

THIS POINT

in time

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL IX No. 3

SEPTEMBER, 1990

ONE DOLLAR



TENTH STREET GRAMMAR SCHOOL
1903

**THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION
WILL PRESENT ITS GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**ON SEPTEMBER 27, 1990
AT 7:30 pm**

**THE POINT RICHMOND COMMUNITY CENTER
POINT RICHMOND TRIANGLE**

**WE ARE HONORED TO HAVE AS OUR GUEST SPEAKER,
*DR. WILLIAM L. THOMPSON***

**DR. THOMPSON'S
"MEMORIES OF PIONEER POINT RICHMOND RESIDENTS"
HAS JUST CONCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER.
HE IS A FACINATING AND ENTHUSIASTIC STUDENT OF POINT HISTORY
COME TO HEAR HIM SPEAK
BRING YOUR QUESTIONS!**

**THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS SPONSORING
A PRESERVATION WORKSHOP
ON OCTOBER 20th AT OAK PARK SCHOOL, 1700 OAK PARK BOULEVARD,
PLEASANT HILL.**

**THE MORNING SESSION WILL DEAL WITH PRESERVATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS,
THE AFTERNOON SESSION WILL DEAL WITH PRESERVATION OF
DOCUMENTS.
THE COST IS \$15.00.**

***FOR MORE INFORMATION :*
CALL THE COUNTY HISTORY CENTER AT 939-9180
OR MARY-ELLEN JONES AT 254-2295**

History Association Notes

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Jerry Cerkanowicz

Final approval has been given by the planning department and all permits have been obtained for work to begin on the restoration of the J.Q. Black building. Martin McNair, a Point resident and contractor has volunteered to work as contractor on the project and has helped get the necessary permits. The next step will be building the foundation. Volunteers are welcome to call me at 235-1336. Thanks to everyone at city hall who helped move this project the approval and permit process.

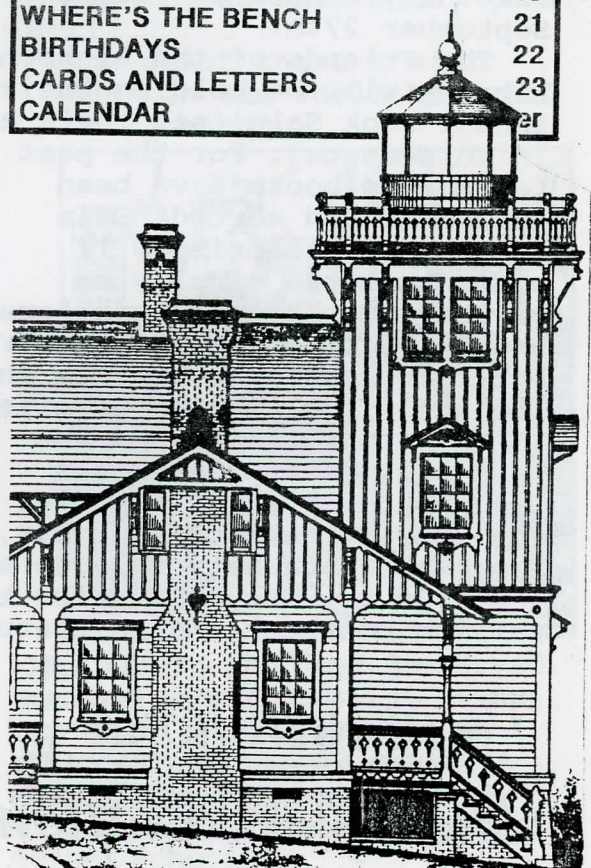
The 85th birthday celebration of the City of Richmond on August 11th at the civic center was very nice. Many people stopped by our display and talked about Richmond's early days. There were many interesting exhibits about the city. If you have cable TV the city channel 49 has a program showing the entertainment.

Indian Statue Day will be Saturday, October 13th. This will be the seventh celebration and it is always a lot of fun. There will be

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"From the President" continued
entertainment, craftspersons,
a book sale, food, a car show,
a small boat show, a raffle
and more. Hope to see you
there, of course we will be
displaying our photos and hope
to have the building on its
foundation.

Festival By The Bay will be
held at the Marina on October
27th.

The September History
Association meeting will have
as guest speaker, Dr. William
Thompson, a frequent
contributor to the newsletter
and one of our favorite
speakers. Come to the
community center at 7:30 on
September 27th.

The Friends of the Richmond
Library will be holding their
annual Book Sale (see their ad
in this issue). For the past
few months books have been
collected and sorted. This
year's sale offering will
again span the usual wide
variety but because donations
are up 30 to 50 per cent over
the last year, the breadth and
quality of selections promises
to be better than ever. The
sale will be at Harry Ells
High School Gym and Chanslor
and 35th Streets on Saturday,
September 15th between 9:00 am
and 2:00 pm. They will also be
selling books at Indian Statue
Day.

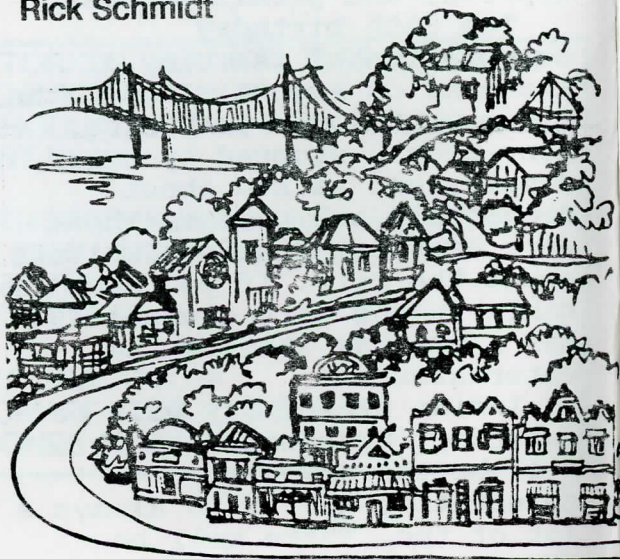
Point Richmond History Association

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

Sarah Eeles
Martin & Tanis McNair
Bernice Shows
Janice M. Jones
June A. Blackburn
Mary Rudolph
Carl C. Westman
James Arnold
Alice E. McMahon
Bruce & Ann Bartram
Teressa Meneghelli
Josephine Palenchar
Lucille Smith
Anne Ageson
Luciano & Bonnie Forner
Pam Wilson
Muriel C. Clausen
Joe Savill

And a warm welcome to new
members:

June Minor
Rick Schmidt



editors notes.....

