

THIS POINT....in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

Vol. XIV No. 3 September & October, 1995

\$1.50



Rosie the Riveter Memorial Committee



**We are
searching for
the women
who worked
at the Kaiser
Richmond
Shipyards
during
World War II**



Rosie the Riveter Memorial Monument & Park

We have the unique opportunity of honoring the many women who worked in the Richmond Kaiser Shipyards during World War II. Their contributions and sacrifices for the cause of victory need to be known and honored. Please join with us in making this monument and park dedication a success.

Donna Powers
Committee Chairperson

If you are one of the *Rosie the Riveters* who worked at the Richmond Kaiser Shipyards or you know someone who was, please call us at 510-236-2024 with your address or fax number and we will send you a *Rosie the Riveter* nomination form.

HISTORY ASSOCIATION NOTES

From the President

MID DORNAN

This summer disappeared before I was ready. And have you noticed the 'unusual' weather is getting to be the usual?

Recurring words in each of your letters and phone calls are "lots of memories". Remembering is part of the fun of being old enough to have memories. Memories are like secrets, exciting if shared! If you have enjoyed others stories, they will probably enjoy yours. How were your pranks different from those of kids today? What did you do on Halloween? How did you celebrate Thanksgiving? What did you do that you'd never let your kids do?

Who were those high school students that 'set fire' on the school bus and were expelled from school for a few days?

Do any of you remember when Cutting Boulevard was more water than asphalt or concrete? You Point Richmond "Kids" need to let the current generation know what they missed!

Never forget that it is your letters, your phone calls, your recollections that keep this Newsletter alive!

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Early Washington School class, do you recognize.....?

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

June A. Blackburn
Bruce and Sandra Beyaert
Josephine Palenchar
Dody Perry
Al & Gerry Higuera
Mary L. Cornelius
Marilyn Darling
Luella Wilcox
Gordon & Margaret Miller
Claude Bisio
Norma & Jack Gerken
Sparta Chiozza
Marge Stone
Treff & Nellie Ross
Lloyd N. Bogue
Dora M. (Beesley) Feuerhelm
Kay Pinkerton
Phyllis Feyder
Al Franco
Willard & Jean Spiersch
Myrna Wishart
Hazel N. Tawney
Mrs. Charles H. Baldwin

And a warm welcome to new members:

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Allyn
Beatrice Beesley Casey
Paul & Lynn Von Wiedenfield
Viola Kennedy

*Museum Staff Coordinator Betty Dornan
thanks volunteers who staffed the History
Building:*

Ann & Bruce Bartrom
Elizabeth McDonald

Dody Perry

*(A special welcome to Dody who has
volunteered to be a regular museum
staffer)*

&

Our usual

Thank You!

to

Santa Fe Market

*for their donated distribution of
"THIS POINT....in time"*

Thank You

Bruce Beyaert

for your donation

and

Thank You to our friends at



for matching it!

&

Thank You

Russell Church

for donation of

old areal photographs

they have been reproduced

for our museum viewing collection

Come in and see 'em

If you can help staff our History Building
(2½ hours per month) call museum Staff
Coordinator Betty Dornan at 232-4317.

Museum Hours:

Thursday

11:30am - 2:00pm

Saturday

11:30 - 2:00pm

Editor's Notes

GARY SHOWS

Here is your September/October TPIT! And I think it's a pretty good one, thanks to the many contributors. Special thanks to Al Franco and Bernard Bernes, your contributions to this newsletter are the ones that make it come alive as well as create written history of our wonderful community.

Hey, and I have to give a big public thank you to our leader Mid Dornan, she got her stuff to me EARLY! The rest of you....well you know?

You should stop by our museum and see the new display case, its beautiful. Also new, we have reproduced and framed the incredibly clear 1901 photo of the Point from Nicholl Nob given to us by Dr. Wm. Thompson, we also now have negatives so it is available for your purchase.

The deadline for the November issue is October 20, 1995. This newsletter's period is the month of November as we will have a December issue

The Summer Issue Assembly Crew:

Liz McDonald

Muriel Clausen

Mary Highfill

Pam Wilson

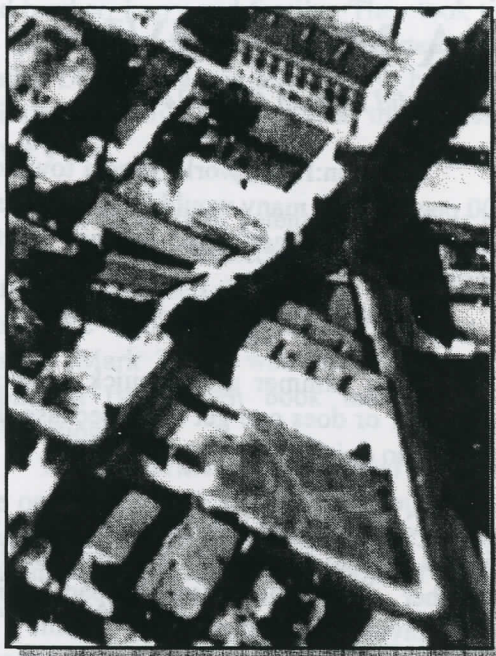
Jerry Cerkowicz

Gary Shows

Mid Dornan

Anne Hanzlik

Betty Dornan



Very early aerial photo of downtown triangle, courtesy of Russell Church, what were those little buildings in the lower left of the triangle?



The Cover:

Photo of Nola Glass on the left and Phyllis Glass on the right, taken with Cappy's beach in the background. The photo was taken in about 1929 and supplied by Betty Glass Marshall. Phyllis passed away this summer, see page 22.

A-Mid TRIVIA

-Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question: If the world were a town of 1,000 people, how many would be Europeans? Africans? South Americans? Asians? North Americans?

Answer at end of A-Mid Trivia.

Does summer go by quick because one is older or does one get older because the time goes so quick?

Crest Avenue is a closeknit group of residents that do nice things together and for each other. When the Umesh Kurpad family were leaving for their new home in Connecticut, neighbor Bernard Christensen offered to take them to the airport. As the Kurpad's waited and wondered if Bernard had remembered the time, a big limo drove up in front of their house to transport them 'in style' to the airport. Compliments of the Crest Avenue neighbors!

