

# THIS POINT... in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

[www.PointRichmondHistory.org](http://www.PointRichmondHistory.org)

Vol. XXVII No. 4

February, March, 2009

\$3.00



## Keller's Beach Wharf

1964

# **THE RICHMOND SUPPLY COMPANY BUILDING**

**THIS BUILDING WAS BUILT IN 1903 AT 139 WEST RICHMOND AVENUE BY J.Q. BLACK WHO SUPPLIED THE AREA WITH COAL, WOOD, HAY, AND GRAIN. ROBERT DORNAN SR. BOUGHT THE BUILDING IN 1909 AND ADDED THE SERVICE OF MOVING HOUSEHOLD GOODS**

**IN 1911 HE BOUGHT A TRUCK AND BEGAN THE RICHMOND SUPPLY CO., THE OLDEST CONTINUING FAMILY BUSINESS IN RICHMOND. LATER HIS WIFE, TRANNIE FREEMAN BECAME PART OF THE BUSINESS AND AFTER W.W. II HIS SON, ROBERT DORNAN JR. JOINED THEM. THE BUILDING WAS SOLD IN 1947 WHEN THE BUSINESS MOVED INTO 145 WEST RICHMOND AVENUE. THE BUSINESS CONTINUED UNTIL 1987.**

**IN MAY 1990, THE BUILDING WAS SAVED FROM DESTRUCTION BY COMMUNITY ACTION. IT WAS MOVED TO ITS PRESENT LOCATION 139½ WASHINGTON AVENUE TO SERVE AS AND INFORMATION CENTER FOR THE POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION.**

**POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION PROJECT**

*The new plaque on the side of our Point Richmond  
History Association Museum will soon be illuminated!  
In case you are wondering, it is not the plaque that is  
crooked, it's the building!*

# From the President

By Mid Dornan

We are living in an historic and memorable time, a time that will be noted and celebrated more often than other dates and times. Our new president is Barack Obama, with Joseph Biden his Vice President.

Richmond installed a 7 member Council reduced from 9. Newly elected Jeff Ritterman joined incumbents Tom Butt and Nathanal Bates, who join council members Jim Rogers, Maria Veramontes, Ludmyrna Lopez, and Mayor Gayle McLaughlin.

Our goal is to record present history as well as stimulate interest in our past history and gain members to help organize and preserve this history for the future historians.

We are thankful for the support of the community and the volunteers who often admit they are enjoying their obligation. The commitment of our 'all volunteer' staff that produces this newsletter is evidence we are achieving our goals.

*Early photo of  
Keller's Beach  
Wharf*

*PRHA Photo  
Archive #0094-  
Don Church  
Enhanced by  
Thomas Mercer-  
Hursh*



## Contents of this Issue

From the President	1
Members	2
Editor's Notes	3
A-Mid Trivia	4
Church News	6
Westside Women's Improvement Club	11
Out and About Town	12
Archive Photo Gallery	14
Masquer's Playhouse Review	16
William L. Thompson, MD <i>Memories of Old Point Richmond</i>	20
Evan Griffins' Memoirs	22
Deaths	25
Cards, letters and emails	26
Birthdays/90's Club	27
Calendar	28

*Thank you members for your renewal:*

Simeon J. Burtner  
Edna Hathaway  
Gretchen Van Tassel Shaw\*  
Gilda B. Markarian\*\*  
Joan Noani Glover  
Ed Squires  
Jack N. Seuberth  
David B. Smith  
Jack Shoemaker & Jane Vendenburgh  
Family  
Dody Perry  
Frank Kenny  
East Bay Brass Foundry\*\*  
Alphonso & Donna Diaz Family  
Jay & Karen Fenton Family  
Olivia Jacobs  
George & Janie Carroll  
Don Amantite  
Maria Inchauspe (Smith)\*  
Bryan S. Smith\*  
Marcelina B Smith  
Royce Ong\*\*  
Adele F. Waymire  
Susan Reynolds Prine  
Tom Piazza & Mary Crosby Family  
Mary Highfill  
Marilyn Darling  
Zoanna Kille  
Alyce Williamson  
Susan Snyder & Richard Neidhardt  
Family  
Jim Ellis  
Bruce & Ann Bartram Family  
John & Nancy Mengshol

