

# THIS POINT.... in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

Vol. XVII No. 2

September/October, 1998

\$1.50

## Dedication of



Wharf Building No. 1  
Richmond, California



# WANTED

## STORIES, MEMORIES AND HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS RELATING TO THE RICHMOND NATATORIUM (A.K.A. "THE PLUNGE")

**Be a part of history - help us Save The Plunge for future generations!**

The Richmond Friends of Recreation, in association with filmmakers Alchemedia Ltd., are producing a new film about the history of the Richmond Natatorium, our local public swimming pool in Point Richmond.

We need your help! We're looking for people who have interesting, unusual stories to tell about the Plunge, especially from its early days of operation during the 1920's, 1930's, 1940's and 1950's.

We're also searching for photographs of people swimming at the Plunge, particularly photos from 1926 - 1945, special events and public ceremonies.

If you or someone you know would like to help us as we make this film, please call our special "Save The Plunge Film Hotline" at 510-231-9692 to learn more about how you can be a part of this very special project.

Filming starts late September.

### THE PLUNGE

 TIME LAPS  
THROUGH HISTORY



# From The President

**Mid Dornan**

'THIS POINT...in time' has been published since 1981 and contains years of valuable information. To access this information is often difficult and time consuming. However, if this information were Indexed, the task would be easier. But we do not have anyone on our volunteer staff that is able to do this.

Is this one of your skills? Is there anyone who can do this task? Perhaps a college student looking for an assignment of this nature? Someone willing to teach us?

Any help or information would lighten our research. Call me at 510-234-5334, leave a message with the editor at 510-235-1336 or on the website <http://www.alkos.com/prha>.

Help us keep our records.

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1933 Standard Oil Scrip put out during "Bank Holidays, but was never used. a.s.

**This Point....in time**

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

**Pat & Frank Pearson**  
**June A. Blackburn**  
**Clara Loux**  
**Will & Jean Speirsch**  
**Josaphine Palenchar**  
**Mary Stewart**  
**Alfred S. Franco**  
**Trefry Ross**  
**Joe Savill**  
**Donna (Taylor) Diaz**  
**Zoanna M. Kille**  
**Marilyn Darling**  
**Sparta Chiozza**  
**Edna Hathaway**  
**Amelia Drake**  
**Dora M. (Beesley) Feuerhelm**  
**Mrs. Shirley Moore**  
**Abigail Muñoz Rivera**  
**Elaine Scott**  
**Betty Glass Marshall**  
**Viola Kennedy**  
**Thelma Harvey**  
**Hortense G. McGee**  
**Albert W. McGee**  
**John Healy**  
**Lloyd & Phyllis Bogue**  
**Mary L. Cornelius**  
**Claude Bisio**

**Dody Perry**  
**Lucretia Edwards**  
**Tom & Shirley Butt Family**

And a warm welcome to the following  
new members:

**Alice Jordan**  
**Louie Barra**  
**Kathe Kiehn**  
**Richard T. Dowell**  
**Otto Barni**  
**The Bradshaw Family**  
**Joe & Judy Travis**  
**Mr. E. Rife**  
**Harold Shawl**  
**S. Kelly Bootle**

*Museum Staff Coordinator Betty  
Dornan thanks volunteers who staffed the  
History Building during the summer  
Thank You!*

**Santa Fe Market**  
and  
**Point Richmond Market**  
*for their donated distribution of  
"THIS POINT....in time"*

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

**Museum Hours:**

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>11:30am - 2:00pm</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>11:30 - 2:00pm</b>

# Gary's Column

Gary Shows

Here is the September/October issue of TPIT. In this issue you will find lots of good stuff from our usual staff along with a few special things. Special thanks to Allan Smith for all the images, and I forgot in the last issue to welcome Biblio Tek for bringing back news reports from the Westside Library Branch. Your reports are great and it's wonderful to have this feature back in our newsletter. Now if we could get a regular report from the Point Richmond Neighborhood council I would be happy.

Mid Dornan continues to recover from her illness and is spending recovery time at her Russian River retreat. I bet we have her back, healthy and at full speed real soon.

Next issue look for a new article from Dr. Thompson on Ivan (Maj) Hill. It will be very interesting especially to the old timers who remember the local popular football star. Also an interesting old class picture sent by Elva Cook, she doesn't say if it is local or not but includes her recently deceased husband Vivian Cook.

The deadline for the November issue is October 24th with an anticipated date of assembly of November 5th.

## **The Cover:**

***Is from a postcard supplied by Allan Smith, sorry at publication time I do not know the date.***

Thanks to the Summer issue assembly crew:

Mary Highfill  
Pam Wilson  
Mid Dornan  
Jerry Cerkowicz  
Gary Shows  
Betty Dornan  
Allan Smith  
Sonja Darling

Peter Kelleghan was recently honored on his 53rd birthday with a party given by his wife at their home, 225 Clarence street. Those attending the evening of fun were Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hutchings and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Wallen, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Hope, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Richardson, Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sueyrs, and Mary and Theresa Fracchia, Edna Cook, Pearl and Gladys Kelleghan, Sterling Cook, Arnie Olson, Martin Battaya, Angela Fracchia and Frankie Sueyrs.

*This is a clipping supplied by Elva Cook. Don't know the date but Mid dates it as pre 1948.*



# A-Mid TRIVIA

-Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Question: When California celebrates its Sesquicentennial, what will it be celebrating?

Answer: At the end of Trivia

\*\*\*

Trouble with most of us is that we'd rather be ruined by praise than saved by criticism.

\*\*\*

Gov. Pete Wilson visited Washington school in June to use it as a backdrop to promote the education component of his proposed budget-\$50 million into after-school programs. Washington School has offered after-school programs for about four years. Students from UC-Berkeley, teachers and community volunteers teach subjects including computer, dance, art, English proficiency and math.

\*\*\*

Joe Heath was the June winner of the Times Golden Pen Award for the best-written letter to appear in the Readers' Forum. His letter titled, "Don't wall in the bay" wrote of concerns about the future of a Bay shoreline site in Point Richmond.

