

# THIS POINT....in time

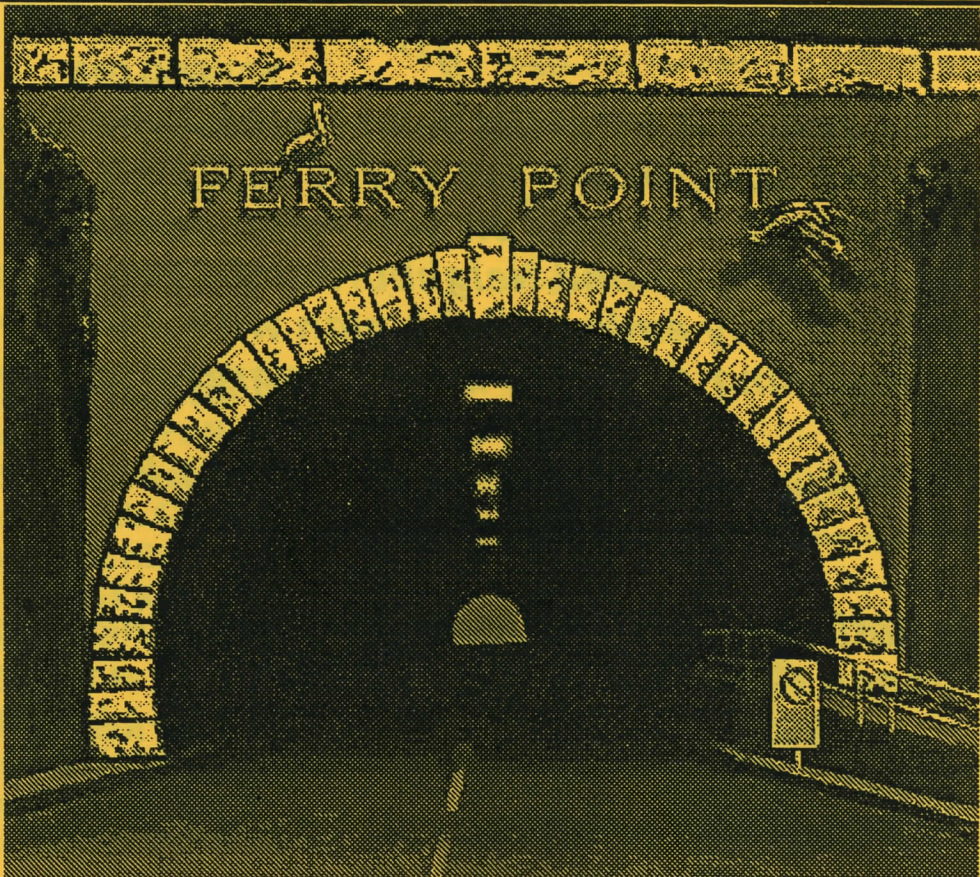
## NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

Vol. XV No. 2

September/October, 1996

\$1.50



Proposed Tunnel Mural



**The City of Richmond's  
Arts and Culture Commission  
has suggested the community might wish to help  
fund a permanent facade with the mural illustrated  
(in black & white) on our cover.**

**The design is by artist John Wehrle who has  
completed other public art works including the I-80  
freeway overpass on San Pablo Avenue.**

**The Point Richmond Neighborhood Council has  
enthusiastically endorsed the plan with a beginning  
\$400 beginning donation and has agreed to manage  
the fund collection.**

**The Project Cost is \$4000 and \$1731 has been  
collected so far.**

**Donations will are being collected by the Point  
Richmond Neighborhood Council with an additional  
collection box at the Santa Fe Market.**

**For more information call Virginia Rigney  
at 232-1159.**

**To follow the progress of the project visit "Point  
Richmond Online" on the World Wide Web at  
<http://www.pointrichmond.com>**

**Here you will also see a color photo as  
the project is quite colorful!**

# HISTORY ASSOCIATION NOTES

## From the President

MID DORNAN

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

**June A. Blackburn**  
**Beatrice Beesley Casey**  
**Alice McMahon**  
**Dody Perry**  
**Will & Jean Spiersch**  
**Bruce and Sandra Beyaert**  
**Dora M. Feuerhelm**  
**Norma & Jack Gerken**  
**Marvin J. Savill**  
**Tref & Nellie Ross**  
**Claude Bisio**  
**Al Franco**  
**Phyllis Feyder**  
**Adolph & Gerry Higuera**  
**Lloyd & Phyllis Bogue**  
**Caesar Frosini**  
**Myrna Wishart**  
**Sparta Chiozza**  
**Velma Healy**  
**Evelyn (Neville) Macdonald**  
**Jim & Darlene Byers**  
**Josephine Palenchar**  
**Hazel Tawney**  
 (Delphina Franco)

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Mary L. Cornelius  
Marge Stone  
Karen & Michael Shaw  
Jeanne von Zielinski  
Marilyn Darling  
Viola Kennedy  
George Squires  
Al & Hortense McGee  
Gloria D. Crim  
Amelia Drake  
Paul R. Landgraf

And a warm welcome to new members:

Judith O'Dell  
Dixie L. Mello  
Irene (Rollino) Patterson  
Raymond W. Hamilton  
Abigail Muñoz Rivera

And thanks to  
**Bruce Beyaert**  
for your donation  
and  
Thank you to



for matching it!

*Museum Staff Coordinator Betty Dornan  
thanks volunteers who staffed the History  
Building in February & March*

&

Our usual

**Thank You!**

to

**Santa Fe Market  
and  
Point Richmond Market**  
*for their donated distribution of  
"THIS POINT....in time"*

# Thanks!

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>

*This Point....in time*



# Editor's Notes

GARY SHOWS

Summer as usual is going by far too quickly, get out and enjoy it while you can!

Here is the September/October issue, it may look like it follows summer as it does not contain some of our usual stuff.

Thank you to you all, especially 88 year old Vivien Cook for responding to my plea for in for personal memories of old Point Richmond. We will have plenty of space in the next few issues to print your memories of Point Richmond. And remember they don't have to be as distant as Vivien's, do you have interesting memories of the Point in the 30's, 40's, 50's, there must have been some interesting things going on here in the 60's. Also I appreciate the many letters, they can be a wonderful way to communicate with each other and record historical information.

I am including a synopsis of the minutes from the latest Point Richmond Neighborhood Council meeting, there's a lot going on here! It would be neat if someone from the council prepared a similar article for each issue. Or if there that is not possible could a copy of each meeting's minutes be delivered to TPIT Assistant Editor Dennis Schaefer (328 Washington Avenue)?

Lastly, a special welcome to our new Director and Treasurer Mary Rudolph, great to have you on our PRHA team.!

Visit our World Wide Web home page at:  
<http://www.netcom.com/~gshows/ha>

## Reflections on the Kid's Reunion:

It seemed at the time that boy there are sure a lot of "kids" at this meeting, and there were. But you know, while putting together this edition and reading the letters and comments it occurred to me just how many, (and I include some of the most important "kids") were not there. What would happen if they all came next year?

