

THIS POINT

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Vol. II, No. 9

MAY, 1984

75 cents



PAVING RICHMOND AVENUE, ABOUT 1912 (Photo courtesy Richmond Museum)

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in time

**ANNUAL MEETING
and
HISTORY FESTIVAL**

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 1984

**Linsley Hall
235 WASHINGTON AVENUE, POINT RICHMOND**

**beginning at
1:00 P. M.**

**with a
POT LUCK LUNCHEON**

**followed by
VLAD SHKURKIN**

**authority on
ANTIQUÉ MAPS
with emphasis on Point Richmond
plus**

**LOCAL AUTHORITIES, TO DO SOME
LOCATING & STORY TELLING
(If you're an authority, come prepared,
If not, come prepared to listen and learn)**

PLUS

**DISPLAYS OF PHOTOS FROM THE
DON CHURCH COLLECTION**

For Information, call 235-4222

*Suggestion for pot-luck participation;
If your last name begins with A-H,
bring a dessert; If it begins with J-
P, bring a main dish; Q-Z, bring a
salad. If you are bringing guests who
cannot participate, a donation to cover
costs will be appreciated (\$3.50)*

♦♦ HISTORY ASSOCIATION NOTES ♦♦

ANNUAL MEETING . . .

Set aside Sunday, May 20, for a great get-together, a festive potluck luncheon, election of board members, and a program on antique maps (if you have any, bring them). Vlad Shkurkin, expert on and publisher of the detailed and precise Sanborn fire insurance maps will bring Point Richmond maps dating back to 1903 as part of his presentation.

We have pieced together a wall-sized Point Richmond map from one of the old insurance maps. It will be on display, to jog fond memories.

Please plan to come. If you do, this year's meeting will be as successful as last.

REFINERY TOUR . . .

It is not too late to sign up for a tour, however, there are several alternatives, depending on the number of people, and what their interests are:

A refinery tour would probably require at least fifteen people, and is conducted aboard a bus. The tour takes two hours.

A tour of Chevron Research takes one hour. It is a walking tour, with a minimum of ten people.

A combination of the two tours can be arranged, with luncheon in the new Cafeteria at noon, between the two tours.

More people are required before definite arrangements can be made. If you are interested, please call 235-4222.

ARCHIVES REPORT . . .

We had a splendid time at Donna Roselius' house April 3 indexing newsletters and discussing current and historical events. Par-

ticipating at this important meeting were Clarice Stribley, Liz McDonald, Marian Hawkins, Bob Peckham and Donna Roselius. Thank you for your help.

Pam Wilson brought in a number of articles clipped from the West County Times concerning Point Richmond activities. It would be great to include articles from other papers in our files. Does anyone out there have a sharp pair of scissors and a subscription to the Independent, Chronicle, Examiner or Tribune? Just clip and send in — you'll receive our gratitude in return.

—Teresa Albro

MEMBERS

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

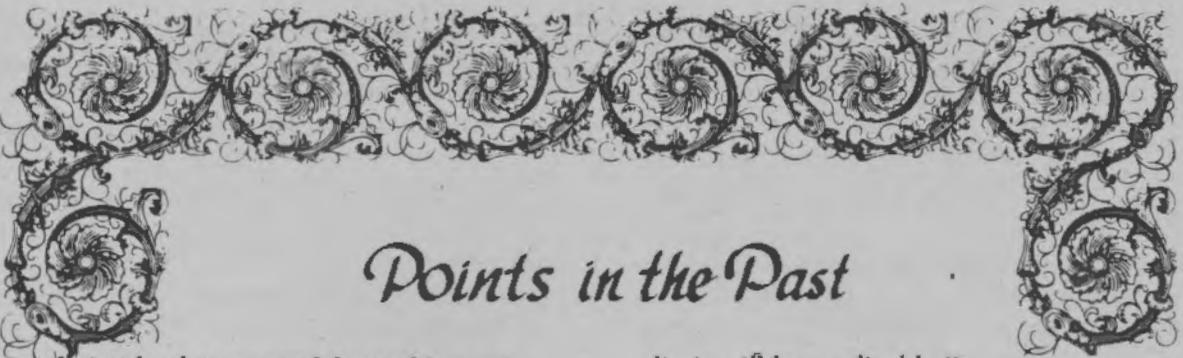
Clara Perasso	Edith Whetstone
John Maxwell	Oretta Eaton
George M. Batten	Mary Franco
Elizabeth Pope	Mrs. Marconi
Martin & Janic McNair	Hattie Potts

And welcome to the following new members:

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Peckham	
George Coles, Jr.	Donna Stevens
Mrs. Anita York	Uldine Nickola

If a red check mark appears here _____
your membership dues are (or were) due as
of _____

To ensure receiving you next issue of "This Point in Time", and to keep it and other worthwhile projects going, please mail in your membership now — Since we are a non-profit organizations, your donations are tax-deductible, and greatly appreciated! Please fill out the form on the last page and send it to Pam Wilson, 521 Western Drive.



Points in the Past

Articles that appeared during this month, 70, 60, 50, 40 and 30 years ago in the Richmond Independent and Point Richmond Record, courtesy of the Richmond Library.

70 YEARS AGO . . .

"Claudia and Dorothy, the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. C.O. Carr of the Florence apartments, narrowly escaped death yesterday when they became stuck in the marsh near the Washington school. The two children had become fast in the soft mud of the old channel and had sunk almost to their hips before extricated. Their plight was discovered by school children but after several ineffectual attempts to get to the two, A. F. Rice, station agent of the Santa Fe Company was called. He secured several boards and these were extended out to the two, Rice pulling them out."

—May 8, 1914

"Automobilists, get this! If the ordinance which was given first reading before the city council Monday night succeeds in getting by the boards next Monday night, several restrictions will be placed on your favorite pastime, which have heretofore not been regarded . . . Fourteen miles per hour will . . . govern automobile traffic along Richmond and Washington avenues, and Park Place.

"On other streets a limit of 25 miles per hour will be established, except at the more thickly populated centers, where a 19-mile

limit will be applicable."

—May 13, 1914

"Many of the women living in the west side of the city are interested in the baking contest which will be held at the LaMore block, in (209) Richmond avenue today. Not the women only, but some of the men, it is understood, and some of the girls in the high school domestic science class are to be entered . . . (the baked goods entered in the contest) will be placed on sale after the awards have been made. The funds being devoted to the treasury of the Aid society of the First Methodist Church."

—May 16, 1914

"Members of the aid society of the First Baptist church will serve dinner at the church parlors tonight . . . The women of this organization are noted for the dinners they get up, and the affairs are always anticipated with pleasure. A price of 35 cents per plate is to be charged. The following menu will be served:

Roast beef or pork	Brown bread
Browned potatoes	Tomatoes
Salads	Pies, cakes and
Boston baked beans	puddings
Tea and Coffee."	

—May 21, 1914

"One of the most important moves of the Shattuck-Edinger company in the construction of the municipal tunnel was made yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock, when a

large section of the hill at the opposite end of the tunnel and by which the municipal road is to be established was dynamited. Missiles were thrown 400 feet and over by the impact . . . At a single blast several thousand tons of earth, stone and gravel were dislodged.

"A comparative short distance remains to be bored through the hill until the tunneling is completed. This will be accomplished by the end of the present month, after which the lining will be started."

—May 21, 1914

"Writs of mandamus, injunctions and almost personal blows marked the meeting of the city council last evening. It was the bitterest meeting in the history of the present board. The acceptance by a vote of six to three . . . on the proposition of George S. Wall for the location of the city hall by September 30 next in the Harbor Center tract and the agreement of the city to pay Wall \$13,320 in monthly installments of \$185 for a \$15,000 city hall building, was the storm center.

"John H. Nicholl's offer of 36 lots and a \$25,000 building in Burg Brothers Civic Center tract at Nevin avenue and 26th street was turned down by the same vote."

