

THIS POINT in time

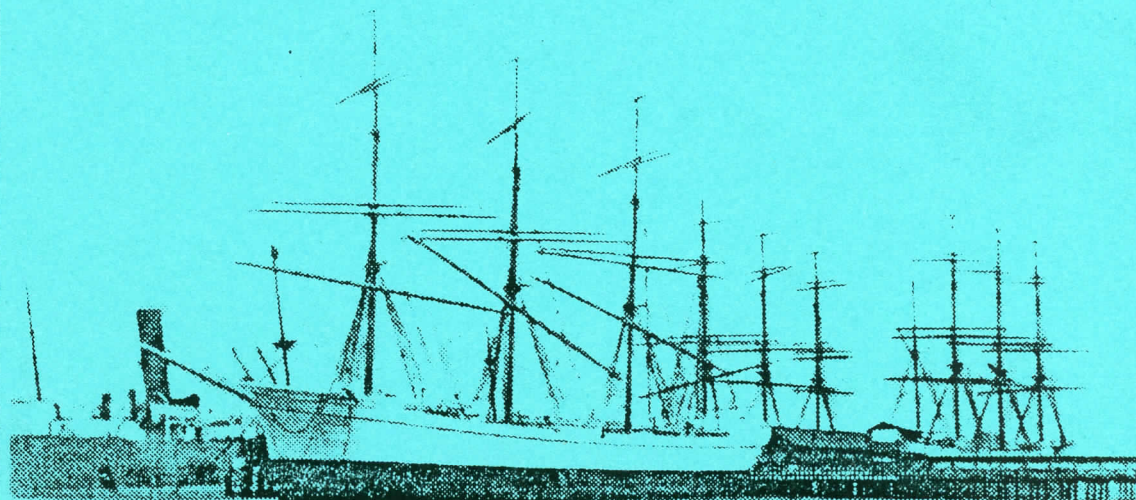
NEWSLETTER

THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL XI No 5.

NOVEMBER, 1992

\$1.50



LOADING OIL AT RICHMOND

Annual Point Richmond Holiday Food Drive

The Food Bank is a nonprofit United Way Agency that plays the central role in our county in channeling donations of food to needy Contra Costa residents. The collection of food, from farmers, large corporations, whole salers, retailers and residents goes on all year, but the Holiday Food Drive is especially to collect non-perishable food, canned or dried, for food baskets for those who are having a difficult time during this period of continuing recession.

This year the food drive will be held in Point Richmond during the first week in December, from Tuesday December 1st until Monday, December 7th. About a week before the drive, specially printed grocery bags will be placed on the doorsteps of Point Richmond residents. Listed on the bags will be the kinds of food most desired, such as canned meat, pasta, peanut butter and canned or dried fruit. Also listed will be the places where the collection barrels will be located. During the first week in December we hope you will drop off your contribution to the Holiday Food Drive at the location most convenient to you. It will be collected by the Food Bank trucks, and the Food Bank will be responsible for distribution.

When we were asked as a neighborhood, two years ago to participate in the food drive, we thought it was because of a temporary emergency. Inexorably, however, the need for more food for hungry people grows, while at the same time local donations are off by ten per cent, and national donations and resources have also diminished.

The Contra Costa Food Bank reports:

1. The number of people served each month is 33,500.
2. The number of pounds of food distributed per day is 17,223.
3. The percentage of recipients who are families with children is 74%.
4. The number of low-income senior citizens who receive a free bay of groceries every week through the Brown Bag Program is 2,460.
5. The number of local charities (soup kitchens, homeless shelters, child care centers) serving is 167.
6. The number of meals provided each working day is 13,778.
7. The number of volunteer hours donated each month is 3,760.

We know that there are many demands on your emotions and on your purses, but we hope you will respond, as you have in the past, to the neighborhood effort to share what we have with those who are less fortunate than we are.

.....*Lucrecia Edwards*

History Association Notes

FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY MID DORNAN

Everyone enjoys looking at the pictures of early Point Richmond, reading stories of its past history and reliving memories that are identified with their lives.

Since the Point Richmond History Association is entrusted and dedicated to keeping the records we must also not fail to document today as today is tomorrow's history.

Visual history is perhaps the most enjoyable. To address this we must have photographs as the Point is today. Does anyone have aerial photos? New construction, highway and freeway development, personalities or any photographs relative to this area they would donate? Or is a photographer willing to take such pictures?

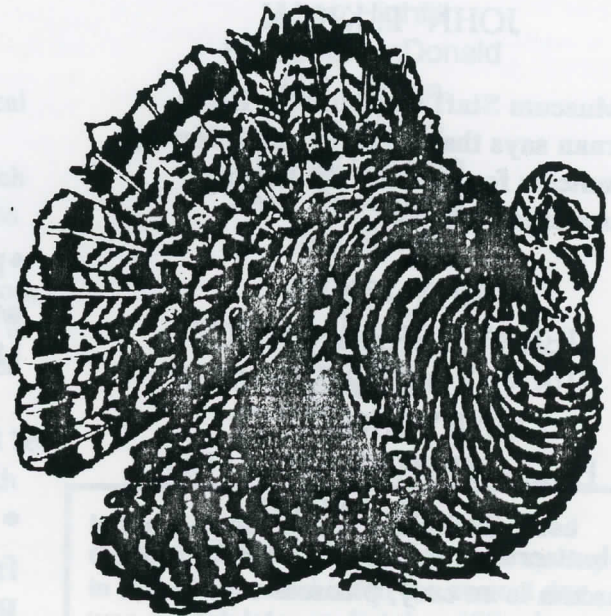
We are still trying to locate the pictures taken of young lads on the roof of the history building, tearing off the roof preparatory to moving it from the West Richmond site.

