

# THIS POINT in time

NEWSLETTER

THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Vol. XII No. 3

September, 1993

\$1.50

## 2nd Grade Class, 1905



**Standard Avenue School**





Here's a tough one!

An old class picture from our Don Church archives.

We have a little over half of the names, we will publish next issue along with any additions you can help us with.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_
14. \_\_\_\_\_

15. \_\_\_\_\_
16. \_\_\_\_\_
17. \_\_\_\_\_
18. \_\_\_\_\_
19. \_\_\_\_\_
20. \_\_\_\_\_
21. \_\_\_\_\_
22. \_\_\_\_\_
23. \_\_\_\_\_
24. \_\_\_\_\_
25. \_\_\_\_\_
26. \_\_\_\_\_
27. \_\_\_\_\_
28. \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the blanks and send to:

Gary Shows, 229 Golden Gate Avenue, Pt. Richmond, CA 94801

## History Association Notes.....

# From the President

Mid Dornan

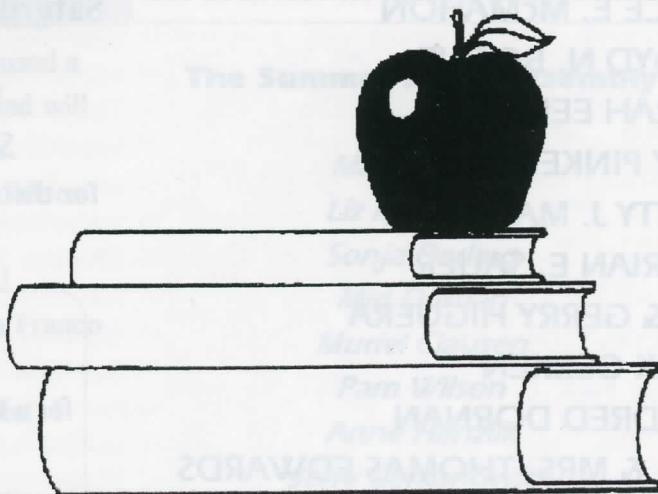
A special thanks of appreciation is given to graphic artist Linda Webster who has donated to the Point Richmond History Association a significant number of "Historic Point Richmond" note cards.

The cards include such buildings as the Hotel Mac, the Natatorium, First Methodist Church as well as unique old and new homes located throughout the Point. The cards with envelopes come in two sets of eight. Also, donated were coloring books containing all sixteen Point Richmond buildings.

Linda Webster has recently moved but was a Point resident for over 20 years. While her minor at the University of California, Berkeley was in Art, some twenty years of her professional

## CONTENTS

From the President	1
Members	2
Editor's Notes	3
This Old House	4
A-Mid Trivia	8
Baptism	9
Churches	10
Dr. Wm. Thompson	12
Washington Class Picture	14
Westside Library	16
Sports Memories	19
Misc. Stuff	20
Cards & Letters	21
Deaths	22
Birthdays	23
Calendar	inside cover



career included work in the Richmond schools as both teacher and administrator.

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

PRYNE BUILDERS

MURIEL C. CLAUSEN

LUELLA WILCOX

ROBERT T. BARNES

JUNE A. BLACKBURN

NORM & JEAN REYNOLDS

JERRY & THERESA DANIEL

KAREN & JAY FENTON

MARTIN & JANIS McNAIR

LUCILLE SMITH

MARILYN DARLING

MARY L. CARNELIUS

JOSEPHINE PALENCHAR

JACK MURRAY

ALICE E. McMAHON

LLOYD N. BOGUE

SARAH EELES

KAY PINKERTON

BETTY J. MARSHALL

MARIAN E. SAUER

AL & GERRY HIGUERA

JACK GERKEN

MILDRED DORNAN

MR. & MRS. THOMAS EDWARDS

SANDRA & BRUCE BEYAERT

SHIRLEY MOORE FAMILY

PHYLLIS ACKERMAN

HAZEL TAWNEY

TREF & NELLIE ROSS

AL FRANCO

And a warm welcome to new members:

MRS. ARTHUR STONE

JULIO CARRERA

Museum Staff coordinator Betty Dornan says thank you to the volunteers who staffed the History Museum in May.

If you can help  
Call Betty at 232-4317

### Museum Hours

Thursday 11:30 am - 2:00 pm

Saturday 11:30 am - 2:00 pM

We are grateful to the  
**SANTA FE MARKET**  
for distributing this newsletter at no  
profit for themselves.

Thank You to  
**Bruce Beyaert**  
for a Chevron Matching Grant and  
Thank You to  
**Chevron**  
for matching.



# Editor's Notes

Gary Shows

The old class photos were so popular last fall that over the summer I have prepared several more. This is the only issue in which I will have two, the cover photo is from our Don Church photo archives, it is very old (1905) so may be difficult to identify the children. We have about half of the names, I'll publish them in the next issue after you have had a chance to attempt to name them.

The other is on page 14 and is a 1962 Washington School Class picture, that's all I have to say about it now.

Along with Mid (*From the President, page 1*) I also must thank artist Linda Webster for her gift of Point Richmond cards and coloring books as I have used a number of her images in this issue and will probably use them many more times.

Among other projects Assistant Editor Dennis Schaefer is working on the presentation of a new series from Al Franco's older sister Hazel Delphina Franco Nielson Tawney. Delphina Franco remembers her early years in the Point, I think you'll like it.

The deadline for the October newsletter is September 17, 1993.

