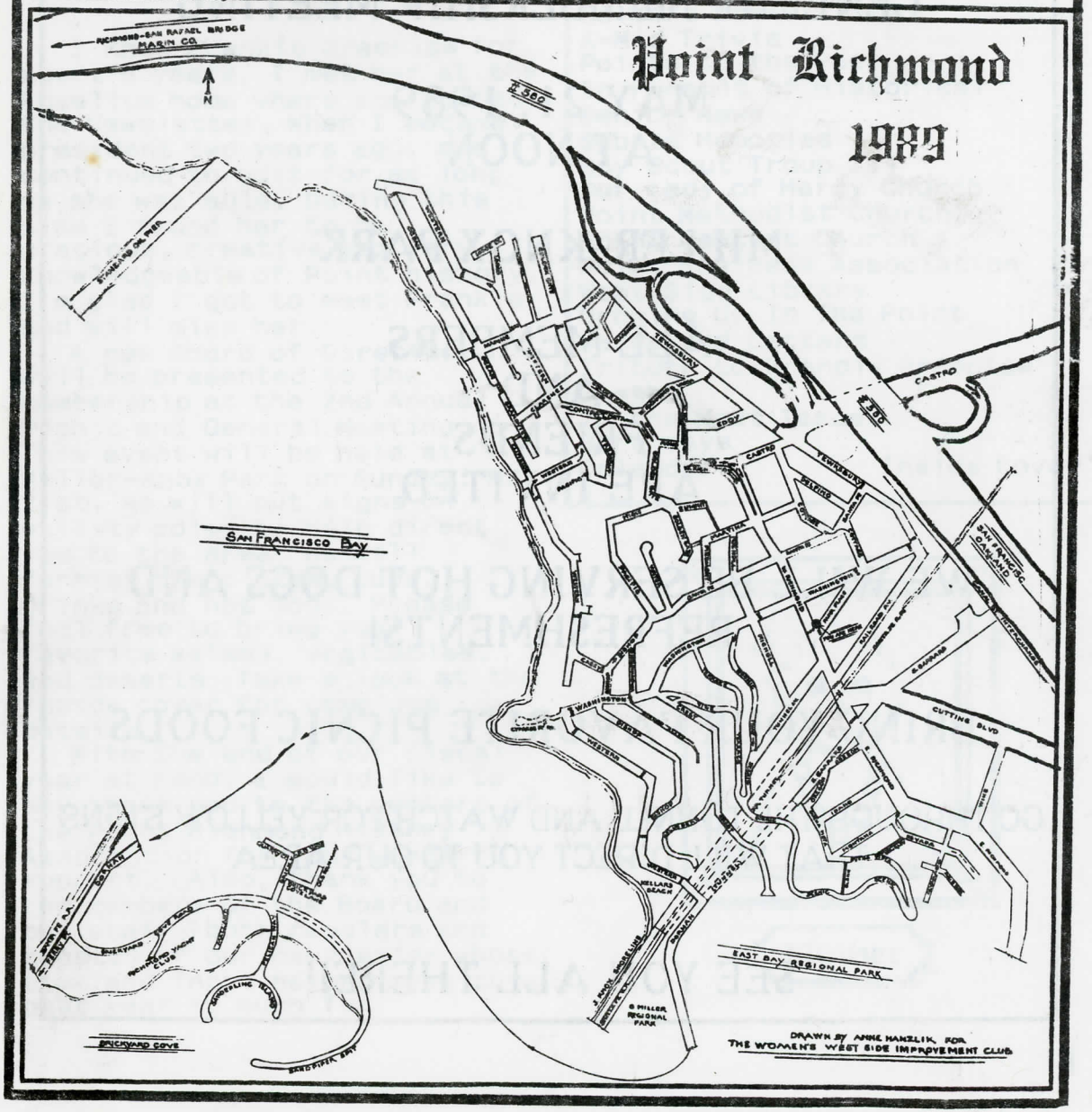
THIS POINT

in time

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL. VIII NO. 1 MAY, 1989 ONE DOLLAR



THE SECOND ANNUAL PICNIC

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MAY 21, 1989
AT NOON

MILLER-KNOX PARK

ALL MEMBERS
AND
FRIENDS
ARE INVITED

WE WILL BE SERVING HOT DOGS AND
REFRESHMENTS!

BRING YOUR FAVORITE PICNIC FOODS

GO THROUGH THE TUNNEL AND WATCH FOR YELLOW SIGNS
THAT WILL DIRECT YOU TO OUR AREA

SEE YOU ALL THERE!!

History Association Notes

FROM THE PRESIDENT
by Jerry Cerkanowicz

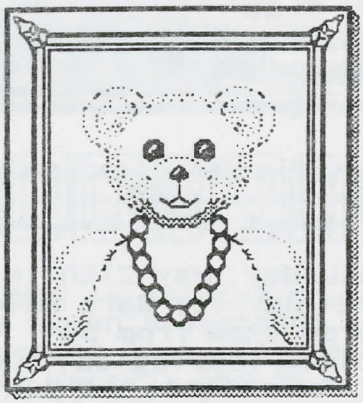
I knew Frankie Greenlaw for about 5 years. I met her at the Roselius home where she edited the Newsletter. When I became president two years ago, she continued to edit for as long as she was able. During this time I found her to be gracious, creative and very knowledgeable of Point history. I'm glad I got to meet Frankie and will miss her.

A new Board of Directors will be presented to the membership at the 2nd Annual Picnic and General Meeting. This event will be held at Miller-Knox Park on Sunday, May 21st. We will put signs on utility poles to help direct you to the area. We will furnish the plates, cups, drinks and hot dogs. Please feel free to bring your favorite salads, vegitables, and deserts. Take a look at the inside cover for complete details.

With the end of our fiscal year at hand, I would like to say thank you to the members of the Point Richmond History Association for your wonderful support. Also, thank you to the members of the Board and the staff (both regulars and guests) of our newsletter whose time and input helped make this past year so much fun.

CONTENTS

From the President	1
Members	2
Editors Notes	3
A-Mid Trivia	4
Points to the Past	6
In Pursuit of Historical	8
Senior News	10
Sports Memories	10
Boy Scout Troup 111	11
Our Lady of Mercy Church	12
Point Methodist Church	12
Point Baptist Church	14
Point Business Association	15
West Side Library	16
Growing Up In The Point	17
Cards and Letters	17
Tribute to Francis Greenlaw	18
Deaths	23
In the Next Issue	24
Birthdays	24
Calendar	Inside Cover



MEMBERS

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

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

Jerry & Theresa Daniel
Elaine R. Harris
Varsie Lometti
Russ Moore
Louise Novarini
Tom Spencer
Frieda Stephens
Myrna Wishart
Howard S. Arnold
Ed Garrard
Barbara Olesen
Kay Pinkerton
Jean & Willard Spiersch
Robert Feyder
The Ward Family
Sara Eeles

A warm welcome to new members:

Priscilla Minn
Maxine Forbes
Charlie Brown

Saturday, May 27th is a special day for Sara Eales as she graduates from San Francisco Theological School. Congratulations! And your friends never doubted this graduation. (P.S. "This Point in Time" looks forward to your rejoining the staff soon.)

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Do you know what these names have in common?