Thanks to the Summer issue assembly crew:

Mary Highfill  
Liz McDonald  
Pam Wilson  
Mid Dornan  
Jerry Cerkowicz  
Gary Shows  
Betty Dornan  
Allan Smith  
Mary Rudolph



## The Cover:

**Proposed mural for the Point Richmond Tunnel. The black and white image does not convey the bright red background.**

# A-Mid TRIVIA

-Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question: The Olympic Games Centennial in Atlanta, Georgia just ended. How many medals were to be awarded?  
(Answer at the end of Trivia)

\*\*\*

They returned from their vacation  
Evidently a relaxing deal  
He said his wife drove all the way  
He merely held the wheel.

\*\*\*

East Brother Light Station is featured in the August issue of National Geographic Traveler. This bed-and-breakfast inn opened in 1980 and continues to attract worldly guests. Four rooms are available Thursday through Sunday for \$295 per couple, including dinner with wine and breakfast. Reservations suggested, call 510-233-2385.



\*\*\*

Judy Coleman visited former houseguest, 'Marina' in Richmond's Sister City, Zhoushan, China. Marina was one of three visitors that spent 12 weeks studying English and U.S. Government at Contra Costa College earlier this year.

\*\*\*

You know you live in a small town if you don't use turn signals because everyone knows where you are going.

\*\*\*

Doesn't the flower box, bursting with red impatiens, in front of the History Museum look beautiful! Well done, Mary Highfill.

\*\*\*

Natural colored cotton? Calgene, Inc. has patented a gene that controls cotton pigments and plans to grow naturally colored red and blue cotton. Research shows the cost of dyeing cotton can be more costly than the cotton itself.

\*\*\*

If you own a white car or truck, you have the first automotive color choice. Dark green ranked No. 1 among sport and compact cars but was second in all other categories. Other colors in the survey included black, light brown and medium red. DuPont commented, "I think; it's just a nonoffensive kind of color. It's kind of bright and clean and looks good on all sizes of cars."

\*\*\*

The Fire Department sent out notices to let residents know it will enforce the ordinances that make residents in hilly areas clear fire hazards from their property. This means residents must clear away dead leaves off roofs and create fire breaks by cutting down weeds or my planting fire-resistant trees, shrubs and

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ground cover. My question is, are wild blackberry bushes fire-resistant? If not, why isn't the city required to clear 'paper streets' in the Point to comply with the ordinance?

\*\*\*

Your sweet-tooth is getting the pitch from two new low-fat and fortified with vitamins and minerals cereal. Cinnamon Streusel and Dutch Apple boxes are packaged to appeal to dessert lovers.

\*\*\*

Mail service this summer included a letter from Richard N. Cabrera, Rich's Auto Detail, inviting membership for his services. This 'aspiring entrepreneur' noted "I am cheap and I come to you. I am only 12 years old, I do excellent work or your money back." Keep an eye on this young salesman!

\*\*\*

A teacher assigned her second grade class to write short paragraphs about a policeman or a fireman.

While grading the papers, the teacher came across one that was amusing, yet puzzling. One of the children ended her paragraph with the sentence, "The brave young fireman came down the ladder pregnant."

The teacher called the girl to her desk and asked, "Mary, do you know what 'pregnant' means?"

"Yes." Mary replied, "it means carry a baby."

\*\*\*

School has begun and the state is considering means to reduce the School District's million dollar deficit. If they allow credit for classroom volunteers consider this. Suppose Washington School has 30 classroom volunteers for one hour a day and presume they allow \$10 an hour. That equals \$300 a day. Multiply \$300 by 180 school days and you get

\$54,000 that one school contribute!

Won't you consider being a volunteer at Washington School?

\*\*\*

Reno Cairo, Manteca, stopped by the History Museum to visit and look at our photo collection. He was hoping to visit former classmate Florence Ciabattari too.

\*\*\*

June Wilson underwent triple heart by-pass surgery in July. Either he doesn't want to "talk about it" or he must be out exercising a lot because no one seems to answer the phone.

\*\*\*

Answer: 1,947 Medals were to be awarded at the Olympics. Each medal is engraved with the name of the event. The gold medal is made of sterling silver covered with at least 6 grams of 22-karat gold. The silver is solid sterling silver and the bronze is solid bronze. Each medal had a ribbon and comes with a wooden gift box.



# TOUR DU POINT

*Gary Shows*

It must not have been well promoted (even though a newspaper was a major sponsor), as it seemed that most of our locals didn't even know what was going on the day of the race. And, because of another big race coming up the next day, turnout was less than expected. All in all though the first annual Pro Criterium Bike Race seemed to be a success. All races were completed, no one was injured, inconvenience to the locals was minimized and the riders seemed to love the course.

It happened on Saturday, August 10, 1996 between 8:00 am and 10:00 PM when Washington, Nicholl, Martina, Cottage, Castro, Tewksbury, Washington became a race-track. Each race began with the roar of a RPD motorcycle to clear the track followed by the woosh of the bikes. The seven races were of varying numbers of laps. There were safety monitors at every intersection with red flags to inform the riders that all is well (or not). The intersections were blocked with bales of hay.

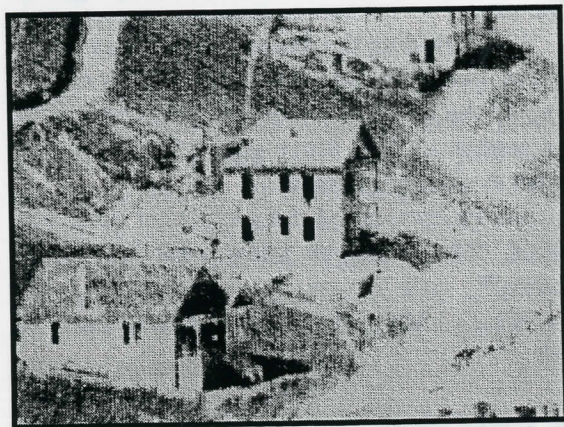
It was exciting, I hope more people show up next year for the "Second Annual Tour Du Point". I overheard some official talk of having it in May instead next year.



# Allan Smith's Point

Remember the Civilian Conservation Corps during the early 1930's? There was a considerable amount of work done by the CCC in the Point area. One thing for certain, any young man out of a job could find work with this organization. There definitely wasn't any guy 'standin' on the corner watchin' all the girls go by' at that time.

There is a California Conservation Corps office located adjacent to the Miller-Knox Park. Why can't they give some of our "corner guys" work? Men like Gus, Joel, Dave and several others.



