

THIS POINT in time

NEWSLETTER

THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

VOL XI No 2

SUMMER, 1992

\$1.50



1992 - 1994 Point Richmond Neighborhood Council

INFORMATION SHEET

CUT OUT FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

OFFICERS:

President	Sarah Eeles	169 East Scenic Avenue Pt. Richmond, CA 94801 233-2641
Vice President	Lyle Fisher	1200 Brickyard Way Pt. Richmond, CA 94801 236-2434
Vice President Membership	Dianna McIntosh	709 Tewksbury Pt. Richmond, CA 94801 234-7392
Secretary	Virginia Cherniak	411 Contra Costa Pt. Richmond, CA 94801 236-8036
Treasurer	Anne Goetsch	236 Castro Street Pt. Richmond, CA 94801 235-5914

COMMITTEES:

Land-Use Subcommittee:

Jay Betts	237-8626
Joe Brinskele	236-8284
Tom Butt	237-2084 / 236-7435
Spencer Compton	236-7435
Jon Livingston	237-9552

Dispute Resolution Committee

George Coles	234-1045
Mid Dornan	234-5334
Hans Shaper	235-6447

Washington School Committee

Lyle Fisher	236-2434
Shirley Butt	237-2084 / 236-7435
Lucretia Edwards	232-3118
Bill Herkert	232-9720

*Due to the schedule in the office, downtown items need to be in earlier. Please try to plan ahead if there is an item you want on the agenda. Hopefully this will also help keep meetings to a minimum length as well.

Important Dates

*Third Monday of each month:

Agenda items due for following month

Third Tuesday of each month:

Minutes, agenda, and labels taken to City Hall for printing and mailing

Last Tuesday of each month, 7:00pm:

Executive Board meeting

Last Wednesday of each month, 6:30pm:

Land-Use Subcommittee meeting

First Tuesday of each month, 7:30pm:

**Monthly General Meeting,
Point Richmond Community Center**

First Wednesday of each month, 7:30pm:

Richmond Neighborhood Coordinating Council, Conference Room #1, 330 25th Street, Richmond

History Association Notes

FROM THE PRESIDENT by Mid Dornan

Our History Museum was a big attraction the night of the "Point Richmond Stroll". In fact, it was often delightfully crowded. Additional pictures have been added on the wall and new artifacts in the showcase. New plants enhance the rear of our building.

We are grateful to Interactive Resources and Ann Marie for advising us on outdoor lighting.

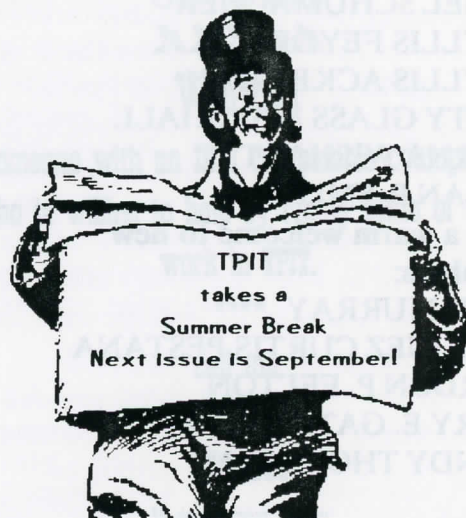
If you are looking for a pleasant experience, volunteer to staff the Museum for a few hours on Thursday or Saturday once a month. Call 232-4317. Sitting in the historic building shaded by the spreading lacy branches of the pepper tree in front, enjoying the color of the red bottle brush on the community building next door, watching the people and cars move up and down the sun filled but quiet street, and greeting visitors is a relaxing, fulfilling experience.

May we remind you to let us share your collections of old pictures and

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"From the President" continued.....

stories of the Point. Does your attic or garage hold unknown artifacts? Isn't there someone reading this that would enjoy doing oral histories or want to be a part of preserving the history of the Point?

The *This Point...in time* staff wishes each of you a pleasant summer.

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

NAOMI HUFFSTETTER
ELAINE R. HARRIS
TERESA ALBRO
BERNARD BERNES
DOUGLAS DANIELS
GORDON & MARGARET MILLER
JIM & FLORENCE WILSON
KATHRYN COAD
MADELINE ALBRIGHT
ETHEL SCHUMACHER
PHYLLIS FEYDER
PHYLLIS ACKERMAN
BETTY GLASS MARSHALL
MYRNA WISHART
ALLAN P. SMITH

And a warm welcome to new members:

JACK MURRAY
MRS. INEZ CURTIS PESTANA
GORDON P. FELTON
MARY E. GATELY
WENDY THOMPSON

Happy Father's Day

We are grateful to the following merchants for distributing this newsletter at no profit for themselves:

SANTA FE MARKET
PT. RICHMOND MARKET

Thank you volunteers for staffing the History Museum in May!

Volunteers are still needed for the Summer. Call Betty Dornan, our Museum Staff Coordinator at 232-4317 if you can help on Thursday or Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

For Sale:

- > Gestetner 319 Offset Press (needs roller overhaul)
- > Gestetner PM9 Platemaker
- > Gestetner 66 Plate Processor
- > Supplies including inks, washes, toner, stand, knife, plates, etc.

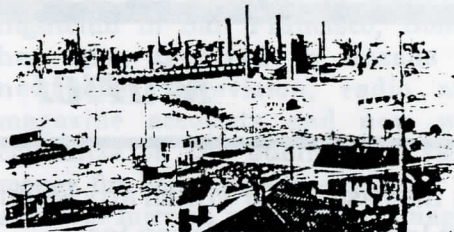
PRHA property to be sold as a unit, call Gary at 235-1336, we will accept any reasonable offer.



Have a great summer!

Editor's Notes

Gary Shows



With this issue, we complete Lucretia Edward's "Point Richmond: how it became a Historic District". Thank's Lucretia, both for producing such an informative and interesting article and for all you have done for our community.

Also complete with this issue is our transcript of Nell Coward Brooker's interview with her daughter Pat we have called "Recollections of Point Richmond". Thanks to Pat even though she is gone we were allowed to enjoy her mother's memories.

The completion of these two works will leave me with some extra space. If you have been putting off some contribution to this newsletter, now is the time to get busy! We would all love a oral history from one of our older long-time residents!

The deadline for the September Issue is August 14th. Starting with this issue I am moving the deadline a week earlier than before, by doing this I hope to have each issue out by the first of its month.