Janet Burdick  
Marion Kent  
Connie Healy  
Michelle D. Healy\*  
Richard & Charlene Smith  
Dean & Frank Smith Family

And a warm welcome to these new members

Duane Fitzgerald  
Michelle D. Healy\*

\* Gift Membership

\*\*Special Member, *Thank You!*

*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*

*And Thanks to the Volunteers who open  
and close our history museum on  
Thursday and Saturday.*

***The Cover:***

*Bruce Beyaert donated the picture Keller's Wharf a shortly before it became  
Keller's Beach Park. PRHA Photo Archive #0743-Beyaert was enhanced by  
Thomas Mercer-Hursh*

# *Editor's Notes*

*Gary Shows (510-235-1336)*

Lots of good things in this Feb/March issue, thanks to everyone.

Thanks to Bruce Beyaert for the cover picture of Keller's Beach Wharf. Bruce came across this picture as he was organizing his slides and thought that maybe the PRHA would be interested in it. I encourage all of you all to do the same. We are proud of our photo archives and would like to grow it. If you come across an old picture of Point Richmond please share it with others it will go into our archive with your name attached to it and may be printed in this newsletter. Mail it or email it to me (if you scan it please use a high resolution) or you can put it in our little museum mail slot. Just be sure to put my name on the envelope and include the name that will get credit for the picture and of course your address if you want it back.

Have a great February and March, back in April with our Summer issue.

The deadline for the next issue of "THIS POINT.....in time" is March 27th.

The Nov/Dec/Jan issue newsletter assembly crew:

Pam Wilson  
Mid Dornan  
Bruce Bartram  
Ann Bartram  
Pat Pearson  
Tom Piazza  
Marcelina Smith  
Margaret Morkowski  
Bonnie Jo Cullison  
Mary Highfill  
Jerry Cerkanowicz  
Gary Shows

## *Thank You! Our Special Supporters!*

### *History Makers*

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

### *Corporate Sponsor*

Timeworks Inc. Clock Company  
Stephanie, Patti & Stephen Kowalski  
First Church of Christ, Scientist

### *History Preservers:*

Royce Ong  
Edward J. McGarvey  
Gilda Markarian  
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  
Patricia Dornan  
Paul & Zoe Mukavtz

# A-Mid Trivia

Mid Dornan (510-234-5334)

Q: Has the United States ever had three presidents in one year? Answer at end of Trivia.

\*\*\*

Section 1, article 2, of the U.S. Constitution, cites the words for the presidential oath. If you recite it, think what part relates to you. "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States!"

\*\*\*

Beginning January 1st, garbage collection rates increased 3.61%. Single family homes with 35 gal trash containers will pay \$18.33 a month instead of \$17.69

\*\*\*

Washington Elementary School in Point Richmond was one of only two Contra Costa County Schools recently honored for improving student achievement test scores.

The Title I Academic Achievement Award is given to schools receiving funds under the No Child Left Behind Act. To be eligible, a school must enroll 40 percent or more of socioeconomically disadvantaged students. To meet the criteria for the award, the school must demonstrate that all students are making progress toward proficiency on California's academic standards.

\*\*\*

Jean Reynolds, one of TPITs staff writers, is recovering from Major head surgery in January and is wished continued good health.

\*\*\*

RIDDLE: What belongs to you, yet others use it more often than you do? Answer within A-MID TRIVIA.

\*\*\*

Stressed? Chew Gum. The act of chewing gum (sugar free of course) pumps blood through the part of your brain most affected by stress.

\*\*\*

Jerry Cerkanowicz underwent surgery in an Alameda Hospital in early January and wished a continued recovery.

\*\*\*

The sculptural highlight of the year for Bryan Tedrick, was a forty-foot diameter kinetic pair of wings, which was featured at the Burning Man Festival in Nevada. Currently Bryan is focusing on sculptural animals. Visit him on his web site [www.bryantedrick.com](http://www.bryantedrick.com).

\*\*\*

It was birthday time for baby boomers Linda Andrews-Marshall and Rosie Hegarty who celebrated that 60th (now considered to be 40) at the Point San Pablo Yacht Club by inviting friends to a potluck on January 31st.