Remember, also, the History Building is open on Thursdays and Saturdays. You are invited to visit and staff it.

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"From the President" continued.....

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

BRUNO J. ROVEDA
CARL WESTMAN
GRACE & WM. BERK
GRACE A. HOWE
ANITA M. BROUGHAM
BENA SALLE BOWLES
WM. L. THOMPSON, M.D.
MARY J. FORBES
MARY VALENZANO
TERESA MENEGHELLI
CHESTER THOMPSON
JOHN T. KNOX

**Museum Staff Coordinator Betty
Dornan says thank you to the following
volunteers for staffing the History
Museum in October!**

ROY JONES
JERRY CERKANOWICZ
BERNARD CHRISTENSEN
MARY HIGHFILL
ELIZABETH MC DONALD
ALLAN SMITH

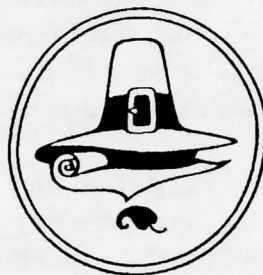
**Volunteers are still needed, staffing the
museum is an easy, pleasant way to
become involved. You just spend a
couple of hours now and then watching
Point Richmond go by, call Betty at
232-4317 if you can help.**

Museum Hours

Thursday 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM
Saturday 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

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

**SANTA FE MARKET
PT. RICHMOND MARKET**



Acquisitions

From Donna Wilson

***Beautiful 1500 page Bible that
was presented to E.A. Oakes in
1897.**



From Bob Peckham

***1912 Commemorative Plate
from "The Fair" in Point
Richmond.**



Thank You!

Editor's Notes

Gary Shows

Here is the November issue. Since I had the space I decided to include all of Mid Dornan's fascinating report on her trip to Russia, I think it is a subject that is more interesting to "get into" rather than spreading it out over several issues.

Also included is our second installment of "Authors" with three more Point Richmond authors included. We intended this to be an interactive project with our members, I was kind of disappointed with the resulting interaction.

And on to a new matter, I have long thought that the PRHA as well as the community would benefit from a small section in our newsletter dedicated to local objective news. As this is not the main purpose of this newsletter I think that such an article should small, perhaps limited to one page. But we will need a crack reporter. Are you an outgoing local person, maybe someone who has always wanted to be a reporter, who would like to volunteer for this position? Call me at 235-1336.

The deadline for the Winter issue will be November 20. We will then take a month off for the winter holidays.



The Cover:

Sailing oil tankers at Long Wharf

Taken from a 1908 Richmond Chamber of Commerce pamphlet donated to the History Association by Deidre Cerkowicz.

The October Issue Assembly Crew:

Mary Highfill
Elizabeth McDonald
Mid Dornan
Pam Wilson
Muriel Clausen
Jerry Cerkowicz
Gary Shows



CORRECTION

In the October issue I mistakenly noted October 3rd as Fall Clean-up pick-up day in Point Richmond when the correct day was a week later on October 10th. I apologize for any inconvenience this might have caused any of our readers.

THIS OLD HOUSE...

Muriel C. Clausen

Influences On the Early Homes of Point Richmond

Chapter II Part 2

Very early on there was an elusive West Coast building style that was quite separate from the Southern California influence. This was the small vernacular West Coast "hip roof" cottage that was found at random up and down the West Coast from the 1860's to the 1900's. We will find this cottage style, as we shall see, in Point Richmond, at first very predominantly as the companies built the first houses for their workers.

By the beginning of the 20th century the people of the East Coast had already long since established their building preferences. There were the "vernacular" styles: the workman's "builder homes", the Cape Cods, the salt boxes and the clap boards. They were also well into the "Revivals" of European designs. The greatest influences from Europe were at first from the English Victorian style and then from the Italian, Greek and French. These resulted in architectural "styles" that ebbed and flowed in popularity over the years with returns to Early American Federalist and Georgian "styles" in between. It was mainly the "vernacular" styles that workers coming to Point Richmond were concerned with. They wanted a basic house for shelter, space and comfort. If a feeling of "styles" was added for garnish, it was not the first priority. Those touches when applied did appear in a way

particularly characteristic of this area. On the East Coast the bungalow appeared in the 1820's and followed to the West Coast in about 1897. This is a particular small house style that became very popular, as we shall see, in California and in Point Richmond. One other influence from the East Coast that had a minor impact on this area was the prefabricated house types that were shipped unassembled to San Francisco in the 1850's. Finally, from the East Coast, a Post-Victorian influence brought a Romantic Revival that included a return to English Gothic "styles" in the 1900's that brought the English Cottage to the West Coast. These then were a multitude of influences to absorb in the West, and we will see that they were in truth absorbed in their own way.