The Cover:

*Artists conception of view from a
Brickyard Landing balcony.*

*Printed with permission of The
Brickyard Landing Owners
Association and Theresa Daniel.*

The May Issue Assembly Crew:

Mary Highfill
Muriel Clausen
Mid Dornan
Pam Wilson
Liz McDonald
Jerry Cerkanowicz
Mae Mandl
Sonja Darling
Ann Hanzlik
Gary Shows



Wanted

Someone with an IBM compatable coumpter
who is willing to help by typing some of the
work in TPIT.

call me:

Gary Shows

235-1336

if you can help

THIS OLD HOUSE...

Muriel C. Clausen

In the past I have written articles on Senior Issues and Legislation for Seniors. For a while now a new direction is in order; especially since the recent budget cuts are pulling services away from seniors that we have long counted upon.

In Point Richmond we are having a revived interest in the fact that we, in the major part of "downtown" Point Richmond, are in a designated Historic District. We have Lucretia Edwards and Tom Butt to thank, as it is mostly due to their diligent efforts that in 1979 our community was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. This should bring to the homeowner in Point Richmond a renewed interest in their home, especially if it was built in the period from 1900 to 1920.

Most of us when we finally take title to the old house of our dreams want to do something immediately, not sit around and read books about architectural design concepts. However, every time we change something or decide not to change something we have made a design decision. An accumulation of these seemingly small

changes can wreck havoc with the overall appearance of an old house. We can certainly make the changes that are dictated by modern living without destroying the details that give a house its character; but to retain its historic integrity we can treat the old house exterior with the proper materials, colors and details for its "style".

Tom Butt is currently presenting to the City of Richmond planning department certain criteria that need to be followed in reviewing plans for properties in Point Richmond, criteria that would help to guide the owner of the property in retaining the architectural integrity of his or her building if it lies within the boundaries of the Point Richmond Historic District. This is all in an effort to preserve the historic character of our little town.

Perhaps future articles on the subject of "This Old House..." will be of interest in the Point Richmond History Association Newsletter.

"Hello" to Virginia Cherniak from
new member Mary Gately!

A-MID TRIVIA

By Mid Dornan (234-5334)

Q: The U.S. Postal Department delivered this addressed letter without any problems. Could you deliver it?

Wood

A

Mass

(Answer at end of Trivia. *Courtesy of Dr. W. L. Thompson*)

If you are ready, Summer arrives June 21st at 8:33 PST. On this day, anywhere between the equator and Artic Circle, the sun rises and sets farthest north on the horizon for the year, and the length of daylight is maximum, 12 hours, 8 minutes at the equator increasing to 24 hours at the Arctic Circle.

Lois Boyle, president of the Richmond Museum Association, presided at the dedication of the site of Kaiser Shipyard No. 2 as an historic landmark. Mayor Livingston gave the welcoming address as former shipyard workers and Kaiser executives were in attendance. On August 16, 1941 the first Liberty Ship of the 746 to follow slid down the runway into the Bay. Over 100,000 men and women who knew little about ships produced a ship a day! A reunion picnic followed. And, did you know that Art Linkletter worked in the Richmond shipyards?

I haven't got a thing to say,
No views, no opinions..gosh!
I can't express myself today..
My tee shirt is in the wash!

Sausalito had its Sally Stanford but Richmond has its Donna Powers! As Dolphina, the controversial mermaid who swims nude in the fishbowl at Bimbos's nightclub in San Francisco, Donna has been featured in dozens of newspaper, television, radio and magazine accounts and now will capitalize on the publicity to raise money for her campaign treasury. A series of mirrors projects her image--about 6 inches long--into the 2 1/2 foot-long, goldfish-filled aquarium atop the bar.

Scout Troop 111 will be going to camp July 18 - 25th at Sierra Buttes. Activities include a hike to Deer Lake, climbing to the top of the Buttes as well as an environmental Forestry service project for the area. Adults accompanying Scoutmaster Patrick Ferguson will be Ben Woodson, Fred Hart, Ivar Elle and Richard Wara.

You still have until August 7th to drop by the Ninth Street Office of the Mechanics Bank, 830 Macdonald Avenue, to see the beautiful, painted and detailed, high plastered ceiling and the unusually tall, slim windows as well as to say your goodbyes to this location for banking services. Another part of Richmond's history being vacated.

Justin Kaufman and John Behrens were featured on the front page of the West County Times as they were making a 'quick action feature' video, "Dr. Croissant and the Flying Machine" which they will send to "America's Funniest Home Videos".

Everyone has a favorite place and Point Richmond fared well by voters in the West County Times feature section, 'The Best of West County'. Nicholl Knob, with views of San Francisco, the Bay and Golden Gate, was the best place no one else knows about. The Richmond Plunge, which Point Richmonders know is the Natatorium, was the winner of the "Best place to blow off steam!" If Sarah Eeles has any problems just reminder her to 'take a swim' as she wrote, "You can also think and feel your way through problems--if you can swim that far." "Screaming underwater is great!" says Susan Geick! Party down at the bar at the Hotel Mac and take your dancing shoes to The Point for oldtime swing jazz by Dick Oxtot and his band. Keller's Beach was the preferred spot for sunbathers and the Santa Fe Market was second in the category of specialty food markets and a gathering spot for the community. Point Orient scored a second for best Chinese food and the elegant Hotel Mac won the most votes in the Specialty restaurant division. Looking for the best in inexpensive food, Point Panchos placed and the Park Place Barbers were credited. Other notables in the Point included Little Louie's Deli and the Hidden City Cafe for breakfast. *(Even a picture of a crowd eating at 'another' Chinese Resturant showed former Washington School teacher Ruth (Young-Faria) Hart.)*

TPIT Editor Gary Shows enjoyed his Mother's annual visit from San Antonio. Mom, Bernice Shows was treated to a few days among the big trees in Sequoia National Park.

June High School Graduates Daniel Anderson, Andrew Butt and Justin Kaufman were honored at a breakfast given by the United Methodist Women at the Point historic church.

Wendy Thompson stopped by the history Museum to say hello. Wendy now lives in Salzberry, Maryland and after five years, would still like to live here again.

Bea and Martin Kenoyer left the Point in 1983 to spend the summer in Portland and stayed. Tired of the damp and cold and lack of sailing facilities, they plan to move to Ventura to a retirement center. Martin states 'Bea doesn't want to cook or shop anymore'. They will live in a garden apartment so they can take, Ita, their adopted cat. *(Really, Bea... not like to SHOP?)*

(From the Don Church files, 1914)

" So your brother is a painter,, eh?"

"Yep"

"Paints houses, I presume."

"Nope, paints men and women."