## The Cover:

***Class Photo of the Second Grade of the Standard Avenue School taken in 1905. This photo is taken from our Don Church photo archives donated to us by Allan Smith.***

**Ed Garrard points out that the "Richmond Residence" on the cover of the summer issue is still at Cottage and Santa Fe and was owned and built by Dr. C. L. Abbott and his first wife Nellie.**

## The Summer Issue Assembly

### Crew:

*Mary Highfill*

*Liz McDonald*

*Sonja Darling*

*Mid Dornan*

*Muriel Clausen*

*Pam Wilson*

*Anne Hanzlik*

*Jerry Cerkowicz*

*Gary Shows*

# **This Old House**

by

*Muriel C. Clausen*

## **CHAPTER IV**

# **THE SIMPLE HOUSE: POINT RICHMOND**

## **Part One**

In previous chapters we have found that early Point Richmond residents quickly graduated from their first "homes", the tent and shack, to the simple house. Here, in 1900 and 1901, the "smoky row" house, the West Coast "hip roof" cottages, the small, one story, single gable house; and the Italian and Princess Anne "styles" were the dominant types of homes built. In 1902 until 1906 the same home styles were repeated; and the four-square, the homestead, and the bungalow appeared. The first rush of housing development in Point Richmond peaked by

1907. About 25% of all of the houses built by then were bungalows and the rest were a major mixture of Italian and Princess Anne with the addition of a scattering of other styles mentioned above, a few "salt-box" styles; and some more of the formal "styles" such as Classic, French, Flemish and Dutch Colonial. Later on, up to the 1930's, a few English style cottages were introduced and a very few Spanish Mission styles.

With all of this variety it would seem that confusion reigned. But no! There was a cohesion of materials and scale; a harmony of colors and textures; and a simplicity that prevailed out of the sheer necessity for economy that bound together the early homes of Point Richmond into a rich tapestry. Much of the cohesiveness was also due to the locale, the materials available, the climate and the terrain.

In this chapter let us examine the very simplest of houses in Point Richmond: those without stylistic influences from Europe and the East Coast, or the adobe influence of Southern California. These were the homes built for the most basic functions: shelter, space and comfort as much as the dollar could obtain. These were homes built early, from 1900 to 1907, in Point Richmond. And these were the homes that were greatly influenced by the area around them: the San Francisco Bay area and the Northern part of California on the West Coast; an area with a unique approach to design all its own. These simple houses were also greatly influenced by the Gold Rush of 1849. These



homes that we call the simple homes include the "smoky row" houses, the West Coast "hip-roof" cottages, and the small, one story, single gable houses. The other "styles" mentioned above, which were not the basic, vernacular, simple houses, will be described in later chapters.

It is worthwhile again to note the very strong contrast that exists between this area's early homes and the early Southern California adobe architectural style. Southern California had adobe construction from its Mexican heritage with the flat roof of heavy beams cantilevered out to form an outdoor veranda. The roof was covered with either brea (tar) or with Spanish tile. The walls were of non-waterproof, adobe material. These adobe homes were often built in a "U" shape forming an interior courtyard with the veranda roof overhang partially covering the courtyard to provide a shelter from the heat of the sun. When there is the rare second story, the stairs reaching it are exterior stairs. Towns too were laid out in this central courtyard style around a town square. Wooden houses were first built in Southern California in about 1860. These wooden houses followed a strong East Coast influence rather than a Northern California influence. Neither the adobe style nor the Southern California wood style were consciously adopted by the American settlers of Northern California mostly due to the many differences between the Californians North and South. The strongest influence on Northern California design was the 1849 Gold Rush

with its "frontier style" and its resulting freedom of expression. The "frontier style" was a style with a casually laid out, narrow, strung-out main street with a rough boardwalk. Buildings were parapeted to hide their gabled roofs or wood canopied and front faced with rustic wood or low fired brick; sometimes on rubble, schist rock foundations. They had deep door and window reveals with heavy iron shutters for protection from theft and fire. The influence that carried over from this "frontier style" was the very casual building manner with a carefree expression not found in European "styles", East Coast or Southern California structures. This casual nature of the Gold Rush style quickly influenced the character of building design in the entire San Francisco Bay area, making it quite distinct; San Francisco Bay area designs released themselves from European and East Coast formality. Even when traditional "styles" were used in the San Francisco Bay area, they were interpreted in a very casual manner, developing into designs with refinement but with the same freedom of expression generated by the "frontier style". Notable San Francisco architects introducing this freedom of expression were Willis Polk, Bernard Maybeck and later, Julia Morgan. The entire Northwest coast as well as Point Richmond assimilated this very relaxed design style. Point Richmond picked up the casual trend in 1900 with the added visual expression of the "frontier style" with its boardwalk main street and parapeted and canopied buildings. The unity of the vari-



ous types of domestic structures built here was achieved in part because of this very casual atmosphere. With freedom of interpretation, buildings became less restrained, less dogmatic and more stimulating. As such they formed a very warm and unified composite of design styles.

On first examining the charming, carefree design style of the San Francisco Bay area we come to the startling realization that these very different wood structures we call the homes of the Bay Area were only very RECENTLY built; built ONLY from the time of the Gold Rush of 1849. This was just 140+ years ago! It wasn't until 1841 that the first organized American settlers came to this area by land! Such a short history! Before that there were, for over 3000 years, the Miwok Indians with their tents; and, in 1823, here, the Spanish/Mexican Rancho San Pablo, a widely spread out adobe structured central patio type rancho. In the context of history as a whole, 140+ years is not a very long time! Most certainly wooden houses were built in America long before that. On the East Coast they were built as early as the 1620's and consistently from then on, 370+ years ago. This unique San Francisco Bay area style is a style that clings to the Northwest coast of California with its hilly, woody terrain. It is an area with more than adequate supplies of timber and water than Southern California, giving reason for construction of wood. This hilly, woody terrain is reflected in designs that have steep pitched roofs covered with wood

shingles. It is a gusty, foggy, moderately cool climate encouraging the building of structures opening to and facing the sun and with interior stairways. In Southern California there is a flatter terrain backed by distant mountains allowing more space between structures and flatter roofs of mud or tile. Its warmer, milder climate encourages building around central courtyards with exterior stairways, as needed, and with materials not concerned with the lack of timber and water. So we have the rustic textures of Northern California contrasted with the smoother textures of Southern California; each interpreted uniquely in building designs typical of their own area; and each quite different from the other.

Out of the need for homes for the Americans rushing to the San Francisco Bay area, a small group of simple houses, built in San Francisco, with some East Coast influences, were constructed in a manner reflective of the urgency of the Gold Rush itself and of the local conditions and materials. For example the East Coast "salt box" design was constructed in San Francisco between 1850 and 1853, but by using heavy timbers that were floated in, assembled and mortised and tenoned together; quite a different interpretation developed than that of the smooth, tight, East Coast "salt boxes" that we know. This was a clumsy building solution as well as a time consuming one; and so very few "salt boxes" were actually built. Then the Gold Rush was on and no one wanted to stay by and build houses.

