

THIS POINT

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL. IV, No. 6

February, 1986

75 cents



LOCAL OAKLAND ENQUIRER DELIVERY BOYS, about 1911. Can you name any of them? —Don Church collection
courtesy Chevron, USA

HISTORY ASSOCIATION NOTES	1	A-MID TRIVIA	14
THE POINT ITALIAN HERITAGE	3	BIRTHS	15
POINTS IN THE PAST	4	DEATHS	16
HISTORICAL TRIVIA ... THE MASQUERS	10	CHURCHES	18
INDIAN STATUE PARK DONATION FORM	11	WEST SIDE LIBRARYBIRTHDAYS	19
JON HAMMOND .. R.R. MUSEUM... NEIGHBOR-		WASHINGTON SCHOOL NEWS	19
HOOD COUNCIL MINUTES	12	POINTS IN THE PAST ... FUTURE	20

in time

❖ HISTORY ASSOCIATION NOTES ❖

MELODRAMATIC EVENING

Taking the place of our regular January meeting, nearly eighty people enjoyed an evening on the town. Choosing one of four Point Richmond restaurants, all dined, and then attended a classic melodrama at The Masquers Playhouse. The lively evening was planned by Masquers manager, Bill Goldsmith, and its purpose was to raise needed funds for the History Association. Fun, fellowship and fund-wise, the evening was a great success.

Since incorporating as a non-profit organization in 1982, the Association has succeeded in carrying out its mission to do research on and inform people about Point Richmond's colorful past. The costs involved in doing this have increased, and we appreciate the generous people who spent the evening with us on January 30. Looking ahead, the costs of publishing this newsletter and reproducing photos, etc., continue to climb, and for the first time, we will ask you to contribute a bit more for your yearly membership — not much more, but just enough to cover rising expenses. We hope this will not deter anyone from continuing the support we count on to continue existing!

REPORT FROM THE INDEXING CHAIRMAN

Jerry Cerkowicz

In the past year, Volume I, numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9; Volume II, number 1 and 7, and *This Point in Time* book have been indexed. Since becoming chairman I have been familiarizing myself with the business of indexing, and have found it an enjoyable way of getting to know our local history.

The task involves reading a newsletter and writing on a file card the name of the person, the building, or the event mentioned, along with the page number and other information. These cards are then alphabetized, and that's an index.

The more of you that can help out, the sooner we will have a handy index for our newsletters and other publications, and can better use them to know our history. Donna gave me a list of you who have expressed interest in indexing and I'll be getting in touch with you. Any others who are interested please call Jerry Cerkowicz (just ask for Jerry) at 235-1336.

MARCH MEETING — FEATURING JUDITH DUNNING

Judith Dunning works out of the Regional Oral History Office, a division of the Bancroft Library.

Please plan to set aside Thursday, March 27 for a special evening at Linsley Hall. Judith Dunning, who has recently conducted approximately eighty oral history interviews in our area will give a demonstration of how the interviews are conducted, what is accomplished, and how they are recorded.

Many of us have wanted to record the memories of parents, grandparents or great grandparents, because of the rapid and drastic changes that have taken place within their lifetimes. Besides finding out some techniques for recording an oral history yourself, you will hear the results of some of Ms. Dunning's interviews.

As usual, the evening will be informal, refreshments will be served, and anyone is invited to bring additional cookies, if they wish.

MEMBERS

*Pam Wilson, Membership chairman
521 Western Drive
Point Richmond, CA 94801*

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

Mr. & Mrs. R.J. Anderson
Maude Bagley
Nancy Bruno
Dr. Bernard & Marie Dietz
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Gautraud
Hollander Family
Russell & Shirley Moore
Dody Perry
Point Bar & Restaurant
Nellie N. Ross
Sally Rush
Donna Wilson
Elsie Spinola
Maude Wood

Sandra & Bruce Beyaert
Anne Hanzlik

And welcome to the following new members:

Jerry and Theresa Daniel
Hulet Hornbeck
Naomi Huffstetter
Mrs. Donald Minor

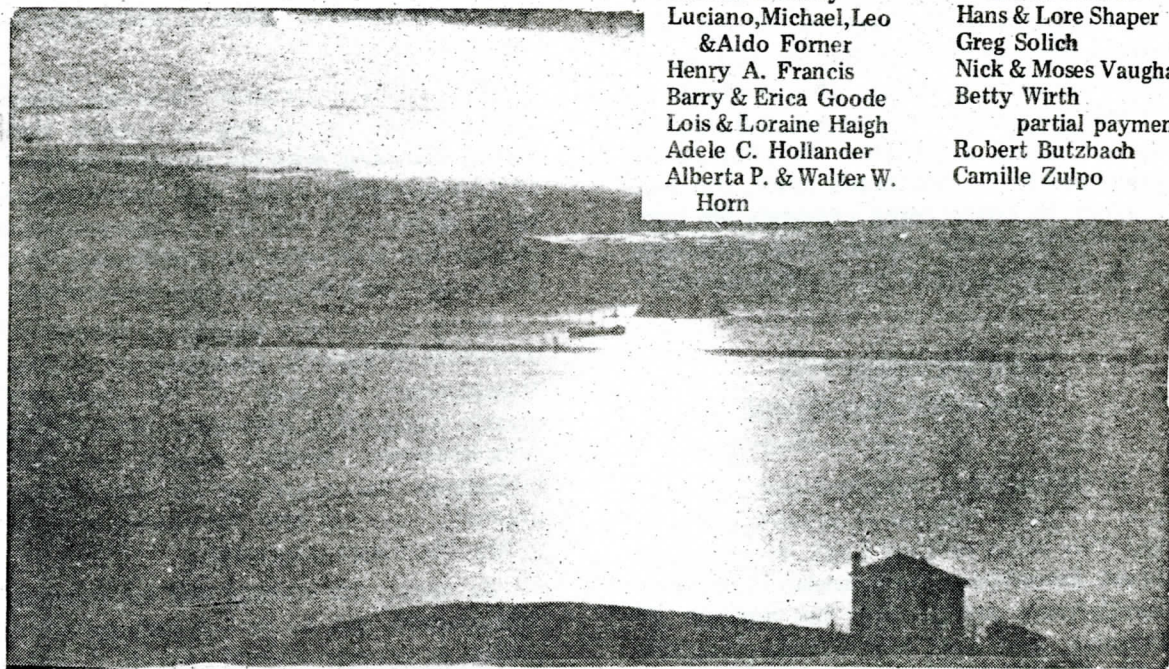
INDIAN STATUE PARK DONORS

Slowly but surely funds for the small park at the tip of the Triangle are being added. All donations are welcome, and those of \$200 or more will be memorialized with a name on the third bronze plaque on the statue base. Since we have only about half the amount needed to complete the park as planned, we urge those of you who are considering a donation to give what you can as soon as you can!

