

# THIS POINT

## TENTH YEAR!

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL X No. 1

MAY, 1991

\$1.00



**POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION  
MEETING**

***May 19, 1991  
1:00 PM***

**AT  
THE POINT COMMUNITY CENTER**

**GUEST SPEAKER  
GEORGE COLES**

***GEORGE COLES IS A FOREMOST AUTHORITY  
ON THE ANCIENT HISTORY OF OUR AREA.***

***THIS MEETING WILL BE  
INTERESTING AND INFORMATIVE.***

***Refreshments will be served.***

**Happy  
mother's Day**

**COVER: PRINTED COURTESY OF LOCAL ARTIST JIM DEWITT**

# History Association Notes

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Jerry Cerkanowicz

The colors that were picked for the exterior of the small building, Hickory (brown) for the siding, Yorkshire Tan for the trim and Cottage Red for the windows look very nice. David Vida Construction and Painting did a very good job of preparing the building for painting and completed the job two weeks ago. They also applied a sealant on the shake roof.

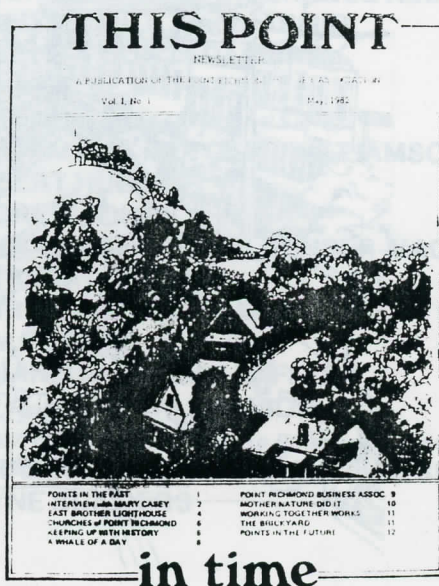
On Saturday May 4th Pam Wilson, Mary Highfill, Muriel Clausen, Gary Shows and I spent the afternoon painting the interior. The walls and ceiling are a light tan and the trim is a slightly darker tan. Its always a lot of fun to watch the reactions of the people who stop by to watch and offer advice. On the whole though most everyone seems to like what has been done to the building.

The annual meeting will be on May, 19. Our guest speaker will be George Coles who will talk on the Indians of our area. He will also have on display some of the artifacts he has collected. At this

*continued on page 2*

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

meeting our board of directors will be elected.

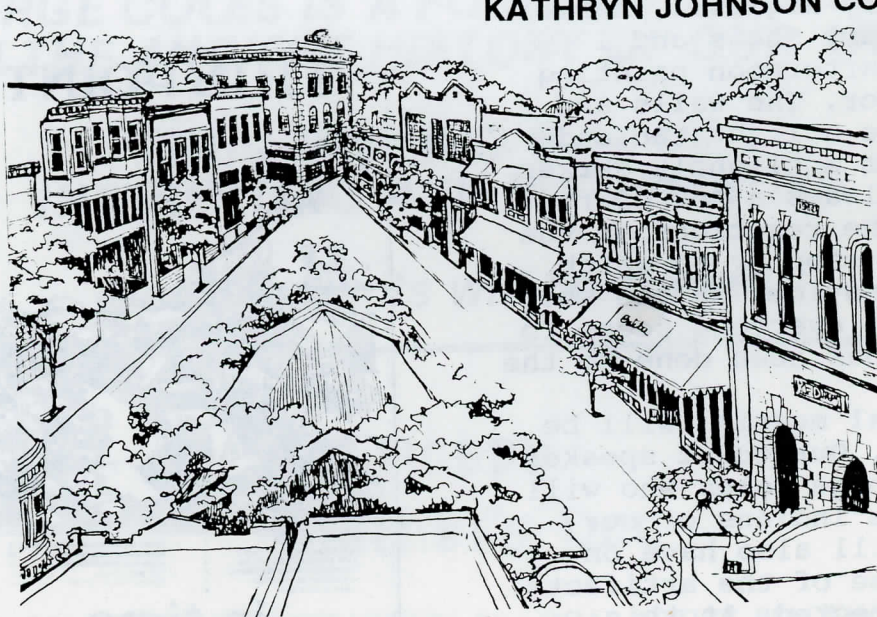
I have decided not to seek reelection for another term as president. Having served since May, 1987, I think it is time for some new ideas and goals for the Association. I have enjoyed my time in office and want to thank everyone for all of the support and encouragement that have been given me. With loyal members and the strong board of directors the Point Richmond History Association can move into its second decade and continue to enrich our lives. So once again, my heartfelt thanks to everyone.

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

**SHERA THOMPSON & KEVIN PRYNE**  
**GARY SHOWS**  
**ALLAN P. SMITH**  
**DODY PERRY**  
**ROBERT & BARBARA AMBROSE**  
**ED GARRARD**  
**BARBARA & JEFF WARD**  
**JUNE MINOR**  
**PHIL FEYDER**  
**CHARLOTTE G. WOODS**  
**MR & MRS HOWARD S. ARNOLD**  
**HENRY A. FRANCIS**  
**MAXINE FORBES**  
**ALBERT J. KOLLAR**  
**BERNARD BERNES**  
**VARISIE LOMETTI**

And a warm welcome to new member:

