

THIS POINT

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL.VI No. 5

WINTER, 1987-88

One Dollar



West Richmond Avenue

DRAWING BY DONNA ROSELIUS

HISTORY ASSOCIATION NOTES	1
POINTS IN THE PAST	2
IN PURSUIT OF HISTORICAL TRIVIA	8
CHURCHES	8
CAMP FIRE MEMORIES	10
A-MID TRIVIA	10

TROOP 111	12
NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL	13
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION	13
WEST SIDE LIBRARY/MASQUERS	14
WASHINGTON P-TA	14
DEATHS	15

in time

COME - JOIN US!!!

THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 7:30 p. m.

AT HISTORIC HOTEL MAC

50 Washington Avenue

Point Richmond

Guest Speaker: Monica Haley

"Life in the Point:
Remembered."

*The Point Richmond History Association
will meet in the Second Floor Meeting Room
Elevator access near reservation desk.*

MEMBERS

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

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

Anne-Therese Ageson
Bernard Bernes
Lloyd & Phyllis Bogue
Louis R. Cunan
Lloyd & Melba Farley
Ed Gingrich

Shoney Gustafson
Grace A. Howe
Elizabeth McDonald
Alice Nelson
Louise Novarini
Louise Rogers

Allan Smith

And a warm welcome to new members:

Aldo Bravin

Marian Sauer

Richard & Marylou Fox

Family Membership

❖ HISTORY ASSOCIATION NOTES ❖

WE'RE STILL HERE!

by Jerry Cerkowicz, President

Due to production problems, we were unable to get the December-January issue out on time. In order to get caught up, we decided to combine that issue with the February newsletter. We hope to be back on schedule with the March issue.

We now have two display cases—one in the community center and, thanks to Adele Hollander at Chase Gallery, we have another showcase in the hallway at 147 West Richmond avenue. Please stop by and take a look. Included in the display are some recently donated items and some on loan to us. James Cheshareck found an old medicine bottle imprinted "The Schoen Pharmacy, Pt. Richmond, Cal." in the dirt from the lot next to "Jumbo's", and agreed to put it on loan to us for display. Claudia Beall has donated a 1964 map of Richmond and the Point Richmond General Plan. Our thanks to both for their generosity. Thanks, too, to Trefry A. Ross for the very old newspaper and letters, mementos from his grandmother's era (the Adams family resided on Martina for many years). Mick Downs has given us some old letterheads from "The French Laundry" on Standard avenue, for which we are most grateful, (more on this as soon as we make a long overdue call to a member of the family that owned the laundry).

Working with the city, the Indian Statue Park Committee has straightened out the problems that slowed down completion of the park. Electrical and irrigation work has been done, stone work and brick laying is underway (thanks to Joe Hanzlik for his unflagging efforts, there). Planting should follow soon, as well as correction of any mistakes made thus far.

Tom Butt of Interactive Resources has offered us the Hazel Carr building on West Richmond avenue—the property will be cleared for development—and we are check-

ing out various options for moving it to a convenient location for our use as an office and small museum. We would be most grateful for any helpful suggestions from our members and friends

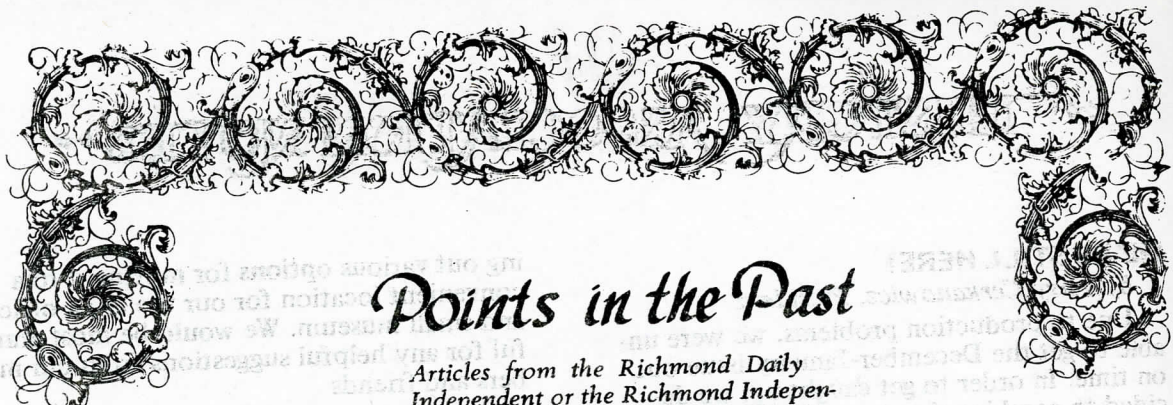
If you missed our November meeting at the Sobstad Sail Loft at Brickyard Cove, more's the pity—the ancient art of sail-making in its modern practice is a mixture of computerized designs and execution coupled with expert sewing machine operators to guide the various materials through to completion. We are especially grateful to Richmond's own Jocelyn Nash for a most informative tour of the local premises of Sobstad, International, a world-wide maker of sails for some of the most famous sailing craft in the world.

The annual Christmas tree lighting and carol sing was enjoyed by many, as was the valentine-making and brick-making day at Community Center.

It is with real regret that we note the closing of Jumbo's after 26 years in the Point, turning out great cheeseburgers and omelets, to name our favorites. Where do we go now, for gossip and a good meal? To Betty and the gang, we can only say 'You will be missed—goodby and good luck!'

To members, friends and future members (we hope), hope to see you at the meeting in March—mark your calendars and join us in the second floor meeting room at Hotel Mac, Thursday, March 24, at 7:30 p.m. Our guest speaker will be long-time Point resident, Monica Haley, to fill us in on life in the Point during the last thirty years.

It is with real sadness that we must change our meeting place from Linsley Hall due to insurance problems. Our sincere gratitude to Donna Powers for welcoming us these past years to a most pleasant meeting place.