Southern California, meanwhile, was an architectural area quite different from that of the Northern part of the state. The very early influence of the Spanish in the 1700's started a slow population movement into the Southern California from Mexico. The local Indians pulled in as workers, were not familiar with their tools and so could not build for them the kinds of buildings they wanted. The Missions that the Spanish wanted built in a chain up the coast then were built by the Indians in adobe as that was the only manner of building with which they were familiar. The settlers of the Southern part of the West Coast continued to build almost exclusively of adobe. Wood was scarce. The climate was warm, lending to the adaptation of the open courtyard adobe style, and the terrain was less demanding than in the Northern

area. The adobe style was dominant in the Southern part of the state from 1769 until the 1850's (when California became a state). That was a quiet, sleepy era as well. However, in the 1890's to the 1920's there was a strong population movement from the Eastern part of the country, and rapid growth and change occurred. Then the Southern part of the state adapted to the "styles" of the Revivals. They also added "a Mission style" to their architecture that combined both the Mexican adobe with the early Spanish influence. Very few of these Southern state influences were felt in Point Richmond until the 1930's and later.

In summary, the influence of the vernacular West Coast "hip roof" cottage had an early effect on Point Richmond. The Southern California adobe to Mission style had little effect. The Eastern vernacular styles, bungalows and cottages as well as the "Revivals", had a great influence on the kinds of homes built in early Point Richmond. Yet there is one West Coast local influence that also strongly affected this area and tended to give the architecture of this area a certain casual, unencumbered, charming quality. That influence was the 1849 Gold Rush in the nearby foothills. The influx of people into San Francisco upon the discovery of gold was unprecedented. The rush was truly on. Miners did not stay in town, they just headed for the hills. In the hills they pitched rough tents and made huts and hovels of bushes and limbs or of any scrap material they could find. There were some attempts at adobe building but they didn't work too well as the clay in the Mother Lode wasn't like that in Southern California. Shacks and then houses were built of wood. Fires devastated the area repeatedly and a new building material was sought as the mining towns became more permanent. Low fired brick

walls were built and the schist rock of the area was used for rough foundations or building facing. A certain permanency to living was attained and the towns became an individual and different type of building style from any previously known. It was a frontier style. This hurried building, switching of materials and casual arrangement found in the



Mother Lode started to release designers and builders from the confines of the architectural "styles". A more "freewheeling" type of design gradually permeated from the Mother Lode to San Francisco and its architects. When the austere and true Nob Hill Victorians of San Francisco were demolished and burned in the 1906 earthquake and fire, that formality was not rebuilt. A freedom of expression has existed since then in architecture in San Francisco

along with the earthquake-conscious use of newer and stronger materials. Therefore the restoration of the surviving San Francisco Victorians in other parts of the city gives San Francisco a beautiful body of refined architecture from a time past that will probably never be repeated. Such a freedom in design was felt early here in Point Richmond even as builders interpreted "styles" of architecture. The "styles" that were attained in Point Richmond and other towns in Northern California have a charm and freedom all their own, quite different from the restrained "styles" that were found on the East Coast. Buildings in Point Richmond were released from the formality of "styles" as the East Coast knows them. When "styled" buildings were built they were more relaxed and not so dogmatic. They are a suggestion of what once was and give a small link to the past. They were built with different materials and under different influences, resulting in a quality of building that sets the San Francisco area apart.

A-MID TRIVIA

By Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Q: After the Pilgrims left England where did they stay for 12 years before coming to America? And, of the 102 passengers, about how many were Pilgrims? (*Answer at end of Trivia*)

Roy Jones said his dog had so many fleas they even ate the flea collar! An appointment was made with the vet and knowing the importance of being prompt, Roy arrived on time but told the confused receptionist, "I'm sorry I will be late for the appointment." Puzzled, she said, "But you are already here." "Yes", added Roy, "but I hurried so fast I forgot my dog!"

A hardware store in Point Richmond again? Plans are for an Ace Hardware to be located on Railroad Avenue by early 1993.

Currently there are over 25.5 million vehicles registered in California. Don't you often feel they are all located in the Bay Area?

Have you noticed our friendly community Police officers who arrive helmeted on bicycles and whose uniforms are shorts.

Prediction: Our next president will be left handed. (*President Bush, Governor Clinton and Ross Perot are all lefties.*)

Brickyard resident and retired math teacher, Lyle Fisher, received applause at the Neighborhood Council for his efforts in raising math test

scores of the 6th graders at Washington School. Are you a part of the 'Many Hands' project at the school?

Janis Park donations have reached \$1105 and the city has pledged \$500 which means only \$1000 is still needed. A suggestion is to donate \$10 for each child or grandchild as an honor gift. Send to: PRNC, Janis Park Fund, P.O. Box 386, Point Richmond, CA 94807.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3rd. Your polling place is either the Methodist Church or Washington School. Check your sample ballot.