"Oh, I see, he is an artist."

"Nope, just paints men on one door and women on the other."

Former first lady of the Point Methodist Parsonage in 1951, Mary Alice Dabritz, died at home at the age of 98 on April 29th, in Kayucas, California. Born in May 1893, she was a Home Economics teacher and a missionary to Java, Sumatra before marrying a minister, Edward Dabritz, who preceded her in death in 1978. She is survived by a daughter, Mary Helen Assay and two sons, Robert and David Dabritz.

Write it down: There will be a new product on the market to erase some of our solid waste problems. It is a pencil! It will look just like the standard yellow No.2 you use but the barrel, or exterior shaft, of the Eco/Writer is made up of fibers from old newspapers and cardboard products that pour into bulging landfills. The fibers from the newsprint and cardboard are bound with special resins that make the pencils as strong as traditional cedar ones. Look for these pencils in the stores by August.

Fay and Marian Hawkins spent two weeks in Hawaii but returned in time for her to bake pies for the luncheon at the Methodist Church Yard Sale the next day.

Lyle Fisher of Brickyard Cove was the recipient of the Honorary Service Award from Washington PTA at their annual Founder's Day. Well deserved, Lyle has been instrumental in involving local business people and organizations in helping the students at Washington school in areas not funded by the district. Anyone with a few hours a week can 'make a difference' to a child at this school.

Jim DeWitt, impressionist and a colorist, says he likes color and 'value', a reference to the relationship of light to shade in a painting. His pictures can be enjoyed (and purchased) at Annie's Cafe. A sailor, DeWitt in 1963 was the first West Coast yachtsman to win the Mallory Cup, the trophy of the North American Men's Sailing Championship, the first of many

honors to follow over the next 20 years. Former commodore of the Richmond Yacht Club, Jim does his oils in a studio in the Sobstad Sails building across Brickyard Cove Road, where DeWitt Sails used to be.

1992 will be a long, long year..according to the U.S. Naval Observatory which keeps the nations official time. The combination of leap day and a leap second make this the longest year since 1972, when a leap day and two leap seconds were added.

With the earth's rotation slowing down, it requires the addition of leap seconds to keep the clocks in time with it. For the record, this year's leap second will be added June 30 at 4:59:59 p.m. PDT. That last second before 5 p.m. will last two seconds. (*Aren't you happy to be so informed!*)

Mystery cartoon: How can two bags of groceries turn into four bags of garbage!

Sunday, June 21st is Father's Day. Honor Dad and show him your appreciation for the many ways he has nurtured you.

BEST WISHES DAD ON YOUR DAY!

Ans: A. Underwood
Andover, Mass.

Happy Father's Day

Churches

Our Lady of Mercy

Allan Smith

Pastor James C. Clift (Father Jim) has just returned from Milwaukee where he spent Mother's Day with his 88 year old mother. He reported her in good health and very happy to receive the one dozen roses sent to her by several members of the parish.

On Mother's Day, a special booklet of Mother's Prayers was given to each of the women present. Also, a carnation was given to them in a Mother's Day remembrance. The booklet was a gift from Father Jim and the flowers were from an anonymous source.

Varsie Lometti, Parishioner, was the Chairperson of the recent successful 10th Annual Senior Information Day held in Richmond. Brenda McKinley also assisted her.

Harrietta Stewart, a friend and Honorary Member of Our Lady of Mercy Church, was recently honored and acknowledged at the Kaiser Hospital 50th year celebration in Richmond. She was one of the original registered nurses who worked in the Richmond Shipyards for Kaiser Hospital in 1941. She started in the First Aid Station in the Shipyard before the hospital was built.

Adolph Broussard is donating and building a small shrine in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It will be located in front of the church and already is receiving favorable comments.

Father Jim participated in the recent Memorial Day Services held at the Rolling Hills Cemetery in San Pablo. This was a familiar scene for him because he served in the Chaplain Corps of the United States Navy.

Also on Memorial Day Luciano "Chono" Forner helped in placing over 500 small American Flags on Veteran's graves in the St. Joseph Cemetery in San Pablo.

A special Memorial Mass was held on Memorial Day for all deceased Veterans at Our Lady of Mercy Church. Veterans from Point Richmond were recognized, included were these from our church:

Died while on active duty during World War 2:

John Kenny, USAF

John Medo, USA

Jesse Barrios, USMC

Died while on active duty in Viet Nam:

Michael Lizzarraga, USMC

Deceased Veterans:

Stephen Banks, USMM

Anthony Bernardi, USA

August Bernes, USN

Ken Boggiatto, USA

Fred Botta, USMC

Leo Carcy, USN
 Stanislaus Casey, USA
 Silvio Cecchi, USA
 Charles Dutrow, USMC
 Ray Giacomelli, USMM
 Robert Hartnyk, Sr., USA
 Don Kirpatrick, USN
 George Perry, USN
 Leonard Smith, USMC

Point Methodist

Jean Reynolds

Pastor Michael Brown, after nearly four years of service to the Point Methodist Church, has accepted an appointment to Wayside Methodist Church in Vallejo. This will return him to the ranks of full-time pastors, our church still being a half-time appointment. We wish Michael and his family well on this new venture, which will be effective on July 1, 1992.

Mr. Bill Gates, a third year student at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, will take the helm as pastor the second week in July, after a week as camp director for a youth camp in Idaho. Pastor Bill's family includes wife Pam, who is currently a student of architecture; sons Ryan, a sophomore at Berkeley High, and Trevor and daughter Camie. Keep your eyes peeled for them around town and help make them feel welcome. They will move into the parsonage in mid-July after church members clean, paint and replace the hall carpet.

Point resident Lena Barragan became

a member in May. Lena has many talents and we have been blessed by her willingness to lend a hand.

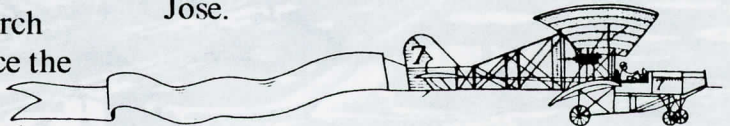
May 24th saw the baptism of baby Kenneth Wayne Jahnke by his grandfather (did I mention the word "proud"?) the Rev. C. Holtzman Frazier. Presenting baby Kenneth for baptism were his parents Michael and April Jahnke. Kenneth enjoyed the added treat of hearing his grandpa preach and Pastor Michael Brown got to relax in the pew for part of the service.

Tis the season of graduation:

Pastor Michael and Lynn Brown went to Disneyland with members of son Daniel Andersen's graduating class from El Cerrito High.

