

—THIS POINT—... in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

www.PointRichmondHistory.org

Vol. XX No. 3

November, 2001

\$1.50



*Early
Point Richmond*

*The Annual Holiday Tree Lighting
will occur at Indian Statue Park, at
dusk (around 5 P M), Saturday,
November 24th. The Methodist
Church Choir will join Santa Claus
to welcome the Holiday Season.
Join this neighborhood gathering at
the Indian Statue Park.*



From the President

By Mid Dornan

September 11, 2001! A day indelible in our history. A day of horror by terrorist attacks on American soil with massive destruction beyond description. A day more than 6000 innocent people lost their lives. On this coast, 3000 miles from the rubble and smoke, we watched, stunned and cried as our freedom was attack. We hurt. We've made it through the horror, the chaos and the fear with moments of pain and tears. We witnessed and felt something global, something personal in what we felt was a civilized world with civilized people. Other parts of the world have seen such terrorism for decades, but it is new to Americans. As we and the world seek out Osama bin Laden and the evil terrorists network, humanitarian aid is being sent to the suffering Afghani refugees that includes food, medicine, blankets and supplies to let them know the

Contents of this Issue

From the President	1
Members	2
Gary's Column	3
A-Mid Trivia	4
Church News	6
Sports Memories	11
Newspaper Clippings	12
Allan's Point	15
Westside Club News	17
Memories	19
Cards and Letters	20
Deaths	22
Birthdays	23



Early photo of the Point supplied by Allan Smith

war isn't against them. Americans remain united with a renewed sense of patriotism. Veterans say, "What did I fight for?" Courage, humane values and wisdom are still our greatest weapons against the evil we are experiencing. Everything we live through leaves some mark on us.

Thank you to the following renewing members:

Thomas Mercer-Hursh
James P. Kenny
Jack Mormon
Toni Cannizzaro
Lucretia Edwards
Alyce Williamson
John A. Bailo
Bernard Bernes
Lucile Meyer
Rosemary & Doug Corbin
Don Amantite
Beatrice Beesley Casey
Barbara & Jeff Ward
Evelyn MacDonald
Nellie Bisio Pasquini
Abigail Rivera
Kathe Keihn
Amelia Drake
Stewart E. Saunders
LaVerne Rentfro Woolman
Thomas Kenny
Anita Christiansen
Eugene & Martha Bielawski

A warm welcome to the following new members:

Sherri Mertle
James Kenny

WE HAVE NOTE CARDS FEATURING LOCAL HISTORIC HOMES

We have note cards with line drawings of homes for sale at our History Museum in the Point for the following addresses:

- 29 East Richmond Avenue
- 429 West Richmond Avenue
- 509 Washington Avenue
- 315 Western Drive
- 421 Western Drive
- 543 Santa Fe Avenue
- 458 Contra Costa Avenue
- 89 Scenic Avenue

Stop by and check them out.

Thank You!

To

Santa Fe Market

and

Point Richmond Market

For selling this newsletter.

To

Betty Dornan and the
Volunteers who open and
close our history museum on
Thursday and Saturday.

Gary's Column

Gary Shows (510-235-1336)

Sooooo busy these days I am lucky to get this newsletter out on time, and next issue is just 4 weeks away. Hope you enjoy this issue and as always I encourage your input, criticism, letters and participation. TPIT is what its readers make it, so stop procrastinating and send me those memories of Point Richmond. A good little escape into the past for you to do while the world is gripped with the challenges and tensions caused by September 11, 2001.

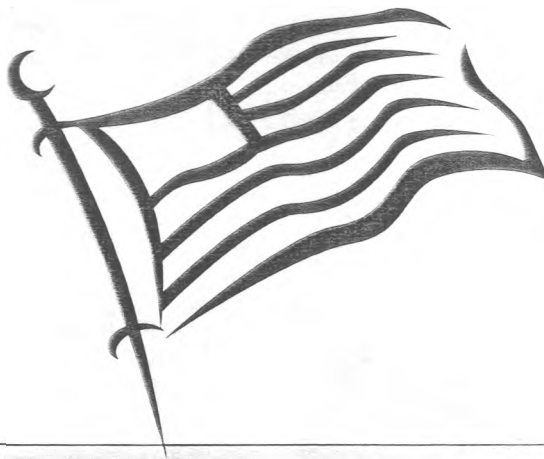
Thanks to all contributors for your

work in this issue.

The deadline is our shortest, for the December/January issue it is Friday, November 23, 2001.

The September/October issue assembly crew.

Jerry Cerkanowicz
Gary Shows
Mid Dornan
Liz McDonald
Mary Highfill
Pam Wilson



The Cover:

Thank you to Allan Smith for several images in this issue. Your photos have entertained and given visual pleasure to so many and will for years to come. Thanks for taking them and thanks for sharing them.

A-Mid TRIVIA

Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

The Question: Name the two states without sales or income tax? (Answer at end of Trivia.)

The Mirror, the Richmond Museum Association Newsletter for October 2001, features "Point Richmond - Its Building Blocks of Time" by Wilma Winter. It is to be presented in three installments. Nicely done.

Barbara Veirs, wife of Point barber John, ended her vacation trip to Arnold in September, by falling and breaking BOTH ankles which required surgery to reset.

Long time Point resident, Mary Forbes, has moved to Crockett to be nearer her daughter. Mary serves as Vice

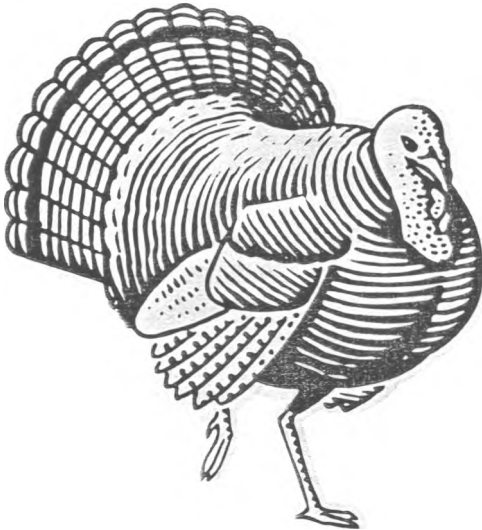
President of the Womans Westside Improvement Club.

It was a proud and pleased young girl that pointed to her name printed in the Masquers program of LaCage aux Folles. Ariana Peterson said she and her friend, Natalie Paasch, had helped with the set painting.

