

# THIS POINT....in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

[www.alkos.com/prha](http://www.alkos.com/prha)

Vol. XIX No. 1

Summer of 2000

\$1.50



Richmond's Kaiser Shipyards During World War II





## *Souvenirs Have Arrived!*

Wool Cap With Braid \$18.00 (Members \$16.00)

Wool Cap Plain \$16.00 (Members \$14.00)

Mesh Cap With Braid \$17.00 (Members (15.00)

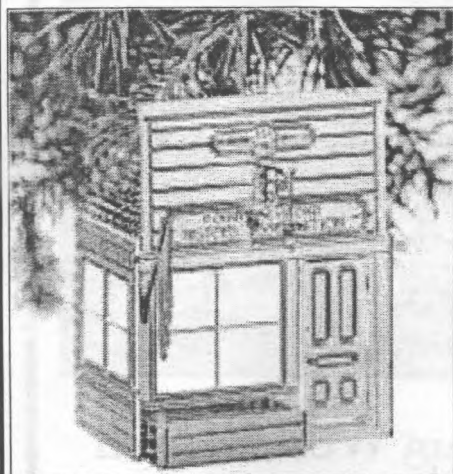
Mesh Cap Plain \$15.00 (Members \$13.00)

Polo Shirts \$25.00 (Members \$23.00)

Tee Shirts, two styles \$16.00 (Members \$14.00)

Coffee Mugs, \$6.00 (Members \$5.00)

***All of the above items and more are available aboard the ship.***



*And speaking of souvenirs....*

*We still have a supply of PRHA History Museum ornaments. They are \$20.00 each, \$18.00 for members. You can get yours at the museum on Tuesday or Thursday, or we will send one for an additional \$5.00 for postage and handling.*

*Send your check to:*

**PRHA**

*139 1/2 Washington Avenue  
Point Richmond, CA 94801*

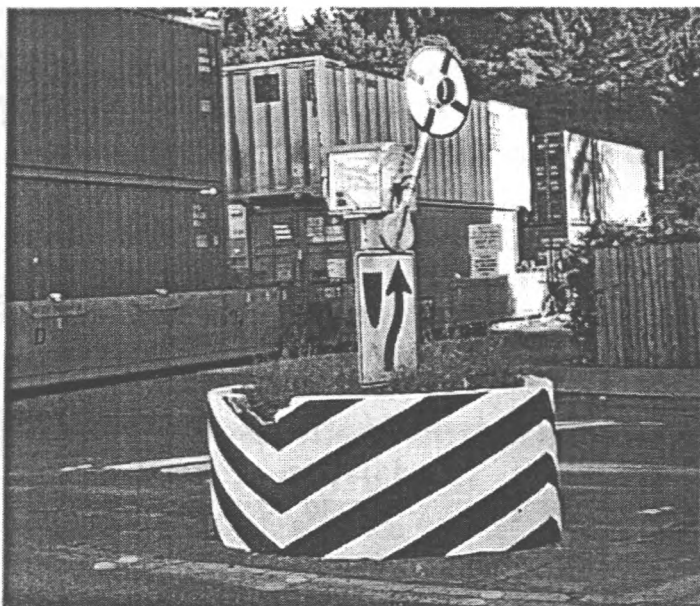
# From The President

*Mid Dornan*

It has been nineteen years since 'This Point....in time' was first published! What a tribute to the founders and to those that have continued to make it possible. My greatest accolades for continued success always begin with the Editor, Gary Shows, for without his computer skills to put the articles together, there wouldn't be a paper which provides the base for memberships which Pam Wilson keeps up-to-date. It isn't difficult being president with the congenial volunteer crew who provide the extra 'fun' times, the faithful that staff the history museum each week that Betty Dornan coordinates, also filling in when no one else is available, Mary Highfill who keeps the planter in front of the building colorful all year and Ellen Schaefer who accepted being Treasurer. To you members and friends that support us all year, THANK YOU.

## Inside this issue:

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| From the President | 1  |
| Members            | 2  |
| Gary's Column      | 3  |
| A-Mid Trivia       | 4  |
| Church News        | 7  |
| Meeting Report     | 10 |
| 90 Years Ago       | 14 |
| Westside Library   | 15 |
| Allan Smith' Point | 17 |
| Sports Memories    | 18 |
| Cards and Letters  | 19 |
| Deaths             | 21 |
| Birthdays          | 22 |
| Calendar of Events | 23 |



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

**Allan P. Smith**  
**Virginia Cherniak**  
**Jay and Karen Fenton**  
**Betty Menzie**  
**Kay Roveda**  
**Marie Louise Ostrom**  
**Betty Glass Marshall**  
**Tonita Gradado**  
**Patricia L. Milano**  
**Anita Brougham**  
**Tonita Granado**  
**Patricia L. Milano**  
**Anita Brougham**

And a warm welcome to the following  
new members:

**Dennis and Ellen Schaefer**  
**Mary Ellen Covell**

Museum Staff Coordinator Betty  
Dornan thanks those volunteers  
who staffed the History Building  
during April and May!

If you can help staff our History Building  
(2½ hours per month) call museum Staff  
Coordinator Betty Dornan at 232-4317.

### **Museum Hours:**

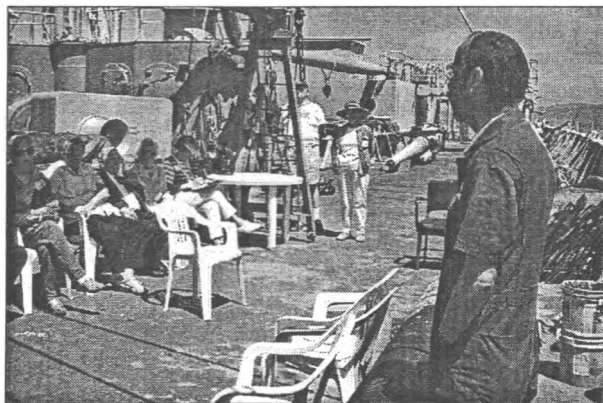
|                 |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Thursday</b> | <b>11:30am - 2:00pm</b> |
| <b>Saturday</b> | <b>11:30 - 2:00pm</b>   |

*Thank You!*

**Santa Fe Market**  
*Special thanks for the new rack Bob!*  
and

**Point Richmond  
Market**

*for their donated distribution of  
"THIS POINT....in time*



*Learning all about the USS Red Oak Victory*



*Mid Dornan talking to our group aboard the  
Red Oak Victory*

# Gary's Column

## Gary Shows

For reasons that I do not know this issue is a bit of a challenge, but in any case here it is, the Summer of 2000 issue.

I enjoyed the meeting on the Red Oak Victory, it was good seeing everyone, was a beautiful day and the ship was really interesting. Too bad the *SS Jeremiah O'Brien* didn't make the anticipated visit, that would have really made the day! Thanks to all for the cookies and refreshments and to Bob McGill for being a courteous host.