BY GARY SHOWS

Oh my, summer is passing so quickly, days are getting shorter, school's back in session, leaves are turning brown and falling.... have you started your Christmas shopping? Good times go by too fast!

In this issue I am really happy to offer another segment of Dr. Thompson's "Memories of Pioneer Point Richmond Residents", this is the conclusion of this writing. I am also happy to inform you that next issue will bring part one of a new one, "Life in Old Point Richmond". And if you enjoy reading memories from the "Old Point", read on and thank Will Spiersch, and "Frenchie" Bernes for sharing theirs. If these memories inspire any of you old timers, and not so old timers to do the same, please write, published or not your memories will become part of Point Richmond's history.

Thanks to all TPIT staffers for being timely and preparing quality material for the newsletter.

Thanks to Chris Plona for volunteering to help me type and edit, some of his work is in this edition. This magazine takes an awful lot of my free time and I very much appreciate his able and enthusiastic assistance. I am sure you will notice his positive influence on future

issues of the newsletter. Thanks also to other offers of help, I may call on you at a later date and I very much appreciate the support.

Jerry continues to do a good job with the little building, it will really be great to have a museum and office! We've had a great deal of heart warming financial support, but more is going to be needed, if you haven't helped please do so. I want to fill up the newsletter centerfold so we don't have to look at it any more.

Has that old slurry, "Oily Ollie" visited your house? If he hasn't, he will soon, good luck!

How about those A's!

What in the world happened to that bench?



THE COVER: The Tenth Street Grammar School, built in 1903, and located on Tenth Street between McDonald and Bissell Avenues. It was built the same year as sister school, Point Richmond's Standard Avenue School.

1963 / 1990 SURVEY RESULTS

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE AND TALLY

In 1963, as part of their sponsorship of a plan for the future of Point Richmond, the Point Richmond Civic group conducted a poll on the residents. We reproduced this poll and passed it around thinking it would be fun and interesting to compare the results with original poll, we had 46 replies, thank you. Here are the results, because of time and space available I'm dividing this information between two issues.

We have prepared this information comparisons for entertainment purposes only. We acknowledge the fact that the 1963 survey was done in a far more thorough and scientific manner, and that the number of persons surveyed was much larger.

Note: In surveys for both 1963 and 1990 percentages are calculated on the total number of questionnaires returned, not all questions were answered by all respondents, therefore percentages may not always add up to 100%.

Continued from Summer Issue:

7. Which one of the following types, or combinations of types, of homes would you like to have built in your neighborhood in the future?

	1990	1963
Single-family homes	30 (65%)	285 (55%)
Duplexes	5 (11%)	24 (5%)
Multi-family homes	1 (2%)	15 (3%)
Single and Duplex	2 (4%)	10 (2%)
Single and Multi	2 (4%)	10 (2%)
Duplex and Multi	0 (0%)	10 (2%)

Mixture of all three	7 (15%)	41 (8%)
No preference	2 (4%)	54 (10%)

8. Which of the following stores do you feel are needed in the Point Richmond business district?

	1990	1963
Drug	19	411
Bank	28	232
Fountain	6	168
Apparel	3	106
Shoes	3	79
Furniture & Appliance	1	52
Bakery	6	207
Doctor and/or Dentist	8	234
Nursery	8	86
TV-Radio	2	80
Laundromat	5	185
Professional Offices	6	138
Others:	10	46

1990: Hardware (5), Bookstore (2), Large Grocery (1), Antique (1), Therapist (1)

9. What per cent of your total purchases of goods and services do you make in stores in Point Richmond?

	1990	1963
FOOD		
None	9 (20%)	60 (12%)
One quarter	21 (46%)	186 (36%)
One half	9 (20%)	71 (14%)
Three quarters	2 (4%)	33 (6%)
Almost all	5 (11%)	151 (29%)

CONVENIENCE

None	17 (37%)	92 (18%)
One quarter	15 (33%)	161 (31%)
One half	3 (7%)	71 (14%)
Three quarters	2 (4%)	29 (6%)
Almost all	4 (9%)	128 (25%)

10. skipped

11. Do you feel there is a need for more parking space in the Point Richmond business district?

	1990	1963
YES	33 (72%)	323 (63%)
NO	10 (22%)	127 (25%)

12. Do you belong to any Point Richmond Clubs, Organizations, Groups or Churches?

	1990	1963
YES	40 (87%)	231 (45%)
NO	6 (13%)	253 (49%)

13. skipped

I have no 1963 results for the balance of the survey.

14. Do you feel there is a need for a community meeting place in the neighborhood for social, recreational or other group activities?

YES	24
NO	14

15. How many of your close friends reside in Point Richmond?

12,5,10,10,6,many,few,12,6,35,25,12,17,50,6,12,8,1000,10,8,5,ridiculous,20,6,14,6,8,11

16. How long do you think you will continue to live in Point Richmond?

30,forever(10),20,10,as long as I can afford it,10,?,undecided,rest of my life(8) even if I hit the Lotto,indefinitely,always, until we can't climb stairs,don't know,?, 30,on and on,years, cannot predict longevity,2-5,as long as we can,5,?,?,20, very long time,?,till death,?.

17. What is the total number in your family living at this address?

2,3,2,2,2,2,4,2,2,2,4,1&dog,1,3,2,1,1,2,3 2,2,2,2,1,3,2,2,2,1,4,1,4,1,1,2,2,2,3,1,13

18. skipped

19. What are the ages of all the members of your family living at this address?

46,45,2,70,71,74,32,37,65,71,60,60,2, over 20(3),45,45,15,13,62,49,20,18,46, 44,41,35,2,50,53,53,69,81,38,20,66,68,4 9,48,16,65,65,43,47,65,55,25,over 65,62, 35,37,50,43,2,62,58,69,72,41,40,17,12, 56,58,47,46.