In retaliation to the council's approval of the Wall city hall, to which he was very much opposed, Mayor Ludwig refused to sign the resolution, arguing that the agreement was illegal. Further complicating the issue, it was noted that H.C. Cutting had also offered a site, along Ashland avenue near Ohio.

Within a few days five separate petitions were being circulated covering the various points in conflict over the location and building of the new city hall. And by the end of the month the matter was in court.

—May 19 - 24, 1914

"Miss Katheryn Decker, the charming and bright daughter of Dr. Decker, the pioneer dentist of the west side, will receive her degree as a doctor of dental surgery at the commencement exercises of the College of Physicians and Surgeons in San Francisco today."

—May 27, 1914

"The long line of persons who were seen scaling the Washington avenue hill yesterday morning, and who were seen trailing back again, tired (but) merry, were a few of the many thousands of persons who attended the opening day of the Kozy Kove amusement park . . . Persons who attended the place with skeptical ideas were convinced of the fact that the Richmond waterfront affords one of the most attractive and gale protected spots for an amusement resort on the San Francisco Bay."

—May 31, 1914

60 YEARS AGO . . .

"Because there wasn't sufficient trade for him to conduct 'a nice decent place for men and women', as he had hoped, Charles Richenbacker, 49 Washington avenue, decided to augment his income by a few and discrete sales of jackass brandy, he told Police Judge C.A. Odell today.

"Richenbacker pleaded guilty to possession of liquor following a raid conducted by Richmond police yesterday on his pool room, where a pint bottle of brandy was found." He was fined \$500.

—May 19 and 21, 1924

"The Court of Honor was held last night by Troops One, Two and Three, Boy Scouts of Richmond, at Fireman's hall, Standard avenue, Point Richmond. To troop one must go the honor of receiving the highest number of merit badges. They were awarded a total of 118."

—May 22, 1924

"Nothing that has happened in Richmond in years has done more to unite the city as did the municipal swimming pool bond election yesterday.

"The bond carried, 2502 to 998, having 169 more than the necessary two thirds... It was apparent last night after the first few precincts had come in that the bonds had carried, and the word quickly spread that 'Richmond is in the swim'...

"The John Nicholl Company also merits the thanks of the citizens of Richmond for its donation, absolutely free to the city of a site worth many thousands of dollars, ideally situated and provided with a fresh water well 1200 feet deep."

—May 29, 1924

"Long lines of (automobiles) awaited their turn to gain places on the (ferry) boats, and thousands of machines stood hour after hour, occasionally creeping slowly forward as their number was diminished by a boatload. Almost immediately the lines were filled out with newly arrived cars.

"At the Richmond-San Rafael ferry a long line formed early, and in spite of the fact that an early boat was operated at 6:15 o'clock, but a little reduction had been made in the number of cars awaiting transportation across the bay. At one time 500 cars were in line there, and at 1 o'clock this afternoon, there were still 350."

—May 30, 1924

50 YEARS AGO ...

"The largest gathering of Richmond and Contra Costa county pioneers ever assembled, met in the rooms of the First Methodist church on the West side last evening for the annual 'Old Timers' dinner. Over 200 persons were seated at the dinner tables.

"Friends and business acquaintances who had not met for 20 years or more resumed friendship. Many historical events bearing

on the growth and prosperity of Richmond were related by pioneers who themselves were integral factors in the development of the city.

"A splendid program (which included several musical solos and a skit about rural life) was presented by George Calfee, program chairman, who introduced the numbers... At the conclusion of the program (Fred Neville, master of ceremonies) called upon many of the 'old timers' present to say a few words... The affair was ended with the singing of 'Auld Lang Syne' by the entire assemblage."

—May 26, 1934

"A sign reading 'After May 13, this property will be closed to the public', has been placed across the entrance of Kozy Kove which for 30 years past has been the playground of Richmond's children. The owner, Alexander Kowan, has started to build his studio home there. He is a member of the faculty at U.C. as a professor of languages."

—May 18, 1934

—Teresa Albro



KOZY KOVE - 1914
from the Dan Church collection

KOZY KOVE, et al

In 1910, a full page of the Independent's special Women's Edition was taken up with a plea for parks. The only park owned by the City was Janice Playlot - "This is a small plaza which has recently been improved under the superintendency of the West Side Women's Improvement Club."

The article asks, "How on earth are we to get parks and playgrounds when the lots in suitable blocks have been sold to parties who are scattered to the four corners of the earth?" and calls for needed legislation that could set aside park land previous to land sales.

Kozy Kove became available at least twice for City purchase, far below the price paid in 1914 by the 'Kozy Kove Pleasure Park Company', a group that bought the half-mile of shore frontage from the Point Richmond Warehouse and Dock Company for \$45,000. Previously developed by B.E. Loomis, the area had been called Loomis park until that time.

After investing approximately \$10,000 in an "immense swimming tank, open air cafe and dance pavilion, 100 individual bath houses, and refreshment stands (selling only soft drinks - "It is the intention of the management to run a thoroughly orderly place and one that will appeal to the fathers and mothers of Richmond"), the park was in operation for only a year before being dismantled by creditors. It was also denuded, florist Adolph Winters digging up all the foliage that he had planted to beautify the park that had been compared to the "Chutes in San Francisco and Luna Park in Los Angeles."

The park reopened under new management, and in addition to a children's playground, electricity was carried to the entire park, making it useable day or night. Man-

agers Benson and Jansing claimed the "finest dance band ever to hit Richmond", the Lenzen-McKracken orchestra, which provided dance music on weekends. During the week young couples danced to the nickelodeon.

In 1919, the park was offered to the City for either \$22,500 or \$32,500, depending on which plan they chose. Richmond chose neither.

Judging from the numerous newspaper articles announcing activities and special events during 1922, the park was active and popular under the management of Jack Crow who also led the resident 'jazz orchestra.'

Once again, in 1925, the shoreline park was offered to the City - this time for only \$9,000, by the Schenkle estate. (The original Park Company had been owned by Agar, Schenkle and Dawson.) Once again, the City chose not to purchase the land, and it was bought for residential development, as noted in the 1934 article above.

Several gaps remain in the history of Kozy Kove. Anyone having information to complete its story will be greatly appreciated.

-Donna Roselius

40 YEARS AGO ...

THEY'LL DO IT

"Three times Richmond's Standard Oil Refinery employees have earned the highest civilian award issued by the Army and Navy.

"Three times the Army and Navy and War Production Board have honored the local refinery and its thousands of loyal workers for outstanding production records.

"Last week the refinery, through Mr. Francis H. Smith, the manager, received a challenge we feel will not go unanswered. In fact we are certain that the Standard Oil Refinery will have taken up that challenge issued by Secretary of War Henry Stimson. Under Secretary of the Navy Henry Forrest-

al, and Petroleum Administrator for War Harold L. Ickes and tossed it back at the Federal official smashed to smithereens.

"The challenge is for the local refinery to turn out 1,936,000 barrels of aviation gasoline in three months.

"If any refinery in the nation can match the quota assigned to them in the next three months, that refinery is the one located here in Richmond.

"Aviation gasoline today is one of the top priority products on the home front, and the fact that the three top Federal officials have issued such a challenge is basis enough for the hint that big things are coming on the Pacific and European war fronts in the next three months.

"They said in their wire to Smith:

'Great as has been the output of this vital fuel already, our offensive blows all over the globe during the critical months to come, will consume staggering quantities (aviation gasoline) which we must not fail to produce. We are counting on you to deliver your share.'

"And we here in Richmond who have seen production record after production record smashed by employees of the Standard Oil Refinery, know that the nation will not have counted on Richmond in vain."

-May 8, 1944

RICHMOND FIGURES IN POSTWAR PLAN

"Richmond's future after the war and the use to which the vast wartime industrial plants encompassed in the shipyard area will be put, have been the subject of considerable discussion in recent months, but a new proposal has been advanced today.