**Who can identify  
this  
1903 neighborhood?**

*This Point....in time*



# Souvenir for The World

by L.M. Smith

At the Golden Gate where the sun goes down,  
where they load coal oil by the cargo.  
There's a town of great renown,  
On the placid Bay of San Francisco.  
"Get rich in Richmond," is the common cry,  
"Get rich in Richmond," (by the sweet by and by).  
The old Standard Oil is unrolling her coil,  
And spreading out for plenty of room;  
When things being to boil,  
There's going to be a boom.  
Thoughts that are expressed in rhyme,  
Nor words inscribed with pen,  
Can ne'er fortell the time  
When they'll be working 2000 men.  
Go look from yonder hill across the glassy bay,  
See the Golden Gate, then look the other way,  
To the south, to the east and all around;  
See the new buildings going up that will make Richmond a big town,  
Uncle Sam is a nice old man,  
His whiskers long and gray, and he  
Can see what is going on just across the bay.  
With a slogan for an inner harbor,  
Prosperity and progress, the commerce  
Of the world will surely do the rest,  
When the Panama Canal is done  
And the great 1915 Exposition begun,  
And the people all over the earth begin to come  
To hear the sentiment of every one,  
"Get rich in Richmond," there isn't reason why  
You can't get, "Rich in Richmond" and  
Leave a legacy to you children when you die.  
Where there is general prosperity  
You can find a haven of rest  
And in all sincerity, Richmond will be  
The Pittsburg of the Golden West.

# Church News

## Our Lady of Mercy

**Allan Smith**  
235-2988

Our Annual Steak Barbecue was held on August 25th this year instead of the traditional Labor Day date. This is the church's only fund raiser of the year and like old buildings, this first Catholic Church in Richmond is in constant need of repairs. Proceeds from the barbecue will be used for roof repairs. We celebrated the 94th Anniversary of Our Lady of Mercy Church.

Parishioner Edward Giemza passed away recently, he a member of Our Lady of Mercy since coming to the area in 1946. Ed was a likable person who always held a new joke to tell. Most of his retirements years were spent doing voluntary work for the church and community. Ed played the accordion and always entertained the residents of the local convalescent hospitals. Ed Giemza was appreciated by his Pastors as he was a retired auto mechanic and kept heir cars in 'tune'. He served in the U.S. Navy on Destroyers of the "Tin-Can" fleet during World War Two and complained that because of his small stature he was always stationed in the bowels of the ship in the ammunition lockers during action where he said he literally "praised the Lord and passed the ammunition".

## Point Richmond Methodist

**Jean Reynolds**  
235-2988

With summer drawing to a close, some of my favorite programs will be starting up again. Sunday School for ages three and up starts on September 8, at 9:45 a.m. There will be a time to acknowledge the commitment of last year's teachers: Shirley Butt, Elizabeth Meixell and Kristi Johnson. Angel Choir rehearsal for children first grade and older resumes on Wednesday, September 11, at 4:00 p.m. The Angel Choir is directed by Pastor Dan. They rehearse once a week and perform once a month during Sunday morning worship. The Joyful Noise Choir, under the direction of Virginia Cherniak, started rehearsal August 21, and will soon be a regular part of Sunday worship again. The adult Sunday School class has been so enthusiastic that it continued to meet during the summer, so it can't resume, but will still meet at 9:45 on Sunday mornings.

The Dan Damon Trio will be featured on Sunday, September 22, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., as the Point



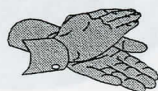
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., as the Point Methodist Church congregation hosts "Jazz at Brickyard" for the residents of Brickyard Landing. Hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks will be provided along with the music near the pool at the clubhouse.

We are once again sponsoring a Dinner-Theatre evening at the Hotel Mac and Masquers' Playhouse on Thursday, September 12. The play is *Rashomon*, and the cost for dinner and the play is only \$26. Proceeds are used to supply summer camp scholarships for children. Tickets are still available. Call Jean Reynolds at 235-2988 to order yours.

A Monday night discussion group has started. The first book we read and discussed was *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*, written by Marcus Borg. We have now started to study the Pulitzer Prize winner: *GOD a biography*, by Jack Miles. The discussions are lively and attendance remained steady even though it was summer.

### LOOKING AHEAD...

We're planning a community Thanksgiving dinner and worship service on Thanksgiving, November 28. Members of the business community will join with us to prepare and serve dinner to anyone who wants to come.



## 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 22nd installment.*

Feb 17, 1925

The Social League met at the home Mrs. Ford with 23 members and 2 visitors present.

The meeting was opened by repeating the Lord's prayer led by Mrs. Scofield.

The minutes of last meeting were read and approved. It was moved, seconded that bill be paid. Laundry bill 1.55.

The following Officers were elected to serve the League for the next six months.

Mrs. Dicely - President

Mrs. Burdick - 1st Vice

Mrs. Owens - 2nd Vice

Mrs. Oehne, Beckley and Mythen were nominated for Office of Sec. Mrs. Mythen was elected.

Mrs. Erickson - Treas.

Mrs. Dicely and Mrs. Owens were appointed to audit books.

The 7th of March was date set for League's food sale. Mrs. Jones-Jenkins-Campbell and Harris in charge.

It was moved, seconded and carried that Mrs. Jones and Brothers be appointed on a Committee to buy materials for aprons to be sold at food sales.

The next meeting of League to meet at the home of Mrs. Hendricks and Mrs. Hendricks and Mrs. Mythen as hostesses.

After meeting adjourned (sic) dainty refreshments were served by Mrs. Ford.

Mrs. Diller	.30	
Mrs. Hendricks	.50 (donation)	
Mrs. Erickson	.75 (from bazaar)	
Mrs. Burdick	1.00 (for butter)	
Mrs. Dicely	1.00 (.50-dinner)	
	.50 - Mrs. Martin)	
Silver	2.45	
Mrs. Parker	.55 (from dinner)	6.55

\$43.80

Mabel Redman  
Sec

Ludwigs Hams	\$16.66	\$25.81
	(taken in from dinner)	

Laundry	.35	
Fenner	<u>2.82</u>	
Expense		<u>\$19.83</u>
Clear		5.98
On hand		<u>\$43.80</u>
In Bank		<u>\$49.78</u>

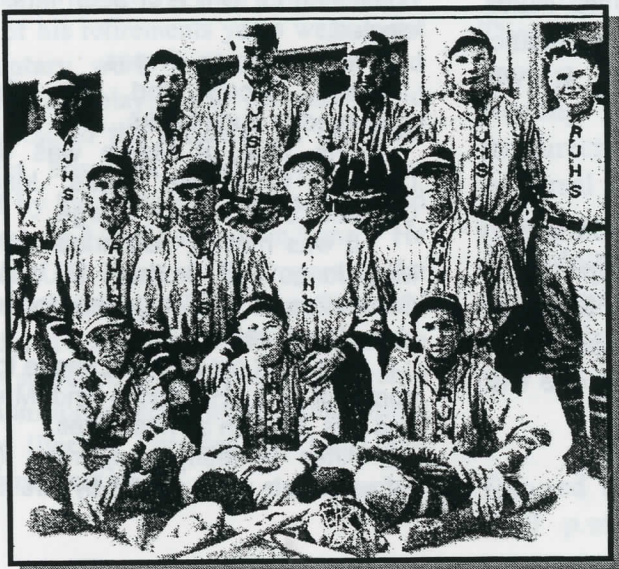
Audited by Feb. 27, 1925  
Kathryn J. Dicely  
Annie Owens



## Our Lady of Mercy Steak Barbeque a Success!

The annual steak barbeque was held at Our Lady of Mercy on Sunday, August 25th on a perfect summer afternoon. The food was great and raffle prizes were as numerous as the smiles.