\*\*\*

Everyone in the Bay area must have had at least one meal at Spenger's Fish Grotto in Berkeley, an institution for more than 100 years. Now, Unless it is purchased by someone, it plans to close its doors in September. Who will replace their great clam chowder?

\*\*\*

Ever notice that "Many Hands" tie Tom McGowan so proudly wears?

\*\*\*

If you've enjoyed that cooling of an air conditioner thank Willis H. Cartier who invented it 96 years ago and General Electric who in the 1950's marketed it.

\*\*\*

Multiply 37,037 by any single number, then multiply that by 3. Every number in the answer will be the same as that first single number.

\*\*\*

Its a boy, Jackson Thomas for Carla and Tony Beckerley. Born June 15th in Ohio he was welcomed by big brother Will (7) and big sister Laura (5). Tony is owner of Little Louie's.

\*\*\*

Verle Cravens has been a postal carrier in the Point for 13 years so George Coles hosted a retirement party at his home on Bishop Avenue to honor his years on the Point route. Verle's wife, Liz, also a postal employee, has not yet retired so does that mean Verle is the housemate that will have the meals on the table at night?

\*\*\*

It was a lovely afternoon wedding at Rockefeller Lodge on August first for Rose Ellen, daughter of George and Mapda Nelson and Seth Ming Liang Fenton, son of Jay and Karen Fenton. After their honeymoon they will live in New York City.

\*\*\*

Special sympathy to my friend Al Franco on the loss of his wife, Audrey.

\*\*\*

Who said, "The wisest man I ever knew taught me something I never forgot. And

although I never forgot it, I never quite memorized it either. So what I'm left with is the memory of having learned something very wise that I can't quite remember"

\*\*\*

THANK YOU...to those girls at the Stroll who found 6 one-dollar bills lying in the street and turned them into the history museum. Honesty does still exist!

\*\*\*

T'is rumored that Dee Rosier switched serving on the election board to the Methodist Church because voter Bob Peckham brings fresh french bread and brie cheeses to this board

\*\*\*

School has begun...watch out for children.

\*\*\*

ANSWER: California will be celebrating its 150th birthday in 1999 and the Department of Motor Vehicles will make commemorative Sesquicentennial license plates for California which will begin with the number 4.



## SAVE THE PLUNGE

If you grew up in the Point you probably not only swam at the Plunge but also learned to swim here. Only then, it was known then as the Natatorium This 71 year old indoor pool needs repairs and building retrofitting totaling 4.5 million dollars. When it became clear that funding was not available, the Richmond Friends of Recreation sprang into action.

Working with a scaled-down restoration

approach, the Save the Plunge Committee is soliciting donations from residents and businesses over a three-year period.

Chevron has contributed \$10,000 to get the effort started and other local businesses are expected to follow.

Walt Fauerso, president of the RFR urges contributions be made to the Save the Richmond Plunge Trust, P.O. Box 70443, Point Richmond CA 94807. Or you may mail them to This Point...in time.

## Plunge Jam Coming Soon to Kick Off "Save the Plunge Campaign"

Plans are afoot...or should we say afloat for a PLUNGE JAM to be held in front of the Plunge on October 10th, from noon to 5, featuring well known local musicians and favorite public personalities. The East Bay Blues Band is confirmed and others are invited. Music, starting at noon, will be interspersed with friends of the plunge sharing historic highlights of the building.

Food from popular vendors will be available. Collector T-shirts, with logo designed by Jim DeWitt, and buttons by Al Kipnis, can be purchased at the event.

Come listen to the music, sample the food, pick up your souvenir T-shirt and buttons and catch the spirit.

(For information...contact Kay Walker at 215-6100, Fran Smith at 222-2999 or Walt Fauerso at 223-9387)

The Save the Plunge folks are still planning a fashion show for later in the fall and still need memories and photos. Please let us hear from you.

## BURNSIDE GIVEN FUNDS TO WRITE BOOK

It was a surprised Kaye Burnside, Principal of Washington School, that was recipient of a \$15,000 grant. A grant to write her story of how she turned around a school destined to be closed for lack of leadership and declining students into a model school. A school whose enrollment jumped from 150 to 354 with a long waiting list. A school whose test scores have skyrocketed and whose first graders are now scoring above the national average on most standardized tests often 75 percent better than just two years ago.

How does a busy person like Burnside have time to write a book? Even she must be wondering. She is indeed a miracle worker!

## Women's Westside Improvement Club News

*Amelia Drake*

The first meeting of the season was held on September 8th. It was great to welcome old friends and new.

Usually our meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at the First Methodist Church. Doors open at 11:00 AM. Dues are \$10.00 a year and are now payable.

As your new group of officers try their wings we hope to make the meeting both interesting and fun. Virginia Cherniak has agreed to be our program chairman. We need all of your help and support. See you soon.

### NEW POST OFFICE HOURS!

8:30 AM – 5 PM

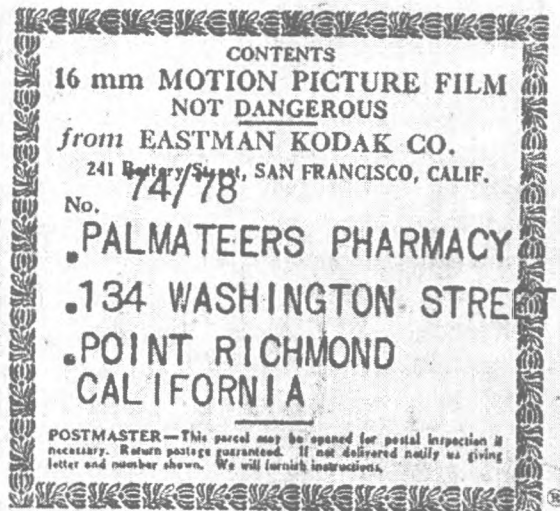
MONDAY – FRIDAY

WELCOME THE NEW CLERK JACKIE  
THIS IS A TRIAL SCHEDULE  
LET'S MAKE IT PERMANENT!