20. skipped

21. skipped

22. Do you own or rent the dwelling in which you are living?

OWN	34
RENT	6

23. skipped

24. What is the approximate age of your home?

20,45,33,30,10,3,10,4,4,4,53,90,80,85, 86,16,3,35,35,35,20,45,90,60,85,14,14, 9,9,36,35,16,3,50,33,4,40,45

25. skipped

26. skipped

27. Where do members of your household work?

San Francisco(3), Union City(1), Pt. Richmond(12), Chicago(1), Larkspur(1), Oakland(3), Walnut Creek(1), Richmond (4),Berkeley(4), San Rafael (1).

28. skipped

29. To what daily newspapers do you subscribe?

Oakland Tribune (10), West County Times (25), S.F. Examiner (3), S.F. Chronicle (17), New York Times (2), Wall Street Journal (1), Marin (1), Christian Science Monitor (2).

30. Do you have any comments?

concern about theft; keep it simple; be vigilant about new building; need local based police station; great place; love it; Ivy Inn, Sherry & Bob's need fixups; preserve paper streets; a special place.

SENIOR NEWS

By Muriel C. Clausen

As all seniors know there is an earnings test placed on Social Security income. If a senior works and has more than \$9360 earned income in a year, then that senior loses one-third of Social Security benefits over the \$9360 limit. Ages 65-69 are affected,

As the work force changes there is more demand for seniors to work. However, with this earnings cap, most seniors are reluctant to work extra hours over the earnings cap; so a scarcity of workers is developing in our national workforce. Also the talents and experience of seniors is going to waste at a time when they are needed. Finally, many seniors are well, willing and very able to fill the needs of the workforce.

Rep. Dennis Hastert, R-Ill. has introduced a bill that will repeal this earnings cap, H.R. 2460. His bill has 226 co-signers, a majority of the House; and the Senate version is being co-sponsored by a quarter of its members.

The House Ways and Means Committee has control over Social Security but very few of its members are interested in this bill. They argue that a repeal would cost the government \$26 billion over the next 5 years. That figure is disputed by Hastert who states that the elders who

work would pay more income taxes. As a result of this impasse the bill is unlikely to pass.

A compromise bill S. 2574, Sen. John Chafee, R-RI would raise the earnings limit to \$23,360 phased in over the next 5 years. This bill has an amendment attached at this time which would raise the \$9360 by \$1200 which would not cost the Government any money and so would stand a better chance of enactment.

Seniors who are concerned should write to Sen Chafee in Washington, D.C..

Seniors over the age of 70 are not affected by the \$9360 limit. Seniors under the age of 65 who collect Social Security have to pay back \$1.00 in benefits for every \$2.00 earned over \$6840. Neither of these groups of seniors are included in either of the above mentioned bills.



A-Mid Trivia

by Mid Dornan

Labor Day became a federal holiday 96 years ago.

Just HOW effective is the Point Richmond directional map by the fire station? According to Marguerita Hains, the recent Census takers found it extremely helpful as they tried to wind their way through the streets in this area.

Traffic jam solution: Allow only those cars on the road that are paid for.

I realized it had been a few years since I had used a coin operated washer/dryer when the machine took FOUR QUARTERS in place of 35 cents!

Roni Roselius Turner has undergone intensive tests, needs your prayers and love, but is approaching results with a positive attitude and will only discuss it with positive persons.

Another sign of progress and ... loss of a Point charm: Designated car parking in the business area around the triangle. Too many people are 'discovering' the Point.

How long has it been since you tried to gift wrap without using scotch tape?

'Fire' is a four letter word Muriel and Bert Clausen never want to hear or see again.

Their Condo as well as their daughter-in-law's home and Grandson's school were all completely destroyed in the recent Santa Barbara flames.

Have you noticed and appreciated the lovely, tall apricot colored gladiolus that seem to wave a greeting from their railroad

crossing signal planter as you enter the Point? Thanks to the Santa Fe who adds the extra loving care it takes to keep them fresh.

It's a mother's pride that prompts the mention of daughter Roberta's research article, "Use of Physical Therapy for Treatment of the Temporal Mandibular Joint Disorder" published in the July Journal of the American Dental Association. Dr Dornan has her practice in Tustin.

Married: On May 5th, John Lizarraga and Teresa Ann Hinkson at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in the Point. Tery is the daughter of James Hinkson of El Sobrante and Agnes Aamot of Glide, Oregon and is an engineer at Chevron USA refinery. John is the son of Hector and Evelyn Lizarraga on Western Drive and is a technician at the Chevron USA refinery. They honeymooned in Jamaica and will live in Rodeo. Best Wishes!

Judy Coleman, board member of Brookside Hospital, has decided to refocus her life and has no plans to include political campaigns for herself. She has been on the board for eight years. Judy is an administrator with the Richmond Unified School District.

Isn't it time to install a covered waiting cubical with seats at the Castro Street AC transit bus stop?

The disappearance of the original Indian Statue during WWII provided many tales that have endured for fifty years. Now another mystery unfolds at the far end of the triangle...the BENCH on the corner of West Richmond and Washington Avenues. It literally disappeared 'overnight' on the night of July 3rd. Who? When? Why? As might be expected, there are answers to all the questions, but none can be verified.

The Westside Improvement Club originally installed the bench as a place for visitors or local citizens to stop and rest and chat. But, the bench soon was monopolized by locals that represented a variety of lifestyles which intimidated some others. The litter and abuse was a source of irritation to those who felt the bench users could contribute a more positive image.

Flippant to outrage are answers given to the question of where it went. "It went South"... "its somewhere on Tunnel Avenue"... "someone paid to have it removed"... "it was taken to be refinished"... The emotions are mixed as to it being gone but if anyone does know its whereabouts, it is a WELL GUARDED SECRET. Keep tuned. Tell us your information. One wonders if answers will last 50 years.

You don't have to be a lover of Eucalyptus trees to appreciate the magnificent, majestic tree on Tewksbury between Clarence and Vacca!

How welcome are the steps from Vacca on Tewksbury to the top of the sidewalk!

Does anyone know the whereabouts of Sydney Miller (maiden name) who once lived on Water Street? Elisabeth Foss of Norfolk, Virginia has lost contact and would like to get in touch with her. Elisabeth recently passed through the Point, checking out her former addresses of 229 Golden Gate Avenue and 316 Martina Street, as well as the Methodist Church and Washington School and noted the many changes in the Point after 38 years.

She remembered skating and riding bikes down the hills.