San Pablo Township

Point Huchiune

Point San Antonio

Port of Stevens

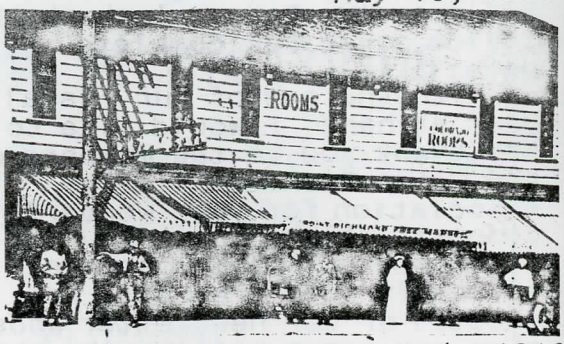
They have all been used to identify our community. Richmond was orignially part of the large township of San Pablo, which started out being called Point Huchiune in 1772 and became Point San Antonio in 1775.

In 1852, according to *California Place Names*, Point Richmond was called Point Stevens. Stevens was dropped and the Point became Richmond Point on the U.S. Coast Survey Map.

The city, incorporated in 1905, took its name from the Point.

So that's Huchiune, San Antonio, San Pablo, Stevens and Richmond.

Contra Costa Independent
May 16, 1983



The old Critchett Hotel in 1913
The Don Church Photo Collection

editors notes.....
BY GARY SHOWS

Here we are with a new Volume! Volume VII has been a real learning experience, a lot of work and a lot of fun. I hope you have noticed some improvement in both content and appearance.

Thanks to everyone who participated, I think we produce a newsletter that we can be proud of. PARTICIPATION is what makes our newsletter interesting and meaningful. People like John Stephens, Ed Garrard, Al Franco and others who have voluntarily participated are so valuable because their input adds diversity and living history. I can't tell you how much I have appreciated your contributions.

Thank you also to our regular staff. When you are volunteering your time to write regular features it can sometimes be difficult to be creative and interesting all of the time. I think you have all done a marvelous job. So thanks to Mid Dornan, Stan Nystrom, Eleanor Hurley, Roy Jones, Jan Burdick, Allan Smith, Jerry Cerkanowicz, Pam Wilson, and Murial Clausen. You guys are the heart of our little publication.....great job!

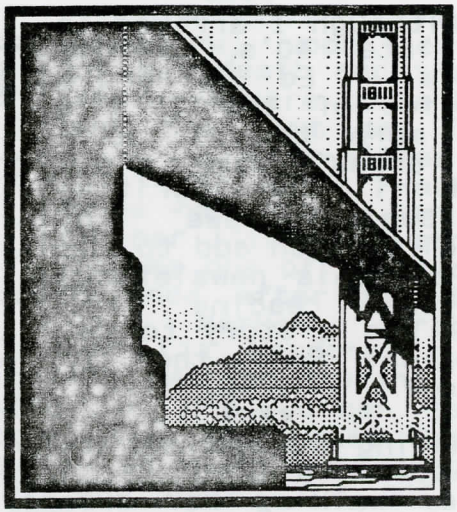
And a thank you to the people who regularly help physically put it together.

Remember that we will be slowing down a bit for the Summer, the next issue, the Summer Issue will be out in July. Deadline for that issue will be June 15th. Enjoy the break. Bye, until then.

TRIVIA

Walk down the main street of Point Richmond and stop at 116 Washington Avenue. The address is a vacant lot, but what remains in front is a large piece of beautiful blue colored marble stone that was once the entrance to a soda fountain.

A. Smith



THE COVER is printed courtesy of the Women's Westside Improvement Club. It was drawn by Anne Hanzlik and is beautifully displayed in front of the Point Fire Station. Thank you Richard Lompa for donating repro services.

A MID TRIVIA
by MID DORNAN (234-5334)

Abril showers brigd Bay flowedhs ad ahlsu thu firdst tudge of subber hay feverdh!

****

Thanks to Donna Powers (and dity gardner Bob Argo) the garden in Indian Statue Park has had its Spring replanting adding to the Point's beautification. The Point is also grateful to Mike Vukelich of Color Spot Nursery for donating the plants.

****

Although I arrived in the late 40's no one enjoys Ed Garrard's memories of the 20's & 30's more than I, with Roy Jones' humor and style of writing ...."Senior News" by Muriel Clausen add to the joy of this newsletter. Everyone reading this paper has a story to tell and memories. Send them to our editor!

Happy Mother's Day

****

Making the noonday scene in the downtown area is Eleanor Hurley walking her sweatered Chihuahua, Chita.

****

Editor Gary Shows' mother, Bernice, while visiting from Texas was drafted to help print and collate the last issue of TPIT, thereby learning the roots involved. Thanks!

****

Betty Dornan, Wilda (Skow) Heide, Marie (Lathier) Thompson and Mary Tom (Sheldon) Coe met for lunch in April like they have been doing once a month for over 40 years. Originally, they met at each others home cooking special dishes for each other, but admit to being "cooked out" and delight in trying different restaurants now. They are high school friends.

****

HINT: To keep a dripping faucet quiet until it can be fixed, tie a string around the spout that is long enough to reach the drain, the water will run down the string.... silently.

****

PG&E has set June as the date for the removal of the obsolete natural gas tank at the yacht-filled Brickyard Cove. It was built in 1949 as part of a back up system to ensure uninterupted service to customers.

Dismantling will be from the ground up. Hydralic jacks will lower the tank as pieces of support columns and the tank shell are removed. Removal is expected to take four months.

****

Long needed repairs to renovate our belived Plunge has closed the "grande dame" of East Bay indoor pools for 150 days. Workers will replace the huge, 63 year old original boiler that heats the water to 84 degrees, as well as the network of valves and pipes that carries the water to the pool. The Plunge will be closed during the summer months, its most popular season!

****

Tight skirts don't stop a woman's circulation. In fact, the tighter the clothes, the more she circulates!

Want to know a friend better? Take a look at her (or his) refrigerator door!

****

Belated congratulations to the newborns at Brickyard Landing and Brickyard Cove. Welcome to:

CHRISTINA, Born Christmas day to Gerry and Diana Nagatani

LAUREN ELIZABETH, Born December 8th to Jim and Kristin Nason

KRISTINA CATHERINE, Born January 6th to Dave and Dena Holbrook

And to Debbie and Chris Corlett, a daughter. Unable to reach them for her name and date of birth, perhaps by the next issue more information will be available.

****

The Point Richmond History Association was well represented on their designated evening for the celebration of the Hotel Mac's 78th birthday. The jazz music and festive balloons made it a gala affair.

****

Linda Andrew-Marshall was honored at a baby shower for her expected TWINN BOYS!! Given at Linsley Hall by Sue Loader and Donna Powers on Sunday April 23rd, the party was exciting. There are twins on both sides of the family, so it was inevitable Linda would be so rewarded. Besides the "double" gifts, contributions were received (and still welcomed) towards diaper service for the 100+ diapers the twins will use each week.

****

Nine people were injured when an oil processing unit at Chevron Refinery exploded on April 10th. Two loud explosions at 12:45 p.m. started the fire in a six-story piece of equipment known as the Isomax unit at the northern end of the refinery. Dense black smoke gushed from the site of the explosion and from a flame atop a nearby tower used to control the excess gases.

The Bay Area Quality Control monitors Chevron and said any vioations could result in $1000 fines, however, officials said Chevron had a generally good record on refinery emissions.

****

Happy Mother's Day

Friends of Frankie Greenlaw, upon learning of her death and that no services were to be held, met the next day for a walk in Knox-Miller Park to "talk about Frankie". Some had known her most of her life while another became one of her closest friends after the Santa Fe Market tragedy. Whatever Liz Macdonald, Mary Highfill, Marian Hawkins, Sara Eales or Mid Dornan talked about, one knew that Frankie would just smile her contagious grin and add, "You got that right!"