### FREE

- IBM Composer Typewriter with Font Elements
- Sharp SF-711 Copy Machine
- Gestetner Offset Press
- Offset Plate Maker

All of the above equipment was working the last time it was used several years ago. Interested, call Gary or Jerry at 510-235-1336.





# My Memories of Joe Hanzlik

*Jerry Cerkowicz*

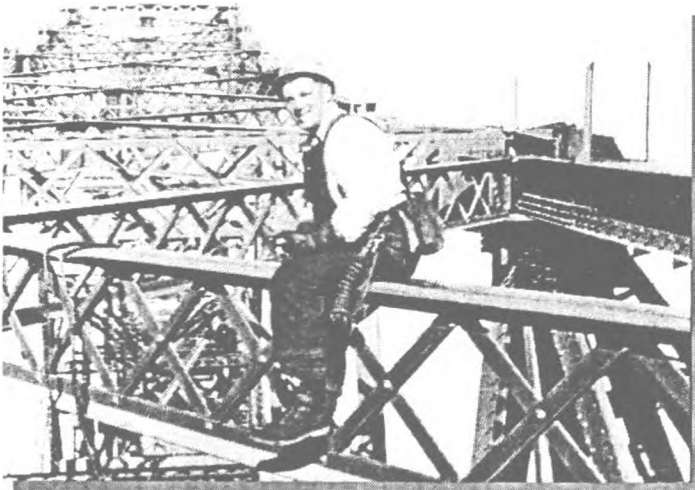
I first met Joe Hanzlik in 1987. His wife Anne was Vice President of the Point Richmond History Association and Chairman of the Indian Statue Park Committee. All I knew about Joe was that he was a big guy and a retired steelworker. Early the next spring various problems with the project's contractor caused work on the park to grind to a halt. Joe Hanzlik came to our rescue. Using his skills in construction and organization he single handedly began construction of the rock walls around the edge of the park. He then assembled a group of volunteers and, after much hard work, finished the park. Those of us involved in the creation of the park know that Joe really saved the day!

As my friendship with Anne grew I got to know this gruff ole' steelworker better. He, with his wife built their steel and brick home, he loved conservative talk radio and TV talk shows. He was retired Navy who spent WW2 on submarines in the Pacific. After the war he

worked on among other things bridges and missile silos.

He was always working around their house or in his garden. Several years ago for Anne's birthday he built her a sand beach. It was while sitting on this beach that I learned much more about Joe. He and Anne loved to travel....to Europe, the Pacific Islands and Turkey. But he loved England the most. He collected Roman coins and read everything that he could get his hands on about the Emperors of Rome.

He loved talking about food, politics and the economy. The last time I saw him, they were coming home from a seven week European visit. As we drove on the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge, (which he worked on) to their home he was laughing and telling funny stories about misadventures during a train trip to England and how great it was to be home. Now he is really at home and we miss him.



*Joe at work on the  
Richmond/San Rafael  
bridge.*

*This Point....in time*

# Church News

## Our Lady of Mercy

*Dee Rosier*

232-1387

It's that time of the year again - time for our Annual BBQ. Was held on Sunday, September 6, 1:00-5:00 P.M. New York steaks with all the trimmings were served - and if you are not into steak, hamburgers or vegiburgers were also be available. Cost - \$12.50 per adult and \$5.00 per child. This years event was chaired by Peter and Mary Lespier (235-5276).

May 31st was the fifth Sunday of the month and a special collection for the Souper Kitchen amounted to \$750.00. This collection was started many years ago when Father Carmelo was our Parish Priest. Volunteers are also needed to help. Many thanks to our regular Parishioners who are always present to lend a hand.

Louise Haley (1902-1998) passed away in June, Louise held the honor of being our oldest parishioner.

The Sisters of the Holy Family celebrated their 125th anniversary in June at St. Mary Cathedral in San Francisco. The Sisters taught CCD classes at our Lady of Mercy. I can remember my early childhood religious instruction being taught by the same order.

The June Parish assembly was a potluck and chaired by Mary Lespier and Amelia Drake. A plaque was presented to Father Jim honoring his 42 years as a Priest.

It's summer and vacation time. Those that have enjoyed vacations lately are: Brenda McKinley who visited family in Louisiana and Betty Conception who traveled to Manila to see her new Granddaughter. In Septernber Varsie Lometti will visit family in Greece. Marie and Bob Peckham have plans to visit Spain and Portugal. Ruth Beardsley spent time in New Mexico visiting family.

In July we were honored to have Father Francis Springer visit our Parish. Father Springer was born and raised in San Francisco. He is a Marist Missionary and had everyone's attention as he told stories about his 20 years in New Guinea. He delighted us by telling the Easter story in Pidgin English.

Mary and Peter Lespier renewed their marriage vows during Mass on June 19, 1998.

Nicholas Hermann Ultsch, son of Bruce and Dina Ultsch was baptized on June 19, 1998. Celebrating birthdays since our last issue were: Josephine Palenchar, Adolph Brossard, Betty Conception, Louise Banks and John Gerk. Happy Birthdays to all - and may they all be healthy ones.

Tripping and breaking her ankle did not keep Edwina Murray (and Jack) from taking a vacation via train to Bakersfield.

Back for more surgery - Dody Perry. Get well soon.

Water damage done to the walls and ceiling of the ladies restroom and the main hallway entrance have been repaired and painted. Peter Lespier was in charge of this project, assisted by Bob Hartynk. Money for it came from our first of the month repair and maintenance fund.

Jennifer Rosier and Cody Lespier attended the Methodist Church vacation Bible

School and had a great time. Cody made new friends and Jennifer renewed friendships. Thank you to all of the volunteers who give of their time each year and offer our children such a worthwhile experience.