If you read Karen Hersherson's column in the West County Times on September 9, you would have learned David Dolberg is not only a true Point Richmondite but also one with visions and dreams for making Richmond a 'shoreline city' community. He also has visions for the Plunge. Visions are what make a city grow.

Is it Garrard Blvd? the Richmond Parkway? or both!

A new children's art and music picture book In My Grandmother's Garden by KIT EAKLE and illustrated by JEAN EAKLE published by MusicKit has just been released. Grandmother's Garden is located here in the Point and promotes music and literacy for children and is a colorful, delightful book for all ages. Contact Kit Eakle, 778 Western Drive or visit your local book dealer. If not in stock, the ISBN for the book is 0-9713194-0-5 BOOKPEOPLE.



Congratulations to two Point residents, Mayor Rosemary Corbin and Virginia Cherniak, who were honored for their many years of continued contributions to the Arts in Richmond. by the City of Richmond Arts and Culture Commission at the Richmond Convention Center.

Women account for 57% of those over 65 and 67% of those 85 and older.

The sounds of cellular phones is so widespread in Australia that some of the native birds are beginning to mimic the sounds. Australia has six so-called mimic birds which repeat the sounds they hear.

Claudia LeGue, just before heading back to Minnesota to be with her ninety year old mother who was to undergo surgery, severely cut her right hand and broke two fingers.

Linda Lanning has kept word of her wedding in February 2000 to Walt Marshall very low key. She claims to have 'eloped'(!) at St. Ignacious Catholic Church in San Francisco with Father Collins presiding. Linda is a kindergarten teacher at Hillside School in the Richmond School District and serves on many boards at USF and St. Ignacious. (It is not nice, Linda, not to inform your long-time-friends until so late!)

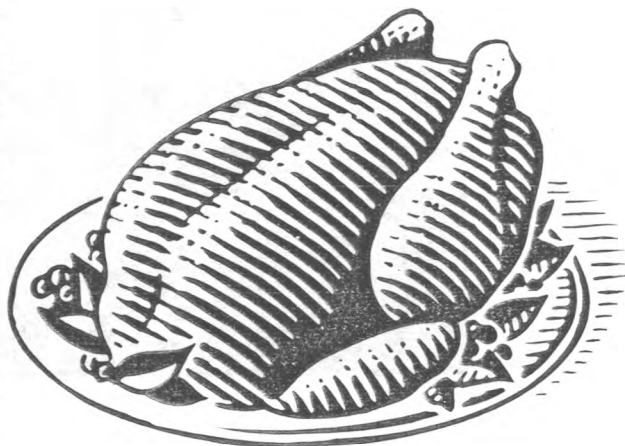
Is the Postal Service seeking to raise the cost of mailing a letter to 37¢ next year? The Mailers Council, a trade group that represents high volume shippers, predict the new increases would be

unlikely to boost postal revenues because they would most likely result in a decline in the amount of mail.

Lloyd Farley went to the podium of the Methodist Church on a Sunday in October to announce he and Melba were celebrating their 63rd wedding anniversary. Then, he proceeded to lovingly express love for "the lady in his life and the great joy she had given him for 63 years." A class act from a classy person. CONGRATULATIONS!

Cell phones and calling cards have cut into profits of high-maintenance phone booths. so Pac Bell has begun charging 50 cents, up from 35 cents, for local calls from its booths. Some companies have yanked out their pay phones. There are about 260,000 pay phones in California, including those of competitors.

Love your enemies, for they tell you your faults.



While the election will be over by the time this reaches you, those running for Mayor included: Tom Butt, John Marquez, Nat Bates and Irma Anderson.

By now, those eligible, have received their IRS tax rebate of either \$300 or \$600. What did you do with yours?

Our founder, Donna Roselius, will be in the area the first week in November with a show of her many talents.

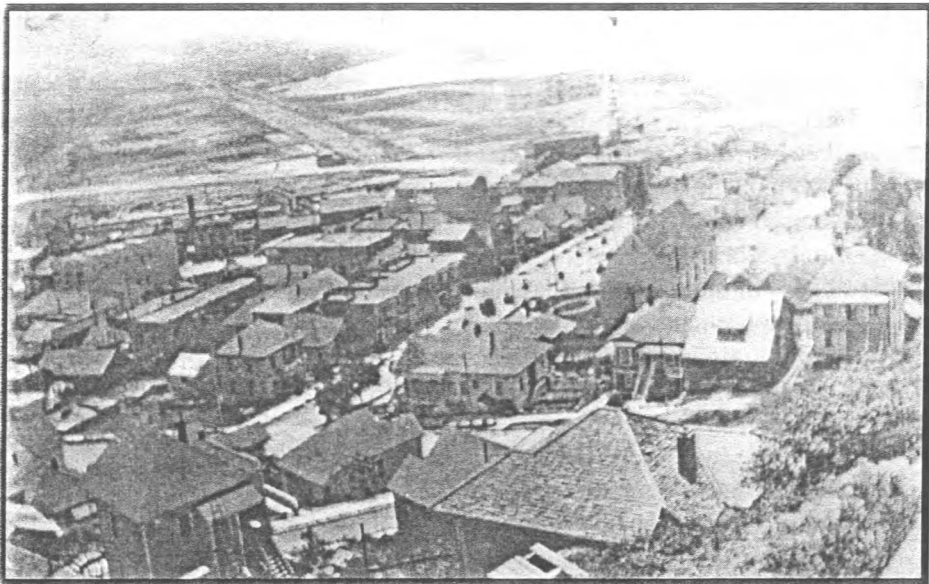
Isn't it convenient and nice to have Dental and Optometry offices in the Point? Paula Amus, O.D. held a grand opening in September of her new Optometry location at 110 Washington Avenue and people were able to view the new offices.

It isn't too early to mark your calendar on Sunday, December 9th, 5 P. M. for the Messiah, the historic Methodist Church's gift to the community.

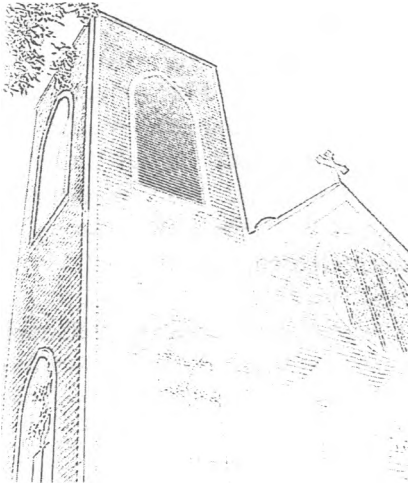
Or, enjoy a Masquer's Dinner Theatre Inspecting Carol at the Hotel Mac, on November 29th, for only \$28 and help provide camperships too. Contact Jean, 235-2988 for tickets.