As of this printing, donors of \$200 or more are:

Alko Office Supplies
Anne Anderson
Rhoda J. Ayers
Louisa Banks
George M. Batten
Brickyard Landing
M.H. Carey & W.R.
Stribley families
Muriel & Bert Clausen
Robert Dornan family
Marion Downey
Luciano, Michael, Leo
& Aldo Forner
Henry A. Francis
Barry & Erica Goode
Lois & Loraine Haigh
Adele C. Hollander
Alberta P. & Walter W.
Horn

Irene Carey Jacobs
David & Mary Janney
Donald J. Jardine
Virginia R. Kennedy
Zoanna Kille
Florence C. Morton
Ruth & Stan Nystrom
Barbara A. Olesen
Mulbry & Vera Page,
Helen Roberts,
Lillian McNeff
Hans & Lore Shaper
Greg Solich
Nick & Moses Vaughan
Betty Wirth
partial payments;
Robert Butzbach
Camille Zulpo



1914 Point Richmond shoreline; the home on the shoreline is the "Bradley's house".
from the Don Church collection, courtesy Chevron, USA

THE POINT ITALIAN HERITAGE

(continued)

by Frankie Greenlaw

Our November meeting, billed as Italian Night, brought about a wonderfully warm "family reunion" of children of some thirteen immigrant families from various areas of Italy who settled in the Point during the first decades of this century. Most of the earliest recollections centered around a small community of "squatters" (most probably an innocent occupation of obviously unused and undesirable real estate, rather than deliberate illegal land use). on mud flats beyond what is now East Richmond Avenue. According to Anita Barra Christiansen, the settlers were not all Italian. Some were newcomers from other European countries. Anita remembers her mother gathering up youngsters from the settlement and transporting them by buggy to the old schoolhouse near Standard Avenue. She also noted that her father would be highly amused if he were still alive, to find that the Point has become the "in" place to live today; he grew up in Ascona, Switzerland, which has become a "millionaires' haven".

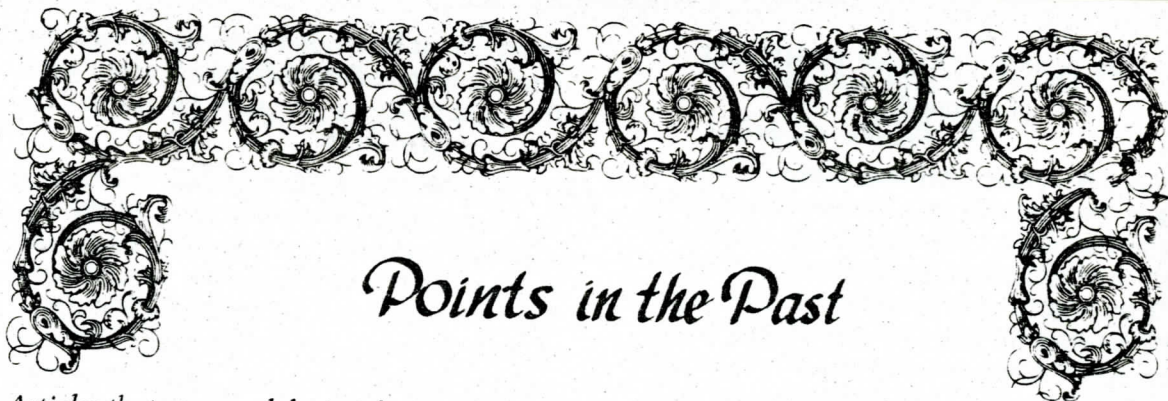
Many of the early memories shared by the group centered around communal activities and festivities. An obvious high point in their lives was the annual winemaking. Mary Bianchini Highfill recalled that all the families rented winecrushing and pressing equipment, owned by Al Frosini's father. The processing of grapes, brought in from Sonoma County, involved much family interaction, with numerous tastings of each maker's vintage at various stages, and suggestions for improvement, if needed. Both Mary and Anita recalled, with many nods of agreement from the others, being sent out to watch for the possible appearance of strangers — particularly the police, since the wine-making continued through the prohibition years, and some of the product was sold to

thirsty Point Richmond dwellers outside the families involved. An occasional arrest kept the community on the alert for any and all unexpected visitors.

Another shared activity was the raising and butchering of animals. Most of the immigrants were from rural areas, did not speak English, and held low-paying jobs. Therefore, self sufficiency was not only traditional, but necessary to survival, especially during the Depression years. Meat, fowl and homemade sausage made their way to the table, along with vegetables from the ever-present garden plots and dairy products from the family cow.

Theresa Bernardi Meneghelli's earliest memories included the day her brother brought home a genuine butter churn. Her delighted mother then was able to retire the covered milk can which had been her constant companion as she went about her daily chores — the resultant shaking eventually resulting in the desired end product — butter. Another reminiscence of her childhood was of her mother's frequent treks along the Bayside roads, selling the surplus from her garden, milk and butter. Theresa noted that much of the money so earned was sent back to Italy to repay a loan of \$300, the where-withall for her parents' voyage to America. Incidentally, that trip transpired only after a long and arduous campaign waged by her mother against her husband and his family, who felt her insistence on relocating in this country was "crazy". Her victory won, Signora Bernardi set out on her dream cruise to America accompanied by her husband, three small children, and carrying within a child who would be born in her chosen new world. The excursion involved a four hour trip to Genoa, the long ocean voyage, followed by a cross-country train jaunt to California. What a woman.

Next month: those were the good old days: More Point Richmond a la Italiano.



Points in the Past

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

70 YEARS AGO . . .

by Deirdre Cerkowicz

City Council, 1915 . . .

WHAT COUNCIL DID

Discussed with industrial commission harbor improvements.

Set date for tomorrow for conference with Bay Counties land company.

Re-appointed Fred Sprague as patrolman.

Passed new pasteurized milk law.

Delayed action for week on jitney law

Named committee to work for Charity Ball.

"A most important conference has been arranged by the city council with attorneys for the Bay Counties land company for the council chambers tomorrow afternoon, when the city will submit its counter offer to the land company for a settlement of titles to about 225 acres of tidelands located along the channel line of the inner harbor. The land company has offered to give the city title to 38 acres of land if the city will erect a bulkhead along the channel line costing in the neighborhood of \$60,000 . . ."

—February 1, 1916

FRISKY CAT IS CAUSE OF BLAZE . . .

"A fire, supposed to have been started by the family kitten, threatened an apartment house at Castro and Tewksbury last evening. By the prompt action of Companies 1 and 2 the damage was kept under the \$100 mark.

"The conflagration started in the apartment of Paul Alwatta, 104 Tewksbury avenue. While the family were taking an after dinner rest the kitten jumped up and grabbed the fringe of the table cloth. A kerosene lamp on the table was upset and rolled through the doorway into the kitchen, spreading oil and flames. The fire was extinguished by the chemicals. Damage is amply covered by insurance."

—February 2, 1916

PUBLISHER IS AMAZED AT CITY . . .

"P.C. Franklin, correspondent for 'The Billboard' a theatrical publication, was in Richmond today giving the city the double 'O' with the intention of writing it up in the magazine.

" 'I was last here ten years ago,' said Franklin, and there certainly is some growth here since then. It is remarkable.' "

—February 2, 1916

ANOTHER MOVE FOR CITY HALL . . .

"It is currently reported in city official circles that the seat of municipal government will be moved from the present location to the new building being erected near Macdonald avenue and Twenty Sixth street just as soon as the new structure is completed.

"The litigation which will be heard in the superior court on next Tuesday will likely be carried to the supreme court after the superior and appeals court get through with it, and this means that the final decision will not be read for more than a year hence. The city occupied the present building while the old site was in litigation and will likely follow the same plan in the newer structure."

—February 4, 1916

OLD SKULL FOUND BENEATH PAVING OF MACDONALD AVE.

"Workmen digging a conduit for the Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company along Macdonald avenue yesterday afternoon unearthed a skull beneath the pavement. It is thought that it belonged to one of the Indian tribes which formerly inhabited the district, and many Indian relics have been found in the district. It will be turned over to the investigation of some research society."

