

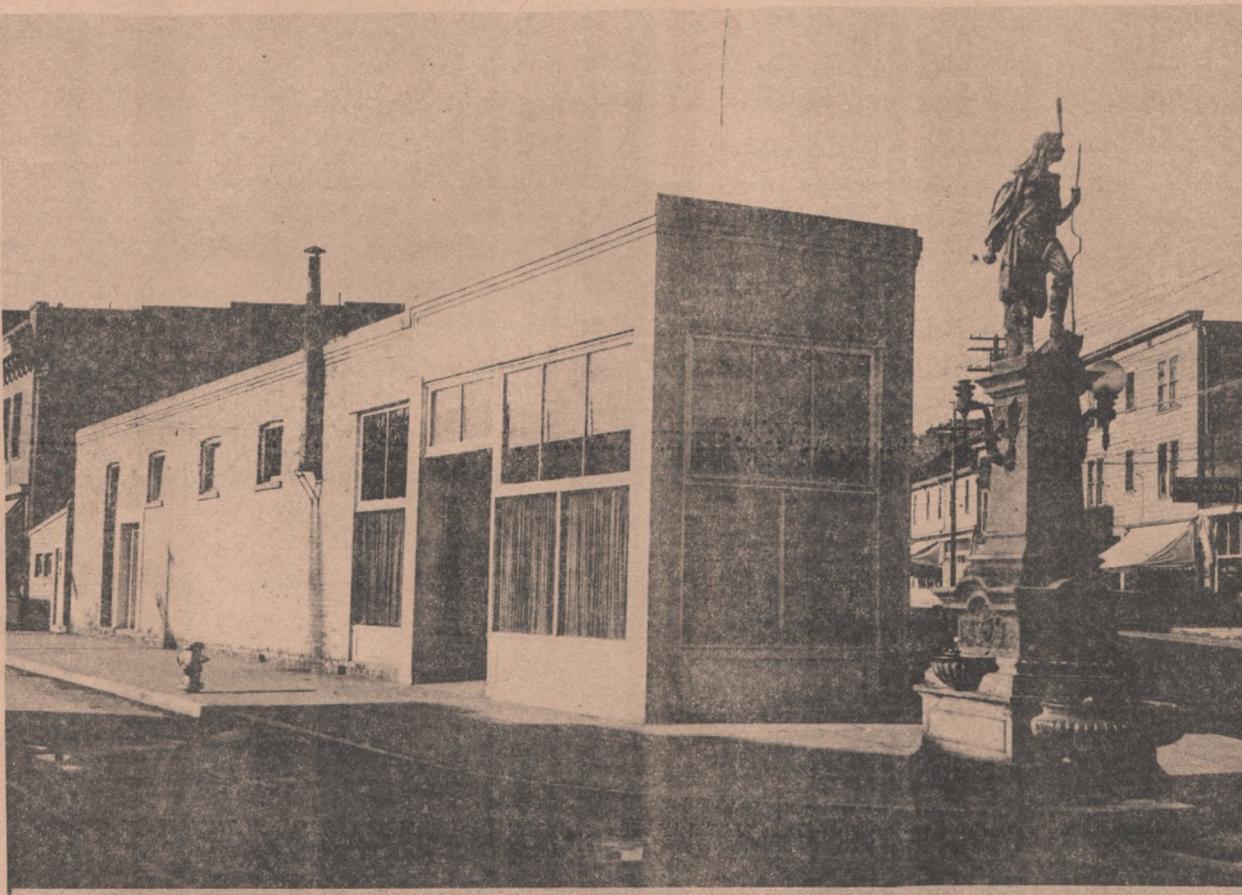
# POINT COUNTERPOINT

A Journal For Civic Communication Since 1966

Point Richmond, CA

January 15, 1976

35¢



THIS BUILDING WAS A DRY GOOD STORE AT THE CORNER OF PARK AVE AND WASHINGTON AVE. IN PT.RICHMOND LATER IN 1910 it became the west side branch library. the owners improvement club in pt.richmond raised \$1200.00 for this drinking fountain. THE FIREMAN HAD TO KEEP IT CLEAN WHICH WAS NOT AN ENJOYABLE JOB AND WHEN IN 1934 DURING A TREMENDOUS WIND STORM THE INDIAN WAS BLOWN DOWN AND THE REMAINS WERE CARTED TO THE DUMP. A SAD ENDING.

# Early Days at Point Richmond

from the Richmond Museum  
Association MIRROR, Summer '66

## DISASTER STRIKES

FIRE WAS AN ever-present danger to the new town. The frame dwellings and stores, the lack of adequate supplies of water, and most of all, the absence of organized firefighters and firefighting equipment, should have been cause for concern among Point Richmond settlers.

ON THE MORNING of June 9, 1901, a warning shot was heard, signaling the town's first and most disastrous holocaust. A fire had started among the rubble in the rear of Joe Nunes' saloon, spreading to the liquor supply, then enveloping the frail wood shacks around it. The townspeople were not able to control it, and several buildings burned to the ground. The embers had hardly cooled when a second and larger fire burst out from some living quarters over a general store on lower Washington Avenue. The Santa Fe immediately sent several switch engines with long hoses to pump streams of water on the affected structures, but a steady breeze made firefighting efforts virtually useless. Eleven stores and the new Hotel Richmond went up in flames. A ten month old girl was burned to death.

THE FIRE WAS not without its comic moments. Panic stricken roomers at the Critchett Hotel, thrashing about for things of value to save, threw out of their second story windows the nearest tangible item they could lay their hands on--their precious, hard-to-buy china chamber pots. Needless to say, the fragile thundermugs ended up in jumbled heaps of pottery.

THESE TRAGIC EVENTS pointed out starkly how the townspeople needed one another. As destroyed buildings were being replaced, the citizens of Point Richmond opened their hearts and homes to the fire victims. Leaders organized a volunteer fire department and purchased hose, ladders and trucks. Owners of the local water company installed seven fire plugs in critical areas.

