

THIS POINT... in time

NEWSLETTER

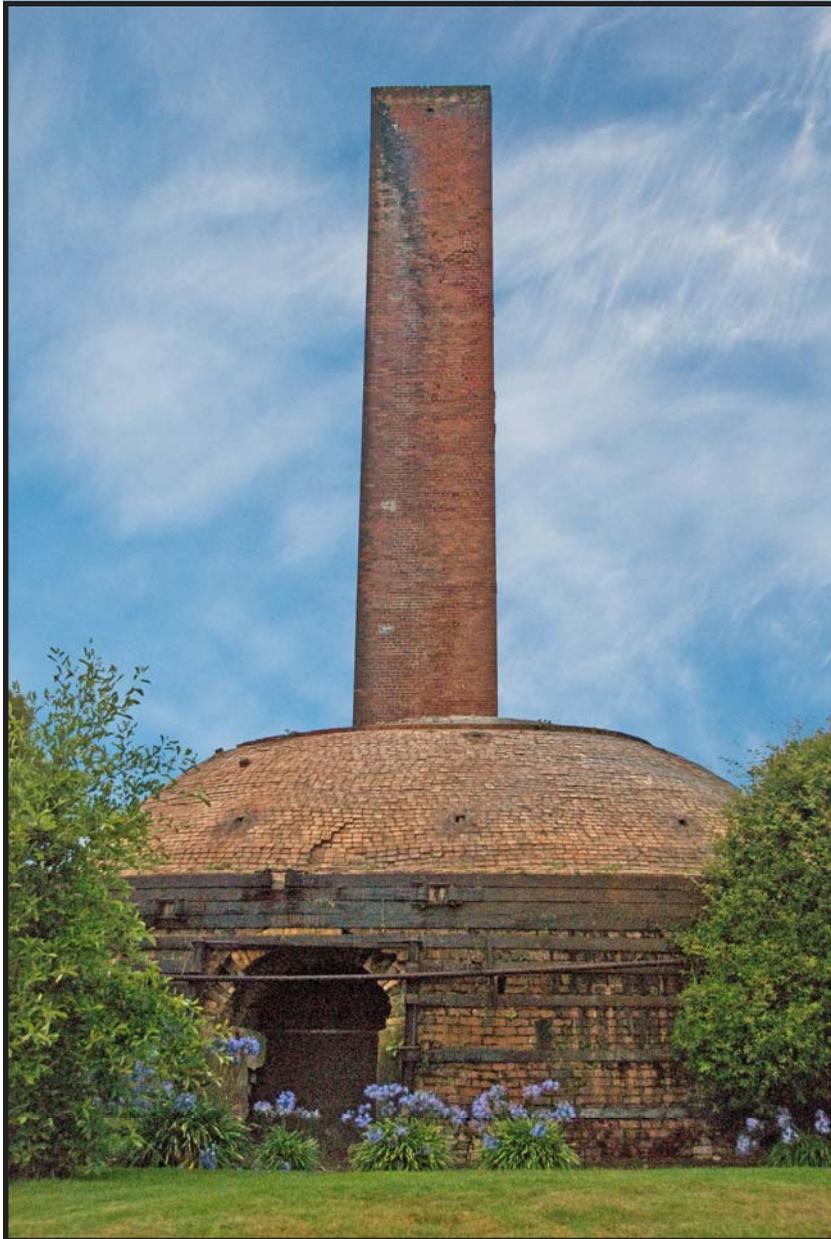
The Point Richmond History Association

www.PointRichmondHistory.org

Vol. XXVII No. 2

September/October, 2008

\$3.00





Indian Statue Day Arts and Music Festival

Downtown Point Richmond

12 Noon to 5:00 pm

Arts and Craft Booths

Live Music

Little Kids with Hats "Parade"... 2 pm

Dog Contests... 4 pm Best Dressed, Musical Chairs & Best Tricks

Womens Westside Improvement Club Chorus

Local Galleries, Studios, Shops & Restaurants Open

Saturday - Sept. 20th

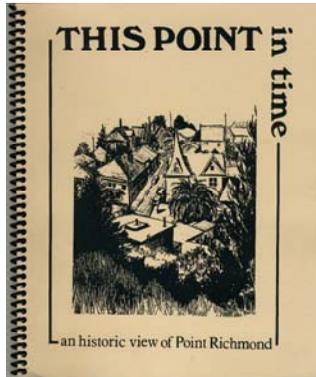
Presented by the Point Richmond Business Association

Info: 234-4219

From the President

By Mid Dornan

Mid is on Vacation.



Get your own copy of the newly reproduced "THIS POINT.....in time" book, see next page.

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PRHA Archive
Photo #0716-Sonny
Jackson Postcard
Collection
"Fountain, Point
Richmond,
California."

Thank you members for your renewal:

Debbi Miller
John T. Knox*
Rose Gehm
Thomas Mercer-Hursh & Theresa de
Valencé*
John A. Thiella & Rosa T. Casazza*
Linda Newton
Sandi Genser-Maack*
Arline Rodini
Ilamay Dein
Velma J. Healy
June Albonico
Eunice R. Hursh
June S. Solosabel
Jerry & Grace Cerkanowicz
Henry & Eva Marchitiello Family
Elizabeth M. McDonald*
Betty Dornan
Norma Wallace

*Premium Membership, Thank You!

*And a warm welcome to these new
members*

Jessie West
Valerie Fregulia
Nancy Noble
Tim and Roberta Montgomery
Ken Blonski & Louise Fender

Thank You!

**Santa Fe Market
and
Point Richmond Market**

For selling

“THIS POINT.....in time”

For us

Museum Hours:

Thursday 11:30 am to 2:00 pm

Saturday 11:30 am to 2:00 pm

“THIS POINT in time”, the book is available once again!

By Donna Roselius, Teresa Albro, Michelle Brown & Rosemary Corbin. It was written in 1980 and published by the Point Richmond History Association. This book contains stories of early Point Richmond, detailed descriptions of historic homes and commercial buildings and is illustrated throughout with drawings and maps by talented Donna Roselius. \$15.00

Pick up your copy at the museum (Tuesday/Thursday 11:30-2).

Or mail your check (made out to PRHA) for \$15.00 for each copy you want and add \$6.95 for UPS shipping. Mail it to: TPIT Book, 229 Golden Gate Avenue, Richmond, CA 94801.

The Cover

**Brick kiln still standing at Brickyard Cove, one time site of the Los Angeles
Pressed Brick Works.**

Photo by Theresa de Valencé, enhanced by Thomas Mercer-Hursh

Editor's Notes

Gary Shows (510-235-1336)

Here is the end of Summer issue. My usual thank you's to our contributors.

I received a nice surprise from Marilyn Darling! Marilyn has given us several historic photos of the St. James Apartments (Ivy Inn) on Cottage Avenue as well as a short history of the building. I have decided to save this material for the next issue and make the old building its theme. **So if anyone has any old photos or interesting information about this building, please let me know and I will share it with our readers.**

Also thanks to Myrna Wishart for sending a historic Richmond envelope, I have made it a part of our photo archives.

Speaking of photos, thanks once again to Thomas Mercer-Hursh for his enthusiastic work, he has enhanced every image in this issue. I hope you are enjoying our photo archives. Remember that you can see the majority of our archives at our website www.pointrichmondhistory.org. I add and improve as time permits.

The deadline for contributions to the next issue is October 31, 2008.

The Summer issue newsletter assembly crew, thanks to you all:

Jerry Cerkanowicz
Gary Shows
Pam Wilson
Mid Dornan
Pat Pearson
Bruce Bartram
Ann Bartram
Sonja Darling
Tom Piazza
Marcelina Smith
Margaret Morkowski

Thank You!

Our Special Supporters!

History Makers

Sherri Mertle
Doug & Rosemary Corbin
Kathe Kiehn
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Transcept Pharmaceuticals, Inc
John A. Thiella & Rosa T. Casazza
Sonny Jackson

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Edward J. McGarvey
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Kevin, Renee & Griffin Knee
Jean & John Knox
John A. Thiella & Rosa T. Casazza
David & Anne Roth
Catherine Burchell
John Helfrich
Sandi Genser-Maack & Lynn Maack
Thomas Mercer-Hursh & Theresa de Valence
John & Nancy Mengshol
Donna Wilson
Erica & Barry Goode
Linda Andrew-Marshall
Margaret Morkowski
Pat Dornan
Paul & Zoe Mukavtz

A-Mid Trivia

Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Q: What is the average number of people airborne over the U.S. in any given hour?

Answer: at end of Trivia

Life expectancy in the U.S. surpassed 78 years for the first time, the government reports, but the country still lags behind about 30 others in estimated life span.

While everyone can't attend the Summer Olympics in Beijing, the technology of TV lets the rest of the world enjoy the events for which athletes spend a lifetime preparing.

Gene Clements, former Point Resident, is a member of Masters of Harmony Barbershop which has won 7 consecutive International Chorus competitions against 26 champion choruses. On September 27, at 8:00 p.m. they will be performing at the Sacramento Community Center Theater, 13th & 'L' Street, Sacramento.