The United Methodist Women will have a breakfast June 7th to honor our three graduates and their parents. Seniors Daniel Andersen, Andrew Butt and Justin Kaufman will be treated to a sit-down breakfast and entertainment. Jack Elle graciously agreed to speak.

Michael Eaton, grandson of Oretta Eaton, left on May 31st for Romania to work at a missions school and serve as a chauffeur for others doing missionary work. He is traveling with five other members of his local church, the Vineyard Christian Fellowship in San Jose.



POINT METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

-Mid Dornan

Church history is rich with contributions of women. One of the church groups in the early 1900's was the Home Missionary Society of the First Methodist Church whose history is reflected in their minutes, printed below and taken from the stiff cardboard covered notebook purchased from "Shoen's Pharmacy in the Point". The minutes are printed as written. This is the 65th installment.

Feb 15, 1918 page 129

The Womans Home Missionary Society met at the home of Mrs. Owens. Meeting opened by President with Scripture lesson and prayer by Mrs. Weston.

Minutes read and approved. Treasurers report read and accepted.

Mrs. Gibbons was elected by the Society as Superintendent of the Queen Esther Circle which was to be organized.

The lesson Study was conducted by Mrs. Gillette. Mrs. McCandless gave her name as a member. The Hostess served refreshments.

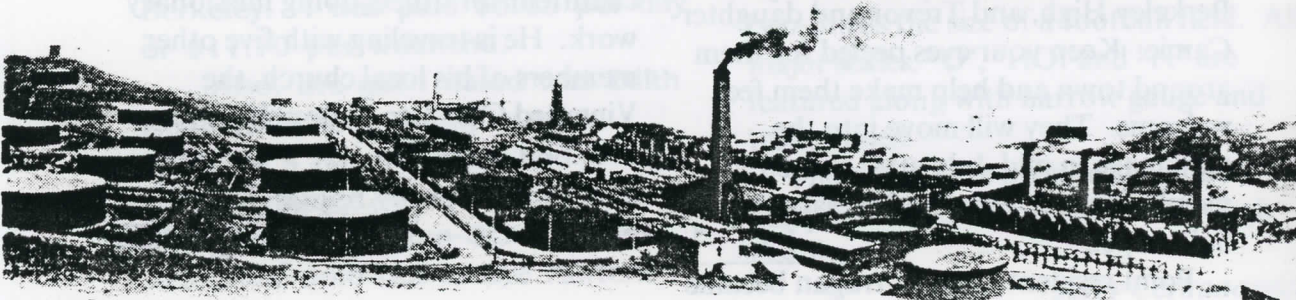
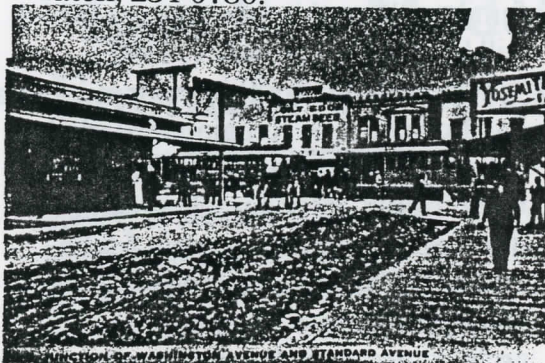
Thank offering \$1.05

Nettie Grover, Sec

March, Mrs. Seaton Thank offering 50¢

REV MICHAEL BROWN LEAVES POINT METHODIST CHURCH

June 28th will be the Rev. Michael Brown's last Sunday in the pulpit at the historic Methodist Church as he has received an assignment at the Vallejo church. The congregation will really miss him and his family as they have contributed more than spiritual offerings during his four year tenure. A farewell social is being planned for Tuesday, June 23rd. Anyone interested is invited. For more information, call Jean Reynolds, 235-2988 or Oretta Eaton, 234-0780.



MORE ABOUT THE POINT

Bernard Bernes

IN ABOUT 1920...

Many of the food items were delivered to our homes by horse and wagon. They would go up Washington Avenue and deliver on all the streets off of Washington.

Bread was delivered daily by the Torino Bakery.

Milk was delivered by the Eagle Creamery. The empty bottles were left outside and they were replaced with full ones.

Groceries were delivered by Chasseur Brothers, McQuarters and Whiteside Groceries.

Ice was delivered twice a week.

Clothes to be laundered were picked up on Mondays and Tuesdays, then delivered on Thursday and Friday.

On Fridays a fisherman came and sold fish from his wagon. He would gut and filet the fish of your choice.

From time to time the knife sharpener would come to town to sharpen knives and scissors. He would stop in front of houses and call out, "Knives and scissors sharpened!". He would take his grindstone off the wagon, sit and use his feet to pedal the big grindstone.

The Junk Man came to town to buy our junk (gunny sacks, copper wire, rags and bottles. He would yell out "Rags, bottles, sacks!"

There was an Italian Travel Agency in the Roma Hotel. I remember it, because it had a big model ship in the window. It was called "Agencia Fugazzi. Many Italians were making trips to Italy and it was a subsidiary of the Bank of Italy which later became the Bank of America.

We used to go clam digging in what is now the Inner Harbor. It was a real good clam digging area! We would gather a bucket of clams, and mussels of the rocks, then get some fire wood, build a fire and steam our clams and mussels in a bucket of saltwater. You can't do that any more but it was great eating, and great fun!

Sometimes Gypsies would come to the Point in their horses and wagons. They would camp near the Santa Fe tracks, all of the kids were scared, as there were numerous stories about Gypsies kidnapping children

....IN ABOUT 1920

MEMORIES OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR IN THE RICHMOND AREA

Wm. L. Thompson

William L. Thompson, often called Louie 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.

Thanks to Dr. Thompson for his valuable contributions for our written archives.

Here is our fifth series from Dr. Thompson. In this series he remembers what life was like in Richmond during World War Two and how very much that war effected Richmond.

PART TWO

There were two selective service boards in the Richmond area and most of the local doctors served with one or the other of the boards doing screening examinations of draftees. These were not final induction examinations but were done locally to weed out physically deficient draftees so they would not have

to quit their jobs and report for induction only to be turned down. Most of us put in 2 or 3 hours about 3 times a week without pay for this service. Dr. McNerney and I served on one board and examined hundreds of draftees. For compensation at the end of the war we all received Selective Service medals. I recall that Norma Giusti of Point Richmond served with distinction as secretary of one of the draft boards.

