# THIS POINT-

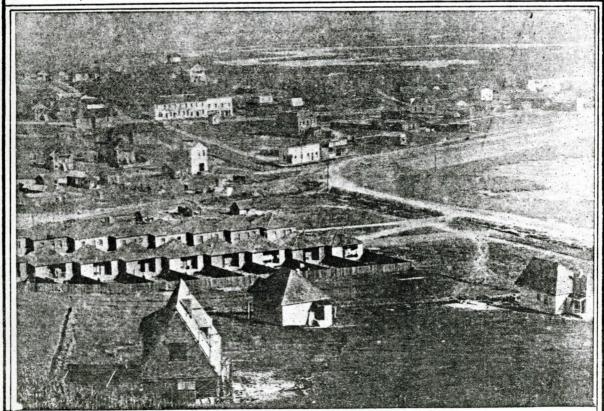
## NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL. IV. No. 7

MARCH, 1986

75 cents



POINT RICHMOND IN THE SUMMER OF 1901. Foreground shows the Schupbach house, bought by the Davidson family in 1917, and still occupied by Caroline Davidson; two other homes (can anyone identify?) and Smoky Row. At the intersection is Henry Sirrenberg's Saloon, "The Louvre", now "The Point Bar and Restaurant". Large bldg. at next intersection was the first permanent building, the Critchett Hotel. (photo from the Don Church Collection, also from Jim Wilson, via Jay Ward of "The Point".

INSIDE COVER—MARCH MEETING HISTORY ASSOCIATION NOTES PURSUIT of HISTORICAL TRIVIA POINTS in the PAST INDIAN STATUE PARK DONATIONS	20	1 2 3 9	POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL TISCORNIA - SHEEHAN PROPERTY A-MID TRIVIA , BIRTHDAYS WEST BRANCH LIBRARY, WASHINGTON SCHOOL	13 14 15 16 0L19
DONATION FORM	20	0	RICHMOND MUSEUM	19
POINT RICHMOND CHURCHES	1	7	POINTS IN PAST AND FUTURE	20
TOTAL THOUSANDING				

in time=

Bring your friends, family, and neighbors to our March Meeting featuring
Oral Historian
JUDITH DUNNING
THURSDAY, MARCH 27
7:30 p.m.
Linsley Hall
235 Washington Avenue

Prefaced by a short business meeting, during which a nominating committee will be selected, to present nominations to the Board of Directors at the Annual May meeting.

ALMOST EVERYONE has, at one time or another, wanted to record for posterity the life story of a person who has experienced first hand the times we only vaguely understand.

JUDITH DUNNING is an accomplished oral historian; her most recent project, for the Oral History Office of the Bancroft Library is entitled, "On The Waterfront — an Oral History of Richmond, California, 1910 to 1986".

She will bring with her one of the interviewees to provide a demonstration of the procedure in producing an oral history. She will give guidelines for family and community oral histories; equipment needed, transcribing the interviews, editing them and getting the narrator's review, as well as information about legal agreements and placing the histories in archives.

Miss Dunning previously worked for twelve years in New England, where after majoring in Oral History, she began some oral history projects: Three generations of Italian women on Boston's north end; Textile mill workers in Lowell, Massachusetts; and World War I and II shipyard workers at the Charlestown Navy Yard in Boston.

It will be an exciting, informative evening — Come and bring your questions!

Refreshments will be served, as usual — please feel free to add to the exotic cookie supply.

# \*\* THISTORY ASSOCIATION NOTES \*\*

## WHO DO WE APPRECIATE?

We appreciate people who are not shy. If you are interested in becoming more active in the association please let us know. You don't have to become a member of the Board, but we welcome willing candidates. If you have a special interest, please tell us. and we will try to show our gratitude by putting you to work. Indexing, cataloging and interviewing are among the more urgent projects (and projects which are ongoing). We continually get more photos, memorabilia and publications which need to be catalogued and indexed if they are to be made use of. Indexing chairman Jerry Cerkanowicz will welcome a call, at 235-1336, And, Dierdre Cerkanowicz, who has offered to catalog old photos, etc., could also use assistance (her number is 235-2945). For general information, call 235-4222.

WE ALSO APPRECIATE the growing number of people who are writing articles and providing historic information. Louise Novarini recently donated her brother's "Student's Handbook", circa 1920, from Richmond Union High School.

Keeping in mind that whether it be 50 or 500 years from now, all the information gathered and published will add to the understanding and appreciation of future generations for the colorful past of Point Richmond. We therefore especially appreciate stories and information from all parts of our community. Thanks to all of you who have taken the time to write down and send in your articles! The eventual publication of an authoritative book on Point Richmond history will be the result of your help.

Send articles and information to: 212 Bishop Alley, Pt. Richmond, CA 94801. Thanks!

#### **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:

George M.Batten Mrs. Jean Bernes Mable G. Howell Robert Larsen L.S. Markarian Barbara Olesen Carl C.Westman W.H. Williamson Myrna Wishart

And welcome to the following new members:

Mike Boyd Gerald Minor

## IT WAS THE BEST OF TIMES . . .

(Notes from 'Italian Night") continued by Frankie Greenlaw

In reviewing our coverage of Italian night at our November meeting, we discovered a glaring omission; the wonderful music of shared laughter that punctuated the narratives of the panel throughout the evening. It was, in the words of one of the guests, a kind of "family reunion", with much of the humor coming from comments and "asides". Al Frosini and Ciano Forner provided much of the comic relief with references to schoolday escapades and to the Point's seamier side in the "good old days". Al recalled fielding phone calls regarding his father's erratic driving with resultant damage to the cars whose unfortunate owners parked along the upper side of divided West Richmond Avenue.

During Anita Christiansen's recollections of some four or five groceries and an equal number of hotels in the Point's earlier days, Al's comment was, "What about the bars?" (There were many.) Ciano quickly added, "And what about the red light district on Railroad Avenue?" Most of those present recalled one of the "ladies" of that era who had fallen on harder times in later years and had become a town character.

