

THIS POINT in time

NEWSLETTER

THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Vol. XII No. 6

Winter, 1993/94

\$1.50

Happy Holidays



Announcements

HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE IS ON, BE GENEROUS!

Our county continues to be one which is proud of its affluence and prosperity, but in our county there are many pockets of diminishing industrial and commercial activity, high unemployment, and abject poverty. So, we have again been asked to conduct a food drive for the Contra Costa Food Bank.

This year the holiday drive will be held from Monday, December 6th, until Friday, December 10th. In the week prior to that time volunteers will distribute specially printed grocery bags throughout the neighborhood. Listed on the bags will be the kinds of non-perishable foods appropriate for the food baskets distributed during the holiday season by the Food Bank, and the places where the Point Richmond collection barrels will be located.

While we know that there are many demands made on people at this time of the year, we hope that you can again participate in the food drive and will drop off your contribution at the location most convenient to you. It will be collected by the Food Bank trucks, and the Food Bank will be responsible for distribution.

We are grateful for your generosity last year, and since California is coming out of the recession more slowly than some of the other areas and the need is still great, we hope that we can count on you again.

Lucretia Edwards

Dianna McIntosh

Point Richmond Holiday Food Drive

Happy Holidays

History Association Notes.....

From the President

Mid Dornan

"History isn't really about the past... settling old scores. It's about defining the present and who we are."

Ken Burns

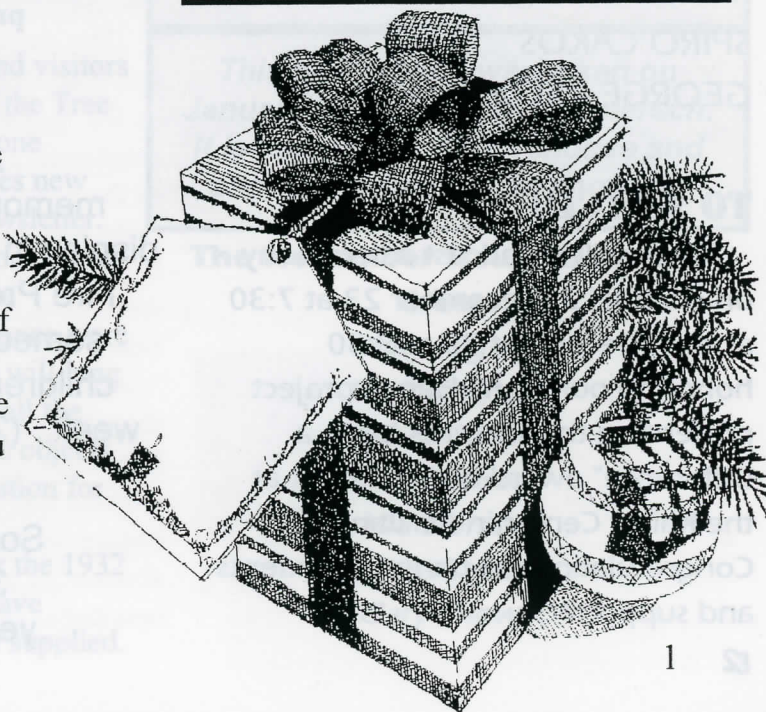
By request, another class in "Writing Your Life History" is being sponsored by the Point Richmond History Association to begin in January. (See details in this newsletter.) You don't have to have writing skill as memory will guide you through your autobiography. Gift the next generation with your life story.

Do any of you keep a diary? or a record of activities on a calendar? Are there old newspapers in your attic? Use information from them to write an article or letter to the editor.

Everyone enjoys pictures of the past displayed in the History Building but where are the present day photos? If you have current photos of your building or neighborhood, let us know as we are interested

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in a current photographic documentation of the Point.

To the Staff of this newsletter, to all our members, readers and contributors, thank you for your loyalty and support as I wish you all something special in the year of 1994.

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

MARY HIGHFILL

HERBERT J. HUNN

CHESTER W. THOMPSON

MRS. BOYSIE DAY

BARBARA OLESEN

JOHN & JEAN KNOX

NELLIE BISIO PASQUINI

And a warm welcome to new members:

SPIRO CAKOS

GEORGE KELLEGHAN

TO WATCH:

KTVU will broadcast a ceremony on channel 2, December 23 at 7:30 and on December 25 at 5:30 honoring our Many Hands project presenting the "Parents Make a Difference" award and banquet at the Kaiser Center in Oakland. Congratulations to parents, students and supporters!

Museum Staff coordinator Betty Dornan says thank you to the following volunteers who staffed the History Museum in November:

Jerry Cerkanowicz

Mid Dornan

Philip Dorn

Roy Jones

Pat Behrens

**If you can help
Call Betty at 232-4317**

Museum Hours

Thursday 11:30 am - 2:00 pm

Saturday 11:30 am - 2:00 pM

**We are grateful to the
SANTA FE MARKET
for distributing this newsletter at no
profit for themselves.**

WANTED:

**A loan of Firemen
memorabilia for a February
display in the History Museum for
Fire Prevention Week. And,
someone to take photos of
children and firefighters that
week. (234-5334 or 235-1336)**

WANTED:

**Someone to write a
30-40-50-or-90
years ago column!**

Editor's Notes

Gary Shows

There was a lot of current things going on for this issue so I have decided to delay the beginning of Dr. Thompson's new column as well as Delphina Franco's new article "Schools". Look forward to both of them with the next (February) issue.