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

STANDARD TO SAVE OIL CAN TIN

"That war necessities are educating . . . people to new habits of thrift. . . is pointed out by J. H. McDermott. . . of Standard Oil . . . referring to economies made. . . to conserve the supply of tin. Heretofore large quantities of Pearl oil (kerosene) have been sold in one and five gallon tin cans. . . (it) can be purchased from bulk supplies carried by dealers reusing original or consumer-owned containers. . . it is the patriotic duty of every American citizen, McDermott says, to conserve. . ."

December 1, 1917

GARFINKLE TO ENLARGE STORE

"L. Garfinckle, proprietor of the Economy Store, well known west side dry goods concern, has leased the corner of Washington and Richmond avenues and will occupy the location after the first of the year. He will enlarge his stock. . ."

December 4, 1917

CRASH COSTS FIREMAN HIS JOB

"Hale Phillips. . . Fire Company No. 1, has been dismissed from service as a result of an

accident to the truck at Washington and Cottage avenues last Friday. . . Fire Chief Lemoin's recommendation that (he) be dismissed for speeding around a corner, causing the truck to skid and do about \$35 damage was sustained by the council.

Lemoin's recommendation that Company's Captain Dick Paasch lose six days' vacation rights was taken under advisement. . . Paasch. . . said he warned Phillips. . . and ordered him to slow down, and that loss of days off would prevent him from spending Christmas with his aged parents."

December 4, 1917

\$1,000,000 MORE FOR HARBOR?

"Streets in the Canal subdivision from Cutting boulevard to the bay will be opened at once according to. . . the Point Richmond Land & Canal Company before the city council. . . War Department has demanded that all streets to the waterfront be opened before work is done on the harbor so the government will be assured that the harbor is accessible when completed. As Richmond has no planning commission the approval of the streets and alleys, as required by law, the map was referred to the city engineer. . .

(Company attorney) Hart. . . stated that

another bill increasing the Richmond harbor appropriation to \$1,000,000 was introduced into Congress yesterday, but no one knows here anything about the project."

December 11, 1917

500 TONS OF ROCK HIT BOTTOM

"Sinking suddenly while the crew was at dinner in Richmond Barge No. 7 of the Island Transportation Company of Stockton dropped to the bottom of the bay next to the docks of the Richmond San Rafael Ferry last night laden with 500 tons of rock. Only the quick work of the ferry crew saved the launch "Countess" which had the barge in tow, from being drawn down with the heavily laden barge. . ."

January 5, 1918

JOHN NICHOLL AGAIN HEADS BANK

"Stockholders of the Mechanics (bank) held their annual meeting and election . . . yesterday. . . John H. Nicholl was elected president; E. M. Downer, vice-president; J. F. Carlston, vice-president; and W. L. Balenger, cashier. . ."

January 5, 1918

LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFERRED HERE

"Transfer of a liquor license from Frank I. Brasil to G. Perrone established new records at . . . the city council last night. The application was read, referred to the license committee, recommended and passed, all within 10 minutes.

The license will be transferred from the corner of Richmond and Washington avenues to the American Hotel, 12 Standard avenue. Brasil is a pioneer of this city and his splendid reputation . . . here caused the council to . . . treat (him) courteously. . ."

January 8, 1918

ITALIAN COLONY PREPARES FOR BIG DANCE

"A grand concert, fair and ball will be giv-

en by the Italian colony of Richmond for the benefit of Allies Red Cross fund in the opera house hall on Standard avenue, Point Richmond on January 19 and 20. . . beginning Saturday evening with a big dance.

On Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m., there will be a concert by the Italian Colony Band, directed by Professor Cheli Rudolfo. . .

Miss Carrie Ellsworth, that famous and beautiful little dancer of Richmond, will do some of her best fancy dancing. . ."

January 17, 1918

FREE FISH FOR ALL NEAR MUNICIPAL PIER

"Hundreds of fish were captured this morning in the lagoon near the municipal wharf which is being filled in by the American Dredging Company. The mud which is being pumped in drives the fish to the edge, where hundreds of people dragged them out with their bare hands.

One man became so excited he jumped in water up to his neck and . . . shovelled out the fish. With few exceptions the fish are striped bass, which are selling wholesale at 25 cents a pound. . ."

January 30, 1918

MALE GERMANS TO BE REGISTERED

"Registration of male Germans over 14 years of age will commence next Monday at the local police station. Inspector B. V. Shirley has . . . the job of handling registration .

He will maintain office hours from 8 a. m. to 4 p. m. at the station on Park place . . . during the five days on which Germans may register February 4 to 9 . . ."

January 31, 1918

60 YEARS AGO . . .

by Zoanna Kille

CITY MAY START WIDER CHANNEL

"Plans for anticipating proposed resurvey by the federal government of the Richmond

harbor project by doing immediately such work as may be necessary to properly develop the harbor were taken up today at a conference of city officials with Fred Parr, H. J. Brunier, harbor engineer, and members of the harbor committee of the chamber of commerce. . .

Parr . . . outlined the possibility of doing what work was needed at the city's expense so that the channel to the inner harbor could be widened to 400 feet. . . , the channel from the Ford site to the basin widened to 400 feet. . . and the training wall lengthened by 1000 feet. . . By doing this. . . the city would put ahead in harbor development by three years . . . the government would take over and maintain the harbor at the new widths and depths, as part of its re-survey approval. The total amount which the city would invest . . . without return from the government would be at the outside \$27,200 Parr said. . . "

December 6, 1927

MARIN BRIDGE FIRM MYSTERY

"The interests behind the third company that is rumored in the field for a franchise to construct and operate a toll bridge between Richmond and Marin county, remained . . . a mystery . . . today.

A man named Tomasini is reported behind the project . . . (he) said his company planned a bridge to be located north of Point San Pablo . . . (and) professed to be interested in a bridge across lower San Francisco bay also. . . "

December 7, 1927

CERIDONO TO TRAVEL FOR DRUIDS

"Charles Deridono, well known West Side merchant, is devoting his time this month to traveling over California as organizer for the Druids. For many years he has been active in the organization and his success as an of-

ficer has led to his present appointment."

December 27, 1927

OPPOSITION TO ALBANY BRIDGE

"The proposal of T. A. Tonasini, Marin county capitalist to erect a toll bridge from Albany, Alameda county, to a point near California City in Marin county was being watched with much interest by Richmond shipping interests and city officials today. . .