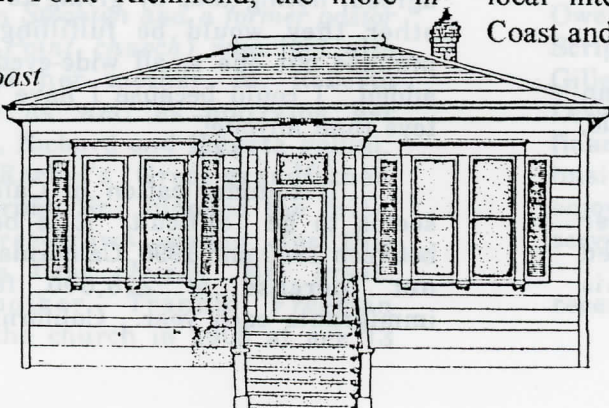


Meanwhile a great demand for all kinds of structures rapidly developed in San Francisco. Builders tried again to draw inspiration from the East Coast. To meet some of this demand, prefabricated structures were brought in from the East Coast, from England and Australia, and from China. These were structures reflecting their own country in design. They were made up at the source, disassembled there, shipped to San Francisco, and reassembled without nails. It is estimated that over 5000 of these were brought to San Francisco from 1849 to 1852. This prefab concept was further tested in San Francisco when a demand for East Coast formal "styles" surfaced. As a result pattern book designs of these "styles" were made up for San Francisco with modifications to meet West Coast wood construction methods. In this way the Eastern influence was readily transported to San Francisco. However it is doubtful if many prefabricated houses or houses from pattern books were built in Point Richmond. The tight economy of the working man's town kept the focus on the simple house, differentiating the houses of Point Richmond to this degree from many of those in San Francisco. Early, in Point Richmond, the more in-

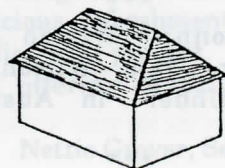
digenous, simple, vernacular house dominated design.

Vernacular and indigenous are terms which describe, in this case, the simple house built as a basic shelter with the materials at hand in the easiest and most economical way possible to suit the worker's housing needs. Such basic housing becomes a domestic, native structure identifiable with the particular locality. It pays little attention to what is fashionable elsewhere but becomes a conservative, functional extension of the people of that locale. Our discussion centers mainly around the types of indigenous houses built in the San Francisco Bay area with examples from the mining area of the nearby Sierra foothills and from Monterey; with specific emphasis on Point Richmond. In Point Richmond in this case we see the "smoky row" houses; the West Coast "hip roof" cottages; and the small, one story single gable houses. At another time we will discuss the foursquare, the homestead and the bungalow with its PostVictorian antecedent. We will also discuss the Italian and Princess Anne "styles", and the English cottage. These latter styles are seen in Point Richmond in local interpretations different from East Coast and European traditions.

*West Coast  
Hipped  
Roof  
Cottage*



*Hip Roof*



# A-MID TRIVIA

- Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Q: Sherry Davis in 1993 was the San Francisco Giants' first female public address announcer. Who was the FIRST female public address announcer in NFL & AFL history?

(Answer at end of Trivia)

\*\*\*

University: An institution of higher learning, with 2,000 classroom seats, 50,000 stadium seats and 200 parking spaces.

\*\*\*

How do spiders spin that invisible web across walkways at face level that greet you each day when you go out for the morning newspaper!

\*\*\*

The Boring Institute, a one-man organization, listed life's deadliest duties:

1. standing in line
2. laundry
3. commuting
4. meetings
5. diets
6. exercise
7. weeding lawn or garden
8. housework
9. political debates
10. opening junk mail

\*\*\*

Sympathy is extended to Joan Cone on the loss of her father in Seattle, Washington after a long illness.

\*\*\*

Donna Wilson and her daughter, Pam Wilson, explored "Down Under" in Australia this summer.

\*\*\*

IT'S A GIRL! Regan Irene was born on July 30th in San Francisco to Chris and David Bradshaw. She weighed 7 lbs 5 oz, 19 1/2 inches. Regan was welcomed home by sisters Madison and Taylor as well as brother, Jackson and grandparents Sonja and Joe Darling and aunt Kelly. *(Mother Chris was spotted in the Mechanics Bank only a few hours before giving birth making last minute deposits and finishing errands! She...who gave birth to Taylor on the Bay Bridge!!)*

\*\*\*

School is open. Are you doing your part to be a part of the exciting "Many Hands Project" at Washington School?

\*\*\*

It was 'Children's Time' during Sunday worship, Rev. Bill Gates pastor at the Point Methodist church, surrounded by excited young children, held his brown paper bag which contained the objects for his mini-sermon. This morning it was on Sharing. "If I give each of you a toy to play with," he questioned, "will you give it away to someone else?" After brief moments of thought, the replies evoked not only audience laughter, but thoughts into the minds of today's youth. The first youth piped up, "I would after it wore out!" A sister-brother agreed, noting that by giving to each other they would be fulfilling the promise but one small wide-eyed boy added, "I could because I have more toys than anyone!"

\*\*\*

If communication in California seems to be difficult it is because between 1980 and 1990, California had a net increase of 228,000 foreign immigrants each year. California has



27 percent of all the people in the U.S. who speak a non-English language and California's percentage of non-English speakers - 32% - is the second highest of any state. One in three Californians speaks a language other than English, twice as many people as any other state. Besides English, 10 languages are spoken at home by the more than 8.6 million Californians.

\*\*\*

There once was a man with a hernia  
Who said to his surgeon, "Goldernia,  
When fixing my middle  
Be sure you don't fiddle  
With matters that do not concern ya."

\*\*\*

Welcome home Anne and Joe Hanzlik who return from vacation in Tahiti. "Much too hot there" says Anne who is glad to be home to her cool bayside Point Richmond home.

\*\*\*

ANSWER: "The happiest woman on Earth", unquote, the same Sherry Davis.