Anita's memories also included dances in the square to a local Italian band (the leader was a grocer, as well). Festivities usually took place on holidays of the immigrants' adopted land, according to Mary Highfill. (Anita and Mary were childhood companions and have remained good friends and neighbors over the years.)

Ciano remembered the early days at Washington School, noting that the poorer youngsters could be identified by the overalls they wore. He claimed that in keeping the outfits wearable, his mother saved only the clips that held them up, ("The rest was all patches"). "Now they're stylish," he laughed. According to Al, non-Italian school mates became fast friends as a result of trading their typically peanut butter and jam sandwiches for the Italian youngsters' more exotic lunches of homemade sausage, fritata and the like.

Ciano added that during pig slaughtering time younger family members were responsible for washing the pig guts, which were then used for sausage casings. As the salamis were cured, he said, walking through the kitchen entailed dodging a "curtain of drying sausages". (Al and Ciano in later years became water skiiers of national and international note.)

Next Month: THEY LOVED IT HERE, BUT...

## IN PURSUIT OF HISTORICAL TRIVIA

courtesy of Stan Nystrom

## ANSWERS:

Expanding on last month's location of "Clayburn" and "East Yard"; Until 1907, there was a Post Office located at Ladrillo, which became Clayburn in 1910. The reason for the name was the fact that it was the site of the Central Pressed Brick Company (now the Standard Oil Rod and Gun Club is located there). After 1910 that Post Office was moved over the hill to Winehaven.

From 1901 to 1902, there was a Post Office at "East Yard", which became Point Richmond from 1902 to 1912, when the Post Ofice became a branch of the Richmond Post Office. If there was an East Yard, there must have been a "West Yard" — it is presumed that West Yard was the name for the location at the other end of Santa Fe's ferry system — in San Francisco.

The streets named "Esmond" and "Zara" in Richmond have one thing in common—they were the names of a brother and sister, children of Ben Shapiro, who was the developer of the land.

### QUESTIONS:

What SINGLE LOCATION in the city of Richmond can one stand on, and also be in one other city and two other counties?

Also, do you know which of the following Richmond schools was NOT named after a president of the United States? Washington; Lincoln; Grant; Adams; Kennedy; Wilson; Roosevelt.

(answers next month)

Phone Main 2511

## V. A. FENNER

Dealer In HARDWARE, STOVES, ETC.

Washington Avenue RICHMOND, CAL.

ad - 1910



# Points in the Past

Articles from the Richmond Daily Independent or the Richmond Independent, courtesy of the Richmond Public Library, with the special assistance of the reference librarians.

70 YEARS AGO ...

by Deirdre Cerkanowicz

One can learn a lot from examining old newspapers . . . For instance, I've noticed that as the City of Richmond grows, there are fewer articles about the Point and more about development elsewhere – around the city, around the county, and around the world.

Pancho Villa attacks New Mexico, and the siege of Verdun is front page news. Richmond, and the United States, are losing their isolationist attitudes.

The look of the newspaper itself is changing. In place of just a few engravings for top stories, photographs are starting to appear in print.

## WALK IN TUNNEL: IS JAILED . . .

"Determination of the Santa Fe railroad to keep trespassers from its right of way through the tunnel on the west side took effect last night in the arrest of Harry Smith, an unemployed man looking for work.

"Smith saw the inviting entrance of the tunnel and started through as an easy means of reaching the other side of the hill. He was spied by Officer Wylie and taken to the police station, where he was booked on a charge of trespassing.

"This morning Smith was taken before Police Judge H.E.Jacobs and received a sen-

tence of 30 days which was suspended on good conduct. The Santa Fe plans to make further arrests if people continue using the tunnel as a highway."

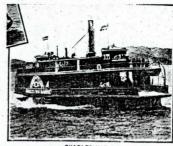
—March 4, 1916

## MAYOR'S DAUGHTER TO NAME BIG SHIP AT LAUNCHING...

"Preparations for the launching of the new Richmond-San Rafael ferry 'Van Damme' now being built at Benicia are being made by the company. Miss Marian Garrard, eight year old daughter of Mayor E.J. Garrard has been asked to christen the boat.

"The new ferry will have a capacity of 60 automobiles and many passengers and will cost \$90,000."

-March 6, 1916



CHARLES VAN DAMME

from a postcard advertising Richmond-San Rafael Ferry Co., "To points in East Bay, Territory, Santa Clara and San Joaquin Valleys and So. California. . To Resorts of Russian River, Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, Lake Counties and Northern California,"

## POWER DEVELOPMENT IN CALIFORNIA READS LIKE FICTION OF OLD DAYS...

"The Pacific Gas and Electric Company has recently completed a piece of engineering work by which it is enabled to deliver electricity in San Francisco direct from its waterpower plants in the mountains, bringing it across the bay by means of two submarine cables between the Marin shore near Sausalito and a point on the San Francisco side in the Presidio Reservation. The final tests have been made, and at any moment it is needed, several thousand horsepower of electricity can be brought in to supplement the output from the company's big station at the Potrero where electricity is generated by steam power and also the supply brought in over high tension transmission wires by way of Alviso and the San Francisco peninsula.

"The need for this additional service is due to the constantly increasing demand for electric light and power not only in the city of San Francisco but in the region around the southern part of the bay ... "

March 1, 1916



Part of a postcard showing Standard Avenue, A from the Don Church Collection

## YARDS CONGESTED WITH LONG DELAYED SHIPMENTS .

"With hundreds of cars iamming the tracks of the Santa Fe railroad here because there are not enough ships in the ocean to take away the products which they contain. a most embarassing situation is faced by the railroad company. For a long time cars have been arriving from all sections of the country containing goods for shipment by boat. These cars have piled up in the Richmond vards until now the vards are full and sidings east of the city between here and Stockton are being used to store the extra cars.

"So serious is the freight car shortage throughout the United States, chiefly due to the freight blockade in the east. that Charles R. Detrick of the California railroad commission has sent out letters to shippers, carriers, and to civic bodies asking the cooperation of everyone in seeing that cars are not ordered until needed, and are loaded and unloaded with the greatest dispatch."