Married in our Parish on August 15, 1998, were Caryn Chisenhall and Terence Doherty. Margaret and Maurice Doherty are Terence's parents and long time Parishioners. Congratulations to the new couple. We wish them many years of happiness.

Congratulations are also extended to Lollie and Benny Garcia who recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. They were married in Bernalillo, New Mexico and moved to Richmond in 1951.

Just as Herb Caen had his trusty Royal, I relied on my trusty Smith-Corona which I have retired and replaced with a computer. The intimidation period comes and goes, but with continued use am feeling more confident. Fortunately my Daughter Renee is my support system and readily available to me.

Remember that doing nothing is hard to do because you never know when you are done!

## **Point Richmond Methodist**

*Jean Reynolds*  
235-2988

Vacation Bible School was the week of July 27-31. High points of the week included the art and craft projects led by Jean Eger, a visit from Lorilyn Parmer-Folks who spent two years in Sudan working for Save the Children Foundation, dance led by Carla Nelson, music led by Pastor Dan, games led by Taylor McClure,

Bethany Reynolds, Kathryn Artegiani, Heather Damon and Emily Goetsch, and lunch served on Friday by Fran Smith. Classroom teachers for the week were Kristi Johnson, Jean Eger, and Jean Reynolds. Anne Goetsch made African-bordered name tags and Melba Farley baked cookies. More than twenty students attended and we had such a good time! Students donated spare change to Heifer Project International, an organization that helps people raise their economic and nutritional levels by providing animals and training to needy people around the world. We missed puppeteer Linda Brooks who was away taking care of her mother: look for some puppet shows this fall as part of worship.

The Reverend Ray Pitsker graciously house-sat the parsonage and preached three Sundays in August while Pastor Dan was away on a short term mission to Zimbabwe and Africa University. Ray is retired and lives in Colorado. He fit in easily in our community and we were blessed by his stay with us.

Some members of the Monday night book study group went to Mendicino the second weekend in August so they could meet at Jean Eakle's summer home. I don't know what reading they discussed, but somehow I don't think that mattered.

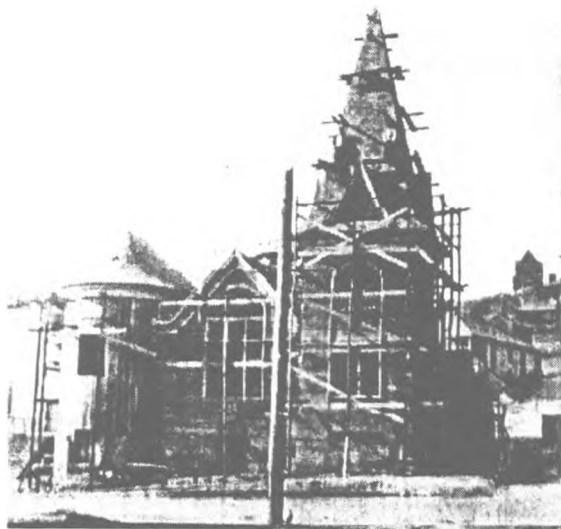
The United Methodist Women and friends had a meeting at the Russian River at Mid Dornan's place on August 26. Lunch was potluck, we celebrated August birthdays, the weather was great, we saw a



video of the Century Ball "fashion show", and the business meeting was brief. It was a perfect day.

The Joyful Noise Choir has resumed rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 7:00. Angel Choir for children and youth will begin in September at 10:00 a.m. Saturday mornings. Sunday School for ages 3 through adult resumes on September 13 at 9:45. (Adult Sunday School meets regularly even through the summer!)

To cap off the summer, we are having a singing led by local songwriter Mike Mirabella on August 28, followed by an ice-cream social. May Cotton and Ray Pitsker are making some homemade ice-cream as a demo, but hopefully there will be enough singers to eat some store-bought ice-cream, too!



## 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 33rd installment.*

Oct. 6th, 1925

Social League met in the parlors of the Methodist Church, with Mrs. Dicely and Mrs. Diller hostesses. Called to order by President, Mrs. Dicely. The meeting opened by Lord's Prayer. Roll-call found nineteen members and one visitor present.

For the ministers reception, the following comitys (*sic*) were appointed: Food: Mrs. Scofield, Mrs. Brothers, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Owens. Decorating: Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Burdick, Mrs. Seymour, Mrs. Dusthimer. Reception: Mrs. Osborne, MRs. Adams, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Ford. Motion to buy all refreshments, Carried.

Bills for bazaar materials:

Mrs. Burdick	\$4.35
Mrs. Danner	1.84
Mrs. Dusthimer	1.00

Ordered paid.

Bill from V.A. Fenner for supplies \$5.35.

Ordered paid. \$24.75 was turned in on pledges and a check for the amount given to Mrs. Adams for the church.

Meeting Ajourned (*sic*)

D. Dusthimer, Secy

Cash on hand	30.34
Paid out	<u>12.54</u>
	17.80
Dues Mrs. Diller	.60
Tea fund	<u>2.40</u>
	20.80 on hand

# Ruth J. Lucas

by Mary McVittie

*Ruth Lucas was a teacher at Washington School. Dr. William Thompson, one of her students, sent the following article written by Mary McVittie after the death of Miss Lucas adding, "This information should be preserved along with the other correspondence that I gave you some years ago. This, along with the little booklet "The Poppy" and its photograph of the 1922 Washington School class of 1922, make a rather interesting bit of history."*

February 20, 1891 -- June 26, 1990

The gentle and quiet woman who preferred the anonymity of "A.L. Bernes Washington Elementary School Teacher" died at the age of 99. Ruth Lucas not only played a significant part in the future of education by generously supporting the A.L. Bernes Scholarships program, but was also vital in the education of many generations of young people. In addition to A.L. Bernes, she numbered among her Washington School pupils Catherine Head, Pina Barbieri and Wm. L. Thompson, M.D.