Need a quick Christmas or hostess gift? We still have the beautiful ornaments of the Point History Association for sale, \$18 for members, \$20 others.

ANS: NEW HAMPSHIRE AND ALASKA. 45 states have income tax and 42 states have sales tax.



Church News



Our Lady of Mercy Church

By Dee Rosier
510-232-1387

Events of the day have played their toll on our daily lives. Suddenly what we had placed major importance on in our lives does not really matter. The patriotic songs we learned in grade school took on new meaning as we sang them with tears. Even though it is not Flag Day, they are proudly displayed in many neighborhoods. The Santa Fe Market gave red/white/blue ribbons to their customers. It is a time to draw on our faith

and renew our spiritual beliefs. God Bless America.

I predict it will be a cold winter – my cat, Vincent, is already sporting his winter coat.

Our Annual Parish BBQ was a success. We always worry so that all will go well, that the weather will cooperate, that the food is plentiful and good, that we have enough volunteer help and that the friends that show up each year will again this year, etc., and you know what, it all happened. We had a steady stream of people at the door and, as usual, Chano Forner and John Gerk were experts at the BBQ pits. We always look forward to seeing the familiar faces who each year grace us with their presence. This year's Chairman, Linda Lanning, left her back seat in church to stay up front and run the show. Our past Administrator, Msgr. Kraus joined us along with his Golden Girls and a group of members from his new parish in Orinda. All were delighted to see him, as well as our Methodist neighbors. Even though it was not held on the usual Labor Day weekend, it proved a success. Thanks to our local merchants for their generous donations, especially Bob and Marie Peckham (Santa Fe Market).

Speaking of Msgr. Kraus! Under his guidance the Parish Council attended parish council classes and, as a result, my name was given to receive the newsletter issued by the Diocese. The Diocese sponsors retreats,

classes, etc., that may be of interest to parishioners. In the future, as they are received, they will be posted on the bulletin board as you enter the church.

As part of their Quarterly Communion at local parishes, the Italian Catholic Federation, Branch 154, will attend Mass at our Lady of Mercy on November 18. Members from Our Lady of Mercy are: Chano Forner, Dennis Amantite, and I. Past members are Josephine Palancher, Amelia Drake and Varsie Lometti.

Cousins, Stacia Clutts and Raquel Ruiz enlisted in the Navy, and are stationed at Great Lakes Naval Base in Illinois. Their parents (Shirley Martinez) (Mary Ruiz) and grandparents (the Calvans) attended their recent graduation. Stacia's paternal grandmother is Marguerite Clutts.

Condolences to the Amantite family in the recent loss of their mother, Kathleen, who was a 70-year resident of Point Richmond.

Parishioners from Our Lady of Mercy have volunteered at the Souper Kitchen for the last 13 years. During the last church collection, we were able to donate \$530.00 to the Souper Kitchen.

Bible classes are being offered to anyone interested in deepening their knowledge of the Catholic faith. For additional information, please contact the rectory.

Bob and Marie recently spent some time in Lake Tahoe. Have you ever seen anyone happy about having stubble? Now that

his chemo treatments are complete, Bob proudly displays his stubble. This is a good sign that his body is now getting back to a normal setting.

The afternoon Small Christian Communities Group of our Parish has begun its fall program; they meet on Thursdays from 1:30 to 3:00 PM. If you are interested in joining the group, call Vince Kafka (232-3212). The evening group continues to meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM. For information on this group, call Steve Shaffer (232-1315).

Parishioner, Margo Patterson Santos recently hosted an art show at Contra Costa College. Margo showed her original works of art.

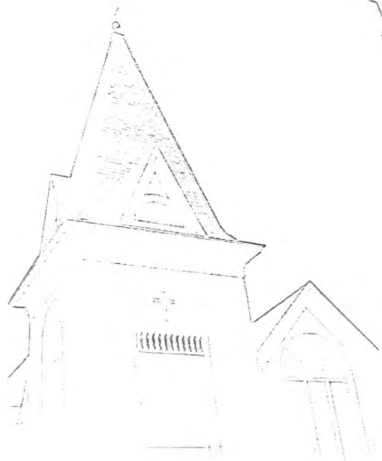
Walking at George Miller Park can be a real treat. The Pt. Richmond walkers have been keeping their eyes on a group of pelicans in the lagoon.

Many have put their vacations on hold, but not Chano Forner. He leaves at the end of November to board a schooner to Tahiti, more on that later.

Don't forget to set your clocks back at the end of the month.

I recently attended a class reunion meeting (the Big 50). The host came in and greeted us with, "Hello old people, what would you like to drink? I have three flavors of Ensure and a quart of prune juice!" The comments he received are not printable.

See you in church.



POINT RICHMOND METHODIST CHURCH

by Jean Reynolds

510-235-2988

jeanormr@pacbell.net

We met for worship in our new garden on September 30, and celebrated with music by the Dan Damon Trio, and the Joyful Noise Choir. About eighty people were there to share in the joy of the day. We sat in green garden chairs that were just delivered late that Friday. Remember the Sunday? It was the one with record high temperatures all around the Bay - - the high that day was 94 ° in Richmond. Pastor Dan's electric keyboard fainted in the heat, but

the bass and the drums went on!

There was a fantastic potluck luncheon after the service, and a book signing party with Kit Eakle and Jean Eakle. Kit sold copies of his new book, *In My Grandmother's Garden*, illustrated by Jean with vivid watercolor paintings of her Point Richmond garden and the Bay. Jean's granddaughter, Aubyn, is the main character. The book is set to music and comes with a CD so children (and adults!) can play it and sing along. Matt Eakle is featured on the CD playing the flute, and Laurie Lewis sings the lyrics. It is a wonderful tribute to love of family, music and art, and is available for purchase at the Santa Fe Market if you don't have your copy yet.

The September 30 service is just the first of many opportunities we will have to use our new garden space east of the church on West Richmond Ave. It is available to all during the week as a quiet place to sit or to walk the labyrinth.

During the chaos and uncertainty following the September 11 attacks, the sanctuary was kept open during the day for people to use as a place for prayer and meditation. A community prayer service was held on the Friday after the attacks; those who attended had a chance to voice concerns for our community as well as for the world, and also to speak and hear words of hope and encouragement.