THE NEWLY FOUND spirit of unity went even further. The settlers decided that the time to organize themselves on a formal basis had come. Two exasperating years passed by, however, before an election was approved by the county supervisors. On August 3, 1905, 308 citizens went to the polls to vote overwhelmingly for incorporation. Four days later

Richmond was officially declared a Sixth Class city. And thus an isolated little village, profiting from its baptism by fire, commenced an upward climb which has never ceased.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Beginning with the next issue (Feb. 1) the Point Counterpoint will be printed monthly, in tabloid newsprint form. Tabloid, which is often associated in people's minds with "yellow journalism", is actually just the size and shape of a newspaper--like the Bay Guardian, or the Sunday television section of the daily newspaper. Printing and collating the Counterpoint has just become too difficult and time-consuming and there is no way to expand circulation in its present form. The news subjects will remain the same--only the format will be different. Subscriptions will be extended to cover the less-frequent publication. We hope you will bear with us in this experiment. We are excited and pleased about the change and we think you will be too.

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## SAVE THE PLUNGE IS THE BATTLE CRY!!

Fifty Point Richmonders and other Plunge users attended a long city council meeting Monday night, January 12, in response to possible abandonment of the Richmond Plunge by city officials.

Funds had been included in Community Development plans to fix the Plunge. This was the only CDC (revenue sharing) money to go to Point Richmond. Engineers estimated that it would cost about \$300,000 to fix the old Plunge plumbing (it was built in 1925 and was originally a salt-water pool).

However, when the bids were opened, the lowest was over \$500,000--nearly 80% more than had been estimated. This led the Parks and Recreation staff and commission to suggest giving up the idea of fixing the popular facility and instead building a new swimming pool somewhere else for an estimated \$750,000.

Point Richmonders who follow city hall politics regularly--and the Plunge issue in particular--had become alarmed when all their communications on the Plunge with city staff were met with vagueness and an "I don't know anything about it," attitude. This led them to wonder if some unstated plan had been in the works all along to give up on the Plunge.

# Krisia

Mid Dornan  
234-5334

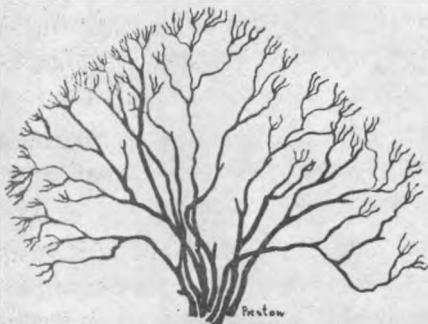
## HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY

John Trowbridge	Henry Allyn
Gina Green	Cindy Rosier
Rae Weirick	Joe Travis
Gary Brown	Doug Greiner
Henry Francis	Mike Seawell
John Kinter	Bryan Smith
Jim Wilson	Janine Dollarhide
Dwight Eaton	
Ed Paasch	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!! Like our kids, with all your faults, you are still the best there is to be had. You are still number ONE.

With Christmas over, most wallets are completely in style--see through!

FISH STORY? Of course, but this one is true! Would you believe a 6'10" sturgeon (true) weighing almost 150 pounds (true!). Pat Palko snagged this one off Dillons Beach and proved it by creating his Crest Avenue neighbors to the steaks from it. With a prize catch such as that, one would almost want to save it for posterity.



Pleasant words are still being exchanged regarding the caroling of the O KI ZU Adventure Camp Fire Girls around the Point. The group and their friends spent about two hours in song and ended up with a gift exchange and party at the home of one of their sponsors.

\*\*\*



Lucille Holladay has been receiving further check-ups to try to find the cause of her illness. David Creed's cancer operation is behind him and he is home recuperating. He has remarkable good spirit. Dwight Eaton is still hospitalized after his heart attack but smiles as he views the plant sent by his 87-year-old mother who wishes him well.

\*\*\*

One of life's most fleeting moments is the time between reading the sign on the freeway and reading that you just missed the exit ramp.

\*\*\*

In 1894 there were only four automobiles in the United States!

\*\*\*

United Methodist Women will meet at the home of Mrs. Martin Busby to transact business and to plan more events to raise funds for the stained glass window protection of the historic church.

\*\*\*

Recently promoted Captain and Mrs. Jim Downs were recent guests at the home of her parents, the Lawrence Slagles, and her brother, Larry. They also visited her aunt Betty Moore and friends before returning to San Antonio where Reba is a reading teacher.

\*\*\*

During the holidays, two very cute and-enterprising little ladies (aged about 4 and 6) knocked on a door in Bishop Alley and smiling announced, "If you want us to dance for you, it will only cost you 10¢". With such charm, who could resist, so the lady of the house asked "Where do you plan to dance?"

"Oh, on the corner!" came the reply.

"Why don't you dance right here?" asked the L of the H.

"Okay", and so they proceeded in great dramatic fashion with an obvious lack of choreography. When they were finished the L of the H asked, "Do you take lessons?" and their reply was, "No, but we're going to!"

And, so may be born great dancers--granddaughters of J and M S.

MIXED EMOTIONS: as I watch the beautiful, graceful two-pointer and his mate silently nibble my shrubs outside the window in bold daylight!

\*\*\*

This month in history:

- Jan 8, 1800 - Millard Fillmore was born
- Jan 17, 1706 - Benjamin Franklin was born
- Jan 18, 1892 - Electric street cars patented
- Jan 24, 1899 - rubber heels patented
- Jan 30, 1933 - Adolph Hitler named chancellor of the German reich
- Jan 29, 1900 - American Bseball League founded

\*\*\*

It's good to have money and the things money can buy. But it's good, too, to check once in a while and make sure that you haven't lost the things that money can't buy. ...George H. Lorimer

\*\*\*

#### A NEW EAGLE IN THE POINT

Over 100 friends, relatives and scouts crowded the decorated hall in the basement of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church on Friday, January 9th, to honor Gary Darling when he received his Eagle Scout Award. Gary is the son of Marilyn and Wally Darling and is a Junior at Salesian High School. He is also Junior Assistant Scoutmaster of the Troop.

Colors were presented by Senior Patrol Leader and Eagle Candidate Terry Autry, and Scout Charles Smith was Master of Ceremonies. Father Richard Prendeville gave the Invocation. Herms District Field Commissioner, Corky Stratton officially opened the Eagle Court of Honor.