## BAPTISM

Rachel Elizabeth Palfini's baptism on August 1st, 1993 in the historic Point Methodist Church was a third generation sacrament with special significance. She was baptized by the Rev. Darrell Thomas (*now living in Stockton and a former pastor at the Point church*) who had also baptized her mother, M. Roberta Dornan as well as marrying her parents, Richard and Roberta Palfini.

Rachel's Great-grandfather, Bob Dornan Sr., supplied the brick, via horse-drawn wagon, for this growing first church. Her great-grandmother, Trannie Freeman joined the church in 1908 at age 13

when Rev. David Calfee was minister. Trannie met Bob at a Christmas party in the church and years later blushing told that she allowed him to escort her home from the party, a bold gesture then.

Rachel's grandfather, Bob Dornan, Jr. was baptized and became a member of this church where he served on the Administrative board as well as being an active leader of church youth and scouts.

Lunch was served to those in attendance after the service which was one of the hottest days on record in the Point! The Palfinis live in Irvine, California.

## 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 1919

The August meeting of W.H.M.S. was held at the home of Mrs. Wilson. Meeting opened by Mrs. Owens in the absence of the President. Scripture lesson was read and Mrs. Gillette had charge of the Missionary Lesson. The treasurer reported on the finances. A Social hour followed the business meeting and was much enjoyed. Delicious refreshments were served. 17 ladies were present.

Thank offering of \$2.77 was received.

Nettie Grover, Sec

---

# Churches

---

## Our Lady of Mercy

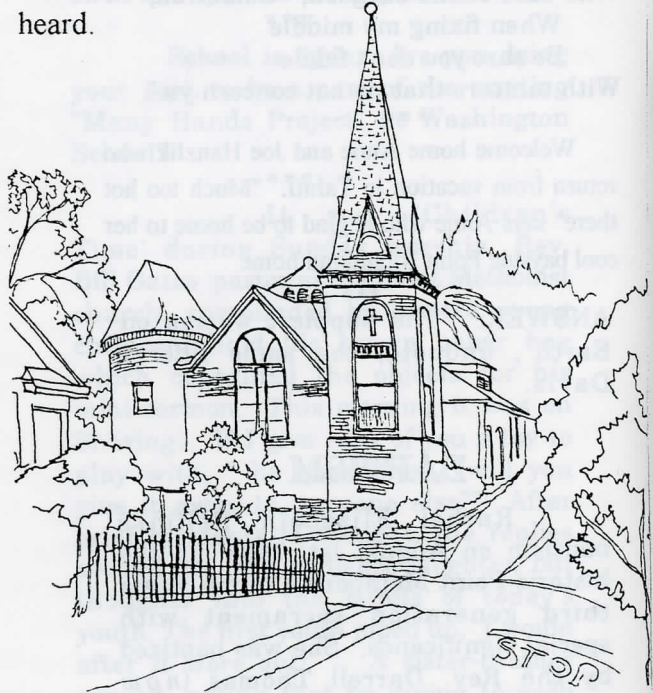
**Allan Smith**

Pastor James C. Clift and his parishioners invite all of the friends of Our Lady of Mercy Church to their Annual Steak BBQ. This event will be held on Sunday, September 5th and it is in celebration of the 91st anniversary of the church.

In 1902, a cornerstone was placed prior to the start of the church construction by the Archbishop of San Francisco. Father Jim is doing church history research and at the present time the cornerstone cannot be located. It is assumed to have been covered when the church building was shingled during the Rev. Richard Prendeville 1964 regime.

Rev. Clift has received two complaints recently in regards to the loudness of the electronic carillon system that has been in use since 1977. A new bell system has been installed and evidently it has not been fine tuned. Pastor Clift has promised to solve the problem. Much to the surprise of this reporter as he was walking down the

church steps "taps" was played as loud as any "heavy metal" sound you might have heard.



## Point Methodist

**Jean Reynolds**

Sunday School classes will get off to a delicious start this fall on September 12 with our annual kickoff breakfast for students, parents and teachers. The



breakfast starts at 9:30 am and is a good opportunity for getting acquainted and to share stories of summer break. Classes will be available for ages preschool (3 to 5 years) through high school. There is a class for adults too. Call Oretta Eaton (234-0780) to make reservations for breakfast.

There will be a Men's Breakfast on Saturday, September 25, at 8:00 am in Friendship Hall. The men will prepare breakfast, discuss plans for other events and... well, I'm not sure what else. I was told there would not be any crafts!

Sunday, September 26, has been designated as Homecoming Sunday. This will be a time when we will make an extra effort to invite a friend or someone who has not attended in a while, and a time to welcome new members.

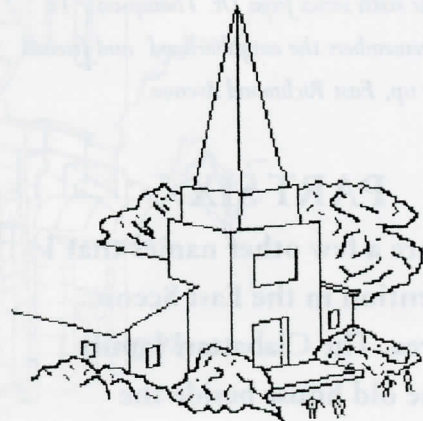
Fay Hawkins has continued to work on re-shingling the parsonage, it really looks great!

Rachel Elizabeth Palfini was baptized during worship on Sunday, August 1st at Point Methodist Church. The Rev. Darrell Thomas, a former pastor, performed the baptism. The Rev. Thomas had also, some years before, baptized the baby Rachel's mother, and married her parents: Roberta Dornan Palfini and Richard Palfini.

We remember with love Henry Frances, who passed away June 30th. Mr. Frances suffered a stroke a few years ago. He always had a real passion for life that continued even after he was disabled. He will be missed in this community.

A special offering was made for Midwest flood relief.. More that \$200 was collected to help flood victims in their cleanup efforts.

Pastor Bill gates has been active in a steering committee for G.R.I.P. (Greater Richmond Interfaith Program) for providing shelter (emergency housing) for thirty people during the winter months this winter. Certain criteria will need to be met by the people receiving assistance, and various agencies will provide services to fill different needs. Our church may serve as a place for ten people to have dinner and sleep for a week.