When I reminisced with Dr. Barbieri, she told of two loving remembrances of Ruth's genuine interest in her students. Pina attended the first few years of elementary school in San Francisco, where all the children spoke only Italian; therefore the teacher concentrated instruction on teaching English. When Pina entered Washington, her English was fine, but her arithmetic skills were not at grade level. Miss Lucas told Pina to come at 8:30 a.m. each school day for special tutoring. This was before school instruction continued all year.

Dr. Barbieri feels that this illustration is typical of Miss Lucas' dedication to the development of all her students. The other story is about Mrs. Barbieri. Miss Lucas' class put on a little play and costumes were needed. Pina's mother made her an attractive costume. After the performance, Ruth Lucas met Mrs. Barbieri as they were walking on the street. Miss Lucas stopped Pina's mother and complimented her on the costume. Mrs. Barbieri spoke no English, but was warmed by the recognition and compliment. Miss Lucas treasured the friendship of her former pupil and saved every postcard sent by Pina on her travels through the years, plus the cards and flowers sent every Easter, Valentine, Christmas and birthday.

Dr. Thompson was a student of Ruth's in sixth and eighth grades at Washington. He says, "She was a wonderful teacher, rather quiet and soft spoken. She never raised her voice. In the 6th grade she kept our interest up with simple scientific experiments. We were the last 8th grade in the old Washington School. In 8th grade we made a simple little annual called, 'The Poppy -- Washington School, June 1922.' This was handwritten by Lucas and reprinted by the old mimeograph method. Each student had a project in the production. Also added was a class photograph taken by Miss Lucas. Each student was given one of these booklets. I still have mine, one of my prized mementos." Ruth Lucas moved with that class to Roosevelt, where she taught social

*Continued on page 14*

## Washington School Low 5th Grade, 1933



Top Row (left to right) 1) Mickey Allyn, 2) John Bellando, 3) Claude Bisio, 4) ???, 5) ???, 6) ???, 7) ??? 8) Jim McAfee 9) Rudolf Annelini, 10) Ray Golden, 11) Trefry Ross, 12) John Cizmich

Second Row (left to right 1) Francis Gebhart 2) ???, 3) Ed McAfee, 4) Frank Matteucci, 5) Louis McDonald, 6) Edward Gilg, 7) Roberta Jenkins, 8) Myrtyl Smith, 9) Marghret Tolosano, 10) Harry McDonald, 11) Jim McDonald

Third Row (left to right) 1) ???, 2) Henry Bustillos, 3) Andy Cakos, 4) Rudy Stark, 5) Elio Tabacco, 6) Bruno Biancini, 7) J. Higgins



*Continued from page 11*

studies and arithmetic, remaining until her retirement, June 1955 at 64. One of her colleagues there, Mrs. Betty Stanley, remembers her fondly. She says, "When I came to Roosevelt...Ruth taught me how to work the old mimeograph machine you had to ink. We were register partners. When I started teaching two big (52 and 53) arithmetic classes, she helped me, too." Betty's children always enjoyed Ruth's Christmas letter with its beautiful handwriting.

Ruth Julia Lucas was the eldest of four

children, all of who predeceased her. Born and educated in Ohio, she graduated in 1908 from high school, began teaching in 1910 in a one room school and was paid \$40 a month. She came to California and taught two years in Shasta. In Richmond she applied personally and was immediately hired by Mr. Helms. She never drove and didn't own a car...living alone independently...until this year when I arranged for assistance will miss her bubbling sense of humor, sharp perception and wonderful stories about "the old days."

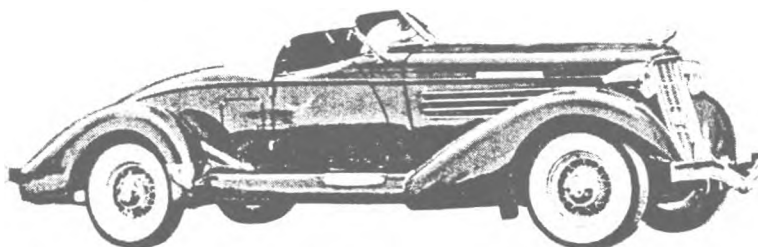
## Al Frosini's Auburn

*By Al Frosini*

I read August MacDonald's article in the last issue of TPIT about Antone Salle's 1928 Cord convertible sedan the year was 1928 – really it was an Auburn. They looked very much alike. I purchased the car from Antone around 1938 for \$35.00, which at that time was a lot of dough! I would buy used oil from Fred Clements gas station on the corner of Castro and Standard by the gallon, it used more oil than gas. I'd go by my sweetheart's house toot the horn, she refused to ride in it though because it was too old and run down. She said that it, the

spare tire in the back and the top was stremlinded her of a hearse. I fixed it up and drove it all over town....man, It had all leather upholstery in good shape I was a proud guy behind that wheel. My sweetheart Helen Rafanelli, became my wife and eventually rode in it.

George Solich bought the Auburn for Bena (Salle) Bowles and Antone Salle. George owned the Eagle Café at that time, which is now the empty lot between Rosemary Bakery and Little Louie's.



# Around the Point

By Allan Smith

Local resident **Jim Forbes** passed away recently. He was not born in the Point but came here in his infancy from Boston and attended local schools. At the age of 16, he left school and went to sea aboard a Standard Oil tanker sailing worldwide. (Incidentally, James Arnold helped him get the job.) In January of 1942 Jim Forbes enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force. After his military career, he completed his school education and graduated from the San Francisco College of Mortuary Science. He was one of the first local (Point) youths to become an embalmer, Bruce Bartram joined him.

**Gus Cakos**, eldest of the Point Cakos boys, died on August 12, 1998 at his home in Los Angeles. We have many good memories of Gus, especially when he returned from his studies at the University of Washington wearing a big "W" on his sweatshirt. He played baseball for the college. Gus went into business here until he moved to Los Angeles. His younger brother, Spiro, is the sole remaining member of the two sisters and four brothers of the pioneer Point Richmond Cakos family.

