

THIS POINTin time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

Vol. XVI No. 2

September/October, 1997

\$1.50



Identify Allan Smith's 'Mystery Guest'
and share a cup of coffee and piece of pie
at the Central Saloon located at
49 Washington Avenue.
(Courtesy of TPIT)

A Clue:

The picture was taken in 1920 and the
"Chief" at that time was 25 years of age and
was a member of a very prominent Point
Richmond family.

His father came to the Point in 1902 and
became very well known and was
instrumental in the development of this area.
This young man's experiences in growing up
in Point Richmond could rival those of the
author Jack London's in Oakland. More
about him later, taken from some of the
records that the late Don Church gave me.

A.P. Smith
510-234-5139

From The President

Mid Dornan

Mid is on vacation.

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

Thelma (Hecker) Harvey

Nancy Webb

Lloyd Bogue

Raymond W. Hamilton

Josephine Palenchar

George E. Squires

Al & Gerry Higuera

Marvin J. Savill

Tref Ross

Marie (Corr) Flynn

Norma & Jack Gerken

Al Franco

Margaret S. Morkowski

Dody Perry

Abigail Munoz Rivera

Amelia Drake

Jim & Darlene Byers

Edna Hathaway

Viola Kennedy

Al & Hortense McGee

Veil & Louise Hammond

Velma Healy

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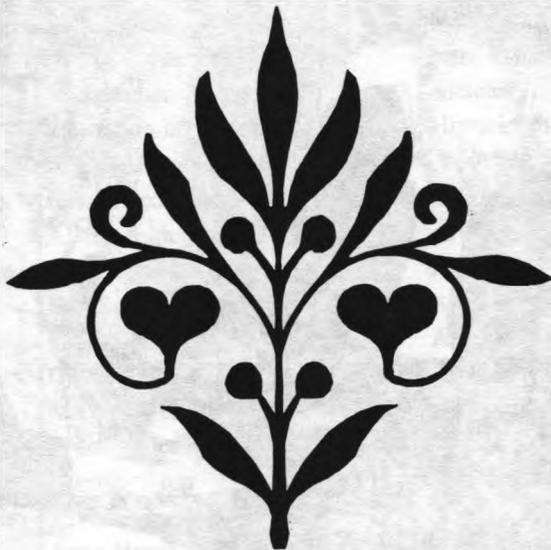
This Point....in time

**June A Blackburn
Claude Bisio
Sparta Chiozza
H. Delphina Franco Tawney
Marilyn Darling
Myrna Wishart
Willard R. Spiersch
Jean M. Spiersch
Bruce & Sandra Beyaert**

And a warm welcome to new members:

**John Healy
Donna Diaz
Kent M. Kitchingman (gift)**

Museum Staff Coordinator Betty Dornan thanks volunteers who staffed the History Building during the summer.



**&
thanks**

To Barbara and Jay Vincent for donating an original copy of the 1966 "A proposed Regional Park on San Francisco Bay" a park that has come to be!

&

To Marie Dietz for planting flowers in the Santa Fe Railroad's wig-wags.

&

Our usual

Thank You!

to

**Santa Fe Market
and
Point Richmond
Market**

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

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

Museum Hours:

**Thursday 11:30am - 2:00pm
Saturday 11:30 - 2:00pm**

Gary's Page

Gary Shows

Yep, summer has gone by much too quickly and I have to admit that I had a little bit of trouble "getting into" this issue but I think it turned out pretty good after all. Thanks to contributors for your timeliness.

I am very happy to report that Dr. William Thompson has come up with some more memories to share with us. You will find the first installment on the center page of this issue. Thanks Dr. Thompson!

Also you will find this issue to be rich in small contributions from quite a few people. I like that, keep it up, if you have a memory that others might be interested in, no matter how small or from what period (memories from ten years ago can be just as interesting as memories sixty years ago) please send it to me.

The deadline for the November issue is October 17th with an anticipated date of assembly October 29th.

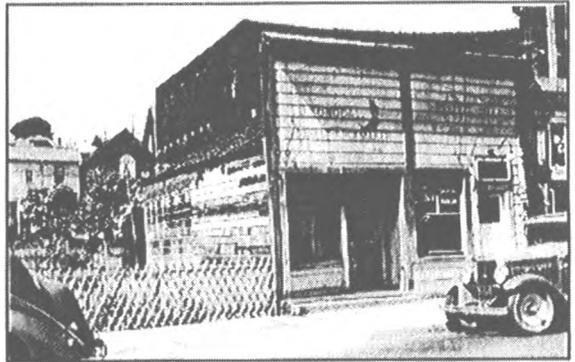
Thanks to the Summer issue assembly crew:

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

Extra Pics:



Looking up at Golden Gate Avenue



Richmond Supply Hardware

Pat Behrens points out through a newspaper clipping that the Coast Guard has for 30 years been using a cutter with the name of "Point Richmond". It is now being transferred to Ecuador and getting a new name, "24 de Mayo". Does anyone know more about this vessel?

The Cover:

Hey, don't ask me....this one's all Allan Smith's do'ins!

A-Mid TRIVIA

-Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question: In what year was Social Security started for the retired? What year did SS include widows and children?

Answer at end of Trivia.

A man had been pulled over to the curb for speeding. The police officer, pad in hand, snapped, "OK! what's your name?"

"Vladimarsky Yubanowitz Merkowitskyavics," the driver replied.

"Well," said the policeman slowly as he pocketed his pad, "don't let me catch you speeding again."