Once again Program Director Anne Hanzlik has done it! The November General Meeting was a very enlightening success. We learned a lot about "piggybacks", those big boxes that appear on the railroads, on the highways and are stacked high on the ships in our own harbor. Thanks to Mr. David DeBoer for giving us an afternoon of your valuable time.

I enjoyed meeting members and visitors at our museum on the evening of the Tree Lighting Ceremony. I hope that one conversation in particular produces new historical memorabilia for the newsletter.

Dr. Thompson has informed me that he is working on a new series on area archaeology and the Indians that once were the only humans in our area. We will long be indebted to Dr. Thompson for all the memories he has shared as well as objects that he has donated to the Association for all of us to remember and enjoy.

Thanks to Ila (Baker) Weis for the 1932 class picture (see centerfold). I have included all of the names that she supplied.

Other class picture (and any other pictures that may interest our readers) loans are still encouraged so that all can enjoy your old pictures.

The coming winter break is very welcome, thanks to all of you who contribute throughout the year to this publication and the PRHA, and thank you, the members for your support. I sincerely wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season!

The deadline for the February edition newsletter is January 21, 1994.

The Cover:

This photograph was taken on January 30, 1913 by Dick Spiersch. It is taken from the Firehouse and shows a considerable snowfall.

The November Issue Assembly

Crew:

Mary Highfill

Liz McDonald

Muriel Clausen

Pam Wilson

Mid Dornan

Jerry Cerkowicz

Gary Shows

This Old House

by

Muriel C. Clausen

CHAPTER V

THE CALIFORNIA BUNGALOW: POINT RICHMOND Single Storey

Part One



Craftsman Bungalow style, circa 1905-1925 —

In previous chapters we have reviewed those simple single storey houses in Point Richmond that have a distinctive Western and Northern California quality about them. This chapter will explore simple single storey houses on the West Coast that have, by contrast, East Coast and English origins and influences. These are the California Bungalows of which there are many in early Point Richmond history.

Quite different from the previously described small house the distinctive California bungalow was a by-product of simple, functional house designs which developed throughout the United States due to two early basic causes. The first was an indirect reaction against the excesses and bad design of English Victorianism and against the Industrial Revolution. The second was due to the need for housing for a rapidly growing new middle class in the United States.

The reaction against Victorianism and the Industrial Revolution in England began as the Victorian era gradually reached its most unforgettable and unforgivable state in the early 1850's. Previous to that the early Victorian period was exemplified by beautiful architecture and interiors that were to be copied in Europe and the United States with rapt respect. During this Victorian evolution the Industrial Revolution took place: a change from handmade to mass, machine products. Objects and designs of formerly rare beauty were machine produced in abundance using poor materials. This resulted in poor quality products.

By 1850 the Victorian style in England was weighted down with bad designs from the Industrial Revolution and with dark, heavy, ornate, gloomy, over decorated buildings and over furnished interiors. Out of this rose a rebellion among designers. This rebellion was brought to a head with the London Exhibition of 1851 held in the Crystal Palace. The Crystal Palace building itself brought a fresh, new concept of design inspiration. It was a building whose structure used the new material, iron to make many glass filled window frames which were attached together to form the building roof. This allowed the Exposition Hall to be filled with natural light, and allow a clean, airy feeling; quite in contrast with the darkness of Victorian interiors. Such a contrast was thoroughly refreshing and brought a demand for an architectural change in design.

Added to this the designers focused a protest against the tiredness of industrially made products. John Ruskin (1819-1900) wrote against machine age design and heavy Victorian excesses. William Morris (1834-1896) took a more active role;; providing a bountiful supply of beautiful new designs in his design studio with an emphasis on simplicity, honest work and hand crafting of objects. They spoke basically the same language: change, simplicity, and craftsmanship and beauty in design. Gradually, in 1870's, under Morris' influence, grew what became known as the Art Movement; and by some, the Aesthetic Movement. This was a design movement which promoted clean,

simple furnishings and an art style that is noted as being more mildly decorative. Morris's style included designs in two dimension, stylized and with fresh line and muted, blended colors. This was in contrast to the Victorian florid and multi dimensional design excesses. Oscar Wilde became a colorful and vocal proponent of the philosophy of this movement, traveling to the United States in 1882 to espouse "art for arts sake" and the Aesthetic Movement. Gradually in Europe this movement took one direction and in the United States it took another. It developed in Europe in the 1880's and 1890's into what is called the Art Nouveau style: a curvilinear, quiet, romantic style. In the United States the movement took a less esoteric and more practical direction becoming, under Gustav Stickley, the Craftsman's Movement; a more masculine, structural, utilitarian style.