I would like to invite someone from the *SS Red Oak Victory* restoration project to have a regular progress column in TPIT. This would be interesting and useful at the same time.

Although producing this newsletter sometimes can seem like an unwelcome burden, I still very much enjoy doing this job and working with Mid Dornan, Jerry Cerkowicz,

Pam Wilson, Allan Smith, Jean Reynolds, Dee Rosier, David Vincent and of course Bibleo Tek. Thanks to all of you, I wouldn't give it up for the world. However, we are all ready for the summer break, everyone enjoy the summer!

The deadline for the next issue, September/October is August, 18, 2000.

Thanks to the April/May issue assembly crew:

Pam Wilson  
Mid Dornan  
Jerry Cerkowicz  
Gary Shows  
Betty Dornan  
Liz McDonald  
Sonja Darling  
Mary Highfill



*Pam bringing cookies to our meeting*

### ***The Cover:***

***Photo of the Liberty Ship production during World War Two. Thanks to the donor of the photo who is not noted, will give you credit next issue. We do not have many photos of the Shipyards and would like to duplicate more for our archives. Please call Gary at 235-1336 if you will donate or loan any.***

# A-Mid TRIVIA

-Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question: The Census was taken this April 1st. What was the population of Richmond in 1909 to 1913? Answer at end of Trivia.

\*\*\*

Do you own an American Flag? Display it to honor those who have paid with their lives or limbs to keep it flying on Flag Day, June 14th.

\*\*\*

Every baseball team could use a man who plays every position, never strikes out and never makes an error. The trouble is there's no way to make him put down his hot dog and come down out of the stands.

\*\*\*

Jim Perkins stopped to enjoy a bit of nostalgia in the Point and attended services at

the Methodist Church when he came from Laguna Niguel to visit his son at Cal Berkeley. In the late 1940's his dad was Sunday School Superintendent at the church.

\*\*\*

Steve and Claudia Spencer have taken a trip to London and will continue on to Greece where they will spend time on an island 'back-in-time'. It will be a nostalgic visit in London as they visit a family that provided a 'surprise' Thanksgiving for Steve 29 years ago. Ask him about the great story of this surprise.

\*\*\*

Crest Avenue neighbors are saying good-bye to D.R. "Doc" Edmonds who is moving to be closer to his brother in San Jose. The neighbors are welcoming Bill and Terrie Bailey who purchased Doc's home. Harvey and Marian Kent have moved from their Water Street home to Crest Avenue. What great camaraderie they have in that Crest Avenue neighborhood!

\*\*\*

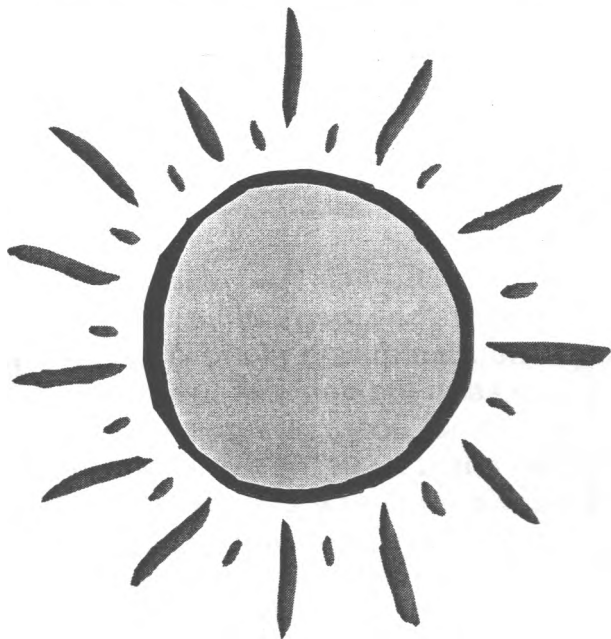
Members of the Methodist Church say THANK YOU for not only donating your junktiques to their sale but also for buying things back! Some things seem to reappear each year. As one of their missions the board voted to give \$1000 to the GRIP shelter (Greater Richmond Interfaith Program).

\*\*\*

It's great to have husband and wife Dennis and Ellen Schaefer on the PRHA board of directors. By the way, talented Ellen makes beautiful photocards which are now available at Hydrangea Flowers and Gifts, 145 West Richmond Avenue.

\*\*\*

The Valkyes Sorority formed in 1935 of students from Richmond and Albany High Schools had a reunion at Marion Voigt's home.





There were nine guests, all original members of the sorority. They were Zella Wright from Ukiah, Vicky Propp from Richmond, Delberta Werly from Bay Point, Inez Pestana from Paterson, Beth Cezrio from Benicia, Helen Truscott from Livermore, Lorene Crisler from Ripon and Rosemary Mortensen from Murphy.

\*\*\*

Who visited our history museum this last year? They came from British Columbia and Australia as well as the states of Missouri, New York, Illinois, Texas, Oklahoma, New Jersey and Washington.

\*\*\*

Here's a simple rhyme to help children set the table properly: The silverware had a fight. The knife and spoon were right So the fork left.

\*\*\*

One of the snack Troop 111 took to Pioneer scout camp was something called GORP. The recipe for 25 boys: 10# raisins, 10# chocolate chips or M&M's, 10# salted peanuts, 10# plain granola or apples and cinnamon, 5# chopped dates, and 5# cashews or mixed nuts. Boys love it!

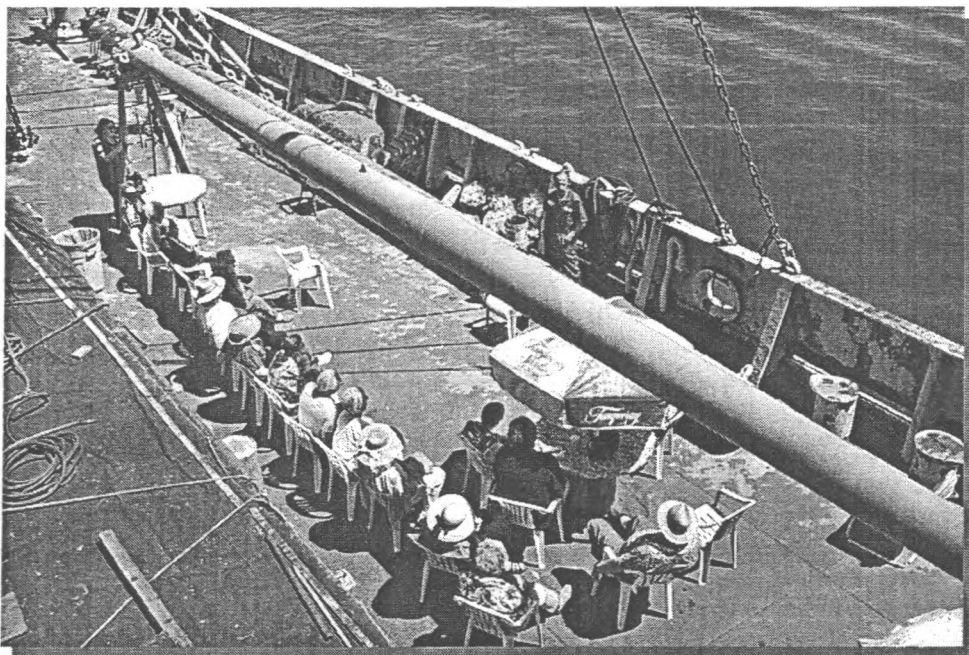
\*\*\*

A test of a good novel is dreading to begin the last chapter.