"The following article is taken from the West Coast edition of the "Iron Age" industrial magazine printed in the East:

'A new proposal, and a promising one,

seemingly, for ultimate disposition of the big Kaiser shipyards at Richmond on San Francisco bay has been tossed informally and unofficially into the ring, to be badgered and worried by the matadors and picadors of post-war destiny until ripe for the final kill.

'It is pointed out that the West Coast should have a Foreign Trade Zone similar to present arrangements on Staten Island in New York harbor, where imported shipments could be warehoused, reconsigned, processed, combined and partly reshipped to other foreign posts free from customs duty and import restrictions.

'For this purpose, Richmond offers promising possibilities. Yard 3 with its concrete basins and graving docks is considered a permanent building and repair yard, as well equipped and situated, if not better, than any yard on the West Coast. But 1, 2 and 4 cover extensive areas that will have to be converted to permanent post-war industry or will surely revert to the tide lands, fishing camps and pleasure yacht and motor boat morrings whence they sprang.

'A self-respecting Foreign Trade Zone should have a deep water channel, adjoining acreage for manufacturing and fabrication, extensive warehouses and transit sheds, mainland rail connections, truck transit facilities, location near a major trade and commercial city, and isolation from its immediate surroundings to facilitate customs guard.

'All these attributes seem liberally provided in the Richmond location and facilities. It's another way to jump, but it looks like a good one.'

-May 3, 1944

30 YEARS AGO ...

RICHMOND REGATTA ATTRACTS 150 SLEEK SAILING CRAFT

Colorful Event Starts Tomorrow at 10 A.M.

"Members of the Richmond Yacht Club unfurl sails tomorrow for the annual Small Boat Regatta at 10 a.m. in Richmond Inner Harbor.

"Hopeful of spanking breezes and clear skies, at least 150 small boat skippers will set sail in the annual yachting event that has grown by leaps and bounds each year.

"Largest of the small boat racing association's regatta, the local event has attracted a full entry list of skippers from most Bay Area yachting clubs. And they'll be out in force tomorrow.

"Led by the popular El Toro class, small boats will sail the inner channel. Starting off the club docks, boats will sail to No. 1 shipyard and back. Other boats in the smaller classification include Celodies, Coast 13, Blue Jays, Shamrocks and Penguins.

• "Larger boats will sail the outer channel course, starting off the F&P Dock and traversing a course outside the breakwater.

"Brian McCarthy is the leading Richmond candidate to wrest championship laurels from Sharon Johnson of the Lake Merritt Sailing Club in the El Toro class. The pair tied in the recent Lake Merced race and local yachting enthusiasts look for an interesting race.

"Other local entries in the El Toro class include John Carey, Bob Mythen and Gordon Miller, one-time Snipe class champion. The ElToro is the smallest of the small boats and was designed in 1939 by members of the Richmond Yacht Club. The class has grown to more than 600 registered boats spread from Hawaii to Canada.

"Competition is expected to be stiff in

the Penguin Class, which is competing as a recognized group for the first time this year. Palmer Miller and Ed Pasco, Richmond entries, sail in this group.

"In the Shamrock class, Ralph Call, season champion, is favored to garner a first place with his Banshee.

"Bob Klein, of the RYC and last year's champion, defends his crown for the first time this season in his 110 Class boat, Ugh. He'll probably get stiff competition from El Cerrito's Ronnie Banducci who sailed his Adlib to a second place finish in the Los Angeles Mid Winter race.

"A pair of Richmond Yacht Club members offer Sausalito's John Koenig's Windsome a battle in the Mercury Class. Jean Smith's Jennie and Joe DeMeter's Skylark are expected to be up close at the finish.

"Rear Commodore George Schuldt, RYC, is in charge of the regatta. Trophies for winners will be awarded at ceremonies at 4:30."

-May 15, 1954

MUNICIPAL PLUNGE CLOSED TOMORROW

"The Richmond Municipal Plunge will be closed to the public tomorrow, Building Superintendent Carl Hedquist said today.

"The plunge will be used for a synchronized swimming exhibition given by the city recreation department.

"The pool will again be open to citizen swimmers Sunday, Hedquist said. Sunday hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

-May 7, 1954

2 SAVED FROM DROWNING IN BAY ACCIDENT

"An unidentified woman and a boy believed to be her son, approximately 11 years of age, were rescued from the bay yesterday after a small outboard motorboat upset and tossed them overboard.

"The occupants had been cruising in the boat well out from the Richmond shoreline when the swell from a passing tug overturned the small craft.

"The plight of the woman and boy was observed by Fraser Cole of 2576 Leimert Blvd., Oakland, passing not far away in his 35-foot sailboat. . . swung . . . dropping life preservers. . . Circling back, . . . took their boat in tow. . . another unidentified motor boat took over the tow to complete the trip.

"Those who could be contacted at the Richmond Yacht Harbor and Yacht Club reported having heard of the incident but had received no definite information.

—May 3, 1954

20 YEARS AGO . . .

RICHMOND OF THE FUTURE . . . RECREATION AND NEW ROADS

"In 1962, members of Richmond's planning commission led by Mrs. Barbara Vincent sat down to try and decide what goals Richmond should set for itself as a city.

"The discussions covered a variety of problems — housing, zoning, industry — but throughout ran the theme of creating a "balanced community", of doing away with the image of Richmond as a "lunch bucket town".

"Repeatedly the planners came back to what some called Richmond's greatest natural asset, an undeveloped waterfront.

"In interviewing professional planners, redevelopers, bankers and real estate men, The Independent found no consensus on what the waterfront will be like by 1972. But there seemed to be agreement on at least two attractive probabilities:

"First, it seems clear that Richmond will develop into a center for amateur boating. The Richmond Yacht Club already has plans underway for a graceful yacht harbor in Brickyard Cove at Pt. Richmond. Boat sales are climbing in the Bay Area and Richmond

will be able to provide the twin assets of central location and available space.

"The second probability agreed on was that recreational development seemed assured somewhere along the waterfront — though exactly where was uncertain. One plan calls for a marina and golf course, another for a natural area along Pt. Molate. But by 1972, most agreed, the decision would be made and Richmond would have some form of waterside park.

"One factor which could affect recreational development by 1972 is the expected pattern of streets and highways. The Hoffman Freeway starting at the Richmond-San Rafael bridge could be built by then, coming down Virginia, curving at Sixth Street to Tenth Street and on out to Hoffman. Even if the freeway were not completed, and some believed that it would not be, planning for it would be far enough along to affect development all along its proposed route.

"Another road which could have a decided effect on development by 1972 is a planned North Richmond bypass. The road, which would relieve North Richmond of through traffic from people going to the dump, would go from Castro at the Ortho plant to Parr Blvd., along the western side of North Richmond, forming a buffer between the industrial and residential areas. City planners hope the road, along with more rigid code enforcement in North Richmond, will result in an uplifting of the community as a whole.

"The planned North Richmond baseball diamond will be a well-established feature of the community by 1972.

"Also expected to be ready by 1972 is a four-lane thoroughfare along Cutting between Carlson and the freeway. The street will be divided with a strip of greenery and will include stacking lanes which allow cars to turn off without halting traffic.

"But Richmond's most dramatic change will come in the downtown where a modern commercial core will include new buildings and a scattering of spruced up older ones. A pedestrian mall, smart shops, trees and attractive parking areas also are expected in the downtown area.

"These then are the changes foreseen for Richmond by the experts. Doubtless there will be many others, but all point to one inescapable conclusion: Richmond will be a changed city by 1972."

—May 29, 1964

STUDY BRIDGE HERE FOR RAPID TRANSIT

"The feasibility of integrating the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge into the Bay Area's rapid transit pattern as well as for auto crossings will be studied by the State Department of Public Works.

"A bill ordering the study was introduced by Senator John F. McCarthy of San Rafael and signed yesterday by Governor Edmund G. Brown. It calls for a report to the 1965 legislature, convening next January."