The proposed . . . bridge is expected to meet with opposition from shipping interests in Richmond and other points on San Pablo bay, Suisun bay and Carquinez straits. The bridge would practically bottle up Richmond harbor, as all shipping north of Berkeley would have to pass under the span. (It) would be approximately five miles long, considerably longer than the bridge proposed between Point San Pablo and the Marin county shore and its location would effect a much larger number of shipping points than would the proposed Richmond bridge

While Tomasini is applying to Alameda county for a franchise, application for two proposed bridges between Richmond and Marin county will be heard by Contra Costa county supervisors. . . "

December 28, 1927

RICHMOND GROWTH LEADS EAST BAY

"Showing the greatest proportional growth of any city in the East Bay region since 1920, Richmond . . . has practically doubled in population in 7 years' time. . .

Richmond has since 1920 increased from a town of 16,000 to a rapidly growing city of 31,000. Several thousand more might be added for adjacent unorganized territory. . . "

January 1, 1928

NICARAGUAN ACTION CONDEMNED

"Washington. Jan. 4-- A resolution asking immediate withdrawal of troops in Nicaragua

was introduced in the senate today by Senator Heflin, democrat, Alabama. . . (it) called the marine invasion 'an act of imperial tyranny' . . . "

REBELS BOMBED

"Managua, Nicaragua. Jan. 4—United States marines, after a terrific bombing attack by airplanes, massed today for an attempt to storm the position of the strongly entrenched rebel general, Augustino Sandino . . . "

January 4, 1928

MAYOR WARY OF REGIONAL PLAN

"Mayor Mattie A. Chandler of Richmond today issued a warning to the people of the city to carefully study the proposed formation of the East Bay Regional Plan association before signing petitions or otherwise acting to place the city in the district. . . (she) expressed the belief that the entry of Richmond into the proposed planning district would mean higher taxes, without resultant benefits to the city. . . "

January 6, 1928

HAPPENINGS ON WEST SIDE

"Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Pattison and son LeRoy of Pittsburgh, Pa., who have been visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Smith, on Nevada avenue, left here on Monday."

"Mr. and Mrs. Fred Spiersch spent Christmas day in Livermore. . . "

"The West Side Women's Improvement Club will meet on Monday in Trinity Guild hall."

"On Sunday Archdeacon Porter of the diocese of California will make his annual visit to Trinity Episcopal church. . . "

"The Social League met on Tuesday at the First M.E. church. Mrs. LeRoy Alexander, president, presided. . . refreshments were served by Mesdames Vloeberg and Doney, hostesses. . . "

January 6, 1928



50 YEARS AGO . . .

by Zoanna Kille

WHIST PARTY AT OUR LADY OF MERCY

"Preparations were underway today for the Christmas whist party Friday in the parochial hall of Our Lady of Mercy church. . . "

WASHINGTON P.T.-A.

"An evening whist party has been planned by Washington P.T.-A. on Friday at the school. . . "

(Both were planned for December 10

(Seems there was a bit of competition for whist players that night—both were set for Dec. 10. Z)

December 1, 1937

PICTURE CAPTION

"Senator Tom Connally of Texas is pictured talking to Senator Claude Pepper of Florida, after making an extensive speech in his filibuster against the Federal Anti-Lynching bill. The Southern bloc in the Senate is bent on talking the bill out of action."

December 1, 1937

MARIHUANA FLOW PINCHED

"U.S. Customs Agents along the Mexican boundary are engaged in wars against international smuggling rings, waging a battle to halt the flow of marihuana from its native Mexico into this country."

December 1, 1937

WEST SIDE NEWS

"The Woman's West Side Improvement club will meet on Dec. 6 at the home of Mrs. Paul Dunlap, 37 Terrace avenue . . . Mrs. Max Henry is to assist Mrs. Dunlap. Business of importance is to be considered, Mrs. J. C. Eaton, president of the club announces and during the social hour Christmas gifts will be exchanged."

"Mr. and Mrs. Jack Donnemwirth have returned to their home on Martina street following a short stay at Sacramento."

"The ladies of Trinity Guild are sponsoring an evening whist on November 10 (sic) in the Guild hall. Mrs. Anna Bowen is in charge of the games and she promises good prizes and a large box of groceries as a door prize. The quilt mad by the guild will be awarded. . . The time is 8:30, the date December 10."

"Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Turley are to move into their new home tomorrow. The new place is one of the comfortable homes recently erected on Western drive. . ."

"Mrs. F. M. Neville, who has been living at Clear Lake during the summer months has returned to Richmond. . ."

"Mr. and Mrs. A. W. McGee, who have been visiting at the homes of Mrs. Elizabeth Gnaga and Mrs. F. O. Gebhart, have returned to their home near Fresno."

"Mrs. Carl Stender has returned to her home at 111 Nevada street, following a two weeks' stay at Richmond Cottage Hospital. . ."

"The Thursday Bridge club members were luncheon guests at the home of Mrs. W. R. Spiers on Castro street yesterday. . . The next meeting of the group will be at the home of Mrs. C. G. Bryant on Golden Gate avenue Dec. 16."

"In compliment to retiring officers of 1937, members of Point chapter, O.E.S., entertained at a farewell party in Point Masonic temple last night. . . Honored were Worthy Matron Olga B. Lee and Worthy Patron Phillip A. Lee. . . Representing the chapter, Mrs. Mary B. Moyle presented the officers with a gift. . ."

December 3, 1937

STANDARD OIL MAKES NEW FUEL

"In its latest bulletin, Standard Oil of California explains that (it) has developed this year an entirely new type of fuel, synthetic gasoline."

The new product, they claim, bids fair to revolutionize trends in premium gasolines, particularly . . . for aviation service. The new gasoline is said to permit planes to carry more payload."

A plant costing over \$1,000,000 for processing is nearing completion at Richmond."

January 6, 1938

WEST SIDE AID TO MEET

"A meeting of the Ladies Aid Society of the First Methodist church is set for 2 p.m. Friday in the home of Mrs. Margaret Allyn on Idaho street. . ."