On October 3, the City of Richmond Arts and Culture Commission honored Choir Director Virginia Cherniak for her past and continued contribution to the art scene in Richmond. A community celebration, which included art exhibits and entertainment by

local talents, was held at the Richmond Civic Center. Virginia was honored for her work as a founding member of the Masquers' Theater group, but we appreciate what she has done for our church through her outstanding leadership of the choir.

Our congregation participated in the GRIP Harmony Walk to End Hunger on October 13. Tom and Shirley Butt, Pat Dornan, Melody Hastings, Claudia LeGué, Timi Pinter, and Jean Reynolds collected donations for the walk. The money collected supports: the work at the Souper Center, where lunches are served every day of the year in downtown Richmond; the various food pantries in Contra Costa County; and Church World Service, an organization which helps hungry people elsewhere.

Coming up on the Calendar:

Sunday, November 4, 5:00 p.m.: **Dick Hindman** returns for a solo piano concert. Dick has played with Stan Getz, Toots Thielmans, Manhattan Transfer, Clark Terry and Richie Cole. He has performed at the Monterey Jazz Festival, Yoshi's Night Spot, and Jazz at Pearl's (and at the Point Methodist Church!) He was musical director for San Francisco's American Conservatory Theater for six years, and has toured the United States, Europe, and Japan. He comes to us through his connection with Pastor Dan, who is his piano student. You don't have to be a jazz enthusiast to appreciate Dick's talent and personality. Take advantage of this chance to hear Dick Hindman in an intimate, local venue. Suggested donation \$10.

Thursday, November 22: **Community**

Thanksgiving Dinner, 11a.m. Interfaith Worship service followed by turkey dinner with all the trimmings, 12 noon to 2 p.m. Call Claudia LeGué 215-1813 or Juanita Hoffman 234-8052 if you would like to contribute food, or can help on the day of the dinner. Everyone is invited!

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 52nd installment.

Aug 16, 1926

Social League met at the home of Mrs. Owens. Mrs. Alexander assisted her as hostess. There were eighteen members present and three visitors.

Bills at Alberts, florists, and 87¢ to Mrs. Jones voted paid. Discussion regarding the continuance of the calender month followed.

The League is in favor of continuing in the same manner as before, and making no changes.

Election of Officers

Pres. Mrs. Holbrook

Vice Pres. Mrs. Redmond

2 Vice Pres Mrs. Alexander

Treas. Mrs Vloebergh

Sec. Mrs. Dingle

Mrs. Jones starts the reading of "The Man Nobody Knows." Previous Bal 30.05

Plate collect 2.10

32.15 Mrs. W. Schmidt, Sec

Sept 20, 1926

Sports Memories

By Allan Smith

In the 1939 RUHS sports was Andy Cakos, local great baseball player, his position was that of catcher. No runner tried to knock him over at the plate: Andy weighed over 200 pounds. Richard "Chub" Ervin also played ball as a good second baseman. In this 1939 class, on the swimming team, were LeRoy Williams, Sparky Allyn and Herb Collins. Berbie was a platform diver and Bert Childs of Point Richmond was the tennis coach for that year. The girls baseball manager was Point Richmond's Charlotte Doney and Ellen Cunan, also from the Point was a member of the Girls Athletic Association.

The 2001 baseball season is over and we anticipate a great World Series between the New York Yankees and the Arizona Diamondbacks. What do you think of the way some Big League players wear their uniforms? The pant legs are dropped and grading on the ground and look terrible and as bad as the way some of the present high school boys wear their pants. Speaking of slack and pants worn by the high school kids, you should have seen the pats (cords) we used to wear! We bought them and were not washed until they could stand up by themselves. During the rainy season you can realize what occurred. Our mothers could not understand why we would not let them be washed. Check out LeRoy

(George) Williams picture in the 1939 Shield, he was wearing one of our coveted cords which had a brilliant shine to them. (Note: *The Shield* was the annual year book for the Richmond Union School).

The 1932 Richmond High baseball team was a successful one with Steve 'Legs' LeGault pitching; Les Scarsella, first base; and Brooks Holder, outfielder. They all became professional baseball players.

Point Richmond native and present resident, Jim Hurley, was the number one tennis player for the 1932 RUHS tennis team. Point native Phil Carlin was also a member of that team. Carlins' people had a store next to the old bank building (Sherry and Bob's) on Washington and West Richmond Avenues.

Steve LeGault was a good baseball pitcher. His father 'Pop' LeGault was a great friend of Richmond's youth and semi-pro baseball teams. He was always seen at Seawright Field (Nichol Park Baseball Field) at ball games smoking his traditional cigars. I played on his sponsored teams, "The LeGault Builders". Pop LeGault was the contractor for the building of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church Rectory or parish house. A great man who was loved by all.

Local Newspaper Clippings, Richmond - 1913 - 1932

I have this ring-binder that is full of yellowed original clippings from old newspapers. The hand inscribed front cover says "Local Newspaper Clippings-Richmond - 1913-1932". It has a documenting problem as that most of the clipped articles do not give credit to the source, most however seem to be from the "Richmond Herald-Record". I do not know who put it together. They are, however old, hand dated and interesting reading, spelling errors are not corrected here is installment #3. Gary Shows

RICHMOND CALIFORNIA



GRADY BOUNCED FROM COURT BY JUDGE FOR HIS LOUD TALKING

October 7, 1914

**Threatens to Dissolve Partnership
with Attorney Robenson if Case is
Continued, But so Far All's Well.**

International controversies were threatened today in the trial of Mike Rakovitch charged with having conducted a

"blind pig" when Police Judge Lindsey arose and ordered Attorney D.W. Grady to leave the courtroom. When that legal celebrity failed at once to comply with the magistrate's command, Chief of Police Walker was ordered to arrest him.

The argument which caused Grady's expulsion arose when City Attorney Hall appealed to the judge that Grady was using unnecessary language in his cross examination of Officer Elgerman, one of the witnesses, to which Grady replied that he needed no assistance, from outsiders.

As he was being pulled away from the counsel table he threatened a dissolution of partnership with Attorney Robenson, the junior member of the firm if he carried on the case.

When Grady had finally been ushered through the doors of the courtroom Judge Lindsey called upon Robenson to continue the case.

"I'm afraid that I am in a peculiar circumstance for the reason that if I let the case go it will be dismissed and if I carry it on I will no longer be a member of the firm," said Robenson.

"Whaddymean?" "You'll be dropped from the firm?" asked the judge. "Either continue the case or I'll drop it."