The late **Hazel Carr** was the Mystery guest featured on the cover of the Summer, 1998 issue of "THIS POINT.....in time". She died shortly before Gary Shows, editor of our newsletter published her picture.

We all remember Hazel when she was selling Point Richmond real estate and doing income tax preparation work.

Hazel Carr sold Point Richmond property to many local residents and had one personally listened to her real estate offers, things probably would have been different. Did she sell Kozy Kove? The Hotel Mac building belonged to Hazel after Richmond resident John Nunes, previous owner, experienced a bad fire on the property. Hazel Carr was well known locally and in the real estate field. One of her many friends was a former California State Governor.

**Mrs. Mary L. Hodges**, our beloved Point Richmond Branch Librarian, is my mystery guest for this issue.

Remember the library and its motto "silence is golden"? Your library card was postcard size and was stamped by Mrs. Hodges with the number of books you borrowed. She had a pencil with the due date on the eraser side that recorded the transaction.

**Ed Garrard**, Point native, writes for TPIT now and then told us about Ken Koht's West Side Garage and mentioned Carl Stender. How did I ever forget Carl and Mrs. Stender? They were good friends of the family who resided on Nevada Street. Ed, any more info regarding the Stenders?

# SHHH!

*By Biblio Tek*

## Westside Branch Library News

**T**hank you all so much for your incredible support of Measure A. It would have passed in Richmond. Unfortunately, votes in East County brought the measure to defeat. So - back to the drawing board. Perhaps the Point Richmond Neighborhood Council can come up with a new strategy. It was necessary to cut branch hours to the following schedule: Mon. Wed., and Thurs. 11 - 3 and Tues. 11 - 7. The staff hopes that by the middle of September, it may be possible to rearrange some hours to help the after school children.

The children have had a marvelous summer at the library with a very successful Summer Reading Game', the weekly Story Time (which continues at 10 a. m. Thursdays despite the. shortened hours) and seven special presentations including puppetry, guitar players, story telling and magic. 116 children participated in the Summer Reading Game with 22 of them completing the program by reading

ten books and writing about or drawing a picture about each one. Congratulations, kids!

Have you heard about The Best Sellers Club? Lynn the librarian has posted a list at the front desk of books the library would like to acquire but cannot afford. Many people have been most generous in signing up to buy these books and donating them to the library. How do you join? Simply scan the list to find a book that you would like to read, place your name or initials next to the entry, buy the book, and when you are finished reading it, drop it by the Front Desk. Donation receipts are available, and your generosity helps keep your neighborhood library a vital place.

Lynn says that two of her favorite reads this summer were A Walk in the Woods by Bill Bryson - a very funny true account of hiking the Appalachian Trail and The All True Travels and Adventures of Lidie Newton by Jane Smiley - an early 1800's tale about a tomboy in Kansas Territory. Check 'em out!





# Allan Smith's Point

The S/S Red Oak Victory will sail once again and is returning to Richmond, the place of her birth. She is now in the Reserve Fleet in Suisun where the Richmond Museum will assume command thanks to the U. S. Government.

The S/S Red Oak Victory will be berthed at Richmond's Terminal One which is located through the tunnel and at the end of Dornan Drive.

The Victory ship will need many volunteers to help restore and maintain the vessel, now is the time to "sign" aboard as a crew member. Give me a call at 234-5149 and I will give you the necessary information and details all ages are welcome even if you have trouble 'walking the gang plank'. The ship will be in our own back yard for 6 to 9 months, come aboard!



Kay Walker and Fran Smith are members of the Save the Plunge Committee. They are interested in collecting "Memories of Good Times at the Plunge", I invited them to attend the September 6 Annual Steak BBQ at Our Lady Mercy Church in Point Richmond (\$12,50 a ticket) and will set up a table for them to interview many of the Point natives that usually attend the BBQ. We all cherish fond memories of the "Bath House". Louie Cunan and Howard McGarvey were the first Point kids to swim at the Natatorium.

Many thanks to Ila May Dein (McGarvey) for the generous gift of some of her uncle's memorabilia of early Point Richmond days. Her uncle was Howard S. Arnold – born and raised in the Point. He was the son of James P. Arnold, the first Chief of Police of Richmond. I was very interested in the 1933 Standard Oil Scrip that she offered (the company wasn't taking any chances during the Bank Holiday Depression years. Ila's donation will be given in its entirety to the Point Richmond History Association. They are a must see. There is a photo of the dedication of the Terminal No. 1 Wharf Building. Wasn't Terminal No. 1 also known as The Outer Harbor of Richmond?

Mrs. McGarvey also sent a copy of "The Poppy", June 1922. "The Poppy" was a Washington School student publication containing pupil literary writings and school news. That was during the time Washington School had eight grades. When I attended Washington School, "The Poppy" was a thing of the past because of the Depression years (no money for paper and pencils).

Also included were pictures of the Richmond Union High School Band and Orchestra, featuring Mr. Morris, the director. Also pictures of Mr. and Mrs. Dunlap. Mrs. Dunlap would invite Washington School musicians to her home for evening practice. The highlight of the session was the hot chocolate and cookies she served to the performers.

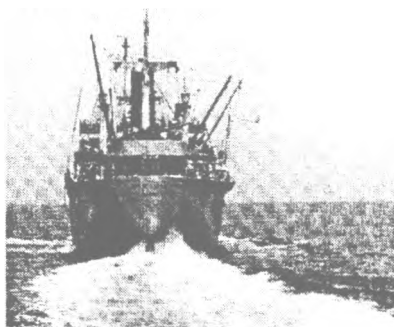


Once again Westside Branch Library News is being offered. Very interesting as to what is going on at the library. The article was signed by Biblio Tek...must be related to a French "frog". The hours were certainly slashed this year. Why? The annual budget for this branch is \$3000 – what a surprise

## Sports Memories

by Allan Smith

Will the home run records of Babe Ruth and Roger Maris be broken this year? It appears so, if home runs continue to fly out of the ball park like falling stars. I went to the weird Oakland Coliseum and saw seven home runs in one nine inning big league game. Ridiculous! Maybe Kenneth Starr should drop the presidential thing and investigate why so many home runs are being made this year. He would probably mess up the assignment with that obnoxious grin of his.