\*\*\*

Answer: Richmond Population.

- 1909 - 8,655
- 1910 - 8,980
- 1911 - 13,625
- 1912 - 14,850
- 1913 - 18,201
- 1914 - 20,538



*Bob McGill telling us about the Red Oak Victory*

Point Richmond was once full of saloons, rooming houses and hotels. Here is a list that member Bernard Bernes (bbernes@aol.com) remembers:

1. Richmond Hotel
2. Kenny Rooms
3. Colonial Hotel
4. Baltic Rooms
5. St. James Hotel
6. St. Francis
7. Mrs. O'Brien Rooms
8. Hoover Hotel

9. Eagle Rooms
10. Mrs. Carr's Rooms
11. Anderson Rooms
12. Mrs. Lee's Rooms
13. Maxwell Hotel
14. National Hotel
15. Standard Hotel
16. American Hotel
17. Lombard Hotel
18. Colombo Hotel
19. Roma Hotel
20. Hotel D'Italia
21. Piemonte Hotel



## *Eighty Six Years Ago*

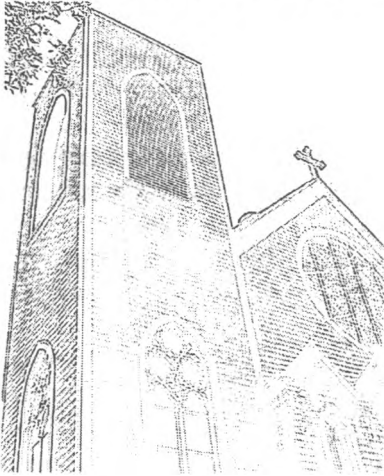
### **SEWER COST IS \$90,000 Is to be 2 Miles Long** (from Richmond Daily News,-1914)

More than ten thousand feet of 30 and 24 inch double strength sewer pipe will be laid in the completion of the main outfall sewer, which will be commenced soon, and plans and specifications for the construction of which were accepted by the city council. Many engineering problems were presented and much of the sewer will be laid on piling. According to the plans, a 30-inch sewer pipe will be laid from the Standard Oil company's drainage canal, east along the north side of the Belt Line railway to Castro Street. A 24-foot pipe will run 4000 feet northeast along Castro street, and another 24-inch pipe of 5000 feet will run south on Castro street. The sewer will run into the Richmond main sewer at Standard and Railroad Avenues. The main engineering difficulties will be the laying of much of the sewer in the open air on piling. A large number of men will be employed on the work, and, although special machinery for digging will not be necessary, the work of driving the piles and laying the pipe will be complicated. The sewer will form the main drainage source for a large part of the city, including the Santa Fe district, the Lucas and Turpin tracts, and all of the territory north of Pennsylvania Avenue. (Are these some of the same sewers now before the council to replace?)

*Mid*



# Church News



## Our Lady of Mercy

*Dee Rosier*  
232-1387

I could have sworn that I just recently sent my article in for the last issue and here it is time for another. When in your youth the time cannot go fast enough and as you gain years, the time seems to be jet propelled - please give me back my youth.

We celebrated a grand Easter Season with many new facets in it where we as parishioners participated. It was a time of joy. One of the highlights was the Seder which was orchestrated by Msgr. Kraus. It was very ceremonial and impressive. For many of us, it was a first and hopefully we will be able to replay it again next year. Many thanks to Bob and Marie Peckham who provided the meat and fruit.

Mother's Day has again come and gone; How fortunate are those that still have a Mother. Likewise, Father's Day.

Under Msgr. Kraus' guidance, many new adventures have taken place and I would like to share them with you.

A men's fellowship has been formed and meets on Saturdays at 9:00 am in the church hall. It is a time for men to gather together for fellowship, support, encouragement and breakfast. All are welcome.

The Mass schedule for weekdays has changed, Mass is celebrated on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at Noon; on Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30 a.m.

A Finance Committee has been appointed. They are: Don Zingale, Dean of the College of Health and Human Services, San Francisco State University; Michael McCanta, Business Manager of the Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley; and Karen Wargo, Attorney at Law, Pt. Richmond. Together, they will oversee the Parish's finances. In their first meeting they established several priorities concerning the Parish, fund-raisers and guidelines.

The original baptismal font has been restored and is now at the entrance of the church.

The Adult Religious Studies Series began on May 10 and ran for four weeks as a prelude to a more in-depth study of the scriptures. Meetings are held in the Church hall on Wednesdays from 7 - 8:30 pm. It's also a great opportunity to spend time and get to know your fellow Parishioners on a more personal basis.

Movies are shown in the Church hall on the first Saturday of the Month at 7:00 pm. Bring a soft drink and a friend - popcorn and tea are served.

The former baptistery room has been converted into a Memorial Chapel and Reconciliation Room. The Chapel honors those of the Parish who served in the Armed Forces and all other deceased members and friends of the Parish family. A Book of Memories is available for each Parishioner to list names of family members. The book will be permanently placed in the Chapel. Helping make this possible was a generous donation from former Pastor, Father Clift. The donation was made in memory of his mother. Our thanks to Frank Smith, who helped with the renovation.

Congratulations to Allen and Marcelina Smith who celebrated their 41st wedding anniversary. Ramona and Nick Galvan celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They attended Mass with their family and received a special blessing from Msgr. Kraus.

Our Methodist neighbors hosted a tea in their rose garden for Msgr. Kraus and he reciprocated by having Pastor Dan and his wife to dinner in the Church Rectory. Another first!

We lost our oldest Parishioner recently when Louisa Banks passed away at the age of 94.

Cynthia and Bruce Young are grandparents for the second time. Their daughter, Dawn gave birth on May 20, to 8 lb, 1 oz. Anthony Miguel. His brother is Shawn Miguel, age 3. While at the hospital for the delivery, Cynthia fell and injured her arm and shoulder, which still ache. We Grandmothers tend to get quite excited when a new man enters our lives. Welcome to our newest Parishioner.

Many of our Parishioners are unable to attend Mass due to illness.