And with that Robinson took up the cross examination reins where his senior partner had dropped off.

WILEY APPOINTED DRIVER OF NEW PATROL WAGON

November 24, 1914

After considerable dispute last evening the Council adopted the recommendation of Chief of Police Charles Walker that Oliver Wiley be appointed to the position of driver of the new patrol wagon which is expected to arrive in Richmond about the first of December. The appointment will take effect upon the arrival of the motor wagon from the east and the salary for the position was fixed at \$99.00 per month.

The only opposition to the appointment was made by Councilman Ludewig who claimed that he did not want to see the council take "snap judgment" upon the proposition. He contended that the car has not yet arrived and that there, were numerous other applications for the position. His chief grievance seemed to be that as a member of the police commission he had been ignored in the matter, and felt that it should have been discussed with him.

Chief Walker, stated that the slight was not intentional as he had talked with other members of the commission with reference to the Appoint of Wiley. And they seemed to be satisfied with the suggestion. He said that he had make an effort to see Ludewig, but had been unable to find him.

When a vote was taken all of the members voted to adopt the recommendation of the chief of police with the single exception of Councilman Ludewig.

CAPTIAN DRUGER MAKES EXTRAORDINARY FIND

March 18, 1914

Digs a mess of Clams on Mud Flats Near the Cutting Canal for His Supper and Discovers Gem Pronounced by San Francisco Experts fo be Worth Thousands of Dollars - Is Perfect in Shape and Color and as Big as a Large Marble - Will Be Sent to New York for Appraisement.

One of the most extraordinary finds in the way of gems was made in the neighborhood of the Cutting canal Monday evening by Captain William Kruger, of the dredge Richmond. Captain Druger has a penchant for stewed clams and Monday he collected a bucketful of the succulent bivalves and took them aboard the dredge to prepare them for his supper. He steamed the clams just sufficient to open them and when taking out the meat came across a large round pearl as big as a large marble such as the school boys of Richmond use for taws. The pearl was of a fine luster and perfect in shape. Captain Druger yesterday morning took his find to San Francisco and gave it into the keeping of H.W. Werse, who in turn submitted it to an expert, who pronounced the gem one of the most beautiful and perfect that had came under his observation for years.

The gem is of a pink color, so much prized by connoisseurs in precious stones, and has all the characteristics of a perfect gem.

It was decided by Captain Kruger yesterday, on the advice of the expert, to send the pearl to Tiffany of New York, the world's recognized experts, to submit the gem to a special treatment that will bring out and intensify its beauty. After undergoing this process the pearl will be appraised. The expert pronounced the gem to be worth from \$10,000 to \$100,000 dependent on its color after treatment.

The pearl, yesterday afternoon, was shown to a representative of this paper, and although that individual is not up on the subject of precious stones, it has all the appearances of being a beauty.

The clam from which the pearl was secured was dug near where the big dredge is at work on Cutting canal in the mud flats and it is quite possible that there are many others as large and valuable as the one Mr. Kruger found domiciled in the interior of other clams around Richmond.

In its purity, liquid beauty, and charm of romantic and poetical association the pearl, aristocrat of gem, leads over the peers of the highest rank, the diamond, emerald, ruby and sapphire. The sea gem has throughout all recorded time formed the fitting necklace of feminine royalty and famous beauty; the dusky Oriental potentates, and their principal treasurers

have been pearls.

In the technical literature of the United States national museum, the pearl is coldly and remorselessly comprehended under the generic term "carbonate of lime" along with the beautiful and less valued coral, which is also a product of the sea: and marble which concerns architects and sculptors, more than gem fanciers; and calcite and aragonite which are varieties of Satan spar and far down in the gem scale in hardness.

The beauty and value of pearls in grief, depend upon color, texture, or "skin" transparency of "water" luster, and form; pearls most desired are round or pear shaped, without blemish and having the highest degree of luster.

While individual pearls or strands of them may be worth a prince's ransom, their beauty and value are not immutable; pearls may deteriorate with age or be sullied by the action of gases, vapors or acids.

Pearls are found in nearly all bivalves with nacreous shell, that is, oysters, clams, etc.

It is expected that much interest will be aroused in Richmond over the finding of the pearl by Captain Kruger and it may be possible that others will attempt to find some of the beautiful gems of the sea on the mud flats along the waterfront.

RICHMOND CALIFORNIA



Allan's Point

By Allan Smith

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church will be having its Centennial Year in 2002. Parishioners, Nancy and Stan Toledo are in charge. They are looking for any information about our church that they can use. Parishioners Fred Siegmund and Stan Toledo came us with pictures of all of the former Pastors of our church. This created a lot of research because Our Lady of Mercy Church was closed during the Depression years and all records were lost. Parishioner Dolores Rosier is now writing for TPIT in regards to the Our Lady of Mercy Church in Point Richmond. I used to have the privilege after Marion Downey and Eleanor Hurly had the honors.

A petition in regards to the naming of the new middle school being built where the former Harry Ells High School was located in Richmond is being considered. The petition honors the late Patricia McKinley who attended Washington Elementary and later became a Judge in our court system. More on this in a later issue. There is a Patricia McKinley Foundation in Richmond that offers scholarships. Every year there is a fund raiser in the form of a crab feed. Brenda, Patricia's mother, is involved. At one fund raiser, I won a three foot hand-painted picture of a Buffalo Soldier. You will have to investigate a Buffalo Soldier as I did. I gave it to Brenda McKinley to donate to Washington School in memory of here daughter Patricia. Is it still there?

Ask the Point Librarian to get you a book written by Garrison Keillor titled "Lake Wobegon Summer 1956". In the book, Keillor mentions 'home haircuts'. My mother

was an artist with the hand hair clippers, much to my irritation. I worked at the Bath House (Natatorium/Plunge) making 30 cents an hour. I wanted to save enough to buy my mother an electric hair clipper. But, before I could save enough, Ardell Ciabattaries's Kozy-Koffee Counter got my money. I used to love his 10 cent hamburgers and 15 cent milk shakes. His place is now known as the Great American Hamburger. You should have seen the business transacted their on the day of the "Save the Plunge" fund raiser. That reminded me of the days the "Bath House" had big swimming events and other activities. Ardell Ciabattari used to make 300 dollars a day during the depression years at his Kozy-Koffee Counter.

