

# THIS POINT

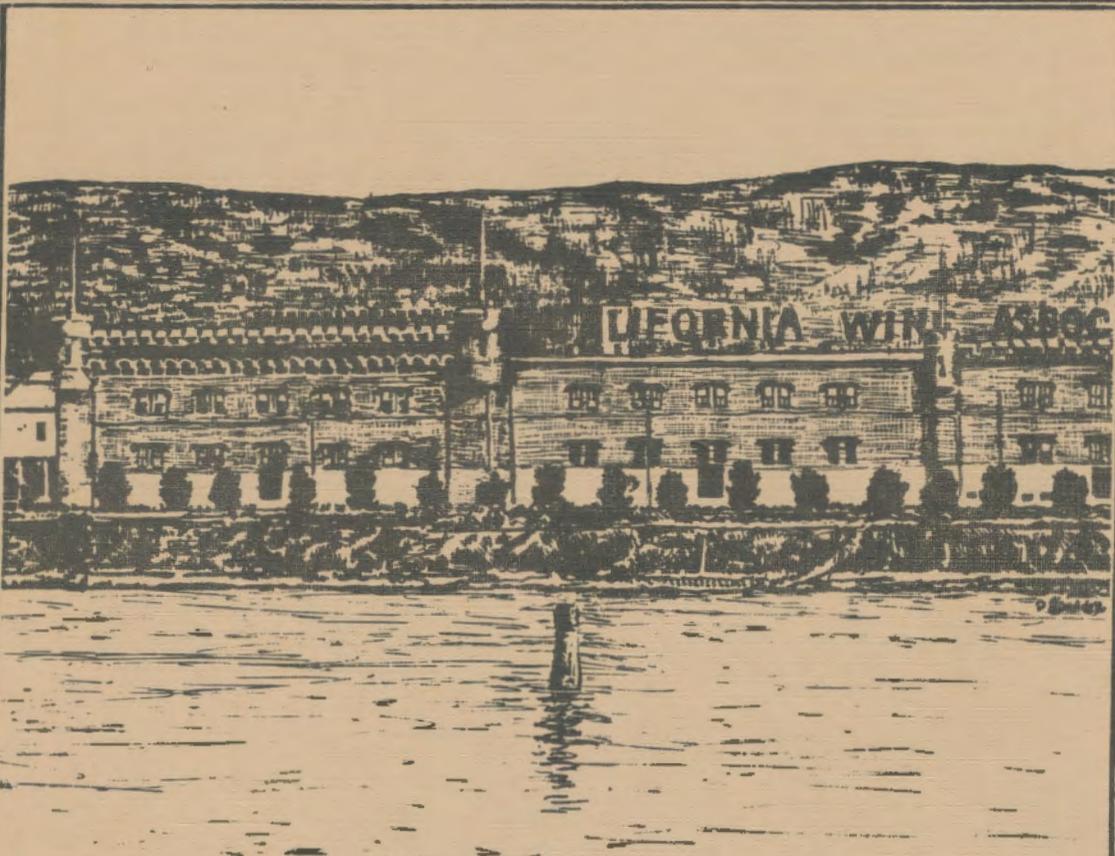
NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Vol. II, No. 2

September, 1983

75 cents



WINEHAVEN - 75 YEARS OLD

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## in time

## MEMBERS...

Welcome to the new members of the Point Richmond History Association, and thank you for your support. These are the members who have joined since March, 1983:

Ann Theresa Ageson	4/83
Mr. and Mrs. Don Allen	4/83
Emma Austin	5/83
Everett Beane	4/83
Mrs. Edgar Brooker	5/83
the Brant Family	5/83
Anita Brougham	5/83
Alice Buckingham	5/83
the Butt Family	4/83
Nick and Ramona Calvan	4/83
Vera Camren	5/83
Laura Carey	5/83
Dierdre Cerkanowicz	6/83
Louis R. Cunan	5/83
Christine Dennis	5/83
Marie De Valle	4/83
Pat Dornan	5/83
the Drake Family	4/83
Oretta Eaton	4/83
the Fenton Family	5/83
Mary Franco	3/83
Regina Garrard	5/83
Frances Greenlaw	8/83
Sonny Jackson	5/83
Robert Larson	5/83
Katherine Lord	4/83
the MacDiarmid Family	5/83
Ruth McKay	3/83
Marty and Ruth McNair	4/83
Mrs. Tom Marconi	4/83
Ann Marselis	7/83
the George Martin Family	5/83
Roberta Mayer	9/83
John Maxwell	4/83
Mrs. George Miller, Jr.	5/83
Evelyn Moore	5/83
Margaret Muth	5/83
Mike Palenchar	7/83

Clara Perasso	4/83
Elizabeth Pope	4/83
Hattie Potts	4/83
Hazel Salmi	5/83
David E. Sawyer	3/83
Victoria Schultz	5/83
Hans and Lori Shaper	5/83
Miriam Shea	5/83
Jim Spilman	5/83
Venetia Boehmer Stewart	5/83
Ellie Strauss & family	5/83
Barbara Vincent	5/83
Judy Walz	4/83
Edith Whetstone	4/83
Alyce Williamson	5/83
Betty Wirth	5/83
Walter Wirth	5/83
West Side Improvement Club	3/83
Peggy Young	5/83

*Please check the month you joined to make sure it is correct. If it is wrong, please call Pam Wilson at 231-3101 weekdays (8:00 to 5:00) and it will be corrected. If your name is not listed, and you are a current member, please notify Pam also.*

*list continued, next page*

If a red check mark appears here \_\_\_\_\_  
your membership dues are (or were) due --

\_\_\_\_\_

To insure receiving your next issue of "This Point in Time" (and to keep it and other worthwhile historical projects going) please mail your renewal membership to:

Pam Wilson  
521 Western Drive  
Point Richmond, CA 94801



## PLANNING AHEAD . . . LOOKING BACK

A productive year is being planned by the Association Board. Besides the creation of valuable indexes for past publications, making research far easier (see the Archives Committee's article), the growing collection of early photographs copied from the Don Church collection and other individual pictures, and the continuing research and reporting via the monthly newsletter; we have plans for some meetings worth coming to:

SEPTEMBER 22 – Thursday, at 7:30 p.m., at Linsley Hall, Sherry Hartynyk will present memorabilia from Richmond's First Bank. Original records and documents that were in the vault when she bought the building as well as some fine old posters found in the attic, and used by the bank, will be part of her presentation.

Muriel Clausen will also bring records from some of the old buildings in the Point which her husband's uncle built.

As always, refreshments will be served after the program. Everyone is invited, and bring friends.

NOVEMBER 17 – Authors! Authors! – We are inviting authors who have written about this area for a brief resume of their books, with time for questions and discussion. Authors we are inviting include Susan Cole, George Coles, Bernard Johnston, Malcolm Margolin and George Collier.