A black watermelon weighing 17 pounds was auctioned off for a record \$6,100 in Japan: the melon is one of a variety that is prized for its unparalleled taste and unusual skin.

A recent obituary in a nearby newspaper, apparently placed by a family member, ended: "There will be no service, no prayer and no closure for the family she spent a lifetime tearing apart". Yikes!

Aspiring novelist, Alan Hess, wants to know if anyone knows about The Nut Club which was on MacDonald Avenue during the '40s. He said it was near the Red Robin and The Denver Club.

Pat Pearson has been named Safety Chairperson and REACRT representative for the Point. She is

hoping to have REACT training in the Fall.

Want to be a part of Graffiti Removal? The City of Richmond has a kit available for volunteers. Contact Rochelle Monk on Graffiti hotline 231-3031. Graffiti is discouraged when cleaned up immediately.

In the past one could observe and count the number of people with Tattoos. Today, it is more likely to observe those WITHOUT tattoos.

92 year old Barbara Vincent remembers attending the 1926 dedication ceremonies of the Richmond Natatorium (Plunge). She says it was very cold that day.

Sonja and Joe Darling spent the month of July in North Dakota attending a family reunion and visiting her mother .

Does it seem to you the historical charm of the Point is being poisoned with huge, boxlike, towering structures the City Planning Department is allowing to be built on the hillsides?

To err is human:

- but when the eraser wears out ahead of the pencil you are overdoing it.

or

- but don't try to offer that as an excuse

or

- to try to blame someone else for it is even more human.

No matter how much you try to improve Mother Nature, you can't fool Father Time.

ANSWER: 61,000 people are airborne

Keeping Up With Language Changes

-Mid

Words and phrases are constantly emerging, vanishing and changing in English. In the 1950s and '60s - female parents were called "Mother," "Ma," or sometimes "Mama." Few called her "Mom" but now "Mom" seems to replace all the other words. Only time will tell which new words will stick around.

- **Teenager (1930)**
- **Malnourishment (1932)**
- **Majorette (1941)**
- **Automation (1948)**
- **Discotheque (1951)**
- **Aerospace (1957)**
- **Mini (1961)**
- **Streaker (1973)**

Exiting, as new words enter the language are these words:

- **Bendsome:** pliable, flexible
- **Dwine:** to slowly pine or waste away

- **Elden:** to grow old
- **Evenhood:** equality
- **Sloom:** to sleep soundly

Here are a few new dictionary entries:

- **Boomeritis:** afflictions or injuries of Baby Boomers, caused by aging.
- **Mouse potato:** a person who spends a great deal of time using a computer
- **Ringtones:** the sound made by a cell phone to signal an incoming call.
- **Sharrows:** an arrowlike design painted on a roadway to mark a bicycle route.
- **Supersize:** to increase considerably the size, amount or extent of something.
- **Surge:** a large, but brief, increase in military's troop strength.

YESTERDAY

bawl
cake of soap
blackboard
grip
icebox
grippe
roughage
rec (or rumpus) room

TODAY

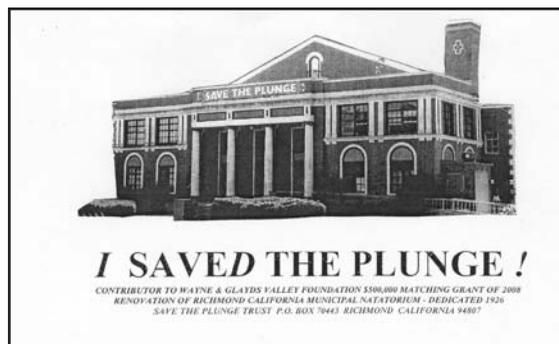
cry
bar of soap
chalkboard
suitcase
fridge
flu
fiber
family room

Get your own "I Saved the Plunge" Magnet!

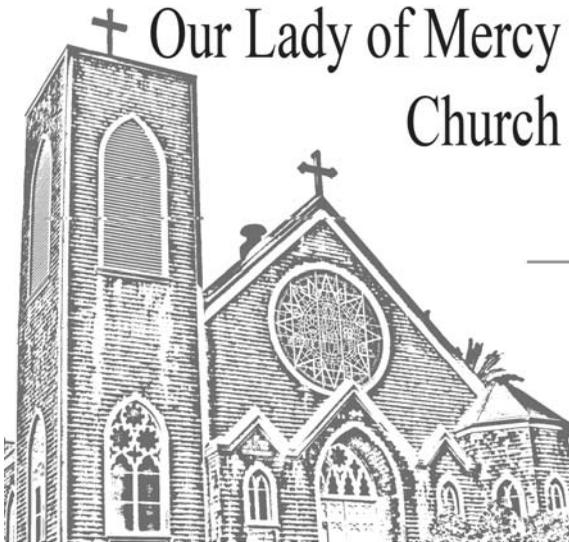
Send a tax deductible donation of \$10.00 or more to:

Save the Richmond Plunge Trust
P.O. Box 70443
Richmond, CA 94807-0443

And we will send your 3" x 5" magnet to you.



Church News



† Our Lady of Mercy
Church

By Dee Rosier
510-232-1387

drosier@sbcglobal.net

Our summer hiatus is now over and it is time to filter through all my notes and create an article. Some of what will be written may be old news, but bears mentioning.

The month of July was a celebration month for Fr. O'Rourke. On July 1, he celebrated five years with us. (We should be the ones celebrating.) Within the five years we have seen many repairs and upgrades to the church as well as the rectory, as well as an increase in attendance and revenue. On July 16, along with many parishioners, he celebrated his 75th birthday at The Royal Oak (the old Baltic). It seemed fitting that his gift coincide with his age and, due to the generosity of the parishioners, he was presented with a Chevron gas card worth 75 gallons, as well as some ready cash. He was delighted to receive it and said that it was one of the best gifts he had ever received, other than the phone call from Anna Schwarz singing Happy Birthday to him.

He was able to squeeze in a trip to New York and Santa Barbara. His documentary, "Red Terror in the Amber Coast", a five-year project has finally

reached a successful completion.

Funds for the roof continue to be made to a special Diocese savings account. The parish hall floor was recently cleaned and we have been collecting and donating children's clothes to Casa Esperanza.

The term of some of the parish council members has expired and we are seeking new members. If you are interested in serving on the parish council do not hesitate, step right up and volunteer. New members bring new ideas.

Pancake breakfasts continue on the third Sunday of the month and thanks to "The Team," who do all of the preparation and aid in their success. The breakfast's will continue through October and then resume in May. The portions are extremely generous and the raffle prizes worth winning.

For a small parish, revenue from the breakfast is of major assistance.

The new cathedral in Oakland will be dedicated in September. Where once offices were spread out in different buildings, they will now all be housed under one roof. If you are interested in attending the dedication, please call Father.

Remember to check the parish webpage: pointrichmond.catholic.org. which offers a lot of Our Lady of Mercy information.

We continue to support the souper kitchen, not only with a once-a-month collection, but volunteers who assist in serving. Recent new comers to serving were Jan Feagley and Barbara Arkin, as well as her friend Penny. Due to difficult economic times, the number of people served has increased. Edwina Murray recently collected sample toiletries and donated them to the Souper Kitchen residents.

The artistic talent of parishioners Amelia Drake, Linda Drake and Maurice Doherty were on display at the Pt. Richmond Community Center. Linda had a colorful painting of the church and rectory. It is worth a look-see.

Condolences to the family of Theresa Meneghelli. Theresa was a native of Pt. Richmond. Although she no longer resided within the parish, she

was always extremely generous and never forgot her roots. The PA system used in the parish hall was a gift to us from Theresa.

Katherine and Michael Workman recently hosted an “end of summer” get together in their lovely El Cerrito patio. The food and company were excellent. The Workman’s have a gift of bringing everyone together.

It is my firm belief that within our lives, the thread that binds us together and then slips away has a means of rethreading itself. My daughter is employed in the corporate world and while in a meeting, thought she recognized another member. During a break, they were in the same group, and while in conversation, the price of gas came up. She mentioned that her parents were Chevron retirees and he said his Dad also was. He introduced himself as Allan Smith. Allan and Renee started kindergarten together at Washington School. Needless to say, an old friendship was rekindled. After their encounter, Allan mentioned that the Pt. Richmond grapevine was still in affect and that his mother knew of their reunion. He also said that it would probably appear in TPIT – and so it does – Allan, this one’s for you. I stepped into Allan’s Dad’s shoes when he retired from writing the Church News

Continue to remember in your prayers: Dody Perry, Jack Healy, Shirley Gerk, Frankie Mello, Bill Smith, Charlie Rosier and Al Frosini.

Congratulations to Marcellina Smith whose son, Brian presented her with a granddaughter.