While the above is a rather simplistic description of the much more complicated process of this design rebellion; it does point out the direction of post Victorian design as it went one way in Europe and another way in the United States.

Next issue: The American design rebellion.



A-MID TRIVIA

- Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Q: Who was the first woman in Richmond to cast a vote in the city when the franchise was extended to women?
(Answer at end of Trivia)

The difference between summer and winter is that in winter the bare limbs are on the trees.

Voters elected a new mayor and two new council members in last month's balloting. Rosemary Corbin, former councilwoman (and one of the founders of Point Richmond History Association) was elected Mayor, John Marquez regained the seat he lost two years ago, Irma Anderson is the first black member to serve on the council and Richard Griffin returned for his fourth term. Appropriately, a handmade quilt hangs on the Mayor's wall. Many of Rosemary's earlier campaign funds were made from quilt raffles.

While the East Brother Light Station has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1971, the cluster of 120-year-old buildings received the state landmark designation this month giving it statewide significance and qualifies it for freeway directional signs and a bronze plaque. The charmingly restored 4-room bed and breakfast is accessible by boat operated by the island's keepers. The island is open for picnics, retreats, weddings, fishing etc. For visitation information, call 233-2385 or write East Brother Light Station Inc., 117 Park Place, Point Richmond 94801.

If you aren't receiving 54 mass mailed merchandise catalogues you aren't receiving your share as a consumer!

TIP: Spray garbage bags with ammonia to prevent dogs and raccoons from getting to the garbage before pick-up day. Spray the lid and sides of the can also.

Russell Schuldt's third birthday party was the 'best party I've ever seen for a child', declared Liz McDonald. The 17 children (5 babies) were overwhelmed when with balloons flying, the garage door opened to Barney music revealing a huge dinosaur that moved!

Jim Wilson is recovering from surgery but don't ask him to lift heavy objects.

Virginia Cherniak missed a step and has been nursing a stress fracture in her foot.

Josephine Palenchar's big jaw was caused by some teeth extraction but it didn't deter her from eating.

Varsi Lometti is improving slowly at Marin General Hospital in Greenbrae after a fall in her home.

The value of a community is often judged by its Library.

Joyce Carlson felt the odds of winning the sweepstakes on all those promotions didn't appeal to her so she puts the price of a stamp into a jar each time instead of on the envelope. After six months she has over six dollars as

her 'winnings' already.

If you are feeling tired at the end of the day consider the shoes you are wearing. The human foot is a complex and delicate structure of 28 bones, 35 joints, 19 muscles and hundreds of ligaments and will take 5,000 steps on an average day and support the equivalent of several tons! (aren't you glad you read this!)

It has been Fifty Golden Years for Corrine and George Coles who were married in her parents living room in San Jose in October 1943. Golden Congratulations!

Did a mysterious "Broom Witch" visit you on Halloween? This cackling, masked witch who gave out candy while riding her straw-broom, was none other than Neighborhood Council president, Sarah Eeles. Question..is there a witch in Sarah or a Sarah in the witch?

Was it "love letters" that led Richard and Theresa, both postal carriers, to marriage in Reno? Carlos aided the marriage by servicing Richard's route in the Point and may they live happily ever after in the home in Tara Hills.

Looking for a new cooking gadget for a Christmas gift? Beside the breadmaker, there is a breakfastmaker that is an automatic express machine that makes a complete breakfast. You put in two eggs (still in their shells), two pieces of bread and enough coffee and water for one to four cups. It automatically opens the shells, fries the eggs, toasts the bread and brews the coffee, all in 10 minutes. If

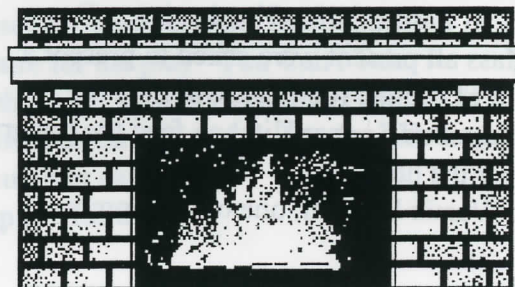
you need to qualify a purchase, the 1500 watts usage is much less than the range, toaster and coffeemaker.

Don't forget to look across the bay at the San Francisco Embarcadero Center lights. 17,000 white lights outline the buildings and light up the sky..it's the Christmas season.

The 1994 edition of Old Farmer's Almanac is the legal document for tides and sunrises and sunsets in most states. Its 202nd edition claims 80 percent accuracy for its forecasts and predicts a warmer-than-normal winter west of the Rockies. Anise will be the spice of the year, naps, carrots and caffeine are okay and Caribbean food the latest craze.