Your grandchildren may be able to operate a computer and program the VCR but when you sing a childhood days song will they know what's a rainbarrel? or a cellar door?

Mixed emotions. Seeing an intricate, symmetrical, almost invisible spiderweb reflecting the sun's rays in your picture window as guests arrive!

Cartoon: Ever notice how you used to be annoyed when you called someone and they had an answering machine. And now you're

annoyed when someone doesn't have one?

When the Rev. Dan Damon arrived on July 1st for his new assignment as minister of the First Methodist Church in the Point, his birthday was the next day. In the confusion of transition, Dan's special day usually goes unheard. Not so with the Point members who surprised him with a lunch and cake after his first church service on July 2nd.

The Rev. Damon will be pursuing his PH.D in music and already is planning to organize a church children's choir ...and, wants to start a chorus at Washington School. Daughter, Heather, will be attending as a fifth grader.

Robert James Palfini, named after both grandparents and son of Roberta and Richard Palfini, Irvine, California was baptised on July 21st at the Methodist Church with Rev. Darrell Thomas, Modesto, assisting Rev. Dan Damon

Rev. Thomas was pastor in the Point when Roberta Dornan was born and subsequently performed the Sacraments of Baptism, Marriage, and Baptism of 2 year-old daughter, Rachel.

Musical noodles? In Japan "Beethoven Bread" has been produced by order since 1990. The theory behind these classical music-assisted products is that while humans relax by listening to the music, enzyme and yeast fungus activity becomes livelier at the sound of classical music.

Their researchers found that classical music makes the density of yeast about 10 times higher than normal.

The pasta product goes on sale in September.

Chevron is planting thousands of native trees to create a 'forest' to screen the new dark brown painted tanks from view. Landscaping along Castro Street will begin this year and be finished by 1996 according to General Manager Mike Hannan.

Landscaping with trees is already evident at Garrard and Cutting. Cheers!

Our unique Santa Fe 'wig-wag' on West Richmond Avenue needs a new paint job and flowers in the planter.

And, isn't there a business or group that would adopt and landscape the unsightly triangle entrance to the Point by the plunge?

Did you know the major trade areas that do business with the Port of Richmond include the Far East/Pacific Rim nations and the countries of western Europe.

No other product in history has such a short shelf life as a computer. It is 'out of date' before it's even out of the carton. Or so it seems!

Deneane Winter flew to Whitefish, Montana for her 30th class reunion and couldn't believe the changes in the tiny community. Californians rank number one as the spoiler. High prices also caught her attention.

Reba Downs and children, Colin and Julia, Colorado Springs, Colorado, spent a week visiting her mother in the Point, Velma Slagle

and brother, Larry and family. They took time to spend a few days with Kindergarten friend, Kathy Dornan Barnes and family, here from Mississippi while they were at their Russian River cabin.

The typewriter, patented in 1868, is now on the antique, 'collectible' list! Not yet extinct, but headed that way as the computer (for those who can use them) is faster and easier. Mark Twain was the first author to submit a typewritten book manuscript for publication.

The typewriter was a personal tool, from the one finger style to the speed touch typist. Remington, Underwood, Olivetti, L.C. Smith & Corona were the trademark tools of another generation—mine.

Earthquake jittery? Iowa, Wisconsin and Maryland are the only states with no quakes measured over 4.5 magnitude since 1568.

Irresistable temptation: To find something else to spray paint if the can isn't empty.

Pharmacist to customer: "Take one pill every 4 hours, or as often as you can get the childproof cap off the bottle."

ANSWER: There would be...

564 Asians

210 Europeans

86 Africans

90 South Americans

60 North Americans

Of these people...

700 would be illiterate

500 would be hungry

- ♦ *Henry's*
- One photo studio:**
- ♦ *Mr. Snell's Photo Studio*
- One jewelry store:**
- ♦ *Dietricks*
- One carpenter shop:**
- ♦ *Fred Brewen*
- One electric shop:**
- ♦ *Mr. Topping's*
- One plumbing and sheet metal shop:**
- ♦ *Spiersch Brothers*
- One antique store:**
- ♦ *Weston's*
- Three garages:**
- ♦ *West Side Garage*
- ♦ *Bennet's Garage*
- ♦ *Calandra's Garage*
- Three taylor shops:**
- ♦ *Mr. Bisio*
- ♦ *Mr. Dupree*
- ♦ *A Jewish family who's name I can't remember, but business was on Standard Avenue.*
- Three bakeries:**
- ♦ *Torino Bakery*
- ♦ *Ketelhut's Bakery*
- ♦ *An Italian Bakery on the corner of Richmond and Santa Fe Avenues.*
- Six grocery stories:**
- ♦ *Chasseur Brothers*
- ♦ *McQuorter's*
- ♦ *Tony Mazza's*
- ♦ *Whiteside's*
- ♦ *Sutich's, Mom and Pop store*
- ♦ *Scheeline's*
- One butcher shop:**
- ♦ *The Santa Fe Market owned by Mr. Meurer*
- One taxi service:**
- ♦ *Called Jitney, because fare was five*

cents, from the Point to Sixth and Macdonald in Richmond.

Two coal, hay grain, sand and gravel suppliers:

- ♦ *Dornan's Supply*
- ♦ *P.F. Johnson and Son*

Two laundries:

- ♦ *Richmond French Laundry, owned by Louis Bernes (my father)*
- ♦ *Chinese Laundry*

Four churches:

- ♦ *Catholic Church*
- ♦ *Methodist Church*
- ♦ *Episcopal Church*
- ♦ *Baptist Church*

Two insurance agencies:

- ♦ *Stidham Insurance*
- ♦ *Gnaga Insurance*

One bank:

- ♦ *The Bank of Richmond*

Two cigar stores:

- ♦ *Kenny's Cigar Store*
- ♦ *King's Cigar Store (He had a Wooden Indian.)*

One Judge:

- ♦ *Judge O'Neil*

One Attorney:

- ♦ *Mr. Windrem*

One pharmacy:

- ♦ *Neidecker's Pharmacy (later Palmeteer's)*

One shoe shine parlor:

- ♦ *Jimmies' Shoe Shine*

Marine freight service:

- ♦ *Lauritzen(sp) Navigation*

And of course:

- ♦ *Standard Oil Company*
- ♦ *Santa Fe Railway Company*

To support all of the above we had street cars on Standard Avenue and Park Place.