Lucretia Edwards is looking for a volunteer to chair the Food Pantry Bank collection in this area in December. It is a short term service project and she will be happy to share her knowledge.

John Player, when questioned about an obviously useless item replied, "Some things you save for what they have done, not for what they will do."

Donna Wilson has special reason to appreciate and enjoy her Mother's visit although her mother only traveled from Watsonville. She came to celebrate her 101st birthday. CONGRATULATIONS TO AN ALERT AND AGILE LADY.

Liz McDonald celebrated a zero or nothing birthday for a week. A nothing birthday is one that has a number before the zero. On Sunday, next door neighbors, Rosemary and

Doug Corbin, hosted a Crest Avenue brunch in her honor. 'Block-party-neighbors' share a special friendship and togetherness that is enviable.

November 15-21 is Children's Book Week to encourage the enjoyment of reading for children. In place of TV, why not read them a book. take a trip to the local library or give them a book to enjoy themselves.

A number of Public High Schools are requiring students to log community service hours before graduation. They help out in nursing homes, soup kitchens, tutoring, recreationl parks, etc. People need to feel responsible for their community and this is a way teenagers can make a difference and help rebuild cities.

Welcome to new Bay Area resident Lance Shows, nephew of TPIT Editor Gary Shows. Lance comes from Rhode Island, is a photographer who brings an impressive portfolio to California.

ga

Congratulations to Al and Helene Frosini who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a Caribbean cruise. A wedding ceremony was held before the ship left port.

ga

The year 1932 graduates from Richmond Union High School included the following Point Richmond students: Neta Chausseur, Bena Salle, Vernetta Ciabattari, Phil Carlin, Hal Glover, Gordon Williams, Samuel Janes and Jim Hurley.

as

June Kunkel, Nelliw Huffstetter, Doris Clinger, Nellie Bisio, Dolores Hatchell, Spiro Cakos, Bob McAfee, Jim Wilson, Ray Middleton, Robert Ellis and Peter Stark were

among the Point Richmonders who were in the January 1942 graduate class at Richmond Union High.

as

The June 1942 graduation class from Richmond High had their 50th Renuion recently. Point Richmond's Mary Bianchini Highfill, Bruce Bartram and Cernard Christiansen were in this class.

as

Ten people from the Point Methodist Church participated in the Hunger Walk on Saturday, October 17th.

Confession may be good for the soul but it can be hard on the reputation.

The ivy on the freeway wall along Tewksbury Avenue is colorful and attractive but why are the evergreen trees all dying? Is this a Caltrans or local problem?

A successful politician is a person who can stand on a fence and make people believe it is a platform.

November 26, 1789 George Washington made this a day of national thanksgiving for the adoption of the United States Constitution. Thanksgiving did not become an official holiday until nearly a century later.

VOTE! America is a country where your vote counts, where there is freedom of choice and freedom to vote. One vote makes a difference.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

ANSWER: Holland and 44 were Pilgrims. The others were called Strangers.

Churches

Our Lady of Mercy

Allan Smith

A special annual collection was taken this month throughout California sponsored by the Knights of Columbus for their Columbian Foundation for Mentally Retarded Children. This is a California nonprofit, public benefit corporation. Our parish participated.

Our pastor, Father Jim Clift, wrote in a recent Sunday Bulletin about the celebration of the Columbus Quincentennial in this year of 1992. He wrote that the celebration is subdued compared to 100 years ago when our grandparents celebrated the 400th Anniversary. There was pride in our nation, in its accomplishments. Both sets of Father Jim's grandparents spent many happy days at the Chicago Columbian Exposition (1892-1893). Hundreds of thousands of people came from all over this country and the world to this exposition to honor Christopher Columbus' arrival in the Americas.

Rev. Jim Clift was host to 15 Catholic Priests of the Oakland Diocese West County Deanery who held their monthly meeting at Our Lady of Mercy Church.

Varsie Lometti of our parish has just returned from an extensive trip to Greece visiting relatives and friends.

Dean Smith, native parishioner, recently

retired from Chevron, U.S.A. after 39 years of continuous service.



Point Methodist

Jean Reynolds

No report.



On October 31, 1992 Trefry A. and Nellie N. Ross, celebrated their 50th anniversary. They now live in Tuscon.

You Can Send Them a Card:

8701 Kolg Road South

Space S-176

Tuscon, AZ 85701

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

WE USED TO HAVE A LITTLE WEEKLY PAPER IN THE POINT CALLED "THE POINT RICHMOND PROGRESS". THE EDITOR AND PUBLISHER WAS HARRY BURT. HIS PRINTING SHOP WAS IN THE BUILDING WHERE SONRISA IS LOCATED TODAY ON WEST RICHMOND AVENUE.

COURTESY ALLAN SMITH

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 68th installment.

August 1918

The Womans Home Missionary Society met at the Parsonage.

The meeting was opened by the President Mrs. Adams.

