

# THIS POINT

in time

NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL. VIII, No. 7

FEBRUARY, 1990

ONE DOLLAR



1913

WASHINGTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

First Grade Class

Mrs. Axtell, Teacher

## **MARCH MEETING**

**Photographer Deirdre Cerkowicz  
will give a slide show of photographs  
of Richmond by Ansel Adams  
and other  
famous photographers**

**The Point Richmond Community Center  
at 7:30 pm  
March 29, 1990  
Refreshments will be served**

### **THE COVER**

Photograph of the 1913 first grade class at Washington Grammar School  
Photo was taken in May, Mrs. Axtell was teacher

This photograph was found by Elizabeth McDonald and is printed here courtesy of the the  
Richmond Museum. Who can fill in the blanks?

If you would like to see a better reproduction of this photo, come by our space in the  
lobby of 124 Washington Avenue.

#### **TOP ROW**

1. Louis Bernardi
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. Marion Windrem
- 6.

#### **SECOND ROW**

1. Duke Tilden
2. Arthur Creamer
3. Virgil Fenner
4. Thomas Bagley
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
8. Tetrzini  
Vernetti

#### **THIRD ROW**

- 1.
2. Danny Keller
3. Sidney Gnaga
4. Marshall  
Neidecker
5. John Toffoli
- 6.-----Perriconi
- 7.
8. Joe Brazil
- 9.
- 10.

#### **FRONT ROW**

- 1.
2. Argyle Adams
- 3.
4. Henry Perriconi
- 5.
- 6.
7. Arthur  
McLaughlin
8. Clark Woods

# History Association Notes

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Jerry Cerkanowicz

The January 25th meeting was interesting, successful and well attended (about 80). Planners of the event Anne Hanzlik and Lucretia Edwards moderated the discussion that began with a look back to the beginnings of Point Richmond and ended with a look to the future. Lucretia began with a brief history of the area and its time as a Ranchero, which ended in 1894, the coming of the Santa Fe Railroad in 1901, moving of city hall to present day downtown Richmond 1914, which began a long decline that lasted until 1941, the war years, then came the influx of workers to the shipyards. The Point Richmond Planning Committee was formed in 1958 and published its findings in 1963.

The participants on the panel were divided into two groups. Those who worked on the report, Mid Dornan, Doty Perry, George and Margaret Miller and Lucretia Edwards. This group felt that in general the recommendations of the report were well thought and that most of them had been carried out. Among the problems of 1963 that were not solved was the problem of the "paper streets", which remains with us today.

(When the streets were

*Continued on page 2*

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## OUR SURVEY

At our January meeting we distributed a questionnaire that was identical to a survey taken in 1963 by the Planning Council of the Point Richmond Civic group. We thought that it might be interesting to compare results of a new survey with those of 1963. Any resident who would like to participate can get a survey form in the lobby of 124 Washington Avenue. You may mail them to the History Association or put them in the book drop at West Side Library. Thanks to all who have already participated, we will publish the results in a later issue of the newsletter.

***'From the President.....continued***

plotted for the Point they were a grid pattern which did not take into consideration the hilly terrane, so on old maps of the area there are streets on the map that do not exist in the present and the problem is whether the "streets" should remain open space or should they be vacated and used for development).

The second panel consisted of Rosemary Corbin, David Mac Diarmid, David Vincent, Tom Butt, Jay Ward and Walter Connolly. They described what they liked about the Point, the village atmosphere, the location, the views and the diversity of the people, all of which is affected by the current build- ing boom.

In the downtown area, parking is the biggest problem as more office buildings are built on the few remaining vacant lots, there is not enough retail businesses to bring customers into the downtown. Until the freeway on and off ramps are open, train will continue to be a serious problem.

In the neighborhood, problems are also developing. As new large houses are built, parking and traffic on the narrow streets become more and more difficult and dangerous. All the new housing is both too large and too expensive while nothing is being done about affordable housing. Trees planted in the 30's and 40's are now blocking Bay views.

On the southern waterfront there are going to be 350+ new condos on the hillside and 30

more homes in Brickyard Cove. When Petromark closes, the pressure to develop will be intense. The Point Richmond Tech Center when completed will affect both the neighborhood and downtown with increased daytime traffic. Transportation is a major problem, the bus system is inefficient and the ferry service is underused.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

#####

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

Patricia Dornan  
Douglas Daniels  
Robert & Barbara Ambrose  
Edith Bill  
Lloyd & Melba Farley  
Elaine Burres  
Alice Nelson  
Anna Booth  
Elizabeth McDonald  
Louisa Banks  
George Batten  
Shoney Gustafson  
Maxine Mayer  
Sheila Fostiak  
Ed Gingrich  
Doug & Rosemary Corbin  
Lyle & Connee Fisher

And a warm welcome to new members:

Edna Hathaway  
Rod & Debbi Miller  
*gift from James M. Forbes*  
AMERICAN ROCK & ASPHALT, INC.  
Linda Shandera  
*gift from Lillian Totten*  
Hazel Tawney  
P.L. Milano  
Robyn Wolf  
Gorden Miller  
Margi A. Cellucci  
Anne Hoffman  
Hans and Lore Shaper

## editors notes.....

BY GARY SHOWS

In our first issue of 1990 I'm happy to say that we will feature the first of a new series by Dr. William L. Thompson in which he recalls his memories of pioneer Point Richmond residents. Dr. Thompson's writings are very interesting and informative, he's a treasure to all who love Point Richmond.

Also in this issue Al Franco is this month's guest columnist with a new "Growing Up in the Point in the 20's & 30's" column, young or old, you will enjoy it!

Thanks to our staff for timely reporting. Meeting our deadline makes my work so much easier. The deadline for the March issue will be February 23rd.