Richmond had only one hospital, the 50 bed Richmond Hospital, at that time. This, of course, was completely inadequate for the population increase. However we were able to increase this to about 75 beds by placing beds in the halls and in any other room possible. The doctors staff room was replaced by 4 beds and other rooms of the lab and office were made into hospital rooms. The fire department objected to this but could do nothing about it. At that time the Richmond Hospital, the Martinez Community Hospital and the Contra Costa County Hospital were about the only hospital facilities in the county. These were completely inadequate and we used hospitals in Albany, Berkeley and Oakland. Many patients usually in need of hospital care had to be treated at

home. This occasioned many home calls and reduced the efficiency of medical care.

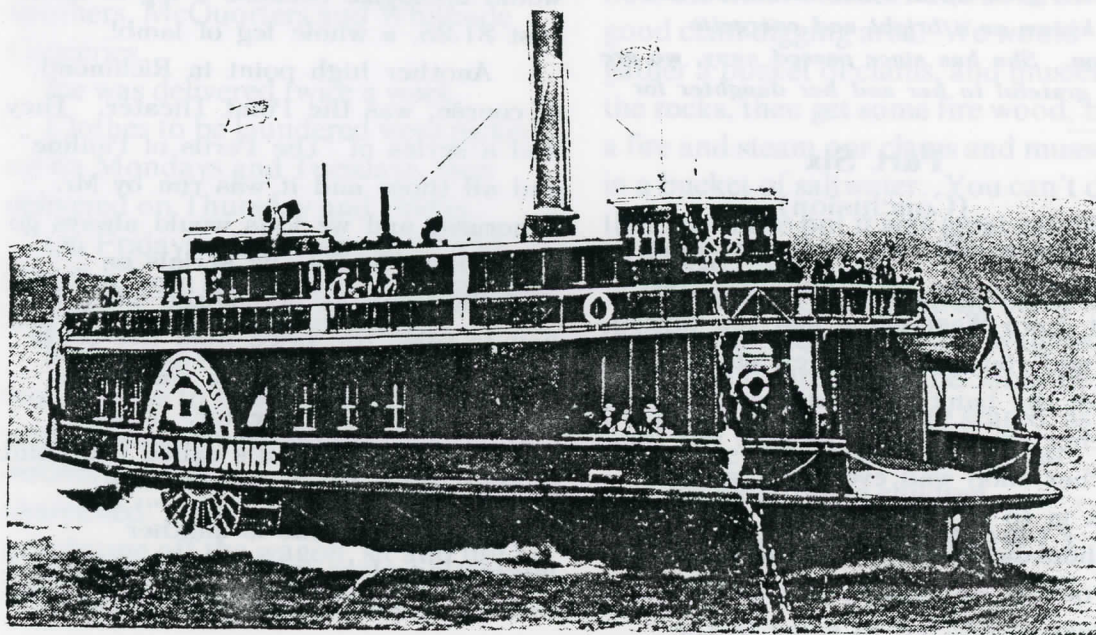
Another snag was in rationing. Many foods were rationed and ration stamp books were issued. Gasoline also was rationed. This caused considerable difficulty in medical practice due to the increased number of home calls. At first we were allowed the same amount of gas as the general public. The "A" coupons were hardly enough to get to the offices and hospital. We requested additional gas but were told by the ration board to take common carriers or take a taxi. This was utterly absurd. Usually street cars would take much more time and not take us close to our objectives. Taxis would take twice as much gas.

Eventually when Bob Lee took over the ration board they saw the light and we were issued "D" coupons.

Care of children was especially difficult. There was little hospital room for them. I received a call one night to see a sick child. The man said that they were living in the second car from the corner at Second and Ohio Streets.

When I got there I found a man and his wife and 2 children living in a car. They did not dare move the care of someone else would get their space. It was only a few blocks from the shipyards one way and close to Macdonald Avenue the other way where they could get supplies. I had to complete my examination and treatment by flashlight. Fortunately, the child recovered.

RICHMOND SAN RAFAEL FERRY CO.



"THE SHORT ROUTE"

Image courtesy of Allan P. Smith



Recollections of Point Richmond



Nell Coward Brooker

This article was dictated on a tape recorder on August 15, 1988 at the home of Nell Coward Brooker in Thousand Oaks, California. The tape session was arranged by her daughter, Pat Brooker Gaboury and was inspired by the cover of the Summer, 1988 issue of "This Point in Time" on which we featured a drawing made by Nell when she was a teenager. The drawing was taken from her high school "memory book" which she had previously donated to our historical archives. The tape had been transcribed by Pam Wilson.

Nell grew up in Point Richmond and was known as a bright and energetic person. She has since passed away, we are very grateful to her and her daughter for this.....

Part Six (Conclusion)

I remember my mother sending me down to the meat market. You went down Washington and you turned left and you went up a few stores near where the bank was and there was a butcher shop, Charlie Reigert ran the butcher shop and everytime we kids went in to buy anything for our mothers he would give us a weenie to eat on the way home, and we loved it! We never objected to going to the

store for our mothers in that capacity. Whenever I went to the store, I'd always conveniently forget what I was supposed to bring back, and then bring back veal cutlets because I liked breaded veal cutlets. I still do! I remember the time when Ed Muir was the butcher there and he had a lot of experience and he kept on the market after Charlie Reigert died and I remember after I first got married he would apologize because a leg of lamb cost \$1.25, a whole leg of lamb!

Another high point in Richmond, of course, was the Point Theater. They had a series of "The Perils of Pauline" and all those and it was run by Mr. Tcherassy and we kids would always go down there to see the serials on Saturdays and he apologized when he had to raise the price from five cents to ten cents. During the war it was called the Victory Theater. It was purchased and now it's called the Point Orient Restaurant.

The Hotel Mac is another interesting place in Point Richmond - with beautiful stained glass windows

and it was very classy in its day and now it has come back and is still pretty classy.

I'll leave this just by saying that I love Point Richmond, Good Bye. God Bless Point Richmond. Your work there is wonderful.



This concludes the transcript. I think it was both entertaining and informative, I'm sorry to see it end. Thanks again to daughter Pat Brooker Gaboury for making this all possible.

And transcriber Pam Wilson, you did a great job.....thanks!

Names are not always spelled the way they sound, so thanks to Bernard Bernes for the following corrections and further thoughts on Nell Coward Brooker's memories.



Reflections on Nell Coward Brooker's 'Recollections of Point Richmond'

Bernard Bernes

The "Poochie" family was "Pucci". There were two sisters, one was named Alice, I can't remember the others name.