Answer to Trivia question:

Two women ran a close race for this honor, Mrs. R. G. Mahnke and Mrs. Alice Bennett, the former voting at polling place No. 1, Winehaven and the later at polling place No. 9 in East Richmond. Mrs. Mahnke recorded her choice of candidates at 30 seconds after 6 o'clock and Mrs. Bennett was at the polls before they opened at that hour. It is a question which of these women voted first. (From Richmond Daily Independent, Number 263, dated Tuesday, April 9, 1912, Point Richmond. donated by Dr. W.L. Thompson)



Churches

Our Lady of Mercy

Allan Smith

The first marriage and Catholic Mass in Our Lady of Mercy Parish took place on September 21, 1902. The Mass and Wedding was in the Monte Richards Hall on Park Place and Washington Avenues and was officiated by Rev. Martin P. Scanlan, the first pastor. Antonio Dianna and Ida S. Nunes were married by Rev. Scanlan on September 21, 1902.

Pastor James Clift had very special religious ceremonies at our church for Veteran's Day, November 11. His impressive homily was read later at a U.S. Coast Guard Veteran's reunion in Vallejo by Claude Bisio and his wife. Claude is a Point Richmond native from a pioneer Point Richmond family that lived on Idaho Street. Claude's father was a tailor with his shop on Washington and West Richmond Avenues.

At Pastor Clift's Thanksgiving Day Mass all present were asked to present a gift of canned food that will help the Richmond Souper Kitchen feed the hungry over the holidays.

Varsie Lometti, one of our popular

parishioners, has been hospitalized and is recuperating at the Marin General Hospital in Marin County.

Rev. Carmelo Mifsud was pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Church from 1977 to 1983 and he will be retiring from the Oakland Diocese in January of 1994. Father Carmelo is presently assigned to St. Felicitas Church in San Leandro. We will have dinner in his honor on December 26, 1993 in our parish hall.

During his term, he started a program in 1979 called the Marian Movement for Priests that is still in operation. This program acknowledges, supports, and encourages Catholic Priests in their vocations. A feature of this organization is the manufacturing and distribution of Rosaries around the world. Five hundred and eighty thousand of them have been made and distributed by Catholic Missionaries this year, mainly in Russia. The total Rosaries donated by this program exceeds five million.

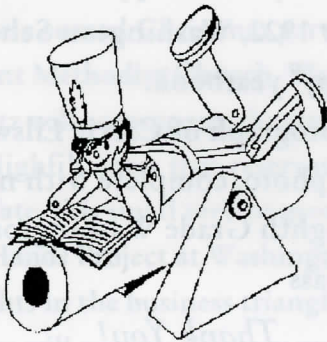


Point Methodist

Jean Reynolds

The Annual Country Faire was a successful event for the United Methodist Women, netting more that \$3,700 in proceeds that will be used for various mission projects and church building improvements. There were many happy shoppers and satisfied diners during the two-day event. Cathy Smith, wife of former pastor Charles Smith, dropped by on Saturday from Jackson, California. Son, Zachariah Smith was with her and she brought wedding pictures from daughters Stacie and Casie Espinoza. We were glad they had traveled so far for lunch.

The Greater Richmond Interfaith Projects Harmony Walk for Hunger was on October 16th. Six of our members participated as walkers: Claudia LeGue, George Creamer, Pat Dornan, Shirley Butt, Pastor Bill Gates and Jean Reynolds. We contributed \$450 to this event that raises



money for three agencies that feed hungry people in our community and for Church World Service which serves the hungry in other countries.

Several special services are scheduled for December to celebrate the season of Advent:

>Our second-Tuesday Community Celebration Service will Be December 14 at 6:30pm. It begins with a potluck, and ends with some spirited singing and Bible study time.

>The Sunday School will have a program at 7:00pm on December 19. Refreshments and surprises will follow.

>A community Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will again be offered on December 24 at 7:00pm. This is a time for everyone to pause and appreciate the reason for the Christmas celebration.

>The United Methodist Women will gather on December 15 at the home of Helen Valentine for a potluck dinner and Christmas party. Everyone will bring one or more gifts for the people served by the Rescue Mission.

Looking ahead:

>Community Celebration Service (and potluck, January 11 at 6:30pm.

>Thursday, April 28, we have reserved the Masquers Theatre/Hotel Mac dinner theatre for the play "You Can't Take it With You". Profits from ticket sales will be used as camp scholarships for kids to go to summer camp.

Happy Holidays!

POINT METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

-Mid Dornan

Church history is rich with contributions of women. A group of matrons met Tuesday, December 4th, 1923 at the home of A.D. Jones, 210 Cottage Ave, and formed themselves into the SOCIAL LEAGUE--its purpose being to encourage social intercourse in the church and such other benefits as they are fit.

The history of this group is reflected in their minutes printed below and taken from the canvas covered, red leather cornered notebook which cost \$1.15. The minutes are printed as written.

This is the 2nd installment.

December 18th, 1923

Social League met at the home of Mrs. Alexander with all officers and 5 members present making 9 in all.

Minutes of previous meeting and approved as read.

Report of committee on food sale given - \$18.70 was cleared.

Bill of \$1.15 for minute book presented and ordered paid.

Motion seconded and carried that ten dollars be paid the Stovers. Two dollars be paid Mrs. Conn for services at Stover (?) meetings. Idea of club getting up cookbook presented and the Mrs. Redman and Alexander appointed to look into the matter before next meeting which will be at Mrs. Beckleys, 417 Golden Gate Ave. January 15th, 1924.