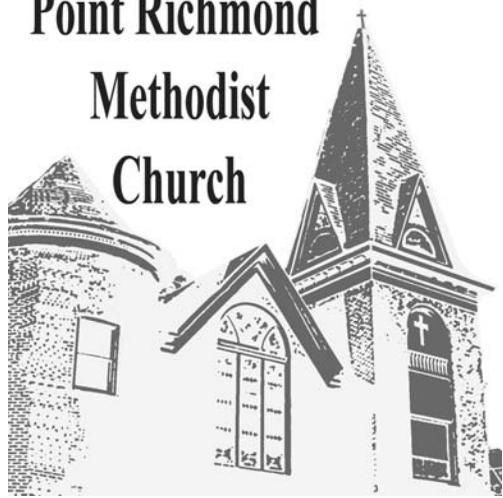
On a recent visit to Anna Schwarz she told me that life was good for her until she turned 95 and then it was downhill. Wonder how many of us will be able to say that? She paid Dody Perry a kind compliment by saying she thought Dody was indestructible. Dody reciprocated by saying the same about Anna. Dody and Anna are our Grand Dames.

Happy birthdays to: Betty Sindicich (85), Nancy Toledo and Barbara Arkin.

SOME PEOPLE ARE KIND, POLITE, AND SWEET-SPIRITED, UNTIL YOU TRY TO SIT IN THEIR PEWS

SEE YOU IN CHURCH

Point Richmond Methodist Church



By Jean Reynolds

510-235-2988

jeanormr@pacbell.net

Our Vacation Bible School theme was “A Place in the Choir.” We shared a week together August 4 – 8, with a dozen young people to learn the stories of unlikely people in the Bible who used their voices and actions to bring about change for the better. We discovered that all of God’s critters have a place in the choir. Jean Womack, Bill Thompson, Sarah Thompson, Carolyn Kirkpatrick, Helen Wysham, Karen Bianchini, Pastor Dan Damon, Jean Reynolds and Bethany Reynolds helped during the week. Joanne Cheyne, Jane Carnall and Linda Andrew-Marshall brought treats. Norm Reynolds and David Reynolds made lunch on Friday. We made dioramas, learned some new alphabetical fruits, and got to do “maggot art” fresh from the lab in UC Davis. We sang, danced, cooked, told stories, did art projects, played games and had a great time.

People News:

We remembered our dear Melba “Mimi” Farley at a memorial service on June 22 at the church. Melba lived February 17, 1917, to May 25, 2008. She was a founding member of St. Luke’s United Methodist, worked for G.R.I.P. during their inception and was an important part of the Monday

book group for many years. Her family and friends shared their memories, comforted by special music by Alice Thompson, Linda Andrew-Marshall, and Gill Stanfield.

We dedicated the new courtyard in memory of Ross Parmer on June 8, at a reception following a classical piano concert by Peggy Salkind. We have already enjoyed the usable space the courtyard provides, and no one was injured playing there during Vacation Bible School! Patrick McMahon constructed the courtyard and the functional and attractive ramp to the gate and back door.

Sarah Thompson joined the church on June 15. Sarah has been a preparatory member for a long time, so it was a special joy to make her an official member. It was Fathers' Day and an all-Jazz service to help celebrate!

We held a breakfast on June 22, to honor grads Katie Osborn, Mark Ellis and David Reynolds, and their families. Katie graduated from UC Davis with a double major in French and Fish Management. Mark attended the Athenian School in Danville, and David graduated from Maybeck High School in Berkeley.

We rejoice with new parents Cameron Folds and Jamela Smith, and big sister Irish Folds at the birth of Haven Folds on August 5, 2008. Grandmother Pat Smith visited during most of August to help as everyone adjusted to the new addition. Church and PRAM families will prepare dinners in September to pick up the slack when Grandma is gone.

Lorraine Parmer introduced us to the Gurung family, from Nepal, recently moved to Oakland after 17 years in refugee camp in Bhutan. The mother, her sons and their families are making a new life here, with help from Lorraine, others in her organization and furniture from the church basement. The Gurungs attend Sunday morning services when we can pick them up in Oakland. They were refugees because of their Christian faith and can speak Nepali and English.

While Pastor Dan and Eileen Johnson were on vacation in August, we heard from Zen Buddhist and stone artist Patrick McMahon. Patrick shared how events in his life he did not initially welcome

were the start of something wonderful and unexpected. We also heard newly retired United Methodist deacon Donna Morrow DeCamp, a recent transplant to Brickyard Landing where she resides with her partner, Don DeCamp.

Calendar:

Every Sunday, September through May:

9:00 to 9:40 a.m. Worship includes music, scripture, meditation, and prayer. The service is candle-free, sermon-free, and fragrance-free.

10:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages meets until 10:45 a.m.

11:00 a.m. Worship includes all the bells and whistles.

Saturdays: 10:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., Angel Choir rehearses. Christine Silva-Netto directs and choreographs. Pastor Dan Damon directs and accompanies. Young people happily sing and move. Usually the choir sings for worship once a month. Call Pastor Dan to sign up or if you have questions: 510-232-1102.

Saturday, October 11, 9:00 a.m., GRIP Harmony Walk to End Hunger and Homelessness

Our church will have walkers in this annual event that supports GRIP programs like the Family Shelter and the Souper Center.

Saturday, October 18: Silent Auction at the Point San Pablo Yacht Club. Save the date now, check for details later.



POINT METHODIST CHURCH HISTORY

Mid Dornan

Church history is rich with contributions of women. One church group in the 1920s was the SOCIAL LEAGUE of the First Methodist Episcopal Church whose history is reflected in their minutes printed below and taken from the canvass covered, red leather cornered notebook which cost \$1.15. The minutes are printed as written, This is the 73nd installment.

SEPT 4. 1928

The Social League met at the M.E.

Church parlors.

Mrs.R.W. Jenkins & Robins were hostesses, there were 21 members present.

The meeting was opened by prayer led by President

Mrs. Burdick.

The minutes of previous meeting were read & approved. Discussion was held in regard to helping health center make bandages, moved & seconded that club make bandages 1 meeting a month. Moved & seconded that club have luncheon Wed 26.

Mrs. Scofield and Mrs. Robins chairman for Sept

Luncheon. Moved & seconded that members donate candy

for luncheon. Moved & seconded that members donate

jelly to be sold at 10¢ a glass.

Chairman for next 6 mo. luncheons:

Mrs. Scofield & Mrs. Robins, Sept. Mrs. Dingle &

Alexander, Oct. Vloebergh & Daisy Jenkins, Nov. Glennie & Meece, Dec. Ourns & gray, Jan. Mrs. R.W..

Jenkins & Osborne, Feb.

Mrs. A. B. Jones Chairman for program committee.

Moved and seconded that members each donate apron for the Bazaar to be held in the near future.

Report from Mrs. Scofield on Organ fund \$45 bal.

Moved and seconded that Laundry bill of \$1.68 be paid.

Dues paid by:

Mrs. Kitto .60

Mrs. Oehne .60

Mrs. Scofield .60

Mrs. Redman .60

Mrs. Burdick .60

“ Osborne .60

“ Vloeberghs .60

‘ Dicely .60

‘ Adams .60

‘ Jenkins, D .60

‘ Conn .60

\$6.60

old bal \$14.83

21.43

Plate offering 2.10

\$23.53

Laundry bill 1.68

Bal \$21.85

Ârs. G. Shaw

Sec



WWIC, Est. 1908

The Women's Westside Improvement Club Meets at the Point Richmond Methodist Church.

President Margaret Morkowski did not call to order the last (June 10, 2008) meeting of the year because there was no business meeting. She welcomed all members and guests to the Womens Westside Improvement Club's end-of-year fete, and offered introductions before we got to the heart of the matter – sharing stories of our hats!

First, **Susan Glendening** of the PTA, introduced us to the Community Garden at Washington Elementary School, sponsored by the Watershed Project. After sharing stories with us about the children's sometimes-first experiences with fresh vegetables, Susan asked for volunteers for their June 29 garden cleanup event. She described a kindergarten art program at the Community Center over the summer to create door hangers promoting "Save water, plant native plants" and bookmarks that read "gusanos = tierra buena." The intent is to laminate these and make them available at the Library.

Margaret congratulated the chair of the hostesses, **Helen Wysham** on the graduation theme during our Centennial Year and thanked the other hostesses **Annette Jemo, Gilda Markarian and Joan Gatten** for their work to make the salad pot-luck luncheon a success.

Now, to the heart of the matter. As always, our June event is a luncheon featuring hats – treasured hats, funny hats, colorful and handmade hats, even cloches and pill boxes! While the hats are eye-catching, the stories are heart-felt. So, grab a tissue and let's review:

Alice Zeier wore a hat made entirely of feathers! **Dextra Christiansen** wore a black and white woven hat to top off her black and white outfit. The hat was her daughter's originally, so she feels she "has a little piece of her with me." Dextra's Mother-in-law, **Anita Christiansen** modeled an 60-year-old pink feather hat which was as elegant and feminine as always Anita is. She

received from Charlotte Woods. **Norma Wallace**, keeping mom with her, wore her mom's backpacking hat – a woven brim with red cotton top which ties under the chin, protecting the head and back of the neck from the sun.