—May 30, 1964

—Pam Wilson



THE SANTA FE MAIN LINE TRACKS LOOKING WEST

1906 — courtesy of the Richmond Museum

A THIRTY-YEAR HISTORY OF PANCAKE BREAKFASTS

Saturday, May 12, is the Thirtieth Annual Boy Scout Troop 111 Pancake Breakfast, from 6 a.m. to 12 noon at the First Methodist Church, Martina at West Richmond Avenue, Point Richmond.

The original menu of juice, ham, eggs, (prepared to order) homemade buttermilk pancakes (all you can eat), coffee and milk, is still served. The special buttermilk recipe was originally purchased for \$500 for use at the New York World Fair.

Though materials have never been solicited, merchants often give a discount to Scouts, and Bob Young of the Santa Fe Market knows exactly how to slice the ham. A local resident, who prefers anonymity, donates the tickets each year. One year, while a scout was selling tickets in Atchison Village, a visiting chicken farmer bought a ticket and donated all the eggs for the breakfast that year. In thirty years, the price of the breakfast has gone from \$1.00 to \$3.50, and the quality and quantity has remained the same in spite of spiraling costs of sugar, meat, flour and coffee.

As a result of funds raised through the breakfasts, hundreds of boys have been guaranteed a summer camping experience during the past thirty years.

During the first years, breakfasts were served beginning at 5 a.m. to attract shift workers at Standard Oil. Many people purchased tickets as a courtesy to the scouts. But as word of the quality of the fare spread, tickets bought were tickets used.

With greater attendance came the need for more 'manpower' than the troop could provide from its own ranks, so scouts' sisters and CampFire Girls were recruited, many of whom return year after year to help. Many Scouts also return to help, and to have a re-

union with other former members and leaders. Scoutmaster now is Fred Hart, and chief pancake maker Ben Woodson, who now uses a commercial dispenser, cannot begin to count the pancakes he makes each year.

The breakfast originated in the minds of the late Scoutmaster Bob Dornan, and Assistants Bob Selzer and the late Milt Hathaway, as a means to provide funds for those boys unable to afford the camping costs that year. It was so successful that it has continued and is the only fund raiser the troop conducts.

This year the Troop plans to pioneer camp in the Northwest Marble Mountain Wilderness Area for two weeks.

See everyone at the breakfast Saturday, May 12. If you need tickets, call the Scoutmaster at 233-1046.

—Mid Dornan



A CHILDHOOD REMEMBERED:

MARY BIANCHINI HIGHFILL

For the child growing up in Point Richmond during the 20's and 30's, life moved to the tempo of the natural surroundings. Point Richmond was a trilogy of grassy ridgeland, sparkling water and quiet town.

In a recent conversation, Mary Bianchini Highfill recalled these bygone times with a sense of only yesterday. As she sat in her living room with the bright afternoon sun filtering through the curtains, Mary talked of the wonderful childhood hours spent roaming the springtime hills. She and her brother would tuck sandwiches into their pockets and set off along the ridge through deep green grasses and fields of wildflowers.

"Be back by 4:30," admonished their mother, Antoinetta Bianchini.

And so with school cares forgotten, the hills became adventureland. Their pathway led through Standard's tank farm across the saddle of land toward Winehaven. Along the way they stopped to cool their feet in the pools of water formed by the concrete foundations of future tanks. But their goal beckoned beyond the oil tanks.

Indian mounds waited for their inquisitive hands. Mary sifted through the fine ash looking for treasures. Some of the boys found teeth that they used as watch fobs. But Mary's dream of finding a mortar and pestle or a whole clay pot never came true. The mounds only yielded bits and pieces of Indian life. At one time the university set up a "dig" and tried to keep the children at bay. But eventually the professors abandoned the site to these young archaeologists of Point Richmond.

As Spring began to wane into Summer, Mary and her friends took to the shoreline

of the bay. And life centered on swimming, rowing and fishing. Bono's pier provided all of these activities.

The Bono family operated a pier at the foot of Western Drive and Cliffside Court. For a small fee children could swim from the pier or rent flat bottom rowboats by the hour. Here Mary learned to swim and row boats along the shore.

Abundant access to the shoreline made summer days filled with sunny beaches. Strawberry Beach, located near present day Brickyard Cove, had the clearest water. This swimming area was their favorite.

Kozy Kove, next to Keller's Beach, could be reached from Bishop Avenue and was a favorite of families on Sundays and the Fourth of July. The old dance pavillion and bathhouses had deteriorated from their former glory but the sandy beach and tree shaded cove were perfect for large gatherings of families and neighbors.

But the ultimate in water activity remained the ferries. As a young child Mary found the trip to the City thrilling. She and her mother would walk along Bishop, then to Ferry Point and catch the boat to San Francisco.

"On the other side, I can remember the news hawkers - they don't have them anymore," she recalled, "And the flower stands, I can still smell the gardenias."

For Mary, the ferries hold a special nostalgia. In her late teens as a Saturday outing she and Anita Christianson rode the San Rafael ferry. They would spend the afternoon crossing the bay back and forth between the Castro Ferry Terminal and San Quentin Point.

The attraction of the bay waters faded as the rainy season approached and the children returned to Washington School. The town of Point Richmond acted as a focal point of their lives during the winter months.

Mary and her classmates always went to the library. She recalls how the librarian would gently quiet them with a finger to her pursed lips. They felt welcomed and enjoyed the afternoon stop at the small wooden structure in the downtown triangle.

The second most frequented stop was at 31 Washington Avenue, Andrew's Variety Store, where the owners kept a pet owl in the back of the shop.

"For five cents we could drive the man (shopkeeper) absolutely crazy," Mary explained. "His candy was six for a penny or ten for a penny. We could keep him busy all morning for a quarter."

During her high school years The Plunge became a gathering spot for her classmates. All interschool swim meets were held at the pool. In addition, there were free swim days: Wednesdays for girls and Thursdays for boys.

But the very best social gatherings were with the Young Peoples' League. Grace Westman Howe organized the group which met at the Methodist Church. Dances and parties were often held at Standard's Rod and Gun Club by the employees' families who were club members.

When teenagers wanted to plan an outing, they used their ingenuity to complete last minute arrangements. Without a telephone in their homes, Mary and Anita worked out a set of signs similar to the semaphore signals they had learned in girl scouts. At a prearranged time they would both go out into their backyards - Mary on Bishop and Anita on Reservoir Hill (top of Water Street) and wave handkerchiefs to discover if they could meet downtown for the movies.

The movie theaters such as the Fox and Universal were located on Macdonald Avenue. During World War II the Point Theater (where the Point Orient restaurant is today) reopened, and in 1946, Walter and Anna Schwartz took it over. (They kept it running

until 1952.) Mary's favorite theater was the Fox. Her father would give each of the children 35 cents for the movie and carfare.

"We would leave home early and walk to the Fox," Mary said. "That would give us some money for candy but we always took the bus home."

All of these social activities surrounded the center of Mary's life which was her family and home at 275 Bishop Avenue. Mary's mother and father, Antoinetta and Victorio, had arrived in the United States from Italy and lived in several places in Northern California before settling on Bishop Avenue in 1926.

Victorio worked at the Brickyard and Quarry in Point Richmond and the Art Tile Company in Richmond before working at Standard Oil.

Victorio and his neighbors helped each other to press grapes into wine. Each season a truckload of grapes from Cloverdale would come to the Point for the wine presses. Some years the wine was rated excellent and at other times not as good.

Antoinetta brewed beer and bottled root-beer. During the night the corks would fly out of the rootbeer bottles with a loud popping sound.

"My dad learned to make wine in the old country," Mary recalled, "but my mom learned to make beer here.

"It was exciting. It takes a lot of physical labor to press the grapes. You needed the neighbors to help. We helped each other a great deal."

Neighbors helping each other made Point Richmond a friendly safe neighborhood for growing children. With high school graduation Mary and her "school chums" left the world of childhood and found themselves confronted with the war effort of June, 1942.

Mary worked for a short time at J. C. Penney and the Telephone Company. But in 1943 she began her employment at Standard Oil as a shift worker in the asphalt operation.