It must have been a very successful affair as these folks have done this event for many years and are good at it and they ran out of beans and potato salad! There didn't seem to be any complaints though as the steak was plentiful.



1926  
Roosevelt Junior  
High School base-  
ball team



## Baptist Ladies Serve Splendid Dinner To- day

*(The Daily Independent  
Saturday, October 26, 1912)*

Good news for the lovers of home cooking is contained in the announcement that the Ladies' Aid society of the First Baptist church will give another of those always popular dinners this afternoon from 5 until 8 o'clock. The menu is to be spread in the storeroom adjoining the Pioneer club on Richmond avenue.

The "program" is as follows:

Salad	
Roast Pork	Roast Beef
Escalloped Potatoes	
Creamed Cauliflower	
Steamed Brown Bread	
Baked Beans	
Homemade Bread	
Pickled Pears	Apple Sauce
Pie	Cake
Tea	Coffee



## High-Heeled Boots Must Go

A lady looks infinitely taller and slimmer in a long dress than she does in a short costume, and there is always a way of showing the feet, if desired, by making the front quite short, which gives, indeed, a more youthful appearance to a train dress. The greatest attention must, of course, be paid to the feet with these short dresses, and I may here at once state that high heels are absolutely forbidden by fashion. Doctors, are you content? Only on cheap shoes and boots are they now made, and are only worn by common people. A good bootmaker will not make high heels now, even if paid double price to do so. Ladies—that is, real ladies—now wear flat soled shoes and boots, a la Cinderella. For morning walking, boots or high Moliere shoes are worn.

If you wear boots you may wear any stockings you like, for no one sees them. But if you wear shoes you must adapt your stockings to your dress. Floss silk, Scotch thread, and even cotton stockings are worn for walking, silk stockings have returned into exclusively evening wear. Day stockings should be of the same color as the dress, but they may be shaded, or tripped, or dotted, just as you please. White stockings are absolutely forbidden for day wear—no one wears them—no one dares wear them under fashion's interdiction.

*NOW YOU KNOW!*

*THE ABOVE WAS TAKEN FROM HER MOTHER'S TURN-  
OF-THE-CENTURY COOKBOOK, COURTESY OF ANNE HANZ-  
LIK.*



# Santa Fe Butcher Market

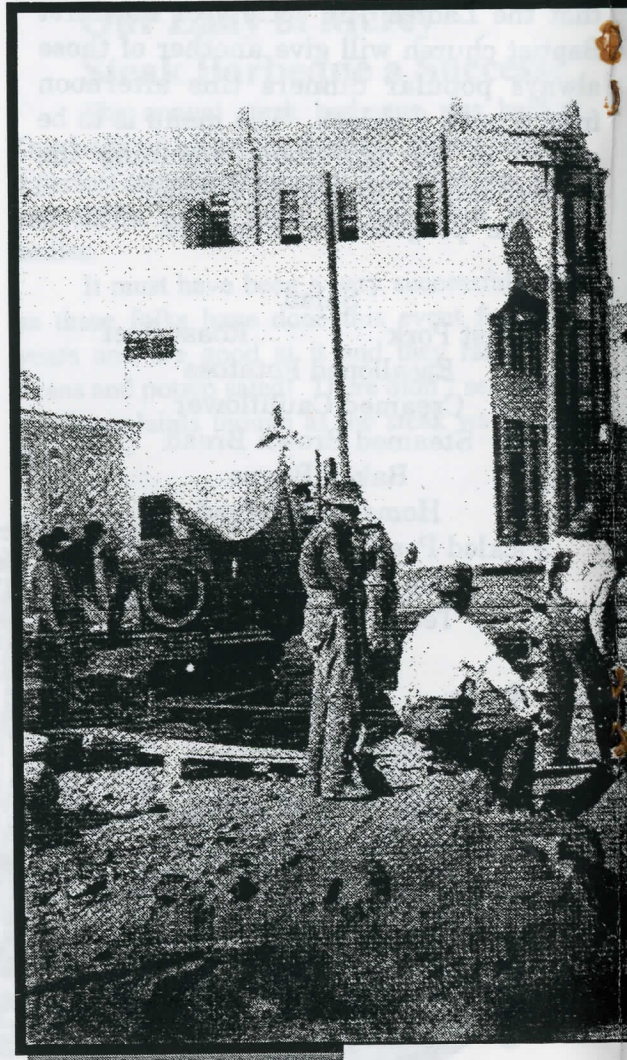
Vivien E. Cook

When I was in high school I worked Wednesday after school and all day Saturday for the Santa Fe Butcher Shop. It was located on West Richmond Avenue two doors up from Dr. Campbell's office. No groceries were sold, only meat. My job was to deliver meat order all over Point Richmond and clean up in the shop. The shop was in an old building and required constant clean up. Water had to be heated on a stove for hot cleaning water.

The first week was fine. The two butchers that worked there were Ed Mueher and Carl Freezendort (sp.) and they bought out the market. They replaced Margarite Clark the bookkeeper and cashier with Julia Hall. Working conditions became intolerable due to a very serious conflict of personality between Ed and Carl. To end the conflict, Ed finally bought out Carl and hired a young butcher to take his place. Ed was a good man to work for. Saturday was a big day. On Saturday afternoons I had to deliver meat orders phoned in by customers around Point Richmond. I often had to make the trip to Winehaven with a dozen or so orders.

Back to the shop it was time to start heating 100 gallons of water in a large iron pot in the back yard with a wood fire. If possible I had to have it boiling by 6 AM doing and then help clean up the market. During this time of heating the water I would deliver any rush orders. It sure was a busy place.