### GOING UNDERGROUND

It seems that for most residents a very important criteria for the positive development of Point Richmond is the transfer of overhead electric utilities to underground utilities. This is the logical trend everywhere as those overhead cables not only obstruct our view, but are exposed to the elements and thus require more service. Insofar as our business district is concerned (as well as a block around it) I would like to play "devil's advocate" with some counter thoughts.

First, our wonderful historical commercial district was born in the industrial revolution. Historically it

has, from its earliest stages of development had overhead utilities (even though the poles were not always straight).

Second, it is my understanding that the utility poles that are in the business area today are unique to the area and are made of steel to support the weight of early trolley car cables.

The day will come, probably not in the too distant future when overhead utilities will be a rare, even historical sight. Our push for underground utilities seems to be almost unanimous, and undoubtedly will be occurring soon, but I wonder if all of its advocates have considered the possible historical implications.

What if we kept our overhead utilities and, what if, someday parents brought their children to our historical business district to show them the way that we used to PROUDLY move electricity from one place to another.

If any of our members have any thoughts on this I'd love to here them.



## A-MID TRIVIA

by Mid Dorman (234-5334)

"Be My Valentine" used to say it all and Valentines absolutely, positively, without fail had to have

hearts on it. Today the standard phrase has changed a bit and are more along the lines of "a meaningful relationship without strings attached!"

\*\*\*

County Supervisor Tom Powers isn't the only vote getter in his family. Daughter, Alicia, 20, has been elected Senior Class President of the Maritime Academy in Vallejo. Proud Mom Donna is smiling too.

\*\*\*

Grandma remembers when 5 cents was deposited in a coin operated phone she got 5 minutes of uninterrupted talk. Thanks to William Gray, who 100 years ago obtained a patent for his invention. The first one was installed at Hartford Bank in Connecticut. There are now over 2 millions such phones across the U.S. It remained a nickel for 59 years but became a dime in 1948. Now the tariff ranges from a dime to a quarter in the U.S. and overseas, from a penny (in Spain) to 77 cents (in France).

\*\*\*

Congratulations to Lynn Brown who graduated from the University of San Francisco on January fourth!

\*\*\*

When Mechanics Bank opens a branch office in the Wareham Center in the Point they will have 9 windows for customers and TWO automatic teller machines! So sez our source.

\*\*\*

How do you feel about one-way streets in downtown Point Richmond?

\*\*\*

Since Caltrans is having difficulties noting a Point Richmond directional sign for the I-580 free-way, why not change Canal Boulevard to "Point Richmond Boulevard" thereby creating a recognizable exit?

\*\*\*

Long, long time Point resident, Elsie Spinola on Washington Avenue, has purchased a home in San Leandro near her son, Joel, and will move there soon. Elsie has been very active in Masonic and Eastern Star organizations here.

\*\*\*

In answer to the question, "Has the tunnel been inspected since the earthquake?" the answer is "Yes". Kirt Hunter from City Hall informs us it was checked the day after the quake and two days later by Federal inspectors. No apparent problems, except a tiny hairline crack in the southern portal which will be sealed to prevent possible leakage.

\*\*\*

Cartoon: *Man talking to wife:*

"You got your wish to live in a better neighborhood...they just doubled our taxes!"

\*\*\*

Did you know that 18 years ago only 12 women were police officers nationwide?

\*\*\*

There is 'instant coffee' that is instant, 'fast foods' that are fast, so what happened to 'rush hour' traffic?

\*\*\*

The halfway point of winter was February 4th, 7:28 a.m. PST. At that time, 44 days of winter elapsed and 44 days still remained.

\*\*\*

For the 20th time since the founding of our republic, the government is setting out to learn something about each of you--and quite a lot about many of us. More than 100 million forms are being printed that will be needed to count more than 250 million

Americans April 1.

Originally required as a count of the populations to help divide up seats in the House of Representatives, the census has become an effort to assess the state of the nation.

Most homes will receive the form in the mail in late March and are expected to mail it back after April 1.

\*\*\*

Don't forget the wonderful story time for preschoolers at the Point Library on Thursday mornings at 9:30!

\*\*\*

One good thing about February is there are 2 fewer days to have to wait for a paycheck!

\*\*\*

### BE MY VALENTINE!

And...don't forget to remember YOUR special valentine with something special!



## SENIOR NEWS

By Muriel C. Clausen

### FRIENDLY VISITOR PROGRAM

Does anyone know a senior who is isolated in his or her home, needing help or attention? Do you know that there is a "Friendly Visitor Program" sponsored by the Contra Costa County Area Agency on Aging and the United Way? This program recruits volunteers to visit the frail elderly in their homes. The idea is to keep these people in their homes as long as they are able and willing, thereby maintaining their independence. Loneliness and isolation can lead to premature and unnecessary placement in institutions.

The volunteers are trained with an orientation course which provides background on the problems of the older person, the homebound and the disabled. A professional staff supports the volunteers and their seniors and are ready to assist if problems arise. There is also available to the staff and volunteers a professional trained in gerontology.