Scripture lesson was read and the members were led in prayer by Bro. Gillette. The members then joined in Song, "More Love to Thee". Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

Pledges for the new year were discussed and upon motion the following pledges were made.

\$ 5.00 for Beulah Rest Home

15.00 for Chinese Kindergarten Scholarship

3.00 to Indian Work

2.00 to Italian Work

Four ladies gave their names for membership, Mrs. J. P. Smith, Mrs. T. H. Finley, Mrs. C.D. Norwood and Mrs. Myrna Benson.

Mrs. Gillette led the Study lesson and program.

Dues were paid by Mrs. Smith (.50), Mrs. Finley (1.20), Mrs. Benson (.10) = 1.80

No further business meeting closed.

Nettie Grover, Sec

Sports Memories Allan Smith

Our editor, Gary Shows, is looking very sad these World Series days as his beloved Oakland Athletics didn't win the league play-offs in order to represent the American League in the Series (we were at the fifth play-off game, \$40 per seat).

World Series days always bring to mind that a local Point Richmond baseball player once played in this sports classic. He was the late Russ Christopher who pitched for the Cleveland Indians in the 1948 World Series. Russ passed away in 1954.

Sixty years ago, (1932) during the depression years, Jim Hurley of Point Richmond, was the No. 1 tennis player for the Richmond Union High School team and top player of the high schools in the Bay Area. He teamed with Phil Carlin, another Point Richmonder, to win the tennis doubles championship in this area. Jim still resides in the Point with his wife, Ruth. Their daughter, Casey and grandchildren live in Wenatchee, Washington.

Many Bargain Specials
Always on Hand

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25 Park Place.

Phone Richmond 863

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 FIVE

Traffic at peak hours was terrible especially at times of shift changes at the shipyards and in spite of gas rationing. When I was living in Point Richmond I was called one morning for a delivery at Albany Hospital right at the time of the morning shift change. Going out Cutting Boulevard,

I met the traffic head on and was stalled in what is now called a gridlock. It took me over an hour and a half to get to the Albany Hospital and by that time the baby had long been born. Fortunately Dr. McNerny had been there and taken care of the delivery. We often had to take one another's work when the other was tied up.

I recall another stupid traffic snarl in Point Richmond during the late afternoon shift change at the Standard Oil Company. A Santa Fe freight train was switching back and forth completely obstructing traffic on both Standard and Richmond Avenues. There were two lanes in each direction all of which were obstructed. This would have been no problem except that impatient drivers from both directions pulled into the opposite lanes. When the crossing was eventually cleared, there were 4 lanes of traffic each head on with lanes from the opposite direction. It took an hour or more to straighten out the tangle. The 4 to 12 shift at the Standard Oil Company must have been in deep trouble that day.

Point Richmond was less affected by the crowding than was the Cutting Boulevard area. In The Point there was little room for efficient government housing except for Esmeralda Village and the canal area. The Canal Apartments were built in the triangle

between Cutting Boulevard and Garrard Boulevard. I noted on several occasions during blackouts that these apartments remained brilliantly lighted.

Unbeknown to many people, the Army had lookout stations and anti-aircraft batteries on the ridge South of Nichol Nob. Evidences of these structures can still be seen. There were underground dugouts and concrete gun emplacements. The present road to the top of this ridge from East Richmond Avenue was made at that time to make and serve these emplacements. These evidently were to protect the shipyards should the need arise. Some similar facilities were also located in the Berkeley Hills. After the war these were all destroyed but traces still remain.

The inner harbor was a busy place during the shipbuilding years. About

one ship a day was being launched. These were constructed in parts in huge mechanical shops and put together like gigantic jigsaw puzzles. Massive sections were lifted by huge cranes and accurately set in place to be secured by riveting or welding. I recall seeing huge deck houses speedily lifted by a battery of giant cranes and accurately set down in place. The record for a single assembly was about 72 hours from keel to launching.

There were masses of humanity at work but there were relatively few injuries or fatalities. I saw one woman who came to me about five months pregnant. She tried to make it an industrial accident since it happened in the shipyards. This didn't work but it suggests stories told of servicemen who received the Purple Heart citations for contracting venereal disease. ds



Columbo Hotel ruins/photo courtesy of the Richmond Museum

Russia As I Saw It

Mid Dornan

My recent trip to Russia, the Baltics, the Ukraine and Eastern Europe was dramatic, bizarre and magical. Travelers interested in visiting Russia and its neighbors should be prepared for an educational rather than vacational trip. Formerly, the Russian government planned where and what for tourists. Now, everything has changed. With passport and visa in hand, I went freely almost everywhere. I do not feel qualified to debate the political movement and threatening problems or the impact of the agreement with the International Monetary Funds with stabilizing the ruble. It has been 7 months since the breaking of the Soviet Union and Boris Yelsin is President of the reformist government. Russia is now trying to put together a workable Constitution.

My feelings and observations are just that—mine. It was a memorable trip in historic times. I went with a long-time friend from Stockton. Only St. Petersburg, Moscow, and the "Golden Ring" in Russia are discussed.