# More Memories of Old Point Richmond East Richmond Avenue

●  
*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 sixth series from Dr. Thompson. In this series he remembers the neighborhood and friends where he grew up, East Richmond Avenue.*

## PART SIX

There are a few other names that I should mention in the East Scenic Avenue area. The Ciabattari family lived in the old house beside the Morrison home. It had predated the

Morrison home by several years and burned down during the Ciabattari occupancy. This house had originally been the residence of the Rupert family. Mrs. Rupert died there of typhoid during my early childhood. My mother helped care for her since she had had typhoid in early life in Sacramento and was immune to the disease.

The old Al Mason home, which still stands, was originally the home of the Redding family. After the Masons left it was occupied by Jack Patterson and his wife and daughter. I believe that Jack was a S.O. Company employee. Later the Driscoli family lived there. I don't recall the later occupants. This house was peculiar in having a spring in its basement. This ran during the winter and early summer. I recall the small stream issuing from the basement



area. It was runoff from the cove on Nicholl Nob behind.

Thinking back on life on the hill in early days, I recall the fogs in the early part of the years. On winter days a dense fog often spread over the entire area of Richmond and Point

Richmond. From our elevated position we could usually look over the top of the fog layer and see nothing but the

Berkeley Hills and the hills back of the Standard Oil Company. The stacks of the refinery often protruded above this sea of white. Drainage of the marshes and filling of low areas has essentially eliminated this fog now, but it was fairly common in the early days.

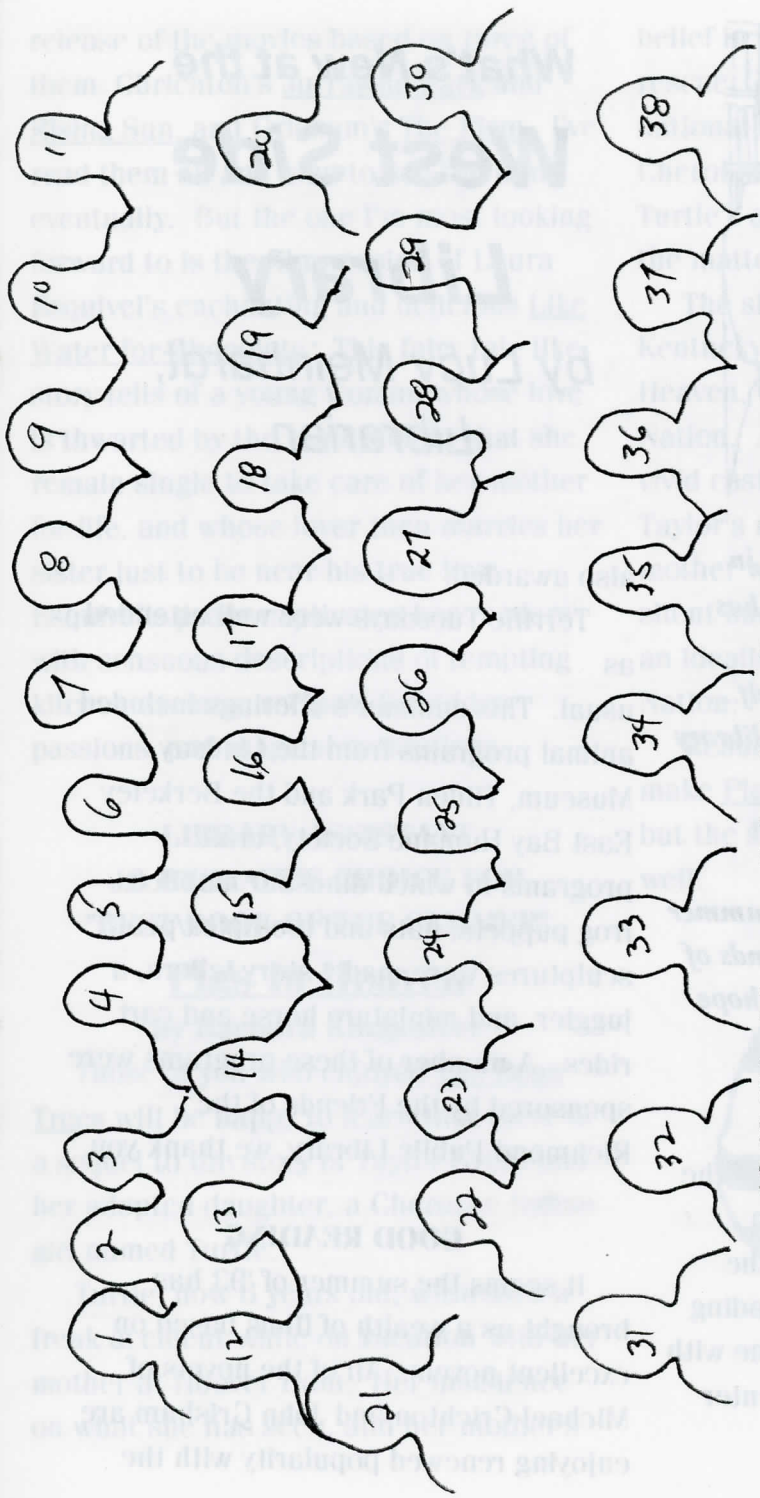
However it was rather nice to have the rather dingy city concealed beneath a peaceful layer of white.











# 1962 Washington School 6th Grade Class Picture

This class photo was supplied by Pam Wilson, the only clue you get is that Pam is in the photo.

1	9	17	25	33
2	10	18	26	34
3	11	19	27	35
4	12	20	28	36
5	13	21	29	37
6	14	22	30	38
7	15	23	31	
8	16	24	32	



# ***What's New at the West Side Library***

*by Lucy Meinhardt,  
Librarian*

*Since the last issue of This Point in Time, the West Side Branch Library has become home to yet another Branch Librarian. I'd like to introduce myself... Lucy Meinhardt, I join the also new library staff of Library Assistant Michael Cheesney and summer student Ikeem Meriwether.*

*I have had a busy but enjoyable summer getting to know the families and friends of Point Richmond's library branch. I hope to stay a long time.*

## **DURING THE SUMMER**

More than 50 young readers from the West Side Branch won tickets to an Oakland A's game this summer in the library's Jurrassic Ark Summer Reading Game. A number attended the game with the Point Richmond Community Center group. Paperback books were

also awarded.