Anna Schwarz entertained us, first by sharing the origination of her hat, at the "famous store" Ross. She did then launch into suitable memories of her first job, at an elegant apparel store. She started in the stock room with the cheap, \$5 hats. Then, "Schwartzie" as she was called, was told she was needed upstairs. Colleagues and clients alike perceived her, with her strong (fresh-off-the-boat Austrian) accent, to be French! "I could have sold an I-Pod with a feather as a hat!" says Anna.

Arpha MacIntyre confessed to obtaining her hat at a very French store, "Tar – get." She acquired her large floppy brimmed hat as a protective strategy to use during her daily bone-strengthening walks in the Brickyard Cove area. **Annette Jemo** wore her Yacht Club cap on a trip in Croatia. Alpha Humphrey gave us a reprise of the outfit she wore to a garden party – a black hat courtesy of Longs atop with an amazing polka dot see-through sequined top over lovely black pants.

Susan Hesse enthralled us, weaving the story of her Aunt's striking hat, and how a ship's captain took notice of the hat and her Aunt and plucked her off the ship to a life boat because of it. It's too bad the story wasn't true. Continuing on the nautical note, we enjoyed **Pat Pearson's** "Panama hat" – well, it's not a 'Panama' hat but she did wear it during her sail through the Panama Canal!! (Try explaining that to a non-English speaker!)

Sonja Darling arrived under cover as a Viking Valkyrie, showing her true colors as a daughter of Norway. She obtained the striking headpiece (complete with blond braids/much more than just a hat) at The Norway Festival.

Lori Nova sported one of many hats she now

owns. Once a sun worshiper, she is now a self-proclaimed vampire – staying out of the sun at all costs.

Alice Duvernall brought daughter **Onatah** – you may recall Alice’s talk on her gilding work at Versailles at WWIC when she was pregnant with Onatah. Alice and Onatah (now 8-months old) recently visited Alice’s folks in Paris. In a toy shop, Alice saw this lovely baby hat and mentioned she adored it. This caused an outbreak of war (all in good fun) between Onatah’s grandparents about who would buy the hat for Onatah (I think grandpa won)! Alice’s hat was from Brazil, where it was hand-woven out of locally grown wicker.

Thea Kynthia sported an “Indiana Jones” style hat which she feels invites Indiana-Jones type adventure. Thea is ready to travel! Margaret sported a practical hat sometimes used by pioneer women on the wagon trail.

Liz McDonald showed off the hat of a Marine Corps Corporal from a few wars back. **Joan Gatten** had a black cowboy hat with her mother’s Indian beaded belt accessorizing. Joan says her doctor demands she always wear a big floppy brimmed hat! Linda Newton described landing in Los Angeles in August for her mother’s funeral and

having to hunt frantically for appropriate headwear, finally finding her hat in a mall.

Another representing our international spirit was **Marion Kent**. Marion wore an authentic bright red Turkish fez which her Dad purchased in Turkey and brought back from a vacation.

Mary Highfill wore her husband’s graduation hat from John Muir Jr. High, 1937. The cap has autographs, including “Smile at me Ra Ra 33!”

Alyce Williamson’s cap came from Woodlake, Nebraska. Attending her 50th school reunion, she received this joke cap as she was a Straight A student (until her B in Home-Ec) – Arrogant, Abnormal, Abusive, Annoying, Absurd and Atrocious. Having met Alyce even once, you know immediately those Nebraskans have a huge sense of humor!

Note from the President: The Ladies of the Womens Westside Improvement Club would like to thank Norma for writing our articles in “This Point In Time” newsletters for the past two years. Norma’s style of writing is wonderful. She definitely knows how to turn a phrase and make us smile. Thanks Norma from all of us.

Margaret Morkowski



*PRHA Photo Archive
#0722-Sonny Jackson
Postcard Collection.*

*A big motorcycle event
on Dornan Drive across
from future Miller-Knox
Park.*

*Can anyone date this
photo for us?*

Out and About Town

Margaret Morkowski (510) 234-4219

Wow, this Summer sure went by fast. The HUGE, historic event of the Summer occurred on Monday, August 4th, as restoration work began on the Plunge. There were press reporters, City staff, architects, construction foremen and workers, old timers, new timers and little ones too. We were all celebrating the “**Wall Breaking**” event. Ellie Strauss of the **Save the Plunge** Trust welcomed the more than 75 excited revelers as we witnessed the first “deconstruction” toward the “reconstruction” of the Plunge. Everyone then toured the great historic Natatorium which first opened in 1926. We are all now looking forward to the day in 2009/2010 when the Plunge will open again. For more info, phone 235-5779, also page 18.



School's open and **Washington School** has a new principal. Her name is **Lisa Levi** and she will be great. “Mrs. Levi” (as she is known at school) started at Washington as a teacher more than 17 years ago. Most recently she's had many duties including that of vice-principal, I've learned, when all else fails, she is the best, “go-to” person for children, parents, teachers, staff, school visitors and volunteers. Congratulations “Mrs. Levi.” We wish you great success. This is exciting.



Speaking of **Washington School**, the **Many Hands Project** (residents and business owners in the Point) will be having their annual fundraiser on October 16th 5 pm – 7 pm. It will be a grand event. Once again we will be at our original location, “Partying on the Beach.” If you are interested in attending please call 215-6133. Also, during the

year, if you are interested in volunteering or contributing funds to directly support the teachers and children at Washington, please call 234-4219.



Would you like read to kindergartners, first or second graders at Washington School? The **Read A-Loud Volunteer Program** coordinates volunteers to read to inter-city children at 5 schools in the area. You can read to 2 children for 30 minutes each for a total of one-hour per week. We have openings here at Washington School on Wednesday or Thursday mornings. If Monday or Tuesday fits your schedule better, you may read at one of the four other schools. Please call 234-4219 or 237-0735 for more information.



On Saturday, September 20th, from 12 Noon to 5 pm the Point Richmond Business Association is organizing the Annual **Point Richmond Indian Day Statue Arts and Music Festival**. There be arts and crafts booths and live music. The Point's own Womens Westside Improvement Club is celebrating the Centennial Year and their Chorus will also be performing. There will be a “Kids with Hats Parade” at 2 pm. At 4 pm we'll have Dog Contests. There will be prizes for the winners of “Best Dressed” “Musical Chairs of Dogs” and “The Best Trick” contests. Come join in the fun. Please call 234-4219 for info. Thanks to the **Arts of Point Richmond** for organizing the Artists Booths (234-3622) and **PRAM** for organizing the Dog Contests (234-3445.)



Congratulations **PRAM (Parents Resources and More)** on receiving a grant for a new pre-school, play-lot structure for the Washington Field House. I understand that a “Thank you” also goes to Tony Norris, the Superintendent of Parks for the City of Richmond, who offered to have his staff install the equipment. Way to go everyone. For

additional information on PRAM, please call 234-3445.



Point Richmond's Historic Our Lady of Mercy Church will be continuing their monthly **Pancake Breakfast** fund raisers during the summer. If you enjoy pancakes, eggs, sausages, bacon, fruit, coffee, tea and juice stop by the Church Hall. The donation is \$8.00 and we serve breakfast **from 9:00 am to Noon** on the third Sunday of the Month. Come and join us on **Sundays - September 21st** and October 19th. Call 232-1843 for info.



Up-Coming Events:

•-September 12th, Friday, Point Richmond **Summer Concert Series "Blues-Night"** 5:30-8:00 pm on Park Place. Call 236-7435 for info.

•-September 20th, Saturday, Indian Statue Day Arts & Music Festival. 12 noon to 5 pm.

•-September 26th, Friday, Point Richmond **Summer Concert Series "Blues-Night"** 5:30-8:00 pm on Park Place. Call 236-7435 for info.

•Point Richmond **Summer Concert Series "Latin Night"** 5:30-8:00 pm on Park Place. Call 236-7435 for info.

•-October 3rd, 4th, & 5th, Friday night, all day Saturday and Sunday. **Home Front Festival By-the-Bay.** At the Lucretia Edwards Park, Ford Building & Red Oak Victory Ship, plus... USO Dance, Carnival rides, Quilt Display, National Park Tours, Rosie the Riveters Reunion, plus lots more. Call 234-3512 for info or link through the Point Richmond.com web site.

•-October 11th, Saturday, **Save the Plunge Trust's fundraiser, "Day at the Races"** at Golden Gate Fields, \$40. Call 234-4219 for info and tickets.

•-October 16th, Thursday, **The Many Hands Project** fundraiser for Washington School 5pm-7pm. Call 234-4219 for details.

•-October 25th, Saturday, 1st Annual **Bob Peckham Fun Run/Walk/Ride** event. Fundraiser for the Richmond Police Activities League (PAL) and cancer research. Sponsored by the Point Richmond Business Association. Call 237-3908 for details.