—February 4, 1916

WHARF SUIT ENDS; COMPANY PLANS IMPROVEMENTS

"Following the ending of the long drawn out litigation between the Richmond wharf and dock company against the San Pablo quarry company for possession and alleged damages to the waterfront property owned by the Macdonald company on the outer harbor and in which the quarry firm was ordered to pay Macdonald \$6800 back rental for the docks, it is announced by the wharf and dock company that it has plans made for the improvement of the property."

—February 7, 1916

COUNCIL DIFFERS ON WISDOM OF IMPROVEMENTS AT THIS TIME

"Whether to spend \$175,000 of the \$640,000 that remains in the inner harbor improvement fund before the government erects its bulkhead along the outer harbor is the question which the city council must decide this week. Estimates for the bulkheading of a section of the inner harbor under an agreement with the Bay Counties land company by which the city would get 40 acres of land and also do part of the project work is being urged by the Richmond industrial commission. . . ."

—February 10, 1916

WOMEN SECURING BIG JOBS WITH GOVERNMENT

"Women are forging to the front as big jobholders with the state. Thirty women hold state jobs that pay from \$1800 to \$4000 a year.

"At the top of the list is Dr. Margaret Schallenberger McNaught of San Jose, commissioner of elementary schools, whose yearly salary is \$4000. Next comes Miss Edith L.M. Tate of Los Angeles, director of the state bureau of tuberculosis, who draws \$3,000 a year. . . ."

—February 10, 1916



Spiersch Plumbing Shop in 1903 (building now called "Park Place", from the Don Church Collection, courtesy Chevron USA 5

1916 EXCUSE FOR BEING DRUNK...

" 'I was walking in from Albany when I came across a teamster who had lost a cask of wine from his wagon, the wagon being broken down. The teamster asked me to watch the wagon and cask while he went to Albany for another wagon.

" 'The barrel that had fallen from the wagon was leaking. In order to conserve the contents I secured a pitcher and placed it beneath the leak. I found that I couldn't put it back in the barrel and saw no other way of disposing of it except to drink it.

" 'I had only one pitcher, and the wine flowed so rapidly from the leak that I had to fill the pitcher several times. I guess I drank all that leaked from the barrel.' "

—February 25, 1916

STANDARD OIL MAGNATE HERE

"Colonel H.H. Rogers, Standard Oil magnate, is 'Seeing California First.' He had intended seeing the Orient — but the steamers wouldn't give him the staterooms he wanted and so he and his friends just fooled the ship people — and stayed here."

—February 25, 1916

RICHMOND WINS CITY HALL SUIT

"Superior Judge McKenzie this afternoon sustained the demurrer of the city of Richmond in the suit brought by the Harbor Center land company — George S. Wall — to prevent the moving of the city hall from the Wall to the Burg site. Wall has a chance to amend his complaint or to appeal.

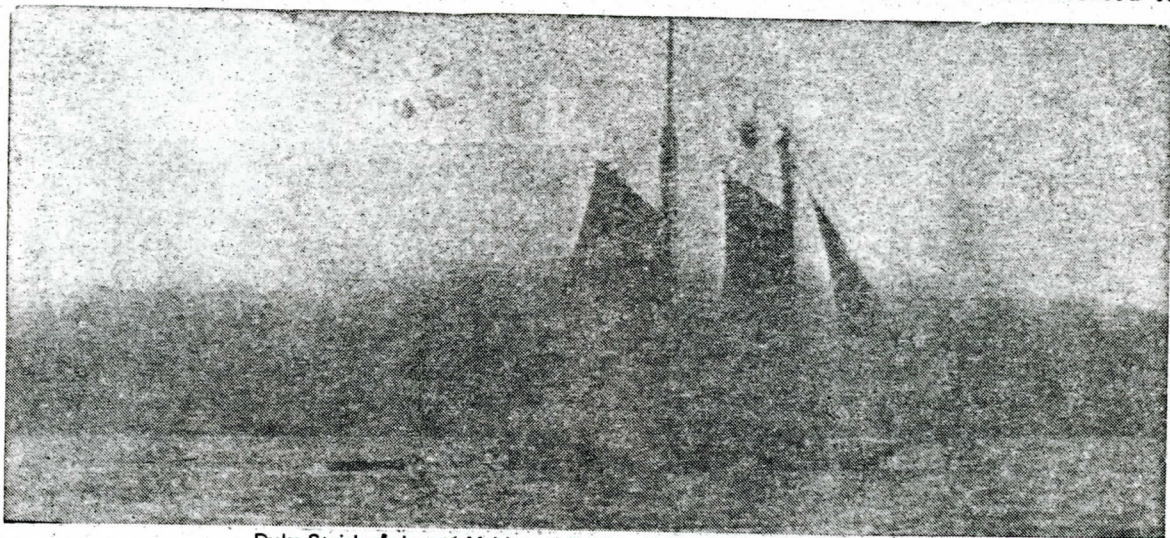
"Wall sought to prevent the seat of government being moved, but the court decided otherwise. Stanley Moore represented the plaintiff. City Attorney Hall, W.T. Kearney and C.S. Hannum represented the city."

—February 28, 1916

CITY HALL CASE WILL BE TRIED MARCH 16; TO BE BATTLE ROYAL

"With both sides claiming a victory, final disposition of the present city hall litigation as far as the superior court is concerned will be made on March 14 . . . in the demand of the Harbor Center land company that a permanent restraining order forbidding the city council from moving the seat of government from the Wall city hall to the Burg building now under construction.

"Yesterday Judge McKenzie refused to



Duke Stairley's boats, Mable and Edith, off Angel Island in 1915
from the Don Church Collection, courtesy Chevron, USA

continue the temporary restraining order and sweeping aside technicalities ordered that the case be submitted upon its merits.

"The deed to the city hall site in the Burg tract was presented to the city council last evening by John Nicholl company, but as it declared that the city shall build the new municipal building instead of Nicholl, the deed was ordered returned to Nicholl for change before acceptance."

—February 29, 1916

The following items were uncovered by Stan Nystrom, and though they should have appeared a few months ago, they will be added to the column this month.

REV. LINSLEY LAID TO HIS FINAL REST IN SUNSET VIEW...

"A funeral procession two blocks in length followed in the wake of the hearse which this morning bore the remains of the late Rev. C.S. Linsley from Trinity Episcopal church to its resting place in Sunset View cemetery.

"Rev. Linsley had been pastor of the Trinity Episcopal church of this city for five years, during which time he had made a large number of friends. His wife died three years ago following a lengthy illness. The deceased was 62 years of age and is survived by a brother in Philadelphia."

—August 11, 1915

SOUGHT SERVICES OF DEAD PASTOR FOR CEREMONY...

"A young bridal couple of Oakland, wishing to be hurriedly married, and knowing but one pastor in this city hastened to the home of Rev. C.S. Linsley this morning just as the hearse carrying the pastor's remains was moving away to the Trinity Episcopal church..."

"Neighbors residing near the Linsley home, on inquiring into the plight of the

young couple, directed them to the Rev. D. W. Calfee who will act in the place of Rev. Linsley this evening."

—August 11, 1915

60 YEARS AGO ...

by Pam Wilson

STANDARD AVENUE WORK DELAYED...