By the time school opens, students attending Washington School will be welcomed back to see a long overdo, freshly painted building. The school district's bare-boned budget doesn't provide flowers but maybe some local home gardeners could provide some inviting color for the front of the school.

Reba Downs and children, Colin and Julia, from Colorado Springs visited her brother Larry Slagle and family. They also spent a few days visiting grammar school classmate Kathy Barnes and children, Clay and Emily, from Mississippi who spent a month at the family summer cabin on the Russian River.

It takes less water to cook spaghetti than it takes to clean the pot!

The scaffolding is down, new copper gutters are in place, woodwork has been painted and the silver ball and cross atop the steeple of the historic First United Methodist church in the Point has been reinstalled. Let the winter rains come! A costly \$94,000 repair to a roof that was originally put in place in 1906 when the entire building cost \$11,000.

Speaking of the church roof. Now members are raising funds to pay for it. Don't miss the Saturday, September 6th "Centennial-minus-three-years-Ball" to be held in the Gates Building. (former Odd Fellows Hall) It is more like a party than a Ball with a fashion show through the ages, a silent auction, lots of food, and more. For more info, call 236-0527.

You gene savvy people knew that the letters DNA stood for deoxyribonucleic acid! Right?

Seismic retrofitting of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge will cost \$300 M and is expected to be finished in 1999. Current daily traffic is about 58,000 cars a day, a 344% increase since 1965.

Carla Beckersley, Will and Laura spent an afternoon at the Rod and Gun with the David Bradshaws during their visit here from Ohio before traveling to Southern California for the 60th Wedding Anniversary of Tony's grandparents.

Coming from Australia, where she has lived 12 years but still a Royal British subject, Elaine Dornan arrived in time to see how Americans celebrate Independence Day! She entered the spirit of the day by donning an

American flag printed vest and headband and joined the festivities of a sack race, three - legged run, watermelon eating contest, egg toss, etc. Full treatment included spectacular fireworks before she headed back to Manchester, England several weeks later.

A penny still has some worth in San Mateo where the oft maligned one cent piece buys 3 minutes of parking time in a meter.

The Treasury Department has announced it will release a new \$50 bill this fall to reduce counterfeiting. An enlarged, off center portrait of President Ulysses S. Grant on the front of the note is the most visible difference. A large number "50" on the back will help people with poor eyesight. The color changing ink looks green when viewed straight on, black at an angle. About \$46.5 billion in \$50 bills are now in circulation. Other currency denominations

the \$10, \$5 and \$1 bills will be revamped later.

That chocolate-covered ice cream bar, Eskimo Pie, celebrates its 75th anniversary with boxes that replicate vintage designs from the 20's. The first such bar in the U.S., it was created by a teacher and candy maker in Onawa, Iowa.

Kids return from summer camp with such an interesting wardrobe-some of it theirs.

Good judgment comes from experience, which comes from poor judgment.

ANSWER TO TRIVIA: The Social Security Act was passed in August 1935. Contributions were first withheld in 1937 and benefits first paid in 1940. Benefits to children of deceased and retired workers and to widows began in January 1940.



Ferry Point

This Point....in time

Allan Smith's Point

I had to read realtor Jan Feagley's *Focal Point* to find out where the late Lou Mighetti received the nickname "General". It was because of a 'swagger stick' he carried on his daily walks around the Point. We all knew Louie from our early childhood Point days and found him to be a quiet and wise man. When asked for his memories of the Point, he would always answer, "I can't remember!". One thing, Louie never had to work for anyone except his father at the Piemonte Hotel on Railroad Avenue, the original foundation to that building is still there.

I asked Louie, after World War Two, what ever became of the five foot framed oil painting of "September Morn" that was displayed at the Piedmonte Hotel Bar where this 10 or 12 year old paper boy first started to admire oil paintings. It was stolen! Louie's father's name was Oddone Mighetti and we used to think it was cute to tease the old man by saying Pete! Pete! Wash your feet!!!



Jim Eakle, Point Richmond resident, passed away on July 31, 1997. An impressive Memorial Service was held at the First United Methodist Church in his honor. I remember Jim very well when he was in Richmond Union High School and during his thirty two years residing in the Point. He was a good student, well liked and a good athlete excelling in the

track and field events, namely the high jump where he reached over 6 feet at times and was a winner in the 880 yard races.

Jim's father came to Point Richmond in 1901 and was associated with the Tilden Lumber Company as manager. He was also a Director of the First National Bank of Richmond. Jim Eakle's father managed the first hardware store in Richmond located at Second Street and Macdonald.



William R. Zanzi died August 15, 1997. He was born and raised in Point Richmond. Bill was a good friend of my younger brother who used to visit them in their family home. I remember he had to have to bend down to enter the room as he was one of the tallest boys ever born in the Point. Bill was 6 feet 8 inches tall.

Bill's father was one of the early Key System Motormen operating the streetcar from Hayward to Richmond. One of his brothers, August, was a Richmond Police Officer.



Have you heard of the California Navy? How about the San Francisco General Strike in the year of 1933 when the city was shut down completely? Well, it seems that the ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Comp.) in various East Bay High Schools were "drafted" into what was termed the "California Navy" during

the general strike. They were supplied with small vessels and equipment to patrol the San Francisco and Oakland waterfronts and maintain peace.

For more detailed info on the above subject see Hal. Hal is the gentleman you see walking through the tunnel, usually about 6:00 am on his daily constitutional to the stores downtown while smoking his pipe. He is a Native Son of the Golden West and has a world of history of the East Bay area.