Terrific Tuesdays were well attended as usual. This summer's offerings included animal programs from the Lindsay Museum, Tilden Park and the Berkeley East Bay Humane Society; craft programs in which dinosaur mobiles, frog puppets, hats and toothpick/pea sculptures were made; story tellers, a juggler, and miniature horse and cart rides. A number of these programs were sponsored by the Friends of the Richmond Public Library, we thank you.

## **GOOD READING**

It seems the summer of '93 has brought us a wealth of films based on excellent novels. All of the novels of Michael Crichton and John Grisham are enjoying renewed popularity with the



release of the movies based on three of them: Chrichton's Jurrassic Park and Rising Sun, and Grisham's The Firm. I've read them all and plan to see the films eventually. But the one I'm most looking forward to is the film version of Laura Esquivel's enchanting and delicious Like Water for Chocolate. This fairy tale like story tells of a young woman whose love is thwarted by the requirement that she remain single to take care of her mother for life, and whose lover then marries her sister just to be near his true love. Esquivel's prose captivates her readers with sensuous descriptions of tempting kitchen aromas, recipes, forbidden passions, and magical resolutions.

**LIBRARY ASSISTANT  
JO BYCRAFT'S CHOICE FOR  
"BEST BOOK OF THE SUMMER"**

**Pigs In Heaven**

**by Barbara Kingsolver**

Those of you who enjoyed The Bean Trees will be happy to learn that there is a sequel to the story of Taylor Greer and her adopted daughter, a Cherokee Indian girl named Turtle.

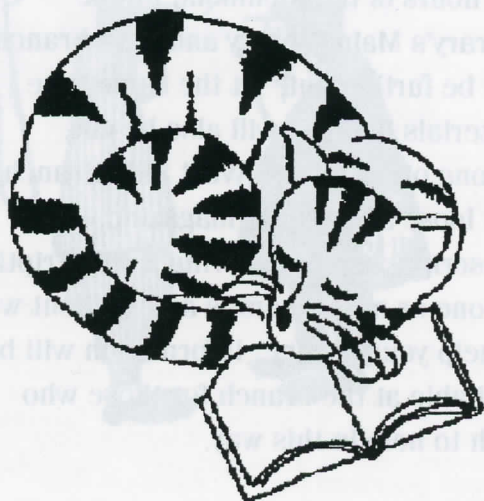
Turtle, now 6 years old, witnesses a freak accident while on vacation with her mother at Hoover Dam. Her insistence on what she has seen, and her mother's

belief in her lead to a man's dramatic rescue. When the incident is shown on national television, some members of the Cherokee Nation question the legality of Turtle's adoption, and decide to persue the matter.

The story takes the reader from rural Kentucky and the urban Southwest to Heaven, Oklahoma and the Cherokee Nation. Along the way it introduces a vivid cast of characters including Jax, Taylor's musician boyfriend, Alice, her mother who is on the verge of leaving her silent husband, and Annawake Fourkiller, an idealistic attorney for the Cherokee Nation.

Reading The Bean Trees first would make Pigs In Heaven more meaningful, but the story can be enjoyed for itself as well.

*\*review by Jo Bycraft*



## **AN INVITATION TO POINT RICHMOND READERS TO SPEAK OUT**

Have you read a book recently that you thought was particularly good, or particularly bad? Would you be willing to share a few words of your opinion with other readers in the community? I'd like to start a notebook in the library where our readers share comments on what they've read, to assist others who may be looking for a good read. Look for this notebook to arrive soon at West Side Branch. Perhaps some of its reviews will appear in this space.

## **LIBRARY BUDGET BLUES**

As I write, the city is pondering its budget for this fiscal year. It looks like the hours of the Richmond Public Library's Main Library and both branches will be further cut. At the same time materials budgets will also be cut. Among other things, West Side Branch will lose some of its magazine subscriptions. Sponsoring a subscription for one or more years is an excellent way to help your library. Information will be available at the branch for those who wish to help in this way.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Friends Book Sale**

Saturday, September 11, is the date for the next Friends of the Richmond Public Library Book Sale. The time is 9:00am to 2:00pm at the old Harry Ells High School Gymnasium at 35th and Chanslor.

### **Fall Activities**

- \* Storytime will continue every Thursday morning at 10:00am. Related crafts, tumbling, and videos follow in the community center.
- \* We hope to cooperate with the community center on at least one children's program per month this fall.
- \* We hope to continue the Homework Help program on Wednesday afternoons, 3:00-5:00 after school. Interested volunteers please contact the library.

West Side Branch Library  
135 Washington Avenue  
Point Richmond, CA 94801  
620-6567

Hours:

Mon, Tues 12:00 - 8:00  
Wed, Thurs, Fri 12:00 - 5:00





# Sports Memories

Allan Smith

As we are all aware, our Editor Gary Shows, is an avid Oakland Athletics baseball fan. He is not talking too much these days of the dismal showing his A's are having this year. The team has one of the worst records in the major leagues (Gary says, "wait until next year").

*[He didn't have to print the preceding either].*

Last month at the Oakland Museum, an excellent nostalgic collection of memories of the Oakland Oaks baseball team was presented. Their baseball park was in Emeryville on San Pablo Avenue where the Pepsi-Cola plant now exists. Many photos and newspaper articles were on exhibit going back to the early 1900's and the late 1940's. Point Richmond's own Loyd Christopher was a member of the Oaks for several years. The Oakland Oaks played in the Pacific Coast League which was rated Triple AAA, just below the major leagues.

A booklet describing the Oakland Oaks exhibit is on display at our Point

Richmond History Association museum building. The Oakland Oaks were also known as the Oakland Acorns in those days.

An article from a 1915 local paper source:

"The padded mat upon which the four round contenders will step hesitation and fox trots Thursday evening at the Eighth Street skating rink is the same one in which Ad Wolgast and Battling Nelson rambled forty-one rounds. The mat was loaned to Kirby Ford, promoter of the bouts, by Pat Dean."