JANUARY 26 – The history of the Richmond Yacht Club.

MARCH 23 – or a date close to that time, when a date to visit Chevron's new facilities can be arranged, along with a viewing of the documentary they have produced.

MAY – the Third Annual Meeting – date to be announced.

Daytime tours may be planned (depending on interest) to the Castro Point Railway and Point Molate, and a naturalist's view of the Miller-Knox Park.

–Donna Roselius



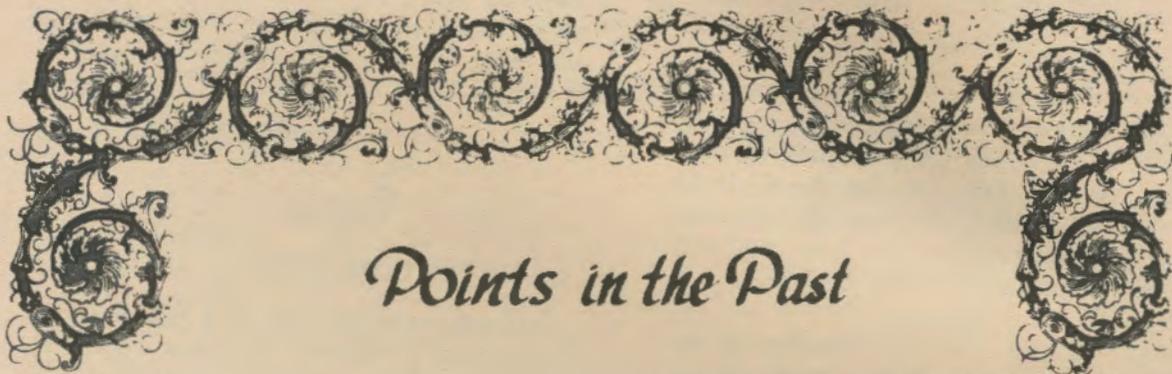
## ARCHIVES COMMITTEE . . .

Good news! On June 28 I picked up the first group of Church collection reproductions from Chevron USA. And, not only did we get 8" by 10" glossy prints, but also 4" by 5" negatives and proof sheets conveniently organized in a large binder. Thank you very much, Chevron, and photographers Coombs and McKeegan! At the same time I picked up the photos, I dropped off the next set to be reproduced, which included many interesting street scenes.

Another major accomplishment this summer was the completion of the index for our first publication, the book *This Point in Time*. Rosemary Corbin, Liz McDonald and I combined our efforts on this project which will be available to the public soon. I really appreciate Rosemary's help, training Liz and me, and then actually putting it together so it makes perfect sense. The index is now in the capable hands of Pam Wilson, who has taken on the arduous task of proofreading the list, in preparation for its final typing and publication.

It has been more than a year, but we are finally getting the filing together. Michelle and Michael Brown provided us with a number of accession forms, and the PRHA purchased the necessary materials to accept and store information. Soon I hope to be completely caught up and to have the entire procedure under control.

–Teresa Albro



## Points in the Past

### 75 YEARS AGO . . .

The California Wine Association (Calwa brand) completed its plant at Winehaven in 1908. The association of San Joaquin Valley grape growers chose this site because of its deep water harbor frontage and direct rail connections to the valley vineyards. Ocean going ships tied up there to pick up cargoes for world wide ports. The winery was considered the largest in the world, producing all kinds of wine and fine champagne. The plant expanded and Winehaven included a group of cottages, a hotel and a post office. Prohibition stopped production at the plant and eventually it became a naval fuel depot.

Excursion boats brought thirsty tourists from San Francisco regularly, during Winehaven's heyday. With the Chinese shrimp camp close at hand, it's not hard to imagine it as a popular picnic spot.

The buildings at Winehaven are still intact, though they never did look like what most people think of as a winery. The turreted brick buildings remind one of a fortress, and most people are surprised when told that this was not originally a military building.

### 70 YEARS AGO . . .

"We are crushing on an average of more than 20 carloads of grapes a day," said Superintendent Berndt of the local plant of the

California Wine Association, "and this year promises to be a record breaker for us in the manufacture of our various lines. The grape crushing end of the business is one of the most important features. This year it will be the largest in volume of grapes crushed in the history of the local plant."

—September 14, 1913

"At the First Street ball grounds Sunday afternoon the teams of the Santa Fe and the Calwas of Winehaven will start their series of three games for a purse of \$50 . . . The railroad men will be strengthened by Ash, their shortstop, as he can cover a world of ground around short. Pinkerton and Moss will form the battery for the Calwa team and with Pinky in shape, the wine boys expect to bring home the money."

—September 20, 1913

"There is much interest among the West Side people over the first open air concert under the Indian fountain at Washington Avenue and Park Place by the Richmond concert band this evening.

"The band boys have arranged for a most attractive program and it is expected that there will be a large crowd in attendance from 7:30 until 9 o'clock tonight."

September 27, 1913

"Arrangements are being completed for the removal of the West Side Branch Library

from its present location on Richmond Avenue, to the new quarters which have been leased in the large store room in the building at the corner of Washington Avenue and Park Place. The new quarters of the branch will be completely furnished by the library board in order to make its surroundings of the most attractive character possible to those visiting it and using its book shelves."

— September 28, 1913

### 60 YEARS AGO . . .

"'Five for Sixty-Five' is the Standard Oil filling station slogan in Richmond. This is the lowest price for gasoline in the history of the city, say old-timers.

"Outside the city of Richmond the price is 14 cents. The Standard Oil Co. makes the 13 cent price only in Los Angeles and Richmond. The cut is attributed to over-supply."

—September 7, 1923

### 50 YEARS AGO . . .

"Miss Gladys O'Hara was appointed by the Board of Education to be a kindergarten teacher in our Washington School. She has been a substitute for some time, and will work on a half-day basis. Increased enrollment in the schools is the reason."

—September 22, 1933

"An old landmark (the Stiefvater Building), the principal building used for lodge purposes in the 'good old days' has been purchased by our good neighbor, Dick Fer, groceryman, and (as part of a major remodeling) the upper two floors are feeling the effect of wreckers' hammers under the direction of Lawrence Thole."

From an ad for the Liberty Market, 110 Washington Avenue:

Butter	\$.20 per lb.
Eggs	.30 per lb.

Mayonnaise	.19 per pin:
Sirloin steak	.20 per lb.
Veal roast	.14 per lb.
Lettuce	.05 for 2
Artichokes	.02 each
Oranges	.01 each

—September 29, 1933

Articles from old Richmond Newspapers, courtesy of the Richmond Public Library.