Her first day on the job was the "graveyard" shift. She walked from home to the asphalt stills near the Rod and Gun Club and met her new supervisor for training.

"I remember my first night," Mary recalled. "I was so sleepy. It was about 2:30 or 3 o'clock in the morning and I thought I was going to die.

"The supervisor showed me the responsibilities and I thought, 'I will never remember all this.' I thought that we had walked miles. I was sure that I was lost. But when daylight came, I realized where we had been. I hadn't been anywhere! It wasn't that far. You had to do some walking - in this way and out that way. It was not miles; it was in one small area.

"It was dark and I was scared - just a kid - and I thought, 'What did I get myself into?'"

In time Mary adjusted to the specialized work of the asphalt still but the changing shifts wreaked havoc with her meal schedule.

Mary smiled at the memory, "In my time you couldn't begin to have a job like that. Unless it was a calamity like World War II. I was not too adventurous in the first place. It was kind of a big thing for us."

Mary enjoyed learning the same jobs as men had with Standard Oil. She never felt the men worked harder than she worked.

"I don't recall asking any of the men to open any of my valves," she stated firmly, "I did it myself."

As she looked back over these childhood and young adult years, Mary considered them to be good times, not rich but good.

"In many ways I like what I see at the Point - the restoration of the old buildings," she concluded. "Somebody saw the good. It's kind of nice.

"We sort of took it for granted and then all these new people came in and they saw the hidden beauty."

-Alexandra A. Gautraud

MASQUERS ARE ACTING

The Masquers held a successful and festive brunch Sunday, April 29 at the Hotel Mac, kicking off their campaign to raise enough money to buy their building.

For nearly thirty years the Masquers have operated 'in the black', supported primarily by box office receipts – a rare feat for such an organization. Now that they need funds to stay in Point Richmond and to repair the building, they are receiving community support – and they need more. Call 232-3888 for information and materials to encourage others to participate.

EVENING'S IN THE POINT

The crew of KPIX (Channel 5) Evening Magazine, spent a day in the Point largely as a result of one of their staff having attended a Masquers play recently.

On May 1, the crew arrived in the morning to photograph Point Richmond scenes. The History Association was asked to guide them and answer questions. What will probably be a two or three minute segment took most of the day (their equipment and the elements were working against them). By the time they got to Nicholl Nob, the rain totally obscured the beautiful view.

Their story on Point Richmond is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8, at 7:30.

THE OLD WHALING STATION – DECISION NEEDED

Until 1971, whales were brought in and processed at the Point San Pablo Whaling Station. The last active whale processing plant in the nation, it now is the center of a debate about what its future use should be.

The Whale Center, a national non-profit organization now headquartered in Oakland, has long wanted to locate its national administrative office, library, whale store and a whale museum at Point San Pablo. They need the assistance of a developer. Shamrock Development Co. and Seaex Corp., developers, who would like to create a commercial complex (restaurants and shops) need more funds than are available to them to renovate the building that is in dangerous disrepair. Federal and State funds are available for historic renovation to organizations like the Whale Center. The two groups collaborating might be able to save the building, and with an agreement, put it to good use.

Paktank also wants to use the land to extend its rail facilities. They also want to lease the area, but not the building. If left untouched, the building is a liability, and the city would soon have to demolish it.

At the April 30 City Council meeting, the Council voted to allow both groups 30 days to prepare their proposals before offering a lease on the Point San Pablo site.



VIEW OF RICHMOND 1900

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

The first annual meeting of the Point Richmond Neighborhood Council was held on April 11, 1984 at the Point Richmond Community Center. The annual meeting will be held in April each year, and will be the time for election of officers and payment of dues for the following year. The officers elected at our January organizational meeting will hold office for two year terms beginning in April, 1984. You all know how much time elections can take! With our officers in place, we can get on to other business.

Reports were presented on the Richmond Library's Literacy Program, the Sheehan property, Petromark, and city-wide crime prevention efforts.

Albert Gautraud is representing the Council on the city-wide Crime Prevention Task Force. Many neighborhoods in the city are organizing Neighborhood Watch programs, to help prevent crime. If you are interested in working on crime prevention in the Point, contact Albert or Jan Lyons Herrero.

David Vincent, president of the Point Richmond Business Association, reported on the use of workmen from the County Work Alternative Program to clean up the downtown area. It was suggested that the Business Association and the Neighborhood Council jointly sponsor a program that would utilize this resource to clean up public areas throughout the Point. There is no charge involved, but supervision of work crews must be provided. The proposal was approved and details are to be worked out with the Business Association.

David also reported on the dedication of the Indian Statue in the triangle, scheduled for October 20, 1984. A variety of festivities are planned, and the Business Association

is open to suggestions that will help make it a truly momentous day!

There will be a free garbage pickup on May 19 as part of the annual city-wide clean-up. Have your cans out by 6 a.m.

The Executive Committee was authorized to take a position regarding Petromark and the E.I.R. at the public hearing scheduled tentatively for July.

The next scheduled meeting of the Point Richmond Neighborhood Council will be on July 11, 1984, 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center. Interim meetings can be convened to discuss special interest items. If there is any information you would like to have presented via the Neighborhood Council, or any officials you would like to meet, contact Jan Lyons Herrero, Ellie Strauss or George Coles. The Council can serve as a forum to help address your needs and interests.

-Jan Lyons Herrero

WEST SIDE BRANCH LIBRARY

To celebrate National Library Week (April 8 - 14), a contest was held at West Side. A jar full of jelly beans was the prize to the person who could guess the number of jelly beans inside. Bruce Polonsky was the winner, coming to within 15 of the actual count, 423. His estimate was 438.

For those interested in the Petromark project, the library has copies of: (one) the minutes of a public meeting held at the Community Center on April 10; and (two) a proposal by Environmental Science Associates, Inc., to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) on said project. Ask for these at the desk.

Does your green thumb need some help? Books on plants, landscaping and gardening in general will be featured during the month

of May.

Puppet shows hold a fascination for kids of all ages. So, whether you're 2 or 82, you are invited to a special presentation of a Puppet Show at the West Side on May 24, at 3:00 p.m.

—Jan Burdick

an interview with
JUANITA EDMONDS

Juanita (nee Cole) Edmonds was born in Fields Landing, Humboldt County, California. Her family moved to Point Richmond in 1917, where Mr. Cole was employed by the Standard Oil Refinery.

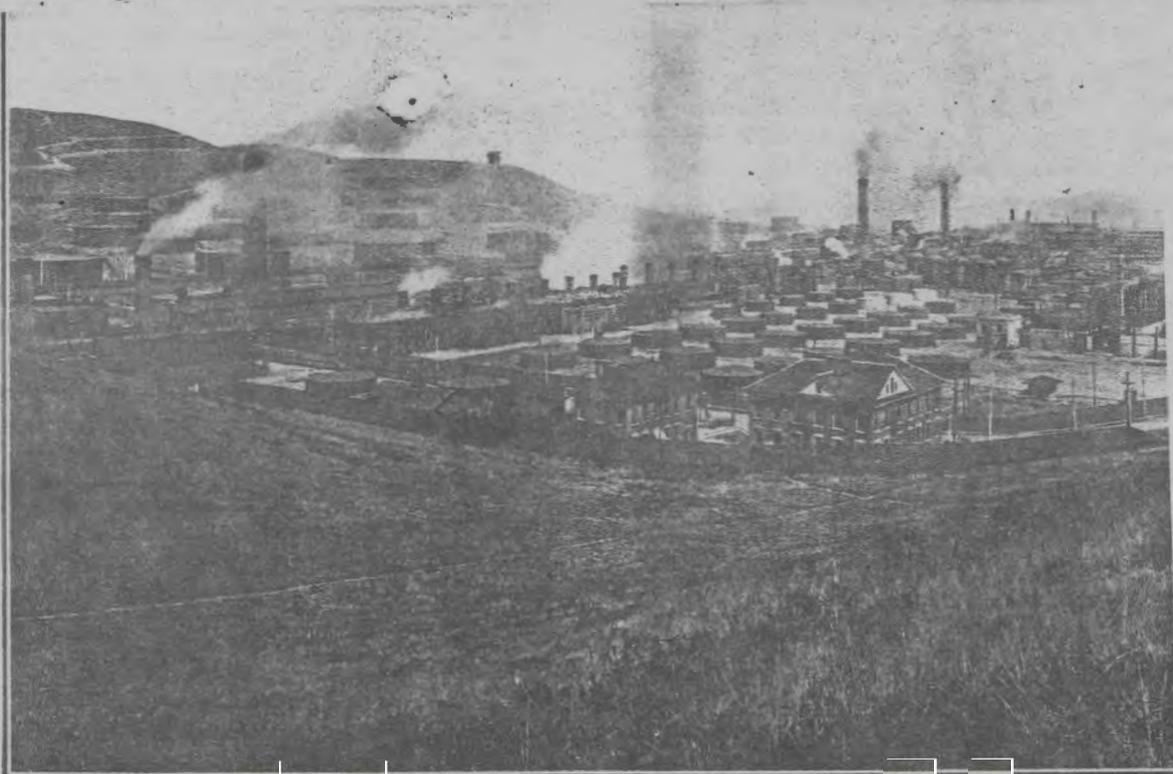
When the family arrived in Point Richmond they lived at the Wing boarding house on Washington Avenue. That building still