Frances Smith, Washington D.C. and formerly from the Point, will be moving back to this area in September. She spent part of August visiting friends and family,

purchasing a house in El Sobrante and finding suitable offices in Marin County.

Oretta Eaton was surprised by about 40 friends and family who gathered at the Methodist Church for a Luau for her 75th birthday. Guests stuffed 'coconuts' for her "Palm" tree for a trip to Hawaii. Entertainment was provided by Alice Thompson, Jean Reynolds, Nikki Eaton, JoAnn Bray and a men's hula dance team of Ben Bray, Michael Brown, Jim Harwell and Bob Yank.

Whose idea was it to install the directional I-580 sign in front of the directional sign for Point Richmond or Oakland at the signal near Marine Street as you come off the freeway from the bridge or come out of Chevron!! And, can't something be done about the Castro Street Exit going West? One day it is there, the next time you end up at the Point Molate exit.

TIP: Coat your hands with a small amount of olive oil before peeling onions or garlic. When finished, wash off the oil with soap and water for odor-free hands.

Someone noted that children today are more practical. They used to think that money grew on trees but they know now it comes from automatic teller machines.

A surprise 60th birthday party was held at the Point Orient restaurant honoring Dale Huffstetter. There were 16 members of the family present. On hand was wife Lorna, her daughter Carol and her family, her son Bobby and his wife, Naomi Huffstetter, neice Becky Ross-Cileo and her husband and son, Sam and Sandy De Francoe. A very enjoyable evening was had by all as all grew up in the Point.

CHURCHES

Our Lady of Mercy

by Eleanor Hurley

The main activity at present is our annual barbecue to be held on Sunday, September 2nd. Mass will be held at 12 noon and the barbecue to follow at 1:00. Everyone is welcome. It's a good time to chat with former parishioners and friends that we so seldom see. Varsie Lometti and Allan Smith are co-chairpersons and have been very busy. Tickets have been mailed to all the Parishioners. Come and enjoy!

The rectory roof has been finished. Thanks to Tom U'Ren a small five inch sag was observed, which he took care of immediately. The large cross at the upper right side of the church has been refinished and looks just like new.

Padding on the kneelers is gradually being replaced and wiring is being taken care of.

Tony Ferreira is still very active in the Souper Kitchen. The latest project is the donation of soup to help replace that which is temporarily being discontinued by Campbells. A barrel has been provided and donations will be taken up and delivered to the Kitchen. Many other churches, organizations and clubs are also helping out with this project.

Our organist, Betty

Conception was on vacation to Hawaii. Faithful Anna Schwarz has been filling in not only on the organ but also has been directing the singing.

Louise Navorini seems to be in a respite from her treatments and is feeling better. She hopes to be able to get to the barbecue.

The Ladies Sodality is gradually getting organized and hopes to have a regular program soon.

Point Methodist

by Jean Reynolds

Sunday School classes will resume on September 9th. Students, parents and teachers will meet for breakfast at the church at 9:30 am followed by classes for children 3 years old through high school. Classes will meet on subsequent Sundays from 10:00 am to 10:45 am.

Christmas in July? Daniel Andersen, Dorothy George and Jean Reynolds met to plan the Christmas program. A play was selected and casting will take place soon after Sunday School resumes. Daniel Andersen and Mid Dornan will Co-Chair the production, which will be performed December 16th.

An all-church picnic is scheduled for September 30th at 1:00 pm in George Miller Park. There will be games for the young, hotdogs for everyone, and potluck salads

and deserts.

Some special birthday celebrations took place in August. Mid Dornan celebrated at the Russian River with guests from the church on August 4th. It was originally planned as a surprise, but Mid decided to have a picnic on the same day, so she planned her own party. Oretta Eaton had a 75th birthday celebration on August 11th in Friendship Hall. The theme was a Hawaiian luau, and coconuts on a money-tree palm will help Oretta go to Hawaii for a well earned vacation. Friends from Good Shepherd and First United Methodist churches were present, as well as Oretta's children and grandchildren. A party crasher from Washington D.C., Francis Smith, was a surprise guest.

A welcome addition at Sunday morning worship has been Roy Jones, pianist extraordinaire. Roy treated the congregation to some music to warm the soul (and sole as toes were tapping). He accompanied the congregational singing of a spiritual hymn to help organist Alice Thompson who had never heard the tune, and he and Alice played some hymns together. Good music!

POINT METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

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 "Shoen's Pharmacy in the Point". This is the 48th installment. Relatives of some of the members still reside in the Point.

Oct 14, 1915

The meeting for the month was held at the home of the president, Mrs. W.T. Gibbons. Opened with scripture reading and minutes of previous meeting read and approved. the committee to secure permission for society to furnish the guest room in new parsonage gave a favorable report. Mrs. Grover, conference delegate, gave an interesting report.

It was ordered that next month we mete in church parlors for an afternoon tea when mite boxes would be opened and an invitation extended to different missionary societies in town.

Following committees were appointed. Mrs. Adams and Grover on entertainment, Mrs. Tottin, Lester and Gibbons on refreshments, Mrs. Peterson, Bradley and Gibbons on reception and all of society on decoration.

Hostess served refreshments after adjournment. .65 thank offering.

Mrs. Tottin, Sec

Richmond Pressed Brick Company

Sports

memories

By Allan Smith

This season has been a record setting year for No-Hitters in major league baseball. Eight have been hurled, including one in which the pitcher lost the game! Baseball pundits are wondering what is happening to those million dollar players, paid to hit for a decent average. Of course maybe the pitchers are just getting better. Regardless, throwing a No-Hitter remains every pitcher's dream.

Point Richmond is part of the rich history of baseball No-Hitters. Frank L. Smith, one of our native sons, threw a No-Hitter in 1969. At the time he was pitching for the Charleston, South Carolina minor league affiliate of the Cleveland Indians. It came in a Southern League game against a team from Elmira, New York. What makes Frank's No-Hitter even more remarkable is that on that same day Sam McDowell (who went on to a successful major league career) pitched a No-Hitter for another Cleveland Indians affiliate, Salt Lake City. The rarity of two pitchers in the same organization accomplishing this feat on the same day places Frank forever in baseball's trivia book.

Its customary for pitchers to keep a memento of their special accomplishment. One

that Frank Smith especially treasures is the last ball used in his No-Hitter. It has been professionally engraved with all the statistics from that memorable day. Interested baseball fans can see that ball at the Steak Barbecue to be held at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church on September 2nd.



Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Report

Meeting of August 7, 1990,
Tom McGowan presiding.

Brian and Anita Quirk of 330 Nevada made presented plans to remodel their home, expanding it. There was no opposition from PRNC.

Catherine Adachi presented a remodel proposal for her 248 Western Drive home. Plans involved a separate "inlaw" unit, a garage closer to the street, and adding a third story to the house. Next door neighbors complained about the third floor and view obstruction. The proposal was endorsed with the exception of third floor addition.

Joan Haber of the Community Food Coalition made a presentation for a holiday food drive in Point Richmond, between Thanksgiving and Christmas. She asked for volunteers to coordinate the distribution of paper bags for the food donation and to designate drop-off points.

Thank you!

WALTER A. CONNOLLY

BURL WILLIS & PHYLLIS SKAGLUND
(PT. RICHMOND TRAVEL)

HANS & LORE SHAPER

MARIE LOUISE OSTROM

C. F. HOCHGESANG

WILLARD R. SPIERSCH
(Given in Memory of Ardel Cibattari)

THE MECHANICS BANK

DORIS SILVA

FRANK LOPEZ

STANLEY NYSTROM

RAMON & PATIENCE ZAMBRANO

TOM McGOWAN

ROSEMARY M. CORBIN

VIRGINIA A. CHERNIAK

CHRISTOPHR PLONA

MAXINE MAYER

SHEILA FOSTIAK & FAMILY

ELIZABETH McDONALD

HOWARD S. ARNOLD

ADELE CHASE HOLLANDER

BERTHA MAY McCLOSKEY

DAVID VINCENT

MARIE WILSON DIETZ

AMERICAN ROCK & ASPHALT, INC.

BARBARA A. OLSEN

ANNE HANZLIK

SANTA FE RAILROAD COMPANY

GRIFF AND CATHE BRAZIL

TERESA NAVAS ALBRO

MARY CROSBY & TOM PIAZZA

CHARLES C. EELES

THE DORNAN FAMILY

GARY SHOWS

CAROLYN & IRVING MOSKOWITZ

THOMAS W. & MARGO TEDRICK

CHEVRON, U.S.A., INC.

TOM & LUCRETIA EDWARDS

THOMAS E. WHITESIDES

INTERACTIVE RESOURCES, INC.
Tom Butt & Family

HENRY A. FRANCIS

JANICE A. HANTZSCHE

JOAN MEISEL

RAIL & MARINE TRANSPORTATION
CONSULTANTS, S.F. CROOK

BETTY J. MARSHALL

LUCIANA & BONNIE FORNER

(Given in Memory of Bob Young)

HORTENSE GNAGA McGEE

*(Given in Memory of Elizabeth F. Gnaga,
Goldy Gnaga Shrewsbury, & Frankie Greenlaw)*

MURIEL & BERT CLAUSEN

THE OLDEST COMMERCIAL BUILDING IN POINT RICHMOND

**THE RICHMOND PLANNING COMMISSION
HAS APPROVED OF OUR PLANS!**

**THE HISTORY ASSOCIATION HAS A LEASE WITH
THE CITY OF RICHMOND FOR USE OF THE SITE!**

**A LITTLE MUSEUM DEDICATED TO POINT RICHMOND HISTORY
IS ABOUT TO BE BORN IN THIS OLD BUILDING!**

**TO ACCOMPLISH A QUALITY JOB.....
TO PAY ORIGINAL INSURANCE, DISPLAY AND SET UP COSTS.....
MORE MONEY IS NEEDED!**

**YOUR NAME WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE ABOVE LIST
AND PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF
"THIS POINT...in time"**

**I would like to help save the oldest commercial building
in Point Richmond.**

☐ Enclosed is my contribution of :\$ _____
Make you check out to PRHA Historic Building Fund.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

Mail to:

**Pt. Richmond History Assn.
229 Golden Gate Avenue
Point Richmond, CA 94801**

Memories of Pioneer Point Richmond Residents

Wm. L. Thompson

William L. Thompson, often called Louis by his friends, was born in Point Richmond on February, 17, 1909, lived on Scenic Avenue, graduated from Richmond Union High School and was the first native Richmondite to go through medical school. Dr. Thompson began his practice in 1940 at 9th & Macdonald, later moving to 32nd & Macdonald until that building was sold at which time he moved to an office on Broadway. In 1979, at age 70 and after 39 years, he retired officially from medical practice. However, his many loyal, local patients continue to call him for advice.

PART VI CONCLUSION

I recall Mr. R. Tcheirasy who ran the Old Point Theater. I remember going to my first movie there before I was old enough to go to school. I recall him a large, heavy man walking back and forth from his home on Idaho street to the theater. He wasn't very friendly with young people probably due to their activities in his theater.

Beyond the tunnel was the Keller family who owned Keller's Beach. In the old days people built small bath houses for dressing there. It was quite popular. However,

the beach was badly damaged by the Santa Fe. The space between the tracks and the hills was at one time a lake into which bay water poured in and drained out with the tides. When Santa Fe decided to dredge out the Ferry Point area they pumped the mud and water into this pond at the further end and excess water came out through the opening near Kellers. The result was a lot of mud where there was once a nice sand beach. However, the beach is still attractive. The Keller's son, Danny, was in school with me. The father was killed by a Santa Fe train in the tunnel while he was walking through one night not long before the road tunnel was opened to traffic.

I recall the opening of the Richmond Municipal wharf #1. That is the one near the Santa Fe terminal. This was about the time of the first World War as the ship tied up there had camouflage coloring. It was a commercial ship and visitors were allowed to board on that day. I especially remember going down with my family into the engine room and even into the propellor shaft. It was most impressive

at my age.

One of the most unusual characters in early Point Richmond history was Fred Fredericks. I think that there are few outside my family who would recall him. He was a rather small, rather emaciated man with multiple psychological problems. He lived alone in a small shack high on the north side of Nichol Knob. At the place where Crest Avenue ends, the Santa Fe had a reservoir, since abandoned, but still present. From this point on a few old road grades would wind up onto Nichol Knob. Fredericks lived a couple of hundred yards out on one of these. Later the old shack was torn down and a larger one with two stories was built. Another man used the lower

floor. I remember when the bakery wagon passed by on old Scenic Avenue delivering bread down below, Fredericks would come out and start down a trail shouting "whole wheat". He would start down and the baker would start up with his order. We kids called him the "whole wheat man".