— Teresa Albro

### 40 YEARS AGO . . .

#### U.S. MOVES TO CORRECT CONDITIONS

"A two million dollar appropriation to improve food conditions in Richmond shipyards and others in the Bay Area operated under the Maritime Commission will be sought immediately, C.W. Ellason, U.S. Maritime Commission Regional Industrial Relations Advisor declared today.

"He made this announcement to a committee of union delegates at a special conference held in Oakland.

"During the meeting the union representatives declared their opposition to private food concessions in the yards and announced that they would favor direct Maritime Commission control.

"Union representatives included President Jack Shelley of the San Francisco labor council; Ed Rowan, Shipfitters; Jackie McFarlane, Waitresses, and Ernest Lavino, Cooks.

"Meanwhile, the labor-management committee at Richmond Yard no. 2 placed itself on record as favoring the installation of food dispensaries where hot food may be purchased by any worker desiring it.

"Two workers, June Stevenson, shipfitter and Fred Shultz, warehouseman, presented the committee with a petition signed by 6,500 workers."

—July 1, 1913

## THE WORLD'S BEST

"The man who ought to know, the man who has had the actual experience — 30 years of it — Rear Admiral Howard L. Vickery, vice chairman of the U.S. Maritime Commission, this week classified Richmond Shipyard no. 3 as 'one of the best in the world today'.

"Admiral Vickery made that statement to a group of newspapermen at an interview at Shipyard 3 when the visitors were taken on an inspection trip through one of the giant transports now being built at the yard.

"His statement was made in refutation of charges by a Maritime Commission auditor that 'Yard 3 was the world's worst mess,' a condition he charged was brought about by mismanagement.

"We do not have to defend Henry J. Kaiser and his record as a shipbuilder — a record which every other shipbuilder in the nation today is vainly attempting to follow.

"Maybe there are some things wrong at Richmond Shipyard No. 3, but it certainly is not the job of an auditor, whose duties are to pass on vouchers and the like, to make those charges unless he is certain of his facts

and his judgment.

"When the charges were made before a House sub-committee on merchant marine, they were given due prominence — because this was the first time that Kaiser was accused of not keeping up to production goals.

"No one has disputed that fact, but Admiral Vickery, Henry J. Kaiser himself, and other officials of the shipbuilding company soon pointed out that there were extenuating circumstances.

"The Admiral, praising Kaiser and Clay P. Bedford, general manager of the Richmond Shipyards, as the nation's outstanding shipbuilders, declared that men and material, to the extent of nearly nine million man hours, were diverted from Yard 3 for a rush job for the Navy at Yard 4. Nine million man hours would have made a considerable difference in the delivery date of the first transport, which is expected to be turned over to the Maritime Commission this month.

"Then, too, there was the little matter of changes in plans. More than 250 changes have been made in the original specifications and at some stages of construction the workers were waiting on the plans.

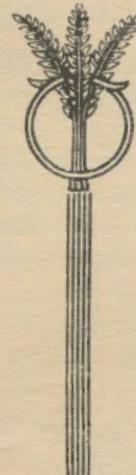
# Wylie's



## CAFE

The leading  
RESTAURANT and CATERERS  
of Point Richmond

The place where everything is  
"Class" except the  
PRICES



Ad from Richmond  
newspaper, 1902

"Maybe the auditor who made these charges before the Maritime Commission is a good auditor. Maybe he can detect and hold up the slightest monetary error that it is possible to make.

"But certainly competent shipbuilding men should be called in and heard before a man who has no connection with actual shipbuilding is allowed to blast at methods that Kaiser has proven are the world's fastest."

—*Richmond Independent*  
July 1, 1943

### 30 YEARS AGO . . .

#### TALK AND TRIVIA . . .

"With vacation interests in the beautiful Russian River country, do you know how it was so named? The Russians settled in Sonoma County in the area between Bodega Bay and Fort Ross — on the coast, living there from 1812 to 1841. They called the river "Slavianska", the Spanish settlers called it "San Ignacio" and "Rio Russo". After American occupation it became River Russo — finally Russian River. Simple eh? Marin County's name was first applied during the Mexican regime for an Indian of Mission San Rafael. He was called 'Marin', probably an abbreviation of 'Marino', a baptismal name, or it might have been because he was a Bay boatsman. The County was officially given the name in 1850.

"Richmond unfortunately has no such romantic antiquity — as it is most likely a transfer name from Richmond, Virginia. The coast survey in 1852 named the point, 'Pt. Richmond', although the West Side was first designated as 'Eastyard' — this side was 'Old Town', Barrett Station . . . But in August, 1775, Lt. Ayala of the Spanish Royal Navy named our point 'Punta de San Antonio' on the maps he had made of San Francisco Bay.

—*Richmond Independent*  
August 1, 1953

### SCHOOL WORK RUSHED HERE IN SUMMER

"Construction jobs totalling more than \$445,000.00 are currently in progress in the Richmond School District. Included in this program is the demolition of the original Peres Elementary School built more than four decades ago.

"At Peres, in addition to the demolition of the old four-classroom building, is a new building consisting of necessary lavatory facilities, a storage room, and a janitor's closet. When completed on September 13, this project will have cost \$24,418.00. Architect on the Peres job is Donald L. Hardison, with work being performed by Carl Overaa and Company.

"At Grant Elementary School, two new-type portable classroom buildings are in the process of construction with a scheduled completion date set as September 13. These two classroom units, designed by architect Hardison with an assist from Donald Woodington, director of school planning for the Richmond Public Schools will cost \$19,974.

"Designed by architect Charles F. Strorhoff, Coronado Elementary School located at Twentieth Street and Virginia Avenue is under construction by Contractor Robert Miller. This new school, scheduled to open about the first of the year, will consist of twelve classrooms, two kindergartens, an administration unit, lavatories, storage room, and multi-purpose classroom. It will cost \$299,977.00. Coronado is designated to remove double session pressure from Nystrom Elementary School.

"A three-way construction job is currently in progress between Washington, Pico, and Alvarado Elementary Schools. With the closing of Canal and Terrace housing projects, George D. Miner, Superintendent of Schools, found that it had eleven semi-per-

manent, movable classrooms at Washington which were not in use. At the same time, the local school district was putting Pico Elementary School, located on property adjacent to Stege School and Eastshore Park, on the drawing boards. Work on Pico was stopped as the school district found that it could move ten classrooms from Washington to Pico School, and by constructing lavatory facilities and a storage room on the site, would have a completely functional and useful school. One classroom from Washington is being moved to Alvarado School where it will relieve enrollment pressure in this rapidly expanding area.

"Architect on the Pico-Alvarado-Washington project is Donald L. Hardison, and the work is being performed by R.H. Myers. The amount of the contract is \$71,623.63, and the project, which was started June 15, is scheduled for completion September 15."