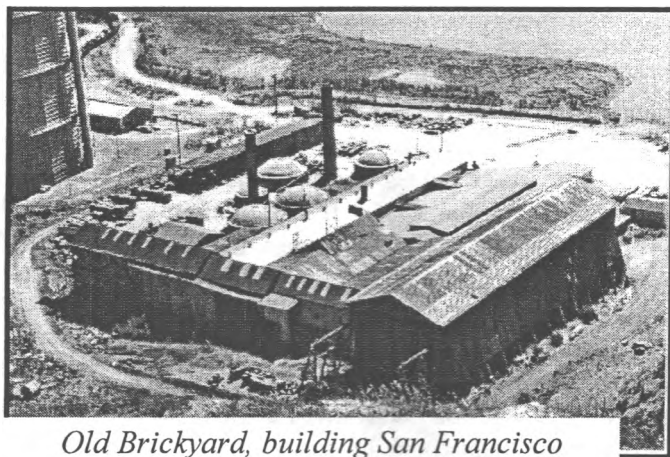
Please remember them in your prayers: Bennie Garcia, Phyl Feyder, Marge Bellotti, as well as my sister-, Elaine Neihouse.

Some time ago, Donna Roselius made some cards with a lovely drawing of our Church. We are seeking copies to include in our Centennial celebration. Do you have any??? Give me a call.

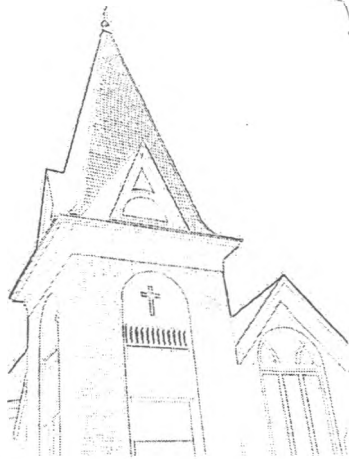
The Parish Council meets once a month at Nancy Hagels and is striving to set priorities not just for now, but for the future. Some of the items that we have discussed may be in our dreams, due to finances, but some goals can be met now. In order to achieve them, we need the involvement of all of the Parishioners, along with the usual ones who are always there. We are presently seeking a volunteer to do part time secretarial work and a liturgy-music coordinator. I know you're out there!

As the good weather approaches, enjoy each day. While working in your garden remember that it takes a snail eight days to travel one mile, so how can something that travels so slowly devour an entire tomato plant overnight?

See you in church



*Old Brickyard, building San Francisco*



## Point Richmond Methodist

*Jean Reynolds*  
235-2988

The Junktique Sale on May 6 was so much fun and there was still so much good junk left over that we decided to have Junktique II to correspond with the Masquers' Memorial Day Yard Sale on May 29. Jim and Linda Brooks led the kitchen staff. They served pancakes and sausages from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. and hotdogs, hamburgers and gardenburgers for lunch. Those rare and delicious Methodist pies sold for only a dollar a slice. The Junktique is such an amazing event: it may be true that you can't get something for nothing, but you can buy lots of things for not-very-much. Some of the shoppers took a moment to admire the beauty of the sanctuary and appreciate the stained glass windows from the inside.

The Point Methodist Church had a table at the Point Richmond Stroll. A cherry pie in a cherry pie (ceramic pie-pan) was featured as a silent auction item and we gave away cookies and had a drawing for three pies.

Information was available about up-

coming events at the church, and some nice people were there for strollers to visit with.

Fay Hawkins built the new parsonage back porch and stairs that join the side yard with the back yard. He recently added a new matching bench. His work has inspired us to start plans for a Memorial Garden to be "grown" in the space on West Richmond Ave. next to the church and behind the parsonage. Alan Folks has provided his professional expertise, and several people drew scale drawings of their visions for the new garden. The garden project is another way we are celebrating our Centennial.

June 11, Sunday, the Sunday morning service at 11:00 will be all Jazz, featuring the Dan Damon Trio, the Angel Choir and the Joyful Noise Choir. Pastor Dan has a great gift of music and the hymns he writes are being noticed by a wide audience. He recently got a letter from Jane Goodall, of chimpanzee research fame, thanking him for his hymn "Pray for the Wilderness" which was sung as part of an environmental awareness program she attended. It is such an honor to be able to hear and sing Pastor Dan's hymns when they are still fresh off the printer in his home. The children in the Angel Choir get that sense of being part of the creation process: one week the hymn has two verses, the next it has three (and some of the notes are different!) The Jazz service is a time when music is the message!

Vacation Bible School for kids from age 4 on up will be held July 17 - 21, from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. We always have a fun week of stories, puppet shows, games, crafts and food. Call and leave a message at the church (510) 236-0527 or with Linda Brooks (510) 236-5380 if you would like to sign up.



## Point Methodist Church History

-Mid Dornan

*Church history is rich with contributions of women. One church group in the 1920's was the SOCIAL LEAGUE of the first Methodist Episcopal Church whose history is reflected in their minutes printed below and taken from the canvas covered, red leather cornered notebook which cost \$1.15. The minutes are printed as written. This is the 44th installment.*

March 2, 1926

Social League met at Mrs. Osbornes with Mrs. Scofield asisting her as hostess. There were twenty five members present.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the silver and dishes be rented to the WestSide Improv. Club for 50 cents eash. All Breakage to be replaced.

Mrs. Schmidt and Mrs. Seymour volunteered to take inventory of the dishes and silver.

Mrs. Hendricks donated 50 cents to the

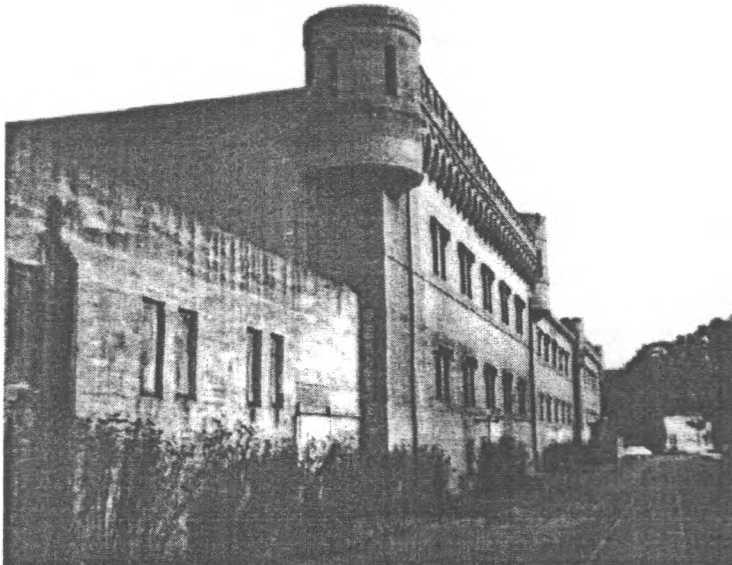
league.