Church News

Our Lady of Mercy

Allan Smith

We will be celebrating the 92nd Anniversary of our church with our annual "Steak Barbecue" on Sunday, September 3rd starting at 1:00 PM. All are invited to our only annual fundraiser of the year.

St David's School in Richmond (871 Sonoma Street) has started a Pre-Kindergarten beginning on September 5th. For more information on this class you should call 232-2283.

Our pastor, Rev. James Clift, has been saying monthly masses for the residents of the Family Manor Rest home in Richmond for many years. The home is located adjacent to the Salesian High School. One of our parishioners, Bernice Marglon, has been admitted to Family Manor and is progressing satisfactorily. Her husband, Earl Marglon, a long time Richmond (since 1925) was instrumental in planning and engineering of the side entrance and ramp installed at the right of our church. This addition was dedicated to the memory of Patricia McKinley of our parish. Earl Marglon was a career U.S. Army Top Sergeant and has just belatedly received a Decoration and Medal from the United States government for *Gallantry and Bravery* in action for his services during World War Two in the South Pacific and in the Korean War. The Silver Star Medal is now in his

possession. (Note: Having never seen a Silver Star, I'll ask Earl to bring it to our September 3rd Barbecue.

Point Richmond Methodist

Jean Reynolds

We celebrate the arrival of our new pastor The Rev. Dan Damon, along with his wife Marion and daughter Heather. They arrived this summer and began service at the Point United Methodist Church on July 1st. We have only begun to realize some of Pastor Dan's talents and the gifts he brings to our community. He is nationally known as a hymn-writer, poet, composer and jazz pianist. We hope to have a long association with him as he pursues a doctorate degree at the Pacific School of Religion and other career goals.

We are especially excited about a children's choir, let by Pastor Dan and Marion, to start on Wednesday, September 6 at 4:00pm at the church. It will be for children grades 1 to 6. Pastor Dan has also committed to directing a choir at Washington School, with Marion's help.....Hooray! I was able to watch them in action at Vacation Bible School and learned that their enthusiasm is contagious!

Speaking of Vacation Bible School, there was more than the fabulous music, we had a great week. There were nineteen kids, three classes, crafts, games, stories and food. We studied five stories from the Bible, one each day; each story was an example of one of God's Amazing Deeds. One of the measures of a successful week is whether the children want to come again, and some had asked their parents if they could come again next year even before the week was over. Teachers included Anne Goetsch, Kristi Johnson,

Cyndy Netz, Pastor Dan Damon, Marion Damon, and Jean Reynolds. Trevor Gates and Michael Reynolds let activities and games, Shirley Butt and Oretta Eaton provided snacks, and several parents, including Chris Bradshaw and Diane Hirano, prepared lunch on Friday. Thanks to all who helped to make the week a success.

Adult choir resumes rehearsal on Wednesday, August 23rd at 7:00 PM. Director Virginia Cherniak and Pastor Dan sorted through the music files and have given the choir loft a new look. Come add your voice to the "Joyful Noise".

Sunday school classes will resume on September 10th at 10:00 am for the ages three years through adult. We will again be using curriculum from The Whole People of Good. It uses scriptures and stories from the Bible that correspond to the ones that are used to plan the worship service each week, so there is a connection between what we study in class and focus on in worship.

We will shift into dream-mode again on Saturday, September 16th from 9:00 am to noon. Dream Breakfast 3 promises to be another "don't miss" morning: the men will prepare breakfast and Kristi Johnson will lead us in some activity designed to share and develop a vision of who we are as individuals as a church.

The Annual Country Faire, sponsored by the United Methodist Women, will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 27th and 28th. A "sit down" lunch will be served on Friday and will cost \$5.00. Soup and desserts will be available for lunch on Saturday. Both days, hand-made craft items and holiday treasures will be sold.

Point Methodist Church History

-Mid Dornan

Church history is rich with contributions of women. One Church group in the 1920's was the SOCIAL LEAGUE of the First Methodist Episcopal Church whose history 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 16th installment.

October 21st, 1924

The Social League met at the home of Mrs. Scofield with fifteen members present.

The meeting opened by repeating Lord's prayer.

The minutes of previous meeting were read and with slight corrections approved as read.

Silver Committee reported silver bought consisting of 8 dozen knives, forks and spoons and the sum of eighty dollars paid for same.

Bazaar chairman to meet at one o'clock Monday for detailed planning.

Mrs. Dicely moved we have a fish pond, seconded by Mrs. Osborne and Motion carried.

Mrs. Dusheimer appointed to take charge of fish pond.

Bazaar to open at 11 o'clock.

Meeting adjourned.

Erma R. Parker

Secy Protem

On hand	\$93.23
Silver paid out	<u>80.00</u>
Dues	13.23
Mrs. Hendricks	.60
Mrs. Burdick	.60
Mrs. Scofield	.60
Mrs. Osborne	.60
Mrs. E. Jenkins	.60
Mrs. Parker	.60
Mrs. Alexander	<u>.60</u>
	4.20
Silver Offering	<u>1.00</u> - \$18.23

Sports Memories

by Allan Smith

The recent All Star game between the American and National leagues brought back memories of when Point Richmond's All Star pitcher, Russ Christopher, was qualified but missed out on his only chance to be an All Star because our country was at war during that 1945 baseball season.

In my research for *Sports Memories* I frequently come across the name of Robert Mariola. Recently while browsing the 1929 Roosevelt Junior High publication, the "Blu-J" I came across an article in the sports section that says, "Robert 'Mary' Mariola is the outstanding ground gainer of our varsity football team's backfield." Could this be the same Bob Mariola, Sr. that lives on Montana Street here in the Point and is a Chevron retiree?