I worked for Ed for about three months and one Saturday night when we finished



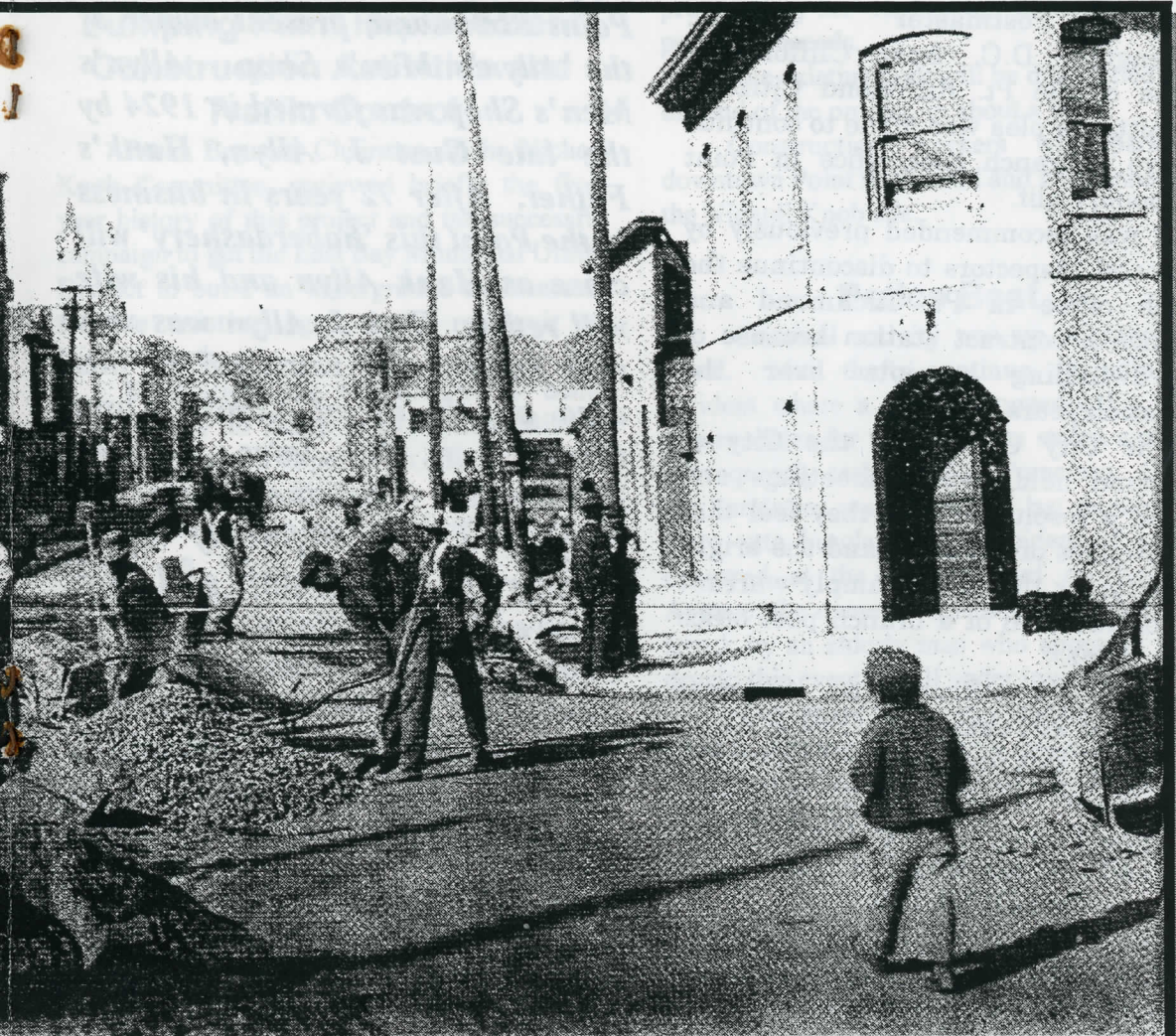
*This Point....in time*



cleaning up he asked me what I was doing Sunday and I said nothing important. He asked me to come in Sunday and help move the market down to the left side of Whitesides's Market. That Sunday was a long day but we did get the market moved. I only worked about a month at the new Market as I got another job with the Santa Fe Railroad at their Ferry Point facility to help unload

"LCL" freight (less than car load lots) from their ferry boat to passenger trains. My hours were from 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm. I was able to work this job and go to school.

I tried to learn more about Whitesides Market but unfortunately all of my records which would have helped were lost in a big flood of the Napa River in Yountville.



*1913, Paving work on Richmond Avenue*



# **The Closing of the Point Richmond Post Office**

**January 28, 1937**

In a letter to the Hon. James A. Farley, Postmaster General, Washington, D.C. from Clifford E. Anglim of the Pt. Richmond Citizen's Committee, a plea was made to continue to have a branch post office in Point Richmond, Calif.

It was recommended previously by the Postal Inspectors to discontinue the branch office in Pt. Richmond and establish a contract station because of the dwindling receipts over the depression years.

The City Council of the City of Richmond held protest meetings and drafted a resolution that they feel that the revenues of the office and the bright prospects for the future, amply warrant the continuation of a branch post office in the Point.

The Pt. Richmond Citizen's Committee was chaired by Gust J. Allyn. Involved in this issue favorably were the Hon. Walter Paasch of Pt. Richmond who was Deputy County Clerk at the time and the Senators T.H. DeLap and Labert E. Carter.



*The information to the left was supplied by Henry 'Hank' Allyn of Point Richmond, present owner of the Allyn's Men's Shop. Allyn's Men's Shop was formed in 1924 by the late Gust J. Allyn, Hank's Father. After 72 years in business in the Point this 'haberdashery' will close as Hank Allyn and his wife will retire. Gust J. Allyn was very well known and respected in this area and in all of Contra Costa County. He later became Postmaster of the City of Richmond. He definitely was a pioneer in the Point and was involved in civic affairs. In fact, as Chairman of the Richmond School Board he signed our Richmond Union High School Graduation Diplomas. Also, he was a prominent member of the Democratic State Central Committee of California. More about "Old Gus" (and his cigars) in the next issue of This Point in Time.*

*Allan Smith*



# The Point Richmond Neighborhood Council

*Taken from Official Council Minutes*

## **Nicholl Knob Reservoir and Pumping Plant Replacement Construction Activities and Traffic Control**

Bruce Beyaert, Chairman of the Nicholl Knob Committee, reviewed briefly the five-year history of this project and the successful campaign to get the East Bay Municipal Utility District to build an underground replacement for the existing aged, leaky reservoir on Nicholl Knob.

Excavation has begun, dirt is being hauled away in dump trucks which will be sprayed down and tarped in an effort to control dust. Some of the dirt will be used to fill the damaged Santa Fe reservoir (with a foot of topsoil on top), site of recent Council discussions on land use at 2 Crest Avenue. Noise pollution is not expected to be a major problem, given the distance from the construction site to the nearest neighbors and the efficiency of modern mufflers.

The concrete-pouring phase of the project will largely occur between October and December of this year. While concrete trucks are actually not as heavy as the dirt trucks, there will be intense periods of concrete work which will require staging of up to two trucks at the top of Crest Avenue and of up to four trucks in the downtown area.

Landscaping work has already begun:

native plants have been started off-site in preparation for replanting the site as the project proceeds.

The existing tank will be dismantled near the end of the project, in about a year.

Construction workers will park in downtown Point Richmond and be "vanned" to the Nicholl Knob site.

## **Police Beat**

Criminal activity was up slightly over April. Mail thefts continue, including an incident where a tenant dropped off a \$500 money order for rent that was stolen and was subsequently cashed in San Francisco. Of the ten burglaries reported in the last month, four were auto burglary. An incident of battery occurred at the Hunan Chef on Railroad Avenue: the owner and a family member were struck by an elderly man who appeared to be drunk; this event is still under investigation.