"Attorney Will Robenson again appeared to renew the protest of property owners on Standard avenue against the assessment plan for widening the avenue.

"It was pointed out by the city council that the assessments levied against the frontage property would amount to only \$1 a front foot for widening and about \$3 a front foot for paving. This is less than a third of the total cost, which is being borne by corporations benefitted and by other property on the west side.

"After lengthy argument the matter was laid over another week."

—February 3, 1926

POSSIBLE TO LIVE ON \$485

"Despite the high cost of living, the average Californian above the age of 21 can actually be maintained with the food, clothing and shelter necessary to live for a year at a minimum cost of \$485.

"This surprising estimate was announced today by L.E. Ross, director of the state bureau of vital statistics, in a table showing the costs of bare subsistence in California after all luxuries have been deducted.

"A minimum expenditure of \$120 is required to maintain the average individual during the first year of life, according to Ross, who added that this sum included the cost of being born.

"When the average child is 3 years old, bare maintenance costs are the lowest in the entire span of life — \$50 for the year.

"The minimum cost of living, declares Ross, drops to \$300 a year when the individual reaches the age of 70 and falls again at the age of 75 to \$200 where it is maintained 'till death.

—February 6, 1926

RICHMOND MAN DROWNED IN BAY, FEAR

"Charles Fredericks, aged clam-digger and fisherman missing from shanty on waterfront . . . Home left open as if he intended to return, dogs guard place; search is started by police . . ."

—February 7, 1926

STILLS FOUND IN RAID; MAN HELD

"Gus Cismich, residing on East Richmond avenue, was arrested on a charge of violating the Wright Act this morning after Police Chief Dan Cox and squad raided his place and caught him in the alleged act of turning out bootleg booze on two liquor stills which were in full operation. Approximately 10 gallons of illicit moonshine were confiscated as well as the stills which were of 15 gallon capacity. Cismich was released on \$500 bail pending his appearance before Police Judge C.A. Odell."

—February 9, 1925

WEST SIDE WANTS FERRY BUS SERVICE

"Stating that many of the West Side residents are forced to walk a considerable distance in order to meet the Key System ferry bus, the West Side Progressive Association last night petitioned the city council to have the bus routed so that it will operate on Standard, Washington and to Richmond avenues, and thence back to Garrard boulevard. The matter was referred to City Manager J.A. McVittie, who will get in touch with Key System officials."

—February 17, 1926

40 YEARS AGO . . .

by Sarah Eeles

GEORGE MILLER NAMED TO CITY PLANNING GROUP . . .

"Named to succeed (Clarence) Overaa on the commission was George Miller, Jr. chairman of the Contra Costa County Democratic Central Committee and well known in Richmond.

"At the same time the term of Gust Alyn, chairman, was set at three years while the terms of Secretary Walter Helms and Councilman Walter Johnson were set for two years . . ."

—February 5, 1946

SCIOTS TO PLAN STANDARD OIL NIGHT . . .

"Completion of plans for their Standard Oil Night, to be held February 20, will be the principal item of business before tomorrow night's meeting of Richmond Pyramid of Sciots at Memorial Hall . . ."

—February 5, 1946

FIVE RESCUED IN BAY HERE . . .

"Five men were rescued in the bay off Richmond yesterday afternoon when the destroyer escort USS Douglas A. Munro collided with the privately owned 42-foot cabin cruiser Penrod II. The collision occurred about a half mile off Red Rock."

—February 7, 1946

AUTO CRASHES OVER CLIFF . . .

"Late yesterday afternoon an automobile from which the driver, Mrs. Betty S. Kitchen, . . . had just stepped a couple of minutes before, dove over the brink of a hill facing the San Rafael ferry road and was demolished . . ."

"Mrs. Kitchen reported to police that she had driven out to the Point Orient section to get her husband when he got off work at the Standard Oil company plant.

She parked the car near the cliff and stepped out to look at the bay scenery and watch the ferry. The brakes on the car gave way, it rolled to the brink of the cliff and plunged down the hillside.” —February 9, 1946

KAISER STORY SURPRISING...

“Henry Kaiser’s announcement over the weekend that Richmond has ‘asked’ him to move his projected gypsum plant from the inner harbor, caused surprise in Richmond today inasmuch as another site, on Ferry Point, had been offered the industrialist.

“It was pointed out at the time that the gypsum plant on the inner harbor would cause a dust nuisance...”

—February 11, 1946

30 YEARS AGO ...

SPAN LIGHTING BIDS TO BE CALLED SOON...

“The State Division of San Francisco Bay Toll Crossings will advertise for bids in mid-February for the installation of roadway lighting on the lower deck of the \$68,000,000 Richmond-San Rafael bridge...

“It will include installation of fluorescent lighting and a call-box system.”

—February 2, 1956

ROSARY TONIGHT FOR MICHAEL PALENCHAR...

“Rosary for Michael Palenchar, resident of Point Richmond for 47 years, will be recited tonight... He was 75. A retired boilermaker for Standard Oil company, Palenchar was a native of Czechoslovakia.”

—February 9, 1956

ATCHISON SALE IS URGED BY LOCAL GROUP...

“Sale of 550 Atchison Village units to individuals as a partial solution to Richmond’s housing shortage has been urged by the mayor’s housing committee...”

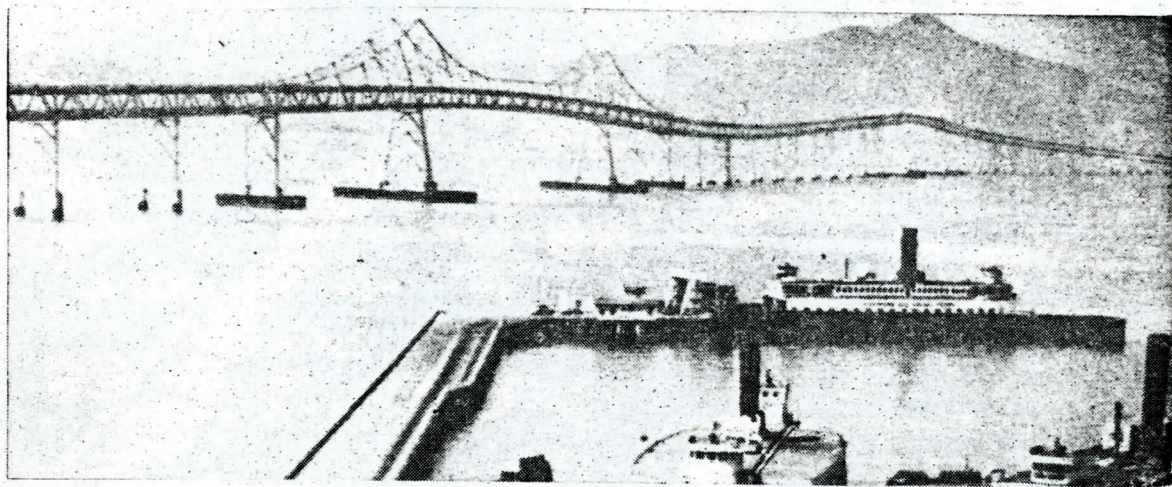
—February 17, 1956

LITTLE THEATER TO PUT ON COWARD PLAY...

“The Richmond Community Theater announces it will hold readings for Noel Coward’s ‘Private Lives’ on February 27...

“Readings will be in the Village Playhouse, 105 Park Place, Point Richmond.”