Two of Point Richmond Native Sons passed away recently. Al Franco and Theodore Beck. We grew up with them and knew them well. Al Franco was very well liked and was a great friend of the late Robert Dornan. They were seen together frequently one very tall and the other considerably shorter. Ted Beck grew up on our side of the tracks (East Richmond) and used the Point tennis courts very much as he was a very good player. His dad was captain on the San Rafael Ferry boats.

Will the next Mayor or Richmond come from Point Richmond or will the Mayor become the third woman to serve our city as Mayor? I wonder what former Mayor, Jim Kenny, has to say about the recent turmoil that is existing in this coming November election for mayor. Jim Kenny was raised in the Point

and served as Mayor of Richmond. Kenny was involved in a very interesting campaign himself. We missed Jim at our recent Catholic Church Steak BBQ.

I have a question for our favorite and talented Point Librarian concerning the famous author, Rudyard Kipling. I have a book titled "Life's Handicap" by Kipling. On the front page is a circle with the "swastika" in the center, and his autograph, copyrite 1891. What does it mean?

Joannie and Rod Phillips are members of Our Lady of Mercy Church and are very musically talented. Joannie sings and Rod plays the organ and bag pipes. You may have heard them perform. Rod Phillips is related by marriage to Katherine Lee Bates. She wrote the famous "America the Beautiful" which is played very often these days. Joannie and Rod own the S/V Nehemiah

which is docked by the Salute Restaurant in Marina Bay here in Richmond. The S/V Nehemiah is a 57 foot wooden ketch which has been twice around the world. It is U.S. Coast Guard certified to 34 passengers and is available for charter. Rod Phillips is a licensed Captain and works on Ferry Boats on San Francisco Bay. I have a free two hour sail for 34 people which was donated by the Phillips' during a recent Our Lady of Mercy BBQ Raffle. If interested, please let me know?

The mystery photo published in a recent "This Point.....in time" is of Jim Forbes and Allan Smith, both native sons of Point Richmond. It was taken at the World's Fair on Treasure Island in 1939. From the looks on their faces it appears that they just attended the No. 1 most popular exhibit at the sSan Francisco World's Fair. It was "Sally Rand's NUDE Ranch".

Important History Grant to Richmond

The Richmond Public Library, the Richmond Musuem of History, and the JFK University Department of Museum Studies, working as partners, have been awarded a National Leadership Grant for Museum Library Collaboration form the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The grant award of \$199,325 will be used during a two year period to support the WWII Richmond, California, Home Front Digital Project.

The project will bring together text and images from local collections into a single website. The digital collection will be available to the public via the internet. In addition, access will be provided through public PCs located in the library and the museum, and in the planned visitor center of the new Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historic Park. Lois Boyle, the president of the Richmond Museum of History said, "The Richmond Museum of History has collected Richmond history since 1954 to preserve the legacy of those who lived, worked, and participated in the development of Richmond. Making our artifacts available to a world wide audience through virtual exhibits on the internet is very exciting. We are pleased that our collection relating to the role that Richmond played during World War II will be highlighted through the grant".

Updates about this grant may be viewed on the Richmond Public Library's web page:
www.ci.richmond.ca.us/~library

Westside Improvement Club News

by Alyce Williamson

For those who are not familiar with the Westside Improvement Club, it is a Women's Service Club that was founded in Point Richmond in 1908. It is now the oldest (I believe the only women's club) in the state as the Walnut Creek Club disbanded a couple of years ago.

The club meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month from September thru June (with the exception of January) in the Point Richmond Methodist Church Social Hall at 11:30 for lunch and socializing. Each member brings their own sandwich and a serving committee prepares and serves dessert, coffee and tea. A business meeting convenes at 12:15. Dues are \$10.00 a year.

Over the years some of our projects have been Many Hand of Washington School, Save the Plunge Fund, a bench at the corner of Washington and West Richmond (later stolen) and the Map of Point Richmond and display case at the corner of Park Place and West Richmond Avenue.

Once or twice a year we have a hot lunch for a nominal price to bolster our treasury. This is usually prepared by the officers and volunteers. It is open to members and guests. The month of December we have lunch at one of the local restaurants or have it catered. Each month we try to have a guest speaker to speak on a topic of interest to all.

Over the years our membership has slowly dwindled and we are presently actively recruiting new members. Since the club has been in operation for 93 years we very much would like to see it continue.

**NEW MEMBERS ARE NEEDED
AND MEMBERS ARE WELCOME FROM
ANY CITY.**

For information on membership call 510-233-3343 or 510-236-4421.

FYI, our Summer meetings:

September 11, 2001

The Westside Improvement Club met for the first meeting of the year 2001-2002 on the ill fated Tuesday. We were all deeply saddened by the terrifying events unfolding in New York and Washington, D.C. We each said our own private prayer for all the victims and their families and for our great nation.

The attendance was very small, I'm sure due to the tragic events. The following slate of officers was installed for the year 2001-2002: Anita Christiansen as President, Mary Forbes as Vice President, Marion Kent as Secretary and Sonja Darling as Treasurer.

The next meeting will be October 2, 2001. Serving committee will be Mary Highfill, Elizabeth McDonald and Alyce Williamson. The guest speakers will be Bill Vallivero and Richard Giodano from "The Incurable Collector" of Point Richmond. The topic will be your antiques, valuables and wills.

October 2, 2001

The Westside Improvement Club met in Point Richmond Methodist Church Social Hall. The decoration theme was Halloween set up by Mary Highfill. After an enjoyable lunch and dessert of cookies, chocolate cake and Liz McDonald's famous "Cracker Cake" there was a short time for socializing.

The business meeting was called to or-

der at 12:15 by the President, Anita Christiansen. The meeting was well attended and three new members were introduced: Marge Miller, Doty Perry and Dextra Christiansen (from Danville). Altha Humphrey attended at a guest of Dulcie Johnson. We are looking forward to her becoming a member.

Since many members were not present at the last meeting the President went over her agenda for the year again. Many ideas and suggestions for programs and projects were presented and discussed. Projects will be voted on at the November meeting.

The President introduced the guest speakers Bill Vallivero and Richard Giodano from "The Incurable Collector" of Point Richmond. They talked about the importance of wills and making explicit instructions as to whom you wish to have any of your personal possessions especially antiques and valuables. The lecture was very informative and was enjoyed by all. They are available for appraisals should you need such service.

The next meeting will be November 6, 2001. Even though this city election we will have a meeting because the Methodist Church Social Hall will not be in use. The guest speaker will be Randy Lambton from 911. This promises to be a very interesting talk.