SS RED OAK VICTORY  
SHE'S COMING HOME....

JOIN IN THE  
CELEBRATION ON  
SUNDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 20, 1998

Old Fashioned Family  
Picnic at 12 noon in George  
Miller, Jr./John T. Knox  
Regional Park. There will  
be Food Beverages, Music  
and Entertainment

SHIP ARRIVAL  
CEREMONY AT  
TERMINAL ONE AT THE  
FOOT OF DORNAN DRIVE  
3:00 PM

ADMISSION IS FREE TO  
THE  
PICNIC AND CEREMONY  
(Food and Beverages will  
be sold)

Sponsored by the  
Richmond Museum of  
History  
For more information call  
510-222-9200



## CARDS & LETTERS



Dear Gary:

Oops! Mistake! I got my addresses mixed up. I'm sure some old-timer will catch me up on it. Jas. P. Arnold family lived at 45 Nevada Ave., next door to the Cunan's. We lived (the McGarvey's) at 114 Nevada Ave. across from the Carl Stenders.

We rented our little grey house for \$17.50 a month, in the 1930's.

Regards,  
IlaMay Dein  
Paradise, CA



Dear Pam:

I am so sorry we missed the "Kid's Day".

Al has a new knee replacement and I was not feeling well. Hopefully next year we will be bright and bushy-tailed.

Hortense McGee  
Vallejo, CA



Dear Pam:

With pleasure I am renewing my TPIT. It takes into the past but also in the now.

Its good to know what's going on in dear old Point Richmond..

I feel I was blessed to have been born and

raised in the Point.

Keep up the good work,  
June Kunkel Blackburn  
Bemidji, MN



Dear Gary:

I just want to say Betty Marshall and I had a grad time at the "Point Richmond Kid's Day Reunion".

To the very few who worked so hard to make it a success for the many – a huge "Thank You".

The air was filled with "do you remember" and "do you know" and "how many years". It was wonderful to be a part of childhood memories that were happy, mischievous, and never to be forgotten.

Here's to next year and lots of volunteers to help make it another great experience.

Sincerely,  
Luella Bain Wilcox



Dear Gary,

You certainly put out a good paper. The day I receive my copy I read it from cover to



cover.

Enclosed is an article from an Oakland Tribune (*regarding the 75th anniversary of Our Lady of Mercy Church*) that does not show the date. Perhaps you already have this article and if so you can destroy this copy. I don't know when Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church celebrated its 75th birthday but it was apparently after I left Richmond in 1955. It was probably sent to me by Bena Bowles.

Would you please include Bena Bowles on the list of birthdays in January.

I look forward to your next issue.

Sincerely,  
Mary Valenzano  
Port Charlotte, FL



**You're invited...**

# THE FIRST ANNUAL PLUNGE JAM

**OCTOBER 10, 1998  
12 p.m. - 5 p.m.**

**Outside  
The Richmond Natatorium  
Point Richmond**

At the Corner of South Garrard Avenue & West Richmond Avenue

## **FEATURING: LIVE MUSIC**

**Starring The Bay Area Blues Society Caravan of All-Stars,  
Dorothy Morrison, Lloyd Gregory & Friends,  
The Disciples of Christ, and Special Guest Appearances**

**HOT FOOD • FUN & GAMES  
AND FREE SWIMMING FOR ALL!**

## **ROYAL BAKING POWDER**

### **ABSOLUTELY PURE**

**I**s quite invaluable in the preparation of food for the invalid or convalescent. Its chief constituent is chemically refined grape acid, the most pleasant and healthful of all fruit acids.

Royal Baking Powder contains no alum, lime, or other impurity, and renders the food easy of digestion and perfectly wholesome.

Royal Baking Powder is highly endorsed by physicians and nurses who have tested its efficiency and proven its absolute healthfulness.

# Deaths....

**William E. Berk** former owner of Timmons & Berk Plumbing & Electric Co. in Richmond for 35 years, died July 20, 1998 at his home. He was 92. The Point Richmond native was a lifelong resident of Richmond. He was a member of St. David's Catholic Church, Lions Club and Elks Lodge 1251, all in Richmond; Richmond Re-development commission; West Contra Costa Plumbers Association; Richmond Rod and Gun Club; the electrical workers union in Martinez; and was a former director of AC Transit, representing Ward 2. He is survived by his daughter, Barbara A. Kringle of El Cerrito; brother, Charles P. Berk of Richmond; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. His wife, Grace, died in 1997 and his son, Tim Berk, died in 1960.

**Audrey Erma Franco** died in Sumner, Washington on July 18, 1998. She is survived by her husband of 39 years, Al Franco; sons Pete Baldwin, Michael and Christopher Franco; 6 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren; and a brother Rodrick Dunphy. Audrey was a talented writer and wrote poetry. Al shares this short poem which he feels exemplifies the philosophy by which she lived.

*"Do not seek death. Death will find you.  
But seek the road which makes  
Death a fulfillment."*

**Bruno J. Roveda** died at his home in Richmond on June 17, 1998. Husband of Kay Gigliotti Roveda of Richmond for 35 years. Father of John G. Roveda of Alameda & Frances E. Roveda of Nevada City, CA. Brother of Mary A. Rosenberger, Brother-in-law of Roy A. Rosenberger, Grandfather of Christine A., Michelle J., Jay J.G., & John G. Roveda Jr. & Steven Roveda-Harper, Step-grandfather of Marian, Joseph & Jimmy Leinbach, Jeannie Kitchen & Diana, Deannie & David Law. Also survived by 4 step grandchildren. Mr. Roveda retired as the owner of the United Beverage, Inc. of Oakland, CA. Private burial was held at St. Joseph Cemetery in San Pablo. Memorials suggested to VNA Hospice of Northern CA, 1900 Powell St., Suite 300, Emeryville, CA 94608.

