }

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

Reservations held until 10 minutes before curtain.  
Group Rates Available



## In the Next Issue.....

More memories from Ed Garrard in "Growing up in the Point in the 20's and 30's".

The answer to Stan's April question....where is the highest place in Richmond.

The time and location of the May History Association meeting.

## Birthdays

### APRIL

LOOF LIRPA

Kathy Barnes

M. Roberta Palfini

Kari Elle

Tara Kaufman

Judy Walz

Verla Camren

Don Amantite

Joel Peterson

Lisa Ogles

Michael Horn

Anna Schwartz

Bonita Klivans

Elnora Surdam

Monica Doherty

Bruce Bartram

Dori Freitas

Ruth Wilson

Helen Kocker

Paula Ferguson

Pam Wilson

Melissa Allyn

Eric Hoiland

William Kretzmer

Russell Greenlaw

Alison Lord

John Maxwell

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

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 check payable to the Point Richmond History Association and mail 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 months.

Articles for each month's issue are due on the 15th of the previous month. Please mail articles and items of interest to:

**Gary Shows**

**229 Golden Gate Avenue**

**Point Richmond, CA 94801**

"This Point" is a publication of the Point Richmond History Association, a non-profit organization at 229 Golden Gate Avenue, Point Richmond, CA 94801

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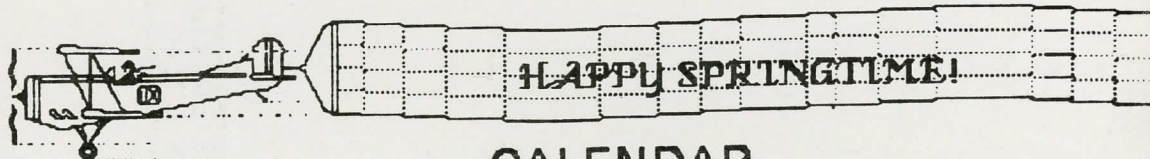
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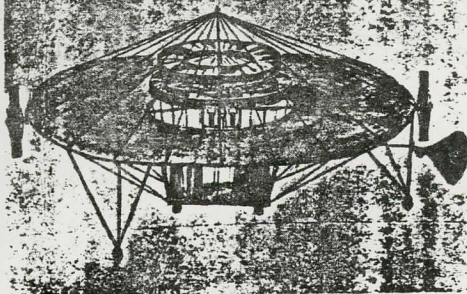


## CALENDAR

- APRIL 1            ALL FOOL'S DAY
- APRIL 4            POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING
- APRIL 8            BOB YOUNG WALK-A-THON AT WASHINGTON SCHOOL 9:00 A
- APRIL 12           POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MEETING AT  
HOTEL MAC
- APRIL 17           DEADLINE FOR FILING INCOME TAXES
- APRIL 15           ARTICLES DUE FOR THIS NEWSLETTER
- APRIL 19           PASSOVER BEGINS AT SUNSET
- MAY 2              POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING
- MAY 10             POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION MEETING



**R. H. BOTTS**  
Inventor and Constructor



*Botts' Flying Machine*