—Richmond Independent  
August 6, 1953

## 20 YEARS AGO . . .

### TEXACO FINED FOR SEEPAGE OF OIL IN BAY

"The Texaco Oil Co. was fined \$100 by Municipal Judge Charles H. Baldwin yesterday for polluting the Bay with oil residue from one of its tankers June 12.

"Fish and Game officers investigated the incident and cited the master of an oil tanker for permitting seepage of oil harmful to fish life in the Bay. The violation occurred when the ship was tied up at Anchorage No. 12 in Richmond waters.

"Judge Baldwin found the company guilty after the firm submitted its case on the basis of the report made by the Division of Fish and Game."

—Richmond Independent  
September 5, 1963

"Before 1900 and the coming of the Santa Fe Railway terminal and the Standard Oil Refinery, Richmond was divided into two parts. Hay and potato merchants could maneuver shallow-bottom barges at high tide along a meandering canal connecting San Francisco and San Pablo Bays, avoiding an extra five mile sail around the Point Richmond 'horn'.

"This convenient short cut was eliminated forever when Richmond joined the refinery and railroad in earth-filling a good part of the swampy waterway, connecting the older, isolated western part of town with the mushrooming newer portions to the north, south, and east."

—Richmond Independent  
September 6, 1963

—Pam Wilson



## COAL HAY and FEED

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A. M. COLEMAN & CO

from  
a 1932  
news-  
paper

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leading papers.

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## FIREFIGHTERS — PAST AND PRESENT

“Two great fires” in Point Richmond on June 9 and 10, 1901, hastened the formation of Richmond’s first fire department. Although no details of these fires were located, early records indicate that the fires burned unchecked and destroyed everything in the vicinity. There was no official group to fight the fires and no equipment to fight with.

On June 13, 1901, several prominent members of the community met in the Critchett Hotel (located at the northeast corner of Washington and West Richmond) to discuss the formation of a fire department. Lyman Naugle, publisher of *The Record*, Richmond’s first newspaper, was elected chairman. E.M.Tilden, A.C.Lang, J.A.White-sides, P.M.Dan, R.L.Adams, John Murray, William Ellis, J.B.Blake, and E.J.Summerfield were among those present. These men, along with many Oakland and San Francisco firms donated the initial funds necessary to start the fire department.

A group of volunteer fire fighters was formed with A.C.Lang as president, John Murray as chief, and William Ellis assistant chief. In succeeding years others who acted as chief of the fire department volunteers at the Point were: George Hinds, William Ellis, Oliver Wylie, R.L.Adams, Dick Spiersch, and R.F. Paasch.

Dances and shows, sponsored by civic groups such as the Women’s West Side Improvement Club, were held for the purpose of raising money for equipment for the volunteers. On March 8, 1902, Richmond purchased a second-hand chemical fire engine for \$500 from a San Francisco firm. It had been used by Mill Valley for a short time. The community, especially the firemen, were elated about their engine, which reportedly

performed admirably; but there was a dire problem. The water was pumped from a marsh behind the Santa Fe shops — a good idea, but unfortunately, there was no water pressure.

Apparently the volunteer firemen were able to overcome problems such as this, as history indicates that by September 1, 1915, when the fire department was put on a fully paid basis, there were five volunteer departments throughout Richmond. None of the volunteers received any compensation for their services.

As Richmond grew so did her needs. Fourteen years after the volunteer fire fighters were organized the city required the services of full time, paid firemen. The first members of this group were Captain R.F. Paasch, Lieutenant Fred Brewen and Hosemen Victor Green and F.M.Smith. Roy L. Lemoine was the first paid fire chief; he served until 1924, when W.P.Cooper took over that role.

Over the years Richmond’s fire department has grown considerably. Today the fire department is allocated 121 firemen, although the actual number presently employed is 109. The department responds to between 9,000 and 10,000 calls a year (these include medical emergencies, fires and miscellaneous details). The present fire chief is Charles Schwab. Other officers are Deputy Chiefs Floyd Cormier and Mark Lynch and Battalion Chiefs Richard Giaramita, John Walker and William Lewis.

*(Our thanks to Deputy Chief Floyd Cormier for his help in gathering information for this article.)*

—Michelle Brown



## POINT UP THE DOWNTOWN

### REAL ESTATE

Two properties on the lower end of Washington Avenue have recently changed hands. Reliable sources report that The Spot has been purchased by Point Richmonder June Davies and that it will undergo an extensive renovation. Not far away, the building housing Whitney's Sandwich Shop has been purchased by Claudia Bowman of Berkeley who now operates the sandwich shop under the name "New Whitney's". The south half of the building, which has been an antique store, is available for lease.

Next door to the Santa Fe Market, the building housing Energy Unlimited is undergoing rehabilitation which will result in fourteen "quality" one and two bedroom apartments on the upper floors. It has been reported that Energy Unlimited will be moving to larger quarters in a location out of, but nearby, the Point, and that the ground floor space may be the future home of a pharmacy or a bank as well as an art gallery operated by owner and artist Adele Hollander.

Linsley Hall, the former Episcopal Church at the corner of Washington and Nicholl has been totally refurbished by Donna Powers and is available for weddings, meetings, seminars and dinners. Especially attractive is the formerly vacant lot next door which has been turned into a formal garden. The project was recently featured in *The Tribune* "Neighbors" section.

### PUBLIC TRANSIT

With continued stimulation from County Supervisor Tom Powers and the Point Richmond Business Association, AC Transit has most graciously agreed to re-route the 110

buses that serve Point Richmond in a manner that will bypass congested Washington Avenue and Park Place. The new proposed route will come in as always from Garrard, turn right down Railroad Avenue, then left on Tewksbury to a proposed turnaround and terminate at the "triangle" where the pumping station to Marin County recently stood. The return trip would retrace the same route.

AC Transit has secured an agreement from the owner of the property to exchange its use in return for payment of annual property taxes. The land will eventually be taken for the Hoffman Freeway and could be incorporated as a bus terminal under the ultimate plan. Meanwhile the only remaining impediment is the cost of approximately \$20,000 to grade and improve the turnaround. AC Transit cannot use its funds for such improvements, so the City of Richmond is studying ways of funding the project.

### CIVIC HOUSEKEEPING

During the month of August, crews of summer employees from the Richmond Recreation and Parks Department were all over Point Richmond cutting weeds and brush from streets and sidewalks, and our community looks much better for the effort.

Tom Powers is also working with the City of Richmond and Contra Costa County to use people working off fines or minor jail terms to clean up trash around bus stops and other publicly visible areas of Point Richmond. We hope the program is implemented and suggest that anyone who supports the concept let your City Council members know that you think it is a good idea.