•-October 31st, Friday, Late morning....**Washington School Kids Halloween** Parade through town. Call 234-4219 for info

•-October 31st, Friday, **"Ghosts of Winehaven" Richmond Rotary** Peace Project fundraiser for our new youth anti-violence program. At Winehaven. \$35. Lunch, "History Of Winehaven" presentation, wine and art silent auction, docent tours of the Wine Masters Cottage. 12 noon – 3pm. Call 234-4219 for tickets and info.

•-November 27th, Thanksgiving Day. PRBA "organizes" the annual Point Richmond Turkey Shoot. Bring your goats, dogs, vintage vehicles and friends. Meet in front of the Plunge at 11 am. Then we'll be off to The Spot for the poetry reading and the "Shoot." Call 215-6133 for info.

•-November 29th, Saturday, 5:30 pm, next to the Indian Statue. PRBA sponsors the Annual Point Richmond Tree Lighting with Santa. Call 234-4219 for more info.



Don't forget **"Knit & Such"** meets the first Thursday every month from 7pm-9pm at the Community Center, 139 Washington Ave. The **Arts of Point Richmond** artists meet the 3rd Thursday of every month from 7pm-9pm also at the Community Center. Call 234-3822 for info.



Call the **Point Richmond/West Side Branch Library at 620-6567** and the **Point Richmond Community Center at 233-6881** for an update on what's new.



Archive Photo Gallery

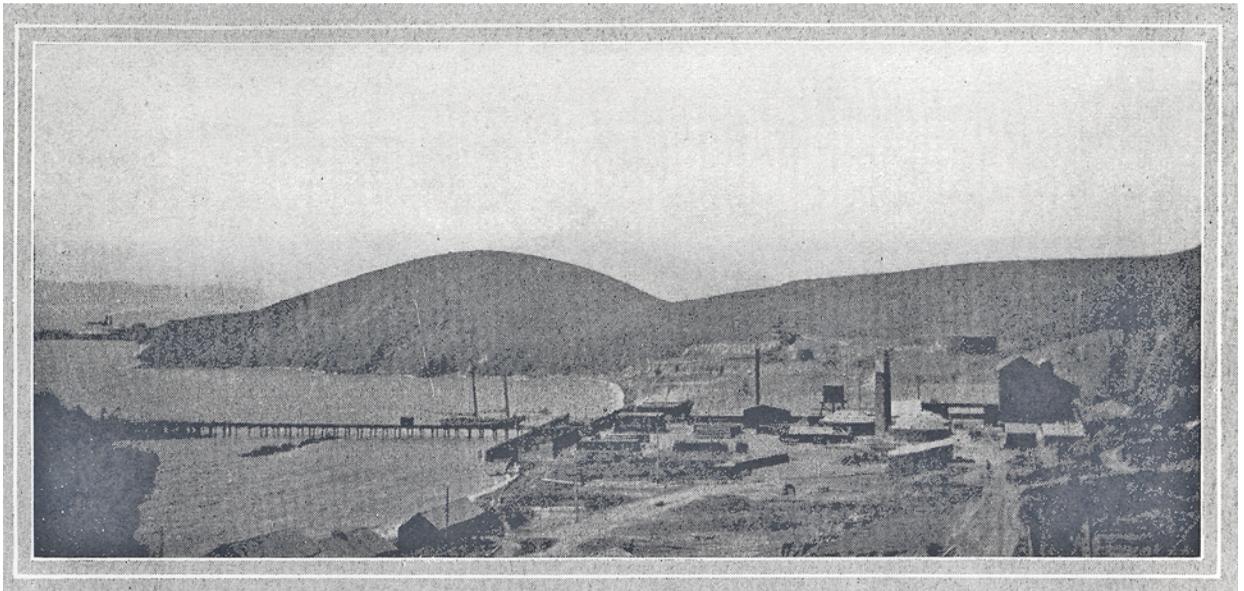
Los Angeles
Brick Works

Historical Photo Restorations by Thomas Mercer-Hursh, Ph.D.



Above: 0265-Contra Costa Historical Society "Los Angeles Pressed Brick Factory"

Below: 0358-Bob Berndt Gift "Los Angeles Brick Works, Richmond, makes all sorts of fancy builders materials."





Above: #0202-Don Church Collection, "Los Angeles Pressed Brick Company"

Below: #0156-Don Church Collection, "Site of the Los Angeles Pressed Brick Company. The only way bricks could be shipped out was by the dirt road in the foreground. Standard Oil Company was buying most of them as the refinery was expanding fast."



THE PETRIFIED FOREST

at the Masquers

A review by Theresa de Valencé, TdeV@bstw.com

There's one advantage to being nescient about theatre and film; I don't know what to expect. However, considering the cast, I predicted *The Petrified Forest*, written by **Robert E. Sherwood** and directed by **Marti Baer**, would be a musical comedy.

How wrong could I be? Well—as it turns out—completely. Nonetheless, the play was an intriguing surprise. First produced in 1935 and made into a movie in 1936, it was credited with making Humphrey Bogart a movie star, as well as defining the gangster genre.

Last seen, **Laura Morgan** (*photo, below*) was a mannerly girl full of unexpressed mischief. As Gabby Maple, she is a resolute young woman who displays proficiency with the mundane routines of life, along with her utter dissatisfaction. Gabrielle shows us her innocence, her dreams, and we can't



help but sympathize with her wanderlust. Not that we approve of all of her choices. A complex character, unevenly portrayed, but a very satisfying development for this actress. (*Photo, left by Jerry Telfer*).

A disheveled Alan Squire (**Kyle Johnson**) (*photo, left*) drifts into the diner pulling the hot, dry desert dust with him. He is charming, but as his character unfolds, we find a jaded intellectual looking for something—anything—to give purpose to his life. He is a Depression era misfit with a poor self image. He cycles through various stages: we think he's silly, he's gone crazy, and finally, he's a noble young man with a purpose—though perhaps a foolish one. Kyle wraps up his rôle with a flourish, an increasingly dramatic rendering.

Robert Taylor is a handsome man, particularly as the untamed and rumpled Duke Mantee. He's a dangerous criminal who's wound up tight. His restlessness makes itself felt; we become edgy. He reacts to the reckless actions of others with cool-headedness. Into this turmoil he weaves conflicting personal traits—becoming more human, more endearing, and much sadder. A most passionate performance.

I can't really be fair about Boze (**Craig Eychner**). He did such a stunning job reminding me what it was like, as an innocent young woman, to have some unwelcome, aroused guy crawling up my leg that I shivered with distaste. In truth, Boze later not only reminds us how young and vulnerable he is, but we begin to admire him. Quite an accomplishment!

Gramp (**George Adams**) was my vote for Actor Most Enjoying Himself. Gramp is a self-indulgent imp, filling his declining years fomenting trouble and pinching whiskey. With great wistfulness accompanied by a gentle smile, he remembers back to his wilder youth. He is multifaceted: provocative, occasionally caring, and curious—a personality with whom one might enjoy a long chat—a sophisticated portrayal.

Jason Maple (**John Burke**) is Gabby's dad, looking just like harassed, small businessmen everywhere. Immediately we feel his social and financial pressures. Like some small businessmen, he is small-minded with mediocre dreams. A bleak and

depressing fellow, nicely done.

Ted Bigornia plays an outspoken lineman (intimating that a comedy might be in store after all) and Jackie, a hitman, who is dangerous and completely unfunny. Ted's very athletic eyes, sinister moustache and evil smile make us frightened of his demonic inclinations. A superb performance.

Edward Nason plays the second lineman and Pyles, the second hitman. Pyles is cool—a thug so dispassionate we are convinced that nothing will detract him from his murderous tasks.

A couple walks into the diner. Mr Chisolm (**Michael Fay**) was the exact image of a wealthy acquaintance of mine that I kept expecting him to greet me. He exhibits the ponderous demeanor of the stupendously wealthy—slow to react, then surprised that money won't buy his way out of any problem.

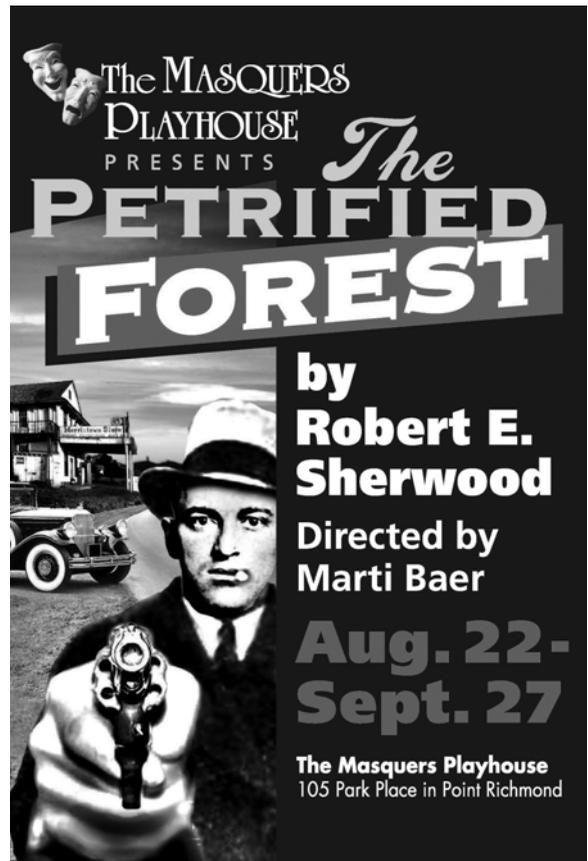
Mrs Chisolm (**Michael Haven**) is a dark horse. She begins as a cool, good looking socialite who looks fabulous in a hat. Evidence suggests she is fairly repressed. After some astonishing antics with the whiskey bottle, another woman emerges. She's a startling character who enriches the production.