League adjourned.

Erma R. Parker

Secy

Cash in bank \$18.70

Minute book 1.15

Stovers 10.00

Mrs. Conn 2.00

Acquisitions

From Dr. William Thompson

*Early newspaper articles including:

>A pictorial edition of the Richmond Daily Independent, May 1914 .

>Richmond Daily Independent from July 31, 1931 covering the opening of the Ford Plant.

> Richmond Daily Leader from November 9, 1910 and July 9, 1909.

>San Francisco Chronicle from December 9, 1949 covering John Rebar's plan to dam San Pablo Bay.

>The Independent Progress of January 28, 1963



From Dr. William Thompson

*A wonderful copy of Richmond in 1903 taken from Nichol Nob.



From Rena (Cairo) Gonsalves

*An also wonderful copy of a December 1922, Washington School "The Poppy" yearbook.

*1923 Photograph of Carrie Ellsworth.
*Copy of photo, complete with names of 1923 Eighth Grade Washington School Class

Thank You!

Sports Memories

Allan Smith

One final major league baseball recollection before writing about other Point Richmond sport activity memories. Jack Healy of Ocean Avenue reminded me that one of his relatives, Jim Cronin, played in the American League for Connie Mack and his Philadelphia Athletics in 1929. Jim was born in Point Richmond in 1905. The family home was on Crest Avenue. You might remember Jim Cronin as a great baseball infielder playing in the Standard Oil Twilight League. It was a thrill for us kids to know a big league player personally in those days, because major league baseball did not exist on the West Coast until 1958. The only

chance we got to see a major leaguer was during the off season when they went on a barnstorming tour.

The Pericone family were pioneer Point Richmond people and one of their daughters married a great Richmond Major League baseball pitcher. He was Johnny Babich who played for the Brooklyn Dodgers, the Boston Braves and the Philadelphia Athletics in the 1930's.

The Richmond Shipyards starting in 1941 had many famous and talented athletes in all sports working in the yards. The great Stanford coach, "Tiny" Thornhill, was the principal coordinator of all sports for the Richmond Shipyards.

Westside Improvement Club News

The Woman's Westside Improvement Club, Richmond's oldest service group, will hold their annual Christmas party on Tuesday, December 7, 1993 in Friendship Hall at the Point Methodist Church, West Richmond Avenue at Martina Street at noon. Anna Schwartz will accompany the singing of Christmas carols on her accordion. President Mary Highfill notes that reservations are required for the catered luncheon.

To date, this small service group has donated \$300 to the local library, \$300 to the Many Hands Project at Washington School, \$200 for Meals on Wheels and \$300 towards new lights in the business triangle.

There will not be a January meeting of the group.



Class of 1932, Thane December

Top Row: Ruth Dingle, Gloria Smith, Andrea Ramirez, Betty Jen

Dornan, Melba Ghieri, Winifred Wickersheim, J

Middle Row: Ila Baker, Guadalupe Avila, Regina Cunan, Pauline

Bono, Richard Ervin, Mervin Kellegh

Lower Row: Ramond Silva, Melvin Hitch, John Bailo, Theodore Bo

Jame



ks to Ila (Baker) Weis

er, 1932

ins, Charles Wake, Mary Wilkins, Mrs. Peterson (teacher), Robert

oe Bailo, Allan Smith, Melvin Janes, Harold Stone.

Spiersch, Lavon Aikins, Rosalie Morrison, Dora May Deisley, Vienna

im, Salvador Granada, LeRoy Williams

ck, Frank Moscrop, John Stephen, Kenton Alexander, Pedro Carrera,

Forbes.

General Meeting of the Point Richmond History Association

November 14, 1993

Report from Anne Hanzlik

Everyone that has lived or worked in Point Richmond has at sometime or other been stopped by the "wig wagin" of the signals on West Richmond Avenue and have been forced to watch Santa Fe Railroad switching freight cars from their yard on Garrard across the waiting traffic, through the tunnel and out to their tracks bordering the bay and Miller-Knox Park.

Instead of being impatient about the interruption it is often amusing to observe all the varieties of freight cars that go slowly across in front of you. The signs on the cars read "Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe", "Delaware & Lackawanna", "Rock Island Line", "Illinois Central", "New York Central", "Pennsylvania", all familiar but almost forgotten names as railroading and freight handling has changed radically in the last few years.

That was the subject that the speaker at our last meeting was well prepared to enlighten us about. David de Boer of Greenbrier Intermodel Company of Concord has written a very informative as well as amusing book about freight handling called "piggybacks". With his thirty years experience he held us all very much interested in the development of

freight handling.

The history and politics of this very large part of our lives makes for a good story. He brought a long list of familiar names, including the ubiquitous U.P.S., Jimmy Hoffa as well as L.B. Hunt of Texas and silver market fame. With the aid of some scale models of early piggybacks, he also traced the history of piggyback containers over a long history many years right up to the latest form of double decker cars that obviously double the capacity of each piece of rolling stock, which incidentally has necessitated heightening many of the railroad tunnels country wide to accommodate the increased height of the cars.