The Stroll was very successful, with good participation, and little misbehavior: one person who drank too much alcohol was driven home to San Pablo.

## **Art Beat**

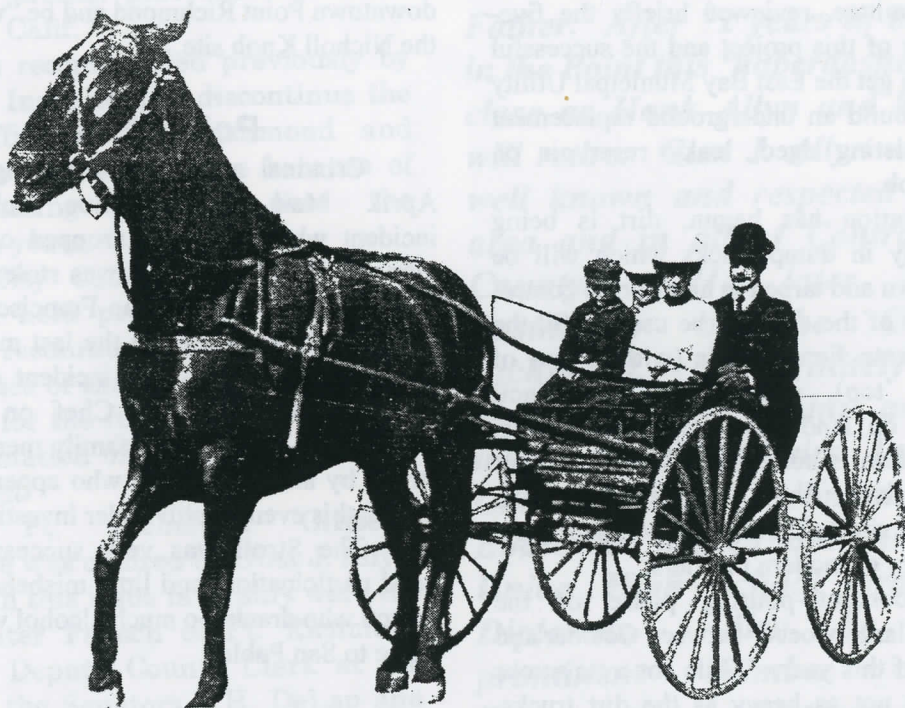
Virginia Rigney reported that the Arts and Culture Commission is seeking feedback on how to distribute information to the public regarding activities. They are preparing a

on how to distribute information to the public regarding activities. They are preparing a calendar of events in the future, covering the Richmond Art Center, NIAD, Masquers Theatre, workshops, classes, etc. She noted that there will be a reception and dinner on September 21 at the Richmond Art Center, celebrating its 60th year.

## **The Bike Race**

Dave Duarte, Acting Director of the Richmond Cultural Services Department,

announced the first annual "Family Fun Ride and Pro Criterium Bike Race" to be held in the Point on August 10. This event will draw world-class riders (at least those not at the Tour de France or the Olympics) to the Race (to be held on a Tewksbury, Washington, Nicholl, Martina, Cottage, Castro course) and the Family Fun Ride will include a loop between Cutting/Canal and Brickyard. No City funds except for staff time will be needed; sponsors, including the West County Times, the Pedaler Bike Shop, Power Bar, and others, will provide funds for prizes.



**Dr. Walter Helms driving to school, one early morning in 1902, with Azro Rumrill's daughters, Mamie and Calista. The child, seated next to Mamie, is her daughter, Claire Marie Johnston. Dr. Helms boarded with the RUMrill family and in 1907, married the young widow, Mamie, a teacher in the San Pablo School.**

*COURTESY OF THE CONTRA COSTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY (FROM "CONTRA COSTA CHRONICLES")*



# *Judged my the Company One Keeps*

*One night in late October,  
When I was far from sober,  
Returning with my load  
with manly pride,  
My feet began to stutter,  
So I laid down in the gutter,  
And a pig came near and  
laid down by my side,  
A lady passing by was heard  
to say:*

*"You can tell a man who  
boozes*

*By the company that he  
chooses",*

*And the pig got up and  
slowly walked away.*

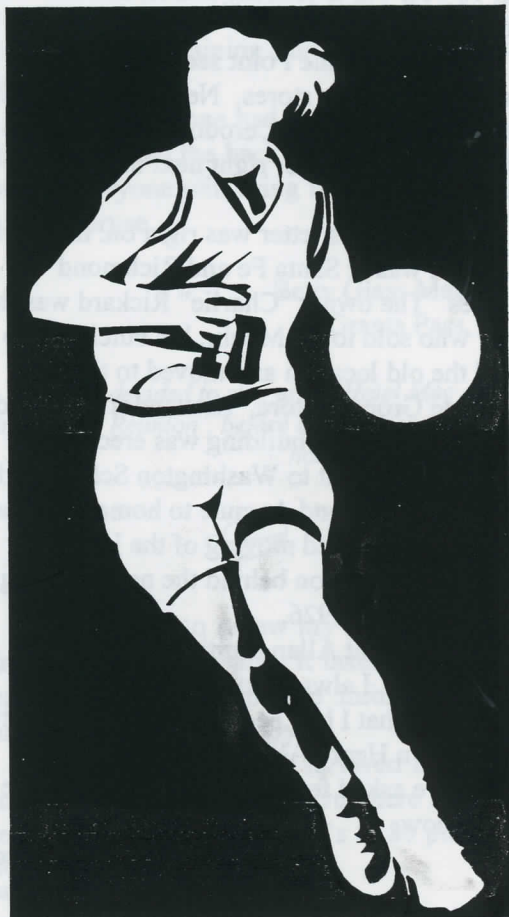
Poem submitted by Vivian Cook  
Its author is unknown

# *Sports Memories*

by Allan Smith

Sorry, no Sports Memories in this issue.

*AP Smith*



## CARDS & LETTERS

Dear Gary Shows:

Your "Cards & Letters" section of TPIT is the best part of the publication.

There was another mortuary in early Pt. Richmond, "Smallwood's". My mother, when alive mentioned it to me. She came to the Point as an 18 year old to join my father, and knew the Point from 1901 to 1966.

Everyone in the Point seems to be speaking of grocery stores. Next to Whitesides was Charlie and Marie Cerodoni's store which was a major competitor right next door. They were great people.

Reno Cairo's letter was right on. the Santa Fe Market was at Santa Fe and Richmond Avenues. The owner "Charlie" Rickard was the owner who sold to Ed Muehr, his butcher who closed the old location and moved to the new Whiteside Grocery Store. Alexandra Gautrand states the Whiteside building was erected in 1916. When I went to Washington School and walked up Richmond Avenue to home I watched the construction, and moving of the Hurley house up Washington behind the new building. This was around 1926.

I regret that Allan Smith is thinking of leaving TPIT. I always enjoy his articles.