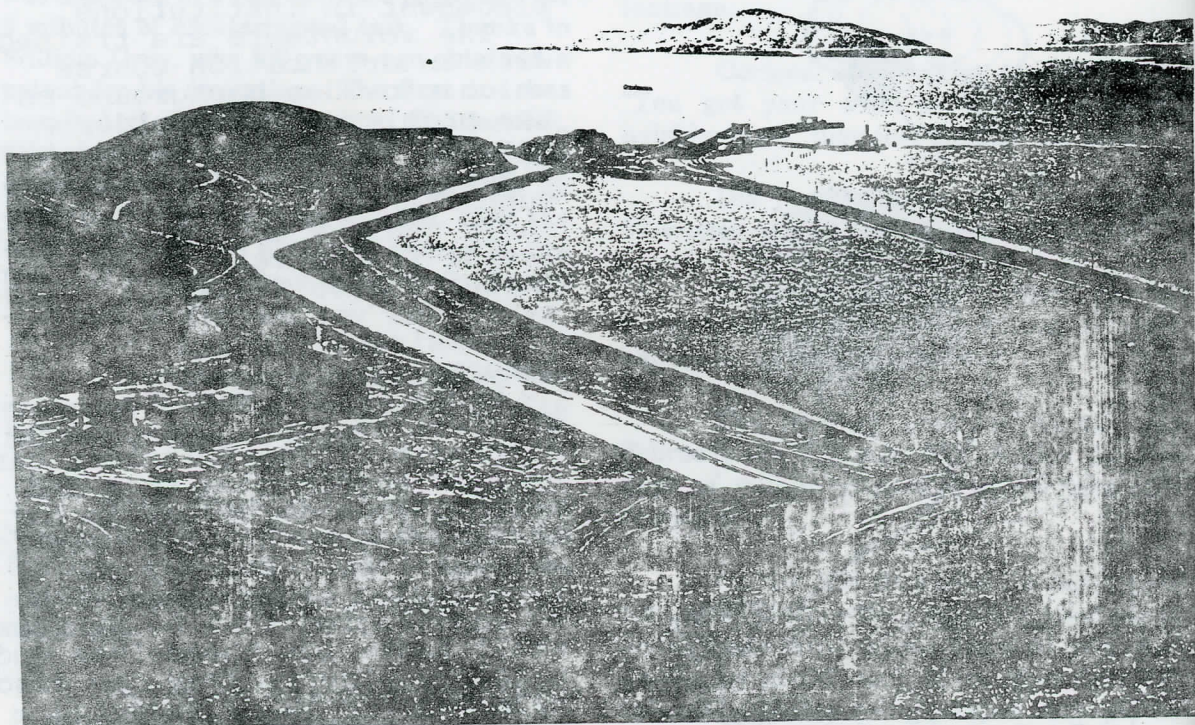
Older people need to maintain as much independence as possible. The volunteer can help by encouraging them and helping them to do things for themselves, by helping them to maintain their privacy, by encouraging cleanliness, and by encouraging them to perform small tasks for themselves and possibly others. They can also help seniors by encouraging them to visit public places

where they can help themselves obtain needed information on nutrition, legal matters and housing. They can, if the senior is unable go get this information for them.

This is a free program and is available to all seniors in the county. The volunteer visitor often becomes a dependable personal friend of the senior as well as an important link to the community. It currently has over 100 volunteers serving approximately 210 elderly people throughout Contra Costa County.

Occasionally the "friendly visitor" may wish to refer his/her senior to Geriatric Services, which is another service available to seniors. This service provides nurse visits for evaluation of seniors, in need of clinical care. The Geriatric Clinic of West County is now at 30th Street and MacDonald, Joan Routgahn is the visiting nurse for West County and is available at 374-3284 to answer your questions.

Volunteer are always needed and are encouraged to join the Friendly Visitors Program.



*Aerial View of Ferry Point Harbor, Courtesy of the Richmond Museum*

# Churches

## OUR LADY OF MERCY CHURCH NEWS

*by Eleanor Hurley*

The holidays are over and I hope they were good ones for all of you.

Before leaving us, we had a little reception in the Church Hall for Father Denis, a pot luck which was well attended. We wished him well in the future. He was eagerly looking forward to his trip to India and his new assignment as Senior Priest at Danville's Parish. We understand he left for India early this month.

Father James Clift is our new Pastor. Father Clift has been Chaplain at Brookside Hospital, is a native of Chicago, and was ordained a Dominican Priest in Dubuque, Iowa in 1957. He served in several different states before he came to the Oakland Diocese in 1965 at the invitation of Bishop Floyd Begin. Since then he has served in different capacities around the Diocese before coming to St Cornelious Parish and also undertaking the duties of Chaplain for the Richmond area.

We are happy to have him. A small dinner was held for him in early January. His Installation date has not as yet been announced, but we will have a larger reception at that time.

In spite of the cold weather, our Mass attendance has been very good. Hopefully it will continue in the coming year.

Our Christmas services were

very inspiring and the Altar was beautiful with the crib in place and all the candelabra aglow, it made us all feel the real meaning or the Christmas tradition.

A happy, healthy year to all of you!

## POINT METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

*by Mid Dornan*

The church Christmas program was well attended and even Santa (ala Linda Pereira) showed. Paul Ferguson donated TWO of her famous ginger-bread lighted houses. Anyone attending was eligible to win and were won by Jason Allen and Beverly Price, two happy people.

Congratulations to Lynn Brown who graduated from USF in January with a degree in business. This was done while being a minister's wife, mother and working full time.

Dorothy George has volunteered to be substitute Sunday School teacher. Children attending each Sunday are eligible for camp scholarships.

Jean Eakle will be leaving as part time organist and is thanked for donating so many hours of her time.

Betty Concepcion will continue and Alice Bray Thompson will play the first Sunday of each month.

The United Methodist Women met at the home of Oretta Eaton.

Nineteen attended the potluck and Administrative Board meeting the first Tuesday of January. Repairs to the church bathroom have been necessary. Former BSA of Troop 111, David Creed, Benecia, has

been assisting the scouts with their Electricity Merit Badge which has entailed rewiring parts of the church.

Pat Dornan and Linda Pereira were thanked for the magnificent holiday decorating of the sanctuary.