January 6, 1938

PLANE LANDS IN BAY AT RICHMOND

"Five army fliers from Hamilton Field. . .

were safe today, and a huge army transport plane had been salvaged from the bay off Brooks Island, near Richmond inner harbor, following a forced landing at dusk last night . . . Speed boats from local yacht harbors immediately put out from berths at Richmond yacht service and rescued the passengers prior to the arrival of the U. S. Coast Guard, called by Captain L. F. Oraford, port captain, who saw the plane go down. . ."

January 5, 1938

ALLYN TO HEAD SCHOOL BOARD

"At a short meeting of the Richmond Union high school board of trustees yesterday. . . Gust J. Allyn, Richmond businessman was selected as chairman. Although the boards reorganization is in July, the death of E. M. Downer, the former chairman, made it necessary to name a new chairman immediately, since diplomas for the January graduating class are as yet unsigned. . . The election followed the appointment of George Thornton, Jr. vice-president of Mechanics bank of Richmond, to fill the vacancy on the board created by Downer's death. . ."

January 12, 1938

40 YEARS AGO . . .

by Pam Wilson

HERE AND THERE

"Recent guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. I. W. Hill, 421 Western Drive, were Mrs. Bella Larson and Miss Mabel Larson of Los Gatos. . . mother and sister of Mrs. Hill."

"Mr. and Mrs. James Volma McAfee, Sr., former owners of the Hotel Mac now residing in Fresno, and their daughter Margaret were Richmond visitors over the holiday. They spent the day with the senior McAfee's three sons, Robert, James, and Edward and their families. Miss McAfee is now studying at Fresno State college. . ."

December 2, 1947

WASHINGTON P-TA WILL SING CAROLS

"Washington School P-TA will meet Thursday, December 11 in the school auditorium. The Christmas pageant will be presented and the Choral Group will sing Christmas carols"

... Refreshments will be served. All parents of students at Washington are urged to attend."

December 9, 1947

AIRPORT SURVEY ORDERED HERE

"Definite steps toward Richmond's proposed airport are being taken today, following authorization by the city council for a three-point survey by the West Engineering Company, San Francisco.

The survey is to cost \$2,750 and no time limit was set for its completion. . . City Manager Wayne E. Thompson (said) he and Director of Public Works E. A. Hoffman had met with (the) engineering firm and received a proposal for a survey to cover 1. Site possibilities and arrangement; 2. Aeronautical problems and data; and 3. Economic phases of the airport construction and operation. . .

A report by the Richmond Chamber of Commerce aviation committee suggested the tract of land west of the California Cap Works as the only possible location now available to the city. . ."

December 23, 1947

30 YEARS AGO . . .

by Pam Wilson

EDITORIAL

HOW ABOUT CUTTING FEE?

"We can advise the California Toll Bridge Authority that the reason traffic on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge has fallen far below pre-construction estimates is that 75-cent toll fee. The Authority probably wouldn't make any more money by knocking the charge down to 50 or 25 cents, but it is likely such a move would increase the traffic on the bridge proportionately.

One of the favorite drives for tourists who come to the . . . bay region is the 'Grand Circle' (taking) them across all three. . . great bridges. Visitors. . . express amazement when, after crossing the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge for 25 cents and the Golden Gate Bridge for 25 cents, they are asked to pungle up 75 cents to cross the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. . ."

December 6, 1957

CITY TO BUY 80 ACRES OF HARBOR LOTS

"Purchase of nearly 80 acres of tax delinquent tide lots in the Richmond Inner Harbor for \$4,000 was authorized yesterday by the City Council.

Forrest J. Simoni, city assessor, tax collector and land agent, reported that the county held land had \$13,518 in delinquent taxes on the five parcels, exclusive of penalties and interest. . . Simoni noted that various . . . parcels could be traded with the Santa Fe Improvement Co. to allow the city to hold title to one continuous strip—Brooks Island to Point Isabel."

December 10, 1957

EDITORIAL

BIG NEWS OF THE PAST YEAR

"... Things were popping all around the world—and out of this world. By far the biggest news story of 1957—probably of the last decade—was Moscow's launching of Sputniks I and II. . . It roused us from our lethargic self-satisfaction and started us running hard in the race to catch up. And then plunged us into the depths again when the ballyhooed Vanguard failed to get off the ground

(The launchings) overshadowed many other vital stories—the strife at Little Rock, the visit of Queen Elizabeth, the Senate racketeering investigation, . . . the Presidential inauguration and Ike's recent illness. . . But one thing that showed no signs. . . of receding was California's growth. The Golden State's perpetual popularity pushed its population over the 14 million level. . . Yes, 1957 was a most eventful year. . ."

December 13, 1957

HERE AND THERE

"Tonight the Richmond Community Theatre is staging a party for members and friends at the Village Playhouse, 105 Park Place in the Point from 9 o'clock to midnight. A free variety show, conviviality and seeing the old year out will be a lively gathering for the crowd with the Gull Book Shop next door, also keeping open house, reports Glenna (Mrs. Louis) Bernheim, director of public relations. . ."

December 31, 1957

IN PURSUIT OF HISTORICAL TRIVIA

courtesy of Stan Nystrom

ANSWER:

The previous issue's historical trivia question concerned the present location of the fenceline centering the cover picture depicting Richmond in July of 1900. That fenceline marked the division between John Nicholl's property (later known as Bay Shore Tract) and Emily Tewksbury's property, later known as Bay View Tract).

On that basis, the fence location would run up the middle of the blocks between Washington and Santa Fe avenues on the town side of the slope; while on the bay side of the slope, it would shift about a quarter of the block closer to Santa Fe avenue.

The blocks involved each have two of each lot number in them, one on the Nicholl side and one on the Tewksbury side. This may be confirmed by referring to a 1903 map of Richmond on file with both the Point Richmond History Association and the Richmond Museum Association.

QUESTION:

Bissell avenue, located in the flatland portion of Richmond, was named for Mr. W. A. Bissell, an official of the Santa Fe Railroad during the founding of Richmond at the turn of this century. He was traffic manager for the company and lived in Alameda.

At his funeral in Alameda on February 1, 1917, Santa Fe acknowledged his contribution to the railroad by means of a highly unusual and perhaps costly operation. This month's question is 'Of what did this commemorative act consist?'