We have enjoyed the new surface on the tennis courts behind the Plunge ("Point Richmond Raquet Club"). They are a first class asset.

## INDIAN STATUE PROJECT

Does anyone know what is happening with the Indian Statue? \*

*According to Inter Arts' new director, Susan Pontius, who has recently replaced Kerry VanderMeer, contract negotiations with the City and the artist necessitated the drafting of a new contract, which will be resubmitted and probably signed within a week. The artist has been waiting to begin his work, which will take approximately 9 months for completion, making the final dedication date next summer. The base, which should have been in place by now, is, to Susan's knowledge, in the hands of the contractor hired by Chevron. She has promised to give us progress reports, now that she's acquainted with her job.*

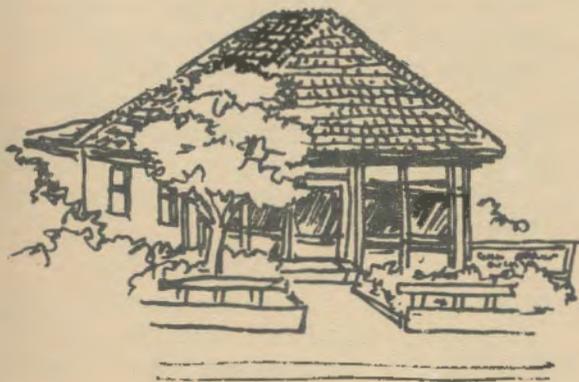
—Ed.

## BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

The Point Richmond Business Association will meet on Wednesday, September 14, at the Hotel Mac for lunch.

Everyone is invited.

—Tom Butt



## REORGANIZATION OF THE

## POINT RICHMOND CIVIC GROUP

On August 4, a meeting was called at the Point Community Center, to decide upon a plan to reorganize the Point Civic Group. President of the group, Doug Corbin, will spend the next year with his family in Spain, so he called the meeting so that new officers could be elected. Those attending felt that the organization might better represent the entire community if its form were changed.

Concerns voiced made it obvious that regular meetings and active committees are needed. Problems cited included: the longer waits at the railroad crossings within the Point; the unsightly new Santa Fe truck bed parking lot; the Petromark expansion plan, and the development on Western Drive.

Elected as co-chairmen of the Organization Committee were Jan Herrero and Ellie Strauss. They have met with their committee (Doris Maske, Bob Strauss, Lucretia Edwards and Alexandra Gautraud) and will bring the proposal for the structure of the group to a meeting planned for September 21, at the Point Community Center, at 7:45 p.m.

## THE PARK WORKSHOP

The East Bay Regional Park District held a public workshop at Washington School on August 11. Representatives presented the District's Resource Analysis, and received some input from those attending on their Land Use-Development Plan and Environmental Impact Report.

Late in October the Park District will hold a public hearing on their plan, perhaps incorporating in it some of the ideas voiced at the August 11 meeting.

A comprehensive list of considerations was presented for discussion including a process

structures within the park, adjacent land and views from the park, historic-archeologic resources, geology, vegetation and wildlife.

Representatives from the Masquers and from a model railroad association voiced an interest in using one of the buildings on park land; members of the Aero-Rocket Society which meets on Saturday mornings in the park voiced their interest in continuing their activities; a representative of the Boy Scouts who created Dornan Grove was on hand to report the progress of the grove, which the Scouts have invested approximately \$2,000 in, and on which work is still progressing. Concerns voiced included the access to the Bay for fishing.

Notices of the public hearing will be published; anyone interested in attending should watch for notices in October.

### IT WAS WRITTEN . . .

FROM THE ARCHIVES OF LOCAL CHURCHES  
COME STORIES OF EARLY POINT RICHMOND,  
AT A TIME WHEN PEOPLE ENJOYED  
AND TOOK TIME TO COMPOSE  
THE "WRITTEN WORD".

### THE METHODIST CHURCH

*The following is a continuation of the first records of the Methodist Church. This is the eighth installment of the series, which reflects the developing and building of the new church and how they dealt with problems. The minutes are printed as written.*

Pt. Richmond                      June 4, 1904  
Meeting of the Official Board was called to order by Rev. Bro. Rich at the church at 8:15 p.m. which was opened by prayer by Bro. A.Odell.

Bro Jas C Bly acting as secy. Those present were Bro Rich, Bro A.Odell, Bro Lester, Sister Conn and Bro Bly.

It was shown that the church was behind \$110.00 on the pastors salary up to the present time and that \$230.00 should be raised before conference to pay the past

salary; then there was the Presiding Elders claim and other necessary amounts which would figure close up to \$275.00 and only 3 month time.

On motion by Bro A. Odell seconded by Bro Lester it was moved that the ladies of the church and the Sunday School scholars be asked to canvas for the Pastors salary.

It was also suggested that we have a Strawberry Festival down at the Band Stand or in that vicinity some evening when the Band is giving their open air concert (sic).

The question of insuring the Church property came up but as no means were provided to pay for the same it was laid over for the present.

Nothing more before the meeting it adjourned.

Pt. Richmond                      August 15, 1904

Meeting of the Official Board was called to order by Bro C.E.Rich at 8:15 p.m. at the church those present being Bro's Rich, Rodell, Lester, Bly and Sister Conn.

The meeting was opened by prayer led by Bro A.Odell. Bro Bly acted as secy.

The Treasurer reported \$355.60 had been collected and given the pastor up to date \$17.65 had been collected for the Presiding Elder leaving a balance due Pastor \$144.40 and due the Presiding Elder \$32.35.

The Ladies Aid had fitted up the church in the way of carpet for the floor, painting ceiling, had attended to paying Janitor work and electric lights the amount of which had not been placed in Treasurer's hand.

Bro Odell reported he had insured the church building for three years at a cost of \$16.00 which had been collected by him.

Nothing more coming before the meeting it adjourned.

Jas C Bly, Secy

Pt Richmond                      Oct 3, 1904

Meeting called to order at 8:45 by R.D.W.Calfree; those present being A.Odell, J. Lester, Sister Pritchard Schular, Bros

Dahl, Ingraham, Phelps, Bly and Calfee.

It was moved by Bro Lester, seconded by Bro A.Odell that we hold official board the first Monday of each month. Carried.

Bro A. Odell made a motion to adopt the Reynolds system in full for the present year, seconded by Bro Lester and carried unanimously.

The Ladies Aid had done noble work last year defraying the current expenses, paying the Pastor's salary and purchasing carpet for the church; The board did not wish to give them any certain work to do, but let them do what they were willing and able to do for the present year.

It was suggested that there be committees appointed to look up new comers and get them into the church. Sisters Bly and Pritchard on the hill, Sisters Phelps and Schular lower part of town, Sisters Dahl and Ingraham in Santa Fe and old town respectively.