—February 21, 1956



The New SanRafael Bridge, 1955, from the Don Church Collection (courtesy Chevron, USA)

IN PURSUIT OF HISTORICAL TRIVIA

courtesy of Stan Nystrom

In answer to last issue's question, which of the thirty main streets in Richmond that were originally given County Road numbers still remains; it is Road No. 20, which runs on the north side of the creek in San Pablo.

No one answered the question about the location of the townships of "Clayburn" and "East Yard". Clayburn was located where the present Standard Oil Rod and Gun Club is now; and East Yard was temporarily the name of Point Richmond.

QUESTION: What do the two streets in different parts of Richmond, named Zara and Esmond have in common?

CORRECTION: In doing further research on Sam Ripley, Mr. Nystrom found out that Ripley street was actually not named after him. The street bore that name before his time, and was named after a Santa Fe Railway official.

THE MASQUERS

"After Dark" or "Pardon for a Price", a classic melodrama written in 1868 by Dion Boucicault and directed by Jo Camp, will be showing at the Masquers Playhouse Friday and Saturday evenings through March

Done in the classic style with olio acts interspersed between the scenes, it is filled with devious doings and heroic ideas. There are heroes to cheer for, villains to hiss at and a faithful young wife being forced into the supreme sacrifice to cry for.

Audiences will love participating in this exciting and hilarious old-time melodrama.

Besides the Friday and Saturday evening performances, there will be matinee performances on Sundays, February 2, 16 and 23.

Tickets are \$6.00, with discounts offered to groups of 25 or more. For reservations, call 526-1038.

Thursday night performances are also available for groups wishing to purchase 99 tickets to fill the theater for fund raising efforts.



Point Richmond in 1913, from the Don Church Collection (courtesy Chevron, USA)

add your name to history!

DO IT IN BRONZE...

A THIRD PLAQUE WILL BE ADDED
TO THE INDIAN STATUE PEDESTAL.

DONORS OF \$200 OR MORE WILL
HAVE THEIR NAMES ON A BRONZE
PLAQUE ATTACHED TO THE GRANITE
STATUE BASE.

FUNDS DONATED WILL CREATE A
PARK AREA SURROUNDING THE
STATUE.

Donations may be sent to the Point Richmond
History Association, 808 Western Drive, Point
Richmond, CA 94801.

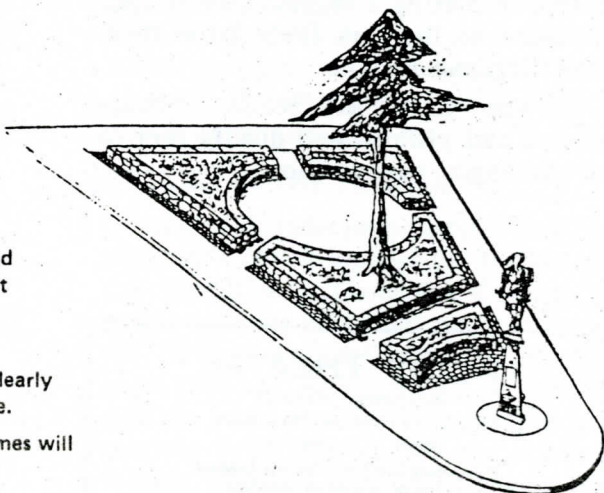
Donations are tax deductible.

When making your donation, please specify clearly
how you wish the name printed on the plaque.

Smaller donations are also welcomed, and names will
be added to the roll call.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR DONATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,
SO THAT FINAL PARK PLANS WILL MATCH THE FUNDS.
ALL DONATIONS MUST BE COLLECTED BY AUGUST 15, 1986.

Park Committee: Patricia Behrens, Catherine Burchell, Tom Butt, Sarah Eeles, Kathe Kiehn, Donna Roselius, David Vincent, Jay Ward,
Peggy Young; Lucretia Edwards, advisor.
For Further Information, call 235-4222



INDIAN · STATUE · PARK

DONOR'S FORM

I (we), _____, donate/pledge \$ _____

to be used for the design and creation of the Indian Statue Park. I (we) understand that
this amount is due before August 15, 1986, and that it is a tax-exempt donation.

Dated _____ Donor's signature _____

Address: _____

Inscription on plaque: _____

send to: Point Richmond History Association, 808 Western Dr., Pt. Richmond, CA 94801

**EAST BAY REGIONAL PARKS'
PLANNING, ACQUISITION AND
DESIGN CHIEF —**

JONATHAN HAMMOND

A well known name to Point Richmond-ers, Jon Hammond grew up here; the son of active participants and leaders in many community efforts, Veil and Louise Hammond. Now, leaving his architectural firm in Davis, Mr. Hammond will return to the Bay Area to assume an important position in the Regional Park District. Shortly after his graduation from U.C. Berkeley, he voluntarily assisted in making a suggested design plan submitted to the Park District for Miller-Knox Regional Park.

Jon's background as a creative landscape designer and planner well qualify him for the challenging new position.

POINT THEATRE

RICHMOND AVENUE
Richmond's Popular Play House
Where all the people go

Only perfectly ventilated Theatre in Richmond
NEW PROGRAM ON MONDAYS, WEDNESDAYS,
FRIDAYS AND SUNDAYS

**GOLDEN STATE
MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM
FOR MILLER-KNOX PARK**

The metal building across Dorman Drive from the landscaped flat are of Miller-Knox Park may house a model railroad museum. After a zoning change, the association could begin reconstructing the interior of the building. The museum is not expected to open until about two years from now, when it will provide an additional attraction to the park — for young and old alike.

**POINT RICHMOND
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

*by Lucretia Edwards
Minutes of the January (quarterly) meeting*

ZONING

Allen Romano, chairman of the sub-committee on Zoning, has now completed considerable research on Point Richmond's zoning history. He would welcome volunteers who are interested in this area to join the committee, and would also be happy to answer questions about it. His telephone number is 235-4130.

TISCORNIA PROPERTY

A progress report was made on the Environmental Impact and Special Study for the Tiscornia property. The consulting firm, Wagstaff and Brady, has completed the study, which is now being duplicated for distribution to appropriate agencies and individuals. During the 45 day period in which responses to the study will be accepted, a Neighborhood Council meeting will be held, probably in the middle of February, to present the consultants' recommendation to those interested. All responses will be incorporated in the final report which will go to the Planning Commission, since the suggested changes will require a General Plan change. If approved by that body, it will then be sent with their recommendation to the City Council for their action.

LEAP ..

Sharon Pastori, in charge of LEAP (Literacy for Every Adult Program) gave a short presentation and film on the history of this important program. It was started three years ago by the Richmond Public Library, with a Federal grant. During the second year the program was funded by the state, and now state and local funds are being used. The program started in Richmond has been so successful that it is now being duplicated in 40 library systems in the state. Its concentration is on adult literacy, since it has been determined that 20% of the state's adult population have reading problems.

This is a one-to-one program, using volunteer tutors who are given training through LEAP. Over 200 volunteers have been trained and our library would like to encourage more people to become involved and to take the training. Sharon Pastori urged the audience to request that the library provide a speaker and the film for their clubs, church groups or business groups.

LANDSCAPING FOR KNOX FREEWAY

Georgia Haley, in the absence of David Vincent, representative of the Point Richmond Business Association, made a report on the landscaping situation for the John T. Knox Freeway. Though Caltrans had decided to eliminate or postpone freeway landscaping in order to use the money saved for construction and/or repair of state transportation routes, Council member Rosemary Corbin and Public Works Director Larry Loder appeared before the California Transportation Commission and succeeded in having this decision reversed for the J.T. Knox Freeway.