CHURCHES

POINT BAPTIST CHURCH

Quotes and Comments

by Roy Jones

On October 28, 1947, the City of Richmond has written our Rev. Ralph C. Wilson:

"The land adjoining your church on the northeasterly side can be purchased by you for religious purposes. . . We would suggest that you mail your request to the City Council. . . After the Park Committee has given its favorable recommendation, we will make the necessary arrangements for you to pur-

chase the property.

s/Forrest J. Simoni,
Right of Way Agent"

Yes, that is the same parcel our church deeded to the City of Richmond in 1911 "in consideration of one dollar gold coin in hand paid."

* * *

Niedeker the Druggist, The Popular Store, Elsie & Elsie, The Double B Bakery, Spiersch Bros., Richmond French Laundry, Western State Gas, The Kozy (W. E. Henry), The Hub, Home Bakery, Minner Mercantile—these businesses, along with many more, bought ad space in a church directory we were compiling in 1910. Anyone remember any of these stores? (*Wasn't around in 1910, but a few of these were still around in the early 1920's of my own youth! Ed.*)

* * *

The following paragraph excerpted from a business meeting at our church on September 24, 1952:

"The City of Richmond, through Miss Clarke, visiting nurse, asked some time ago if our basement could be used for a monthly Well-Baby Clinic. . . Since the Canal Area has been closed, they need to find a new location. . . Rev. Whisenhurst submitted the request before the group. . . It was motioned, seconded, and passed and so ordered that we grant this request. . . Mrs. Mainard was asked to call the City of Richmond with the information."

* * *

The damp and drizzly days of the past week seem somehow more appropriate to Santa's annual visit. (I've never thought S. Claus looked comfortable in brilliant sunshine and 70 degree temperatures!) And if we cannot furnish snow, cold rain will do.

The Santa Fe Market is quite the IN spot between 5 and 7 each evening—the commuters dragging back home from a day in the City canyons all stop at Bob's and seem to have a festive time—laughing, chatting and, this week, anyway, smelling like a wet Labrador.

Ours is still a cozy village, modernization and all—and our sing-along Sunday evenings

prove the point—especially our December doings at our church., with the story of Christ's birth read from the Bible and voices raised in the singing of traditional carols.

OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC CHURCH

by Marion Downey

Faithful correspondent Marion is recuperating from surgery for implantation of a pacemaker. After time spent in the hospital and a convalescent home, she is spending time with her son and family in Martinez with frequent visits to her home in the Point. Your friends in the Point look forward to your full recovery and return to home and all of us who miss you and wish you well!

A time of much activity at our church, beginning with ecumenical thanksgiving services on November 25 with local Methodists, Baptists and Episcopalians participating.

Music and messages from the sharing ministries made for an inspirational time. In the spirit of sharing, a collection of \$114.24 was added to our fund for free groceries given out each month. Refreshments were served during a social hour following the service.

Moving into December, members of the Cursillo Secretariat met December 4 at our church for a mass and a pot luck luncheon.

In the spirit of the season, donations taken by Eleanor Hurley were used to fill the altar area with poinsettias. Community penance was observed on December 21 and a large crowd of parishioners attended midnight mass on December 24 as well as morning services on Christmas Day. (Father Denis officiated despite a bad cold.)

This year has seen the building of a ramp into the church, remodeling of restrooms to provide access for those parishioners to whom stairs and narrow doorways present a problem, new cabinets in the social hall and a new illuminated bulletin board. (Special thanks to Ed and Josephine Palenchar who donated \$200 toward the ramp project. Years ago, Josephine's father, Joe Matteucci donated the property for our parking lot.)

POINT METHODIST CHURCH

by Mid Dornan

Church history is rich with contributions of women. One of the church groups in the early 1900's was the Home Missionary Society of the First Methodist Church whose history is reflected in their minutes, printed below as taken from the stiff, cardboard-covered notebook purchased from "Shoen's Pharmacy in the Point". (See the president's message in this issue regarding another memento from Shoen's). This is the 28th installment.

"Jan. 18, 1912

The society(sic) was opened by the president with Scripture reading. Prayer by Mrs. Bradley. The minutes of previous meeting were approved as corrected. Carried on motion of sister Bradley we send \$1.30 for Let-ro. Carried on motion of sister Bradley the missionary(sic) send greeting to the Oriental (sic) Home. The following paid dues.

Mrs. Pritchard	1.10
Mrs. Wood	.75 advanced at Bazar(sic)
Mrs. Ralson	1.10
Mrs. Garrard	1.10
Refreshments	<u>1.15</u>
Total	3.45

(No signature)"

"Feb. 16-'12

Womans Home Missionary Society met at Mrs. Gibbons. Meeting opened by vice president Mrs. Bradley. by reading 56th chapter of Isea(sic) in part. prayer by leader. Sec absent. no report. The treasure(sic) gave her report. moved and voted in that we continue the support of Lidia Woo another year. Carried. reading—"What it means" by Mrs. Lester. reading on 'imigrant(sic) work' Mrs. Lester. Mrs. Lester gave her name for membership. Refreshments 85

(No signature)"

(Two sheets of tablet paper contain figures designating \$13.54 for Tea, \$10.67—Mite boxes, Dues \$9.10, \$5.00—Kindergarten, and \$6.00 for Beulah Rest (Home). It was also noted that they had a song, prayer and Bible lesson with minutes approved and Treasurer's report accepted. There was a motion to accept the invitation of Wesley and Entertain Convention Committee Mrs. Owens & Grover. —Mrs. Smith to have Queen Esther.

Note: There are those reading these reports that will not only recognize the names, but may even recall the Convention. M.D.)

CAMP FIRE MEMORIES

courtesy of Mid Dornan

Maud Wood was a Camp Fire Girls leader in the Point, 1932-33. A scrapbook of their activities, "Diary of the Pikida Wakan Camp Fire Group" was kept by Pikida, Kokokoho, Wakada, Wapo Moma and Tanda, Indian names the girls chose for themselves. This is the twelfth installment of excerpts from the diary.