-March 6, 1916

## MAIL TRAVELS BY SNAIL PACE THREE DAYS TO RUST OFFICE . . .

["Rust", the former name of El Cerrito, was named after a blacksmith who had a shop located where the Pastime Hardware on San Pablo Avenue is now ]

"It is likely that the attention of the Chamber of Commerce will be called at its next meeting to the miserable mail service between Richmond and the Rust post office which is less than a half mile from the southern boundary of the city. It now requires three days for the mail packages mailed in this city to reach the Rust station. The trouble is that the mail goes to San Francisco from here and then back to Berkeley or Oakland and thence to Rust." -March 6, 1916

[And, seventy years later, the situation is much the same - we have been told that this newsletter arrives two weeks late at some Oakland and Peninsula destinations!]



AMERICAN TROOPS SURPRISED – N.MEXICO CITY FIRED BY BANDITS...

"Five hundred (Pancho) Villa bandits attacked (Columbus, New Mexico) this morning, killed a number of civilians, men and women, and held possession of the town for an hour and a half.

"Driven off by three troops of the Thirteenth Cavalry, they retreated at 6 o'clock, leaving a portion of the town in flames.

"... The attack was a complete surprise, Villa deceiving all the authorities by dispatching a telegram to Hachita, N.M., last night saying he was at the Nogales ranch at Chihuahua, near the border, 44 miles east from here. This telegram was signed osten—sibly by the American caretaker of the ranch, and stated that Villa positively was at the ranch house."

March 9, 1916

YOU WILL WAKE UP ON A STRANGE STREET . . .

"Tomorrow morning many residents of Richmond will find themselves residing on different streets than when they went to bed if the ordinance changing street names is passed at its second reading tonight. Instead of the names now applying to many of the streets running north and south numbers will be adopted, running up to Fifty-first street this side of San Pablo avenue.

"Other streets, with names like 'Main' will be changed to something less familiar. Ashland avenue for the distance from Cutting to Barrett will be called Garrard avenue, after the present mayor of Richmond."

-March 13, 1916

SEA AND AERIAL
RAIDERS ACTIVE ...

"Sixty-five allied aeros, including fifteen battle planes, early today attacked the German naval base at Zeebrugge, on the Belgian coast, and the military aerodrome at Houltade . . . The raid was the most ambitious yet staged in Belgium . . . Ammunition depots and submarines were bombarded, heavy damage being done.

"Between March 1 and March 18, nineteen ships of the entente allies, aggregating 40,000 tons, were sunk, says Reuter's Amsterdam correspondent, crediting the statement to a well-informed source in Berlin."

—March 20, 1916

WAR LOOMS ...

"War between Germany and the United States looms big on the horizon today as a result of the renewed submarine activities of the German divers and the sinking of the English steamer Sussex with many Americans aboard. No Americans were lost amongst the 112 passengers unaccounted for, but if it is proven that the vessel was sunk by a diver there is no question but that President Wilson will sever diplomatic relations with Germany . . ." March 27, 1916

ADMIRABLE SITE FOR NAVAL ACADEMY . . .

[In 1914, Franklin D.Roosevelt, then Assistant Secretary of the Navy, visited this area, and showed an interest in establishing a naval base at Pt. Isabel — probably the site shown on a plan accompanying the article designated as "Point Nicholl". F.D.R. Also selected Point Molate as a fuel depot, which eventually it did become.]

"John H. Nicholl leaves next week for a lengthy stay at Washington, D.C. and where he will personally head the fight for the securing of the proposed new naval academy on the Pacific Coast for this city. In Washington he will be met by Henry C.Cutting, who has been east for the past six months interviewing factory owners in an effort to secure new industries for this city.

"Nicholl's booklet on the proposed new site will be off of the press in about ten days. Twenty five copies will be issued and naval officers and members of congress will be given copies. There is absolutely no advertising matter in the booklet."

-March 27, 19.6

## GERMANS CAPTURE MALANCOURT

"The capture by the Germans of the village of Malancourt, one of the keys on the Verdun front, last night, was admitted in today's official communique. It stated, however, that the French still hold a portion of the west edge of the town.

"The Germans captured the town when they simultaneously attacked it from three sides...It is said that 20,000 Germans were lost in the smash."

March 31, 1916

[There seem to be two misleading headlines in the March 31 issue – the above article was headed "20 Germans Die When Dash Wins" (the article numbers 20,000); and the following article is headed, "Villa Beats in First Battle of Raid", but the article shows only that he escaped.]

## RAID ON VILLA ...

"The War office announced today that it has received a message from General Pershing stating that on Wednesday after riding 35 miles over mountain trails in 17 hours Colonel Dodd's troopers had surprised a Villa band. Thirty Mexicans including Colonel Hernandez were killed and left on the field. Many others were carried away dead by the bandits.

"The Americans pursued the Villa out-

fit for ten miles when the band escaped by scattering. Villa is known to be suffering from a broken leg and a permanently disabled hip. Four American soldiers were wounded slightly. A large band of Carranza prisoners were liberated."

—March 31, 1916

60 YEARS AGO ...

by Pam Wilson

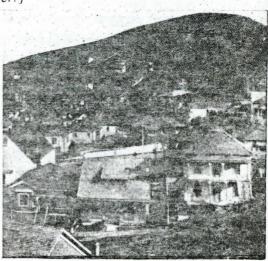
TOTS SELECTED FOR OPENING

"The honor of being the first persons to officially indulge in a swim in Richmond's Municipal Natatorium goes to Misses Vera Conger and Edith Drummond, two four-year-old dancing tots under the tutelage of Miss Matilda Meyer.

"The little girls have been selected to plunge into the pool at the dedication ceremonies on Saturday afternoon. . . Appropriate attire for the central figures in the plunge are being procured."

-March 18, 1926

[The author of the above article must have been particularly pleased with the selection of students of Miss Matilda Meyer!]



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

## WEST SIDE PARK LEASE IS AGREED UPON...

"An agreement was reached last night between the City of Richmond and the Board of Education whereby the city obtained two acres of ground for the West Side public park and playground near Washington School on a 50-year lease with annual rental of \$1.