Four round boxing matches were very popular up to 1941. The bouts were held in Richmond and also in El Cerrito.



## MISC. STUFF



### **New News is New News**

Good luck to Editor Deirdre Cerkanowicz as she launches her new publication, "The West Richmond Channel". As we need more communication, her project is welcomed by the community who wish her and partner Brian Kravitz great success. The first issue should be in channel area mailboxes in early September.



### **The "New" Baltic**

Best wishes to Baltic owner Paul Hudson and staff. They advertise as "an innovative, unique, American bistro". If the faire and friendly hospitality shown at their August 14th party is typical, then they are sure to succeed!



### **And...Pizza in the Point**

Also new on Park Place is Prego Pizzeria owned by Fatoum Alwareeth and Nasser Hallum. Our first tastes of their cousine were, of course, "Point Richmond Pizza" and it was truley great gourmet pizza! Also on the

menu are calzones, submarine sandwiches and full course pasta dinners. The restaurant's atmosphere is enhanced by framed historic photos of old Point Richmond purchased from the PRHA archives. Free delivery is available in Point Richmond, Marina Bay, Brickyard Cove and Richmond Landing area (235-0551).



### **Richmond Sanitary Fall Clean-up Schedule**

**Sat. 9/18/93** County and San Pablo plus all areas outside the City of Richmond (except Pinole and Hercules).

**Sat. 9/22/93** Pinole and Hercules.

**Sat. 10/2/93** North side of Richmond (Barrett Ave. North) (excluding Carriage Hills, Hilltop Green and Parchester Village).

**Mon. 10/4/93** Parchester Village and all Monday's customer in Carriage Hills.

**Wed. 10/6/93** Hilltop Green and all Wednesday's customers in Carriage Hills.



**Sat. 10/9/93** South side of  
Richmond (Barrett Ave. South)



## 1993-94 PRBA Officers Elected

President:

**Shirley Butt**

Vice President/Correspondence:

**David Vincent**

Recording Secretary:

**Nancy Transue**

Treasurer:

**Deborah Alley**



Thanks to Donna and Tom Powers  
for a box of "Historical Goodies".  
This is not everything, but of note  
included are:

1. *The last issue of the Contra Costa Independent*
2. 1960, "*Richmond: the early years*"  
*illustrated pamphlet*
3. 1972 *Stantard Oil of California*  
*"Terminal Manual"*

There are many more interesting  
items in the collection and will be  
available for your inspection at our  
museum.



# THE MASQUERS

Playhouse, Inc.

105 Park Place, Point Richmond

PROUDLY PRESENTS

# SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER

By: Oliver Goldsmith

Directed by: Theo Collins

A classic old fashioned situation comedy that might have been  
written for TV, if they had had TV in the 18th century!  
Pretty girls, handsome men and an irrepressible prankster  
converge in a romance of mistaken identity.

## THE CAST

Christine Dover

Tina Giebel

Wendy Gough

Bruce Lundy

Stephen McLaughlin

Mark Nelson-Novak

Corbett Redford

Al Schmiedeke

Alex Smith

Marie Wedell

Paul White

Robert Wood

Friday & Saturday evenings — August 20 - October 2, 1993

Sunday Matinees — August 29, September 12, 26

**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: \$8.00

DINNER & THEATRE benefit for our building fund at  
HOTEL MAC, Thursday evening, September 30. Dinner  
and ticket to "SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER" for only \$25.00.  
To reserve, CALL: (510) 236-4988.

COMING: "KISMET", the musical Arabian Nights of romance  
and melody, opening October 29, 1993.

Thanks to Lu Wilcox who sent a 1979  
Oakland Tribune spread on "quaint" Point  
Richmond. You can see it at our museum.

# Deaths...

**Henry Albert Francis** died at the age of 90 in the Pinole hospital on June 29, 1993. A native of Wisconsin, he was a resident of Point Richmond for 60 years and was a retired chemist who worked for Chevron for 40 years. He is survived by his wife Dagmar Francis of Point Richmond and daughters Jeanne Downey and Betty Hammond of El Cerrito; grandfather of Barbara Ambrose, David, Steven, Robert, John and Chris Downey and James, Karen and Donald Hammond. He was a member of the Point United Methodist Church, Elks Lodge and American Chemical Association.



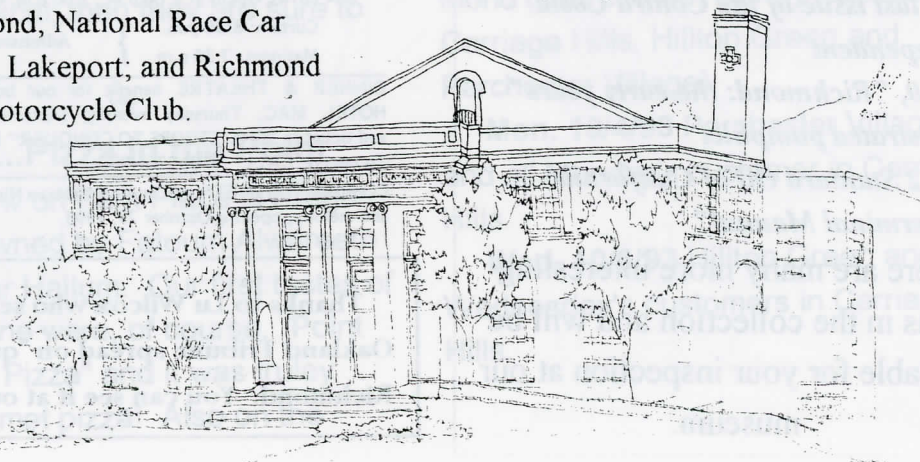
**Leo A. Forner** died at his home in San Pablo at the age of 63. A lifelong resident of West County, he was a member of Glaziers & Glass Workers Union 169, Oakland; Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 913, Richmond; National Race Car Association, Lakeport; and Richmond Ramblers Motorcycle Club.

He is survived by his wife, Linda Forner of San Pablo; daughter, Laura Nicoli of San Pablo; son, Aldo Forner of El Sobrante; stepson, Mark Raymond of San Jose; brother, Luciano Forner of Richmond; and three grandchildren.