If you don't know what the Richmond Kaiser Shipyards looked like during World War Two, just go down to the Marina Bay area and look at all the new condominiums being built. It looks just like the shipyards!



On July 7, 1997, while watching Dan Rather's news program on TV Harry Smith was filling in a Rather was in China for the British

"Going Home" party. I was surprised to hear Harry Smith say the following:

"Across San Francisco Bay, in the town of Richmond, a run-down city, an interesting program is being presented by resident Jack Scully. This program is presented to Richmond youths to motivate themselves enough to get a free college education. So far, \$25,000 has been invested"

Did I get this correct? If not I would like to be corrected.....please advise.



One of the prizes that was awarded at the August 31st Our Lady of Mercy Church Annual BBQ was a San Francisco Bay cruise aboard the S/V Nehemiah for 15 persons. This beautiful 50 foot wooden ketch is owned by Joni and Ron Phillips of the parish. The vessel is U.S. Coast Guard certificated. Ron is a captain on one of the Crowley San Francisco Bay Cruise ships. The boat is docked adjacent to the Salute Restaurant in the Marina.



This Point....in time

Church News

Our Lady of Mercy

Dee Rosier
232-1387

Our Lady of Mercy was one of the churches in the Oakland Diocese that met its goal for the third consecutive year in contributing to the annual Bishop's appeal to support ongoing ministries of local churches.

Cynthia Young continues to take the honors. On May 23 she became the youngest Grandmother in the Parish. Her daughter, Dawn gifted her with a grandson, congratulations to all.

Old news but still important to share -Grand Knight, Adolph Brossard and Knights of Columbus parishioners, Alan Smith, Dean Smith, Frank Smith, Loren Smith and Luciano Forner placed American flags on the graves of over 500 veterans buried at St Josephs Cemetery.

Our collection taker, Tony Ferreira continues to recover after foot surgery. Doty Perry had skin grafting on her hands let's pray it's a take this time. Prayers for Benny Garcia undergoing cancer surgery.

On May 25, 1997, our Pastor, Jim Clift celebrated 40 years as a Priest. Father Jim was born in Chicago and ordained in 1959 in Dubuque, Iowa. He was previously pastor in Houston, St. Paul, Chicago, Fremont, San Lorenzo, Concord, Piedmont, Walnut Creek,

Oakland, and San Leandro. He was a Chaplin in the U.S. Navy and Brookside Hospital.

Speaking of Priests, Rev. Milton Terry, Pastor of the Point Richmond Episcopal Church (now Linsley Hall) was my husband's Uncle. He and my Father-In-Law (Levi Rosier) came out from Wisconsin together in the early 1900's.

It's Summer and vacation time. Recently enjoying out-of-state vacations:

Anna Schwarz, Betty Conception, Angie Kirkpatrick, and Martin and Annette Jemo. Visiting here from Minnesota is Brenda McKinley's sister.

Visiting our Parish recently was Father Art Willis, a Maryknoll Missionary who spent 44 years in Tanzania. Also visiting was Father John Klopke, Missionary of the Society of the Precious Blood.

Recent baptisms at Our Lady of Mercy:

Alyssa Cheryl Salazar, daughter of Joe Salazar and Chery Medina. Joe and Cheryl were married at Our Lady of Mercy in 1991.

Thomas John Arouge, son of John and Shirley Arouge. nephew of our late Pastor, Father Denis.

Sonya Christine Peters, daughter of Amy Esquivel and Shannon Peters. The Esquivel family are well known parishioners.

Emilio Joseph Virgo, son of Joseph

Virgo and Martha Ramirez. Martha grew up in our Church and was married in 1991.

Welcome little ones to the Christian world.

Our annual BBQ will be held on August 31. Parishioners have been busy working on the mailings. Our thanks to Ina and Al Rife, who furnished the mailing labels and made our jobs easier. Various committees continue to work on other important aspects of the BBQ. This is the only fund raiser during the year. We are in need of a new roof and the proceeds will defray the cost of a newton . Mass on August 31 will be at Noon.

Recent rewards attending Sunday Mass are new young faces who have joined our Parish. It also does the heart good to see Rauly Esquivel assist Father on the altar and Rauly's son Timothy as Altar Boy.

See you in church and at the BBQ.

Point Richmond Methodist

Jean Reynolds
235-2988

The new roof is gorgeous! We are so relieved to have our historic church building protected from the weather. . . We continue to be blessed with friends who donate what they can to the roofing fund, and with members who organize FUNd raising events.

The Summer Adventure Fair, God's Kids in Action, was a big success this year. Puppeteer and clown Linda Brooks directed puppet shows each day with the help of Ellie

Eagle (Heather Damon), Barbara Bunny (Bethany Reynolds), Gary Gopher and Daniel Tiger (David Reynolds), Jessica Horton (herself) and Cool Cat (Gill Stanfield). Jean Eger, Fran Smith and granddaughter Frances, and Jean Reynolds taught classes. Jean Eger led craft activities; everyone especially enjoyed the tie-dye project! Anne Goetsch taught some fun games, Melissa Brady served refreshments, Pastor Dan Damon led all of us in song, Melba Farley, Marian Hawkins and Kristi Johnson provided refreshments, Claudia LeGue and Elizabeth Meixell came on Friday to prepare and serve lunch. On the Sunday morning following the Adventure Fair, Madison, Taylor, and Jackson Bradshaw, Iris Towery, and Emily Goetsch joined the regular puppeteers to tell about the week through a puppet show presented in worship.