Bob and Grace Yank are the greeters on Sunday as well as being in charge of the grounds beautification. Bulbs have been planted and should be popping up in many places soon. New rose bushes have been planted and sprayed.

The 1989 year of church ended up in the color black!

Sunday School meets at 9:45 each Sunday followed by church at 11:00 and a coffee fellowship. Everyone is welcome.

## 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 43<sup>rd</sup> installment.*

February 19, 1915

The regular monthly meeting of the W.H.M.S. held a very interesting session at the home of Mrs. Grover, opened by Mrs. Bradley reading a part of the 37 Psalm followed by prayer by Mrs. Smith, Conference President. Minutes of last meeting read and approved. Treasure (sic) reported \$5.40 in dues sent to district treasure. Corresponding Sec. reported fruit and household and personal necessities to the value of \$27.75 sent from this society. Also

read notice that the 25th of Feb was "The day of prayer" which would be followed by 40 days of self denial. The president requested that each member offer a word of prayer each day at 12: o'clock for a blessing on our society and the work the few of us are doing in His name as a Missionary Society. All present felt benefited by having Mrs. Smith with us and we feel sure each member will enter into the work with renewed zeal after her talk. After adjournment, Mrs. Gr\*over served refreshments.

Thank offering--\$2.00.

Mrs. Gibbons, Pres

Jennie Tottin, Sec

March 9, 1915

The Society held a short meeting in the parlors of the church. Opened with The Lord's Prayer led by the President, Mrs. Gibbons. Arrangements were made to open mite boxes at next meeting in April. Mrs. Grover was appointed to assist Mrs. Adams, Mite Box sec in getting up a programme for the occasion. The society also talked of giving a Church extension tea in the near future. Plans to be further discussed at next meeting.

Adjournment.

Mrs. Gibbons, Pres

Mrs. Tottin, Sec



# Churches

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# Point News

JERRY CERKANOWICZ

## NICHOL NOB

The city council has approved the building of a 20 foot tall C.H.P. radio communication tower on Nichol Nob. But the council is requiring a study on the feasibility of moving the tower somewhere else, and looking into any adverse health effects that might be caused by the equipment.

If the tower and its six foot diameter microwave dish antenna are built, all equipment, utilities and wires will be underground. And to the extent feasible the antenna will be moved off the ridgeline in order to create a multiple-use site. The use permit is for two years, at which time a permanent tower will be constructed that will consolidate all radio equipment on Nichol Nob.

The purpose of the tower is to eliminate "dead spots" in the C.H.P. communications network.

## FROGTOWN-TECH CENTER II

The area nicknamed "frogtown" has been rezoned from residential to commercial/light industry. The 11.3 acre site bounded by Canal Boulevard, Wine Street, and East Richmond will be used by Wareham Development Co. for the second phase of what may become a three phase complex.

Tech Center II will be a two story, 166,000 square foot

light, light industrial research and development project. The planned building will have a unique 1 acre courtyard landscaped with trees, a fountain, a small wetlands area and an eating terrace. All offices on the first floor will open out to the courtyard. One corner of the building will be open for access by the public to the courtyard.

To get approval Wareham must meet several environmental impact conditions. Among them are safe storage and handling of hazardous substances that could endanger workers, residents and students; extensive landscaping to replace lost open space, and a transportation plan including bicycles, car and van pools incentives as well as flexible working hours. Construction could begin this spring.

## TRAFFIC UPDATE

CalTrans plans to have the Castro Street under pass open soon with eastbound traffic on the overpass, Canal will open later this year. Until then drivers will continue to have to deal with the train problem. A railroad train complaint kit that includes both state and city laws on blocking traffic and forms and rules for filing complaints is available for free from the receptionist at Interactive Resources at 117 Park Place.

# THEATER

by Anne Hanzlik

## THE UNINVITED

The supernatural holds a universal interest for many people. Witness this subject as an ever popular topic for novels, plays, movies, television and folk tales.

*The Uninvited* is a good example. First written as a novel by Dorothy Mearns, it was later adapted as a movie in the late forties, starring Ray Milland (which some of you may remember), and still later crafted into a play by Tim Kelly.

As the present able director Steve Hill notes; "However much we may say intellectually that we don't believe in ghosts, there is a part of everyone of us that is unalterably convinced of the reality of the blood-thirsty revenant. It is this part of us that wants to believe in justice or vengeance from beyond the grave. This belief is irrational and therefore cannot be erased by reason. It can only be buried, hidden. This is the part of us that fears the dark, this is the part which causes our heart to pound when the cat starts at something we cannot see or hear. This is the part to which *The Uninvited* beckons."

Although most of the cast, with the exception of Patricia Inabent in the role of Lizzie, are not familiar faces on the

Masquers' stage they are all more than adequate in their roles.

The set design, complete with the requisite ghost, is attractive with its one color theme. The blue tones in the living room of the one set used throughout the play gives a slightly ethereal effect, although perhaps it appears a bit too pristine for a house described as unused for several years and badly in need of a repair as the prospective buyers Pam and Roddy describe it (how about a few cobwebs and dust about?).

The first night audience seemed most attentive to the suspense built up by the story and very warm in their approval at the final curtain.

With the aforementioned universal appeal of ghost stories and the competent cast, *The Uninvited* should have a most successful run at the Masquers' from now until March 3rd.

Go and see it!



# Sports memories

By Allan Smith

"Ready on the Ready on the Left, Ready on the Firing Line".

Many Point Richmond youths heard this saying long before they went into the U.S. Armed Forces during World War Two when these words became part of their military training.

The above are the directions given by the Range Master before target shooting begins on a shooting range.