"When the streets are closed in the property it will contain three acres and will make one of the finest parks in the city in the opinion of the Council.

"The lease provides that the city must expend \$5,000 in improving the park within the next two years and plans for the improvements must be submitted for the approval of the school trustees."

—March 23, 1926

## 50 YEARS AGO ...

NEWS FROM THE WEST SIDE . . . (excerpts')

"... West Side Women's Improvement Club will meet on Monday ... at Trinity Guild Hall... The Onchota group of Camp Fire Girls met last Friday evening at the home of Miss Ruth Dingle on Idaho Street... Mrs. J.A. Vincent has returned to her home at Ferry Point. She has been in Fresno during the past five months caring for a sister who is ill... The Thursday Bridge club met at the home of Mrs. J.P.Downey on Washington avenue..."

—March 6, 1936

NEW FIRE TRUCK GOES IN SERVICE...

"Richmond's new pumping engine was put into service by the fire department today, following acceptance by the city council at a meeting last night. The council accepted the truck after receiving a report from the National Board of Fire Underwriters that it had been tested and found to meet all requirements of the board.

"The truck will be located at Fire House No. 1 on the West Side, but not until after it has been assigned to Fire House No. 3, while the pumping engine there is overhauled and then at Fire House No. 2 to permit the engine there to be overhauled."

-March 17, 1936

## 40 YEARS AGO ...

by Sarah Eeles

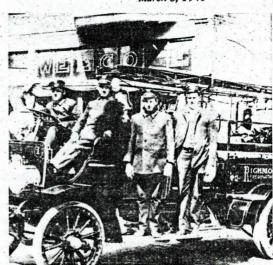
5-ROUTE JITNEY SERVICE IN RICHMOND IS PROPOSED...

"An application for a jitney service which would operate five routes on a 10 minute schedule with a charge of 10 cents was filed with the city council last night by Charles W.Marshall.

"Under Marshall's proposal he would operate the following routes from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. using seven passenger sedans:

"No. 4 — Twenty-third and Cutting to Tenth street to Nevin to Ninth street, to Macdonald avenue to Garrard boulevard, to Standard, to Castro and return."

-March 5, 1946



Engine No. 1, 1912, taken in front of the Point Richmond Fire Station. from the Don Church Collection

# JOB PICTURE IN RICHMOND DARK, DECLARES STATE

"Richmond's employment picture took on a dark hue today with facts and figures from three agencies pointing to the large number of unemployed and the few jobs available at the present time.

"The State Employment Stabilization Commission in Sacramento said that 'the city of Richmond has the most serious unemployment problem in the San Francisco bay area' and pointed out that there is about only one job opening for each 50 persons claiming unemployment insurance."

-March 8, 1946

## SCHOOL OF CHRISTIANITY LAUNCHED AT CHURCH HERE...

"A Lenten-period 'School of Applied Christianity' to run on successive Thursday evenings until April 4, was launched last evening with a successful first session at First Methodist Church, West Richmond avenue at Martina street. The school designed as a Christian life institute, is being jointly sponsored by the Point Richmond Baptist church and First Methodist. A lecture course on 'The Christian Home in Modern America' is being conducted by Dr. Edith Bryan, well-known consulting psychologist of Berkeley."—March 15, 1946

## 30 YEARS AGO ...

WASHINGTON SCHOOL DADS
PICK TALENT SHOW WINNERS...

"Winners in the third annual student talent show held by the Washington Dads' Club were announced today.

"Judged the best in the first to third grades were Pam Dutrow, vocal; Beverly Vandergrift, dancing, and Allyn Lawrence instrumental. "Winners in the fourth to sixth grades were Billy Coryell, vocal; Priscilla Caspillo, dancing; Fay Yancy, instrumental; Diane and Patricia Hart, David Yancey and Pamela Squires, a pantomime."

—March 1, 1956

## BAY BRIDGE JOINED IN DARING AERIAL EPISODE . . .

"James McKeown of Walnut Creekscrambled across a stell key chord 187 feet above North San Francisco Bay at exactly 10:10 a.m. today and for the first time the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge was linked from shore to shore.

"The 77-foot chord was put in place almost exactly in the center of the west cantilever span, about one mile from San Rafael. Half a dozen workers of Judson Pacific Murphy-Kiewit Construction Company were involved in the tricky operation, which went off without fault. It was put in 10 days ahead of schedule.

"Placement of the linking chord climaxed 30 years of dreaming and planning by engineers and commuters. Actually, the bridge will not be open to traffic until October 1, 1956. But the link today was the first tangible evidence that the bridge was connected shore to shore.

"... An American flag waved from the section as it was raised from a barge to the superstructure. Ironically, just as the piece was lifted from the barge, the ferryboats Klamath and Russian River, which will be put out of business by the bridge, were passing by a few hundred yards to the north."

—March 7, 1956

# LOCAL WINNERS AT OAKLAND DOG SHOW. . .

"Four Richmond-area contestants won honors in the Oakland Kennel Club's 54th All-Breed Dog Show over the weekend.

". . . best of the breed went to Caam-

pion Sterncrest Candida, a Sealyham Terrior owned by Beatrice and S.Z.Marshall, 265 Washington Court, Point Richmond."

-March 12, 1956

## ALVIN GERLACH DIES AT 63 . . .

"Alvin Gerlach, formerly of Richmond and a prominent Bay Area lawyer and veterans leader, died yesterday at University of California hospital at the age of 63.

"He was the son of J.G.Gerlach, who operated the brickyard at Point Richmond."

- March 21, 1956

## SANTA FE TO PATROL AGAINST RACERS...

"Watchmen for the Santa Fe Railroad company have been assigned to patrol an area south of Cutting boulevard to prevent drag-racing and any trespassing on the property.

"On a recent Sunday, police cited 31 drivers for trespassing on the Santa Fe property."

-March 21, 1956

# INDIAN STATUE PARK DONATIONS

Many thanks to the donors. Those who have contributed \$200 or more will have their names inscribed on a third bronze plaque on the statue base. If you are thinking of memorializing someone in bronze, please make your donation soon, so that plans for the park can be put into action!