The "Bernetti" family was "Verneti". There was Joe, Teresini,

Louise and one more sister.

The "Shaw" family was "Shawl". There were four boys, Louis, a commercial artist, Harold a Civil Engineer for the Salyers Land Company in Visalia and I cannot remember the names of the other two boys. Harold lives in Visalia, he may contribute some information on the Point.

Nellie mentions Mr. Cramer who was a locomotive engineer for Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe Railway. Another locomotive engineer was Mr. Adams. The Adams had a son named Argyle. They were neighbors of the Cramers on Martina Street.

We thought that Mr. Cramer who and Mr. Adams looked great in their blue striped bib overalls, shirt, Engineer's cap and scarf. They would walk to the Santa Fe roundhouse near Mr. Dornan's yard, carrying their lunch buckets and thermos. From there, they would take the train out to Ferry Point where passengers from the San Francisco ferry would board the train, bound for Bakersfield or Chicago. The passenger train usually ran backwards out to Ferry Point.

Mr. Cramer and Mr. Adams were the engineers on the east bound trains to Bakersfield. They would lay over in Bakersfield, and

then bring the west bound train to Ferry Point, where the passengers took the ferry to San Francisco.

We kids got a big thrill when Mr. Cramer or Mr. Adams would cross Standard Avenue or Richmond Avenue in the big steam machines. They always gave us a wave and a big blast of the train whistle followed by a big blast of steam from the cylinders. We envied the steam locomotive engineers and their big machines belching steam and smoke! Many of us boys thought we would like to be a railroad engineers.

Bob Paasch went to old St. Mary's College when it was in Oakland, on Telegraph Avenue. It was called "The Old Brick Pile", because it was made of red brick. Slip Madigan was coach at St. Mary's at that time. Later St. Mary's moved to Moraga, my brother August attended St. Mary's with Bob.

I would like to mention that I worked at Ferry Point for the Southern Pacific Auto ferries on weekends, while I attended U.C. Berkeley. I was paid \$5.85 per day or \$11.70 per weekend.

Also, the girl I dated was Edith Kettelhut whose family owned Kettelhut's Bakery. She had a brother named Albert. They both attended Washington School. The Kettelhuts sold out to the Martens

and started a bakery near 11th and Macdonald. Edith and I double-dated with another couple and would go to the St. Francis or Palace Hotels in San Francisco. I with my \$11.70 that I had earned the week before. We enjoyed the "big band music" of the thirties.



"When you return to your boyhood town, you find it wasn't the town you longed for--it was your boyhood."

-Earl Wilson

East Bay Model Engineer's Society

The East Bay Model Engineer's Society is located in the Miller-Knox Regional Soreline Park at 900 Dornan Drive. Their model train set up offers an unobstructed view of their operation layouts in a space that is about two-thirds the size of a football field. All major scales: "O", "HO" and "N" are featured along with narrow gauge and trolley lines.

Their display is open to the public every Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 PM through October.

Jerry Cerkowicz

Point Richmond: how it became an Historic District

by Lucretia Edwards

Part 5 ended with:

Point Richmond was in real doldrums after World War II due to the closing of the shipyards. Downtown many shops were closed and boarded up. Gypsy families lived in some of the store fronts with sheets pinned up for privacy. A number of families who had come to work in the shipyards moved away to go back to the little towns that they had left.

PART SIX (CONCLUSION)

Gradually economic conditions improved and in the 1950's people started moving back. Many of these people, young and old or from parts of the country with different architectural styles or with a desire for a "modern" house started to alter the historic houses; tearing them down sometimes to completely replacing them. However there were those who cherished the past and the Historic nature of Point Richmond as well as the quality of its life. A Point Richmond Neighborhood Council which had formerly been the Point Richmond Civic Group (formed in 1949) and later became the Point Richmond Civic League convened to take some sort of action and give some

sort of guidance.

John T. Knox was the President of the first Neighborhood Council as it was now named and he appointed Tom Tedrick as chairman of a planning committee with the responsibility of forming a working committee. This committee was to prepare a plan for the future development of Point Richmond with the attempt to retain the good things and oversee plans for anticipated development and expansion which was bound to occur. (This all came about after the Civic Group had asked the City of Richmond to prepare just such a study. The City Planning Department was overwhelmed by post war problems and could not designate time, personnel or effort in this direction. In turning down the request they did offer to assist in any way if a local group would undertake such a project, the Point Richmond Neighborhood Council did just that.)

Meetings of the committee under the Neighborhood Council were held twice a month and included a research program and an in-depth survey. By 1963 a very well conceived plan for the future of Point Richmond was prepared.

These results are available in the library of the Point Richmond History Association. In January of 1990 the Point Richmond History Association reviewed and updated that survey. These results can also be found in the History Association's library as they were published in their monthly newsletter of that time. Much emphasis is being made by the Point Richmond History Association to document and preserve relics and notations of the history of Point Richmond. Making these momentos available to the general public in their Museum which is a just completed renovation of one of the very oldest "commercial" buildings in Point Richmond.