Through the tunnel and along Dornan Drive across from the Miller-Knox Park is located a former shooting range that was used continuously by the National Rifle Association and other Target Shooting organizations. The area still exists today but has not been in use for many years and is condemned for this purpose. The Club and Target House is still there.

The Rifle Range, as we called it, was very popular and many state and national shooting meet competitions were held here.

Also, the shooting range was used by the Richmond Police Department for training and practice purposes. The public had access to the Range but a permit was required.

After a shooting contest or practice, many of us kids would dig out the lead slugs from the earth barrier or bank, melt them down and use the lead for fish sinkers or sell the lead to the local "Rags, Bottles and Sacks" junk

man.

The area was a nice place for a baseball diamond and many a good hard-ball game was played there between West Side players and the Richmond and San Pablo teams.



The Cream  
of Point  
Richmond  
Lots



IS THE

Santa Fe  
TRACT

All lots level  
and ready  
to build on

Houses Built to Suit

—And Sold on—

EASY INSTALLMENTS

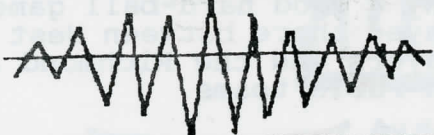
LOTS FROM \$175.00 UP

\$15 Cash, \$5 Monthly

McEwen Brothers

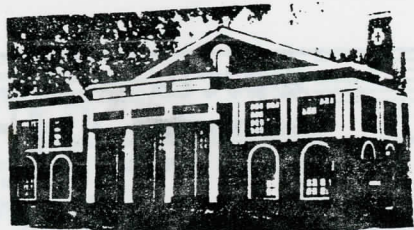
118 Montgomery St., San Francisco Phone Main 1357  
Local office in Santa Fe Hotel

# The Natatorium



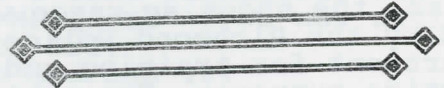
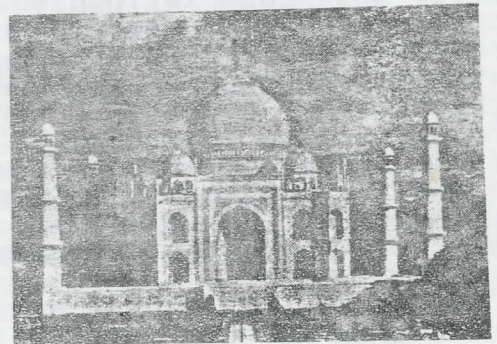
The plan to temporarily open the Natatorium has run into a snag. The bids received for the work of placing huge timbers on the inside and outside of the walls and then bolting them together and linking them to the roof and floor supports are much more than Public Works wants to spend. If this work could be done, the pool would be reopened by April, 1990.

Permanent structural improvements and other renovations costing an estimated \$1.3 million were planned for next year. That work would include reinforcement and reconstruction of exterior walls, and earthquake proofing of the whole building. The pool would be closed for nine months once the work is to begin. If an acceptable bid is not submitted, there is the probability that the pool will not reopen until all the major repairs are done. Jay Vincent has been working with others who use the pool, trying to reopen the pool at least temporarily, their efforts are appreciated as the pool is missed.



## TAJ MAHAL MURAL

Burl Willis and Phyllis Skaglund, partners in Point Richmond Travel have offered the city's Civic Art Commission \$1000.00 to restore the original back wall mural. We would like to see the mural, so if any one has a picture of it or can describe it in detail, please get in touch with me so I can forward the information to Burl.



RICHMOND, 1900

## MEMORIES OF PIONEER POINT RICHMOND RESIDENTS

*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.*

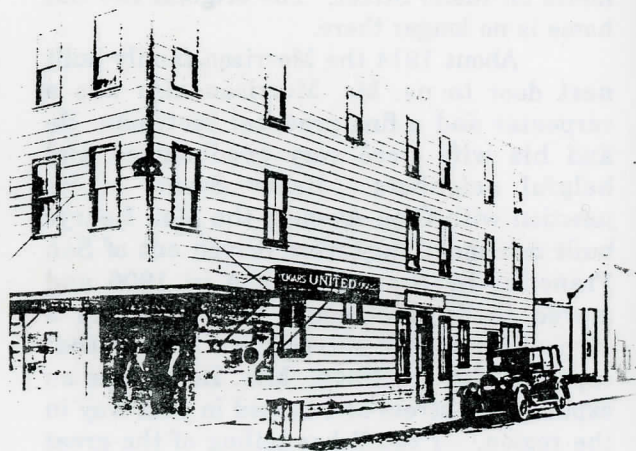
- Wm. L. Thompson

### PART I

The population of Pt. Richmond exploded rapidly once the Standard Oil Co. decided to locate here. Most of the people were mechanics or laborers looking for work or people hoping for business opportunities. Socially they were all at about the same level and were honest and hard working people who mixed well as a group. My memory of them was of a group of very neighborly families ready to help each other in any way.

I recall many of the old inhabit-ants but, because of the location of our home, most that I knew resided south of Washington Avenue. This was mainly because lack of transportation facilities confined most people to their own neighborhood.

My father, William L. Thompson Sr., arrived in the Point early in 1902. My mother returned to Sacramento shortly to have their



first child, my sister, Sarah. Medical facilities and home facilities here were very limited. They returned as soon as suitable living quarters were available.