**KATHRYN JOHNSON COAD**



## ***Our museum project continues thanks to:***

**WALTER A. CONNOLLY  
BURL WILLIS & PHYLLIS SKAGLUND  
(PT. RICHMOND TRAVEL)**

**HANS & LORE SHAPER  
MARIE LOUISE OSTROM**

**C. F. HOCHGESANG  
WILLARD R. SPIERSCH  
(Given in Memory of Arell Cibattari)**

**THE MECHANICS BANK**

**DORIS SILVA**

**FRANK LOPEZ**

**STANLEY NYSTROM**

**RAMON & PATIENCE ZAMBRANO**

**TOM MCGOWAN**

**ROSEMARY M. CORBIN**

**VIRGINIA A. CHERNIAK**

**CHRISTOPHER PLONA**

**MAXINE MAYER**

**SHEILA FOSTIAK & FAMILY**

**ELIZABETH McDONALD**

**HOWARD S. ARNOLD**

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**BERTHA MAY McCLOSKEY**

**DAVID VINCENT**

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**CHARLES C. EELES**

**THE DORNAN FAMILY**

**GARY SHOWS**

**CAROLYN & IRVING MOSKOWITZ**

**THOMAS W. & MARGO TEDRICK**

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

**TOM & LUCRETIA EDWARDS**

**THOMAS E. WHITESIDES**

**INTERACTIVE RESOURCES, INC.**

**TOM BUTT & FAMILY**

**HENRY A. FRANCIS**

**JANICE A. HANTZSCHE**

**JOAN MEISEL**

**RAIL & MARINE TRANSPORTATION**

**CONSULTANTS, S.F. CROOK**

**BETTY J. MARSHALL  
LUCIANA & BONNIE FORNER**

*(Given in Memory of Bob Young)*

**HORTENSE GNAGA McGEE**

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

**MURIEL & BERT CLAUSEN**

**MARTIN McNAIR**

**CHANNEL LUMBER**

**EDWIN L. BEDFORD**

**THE WOMEN'S WESTSIDE**

**IMPROVEMENT CLUB**

**GEORGE M. BATTEN**

*(Given in memory of Virginia Batten)*

**GRACE & JERRY CERKANOWICZ, SR.**

**CHARLOTTE G. WOODS**

**SONNY JACKSON ROOFING, INC.**

**REMCO ROOF SUPPLY**

**PT. RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD CNCL**

**DORIS C. RASMUSSEN**

**BOB & MARIE PECKHAM**

**(SANTA FE MARKET)**

**JANICE CHAMBERLAIN**

**(CHAMBERLAIN INSURANCE ASSOC.)**

**DAVID & CAROL MacDIARMID**

**JOSEPH & SONJA DARLING**

**BENA SALLE BOWLES**

*(Given in Memory of Antone Salle)*

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

**ROBERT HUBBART**

**ANDREW JOHNS**

**LYNN MAACK & SANDI GENSER-MACK**

**PATRICIA L. MILANO**

**JERRY & THERESA DANIEL**

**TOM POWERS**

**INDIAN STATUE DAY RAFFLE**

**WM. & ALYCE WILLIAMSON**

*(Given in Memory of Ronnie Roselius Turner)*

**GERALDINE MANN PETERSON, DESIGNER**

**PRYNE BUILDERS**

# editors notes.....

BY GARY SHOWS

Hello and here is the May edition of Thie Point in Time. You might note that it is also the first issue of volume ten, which marks the beginning of our organization's tenth year! This is also my thirtieth issue since assuming the job of editor, how time flies!

In additon to our usual fine articles, in this issue is a note from founder Donna Roselius commemorating our tenth year. Joining Dr. Thompson's memories column is both Will Spiersch and Bernard Bernes, thanks guys, also there is a new column from Anne Hanslik. As always thank you Mid Dornan for "A-Mid Trivia" and her many other contributions the the

newsletter.

We are still open to help, advice or suggestions from anyone regarding the printing of this newsletter. Perhaps we should raise our dues and newsletter shelf price in order to continue having it commercially printed? What do you think?

Isn't our little museum building looking good. We will need more help to complete the job. If you have not helped, please do and I'll include your name in the good company of our "thank you" list.

Thanks to our staff for being so respectful of my deadline. The deadline for the summer issue will be June 21, 1991.

---

## INCLUDE MY NAME IN YOUR LIST!

HERE IS MY CONTRIBUTION OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
TO HELP FINANCE OUR OWN COMMUNITY HISTORY MUSEUM.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

MAKE YOU CHECK OUT TO: PRHA BUILDING FUND

MAIL IT TO:  
POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION  
229 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE  
POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY YEAR!

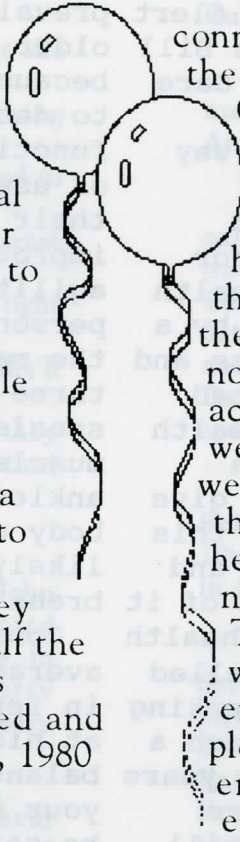
from our founder  
**Donna Roselius**

Congratulations to the Point Richmond History Association as it begins the tenth year as a non-profit organization! A year of special celebration is called for--after all, it took two years or more to give birth to it.

When the "history gang", myself, Teresa Albro, Michelle Brown, Rosemary Corbin, Clare and Maurice Doherty, Mildred Dornan and Lucretia Edwards finally reassembled to compile the second history book, *This Point in Time*, they became aware that maybe half the information about the Point's colorful past could be gathered and published by their November, 1980 deadline. So they decided to continue their work with a formalized organization. (November, 1980 had been set as the publication date to coincide with the events

connected with the celebration of the Eightieth Point Methodist Church Anniversary.)

With gathering and disseminating information about Point Richmond history as their main purpose, the group began to thrash out the details necessary to form a non-profit organization. Once achieved, the required officers were installed, and meetings were scheduled. In May, 1982, the first annual meeting was held and the first issue of our newsletter, "This Point in Time" was published. Both were greeted with enthusiasm, and it is a pleasure to see that the enthusiasm has let to expanded activities and great progress. I miss the people, the activities and the town. Best wishes for the next ten years!