\*\*\*

For followers of Kit Eakle, member of HOT CLUB of MARIN, check his web site, [kit@musickit.com](mailto:kit@musickit.com) for current gigs! According to the National Sleep Foundation poll about two thirds of adults experience trouble sleeping at least one night a week, while almost one-half report sleep problems almost every night. All the information was obtained BEFORE recession was official!

\*\*\*

The Federal Communications Committee tells TV lovers to be prepared for digital TV transition by February 17th, when most TV stations cease sending out analog signals of their broadcast. Being technically challenged, I understand this to mean consumers MAY notice a better picture quality and sound as well have access to more channels! (We need MORE channels?)

\*\*\*

Of every \$100 spent in a chain store, \$14 goes back into the local economy. For a locally owned business, \$45 goes back.

\*\*\*

Each year the Historic Point Methodist Church, as a fund raiser, honors a member or someone in the community at a Sweetheart Dinner at the Point San Pablo Yacht Club. This year it will be on Thursday, February 12th. The 2009 recipient is Patricia Dornan, a teacher at Juan Crespi Junior High.

\*\*\*

Are all your important documents secure and safe---insurance policies, birth certificates, passports, wills, etc.? It is suggested they be put on disks or have copies made. Store one set in a safe deposit box or fireproof container and send copies to out-of-area contact people.

\*\*\*

ANSWER TO RIDDLE: **YOUR NAME.**

\*\*\*

Does anyone have words to a song about the States? Some of the lines are: What did Idaho? ... she hoed her Maryland; what did Delaware?...she wore a New Jersey.. What did Iowa?...she weighed a Washington,

\*\*\*

A leading color source predicts that a cheerful,

sunny yellow will be the influential color for 2009!

\*\*\*

We all know that staying 'active' is important to our health. The word 'active' reflects a more fun attitude than 'exercising' so grab a friend and proceed to be 'active' in 2009!

\*\*\*

Masquer's Playhouse is inviting everyone to come sit in their new, larger, more comfortable seats, all 87 of them. Patrons purchased the seats @ \$500 each and were given a party to celebrate in January. Those attending the dress rehearsal for 'Absent Friends' were rewarded with relaxing seats and laughter and more laughter. A funny show with great acting. Don't miss this one.

\*\*\*

Social Security pays benefits the month after the month they are due. The check you receive the beginning of February is actually for the month of January.

\*\*\*

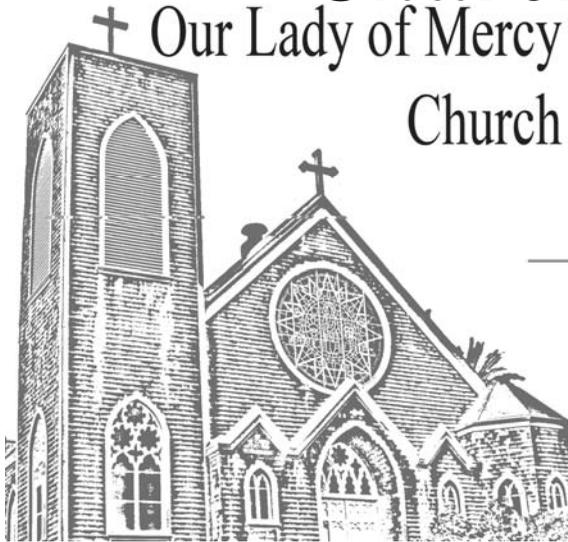
ANSWER: Once. In 1841. Martin Van Buren was succeeded by William Henry Harrison. He died a month later. So John Tyler took over.



*Park Place in 1904, PRHA Photo Archive #0084a-Don Church enhanced by Thomas Mercer-Hursh*

**Thank you, David Vincent, for again making our Museum so festive during the Holiday Season with your large, beautiful poinsettia.**

# Church News



## Our Lady of Mercy Church

*By Dee Rosier*  
510-232-1387

*drosier@sbcglobal.net*

We usher in 2009 – where did 2008 go? It is with renewed hope that we pray for a better year.