stands, until recently the ceramic studios of "Pottery Public" and "Zebra". Mrs. Belle Wing was Juanita's paternal aunt. Her husband, William, was a Santa Fe locomotive engineer, as was his son. Both of them were killed in a train wreck at the Santa Fe yard.

Juanita attended Washington School before her family moved to Richmond. She completed her early education in the Richmond schools, and after further education returned to the schools as a teacher and librarian, teaching at Roosevelt Junior High, Helms, and Kennedy High School.

Juanita has lived in Point Richmond most of her life. She and her husband Donald have done some traveling, but most of the time they enjoy the view from their Crest Avenue home.

—Elizabeth McDonald



VIEW OF THE STANDARD OIL COMPANY
1913 - courtesy of the Richmond Museum

LEAP —

Literacy for Every Adult Project

Can you imagine not being able to read? Think of all the things you read yesterday: perhaps street signs, labels on food packaging or medicine, the newspaper, a magazine. Many activities in our daily lives depend on our ability to read and understand what we read.

Yet at least 23 million, or one-fifth of the adult population of the United States, are unable to read well enough to meet the needs of their daily lives. Here in Richmond, the library estimates that this is true for roughly 28,000 adults.

Many non-literate adults are convinced they cannot learn to read. Illness, family disruptions, moving around, etc., often interrupted their first learning years and they never caught up. One-to-one tutoring can often turn this situation around for the first time. Learning to read is simply a process that takes time, practice, and for these adults, restoring their confidence.

The Richmond Public Library has just started a volunteer tutoring program to help adults learn to read or improve their math skills. It is one of twenty seven library programs in California to receive this special funding. Approximately thirty volunteer tutors are now working here in Richmond with students to improve their skills, at convenient locations around the city: community centers and churches as well as the library. The library provides training and materials for tutors, and ongoing support. The next training is in mid-May:

6:30 to 9:30 p.m., Tues. May 15;

Thurs. May 24; and Thurs. July 12.

OR

10 to 1:00: Fri, May 11; Fri. May 18;
and Fri. July 13.

Training is held in the Auditorium of the

Main Library.

Please call if you are interested in helping someone learn to read. Or tell someone you care about they can learn to read now, free, at the Richmond Public Library. 231-2116.

YOUR POINT OF VIEW

WHAT KINDS OF GOODS AND SERVICES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN POINT RICHMOND?

Henry O'Hara: "Gee, I don't know — Maybe both should begin with the letter 'B' — a bank and a bakery."

Elsie Spinola: "Well, it would be nice to have a bank."

Pat Pearson: "Banks! Frank would probably be able to answer this better. I can't think of anything else — we've got the dress shop, the beauty parlor — a drugstore, maybe."

George R. Coles, Jr.: "Eucalyptus blight to eat the eucalyptus trees. [They're ruining his view.] It's a bit facetious, but most of the goods and services I need are here."

Pauline Horner: "I'd like to have something like a drugstore here like they used to have. It would also be nice to have a variety store. I think the Point is just great, but for people like me, it's like going across country to get the things you really need. You do have to leave the area to do shopping."

Lori Shaper: "I would like to see a drugstore or something like that. And I would like to see a small bank branch and maybe a book store."

Sheila Fostiak: "I've always wanted a bank — the Point needs one. I'd appreciate a bakery — I used it when it was here, and it didn't do very well, but maybe it was too early for that type of business. I'd also like to see a drug store."

—Pam Wilson

A-MID TRIVIA

Tax Freedom Day! In 1913, states ratified the 16th Amendment, giving Congress the power to tax personal income. If you are an average worker, you worked 122 days to pay your taxes this year – that means after May 1 your tax obligations have been met. Worth noting is that 'Tax Freedom Day' moved days earlier in 1982 and 1983, for the first time since 1975, because of Federal tax cuts. However, state, city and county are to blame for extra days this year!

-o-

Died: Jessie E. Forbes, a resident of the Point, on Arizona Street for 26 years. She was a native of Southampton, England, and died in San Pablo at the age of 93. Survivors include her son, James, of the Point; four grandchildren, Dr. Judy Forbes, Debbie Seaburg, Kathy and Cindy Forbes; and eight great-grandchildren.

-o-

That hats are back in fashion was evident at Easter services – straw being the most popular.

-o-

It was a perfect day for celebrating the opening of Savoir Faire on Washington Avenue on Sunday, April 1. Warm and bright sunshine . . . colorful helium balloons . . . tubs of brilliant flowers and shrubs . . . trays of hors d'oeuvres . . . chocolate fondue . . . and best of all, the friendly people toasting the success of this unique boutique.

-o-

Troop 111 will participate in the Adult Scout Leader Training Session at Camp Herms on Saturday, May 28. Boys and leaders will demonstrate Camp layout and selection, and instruct scout leaders in basic scout knots. Over 30 new scout leaders throughout the council will attend and receive this training are: Chris Waterman, Kevin and Kenneth Fong, Mario Allen, Shaun Fernandez, Adam Bartkowski and Robb Bury.

On Saturday, April 28, Scoutmaster Fred Hart and Scouts Todd Cort and Seth Fenton will be at Point Pinole making Camporee preparations.

-o-

Wally, Marilyn, Carol and Gary Darling are enjoying a month's vacation in New Zealand and Australia. They must have been listening when that commercial invited them to come 'down under', right Mate?

-o-

Old friends wishing to send Uldine Adams Nickola a card for her May 12 birthday may send it to her at: Baywood Convalescent Home, 550 Patterson, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523.

-o-

Died: Billie Haynie, on Friday, April 13. At 77, Billie had lived in the Point since 1934, and was a native of Sacramento. She lived in what is now the Sonrisa Shop, and traveled to San Francisco each day where she worked as a machine operator. At her request, no funeral services were held.

-o-



SOTO and SOTO'S PLACE
1902
courtesy of the Richmond Museum

Their knowledge of human nature was apparent when psychiatrists Shannon McGowan and Beverly James set up 'shop' ala the Peanuts cartoon character, Lucy, on Friday the Thirteenth on the sidewalk in front of their offices on Park Place over the Baltic Restaurant. Using wooden crates, they advertised "Pshychiatric Help, 5¢"!

-o-

Help save the Masquers! Business and community leaders have formed an advisory committee to raise \$200,000 by October, 1985, to purchase the Masquers Playhouse. A self-supporting theater institution in the Point for 23 years, the thespians deserve to keep their home. A downpayment of \$37,000 is needed by September. The group has first option to purchase the building from owner Ernest Spencer, who is planning to sell it. We can't let this time-honored group lose its roots! Send a tax-deductible contribution *now*, to the Masquers Playhouse, 105 Park Place, Point Richmond, CA 94801. Make it easier to entertain 'locally' by keeping the theater here.