As I am writing this I found out that our Vice President, Mary Forbes fell and sustained a hairline fracture of the humerus (bone between the elbow and the shoulder). She is in a stocking restraint and sling. We wish her a speedy recovery.

See you in November and bring a new member. Next issue, a history of the Westside Improvement Club.

Look for a history of the Westside Improvement Club in the next issue of TPIT.

PRHA Website

Thank you to PRHA member Kristin Gates and her SFSU students, Carol Chin, Rex Salazar and Angel Juarez for completely redesigning our website. Their class project has made our site more friendly and professional, they did a great job! Check it out and your comments are appreciated.

www.pointrichmondhistory.com

SHOE SHOP IN THE POINT IN 1906?

Does anyone recall where a shoe store might have been located in the Point right after the earthquake? The owner was a Mr. Tavolara. His great-grandson, Walter J. Sundbert, Ph.D. from Illinois is interested in knowing if that building might still be here.

American Folklife Center at Richmond Public Library

The Richmond Public library in cooperation with the Music Research Institute of Point Richmond proudly present: "An Introduction to the Library of Congress, American Folklife Center and National Digital Library presented by Dr. Nora Yeh. This free presentation will be held on Tuesday, November 13, 2001 from 3:30 to 4:30 at the Richmond Public Library's Madeline F. Whittlesey Community Room, 325 Civic Center Plaza in Richmond.

The American Folklife Center was created in 1976 by the U.S. Congress to "preserve and present American folklife", the Center archive now holds the largest collection of ethnographic materials from the United States and around the world. Dr. Yeh is a

graduate of the California Institute of the Arts and the University of California at Los Angeles where she received her M.A. and Ph.D. in ethnomusicology. Dr. Yeh is currently an archivist at the American Folklife Center.

This is a rare opportunity to learn from one of our nation's top experts as well as an invitation to the community to bring forward ideas about Richmond's contribution to American folklife. This dialogue may be an opportunity for our community to become an partner in this great archive.

Call the Richmond Public Library at 510-620-6561 for further information about this and other free programs.

[info from Lynn Whitson]

80th Birthday Poem

*Eighty Today, Dear Lord, I am 80, and there's much I haven't done
I hope, Dear Lord, you'll let me live until I'm 81.
But, if I haven't finished all I want to do,
Would You please let me stay a while, until I'm 82?
So many places I want to go, so much I want to see...
Do you think you could manage to make it 83?
Many things I may have done, but there's so much left in store,
I'd like it very much to live to 84.
And if then I'm still alive, Then I'd like to stay to 85.
The world is changing very fast, so I'd really like to stick
And see what happens to the world when I'm 86.
I know, Dear Lord, it's a lot to ask, and it will be nice in heaven,
But I really like to stay around until I'm 87.
I know by then I won't be fast, and sometime, I'll be late,
But it would be oh-so-pleasant to be around at 88.
I will have seen so many things and had a wonderful time.
So I'm sure that I'll be will to leave at 89. (WELL -- MAYBE)*

.....Author Unknown

Poem submitted by Allan Smith who turns 80 this year.

Cards and Letters

Dear Sir/Madam:

My Name is Julie Kelleghan and I am writing in reply to an article which I came across tonight on the internet. The article was dated Sunday May 21, 2000. The article in question was about Peter Kelleghan (and I couldn't access the followup!). My brother and I have been researching our family history for many years. My grandfather Patrick Kelleghan had a brother named Peter whose name continually draws a blank. The time frame would be correct and the fact, which he seemed to want to forget his family history, could well be accounted for according to our research. We were wonder if it were possible to be put in touch with the family concerned as I imagine even if it is not the same Peter Kelleghan, the Kelleghan family may well be interested in the research which my brother has done. Thanking you for your time.

Yours Sincerely,
Julie (Kelleghan) Finucane
The Willows,
Carhoona,
Tarbert,
Co. Kerry,
Ireland

I don't recall how I received this letter, but I am sure someone in the family will find it interesting. Gary

Dear Mr. Shows,

The enclosed article, "Rethinking 1941 with Edward R. Morrow" came to me as an e-mail a few days ago.

Notice on page 2 that Henry Kaiser is quoted as saying, "It is not as if we are going to build a ship a day".

You will recall the article dated November 3, 1943 in the Richmond Independent which stated "Establishing a new world's record in ship production, the Permanente Metals Corporation here launched and delivered one ship a day for the month of October".

Sincerely,
LaVerne Rentfro Woolman
Rescue, CA



Dear Pam:

Enclosed is my check for senior membership to the PRHA. I wish to thank the Richmond Museum for erecting the monument for my brother, former City Councilman John Joseph Kenny (missing in action during WW2 in the South Pacific). My brother was very active in 1930 with the Point Richmond Merchants Assoc with Grace Westman and some active workers for environment and Mrs. Dondo the wife of French Professor at U.C. She did some fine work cleaning up the Bay and stopping

whaling at the Pt. San Pablo area, also stopping the air pollution around Point Richmond.

Best Regards,
James P. Kenny
Albany, CA.

p.s. Best regards to Allan Smith!



Comment from our website:

I moved from Richmond in '71 and
my folks left in '74. Me moved to Oregon.

We were members of the Methodist Church in the Point (Mildred & Lewis Hendricks), I was married in the church in '66 by Rev McCorkle. Your website is beautiful and brings back lots of warm memories. Mine & my mother's regards to Mid Dornan & her family. Mid was a wonderful & warm person. I have fond memories of the Women's society & August birthday club my mother was involved in at the church & trips to the Odd Fellows camp at the Russian River with the Dornan's.

Sincerely,
Linda (Hendricks) Esser
linda.i.esser@tek.com



*Martin Salmi as Machine
Shop Instructor at Richmond
Union High School from the
1930's to the 1960's, resident
of Point Richmond.*

Deaths.....

Theodore W. Beck passed away at his home following a long illness on October 3, 2001. "Ted" was raised in Point Richmond. Age 79 years old. He served in the Air Force in WWII and retired as a Major in the reserves in 1981. Ted taught chemistry and physics at El Cerrito High Bay Area Science Fair for 30 years. He was a member of the Point Richmond History Association. Ted is survived by his wife of 55 years, Peggy; two daughters, Barbara Beck of Lake Tahoe and Deborah Harlan of St. Helena, and two grandchildren.