The holidays are now behind us and how quickly they seem to come. Our Christmas services and the church were beautifully decorated and welcoming. As is our custom, the giving tree was displayed and parishioners were generous in their donations to Children's Hospital Family House. The container for food donations will remain with the contents going to a local food pantry.

Our pancake breakfasts resume on February 15. Come join us for a hearty breakfast. The price remains the same - \$8.00, serving starting at 8:00AM-Noon. Mark your calendars for the third Sunday of each month. The February 15 breakfast will welcome our local ICF branch while they celebrate their quarterly Communion at Our Lady of Mercy. Notice of upcoming breakfasts can be found on our webpage.

Father continues to maintain his busy schedule,

even though his documentary is complete. His picture recently appeared in the Catholic Voice along with the Lithuanian President. He also found time to get away to Hawaii and catch his breath, as well as spending time with his family in Santa Barbara. It is Father's sixth Christmas with us.

Around the church and rectory, the remains of four chimneys hidden under the rectory roof, but above the ceiling are to be removed. They had been cut off at the roof some 40 years ago.

The 2009 donation envelopes are available. Should you wish to register as a parishioner, forms are also available.

The sanctuary furniture is a mix of both old/new. Two of the old church pews have been turned into benches for the lectors and Eucharistic ministers, as well as a chair for the celebrant. It gives the old pews a new and honored life and our church another touch of elegance. The lovely, old oaken deacon's bench that was in the sanctuary is now in the entryway for use by parents with restless little ones.

Three more round tables have been ordered for the church hall. We also have 46 nice (not metal) chairs that compliment the tables. The chairs were from a parish that was closing, and additional chairs will be purchased to match the new tables.

A parishioner has been hired as a handyman to assist Father in needed repairs.

The parish council will be preparing a budget for 2009. They are also looking for individuals who would be interested in serving on the parish council. Please call Father if you are interested. April is the month for change of hands within the parish council.

About a year ago we began looking into ways to preserve the windows on the weather side of the church. At that time we received two bids, one very pricey and one not so. Due to 25% of the cost received in donations, the windows will each have a Plexiglas cover on the outside.

The Mass on Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup> was in honor of our new President Barack Obama.

A potluck dinner was held on the Epiphany.

Our thanks to Michael and Katherine Workman who chaired the affair. It was a big success and even brought out Dody Perry and Anna Schwarz.

The ads on the back of our weekly bulletin will be reviewed, since some of them are no longer in existence.

The side entry door is very narrow and does not allow suitable entry, especially for funerals. We are looking into replacing them with a pair of double doors. This entryway is also an emergency exit.

The parish continues to support the Souper Kitchen with volunteers who assist in serving on the fourth Monday of each month. If you have interest in serving, call Edwina Murray, 233-7529.

Our condolences to the family of Adolph Broussard who was a long time, very stalwart parishioner who gave a lot of his time to Our Lady of Mercy. Adolph belonged to the Knights of Columbus and Father recently found a broom with the Knight's insignia on it.

Condolences to the Fitzpatrick and Siegmund family in the recent death of Michael Fitzpatrick.

Condolences to the Fillipi family in the death of Renee Fillipi. Renee had only begun her journey in life; just two years ago she placed two

vases on the altar for her wedding.

Continue to remember in your prayers: Dody Perry, Maurice Doherty, Jack Healy, Shirley Gerke, Frankie Mello, Katherine Workman, Bill Smith and Al Frosini.

Recently baptized was Jeffery Clinton. His parents are new to our parish and were easily welcomed and have become a part of our Christian community.

Eric Siegmund was baptized with four generations of his family in attendance. Eric is grandson to Diane and Fred Siegmund and great-grandson to Angie Fitzpatrick.

We welcome Anne Carrol as a new Eucharistic Minister.

The Rosier family extends their sincerest thanks for all the sympathies and acts of kindness extended them in the death of Charlie Rosier, husband, father, grandfather.

Happy birthday, grandson Griffin.