Scout Patrick Ferguson introduced guests and former Eagle recipients from the troop. Because of the stringent requirements for the honor, few boys achieve this honor. Among the former Eagles present were Ben Woodson, faculty member of Pinole High School

(cont'd)



-5-

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(TRIVIA-continued from previous page)

and assistant Scoutmaster of Troop 111, Fred Hart, senior at Cogswell College and Al Bernes, former Deputy Superintendent of Schools of RUHS. Mr. Bernes, a Point resident, has the distinction of receiving his award in 1924 when the troop was Troop 1.

Slides depicting Gary's life from his Christening to now were shown by his brother, Dan, a Troop 111 alumni, and fellow scouts Terry Autry, Ingvar Elle, Ivar Elle, Dale Darling and Pat Ferguson roasted Gary. The Road To Eagle was described by Jim Woodson and Dale Darling. Scoutmaster Bob Dornan presented the Eagle Award to Gary and minaturtes to his parents.

Troop 111 was the first scout troop in Richmond and was known as Troop 1. It seems the late Rev. David Calfee, minister of the Methodist Church at the time and grandfather of Judge David Calfee, had a group of active boys in his church. When the Boy Scouts were founded and came to this country from England, he decided that the program was suitable and hence, formed the first group in Richmond. Later, after the program grew, it became necessary to keep districts separated by numbers and Richmond was to lose the number 1, but were given the option of choosing a number they wanted. They rationalized that if the #1 was great, then three times that number would also be great, hence the Troop 111.

## More LOCAL NEWS

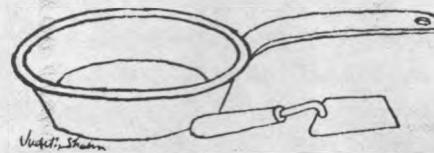
Congratulations to Mr. Al Meads and Mr. Tony Bernardi who both retired in December from the University of California Facilities Management Department. Mr. Meads used to write the Health column for the Point Counterpoint. He researched the column partly from the material available in the Life Sciences building. Mr. Meads put in 15 years at U.C. Tony Bernardi worked there 17 years. Mr. Bernardi was born and raised in Point Richmond: the Bernardis were one of the first families at the Point.

Tom and Sue Sheahan hosted a post-nuptial party for Tom's daughter Mary and her new husband Jeffrey Dean Jones, January 10 at the Sheahans home on 575 West Richmond Avenue.

The happy couple tied the knot in San Rafael Friday morning December 19. The bride is a graduate of San Clemente High School and received an Associate of Arts degree from Santa Rosa Junior College. She is presently working as a secretary in Hayward.

The bridegroom also graduated from San Clemente High School and works as an extruder technician in Milpitas.

Mary's sister Joan Sheahan, who lives in Point Richmond played selections on the flute at the reception.



A New Year's eve party held at the "Origin" on Tewksbury Avenue was a going-away party for former Richmond Mayor David Pierce, his wife Claudine and David's sidekick Al Solinger. Pierce had been living in the Point for several months since his return from travels around the world. They are going to Saudi Arabia to sell Frosty Freeze and Orange Julius to the Arabs, who don't drink hard liquor very much.

Al Solinger has lived at the Point off and on for years, working at making stained glass lamps and other objects.

Point Richmond residents remember the hectic days when David Pierce was on the council as the time when the storm drain system was begun, Standard Oil was reassessed, Keller's Beach and Point Molate Beach were built, the first teachers' strike took place in Richmond, City Manager Forest Simoni was fired and many other far-reaching events took place. Unfortunately for Richmond all this drove David to meditation and a long journey to the East. Good luck to the travellers on this mission!

Jeannie and Sandy Sands hosted a going-away party for themselves and their new friends Saturday night, January 10. The two girls had spent several months in Richmond, and by the time this paper goes to press, will be back at their home in Long Beach.

Cub Scouts are looking forward to a trip to the Oakland Museum Friday, January 16.

The PTA hosts an afternoon movie session for children every first Saturday of the month at the Washington School Auditorium at 2 pm. The afternoon includes a feature movie and several short subjects and cartoons. Cost of the movie is 50¢ and children may also buy popcorn and candy. (How can one go to a movie without popcorn?) Everyone is welcome.

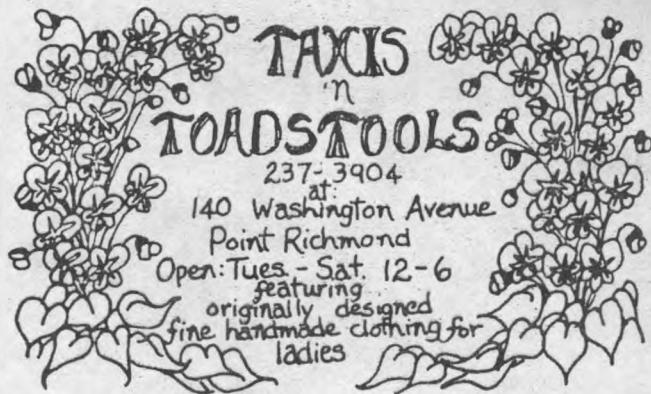
A Tiny Tot recreation program will be held at the Washington Field House on East Richmond Avenue starting Tuesday, January 20, from 9:30-11:00 am and every Tuesday morning thereafter for eight weeks. Registration was January 13 but will probably be accepted after that date. The program fee is \$5.00. For more information call Mrs. N. Madison, Recreation Specialist, 232-1212, ext. 496.

### IT'S NEWS TO US

- If your son or daughter becomes engaged or married or receives scholastic or athletic honors.
- Public meetings held by any community organization.
- If someone in your family receives a promotion.
- If there's a death in the family or in the neighborhood.
- If a former resident dies.
- If you're celebrating a special wedding anniversary.

THE POINT COUNTERPOINT

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# A matter of life

BY NED BOGIE



You know what there is most of on this earth? No, not water. Not atmosphere. Bills.

Haven't you ever had that feeling? It usually comes around the end of the month when the mail seems to be nothing else but a series of outstretched hands, clawing at your shrinking checking account.