# SENIOR NEWS

By Muriel C. Clausen

Seniors and all Californian's should keep alert to Senator Petris, Senate Bill 36, "The Right to Health Care Act" that is currently successfully working its way through the Assembly and Legislative Committees in Sacramento towards Governor Wilson's desk. It is a health care bill that is backed by a group called Health Access and is a bill that is patterned much like the Canadian Health Care Plan with California modifications. I hope to give you a detailed report on this bill at the next writing and ask now that you be aware of it for the sake of your own health care needs. This group called Health Access has been working with Senator Petris on such a health care bill for some years and feel now that they are getting close to a good bill that will cover all Californian's with Health Care. If this bill fails to meet with Governor Wilson's approval this term, Health Access will proceed with an Initiative for the next election ballot.

On a different subject, How are your muscles? Are they weak, inflexible and stiff causing you difficulty in keeping your balance?

Accidental falls are the most prevalent cause of injury in older persons. Cheer up because muscles are not doomed to decay. Half of their functional loss is due to lack of use! Even frail persons in their 80's or 90's can greatly improve their muscle strength, agility and balance. All persons should exercise all of the major muscle groups two to three times a week with special emphasis on the muscles in the legs, knee and ankles. The better that your body can support you the less likely you are to fall and break a bone.

Consider this: if you average step is less than 16" in length you are considered at high risk of losing your balance and falling. Increase your stride to 24" or more to be safer and more steady on your feet. Exercise, for muscle toning then is a very good idea! Everyone can do it! Let's stay on our feet everyone! If you have access to a video machine there are several very good tapes available now, especially for seniors that concentrate on helping you to regain your muscle tone, and best of all they are fun to follow!

## A-MID TRIVIA

By Mid Dornan (234-5334)

Can it be possible the publication, 'This Point...in time' is beginning its 10th year?

\*\*\*

**M**-is for the million things she gave me

**O**-means that she's growing old.

**T**-is for the tears she shed to save me.

**H**-is for her heart of purest gold.

**E**-is for her eyes with love-light shining

**R**-means right and right she'll always be.

Put them altogether and they spell **MOTHER**. The word that means the world to me.

Anon

\*\*\*

**CONGRATULATIONS** to John and Monica Haley who celebrated their 62nd Wedding Anniversary in April. Good friend Doty Perry entertains them on their anniversary as well as their birthdays.

\*\*\*

Sympathy is extended to David Gortemiller of the Point on the loss of his mother, Clementine Gortemiller, on March 27, 1991. She was a retired Richmond teacher.

\*\*\*

One thing you can say for kids, at least they don't bore you with cute things their parents said.

\*\*\*

The Cultural Arts and Human Services of Richmond have planned varied and exciting classes and trips for local residents. May 19th is a scheduled trip to see the Oakland

Ballet Performance of 'Crystal Slipper' and on June 22nd a trip to Sacramento "A Day at the State Capitol" for all ages. Watch for further information or call the Cultural Arts office, 620-6806.

\*\*\*

Research claims the average number of pounds of pennies in an American home is SIX!

\*\*\*

Chicken Pox (*Pops as the kids call it*) has taken toll in two households on Scenic Avenue. Bethany Reynolds began with the outbreak followed by brothers Michael and David while across the street both Daniel and Andrew Butt sported the spots!

\*\*\*

It's a great-grandson for Elsie Spinola. Andrew Joel was born April 10th, 1991 to Thelma and Joel Spinola in San Leandro.

\*\*\*

Arriving to help Anna Schwartz celebrate her April 1st birthday were her niece and husband, Dr. Monica and Volker Link from East Germany. Good neighbor Doty Perry chauffeured the trio to view the sights and sounds of the Bay Area.

\*\*\*

Doty Perry also was hostess to ten people on Easter as well as fourteen at Brunch the day before. a real Scout, she! always seems prepared for meal guests!

\*\*\*

# Happy Mother's Day

Another side of Point Neighborhood Council President Tom McGowan surfaced at the regular April meeting. Only, Tom wasn't there to enjoy the reactions...seems he was entertaining guests from Brazil.

Three controversial items on the agenda drew heated opposition. Item 2, the rezoning of land near Cutting and Canal for a night time stock car racing track was addressed by a M. Andretti, who said he represented the Stock Car interests and felt the proposed use preferable to a recycling plant. A recycling plant was new to members so the reverberations around the room prompted acting president, Mary Crosby to say, "In the words of Tom McGowan, 'April Fool'." You can believe that at this point, the joke was a relief!

The other two April Fool items Tom put on the agenda were the installation of additional rail freight lines crossing West Richmond, Cutting, Garrard and Castro(!) and a conditional use permit at Miller Knox Regional Park one day per week as Artillery Testing Range.

Ahh, humor tested! Humor survives!

\*\*\*

The Department of Public works, committed to keeping Richmond clean, notes street sweeping in the Point on North and South Streets on the 3rd Friday and on East and West Streets, the 4th Monday. And questions? Call 231-3000, M-F, 8-5.

\*\*\*

More than 21 Point Richmond History Association members enjoyed dinner at the Hotel Mac on April 10th, designated PRHA night, as the Mac celebrated its 80th birthday...with an \$8.00 menu. History members toasted Donna Roselius, in absentia, founder of the History Association.