They discussed ways to honor her memory and they all agreed it should be something in the Point. Her son, Russell, agreed that anyone so wishing could donate in her memory to the Point Richmond History Association or the Richmond Library with a note expressing the money be used for books in the POINT BRANCH known as the WESTSIDE BRANCH with a nameplate inside the cover.

****

One by one developers are

being GIVEN VALUABLE PIECES OF PROPERTY in the Point as they vacate paper streets which should remain open space. This added land enables developers to increase multiple units to be built or even gives them added free land to sell! Contra Costa Street and Buena Vista residents as well as the entire Point is effected and should protest at the Richmond Planning Commission on May 4th. If enough residents show concern, the Planning Commission and City Council will listen!!

****

Seems Science should be working harder on some method of living longer without growing older!

****

REMEMBER YOUR MOTHER OR SOMEONE ELSE'S MOTHER ON HER DAY!!

Articles of interest from our archives

THE HISTORY OF POINT RICHMOND.. THE EVOLUTION OF 201 WEST RICHMOND AVENUE

by Barbara Quein

Since early Point Richmond was growing at a tremendous rate, it was soon evident that a bank was needed to manage the affairs of the many thriving businessmen. Richmond's first bank, the Bank of Richmond was located on the upper floor of 201 West Richmond Avenue (a printing office was on the ground floor facing Washington Avenue, the P.G.&E. Office faced West Richmond Avenue.) The bank was organized on April 25, 1902, with a capital of $35,000. The officers were as follows: William Minzer, President; W.F. Belding, Vice-President and W. Stairly, Cashier.

The bank remained in business until 1924, when it was absorbed by Mercantile Trust Company of California; Mercantile Trust then merged with the American Trust Company, and in 1926 a new branch was added at Twenty-Third and Macdonald Avenues.

As other areas began to grow, the bank was moved to central Richmond. The old bank site was converted into the Bank Club ....don't let the name deceive you! ...a pool hall and beer parlor.

The hall was transformed into a department store by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hartynyk, who are still in business at 201 West Richmond Avenue. It is intriguing that one of Point Richmond's oldest buildings houses a business that has the latest in everything! *(?!)*

Reprinted from "The Point Counterpoint", September, 1966

THE HISTORY OF POINT RICHMOND.. THE EARLY CHURCHES

By Barbara Quein

Richmond's first church

services were held in 1899 in a railroad car that was placed on a side track for Sunday morning services. Since muddy ground blocked off the coach in rainy weather, the worshipers moved to a weatherproof tent located at Richmond and Washington Avenues. Another move was imperitive when a strong wind blew the tent away in the middle of a service! Thus, the First Methodist Church was officially organized in the home of the minister, Reverend William Younglove, and services were held there for almost a year.

A two story frame structure was then built at Richmond and Martina Streets. This church served as a haven for refugees of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake; the people ate in the Sunday School rooms and slept in the chapel pews until they could be housed. A year after the quake the Methodists built their present church at the same location.

The origins of Point Richmond's Catholic Church are no less interesting. For two years, mass was celebrated by Father Pimental on the second floor of Curry Hall at Standard and Washington Avenues. This hall was also used for prize fights, dances, and skating; the ground floor was a horse stable. In 1903 the present Our Lady of Mercy Church was built, alongside the Methodist Church.

The Baptists organized Richmond's third church with eight charter members. They rented Richard's Hall for their services until the present church was built in 1904, at Washington and Nichol Avenues.

Reprinted from "The Point Counterpoint", September, 1966

THE HISTORY OF POINT RICHMOND.. EDUCATION IN EARLY POINT RICHMOND

by Barbara Quein

Now that school is in full swing again, it seems appropriate to look back to the early days of education in Richmond.

Richmond children's first classes were conducted in the busy basement of the First Methodist Church. A Miss Emily Boorman had the rather difficult task of instructing 87 children of nine grade levels in a not-too-well equipped environment. (It was necessary to crowd three children around each small desk).

These deplorable condition were alleviated somewhat in September, 1901, when a new two room schoolhouse was built on Standard Avenue. The teaching load was divided between two teachers. At the same time Walter T. Helms was hired as supervising principal of the Standard School.

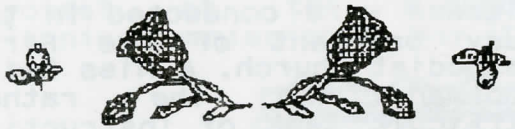
In 1907 the two-room school became a high school with three teachers and 45 students. This was a lucky break for the early Point teenagers; before 1907 they had to commute to Berkeley High!

During this period, Point population was booming. To accomodate the new children a room above a stable was rented for a school. The scholars were often disturbed by the noise of clucking chickens and stamping horses, and the smell of these animals was everpresent and overpowering.

So, school children of Point

Richmond, if you're dissatisfied with the conditions at Washington School (i.e. not enough tether balls, etc.) just think of what you would have had to go through 50 years ago!

Reprinted from "The Point Counterpoint", September, 1966



IN PURSUIT OF HISTORICAL TRIVIA

Courtesy of STAN NYSTROM

ANSWER

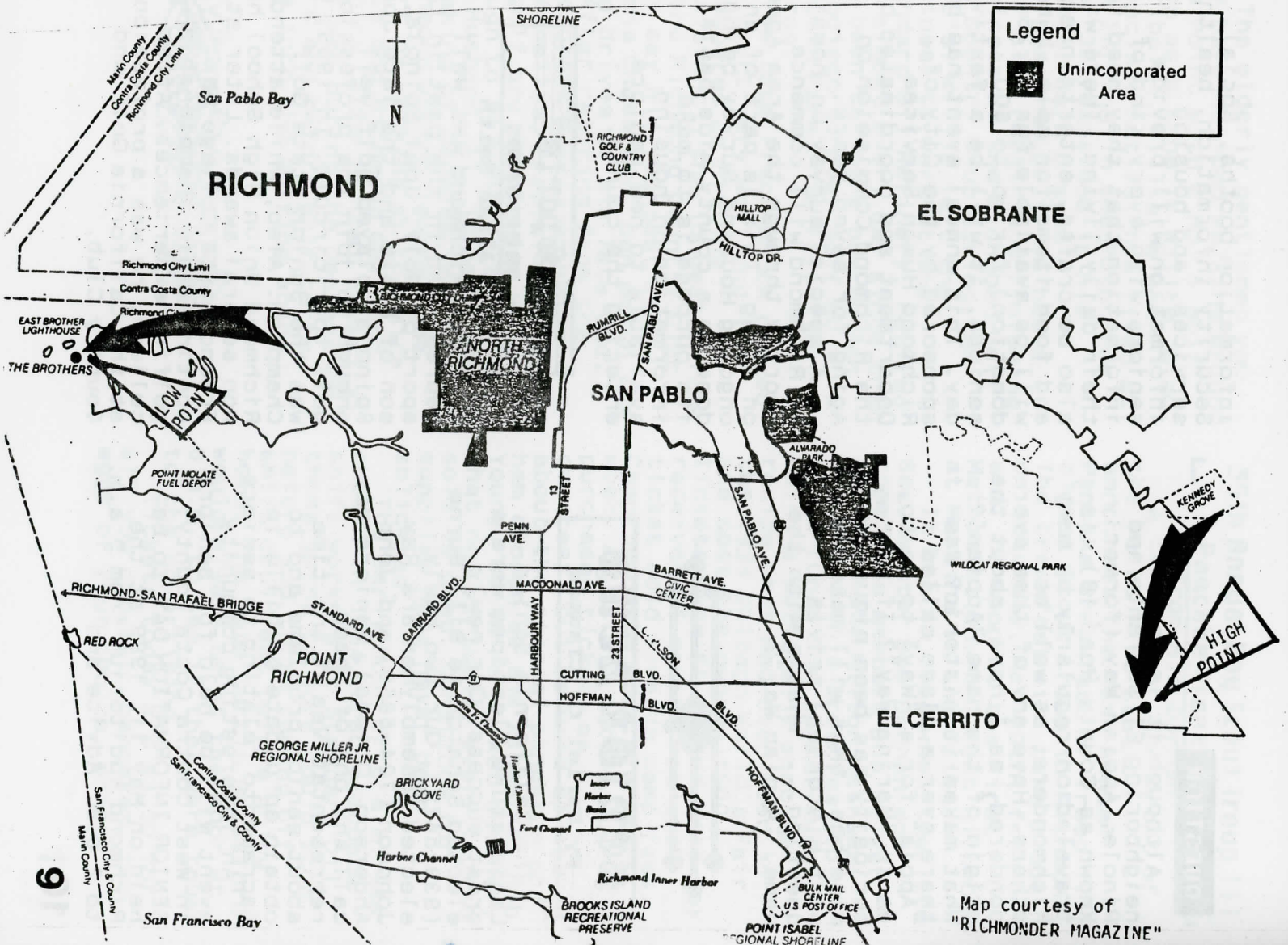
Last month's trivia question pertained to the location of the highest point in the Richmond city limits. What prompted the inquiry was the realization, while on a recent trip to Florida, that that state has only absolutely flat horizons; whereas, during all of my life here on the West Coast, I had been accustomed to seeing some degree of contouring on the horizon around me. "Slightly above sea level" is the state-wide norm there, and the highest elevation in the entire state is located on the Alabama border northeast of Pensacola; and that is only 345 feet above sea level, or approximately 23 feet **LOWER** than Nicholl Nob in Point Richmond!