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| Dues paid        |      |
| Mrs. Dicely      | .60  |
| Mrs. Vloebergh   | .60  |
| Mrs. Diller      | .60  |
| Mrs. Oehne       | .60  |
| Mrs. Burdick     | .60  |
| Mrs. Brothers    | .60  |
| Mrs. Osborne     | .60  |
| Mrs. Erickson    | .60  |
| Mrs. Ford        | .60  |
| Mrs. Schofield   | .60  |
| Mrs. Campbell    | .60  |
| Plate collection | 2.35 |

Mrs. Campbell and MRs. Harris were selected for next hostesses.

|         |                  |
|---------|------------------|
| \$26.85 | bank balance     |
| .50     | donation         |
| 6.60    | dues paid        |
| 2.35    | plate collection |
| \$36.30 | New balance      |

Mrs. Wanda Schmidt-Sec.



*Winehaven, picture taken in 1994.*

# *It Was A Great Day!*

## *PRHA General Meeting, May 21, 2000*

*by Mid Dornan*

Undaunted by the intimidating gangplank, friends and members climbed aboard the Red Oak Victory ship on Sunday, May 21st to hold the annual meeting of the Point Richmond History Association. Everyone was rewarded with spectacular views of Angel Island, the City, and the three bridges and were exhilarated watching the sailboats glide across the sun sparkling Bay waters. The attentive audience endured the record heat day. as "Captain" Bob McGill, who lives aboard the ship, spoke about the history of the Red Oak. His love of the ship was evident throughout his talk and suggestions for possible use of the ship was endless. But the idea of a USO show captured the imagination and enthusiasm of several aboard. One member was excited to learn

the ship was launched the year she was born. (she looks in better condition!) The last remaining Victory Ship from Richmond's wartime Kaiser shipyards, the Red Oak is being restored by volunteers of the Richmond Museum of History.

The Red Oak is open most days of the week as volunteers meet to work on what seems like an insurmountable task to just do cosmetic work on this fabled ship. Often 24 - 30 volunteers show up on Tuesdays, with fewer other days of the week. They are a special bonded group! And, we thank them.

Following the meeting and election of officers, all aboard were invited to tour the ship and return to the galley for refreshments. It was a great day!

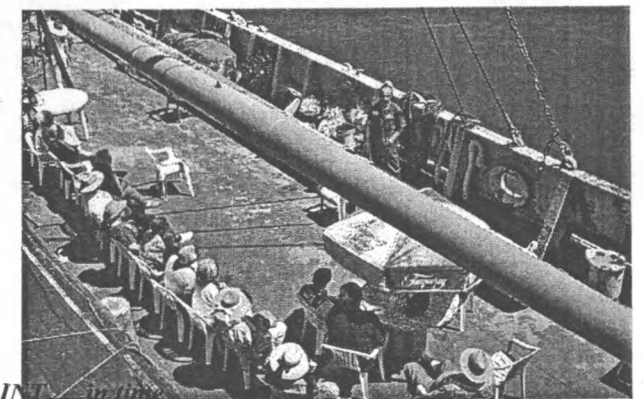
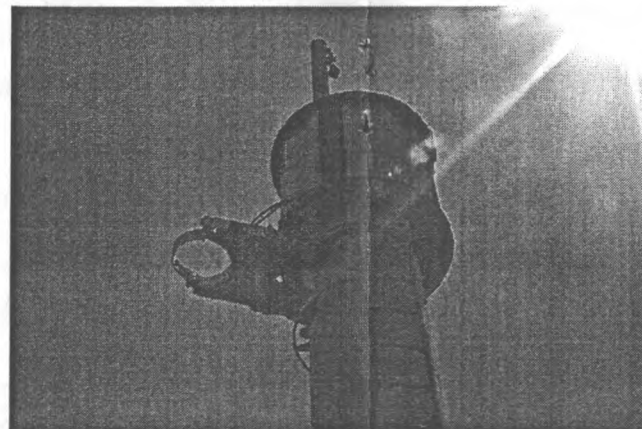
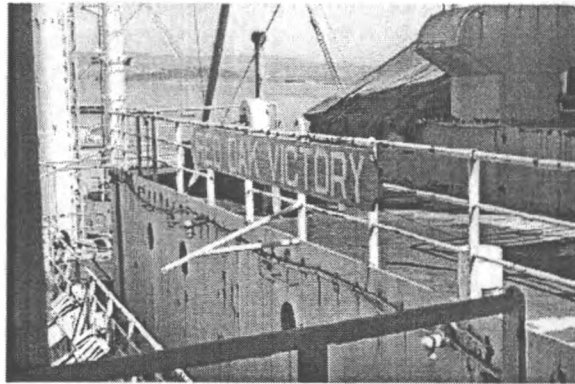


## **HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS**

The first annual Historic Preservation Awards were given at a cocktail reception by the City of Richmond in cooperation with the Richmond Museum of History on May 17, 2000 at the Richmond Museum of History. Chosen by an Historic Preservation Awards committee, four categories were chosen. Those honored and recognized were: Point Richmond's Lucretia Edwards, Community Preservationist; Shirley Ann Moore, Historian and Author, Rosemere House (apologies to the two men whose names are misplaced) a 1903 Queen Anne Cottage on 13th and Florida; and the Richmond Chamber of Commerce for their "Honor the Past, Imagine the Future" map. Mayor Rosemary Corbin presented the blue, letter 'R' awards and reminded everyone it was a long overdue award and is to be continued.

*Mid*

# *PRHA Meeting, May 21, 2000 Aboard the Red Oak Victory*





# Days Gone By

PETER KELLEGHAN

by Nilda Rego

*Nilda Rego is a columnist for West County Times where her articles appear in the Sunday Timeout section and are titled "Days Gone By". Nilda has written two books, "Days Gone By", Vol 1 and Vol 2 which are available through the Contra Costa County Historical Society History Center, Walnut Creek bookstores and through Amazon.com. Or, e-mail her at nilda@veriomail.com. The books cost \$15.95 plus tax and handling. The following appeared in the West County Times and we are grateful to Nilda for allowing us to reprint her articles since they were about the Kelleghan family and the Point.*

## Combing the beach/Scouting around

**M**ore than wood fell off the San Francisco docks and floated over to the Richmond beaches in the 1930's. Mervin Kelleghan and his two brothers used to scavenge the beaches with their father for wood and other useful things that fell off the San Francisco wharves. However, a couple of times Mervin had to notify the police about something that caught the currents to Richmond.

"I saw many things wash up on that beach. Down at Winehaven I came across this thing," Kelleghan said. "Flies on it. I poked around with a stick. I thought it was a body. I called the police. The coroner came out there.

"Turned out it was this boy about 12 years old. He fell off the wharf in San Francisco. I

remember reading about it when he fell in. Another time there was a package with a little baby in it. Someone threw it off a ferry."

Kelleghan, now 80, grew up in Point Richmond during the Depression. His father, Peter, had lost part of his tongue in 1927 to cancer and could no longer operate his fuel oil delivery business. All seven of the Kelleghan children had to pitch in to support the family.

Recently, Kelleghan visited the Contra Costa County History Center to tell his story and add to the center's growing collection of family histories.