\*\*\*

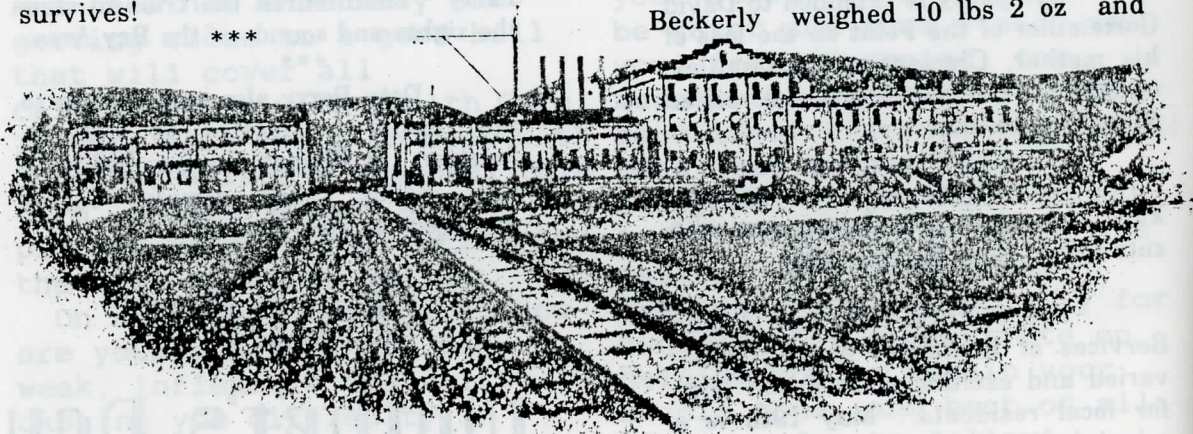
CORRECTION and apologies: Jose, the 17 year-old black dog reported in the last issue that died belonged to Connie and Jack Healy and not the Haley's. Jose was born on the beach near Western Drive by the Campbell House. Sorry about the mistake.

\*\*\*

Grandma sez she wishes she could fall asleep as fast as her feet do.

\*\*\*

It's a Boy for Carla and Tony Beckerly (*Little Louie's*), their first, on March 19th. William 'Will' Van Beckerly weighed 10 lbs 2 oz and



Whale Oil Plant, Operated by Standard Oil Company.

arrived via Cesarean-section at 1:59 a.m. at Marin General Hospital. Mom says Will has a full head of frosted hair-part blond and part brown- and looks like a surfer already! His doctor notes that only three babies have been born to him with this color hair in the last 20 years!

\*\*\*

Baby Taylor Bay Bradshaw, 7 lbs 7 oz, was so eager to enter the world she couldn't wait for her parents, Chris and David Bradshaw to reach the hospital in San Francisco and was born near the Fremont off ramp of the bridge about 6:00 a.m. on April 4, 1991. News of the birth made the front page of the West County Times and was read as far away as in the Memphis, Tennessee papers. Taylor even made her TV debut while only hours old. Eighteen month old Madison Marie welcome her new sister. David had remarked earlier that "fathers should participate more in births!" never expecting total involvement.

\*\*\*

It's a boy, Alex, Jr., for Roberta and Alex Vander Hyden on April 5th. They also have an 18 month old daughter, Caroline.

\*\*\*

Erythean Martin won't forget his 9th birthday party! A baby gray whale, about 30 feet long, was found washed ashore on the beach near his home so the birthday boys examined it closely. Belated Happy Birthday, Erythean!

\*\*\*

Bonnie and Rod Satre and neighbors who live in the vicinity of Marine and Morgan are offering a \$300 reward for information leading

to the arrest and conviction of assailants to cats in that area. A Pellet Gun has been killing cats and one owner was even shot in the hand while attending her cat.

\*\*\*

The Second Point Richmond Stroll on Thursday, May 9th 5 to 7 p.m. is meant to familiarize the community with businesses in this area. Participating merchants not only offer free refreshments but also individual prizes during the stroll.

\*\*\*

Congratulations to Daniel Anderson for making the Honor Roll at El Cerrito High.

\*\*\*

Did you know Sonny Jackson, the roofer, was a centerfold? Well, he admits it was his Super Chevy that was the focal point in the hot rod magazine. Gary and Sue Horst on Castro Street were also pictured in the January issue.

\*\*\*

Welcome to the Point Rip and Carol Phillips, new resident owners in Brickyard Landing.

\*\*\*

In the May 1982, Vol I, No. 1 issue of TPIT, Point residents were singing, "Rain, rain, go away--come again during a drought " because of the mud slides on Scenic that almost buried Gerry Swift in her home! Neighbors assisted Fire Stations 1,3 and 7, laboriously maneuvering tons of mud-laced poison oak and debris into the street so City crews could remove it.

\*\*\*

Point Richmond has not always been considered an ideal place to live. But, considering the average home price here in 1990 was

\$330,000 compared to \$213,000 in Richmond Heights or \$111,000 in South and Central Richmond, or \$265,000 in El Cerrito, time has proven what the old timers already knew...you can't beat the charm of the waterfront or the Bay or the townspeople!

\*\*\*

Stressed? Out-of-shape? Need some space? A walk around the lagoon in the Miller-Knox Park is perfect therapy. A back drop of famous bridges and city skylines, the every-changing tossed waters of the Bay under the faded-blue and white-cloud speckled sky, the sun on your shoulders..

Carefree ground squirrels scamper underfoot peeking from their holes at ever present joggers. Ducks glide effortlessly in their water. Fathers push young ones in strollers and some people merely lay on the grass gazing blankly skyward or rest on view oriented benches. Therapy doesn't have to cost money.

\*\*\*

\* Just when we learn to take things with a grain of salt, the doctor puts us on a salt free diet!

\*\*\*

The History Building will soon be ready for occupancy. Therefore, volunteers will be needed to help staff the building a few hours in the afternoon. Consider this as you plan your hours this fall. Watch for more information.

\*\*\*

Education is a priceless necessity of life. The crisis in the Richmond Unified School District with the filing of Bankruptcy casts deep shadows over a proud community. Should the schools

manage to remain open after the May 1st deadline (*This goes to press the end of April*) remember, you don't have to have anyone in school to do your part. There are countless needs for unpaid skills. Check at Washington School or any school or contact the RSVP office for volunteers (234-3825) to learn how you can help our children!