"Sept 30, 1933 First Ceremonial at the Apartments

The first ceremonial at the apts, was when the Onchiota group, Mary Wilkins and Betty Dornan received their Woodgatherer's ring. Each girl told of some good deed she had done in the last week. They also told one thing they had done to earn their honors. Gloria Smith said the Woodgatherer's Desire. Miss Wood gave a talk on manners. After distinguishing the fire, the girls went home.

Wakoda"

"October 27, 1933 N.R.A. Parade

Friday, the 27th of October. This was the night of the N.R.A. parade and also the night the two Vallejo girls, Frances Wilkenson and Lois Kaiser came down to spend the weekend. The Campfire girls had a big turnout. Every one of the Pikida Wakan girls marched except Jean Williams. After the parade was over Betty Williams and Frances Wilkenson-Jean Williams and Lois Kaiser-Eva Garlof and Ruth Steckel all started for Memorial Hall and Miss Wood and Betty Dornan took two little long lost souls to their parents. And then went to Memorial Hall. Some of the girls danced for a little while, then all walked home. They all slept at the Campfire house that weekend as the Vallejo Camp Fire girls were there.

Wakoda"

So—first batch of installments, poor Tanda was listed as Tandy in the intro—now, we find Wakoda has been listed all along as Wakada. Wonder if there's any one around to give us the correct name?

Also, please note the girls walked to the Point from Memorial Hall which was located somewhere in the vicinity of 11th or 12th street and Nevin or Bissell—if memory serves—anyway, a good long hike, assuming they're talking about the Campfire house here in the Point. History note for the uninitiated—N.R.

A. was the 'National Recovery Act' instituted by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in hopes that the country would start recovering from the Big Depression brought on the 'Big Crash' of the market in 1929—a long recuperation it was, too! Ed.

A-MID TRIVIA

by Mid Dornan (234-5334)

If you didn't get a good handle on 1988 in the first couple of months, please be aware that the Point Richmond History Association calendar is still available at the Gallery for half-price. With wonderful reproductions of historical photos of the Point, these are collectors' items, as well—get yours, today!

O-O-O

WANTED: Early record books of the Washington School P-TA. A 75-year celebration is scheduled for February 24 and the missing records would prove invaluable to those who are to participate. Please contact me (phone number listed after my name above) or P-TA president Mary Ruiz at 232-1961. (Evenings are best to reach either of us.)

O-O-O

It is still slow but visible progress for Stephanie Spinola, who was in a near-fatal car accident last summer. Granddaughter of Christine Dennis and Elsie and Joe Spinola, Stephanie is a student at Chico State College.

O-O-O

Proposed plans for Freeway I-580 show the existing Marine Street underpass walled off, diverting all exits from the Point to either Castro street or Canal blvd. interchanges. Tewksbury will become a main access street, increasing traffic on a street that is little more than one-way at some points. Since it will be 1991 before completion is expected, it is hoped a tunnel or pedestrian access at Marine can be provided. Your local Neighborhood Council and Business Association are doing a great job of making sure Caltrans is aware of the needs and wants of the Point on this project. They need YOUR support!

O-O-O

Seeing the magnitude of what it takes to create a freeway helps one to understand why it takes so many years to complete

TROOP-ING WITH 111

by Mid Dorman

Members of the Methodist church helped Henry Francis celebrate his 85th birthday with a big cake provided by Dagmar after church services. His beaming smile was an indicator that he plans to be around for a few more of these cakes. Congratulations! (Although a number of years his junior, Peggy Stanford shared birthday honors the same day.)

o-o-o

It was hard to tell whether the smiles of Grace Yank or those of her three small grandchildren were broader and brighter as they all sat in church. Grandpa Bob kept protective and possessive hold on little Brian. They were here for a week from Seattle.

o-o-o

Jodi Roselius Bagley had no more said 'goodbye' to her parents, lamenting the fact that they would be so far away from her, husband Clarence and daughter Alissa Erin, when her husband got a new job with Chevron in Tucson, AZ. So she is now bidding her own farewells to her parents, friends and students in the Point. Jodi has taught exercise classes at the community center for the past seven years and has designed and made aerobic wear. The family will reside at 4867 RedWolf Drive, Tucson, 85741.

There should be a new Tuesday-Thursday class at the center starting in March. Jocelyn Jackson is teaching classes on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. and Saturdays at 9 a. m.

o-o-o

Wanted: Wooden spools, all sizes. Kathy Barnes (234-5334).

o-o-o

Still no answer on whether Kenny Park, gone to make way for I-580, will be replaced. Good weather saw many local children enjoying play equipment or baseball and soccer playing there.

o-o-o

Time to buy Camp Fire Mints! or their Almond Roca or Peanut Caramel Clusters. Let's keep those Camp Fires glowing—call Kelli Darling, 235-2608, and place your order, today!

The first Annual Troop 111 Reunion at Miller-Knox Shoreline Park on Dorman Drive proved that scouting is still fun. Some 65 former scouts and families enjoyed reminiscing over the five decades Troop 111 has been active.

An extraordinary success, the program was an elaborate version of a typical troop meeting. It began with presentation of the colors, repetition of the Scout oath (which Gene Clements admitted having forgotten) and ending with Ben Woodson leading the Scoutmaster's Circle.

Among the events of the day were Knot tying: 'You pulled that stuff 40 years ago,' commented a former scoutmaster to a former scout who was fudging a bit.

Bucket brigade: Four-member teams pushing buckets of water along a rope and dumping the water into a team mate's bucket. (The trick here was holes punched in the bottom and sides of the buckets!)

Fire-making: Using a flint and steel to get a pile of wood burning made everyone appreciate today's appliances.

Pictures and scrapbooks were much in evidence to the enjoyment of all present. Children of former scouts cheered on their dads in competition. 'Jamboree stew' brought back memories of bygone outings.

Allan Downey and Alex McCook were the oldest of the former scouts present; Gene Clements came all the way from Mission Viejo while Carl Jenkins, now executive director of Scouting, Catalina Council, came from Tucson, Arizona. Ben Woodson proudly posed for pictures with those present from his old Eagle Patrol—Duke Nissen, Gene Clements and Ed Morrison.

