

THIS POINT in time

NEWSLETTER

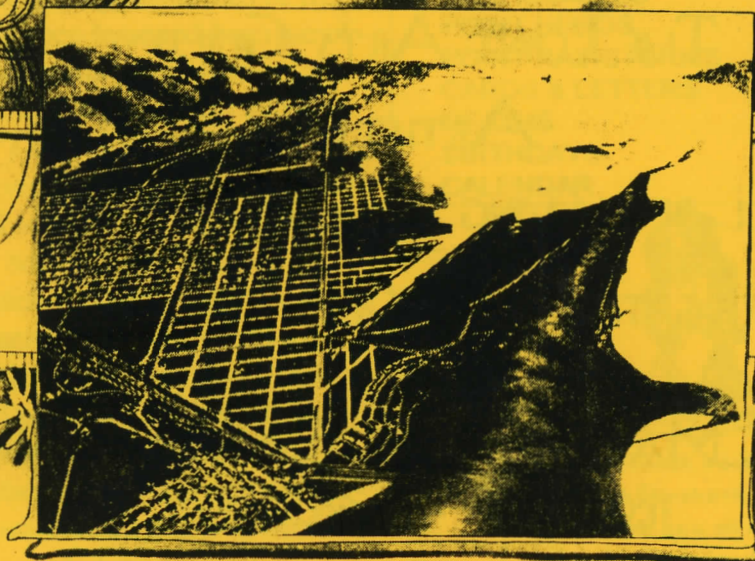
THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL XI No 1

MAY, 1992

\$1.50

RICHMOND, CAL.



PITTSBURG
of the WEST

AN EVENING IN POINT RICHMOND
COME DO THE STROLL!

THURSDAY, MAY 14TH
FROM 5:00 TO 7:00 P.M.

WE WILL BE THERE!



THE POINT ARTS GUILD

ARTISTS

WILL BE HAVING AN OPEN STUDIO

DURING THE *STROLL* TILL 8:00

AND

SATURDAY, MAY 16TH & SUNDAY, MAY 17TH

11:00 AM ~ 6:00 PM

AT

220 TUNNEL



Happy Mother's Day!

History Association Notes

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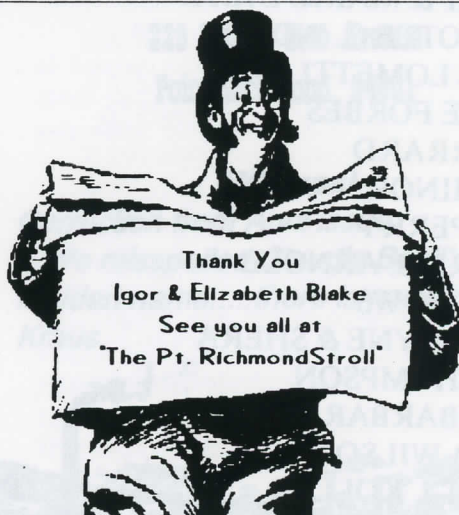
FROM THE PRESIDENT by Mid Dornan

This is the beginning of our tenth year! What a tribute to those that had vision for the Point Richmond History Association in 1981. What a tribute to the volunteers through those years to continue that vision.

Administering responsibilities of the presidency has been lessened because of the capable, congenial and harmonious board. The fellowship enjoyed while collating the "This Point...in time" newsletter is evident as everyone eagerly looks forward to this monthly task at the home our editor, Gary Shows.

We are grateful to those who have contributed memorable programs for our meetings these past ten years. A thank you to Igor and Elizabeth Blake for the history of the Blake Brothers Quarry operations and transportation presented at our annual meeting this year. These recorded stories and pictures of our history are preserved that the generations to come might have insight and understanding of the culture

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"From the President" continued.....

of our time and area.

Thank you to those who contribute regularly or not-so-regularly to each issue of the paper. Thank you to those that purchase the issues from local markets and to those that are members. To the donors of time and talents and money that keep us visible and solvent. And I cannot overemphasize the important role of our editor who operates his own business and still takes time for the important newsletter outreach. Thank you for reading it after it is published!

Also, thank you for the faith expressed by electing me to serve in this office for another year.

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

BARNEY & MARIE DIETZ
CHARLOTTE G. WOODS
VARSIE LOMETTI
MAXINE FORBES
ED GARRARD
JUNE MINOR
DODY PERRY
HOWARD S. ARNOLD
GARY SHOWS
KEVIN PRYNE & SHERA
THOMPSON
JEFF & BARBARA WARD
DONNA WILSON
ALBERT J. KOLLAR
MARIAN SAUER
THE CORBIN FAMILY

We are grateful to the following merchants for distributing this newsletter at no profit for themselves:

SANTA FE MARKET
PT. RICHMOND MARKET

Thank you volunteers for staffing the History Museum in April:

VIRGINIA CHERNIAK
JERRY CERKANOWICZ
BILL WILLIAMSON
MARGE MILLER
BETTY DORNAN

Volunteers are still needed for May and June. Call 232-4317, Betty Dornan, our Museum Staff Coordinator, if you can help on Thursday or Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Coming up:

An Evening in Point Richmond

Come do the stroll

Thursday, May 14th

from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M.

We will be there!

*Happy
Mother's Day*

Editor's Notes

Gary Shows

Here is the May issue, much more manageable that was the April issue. Thanks to contributors who helps make this little magazine interesting (I hope). Thank you also for being timely.

I really did enjoy the April general meeting, thank you Mr. & Mrs. Blake for a interesting presentation. I have received a copy of the text of their presentation and will share it in some future issues. I especially enjoyed meeting Betty Glass Marshall who came up from Los Angeles to visit her old home town. Betty has kept in touch with her wonderful correspondence over the years, it was great to put a face with the handwriting.

The next issue will be our Summer issue and will be our only issue between now and September. The deadline for that issue is May 29th.

The Cover:

Image from a 1908 Chamber of Commerce pamphlet donated to the History Association by Deldre Cerkanowicz. You will be seeing more in future issues.