-o-

A mother's patience is like a tube of toothpaste — it is never quite 'all gone'.

-o-

The Greek word Meter, the Hebrew Aem, Japanese HaHa, Irish Mathair, Spanish Madre and the Chinese Matin describe the woman we honor on May 13.

-o-

Opponents of card parlors are launching a petition drive against the establishment of such rooms in Richmond. The initiative needs 3,800 qualified signatures by July to be placed on the November ballot. If the initiative were to pass, a two-thirds vote would be required before a card room could open in the area or in Richmond. State law, passed on January 1, would require only a majority vote.)

"Because of the social problems and re-

ligious problems involved in this type of operation, card rooms are something we don't feel should be in Richmond," comments David Vincent, Point Richmond attorney, who is one of the opposition leaders.

-o-

Josephine Farfan, 18, senior at Gompers, was chosen to represent Richmond in the cross country relay to carry the Olympic Torch to Los Angeles for the summer games. She will carry the torch one kilometer in the relay. A sponsored runner must give \$3000 to the L.A. Olympic Organizing committee to participate in the relay. The Maruko Company, a large real estate investment firm, is sponsoring 100 runners from cities having Japanese sister cities. Part of the money will fund the runners' trip to L.A. for a reception; the remainder will be divided among local 'Y' groups and the Girls' and Boys' Clubs. The relay begins May 8 in New York and ends in L.A. on July 28. Sheryl Henderson of Pinole is the alternate.

-o-

Bird watchers report a marked increase in the Point's dove population. Methinks this a fitting bird image for the Point.

-o-

Isn't it great to have a service station — the new Chevron on Cutting and Canal — in the Point again! Remember when we had three, all of them thriving?

-o-

Yiddish Proverb: God could not be everywhere, so He made mothers!

-o-

Even the *weeds* in the Point look beautiful in May. Our hills are lovely.

-o-

KoKi Camp Fire Girls will have their annual spaghetti dinner on Thursday, May 24 at the Baptist Church basement, 304 Washington Avenue. Dinner is 6:30 to 7:30, followed by a Ceremonial. The dinner includes spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, punch,

coffee and cake. Cost: \$4.00 for adults, \$2.00 for children under 12. (All you can eat!) Tickets must be purchased in advance. For reservations, call Bev Price at 232-2660.

-o-

The bride's twin grandsons were candlelighters, and two of the groom's grandsons were ushers at the marriage of Henry Francis (81) and Dagmar Bailey (80). The Francises are dividing their residence between Henry's long time Point Richmond home and Dagmar's lifetime Rio Vista home. They are probably the oldest young couple in the Point.

-o-

Todd Cort, Troop 111, attained membership in the Order of the Arrow, national brotherhood of Scout campers. Special qualifications in camping and Scout advancement and election by the local Troop are required for membership. Todd's ceremony was held at Camp Herms.

-o-

What compares with the beauty of the sparkling lights of San Francisco and Marin reflected in the Bay on a clear night from homes and hills of the Point?

-o-

Is there anyone else in the Point who finds opossums and raccoons *not* cute and loveable?

-o-

Edna and Bill Dornan arrived April 7 from Manchester, England, to spend a month in the States visiting relatives in the Bay Area and Kansas. Bill is a nephew of Trannie Dornan. Bill's father, Sam, visited his brother Bob Dornan in 1963, but this is Bill's first U.S. visit. Their enthusiasm to see everything possible scarcely left them time to sleep. Their son, Dennis, is an architect with a firm in Ghirardelli Square.

-o-

If you are at least 68 years old, you were born before women 'pencilled' their eye-

brows. True, some sort of make-up was used centuries ago, but the modern eyeshadow and brow pencil didn't come into use until 1916.

-o-

Child Sitter Needed: Sunday mornings, 11 to 12:00, during worship service at historic Point Methodist Church, Martina at West Richmond. Call 234-5334, Mid Dornan, after 7 p.m.

-o-

Lawrence Thole, the senior resident of Point Richmond, recently fell and broke his hip. But, according to recent reports, he's recuperating nicely from the resultant operation. Next December, Mr. Thole will be 104.

-o-

Born: It's a boy and first child for Connie (Walz) and Rodney McClure on Washington Avenue. Little Aaron Charles weighed only 5 lbs., 8½ oz. when born on March 24 at Alta Bates Hospital in Berkeley. Grandparents are Judy and Rudy Walz of Scenic Avenue and Josephine McClure of San Francisco. Great grandparents are Verla Camron and the late Charles Camron, after whom the baby was named.

-Mid Dornan (234-5334



MACWAY PLACE, 1901
courtesy Richmond Museum

CORA
KENNEDY
WOOD

1879 – 1984

Among the first families in Point Richmond, the Wood name appears frequently in Don Church's historical notes. Cora Kennedy Wood, who died in February, was almost 105 years old, and undoubtedly the last survivor of the original family that moved to the Point in the early 1900's. She married Frank Wood in 1901 in San Pablo. Frank owned the first plumbing business here, on West Richmond Avenue, near the old Post Office. His sister, Lucetta Wood Dunlap, was the first Postmistress here. Known as "Aunt Sett", she was an active member of the Baptist Church, and for a time the late Don Church lived in her home.

Frank had two brothers, Bob and Dick Wood, besides his sister Lucetta. Emily Boorman Axtell and Attie Boorman Picton were his half-sisters.

When they first moved to the Point, Frank and Cora lived over the Post Office, where their first daughter, Lois, was born. Sometime before 1908, both Frank and his brother Robert built homes on Arizona Street. Gertrude Wood Stone, who now resides in San Pablo, was born here, the second daughter of Frank and Cora. Gertrude attended the old Washington School, graduating from eighth grade there.

In 1915, Frank Wood moved his family to a farm near Dixon, leaving his plumbing business to neighbors up the street, the Spiersch family.

The Wood family returned in a few years taking up residence near the Pullman shops, on Twenty-eighth Street near Cutting and Ohio.

—Gertrude Stone



"POST OFFICE BLOCK"
1901

courtesy of Richmond Museum

CHURCH NEWS

The Methodist Women have been an organized group for 100 years, and a program on thier Centennial will be held at the home of Grace Yank, Brickyard Cove, on Wednesday, May 16 at 7:30 p.m. Joining the Point women will be members from Good Shepherd Church. Anyone interested in attending may call Oretta Eaton at 234-0780.

-o-

All Richmond Methodist Churches will celebrate the Bicentennial of Methodism in America on Sunday, May 20 at 6:00 p.m. at the Pinole Methodist Church. Each of the churches, Point, Easter Hill, St. Luke's, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, and Pinole will present a brief history of itself – the Point church being the oldest and 'mother' church, founded in October, 1900.

-oo-

—Mid Dornan

POLICE AND THE COMMUNITY DAY

The Richmond Police Department will sponsor "Police and the Community Day" at the new Marina, 1200 Marina Way South, on Saturday, May 19, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It is being held in observance of Police Week. All citizens are invited to attend. There is no charge. There will be singing, dancing, choirs, the Municipal Band, and a wide array of law enforcement and community agencies represented.

For the amusement of the children "McGruff the Crime Dog", Smokey the Bear, and Woodsy the Owl will be on hand to hand out balloons. There will also be a variety of food concession booths.

AC Transit will run shuttle service from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. from BART to the Marina.

For further information contact Sgt. Charles Lawson or Sgt. Tommy Phillips, Richmond Police Department, 231-2098.

FROM FLANDERS FIELD TO PAPER POPPIES

It is just a little red paper flower to you, that smiling women hold aloft on street corners each year, as they will again on Friday, May 25. It's Poppy Day once more.