Scoutmaster Dan Stallworth who guides the present troop made his recruiting pitch. George Mohr was given a certificate of appreciation for over 30 years of record-keeping for the organization.

Most declared it was an event worth repeat-

ting, that scouting is fun and—'Once a Scout, always a Scout.'

o-o-o

Fourteen representatives of Troop 111 were present at the Mt. Diablo Council's annual Recognition Dinner at the Claremont Hotel, Saturday, January 16, 1988, when Ben Woodson received Scouting's highest award, the Silver Beaver, in recognition of his contribution to the Scouting program.

Woodson, now director of the Career Development Center at Richmond High school, went from Tenderfoot to Eagle Scout with Troop 111. Following service in the U.S. Navy, he returned to serve as Scoutmaster of an Explorer Scout troop, later serving as assistant scoutmaster to Bob Dornan for 25 years.

Included in Woodson's contributions to the local troop were leadership training and many back-packing and camping trips with the boys. A loyal participant in the Troop's annual pancake breakfasts, he is well-known for the legendary number of pancakes he has made.

Witnessing the long-overdue award were Bob and Doris Maske, George and Mildred Mohr, Fred and Sookhi Hart, Duke and Maryann Nissen, Dan Stallworth, Patrick Ferguson, Mid Dornan and Ben's wife, Shirley.

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

courtesy of Linda Andrew

Your Neighborhood Council has been very busy these past months, holding meetings—regular and special—regarding community needs in connection with I-580 construction, particularly as regards interchanges and signs; and plans for shoreline development submitted to the Richmond Planning Commission by the Shoreline Conservation and Development Strategy Committee for future usage of the Ferry Point area.

Adele Hollander will represent the Council, with Theresa Daniel as alternate, at future meetings of the newly-formed Citizens Advisory Group regarding Cutting Blvd. and Freeway I-580, which was recently approved by Richmond City Council. Possible to-

pics for this group will be a proposed sign ordinance covering signs and billboards along the 580 corridor and, later, plans for beautification of the corridor.

A well-attended special meeting on plans for the Ferry Point gave community residents an opportunity to express their concerns as to use of the property in that area now being vacated by industrial companies.

Tom Mikkelsen, Assistant General Manager of Planning and Acquisition of East Bay Regional Park District, noted that he personally views extension of Miller-Knox Park as a logical use for the site. He advised that funds for acquisition of land in Contra Costa County are in the budget, but not specifically earmarked as to sites.

Douglas Russell, president of the Brickyard Cove Homeowner's Association, noted that a poll of the residents showed that only 35 percent of that group want a park while 75 percent favor low-density housing and 90 percent would like to see a small restaurant in the area.

By a majority vote, it was agreed that a letter be sent to the Richmond City Council asking that a Specific Plan be prepared as to disposition of the area, offering several alternatives, and that no change in zoning or development be made without such a plan.

Results of later meetings on this subject will be discussed in our next issue.

POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Through the Business Association, local merchants and business people have been involved in exploring the effects of I-580 on the community, especially the changes proposed for the Castro street interchange. The group was advised that 'Point Richmond' will be displayed on overhead signs on the Freeway. 'Historic District' signs will be requested in writing by the business group, the History Association and the neighborhood council.

Through efforts of the business group, the Point participated in the new 'Tree

Grows in Richmond' program. As the first community to do so, the Point now has a lot of new trees replacing dead ones removed at the expense of Tom Butt, Rosemary Corbin and Jay Ward last spring.

Among its other projects, the business association is studying the sign ordinance and freeway landscaping; cooperating with the Point Richmond Crime Prevention group; participating in work on the Indian Statue Park; planning for the Indian Statue Day in October. The group hosted a Valentine Day card-making contest and brick-making party. February 13.

Members of the community are urged to participate in a fund-raiser night out, with dinner at Hotel Mac and the Masquers production of Noel Coward's "High Spirits" on June 23. Proceeds are earmarked for Holiday Tree-lighting and other local festivities.

WEST SIDE LIBRARY

by Jan Burdick

Welcome back, Jan! Glad you're back on your feet, again—literally! (Jan underwent extensive foot surgery, folks, and was much missed during her absence from the library. Ed.)

If you forgot to include West Side Branch Library in your Christmas list for 1987—it's not too late! Perhaps there's a magazine you you'd like to share with others. Some people do this by giving us old issues of popular magazines once they've read them and received the latest issue. This is much appreciated but gift subscriptions are welcome, as this means we have current issues on hand. Call me for suggestions at 620-6567.

Hardback and paperback books are also welcome as used copies—as long as they've not been stored so long that they've become musty OR are very dated or esoteric as to subject matter. Again, new books are as welcome as new subscriptions.

Now, on to new titles now available for your pleasure at West Side:

When Someone You Know Has AIDS—Leonard Martinelli

Leaving Home—Garrison Keillor

Loving Life—Helen Hayes

Beyond Words: Images from America's Concentration Camps—Deborah Gesenway and Mindy Roseman

To Live Again—Genevieve Ginsburg

The Struggles Over Lebanon—Tabitha Petran

THE MASQUERS

105 Park Place
Point Richmond, CA 94801



"I Do, I Do", a delightfully funny musical, written by Tom Jones with music by Harvey Schmidt, closes at the Masquers Playhouse on February 27.

Based on Jan de Hertog's play, "The Four Poster", the piece tells the story of a marriage—births, quarrels, money problems, and, of course, love.

The local production is directed by Pat Nelson and features Joan Combs and Don Waight.

For 24-hour reservation service, call 232-4031.

Opening March 25: "The Curious Savage", a heart-warming comedy about gentle people.

WASHINGTON SCHOOL P-TA 75th BIRTHDAY!!

The Washington School Parent-Teacher Association members will host a spaghetti dinner on Wednesday, February 24, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in celebration of its own 75th "birthday" and P-T A Founder's Day.

Past, present and future P-TA members, students, parents and all community residents and their families are invited to join in the festivities. Two former principals will serve as guest speakers, two honorary service awards will be presented and students will entertain participants following the dinner hour, according to P-TA president Mary Ruiz.