The April Issue Assembly Crew:

Mary Highfill

Muriel Clausen

Mid Dornan

Pam Wilson

Liz McDonald

Jerry Cerkanowicz

Gary Shows



Wanted

Short articles about your favorite "Point Hero"

see page 19

★★★★

Mail to: Gary Shows

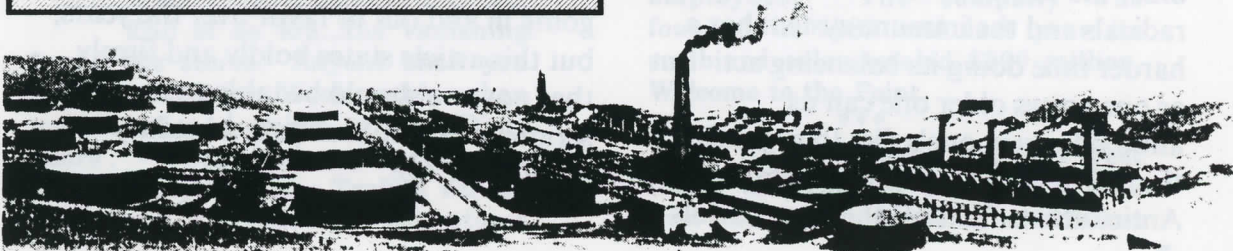
229 Golden Gate Avenue

Point Richmond, 94801

Whoops!

Correction from April issue:

We misspelled Claudia Beall's maiden name.....there is no "e" in Kraus.



SENIOR NEWS

Muriel C. Clausen

The April 6, 1992 issue of Time magazine had an interesting article on aging encased in their feature article entitled The Real Power of Vitamins. If you missed it I will summarize it here: the part on aging.

Free radicals which are a by-product of normal metabolism plus sunlight, X-rays, ozone, tobacco, exhaust and other pollutants damage the body's DNA, alter biochemical compounds and corrode cell members killing cells. All this leads to aging, heart disease, cancer, lung disease and cataracts.

All of these attacking elements are with us all of the time and the body's immune system works constantly to balance the elements to provide for a healthy body. Genetically the cells in the body have a certain vitality or life span and the immune system has a certain energy time span. As one grows older the cell life is more affected by free radicals and the immune system has a harder time doing its balancing act. But as one grows older one can use antioxidants in one's diet to give help to the cells and the immune system. Antioxidants fight off the free radicals

and neutralize them so the body has a better chance at being healthy.

Three main antioxidants are mentioned in this article. They are: vitamin E, vitamin C and beta carotene. To maintain the body along with these antioxidants one needs fiber, carbohydrates and proteins. Again they are not only telling us to have a balanced diet but are suggesting augmenting it with antioxidants, as we are aging.

The maximum vitamin E is 600 i.u.; but 400 i.u. is better as 600 could be too powerful as one grows older. The maximum amount of vitamin C depends upon the individual, taking it up to the point where one avoids diarrhea and stomach aches, say 1500 mg. per day spread out over the meals eaten. They maximum amount of beta carotene is suggested to be 25 mg. per day.

Vitamins have had a reputation for going in and out of favor over the years; but this article states boldly and firmly that now we should be taking vitamins seriously to help maintain a healthy body as we age.

A-MID TRIVIA

By Mid Dornan (234-5334)

Q: What is another name for Memorial Day? In what year was the traditional Memorial Day for most states, May 30th, changed for a federal three-day weekend? *(Answer at end of trivia.)*

May 10th is the day we honor cooks, waitresses, nurses, teachers, maids, chauffeurs, psychologists, psychiatrists, doctors and bankers, or, to use their generic name--MOTHERS.

On May 1, 1873 the first penny postcards were used. One hundred years later, the postcard has increased in price to 19 cents!

Jason McGill has been accepted and is now enrolled in the PHD history program at the University of Michigan.

Michele Healy, daughter of Connie and Jack Healy, is doing her residency in Pediatrics at Harbor Hospital in Southern California.

Q. If April showers bring May flowers, what do the May flowers bring?

A. Pilgrims!

End of an era...the vanishing 5 and 10¢ stores. Anyone knew you were headed for Woolworth's when you mentioned going to the 'Dime Store'. They had cash registers behind every counter. Truly a variety of general merchandise, the stores

included hundreds of kinds of buttons, thread, jewelry, dishes, tools, clothing, oil cloth on rollers on the wall. The cases of bulk candy were heaven, with a large bag of chocolates for 15¢! Islands of penny candies held some that were 2 or 4 for 1¢. Billy Rose and Mort Dixon even wrote a tune, "I Found a Million Dollar Baby in a 5 & 10 Cent Store". Woolworth, typically American, a store ordinary people identified with it.

Measure E, the \$60 school parcel tax, lost the two-thirds requirement needed for passage by 1,876 votes or 9%. But it passed by almost 60% in Richmond missing in El Sobrante (49.9%), Pinole (47.6%) and San Pablo (42.2%). 12, 925 yes and 9,277 no votes were cast.

One of the perks of serving on an election board in the Point was the fresh Acme bread, cheese and giant fresh strawberries dropped off by voter Bob Peckham! Umm.

By expecting nothing from children you inadvertently subvert their self-esteem. Let them know what you want and know they can do well.

The Point Richmond Business Park is fully leased, the newest tenant is 800-Software Inc. who will occupy two buildings on Canal Boulevard. 800-Software will have 175 employees. The company was founded in 1982 and last year its combined sales totaled \$890 million. Welcome to the Point.

The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) has entered a new era. The first test was administered in 1926 but

now students taking the math portion of the intensive college entrance exam at last will get to use calculators. The more than 4 million students who take the test each year will be able to save time but there is a hitch. Calculators won't be allowed until March 1994. Questions that can be answered more easily with a calculator won't be used as the test will assess problem-solving, not computing or calculating skills.

In October 1993, calculators also can be used on the PSAT, the preliminary SAT and qualifying test for National Merit Scholarships. SAT scores are used across the country to measure national education standards.

Can you name what is on the tail-side of a quarter? half-dollar? Yes, *our coins still include half-dollars!*

A proposed bill in Congress might take the revered American eagle from the tail sides of the quarter and half-dollars and replace it with an un-specified design to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Bill of Rights.

The last time either of these coins was redesigned was in 1964 when President Kennedy replaced Ben Franklin on the face of the half-dollar. The quarter has been around since 1932.

Don't try to dry wet currency in the microwave as it will ruin it.

Noraleen and Richard Dowell celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary at Fort Bragg where they watched the seals and ducks and ocean for a restful few days.

Noraleen recently retired from the Richmond Unified School District where she was the longest tenured secretary in the district.

William "Billy" Burl Eger, son of Jeanne Eger, graduates on May 30th from West Point Academy. He will be stationed in Fort Rucker, Alabama to specialize in Aviation learning to fly Helicopters.

Billy is a former Washington School student and attended Downer, Adams, and Ells before graduating from Maui in Hawaii. He was a scout in BSA Troop 111 in the Point.