\*\*\*

Memorial Day this year will be meaningful for a new generation who recently observed the sacrifices of our troops during Desert Storm! It is exciting to see Patriotism renewed.

\*\*\*

My Mom, I love her. My Mom, you'd love her. Who wouldn't love her, My Mom. That sweet somebody thinks I'm somebody. My pal, my buddy, My Mom. Anything I do, she's my only inspiration. Anytime I'm blue, she's my only consolation. As years come on her, I gaze her. She's my Madonna-My Mom.

\*\*\*

On Mother's Day, remember all people who nurture us in life.

\*\*\*



# Scouting....a Bridge to the Future

## Boy Scouts of America

Today's youth face all kinds of serious risks.... drugs, fragmented families, abuse, suicide and illiteracy. Many simply haven't got the skills to confront these pitfalls alone.

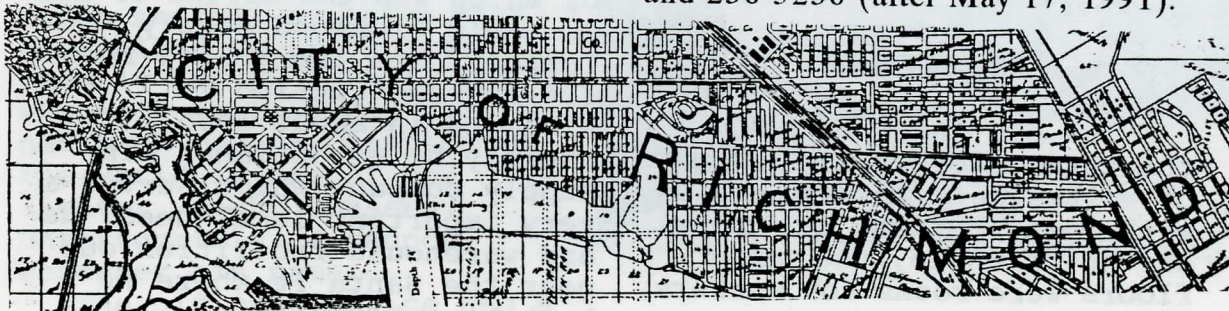
The Boy Scouts of America, working with and through community organizations, provide an opportunity for today's youth to participate in an effective scouting program: a program designed to build desirable qualities of character, train young people in the responsibilities of participating citizenship and to develop each member's personal fitness.

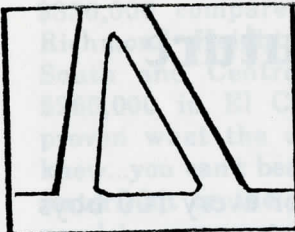
When you're young, the future seems far away and filled with plans and dreams. But we all learn that during the course of growing up, many of these goals can be lost or pushed aside. That's why it's good to know your child has the world of scouting to provide the support, the skills and the encouragement he or she needs to build and nurture more than a dream.

We predict that for every 100 boys who join a scout unit...

- >12 will have their first contact with a church
- >5 will earn their religious emblem
- >1 will enter the clergy
- >18 will develop hobbies that will last through their adult life
- >8 will enter a career that was learned through the merit badge system
- >1 will use his boy scout skills to save a life
- >1 will use his boy scout skills to save his own life
- >17 will become scouting volunteers
- >2 will become eagle scouts

We need your help to build a bridge to the future. Please support the re-activation of Troop 111 by September, 1991. Troop 111 is the oldest troop in West Contra Costa county. Help keep a valuable tradition alive. Contact Rip Phillips at 758-1610 (until May 17, 1991) and 236-5236 (after May 17, 1991).