Moscow and the "Golden Ring"

In Moscow the railway station to Siberia is across the street from the Metro entrance and a somber air permeates as you see hundreds of individuals lining the streets selling merchandise.. a pair of shoes, a few t-shirts, a bag of pasta, Matryoshki dolls, or sodas. Experiencing free

enterprise and on their way to capitalism! A trip to Moscow had to include a visit to the famous 650-seat McDonalds which Russians claim is only for their rich.

Before leaving for Russia, my friend Melba Farley, gave me a penny saying, "Have a Russian ride on me!". I laughed and pocketed the coin. How unbelievable to learn that one penny equals 1 ruble and yes, TWO rides on the Metro in Moscow. We were warned that prices were changing so rapidly, that even though we rode the Metro for 50 kopecks (half a penny) it might change before the trip back. It did. It doubled in price, or cost 1 cent which made us smile but is a big concern for Russians.

Moscow has the most magnificent Metro System in the world. Each station is a masterpiece in frescoes or mosaics or gold leaf or marble, etc. No two stations are alike. Ten car trains run every 30 seconds and there are several lines. I carried a Metro map and when unable to locate the station on the overhead signs, I'd usually ask a young person by pointing to the station in question. On more than one occasion even during rush hour, the Russian would personally

escort us up and down escalators and stairs to the correct train, endearing us each time with their friendliness.

It is a custom for the bride and groom and their bridal party to tour the city after the wedding ceremony. Sparrow Hills (formerly Lenin Hills) overlooks the city and is frequented daily with these colorful wedding parties. Standing inside the Kremlin walls viewing St. Basil's famous onion domes in Red Square, I felt humbled to know I was really here and seeing this historical wonder.

Antiquated two-lane highways took us from Moscow through the heartland of the Russian countryside through typical Russian villages of by-gone splendors of old museum towns compromising the "Golden Ring" to Yaroslav on the beautiful Volga River. This city was closed to tourists until two years ago. Today their streets are dirty and unkempt but the shops are preparing for tourism. Cities on the Golden Ring are in a time warp. Vladimir is an ancient city that once was the capital of Russia. Suzdal has her cobblestone streets and delightful wooden churches; Kostroma's magnificent 16th Century bell towers

are rung manually every hour for ten minutes; Rostov-Velinky has priceless icons and Zagorsk is a medieval museum town with medieval architecture and monks. Named after the first communist Minister of Defense, this town will soon be returned to its former name, Sergev Posad. It is unbelievable that the scythe, long-handled brooms and wooden rakes are tools used by



workers in the strip-farmed fields. No modern machinery is evident. Frequent crowded busses are caught along the roadside and there are few cars. Bread is available in bakeries but no where can you stop for a coffee and snack. All transactions are done on the abacus.

I'm convinced skilled plumbers are nonexistent in Russia and there are very few craftsmen. The comparatively new Intourist Hotel in Suzdal is used by many European tour

groups. Our typical twin bedroom had lumpy mattresses, a broken bed light, a TV that had sound but no picture, the lock fell off the door and a 25 watt light in the windowless bathroom. Experiencing plumbing problems that towels didn't correct, our room was changed three times by the "floor housekeeper" who was most cooperative. When given a small bottle of perfume, a token of thanks for her efforts, I was unprepared for the overwhelming appreciation of such a small gesture.

Aeroflot.... but not my choice! When republics and regions in the former Soviet Union declared independence last year, Aeroflot divided up their planes, equipment and facilities. My first plane ride must have been on the last plane chosen or rejected! It was hot, air seeped around the "sealed" (!) cabin windows, it rumbled and shook and was so noisy that you couldn't talk. Passengers weren't checked for seat belts and the seats were so close together, I had to sit sideways to have room for my legs. Don't even think of reclining! Actually, the seat back folded down and the seat folded up to allow you to get into the window seat. First class was the front two rows with a stationary table. Cheap outdoor-indoor carpet moved around under foot and there were no overhead bins. Luggage was stored as I entered the cabin after struggling up the steep steps. No safety briefing

was given, no mention of exit doors and I was told oxygen masks were stored in the compartment in the rear of the plane. Amenities included mineral water served in a small white bowl. A push cart consisted of goodies like tea bags, decorated soup spoon, pins of Russian leaders and hair spray, and it took hard currency to make a deal.

When is a confirmed flight not a confirmation? Answer,,,when in Moscow! We were cautioned of delays and changes but knew our flight had been confirmed prior to coming to the airport. Prayerfully we hoped the cab would not only avoid a reckless driving crash but also hold together until we made it to the airport. Upon arrival, a semi-uniformed man proceeded to take our luggage and our tickets through the airport maize, through customs and immigration and to our check-in counter. But... no plane. After more than an hour and at various times being separated from the luggage, traveling partner, passport and flight tickets, I ended up in the terminal office of someone that looked efficient and important. It is hard to sit comfortably and keep smiling when people are talking about you in a foreign language! After being assured another flight had been secured six hours later, we had to reverse our way back into the terminal via customs. Retrieving our immigration forms and Russian visa was a task. Waiting in

the dimly lit, crowded airport wasn't fun. Trying to notify the Berlin office of our delay was a series of long phone lines without interpreters, changing currency and a comedy of errors. Comedy because it is past and now laughable.