I wish that I had been at the "Kid's" party. Had I known Henry Allyn lived in Sonoma I would have asked for a ride down. Only drive in town now.

Best Regards,  
Ed Garrard  
Sonoma

*:Always good hearing from you Ed, thanks for the input. First I won't allow Allan to quit and second, don't forget about the transportation idea for next year's Kid's Party.*

Gary



Dear Allan,

In my enjoyment of the Point Richmond History Association newsletter, I was particularly interested in references and photos recently of the old Bank of Richmond building on the corner of Washington and West Richmond.

Right after his graduation from Richmond High in 1915, my father, Henry Soito, went to work there. Part of his job was to sweep and keep the place clean, and partly was to learn the banking business. He remained there until he became manager, and when the bank was sold, transferred to 23rd Street and Macdonald Avenue to the bank that later became the American Trust Company. The best thing about his job in Point Richmond is that he net and later married my mother, Lucia Bernardi.

I have an interesting photo of him, taken in the bank. If the History Association would like to copy it, I would be very pleased to loan it to them.

Sincerely,  
Anna Gaumer  
Point Richmond

*Photos are our most important archives, so we would love to make a copy for our collection.*



Gary



Dear Gary,

I was sure sorry that I was unable to attend the "Kid's Day Reunion" on May 19th. As my birthday is May 20th and I had made plans to attend and celebrate both at the same time. My Doctor changed my plans with an appointment that I had to keep. I am handicapped and use a wheelchair to get around. One of the best birthday presents I had this year appeared on page 7 of "This Point in Time" summer 1996 issue.

Vivian Cook  
Fort Dick, CA



Dear Mid,

I had a wonderful time (in my recent 'Kid's Reunion' visit). A perfect place to sack out, and the swim in the Natatorium was so worth it. The water was very soft and bouyant as well. I had forgotten how marvelous it was...so many years that I don't even want to count!

Thank you so much for coming by and talking to me. Wished you could have joined Mary and Liz. It was fun talking to Gary. I didn't get a chance to say just a few words to Jerry Cerkanowicz. From a distance he looked fine. I wished I could hear you from your speaking table but it was not the fault of your voice, the kids in the room would not keep still. May I suggest that you get a cow bell and use it for an attention getter? Ha!

The Gehri sisters was a big surprise, Edna & Melba that is. Also seeing June Solosabol. I would just live to roll back the clock and know what I know now! Getting

some stock in the Hotel Mac would have been my first priority!

Coming down was perfect weather. Even at the Point it was perfect. Going back after visiting Mrs. Naomi Huffstetter one day later, I ran into a rain storm in the Siskiyous and in places it was a blinding sheet!! There were no accidents but it took longer on the return because of the weather differential.

No one - but no bakery anywhere can make those lovely whole strawberry tarts (6" across) like the Hotel Mac. What a treat that was. I passed up all the cheese cake varieties to eat these. I was well pampered by the Hotel, and I am not complaining a bit! I could not and did not stop on one.

I think everyone had a delightful time. I did not get to see the back table, but next time I will if everyone will bring their memorabilia for us to peruse.

Lovingly,  
Betty Glass Marshall  
Grants Pass, OR

*Betty decided to stay at the Hotel Mac at the first 'Kid's Reunion', before it even reopened as a hotel, isn't that great!*  
Gary



Dear Pam,

I am happy to renew my subscription, it brings me much pleasure. It takes me back to memory lane and keeps me informed as to what is happening currently.

I, like all of Bemidji survived the worst winter in 60 years and I've lived here 50 now. We now are enjoying high 70's to 80 plus and a 90 now and then.



Dear Pam Wilson:

In 1925 when I was just 5 years old, my Dad bought the apartment building at 36 Cottage Avenue, right behind Hotel Mac. We lived there until I was about 17 years old.

One day when I was playing outside, a man came by and stood in front of my house reminiscing. He said that during World War I our house had been used as a hospital for the wounded soldiers. Do you have any knowledge of this?

We have continued to live in the Bay Area all these many years and my husband, Nick Rivera, retired from Chevron U.S.A. after 37 years.

Our friend, Josephine Palenchar, has been supplying us with your booklet for a long time, but we now decided to subscribe to it, as we find it very interesting.

Thank you,  
Abigail Muñoz Rivera  
El Sobrante



Dear Pam, Gary, Mid, et al

It is hard to believe another year has passed and dues are payable again! Please sign us up for another year.

I'm a bit hazy in the memory department and I don't want to get in too deep as to the where-abouts of the Curry Funeral parlors. I think Bernard Bernes is the closest; next door to the furniture store on Washington Avenue.

I remember walking by with a buddy and peeking in the doorway when Mr. Curry saw us, he invited us in. This is something I will never forget. My first view of a dead person. It was a

very pretty young girl. She looked so peaceful that we thought she must be asleep! We were impressed I can tell you!

Curry may have had parlors at one time or another on Park Place that I am not aware of. However, the back door of the Washington Avenue Parlor was on Park Place. Bernard Bernes, in one of his recollections mentioned that streetcars stopped there to take mourners to the cemetery.

I look forward to receiving each TPIT. Gary and gang do a marvelous job in putting it out each month!

I recognized a lot of names in your list of attendees at the Kid's Day affair. Looks like I missed a good time.

Keep up the good work!

Willard R. Spiersch  
Alameda

*Thanks Willard, sometimes I think, "boy this is a lot of work, I gotta get out of this job." Then I read a letter like this and it kinda' makes it all worthwhile.*

Gary



Dear Gary

TPIT does a good job of merging past and present and it is gratifying to hear of our children's successes which top our own.

Delphina Franco




*This Point....in time*



# Deaths


**Alexandra Dornan Barnes**, memorial services were held July 12th for the baby girl (July 2, 1996) at the First United Methodist Church in the Point. Rev. Dan Damon officiated. Melissa Brady, sololist, was accompanied by Jean Eakle. Burial was in Oxford, Mississippi on July 5th. The infant daughter of Kathy and Richard Barnes was a sister of Clay and Emily Barnes, all of Oxford, Mississippi, and granddaughter of Mildred 'Mid' Dornan, Point Richmond.




**Vern C. Valentine** died at his home in Rodeo on July 29, 1996. A Minnesota native, he retired from C&H Sugar Refinery and was former owner of Shangri-la Cleaners for 27 years. A resident of Atchison Village before moving to Rodeo. Vern was active in Scout Troop 111, is a member of the Point Methodist Church serving in numerous capacities on the Board and currently a Trustee.

Vern is survived by his wife, Helen, (they would have celebrated 50 years of marriage in December), daughters, Dee Pitta of Benicia and Dori Freitas of Suisun; sons, David Valentine of Suisun and Donald Valentine of Kentucky; sister, Dorothy Fuller of Richmond; 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were at the El Sobrante Veterans Club with private inturnment. Memorial gifts to Memorial Fund of First Methodist Church, 201 Martina Street, Point Richmond, 94801.