Mr. Harry E. Aine started at the S.O.Co. at about the same time. They both worked in the carpenter shop and became fast friends for life. Harry was the first foreman of the carpenter department but was soon taken in to the main office as an engineer and my father took over his job which consisted of carpenter work and construction, painting and repair work. He held this position until his death in 1929. He and Harry built for themselves a two story residence between Scenic and Terrace Avenues one lot south of where the Dunlaps built their large home. One floor opened onto Scenic Ave and the other, my fathers, opened onto Terrace. After a time my family built a



RICHMOND 1900

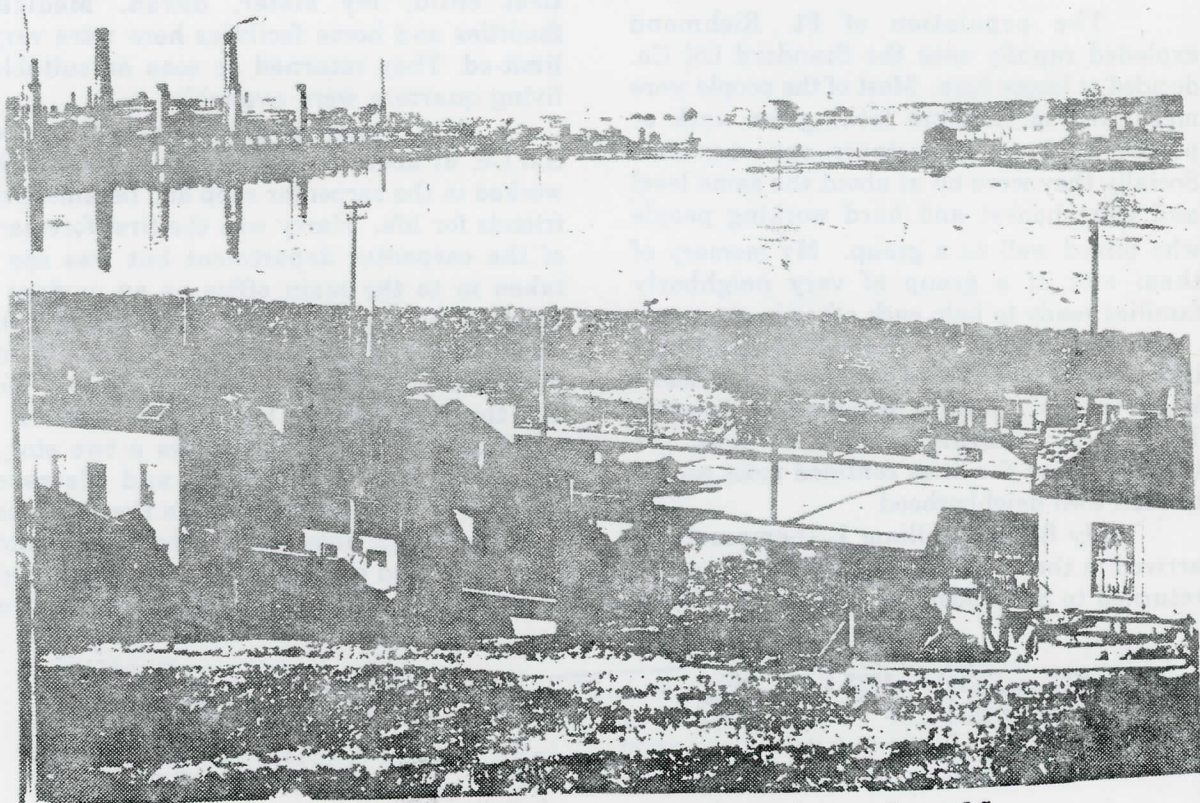
home on East Scenic Ave above the Washington School and Harry moved to a house on Idaho Street. The original two flat home is no longer there.

About 1914 the Morrison family built next door to us. Mr. Morrison also was a carpenter and a fine practical Scotsman. He and his wife were very goodhearted and helpful neighbors. Below Scenic at its junction with Glen Avenue, the Max Henrys built a home. They were driven out of San Francisco by the earthquake in 1906 and moved to Pt. Richmond. Max was also a carpenter and had served for a time in that capacity with the Navy. Mrs. Henry was an expert seamstress and helped in that way in the region. I recall her telling of the great

trouble in getting out of their San Francisco home at the time of the quake. Stairs and walls were falling all about them. Their son, Charles, and the Morrison boy, James, were childhood playmates of mine and my brother, Chester.

Another Henry family resided nearby on Buena Vista Avenue across from the intersection with Montana Avenue. This family ran a candy store, I believe on Washington Avenue, and we referred to them as the 'Candy Henrys' to distinguish them from the others. They had a daughter, Maude, about the age of my older sister and a son who was called Brother. I don't know if that was actually his name. He later became a piano tuner.

*(To be continued)*



*The Refinery from "Tewksbury Beach"  
From our Don Church Collection*

## GROWING UP IN THE POINT IN THE 20'S AND 30'S Guest Column

from Al Franco

22915 128th St. E.

Sumner, Wa. 98390



At the risk of sounding gauche, I would like to talk about money or more specifically about the worth of money and land values in the 1920's and 30's in Point Richmond.

Early in the second decade of the twentieth century, my dad, recently hired at the Standard Oil Company, moved to the Point to be nearer his work. After having lived in a couple of rentals, Ma and Pa found a place they thought they would like to own. With no small amount of trepidation, they decided to buy property at 307 and 309 Golden Gate Avenue. The reason for their anxiety was that it cost two thousand five hundred dollars, which was a lot of money in those days. The property consisted of a five room house with a two room apartment and a basement under the house at 307 and a four room house with a full basement at 309. There was also a ramshackled detached garage and an artesian well included in the deal. (The addresses were later changed to 457 and 459.)