MAY YOUR TROUBLES BE LESS  
MAY YOUR BLESSINGS BE MORE, AND  
MAY NOTHING BUT HAPPINESS  
COME THROUGH YOUR DOOR

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS 2009

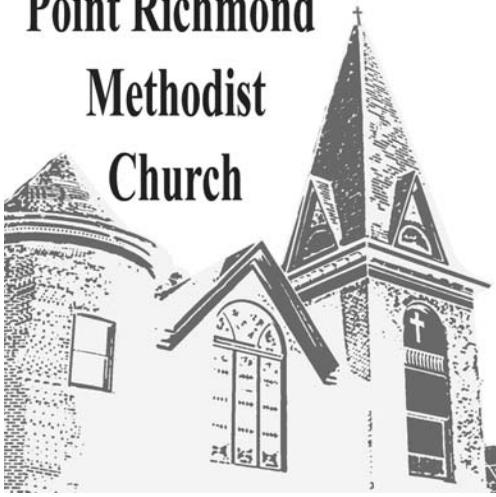
*from Patricia Pearson*

In 2008 The Historic Preservation Awards Committee of the City of Richmond, presented awards to individuals, organizations, businesses and agencies whose contributions demonstrate outstanding commitment to excellence in historic preservation, local history or promotion of the City's heritage. Three of the awards were for Point Richmond Projects. They were awarded to: Donna Roselius, founder of the Point Richmond History Association, The Point Richmond Gateway Foundation for restoration of the Trainmaster/Reading Room, and the designer of the Point Richmond Walking Tour Brochure.

The Committee is now accepting nominations for the 2009 awards. In addition to public and private buildings and structures, historic preservation projects may include media, publications, presentations and exhibits, parks, burial grounds, public art, oral history, theater productions, events and vide presentations.

If you would like a Nomination Form you may contact committee member Pat Pearson at 234-2532 or Lina Velasco at the Planning and Building Services Department of the City of Richmond. Deadline for submission is March 31, 2009. Awards will be presented in May 2009.

# Point Richmond Methodist Church



*By Jean Reynolds*

510-235-2988

*jeanormr@pacbell.net*

Member News: We celebrated the life of Hal Marshall on November 22, with his sister Gladys, niece, wife Linda Andrew-Marshall, and sons Aaron and Michael Marshall. Hal was a clever builder, and shared his love for construction with his family.

Michael Kirkpatrick's memorial service was January 3 at Our Lady of Mercy. Pastor Dan spoke at his service. On Sundays, Michael attended the 9:00 service with his wife Carolyn, and folded all the bulletins for the 11:00 service before he left. His family remembered that he liked to help people with their cars and to play Santa Claus at Christmas. He loved his grandchildren.

Arpha MacIntyre moved to Reedley, CA. this fall. Arpha taught piano lessons, ably accompanied and sang with the choir, directed the Women's Westside Improvement Club chorus, and was active in Club Mendelssohn and Church Women United, so she will be missed by many here. Carolyn Kirkpatrick worshiped with us on January 11, the last Sunday before her move to Mica, WA, near Spokane. Carolyn sang with the choir, attended the early worship, adult Sunday school, and helped with

feasts, Church Women United and Vacation Bible School. The more kids we had at VBS, the happier she was. Do we really have to let her go? Karen Merkle is touring the East Coast in her motor home, toting her cello and playing in pick-up ensembles in every state she lights. The Monday book group misses her! Deby McFadyen joined the church on December 28, 2008. Deby shared how she has found a true community and a place to call home in Point Richmond and as a member of the Point Methodist congregation. I'm especially glad she likes morning walks.

The CD recording of Dan Damon's May 2008 solo piano concert, "Come Away to the Skies," is available for purchase. Contact Pastor Dan at (510) 236-0527.