**Edgar Crim**, passed away on July 30, 1996 at a conf. hospital and is survived by his wife, Myrth Crim of Gualala, children: Gloria Crim of Rodeo, Floria Jones of Arcada, Les Crim of Lower Lake; grandchildren Gretchen and Heidi Schwab of Rodeo; great-grandson Jochua Carter of Rodeo. Rep-deceased by his first wife, Helen. Formerly lived in Point Richmond.



**Nellie Naomi Huffstetter-Ross** who was born on December 25, 1923 in Watsonville, CA. Later her family moved to Point Richmond, where she lived most of her life. She went to high school at Washington School. On October 31, 1941 she married Trefry Ross, they had three children; Corene, Scott, Rebecca and Jared. Her ashes were sent to Arlington Cemetery in Washington, D.C. and put in the section for prisoners of war, which Trefry was. Nellie was active all through her life with the things around her. For the past few years she had been fighting a weak heart. She will be missed by her family and friends.

◆  
**Minot Weld Tripp, Jr.**, a self-employed attorney for 31 years, died July 13, 1996 in Point Richmond. the cause of death was unavailable. He was 57.

Graduate of Phillips Academy Andover, Harvard , and U.C. Boalt School of Law. As a lawyer he wrote numerous articles and lectured on the subject of taxation law at local colleges and universities. He moved to Richmond in 1975 and was a member of St. John the Baptist Church, El Cerrito.

He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Mallory P. Tripp of Point Richmond; sons, Stephen and John Tripp, both of Point Richmond; parents, Minot and Martha Tripp of Pasadena; sister, Susan Tripp Snider of North Carolina.

Memorial gifts to Bert Coffey Scholarship Fund at Contra Costa College, 2600 Mission Bell Dr., San Pablo, CA 94806 or Catholic Charities, 433 Jefferson Street, Oakland CA 94607.

◆  
**George Peter Kelleghan** died July 9, 1996 in his Richmond home. Husband of Eleanor Kelleghan of Richmond. Father of Diane Donahoe of San Ramon, Sharon Phelps of Vacaville and Georgene Kelleghan of Richmond. Brother of Mervin Kelleghan of Pinole; Lillian Ghidella and Irene Regalia both of Richmond. Grandfather of Eric and Ryan Gouldthread of San Ramon; Karla Covington of Vacaville; Michael McClure of Richmond; Gail Brown of El Sobrante; Gina Presa of Richmond and Mario Presa of Huntington Beach. Also is survived by 7 great grandchildren.

Member of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Richmond; Elks Lodge # 1251, Richmond; Moose Lodge #550 of San Pablo; S.I.R.S. Lodge #73; Senior Center in Richmond; A Charter and Life Member of the Point Richmond KIDS Reunion Committee. A Point Richmond native, Aged 79.

◆  
**Signe Christine Peterson** who was born and raised in Point Richmond passed away June 8, 1996 in Milan, Italy 45 years old.

Signe attended Washington School graduated from Kennedy High School and U.C. Berkeley with a Librarian degree. She also received a Masters degree in Library Science at U.C. Berkeley.

She worked briefly at the Richmond Library before going to work for a prestigious pharmaceutical firm in Milan, Italy. From there she served as head librarian for the firm "Barilla", the largest food firm in Italy and the largest pasta firm in the world. She was also director at Borconi University in Milan.

Signe was the daughter of Lola Peterson and her father, the late B.K. Peterson who held the position of Finance Director for the City of Richmond prior to his death. Her mother now resides in Redwood Valley, CA. She was the beloved granddaughter of long time residents of Point Richmond, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Peterson and Mr. & Mrs. Chris Machado.



# September Birthdays

SUSAN ARMSTRONG  
IVAR ELLE  
SARA WARREN SMITH  
EMILY ANNE BARNES  
WILL SPIERSCH  
AL FROSINI  
SHANE EASTMAN  
MARY FORBES  
INGVAR ELLE  
ROXANNE TRUDEAU  
DAVID REYNOLDS

DONNA ROSELIUS  
(OUR FOUNDER)  
JERRY CERKANOWICZ  
THERESA DANIEL  
JUNE KUNKLE  
BLACKBURN  
MARIE PECKHAM  
DANIEL BUTT  
JOANN BUSBY  
HATTIEBELLE POTTS  
ROBERTA WILSON

MITZI KRUSE  
BERNARD DIETZ  
STEPHEN BERMAN  
GAYLE KAUFMAN  
JOHN HADREAS  
JOHN KNOX  
AL FROSINI  
JOHN T. KNOX  
KENNETH DOLAN  
JAN FEAGLEY

# October Birthdays

TERRY WYNNE  
FLORENCE WILSON  
JEAN MOYLE SPIERSCH  
LINDA PEREIRA  
TIMOTHY DOHERTY  
JEFF WARD  
JEFF ALBRO  
MARIAN TEDRICK  
NATHAN BERMAN

CHARLIE DUTROW  
HELEN FROSINI  
ISOBEL 'BOO' SHAW  
GRACE CERKANOWICZ  
NELLIE BISIO PASQUINI  
BETTY GLASS MARSHALL  
KATE LORD  
LIZ McDONALD  
MARGUERITE CLUTTS

ROSY ROSELIUS  
JODI BAGLEY  
JUSTIN KAUFMAN  
TODD CORT  
BRIAN TEDRICK  
RICH WIERICK  
CHRIS WARD  
CHAD FEAGLEY  
JERRY DANIEL

## QUOTE OF THE ISSUE:

*Get the thing straight once and for all. The policeman isn't there to create disorder. The policeman is there to preserve disorder.*

*RICHARD DALEY, FORMER MAYOR OF CHICAGO*

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
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Membership in the Point Richmond History Association includes a one year subscription to "THIS POINT...in time" newsletter (six issues) and a special publication. 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.

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Contra Costa Chronicles	Photograph & Information
Pt. Richmond Neighborhood Council	Information

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

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"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**

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**Allan Smith, Archives**

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# Calendar

## September/October, 1996

**September 3**  
*Tuesday*

First day of school, minimum day

**September 2**  
*Monday*

Labor Day

**September 11**  
*Wednesday*

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting  
Noon, Hotel Mac

**September 13**  
*Friday*

Rosh Hashonah begins at sunset

**September 22**  
*Sunday*

Yom Kippur begins at sunset

**September 23**  
*Monday*

First day of Autumn

**September 24**  
*Tuesday*

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

**October 9**  
*Wednesday*

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting  
Noon, Hotel Mac

**October 18**  
*Friday*

DEADLINE FOR INFORMATION TO THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF TPIT

**October 20**  
*Sunday*

1984, Second Indian Statue dedicated

**October 23**  
*Tuesday*

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

**October 27**  
*Sunday*

Daylight Savings Time ends, set your clock BACK one hour  
Saturday night

**October 31**  
*Thursday*

Halloween

**November 5**  
*Tuesday*

Election Day, Get out and vote!