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

Alko Office Supplies Anne Anderson Rhoda J. Avers Louisa Banks George M. Batten Brickvard Landing M.H.Carev &W.R. Stribley families Muriel & Bert Clausen Robert Doman 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 Robert M. Larsen 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

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Soft Drinks

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53 WASHINGTON AVE.

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G. J. ALLYN, Prop.

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P. F. Johnson Walter J. Johnson

Coal, Wood, Draying, Hauling Expressing, Storage, Furniture

and Piano Moving

208 Richmond Avenue Point Richmond, Calif. P. O. Box 404

Office Phone 230. Res. Phone 932 Warehouse Phone 681

Ads from a 1922 program of Our Lady of Mercy Church, courtesy Tom Kenney

# 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.

INDIAN · STATUE · PARK ·

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

## DONOR'S FORM 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. \_ Donor's signature Address: Inscription on plaque: send to: Point Richmond History Association, 808 Western Dr., Pt. Richmond, CA 94801

# **CHURCHES**

## POINT RICHMOND BAPTIST CHURCH

Some notes gathered at random from old files at the Point Richmond Baptist Church,

by Roy Jones

Some day, as you "rev up" at The Corner for your climb to Washington Avenue's lofty summit, slow down as you cross Nicholl Avenue and take a good look at the old white wooden church building on your right. Wearing its eighty-three years with dignity, here is a building that could have been built only for a church — a house of worship. Without pretense to Cathedral status, this old building is similar in architectural design to thousands of small-town and country churches that still dot our land. Thanks to local people interested in preservation, our church is now listed in the National Registry of Historical Places.

Delving now into old storage boxes, I am impressed with how well our founders kept records. Here are reports and documents and records, yellowed and mellowed with the passing decades, written with pen and ink in a fine Spencerian hand (this was before Xerox, before ball-point pens, typewriters, before correction fluid and computers). All items submitted may not be quoted in their entirety, but are fully documented in our files.

To begin at the beginning, please read this excerpt from our Articles of Incorporation. "... that we the undersigned have this day, January 5th, 1903, associated ourselves together for the purpose of establishing a religious Corporation known as The First Baptist Church of Richmond California..." And the undersigned were: C.W.Brown, Bertha A.Reynolds, Elizabeth A.Donahoo, F.L. Lea and C.A.Oxendine; the document itself

duly notarized by a certain J.L.Kennon. These people and others of the same persuasion had acquired two lots on the corner of Washington and Nicholl Avenues from the Nicholl Subdivision.

Here's an invoice from the American Baptist Home Mission Society at 212 Fifth Avenue, New York City, which reads:

"Premium on \$500 insurance – 3 years to September 27, 1912 – \$7.50." The bill is dated September 8, 1909. And here's another from the County Tax Collector – "Your State and County Taxes for 1910 are as follows," and below is written by hand: "No taxes on this church property."

So the Point Richmond Baptist Church (as it is now known) functioned as an independent church and grew steadily in membership until along about 1914-15 when the Point became "undesirable" (they should see us now!) During this time a mass exodus began, to the area along Macdonald Avenue where a new business district was being built. It was in 1914 that our church deeded the corner lot at Washington and Nicholl Avenues to the City of Richmond "in consideration of one dollar gold coin in hand paid." Not to be left in an unfashionable neighborhood, the majority of our church members acquired property in the new area - first on Tenth Street and then on Thirteenth Street and Barrett Avenue. In 1915, left with but a small congregation, our church lost its recognition as an independent church and became a mission - ironically enough, a child, as it were - of the First Baptist Church which had moved to Barrett Avenue. More about this later when those chickens came home to roost.

We hope the foregoing entitles us now to a bit of free advertising, a "plug" to let you know we are, after eighty-three years of uninterrupted church services, still verv much a friendly and caring church. Recently we have revived our monthly singings which were so well attended in years past. On the first Sunday evening each month at 7:00, won't you join us for an hour of oldfashioned hymn singing? Our singing is often called "Southern Gospel" - the music is unsophisticated, the words worshipful and uplifting and we have over 600 songs - old hymns and the newer gospel songs - from which you may request your favorite. It's an informal hour, preceded by thirty minutes of hymns from the organ; there's no preaching, no collection, no tickets or reservations required. You can call it Evensong or Vespers or a Sing-Along, but please join us. We'd like you to meet our new pastor, the Reverend Mr. Richard K. Knott and his wife, Natalie, in whom we are well pleased.

Remember — Sing-Alongs are the first Sunday of each month at 7 p.m. This newsletter will probably not reach you until after the March 2 Sing-Along, so mark your calendar for April 6! — The organ prelude starts at 6:30.

## POINT METHODIST CHURCH

by Mid Dornan

Bethany Marie, daughter of Jean and Norman Reynolds, was baptized.

The parsonage has a new stove. That stove provides most of the goodies and treats for the fellowship hour after Sunday morning worship services, and for the Sunday School classes.

Floral bouquets for the piano are furnished every week by Susan Armstrong.

Joining the church choir were Aner Carlstrom and Vir Victoria from the Pinole Methodist Church, for the baptism on February 2.

The Youth Group ski trip had to be cancelled because of bad weather, but will be rescheduled in March. To assist with costs of the trip, members of the church had a Bakeless Cake Sale so no one would have to stay home because of the expense.

The Call to Prayer and Self Denial service signaling the beginning of Lent, was held at Easter Hill Church with the Point Methodist Women participating. The sacrificial meal was prepared by the Easter Hill Women



Point Richmond, 1913, showing the Churches from the Don Church Collection, courtesy Chevron, USA

# OUR LADY OF MERCY

by Marion Downey

A reception for new parishioners was held on Sunday, February 9, after the 9 O' clock Mass.

David Johnston, son of Mel and Joanne Johnston, has attained the rank of Eagle Scout, awarded at a Boy Scout Court of Honor.

Three well-known parishioners have recently passed away: Amelia Guisto, Thomas Sheahan, and Mary Casey's brother Stanislaus.