Dinner prices start at \$2.50 for a child's plate, \$3.50 for adults and \$10.00 for a family of four (2 adults, 2 children). The menu includes spaghetti, green salad, french bread, beverages and birthday cake.

Washington School is located at 565 Wine street (auditorium entrance on East Richmond avenue) in Point Richmond. For further information, call 232-1436.



DEATHS

LEO JOHN CAREY died November 10, 1987, in Richmond at 75 years of age. Although born in Oakland, he was a life-long resident of the Point.

Leo was retired as an accountant from Standard Oil Company (Chevron, USA) and was a member of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church as well as a Navy veteran of World War II.

He is survived by wife, Laura of the Point; sons, Leo T. Carey, Fort Lauderdale, FL, and John R. Carey, Canal Zone, Panama; sisters, Gertrude Erickson and Irene Jacobs, both of Walnut Creek; and four grandchildren.

One of the true history-makers of our community and a member of one of its pioneer families, Leo will be missed here.

The Reverend Denis Araujo of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church conducted services at Wilson and Kratzer Mortuaries Civic Center Chapel.

VERNON JOSEPH DUTROW died in Berkeley, January 3, 1988, at age 63. A life-long resident of the Point, he lived for many years on Cottage avenue.

He was employed for ten years as a carpenter with Oscar Erickson Construction Co. in Richmond. He served with the U. S. Marine Corps in World War II and the Korean War.

Survivors include his mother, Ethel Barrios, Modesto; sisters, Bernice Preece and Ethel Schumacher, both of Point Richmond, Joan Dutrow, Oakland; brothers Earl Dutrow, Modesto, and Robert Dutrow, San Jose. He was the foster son of the late Emma Candelo.

Services were held at Civic Center Chapel of Wilson and Kratzer Mortuaries.

HAZEL BIRDELL HEATER, 76, died January 21, in a Summerfield convalescent hospital. A native of St. Joseph, MO, she lived in the Point for many years after her arrival here in 1942.

She is remembered here as a member of the Point Richmond Recorder and Giggling Society and as a willing volunteer in community activities, including Boy Scouts and Red Cross.

Surviving Hazel are sons, Paul Heater, Santa Rosa, and Theodore Heater, Middletown; sister, Sara Pugh, Kimberling City, Mo. seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

The Neptune Society of Santa Rosa was in charge of arrangements.

Memorials may be sent to Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Association, 800 San Antonio Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303.

IRENE S. VARONA of Sacramento died in Richmond, January 22, 1988, at the age of 83. A native of New Orleans, La., she was a member of the Methodist church.

Her survivors include Margaret (Peg) Cartwright of the Point, her daughter, and another daughter, Irene Harmon of San Rafael. She is survived also by a son, Arthur Prince, Sacramento; brothers, Ellis and Stanley Salisbury, both of Los Angeles, and Milton Salisbury, Fair Oaks; 12 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

The Reverend Ron Swisher of Easter Hill United Methodist Church conducted services at Civic Center Chapel, Wilson and Kratzer Mortuaries.

Expressions of remembrance may be made to Alzheimer's Disease, 70 East Lake Street, Chicago, IL 60601.

JERZY BOLESŁAW FORNAŁSKI, 64, died February 4, 1988, in Richmond. A native of Kielce, Poland, he had lived in the Point for a number of years.

He was a member of Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church and Knights of Columbus, Contra Costa Council No. 2471.

He is survived by his wife, Emilia, of the Point; daughter, Barbara Kossut, San Fernan-

do; sisters, Anna Fornalalska and Aniela Maj, both of Kielce, Poland, and Jrena Horszczaruk, Warsaw, Poland; and grandson, Daniel A. Kossut, San Fernando.

Services were conducted at Civic Center Chapel, Wilson and Kratzer Mortuaries, followed by recitation of the Rosary and a Mass of Christian Burial at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church.

LEOPHAS T. BROWN, 81, died at Kaiser Hospital in Richmond, February 9, 1988. A native of Texas, he resided in this area since 1945, and will be missed by many in the Point.

He was a member and union representative of Construction Laborers' Union No. 324 of Richmond; N.A.A.C.P. of Richmond; the American-Soviet Friendship Society, Berkeley; and the Gray Panthers, El Cerrito.

Survivors include his wife, Ursula, of the Point; and the following children: Beneva Brown and James Brown, both of Shreveport, La.; Doris Lee and George Brown, both of Los Angeles; Joe Travis, Richmond; and Edgar J. Davis, Oakland.

As requested by Mr. Brown, no services were held. Arrangements were handled by Wilson and Kratzer Mortuaries.

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY!

Jean Allyn
Hazel Paasch
Edna Hathaway
Fern Eastman
Sherry Hartnyk
Roni Turner
Mike Turner
Eric Turner
Bill Kollar

Teresa Albro
Cris Creed
Debbie Seaburg
Seth Fenton
Christine Hayes
Marian Hawkins
Mark Stevens
Gerrie Kretzmer
Marilyn Darling

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAY!

Henry Allyn
Cindy Rosier
Sonja Darling
Linda Andrew
Doug Greiner
Henry Francis
Jeff Corbin
Jim Wilson
Sara Strayer
Lupe Morris

Jennie Mitchell
Joe Travis
Janine Dollarhide
Bryan Smith
Trefry Ross
Gina Green
Ed Paasch
John Trowbridge
Betty Moore
Laurie Gallagher

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY!

Bill Williamson
Dixie Copeland
Allan Smith
Chris Rotting
Helen Valentine
Bessie Squires
Arlene Hartman
Frankie Greenlaw

Shelly Virgo
Frank Pearson
Doug Busby
Barnaby Edwards
Marco Rotting
Connie Healy
Landow Howe
Father Denis Araujo

Hortense McGee

WASHINGTON SCHOOL P-TA!!!

GUNG HAY FAT CHOY!

BOY SCOUTS!

Richmond Light & Power Co.



*ad from Mary Casey's
1908 yearbook*

For Power or Lighting Phone 1152-142 Washington Avenue

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!

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Telephone No. _____

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Please make check payable to the Point Richmond History Association, and send with form 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 Jerry Cerkowicz

229 Golden Gate Ave.
Pt. Richmond, CA 94801
Phone: 235-1336

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