After two years Army service Billy received an Achievement Award and an appointment to West Point from the President and the Secretary of the Army.

In early July Billy will visit his Mom in the Point.

Tom Butt has been named Distinguished Citizen for 1992 by the Richmond Unified Education Fund Board. He has been involved in planning efforts for the Richmond Unified School District.

Ducks at the Miller-Knox Park are fed quality food, Audabon Bird Seed, by Fay Hawkins and Ed Squires on their daily health walks.

Librarian Jan Burdick is missing from the Point branch until surgery on her right hand heals.

Our efforts to keep this association alive is reinforced when people like Betty Glass Marshall comes from Los Angeles as well as her sister, Phyllis Ackerman from

Modesto, just to attend our meeting! It had been 50 years since they left so they spent the day exploring the Point, reminiscing about names and people, attended Methodist church services and climaxed the day with dinner at the Hotel Mac, a place they said they couldn't afford to eat while growing up. How appropriate as it was Hotel Mac's 81st anniversary.

The telephone dial tone that simply tells the user when the circuit is completed and the equipment is ready for a call is tone A on the musical scale all over the country. (You did want to know that!!)

Carol Dodson has donated a bag of small items found in the attic of her 315 E. Richmond home. They include 1912 cancelled checks written by Mrs. C.L. Fernald to a Mr. Stiefvater. Also an empty small glass vial of Carter's Little Liver Pills (*Does this bring a memory or smile?*), unknown tintype picture and two campaign cards. One is for John J Dooling, May 12, 1913 for City Councilman. (*was he elected?*) and another for Clifford C. Anglim for State Assembly (*was he elected and what years?*). As a reminder, don't throw out those 'attic finds'... let us decide for you. And, Carol, we appreciate the fact you thought to bring it to our Museum.

It definitely was Spring at the April meeting of the Westside Improvement Club. Two of the ladies showed wearing lovely hats, a fashion trend that adds a touch of class!

Is broccoli the vegetable of the '90's?



Pet licensing fee increases will cost pet owners of unspayed or unneutered dogs \$21 to \$53. Costs for fixed animals range from \$7 to \$19.

If you were around the last time short skirts were popular, you probably shouldn't be wearing them this time.

Spring Clean- up Day in the Point is Saturday, May 9th. Put your materials as close to the curb or parking strip as possible. No large or bulky items will be picked up.

Those who are so proud of keeping an orderly desk will never know the thrill of finding something they thought they had lost forever.

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ANSWER: Decoration Day and 1971.

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Churches

Our Lady of Mercy

Allan Smith

The Lenten Season ended with beautiful ceremonies on Easter Vigil night and on Easter Sunday. Sunday's Easter morning mass was very well attended by parishioners and visitors. The original altar was decorated with Easter lilies and was a credit to our Pastor, Father Jim Clift's decorative professional abilities.

Our Lady of Mercy's Annual Dinner will be held at the Hotel Mac on Saturday, May 2. We will also be celebrating Father Jim's birthday.

Mass is said every day at Noon except on Saturday and Sunday. The devotion is becoming very popular as more people, especially local employees, who are learning of this opportunity to attend daily mass. Thanks again to all who are contributing historical items relating to Our Lady of Mercy Church to be used in the 90th Anniversary celebration this year. The latest is a newspaper photo and article of the original buildings that existed on the present church parking lot. This property was donated to the church by the late Joe Matteucci. Joe was affectionately called the "Mayor of Point Richmond".

Point Methodist

Jean Reynolds

Pastor Michael Brown will lead a six week study on Thursday Evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 PM, beginning April 30th. The topic will be the Gospel of John.

We are proud to be the site for the Boy Scout breakfast on May 9th. Troop 111 will serve pancakes, ham, and eggs to earn money for their camp expenses. It's a tradition that brings together the skills and experience of past troop members with the enthusiasm of currently active members. The result is a not-to-miss event!

May 17th will be Heifer Sunday at Point Methodist. To help us focus on the work of Heifer Project International, a calendar and offering box will be given to all Sunday School students and everyone who attends worship on May 10th. The calendar provides a bet of information about Heifer Project to read each day of the following week and instructs the reader to add a certain donation to the offering box (i.e. "put in ten cents for every faucet in your home"). Offering boxes will be held returned May 17th and a community potluck will be held that evening. Contributions from the offering boxes and freewill offerings will be added to

the money collected in our piggy banks, Vance and Penelope, to go toward our "mile-of-pennies" goal for Heifer Project. Heifer project sends livestock and trains the recipients to raise more animals to provide milk, eggs and meat for hungry people throughout the world.

Junque Sale Big Success

The Point Methodist Junque Sale on Saturday May 2nd was a big success. The annual event raised approximately \$2500! This money is used for church upkeep, this year the roof.

The items that remained were given to the El Sobrante Boy Scout Troop to be used in their own fundraiser.



PRHA Founder Donna Roselius visits Bay Area

Donna is in town participating in an "Art in Fashion" show taking place at the Marin Civic Center. There are about 100 other participants taking part in the exhibition.

POINT METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

-Mid Dornan

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 64th installment.

Jan 1918

Meeting held at Mrs. Gillette's. Opened by President with Song--Scripture lesson. Minutes approved. Communication read about our kindergarten scholarship and the life of Lillie Ling--

Mrs. Jones Temperance Sec of Conference Board being present the afternoon was given over to her. She urged the Society to have a Temperance Sec. After some study on lesson the Hostess served dainty refreshments.

No further business, meeting closed.

Nettie Grover

Jan 25th (1918)

The Society held an Anniversary tea at the Church and the program was given by a class of Chinese Girls from S.F.

Thank offering 6.95

- 3.60

3.35



Point Richmond: how it became an Historic District

by Lucretia Edwards

Part 4 ended with:

There is a newspaper clipping of the time stating that Gary Fernandes, who was then mayor, would like to develop "Winehaven" in the nature of a Ghiradelli Square tourist attraction. It would be projects such as these that the preservationists would want to be alert to in advance.

PART FIVE

The John T. Knox Freeway or 580 had been under study for at least 25 or 30 years before it became a reality. Many Point Richmond residents were watching the tentative plans for the Freeway with anxiety. Fortunately for Point Richmond the E.I.R. study for the Freeway found that Point Richmond was a "company town" and therefore a potential historic location; thus protecting it basically from being traversed by the proposed freeway.