# Childhood Memories of The Point Richmond Triangle

By Wm. L. Thompson

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

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

~~~~~

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

## PART FOUR

The old Anderson Hotel, the three story building east of Whiteside's is very old. As with most business buildings of the triangle, the upper floors were rooms for workers. The street floor here was

occupied by the McWhorter's grocery one of the very early grocery stores in the town. It was run by Beecher McWhorter. I remember it well having shopped there many times with my mother.

Further east on Richmond Avenue was a large wooden building which was the site of a competing grocery operated by Julius Stiefvater. We knew both of these grocers and shopped in both stores. In the building above was the meeting place of the Odd Fellows lodge. My father was a member of the Odd Fellows and my mother was a member of its associated lodge for women, the Rebekahs. This lodge was very popular in the mother lode country in post gold rush days and my father joined it there.

Between McWhorter's and Stiefvater's stores were several smaller buildings one of which was the office of Bob Dornan's Richmond Supply Company. Bob immigrated from Ireland and settled in Richmond in about 1905. Shortly he established his supply company which served a very important local need. He had warehouse facilities out near the Santa Fe where he kept his stores of hay, feed,

grain, wood, coal and other materials. Bob was a large powerful man who delivered supplies by himself all over town. First he used a horse and wagon and later obtained an old odd looking truck. I remember Bob climbing up our long steps carrying on his back a huge bale of hay or sack of coal or grain apparently with little effort. His wife Trannie ran the office for him. The Dornans were very good friends of our and they and their family were very prominent and valuable citizens in early Point Richmond.

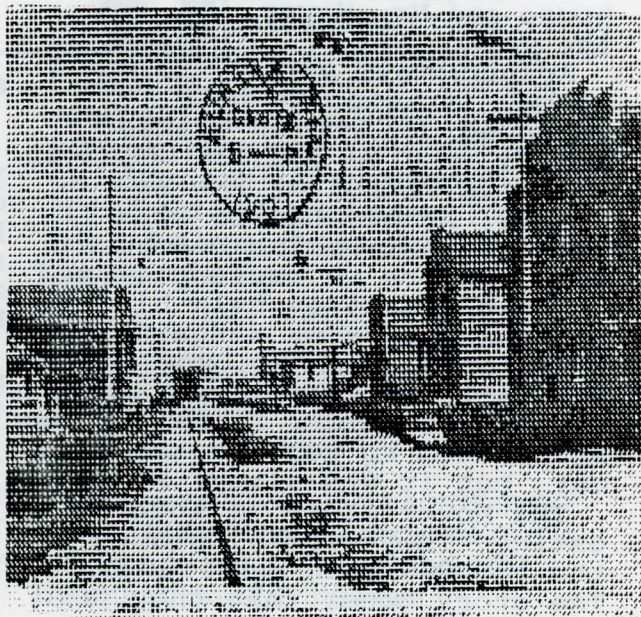
There were other businesses in this block. I recall a real estate office. I think that one of the locations of Chris Machado's barber shop was in this area. His wife had been one of the earliest grammar school teachers in the Richmond-San Pablo area. One of his daughters, Evelyn, was my office nurse and assistant for many years.

Another building between Stiefvater's and Tunnel Avenue, housed the old post office. This was a two story building with rooms above. In about 1940, shortly after I began medical practice here, I was called to see a small elderly man in a room here. It was said that at one time he had been boxing champion of the world in one of the lighter weight classes. Unfortunately, I cannot remember his name.

The old post office had a

great bank of hundreds of post boxes. In early days there was no home delivery of mail and most residents rented boxes. Others and the transients used general delivery. Even later when delivery at home had been instituted it did not include people on the periphery of the town so they retained their boxes. Almost daily one of our family stopped in for the mail. I recall that our original box number was 696.

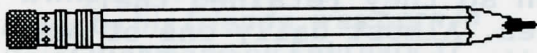
Next to the post office was a shoe repair shop where we occasionally had repairs done. However in those days most people did their own shoe repairs. At home we had various sizes of shoe lasts, awls and other tools for shoe repair. We used the leather from old discarded machinery belts for the soles. It worked fairly well.



# Will Rambles On...The Point

Willard R. Spiersch

*Will included the picture you see on this page with this "Will rambles". He snapped it with his "trusty Kodak box camera" but did not include its date.*



Pictured are my sister Rhoda Spiersch, Leslie Stanley, Arthur Hover (kneeling) and dog Spotsie (I think). They are in front of a Point institution, the "Gilt Edge Restaurant and Rooming House" on Washington Avenue.

The Hover family operated this establishment. Mrs. Hover, the restaurant and rooming house and Mr. Hover, the saloon.

Arthur Hover was my best friend, we both attended Washington Grammar School, and we both belonged to the Stag Patrol of the Boy Scouts. Arthur had to work after school making beads, etc., before we could play and I would sometimes help him. If you think an army sergeant is tough on bed making, you should meet Art's mother! Mrs. Hover was a great cook, I used to beg my parents to take me there to eat, but it was always NO!

The Hover story is interesting. They were displaced by the '06 Quake in San Francisco. The story goes, that they paid a man \$100 to row them across the bay, landing at the Point,

where they settled. Mr. Hover later sold out and bought a prune ranch in Cloverdale. This was a great place to visit, beside the great family orchard of various fruit trees and the cow that gave such rich milk and cream, the back boundary of the ranch was the Russian River where the



swimming was great.

I am sorry to say that I lost track of Arthur until years later. Jean and I had climbed to the top of Mount Lassen, and were signing the register there, when who should we meet, but Arthur Hover!

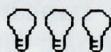
Arthur was a school teacher, starting out way us on the California coast, teaching Indian and rancher's children in a tiny school. From there, he advanced through many jobs to become superintendent of schools in Santa Rosa as I recall. Our last meeting was thirty five years ago. Talk about a small world.....

# MEMORIES OF THE OLD POINT

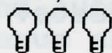
BERNARD "FRENCHIE" BERNES

## MEMORIES.....

At one time Standard Avenue was a boardwalk on the west side from approximately Washington Avenue to the Standard Oil Refinery Main Gate. The street was very muddy in those days. Later sidewalks were put in.



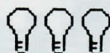
Mrs. Casey had the news stand before the Andrews. She was a widow and ran the business. She had delivery and sales of the newspapers in the Point. She had three sons, John, Joe, and Stanislaus and a daughter Mary. Mary worked many years for the City of Richmond. Mrs. Casey's store was next to the Colonial Hotel, now the Mac.