We Lost Some This Summer

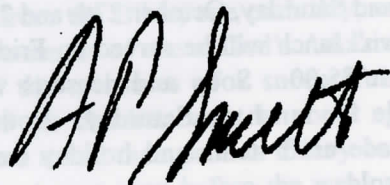
Kathryn Coad (Johnson) member of a pioneer Point Richmond family passed away recently. She belonged to Our Lady of Mercy Church before moving from the Point. While growing up in Point Richmond, she lived with her family at 38 Santa Fe Avenue, an apartment building once owned by the Point's Vivian Transue. Kathryn's father worked at the Standard Oil Company. "Thirty Eight" was later the home of Al & Helene (Rafanelli) Frosini and then Allan and Marcelina (Batista) Smith. Melvin Hitch, a popular Point Richmonder in those early years lived in the

same building with his mother and brother Kenneth. Mrs Hitch worked in the cafeteria of the Standard Oil Company. Kenneth Hitch retired from the U.S. Army with the rank of "General".

Jane Hartnett, Martin's Bakery counter employee, lived in the same building that was later purchased by Point Richmond's first Honorary Mayor, the lovable Joe Matteucci. It has had two previous owners since that time.

In February of this year, Lois (Busby) Stewart died. She was born in Utah but raised in Point Richmond. The family home was on Idaho Street where she resided with her parents, sister Phyllis and two brothers Don and Martin. Later, with her husband, they formed and owned the huge Stewart Trucking and Warehouse Company in Richmond. I remember how this business started in Point Richmond during the early depression years. Mr. Stewart began selling fresh ranch eggs from door to door to the Point residents.

Then Louis Armstrong died, he was a native of Point Richmond, graduated from local schools and served in the U.S. Air Force during World War Two. With his father they owned and operated the Armstrong Roofing Company that did most of the roofing work on the Point Richmond homes. Full Masonic funeral services were given to "Louie" and his remains will be buried next to his father at the Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno.



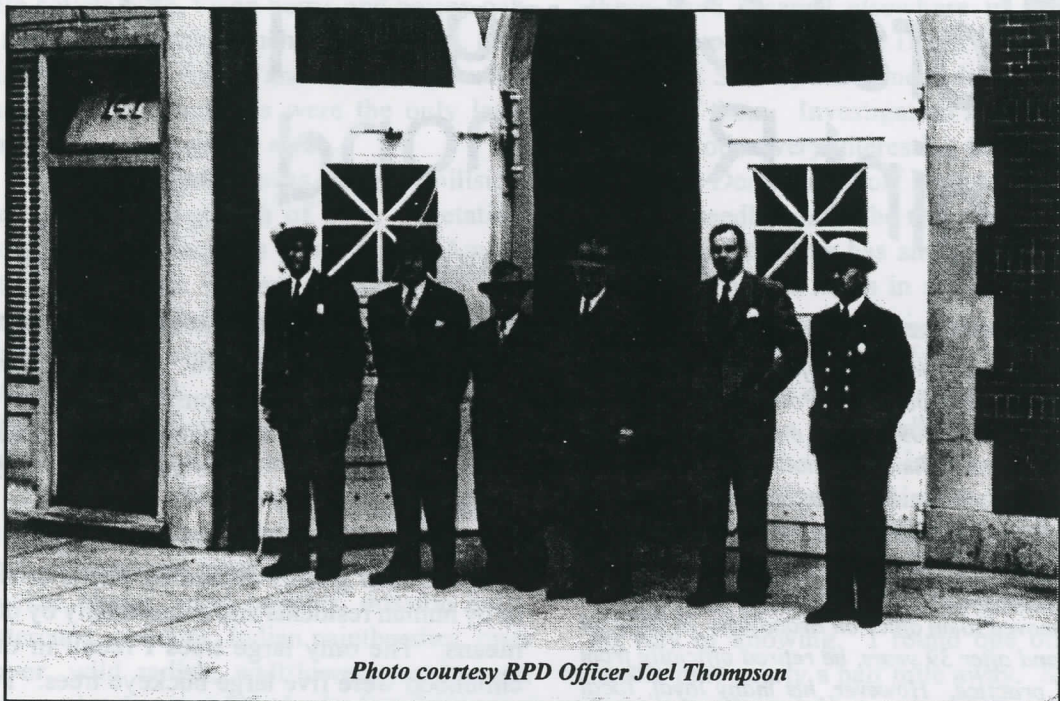


Photo courtesy RPD Officer Joel Thompson

Mark Your Calendar
The First Methodist Church's
Annual
Point Country Faire
will take place on
Friday, October 28th
for more information call
234-0780 or 234-5334

West Side Improvement Club News from Betty Dornan

Members of the West Side Improvement Club should note that our meetings will resume on Tuesday, September 5th at Friendship Hall of the First Methodist Church on Martina and West Richmond Avenues at 11:30 AM.

The next meeting will be October 3rd at the same time and place. We will be honored by a guest speaker for the October meeting, Dextra Christiansen. Dextra and her husband are physical therapists and Walnut Creek and will be speaking on "How to Put More Quality in Your Life".

For more information on the West Side Improvement Club call 233-3343 or 232-4317.

Floral Changes in the Point Richmond Hills

Wm. L Thompson

William L. Thompson, often called Louis by his friends, was born in Point Richmond on February 17th, 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 to our written archives. Here is our tenth series from Dr. Thompson.

Part One

The purpose of this article is to take note of the changes in the plant life in the Potrero Hills since the advent of modern people in the area. I was born in a house on the north slope of Nicholl Nob in 1909 and I recall the entire region fairly well since about 1912 or 1913. In fact the entire hill system south of the Santa Fe tunnel was a playground for my brother and me, and neighbors in our early life. I remember the hills as mostly a richly grass-covered area with scattered bushes and very few trees.

The Spanish originally named this ridge the "Potrero Hills" and the south point was Potrero Point. The word "potrero" in Spanish refers to

a grassy area or a meadow. It is a common name for various locations in that part of California settled by the Spanish, and in the old days it described well the grassy Point Richmond hills.