My luggage went through X-rays so many times I expected it to glow! There were few wooden seats in the gate area and there aren't boarding announcements. The same gate is used for several flights but it was comforting to know I wasn't the only one confused. Then it was scramble down long flights of stairs with luggage to an ancient tram and then struggle again into the plane. Russians wrap

their luggage in brown paper to protect it from scratches and nicks during flight, not a comforting thought.

My six lessons in Russian at the Richmond Adult School proved to be one of my most valuable assets. Russians not only showed pleasure but surprise when I attempted their language. But my biggest reward from the class came when I was able to fill out the form in Russian to retrieve stored luggage at the hotel and the man behind the counter not only smiled, but read it correctly! It was an historic trip during historic times with historic memories. It was wonderful!



AUTHORS

Point Richmond has been the home of a number of famous authors. We thought it might be both fun and interesting to compile a comprehensive list of past (and present) Point Richmond authors and are asking for your help. If you know of any famous or not so famous Point Richmond residents let us know their names, where they live or lived and what notable text they wrote. We will add your information to our list. Send all information to :

TPIT/Authors
Attn: Gary Shows
229 Golden Gate Avenue
Point Richmond, CA 94801

Thanks to one of our members for the concept of this article.

Here is the second expanded article, it includes three more. Thanks for the info, I was hoping for more response, if I get more we'll do it again.

FAMOUS POINT RICHMOND AUTHORS

1. Bertha Damon

- ☛ A Sense of Humus
- ☛ Gramma Called it Carnal.

2. Harold Davis

- ☛ Honey in the Horn
- ☛ Beulah Land

3. Eugene Burdick

- ☛ Ugly American
- ☛ Ninth Wave
- ☛ Fail Safe

4. Bob Reid

- ☛ The Underground Gourmet

5. Weldon Kees

- ☛ The Last Man
- ☛ The Fall of the Magicians

6. Walter Horn

- The Barns of the Abbey of Beaulieu
- The Plan of St. Gall

7. Gertrude Harris

- Pots and Pans
- Pasta International
- Manna—Foods of the Pioneers

8. George Coles

George Coles lives on Western Drive, has spoken at PRHA meetings and is well known for his knowledge of Indians that once inhabited this area. Several of his articles on this subject have been published and he is currently working on a book.

9. Kathleen Vande Kieft

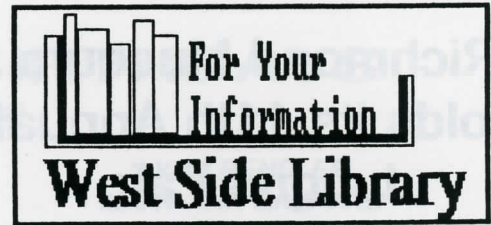
Lived on Water Street, wrote the novel:

- Innersource

10. Alexandra Gautraud

PRHA member, Alexandra lives on Lobos Avenue. She has written several articles for TPIT and collected oral histories. She is now working on a site oriented history of the East Bay which will feature chapters on Point Richmond and nearby communities. Her major published work is:

- San Mateo: A Sketchbook Tour of the San Francisco Peninsula's Past



Jan Burdick

Jan is on Vacation

Decomposed Body Found Hanging From a Tree in The Point

On Sunday, October 18th a Western Drive resident was investigating the source of a foul odor and found a badly decomposed body hanging in the eucalyptus grove between Pacific/High and Western Streets. The deceased identified as 37 year old Marlowe Williams had apparently been dead for some time, a neighbor on High Street reported seeing vultures circling the grove for a week or more. Mr. Williams was not known to be a Point resident. The police are still investigating the occurrence and await the results of a toxicology report before the final determination as to whether the death was a suicide or a result of foul play. Family members have reported the deceased had been in a depressed state.

Richmond Museum Holds its 11th Annual Junque Fair

The Richmond Museum's 11th Annual Collector's Treasure and Junque Fair will be here again very soon. This year the sale will be held on the weekend of November 7th (10am-3pm) and 8th (12-3pm) at the Museum located at 4th and Nevin in Richmond. You can use this perfect opportunity to clear out your unwanted treasures as the Museum has already begun accepting donations to the sale. (No clothes accepted unless they are vintage or otherwise special.) Each year's sale is a little bigger and better than the year before and it has become a very popular event with West County residents. As anyone who has attended can tell you, there are definitely great deals to be found. If you are a junk buff you should not miss this sale. Mark you calendar today.

If you are interested in donating your fine "junk" to the sale or wish information regarding the sale please call Joan Connolly at 235-7387.



THE MASQUERS

Playhouse, Inc.