The Point Richmond History Association welcomes the donation of any and all historical documents and photographs of the early history of Point Richmond and encourages oral history documentation by any and all of the early residents of Point Richmond in order to preserve the historic status that has been given to Point Richmond.

~~~~~

*This concludes Lucretia Edward's explanation of how Point Richmond became an historic district. We thank her for for taking the time to write this article for us. An even bigger THANK YOU to Lucretia for her very important role in preserving Point Richmond and thus making it the 'jewel' that it is today.*



# *Sports Memories*

## *Allan Smith*

### ***The Earl of Richmond is Dead!***

Earl Turner, one of the most popular Eastbay boxers of the early 1940's and the greatest drawing card in Oakland ring history has died. It is said that he drew more fans than the legendary Max Baer.

Earl Turner was born in Texas, was raised and received his education in Richmond. I am writing about him because he went to Richmond High School and graduated with many Point Richmond students and was well known in the Point. I remember him well at Richmond High as a real nice, quiet and unassuming person who did not take advantage of his fighting ability. Earl was a member of the A Cappella Choir at school and they performed locally as a well talented group. After his fighting career was over he led a Boy Scout troop in Berkeley and taught Sunday School in Richmond.

Earl's career started in the old Red Robin Athletic Club which was located next to the Pullman Shops on Cutting Boulevard. Several Point Richmond natives interested in the fight game worked out there also. Among them

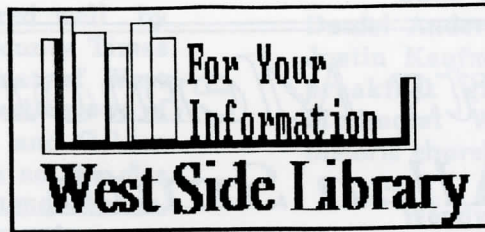
were the Shaw brothers, Milton and Clyde. Milt was a heavyweight who boxed while in the Army during World War 2 and Clyde had great ability as a middleweight. A Point Richmond native who possessed great boxing skill in those days and took it in the Army with him is Al Frosini who is still active and is teaching boxing to young people.

Excellent Point "street fighters" as I remember them were Antone Salle, Melvin "Swede" Janes, Silvio "Chip" Cecchi, Jim Wilson, Melvin Hitch, Leonard Smith, Luciano "Chono" Forner, Richard "Dick" Irvin and Caesar Frosini.

We used to get together and put on supervised amateur boxing matches with Richmond and San Pablo people but that existed for only a short time. A few times, some went to box at San Quentin Prison with their team.

Who can remember the four round bouts that took place in El Cerrito in the 1920's and 1930's? The Richmond Standard Oil Refinery had scheduled boxing matches among the employees.

I will have more on boxing and the great career of Richmond's Earl Turner who was known in boxing circles as the "Earl of Richmond" in the next issue .



*Jan Burdick*

***Terrific Tuesdays*** will be back again this summer at West Side Library. During the months of July and August, programs will be offered from 11:00 to 12:00 each Tuesday morning. The schedule is:

**July 7th**

**July 14th**

**July 21st**

**July 28th**

**August 4th**

**August 11th**

**August 18th**

**August 25th**

**Mary Lee / Folksinger of songs for children**

**Arts & Crafts**

**Animal Friends from Lindsey Museum**

**Arts & Crafts**

**Puppet Show**

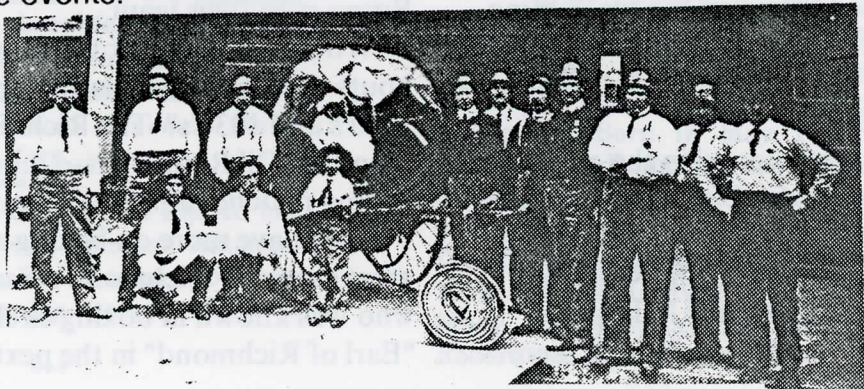
**Arts & Crafts**

**Films for kids**

**Anita Jones / Story teller**

The Reading Club for the summer months has the theme of sports and the Olympic Games and is entitled "Catch the spirit - Read". As in previous years there will be a game card to record titles read and incentives along the way to encourage participation.

Let your children, grand children, next door neighbor kids and visitors know about these events.



*Point Richmond Volunteer Firemen*



# THE MASQUERS

Playhouse, Inc.

105 Park Place, Point Richmond

PROUDLY PRESENTS

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S

## WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION



Directed by Jo Camp

A masterfully surprising account of a murder trial with bizarre twists of plot and an electrifying triple-shock conclusion.

### THE CAST:

|                 |                |                   |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| George Adams    | Jack Gaughan   | Don McCunn        |
| Ron Anderson    | Roger Gorrell  | Albert Meyers     |
| Ivan Baccarat   | Tim Hart       | Jack Moreschi     |
| Henry Bers      | Sarah Irvin    | Edward Nason      |
| Lillian Duran   | Jackie Jacobs  | Albert Schmiedeke |
| Madaline Fluhr  | Heinz Lankford | Dean Starnes      |
| Deborah Garrett | Jo Lusk        | David Vincent     |

Friday & Saturday evenings – June 12 - July 25, 1992

Sunday Matinees – June 28, July 12, July 19

**NOTE:** No performance on Saturday, July 4, 1992

**RESERVATIONS:** (510) 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: \$8.00

DINNER & THEATRE benefit for our building fund at HOTEL MAC, Thursday evening, July 23. Dinner and ticket to "Witness For The Prosecution" for only \$25.00. To reserve, CALL: (510) 236-4988.

COMING: David Belasco's classic melodrama "GIRL OF THE GOLDEN WEST" – opens August 21.



## Witness For The Prosecution

Agatha Christie's finest suspense/thriller, opens Friday June 12th, at the Masquers Playhouse.

The plot concerns a desperate young man on trial for his life and his wife, an enigmatic woman who becomes the star prosecution witness instead of giving evidence in defense of her husband. The final curtain has a startling double twist.

Agatha Christie considered this play her finest hour in the theatre and critics and the public both here and abroad have agreed.

Directed by Jo Camp, it runs every Friday and Saturday night at 8:30 thru July 25th with Sunday matinees on June 28th and July 12th and 19th.

Tickets are \$8.00 each with a special discount for groups of 25 or more. For reservations call 232-4031.

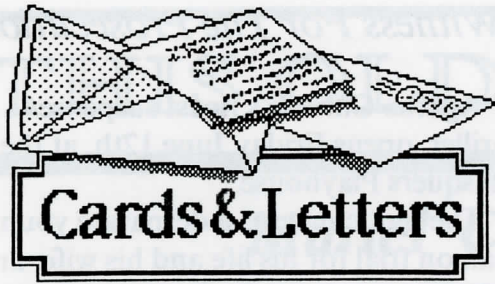
-Masquers Press Release

^^^

Sorry, because of our Summer break, we will not be able to publish a Anne Hanzlik review.

## WHAT ABOUT 449 WEST RICHMOND?

The Jensen family would like to know more about their home at 449 W. Richmond. When was it built, who lived there? Was it built by a man named "Paige" or "Page"? Jerry at 235-1336 will let them know what you might know about their home.



Dear Gary,

What a fun day we enjoyed (April 26th) at Point Richmond. My sister, Phyllis Glass Ackerman, and I came back to view the hills where we roller skated up and down on Western Drive as kids.