Brother Calfee spoke very favorable as to the Parsonage fund as did Bro A.Odell. Bro Odell had subscription papers drawn up and they were given to Bro Calfee Bro Lester, Bro A.Odell and Bro Bly to be circulated and get what we could to build parsonage as soon as possible.

Bro A.Odell made a motion seconded by Bro Lester for all to try and raise what we could to pay in advance on the ministers salary. Carried unanimously.

Bro Calfee reported that the first quarterly conference for the year be held Monday October 10 that Dr. Coyle would preach Sunday eve.

It was moved by Bro A.Odell seconded by Bro Bly that Bro I. Lester be appointed asst. to secretary in Sunday School.

Bro Lester, Sisters Pritchard and Schular were appointed to help distribute cards of the Reynolds System of collection.

Nothing more before the meeting it adjourned.

Jas C. Bly, Secy

—Mid Dorman

## COMING UP AT THE MASQUERS

Auditions for the musical play, *The Fantastics* — are set for Sunday, September 18 at 2:30 p.m. and Monday, September 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Place, Point Richmond. There are roles for 4 to 6 men and 1 to 3 women; all ages are needed. Be prepared to dance and sing. Please bring your sheet music with you. One of the roles to be cast is that of a mime. Dance experience would be helpful but is not essential to the role.

Performances will be Friday and Saturday evenings from November 4 through December 17, 1983. There will also be three Sunday matinees, dates to be announced.

For further information, call director Pat Siekert at 689-1769 (after 6:30 p.m.).

Opening September 9 —

Thornton Wilder's classic play, *The Skin of Our Teeth* will open at the Masquers on Friday, September 9, 1983. Performances will continue Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:30 p.m. through October 15. There will be two Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m. on September 25 and October 9, 1983.

Members of the cast include Jama Clark, Daniel Bradley, Jack Gardiner and Rhonda Kaye, all of Marin. Janet Gannaway and Jane Mosburg of El Cerrito and Bill Vandouris of Berkeley are also featured. Other members of the cast include Steven Malumphy of San Francisco, Mike Tompkins of Walnut Creek, and Helen Petit and Lauren Osher of Oakland. A cameo appearance is made by Dave McElhatton of the KPIX Eyewitness News Team. The play is directed by San Francisco's George Johnson. Admission is \$4.50. For reservations please call 526-1038.

## PEOPLE 'ROUND THE POINT

Mrs. Donald Laing of Swindon, Wiltshire, England, was a recent visitor at the home of her daughter, Wendy Thompson, and granddaughter Rayne, and Marion Downey.

Those who opened their homes to her, or entertained her were Wendy and Marion, Mrs. William Stribley of San Rafael, Mrs. J.M. McKay of Walnut Creek, Capt. and Mrs. H.P. Beaver of San Francisco, Meredith Benz, Henry Francis, Allan and Jeanne Downey, George Rudolph, Dorcas Radde; and she was a guest at the K. of C. dinner as well as the church dinner at the Point Catholic Church hall. —*Marion Downey*

Rev. Nancy Yamamoto was welcomed by members and friends of the Point Methodist Church following church as their new minister. Nancy will be attending Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley along with fulfilling her appointment to the church. Wife of the Bishop Wilbur Choy, Nancy chooses to use her maiden name professionally.

After a busy summer, Scout Troop 111 will resume meeting on Monday, September 12 in Friendship Hall at the Methodist Church. Any boy between 11 and 18 is invited to join. Summer included a rafting trip, a 50 mile back-pack and a week at the Sierra Buttes base camp. Leaders Fred Hart, S.M., Ben Woodson, Asst. S.M., parents Steve Waterman, George Martin and Jay Fenton assisted the following scouts who attended one or both of the camps: Mario Allen, Erik Brown, Robb Bury, Todd and Paul Cort, Seth Fenton, Shawn Fernandes, Gwilym and Luther Martin, Mathew and Michael Modie, Lamont Reed, Christopher Ward, Chris Waterman, Shawn Baker and Josh. Former Eagle Scout, Gary Darling, now with the State Forestry Department, joined the group for a few days. Camping fees were

minimal because of the successful pancake breakfast (the annual fund-raiser).

**ORGANIST WANTED** — Immediately! For Sunday Morning worship at the First Methodist Church. Call 234-0780 (Oretta Eaton) if you can be of any help.

Anyone in the community is invited to 'show up' on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in Friendship Hall at the Methodist Church, Martina at West Richmond, to help the loyal few prepare for the annual Country Faire in October. They have crafts and ideas that need a helping hand. They also are open to new suggestions. They are a friendly group. Try a visit.

## TO BE MARRIED —

Sunday, September 18, 1983 at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, Suzanne Bartram, daughter of Bruce and Ann Bartram and Richard Wilson. A reception will follow at the Brazilian Room in Tilden Park.

Friday evening, September 10, at a family gathering, Jodi Roselius and Clarence Bagley will be married. The following day, a reception will be held at the Roselius home in Point Richmond.

One of the special guests at the wedding will be Arthur Boie, Jodi's grandfather, of Lake City, Minnesota.

Jack Creed is back bowling, a happy event for his co-bowlers. Jack underwent extensive surgery this summer and has weathered many radiation treatments. He looks great! Wife Jean looks a little affected from it all though.

A full house honored Trannie Dornan in recognition of her 70 year membership in Zephyr Rebekah Lodge in the Point.

Gust Allyn has been hospitalized, but it is hoped he will soon be home again.

*Mild Dornan*

## RECENT HISTORY — THE MILLER-KNOX REGIONAL SHORELINE PARK

### IV

*A series of articles on the Park —  
its birth and development.  
(Continued from Vol. I, no. 8)*

Those who have been following this intermittent saga of the development of the Miller-Knox Shoreline Park will recall that peril, frustration and crisis have marked the park's history. Sometimes the crises came in quick succession, at other times sporadically, but a crisis in one form or another could be relied upon to prevent complacency.

In 1974 a threat to the park, and indeed to the lives and health of a significant number of Richmond residents, arose from an unexpected source.

A City Hall staff person mentioned to a member of the Shoreline Parks Committee that a little publicized Environment Impact Review Panel meeting might be "interesting" to the group. Members attending the public meeting learned to their consternation that the Panel was considering a proposal by Collier Carbon and Chemical Corporation (a Union Oil Company subsidiary) to erect two 20,000 ton capacity tanks, 88 feet high, 138 feet in diameter, for the storage of anhydrous ammonia on the eight acres of flat land between Petromark and the Bay Terminal's tanks. Their intent was to utilize the Petromark pumping station facility to fill the tank trucks or railroad tank cars used to transport the ammonia to the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valley agricultural areas.