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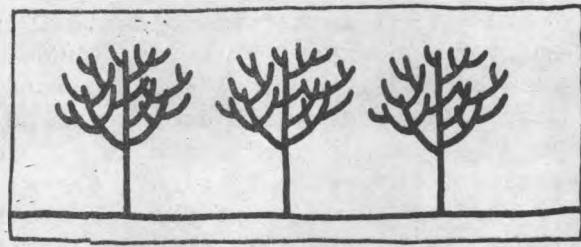
## INVITATION TO SINGERS

The Xperimental Chorus of Contra Costa's Musical Arts group invites new members to join the group in exploring and performing new ideas in sound and song. There are no auditions.

Conductor is Hermann le Roux, who also teaches and conducts at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

Prospective members may attend a rehearsal any Monday at 7 p.m., Harding Elementary School, El Cerrito. The rehearsal hall is on Ashbury near Fairmount.

The chorus is sponsored by Contra Costa College, Continuing Education division, 235-7800, and Musical Arts of West Contra Costa, 233-1466.



heidi.

### A SUMMER IN JAPAN With Most Expenses Paid

The Richmond-Shimada Friendship Commission is looking for a "teacher" (need not be an accredited teacher) at least 25 years of age, a resident of or employed within the area covered by the Richmond Unified School District, in good health, to spend the summer in our Sister City, Shimada, Japan.

Applications for the 1976 Friendship Ambassador program must be filed no later than Monday, February 2, 1976.

Applications may be obtained from the City Manager's office by calling 232-1212, extension 301.

What is offered is (1) Language training and orientation in the spring, (2) Additional language training in Shimada, (3) Approximately 10 weeks in Shimada living with Japanese families. (4) Some opportunity to travel in Japan. (5) 75% of the cost of transportation, language training, food and lodging.

Shimada is a city not yet westernized and, therefore, offers a unique opportunity to someone interested in the culture of Japan.

## POINT COUNTERPOINT SUES SF CHRONICLE - EXAMINER

The Point Counterpoint has joined with several other small Bay Area newspapers in a class action suit against the San Francisco Chronicle-Examiner. The suit charges violation of the anti-trust laws in the agreement the two San Francisco dailies have combining their advertising staffs. If the case goes to trial and is won by the plaintiffs, the Newspaper Preservation Act, which permits such agreements, will probably be declared unconstitutional and the two SF dailies will have to have completely separate facilities. This will have a significant effect all across the country, where major daily newspapers have combined morning and afternoon advertising, while claiming to keep their editorial staffs separate, thus acting as a block to small newspapers acquiring advertising.

The Chronicle was sued on the same basis several years ago by the Bay Guardian (a San Francisco "alternative" newspaper established in 1966). The suit went on for nearly five years until it was settled out of court with Guardian publisher Brugman receiving \$500,000 from the Hearst corporation. Since the Guardian settlement other anti-trust suits have been launched against the Chron. One is being pursued by the Pacific Sun, a weekly published in Marin County (San Rafael). It is rumored that the Berkeley Barb either has already or intends to file against the Chron. If the class action of the Countepoint et al is accepted by the federal court it is likely that the other individual suits will be combined into the class action, perhaps thus lending the economic strength of newspapers such as the Pacific Sun and the Barb to small struggling newspapers such as the Point Counterpoint. The lawsuit will probably take several years before it comes to trial or settlement. Ironically, the judge in the case will probably be Judge Oliver Carter, the same judge who is handling the Patty Hearst case.

Lawyers for the plaintiffs are Don Jellenick and Richard Rosenberg of Berkeley.

# Pie in the Sky

by Jeanne Eger

## THE RADICAL VIEWPOINT - I

They say that radicalism is for the young: that one gets more conservative as one gets older. When I was a young child we often visited my Uncle Stanley, who lived in a town nearby. Uncle Stanley would sing songs for the children --this was one of his songs (written by the famous Joe Hill):

" Long-haired preachers come out every night,  
Try to tell you what's wrong and what what's right.  
But when asked about something to eat,  
They will answer in voices so sweet.

*You will eat bye and bye,  
In that glorious land above the sky:  
Work and pray, live on hay;  
You'll get pie in the sky when you die.*

And the starvation army they play,  
And they sing and they clap and they pray,  
Till they get all your coin on the drum,  
Then they tell you when you're on the bum;

If you fight hard for children and wife,  
Try to get something good in this life,  
You're a sinner and a bad man, they tell,  
When you die you will sure go to hell.

Workingmen of all countries, unite,  
Side by side for freedom we'll fight;  
When the world and its wealth we have gained  
To the grafters we'll sing this refrain

### LAST CHORUS

*You will eat bye and bye,  
When you learn how to cook and fry.  
Chop some wood, 'twill do you good,  
Then you'll eat in the sweet bye and bye.*

A few years later Uncle Stanley quit singing to us. I remember driving with him past a large building with a huge parking lot. The grownups pointed at the parked cars and said in hushed tones,

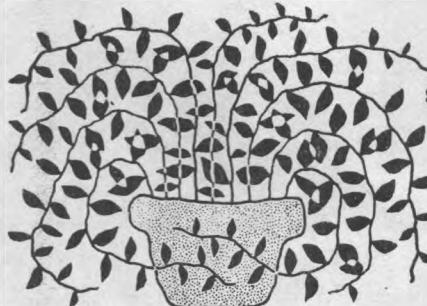
"They are turning in the people who work next to them."

What they were talking about, of course, was McCarthyism--the witch hunt. As you may have guessed, Uncle Stanley was a radical. And now he was afraid for his job.

This was about the time when we were studying civics in grammar school. No one would tell me about Uncle Stanley's politics. Perhaps they were afraid I would blow it for him. I had always been taught it was a free land: to stand up for what I believed. Just then wasn't the time to do that.

So I grew up knowing very little about politics. But the fear in the grownups voices made an indelible impression on my young mind. The child resolved to rectify the situation somehow. Hiding and fearing to say what you believe because you might lose your job--that is a terrible thing.

And yet--I am getting older. I often worry about what I write. I wonder how many people it will offend. I wonder how many advertisers will drop their ads. Am I becoming conservative in my old age--afraid to say what I think? That is the reason for the name of the column, Pie In The Sky. It is my own reminder to me not to be afraid to speak.



A lady tourist gazed for a long, long time at Niagara Falls, as though she had waited all her life for this sight and wanted it to make a permanent impression on her memory.

Then, turning suddenly to the guard, she asked briskly, "Can you tell me in what year these falls were built?"