A most gracious and knowledgeable host, Mid Dornan, is also a number one "tour director". She gave us the cooks tour as if we were royalty, even took us out beyond the Richmond Yacht Club. Everything we witnessed brought a flood of memories.

The Washington Grade School building had changed (*an entirely 'new' building*) but the architect of many others have not. The perimeter of the Methodist Church seemed smaller, now that I am taller, nevertheless it was a relief that it had not lost its uniqueness. Michael T. Brown, Pastor, gave a good sermon that morning. We enjoyed the fellowship. Also, tried our a park bench by the "Sentinel" (Indian Statue), and hunted our family named bricks.

In the afternoon, Igor Blake (of Blake Quarry) spoke at the Annual Meeting of the Point Richmond

History Association. He has some great pictures and interesting stories. It was fantastic seeing Mary Highfill and Betty Dornan. Also, my sister and I met you for the first time, that too was a delight. Now at least we can put a face to each name that we didn't know previously.

It was tradition to end up having a memorable dinner at the Hotel Mac. My sister and I decided that its a group of very friendly people at the Point Richmond History Association. Both of us experienced a delightful and wonderfully pleasant time! Thanks again for all your efforts to make the History Association a success.

Cheers!

Betty Glass Marshall  
Los Angeles

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Ms. Wilson:

I was in Pt. Richmond last week for a reunion lunch with some of the ladies who were members of a club we belonged to when we were students. Mrs. Ralph {Marion} Voigt was our hostess and had copies of "This Point in time" which I really enjoyed.

My family lived in a company house in Pt. San Pablo from the time I was 2 years old till I was 6. Our P.O. Box was "#2, Point Richmond". When it was time for me to attend school, we moved to Richmond Annex. I'm 71 now, so you know it was a long time ago.

Mrs. Inez Curtis Pestana  
Patterson, CA



## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

(234-5334)

ALISSA BAGLEY  
 WILLIAM SHEA  
 ANITA BROUGHAM  
 GRACE YANK  
 JAN SPRECKER  
 DAN WEINSTEIN  
 STACEY SPINOLA  
 JEAN EAKLE  
 ROSEMARY GIOCOMELLI  
 DAVE MACDIARMID, JR.  
 CATHE BRAZIL  
 AARON / MICHAEL MARSHALL  
 MAURICE DOHERTY  
 RON ALBRO  
 RICHARD FOX  
 SUZANNE UNSER  
 ANDREW BUTT  
 JOANNE LANSING  
 BRIAN ROTTING  
 NATHAN BERMAN  
 CLAUDE BISIO

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

ROGER ELLE  
 FRANCIS SMITH  
 AMY ROTTING  
 JULIUS MATTEUCCI  
 JEAN CREED  
 ALLEN ANDERSON  
 DIEDRE CERKANOWICZ  
 KATHRYN FONG  
 ALICE MC MAHON  
 CLIFFORD (LOU) MAC MILLAN  
 JOSEPHINE PALENCHAR  
 MADELINE ALBRIGHT  
 MADISON BRADSHAW  
 HILARY LORD  
 AL MCGEE  
 BRIAN PEASE  
 JEAN REYNOLDS  
 MARY KNOX  
 ED SQUIRES  
 BETTY CONCEPTION  
 FRED BELLATI  
 LIZ GARRARD

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

ORETTA EATON  
 VEORA HEINEY  
 BEA KEYER  
 NIKKI EATON  
 BERNIE BISIO  
 BOB MASKE  
 ANNE-THERESE AGESON  
 CONNIE FISHER  
 KARLA PETERSON  
 TERENCE DOHERTY  
 CARL WESTMAN  
 BONNIE RITZENTHALER WILSON  
 DONNA WILSON  
 MID DORNAN  
 JOE DARLING  
 KELLY DARLING  
 ALICE THOMPSON  
 LYNN BROWN  
 ALIA SMYKE  
 LISA SMITH  
 BERNICE PREECE  
 ETHEL SCHUMACHER  
 R. CLAYTON BARNES

*Few things are more satisfying than seeing your children have teenagers of their own.*

-Doug Larson

I would like to join the PRHA

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership (check one)

|                          |                   |         |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Single            | \$18.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Senior (65+)      | 12.00   |
| <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 in time" 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.*

the deadline published in the calendar section of the newsletter.

Please mail articles and items of interest to:

**GARY SHOWS**  
229 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE  
POINT RICHMOND, CA 94801

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139 1/2 Washington 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 acknowledgment to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

*Tributes will be acknowledged in the newsletter*  
Articles for each month's issue are due on or before

### TELEPHONE LISTINGS

|                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| Mid Doman        | 510- 234-5334 |
| Gary Shows       | 510- 235-1336 |
| Phyllis Scaglund | 510-232-2280  |
| Fax              | 510- 232-0842 |

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*Dr. Wm. Thompson*  
*Donna Roselius (illustrations)*  
*Don Church (photo collection)*  
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*Lucretia Edwards*  
*Nell Coward Brooker*  
*Pat Brooker Gaboury*  
*Pam Wilson*  
*Allan Smith*  
*Jean Reynolds*  
*Willard Spiersch*  
*Betty Doman*  
*Bernard Bernes*  
*Jan Burdick*

# ***Calendar***

## ***Summer, 1992***

- June 12**  
(Friday)                      **"Witness for the Prosecution" Opens at Masquer's Playhouse**
- June 14**  
(Sunday)                      **Flag Day**
- June 21**  
(Sunday)                      **Father's Day**
- July 4**  
(Saturday)                      **INDEPENDENCE DAY**
- July 7**  
(Tuesday)                      **Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting,**  
11:30 AM, Our Lady of Mercy Church
- Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting,**  
7:30 PM, Point Community Center
- Terrific Tuesdays* begin at West Side Library**  
**see page 20 for schedule**
- July 8**  
(Wednesday)                      **Point Richmond Business Association Meeting,**  
5:00 PM, Hotel Mac
- August 4**  
(Tuesday)                      **Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting,**  
11:30 AM, Our Lady of Mercy Church
- Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting,**  
7:30 PM, Point Community Center
- August 12**  
(Wednesday)                      **Point Richmond Business Association Meeting,**  
Noon, Hotel Mac
- August 14**  
(Friday)                      **DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE, TPIT**
- August 21**  
(Friday)                      **"The Girl of the Golden West" Opens at Masquer's Playhouse**
- September 1**  
(Tuesday)                      **Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting,**  
11:30 AM, Our Lady of Mercy Church
- Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting,**  
7:30 PM, Point Community Center
- September 7**  
(Monday)                      **LABOR DAY**
- September 9**  
(Wednesday)                      **Point Richmond Business Association Meeting,**  
5:00 PM, Hotel Mac