A memorial service to celebrate the life of Jim Eakle was held at the church on August 6. Jim's family, friends, students and colleagues shared remembrances and mourned his passing.

On the Calendar:

Century Ball: Minus Three and Counting: Join us for an evening of music by the Dan Damon Trio, dancing, refreshments, a stroll-through-history fashion show, and a silent auction, all to benefit the roof fund. When? Saturday, September 6, from 7 :00 - 10:00 PM. Where? The Gates Building, 117 West Richmond Ave., Point Richmond. Cost? \$15 per person. Send a check or reservation request to Claudia LeGue, 135 Buena Vista Ave., Pt. Richmond, 94801.

Joyful Noise Choir Rehearsal Resumes: Wednesday, August 27, 7:00 PM.

Directed by Virginia Cherniak.

Angel Choir Rehearsal Resumes:

Saturday, September 6, 9:00 am. Directed by Pastor Dan Damon.

Sunday School Starts:

Sunday, September 7. There will be a kick-off breakfast for students, teachers and their families. Call 235-2988 for details.

GRIP Harmony Walk for Hunger.

Saturday, October 18. The Greater Richmond Interfaith Program's annual fund-raiser to support the Richmond Souper Center, various food pantries, and CROP overseas hunger-relief project.

Country Faire Holiday Craft Bazaar:

Friday and Saturday, Oct. 24, 25.



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 28th installment.

June 2nd (1925)

Mrs. Campbell and Mrs. Harris hostesses. Meeting called to order by President. Minutes of previous meeting read and approved.

Mrs. Beckley reported on Men's diner.

\$18. rec'd on dinner

16.76 expense of dinner

1.24 left

Report on Luncheon

Expenses \$21.33 and Ice Cream estimated \$6.00 - total \$27.33. Moved, seconded and carried to levy an assessment of 50 cents per member to degrey expenses of Improvement luncheon. \$5. assessments paid.

Meeting adjourned.

Erene Conn Mythen

Sec

From our own Madeline Albright!

Our Secretary of State has the same name as me. It has been very strange as there has been times when I have my television on and am distracted and shocked because I hear my name as someone doing something very important. Every now and then my friends call me and say that they just heard my name on TV.

So I decided to write to our distinguished Secretary of State and inform her of what she is doing to me. To my surprise and honor, I received a response and thought that it was really nice.

Thoughts on Kid's Day

Betty Glass Marshall

Jerry Cerkanowicz grinned from ear to ear as he warmly greeted Louella Wilcox and I as we sat down to chat with him at the "Kid's Day" on May 18th. Every year the affair gets better, I swear!

The new microphone made perfect headway as Mid Dornan called the meeting to order. What a fun group this has turned out to be. There are still kids of the Point that haven't attended as of yet for a variety of reasons.

Thanks to Mary Rudolph for the tour of the Richmond Museum of History where so many interesting facts of yesteryear. I was particularly captivated by the "Salt Water Station" and remembering the sights and sounds of the trolley taking people, equipment and barrels out to the Standard Oil Tankers. There it was, an actual replica of a scaled down model tanker. On the reverse side was a cut away to allow us to see the below decks where kerosene was shipped in barrels long before gasoline was produced.

I feel privileged to have lived in this corner of the world as a kid. The bare but beautiful poppy and buttercup covered hills are now covered with houses, but if you stand on your toes in many places you can still see the bay between them. Mid Dornan took us to see Brickyard Cove, 25' lots but to build there means stilts for most of the homes since terra firma extends into the bay and now one can build in front of you there. You can even have a dingy where a basement would have been and

for the most part, NO LAWN TO MOW! Very exclusive, very different.

Some of us went to the Hotel Mac for an enjoyable extended chat and later ate dinner upstairs. Excellent food! What a memorable occasion this was.



More Memories From Dr. William L. Thompson

William L. Thompson, often called Louis by his friends, was born in Point Richmond on February 17, 1909, lived on Scenic Avenue, graduated from Richmond Union High School and was the first native Richmondite to go through medical school. Dr. Thompson began his practice in 1940 at 9th and Macdonald, later moving to 32nd and Macdonald until that building was sold, at which time he moved to an office on Broadway. In 1979, at the age of 70 and after 39 years, he retired officially from medical practice.

In earlier issues of TPIT Dr. Thompson intrigued us with his vivid memories of the Point's early years. Thank you to the Doctor and to the folks that have talked him into giving us more of his wonderful memories here is the first installment.



My father and mother moved to Point Richmond in 1902 from Sacramento. I was born in the Point in 1909 and my brother Chet in 1910. I can recall things back to about 1912 or 1913.

The first modern settlements in west Contra Costa area was the Spanish ranchero of the Castros and the Alvarados. There were only a few squatters in the area before the Santa Fe built its terminal here before 1900. Because of the railroad, much open land, and a waterfront, the Standard Oil Company built its western refinery here in about 1900. The Santa Fe also

built the first residential community for its employees. This was East Yard. There is a mistaken opinion that this was Point Richmond. According to my father East Yard was just south of the Santa Fe in the area where Atchison Village was built during the 2nd world war. This had easy access to the plant for employees.

I seem to recall that the first street car line into Point Richmond came down the South side of the Santa Fe tracks. The street car lines from Oakland had to make a wide circle to get to Point Richmond because of the extensive marshes and large area of Santa Fe property.. There was no Ashland Ave. (now Garrard Blvd.) at that time for the car line to use.