The wealthy couple are followed into the diner by their chauffeur, Joseph (**Monroe Benschop**). Joseph is a soft-spoken man used to obeying orders, which he continues to do despite the turmoil in the diner. Later he is moved to pray for his life—a mildly moving experience surrounded by chaos.

When **Peter Budinger** appears first as Herb, an old man who comes into the bar to buy beer, his antics suggest an approaching comedy. (With Peter's history, who would be surprised?) Yet shortly he reappears as Ruby, another hitman. He becomes larger. (Do the others shrink?) Peter is imposing as a taciturn thug, but not special—not his best rôle.

Legion Commander (**Simon Patton**) is not shown at his best, becoming a prisoner shortly after his arrival onstage. He is an unruly captive; with few lines, he makes clear his preference for a brawl.

The set, though simple, is especially effective. Easily reminding us of the days before air conditioning, the audience tastes and smells the hot, dry desert. We are refreshed when the actors drink cooling beer. Through the diner door, we visualize



The MASQUERS
PLAYHOUSE
PRESENTS *The*
**PETRIFIED
FOREST**
by
**Robert E.
Sherwood**
Directed by
Marti Baer
**Aug. 22-
Sept. 27**
The Masquers Playhouse
105 Park Place in Point Richmond

the sagebrush lazily tumbling by in the hot desert winds. The large, polished walnut radio is an effective focal point throughout the play.

The costumes and hair styles are superb: Gabby's hair is memorable (better than photo, left), Jason Maple smells of engine oil, Alan Squire seems like he rolled the last mile to the diner in the dirt, Robert Taylor looks tasty, and Mrs Chisolm looks air-conditioned before such a look was even possible.

An unusual but very satisfactory experience.

Theresa de Valencé publishes reviews of Masquers and other community theatre performances. Subscription to the electronic list is FREE, send an email with "subscribe" in the subject to TdeV@bstw.com.

Saving the Plunge

Work finally started, but help is still needed

After 11 years of effort and seven years from its closure, Monday, August 4th, 2008 was a red letter day for the City of Richmond, the village of Point Richmond and the entire West County Area as local folks gathered to watch the beginning of construction/renovation/retrofit of the historic Richmond Plunge.

Our beautiful Plunge long languishing in neglect and subject to closure has once and for all been saved for posterity. With \$5 million dollars available for Phase I (one) the venerable building will be restored to its former glory. The swim tank will be replaced, new economical state of the art pool filtration systems installed and the historic Belvedere (monitor) which



Above: The interior just before repairs begin. Below: Ellie Strauss stands on the steps of the Plunge addressing the group of attendees.



allows for proper air circulation and inhibits corrosion will be rebuilt. Due to its historic designation the plans for renovation scrupulously adhere to State Historic guidelines and will insure faithful restoration of this neo-classical building.

While Phase I is being worked on and due for completion in 400 days, Phase II (two) which will redo the restrooms, dressing rooms, the North wing (old lobby and checking area) and some deck areas et al is costing another estimated \$2.5 million dollars. It will save a great deal of time and money if Phase II can follow immediately on the

heels of Phase I. Estimates are that 10-15% of Phase II costs can be saved by doing the project in one stage. Save The Richmond Plunge Trust (STRPT) is actively seeking funding for this phase. The Trust has received a matching grant from the Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation of Oakland in the amount of \$500,000.

Trust representatives are talking with residents, service organizations, neighborhood councils, and the business community to secure this match. Your contribution can be doubled by this match and make a substantial difference in how fast the project proceeds and in how soon the Plunge will be ready for public use. We know this is a city full of folks with really big hearts and we know all of you will dig deep to help with this next round of fund raising. STRPT is a 501(c) 3 charity and your donations are tax deductible. Your contributions will help leave a legacy for your grandchildren's grandchildren.

Send your contributions to:

Save The Richmond Plunge Trust

P.O. Box 70443

Richmond, CA 94807-0443

We know we can count on you to help.

Ellie Strauss, Executive Director, Save The Richmond Plunge Trust



Above: Todd Jersey peering though ceremonial demolition. Lower left: Ellie Strauss. Below: Early Joel Beck cartoon thanks to David Vincent. Photos by Gary Shows.

**THIS BUILDING IS PROGRAMMED TO DIE !
WHY ?**

**SAVE THE
PLUNGE!**



**THEY'RE TRYING TO "RUB-OUT"
ONE OF RICHMOND'S OLDEST AND
MOST MAGNIFICENT LAND MARKS.....**

WHAT CAN YOU DO ? ACT !

**WRITE YOUR CITY COUNCILMEN A CARD OR LETTER. C/O
c/o THE CITY CLERK, CITY HALL, CIVIC CENTER, RICHMOND, CA 94804**

Mayor Gary Fernandez
Fritz Allen Stanley Grydyk
Nathaniel Bates Richard Nelson
Robert Campbell Al Silva
Tom Corcoran Don Wägerman

William L. Thompson, M.D.

Memories of the Second World War in the Richmond Area



Dr. Thompson was born in Point Richmond on February 17, 1909. He grew up in the Point, attended Washington Elementary School and graduated from Richmond High School in 1926, attended U.C. Berkeley and in 1929 at the age of 20 was admitted to the UCSF Medical School. He completed his medical school in 1933 and interned at Highland Hospital before joining the Civilian Conservation Corp. as a contract surgeon for the Army. Dr. Thompson practiced medicine for 39 years in Richmond, we are lucky to be the recipient of his written memories of his life in Point Richmond. This is a reprint of his gift to all of us. We will reprint his entire series. Thank you Dr. Thompson!

Part Four (Conclusion)

The inner harbor was a busy place during the ship building years. About one ship a day was being launched. These were constructed in parts in huge mechanical shops and put together like gigantic jig saw puzzles. Massive sections were lifted by huge cranes and set accurately in place to be secured by welding or riveting. I recall seeing huge deck houses speedily lifted by a battery of giant cranes and set down accurately in place. The record for a single assembly was about 72 hours from keel to launching.

There were masses of humanity at work but there were relatively few severe injuries or fatalities. I saw one woman who came to me about 5 months pregnant. She tried to make it an industrial accident since it happened at the shipyards. This didn't work but it was suggestive of the stories that were told of service men receiving the Purple Heart citations for venereal diseases.

During the war I was asked to do the industrial work for the J.D. Proctor Company that did the diving work connected with the shipyards. All launchings had to be inspected underwater before the launch. Also many pipes and other connections were under water. I had to set up safety rules for diving. Fortunately there was almost no descent below 30 or 40 feet so there was little risks. The

divers made more money salvaging tools and other objects dropped in the water than their salaries.

Point Richmond had a small isolation hospital constructed near the intersection of Cutting and Garrard Boulevards. This was for infectious diseases which could not be hospitalized in the Richmond Hospital. It was demolished after the war. I remember hospitalizing a boy with Rocky Mountain spotted fever that was contracted from a tick bite in Tilden Park.

Dr. C.L. Abbott was county coroner during the war and for many years before and after. I acted as his forensic pathologist having had experience in Kern County and in Chicago. We investigated quite a few homicides but most were of the run-of-the-mill type. I attended a meeting of a service club of which I was a member and some in the group were quizzing Capt. Bengly. Bengly was chief of detectives of the Richmond Police and was to some extent defending himself. I heard him say that in the preceding period Richmond had had 9 homicides and had obtained 8 convictions. One wise guy sitting at the table asked rather despairingly "what happened to the other one?" Bengly looked at him with a rather pitying expression and answered "One guy did two murders". That closed the subject.

With the huge influx of people during the war

the Richmond Police Force was greatly overworked. They had to enlarge the force quickly and regular patrolmen had to be promoted to sergeants and lieutenants, often with little experience. However they studied and worked hard and did a very creditable job. I worked often with the police and sheriff's office on homicides and accidental deaths. The new lieutenant in charge of homicides consulted with me often and borrowed books to study. I recall him returning one book and saying "geeze doc that's a good book but it sure has some big woids in it". They all did well in a very difficult situation.

After the shipyards closed at the war's end the housing units were torn down and the lots returned to their rightful owners. The population reduced. Some left the area but most spread out into surrounding regions where they could buy or construct more adequate living quarters.