RAILROAD SIGNAL DISREPAIR

Also discussed was the wig-wag at Railroad and Richmond Avenues, which has been damaged by big trucks making tight turns around it, and which is now falling apart. Both wig-wags are being held together with wire ropes, being in general disrepair. A campaign will be launched to have the signals repaired.

CANAL BOULEVARD - DORNAN DRIVE CONNECTION

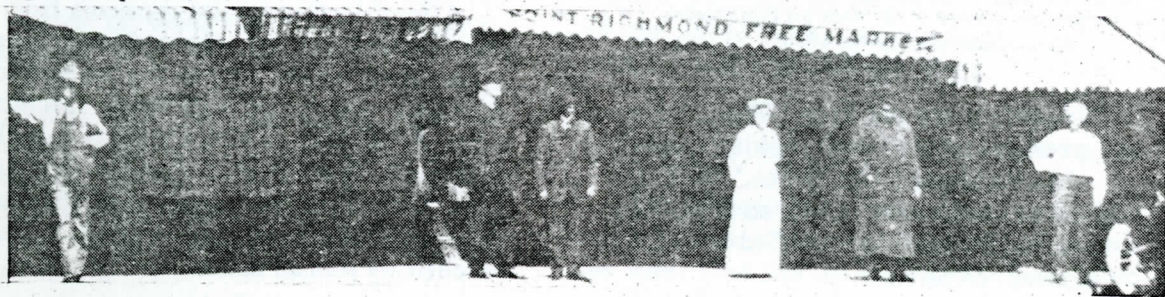
Georgia Haley was appointed to attend the January 15 meeting at City Hall on "Public Facility Fees for Brickyard Cove", since we are interested in the proposed road linking Canal Boulevard and Dornan Drive in the Brickyard Cove area.

ANNUAL MEETING

George Coles, acting president, announced that our annual meeting will be in April. Since new officers will be elected then, a nominating committee was named, of three members-at-large: Ron Albro, Bruce Beyaert and Georgia Haley; and two Executive Committee members: Jan Lyons and Ellie Strauss, who will present a slate of prospective officers at the annual April meeting.

TRUCKS IN THE TUNNEL

Adele Hollander proposed that the Neighborhood Council support the suggestion of the West Contra Costa Bay Council, that trucks carrying hazardous material through the Garrard Avenue Tunnel be limited to night time use. An immediate difference of opinion was voiced by those people at the meeting living adjacent to and above the tunnel, who said they would get no sleep under those circumstances. They made a counter proposal, that trucks go through the tunnel *only* during the daytime, and at reduced speed. The matter was held over for further study by the Executive Committee and Area Representatives.



People standing in front of the Critchett Hotel in 1913, from the Don Church Collection (courtesy Chevron, USA)

A-MID TRIVIA

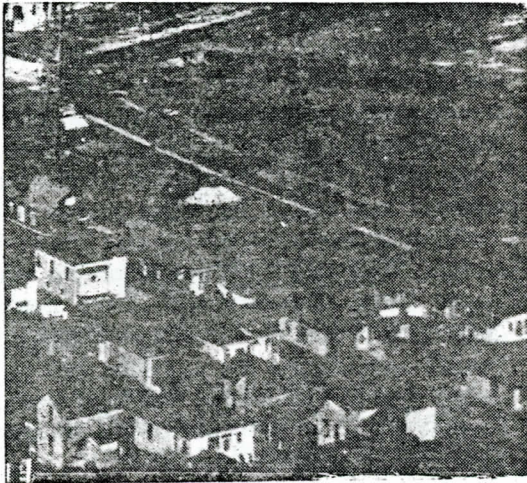
by Mid Dornan (234-5334)

If you are one of the lucky people who remember seeing Halley's Comet in 1910, we would really appreciate your sharing recollections with us, by calling 234-5334 after 5 p.m., or by dropping a line to this newsletter so that we can contact you.

-O-

There may be a new song, dedicated to Florence and Jim Wilson, called "You Light Up My Neighborhood". Not only have they meticulously preserved an exceptional old home, but now they have found a vintage 1905-10 street light with five globes that gives the whole neighborhood a glow. It suits Point Richmond so well — it would be nice if all the street lights in the Point were like the one on Montana Street.

-O-



The Point in 1912 or 13, from the Don Church Collection (courtesy Chevron USA)

-O-

Remember the old joke, 'What's brown and green and covered with cookie crumbs?' . . . 'An exhausted Girl Scout.' Well, it's Girl Scout cookie time again, so if you are approached by an exhausted Girl Scout, do order some cookies!

-O-

Coincidentally, it's also Campfire Mint buying time — get some for your Valentine!

-O-

And, speaking of Valentines, you can make your greeting special by sending it from Loveland or Valentine. Postmasters in Loveland, Colorado (zip code 80537) and Valentine, Nebraska (zip code 60201) have been providing Valentines with their postmark for years. Why not surprise someone special this year?

-O-

Remember When: The 'Ichthus Coffee House' was a well known spot on Washington Avenue? Same location as the well known Judges and Spares.

-O-

The new 'buckle-up' seatbelt law went into effect January 1. According to the records, no seat-belt wearer has come out of a car crash with a permanent spinal cord injury.

-O-

Trivial 1986 prediction: According to trend-watchers, suspenders will once again be 'in'.

-O-

If you're looking for something less trivial than suspenders, you may be able to 'try on' countless garments in a short time without changing clothes. 'Magic Mirror', a piece of high-tech hardware currently being tested in some Midwestern stores, will be used in a number of major retail outlets across the country by February.

After selecting several garments from a photographic display, the customer enters a darkened booth where the salesperson programs the device with figure specifications. A full-length mirror reflects only the customer's face, as one after another outfit is 'flashed' in the mirror. And, the customer can purchase a garment almost untouched by human hands!

-O-

The application for the Clarence Street easement variance and closure of a portion of Golden Gate and Marine Streets are on the Richmond City Council agenda for Monday, February 10 at 8 p.m. Interested residents should plan to attend – this is an important issue regarding the Point.

-O-

High on the hill is a wonderful new Scenic Avenue house which seems to have a 'sense of time and place', reflecting the historic district with its dormer windows and decorative trim, in contrast to some of the box-flat facades being built. The Tom Butt family moved into their wonderful home in December, before it was finished, and before it even had a kitchen. Sons Dan and Andrew are tired of 'eating out', and anxious to bake some cookies!

-O-

Among the Richmond residents graduating in December from the Criminal Justice Training Center at Los Medanos College in Pittsburg was Douglas Busby, son of Martin and Joanne Busby in the Point. He is now qualified to serve as a police officer anywhere in California.

-O-

Carol Seawell will be showing her dog, Mochi, February 1 and 2 in the Dog Show at the Cow Palace in San Francisco.

-O-

National Trivia: How many columns are there around the outside of the Lincoln Memorial? . . . Thirty six. One for each of the states in existence during Lincoln's presidency.

-O-

Newly wed Lola and Arthur Boie of Lake City, Minnesota, will be honored at an open house Sunday, February 9 at the home of their son-in-law and daughter, Rosy and Donna Roselius, where they will stay until February 18.

We are happy to announce that Henry O'Hara is home once again, and everyone hopes his health will continue to improve.