The famous old "Hotel Mac" had fallen on hard times mainly from a fire which partially gutted the building. Local developers decided to rescue it. Tom Butt was hired as the architect and he, aware that Lucretia Edwards had the experience of writing successful applications for the East Brother Light Station designation as an Historic Place;

and had guided the application for Winehaven asked Lucretia if she would write the application for the *Hotel Mac* to be placed on the National Registry of Historic Places. With research and study it was found that no single building in Point Richmond qualified for the distinction of National Registry designation. However, they urged Lucretia to consider making an application for a District to be on the National Registry. This District would include the homes on the inside of the hill and the village or commercial area. Tom Butt was disappointed in their initial decision and no longer pursued the concept of a National Registry for the *Hotel Mac*.

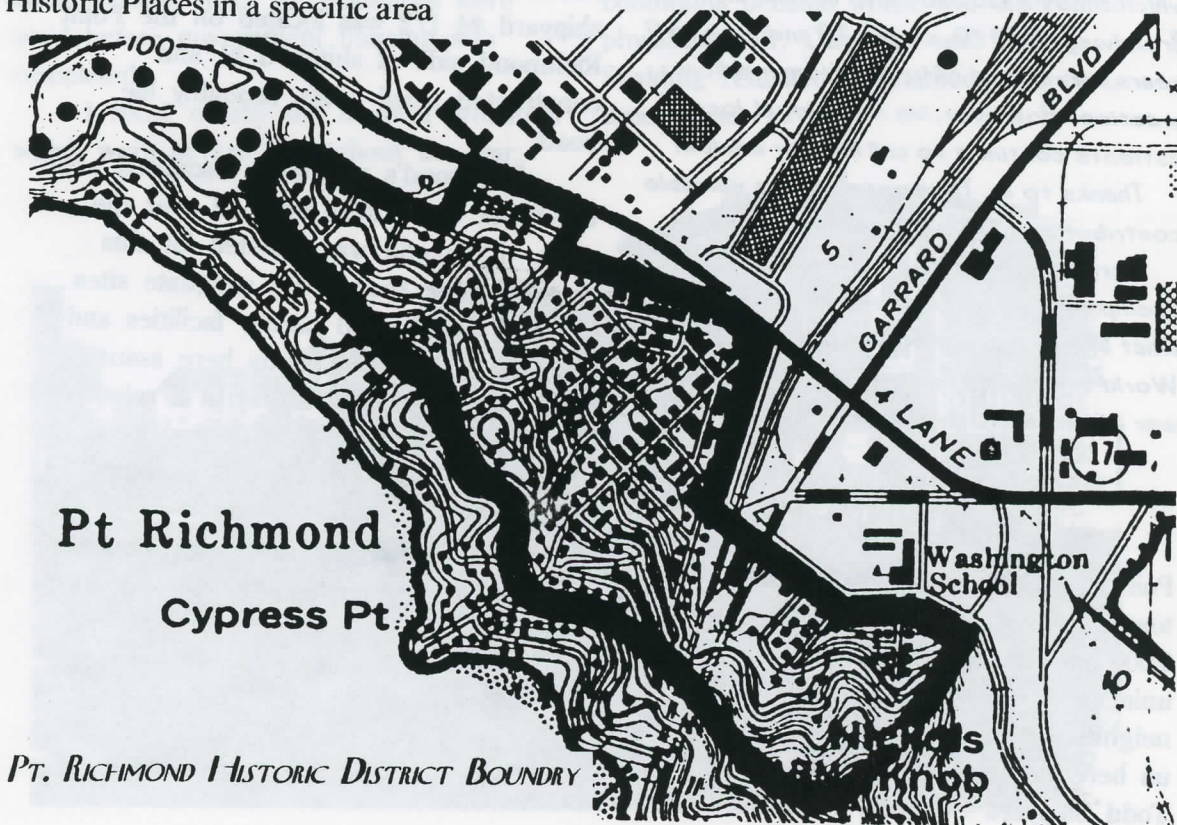
It came to Lucretia's attention that the E.I.R. for the Freeway had designated the Point as a potential Historic site due to its history as a "company town". The thought of designating the whole of Point Richmond as it existed at that time as an Historic District then seemed the obvious plan to take into action. Early Point Richmond was called "East Yard" as it was the East end of the rail yards and this designation had to be

approached first; by requesting official change of the name to Point Richmond. After this application was filed Tom Butt then commenced to photograph all of the houses of the 1900 to 1920 era to prepare an album both for the record and for the application for Historic status.

Thereafter, Lucretia and Tom worked diligently to prepare the application with its required back-up documents, to submit same, and to enlist the support of local and state wide politicians to back up the request. On November 5, 1979 Point Richmond was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in a specific area

designation that included the hillside houses and the commercial area of Point Richmond. Those houses of the 1900 to 1920 era can apply for plaques to commemorate this status as can any of the early commercial buildings.

Point Richmond was in real doldrums after World War II due to the closing of the shipyards. Downtown many shops were closed and boarded up. Gypsy families lived in some of the store fronts with sheets pinned up for privacy. A number of families who had come to work in the shipyards moved away to go back to the little towns that they had left.



MEMORIES OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR IN THE RICHMOND AREA *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 for our written archives.

Here is our fifth series from Dr. Thompson. In this series he remembers what life was like in Richmond during World War Two and how very much that war effected Richmond.

PART ONE

Before the war Richmond, including Point Richmond, was a quiet industrial town of about 25,000. There was about 5,000 or more in the San Pablo area, the unincorporated area and parts of neighboring El Cerrito. The war struck us here even before we entered it. The Todd Shipyard Company came here and

located on the inner harbor to build ships for England. When we were forced into the war this became shipyard #1 and soon after this Kaiser came in and started shipyards #2 and #3 just east of the inner harbor. These three shipyards extended from Point Richmond to 10th Street. Shipyard #4 was started near the outlet of the harbor after leveling Point Potrero for fill. A small shipyard called shipyard #4 1/2 was located on the Point Richmond side of shipyard #1 and constructed small boats, probably life boats.