# HOW MANY DO YOU KNOW

1. How many national holidays are there in the U.S.?
2. What does the name Adam mean?
3. Name the woman who was the wife of the the 2nd U.S. President and the mother of the sixth.
4. Complete this quotation, "Frailty, t thy name is..."
5. When Indians held a potlatch, what was it?
6. Will fresh eggs sink when soaked in water?
7. True or false: Benjamin Franklin signed the Declaration of Independence?
8. Who was the author of Robinson Crusoe?
9. Name the "Centennial State".
10. What well known tree has no outer bark?

10. The Holly
9. Colorado
8. Daniel Defoe
7. True
6. Yes
5. Party, festival or celebration
4. Woman
3. Abigail Adams
2. Man.
1. None. Each state has jurisdictions over observances in its territory.

ANSWERS:

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## BEAR-FACED RUMORS FROM THE MURKY WORLD OF POLITICS

---

Rumors which spread recently that new Richmond Councilman Fritz Allen went bear hunting with Richmond Sanitary Co. czar Rich Granzella just prior to Allen's statement that he was afraid if North Richmond was annexed many businesses there would leave the area, are untrue, a source close to the councilman told the Point Counterpoint reporter. The informed source said he doubted if Allen and Granzella could get as far as Vallejo in the same car.

# NATURALLY

by Anne-Marie Gurish

I like to ride BART. It gives me a chance to observe people. One day I was doing just that. Across from me was a handsome black couple beautifully coiffured and barbered. At the Berkeley stop three women very pleased with themselves got on and sat in front of me. They were of various ages but their hair was all cut short and curled tight and frizzy. The black couple looked at them and I looked at the blacks and wondered what they thought of whites imitating their frizzy hair which had been one symbol of their being treated as inferiors for so long.

Then I remembered my telling a beauty operator here in the Point recently that I wanted a curly permanent because I did not back comb or spray my hair, but just combed it out naturally. (My hair is naturally as straight as a string.) She said, "Oh, but you don't want a 'natural' do you?"

No, I didn't.

I pondered the word "natural" because a few years ago when they were new to the scene, a black man friend of mine told me how much work it was for a black to maintain that perfectly round "natural" look. Just a few days ago I went to a meeting and two middle-aged women were very excited. One had just had her hair cut and permanented to a frantic frizz. Her teen aged sons called it Mom's new "fro". The other had her naturally very curly hair cut very short, but it frizzed too tightly and she looked skinned and a little desperate. The next week, the first woman was sad because her hair was growing out so fast that she did not have a "natural" anymore.

After all of this I decided that the one thing a "natural" is--is not natural. The other thing is that if we have straight hair, we want it curled and if it is curly we want it straight. The last thing that many of us wants is to be natural...I was going to say any of us, but the very young and the very beautiful at any age can and are beautifully natural.

# CITY HALL notes

## \$13 MILLION PROJECT PROPOSED FOR DOWNTOWN

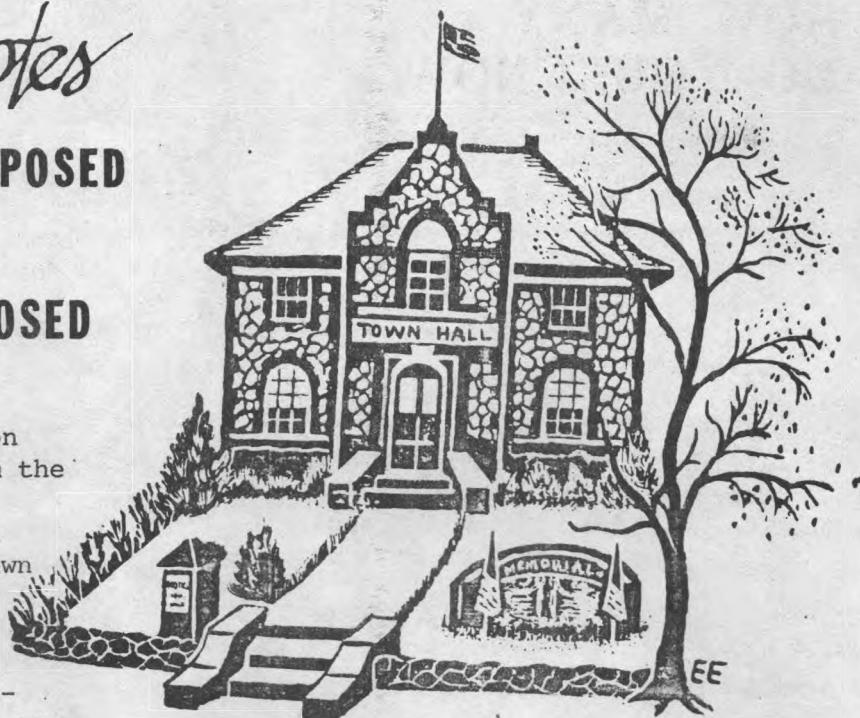
### CAMPBELL SAYS HE'S OPPOSED

Councilmen at a 5:30 study session January 7 heard representatives from the James E. Robis Co. (of Oakland) and Norris Gaddis Architects propose a giant \$13 million project for downtown Richmond.

The project would include a 12-story senior citizens apartment house, a seven-story, 140 unit apartment building for couples & singles, two-story townhouses for families and two shopping-mall areas. The development would be bounded by Macdonald and Bissell, 11th and 14th streets. It would take in a park which is now located in that area, incorporating the major trees and landscaping. It is being referred to as the "Park Village" project.

The developers, who had architectural sketches on display, wanted enough of a commitment from councilmen on option for the land, to go ahead and do market research on the economic feasibility of the project. Councilmen, who had been burned before by projects which did not go through for one reason or another, were interested but did not take action that evening. Mayor Gary Fernandez expressed apprehension that the senior center would be built first and the rest left uncompleted, thus leaving Richmond with another tax-free building on its hands. Mr. Winther of the James E. Robis Co. said that his company had built over 700 units for satellite senior homes and it had all become tax exempt. "There is a crying need for senior housing all over the country. You can't avoid it. There are waiting lists at every project," he said.