**Ruby Hazel Carr-Fram**, retired after 45 years as a real estate agent in Point Richmond, died June 3, 1998 in a Richmond hospital. She was 86. The Wilmer, OK native lived in Point Richmond for 44 years and was a member of the Point Richmond Business Association. She is survived by her brother, Howard Carr of Oakland; and niece, Barbara Tolsma of Merced. Her husband, Clyde Robert Fram, preceded her in death.

**Joseph Frank Hanzlik**, a Point Richmond resident since 1980 and a retired ironworker, died August 23, of a heart attack, while swimming in The Bay. A member of Iron Workers Local #378 of Oakland. As an iron worker, he worked on the great Bay Area civil engineering projects of the Depression: the Golden Gate, Bay, Richmond-San Rafael and Carquinez bridges. In a team effort he and his wife Anne, built their unique steel and concrete house together, she designing and he constructing. He is survived by his wife Anne, son Joseph, Jr. of Stockton, stepson Steven Kaspar of Martinez, stepdaughter Theodora Atkinson of Lafayette and sister Jeanne Kelley of Ohio. Joe was a native of West Virginia and was age 73. Donations may be made in Mr. Hanzlik's name to the Point Richmond History Association for improvement and maintenance of Indian Statue Park in Point, Richmond. A Memorial gathering will be held Sunday, Sept. 13 at 4:00 pm, at his home, 841 Ocean Avenue, in Point Richmond.

**James M. Forbes**, retired as an embalmer with Ellis-Olson Mortuary in Albany, died June 6, 1998 at his home. He was 76. The Massachusetts native previously lived in Point Richmond. He was a minister of the Universal Life Church in Modesto and a member of Teamsters Local 78 of Oakland. He is survived by his daughters, Judy Forbes of New Zealand, Debbi Miller of Oklahoma, Cindi Forbes of Downieville and Kathy Sanchez of Crockett; nine grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

**Pearle E. Westman**, a homemaker, died June 12, 1998 in a Pinole hospital. She was 96. The Peoria, Ill., native lived in Richmond for 84 years. She is survived by her daughters, June Mussetter of Ricklin, Joan Buskirk of Dublin and Lynn Barca of Hawaii, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**Dale Edwin Carlson** died July 10, 1998 in Concord. He was 50. A native of Berkeley, he lived in El Cerrito for 30 years before moving to the Point Richmond area 15 years ago. He is survived by his mother and stepfather, Blanche Carlson Bell and George Bell of Discovery Bay; brother, Wayne Carlson of Rodeo; and sister, Janet Williams of Benicia.

**John Jacobus Boonstoppel**, retired after 20 years as the owner of Pacific Calibration in La Honda, died July 28, 1998 at his home. He was 77. A native of the Netherlands, he lived in Point Richmond for 12 years. He was a member of the Unity Church in Marin and Richmond Yacht club. He is survived by his wife, Gunde; daughter, Barbara Sue Diefendorf of New Hampshire; son, Robert John Boonstoppel of Maryland; and three grandchildren.



# September Birthdays

SUSAN ARMSTRONG  
IVAR ELLE  
SARA WARREN SMITH  
EMILY ANNE BARNES  
MARIE SHAW  
ROBERTA WILSON  
BERNARD DIETZ  
STEPHEN BERMAN  
GAYLE KAUFMAN  
JOHN HADREAS  
DONNA ROSELIUS

JERRY CERKANOWICZ  
THERESA DANIEL  
JUNE KUNKLE  
BLACKBURN  
MARIE PECKHAM  
DANIEL BUTT  
JOANN BUSBY  
WILLARD SPIERSCH (90)  
AL FROSINI  
SHANE EASTMAN  
MARY FORBES

INGVAR ELLE  
ROXANNE TRUDEAU  
DAVID REYNOLDS  
JOHN T. KNOX  
AL FROSINI  
JOHN T. KNOX  
NANCY EARDLEY  
KENNETH DOLAN  
JAN FEAGLEY  
LORIN BUHLER  
FRANK CHRISTOPHER

# October Birthdays

TERRY WYNNE  
FLORENCE WILSON  
LIZ McDONALD  
JEAN MOYLE SPIERSCH  
MARGUERITE CLUTTS  
ROSY ROSELIUS  
JODI BAGLEY  
JUSTIN KAUFMAN  
TODD CORT  
MARIAN TEDRICK

NATHAN BERMAN  
CHARLIE DUTROW  
HELEN FROSINI  
ISOBEL 'BOO' SHAW  
GRACE CERKANOWICZ  
NELLIE BISIO PASQUINI  
BETTY GLASS MARSHALL  
KATE LORD  
MARIA INCHAUSPE SMITH  
ABIGAIL MUNOZ RIVERA

LINDA PEREIRA  
TIMOTHY DOHERTY  
JEFF WARD  
BRIAN TEDRICK  
RICH WIERICK  
CHRIS WARD  
CHAD FEAGLEY  
JERRY DANIEL





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
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**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.

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

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# Calendar

*September/October, 1998*

**September 7**  
*Monday*

Labor Day Holiday

**September 9**  
*Wednesday*

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting  
Noon at the Hotel Mac

**September 23**  
*Wednesday*

First Day of Autumn

**October 12**  
*Monday*

Columbus Day

**October 14**  
*Wednesday*

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting  
Noon at the Hotel Mac

**October 20**  
*Tuesday*

1984, Second Indian Statue is dedicated

**October 24**  
*Friday*

DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF TPIT

**October 25**  
*Sunday*

Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 am, set you clocks  
BACK one hour at Saturday bedtime

**October 31**  
*Saturday*

Halloween

**November 11**  
*Wednesday*

Veteran's Day

Point Richmond Business Association Meeting  
Noon at the Hotel Mac