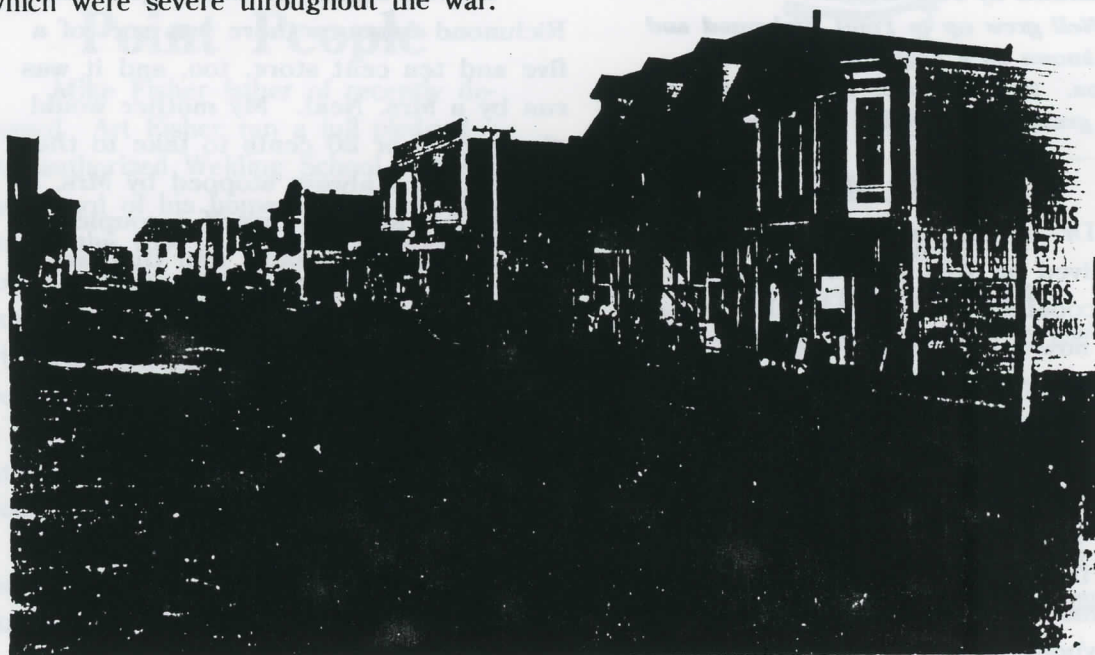
Richmond's population escalated with the influx of workers from all over the west. Richmond was selected for this work because there were adequate sites available along good harbor facilities and because climatic conditions here assured little loss of working time. In a relatively few weeks Richmond's population sky rocketed to over 110,000 with possibly 40,000 more in San Pablo and surrounding regions. Residential facilities were completely inadequate and all other community facilities were placed under great strain. Housing was non existent for most people. People lived in tents, automobiles and any other shelter they could find. Warm bed rooming houses

appeared. In these, beds were rented out in 8 hour shifts so one bed would serve 3 people. I doubt if linens were changed. Also people slept in theaters which were open 24 hours. One could spend the night in a theater seat, get a meal in the morning and walk to the shipyards. Spare time could be spent in saloons.

People often would buy a lot and pitch a tent for shelter. Then they would proceed to build a garage. This completed they would move into the garage and start building a house. When the house was completed they moved in and moved the car into the garage. All these various types of residences were used before government housing was completed.

I recall mostly the medical problems which were severe throughout the war.

At the onset Richmond had eleven physicians doing general work and three specialists including two EEN & T men and one pediatrician. The only doctor taken into the army from Richmond was Dr. Husser, the pediatrician. This seemed strange but he was the only local doctor who was a reserve officer. I thought that I would be called, being single at the time and having served with the army for nearly three years on a contract basis. I wrote to the Procurement and Assignment Service and volunteered but received a very prompt reply ordering me to continue on in Richmond as a critical shortage area. As conditions became worse two old retired physicians, Dr. Carpenter and Dr. Spalding returned to practice on a part time basis.





Recollections of Point Richmond

Nell Coward Brooker



This article was dictated on a tape recorder on August 15, 1988 at the home of Nell Coward Brooker in Thousand Oaks, California. The tape session was arranged by her daughter, Pat Brooker Gaboury and was inspired by the cover of the Summer, 1988 issue of "This Point in time" on which we featured a drawing made by Nell when she was a teenager. The drawing was taken from her high school "memory book" which she had previously donated to our historical archives. The tape had been transcribed by Pam Wilson.

Nell grew up in Point Richmond and was known as a bright and energetic person. She has since passed away, we are very grateful to her and her daughter for this.....

Part Five

Dr. Lucas lived right up the street. He lived on Washington Avenue. The Episcopal Church, I think it was, and now called Linsley Hall. I read every work of "This Point In Time" and think it's wonderful that you're giving the Point a lot. Then I read all of the stories and all of the things that went on. Doctor Lucas was wonderful, he was the Point doctor, more or less. He took care of, I think, almost everybody in Point Richmond. He was

so much inclined to not send you his bills, you had to go and ask him for it. They were just wonderful people. His wife's name was Georgie and she was the sister of Mrs. Elsie and the Elsie's had a store on Washington Avenue which was dry goods and clothing and down on Washington Avenue was Gust Allyn's shop which I think was then called McCrackens.

On the corner of Washington and Richmond Avenues there was sort of a five and ten cent store, too, and it was run by a Mrs. Neal. My mother would give me 15 or 20 cents to take to the church and I always stopped by Mrs. Neal's first and got myself a couple of pennies worth of candy, and that was fun.

The Hess's lived up on Terrace Avenue. They had two boys, Charlie and Freddie. Charlie was in the merchant marines and went all over the world. Mr. Hess worked at Standard Oil and next door to the Hess's on Terrace Avenue were the Housells, Agnes and Jim. Everything in Richmond was so clean and so nice,

There were no problems, really. Life was so much simpler in those days.

The Natatorium was quite a thing when it first came to Richmond, and I think the thing that I remember was that I was on the swimming girl's team. I won my letter "R" through Richmond High School for being on the swim team. The swimming team was not part of the Richmond High School, some organized group sponsored the team as we used to go to Crockett and swim there. I'm 80 years old now and have trouble remembering details.



Point People

Mike Fisher father of recently deceased Art Fisher ran a full pledged and authorized Welding School in the back yard of his home on Tunnel Avenue in the 1930's. Many Point Richmond young men learned the welding trade from Mr. Fischer and later became industrial welders. Among them were Tony Bernardi, Melvin Hitch, and Buz Myers. It was a great opportunity for the Point's young men to learn a building trade that would become their profession.

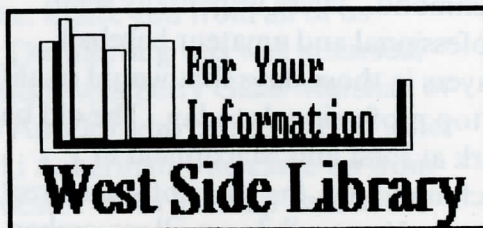
Mr. Mike Fischer was a pioneer in the welding business and also one of Standard Oil Company's earliest Refinery employees.