The need for more hospital facilities was obvious and, under the leadership of Doctor Paul Frasier, a move was made to construct a district hospital. This movement began about 1950 and, with the passage of a bond issue, Brookside Hospital's formation was assured. At first a board of directors was elected and a nucleus committee of 15 doctors was formed under the chairmanship of Dr. L.A. Hedges. This consisted of ten local Richmond doctors one from San Pablo, one from Rodeo, one from El Cerrito and two specialists

from Oakland who did much of their work in Richmond.

After the hospital was nearing completion this same group was organized as a nucleus staff with Dr. Thompson as first chief of staff. The function of this group was to organize the hospital staff and accept and accredit new staff members. They also had to work out the hospital by-laws, select a director and appoint or hire the ancillary services such as X-ray staff, pathologist and laboratory chief and other services. They also advised the Board of Directors on medical matters. This group worked very hard in various committees and Brookside Hospital soon became a reality.

Adequate nursing personnel were difficult to establish. First there was a general shortage of nurses and secondly Eden Township Hospital in the Hayward area in Castro Valley opened just a few weeks before Brookside was to open and siphoned off much of the available nurses. However this problem was eventually overcome and Brookside has continued to improve ever since.

Richmond, Point Richmond, San Pablo, Pinole and El Cerrito struggled through this emergency and played their parts well. They emerged quite successfully but much changed. During this time El Sobrante was born and all have continued to prosper in various ways.

END



Archive #0726-Sonny Jackson Postcard Collection, "View on Standard Avenue, Richmond, California"

Evan Griffins' 1938 Memoirs

Permission has been given by the Griffins Family to publish these memoirs. Thanks to Bruce Beyaert for getting this to us and to Suzanne Loosen for recommending it. Thanks also to Tom Panas and the El Cerrito Historical Society who published these memoirs previously.

Griffins' memoirs go beyond the scope of Point Richmond and much is before the Point was populated but it is nevertheless an interesting account of the history of our region. We will publish it in several parts.

Third Installment:

I now come to the man who was the most conspicuous figure in the early affairs of the San Pablo Rancho. This man was Dr. Tewksbury. It seemed to be the Doctor's aim to acquire all the land he could possibly obtain and this rancho offered the best opportunity for such endeavors. I had heard so many conflicting reports regarding the character of this man that I was unable to form any opinion as to the category to which he belonged and it was not until 1884, that I received my first favorable impression of the man. I became acquainted with Dr. L. C. Lane , a most eminent surgeon of San Francisco , who later founded the Lane-Stanford Hospital . Dr. Lane intoned me that he first met Dr. Tewksbury in Buenos Aires and knew him to be a man of sterling qualities and a wonderful physician. He considered the medical profession lost a very valuable member when he gave up his practice and went into "land grabbing". Mrs. Tewksbury, a very excellent lady, was a native of Buenos Aires where she married the doctor. They had two children, Lucien and Jennie. Jennie married a Dr. Weir who was a doctor on a steamer that was running between San Francisco and Panama . He died after a few years and Jennie married a Mr. Mintzer. This accounts for the Mintzer name being associated with the affairs of the community. For the last several years Dr. Belgum has run a sanitarium on the old Mintzer home place in the hills beyond Grand Canyon Park . The old Tewksbury home was at the junction of San Pablo Avenue and San Pablo Dam Road .

I do not know how Dr. Tewksbury gained his

titles before the Potrero was declared a peninsula but nevertheless he accomplished this coup and guarded his rights by keeping a watchman at the only entrance gate. He retained his title until the final settlement of the San Pablo Rancho. There was an area of marshland that was situated between the Potrero and the mainland that was declared to be state lands. Under the "Tide and Overflow Act", Dr. Tewksbury bought a portion of this extending the whole length of the Potrero. He became possessor of the great holdings that eventually would be of great value. The Standard Oil Company is now owner of a portion of this marshland.

I have been asked several times lately about a French colony. I do not recall any such settlement during my time. Some seem to think that it refers to two Frenchmen, who lived near the Tewksbury entrance gate, which was where the old road joined what is now Standard Avenue , but I think it relates to a settlement established by some early French adventurers on a flat piece of land near the present site of the Rod and Gun Club. I know that there were the remains of an orchard there. I am informed that there still is a grape vine in evidence. That no doubt was the site of the first school. An impression exists that the Jesuit Fathers attempted something at what is known as the shrimp camp, near Winehaven. This may be a fact, as Father Murasky had acquired large holdings in that vicinity. Another factor in the case of the French colony is that in 1857 a Mr. Aine, father of H. E. Aine, first superintendent of construction of the Standard Oil plant and grandfather of our own citizen, H. E. Aine at 431 Dimm Avenue , did

locate on this Potrero at the site of the present brickyard. This could also be an explanation of the French colony. It can easily be seen that the Potrero being an island was government property, therefore open to pre-emption and homesteading rights, so it was on those conditions that Grandfather Aine acquired his property by squatter's title and set up a colony of people. In my own time the place was occupied by Beau Peere and the establishment of the brickyard was not in evidence until 1874.

The inception of the church and school of the French colony was before my time and I cannot offer more on the subject.

My first impression of churches was a meeting place where the godly repaired on Sunday dressed in their best clothes and sanctimonious faces to wrangle over the merits or demerits of the preacher and pour everlasting condemnation upon the native Californians who insisted on horse racing past their church.

At that time there were two factions in the church. The dissenters in the case were members of the church and the main cause for their dissention was that they did not consider the minister who occupied the pulpit a fit person for the position he held. One objection was that he smoked but being a retired seafaring man such a procedure was a matter of fact to him. The dissenters were defeated and the victors then decided to improve their church by adding a gallery to it. This proved to be their Waterloo . This gallery was an ideal place for the younger generation of male element for target practice, until the day when the preacher's eye stopped a wad of freshly masticated tobacco with the result that the church was discontinued. The Presbyterians effected an organization in 1875 and lasted until 1889. Dissention arose and the church was again disbanded. The Baptists finally took over the church and succeeded in their efforts and so at this time we have a fine and credible institution which was known as the San Pablo Baptist Church . I mention the trouble in the churches to show the conditions with which the

settlers had to contend, not only in churches but also the schools. As I grew older, I came to the conclusion that conditions were made intolerable by bigotry, conceit and pure cussedness by the factions that impeded progress.

The San Pablo School district included the territory from the County Line to San Pablo Bay and as far east as what is now known as San Pablo Dam, as well as what was then referred to as El Sobrante grant.

I cannot recall the exact date that the Catholic people decided to have a school of their own. This was consummated in the Seventies. This School building was erected near the manse on the property they owned which included the old Catholic Church which is still used. This school functioned for a few years and then the project was abandoned.

A little explanation in regard to El Sobrante might be advisable. At the close of the Mexican War in 1846, the United States acquired California by the terms of the treaty in which guaranteed to respect all legitimate Spanish or Mexican grants. Reference to this tract of land as El Sobrante grant is an error as there never was a Sobrante grant. Sobrante is a Spanish word meaning an un-granted tract of land intervening between two grants. [Editor's Note: Mr. Griffin's recollections are in general quite accurate and his suggestion that there was no Rancho El Sobrante is perhaps a matter of semantics. A "Rancho El Sobrante" did exist, as illustrated by the 1909 map of Rancho El Sobrante created by the courts to authoritatively define the owners and boundaries of the land in Rancho El Sobrante.]

As this tract was occupied and held by squatter's rights, it naturally brought on a controversy which clouded the title to be settled at Washington, D.C. in 1886. The Interior Department had no record of such a grant so they decided in favor of settlers who were required to prove up on their claims, pay the required fee, and were given deeds by the United States . The Standard Oil Tank farm is located within this tract.

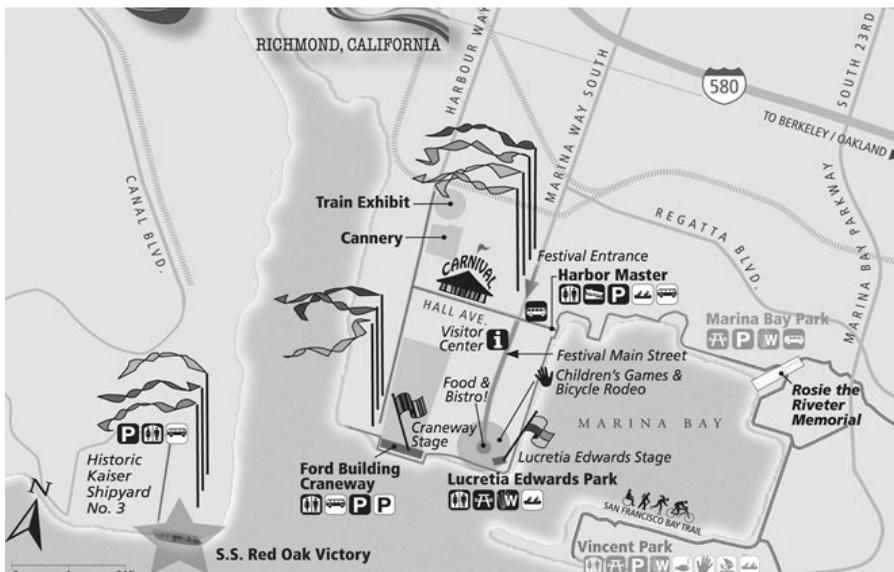


To see the schedule for this great event go to www.homefrontfestival.com

This will be the second annual celebration of Richmond's special role in the history of modern America! DON'T MISS IT!