Councilmen Campbell and Allen expressed disappointment at the absence of office buildings in the project. (The two had made campaign promises for high rise office buildings in downtown Richmond. However, new office buildings in



downtown Oakland are not being filled, and all over the country major corporations are moving their offices to the suburbs.)

Campbell stated, "I don't get too involved one way or the other. I think you're wasting your money putting up housing along Macdonald. I think the land should be used for office buildings.

Fritz Allen: "Four of us campaigned for that."

Al Silva: "Not me: don't count me in that."

Bob Campbell: "It's too good land to waste for housing."

Gary Fernandez: "We have what we thought would be the best commercial land available between Bart and the 2,000 employee Social Security building and we don't even have nibbles on that. And we've advertised nationally."

Campbell: "I see no progress in having those (housing) buildings downtown. If the land lays fallow for 12 years I'm not concerned. I wouldn't pay \$275 a month to live in downtown Richmond.

(Campbell lives in the Whitecliff area. Norris Gaddis plans to put middle-high income housing in downtown, along with a commercial center.)

Norris Gaddis: "You don't think you can get anyone to live in downtown but

that is what we want to do the market research for. Then we'll know for sure if its economically feasible."

The councilmen agreed to consider the proposal in committee. The matter will probably also come before the economic development commission.

#### FOLLOW UPS

The progress of the GRCDC (non-profit community corporation) "Mercantile Center" was reviewed in the last Counterpoint. Monday night, Jan. 12, councilmen voted to let GRCDC go ahead and buy the land. The vote was split with Allen, Silva, Bates, Fernandez and Campbell voting for the project and Nelson, Grydyk, Wagerman and Corcoran voting against.

Councilmen considered making Hoffman Freeway a "Landscaped Freeway Route" but decided to put the matter off until the January 26 meeting. This was to give the billboard companies a chance to present their prepared views. Silva, Campbell and Allen wanted to move right away but the others voted to hold off.



## PLUNGE ...

(continued from page 3)

Bishop Avenue resident Lore Shaper approached Parks & Recreation head Joe Salvato last May, when the Plunge was closed for the first time. She suggested that it would be a long time before the bids were let out, much less construction started. "Why not keep it open?" Lore asked. So it was opened again for the summer. A second closing date in late August was held off again by Mrs. Shaper. Finally the bids were let out in the winter and the Plunge was closed in December.

Lore tried to keep track of the progress of the bids and was startled on December 23 to find in architects' slips which she reviews for the family company Shaper Lighting Co., that the bids had come in nearly twice as high as expected. Aware that the plans for the Plunge called for radical change and extensive renovation, she called Public Works Director Bob Latchaw. He said the city was shocked that the bids were so high and that they could not do the job with available funds.

"But we don't need basic changes," Lore said.

"We're going to have a staff meeting January 5 to decide what to do," was the reply.

"What about reopening the pool?" Lore asked.

Engineer Mohegan of Public Works, who apparently was also in on the conversation replied, "The County Health Department may not let us reopen it."

On January 6 Mrs. Shaper called Mr. Mohegan to find out what the staff meeting had produced. Mohegan stated that the architect for the pool said the plans could only be reduced by \$30,000 and that Parks & Recreation head Salvato would ask the State Sanitation Dept. if everything at the pool was OK to reopen it. (Lore later commented that this is like inviting Cal OSHA--Occupational Safety & Health Act--people into your plant to see if it is OK.) Mohegan said that Salvato thought it was not worth a half-million dollars to renovate the pool: that the city should build a new one. He said there would be a study session on this but he didn't know when it would be.

So that same afternoon Lore called the city manager's office. "When is the study session on the Plunge?" she asked. They did not know.

The next day, January 7, Parks & Recreation Commission met to review the Plunge bids and recommend abandonment of the pool.

Again on January 8 Lore called the city manager's office. "When is the study session on the Plunge?" was again the question. She was switched to Stan

(continued on next page)

(PLUNGE-continued from previous page)

Hall, an assistant city manager. He said that no study session was planned at this time, but the staff recommendations would go to the appropriate council committee and he would let her know when that would be. (She was not notified of the Monday council study session).

What Stan Hall did not know was that Lore had already heard about the Parks & Rec. Commission meeting the previous evening. Why hadn't she been notified of this meeting? Yet, when questioned about the Plunge matter later by the Point Counterpoint reporter, Parks & Rec. head Joe Salvato stated very self-righteously, "The meeting was a public meeting: interested persons should have come to the meeting."

The disposition of the Plunge bids was on council agenda for Monday night, Jan. 12. However, there was no indication on the agenda that anything other than accepting or rejecting the bids would be discussed. It was not until late Sunday night that the Point Counterpoint reporter came across the Park & Rec. commission recommendation while reading the City Council briefing packet, and became alarmed. The history of Plunge dealings thus far had been one of interested citizens not notified of important meetings. So "Save The Plunge" became the battle cry.

Architects who are "as familiar with the Plunge plans as the back of my hand" but who asked to remain unnamed, were approached by the Counterpoint. They stated that if the Plunge were to be fixed as planned, even at \$500,000, Richmond would have essentially a brand new pool--though within an old shell. They were of the opinion that the city should go ahead and fix the pool even if it cost half a million dollars. However, they said that a lesser renovation job could be done. They added, "If the bids on the Plunge renovation came in twice as high as expected, how much do you think a new swimming pool would cost if the estimate was \$750,000---\$2 million?" Indeed, Parks & Rec. Commission Chairman Margaret O'Drain told councilmen Monday night that a new pool would cost \$700,000 while Parks head Salvato had said earlier it would cost \$750,000. Are the Parks people just picking their figures out of a hat?

(A local Point pundit recently suggested that there might be some hanky-panky going on between Richmond officials and the local demolition companies.)

Could the following scenario be closer to the truth--or just paranoia...Parks & Recreation staff decide they would like to have a nice shiny new indoor swimming pool. They draw up fancy, extensive plans for the Plunge, knowing that it will cost too much. They close the Plunge early in the summer of 1975, figuring that in a year or so everyone will have forgotten about the place and become used to swimming elsewhere. They invite the Health Department in, knowing that the Plunge has code problems, and helpfully point out all the defects. They announce marvelous plans for solar heating, leading people to think they are doing something. When the bids come in way over estimate they throw up their hands and say "we'll just have to junk the old place and build a new one." They railroad through council a decision to build a new pool while promising to reopen the Plunge--this done with items not announced or specified as such on agendas of public meetings and interested citizens not notified. They do reopen the Plunge, but six months later, just as the bids for the new pool are received the Plunge plumbing mysteriously breaks down forever. "We don't know what happened," they say. "We guess it was just an old pool."