However, Nicholl Nob is not the highest location in Richmond, but an apparently unnamed peak near the southern border of Wildcat Canyon Regional Park is. At 1152 feet above sea level, it is over three times the height of Nicholl Nob. Close nearby is Wildcat Peak, 62 feet higher at 1214 feet, but it is just out of the city limits in an unincorporated part of the county. (I am indebted to Mr. Paul Ryus, of this city, for his assistance in localizing this highest elevation point. I doubt if even City Hall is aware of this heretofore well kept secret!)

The unnamed peak is situated about a mile and a quarter due north of the Summit Reservoir that is in upper Kensington near the north entrance to Tilden Regional Park. It is straight across Wildcat Canyon from Kensington School, and from that viewing level the peak stands out only slightly from the surrounding terrain (see the map on the next page).

A more interesting way of seeing it would be to emulate Mohammed, and go to the mountain (hill?). The Conlon Hiking Trail in Wildcat Canyon Regional Park actually goes right beside the top of the peak. On a good day, the view from there and nearby Wildcat Peak is a panorama of at least eight counties. Information booklets on that trail are available at the above mentioned Tilden Regional Park, in the Environmental Education Center (located a short distance north of the merry-go-round.

Just be sure to ask for the WILDCAT CANYON Regional Park booklet.



Map courtesy of "RICHMONDER MAGAZINE"

QUESTION

Although it is in neighboring El Sobrante and Pinole, Appian Way (formerly known as County Road 18), is traveled on regularly by many Richmonders, as well as others. Have any of them ever pondered, as I have, about the origin of the name "Appian"? What makes it historic? Was there ever a place called "Appia" for a "Way" to go to, as in "Marina Way"? If your curiosity has been piqued as mine has, that will make the next historical trivia question.... What's with the name, "Appian Way"?

SENIOR NEWS

By Muriel C. Clausen

The California Senior Legislature Elections were a great success. Our newly elected Senator is Bill Burns (939-5479). Our two newly elected Assemblymen are Ray Johnson (724-6850) and John Anderson (Orinda). Seniors may call any one of these representatives at any time about senior problems and to obtain an update on bills in Sacramento relating to seniors.

An interesting community event will be held for seniors in West Contra Costa County; SENIOR INFORMATION DAY to be held on May 11, 1989 at the Richmond Auditorium from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Advice and information booths, Social Security information, health services, and housing information will provide seniors with every kind of information that they need for their daily living. There will also be crafts, entertainment, and food items for sale. Lunch will be available for $1.25 (a donation) for up to 600 seniors, it will be a festive day. This annual event has been sponsored by the City of Richmond Human Services Department and coordinated by the Richmond Commission on Aging for seven years.

A special survey on housing in Richmond will commence shortly through the Area Agency on Aging. This is part of an ongoing Housing Survey being done on a county wide basis, its purpose is to make information on housing available to new seniors entering the county.

Sports memories

By Allan Smith

Point Richmond was well represented in the past in the sport of Golf. Joel Spinola, son of Elsie and the late Joe Spinola, played golf well enough to join the professional golf tour circuit. In 1955, he was the Junior State Golf Champion. Also, while attending Richmond Union High School he won several awards. Later at Fresno State College he continued his championship golfing experiences. After college, he was a professional at the California Golf and Country Club.

The elderly gentlemen you may have noticed walking around the Point with a No. 5 golf iron as a cane is Willie "Gino" Garibaldi. Willie, a San Francisco native, has lived at the Ivy Inn in the Point for over 35 years and in his younger days played professional golf. He had a golf club repair and finishing business at the Richmond Golf and Country Club during the 1950's. Willie left that business to work at the Standard Oil Refinery, retired and almost every day since then has been taking a bus to San Francisco to play golf at Lincoln Park, his favorite course.

The late Frank Shock played the sport very well and is remembered as hitting consistently the longest drives at the Richmond Country Club. They say his youngest son, Jimmie Chesareck, can match the long drives of his late dad.

After retiring from the restaurant business, Helen (Rafanellie) Frosini has taken up golf and is playing well enough to be winning trophies. Her Husband, Al, is her caddy. Speaking of caddies, many Point Richmond youths learned the sport by working at the Mira Vista and Richmond Golf and Country Clubs in that capacity, that was during the Depression years and before golf carts came into the golfing scene.

35th Annual Boy Scout Troup 111 Pancake Breakfast

from Mid Dornan

A banner over the front of the Point Fire Station announces the 35th Annual Pancake Breakfast of Troop 111, oldest Scout troop in Richmond. The breakfast will take place on Saturday, May 20th, from 6 a.m. to noon at the First Methodist Church, West Richmond at Martina in the Point.

It was in 1954 when the late Scoutmaster Bob Dornan and committee members Bob Selzer and the late Milton Hathaway organized this breakfast to raise funds for summer camp using a buttermilk pancake recipe that had been used in the 1939 Chicago World's Fair and cost the owners $500. Tickets were $1.00 and each boy received 25 cents from each ticket sold towards camp fees. Camping costs were $10 for a week. At first, people purchased tickets as a courtesy, but as word spread about the special pancakes and ham chosen as the finest by Bob Young, Santa Fe Market butcher, that now virtually every ticket sold is used. Donations for supplies have never been solicited.

The early hour of 6 a.m. was chosen in 1954 to accommodate shift workers at Standard Oil, those going to work could stop before and those coming off shift could eat before going home. The late Curtis Beresford would always be at the door at 6 a.m. to see if they were true to the advertising.