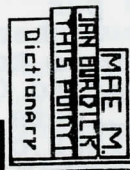
\$2,500.00 doesn't seem like much money by today's standards, but everything was relevant. I remember seeing a large badge passed out at work to Dad which read "Standard Oil Company, the highest

paying industry in the area, average wage \$125.00 per month". (The average worker at Boeing Company, which is to Seattle now what Standard Oil was to Richmond then, gets \$123.00 per day.) A loaf of bread was a dime and you could get a quart of milk delivered to your house for about the same amount. The average could buy a Chevy or a Ford for less than \$500.00 and a doctor could drive a Buick for less than a thousand. At the height of the great depression, one could have bought the Lewis's house next door to ours for five hundred dollars.

Pop got some free used brick delivered to the house free (I think from the Standard Oil Co.) and put a foundation under the house at 309. Early in the 1940's, after having repaired, remodeled and added on to the houses, my folks sold them for \$5,000.00, doubling their original investment in only twenty short years.

The brick which came from a smoke stack which had been demolished had to have the mortar cleaned off. That was my job and at one penny a brick, I had enough "mad money", 25 cents, by the end of the week to go to the Point Richmond Theater to the Saturday matinee and have enough left over for a candy bar.

Both houses had magnificent views. I can still remember the myriad of colors, the oranges, reds, purples, blues and golds of the sky, hills and water as the sun set behind the Golden Gate: a sight which has been rarely duplicated by nature anywhere.



For Your  
Information

## WEST SIDE LIBRARY

By Jan Burdick

### STRANGERS FROM A DIFFERENT SHORE: A HISTORY OF ASIAN AMERICANS

By Ronald Takaki

The "Strangers" of the title are those who make up the largest components of the Asian American population: Chinese, Japanese, Koreans, Asian Indians, Filipinos and briefly Indo-Chinese. Takaki, a professor of ethnic studies at the University of California at Berkeley, covers a period from the mid 19th century, when Asian migration to North America became significant, in the 1980's. Three quarters of the book, however, is on the period before World War II. The theme of the book is racism because limitations imposed by racism frustrate Asian immigrants and their descendants even to the present. Despite the academic credentials of the author, this is a lively popularly written book that sustains reader interest throughout.

### SAN FRANCISCO GUIDE

by Randolph Delehanty

It's hard to imagine a more comprehensive and useful guide to San Francisco. These 600 pages provide a myriad of details. Delehanty has divided the city into 13 very

interesting walking tours. There are also 6 regional driving day trips. Fascinating biographies of the city's founders, locations of obscure museums, descriptions and histories of major and minor landmarks make this essential reading for any first-time tourist and fun reading for residents and frequent visitors.

### MAKING IT

by Oliver Lange

Though this engaging story about a parolee trying hard to go straight has many aspects of suspense novel, it is so beguiling and realistic that narrow classification would be unfair. Jeremy Wurm, the ex-con meets Bernice McSweeney, head cashier at the local Safeway, and love blooms in a wonderfully realized affair. The reader feels both hopeful and afraid of its outcome when an incident involving Jeremy's parole officer leaves Jeremy feeling trapped with no way out short of returning to jail.



### INFORMATION REQUESTED

The owner of Bradley's Auto Repair building would like to know more about the history of his structure on the corner of West Richmond and Tunnel Avenue. If you have information on the building's past please call Jerry at 235-1336 or send information to the Point Richmond History Assoc., 229 Golden Gate Avenue, Point Richmond, CA 94801.

## Point Artifacts

from James Cheshareck

This month's topic deals with another old Point establishment. Winter's topic was Teddy's Fountain (also called Ardell's).

This month the topic is the Bank Club (now Sherry and Bob's). I learned about both of these places from two old ashtrays that I found. On the Bank Club ashtray it has the first names of the owners, Leon and Erie.

Does anybody know the last names of these two, where they lived, or when the business opened? Sherry Hartnyk told me the Bank Club closed when she moved her business in from Washington Avenue. Help from the readers?



Dear Pam,

I enjoy the newsletter very much and maybe this experience will be interesting to others.

On October 18th it was six days walk from the nearest telephone and the nearest road near the village of Puiyan in Eastern Nepal enroute to the base of Mt. Everest. We met another trekker with a short wave radio who had heard a report by Indian radio on the earthquake. At this time damage and fatality estimates were very high, but information very sketchy!

Three of us were from the North Bay; Novato, Albion and

The Point. We discussed our options and decided that we should continue.

Two days later in Namche Bazaar we got more information which brought the damage estimates more in line with the actual. Although there were no reports of North Bay damage we were concerned, since the Marina and the Bay Bridge are very close as the crow flies!

By now we were really a long distance in, so we continued on our journey, trusting that friends, relatives and disaster authorities would be able to do more than we could. Also we were at least a five day journey from home even with a helicopter evacuation.

We finally got a clear picture on our return to Namche Bazaar on October 29th, when we met an inbound trekker from Los Gatos. He was in his kitchen with his family during the quake. He was able to accurately pinpoint the areas of damage and that relieved us immediately.

On November 1st we arrived in Kathmandu and were able to phone. My mother Dolores Daniels lives on Gaynor Ave. in Richmond and I was happy to hear that everything was OK both there and at my home in Point Richmond.

Regards,  
Doug Daniels  
Point Richmond



## "FROM THE PRESIDENT".....CONTINUED

Several good developments were discussed. Among them, the historic preservation of downtown, the community involvement in the building of Indian Statue Park, the success of the Masquers and Hotel Mac in bringing activity at night and that in April, Mechanics Bank will open a branch in Point Richmond Tech Park I. (This last announcement brought about a standing ovation.)

Thanks to Anne and Lucretia for all their work in setting up the meeting and choosing the speaking guests.

Thanks to all of the panelists for your participation, and to Griff Brazil (Hotel Mac), Bob Baldino (Architect), Margie Cellucci (Brickyard Landing), Virginia Cherniak (Masquers), Muriel Clausen (Brickyard Cove), Lyle Fisher (Neighborhood Council), Bill Morrow (Mechanics Bank), George Coles, and Jean Knox.