A peculiar little memory is of the jitney buses. After automobiles had gotten a start, some of the car owners tried to make a little money by supplying transportation. They would drive their cars along the street car lines before the street cars and pick up passengers and drive them on for a nickel. A nickel was called a jitney in those days so they were called jitney buses. They were not taxis and they only ran along the street car lines.

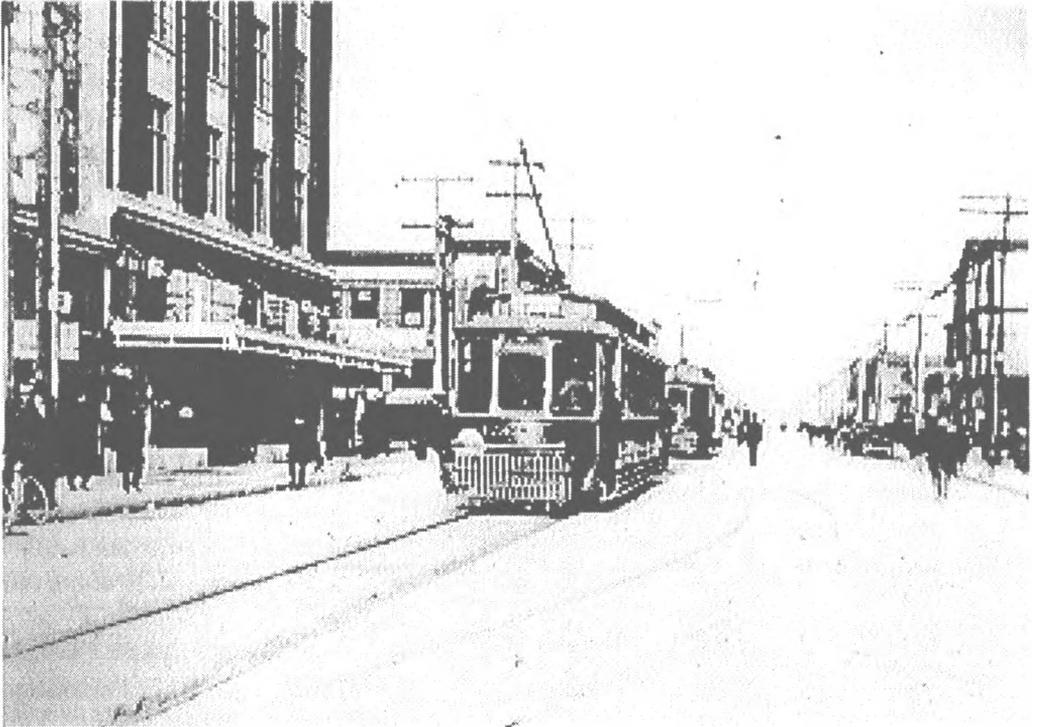
There used to be many parades in Richmond and Point Richmond. I have told you of many during the first world war. Also there were parades at most holidays. However, there

was a peculiar one that occurred on New Years eve that I vaguely remember. It was called "The Horribles". My mother said that it was present also in Sacramento when they lived there. The parades usually went down Macdonald Ave. then Garrard Blvd and into Washington and Park Place. This peculiar horrible parade consisted of people walking, riding in wagons and dancing. Paraders were in outlandish costumes. I was very small at the time and don't remember very well. However, one I did remember was a man dressed in a black skin-tight costume with a big top knot. He was supposed to resemble a south sea cannibal and danced around in a threatening manner waving a black spear. He terrorized the kids.

There was another parade that I recall when I was about in Junior High School. I think it was on the fourth of July. The usual feature was that the KKK marched. The city said that they could march but could not wear masks. There usually were memorial day

parades and meeting at Sunset View Cemetery were Spanish American War veterans fired three volleys. My father, a Spanish American War veteran, was usually among them. Also around Memorial Day, members of the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) often visited the schools and spoke on patriotic subjects. These were Civil War veterans.

The growth of the radio exterminated "extra" newspapers. When some important event occurred they would put out a hurried extra edition which sold on the streets for 5 or 10 cents. Newsboys were sent out to sell them and even the residential areas were shaken by the sound of "Wuxtry Papaw"



Streetcar at 6th Street and Macdonand Avenue, 1909

*David Vincent
and Lucrecia
Edwards at
dedication of
Ferry Point
Park.*

*Photo by Jerry
Cerkanowicz*



Dime Store Icon Closes

Mid Dornan

Another American icon is closing, F. W. Woolworth's five-and-dime stores. They existed during a time when a penny as well as a nickel bought something. I have many memories of the store partly because it was where my scarce childhood monies were spent and where I could 'finger' wishful objects. The lighting was dim and the wooden floors were worn. Arrays of tempting items you could actually afford to buy included the cheap perfume, *Midnight in Paris!* Or a favorite, *Orange Blossoms!* Natural Tangee lipstick was the first lipstick my mother allowed me to wear.

Remember the (glass) birthstone lockets with matching bracelets or the friendship rings? You could find almost anything in the dime store: needles and thread, pots and pans, tools, knick-knacks, toys, clocks, lamps, shower curtains, yardage! Numerous candy bins allowed you to walk around the four sides of the counter trying to choose five or ten cents worth and there was a plethora of penny items such as the packaged walnut or strawberry

candy, four squares for a penny.