He must have been lonely. He often would come down the trail past our house and stop outside the gate by our back door and fiddle round with his clothes and pockets for a time. If no one noticed he would cough for a time. If someone came out to talk with him for a few minutes he was happy and went on his way. He got his water supply with a bucket and rope from the Santa Fe reservoir and his firewood was laboriously packed up from



the beaches below.

I lost track of Fred while I was away at school but shortly after I began medical practice here, I think it was in 1940, I got a call from the Health Center asking if I would make a call for them in Point Richmond. They said the man's name was Fred Fredericks and started to give me detailed instructions as to how to find him. I interrupted and told them that I knew the old soul well and would go at once and see him.

I entered the only door to his shabby little dwelling and found myself in a narrow passage. Almost the entire room was filled wall to wall and floor to ceiling by neatly piled stacks of old newspapers. After passing through this little passage I entered another little back room and found poor Fred very ill and lying on a cot. I spoke to him but doubt if he understood and then left and phoned the Health Center. They sent an ambulance for him and sent him to the County Hospital where he died a few days later.

Near Fred's shack and on the ridge just above the reservoir the Burns Family had a small home. They were there some years and I think others lived there after they left. If one looks around up there he could still find the traces and foundations of both their

home and that of Fredericks.

I recall the O'Haras, brother and sister, who lived so long on Washington Avenue above the old Baptist Church. They were a fine pair. Neither ever got married but lived quiet, useful lives. There also was the Bernardi family who had a small settlement just beyond the tunnel on the road to Ferry Point. They were quiet, hard workers and had several children, two of whom were in school with me.

There were so many more in the old days. Some I remember but cannot recall their names. Others I do not know enough about to write. I was a fine group of honest, hard-working, so-called middle class people. All were in about the same social class and were very helpful and considerate people. There were few entertainment facilities in those days so families visited together, played cards and had little parties. It kept them together. Modern entertainment facilities have stopped much interfamily contact. This is unfortunate. People were much closer in those days.

I hope that someone can write a few words on families that lived in the northern part of town nearer the Standard Oil Company with whom I had little contact except in school. These also were part of the group that started and built up the town.

Will rambles on.....

HIS Point in Time

by Willard R. Spiersch

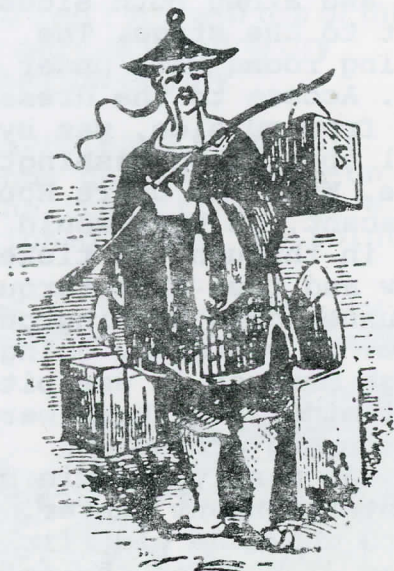
June 21st was our 59th wedding anniversary, so how better to celebrate than by returning to the Point. We made a reservation for six at the Colonial Hotel, Whoops! I mean the MAC. This evening was also to honor my daughter's 36th wedding anniversary. Jean and I were born in the Point, and were married there in the little Episcopal mission on Washington Avenue by Reverend Milton Terry. My daughter Joan was also born in the Point, but was married in my adopted city, Alameda. Also in the party was Joan's husband Donald, and his daughter Kathleen Brammer Stubblefield and her husband Richard. Katie, my granddaughter, is the Spiersch and Brammer families' historian.

Believe it or not, this is the first time that I have ever entered this building! The ambience and decor reminded me of some places I have visited in New Orleans. I have to report that the food and services were impeccable!

I couldn't help taking a walk up Cottage Avenue with my granddaughter pointing out a few things I could remember, particularly were the Chinese laundry stood behind the Mac. She was interested in how they sprayed water from their mouths on their ironing. Also,

how bad little boys ran by the laundry shouting out what they thought were Chinese swear words, in hopes one of them would chase us. They never did, but gave us a thrill by starting out as if they would!

A also told her about the Chinese gentleman who carried a pose with two baskets on his shoulder all the way from the Chinese Shrimp Camp. He roamed the Point calling out, "shrimpee... shrimpee!" and if you had a nickel, he would fill a small bag with tiny bay shrimp. Which, by the way, must be the most delectable treat ever devised by nature!



Memories of an Old Friend On the Point

Bernard Bernes/AKA Frenchie

THE OLD OPERA HOUSE

In the last issue of This Point, my old friend Willard Spiersch was inquiring about the old Opera House on Standard Avenue.

The Opera House was located on Standard Avenue about one half block north of Washington Avenue. Pat Dean's Saloon was next door on the northwest corner across from Kenny's Cigar Store.

It had a recessed front and ticket office, so people would not have to stand in the rain waiting to get in. It had a sloping floor for the lower floor, and a balcony in the rear, and along both sides, almost to the stage. The dressing rooms were under the stage. Access to the dressing rooms from outside, was by a tunnel opening on Washington Avenue. When the Opera House was vacant, we boys would sneak in through the ticket window and then exit through the tunnel onto Washington Avenue. It was scary going through because it was pitch dark inside, and there were rats running around.

It was mostly a movie house and entertainment center. They used to show the old flickers such as "Tarzan of the Apes" and "Elmo the Mighty". It had numerous uses after the Point

Theatre came in. It was used by Carrie Ellsworth to put on shows of her dancing classes, all these little girls were real cute in their routines.

Later a level lower floor was installed. Some churches and club groups used it to put on fund raising shows. Also medicine shows were quite prevalent.

Tony Mazza (the grocer) started an Italian band group. They had band concerts and dances weekly, it was fun watching and hearing the band, Tony played the coronet, he was very good at it.

A boxing promoter came in and started scheduling fights. They got a big kick out of putting gloves as big as pillows on us kids, so we could box with one another. The first time I got in the ring, I was knocked on my backside, that ended by boxing career. My opponent later became a pro. Boxing did not fare very well, so that ended that activity. Somebody else will have to fill in boxings history.