The original botany and dendrology of the area has been greatly altered by plants brought in by human residents and occasionally by other means. The only large trees I recall in early childhood were five large buckeye trees. Two, possibly three of these were growing on Indian mounds. Only two of the five remain, and fortunately both have younger offspring. One of the five was located on the old shell mound at the extreme end of Potrero Point. Another was on the hillside across from the Dornan Drive opposite the southwest end of Miller-Knox Park. Another was high on the east side of the ridge a few hundred yards south of the old road cut. A fourth was on the hillside above the old Mason home on East Scenic Avenue. The fifth, and largest, was in the hollow above the end of Montana Street and below East Scenic Avenue. At this location it was a great plaything for children. It was eventually cut down for firewood by the local residents.

Most of the hills were covered by grass, mostly wild oats, and various small plants, weeds, and flowers, but there were also quite a few small bushes, the most common of which

were coyote bush, toyon berry, and poison oak. A few smaller bushes such as bush aster, bush mimulus, lupin bush, and others occurred. These and the buckeyes were the only large plants in the open grassy areas.

In the hollows and coves along the hillsides there was a rich growth of other vegetation, some almost as large as small trees. Among these were small willows, poison oak, wild roses, elderberry bushes, blackberry vines, and others. Other vines were the manroot and Dutchmans pipes. Hidden in this mass of vegetation were flowers such as red columbine and the false Solomon seal as well as soap root.

There were also many spring wildflowers on the slopes. Among them were poppies, two kinds of brodiaea, grass iris (blue eyed grass), checker bloom, wind poppies, mission bells, buttercups, sun cups, Indian paintbrushes, owls clover, wild radish, wallflowers, mule ears, asters, mimulus, and blue lupin, but there were many others. Late in the spring came bush asters, orange bush mimulus, and the fare-well-to-spring (godetia).

Since the advent of numerous people and homes, many alien trees, bushes and flowers have been added to the original flora of the region. Some of these were escapees and some were voluntarily planted for variety. Some seemed to have arrived by non-human means. North of the Santa Fe tracks, the great number of homes have almost destroyed the native flora. I know nothing of the plant life on the hills behind the Chevron Refinery.

I recall Mr. Paul Dunlap planting pine trees in the cove near the old Davidson home. My brother tells me that he also planted black walnuts. None of these has survived. However there has been a flood of Monterey pines planted along the base of Nicholl Nob and

these have escaped elsewhere in the range. Driving up Buena Vista Drive to its junction with East Scenic, one almost drives through a jungle of them. Investigation has revealed at least one other very interesting tree on the trail above the Dornan rock off Dornan Drive. This is a two needle pine. The two needles are also shorter, and the tree has smaller cones which are placed on the limbs in a manner different from the Monterey pine.

California has three different pine trees that grow close to the ocean. The most southerly is the torrey pine, a five needle white pine. The next pine up the coast is the three needle Monterey pine, a yellow pine, and north of this in the Point Reyes area is the two needle bishop pine. The tree described above appears to be a bishop pine, but how it got to its location I have no way of knowing. I found one other two needle pine nearly a half mile away. Someone must have planted this tree in this location.



Memories of the Point in the 20's and 30's As Seen Through A Kitchen Window

by Al Franco

Part One of Two Parts

Most of the articles appearing in TPIT are about people places or things. In this article, I would like to address less tangible things.

Our home on Golden Gate Avenue was on the crest of a hill which separated two ethnic groups; on the east side were the Latin Americans, and on the west is where the Italians chose to live. We were of various nationalities: the Lewises, the Caseys, the Jameses, the Christophers and us.

My most vivid memories of the Point are those which I saw through the kitchen window of our home on Golden Gate Avenue. It seems odd that so much of my life was molded by what I observed through that 3' X 5' wood framed, double hung window facing westward, overlooking the San Francisco Bay and out through the Golden Gate. Our kitchen table sat in front of the window and gave me a good chance to compile memories while eating breakfast, lunch or for that matter just sitting there marveling at the phenomenon which God had laid out before me.

On the left hand side of the window,

about half way up, there was a crescent shaped piece of glass broken out, probably a mishap which occurred during installation, but certainly long before we moved in. The hole was patched by someone who put a small piece of glass over the damage, a rectangular piece of glass a slight bit larger than the hole itself with an adhesive so strong that it weathered all of the ferocious westerly winds and torrential rains of winter, and the blazing sun in the summer. Through all this, not once did a single drop of water seep through the repair in the twenty years that we occupied the house. What the adhesive was, I do not know, I only know that it was years ahead of its time, and I haven't seen anything as durable since.

From my vantage point twelve feet above the ground level, I could see for miles in north, south and westerly direction. Immediately below was my dad's vegetable garden, which he had spent many hours of back breaking labor to terrace off the slope so that the plants would be level and have a better chance of retaining water. It was my job to water the garden, at first by carrying buckets from an artisan well, and later my pumping water into a series of ingeniously designed wooden troughs which carried the water from the well to the rows of vegetables some fifty feet away. How he got water to run up hill I will never know.

Just on the other side of an alley at the end of our property line was the monolithic house rising three stories above the slopping hillside where the Frosini's lived. Next to them, I could see the back yard of the Ceccis. There were times when Chip Cecci and Al Frosini would be out in the yard talking. How I envied them because they were older, bigger, stronger and were able to and permitted to do things that I couldn't. Some years later, I once

again envied Al. Both he and I were on detached service from our home military bases at Gila Bend, Arizona, practice gunnery base. We accidentally bumped into each other in the base beer hall reminisced about the good old days in the Point. Unfortunately our duties kept us apart for the most part after that and I didn't see him again until one night when a USO troupe visited the camp. Al brought the house down at the post theater by jitterbugging to the pounding beat of "In the Mood" with Jinx Faulkenberg, an extremely beautiful woman who had won the title of Miss America in the not too distant past. Who was, I believe at that time was a movie starlet in Hollywood. He was not only envied by me, but by some four hundred "dogfaces" as well.