The trade unions also have had to adjust to the changing technology in the railroads just as they have in shipping and many other areas of the work force, as time and progress make changes in our lives.

Through his obvious enthusiasm for his profession David de Boer made this rather technical subject seem very interesting and pertinent even to the lay persons in our audience that Sunday afternoon. I'm sure that we all were happy that he had shared his knowledge and humor with us.

Point Tree Lighting Ceremony

by
Jerry Cerkowicz

Several weeks ago, in preparation for the 7th Annual Point Richmond Tree Lighting, David Vincent, Jerry Cerkowicz and Steve Berman replaced the lights on our town "Christmas Tree". This was accomplished with the help of a City of Richmond cherry picker run by Guy Meadows.

The resulting November 27th "dusk-time" affair was quite successful and well attended thanks to promotions by the Point Richmond Business Association, "The Channel", the Hotel Mac, and others. Promotion was accomplished by fliers in the West County Times, posters placed about town and a "The Channel" Holiday Window Decorating Contest.

The evening began with the lighting of "luminarias" (paper bags with sand and a candle inside) by David Vincent, Ray Price, Lisa McMann, Gwen Fresques and me. Our special guest of honor, bearing an inexhaustible supply of candy canes, Santa Claus (Marsha Ward), soon arrived with much excitement and fanfare. Then, in two bursts of light the great tree was ablaze with light and color. Next, Anna Schwarz led the crowd with her accordion in traditional Christmas carols.

And who won the window decorating contest? Judges Deirdre Cerkowicz and

Simone Odem of the Point Arts Guild said that their job was difficult because there were so many well decorated store fronts but handed out awards to Santa Fe Market (first place), Rosemary's Bakery (second place) and Little China (third place).

It was a neat little event, most stores stayed open late and enjoyed the crowd. Our little museum was open and quite of few folks came in that had never been in before, and believe me when there is a crowd in that building, you know it!





What's Happening at the West Side Library?

by Lucy Meinhardt,
Librarian

The Richmond Public Library has announced the appointment of Kathy Buxton to the position of Childrens and Extension Supervisor. Kathy comes to our library system with experience as branch manager in Sacramento head of children's services in Fresno, and, most recently, as children's consultant in the California State Library. At Richmond, Kathy supervises the Young People's Library and both branches: Bayview and West Side. Welcome to Richmond and to West Side, Kathy.

NEW BOOKS

After delays caused by budget uncertainties, it is with great pleasure we report the arrival of a slew of new books at the branch.

Readers who have enjoyed Peter Mayle's A Year in Provence and Toujours Provence will welcome his Hotel Pastis. Unlike the previous two non-fiction works, his latest is a novel of Provence. Main character Simon Shaw, in the midst of an impulsive escape from his life as an advertising tycoon, buys a small hotel in the

south of France. After he transforms it into a idyllic retreat, the crooked plans of local bad guys threaten his dreams. The book promises "escape, romance, and adventure."

The title I plan to read first is Son of Fletch, Gregory McDonald's newest Fletch mystery. Reviews indicate that the wisecracking Fletch is just as witty and entertaining as before, if not more so.

Among the newly arrived non-fiction titles are two of great sociological importance, especially to women. Alice Walker's Warrior Marks continues the crusade she began in her recent novel, Possessing the Secret of Joy, the crusade to inform the world of the practice of ritual female genital mutilation which affects a hundred million women today. In Warrior Marks, Walker and Indian-British filmmaker Pratibha Parmar chronicle the making of their recently released film by the same title.

As one of many whose lives were profoundly affected by Betty Friedan's Feminine Mystique, I'm expecting a similarly liberating jolt from The Fountain of Age. To those of us whose hair is graying and thinning, men as well as

women, she offers her own deeply personal acceptance of what can't be changed about the aging process, along with a major challenge to the myths of aging commonly accepted in our society, replacing them with the reality of age as a time of continuing personal development and adventure.

Below is a sampling of other newly arrived titles:

Black Holes and Baby Universes...

Consider This, Senora

Crocodile Bird

Decider

Dangerous Fortune

Further Along the Road Less Travelled

Lasher

Night Manager

O Little Town of Magoddy

Robber Bride

Sacred Clowns

Slow Waltz in Cedar Bend

Women Who Run With Wolves

Hawking

Doerr

Rendell

Francis

Follett

Peck

Rice

LeCarre

Hess

Atwood

Hillerman

Waller

Pinkola

HOMEWORK HELP

The Homework Help program. Wednesdays from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., is cruising along with more kids every week and three new volunteers. A big welcome and many thanks to Brook Bortner, Erica Coates, and Tiana Tozer. Thanks also to continuing volunteer, Rhoda Plymack, and to Doris Silva of Many Hands for helping with volunteer recruitment.

COMING EVENTS

Community Center Holiday Party

Fri., Dec. 17, 3:00 p.m.

Stories, crafts, games and refreshments after school

Holiday stories and crafts

Wed., Dec. 22, 10:30 a.m.

Make an ornament for our tree; learn to spin a dreidel; find out about Kwanzaa.