Tickets today are $3.50 for all you can eat; pancakes, two eggs of your choice, orange

juice, ham, coffee or milk. Former scouts return to cook the breakfast, present scouts serve coffee and juice as well as clear and set up the tables while sisters and friends assist with the serving.

Scoutmaster Dan Stallworth (235-2082) is being assisted this year in the planning by Fred Hart, Pleasanton, Ben Woodson, Karen Fenton and Mid Dornan. Committee Chairman, George Mohr, is currently convalescing from a stroke but has been an important force in the success of the annual breakfast and is expected to be there that day.

Support these boys so they may experience camping in the wilderness. Besides, it is THE place to be on the 20th and serves often as a reunion for others.

Churches

OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH

by ELEANOR HURLEY

We had a very beautiful and prayerful celebration for Easter. Fr. Denis was able to attend and sat up in the altar section. We were all happy to observe how well he was looking. He hopes to get approval shortly and be able to return to his ministry. The attendance at Easter Sunday Mass was excellent. It reminded us of earlier days when the Church was filled. The Easter lillies and candles and the choir added to a very happy service.

The poor old furnace gave up shortly after Easter Sunday and a new one has just been installed. I guess that cold spell was just a little much!

On Sunday, April 9th at our monthly Parrish Meeting, seven members were elected to form the Parish Council. They will be having their first meeting soon and will make their first report at the May meeting. The Council will be a big help to the Pastor.

Tony Ferriera is still heading up the group who go once a month to help out at the Souper Kitchen. Last month Tony reported that over 300 people were served soup and sandwiches.

The roses are just coming into bloom, thanks to the recent rains and the nice weather. We are fortunate to have such a fine gardener as Gertrude Rondon who really has a "green thumb".

POINT METHODIST CHURCH

by MID DORNAN

Beautifiaction around the church continues as plantings in the area between the two churches on West Richmond Avenue has been completed.

The Church Sunday School year will end on Sunday May 21st when there will be special recognition given to the Heiver Project. It is hoped they can purchase two goats this year to be sent to mission areas.

The United Methodist Women met at the home of JoAnn Bray on Tulare Avenue, El Cerrito and will meet in May at the home of Helen Valentine, Rodeo.

Craft meetings are held each Wednesday at the church. Anyone is invited to join the group at

7:30.

Bible Study is held on Sundays at 5:30.

Claudia LeGue created the Easter Cross in the West Richmond side of the shadow box.

The Annual Church picnic will be on June 4th at Miller-Knox Park. During church services that day, the children will be presented Bibles.

The Reverend Michael and his wife, Lynn, will honor members of the Education Committee and Sunday School teachers at their home in May.

Members are invited to the luncheon at El Cerrito Methodist Church geven by the women on May 6th. May Fellowship Day was observed on May 5th with Point members Oretta Eaton and Jean Reynolds participating in the program.

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 38th installment.

Jan. 16, 1914

The Womans Home Missionary Society met at the home of Mrs. N. Grover. Meeting opened by Mrs. Cracer, Vice President, by reading fifteen verses of Eph. 5th chapter and followed by prayer. Reading of minutes of the two previous meetings and treasurer report, both approved. Communication from Conf., corresponding sec read urging members of aux. to do its best to obtain new members this year. No special program being arranged for the meeting presiding officers gave out several leaflets which were read by different members present, after which hostess served dainty refreshments. Society adjourned to meet with Mrs. Gobbons next month. The following paid dues:

Mrs. J. Lester	.50
Mrs. Bozzle	1.25
Mrs. Gibbons	.50
Mrs. Bradley	1.20
For Refreshments	.60

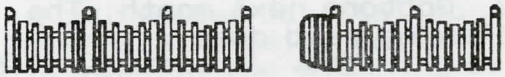
Mrs. Totten, Sec

March 20, 1914

The regular monthly meeting of the W.H.M.S. was held at home of Mrs. Totten, the pres. Mrs. Gibbons being unable to attend, Mrs. Horner, vice pres. presided. Meeting was opened by presiding officers reading 14 verses of 1st Eph. followed by prayer by Miss Janes *(note: this name may be incorrect, cannot decipher writing)*. Minutes of previous meeting read and approved. Treasurer reported $19.52 in dues sent t conference treasure (sic) and $1.40 still in our treas. Mrs. Grover was appointed to assist pres in arranging program for next meeting when mite boxes would be opened. Mrs. Horner was elected delegate to go to district convention of the W.H.M.S. to be held in 1st M.E. church Oakland April 24 and Mrs. Bradley as alternate. It was ordered that the Home Missionary paper be sent to the two public libraries of our city and the amount be drawn as treasure for the years subcription. Miss Janes gave a very interesting talk on her work as a deaconess in the Morman City, Salt Lake City. It

was ordered that society pay Miss Janes car fare. After adjournment refreshments were served.

Miss Tottin paid dues .50
Silver offering $1.25
Mrs. Jeannie M Totten, sec



POINT BAPTIST CHURCH

by ROY JONES

Articles of Incorporation of the First Baptist Church of Point Richmond, California

1. KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: That we the undersigned have this day associated ourselves together for the prupose of forming a Religious Corporation under the Laws of the State of California to be known and designated as the First Baptist Church of Point Richmond.
2. That the object and purpose for which this Corporation is formed is as follows: To establish and maintain a regular Baptist Church in the town of Point Richmond, County of Contra Costa, State of California, for the purpose of public worship and religious teaching according to the Holy Scriptures.
3. That the place where its principal business is to be transacted shall be in the town of Point Richmond and that the term for which it is to exist is fifty years from and after the date of incorporation. (This time was later amended to read "The term for which it is to exist is perpetual.")
4. That the number of its Directors or Trustees who shall have the management of this Corporation's business and affairs shall be five and are to hold office until their successors are appointed. The officers elected are C.W. Brown, Bertha A. Reynolds, Elizabeth A Donahoo, F.L. Lea and O.H. Oxendine, who are all residents of Point Richmond.
5. That said Corporation is not formed for the purpose of pecuniary profit and benefit and there is no capital stock in said Corporation.
6. That the said Trustees and Directors above named, having been duly elected at a meeting of the members of said Baptist Church duly convened and held at Henley's House in the town of Point Richmond on the 5th day of January, 1903. BE IT RESOLVED to hold all property of said Association owned by it prior to incorporation, and all that may be acquired hereafter by gift, donation, purchase or otherwise, to buy land and build a house of worship, parsonage, or other public buildings, to borrow money and secure the payment of same by mortgage or other lien and to provide by purchase or otherwise burial grounds of its deceased members.

And thus it began and has been since 1903. The land was bought, the church erected and dedicated in November 1904. The plot for burial grounds was given to the City of Richmond in 1912, it is now Janice Playlot. Along in 1912-14, there was quite an exocus out of the Point to the flatlands along MacDonald Aveune and the larger part of this congregation moved there. We here in this building were

still active as a Mission Church and in 1941 were re-organized as a fully independent church again.

This information is passed along to the readers of TPIT, as it has been previously, because after 86 years of service our old building seems to be facing closure! The reasons are not financial... we pay our bills and give generously to local charities, but we have not been able to maintain the building... it is structurally sound, but needs painting and a roof. Along with our reorganization in 1941, the deed here slipped from us to a huge parent organization, The American Baptist Convention. Our congregation has been decreasing in the past few years, most of them have retired and our parent organization feels that we have not attracted a new crowd of "upwardly mobile" Point residents, or in other words we don't contribute enough to them financially. And of course they look with greedy eyes to a property that has grown enormously in value.