Among the persons who attended Washington School, was Laura Maggiore, from Winehaven. Her father was the

locomotive engineer at Winehaven. Laura went to New York to study singing, she later became an opera singer, she was very successful.

Mr. King, who owned King's Cigar Store on Washington Avenue was an automobile buff. He owned two unique cars, one was a Metz, the other was a Dobler Steamer or a Stanley Steamer. The Metz had a unique transmission, there were no gears for speed changes. The transmission consisted of a large flat disc driving a small wheel connected to the drive shaft. Speed change was done by moving the small wheel from the center of the disc to the outside edge. Speed was increased as the wheel was moved to the outer edge of the disc, a very smooth operation. The Steamer was the more interesting auto. The rumors were that no one would open it up to full speed. We used to speculate and wonder how fast it could go, but we never found out, supposedly one would open it up.

A bit of history about the Standard Oil Company, in 1929 it was involved in the first oil drilling rig on Bahrein Island near Saudi Arabia. Standard and Texaco formed a company known as Pasotex. They did the first oil exploration in the Middle East. Max Thornburgh was Chief Engineer at that time and later became president of Standard Oil. The first oil drilling rig was

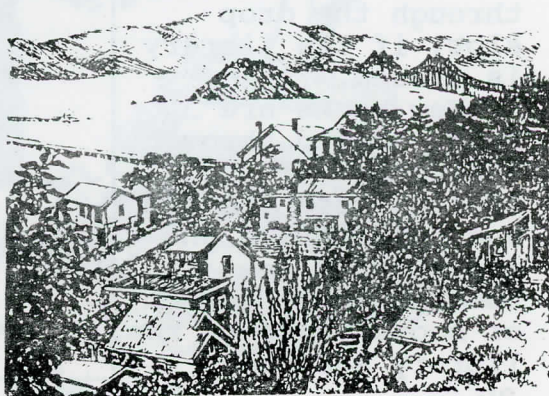
loaded onto a tanker at the Long Wharf in Point Richmond and taken to Bahrein. I worked as a messenger at the main office, so I brought many Telexes upstairs to Mr. Thornburgh daily. I felt that I was almost as knowledgeable about the operation as he was!

There was a field near Mr. Dornan's warehouse and plant, where we used to play baseball. Also it was used by the Richmond Motorcycle Club, for motorcycle polo. It was a contest between Harley-Davidson and the four cylinder Henderson motorcycles.

Before Prohibition came in, people sang the following song to the tune of "Till we Meet Again":

*Drink oh drink till July the first
If you don't you will die of thirst
Poor old Cal is going dry
On the first of July*

Maybe some of my old friends can elaborate on some of the items that I have mentioned about the Point.



Dictionary
JAN BURDICK
THIS POINT
MRE M
For Your
Information
WEST SIDE LIBRARY

By Jan Burdick

WHAT'S NEW AT THE WESTSIDE?

West Side Library has two new services it would like its reading and viewing public to know about. That's right, you did see the word viewing and read the word reading.

A collection of about 50 video cassette tapes are now available for checkout.

Available tapes are listed on large cards displayed above the records. The cards list the title and often a short synopsis of the tape. Simply present the card at the desk and it will be

exchanged for the tape. The limit is two tapes and the checkout time is two days. The cassettes can be returned through the drop slot, if the library is closed.

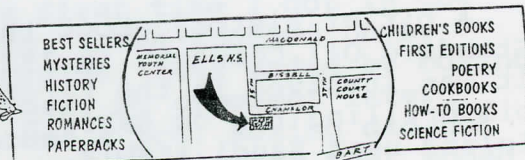
New books are being leased through McNaughton. These include both fiction and non-fiction and are shelved next to the new book section of books owned by the library system.

If you are a reader that likes to keep up with the best sellers list, the Sunday SF Examiner/Chronicle best sellers list is posted weekly in the new book area. It indicates which titles the library system owns and those on order. Because of the popularity of some authors, you may wish to reserve a "turn" for their newest book. For 25 cents a request card can be filled out. This information is then input in the computer and a queue is formed on a first come first served basis. Each time the book is returned, a letter is sent to the next patron to alert him/her that the book is being held.

In addition to the Sunday New York Times, West Side now has the daily edition.

With these new services available, we hope to see you soon at West Side.

FRIENDS of the RICHMOND LIBRARY BOOK SALE



ELLS HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM
Chanslor Ave at 35th St

SATURDAY SEPT. 15

9:00 am-2:00 pm

Book Donations Accepted at All Richmond Libraries

FOR INFORMATION CALL 620-6555

??Where's the Bench??

For months there has been complaints of spitting, cursing, drinking, public urination, and intimidation by some of the people sitting on the bench on the corner of West Richmond and Washington. Some of the members of the bench's donor, The Women's Westside Improvement Club have even been in favor of removing the bench themselves.

Well, on July 3rd, sometime between 10:30 PM and the dawn of July 4th the controversial bench mysteriously disappeared, only concrete embedded bolts remained.

Needless to say, the telephones were busy in the Point as the various interested parties tried to ascertain the perpetrator of the deed. No one confessed, no one took credit. Rumors began to circulate.... the city removed it because of so many complaints..... an individual who disliked the "sitters" removed it.... it's somewhere in a garage on Tunnel.... a Point merchant paid someone to steal it.... the "sitters" took it and sold it for beer money.... a professional bench thief took it and all benches in the triangle are in danger....

For a few days after the deed, several of the usual "sitters" stood

around the corner looking confused, and then they apparently decided they did not want to be known as "standers" and brought lawn chairs to replace the bench, the police broke this up right away.

The "sitters" are angry, one unnamed "sitter" says that he is a veteran, has no police record and even though he might have a drinking problem, he had a right to use that bench and is being discriminated against by the Point Richmond "rich" people.

It is interesting that the theft of the \$400.00+ bench apparently wasn't even reported to the police. Will it be replaced? How about replacing it with a bench with spikes like the ones they use to keep pigeons from roosting?