Refreshments and fun.

REGULAR SCHEDULE

12:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Monday & Tuesday

12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

Story Hour

Every Thursday 10:00 a.m.

The Library is Wheelchair accessible.

Se habla espanol.



*Alexandra Gautraud's seminar returns to Point Richmond.
Don't miss out this time, this class is interesting, educational and fun, also proceeds
from your participation benefit the PRHA!*

POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION WRITING SEMINAR

WRITING YOUR OWN LIFE STORY

DATES: Four Mondays January 17, 31, February 14, 28, 1994

TIME: 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

LOCATION: Point Richmond Methodist Church - Social Hall
201 Martina Street
Point Richmond

INSTRUCTOR: Alexandra Gautraud, Author and Historian

FEE: \$25/PRHA members, \$30/non-members
(A minimum number of eight participants needed for class to begin.)

"Writing Your Own Life Story" is a four session class designed to get you started writing or continue your project. During the class you will learn how to keep your momentum going, tips on making story-writing easy, how to organize your material, professional writer's secrets for effective and easy writing, and how to revise and pull your story together. At each session there will be an opportunity for critiques of your work and optional writing assignments on your individual work-in-progress.

Instructor Alexandra Gautraud is a fulltime writer and author of San Mateo: A Sketchbook Tour of the San Francisco Peninsula's Past which won the prestigious Book Builders West Award. She is currently working on a book covering historic sites in the East Bay. Alexandra has taught writing to adults in the RUSD Adult Education program and to graduate students at the University of San Francisco.

If you are interested in attending this class, complete the form on the next page, enclose your check made payable to Point Richmond History Association, and send it to The Point Richmond History Association, 139 1/2 Washington Avenue, Point Richmond, CA 94801.

HAVE YOU NOTICED THOSE LIBERTY SHIPS IN OUR HARBOR?

Allan Smith



Maybe you have noticed that there are two Victory Ships presently docked at the Richmond Terminal #1, which is located at the foot of Dornan Drive. These ships will soon be towed to China or India by a huge Russian tugboat. This year at least six of the Victory Ships from the fast diminishing Suisun Mothball Fleet have been sold to be scrapped. Several of the ships have been built at the Richmond Shipyards.

I have volunteered to serve on the S/S Jeremiah O'Brien which is one of the last remaining Liberty Ships built during World War 2 in operating condition. Launched in 1943, it is now docked at Fort Mason in San Francisco and is open daily to the public.

The S/S Jeremiah O'Brien is preparing to return to Europe for a Normandy and European World War 2 Commemorative Voyage from April 2, 1994 to October 6, 1994. The ship served gallantly during the Normandy Invasion.

There is a museum aboard and if anyone has an item pertaining to Liberty Ships built during the World War 2 Era, especially in Richmond, that they would like to loan to the museum, please contact me at phone number 234-5149.

Regarding the ships to be scrapped:

1. How much did they sell for?
2. What is done with all the silver and dishware?
3. Where do the lockers go?
4. What happened to the Machinery, tools, etc.
5. How about clocks, compasses, desks, chairs.

"Writing Your Own Life Story"

Registration Form

Mondays Jan. 17, 31, Feb. 14, 28 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

\$25/PRHA members, \$30/non-members

Checks Payable to: Point Richmond History Association

139 1/2 Washington Avenue

Point Richmond, CA 94801

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

ROWDEYISM AT OPERA HOUSE LAST NIGHT

Loud and long were the remarks of disapproval heard on the street this morning at the conduct of the rowdy element at the play last night. At sevral (sic) of the recent performances gangs of hoodlums have made the evening atonement for those of the audience who desired to enjoy the presentation. The proper place for noisy hoodlums is the street, where if they go too far they can be checked by the officers. But we forget, there are no officers, or at least not enough to go around. If the boys desire to play horse let them go with the horses.

The play last night was evidently not to their liking. Unless given something coarse, simple and horsey, which they can follow, they become restive, and get their fun by annoying the balance of the audience. Last night at times the theatre was filled with shrieks, hisses, cat calls and whistling, and paper balls and other articles were thrown with utter disregard of the comfort and rights of others about the house.May we look for improvement?

(From the Richmond Daily Leader, Point Richmond, California, dated Thursday, October 8, 1908.)



THE MASQUERS

Playhouse, Inc.

105 Park Place, Point Richmond

PROUDLY PRESENTS



By: Charles Lederer and Luther Davis

Directed by: Pat Nelson

The musical Arabian Nights weaves a lush tapestry of romance and melody around a beggar-poet masquerading as a sorcerer with magical powers. There's a wicked wazir, his flirtatious wife, and two young star-crossed lovers awaiting Kismet (fate) to play its hand and set the ancient enchanting fairy tale city of Baghdad on its ear.

THE CAST

George Adams	Paulette Herring	Joan Nelson
Anna Albanese	Bree Iasnopolski	Ellie Ohara
Susan Amacker	Douglas McGann	Luanne Rogers
Arthur Atlas	Leslie McMurray	Jerry Telfer
Henry Bers	David Mendelsohn	Donald Waight
Davey Cruz	Amy Nawata	Bonnie Whatley
Robert Eichberg	Eric Neiman	Linda Woody-Wood
Monica Garcia-Orsorio		

Friday & Saturday evenings — October 29 - December 18

Sunday Matinees — November 7, 21, December 5, 12

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.