Our building is in the National Registry of Historical Buildings, we love it and do not believe it should be torn down. We have faith this beautiful old building will remain for another 86 years.

Lost.....

On April Plyllis Feyder lost an anitque cameo broach in front of the Hotel Mac. It means a lot to her, if you have any information about it, please call her at 234-1804.

POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

President David Vincent convened the noon luncheon meeting at the Hotel Mac on March 8, 1989.

Anne Hanzlik displayed the new map of the Point to be put up by the West Side Women's Improvement Club near the fire station.

Mid Dornan reported on the Bob Young Memorial Fund. Some of the ideas include another bench, a planter, a plaque and a sundial. The final decision will be made by Mrs. Young.

Jay Ward noted that the 8 hour parking limit on Railroad Avenue was being abused by local commuters and asked abou changing it to a shorter time. Oscar Lugo suggested 2 hours, Mike Holt suggested 4 hours. David Vincent proposed a survey on those parking in that area. Adele Chase Hollander proposed a parking lot on the Hazel Carr property on West Richmond Avenue. Rhoda Plymack suggested a meeting with police and mete enforcement to see if anything can be done. David Vincent wil put the parking problem on the agenda for next month and asked Jay Ward to form a committee, volunteers included Mike Holt, Bob Schuette, David Janney and Steve Crook.

Diane Harrison from City Recreation and Parks Department made several announcements. The Dept. has changed its name to the Human Services Department. She handed out the Spring Activities book and announced that renovations on the plumbing will close the Plunge

beginning in mid-April and may take 5 months.

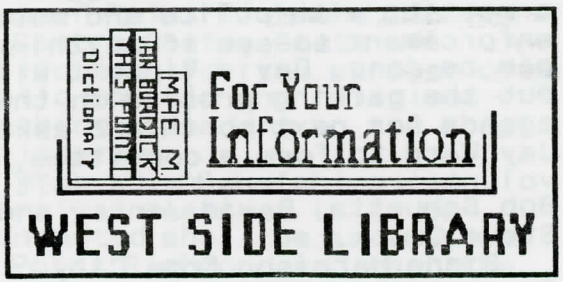
A professional survey by the City of Point residents will be taken to determine what sort of activities the residents want at the Community Center. Results of the survey will be available at the end of April.

Donna Hunter and Nancy Burns of Mariah Wilderness Tours gave details on the July 30th raft trip on the South Fork of the American River. The bus will leave the Point at 7 a.m. and return at 5 p.m. Breakfast and lunch will be included at a total cost of $75.

Eric Altree of Environmental Management & Investment Corporation of Sausalito was introduced. He said he will be working in the Point on several projects.

Oscar Lugo said that the mound of dirt in the fire station driveway was contaminated with diesel fuel and that none of the parties involved could move it.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.



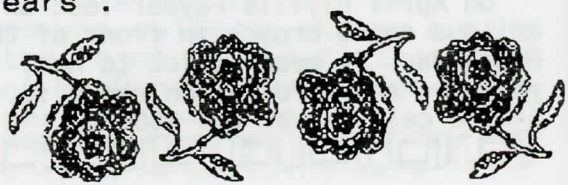
By Jan Burdick

To help those talented people who can repair their own cars, West Side has on its Reference Shelf manuals covering cars from 1966 onward. The two most recent additions are **CHILTON'S AUTO REPAIR MANUALS FOR CARS 1982-1989**, one volume is for *domestic* and another for *foreign* makes. These can be used at the library.

Mary Jean Parson's **MANAGING THE ONE-PERSON BUSINESS** will help any budding entrepreneurs out there. All kinds of advice is offered from the advantages of different types of ownership (sole proprietorship, partnerships, corporations) to funding sources, marketing tips and time management.

A much broader book in the area of economics is **THE WEALTH OF THE NATION; AN ECONOMIC HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES** by Stuart Bruchley. This is a concise introduction to U.S. economic history, starting with the colonial years. He is especially good in discussing the rise of big business, the Progressive movement, and the legal system. His chapter on the Roaring Twenties and the Depression is excellent.

Clinical psychologist Janet K. Belsky offers practical strategies of aging well in her book **HERE TOMORROW: MAKING THE MOST OF LIFE AFTER FIFTY**. For more than xixty million Americans aged fifty and over, this book is a guide to work and retirement, love and marriage, health, hobbies and leisure. It offers valuable help in coping with illness, disability and bereavement but also tells why so many consider life after fifty "the good years".



GROWING UP IN THE POINT IN THE 20'S AND 30'S
Guest Column

By Ed Garrard

Two more items come to mind since my two lengthy dissertations. These are "do you remembers?" for the real old timers.

First, do you remember the box car red and black trimmed waiting room at Richmond Avenue and the Santa Fe tracks. You would catch the steam train there to go to ferry Point to get the Santa Fe ferry to San Francisco.

Do you remember the red brick kid's restroom (boys and girls) behind the old Washington Grammer school? Guess it was built without facilities and the sturdy outhouse was an after thought(?). Boy, that school building was impressive, two stories with an imposing front stairway to the second floor.

I have other stories of the "real characters" of my era that are great for a laugh but are left unsaid except in small circles of people. I was tempted to write of them but.... perhaps I was one of them!

Thank you Ed, we have really enjoyed....those of us who were in the Point in the 20's and 30's and those of us who were not. If you've forgotten anything, please let us know.
GARY

Dear Jerry:

There are now 1000 signatures on the petition to rename W. Richmond Ave. after our friend Bob Young. I think this is was an accomplishment and was my personal goal.

On Thursday April 13th, a reporter from the West County Times called to tell me that they will do the article as soon as Levran Bryant, the Assistant City Manager returns their call. Mr. Bryant is studying the effect that the name change would have on the residents and business owners on W. Richmond Ave.

I feel that I am closer to getting on the City Council's agenda. Renaming a street is not easy, but I think that it well worth the trouble for a man like Bob Young.

1,000 signatures is a lot, but the support shown at the council meeting means more tha the signatures. I ask all of you to please attend and show your support for this project. I will keep all of you updated on this project. Keep the signatures comming!

James Cheshareck, Jr.

Keep it up James, you are doing a great job! You CAN get this street's name changed!
Gary

My Dear Friends:

Please renew my subscription to "This Point in Time". In the

last issue you asked for any historical information. Here's a little from me.

I was born May 4, 1898 in Bakersfield, CA. In 1902, my father established the first shoe store in the Point, he was J.S. Moyle. On Sept. 5, 1920, I married Newel S. Stephens, at our home, 441 Santa Fe. Ave.

On May 9, 1922 our son John W. Stephens was born at the Old Cottage Hospital, I think it was on Nevin Avenue. Dr. Wm. Lucas was the doctor.

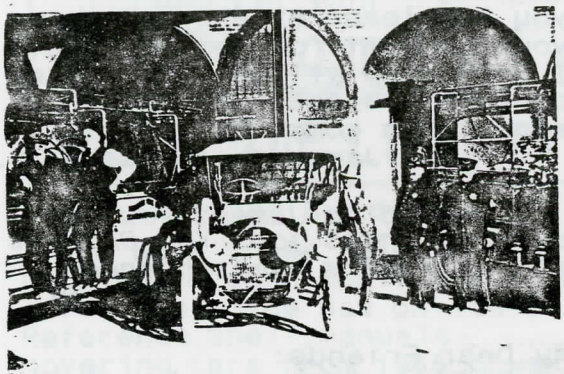
My sister and hubby, Jean and Willard Spiersch, still live in Alameda. I see them often and we talk every Sunday. I lost Newel June 10, 1984.