Willard mentioned getting snowcones next to the Point Theater, that was at Charles' where there was a penny slot machine.



Louie Thompson forgot to mention Garfinkles' store. They moved to Macdonald Avenue in Richmond. At that time the Point looked pretty bad for retail stores.

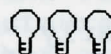


At one time there were two bakeries in the Point. One was located on the corner of Richmond Avenue and Santa Fe Avenue. The other was the Torino Bakery on Standard Avenue, it was owned by Mr. Rollino, Irene's father. We used to like to watch the baker make doughnuts, he gave us a handout

occasionally, they were great!



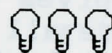
Also there were five groceries in the Point, Steivauter on Richmond Avenue, Chasseur Bros. on Standard Avenue, Tony Mazza on Standard Avenue (later on Washington Avenue), Sheeline's on Standard and Castro Sts, and Sutich on Tewksbury and Standard, then later Whitesides'.



Chasseur's Store and the Torino Bakery burned down, the building was replaced by a new concrete building, it included a garage run by a person named Ed and a person named Calandra.



My father Louis Bernes had the laundry next to Chasseurs's grocery. He bought the laundry in 1912 from Mr. Bellegarde and Mr. Bernet. That was when we moved to Point Richmond, from San Francisco. In the later years my frother and I ran the laundry routes in the Point and in Richmond. That is one of the reasons I knew so many people in the Point.



I want to tell Dorothy Lipp that I no longer chase girls.



I plan a visit to the Point sometime in June. I hope to get to see some of my old friends and reminisce about the "good old days" in the Point.

# CHURCHES

## Our Lady of Mercy

by Eleanor Hurley

*Sorry, no report from Eleanor this issue. She'll be back for the Summer issue.*

## Point Methodist

by Jean Reynolds

By the time this is in print, the "Classy Junque" sale scheduled for May 4th will be another bit of history. In addition to a diverse selection of treasures, lunch will be available and the Baytown Chord Company barbershop quartet will provide noontime entertainment. Proceeds will be used for the parsonage roof fund. A new roof is planned to be installed in July. The United Methodist Women will pass a basket from household to household; the basket will arrive with a hot dish or dessert in it, the receiver will donate an amount of money to the roof fund and then fill the basket with another treat for the next person on the list.

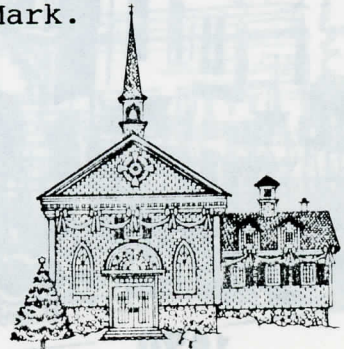
Two piggy banks, Penelope and Vance, collect pennies for Heifer Project International. Our goal is a mile of pennies: 16 cents makes a foot, there are 5280 feet in a mile, therefore a mile equals

\$844.80 (84,480 pennies). Heifer Project provides animals and training for poor families across the globe so they can become more self-sufficient by raising their own animals for food.

May 19th marks the final day of Sunday School until after Labor Day. The worship service at 11 AM will honor teachers and will give students an opportunity to honor their parents. A potluck luncheon will follow the worship service, coffee, tea and desserts will be provided; bring a salad or main dish (or whatever!) and join in the fun.

Monday workshops continue from 11 AM to mid-afternoon at the home of JoAnn Bray to prepare for the October bazaar. The fourth Wednesday of the month is set aside for an evening workshop at the church, and other Wednesdays will be added as enthusiasm permits.

Bible study led by pastor Michael Brown continues on Thursdays at 7:30 PM through May 22nd. The topic is the Book of Mark.



## POINT METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

*Church history is rich with contributions of women. One of the church groups in the early 1900's was the Home Missionary Society of the First Methodist Church whose history is reflected in their minutes, printed below and taken from the stiff cardboard covered notebook purchased from "Shoen's Pharmacy in the Point". The minutes are printed as written. This is the 55th installment.*

Jan 12, 1917

6 Ladies names as members.

10¢ dues by Mrs. McYuffin

Box of Assorted Fruit and Jelly sent to Ellen Stark Food Home. Valued at \$13.05. Expressage .52.

New members Mesdames Neville, Mitchell, Maynard, Weston, Owens and McYuffin.

Jan 19, 1917

Meeting of W.H.M. Society held at parsonage and opened by

President Mrs. Adams. Scripture lesson the 92 Psalm read. Prayer by Mrs. Gillette. Minutes approved as read. Mrs. Adams reported she had a card from Mrs. Lincoln, Supt. of Ellen Stark Ford Home that the box of Fruit had been received and expressing thanks for same.

A motion was made and carried to have Secretary write Mrs. Dearborn and ask her to attend our next meeting and give us an address.

Mrs. Gillette led the study course and a profitable and pleasant hour was had. Received dues from

Mrs. Seaton .5

Mrs. Owens .10

Mrs. Mitchell .60

1.20

Thank offering .40

Treasurers report read and accepted. No further business meeting closed in due form.

Nettie Grove, Sec

Rec'd Dues from Mrs. Wollett \$1.20



*Circus parade rounding the corner of Washington and Richmond Avenues. in 1918. The tent was always put up at 1st and McDonald in the lot opposite the ball park. They all paraded on McDonald Avenue, then came to the Point.*

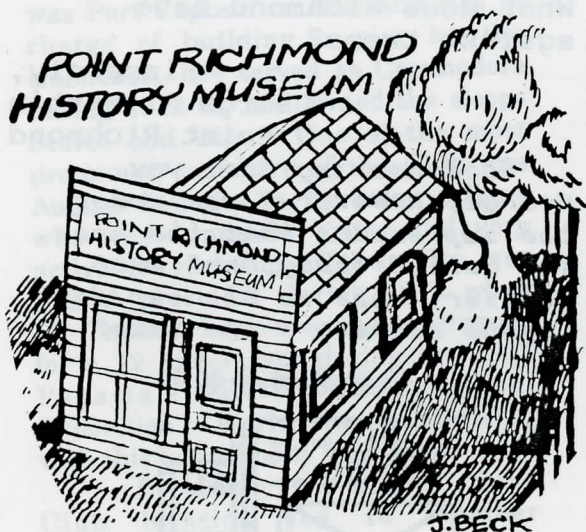
Dear Pam:

I visited with my sister Eleanor Johnson Best in February after her back surgery and she gave me a copy of "This Point in Time" to bring home. I enjoyed it so much, read articles from old friends with pleasure.

Have just returned from Eleanor's on a sad mission. Her grandson David Madero, 21 years old was killed on a motorcycle. Eleanor will celebrate her 80th birthday on June 2nd.

Please accept my membership donation, I look forward to receiving "This Point in Time".

As Ever,  
Kathryn Johnson Coad



## **A Poem of the Point**

A poem of the Point is what I  
thought to make tonight,  
but to gather words and thoughts  
together and not seem much to trite,  
was proving to be a problem with  
which I couldn't cope,  
so I let my mind a-wander and held  
a feeble hope,  
that mental images would sort out in  
my brain,  
and create a verbal pattern that  