Baptized on January 18 was Norma Santana Martinez; our February 1, Julia Frances Kendrick; on February 16, Derick Wayne Cannedy; on February 22, Matthew Garrett Noble, Chrissy Marie Gaylord, Joseph Thomas Armstrong, Antonio Montes, Jr., Maria Elena Delgado and Gerald Manuel Coronel.

Approximately 335 bags of groceries were given to needy persons in five weeks.

Congratulations to Armondo and Norma Alicia Beltran who were married on February 22.

Father Denis will conduct Mass at 12:00 noon, Monday through Friday, during lent.
Pangake Breakfast...

The Knights of Columbus will have a pancake breakfast in the church hall on Palm Sunday from after the 9 o'clock Mass to 11:30.

Operation Rice Bowl:

Cardboard bowls are available, so that people may save their money, which will be given to help feed the hungry of the world.



1902 Ad, the community here was named "Rust", and later El Cerrito

# POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

(Notes on the February 12 meeting)

by Georgia Haley

FILM COMPANIES
USING LOCAL FACILITIES...

Special guest Vice Mayor David Mac-Diarmid spoke for City Manager Jim Fales on the subject of a city ordinance regulating film companies in our city. Many concerns were voiced; among them, loss to business was a chief concern. The use of public services, street closures and fee schedules were also discussed. The membership decided to contact other cities such as San Francisco for guidelines, before taking any action.

## MASON-MCDUFFY REPRESENTATIVE ABOUT 32 WASHINGTON AVENUE...

Dennis McGue spoke about a project he is working on at 32 Washington Avenue. He asked for input from the Point Richmond Business Association and the History Association regarding the tentative plan to establish a bank at that location.

## BOARD NOMINATIONS ...

Nominations to the Board of Directors which will be voted on at the March meeting were Jay Ward, Claudia Beall, Tom Butt, Griff Brazil, David Vincent, Richard Alexander, Sabrina Allaire, Debbie Alley, Nick Amendt, Walter Connolly, Bill Goldsmith, Georgia Haley, David DelSimone, Oscar Lugo and Miguel Hernandez.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS . . .

The possibility of implementing diagonal parking around the Triangle was considered, but no action was taken.

Concern was voiced about the increase of mischief and vandalism in the business district. Councilman MacDiarmid offered some specific suggestions, based on the experience of other areas similarly vandalized.

# POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

by Lucretia Edwards

The Executive Committee and Area Representatives met on February 13, to discuss the following items:

FIELD HOUSE AT WASHINGTON SCHOOL PARK...

At a prior meeting, the Neighborhood Council had endorsed the position of a number of young parents who wanted the Child Care Center at Washington School Field House continued. However, the Neighborhood Council did not feel qualified to choose one of the several care-givers who wanted to operate the facility. Mr. Joseph Salvato, head of the Recreation and Parks Department which has jurisdiction over the building, stated that the parents groups should make that choice.

After several meetings held by the young parents, two competing groups had strong support. They returned to the Neighborhood Council to resolve which of the two should be recommended to Mr. Salvato. However, the Council again felt they could not make such a decision, since its members hadn't been involved in the parents' meetings. Instead, they voted to send a letter to Mr. Salvato incorporating the following points:

- a] The Neighborhood Council again endorses the need for child care for the Point Richmond area (which includes the Point Molate and Atchison Village areas), and feels that the Field House is the appropriate site for this program.
- b] That two applicants had received strong local support (Margarita Hain and Linda Shahabe).
- c] That the Council recommends the two to the Recreation and Parks Department for their final evaluation and choice, based on criteria including:
  - 1. Experience and credentials

- 2. Proposal and programs
- 3. Financial stability and credibility (including insurance capability)
- 4. Attractiveness to various social and economic groups
- 5. Ethnic diversity

(Ed.note: According to Mr. Salvato and Ms. Sheely of the Recreation and Parks Dept., the Department has intended to conduct its own programs at the facility, much as it did before Prop. 13 cut back services — i.e., the Tiny Tots program, Noah's Park, etc., and this is what it plans to do, as soon as the facility is refurbished.)

PACIFIC AVENUE; TUNNEL CLOSURE...

Two letters were received from Sandra and Bruce Beyaert. One, to Planning Director Charles Woodward, protested the suggested closing of Pacific Avenue.

The other, to the Mayor and City Council, urged that the Council reject the proposal to prohibit daytime use of the Garrard Tunnel by trucks handling flammable materials, since nighttime operation would cause serious noise levels for residents on both sides of the tunnel. It would also require an expensive and sophisticated E.I.R. for resolution.

Relative to this, acting President George Coles reported that a number of El Cerrito High School students were receiving credit for participating in a traffic count project, which might be one aspect of a study, formal or informal, on the tunnel, or on the use of Pacific Avenue.

REGULATION OF MOVIE FILMMAKERS...

The Point Business Association held a discussion at their February meeting about the possibility of requesting a Richmond ordinance which would govern filming projects in the city. Point Richmond has been filmed

several times in the past few years, with considerable disruption to the life and traffic patterns in the shopping area. During such times streets are closed off, parking is limited. and merchants and businessmen suffer because of loss of business. Other cities commonly chosen as filming sites have enacted ordinances establishing fee schedules enabling them to pay for city services involved and for the inconvenience to the business community. Councilman David McDiarmid attended one meeting to explain the necessary procedure to establish an ordinance The Business Association will report progress on this matter to the Neighborhood Council at a later date, and perhaps ask for an endorsement of the idea

The Business Association also discussed problems experienced in the business area caused by teenagers without constructive things to do. Because this is a community problem, it was decided that this subject should be an agenda item for the April Neighborhood Council meeting.

## SURVEILLANCE STATION at BRICKYARD COVE

It was understood that this proposal (passed by the City Council on February 10. 1986), was on a private road, and would be privately financed, and therefore it could not be disputed by the Neighborhood Council. However, since there is a valid question about deterrance to shoreline access, and since this concept seemed to establish an unfortunatley divisive precedent, the motion was made to send a letter to the Coordinating Committee of Neighborhood Councils. requesting that they consider the matter, possibly sending a letter to the City Council expressing their concern that this not be accepted in the future as City policy on public streets.