105 Park Place, Point Richmond

PROUDLY PRESENTS
"A MUSICAL FOR ALL TIMES"



Fiddler on the Roof

Book: Joseph Stein

Music: Jerry Bock

Lyrics: Sheldon Harnick

DIRECTED BY
RHODA PLYMACK

THE CAST:

George Adams	Patricia Inabnet	David Samuel
Jerry Annoni	Kelly Johnson	Steen Sellers
Arthur Atlas	Tiffany Loui	Al Schmiedeke
Lindi Bauman	Don McCunn	Eileen Smith
Ed Brisbin	Don Nason	Jerry Telfer
Scott Campbell	Greg Ormeo	Robert Toy
Dan Garfinkle	Sandy Ormeo	Hilary Waits
Sharon Gold	Jane Rateaver	Mark West
Tim Hart	Colleen Renault	Kari Wishingrad
	Linda Woody-Wood	

Friday & Saturday evenings — October 30 - December 19, 1992

Sunday Matinees — November 8, 22, 29, Dec. 6, 13

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, December 17. Dinner and ticket to "Fiddler on the Roof" for only \$25.00. To reserve, CALL: (510) 236-4988.

COMING: A thought-provoking drama, "AMADEUS", opening January 22, 1993.

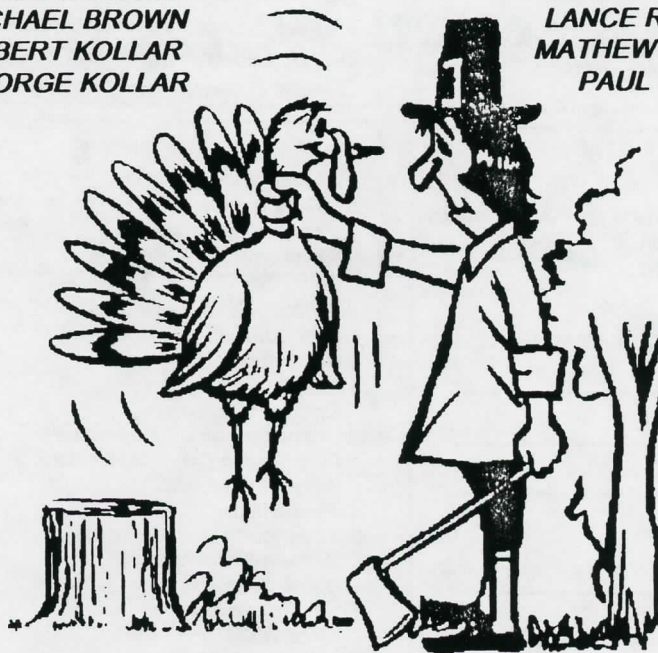


NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

(234-5334)

ANN GREINER
JASON McGILL
BETTY DORNAN
ELSIE SPINOLA
CLARE DOHERTY
KEVIN FONG
DENNIS DORNAN
JOE SAVILL
MARIANNE FORBES
LES CRIM
HAL MARSHALL
NICOLE VARGO
JAMES CHESHARECK, SR.
JAMES CHESARECK, JR.
IDA GIACOMELLI
LINDA CHESARECK
CLAUDIA LeGUE
MICHAEL BROWN
ALBERT KOLLAR
GEORGE KOLLAR

LYNN RENDLER
MARY ANN GASPARD
CHRIS BRADSHAW
CRAIG SEABORG
BO AMANTITE
KENNY PAASCH
MIKE PRICE
GARY SHOWS
SHANE THOMAS
LINDA FEYDER
BETHANY REYNOLDS
KAY PINKERTON
BOBBIES BOZIKI
SHIRLEY BUTT
JACK ELLE
AUBYN EAKLES
MARJ BELLATI
LANCE ROTTING
MATHEW BERMAN
PAUL CORT



"To me old age is always fifteen years older than I am"

-Bernard Baruch

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.
Please mail articles and items of interest to:

GARY SHOWS
229 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE
POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801

"THIS POINT in time" is a publication of the Point Richmond History Association, a nonprofit organization at:
139 1/2 Washington Avenue
Point Richmond, CA 94801

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Calendar

November, 1992

October 30 <i>Friday</i>	<i>Fiddler on the Roof</i> opens at the Masquers Playhouse
November 3 <i>Tuesday</i>	ELECTION DAY <i>Get out and Vote!</i> 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
November 7 & 8 <i>Saturday & Sunday</i>	Richmond Museum Collector's Treasure & Junque Fair 7th, 10am-3pm / 8th, 12-3pm (see page 18 for details)
November 11 <i>Wednesday</i>	Veteran's Day Point Richmond Business Association Meeting, Noon, Hotel Mac
November 20 <i>Friday</i>	DEADLINE FOR THE WINTER ISSUE
November 26 <i>Thursday</i>	THANKSGIVING DAY
November 28 <i>Saturday</i>	Treelighting & Caroling, Indian Statue Park, 5:30 PM
December 1 <i>Tuesday</i>	Point Richmond Holiday Food Drive begins, Be Generous! Women's Westside Improvement Club Christmas luncheon, 11:30 AM, Our Lady of Mercy Church Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting, 7:30 PM, Point Community Center
December 9 <i>Wednesday</i>	Point Richmond Business Association Christmas Meeting, 4:00 PM, Hotel Mac
December 20 <i>Sunday</i>	First Day of Hanukkah
December 25 <i>Friday</i>	CHRISTMAS