One Christmas my daughter, Pat, who was about ten, gave me an emerald cut glass stone silver ring from Woolworth's on Macdonald Avenue that cost \$2.00. It was impressive under a fluorescent light, didn't turn my finger green so I wore it often. The next Christmas Jean Allyn showed me a gorgeous emerald cut diamond her husband Hank and given her explaining how she had always admired my ring. Imagine her surprise when I revealed the source of mine. I still laugh about the rings.

When Woolworth's opened their soda fountain, lunch counter, the tempting huge chocolate layer cakes under the see covers proved to be my magnet. But, disappointingly, the cakes never tasted as good as they looked! Their grilled cheese sandwich with two pickle slices and a few potato chips was the best on the menu.

In recent years Woolworth lost its marketing ability but I am sad to see it close. It was for many what a Mall is to today's youth. I will miss them.

Anne Hanzlik
Reviews
The Masquers Production

The MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE
presents
NEIL SIMON'S
**LAUGHTER
ON THE
23RD FLOOR**

Directed by Jeff Seaberg
Stage Manager
Eric Fosselius
Assistant Director
Jan Brown

Costume Design
Tammara Plankers
Production Manager
Robert Hamm
Scenic Design
Monty Milano

Lighting Design
Don Hansen
Properties
Marsha Hansen
Sound Design
Jason Matsuoka

August 22 through October 4, 1997

Neil Simon is the familiar author of a long list of plays and movies and the ubiquitous TV shows.

The Masquers current Simon offering is one of the lesser known plays of this prolific writer.

"Laughter on the 23rd Floor" is essentially a single focused study of a motley group of comedy writers, Neil Simon among them gathered in a nondescript office room (cum writers meeting workshop) to produce a 90 minute comedy show for television. The actual show was "Sid Caesar's Show of Stars".

"Laughter on the 23rd Floor" has essentially

The MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE
presents

NEIL SIMON'S
**LAUGHTER
ON THE
23RD FLOOR**

Directed by Jeff Seaberg
FRIDAY & SATURDAY EVENINGS
AUG. 22 - OCT. 4, 1997
Sun. Matinees: Sept. 7, 21 and 28

This latest Simon hit is about the team of off-the-wall comedy writers who create the big Saturday night TV show of the 50's. They wrestle with network interference, shrinking budgets, and a brilliant but crazed star as they produce unending "Laughter on the 23rd Floor." Adult language.

THE CAST

Tim Beagley • Scott Campbell • Sean Casey
Terisa Greenan • Rob Hardie • Jeremy Koerner
George McRae • Sal Russo

24-Hr. Reservations: 510 232-4031

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

Box Office opens 8PM; Matinees 2PM.
Curtain 8:30PM. Matinees 2:30PM.
Admission \$9 cash, check or credit card.
Group Rates available.

MASQUERS DINNER & THEATER BENEFIT

THURS., OCT. 2
DINNER at Hotel Mac
And "LAUGHTER..."
\$25. Call: (510) 236-4988

no plot, just a setting for a barrage of one liners delivered by several men and one woman. One character, Lucas (Tim Beagley) serves as the commentator as the various writers are introduced to the audience. They all contribute their own brand of humor in one liners for the audience of Max Prince, the comedian who is going to deliver the show. He takes stage center, sans pants but draped with an overcoat while his trousers are sent to the cleaners by his fluttering secretary Helen (Mary Nitscheke). Max is rather incoherent because of the effects of drugs and liquor.

The era of the play is accentuated by references to Senator Joe McCarthy and his witch hunt for suspected communists in the

government, i.e. George Marshall. As well as Princes' concern for the execution of the suspected spies, the Rosenbergs.

The focus of the plays two acts are on a comedy show despite these political allusions.

As usual the first night audience was wildly receptive despite the rapid fire delivery that made some of the lines hard to understand for the Masquers viewers.

If you are a devotee of Neil Simon you will undoubtedly enjoy the evening. All of the cast was, as usual accomplished in their delivery as their long tradition of amateur theater continues. More power to their over 100 members.



Sports Memories

by Allan Smith

Jim Cronin played in the baseball in 1929 for the legendary Connie Mack and his Philadelphia Athletics. Jim was born in Point Richmond in 1905 and was a direct relative to Jack Healy who resides with his wife Connie on Ocean Avenue. His minor league experience was with the Portland Beavers of the Pacific Coast League.

He later worked at the Richmond Standard Oil Refinery, while there he played ball for the refinery's "Twilight League" at the park located at First and Macdonald. As youngsters, we were always in awe of former big league professional players because big league baseball never reached the West Coast.



Kid's Day photo by Betty Glass Marshall

Know Your Cars

How many of these automobiles can you guess? Not all are on the free-ways today.

- 1 16th President
- 2 Crossing the stream
- 3 Grinding teeth
- 4 To evade something
- 5 A famous Eastern river
- 6 Discoverer of Mississippi River
- 7 A famous rock
- 8 Fluid used in thermometers
- 9 A famous Indian Chief
- 10 If one letter was added, you would have a male deer.

Answers: 1. Lincoln, 2. Ford 3. Nash, 4. Dodge, 5. Hudson, 6. DeSoto, 7. Plymouth, 8. Mercury,..9. Pontiac, 10. Buick.

Mid Dornan

CARDS & LETTERS

Dear Pam:

I am happy to renew my membership to PRHA. I truly enjoy each issue, it's great!

I especially enjoyed reading about the annual Kid's meeting and pictures. I did pick out Teresa Menegehilli, Betty Glass Marshall and Luella Bain Wilcox. I did know most all the names of those attended.

Thanks to Luella Bain Wilcox for her nice letter filling me in on the day, and postcard of Hotel Mac.