-O-

Isn't it time we in the Point exercise some control over the physical looks and density of new buildings? One need only look at the box-like new apartment/condo at the end of Summit Place to guess that the owner will live neither in or near it. Does good design cost that much more?

-O-

Rainy day thoughts – Do you ever think what it must have been like for early pioneer families in the winter, cooped up in log cabins. . . no radio to listen to, no TV, no phonographs, tape recorders, telephones, microwaves, VCR's . . . but then, they didn't have the time off to celebrate presidents' birthdays, either.

-O-

The end of the *Do not Fold, Spindle or Mutilate* era is here. After 40 years, the Treasury Department announced that the old green punch card checks will be phased out this year, and replaced with modern, rainbow hued checks featuring a drawing of the Statue of Liberty. By the end of the year more than 115 million Americans will have received one or more of the new checks. New security features aimed at thwarting counterfeiters include the invisible "void" which becomes visible if the check is photocopied, and stains which appear on the name of the payee or the amount paid if any attempt is made to alter the check.

-O-

BIRTHS . .

The following announcement and poem come from Sandy Wyllie Echeverria. He and his wife, Tina live on West Richmond Avenue in a home bought about two years ago

from the Page family. Mr. Page, they were told, also built the four homes above theirs.

On the clear, crisp afternoon of January 11, Tina and Sandy welcomed Victoria Rawn Wyllie into their lives. Little "Toya" weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces.

WINTER MAGIC

all the plans had been made.
diapers, bright colored little tops, and warm sleeping clothes

were stacked neatly in the dresser.

impatiently we waited.

relax they said, try castor oil they said, walk they said,

so we did it all.

we got to know our village, each other,
better and better and better.

then in the early morning (as we both had thought),
the rumblings began.

tina began to moan and groan.

she could feel herself stretching, stretching open.
the practice drills proved useful.

quietly, quickly, calmly we began to move toward
birth.

labor, in all its vivid intensity, had arrived.
contractions, like waves in a rough sea, roared

through her body
between the waves, she gathered her power with a
smile;

a smile enriched by all who had gone before.
all the mothers who strained and groaned that we
might live.

the force of life was omnipresent, it filled the room
with magic.

push they said, push harder.
straining, hoping, breathing, legs apart, she pushed.
vulnerability gave way to strength; a tuft of brown
hair emerged;

sandy's tears began to flow.

in the bat of an eye, she was born.
eyes open, squalling with life,

she lay on the stomach of her amazed mother.

i did it she thought, this is my daughter.
although the cord was cut, the bond is forever.

now as Victoria, swaddled in blankets, smiles
peacefully,

the pain is forgotten,
almost.

-oo-

Janie and Quentin Lewton, who now live near Lincoln, Missouri, announce the birth of their fourth child, Michael Douglas Lewton (named after both grandfathers). Michael was born on January 12 at 7:50 p. m. at their home. He weighed 8¾ pounds and was 20 inches long. The Lewtons hope to visit friends in the Point when they can get away from their happy but busy life on a farm with a herd of milk cows and twenty new lambs.

-o-

DEATHS

Uldine Adams Ross Nickola

A native Point Richmonder, Uldine died in a Pleasant Hill Convalescent Home on Friday, December 13, 1985. She was born on May 10, 1903 at 222 Martina Street and lived in the same house until she was married. Later, in 1945, she returned to her Martina Street home where she remained until 1978 when she moved to Pleasant Hill.

Baptized in 1903 at the Methodist Church just across the street, Uldine was its senior member, having belonged to the church all of her 82 years.



Uldine Nickola , approximately 40 years ago

Uldine's parents, Charles and Avonia Adams were Point Richmond pioneers. Charles was employed by the Santa Fe Railway. The history of the Methodist Church shows the abundant contributions of the Adams family, who were considered 'pillars' of the church. Altar furniture in the church is a memorial to the family.

A member of the first Camp Fire Girls group in Richmond which began in the church's Friendship Hall under Nina Moody, Uldine later sponsored the PaKaNena Camp Fire Girls and other camp fire groups.

A skilled beautician, Uldine operated her own beauty salon.

Aside from her family, the church was her greatest love in later years. A chair with her name was reserved for her because of her faithful attendance at meetings. She resisted proposed changes in the historic church, and because of her the sanctuary's gas lights remain. Usually one of the first things a new minister would aim at was modernization, and the gas lights were usually the first targets.

Uldine is survived by three sons, Trefry and Ted Ross and Roy Nickola; ten grandchildren and twenty great-grandchildren; and her brother Arygyle, who lives in Berkeley. At her request, no services were held, but a memorial was part of the December 15 church services. Uldine was a rare Point native.



Uldine Nickola

RICH 1960

Uldine Beauty Salon

Specializing in the New Croquignole Wrap

PERMANENT WAVES

DUART METHOD

Complete Beauty Service

347 SIXTH STREET
RICHMOND, CALIF.

THOMAS J. SHEAHAN

A resident of Richmond for 25 years, Tom Sheahan died on January 26, at the age of 59. He lived on West Richmond Avenue with his wife Pat. He is also survived by three daughters, one son and two brothers. He was a Naval veteran of World War II; a member of the Elks Lodge and the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco. Services were held at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, and memorials for Mr. Sheahan, who practiced law in Richmond for several years, may be sent to Catholic Charities, 433 Jefferson St., Oakland, CA 94608.

-O-

NORA E. BARTRAM

Nora Bartram, who lived many years in Point Richmond, died January 24 in San Pablo. A resident of Richmond for 79 years, she had been married to the late George Bartram, a Standard Oil employee. She is survived by her sister, Grace Howe of Richmond and a son and daughter, Bruce Bartram and Beverly Bartram.

-O-

Walter B. Wirth

Services were held on December 16 for Walter Wirth who died December 11 in a Concord hospital. He founded the successful Bond Manufacturing Company in Richmond. He was a member of the Elks Lodge, Richmond Rotary, Berkeley Masons and the San Francisco Ventriloquists' Club.

He lived on Western Drive before moving to Martinez, but maintained his Western Drive home where his wife Betty lives.

Walter is survived by three daughters, Kay Merritt, Marily Scaife and Wendy; a brother James of Florida and a sister Edna Uvodich of Arizona.

Committal was in Kincaid Cemetery, Alexandria, Minnesota; the state where he was born. He was 72 years old.

-OO-

CHURCHES

POINT METHODIST CHURCH

by Mid Dornan

Church history is rich with contributions of women. One of the church groups in the early 1900's was the home Missionary Society of the First Methodist Church, whose history is reflected in their minutes, printed below and taken from the stiff cardboard-covered notebook purchased from "Schoen's Pharmacy in the Point". This is the thirteenth installment.

Point Richmond, Calif. March 17, '08

The Home Missionary Society met at the church. The President Mrs. N.J. Pritchard was present. The meeting opened with a song then Bible reading by the President. The subject was "The Old World Ways."

Sentence prayers by the society. The minutes was read. Then the general study and discussion of the lesson. 11 ladies were present.

It was then moved and carried that the Missionary Society will intertain (sic) the District Missionary Conference the first week in May.

Mrs. C.E. Adams was appointed as Secretary for literature.

Mrs. Totten gave her name for membership. No other business the meeting adjourned.