A. Smith

New Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Officers Elected

Congratulations to:

Sarah Eeles	President
Lyle Fisher	Vice President
Virginia Cherniak	Secretary
Anne Goetsch	Treasurer



Jan Burdick

Sorry, no column from Jan this issue, she will be back for the Summer Issue.



Point Museum

Wish List

Can you help?

- *Point Richmond pictures and memorabilia*
- *A compact and cordless tape recorder for oral histories with a pin-on type microphone.*
- *Volunteers to man the museum on Thursdays and Saturdays*
- *Suitable Wastebasket*
- *Someone to install a threshold at the museum.*
- *Qualified Volunteer to repair and restore antique roll-up maps and wooden roll-top cabinet.*

Sports Memories

Allan Smith

Baseball season always brings to mind the great caliber of baseball played before World War 2 in the City of Richmond. There were many semi-professional and amateur baseball players in those days that would qualify as top professionals today. The old ball park at First and Macdonald in Richmond was the scene of some great games. How well do we all remember the bearded "House of David" team that visited Richmond each year and Richmond's team, the "Richmond Merchants", and "Pop" McCormick's own team made up of local players.

The Standard Oil Refinery had a "Twilight League" that played its games on Tuesday and Thursday evenings after work. The league had four teams that were all sponsored by the Standard Oil Company and you had to be a good player to participate as the teams consisted of former professional baseball and college athletes that worked at the Refinery. The teams were known as "The Mechanics", "Fire and Guard", "The Refinery", and "The Barrel House."

It was a privilege to play on one of those teams and best of all you would get off work two hours early to prepare for the game.

The City of Richmond Fire Department was known in the Bay Area for their outstanding semiprofessional baseball team. We all remember their great catcher from the Point, Alex Morrison. Some great memories, great players and great baseball.

The Point Richmond area never did have a regulation baseball park even though there was plenty of vacant property that would have been used. We had to play make-up games at the old Polo Grounds and the rock pile called Washington Park. Later Kenny Park had a diamond that was used in Little League competition and the new Washington Park was made available for softball and Little League games. The old shooting range through the tunnel was the scene of some make-up baseball. We had to measure out the diamond ourselves.

Happy Mother's Day!

GENERAL MEETING REPORT

BLAKE BROTHERS QUARRY

Jerry Cerkanowicz

Our April general meeting was held on Sunday, April 23rd at the community center. The guest speaker was Igor Blake of Blake Brothers Quarry. Igor, along with his wife Elizabeth presented a slide show and talk about the Blake family coming to California in the Gold Rush and then getting in the quarry business here in Point Richmond. He talked about the changes in transportation of the various quarry products using barges, horse drawn wagons and trains. One of the uses for rock was building and repairing the delta levees.

Dynamite was used to loosen rocks that were then crushed to various sizes. Several local people remembered the sound of the explosions ("shots").

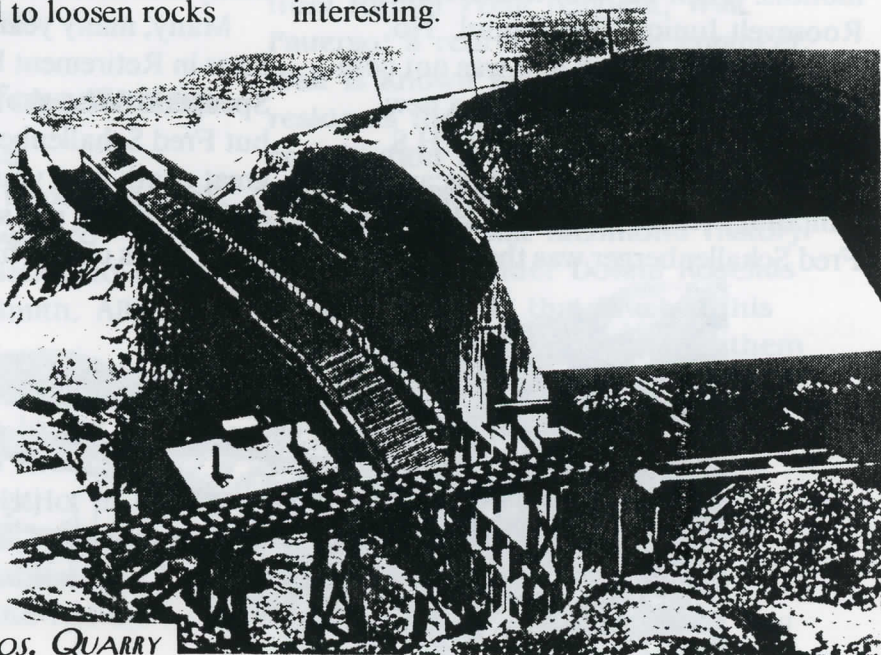
The Blakes have presented the Association with copies of the slides and written notes which not only will become a part of our archives but will give us the ability to

reproduce the presentation. For the benefit of those of you who were not able to attend, we plan to reproduce the text in a future TPIT. To Mr. and Mrs. Blake, thank you from all of us.

The meeting was well attended, included was Betty Glass Marshall of Los Angeles who came with her sister Nicki Ackerman who came up from Modesto. Both grew up here in the Point.

Elections to the board of directors were also held, the entire board was re-elected.

This meeting was both fun and interesting.



BLAKE BROS. QUARRY

Will Rambles.....

About his eighth grade class at Washington School and what happened to it upon graduation to Richmond Union High School.

by Willard Spiersch

We high eight students were the big shots of the school, we could do no wrong! It seemed that even teachers deferred to our peccadilloes. It was a wonderful feeling! However this feeling was immediately trampled into the ground upon entering Richmond Union High as low freshmen. There, we were the scum of the earth, the *greanies*. It was a completely different world, where we had different class rooms and different teachers. Oh, how I missed our dear easy going Washington!

Our high eight class entered the low freshman class at R.U.H.S. for six months. Then we were transferred to Roosevelt Junior High School. No, R.J.S. was being built and was not completed at this time. However, a new classroom building on the R.U.H.S. campus was completed, and became the temporary Roosevelt Junior High. Mr. Fred Schallenberger was the Principal.

He and his staff would move into the new junior high when it was completed. Jean, my wife to be, graduated directly into the new junior high. Washington then became a seven grade school, with the former eighth and ninth grades becoming the new junior high system in Richmond.