## BAYSHORE COUNCIL REPRESENTATION

The motion was made that a letter be sent to the West Contra Costa Bayshore Council asking for representation on their Board of Point Richmond Neighborhood Council members, as official community liaisons, and submitting the name of Michael Brown.



# ABOUT THE TISCORNIA-SHEEHAN PROPERTY

by Lucretia Edwards

A special meeting for those interested in the draft Environmental Impact Report (E. I.R.) and Special Study for this beautiful, essentially undeveloped 12.2 acre property, was held on February 19, 1986, at the Community Center.

At the request of the neighborhood, a moratorium was placed on the area over a year ago by the City Council so that it could be evaluated as an integrated whole. A consultant, Wagstaff and Brady, was chosen to make the EIR and Special Study.

Their study was presented to a group of people living near the property, on Feb-

ruary 19. Next, the draft EIR and special Study will go to the City's EIR Panel, where their comments will be incorporated into the final reports which will be heard before the Planning Commission, since a change in the City's General Plan will be required. The Planning Commission, after voting on it, will send it with a recommendation to the City Council for a final decision.

At the February 19 meeting there was considerable discussion about density, security and maintenance of proposed open space, parking, and the possible closure of a road proposed for walkers and bikers. Since no concensus was reached, it was agreed that one more community meeting be called to try to resolve differences. It was clearly apparent that if the neighborhood cannot arrive at an agreement, the Tiscornia-Sheahan property, one of the last few unspoiled view lot hillsides, will be vulnerable to the type of high-density building which developers quite naturally favor, since they want to make as much as possible from their investment.

The second community meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5, at the Community Center. All those who are interested in this land are invited to attend.



Park Place, Point Richmond, about 1905, from the Don Church Collection, courtesy Chevron, USA

## HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY ...

Karolyn MacDiarmid Carol Darling Ben Bray JoAnn Bray Ramona Robbins Noraleen Dowell Reba Downs

Jean Knox Heidi Hartman Martin Busby Dale Hawkins Rick Schuldt Carl Paasch

## A-MID TRIVIA

by Mid Dornan (234-5334)

On February 12, Washington School was featured on Channel 5 TV. Principal Nino Petroni discussed some misconceptions about the California lottery touted as a cure-all for our educational ills. Obvious and long overdue physical maintenance of our schools must be a priority if our children are to have pride in their schools. Have you been in or around any of the Richmond schools lately to observe the extent of their deterioration?

Congratulations to Kennedy High honor students Mario Allen, Michelle Brand, Todd Cort, Seth Fenton, Michelle Fahrion and Paul Cort!

## 260 YEARS AT STANDARD OIL . . .

Alan Smith, who was born and raised in Point Richmond, retired last week from Chevron. His father, four brothers and for a short time a sister, were employed by Standard Oil for a total of approximately 260 years!

Alan went to work for Standard in 1939, after graduating from high school. He first worked in the Marine department, on the tankers, and then in the refinery. He worked there for eight years, and returned in 1950 and worked in the packaging division for another 36 years.

Alan's wife, Marcelina, also just retired, after twenty years with the Berkeley Unified School District, teaching first at Franklin School and later at Columbus.

The Smiths have brought up their two sons here on Delfino Avenue; they are active and depended-on members of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church; and Alan is responsible for the majority of the information in our archives, having loaned us many of the scrapbooks left behind by the late Point historian, Don Church.

MASQUERS ACTING CLASSES

Classes for children started this month at the Masquers Playhouse as part of a program of the theater to play a larger role in community activities.

Acting classes are held on Tuesdays, from 4 to 6 p.m. Bill Goldsmith was hired as General Manager in July as the non-profit theater's one-man paid staff. A wise choice. The group is the Bay Area's oldest non-professional theater. Support them!

For more information, call 232-3888.

They're making only two sizes of clothing these days – too large or too small.

## HALLEY'S COMET . . .

Ever since the tail of Halley's Comet swept across the earth 76 years ago, witnesses tell tales about how they, as children, they lived through it. Viewing it a second time from the Northern Hermisphere is expected to be poor — a disappointment compared to the spectacle observed in 1910. We are interested in hearing from those who saw it then . . .

One reader, Mrs. Elsie Martin, who came to Richmond in 1920, said she was 8 years old in 1910, and lived in Michigan. She recalls the comet vividly. "It was beautiful, the color of stars. My father took me by the hand in our back yard. The comet was big — oh yes, so big! I felt like I could reach up and touch it. The stars were shining; they weren't white. They were like a bright yellow and the comet was the same color. Just beautiful! It was so vivid!"

And a note from Carl Westman says that he remembers seeing the comet in Point Richmond at age 10; and now at age 85, he notes that he is still going strong, goes dancing with his wife Pearle, and as he says, "you name it, we do it."

Thanks for sharing your memories. Who else can tell us their recollections? Call 234-5334.

I recollect in 1910
We gazed at Halley's Comet there.
And now it's coming back again.
Though its past presence we recall
Does it remember US at all?

- Paul Tulien

It has been one year since Rosemary Corbin's kick-off party, March 10. Bet she and her family have found it a "full" year of life style changes.

Concerned neighbors and friends successfully fought the vacation of sections of Golden Gate Avenue and Marine Street, as well as an easement vacation of Clarence Street. Richmond City Council members unanimously denied the vacations, asking that some rulings or standards be set that prohibit giving public lands for private gain. This is the third such action in recent months, the other being the denial of vacating Morgan Avenue at Tewksbury. A special thanks to Councilmembers David MacDiarmid and Rosemary Corbin as well as the rest of the Council for listening to the citizens.

Only a few incredibly ancient people recall a time when kids got saving, rather than spending money.

Traditionalists rejoice! The greenback is staying green. But there are some upcoming changes in U.S. currency, aimed at making it harder to counterfeit. Color and portraits won't change, and new bills will move into circulation gradually as old bills are with-



# THE RICHMOND UNION HIGH SCHOOL SHIELD

The shield was probably adopted by our ancestors soon after their enemies began to hurl rocks at them. No longer is it necessary as a weapon of defense; for ages it has been a cherished symbol of equipment for life.