**Beth Marie Adams** an assistant manager at Century 10 Theaters, Pinole, died in a San Pablo hospital after a brief illness. She was 24, a native of Oakland, was a lifelong resident of Richmond and was a member of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church.

She is survived by her mother, Mary Sundance of Richmond; her father, Joseph Adams of Chicago; brother, Joseph Adams Jr. of West Virginia; sisters, Erika and Mary Adams; grandmothers, Flossie Sullivan and Mary Adams; and stepmothers, Judy Adams and Dorothy Adams.





# SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

(234-5334)

**DORIS MASKE**

**IVAR ELLE**

**SARA WARREN SMITH**

**EMILY ANNE BARNES**

**HATTIE BELLE POTTS**

**ROBERTA WILSON**

**JERRY CERKANOWICZ**

**NANCY EARDLEY**

**BERNARD DIETZ**

**STEPHEN BERMAN**

**GAYLE KAUFMAN**

**ROXANNE TRUDEAU**

**DAVID REYNOLDS**

**PHYLLIS GLASS ACKERMAN**

**JUNE KUNKLE BLACKBURN**

**THERESA DANIEL**

**SUSAN ARMSTRONG**

**DANIEL BUTT**

**JOANN BUSBY**

**AL FROSINI**

**SHANE EASTMAN**

**MARY FORBES**

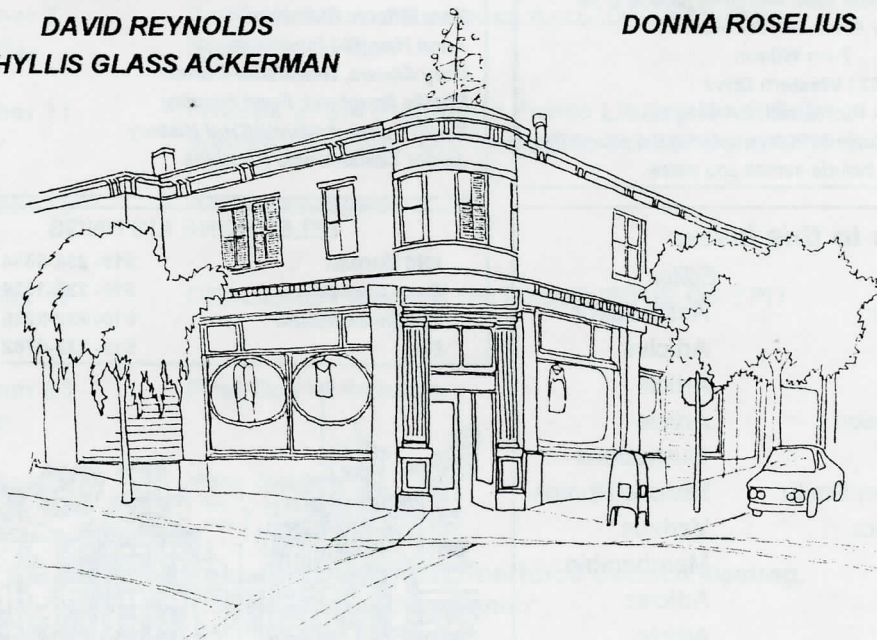
**INGVAR ELLE**

**WILL SPIERSCH**

**JOHN HADREAS**

**KENNETH DOLAN**

**DONNA ROSELIUS**



*"You are as old as your doubts and fears and as young as your hopes and dreams.."*

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.

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

All Rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part of any article or image without written permission of the Point Richmond History Association is prohibited.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Mid Dornan, President*  
*Elizabeth McDonald, Vice President*  
*Jerry Cerkawicz, Secretary*  
*Muriel Clausen, Treasurer*  
*Mary Highfill, Corresponding Secretary*  
*Pam Wilson, Membership*  
*Anne Hanzlik, Programs*  
*Gary Shows, Newsletter Editor*  
*Phyllis Scaglund, Fund Raising*  
*Sarah Eeles, Archives/Oral History*  
*James Chesharek, Archives*

### Contributors to this issue:

Gary Shows	Editor
Dennis Schaefer	Asst. Editor
Mid Dornan	Articles
Muriel Clausen	Article
Dr. Wm. Thompson	Article
Donna Roselius	Illustrations
Don Church/Allan Smith	Historic Photos
Jerry Cerkawicz	Various
Pam Wilson	Membership
Allan Smith	Articles
Jean Reynolds	Article
Lucy Meinhardt	Article
Marilyn Levine/John Allen	Mac Work
Linda Webster	Illustrations

### TELEPHONE LISTINGS

Mid Dornan	510- 234-5334
Gary Shows	510- 235-1336
Phyllis Scaglund	510- 232-2280
Fax	510- 233-0762



drawing by Lynn F. Garnica



---

# **Calendar**

## **September, 1993**

---

<b>September 1</b> <i>Wednesday</i>	School Starts, RUSD
<b>September 5</b> <i>Sunday</i>	Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church Annual Steak Barbecue 1:00PM - 5:00PM, Donation \$10.00
<b>September 6</b> <i>Monday</i>	Labor Day
<b>September 7</b> <i>Tuesday</i>	Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting, 7:30PM, Community Center  Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting 11:30AM, Point Richmond Methodist Church
<b>September 8</b> <i>Wednesday</i>	Point Richmond Business Association Meeting, Noon, Hotel Mac
<b>September 11</b> <i>Saturday</i>	Friends of the Richmond Public Library Book Sale 9:00am - 2:00pm, Old Harry Ells School Gym, 35th & Chanslor
<b>September 16</b> <i>Thursday</i>	Rosh Hashanah
<b>September 17</b> <i>Friday</i>	DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF TPIT
<b>September 23</b> <i>Thursday</i>	First Day of Autumn
<b>September 25</b> <i>Saturday</i>	Yom Kippur
<b>October 5</b> <i>Tuesday</i>	Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting, 7:30PM, Community Center  Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting 11:30AM, Point Richmond Methodist Church
<b>October 3</b> <i>Sunday</i>	Festival by the Bay at Marina Park All-day event, music, food booths, arts & crafts