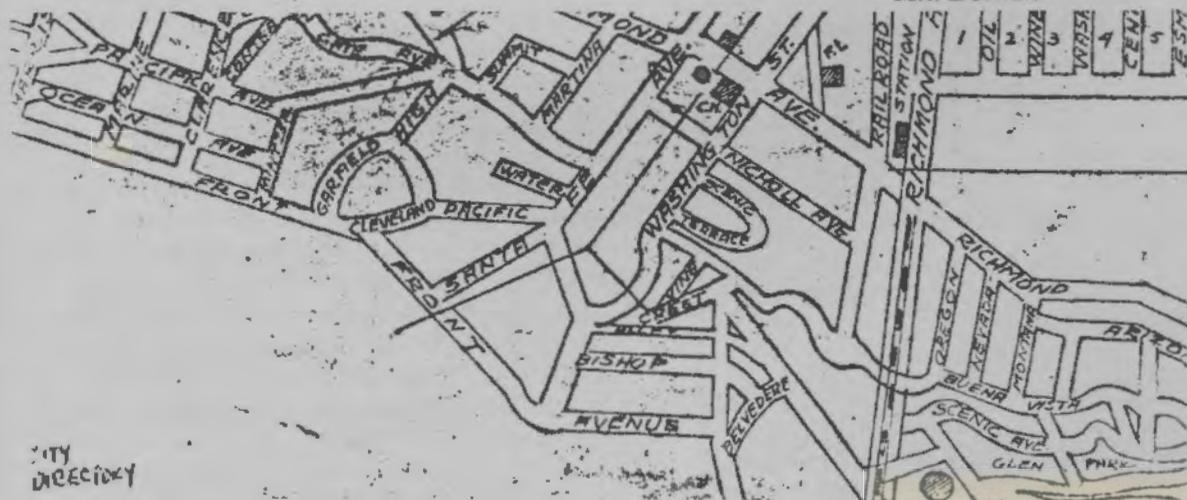
To you, perhaps, just another annoyance as you hurry to shop or to lunch, but to a few hundred veterans around the country who exercise their crippled or arthritic hands making those flowers, they mean a little spending money and an escape from dreadful boredom. Their hands make 15 million red poppies for the American Legion Auxiliary to sell.

Most veterans who make the poppies are disabled or elderly. They get about \$20 for each 1,000 poppies, and some produce more than 3,000 a week during 'poppy season', October to May.

The little red poppy that spread wild across the field of Flanders in World War I has been the symbol of a nation remembering the soldiers who fought its wars. A poem, "In Flanders Field", by Col. John McCree, a Canadian officer killed during the war, made the red poppy a national image.

—Mid Dorman

From a 1907 Directory, courtesy of the Richmond Museum



LETTERS

I would like to thank all those good people who were interested in my wellbeing during my recent illness. With all their expressions of good wishes I made it – thank God. A special thanks to my dear husband Joseph for all his tender loving care. Sure did help.

Yours truly,
Elsie Spinola

HAPPY MAY BIRTHDAY . . .

Winifred Jones	John Knox, jr.
Vern Doellstedt	Anne Price
Jon Doellstedt	Bev Price
Uldine Nickola	Lloyd Darley
Pat Dorman	Bill Kretzmer
Lucretia Edwards	Becky Horn
Ruth Beardsley	Cindy Quist
Christine Dennis	Marcello Caceres
Evelyn Essary	Maurice Doherty
David Bray	Diana Spinola
Bob Feyder	Richard Matteucci

SPECIAL DAYS IN MAY

MAY 1 – MAY DAY (A Midwestern custom) –

Make a basket from any material, fill it with popcorn, a little candy, and top it with wildflowers. Then deliver it to the doorstep of a friend or neighbor with an unsigned note, wishing them a happy day, leaving them to wonder which of their friends is so thoughtful.

First Day of May has been observed since ancient times, with spring festivals, Maypoles and Maying. It became a workers' day in the 1880's in the U.S., and more recently, Loyalty Day and Law Day observances have been encouraged. (It's Lei Day in Hawaii).

MAY 13 – MOTHERS' DAY

(What mother cannot recall nostalgically recall that special 'breakfast-in bed', enthusiastically prepared and lovingly served – crisp(!) bacon, cold scrambled eggs, jellied(!) toast, fresh orange juice – and the enjoyment somewhat dimmed by the prospect of cleaning the kitchen afterwards.

MAY 28 – MEMORIAL DAY – Once called Decoration Day, a day for decorating graves with flowers, and other memorial tributes to the dead, as well as parades and picnics. Now a day for prayer for Permanent Peace.

MAY 25 – Poppy Day!

MAY IN HISTORY

MAY 14, 1905 – First time Olympic games were held in the U.S., in St. Louis, Missouri

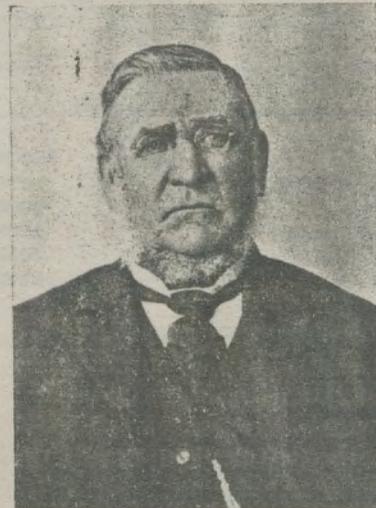
MAY 15, 1940 – Nylon stockings were first sold

MAY 16, 1898 – Bread prices rose to six cents per loaf!

MAY 16, 1866 – U.S. Treasury Department authorized to mint a five-cent piece, known as a 'nickel'.

MAY 27, 1934 – Fifty years ago – Golden Gate Bridge opened. Built at a cost of \$35 million, the bridge is often considered for an additional deck because of increased traffic. Many local residents walked across the bridge on the first day; the opening event was a week-long affair.

–Mid Dorman



JOHN NICHOLL, SR., 1902
one of the founders of Richmond
courtesy of Richmond Museum

POINTS IN THE FUTURE

- MAY 6 – Shipyard Workers' Reunion, 12-4:00, Grace Lutheran Church, 24th & Barrett, Richmond.
- MAY 8 – Point Richmond featured on Evening Magazine, Channel 5, 7:30.
- MAY 8 – Discover Richmond Day
- MAY 9 – Point Richmond Business Association, 12 noon, Hotel Mac
- MAY 11 – LEAP training, Richmond Library, 10 a.m. to 1:00.
- MAY 12 – ANNUAL BOY SCOUT BREAKFAST, 6 a.m. to 12 noon, First Methodist Church, Martina & West Richmond.
- MAY 13 – Museum Sunday. Special reception, Seaver Room, Richmond Museum, 1:00 to 4:00.
- MAY 13 – Richmond Museum, opening of new exhibit – "Portrait of a Collector", Judith Hilberg.
- MAY 15 – LEAP training, 6:30 to 9:30.

- MAY 16 – Senior Information Day, Richmond Auditorium.
- MAY 18 – LEAP training, Richmond Library, 10 a.m. to 1:00.
- MAY 19 – FREE Garbage Pickup – Leave bundles out by 6 a.m.
- MAY 20 – ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK LUNCHEON - Point Richmond History Association, Linsley Hall, 1 p.m., 235 Washington Avenue.
- MAY 24 – 6:30 to 9:30 - LEAP training, Richmond Library
- MAY 24 – Free Puppet Show – West Branch Library, 3:00 p.m.
- JUNE 5 – Annual luncheon, West Side Improvement Club, at Gonzalez' Restaurant, 12 noon.
- JUNE 15 – "Bedroom Farce" opens at the Masquers.

SUMMER ISSUE . . .

The next issue of "This Point in Time" will be published the second week of June. News items and articles are due on May 28. We are thankful and enthusiastic about the increasing participation by interested residents.!

"This Point In Time" is published by the Point Richmond History Association, 212 Bishop Alley, Point Richmond, CA 94801.

Editorial Staff: Donna Roselius, Teresa Albro, Michelle Brown, Mid Dorman, Lucretia Edwards, Liz McDonald, Judy Spediacci, Pam Wilson.

Illustrations: Donna Roselius

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.

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