The City of Richmond, the Richmond Chamber of Commerce, and the Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park are teaming up again to bring you:

- * Great music & entertainment***
- * USO Dance***
- * Local food specialties***
- * Carnival***
- * Kids' play activities***
- * Tours and exhibits about the WWII Home Front***
- * Vintage Car Show***
- * YMCA Fun Run/Walk***



Deaths.....

Joseph Mendlowitz died July 20, 2008. a resident of Point Richmond, previously from Scranton, PA. He is survived by his loving friend and partner Joan Silver, Santa Rosa, also his brother and nieces in New York. Joe had a true passion for golf and was a member of the Richmond Golf and Country Club for over 20 years. Hew was an Army veteran stationed in Germany in the 1950's. He was a hard worker and a fun person.

Roger Alan Genosick died June 9, 2008 following surgery. Age 46. Roger is survived by his mother, Louise Genosick and brothers William, Michael and Robert. No services were held,

Lola G. Imlacah died June 20, 2008. Age 95. Lola lived in Point Richmond and worked as a department manager at Macy's for 38 years. She is survived by her daughter Sharon Hardwick, grandchildren Debbie Willis, Don Hardwick, Wendy Jones, Sandy Hardwick and Sharry Carranza , 12 great grandchildren and a great great granddaughter.

Roger Alan Genosick died June 9, 2008 following surgery. Age 46. Roger is survived by his mother, Louise Genosick and brothers William, Michael and Robert. No services were held,



BRAIN AEROBICS

- Mid

Wise Words

How fast can you come up with the opening words of each proverb below?

1. _____ nothing gained.
2. _____ breaks a camels back.
3. _____ runs deep.
4. _____ a sinking ship.
5. _____ catches the worm.
6. _____ is in the eating.
7. _____ is money.
8. _____ die hard.
9. _____ serve two masters.

ANSWERS on next page

Cards, Letters & E-Mail

Dear Editor,

I read with particular interest Dr. Thompson's memoirs in the June, July, August issue. The nurse anesthetist he mentions was my late mother, Martha Healy. Her schedule made for an interesting home life, to say the least. My father worked shift work at Standard Oil as a Refinery Shift Coordinator, while my sister and I went to Richmond High.

At all times, the Richmond Hospital had to know my mother's location. If we dared go to a movie, she would notify the box office, and they would flash her name on the screen. We did leave quite a few, and I can remember that she always smelled of ether.

In addition to the 24/7, she worked a regular 8 hour shift, so we could usually get a ride to school,

which I enjoyed.

I was drafted in 1943 and sent to New Guinea, so I missed a couple of years of her hard work. I'm sure that she never slowed down.

John (Jack) Healy
762 Ocean Avenue
Point Richmond

Hi Pam,

Was out in the Point on the 27th, drove through on my way to the airport. Still beautiful, lots of changes. Hope all is well with you!

Debbie Forbes
Edmond, OK
Wish I could have seen you!
Pam



PRHA Archive Photo
#0727 from Sonny
Jackson's Postcard
Collection, "Helen at
Sunny Cove Beach,
Richmond, CA, August
1917

Answers to Brain Aerobics on page 25

1. Nothing ventured...
2. The last straw...
3. Still waters...
4. Rats desert...
5. The early bird...
6. The proof of the pudding...
7. Time...
8. Old habits...
9. No man can...

Birthdays

September

Donna Roselius	Marie Peckham	Ingvar Elle	June Kunkle
John T. Knox	Ivar Elle	Simeon J. Burtner	Blackburn
June Solosbal	Daniel Butt	Gayle Kaufman	Lorin Buhler
Phyllis Bogue	Emileigh Anne Barnes	Roxanne Trudeau	Isobel Shaw
Judy Kaska	Al Frosini	John Hadreas	Aubrey Lee Rentfro
Vance Kaska	Frank Christopher	David Reynolds	Stephen Kowalski
Joan Gatten	Linda Newton	Jerry Cerkanowicz	Gene Smith
Sofia Warith	Roberta Wilson	Jan Feagley	Margaret Morkowski
Susan Armstrong	Nadia Warith	Kenneth Dolan	John Bailo
	Bernard Dietz	Theresa Daniel	Peter Minkwitz

October

Terry Wynne	Timothy Doherty	Marc Bisio	Abigail Munoz Rivera
Kate Lord	Jodi Bagley	Chris Ward	Ray Smith
Florence Wilson	Jeff Ward	Helen Frosini	Bill Vallivero
Liz McDonald	Todd Cort	Jerry Daniel	Leo Matteucci
Jean Moyle Spiersch	McKinley Bradshaw	Grace Cerkanowicz	Toni Cannizzaro
Maria Shaw	Marian Tedrick	Otto Barni	Jan Burdick
Marguerite Clutts	Brian Tedrick	Nellie Bisio Pasquini	Maria Inchauspe Smith
Linda Pereira	Rich Weirick	Betty Glass Marshall	

EXCLUSIVE OVER 90 CLUB

An impressive list that grows each month.

Viola Lala Kennedy - 90
Mark Gebhart- 94
Anna Schwarz 96
Jim Patrick Kenny 95
Bena Bowles 94
Lee Christian
Alice Helseth 98
Rena Cairo Gonalves 98
Lupe Padilla Lopez 93
Laura Kurtz 96
Anita Brougham -95
Goldie Mobley-95

Maxine Stoddard- 93
Reva Ward 95-
Steve Wyrick - 93
Bernard Dietz 93
Avis Blanchette 94
Ruth Mallette - 96
Ann Hanzlik - 95
Roger Wiese - 92
Al Frosini - 90
Eunice Ruth Hursh - 91
Madelilne Bellando Albright 90
Charlotte Kernabon Birsinger 91
Jerome Vloebergh 91

100 Year Club

Ruth Wood Mullen - 101
Gordon Miller - 100

Remember that Age is not a number, it's an attitude.

CALENDAR

GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM AND EAST BAY MODEL ENGINEERS SOCIETY

900 Dornan Drive, Miller/Knox Regional Park. Interested in Museum Membership? Museum is open Sundays 12:00 to 5:00. Also special openings on Saturdays and Holidays. Admission is \$4.00 for adults, \$2.00 for over 65 and under 12, maximum family admission \$9.00, call 510-234-4884 for details.

MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

Quality productions, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm, Sunday Matinees at 2:30 pm. Tickets are \$18, cash check or credit card. Reservations and program, 510-232-4031. Dinner at the Hotel Mac and the play on Thursday, for only \$45. Call 510-232-4031 for reservations.

PARENTS, RESOURCES AND MORE (PRAM)

Parents, Resources and More (PRAM) is a volunteer-run nonprofit organization serving families with children ages 0-5 in the greater Richmond area. The group offers playgroups, social events, educational opportunities, and a community center for infant and preschool enrichment. For more information go to <http://www.PRAM.net> or call 510-215-1734 or call Courtney Coolidge at 510-234-3445.

POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Meets 2nd Wednesday each month, Hotel Mac Banquet Room, 12-1:30, Lunch Reservations \$11. Contact: Paula Aasmus, O.D. 510-235-5228.

POINT RICHMOND COMMUNITY CENTER/FIELD HOUSE & PLUNGE

Info: 233-6881

POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Museum at 139½ Washington Avenue, open Thursday's and Saturday's, 11:30 to 2:00. The deadline for the next issue of TPIT is Friday October 31, 2008. For more information call President Mildred Dornan at 510-234-5334.

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meets last Wednesday each month, Pt Richmond Community Center; 7:30 P.M Contact: Robin Carpenter, President, 510-232-8175.

RED OAK VICTORY

Open Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday 10am - 3pm. \$5 donation for adults, \$4 seniors, \$2 children. Sunday Breakfast September 10th and October 12th, 9 am - 1 pm, \$6 adults children FREE

WASHINGTON SCHOOL

Contact: Roz Plishner, Principal 510-232-1436.

WOMEN'S WESTSIDE IMPROVEMENT CLUB

Richmond's longest standing women's club. Contact: Margaret Morkowski, President. 510-234-4219 for more information.

To update or add your organization or event to our calendar, please contact Gary Shows, 510-235-1336, or email him, gary@alkos.com, or send your request to 229 Golden Gate Avenue, Point Richmond, CA 94801

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Type of membership (check one):

<input type="checkbox"/>	Single	\$20.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Senior (65+)	15.00
<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

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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.

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 510-965-0335

or
email: gary@alkos.com

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Visit our website
PointRichmondHistory.org

Thanks ALKO office supply for hosting our site

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Rosie the Riveter Park 510-232-5050

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