would soon explain,  
the alure and angst of living on these  
mounds,  
surrounded by refineries, bay views,  
and noisome sounds,  
trains and sirens and many house  
alarms,  
all jumble up together to fashion for  
us charms,  
that are just not present in suburbia  
cross the hills,  
and as for garbage, I just don't care  
which canyon that it fills.  
My mind has wandered off again, as  
shown by that last line,  
so once again I guess I've failed to  
generate a fine,  
grand poem to the nature of the  
town,  
so I'll sit and think and watch my  
plants turn brown.

-----Jeff Ward  
Point Richmond

*I thought this deserved a reprint.  
From March, 1990 issue.*

.....gary



## Deaths.....

**DEATH:** Edith Mae Bill, 64, died on April 4, 1991 in Salem, Oregon. A native of Tulsa, Oklahoma Edith lived in Point Richmond for 33 years.

She was retired from the administrative department of Brookside Hospital and from the office of Dr. Afsari. A member of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, she was also active in the Washington PTA.

Edith was preceded in death by 2 months by her husband, Herb and is survived by daughters Barbara Gwyn, Joann Cannon and Donna Bill, all of Salem and Pamela Selzer of Bremerton, Wash.; sons, Gary Massey of Salem and David Massey of Mesa, Ariz., a sister Imajean Passorelli of Fairfield; brothers, Kenneth Stewart of Los Angeles, and A.W. and Wendell Stewart; sister-in-law Patricia Pearson; 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Private services and burial were held in Salem, Oregon.

**DEATH:** Louise Novarini died Thursday, April 11, 1991 in a San Pablo hospital. A native of Maine, Louise lived in the Point on Washington Avenue most of her life. Louise worked as an accountant for the city of Richmond from which she retired after 25 years.

A member of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church she also belonged to the Westside Improvement Club.

Louise is survived by two cousins, Paul Landgras of the Point and Helen Duggan of Seaside. Burial was private.

## Birthdays

### MAY

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| DOUGLAS CORBIN    | SHONEY GUSTAFSON |
| DIANA CORBIN      | ANNE PRICE       |
| WINIFRED JONES    | DIANA SPINOLA    |
| RICHARD MATTUECCI | JOHN KNOX, JR.   |
| JON DOELLSTEDT    | BECKY HORN       |
| VERN DOELLSTEDT   | SARAH EELES      |
| MARCELLO CACERES  | EVELYN ESSARY    |
| MAURICE DOHERTY   | CINDY QUIST      |
| RUTH BEARDSLEY    | MURIEL CLAUSEN   |
| BETTY WIRTH       | NELL BROOKER     |
| PATRICIA DORNAN   | VARSIE LOMETTI   |
| ANNE-CATHERINE    | BEVERLY PRICE    |
| HADREAS           | MARG MILLER      |
| LUCRETIA EDWARDS  | LYLE FISHER      |

### JUNE

|                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| GRACE YANK     | ROSEMARY              |
| ANDREW BUTT    | GIACOMELLI            |
| JAN SPRECKER   | DAN WEINSTEIN         |
| RUTH BEARDSLEY | CINDY QUIST           |
| JOANNE LANSING | STEPHANIE PEARSON     |
| RON ALBRO      | ED MITCHELL           |
| ANITA BROUGHAM | CLAUDE BISIO          |
| STACEY SPINOLA | DAVE MAC DIARMID, JR. |
| ALISSA BAGLEY  |                       |
| WILLIAM SHEA   | NATHAN BERMAN         |
| CATHE BRAZIL   | RICHARD FOX           |
| DIANNE SQUIRES | SUZANNE UNSER         |
| JEAN EAKLE     | BRIAN ROTTING         |

The Point Richmond  
History Association  
wishes to gratefully acknowledge  
a contribution made to our  
**TRIBUTE FUND**  
given in memory of:

**ETHEL FRANCIS,  
MARION DOWNEY  
&  
CLAIRE FRIEND**

by  
Robert and Barbara Ambrose

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership (check one)

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

Membership in the Point Richmond History Association includes a one year subscription to "This Point" newsletter (nine issues). Please make your check payable to the Point Richmond History Association and mail it to:

**PAM WILSON**  
521 WESTERN DRIVE  
POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801

If you would like to have Birthdays noted in the newsletter, please include names and dates.

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

Please mail articles and items of interest to:

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

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

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

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

of \_\_\_\_\_

From \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please send acknowledgement to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tributes will be acknowledged in the newsletter

#### PHONE NUMBERS

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

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*Mid Dornan*  
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*Don Church (photo collection)*  
*Members of the PRHA*  
*Anne Hanzlik*  
*Jean Reynolds*  
*Muriel Clausen*  
*Willard R. Spiersch*  
*Donna Roselius*  
*Rip Phillips*  
*Bernard Bernes*  
*Lloyd B. Ryland*  
*Robert & Barbara Ambrose*  
*Jim Dewitt*

.....thanks

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# **CALENDAR**

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**MAY/JUNE**

- May 7**                      **Women's Westside Improvement Club  
Meeting, 11:30 AM, Our Lady of Mercy Church**
- Point Richmond Neighborhood Council  
Meeting 7:30 PM, Point Community Center**
- May 9**                      **Point Richmond Stroll**
- May 12**                    **Mother's Day**
- May 13**                    **Point Richmond Business Association  
Meeting, Noon, The Hotel Mac**
- May 19**                    **Point Richmond History Association Meeting  
1:00 PM, Point Community Center**
- May 27**                    **Memorial Day Observed**
- June 4**                    **Women's Westside Improvement Club  
Meeting, 11:30 AM, Our Lady of Mercy Church**
- Point Richmond Neighborhood Council  
Meeting, 7:30, Point Community Center**
- June 12**                    **Point Richmond Business Association  
Meeting, Noon, The Hotel Mac**
- June 14**                    **Flag Day**
- June 16**                    **Father's Day**
- June 21**                    **First Day of Summer**

**DEADLINE FOR TPIT SUMMER ISSUE**