In the 51 years I've lived in Bemidji, Mn. I have been back to the Point 8 times. The Point will always be special to me and swimming at Kellers Beach and the Blake Brothers Quarry. Lake Bemidji is 4 blocks from my home so I never left the left the water or the sea gulls.

Keep up the good work.

As always,
June Kunkel Blackburn
Bemidji, MN

Dear Pam,

I will be celebrating my 90th birthday this year. Charlotte Woods and I were in the same class in school.

My childhood days in Pt. Richmond were very happy and will always be one of the highlights of my life.

Thelma Harvey
Orinda, CA



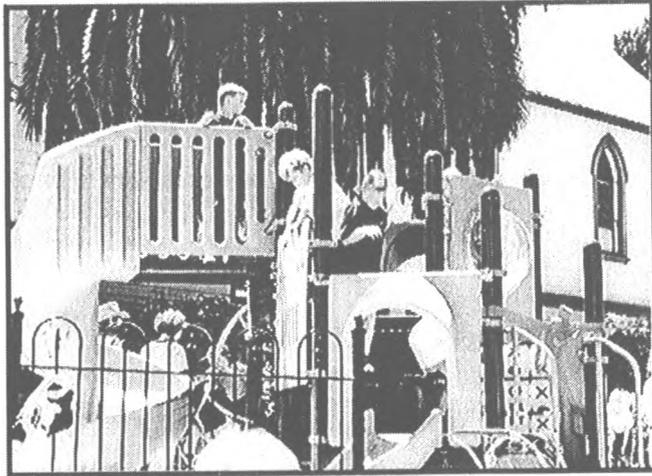
Barbara Vincent at Ferry Point Park Dedication.

Whoops!

We accidentally inserted membership expiration reminders in Betty Glass Marshall and Luella Wilcox when your memberships are actually paid up.

Sorry 'bout that Betty and Luella!

*Two parks were dedicated this summer
in Point Richmond!*



A renewed Janus Park



A new Ferry Point Park

"I Remember"

The picture of "The Skunk Holler Hillbillies" on the April issue cover brings back memories of my 1922 days in good ole' Washington School. I was in the 8th grade and the principal called us all together and told us the school would like to have an orchestra and all pupils who would like to help start the orchestra should bring their instrument in on Monday morning.

Billie Brown and I were trying to play the violin, so on Monday morning we arrived with other pupils bringing in about 20 different instruments. The only one I really remember was David Owens who played the tuba. Mr. Morris was our teacher and he played the clarinet. We had a real hard time getting together a small orchestra but we eventually did and did play at a few PTA meetings and really were not that bad.

I left for junior high in December and played for their orchestra through high school where Mr. Morris was still our teacher. Sorry, I do not know how the Washington orchestra did in years after my departure, would love to hear from some of the players.

Vivien E. Cook

P.O. Box 385
Fort Dick, CA 95538



We used to go clam digging in what is now the Inner Harbor. Believe it or not it was a good clam digging area! We would gather a bucket of clams, and mussels off the rocks. We would then get some fire wood, build a fire and steam our clams and mussels in a bucket of saltwater. Great eating and fun!

Some times Gypsies would come to the Point, with their horses and wagons and would camp near the Santa Fe tracks. All us kids were scared, there were stories about the Gypsies kidnapping children.

Bernard Bernes

161 E. Millan Street
Chula Vista, CA 91910

Roots (Revisiting the Point)

by Dorothy Lipp

It was a cold morning and the little blue oil heater was welcome relief for my sister and me. We grabbed our clothes and huddled as close to it as possible. The oatmeal was bubbling and mother's daily theme song could be heard from the kitchen, "Hurry, hurry, hurry, have you made your beds and brushed your teeth?"

Finally our cold hands jerked our clothes on and we reported to the kitchen where the wood stove burned brightly, almost as fired up as my imagination.

I had my first lesson in Social Science the night before. The Methodist Church and its annual Halloween party. The basement was decorated in corn stalks and pumpkins and a few spiders. The taffy pull was fun but the main event was the Ghost Stories with only the candle lighted pumpkins for light. We all cuddled up on the floor, next to our boyfriends. Even at ten years of age we made our selections. We could see the "older" girls getting a hug or a kiss and I couldn't wait to be initiated. For the moment we had other methods of showing affection. Stanley had been making 'calf-eyes', (my mother's expression) at me during Sunday school so I decided to ask him to help me clean erasers after school. That chore finished we would naturally walk home together. I had decided to me a dancer like Carrie Ellsworth, so I suggested we skip the next block. He was so uncoordinated he couldn't skip so of course he became angry; said that was 'girl stuff' and left the scene. End of first love affair.

Did better the next year, got a kiss (after a fashion) in the cloakroom. It was such a hurried affair, his lips puckered like a lemon and then he ran. I felt this love stuff was highly overrated. Pearl White and her co-star Cristen Hale seemed to find it so enjoyable every Friday night at the movie. I didn't want to go through the hassle though and poor old Pearl was left tied to the railroad track or hanging

from the bridge before he rescued her. Those old serials were more exciting than the "soaps" of today. They were the high point in the week, after I learned not to sit near Carl, who always brought an apple and munched on it all during the movie.

The piano player represented "art" to us. When he crawled down into the pit and turned his light on, the boys clapped and stomped and whistled. We could close our eyes and tell by the music when the horses were stampeding, or the cowboys were shooting it out with the Indians or it was a touching love scene. I know you can get a good Chinese dinner now on that hallowed ground, but it will always be the building that housed The Point Theater to me.