With all the excitement of graduation, the class prepared a program called "The Poppy" listing all names of the graduates. I kept my copy of this program for many years, but lost it on one of my many moves. They say a rolling stone gathers no moss, but I say, many moves loses a lot of moss!

Many, many years later, I attended a Sons in Retirement luncheon, "SIRS", at Spengers. Who should sit next to me but Fred Schallenberger! We sure had a great chat! And you know? Our age differences did not seem as great as when I was one of his students!



Local Heros

In the Summer Olympics

Pamela Healy of Point Richmond will be competing in the Summer Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain. She and teammate J. J. Isler will compete in a 470 class sailboat. J. J. is the skipper, Pamela's job is to balance the 15 foot, 6 inch centerboard craft by leaning over the side hooked to a "trapeze", a line connected to the mast. Doing this causes the boat to be flat in the water and go as fast as possible.

They came in first at the U.S. Olympic trials in Newport Beach in early April....Good Luck!

Awards for Reforestation Efforts

The United States Department of Agriculture recently awarded Certificates of Appreciation to Point residents Marcelina Smith, Allan Smith and Jack Healy.

The award was given for their volunteer contribution to the reforestation effort on the Georgetown Ranger District in the El Dorado National Forest. Also, for their work with the Habitat Restoration Team of the Nature

Conservancy.

The Point people belong to the Chevron Retiree's Tree Planting group whom over the last seven years have planted 75,000 trees in the reforestation project and effort. Other Chevron retirees participating in the program are former Point Richmond natives Mervyn Kellaghan, Louie Barra and Johnny Stark.

Chevron each year sponsors the "Tree Planters" by supplying bus transportation, food, expenses and encouragement. They have adopted our slogan, "Green End Up".

The idea for this project came from former Point resident, Walt Fauerso, a retired Chevron engineer. Walt is known by Point Richmond residents for his valuable personal contribution in the saving of the Plunge (Natatorium). He has also worked with Point Richmond History Association founder Donna Roselius in other projects that involved his engineering expertise. Among them was Chevron's participation in the enlargement of early Point Richmond photos from the Don Church Collection, the Point Richmond History Association's most prized and valuable archive.

Send your 'Local Hero' article to Gary.

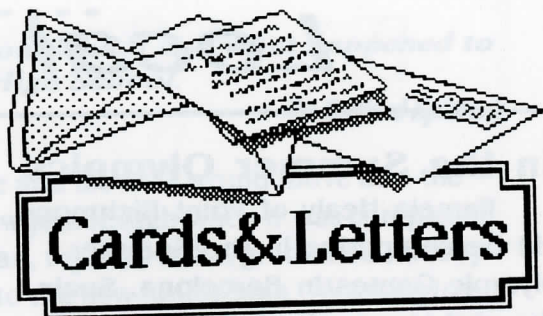
PRHA Benefits From Downtown Rain Storm

Did you notice that it rained, no it poured on Park Place on April 28th in front of the Baltic Restaurant. The street was closed through most of the day so that a photo production crew, headed by photographer, Gordon Edwards could take a still picture of an Isuzu Rodeo driving down a city street in the midst of a significant rainstorm.

Actually the Isuzu was not driven but was on jacks with water being sprayed on its wheels by strategically placed pipes to give the appearance of motion. The rain was produced by three enormous 30 foot or so high sprinklers and a crew member with a firehose (by the way, they brought their own water). The driving wind was created by several huge fans. All of this equipment together with the expected lighting equipment made for a fascinating scene in our little downtown.

Thanks to the photographer, Gordon Edwards for a generous \$1000 donation to the History Association. Thank you to Tom Butt (Tom owns the building that was rained on) for recommending us for the contribution. We hope to use part of the windfall to buy equipment to at last properly store our own photo archives and negatives.

Gary Shows



Dear Gary,

You asked me where "Cappy's Beach" is located. It may very well be called by a different name today, unknown to me, but familiar to you.

At the northern end of Ocean Blvd, right next to the Standard Oil Wharf was a patch of sand we called "Cappy's Beach". The origin of the name escapes my recollection. This is the place where I collected the perpetual tar stains on the bottom of my feet until the 11th grade.

Where the wharf has a bend in it was termed "The Suction". Swirling water would pull us under and we merrily bobbed out the other side like corks and then it was a short swim to the rock Quarry Beach.

I will do my best to check in the memorabilia drawer to locate a picture of the beach. By sister Phyllis may have one also. It was rare to know someone with a camera back then.

All the happy days there at the Point came to a screeching halt after the tragedy of my fathers death which meant changing schools in an untimely move.

Traumatic as it seemed, it perhaps bothered me more than my bosom pals who blistfully went on their uneventful scheduled lives.

Lovingly,
Betty Glass Marshall
Los Angeles

+++++

Dear Pam:

I want to renew my subcription to This Point. I can't remember when I first received it.

I really enjoy it so much....so many old friends, their names and new and articles about them.

As Ever,
Kathryn Johnson Coad
Magalia, CA

+++++

Dear Mid Dornan:

I want to thank you for setting up our meeting in the Point. It was a pleasure to see Jean and Willard Spiersch, and Louie and Chester Thompson again, it had been about sixty years. It brought back many great memories of our young days in the Point. The Point still looks great. You are going a fine job perpetuating its history.

Also thanks for the pictures of our meeting, my wife, Ruth got a big kick out of the picture of Effie (*Aunt Effie*, our mascot made by founder Donna Rosellus) and me.. She said it was a pretty picture of me and one of my old girl friends!

My best regards to everyone,
Bernard Bernes
Chula Vista, CA

I'm happy to report that Frenchie also included some more of his memories. I will publish them in this or future issues.

Gary

+++++

Dear Mid Dornan:

Thank you for the pictures you sent me of our visit to the Point Richmond museum and the Hotel Mac. It was a memorable occasion meeting not only Bernard Bernes, but becoming acquainted with you! You are so thoughtful, and are such a delightful person. Point Richmond and the historical society are very lucky to have you (*we agree!*).

I appreciate getting the picture of the Thompson brothers with Bernard. Also the picture you took of Jean's father's shoe shop. I sent a check for \$5.00 to Jerry, hoping to get a reproduction of the original.

Thank you for the invite Sunday April 26th, we would like very much to be there, but on checking our engagement book, I find we have another date we can't duck.

Hope the 26th turns out great!
Willard R. Spiersch
Alameda

Don't give up on the picture Will. I have been waiting for at least one other reproduction order.