Down the hill and to the left, was the home of Mrs. Corsi. Across the street in front of her house in a vacant lot, Mr. Elmo Lewis, our next door neighbor had painstakingly cultivated the soil, planted seed and irrigated by carrying buckets full of water from his house approximately 100 away to make a bountiful productive vegetable garden. I can

remember him, like a troll at the entrance to the bridge, waving his shovel at anyone who dared to trespass on this hallowed ground. "No blankety blank is going to steal my vegetables", he would boast to my dad.

Behind the Corsi house there was a vacant lot where many of us would gather to play baseball. Our "stadium" was at the bottom of a valley where the hills on both sides rose so sharply that second base was about eight feet higher than home plate. It was there that I learned that my tantalizing "unhittable" round house curve was neither tantalizing nor unhittable. On the contrary, every time I threw it, the batter would hit it out of sight; even a little kid on the way home from kindergarten, and a girl to make things even worse. Oh well! I'll leave the pitching to Russ Christopher.



Many Point children played on and around this old buckeye tree



Anne Hanzlik Review

It is reassuring to be reminded that despite so many problems and negative news with which we are constantly being confronted, there are still stories that can inspire us with the positive successes of the human spirit. The Miracle Worker is actually about two such humans, a young teacher, Anne Sullivan and her even younger pupil Helen Keller. This is a quote from the Encyclopedia Britannica: "The case of Helen Keller is the most extraordinary ever known in the education of deaf mutes."



How fortunate that in 1887 a remarkably gifted 20 year old girl, herself handicapped by blindness was referred to, to try and teach this seven year old child, a victim of a debilitating illness, a way to escape from her personal prison, by her inspired teaching.

Within the period of two short months she was able to break through to Anne, by means of 'signing by hand' the concept of the word WATER and almost immediately to the whole world of meanings. The word "teacher" and "pupil" should be hallowed indeed in this case.

A remarkably able cast headed by Robin Steeves as Anne Sullivan as the teacher and Ariel Pearl-Jacobvitz as Helen Keller is well supported by a large cast, some familiar and others newcomers, including some appealing children.

The Masquer's quite small stage proved more than adequate for the quite complicated set which incorporated both upstairs and downstairs of the Keller's house as well as the yard, complete with a working well! There is also a garden gate and an adjacent cottage room, accomplished with a minimum of scene shifting and all with the ambience of the turn of the century of an Alabama town. The

production staff deserves many kudos.

Jo Camp, whose passing is being honored this month would be very pleased indeed by the production.

THE MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS

William Gibson's



Directed by Theo Collins

This stirring dramatization of the true story of deaf, blind and mute Helen Keller is one of the most successful and warmly admired plays of the modern stage. It tells the story of a child trapped in a dark and silent world, and how she is rescued by a teacher of uncommon determination and insight.

"Magnificent theater." -N.Y. Daily Mirror

1959 Tony Award: Best Play

THE CAST

Vanessa Butler Anne Cagari Austyn Carr-Therol
Brad Clark Eddie Collins Rebecca Collins-Puerto
Shayla Crudup Robert Oakes Ariel Pearl-Jacobvitz
Chavonna Perkins Colleen Renault Amata Small
Robin Steeves Don Waight Marie Wedell

Friday & Saturday Evenings:

AUGUST 18 – SEPT. 30, 1995

Sun. Matinees: AUGUST 27, SEPT. 10, 17

For the hearing-impaired, performances will be signed on Saturdays September 9 and 23

**24 HR. RESERVATIONS:
(510) 232-4031**

Reservations held until 10 minutes before curtain.
Group Rates Available.

Box Office opens at 8PM; 2PM for matinees

Curtain 8:30PM Matinees 2:30PM

Admission: \$9.00 cash or check

MASQUERS DINNER & THEATRE BENEFIT

for the Masquers Building Fund

THURS., SEPTEMBER 28

Dinner at the Hotel Mac followed by performance
of *The Miracle Worker*

for only \$25. To reserve, call (510) 236-4988.

Congratulations! Tom Butt

Congratulations PRHA member, supporter and benefactor Tom Butt. Tom, President of the Point Richmond firm Interactive Resources was recently invested into the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects at the organization's annual convention in Atlanta. He was chosen for this honor by a jury of his peers for his accomplishments in architecture, service to the profession, service to education, and service to the community.

In 1995, only 127 architects nation-wide were elevated to Fellowship, the highest honor the American Institute of Architects can bestow, with the exception of the Gold Metal. Tom was recognized for his pioneering achievements in historic preservation, energy conservation, urban planning, and diagnostic architecture. Further, he has advanced the standards of architectural practice by authoring technical papers published in respected national journals.

Some of Tom's many noted accomplishments include his active support of historic preservation. He has used his skills to help organize successful historic districts (one being Point Richmond). He lobbied for a new preservation law, wrote and published articles on effective preservation practices, and founded a non-profit corporation that saved a handsome light station (East Brother) on the bay. He has designed the rehabilitation of numerous historic buildings, which were based upon adaptive reuse and funded as private developments.

Tom Butt is was recognized for this work in energy conservation and alternative energy, urban planning and design as well as forensic/diagnostic architecture.



Richmond's Doctors, 1934

Medical Doctors practicing in Richmond in 1934. Taken from the state medical directory of 1935 by Dr. Wm. L Thompson

Date is the date practice was established in Richmond.

Abbott, Clark Lorenzo	1902(a)	Ford, Harry	1931
Abbott, U.S.	1908(b)	Fraser, Leopold Henry	1925
Barney, H.N.	1902(c)	Fraser, William	1913
Blake, Charles R.	1903	Guinan, Edward R.	1919
(Became Health Officer	1914)	Harmon, Robert	1930
Boomer, Joseph Meredith	1935	Hedges, Lafatette Abbott	1929
Bumgarner, John Waldo	1925	Lucas, William	1903
Campbell, Palmerton C.	1901(d)	Martin, ?	1911(g)
Carpenter, H.L.	1913(e)	(Abbott Hospital Surgeon)	
Cunningham, W.E.	1903(f)	McNerney, H.W.	1939/40
Daily, Kaho	1931	Morrow, Allen	1934
Deininger-Keiser, Margaret	1907	Powell, Rosa	(about) 1913
Fernandez, Manuel (Pinole)	1901/02	Powell, William	1925
		Ross, Peter	1934
		Spalding, Clara	1919
		Spalding, John	1919
		Thompson, Wm. L.	1940
		Vestal, Hall	1910(h)
		Wuestoff, ?	1926

(z) indicates that definately in photo, others?