Muriel and John Stephens live here about 10 minutes away. We are in very close touch and often get together. I am a shut-in, but am grateful for all the Blessings I've had.

Frieda Stephens
Palm Springs

Thank's for the info Frieda, it is alway's a pleasure to hear from you and your family.

Gary



FRANCIS "FRANKIE" GREENLAW
1923-1989

ANYONE WHO KNEW HER, NO MATTER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WILL SAY THEY "LIKED" HER AND WILL MISS HER.

ON THE PASSING OF A "FRIEND OF THE POINT": SOME PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

By Sarah Eeles

After not seeing her for months (during which she had, I found, left the Point for health reasons), I reconnected with Frankie during the Candlelight Memorial for Bob and Brent in January. There on the sidewalk in front of our Community Center I saw her and called her name. As she came towards me, I noticed she was much slimmer than I remembered her to be. I exclaimed, "Frankie! You've lost weight! ...Is that good! ...Or are you ill?" Her response came so quickly, as I now know to be usual. She fell into my arms, crying, and said "There's no hope!" I now see she was, of course, referring to her own medical situation, but I think she was also speaking about the state of things in our world. She later told be that she "would never have acted that way if it hadn't been for the memorial service," I feel she meant both that her feelings about herself were aroused but that also her assessment of the plight of humanity was full in her heart. At any rate, this most unique reunion began a friendship which lasted three month and went very deep for both of us. It started with her

tears and ended with the discovery of her body in her Hayward apartment about noon on April 19th. Such a very short time to have grown so close and have so many memories!

Frances was a dear person- so loveable and so loving in her own inimitable way. It included her stubborness (to which she constantly confessed), her illusiveness (which she wore easily when it served her purposes), and her openness about her life and her opinions. She was hopeful that her way of being would not hurt those around her, but she learned from experience that often it did. She wanted to avoid this so much with me that she found it hard at first to agree to my visits. She had so little energy in the last months of her life that she often had to tell people she *couldn't* see them, *couldn't* talk, or that they had stayed long enough and *had* to go home. She was so disappointed about her situation (not bitter, resentful, or self-critical, but terribly sad) that she often wept or was angry. These aspects of herself she was afraid to unleash on others, sensing that the person would be hurt and go away mad. Gradually we managed to weather this problem and I was priviledged to come to know one of the most interesting, delightful, enigmatic souls I've run across in a very long time.

Frankie dealt courageously with her circumstances ...not uncomplainingly and never happily, but honestly. On one occasion she determined to fix what she thought was a broken beadspring in her bed, so she moved the mattress aside just enough to try to see the problem. The mattress, however, fell too far and she countn't replace it. She just left it and decided it was a splendid time to give the noisey downstairs neighbors a piece of her mind by donning her tap shoes and dancing on the kitchen linoleum floor. Her son arrived to find mother in her nightgown and tap shoes while the unmade, half-hanging mattress awaited fixing in the other room. Never a dull moment with Frances!

Her resolve to conquer boredom was hard to witness, but her uniqueness was felt even there. One of the most delightful examples for me was the day she was telling me her neighbors had again kept her awake in the night. Suddenly her voice completely changed and she said with absorbed eagerness, "But I heard a hooty-owl! I LOVE owls, you know. At first I thought it was more noise, but it really WAS an owl!" Next time I went to visit I took her an owl feather. She lighted up all over with a sort of childlike glee and began to brush her face with the feather. She so often was willing to let the other person in on what she was experiencing that sharing time with her was very full and intense. She also seemed to know that the experience with the owl in the night meant that because of her dark experiences there were also joys that might never have come any other way. My hope is that by sharing this reflection we too might be encouraged to embrace newness

and life in unexpected places.

Frankie procrastinated endlessly about tasks that needed her attention, but underneath the drag were deep feelings and conflicts which made the necessary choices almost impossible to make. Her values of fairness and loyalty lay behind her indecisiveness, and her love of freedom and independence were very hard to compromise. She coped with her fatigue by making a rule that once she got up for the day she would NOT ALLOW herself to return to her bed until it was time to go to sleep for the night. "If I do I will feel like an invalid," she said. So she bought a chaise lounge for the living room to use on days when she wasn't feeling well. But even that she would not use when a guest was present. "It makes me feel too cozy and I'll drift off," she admitted.

She made the hard, ultimate choices with the same flare with which she did everything else. She told me once that she wouldn't consider a heart transplant. "I'd have to spend all my time managing the medications, and I've seen other people try to cope with THAT. I don't want any part of it."

I asked her once as we sat eating a meal I had brought to her place (complete with a "good" wine because she didn't feel it was really worth drinking anthing else; and including 1/4 piece of raspberry bar from Rosemary's because to eat any more was "unhealthy"), "What is the most significant learning for you out of all this?" Without a moment's hesitation she responded, "I've really learned to slow down." She meant it. She moved more slowly. She took joy in the smallest things of life, and was finally trying to learn to make a little headway on some one task each day. Of course, some days she couldn't do anything. Then she'd spend a lot of time sitting or lying down and just looking. How I wish I could have known what thoughts, ideas, and feelings passed through that intelligent, quick-witted, idiosyncratic mind on those occasions! We'd all be amazed ...or, well, would we, knowing Frances!

These reflections could go on, and will. But it is enough here to close with the fact that what Frankie wanted MORE THAN ANYTHING was to "come home to the Point." We, Point Richmond, have lost a devoted friend. Those of us who have had the extraordinary gift of knowing her whether in a life-long way or, as I, in a burst of brightness, have been lucky and rewarded. Anyone who knew her, no matter the circumstances, will say they "liked" her and will miss her, I for sure.

P.S. One last note: Frances, you'll probably phone me later to tell me how many errors there are in this article. So may we each do whatever we do with greater care, added skill, and more devotion because, Frankie, you are no longer around to shepherd us on complain about our mistakes. Thank you very much ....take care!

I REMEMBER FRANCES

By Mary Harlow Rudolph

I met Frances Gebhart when we were both in the fourth grade at Washington School at the Point. We were probably about eight years old at the time and I think the year was most brobably nineteen thirty. I wish now that I could remember the exact cercumstances of our first meeting but I cannot. I just remember that we became fast friends and remained so through all our school years at Washington, then Roosevelt Jr. High and finally Richmond High School, graduating in June of 1940.

We learned to swim together at the "Nat" on "girls day", which was Wednesday. We hiked Nicholl Nob and explored the shore line at Keller's Beach and Cozy Cove. We would often meet at the library under the first Indian Statue and we both came to revere and love Miss Hodges, the librarian. It is brustrating that specifics do not come to mind and they will probably be here when the opportunity to write them down is gone. However, it is good to remember how welcome I always felt at her house when I would go there after school. I remember her father very well and admired his writing talents which came to be shared by Frances. I remember Goldie too in those days and how beautiful she was and continued to be as she grew older. I remember "Rusty", her younger sister but in those days she was called Shirley and sometimes Gwen.

I remember Frances' enthusiastic involvement in journalism during our High School years. She was the editor of our year book, "The Scield", for June of 1940 and what a fine job she and her staff did. The finished product reflects her careful sinse of detail and her marvelous sense of humor.

I recall when, sometime after graduating, Frances joined the Marine Corps. and how splendid she looked in her uniform. And then circumstances took us in different directions and we did not see each other for long periods of time. But when we did get together those times of separation seemed to make no difference, we would set about "catching up" on each other's news and then carry on as always.