Gary

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



THE MASQUERS

Playhouse, Inc.

105 Park Place, Point Richmond

PROUDLY PRESENTS

NEW
GIRL
IN
TOWN



A colorful, spirited
musical based on
Eugene O'Neill's
'Anna Christie'.

Book by George Abbott

Music & Lyrics by
Bob Merrill

Directed by
Albert Meyers

Music Direction by
Ann Krinitzky

Choreographed by
Samantha King &
Lynn-Clar Elam

THE CAST:

George Adams	Tura Franzen	Donald Lopez
Mary Jo Campbell	Virginia Handley	Steve McLaughlin
Scott Campbell	Robert Hamm	Terri McMinimy
Julie Cravotto	Robert Hulin	Don Nason
Sylvia Dean	Shelli Ireland	Greg Ormeo
Linda Ellinwood	Sarah Irvin	Don Waight
Jan Fauerso	Richard Krabbe	Kyle Worley

Friday & Saturday evenings – March 27 - May 16, 1992

Sunday Matinees – April 5, 12, 26, May 3

RESERVATIONS: (510) 232-4031 (24 hours)

Reservations held until 10 minutes before curtain.
Group Rates Available

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

Curtain: 8:30 p.m.

Matinees: 2:30 p.m.

Admission: \$10.00

DINNER & THEATRE benefit for our building fund at
HOTEL MAC, Thursday evening, May 14. Dinner and ticket
to "New Girl in Town" for only \$25.00. To reserve, CALL:
(510) 236-4988.

COMING: Agatha Christie's powerful drama "WITNESS FOR
THE PROSECUTION" opens June 7, 1992.

Deaths

Maxine Diane Forbes

passed away in Point Richmond April
26, 1992 after a short illness. She was 70.

She was a native and lifetime resident
of Richmond and graduated cum laude
from U.C. Berkeley.

She is survived by her husband,
James M. Forbes; Tyra E. Solich of Van
Nuys; son, Mark A Solich of
Sacramento; brother Ralph W. Johnson
of Richmond; step daughters, Judith
Forbes of New Zealand, Deborah Miller
of Oklahoma, Cynthia Ham of
Downeyville and Kathryn Sanchez of
Crockett.

At Mrs. Forbes request, there were
no services, burial was private.

Memorials to Marin Hospice, 150
Nellen Ave. Corte Madera, CA 94925.

~~~~~

**Arthur M. Fischer** passed away  
on April 4, 1992 at the age of 81. He  
was raised in Point Richmond living on  
Tunnel Avenue in the home next to the  
former Point nursery and later on  
Nicholl Avenue. Art, or Mike as we  
called him learned the welding trade  
from his father and was associated with  
the Southern Pacific Company before  
returning to the Point. He retired after  
27 years as a welder with Chevron,  
U.S.A. at the Richmond Refinery.

Art is survived by his sister Esther of  
Richmond and Bertha of San Francisco.



Services were held at the chapel of Schmidt and Dixon Funeral Home in Richmond and burial was at the Sunset View Cemetery in Kensington.

~~~~~  
Maud E. Alexander died on April 1, 1992, age 86. She was a retired stenographer with Chevron USA where she worked for 31 years. A native and lifetime resident of Point Richmond, Maud was a member of Chevron Retirees Club, Native Daughters of the Golden West, Past Presidents Association No. 2, Native Daughters, Chevron Destk and Derrick Club and the Women's Westside Improvement Club.

A close friend, Anita Christensen, who had known her for 51 years states, "She was truly a lady. She was refreshing as she never resorted to profanity, didn't use alcohol or tobacco and had a delightful giggle. I will miss her."

She is survived by cousins, Pat Ruscher of Union City and Paula Silverman.

Memorials to Richmond Rescue Mission, Box 1112, Richmond, 94802-9976.

*At my present age, I'm almost sure,
I could face life undismayed
If only there was a promise
That all my mistakes had been made!*

HAPPY



BIRTHDAY!



MAY BIRTHDAYS

(234-5334)

PATRICIA DORNAN
DOUGLAS CORBIN
DIANA CORBIN
WINIFRED JONES
RICHARD MATTUECCI
JON DOELLSTEDT
VERN DOELLSTEDT
MARCELLO CACERES
SHIRLEY MOORE
RUTH BEARDSLEY
BETTY WIRTH
LUCRETIA EDWARDS
ANNE-CATHERINE HADREAS
SHONEY GUSTAFSON
NORM REYNOLDS
SHANEY GUSTAFSON
MARGE MILLER
ANNE PRICE
DIANA SPINOLA
JOHN KNOX, JR.
BECKY HORN
VARSI LOMETTI
EVELYN ESSARY
CINDY QUIST
MURIEL CLAUSEN
NELL BROOKER
SARAH EELES
LYLE FISHER
ANNE HANZLIK
BEVERLY PRICE

I would like to join the PRHA

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

Type of membership (check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Single	\$18.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior (65+)	12.00
<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 in time" 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.

Tribute Fund

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

\$ _____

IN HONOR

IN MEMORY

Of _____

From _____

Phone _____

Please send acknowledgment to:

Name _____

Address _____

Tributes will be acknowledged in the newsletter

Articles for each month's issue are due on or before the deadline published in the calendar section of the newsletter.
Please mail articles and items of interest to:

GARY SHOWS
229 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE
POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801

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Point Richmond, CA 94801

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Pam Wilson
Allan Smith
Jean Reynolds
Willard Spiersch
Betty Doman

Calendar

May, 1992

May 2
(Saturday)

Point Methodist Church Junque Sale

Cinco De Mayo Events, Civic Center Plaza
11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

May 5
(Tuesday)

Women's Westside Improvement Club Salad Luncheon,
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, \$5.00, Our Lady of Mercy Church

Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting,
7:30 PM, Point Community Center

May 9
(Saturday)

Annual Boy Scout Troop 111 Pancake Breakfast
Point Methodist Church

May 10
(Sunday)

Mother's Day

May 13
(Wednesday)

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting,
Noon, Hotel Mac

May 14
(Thursday)

Point Richmond Stroll, "An Evening in Point Richmond"
5:00 to 7:00 PM

Senior Information Day, Richmond Auditorium
9 AM - 2PM, "Aging to Perfection"

May 25
(Monday)

Memorial Day

May 29
(Friday)

DEADLINE FOR THE SUMMER ISSUE, TPIT

June 2
(Tuesday)

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