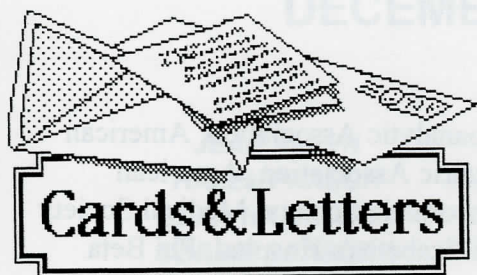
Matinees: 2:30 p.m.

Admission: \$10.00

DINNER & THEATRE benefit for our building fund at HOTEL MAC, Thursday evening, December 16. Dinner and ticket to "KISMET" for only \$25.00. To reserve, CALL: (510) 236-4988.

COMING: "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead", by Tom Stoppard. An hysterical spoof of Hamlet from the point of view of Shakespeare's most 'minor' characters.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



Dear Pam:

Enclosed is my check for membership in the PRHA. I was born & raised in the Point, the 5th of 7 children of Peter and Annie Kelleghan at 225 Clarence Street. I graduated from Washington School, Roosevelt Jr. High & Richmond Union High, class of June 1935. I have many fond memories of my growing days in the Point.

Enjoyed reading Delphina's article in you November issue & would like to make one slight correction. The house at the far end of the block from the Casey's, would be Mono Avenue and Golden Gate, and was not the home of the Kingsley family, but was known as the Blye Castle, and Lucille Cottingham and her mother lived there. The Kingsley's lived at the top of Castro and Richmond Avenue, with their daughter Laverne.

Keep up the good work.

Thanks,
George Kelleghan
Richmond

Welcome, George as a new member. And thanks for writing, I'm sure other members and your old friends appreciate hearing from you!

Gary

Dear Pam:

I truly enjoy receiving This Point In Time.

Nellie Bisio Pasquini
Richmond

*

Dear Pam:

A friend sent me a copy of your newsletter "The Point". I happen to be on page 20, graduating class of 1936 (*Ed. note, Vol. XIII, No. 5, October, 1993*).

Your newsletter is very informative.

I graduated from RUHS in June of 1943, my three brothers and two sister (deceased) prior to that. I left home, went to sea and, also, the Army after that. I got back to Richmond in 1991 when my brother Andrew got sick and eventually died.

I did, at the time, have old pictures (like Allan Smith). Grew with the Starks, Smiths, Allyns, Dornans, McAfees and many other familys in Point Richmond. I lived on Santa Fe and Cottage Avenues.

At the time, I attempted to give some of these old pictures to the Point Richmond History Association. They were always closed. I eventually sent them all to my brother Gus who lives in Los Angeles.

Spiro Cakos
Phoenix

Great to have you as a member, wish you had called, for old Point pictures we would have opened the museum especially for you!

Gary

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.

Articles for each month's issue are due on or before the deadline published in the calendar section.
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 nonprofit organization at

139 1/2 Washington Avenue
Point Richmond, CA 94801

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Mid Dornan	Articles
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Delphina Franco	Article
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Lucretia Edwards	Article
Alexandra Gautraud	Article
Ila Weis	Photos

TELEPHONE LISTINGS

Mid Dornan	510- 234-5334
Gary Shows	510- 235-1336
Phyllis Scaglund	510- 232-2280
Fax	510- 233-0762



Calendar

Winter, 1993/94

December 5	Richmond Art Center, Holiday Arts Festival
December 7 <i>Tuesday</i>	Pearl Harbor Day Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting, 7:30PM, Community Center Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting 11:30AM, Point Richmond Methodist Church
December 8 <i>Wednesday</i>	Point Richmond Business Association Christmas Party 5:00pm at the Hotel Mac
December 9 <i>Thursday</i>	First Day of Chanukah
December 11 <i>Saturday</i>	"Stick Men to Stick 'Em Up Guys" a free program especially for Elementary and Secondary Art Teachers, Richmond Museum of History, 10:00am-11:30am, 400 Nevin Avenue
December 16 <i>Thursday</i>	Eighth Day of Chanukah
December 21 <i>Sunday</i>	Winter Solstice
December 24 <i>Saturday</i>	Christmas Eve Point Methodist Community Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 7:00pm
December 25 <i>Thursday</i>	Christmas Day
January 1, 1994 <i>Saturday</i>	New Year's Day
January 4 <i>Tuesday</i>	Point Richmond Neighborhood Council Meeting, 7:30PM, Community Center Women's Westside Improvement Club Meeting 11:30AM, Point Richmond Methodist Church
January 12 <i>Wednesday</i>	Point Richmond Business Association Meeting Noon at the Hotel Mac
January 17 <i>Monday</i>	Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday
January 21 <i>Friday</i>	<u>Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead</u> opens at the Masquers Playhouse