In the center of the shield is the open book which teaches that education is free for the taking. As its pages are turned, new worlds will be revealed to all of us who care to explore. The rising sun is typical of youth. It also represents the light which education sheds on life. The black bands represent ignorance and superstition which grow fainter and disappear as we approach the light.

Taken together, these historic symbols represent for our school the accomplishments of the past, the ideals of the present, and the hopes of the future.

"Education is the key which unlocks the storehouse of wisdom."

First page of Student's Handbook, about 1920, donated by Louise Novarini

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drawn. All old currency will remain legal tender. Possible changes include a security thread, a thin strip of plastic running down to the bottom from the top of the bill. Another is the addition of a watermark on one side of the portrait, or the addition of a hologram. U.S. Treasurer Ortega says whatever changes are approved will take 12 to 18 months to put into effect.

A new generation of copying machines capable of producing high-quality color reproductions are due in offices next year. The nightmare of Secret Service agents is the possibility of office boys running off \$20 bills on the new copying machines.

What's your waistline measurement in inches? Subtract that from your height in inches. Do you get a figure of 35 or less? If so, tsk! tsk! The answer should be around 38 or more. Otherwise, you're letting the pounds creep up (or down) on you.

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DEATHS . . .

Irma Ott died February 2 in a San Pablo convalescent home at the age of 79. Irma was a long time resident of Crest Avenue, and a retired Richmond School District teacher. She was also a member of Christ Lutheran Church.

Surviving her is a daughter, Jacqueline of El Cerrito; a son Darryl of Berkeley, and three grandchildren.

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Stanislaus Casey died February 14 in a Richmond hospital at age 82. Although a native of Australia, he lived in the Point for 81 years, coming here as a small infant.

Mr. Casey, a member of Our Lady of Catholic Church, was a World War II veteran. He served in the U.S. Army and was a member of the Longshoremen's Union. He is survived by his older sister, Mary Casey, who has cared for him during his years of illness.

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## WEST SIDE BRANCH LIBRARY

by Ian Burdick

The library has seen a surge in titles added to West Side's collection. Check both the new and regular shelves on your next visit to see some of these additions:

FICTION . . .

Collected Stories
The Eleventh Summer
Elmor Leonard's Dutch

Dutch Retreat Here Be Dragons The Snowblind Moon The Wild Shore

NON-FICTION

Caregiving: Helping an Aging Loved One The City of Joy The Complete Handbook of Song

Writing A Field Guide to American Houses

Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers How to Inspecta House In Defense of Animals

Jane Brody's Good Food Book

Last Chance for Your Children

Living Well in a New Age

The People's Book of Medical Tests

Seashore Life of the Northern Pacific

Surrender and Survival:

The Experience of American POWs in the Pacific- 1941– 1945

E.B. Kerr

Tennessee Williams

Carlo Gebler

Elmore Leonard Sharon Penman John B. Cooke Kim Robinson

Jo Horne

Dominique Lapierre

Mark Liggett

Virginia McAlester

Harry Phillips George Hoffman Basil Blackwell

Jane Brody

Bill Honig

Stephen Greene

David Sobel

Eugene Kozloff

# "TO KEEP SOMEBODY WARM"

## . . . a new exhibit at the Richmond Museum

Richmond History in Quilts, an exhibition of locally made quilts, will be on view Saturday, April 5 through Sunday, June 22 (the museum is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 4:00 p.m.).

Over 50 years of quilting in Richmond is the exhibit focus. Personal histories of twelve quiltmakers illustrate their varied lives and document their quilting history. Traditional and contemporary designs will be displayed, all showing the love of color and the commitment of the quilter and artist to their craft.

On April 5 and 20 the nationally acclaimed film, "Quilts in Womens' Lives", directed by Pat Ferrero and made in 1981 will be shown at 1:30 and 3:00 p.m. The Museum will host a series of special events during the exhibition. Call the Museum at 235-7387 for a schedule of events.

Group tours during open hours and at other times can be arranged by appointment.

## WASHINGTON SCHOOL NEWS

by Omeara Johnson

Founders Day . . .

The Founders Day celebration will be held at Washington School Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. March 11. Besides the presentation of the honorary Service Award, refreshments will be served, and an Hawaiian Dance Group will entertain.

Fund Raiser . . .

Students will be out and selling spices and sun-catchers to raise funds for special programs at the school.

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!

Address . Telephone No. TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP (CHECK ONE) O SINGLE \$ 1 5. OD E SENIOR (65+) 7.50 O FAMILY 25.00 ORGANIZATION 35.00 50.00 T HISTORY PRESERVER 100.00 I HISTORY MAKER 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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#### MARCH PAST ...

1, 1874 — Light first displayed at East Brother
Light Station

7, 1932 — About 3,000 men rioted for jobs at the Detroit Ford Plant, 4 killed

13, 1852 — First appearance of cartoon depicting
Uncle Sam as the symbol of the
United States

18, 1931 — First electric shavers went on the market

21, 1891 — A marriage in Kentucky ended the feud between the Hatfields & McCovs

24, 1934 — U.S. granted the Philippines their independence

## MARCH PRESENT (National Nutrition Month)

2-7 p.m., Point Baptist Church - Sing Along

5 — 7:30 p.m., Community Center — Neighborhood meeting concerning the Tiscornia-Sheahan property

11 - Washington School Founders Day, 7:30 p.m., School Auditorium

12 - Girl Scout Birthday

14 - Saint Patrick's Day

15 — Ides of March

(and Hanson Louie of the Santa Fe Market is getting married)

17 - Camp Fire Girls' 75th Birthday

18 - Elementary School open house

20 — Jr. High School open house 25 — Sr. High School open house

21 - SPRING BEGINS

23 - Palm Sunday

27 — POINT RICHMOND HISTORY
ASSOCIATION MEETING —
7:30, Linsley Hall
Featuring Judith Dunning,

Featuring Judith Oral Historian

28 - Good Friday

30 — Easter Sunday