Probably just paranoia...

As was pointed out at the council meeting, the Plunge is used by the whole community. Kids from the Iron Triangle and Southside walk, ride their bikes or take the bus to the pool. In the winter children come from all over the city by car or school bus to take swimming lessons. Old ladies swim laps to keep in shape. A school for the disabled transports its students all the way from Marin County to use the pool. A kayak group uses the Plunge because the pool is big enough for canoes and kayaks.

Nine-year old Billy Eger stated in a speech he wrote himself (his mother did not put him up to it!) that people could swim in their backyard swimming pools but those pools got dirty with leaves and grass and the Plunge was much better. "Its a good place for a kid to go on a

hot day and get cooled off. For 25¢ you can swim all day until it closes."

An elderly lady whose name we didn't get, swims three times a week for her arthritis and other health problems. She walks with a walker-cane. She comes down to the Plunge from 6th & Pennsylvania and when she can't get a ride she walks. "I've been married for 47 years and I have never been out at night during that time," she said. "This is the first time I've been out at night--to support the Plunge."

Speakers at the Monday night meeting were led off by Lucretia Edwards who pleaded for preserving some of the nice old things the community has, which people love--in the spirit of the Bicentennial.

Doug Corbin stated that the Plunge gets attention from the Iron Triangle and Southside people. "It is not far removed from the people who need it," he said.

Ned Bogie, a Western Avenue resident and investment consultant, suggested that the city solicit contributions from the large industries in the area, whose employees use the Plunge at lunch and after work.

Hans Shaper asked "Why the difference between the estimate and the actual bids? We should inspect this more carefully. If we in private industry are given a budget and draw up specifications and the bids come in too high, the plans have to be redrawn for free. It is not standard procedure just to throw up your hands and say 'let's build a new one.'"

Richard Splenda, a landscape architect with offices in the Point, said that as a property owner he would be willing to pay an extra 6¢ on the tax rate to get the plunge fixed.

Jay Vincent reminded the councilmen to try to get the pool reopened as soon as possible.

Councilmen seemed receptive to the presentation of the group. Tom Corcoran said, "Mrs. Edwards' approach seems to be the right one. Let's get new estimates and cut out the frills." Al Silva jokingly suggested that the city give the Plunge to the REional Park system. Stan Grydyk stressed that the community should work with the Public Works department and

that interested citizens should be notified of meetings. Gary Fernandez expressed interest in saving the Plunge.

The matter was referred to the Public Safety Committee (chaired by Don Wagerman, the other members are Bob Campbell, Fritz Allen and Dick Nelson) for study and recommendation.

The issue is still very much alive. If you are interested in being notified of upcoming meetings please call the Point Counterpoint office (232-2494) and leave your name and phone number. We'll give you a call.

## MORE LOCAL NEWS

Bob and Marie Peckham held their annual King's Day party at their home at 322 West Richmond Avenue, Sunday, June 11. Eighty (80-count them-80) people showed up for the festivities! Bob explains that the 12th day of Christmas is the 6th of January and the party is held on the Sunday nearest that date. In many countries it is called "little Christmas" or Epiphany. This is the time when the three wise men showed up at the manger (they were 12 days late). People celebrate again by exchanging gifts. The Peckhams decorated their house with the three wise men theme--it looked more like they had about 75 wise men in the historic house! A good time was had by all.



If you were surprised by the item in the last Counterpoint about Hank Allyn's son Jim coming home for the holidays--because you didn't know that Hank Allyn had a son--you were right, he doesn't. Jim is Mickey Allyn's son!



Robin Wildey ("Cap") is in the hospital in Martinez with a bleeding ulcer. He would probably appreciate cards or visitors.

## FOR KIDS ONLY

### SPOTLIGHT ON WALT DISNEY

Cartoons, movies, television shows, theme parks...Walt Disney did them all.

He did them very well...with a magical touch that still warms the hearts and thrills the imagination of millions of children and adults.

Walt Disney was born on December 5, 1901. Although he died nine years ago, his works still bring joy and happiness and a spirit of adventure to readers who enjoy his books, viewers who watch his shows and visitors that flock to his parks, Disneyland in Anaheim California and Disney World in Florida.

Disney was only 7 when he started selling drawings to his neighbors. He went to art school at night when he was in high school in Chicago.

At the age of 22, Disney went to Hollywood with only a few drawing materials and \$40 in his pocket. His brother Roy, who became his business manager, loaned him money and the two brothers set up shop in their uncle's garage.

See if you can find the names of the Disney characters hidden in the puzzle!

### MINI JOKES

Why can't you send a letter to Washington?  
Because he is dead.

Which dog keeps the best time?  
A watch dog.

Why is the Statue of Liberty's nose only eleven inches long?  
If it were 12 inches long, it would be a foot.

How deep is a frog pond?  
Knee-deep, knee-deep!

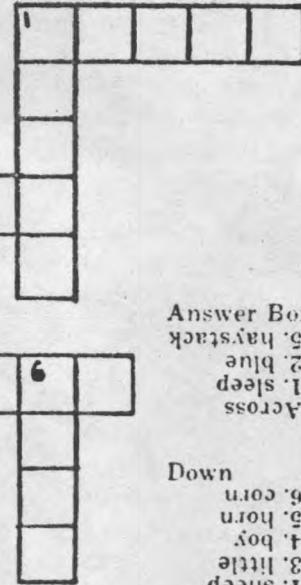
### Little Boy Blue Puzzle-le-do <sup>TM</sup>

#### Across

- What you do from night until morning.
- The color of the sky.
- A pile of hay.

#### Down

- What lambs grow up to be.
- Not large.
- What a man is before he is grown.
- Little Boy Blue blew a \_\_\_\_\_.
- The cows were in the \_\_\_\_\_.