September

Birthdays

Doris Maske
Ivar Elle
Sara Warren Smith
Emily Anne Barnes
HattieBelle Potts
Roberta Wilson
Bernard Dietz
Stephen Berman
Gayle Kaufman
John Hadreas
Donna Roselius
Theresa Daniel

Susan Armstrong
Daniel Butt
Joann Busby
Will Spiersch
Al Frosini
Shane Eastman
Mary Forbes
Ingvar Elle
Roxanne Trudeau
David Reynolds
Nancy Eardley
Jerry Cerkowicz



ATTENTION PARENTS

You are invited to attend a series of seven films, "Focus on the Family", featuring Dr. James C. Dobson. The films will be shown on Thursdays, October 4th through November 15th, at the First United Methodist Church, at Martina and West Richmond Avenue. Topics cover a range of parent/child issues as well as ways to enrich your marriage. The first film is titled "The Strong Willed Child" and has to do with discipline (it is a good one... people return to see six more films after they have seen it!). The films will be shown at 7:30 p.m. and will be followed by discussion and refreshments. There is no charge to attend; donations will be accepted.

Childcare is available, if you wish to bring your child/ren, please sign up in advance so we can arrange for good care for them. To sign up call Jean at 235-2988 or leave a message on the church phone, 236-0527.

We are hoping to use this film series as a springboard for a parenting class to begin in January, 1991.

Jean Reynolds



THE MASQUERS

Playhouse, Inc.

105 Park Place, Point Richmond

PROUDLY PRESENTS



By CLIFFORD ODETS

Directed by RHODA PLYMACK

A warm and funny folk tale about Noah, his family, the flood, and the Biblical journey to Ararat. Odets has chosen to tell the story in the language of a New York Jewish family who greet with derision Noah's account of God's directive to build the Ark—until—

THE CAST:

Roy Goodman
J. David Koh
Cec Levinson
Helen Makras
Dorothea Rastegar

Phil Schletter
Eric Schniewind
Robin Steeves
Wayne Vargas

Friday & Saturday evenings—August 24 - October 6, 1990
Sunday Matinees — September 9, 16, 30

RESERVATIONS: 232-4031 (24 hours)

Reservations held until 10 minutes before curtain.
Group Rates Available

Box Office Opens at 8:00 p.m.; 2:00 p.m. for matinees.

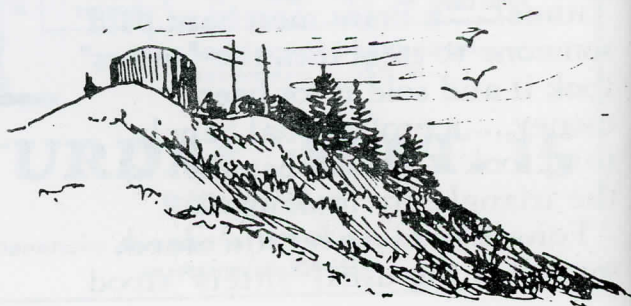
Curtain: 8:30 p.m.

Matinees: 2:30 p.m.

Admission \$7.00

DINNER & THEATRE benefit for our building fund at HOTEL MAC, Thursday evening, October 4. Dinner and ticket to "The Flowering Peach" for only \$23.00. To reserve, CALL: 236-4988.

COMING: The delightful Sondheim musical, "A Little Night Music", opens November 2, 1990.





Cards & Letters

Dear Gary Shows:

I would appreciate it if you would publish a notice about our Preservation Workshop in October. I hope this reaches you in time for your next issue. I tried to call you but the operator could find no listing. Hope you will provide me with a phone number for future use.

I really appreciate receiving a copy of your newsletter. It is an excellent publication.

Sincerely,
Mary-Ellen Jones
Regional Vice President
Conference of California
Historical Societies

Please find notice of your workshop on the inside flap of this issue. Sorry you couldn't phone...I will list phone numbers on the last page of each newsletter from now on. And a sincere thank you for the compliment!

.....Gary

<><><><><><><><>

Hi,

Let me introduce myself, I'm Madeline Bellando Albright, Bellando was my maiden name.

I lived in Point Richmond for 36 years, and know it like a book. I went to Washington School, worked at the

Natatorium in the summer then worked at the Standard Oil Refinery for 4 1/2 years during the war.

My mother worked at the Torino Bakery for 23 years, my dad worked at the quarry. I got married at the age of 24. Before my marriage my parents and brother and I lived on Santa Fe Avenue, then later they bought a home on 214 Tunnel Avenue. They lived there until they passed away, Dad in 1960 and Mom in 1974, their names were Eugenio and Vincenza.

My husband and I lived on the corner of Nichol and Santa Fe, 123 Nichol Avenue.

We now live in Brentwood, CA and raise Chinese Shar-Pei dogs. We were the first ones to import these dogs into the United States and are still selling them. Vivian E. Cook loaned me a copy of the newsletter, it really brings back memories.

Enclosed is \$10.00 for a new membership.

Yours Truly,
Mrs. Madeline Albright
Brentwood, CA
634-5290

Thanks for the letter and welcome to the History Association, it's great to have you as a new member.

.....Gary



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

Type of membership (check one)

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | SINGLE | \$15.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | SENIOR (65+) | 10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | FAMILY | 25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | HISTORY PRESERVER | 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | CORPORATE SPONSOR | 75.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | HISTORY MAKER | 100.00 |

Membership in the Point Richmond History Association includes a one year subscription to "This Point" newsletter (nine issues). Please make your check payable to the Point Richmond History Association and mail it to:

PAM WILSON
521 WESTERN DRIVE
POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801

If you would like to have Birthdays noted in the newsletter, please include names and dates.

Articles for each month's issue are due on or before the published deadline in the calendar section of this issue.

Please mail articles and items of interest to:

GARY SHOWS
229 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE
POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801

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Enclosed is my check payable to the Point Richmond History Association in the amount of:

\$ _____

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Tributes will be acknowledged in the newsletter

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Contra Costa Historical Society
Don Church's Photo Collection
Friends of the Richmond Library
Members of the PRHA

Calendar

September 3

Labor Day

September 4

Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting, 7:30pm, Community Center

1904, First Indian Statue dedicated

September 4

School Starts in Richmond

September 12

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting, Noon, Hotel Mac

September 21

Deadline for articles in October "TPIT"

September 27

History Association General Meeting, 7:30pm, Community Center, See inside front cover of this issue for details

October 2

Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting, 7:30, Community Center

October 10

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting, Noon, Hotel Mac

October 13

Indian Statue Day Celebration

October 27

Festival by the Bay Celebration