This acreage is zoned for heavy industry and, in 1974, industry could do much as it wished on land so zoned, including (as has been previously recorded) obtaining permits without benefit of a Planning Commission

hearing, through "administrative decision." But in this case an "encroachment permit" was required for an underground pipeline beneath the end of city-owned Garrard Boulevard, necessitating the E.I.R. Panel's review.

Grateful for the small but useful technicality that brought the project to public attention, the Shoreline Parks Committee argued for the necessity of an Environmental Impact Report on the basis of: [1] safety (from a toxic substance), [2] visual intrusion of the massive tanks, and [3] the probable pre-emption of a portion of the shoreline which would prevent access.

The panel, made up of the department heads of Planning, Public Works and Parks and Recreation, agreed that the adverse impact of the project on the environment required an E.I.R., and the Planning Department was directed to prepare the necessary documents.



The neighborhoods on either side of the site — Brickyard Cove and Point Richmond — became aware of the plan, researched anhydrous ammonia, and became alarmed. Anhydrous ammonia is used to fertilize food crops. Its basic raw material is natural gas. At the time, demand for the fertilizer was increasing and availability of natural gas in the U.S. was becoming critical, though plentiful in Alaska. Collier Carbon and Chemical Corporation (or Union Collier) had recently

opened an anhydrous ammonia manufacturing plant at Kenai, Alaska.

To reduce transportation costs anhydrous ammonia in liquid form (at atmospheric pressure and under refrigeration) is transported in large quantities in sea-going barges, each capable of carrying a 9,500 ton cargo. In order to bridge a service gap to the valleys, Union Collier wanted a deep-water docking facility on the Bay with access to rail lines and truck highways. They felt that they had found it in Richmond, complete with the Petromark pumping equipment.

To have an ample supply of fertilizer on hand during the spring planting season, the company planned for a storage tank that would hold 40,000 tons. A single tank with this capacity would have been 110 feet high and 180 feet across. Though substantially cheaper to construct than two tanks, its aesthetic impact would have been so brutal that the plan was changed to the two smaller tanks holding 20,000 tons each.

Anhydrous ammonia (a concentrate from which the water has been removed) is extremely harmful to flora, fauna and human beings, in high concentrations and large amounts. Though so hard to ignite that it is considered non-flammable, it is hazardous for the following reason: It must be contin-

uously refrigerated at 28° below zero, and stored under pressure. Chilled by evaporation, the liquid is unstable, being denser and colder at the top than at the bottom. As long as the tank is kept absolutely still and the contents stable, it is harmless. However, any jarring action would result in what (in anhydrous ammonia circles) is known as a "roll-over", exposing warmer liquid from the bottom, resulting in a "flash", releasing large quantities of ammonia gas. Even a small earthquake could be highly dangerous, a roll-over or tank rupture releasing highly concentrated pressurized gas. Prevailing winds at the tank site blow toward densely populated areas. So while the noxious fumes might go out into the Bay, the greater likelihood would be that they would sweep inland, affecting the Yacht Club, Brickyard Cove, Miller-Knox Park and Point Richmond. A really bad leak could necessitate the evacuation of a large area of west Contra Costa County. Though no seismic instability has been recorded on this site, this is, historically, an earthquake-prone area. There are a number of fault lines in the vicinity, and the public is frequently warned that we are due for a "big one". Small wonder that neighborhood groups felt apprehensive. Surely it will be difficult enough to maintain physical and emotional equilibrium during an earthquake

*Corner of San Pablo Ave. and Macdonald Ave., 1925.*



*photograph courtesy of the Richmond Museum*

without having to combat possible asphyxiation.

To alleviate the growing community anxiety and commotion, the Planning Commission scheduled a neighborhood work session in May to exchange information and ideas regarding the matter, prior to the final preparation of the E.I.R. This meeting attracted sixty-odd residents, many of whom had relevant questions and thoughtful statements regarding their concerns. The meeting closed with a unanimous expression of opposition to the tanks.

However, when the E.I.R. draft was released in June, none of the questions asked at the meeting, nor any of the objections raised were addressed. Indeed, the draft was highly favorable to the project. Representing neither a full nor objective disclosure of environmental effects, the statement began in a professional manner, but quickly deteriorated to an apologetic and wordy justification of the ammonia storage facility.

Nothing, of course, could have more instantly or effectively galvanized and focused the energies of the Brickyard Cove and Point Richmond neighborhoods into an angry and potent fighting force. To paraphrase, "Hell hath no fury like a neighborhood scorned." Small meetings were held, statistics were gathered, allies were notified, statements were prepared, and when a notice was circulated that the E.I. Panel would meet on July 24, 1974, to review the adequacy of the E.I.R., a capacity crowd turned out at the Bermuda Room in the Richmond Auditorium.

July 24, 1974 was unusually hot and humid — the kind of weather that makes people irritable — and these people were angry to begin with. At 7:30 p.m., when the meeting was called to order, elevated temperatures were not soothed by the announcement that the public meeting could not be held because, inadvertently, legal notices had not

been placed in newspapers. An additional rationale was that the Bay Conservation and Development Commission had requested a continuance of the item, in order that their Engineering Criteria Review Board might have adequate time to study the report and make its input into the Draft E.I.R.

The crowd was so large, so irritated and so obviously convinced that they were simply being "put off" that a hasty public relations decision was made to hold an informal hearing for the crowd's benefit, to be continued at a properly advertised and scheduled meeting on August 27.

Twenty speakers were then heard in a succession of thoroughly professional, scientific and scholarly objections to the anhydrous ammonia storage tank proposal, presentations which went on for nearly three hours. Speakers included an architect, an urban consultant, an expert on environmental analysis, a PTA representative, a chemical engineer, an economic analyst, a member of the Shoreline Parks Committee, a Board member from Save the San Francisco Bay, a safety engineer, the President of Associated Sportsmen of California, one of the developers of Brickyard Cove, and numerous concerned citizens. They all stated (many with explicitly documented reasons) that the E.I.R. was a whitewash and grossly inadequate. Their comments ranged from very pressing anxieties about the folly of storing large quantities of an unpredictable and toxic substance so near to residential communities in an earthquake prone area, to the specific that the Yacht Club and Brickyard Cove would be isolated in the event of a roll-over, rupture or spill.

The projected large number of tank trucks which would carry the anhydrous ammonia to the valleys, and the consequent increased possibility of an accident — in the narrow, 1915-built tunnel (on the direct

route to the Petromark loading area), near the elementary school, also close to the route, or in the park area — were also discussed; as was the adverse noise impact of heavy truck traffic (typically 100 trips per day during peak agricultural season).

Many spoke of the severe and widespread damage which would result to marine and terrestrial life in the event of a spill, and others deplored the visual and aesthetic blight of the huge storage tanks on the skyline, eliminating view possibilities for residents and park users alike.