- Answer Box  
1. sleep  
2. blue  
3. haystack  
4. horn  
5. little boy  
6. corner

### Disney Characters Try 'N Find

The names of Disney characters are hidden below. See if you can find: Minnie Mouse, Mickey Mouse, Pluto, Donald Duck, Snow White, Cinderella, Mary Poppins, Goofy, Peter Pan, Bambi, Pinocchio, Dumbo, Sleepy, Happy, Dopey, Tinkerbell, Grumpy, Doc, Bashful, Sneezy.



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PETERPANPLUTOA  
EOSNOWWHITETEZ  
YSNEEZYEGOOFYR  
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ADRKLPINOCCHIO  
SUITINKERBELLD  
HMINNIEMOUSEHO  
FBAMBIAGRUMPYC  
UOCINDERELLANI  
LQNGDONALDDUCK



A

# Steadfast Eddy Day

A Short Story  
by Sunflower

One day, not so long ago, as a few of us gathered randomly to mourn time lost, unsavouried in its passing, we chanced to remember Steadfast Eddy and concluded we were having a very Steadfast Eddy day.

Steadfast Eddy used to be seen frequently on the beaches, in the Grove or about the Breakfast Room with his flute, a little melancholy, waiting, always waiting, he said, for his stars to change and his direction to become clear. We grew used to Steadfast Eddy, found him comfortable, and did not share his quiet anticipation of a star change. And so we were not every alarmed one day when he said, "I have grown old in waiting for my star change; I begin to have doubts that it will happen."

What did surprise us all was that the next morning Steadfast Eddy was nowhere to be found. We searched for clues to no avail. That had been years ago now; one of the great mysteries of Freetown, we all agreed. "Not really," said Evening Star quietly, "I know where he is." We all looked at her incredulously for a moment, but she did not continue. "But where?" we all insisted. Still, she hesitated, and then in the same quiet voice, she told us the story.

"That same night that he left I had gone down to the Grove to be with the rain. A storm was rising and I looked out to the waves on the beach. Barely to be made out was the form of a man; it looked as if he were throwing something into the sea. A stick perhaps. He stood long facing out to sea, then shouldered a pack and turned toward the Grove. As he drew nearer, I knew what I had already begun to know. It was Steadfast Eddy. He looked so changed even then and so intent on going. It was useless to try to dissuade him. He went..."

Evening Star looked down, as though she would not continue. No one spoke. Finally, in a voice so soft we scarcely heard, she continued. "He said he had grown lazy and indolent among us. He said he was going to join the Hunters." Still no one spoke. "I tell you now," she said, "not to worry you but to prepare you. He promised to return in five years time, for good or bad, and with the waning of this moon I look for him."

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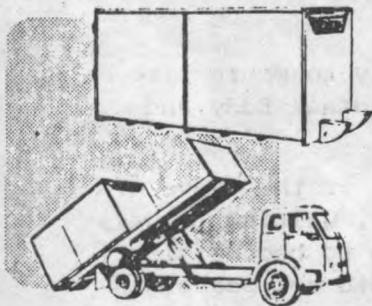
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## REFLECTIONS ON A BEST SELLER

by Carol Bold  
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Bring on the Empty Horses by David Niven is the current best seller both nationally and in the Bay Area. The amiable actor-writer writes vignettes of movie people he has known, including Errol Flynn, Greta Garbo, Ronald Coleman, Douglas Fairbanks, Charles Chaplin, Clark Gable, Humphrey Bogart, and Fred Astaire, plus stories of assorted writers and directors.

His own first recognition by Hollywood comes when he has nothing better to do than stand at the entrance to a studio performing an exercise recommended by an English character actor to improve voice resonance, a procedure which involves

holding a long cork lengthwise between the teeth while reciting the Lord's Prayer half a dozen times. He doesn't mention how many recitations he gets through before a chauffered limousine stops, and the actress inside invites him to meet Edmund Lowe as his possible double, a job Mr. Niven refuses in favor of acting under his own name.

The author writes humorously in a casual way about his Hollywood friends, and he is universally tolerant of their most bizarre behaviour, with the possible exception of the two snoopy gossip columnists, Hedda Hopper and Luella Parsons, who relish their power maliciously to ruin careers of the most popular stars. David Niven has nothing good to say about these ladies.

-18- (continued on next page)

(BEST SELLER-continued)

If the book were written by a less talented person, I would question the taste of the American public to read Niven's gossip about basically shallow, unworthy, and crude people. Their practical jokes are well-deserved when the targets are among their own ilk, but when Jack Warner concludes a speech at a dinner given in honor of Madame Chiang Kai-shek with, "So folks, if you have any laundry, you know where to take it," it is, well, really, much too much. Then there is the unintentional goof, "A Toast to Marshall Field Montgomery," which is punctuated with a comment, again by Jack Warner, "Don't you mean Montgomery Ward?"

Clark Gable is an exception to the stupidity, if not the supreme egotism of movie people and explains them with, "We all have a contract with the public--in us they see themselves or what they would like to be...They expect us to pay the price for it all...It's a good idea to read the fine print."

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No overdue fines are charged at any of the Richmond Public Libraries, including the West Side Branch, the Main Branch at Civic Center, and the four other branch libraries.

Periodically I must spend tedious hours grinding out on the typewriter unpopular messages to patrons who have kept books or other library materials considerably beyond the four-week loan time. The only logical reason that patrons still don't return the items must be that they believe they will be fined, perhaps beyond their original cost.

After a month goes by with no response to overdue notices, I send bills for the price of the materials, and nothing is charged if they are returned, unless, as in rare cases, the items are brought back damaged beyond repair. So, please if you have overdue books, records, or magazines, bring them back or put them in the bookdrop with no fear that you will have to go through bankruptcy; there are no fines no matter how long you have waited to bring the library materials back.

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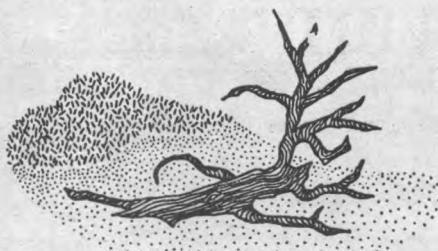
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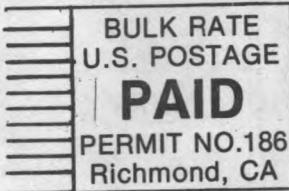


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