L.C. Pritchard, Sec

OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH

by Marion Downey

On December 31 at 10:30 p.m. an Ecumenical Service was held under the auspices of Rev. Denis Araujo, with Rev. Charles Smith of the First Methodist Church, Rev. Russell Moore of the Episcopal Church and Rev. Richard Knott of the Baptist Church officiating. This was followed by a reception in the church hall.

Newly baptized at Our Lady of Mercy were Matthew Clayton Scrimiger, Jenifer Lynn Wolf, Tommy Lee Wolf, Jamie Lorraine Nephew, Brandon Michael Arroyo, Clayton Christian Carstensen, Nicholas Nattkemper, Stefani May Nattkemper, Richard Louis Castellano, Angela Marie Castellano, Carmen Lorraine Castellano, Abraham Morris Lionel Katz, Tiffany Ann Nephew, Briana Joelle Smyk, Veronica Linda DeLaTorre and Megan Marie Mitchell.

Newly registered parishioners are Daniel and Mary Ruiz, Joseph Lapp, Jeffrey and Joan Mitchell, Joseph and Pat Christen, Henry and Judy Buder, Rodney and Delia Kendrick, John and Ann Urbach, Raymond Lutz, Gabriel and Nelly Rickert, Robert and Colleen Baldino, Steve and Theresa Veal, Mike and Elizabeth Leary, Max and Charlotte Martinez, Sandy Perez, David and Tinna Savellano, David and Estrella DeLaTorre, Jess and Erica Batres, Joseph Rokovich, Nguyen, Trang and Tho, James and Kathleen Smyk, and Judy Walsh.

Recently married were Arturo Perez and Amelia Garcia.

On Sunday, January 20, in the presence of their five girls and two boys, their families and a host of friends, Remegio and Jane Javelana renewed the marriage vows in honor of their fiftieth wedding anniversary. A reception was held at Hilltop Green.

On the church calendar, Lent will begin on February 12.

POINT BAPTIST CHURCH

In the last week of January, Roy Jones used his rousing piano style to conduct a sing-along evening at the Baptist Church. There may be more such evenings in the near future.

Moyle's Shoes

Are strictly up-to-date in
PRICE FIT and STYLE WEAR
Guaranteed.

We want your shoe trade. No
trouble to show the goods.
One of the oldest business
houses in Richmond. Established
Jan. 1902.

50 WASHINGTON AVE.
Phone 1901.

Little Bear trading stamp.



HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY . . .

Frankie Greenlaw	Barnaby Edwards
Dixie Copeland	Doug Busby
Allan Smith	Russell Paasch
Chris Rotting	Marcos Rotting
Helen Valentine	Connie Healy
Bessie Squires	Landon Howe
Arlene Hartman	Sharon Amantite
Shelley Virgo	Bill Williamson
Frank Pearson	Casie Espinosa

GUNG HAY FAT CHOY — year of the Tiger.
The tiger is your sign if you were born in 1902,
1914, 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962 or 1974, also.
You are a person of great extremes, a sympathet-
ic and considerate friend, a powerful and danger-
ous enemy. In your career you are both a deep
thinker and a careful planner.

WEST SIDE LIBRARY

by Jan Burdick

We are pleased to announce a much ex-
panded list of magazines available for your
reading pleasure at West Side:

American Artist	Metropolitan Home
American Health	Modern Photography
Americas	Money
Atlantic	Motor Trend
Boating	Ms.
California Journal	Newsweek
Consumer Reports	Parents
Ebony	Popular Science
Esquire	Psychology Today
Fifty Plus	Ranger Rick
Freestylin'	Redbook
Gentlemen's Quarterly	Rolling Stone
Glamour	Runner's World
Good Housekeeping	Sesame Street
Gourmet	Seventeen
Handyman	Sports Illustrated
House & Garden	Stereo Review
Infoworld (Microcom- puter weekly newspaper)	Travel Holiday
Mad	Vogue
Magazine of Fantasy	Whole Earth Review
& Science Fiction	Working Woman
	World Press Review

A few of the titles have not yet started
arriving, but we expect that within a month
they all will be available. Check it (them)
out!

WASHINGTON SCHOOL NEWS

by Omeara Johnson

During the month of February, students
will assist in raising funds for PTA-sponsored
projects by making door-to-door sales of
spices and "sun catchers" (stain glass orna-
ments). Cooperation from the community
in making a few purchases will be greatly
appreciated. If you are particularly interest-
ed, please call the school or contact Nancy
Grimm or Omeara Johnson.

Parents' help is welcomed in planning
this year's Founders Day which is tentative-
ly set for Tuesday, March 11.

CHILD DAY CARE

All parents interested in day care for
their children in Point Richmond should at-
tend a special meeting at Washington School
Auditorium on February 6 at 7:30 p.m.
There will be a presentation of three alter-
nate proposals for your consideration.

Please fill out and return this form to renew your membership, or to become a member of the Point Richmond History Association, a non-profit corporation. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone No. _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (CHECK ONE)

- | | |
|--|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SINGLE | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR (65+) | 7.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY | 25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ORGANIZATION | 35.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HISTORY PRESERVER | 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HISTORY MAKER | 100.00 |

membership in the Point Richmond History Association includes a year's subscription to "This Point in Time" newsletter (nine issues).

Please send membership forms to:

PAM WILSON
521 WESTERN DRIVE
POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801

Articles for each month's issue are due on the 20th of the previous month.

Please mail articles and items of interest to: Donna Roselius, 212 Bishop Alley, Point Richmond, CA 94801, or call 235-4222.

Items may also be left with Trannie at 145 W. Richmond Avenue.

This Point in Time is a publication of the Point Richmond History Association, a non-profit corporation, at 212 Bishop Alley, Point Richmond, CA 94801

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FEBRUARYS PAST . . .

- 4, 1789 — George Washington was unanimously chosen First President of the U.S.
- 4, 1783 — American Revolution ended
- 4, 1861 — Delegates from 6 seceding southern states formed the Confederate States of America
- 15, 1898 — Spanish-American War began, with the Battleship Maine being blown up in the Havana Harbor, killing 266 people.
- 20, 1962 — John Glenn orbited Earth in Mercury II space capsule (24 years! already?)

FEBRUARY AHEAD . . .

- 2 — Ground Hog Day —(a shadow, or less winter?)
- 5 — Elementary School report cards
- 7 — Jr./Sr. High School report cards
- 9 — BOY SCOUT SUNDAY — Scouts to participate in Point Methodist Church services.
- 12 — Lincoln's Birthday
- 14 — VALENTINE'S DAY
- 17 — Washington's Birthday observed

FEBRUARY AHEAD . . .

- 2 — Ground Hog Day (a shadow, or less winter?)
- 4 — West Side Improvement Club, 12 noon, Our Lady of Mercy Church hall.
- 5 — Elementary School report cards
- 7 — Jr. & Sr. High School report cards
- 9 — BOY SCOUT SUNDAY — Scouts to participate in Point Methodist Church services.
- 12 — Point Richmond Business Association meeting, 12 noon. Hotel Mac.
- 12 — Lincoln's Birthday
- 14 — St. Valentine's Day
- 17 — Washington's Birthday observed
- 19 - 21 — SCHOOL HOLIDAYS — winter break
- 19-21 — SCHOOL HOLIDAYS — winter break for teachers and students
- 22 — Washington's Birthday

MARCH AHEAD — dates to plan for

- 11 — Tentative date for Washington School PTA Founders Day
- 27 — Next regular meeting of the Point Richmond History Association — 7:30 at Linsley Hall. Plan to attend!