John Cheshareck, a Point Richmond native died September 10, 2001 in San Pablo. He was 57. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and active in St. Patricks Church in Rodeo. Survived by his wife of 23 years, Denise. Also daughters Kendra, Sonja, Erica Clark, Danielle, Justine and Porsche and brothers Frank Cheshareck, Jr.. of Martinez and James Cheshareck of Point Richmond.

Irene Regalia, died July 5, 2001 in San Pablo. Irene was born in Point Richmond in 1915 as part of the large family of Peter and Annie Kelleghan who lived at 225 Clarence Street in the Point and were Richmond pioneers. She was married for 41 years to Arthur Pacheco who died in 1977 and married a long time family friend, John Regalia in 1981 who died in 1990. Irene is survived by her son, Ron Pacheco and Sister, Lillian Ghidella and a brother, Mervin Kelleghan.

Kathleen Mary Amantite passed away September 28, 2001 in San Pablo, she was 87. Kathleen has lived all her life in this area, spending the past 70 years in her lovely home in Pt. Richmond. Kathleen has been a member of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Pt. Richmond for as long. Preceding her in death in 1990 was husband of 56 years Gregory S. Amantite. Kathleen is survived by her three beloved sons Richard, Gary and Dennis, devoted daughter-in-laws Norma, Ginger and Fritzie, wonderful grandchildren Dino, Mario, Silvio, Gary Jr., Mike, Randy and Charmane, 13 really great-grandchildren, dear sister Bernadine Boggiatto, Special nephew Don Amantite, close cousin Mary Harding, her two loving sisters-in-law Kattie Amantite and Mary Ferrari plus a lot of wonderful nieces and nephews.

James Bernard Palfini, Jr. Passed away in Orange, CA on September 5, 2001. Los Angeles native long time Pinole resident, aged 73 years. Beloved husband of Mildred Palfini of Pinole; loving father of David Palfini and his fiancé Lorelee Lenert of Hercules and Richard Palfini and his wife Roberta of Irvine. Dear brother-in-law of Barry and Marjorie Whalen of Alamo and devoted grandfather of Katherine, Joseph, Rachel and Robert Palfini.

Deaths.....cont.

Donna N. Ayres died October 16 at the age of 80 at home after a 24 year battle with cancer. She was born at home in Chico, CA on March 16, 1921, to Truman & Ethel Jewett. In 1926 the family moved to Richmond where she attended elementary school and graduated from Richmond High School in 1938. She then attended beauty college and later opened her own shop called Donna's Beauty Shop in Richmond. She is survived by her husband of almost 60 years Clyde; son John and wife Donna M. Ayres of Eureka; daughters Janis Jones and husband Harvey of Antioch, Barbara Ricossa and husband Paul of Cotati; grandchildren James and Chuck Ayres, both of Eureka, Richard Jones and wife Krisha of Chico, Jessica Jones of Antioch, David Jones of the US Marines and Ryan and Aaron Ricossa, of Cotati.

Birthdays!

November

Ann Greiner
Paul Cort
Jason McGill
Lynn Rendler
Betty Dornan
Jack Elle
Mary Ann Gaspard
Shirley Butt
Elsie Spinola
Chris Bradshaw
Clare Doherty
Craig Seaborg
Kevin Fong
Bo Amantite
Dennis Dornan

Kenny Paasch
Lance Rotting
Joe Savile
Fay Hawkins
Shane Thomas
Liam Thompson
Hal Marshall
Linda Feyder
Nicole Vargo
Spiro Cakos
Bethany Reynolds
Ted Beck
Matthew Berman
Marj Bellatti
James Cheshareck, Sr.

Aubyn Eakles
James Cheshareck, Jr.
Michael Brown
Audrey Edwards
Ida Giacomelli
Bobbies Boziki
Linda Cheshareck
Claudia LeGue
Katrina MacDiarmid
Albert Kollar
Bernard Bernes
Viola Kennedy
Heinz Lankford
LaVerne Rentfro Woolman
Gary Shows

Exclusive - Over 90 Club

Mae Mandl
Pina Barbieri
Ruth Wood
Mark M. Gebhart

Bernard Bernes
Willard Spiersch
Jean Moyle Spiersch
William Kollar

Thelma Hecker Harvey
Alice Helseth
Clara Christopher Loux
Let us know if we have missed anyone.

Calendar

GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM AND EAST BAY MODEL ENGINEERS SOCIETY

900 Dornan Drive, Miller/Knox Regional Park. Interested in Museum Membership? Business Meetings and Workshop on Friday's 7-10 PM. 510-234-4884.

MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

"Inspecting Carol" Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm, November 9th through December 22nd. Sunday Matinees at 2:30 on 11/18, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, and 12/16. Tickets are \$12.00, for reservations 232-4031.

POINT RICHMOND ASSOCIATION OF MOTHERS (PRAM)

Mondays, at 7:00 PM; , December 11 on Mondays at 7 PM, Methodist Church, 201 Martina Street. Information on meetings call 273-9959.

POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Meets 2nd Wednesday each month, Hotel Mac Banquet Room, 12-1:30, Lunch Reservations \$11.

Contact: Paula Aasmus, O.D. 510-235-5228.

POINT RICHMOND COMMUNITY CENTER/FIELD HOUSE & PLUNGE

Info: 233-6881

POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

The deadline for the December/January issue of TPIT is Friday November 23, 2001.

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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

RICHMOND ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND

The REDF meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 , First United Methodist Church, 201 Martina Street, Point Richmond. Call David Michener, 510-232-0405 for details of the meeting. Info: 510-234-2706 or 510-215-6100

WASHINGTON SCHOOL

Contact: Miss Jones, Secretary 510-232-1436.

WOMEN'S WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB

Contact: Alyce Williamson, President at 234-6167

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.

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 510-644-1286

or
email: gary@alkos.com

"This Point...in time" is a publication of the Point Richmond History Association, a non-profit organization at:

139 ½ 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/Treasurer
Mary Highfill, Corresponding Secretary
Pam Wilson, Membership
Gary Shows, Newsletter Editor
Sonja Darling, Fund Raising
Betty Dornan, Museum
Allan Smith, Archives

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
Jean Reynolds	Article
Dee Rosier	Article
Lynn Whitson	Information
Alyce Williamson	Article

Phone Numbers

Mid Dornan	510-234-5334
Gary Shows	510-235-1336
Fax	510-644-1286
Allan Smith	510-234-5149

Visit us at our website

PointRichmondHistory.org

Richmond Museum of History 510-235-7387
Red Oak Victory Information 510-235-7387
For Red Oak Project information visit:
<http://www.rosietheriveter.org/>