"In the summer we didn't play too much—had to go to the beach all the time. Carry wood back, sometimes more than our own weight," recalled Kelleghan.

Wood was crucial for the Kelleghans. It was used to heat the house and cook the food, and there was no money to buy it. But besides the wood, the Kelleghans often found good stuff for the family pantry.

"We found big stalks of bananas.... They's fall off the ships and float over to us. One time we found canned salmon. I still can't eat canned salmon. Our best find was a whole crate of slabs of bacon."

Then there was herring season. "Would catch them right by the ferry. We'd go down with different people. Bring 5-gallon buckets and a net. My mother would fry the fish and she'd eat all the herring eggs. I remember the Italians would bring down crocks and layer the herrings and salt. Do it right down there on the beach."

While there was a lot of work for the Kelleghans at the beach, they did get into the water once in a while.

"We swam down at 'Cap's Beach,' that's what we called it. There was an old-time sea captain, lived there, had a house on the beach next to Long Wharf. We went down every day in the

summer. We all swam, mediocre swimmers. We just floated around, bobbed up and down with the waves.”

The real swimming went on at the Richmond Natatorium.

We called it ‘the bathtub.’ Lots of bathtubs in there. There were a lot of bachelors that worked at the refinery and took their baths at the plunge. We called it the plunge, too. I used to hang out there as a teen-ager. My brother, George, was a lifeguard (along with) old man Kendrick, Ralph Kendrick. He was there for years. Georgia was the ticket taker.

“You could rent swimsuits. Once a week or maybe once a month there would be a free day. Boys would get one day; girls would get the next. We’d go after school.

Sundays the Kelleghan children would go to church at Our Lady of Mercy.

“All of us (three brothers) were altar boys. Every Sunday I would get out my white shirt, stiff with starch, and a tie. It was an old-fashioned church. Catechism would be in the basement. We didn’t have our own priest; (he) would come from St. Mark’s. The nuns came on Saturday to teach catechism. If you got your lesson right you got a gold star. We all went, all the kids in the neighborhood, Irish, Italians and Portuguese.

After church there would be a big breakfast waiting at home for the Kelleghan children.

“We had pancakes, eggs and bacon. Mother would save some of the pancake batter for the next week. In those days it was against the law to sell colored margarine. It would come with little packages of powder, kind of yellow, maybe red. The girls would mix the powder into the margarine to color it. The coffee pots were on the back of the stove.”

On weekdays the Kelleghans ate oatmeal for breakfast.

“My Dad would get up at 4 a.m. and start the fire and put the kettle on for hot water. My

mother would then get up and cook mush. That’s what we called oatmeal—mush. Had it for 50 years.”

In 1933 Mervin and his brother, George, joined the Boy Scouts. “Our troop was just starting, Troop 1. Our Scoutmaster owned a hardware store in Richmond,” Kelleghan said. “We met at the old Washington School, downstairs. I don’t think anyone had a whole uniform. All of us had a neckerchief. I made a bone thing to hold the neckerchief in place, a bolo. Maybe some of us had a shirt. We all got to first class. There were close to 15 kids from around Point Richmond.

“We had different contests, games, knot tying. We’d walk around with a 3-foot length of clothesline practicing. George would win all the knot-tying contests, square knot, sheepshank, overhand, arrow hitch—oh, there’s a lot. I can still do a sheepshank.

“Then we used to go to the Boy Scout camp, Camp Hearn, off Arlington Boulevard in El Cerrito up near the top of the hills. We would have to stand camp inspection. The first morning it was a mess, terrible. After that we were pretty good. We would go on hikes in the hills. There were little cabins, cots in them, outhouses, a mess hall. Scouts came from all over. I don’t think it cost us anything. I remember paying dues, maybe 5 cents.

“The Scoutmaster took us up in an old Studebaker. Studebaker was a big name in those days. We had to walk home. He never showed up. We walked straight down Cutting Boulevard from San Pablo, close to 10 miles. Hot, it was summertime.”

Troop 1 also went to the beach. “We had to make a fire without matches. We weren’t very good at it. Finally, we learned to do it with one match. We would barbecue meat, ate steaks. For 10 cents you could get a steak.

*(continued in the next issue)*

# Memories From Velma Healy

*Velma Healy was born in Richmond Hospital on 23rd Street, 63 years ago. Her mother, Kathryn Pinkerton did not live in Point Richmond but lived in Richmond since 1930. We thank you Velma for these Point Richmond memories.*

The Times Theatre was on Macdonald between 23rd and 24th streets on the left hand side as you are going east. It is a furniture store now. My brother and I (freaks for movies) would sneak out of the house and see ANY movie. I can still smell the popcorn. I can hear it popping as we watched the movie.

And then on up 23rd street, just past Rheem, on the right was the Grand Theatre. It did not matter what movie was showing, Mom

dragged Dad there either Tuesday or Thursday, I forget, because all paying adults got a plate, then we went into soup bowls and cup weeks. Mom outfitted our table and kitchen cupboard. At that time I was about 10 years old and can remember standing in front of the candy counter in the lobby waiting to be helped while staring at a "U-No" candy bar. A bite of a "U-No" bar and a mouthful of hot popcorn is to die for. During the movie, we would hear a plate, whatever, break on the cement floor. Audience would laugh, back to the movie.

Then, the U.A. opened up on Macdonald. Very big deal it was. By then, my brother had moved to Point Richmond, called and said, "Ya want to go to the opening of the U.A.?" I was in his car in 20 minutes after saying, "Bye, Mom." Can't remember the name of the movie but can see the color and HUGE screen. Clay and I stood in line for over one hour, just to enter. Sank down in huge plush, rocking seats to see this epic I will remember the name of, tomorrow after I mail this article





# Allan Smith's Point Past

In the 1930's the Richmond Police Department used to practice marching together every quarter of the year. This would take place on the old Washington School playground. We got to know many of the Richmond Police while watching them practice. One thing we didn't like was that during their "break" they would go to where we had rings for our playground use. Rings were singularly hung from chains attached to a pyramid type structure 25 feet high. The police men would grab a ring and running hard release the ring and it would wrap itself around

the top bar.

It was then up to our beloved janitor, Mr. Pearson, to unwrap the rings so we could swing on them once again. Sometimes a Point Richmond "dare devil" would shimmy up the anchor post and unwrap the rings which was a very dangerous maneuver.

I once saw 'little' Bobby Miller of the pioneer Point Richmond Idaho Street Miller family climb up and release the wrapped up rings.

## *One Hundred Years Ago*

Part of the Point Richmond wharf gave way under the weight of an engine and tender yesterday morning, big locomotive and the three men it carried sank out of sight. Two of the men escaped with their lives. The third lies with the engine five fathoms deep in the muddy waters of the bay.

The engine was No. 203 of the Bakersfield run, and it had for its crew William Allen, engineer, and P.S. (or "Doc") Adams, fireman. It was Adams who was killed.