Cards & Letters

It was so nice to see all you good people again. My son, Joel took me on a sight seeing trip of the Point Area. The town looked beautiful! I lived there in my younger days. We had just moved there from Buffalo, New York....came on vacation but liked it so much we stayed in 1921. So you see there were changes since then & I remember the watering trough for horses at the foot of the Indian Statue. The Salvation Army came and played every Sunday night. I lived across from the Hotel Mac, so my sister Victoria and I were able to get up to the statue and climb in the water trough and have a ring side seat for the singing and music. Hope you can read my writing, I'm now 80 years old and something has got to give.

Sincerely,
Elsie A. Spinola
San Leandro



Dear Pam:

We are enclosing our check for another year's membership in TPIT

Thanks to all the Staff for a job well done! We look forward to receiving the newsletter each month. We see so many names that conjure up memories of the past, and enjoy the articles written by Dr. Thompson, Bernard Bernes, Allan Smith et al. We especially enjoy letters recalling life in the

Point!

Gary, your work putting out the TPIT is very professional and believe me, your hard work is appreciated!

Very truly yours
Willard & Jean Spiersch
Thanks a lot!
Gary

Dear PRHA:

Enclosed is my check. Claude and I were one of the last to arrive but, as usual, one of the last to leave "Kids Day". It was a lovely friendly affair and we look forward to the next one.

Claude was born above the red fire house on June 18, 1921. His dear mother thought on that day she had given birth to a future president of the United States!! Claude's father, Giacomo Bisio, brought her as a bride to the Point from France after the First World War.

Claude and his sister, Nellie Bisio Pasquini, called the Point home until 1933 when they moved to 30th Street in Richmond. They truly enjoy "returning home" to Point Richmond.

Sincerely,
Bernadette Bisio

P.S. We're looking forward to receiving issues of "This Point".



To all who made the Point Richmond "Kids" reunion such a memorable and fun time:

Thank you so much! Those of us who were fortunate to be a "Point Richmond Kid" will never forget those wonderful, peaceful friendly and mellow times. We did not have much money, but we created fun times, and

those wonderful memories!

My family has a long history in the Point. The family home on Golden Gate Avenue was built in 1906. It has been interesting to read in the newsletter about the early homes in the Point. Each issue of TPIT has something in it that brings back a warm and wonderful bit of history. Thank you staff of TPIT.

Sincerely,
Marjorie (Ellis) Stone
Kensington



Dear Pam,

Here is my renewal fee. You all did a great job on the "Kids from the Point" get together, I saw names I hadn't seen in years!

I'll sure be there at the next one, and thanks for a great publication.

Sincerely,
Luella Bain Wilcox
Oroville



Dear Pam,

I am enclosing my check for renewal of my subscription. I look forward to each issue and it keeps getting better and better.

June Beesly, do you remember living at the bottom of Idaho Street. I lived at 49 Idaho next to the top. I remember you.

I am sorry I missed the Point Kids Day, I recognized so many of the names, sounds like it was fun for all. Our Point Richmond is special. Maybe another year I can come out.

June Kunkel Blackburn
Bemidji, MN



Dear Pam,

I think I have depended on you to insert a

Red Flag noting that my subscription is due, however the message is just as effective when I don't receive the copy of the current issue, so here is my subscription for another year.

I am delighted to know that the POINT KIDS will assemble next year, particularly for those that could not come to the bash this time around. Also, the piece of news regarding the Mac Hotel is welcome to be able to stay longer in that area than just an afternoon.

It was a pleasure meeting you!

Cheers until next year,
Betty Glass Marshall
Grants Pass, OR



Dear PRHA:

We are excited to be a part of the Point Richmond community, and thank you to Betty Dornan for sharing the history of Point Richmond with me.

Lynn Von Wiedenfield
Point Richmond



Hi Pam,

It was a lot of fun meeting you and the rest of the people who do all the hard work on TPIT.

I'm sending a membership for my sister Beatrice who doesn't seem to have time to get to it.

Regards,
June Beesley Solosbal





Remembering Oneda Clutts

The death of someone always leaves sadness in its wake, but the untimely death of a childhood friend, causes you to stop and reflect. Oneda Clutts was some who started Washington School with the Point kids. Oneda was always being held up to us as someone who had wonderful penmanship and artistic talent. At Roosevelt Junior High, she developed a close bond with our freshman history teacher and kept in touch until his death. During high school, the Point group seemed to go separate ways but still everyone asked about each other and tried to keep up on each other. Last December, I saw Oneda for the first time in years and it was as if it had been only months. We talked for many hours and shared stories about Point friends. We even talked about attending our 30th class reunion next year. There is an empty feeling that I have because of her death....be at peace Oneda.

Pat Dorman

Deaths

Louis Edward Armstrong, retired as the owner of Armstrong Roofing in Richmond, died at his Golden Gate Avenue residence from an illness.

The Oakland native was a 72 year resident of Point Richmond. He was a member of El Portal Lodge 347, Free and Accepted Masons of Richmond; and Richmond Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons.

He is survived by a daughter, Susan E. Armstrong of El Cerrito.

Jo Camp retired from Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory after 28 years as a technical editor, died July 6 in a Richmond Hospital of natural causes.

The New York native was a 22 year resident of El Cerrito. She was Resident Director and founder in 1955 of the Masquers Playhouse, Inc. of Point Richmond and a former history and drama teacher in Lassen County & San Ramon Valley Union High School.

She is survived by friends Marilyn Levin of Pleasant Hill and Jeanette Gilmore of Oakland.

A Memorial Service to mourn her death was held at the Masquers Playhouse in Point Richmond on July 28th.

Kathryn "Kathie" Coad died on July 10th at her home in Paradise after a short illness. She was 75.