Particularly stressed was the contradiction of increased industrialization and heavy truck traffic at the time of increased residential and recreational development of the area, and of the conflict with policy in the Richmond Coastline Plan which “gives highest priority to preserving and enhancing the potential amenities of the coastline’s variety of edges and of the landmark character of its adjacent hills”. It was pointed out by one speaker that sections 21000 and 21001 of the California Environmental Quality Act state that every public agency and every citizen has an obligation to take all action necessary to protect, rehabilitate and enhance the environment of the state. CEQA also states, “The long-term preservation of the environment shall be the leading criterion in public decisions”, and that an E.I.R. may not be used as an instrument to rationalize approval of any project.

The land and water areas of Brickyard Cove and Point Richmond are beautiful, and people who live there cherish their homes, their views and their neighborhoods. They feel them to be worth fighting for, and in this situation, fight they did. The combined energy, anger and expertise of the neighborhood speakers at this meeting coordinated (quite without rehearsal) in a tour de force presentation which was impressive, if not

official. While well-pleased with their unstructured but comprehensive coverage of the situation, neighborhood people were not so foolish as to feel that they could afford to relax, as excellent presentations in the past had been blandly ignored for political reasons.

So the entire large crowd, greatly augmented by other curious or indignant people, agency representatives and newspaper and television reporters returned to the legally publicized *official* meeting on August 27, 1974. While this was a replay (for the record) of the July 24 meeting, much additional information was introduced. This included a dismal newspaper account of a court case in which Collier Carbon and Chemical Corp. agreed to pay \$429,000 in criminal fines and civil damages for allowing too much ammonia to be discharged into ocean waters in Kenai, and for filing false reports about this discharge. The single person to speak favorably about the project was the engineering manager for Collier.

Rather exhausted by the double production, but quite prepared to take the matter to court if necessary, the protagonists went home to await developments.

None came. After a certain amount of ceremonial buck-passing and face-saving buffing and puffing, it became apparent that so much embarrassing publicity had been created that no one wanted to have anything further to do with it — certainly not the City Council.

In October, Union Collier’s engineering manager asked the Planning Director to “put the application on ice” for a while and the following March the City Manager announced that Collier and Petromark had given up their plan, and Collier would look for a site in another city. The project died with a whimper not a bang, leaving the disputed land at the mercy of the next industrial whim.

This short but fierce flurry provided a lesson in civics and participatory democracy for many residents not usually involved in battles of this nature. One of the most illuminating and shocking aspects of the situation that left many previously trusting people cynical and paranoid about the "industry versus residential land game" was the realization that it was only by a fluke (the fact that an 'encroachment permit' was required for the pipeline under the city-owned street) that the matter became part of a public dialogue in which they had the opportunity to participate. Had this not been so, quite possibly the neighborhoods of Point Richmond and Brickyard Cove might have found out, after the various 'administrative decisions' had been quietly made, and the necessary permits quietly granted, that the



two 20,000 ton tanks were well-advanced in the process of construction with no possibility of recourse. Another illuminating and disillusioning result of this little exercise in practical civics was the recognition by the public of the indifference to public health and safety of the cooperating industrial interests, and the morally indefensible and basically dishonest attempt that they had made to present a project involving toxic and hazardous substances as innocuous and

non-threatening to the public welfare. The loss of trust which resulted was a great loss to a city constantly struggling to present the public image of 'a good place to live and work.'

Conversely, a positive side of this situation was the effectiveness of the working relationship, at a time of perceived danger, of the two neighborhoods as they joined together in common cause.

The eight acres of land on which it was intended that the anhydrous ammonia tanks would be built were always coveted by those interested in land acquisition for the Miller-Knox Shoreline Park, because the area between the Petromark Facility at Terminal I and Santa Fe's Ferry Point has unsurpassed views of San Francisco, the Bay, Angel Island and Mt. Tamalpais. But between this beautiful spot and the border of the land acquired for the Park, a mini-tank farm, Bay Terminals, had been constructed by an oil company. This group of tanks has not been in use for some time due to matters of litigation, but because of the development of the land as tank storage its value was set extremely high. The EBRPD had to be very prudent in allocating acquisition funds, since waterfront property is expensive and much land had to be obtained to complete the park, so no attempt had been made to enter into negotiations with either Bay Terminals or the Santa Fe Land Company, owners of the Bay-fronting land at the end.

While this chronicle of confrontation may seem to have been more of a crisis for the neighborhoods than for the park, the destiny of the land and its use in the public interest was very much the concern of the park advocates. So this crisis is included as part of the Miller-Knox Park saga, as an illustration of one of the difficulties of trying to develop a safe and beautiful park in an industrially oriented city.

— Lucretia Edwards

## POINTS IN THE FUTURE

- September 5 Labor Day  
 September 7 School Begins (vacation begins for parents)  
 September 14 Point Business Association meets, 12 noon at the Hotel Mac.  
 September 15 San Pablo Museum and Historical Society Dinner, and Guest speaker Brian Thompson will talk about "Building the California Railroad Museum". Reservations by Sept. 8 - call 235-3845 or 237-1069  
 September 17 Yom Kippur  
 September 18 Masquers Auditions (see article in this newsletter)  
 September 19 Masquers Auditions  
 September 21 POINT RICHMOND CIVIC GROUP meeting - Reorganization. Everyone invited. 7:45 at the Community Center. (see article)

- September 22 POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION meeting - 7:30 p.m. Linsley Hall. Everyone invited. (see article)  
 September 23 Summer ends, Fall begins (oops -  
 September 9 "The Skin of Our Teeth" begins at the Masquers!

- □ -

**NOTE to Craftspeople:** The Point Richmond Tinkers and Peddlers Christmas Fair will be held December 16-17, 10 to 6. Anyone interested in selling, please call Donna Powers at 235-7338.

### HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY...

Sara Warren	Shane Eastman
Oneida Clutts	John Howe
Al Frosini	Joanne Busby
Donna Roselius	Ivar Elle
Ingvar Elle	Lorie Jones
Jack Knox	Mary Forbes
Roxanne Trudeau	Doris Maske
Susan Armstrong	Ted Tedrick

*Life may begin at forty, but there was nothing wrong with all those years that preceded it!*

NAME _____	
ADDRESS _____	
TELEPHONE NO. _____	
TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (CHECK ONE)	
<input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR CITIZEN (65 +)	5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY	20.00
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ARTICLES FOR EACH MONTH'S ISSUE ARE DUE ON THE 20TH OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH.

Please mail articles and items of interest to: 212 Bishop Alley, Point Richmond, CA 94801. Questions? Call 235-4222.

Items may also be dropped off at Richmond Supply Co., 145 W. Richmond Avenue.