The train, with 203 pulling it, had just come in from Bakersfield and the passengers had gone onto the boat, which had left the slip. The track upon which the train runs on continues on past the station house and down along the slip, where it switches into the back track by which, up to two weeks ago, engines reached the yard, a mile up the road from the wharf. Two weeks ago, however, it came to the knowledge of the management that the wharf was not safe, and immediately an order forbidding engines to go down on the wharf was posted on the bulletin board in the yard.

Where the engine went through the water is thirty feet deep. There are no broked piles in sight, indicating that they were driven down by the weight. It is probable that the engine can be raised without much trouble. Attempts will be made to raise it once, and to find the body of the fireman it carried down to his death.

A few Berkeley young men who had gone to Point Richmond to fish and spend the day were witnesses of the dreadful event, among which was Mr. G. Sampson, the young butcher.

*September 24, 1900  
The Berkeley Gazette*

# What We Did in 1999

by Mid Dornan

Our General Meeting marks the beginning of our nineteenth year as an organization.

Who visited our history museum this last year? They came from British Columbia and Australia as well as the states of Missouri, New York, Illinois, Texas, Michigan, Oklahoma, New Jersey and Washington.

It is encouraging to have so many from the Point stop in and especially heartening to have our new residents interested. Besides our locals from Richmond they stopped in from Pinole, El Sobrante, El Cerrito, Pleasant Hill, Dublin, Sacramento, Concord, Marin, San Rafael, Treasure Island, Oakland, Berkeley, San Francisco, San Pablo, Irvine, Huntington Beach, Orinda, Kensington, Alameda, Downey, Mill Valley, Novato, Martinez and Pleasanton.

- We have published 6 "This Point.....in time" newsletters.
- Staffed the museum 104 days
- Published Alexandra Gautraud's "Plunge"
- Reprinted 200 more copies of the popular "The Brief History of Point Richmond" by Donna Roselius.
- Held a semi-annual meeting led by Bruce Beyeart on the Bay Trails.
- Contributed \$250 to the Red Oak Victory Ship Restoration.
- Had representatives at the Point Richmond Business Association.

- Represented at the Point Richmond Neighborhood Council.
- Member Richmond Historic Preservation Advisory Committee.
- Member Richmond's First Annual History Preservation Awards Committee.
- Distributed copies of "A Brief History of Point Richmond in Hotel Mac rooms.
- Produced ornamental replicas of our museum for sale.
- Maintained a website with notices of meetings, reports, Point Richmond activities and text of our "This Point.....in time" newsletters.

We begin a new century, more history in the making. We are looking for someone to do oral interviews, and/or to do a "Years Ago" column, or to send us more stories of 'growing up in the Point', or to research for plaques on our historic buildings.



SHHH!

## Westside Branch Library News

By Biblio Tek

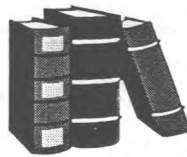
Say, kids! What time is it? It's Summer Reading Game time! Our theme this year is that omnipresent Harry Potter. Read books. Win prizes. It's easy and fun. The best part is that we'll be getting the new Harry Potter book (the fourth in the series) in the library sometime this summer. That should cause a bigger rush than beanie babies. Visit us early and often so you don't miss out

Our summer performance calendar is full of fun. Juan Sanchez kicks things off on June 22 at 2 p.m. with multilingual songs and guitar playing that is especially good for the younger set. Louis Pearl, the Bubble Man will be back making the biggest bubbles you've ever seen. That wild and crazy bunch called Cotton Candy

Express will visit, and a ventriloquist will baffle your ears. For a complete calendar of dates, times and additional programs, ask at the desk.

New adult books have arrived. *Five Days in London - May 1940* is of particular note. Written by John Lukacs, it chronicles Winston Churchill's decision to fight on after Dunkirk. Churchill had been prime minister for only a fortnight, and the book conveys the drama and importance of those days.

*The Barbarians Are Coming* by David Wong Louie has been widely and favorably reviewed. It is a funny and moving depiction of the Chinese-American immigrant experience and a profoundly affecting novel about fathers and sons.



## Ninety Five Years Ago

The last time the Giants beat the Athletics in the World Series was 1905, the final was four games to one. Six years later in 1911 the Athletics got revenge by beating the Giants four games to two. Connie Mack's pitching aces out dueled Christy Mathewson, and Frank Baker hit two crucial home runs to become "Home Run" Baker forever more.



—◆—

## CARDS & LETTERS

—◆—

Dear Mid:

Thank you for sending me  
"This Point....in time". That  
bulletin certainly has a lot of news.  
Of special interest to me was the  
fact Msgr. Ted Kraus is now to be  
at Our Lady of Mercy church.  
Msgr. Kraus almost used to be a  
regular at our parish of St.  
Monica's in Moraga. Also I have a  
new e-mail address:  
nilda@veriomail.com.

Nilda Rego



The MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE  
*presents the musical thriller*



# Sweeney Todd

*The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*

*Music and Lyrics by* Stephen Sondheim *Book by* Hugh Wheeler *From an adaptation by* Christopher Bond

This musical masterpiece of murderous barbering and culinary crime tells of a 19th century London barber and his thirst for bloody revenge. Surring music, nail-biting drama and macabre humor make for great fun. Directed by Robert Love; **NOT SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN.**

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY EVENINGS**

**JUNE 9 – JULY 22**

**Sunday Matinees: June 18, 25, July 9, 16**

**THE CAST**

George Adams • Anna Albanese • Angel Almeida • Arthur Atlas  
Betty Baker Bindner • Douglas Braak • Richard Davis • Coley Grundman  
Lanie Hansen • Paulette Herring • Gregg Klein • Jo Lusk  
John Marshall • Tammara Plankers • Erin Riley • Chris Schwartz  
Gill Stanfield • Kelli Valle • Samantha Valle • Linda Woody-Wood

**24-Hr. Reservations: 510 232-4031**

We accept VISA and MasterCard. All reservations must be prepaid. All sales final.

Box Office opens 7:30PM, Matinees 2PM • Curtain 8:00PM, Matinees 2:30PM  
Admission \$12 cash, check or credit card. Group Rates available.

**NOW AIR CONDITIONED**



Dinner at the Hotel Mac and "SWEENEY TODD"  
Thursday, JULY 20 \$28  
Call (510) 236-4988 for Reservations

# Deaths....

**Louisa Banks**, died April 7, 2000, age 94 at her home in Point Richmond. Beneath a beautiful stained glass window inscribed, "Donated by Captain and Mrs. Stephen Banks", bagpipes preceded and ended a funeral Mass at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church. A native of Great Britain, Louisa lived in Richmond for 69 years. She is survived by a son, Stephen Banks, seven grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren. Her husband, Stephen, died in 1976. She wrote an autobiography for her family.