If there is any single thing I remember most and admire most about my dear friend, it was her outrage and indignation over any injustice no matter to whom, or where or on what level. She could be most outspoken about such injustice and it was a pleasure and an education to hear her hold forth in a most articulate was against the injustices themselves and against those who perpetrate them. Usually a gentle lady but then she could be quite fierce.

I loved her and oh, indeed how I shall miss her!

DONNA ROSELIUS REMEMBERS

Frankie Greenlaw is a person I could write a whole book about. She was a very complex person but the most important thing I can write about her is that Point Richmond was one of the most important things in Frankie's life.

She devoted a great deal of her time and talents to benefit the Point. She was born here and kept returning to the Point.

Her stay with our family in Point Richmond I'm sure was beneficial for her, but our lives were certainly enriched by her presence and for at leat a short while, we were all able to enjoy her wit and talent and experiences.

Donna Roselius
Port Orford, Oregon

ON FRANCIS MAE (GEBHART) GREENLAW

When I came to the Point in 1946, Hanke (as she was often called then) was among the first persons I met. Later our children went to school together and her husband helped with the scout proup when needed. She belonged to Yo-Mar, a young married group at the YWCA and held offices in the club. As a member of the Point Methodist Church, Frankie served as president of the Women's Society of Christian Service. She endured many days of problems and crisis with a Standard Oil Company employee husband during critical strike days.

Her move from the Point to a new home in Pinole was a move she hated. Still later, she moved to Redwood City where she lived until her retirement a couple of years ago. Then, she headed for the place she loved most, Point Richmond. Frankie had a love for journalism (she worked for the Richmond Independent and was editor of the Pinole-Hercules News). Returning to the Point to live was "like a dream come true". As she sat in the Roselius' home she looked across the Bay and said, "This is as close to Heaven as I probably will ever get!" She joined the staff of "This Point in Time" but soon her contributions were limited because of here illness. She was an untapped source of knowledge fo the Point of the late 20's, 30's and 40's. It is said you get out of something just what you put into it. Well, Frankie put a lot of love back into the Point. She must have felt some of it returned. I'll miss her wry wit and smirky smile...and deep laugh.

Mid Dornan

DEAR HANKIE,

Someone asked, "What do I remember about you?" I remember living accross the street from you on Summit Place.... your sharp wit.... your wonderful sense of humor.... your live for the Point.

I think of you as our William Buckley.

See ya! (Always our departing remark).

Mary Bianchini Highfill

"FRANKIE LOVED THE POINT"

The Point Richmond History Association wishes to gratefully acknowledge gifts made to the Association in the memory of FRANCIS "FRANKIE" GREENLAW from:

Elizabeth McDonald
Mary J. Rudolph

Deaths.....

FRANCES MAE GREENLAW died at her home in Hayward April 19, 1989. Mother of Russell Greenlaw of San Ramon, David Green law of San Pablo, Laurie Gallagher of Hayward and Amelie Morrow of Campbell. Mrs. Greenlaw is also survived by 5 grandchildren. A member of the Point Richmond History Association. Former Editor of the Pinole-Hercules News and a veteran of WWII having served in the Marine Corp.1 A native of Point Richmond, aged 66 years. At her request no funeral services were held. Remembrances may be made to a favorite charity.

****

MARION DOWNEY, age 87 died April 24, 1989 at her home, 111 Crest Avenue.

She is survived by her son, Allen Downey of Martinez, Patricia Downey of San Francisco, a sister, Ruth MacKay of Walnut Creek, and six grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Marion was a native of Whiting, Indiana. She came to Point Richmond with her family as a small child. Her father was a "Standard Oiler". She had lived in the same house for a good part of her life.

*****

THE MASQUERS
Playhouse, Inc.
105 Park Place, Point Richmond
PROUDLY PRESENTS

OLIVER!

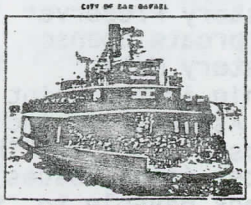
OLIVER
JUNE 2 thru JULY 22

A heart-warming musical based on Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*. Such familiar characters as Fagin, Bill Sikes, the Artful Dodger and Mr. Bumble are all here, plus Fagin's "boys," the young urchins of London in training to become expert pocket-pickers! Enhanced by a wonderful score, this English musical, a solid hit on Broadway and on film, has drama, comedy and pathos. There is magic here! Directed by Betsy Bell Ringer.

RESERVATIONS: 232-4031 (24 hours)

TRAVEL BY THE SHORTEST ROUTE

CITY OF SAN RAFAEL



To points in East Bay Territory, Santa Clara and San Joaquin Valleys and So. California.

RICHMOND SAN RAFAEL FERRY CO

In the Next Issue.....

Al Franco takes over our "Growing up in the Point in the 20's and 30's" guest article. You'll enjoy it!

BIRTHDAYS

May

Patricia Dornan
Anne Price
Muriel Clausen
Bev Price
Ruth Beardsley
Evelyn Essary
Dave Bray
Lucretia Edwards
Vern Doellstedt
Richard Matteucci
Diana Spinola
Sara Eeles
Maurice Doherty
Marcello Caceres
Cindy Quist
Becky Horn
John Knox, Jr.
Winifred Jones
Diana Corbin
Doug Corbin
Anne Hadreas
Varsie Lometti

June

Grace Yank
Andrew Butt
Jan Spreeker
Ruth Beardsley
Joanne Lanning
Ron Albro
Anita Brougham
Joe Spinola
Stacy Spinola
Rosemary Giacommel
Dan Weinstein
Cindy Quist
Stephanie Pearson
Ed Mitchell
Claude Bisio
Ryan Rotting
Dave MacDiarmid Jr.
Nathan Berman

Name_____
Address_____
_____
Phone No._____

Type of membership, check one

☐	Single	$15.00
☐	Senior (65+)	10.00
☐	Family	25.00
☐	History Preserver	50.00
☐	Corproate Sponsor	75.00
☐	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-porfit organization at 229 Golden Gate Avenue, Point Richmond, CA 94801

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Jerry Cerkanowicz, President
Mid Dornan, Vice President
Muriel Clausen, Secretary
Mae Mandl, Treasurer
D. Cerkanowicz, Corres. Secretary
Pam Wilson, Membership
Liz McDonald, Programs
Anne Hanzlik, Special Programs
Gary Shows, Archives-Editor

Hi, Mom!

CALENDAR

MAY 1	MAY DAY...MAKE AND GIVE SOMEONE A MAY BASKET!
MAY 2	WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB, NOON, CATHOLIC CHURCH BASEMENT
MAY 2	NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL, POINT COMMUNITY CENTER 7:30
MAY 4	RICHMOND PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING, CITY HALL 7:30
MAY 5	CINCO DE MAYO
MAY 10	POINT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON, HOTEL MAC, NOON
MAY 14	MOTHER'S DAY
MAY 17	BIKE-TO-WORK DAY (WONDER WHERE THE CHAIRMAN LIVES?)
MAY 20	35TH ANNUAL TROOP 111 BOY SCOUT PANCAKE BREAKFAST, 6 AM - NOON, METHODIST CHURCH, POINT RICHMOND
MAY 21	POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION PICNIC, NOON SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS
MAY 29	MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY OBSERVED
JUNE 6	NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING
JUNE 14	POINT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON, HOTEL MAC, NOON
JUNE 15	DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES IN THE SUMMER EDITION
JUNE 18	FATHER'S DAY