As I slowly strolled up the street I missed Trannie and Stevatters and C.L. Abbots office over the bank (where I sacrificed by tonsils) and the French Bakery. Happy the churches are intact. The Maxwell Hotel was closed to I missed the Napoleon I had anticipated. In memory I saluted the Cozy Candy Store, Neidecker Drugs and Ellis Dry Goods.

So also was the Baptist Church closed. That was where I thought I was being drowned, in the name of the Lord. My mother assured me I was to be washed in the blood of the Lamb. As far as I was concerned, being born again could wait.

I recalled an incident at the old Washington Grammar School. My teacher, Miss Whitehead suggested to Miss Lucas what I form a dance team of four girls. I lived to dance and thought we had the routine down pat. We did, during rehearsals, but one look at the audience and I hovered between hyper, nausea and amnesia. Once again I was to disgrace my mother, myself and the audience. I was fit only for fourth row back in the chorus. Definitely not star material.

A day of a hundred memories and I think I have much in common with the salmon - we never get over the instinct to go home again.

Deaths....

Carolyn 'Betty' Moore, died June 30, 1997 in Martinez. Age 63. Betty was owner of Jumbo's hamburger on Washington Avenue in the Point for 36 years. She is survived by daughter Dane Moore and Patricia Moore, Pinole; Kathrine Malone, Richmond; Elizabeth Zeier, Clear Lake; son John Moore, San Pablo. A foster mother to Jackson and Gilbert Soberal of Richmond, aunt to Larry Slage, El Sobrante and Reba Downs, Colorado Springs, Colorado.



Robert Raymond Casebeer died August 12th at his home in Point Richmond. He was 81. The Altoona, Iowa, native lived in Richmond more than 50 years and worked in the fishing industry most of his life, he was once an operator of a whaling station at Point Molate. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Tronnye Casebeer of Point Richmond; a son, Robert A. Case of Point Richmond; two brothers and two sisters, all of McPherson, Kansas.



James Kit Eakle, a painting and art history professor at Contra Costa College in San Pablo since 1951 died July 31st at his home. He was 76. The Oakland native was a 32-year resident of Point Richmond and member of the American Federation of Teachers. He is survived by his wife of 5 years, Laura Jean Eakle of Point Richmond; sons Matthew Stephen Eakle of Richmond, David Paul Eakle of Sebastopol and James Kit Eakle, Jr. of Washington, D.C.; and four grandchildren.



Frieda Mary Alonzo, a retired secretary, died May 27th in a Medford Oregon hospital. She was 77. She was a native and resident of Richmond until moving to Smith River six years ago. She is survived by her sons, Jerry Alonzo of Smith River and Jack Alonzo of Ceres; brothers, Caesar Frosini of Smith River and Al Frosini of Point Richmond; two grandchildren; and one great-grandson.



Gregory Leaf Williams, a maintenance mechanic with the Contra Costa County Housing Authority in Martinez died August 8th at his home in Martinez. He was 44. He was a native of Oakland and 42 year resident of Point Richmond. He was a member of the San and Sobe Harley-Davidson Motorcycle club and St. Paul's Episcopal Church in San Rafael. He is survived by his father, Asa Williams of Point Richmond; a foster-daughter, Carina Stewart of San Jose; sister Lisa Smith of Gainesville, Florida, and Candasa Crumb of Fresno; and a brother, Geoffrey Allen Williams of Berkeley.

September Birthdays

SUSAN ARMSTRONG
IVAR ELLE
SARA WARREN SMITH
EMILY ANNE BARNES
HATTIEBELLE POTTS
ROBERTA WILSON
BERNARD DIETZ
STEPHEN BERMAN
GAYLE KAUFMAN
JOHN HADREAS
DONNA ROSELIUS

JERRY CERKANOWICZ
THERESA DANIEL
JUNE KUNKLE
BLACKBURN
MARIE PECKHAM
DANIEL BUTT
JOANN BUSBY
WILL SPIERSCH
AL FROSINI
SHANE EASTMAN
MARY FORBES

INGVAR ELLE
ROXANNE TRUDEAU
DAVID REYNOLDS
JOHN T. KNOX
AL FROSINI
JOHN T. KNOX
NANCY EARDLEY
KENNETH DOLAN
JAN FEAGLEY

October Birthdays

TERRY WYNNE
FLORENCE WILSON
JEAN MOYLE SPIERSCH
MARGUERITE CLUTTS
ROSY ROSELIUS
JODI BAGLEY
JUSTIN KAUFMAN
TODD CORT
MARIAN TEDRICK

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

LINDA PEREIRA
TIMOTHY DOHERTY
JEFF WARD
MARIA INCHAUSPE SMITH
BRIAN TEDRICK
RICH WIERICK
CHRIS WARD
CHAD FEAGLEY
JERRY DANIEL



If you're gonna get old, ya might as well get as old as you possibly can!.



Calendar

September/October, 1997

September 1
Monday

Labor Day

September 10
Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting
Noon at the Hotel Mac

September 22
Monday

First day of Autumn

October 8
Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting
Noon at the Hotel Mac

October 10
Friday

Yom Kippur, begins at sunset

October 17
Friday

DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF TPIT

October 20
Monday

1984, Second Indian Statue is dedicated

October 26
Saturday

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00am , set your clocks BACK
one hour Saturday night

October 31
Friday

Halloween

November 4
Tuesday

Election Day

November 12
Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting
Noon at the Hotel Mac