*Thanks to the City of  
Richmond for  
repainting the wig  
wag's stripes!*

## A Plea From TRACS

Trails for Richmond Action Committee (TRAC) needs your help. As many of you know, the public is being denied access to Western Drive through Terminal 4, at the end of the Point San Pablo Peninsula. The City of Richmond says that the public street, Western Drive ends before the entrance to the terminal, and the road through the terminal is private.

TRAC is working to reestablish public access to the end of the peninsula through Terminal 4. If anyone has information about the historic public access through Terminal 4, please contact David Dolberg at 510-215-7847 or Bruce Beyaert at 510-235-2835

# *June Birthdays*

Alissa Bagley  
William Shea  
Anita Brougham  
Joanne Lansing  
Stacey Spinola  
Brian Rotting  
Phyllis Downey  
Emeric H. Baxter  
Andrew Butt  
Jean Eakle  
Cathe Brazil

Dan Weinstein  
Claude Bisio  
Gill Stanfield  
John H. Knox  
Alice Baxter  
Rosemary Giacomelli  
Daniel Buhler  
Dave Macdiarmid, Jr.  
Cindy Quist  
Dianne Primaver  
Suzanne Unser

Aaron Marshall  
Michael Marshall  
Thomas Kenny  
Marcelina Smith  
Maurice Doherty  
Gerry Higuera  
Louise Banks  
Judy Travis  
Adel Loux  
Irene Rollino Patterson

# *July Birthdays*

Josephine Palenchar  
Francis Smith  
Amy Rotting  
Mrs. Chas. Baldwin  
Julius Matteucci  
Bea Read  
Mary L. Knox  
Al McGee  
Diedre Cerkowicz  
Jean Creed  
Allen Anderson

Madison Bradshaw  
Ed Squires  
Roger Elle  
Alice McMahon  
Betty Conception  
Hilary Lord  
Liz Garrard  
Clifford (Lou) MacMillan  
Loretta 'Mertle' Lease  
Madeline Bellando Albright  
Jean Reynolds

Ann Bisio  
Ed Squires  
Fred Bellati  
Al Franco  
Regan Bradshaw  
Stella Anellini Giovannini  
Alyce Williamson  
Martha Bielawski  
Madison Bradshaw

# *August Birthdays*

Oretta Eaton  
Donna Wilson  
Mid Dornan  
Kevin Pryne  
Bea Kenoyer  
Joe Darling  
Nikki Eaton  
Bernie Bisio  
Barbara Ward  
Connee Fisher

Alice Thompson  
Bernice Preece  
Zoanna Kille  
Mary Knox  
Karla Peterson  
Alia Smyke  
Terrence Doherty  
Lisa Smith  
Carl Westman  
Kelly von York

Bonnie Ritzenthaler Wilson  
Ethel Schumacher  
Dean Beesley  
R. Clayton Barnes  
Tony Bernabich  
Thelma Hecker Harvey  
Michael Shaw  
Roy Henry Gover  
Clara Christopher Loux

# *Calendar of Events*

## *Alphabetical by Group*

### **MASQUER\$ PLAYHOUSE**

June 9 to July 22

"Sweeney Todd, The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" a musical masterpiece, not suitable for children \$12. Fri-Sat, 8 P.M., with some Sunday Matinees at 2:30: reservations 232-4031. See add inside for details.

August 25 to September 30

"The Rivals" by Richard Brinsley Sheridan, a comedy. \$12. Fri-Sat, 8 P.M., with some Sunday Matinees at 2:30: reservations 232-4031 See add inside for details.

### **POINT RICHMOND ASSOCIATION OF MOTHER\$ (PRAM)**

First Monday of each month, 12:00, info: Lora Bartlett 237-9959. PEO. Box 70852, Richmond 94807. Newsletter: "Preambulators".

### **POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**

Meets 2nd Wednesday each month, Hotel Mac Banquet Room, 12-1:30, Lunch Reservations \$11, Contact: Paula Aasmus, O.D. 235-5228.

### **POINT RICHMOND COMMUNITY CENTER/FIELD HOUSE & PLUNGE**

Summer activities call 620-6820

### **POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION**

General Meetings, January and May. Museum open: Thursday and Saturday, 11:30 to 2:00 pm. Appointments call 234-5334 or 235-1336

The deadline for the September/ October issue of TPIT is August 18, 2000.



## **POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

Meets last Wednesday each month, Pt Richmond Community Center; 7:30 P.M Contact: Rod Satre, President, 232 5059.

## **WASHINGTON SCHOOL**

Contact: Linda Hutcherson, Principal or Miss Jones, Secretary 232-1436.

## **WOMEN'S WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB**

Contact: Amelia Drake, President at 284-8131

*For comments, corrections or additions to the TPIT Calendar of Events contact:*

*David Vincent  
125 West Richmond  
Point Richmond, CA 94801  
510-235-4850*



### **Exclusive—Over 90 Club**

Mae Mandl  
Ruth Wood  
Bernard Bernes  
William Kollar

Thelma Hecker Harvey  
Charlotte Wood  
Pina Barbieri  
Chet Thompson

Willard Spiersch  
Lois Shaw  
Alice Helseth

**Have we missed anyone? Let us know.  
Welcome to newcomer, Chet Thompson**

I would like to join the P.R.H.A.

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 (six 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 months.

#### Main Contributors to this Issue:

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Gary Shows             | Editor           |
| Mid Dornan             | Various Articles |
| Don Church/Allan Smith | Historic Photos  |
| Jerry Cerkowicz        | Proof/Article    |
| Pam Wilson             | Membership Info  |
| Allan Smith            | Articles/photos  |
| Sean Reynolds          | Article          |
| Dee Rosier             | Article          |
| David Vincent          | Calendar/Photo   |
| Bernard Bernes         | Article          |
| Marion Voigt           | Information      |
| Biblio Tek             | Article          |
| Elma Healy             | Article          |
| Linda Rego             | Article          |

Articles for each issue are due on or before the deadline printed in the calendar section.

Please mail articles and items of interest to:

**Gary Shows**  
229 Golden Gate Avenue  
Point Richmond, CA 94801

or

fax 510-233-0762

or

email: [gary@alkos.com](mailto:gary@alkos.com)

"This Point...in time" is a publication of the Point Richmond History Association, a non-profit 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 Cerkowicz, Secretary*  
*Ellen Schaefer, Treasurer*  
*Mary Highfill, Corresponding Secretary*  
*Pam Wilson, Membership*  
*Dennis Schaefer, Programs*  
*Gary Shows, Newsletter Editor*  
*Sonja Darling, Fund Raising*  
*Betty Dornan, Museum*  
*Allan Smith, Archives*

#### Phone Numbers

|             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| Mid Dornan  | 510-234-5334 |
| Gary Shows  | 510-235-1336 |
| Fax         | 413-487-5464 |
| Allan Smith | 510-234-5149 |

Visit us at our website

<http://www.alkos.com/prha>

|                             |              |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Richmond Museum of History  | 510-235-7387 |
| Red Oak Victory Information | 510-235-7387 |