The Chicago native was a 17-year resident of Paradise and former Richmond resident for

more than 50 years. She was a member of the St. Thomas More Catholic Church, St. Thomas

Guild, Marysville Deanery, and Catholic Ladies Aid No. 56.

She is survived by her daughters, Karen Espinoza of San Diego and Kristine Lazaro of El Sobrante; her sister Eleanor Best of Pinole; 2 nieces; 5 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. She is predeceased by her husband Clyde and son Kevin.

Oneda Clutts owner of Graham & Avenue Floor Coverings, Richmond for four years, died at her business. She was 46 years old.

Oneda was a Point Richmond resident, was a Camp Fire Girl and belonged to Rainbow Girls. She attended Washington School and graduated from Harry Ells High School in 1966.

She is survived by her mother, Marguerite Clutts of Richmond, and her brother, Sidney Clutts of Pinole.

Phyllis E. (Glass) Ackerman, 75, of Modesto died on July 15, 1995 at Doctors Medical Center. Mrs. Ackerman was born in Loma Linda and after two weeks returned to her home on Western Drive in Point Richmond. She lived in Modesto for 43 years, 24 years in Point Richmond, 6 years in Richmond and 2 years in Concord.

She was a secretary for Doctors Medical Center, was a member of the "Volunteer Workers from the Stanislaus Medical Center", was a member of the Trinity United Presbyterian Church. She was active with the Mariners Club at the church and with senior citizens at Ralston Tower, where she also did secretarial work.

She is survived by her children, Linda A. Lerch and Barry Petray Ackerman, both of Modesto, and Robert Miller Ackerman of Fresno;

sister Betty Jean Marshall of Oregon; and four grandchildren.

Martin Stevens Battaya retired after 23 years as a warehouseman for Pacific Vegetable Oil Co., San Pablo, died in a San Pablo hospital from natural causes. He was 89.

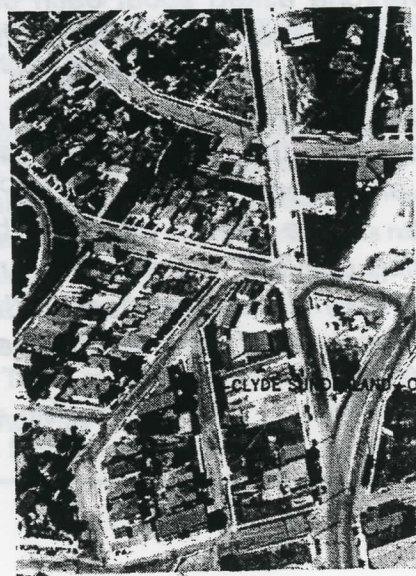
The San Francisco native was an 88-year resident of West County.

He is survived by his wife, Frances R. Battaya of Point Richmond.

David M. Lee, the owner for 45 years of Point Orient Restaurant, and the Santa Fe Market, died of natural causes in a San Pablo hospital, he was 72.

A native of San Francisco, he was a 40-year Richmond resident. He was an Army veteran of World War II and a member of the Richmond Golf and Country Club.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth Lee of Richmond; daughter, Sandra Fjlstad of Richmond; Son, Chris Hoy of Richmond; sister, Alice Fung of San Francisco; and four grandchildren.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Susan Armstrong
Ivar Elle
Sara Warren Smith
Emily Anne Barnes
HattieBelle Potts
Roberta Wilson
Mitzi Kruse
Bernard Dietz
Stephen Berman
Gayle Kaufman

Roxanne Trudeau
David Reynolds
Phyllis Glass Ackerman
June Kunkle Blackburn
Theresa Daniel
Marie Peckham
Daniel Butt
Joann Busby
John Knox
Al Frosini

Shane Eastman
Mary Forbes
Ingvar Elle
Will Spiersch
Jerry Cerkonowicz
John T. Knox
John Hadreas
Kenneth Dolan
Donna Roselius
(our founder)

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Terry Wynne
Jeff Albro
Jean Moyle Spiersch
Mildred Paeth
Marguerite Clutts
Linda Pereira
Rosy Roselius
Timothy Doherty
Helen Frosini

Florence Wilson
Justin Kaufman
Betty Glass Marshall
Jerry Daniel
Nellie Bisio Pasquini
Jeff Ward
Kate Lord
Marian Tedrick
Jodi Bagley

Vern Valentine
Brian Tedrick
Charlie Dutrow
Rich Wierick
Grace Cerkonowicz
Todd Cort
Nathan Berman
Liz McDonald
Chris Ward

People think we make \$3 million and \$4 million a year. They don't realize that most of us only make \$500,000.

-Texas Ranger baseball player Pete Incaviglia

I would like to join the P.R.H.A.

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 (six issues) and a special publication. 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 months.

Articles for each issue are due on or before the deadline printed in the calendar section.

Please mail articles and items of interest to:

Gary Shows
229 Golden Gate Avenue
Point Richmond, CA 94801
or

fax 510-233-0762

"This Point...in time" is a publication of the Point Richmond History Association, a non-profit organization at:

139 1/2 Wasington Avenue
Point Richmond, CA 94801

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Betty Dornan	Article
Russell Church	Photos
Betty Glass Marshall	Photos & Info
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Anne Hanzlik	Article
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*Come by and take a look at the new roof and job on this beautiful old home at 123 Nicholl.
You did good, Mrs. Hamamoto!*

Calendar

September & October, 1995

September 4
Monday

Labor Day

First Indian Statue Dedicated, 1904

September 13
Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting
Noon, Hotel Mac

September 23
Saturday

First Day of Autumn

September 25
Monday

Rosh Hashonah

September 26
Tuesday

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

October 4
Wednesday

Yom Kippur

October 11
Wednesday

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting
Noon, Hotel Mac

October 20
Friday

1984, Second Indian Statue Dedicated

Deadline for the November issue of TPIT

October 28
Friday

Point Methodist Church Annual Country Faire
Call 234-0780 or 234-5334 for more information

October 29
Sunday

Daylight Savings Time ends, set clocks BACK one hour

October 31
Tuesday

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

Halloween