### FERRY SERVICE

Ferry service has been funded to run until March 23, 1990. But ridership is down and there is no source of funds after federal and state emergency funds stop in March. Ferry supporters can do two things to ensure that this transportation system will continue.

First, RIDE the ferry and second, work with the Richmond Ferry Run, a group of ferry supporters who for the past three months have written letters to state and local officials and made efforts to publicize the service.



## THE MASQUERS

Playhouse, Inc.

105 Park Place, Point Richmond

PROUDLY PRESENTS



By Tim Kelly

Based on Dorothy Macardie's classic ghost story

Directed by Steve Hill

Cliff End, a rustic, isolated spot, is the ideal setting for this tale of mystery and suspense. AND for the presence of a ghost, not only real but dangerous!

### THE CAST:

Beth Cahn	Thomas Hughes
Scott Campbell	Patricia Inabnet
Janis Fisher Chan	Shelli Ireland
Robert Hamm	Ralph Miller
Jennifer Haven	Marcy Willis

Friday & Saturday evenings - January 26 - March 3, 1990  
Sunday Matinees - February 4, 11, 25

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, March 1. Dinner and ticket to "The Uninvited" for only \$23.00. To reserve, CALL: 236-4988.

NEXT ATTRACTION: A riotous musical comedy, "Lock Up Your Daughters", opening March 30, 1990.

Brondes - Printing

Ferry Schedule	546-2896
Richmond Ferry Run	
call Kate Lord	235-6514



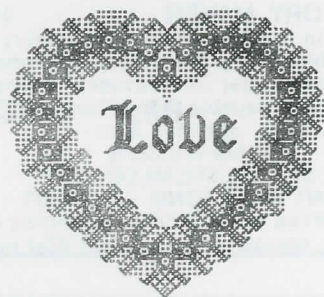
## Deaths.....

**Carolotta Rollino** on December 31, 1989 in San Pablo, aged 100. Carolotta had lived in Point Richmond for 70 years at 424 West Richmond Avenue. A native of Italy, she was a former co-owner of Torino Bakery in the Point from 1913 to 1925. She is survived by a daughter, Irene Patterson of Richmond; three grand-children and 11 great-grandchildren.

**Thomas L. Lease**, 68, died in a Pinole hospital on January 4, 1990. Tom was retired with American Telephone and Telegraph Company and was adviser to Contra Costa county Mosquito Abatement District and a Navy veteran of World War II. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis, a daughter, Joan Lease of Cotati; sons, Richard of Cotati, Matt and Tom of Pinole; a sister, Helen Hartman of Oak Harbor, Washington; and one grand-daughter.

**Dorothy Mildred Davis**, 72, died January 20, 1990 in a Richmond Hospital. She was a native of Oklahoma and had been a resident of Point Richmond since 1940. She was a homemaker and member of the Women's Westside Improvement Club. Mrs. Davis is survived by her sons, Oscar Davis of Sonoma and Raymond Davis of Campbell; sisters Neva Davis of Santa Clara and Fayrene Gallino of Bethel Island; brother Wayne Alton of Union City, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Thomas Bruce Ehrenfried**, 35, died December 24, 1989 in a Richmond hospital. He was an Oakland native and a longtime resident of West Contra Costa County. He is survived by his sisters, Carole Easterling of Crockett and Sheryl Pezzola of El Sobrante; and grandmother, Dorothy Ellis of El Cerrito.



## Birthdays



### FEBRUARY

Ed Garrard	Bill Williamson
Dixie Copeland	Frank Pearson
Allan Smith	Doug Busby
Chris Rotting	Barnaby Edward
Helen Valentine	Marcos Rotting
Bessie Squires	Connie Healy
Arlene Hartman	Landow Howe
Wallace MacMillan	Dody Perry
Rowene MacMillan	Pearle Westman
Ethel MacMillan	Mitzi Shows

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



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 the 15th of the previous month. Please mail articles and items of interest to:

**GARY SHOWS**

**229 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE**

**POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801**

"This Point in Time" is a publication of the Point Richmond History Association, a non-profit organization at 229 Golden Gate Avenue, Point Richmond, CA 94801

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#### TRIBUTE FUND

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

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ In Honor \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory

of \_\_\_\_\_

From \_\_\_\_\_

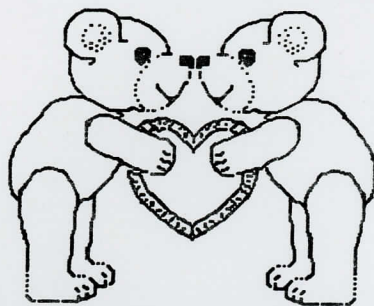
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please send acknowledgement to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_





## **Calendar**

<b>February 2</b>	<b>Ground Hog Day</b>
<b>February 10</b>	<b>Make Your Valentine Community Center, 12:00 - 4:00</b>
<b>February 12</b>	<b>Lincoln's Birthday</b>
<b>February 14</b>	<b>St. Valentine's Day</b>
<b>February 14</b>	<b>Point Richmond Business Association Meeting, Noon at the Hotel Mac</b>
<b>February 19</b>	<b>President's Day Holiday</b>
<b>February 22</b>	<b>Washington's Birthday</b>
<b>February 23</b>	<b>Deadline for TPIT March issue</b>
<b>March 14</b>	<b>Point Richmond Business Association Meeting, Noon at the Hotel Mac</b>
<b>March 20</b>	<b>First Day of Spring!</b>
<b>March 29</b>	<b>History Association General Meeting, 7:30 pm at the Point Community Center</b>