The Thanksgiving Feast was a treat this year. Special thanks are due Bark Stix, The Hotel Mac, Royal Oak Restaurant and Pub, Little Louie's Deli, Point Richmond Market, Edible's Café, and Hydrangea. Tinna Manansala, Paul Garnett, Mim Drake, and others planned, cooked, and served. Fran Smith chaired the event. Carolyn Kirkpatrick, Steve Shank, and Pat Pearson set up the dining room. Jane Carnall greeted people. Norm Reynolds and Mike Carnall carved turkeys. Bryan Hastings, Jill-Janice Shep-Shirrah, Bea Bacher-Wetmore, and Pat Pearson cleaned vegetables. Jamela Smith picked up donations. Deby McFadyen shopped. Betty Graham, Mark Ellis and David Reynolds delivered food. Pat Cefalu served. Frances Braush headed a team of enthusiastic young people who waited tables. Heather Damon brought two friends from UC Davis with whom to plate food. Megan Timberlake passed out favors. Several church neighbors helped serve. Live music from Dan Damon, Eileen Johnson, and Tom Belton added an easy comfort. Channel 5 news team featured our "traditional" celebration of Thanksgiving versus the Turkey Shoot celebration in the street near The Spot. Don Wieber and Steve Shank washed dishes until all were clean. Karen Bianchini, Phil Jordan, and Mim Drake worked before, the day of and the day after Thanksgiving on food prep and cleanup. It is so rewarding to work together and enjoy a holiday meal with our neighbors and friends!

Our Joyful Noise Choir and Angel Choir joined with El Sobrante UMC's Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, praise band, and the women of Dancers' Circle for a Christmas Concert, *Carols Old and New* in El Sobrante on December 21.

Helen Valentine hosted the UMW Christmas potluck on December 18. We enjoyed Helen's decorations, delicious food, and Christmas cookies in so many varieties you couldn't taste them all. We brought gifts for people served by the Bay Area Rescue Mission, and shared stories of Christmas past.

Bakers channeled their creative energies to make beautiful and scrumptious holiday cakes, cookies, candy and pies to sell on Saturday December 20 at the Community Center. Hot chocolate, coffee and good company helped buyers enjoy the event.

I hope you were able to attend the Christmas Eve Jazz service: vocalist Sheliani Alix and saxophonist Lincoln Adler did an amazing piece where the sax took over for Sheliani's voice so smoothly: when did the shift happen? Musicians included Kurt Ribak on bass, Dan Damon, piano, Jon Arkin on drums, vocalists Paula Helene, Dave Tattershall, Bethany Reynolds and Gill Stanfield and sound engineering by Eli Botchan. The Angel Choir performed with solo by Sarah Thompson, dance and vocals included Christine Silva-Netto, Lillian Karl, Alice Thompson and Heather Damon. Manuel Navidad read the Christmas story to the children for his first time; Liam Thompson read it for his fourteenth time. Melody Cohen sang the first verse of Silent Night. The jazz service is a tradition we cherish.

Some of us celebrated New Year's Eve at Epworth UMC in Berkeley. The old year ended with music, meditation, and poetry with Pastor Dan Damon on piano. Eileen Johnson soloed. Members of the Epworth community read poems. People lit candles to help them remember, renew and reflect during the service.

Two events are scheduled for January 24 and 25, with Bruce Harding, musician from British Columbia. On Saturday, January 24, people are

invited to attend a Drumming Workshop between 11 and 1 p.m. On January 25, a concert "Traveler Unknown" features the Dan Damon Quintet at 7:00 p.m. The quintet is Bruce Harding on flute, Lincoln Adler on sax, Dan Damon, piano, Kurt Ribak on bass, and Jon Arkin on drums. The concert will be recorded live.

Calendar:

February 15, 5 pm Bobby Hall and Friends gospel concert.

February 12, Bring your sweetheart to the Sweetheart Dinner to honor Pat Dornan, at Point San Pablo Yacht Club. Pat is a long-time member of the community, award-winning schoolteacher and contributes to the greater good in many ways. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Call Fran Smith at 707-427-2131.

GRIP joint choirs concert Saturday, February 28, St Joseph's Catholic Church in Pinole 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Joyful Noise Choir will sing with the joint choir and alone.

Every Sunday, September through May:

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

11:00 a.m. Worship includes music, children's time, scripture, sermon, prayer, and (usually) the Joyful Noise Choir and/or Angel Choir.

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.

Wednesdays: Joyful Noise Choir rehearses 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Space available for all voice parts.

Visit the church website at: <http://www.pointrichmond.com/methodist> for updates to the calendar.



## 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 78th installment.

OCTOBER 2, 1928

The Social League met in M.E. Church parlors. Mrs Vloebergh and Mrs. Redman were hostesses, 17 members were present. The meeting opened by repeating Lord's Prayer. The minutes of previous (sic) were read and approved. Moved and Seconded that laundry bill of \$2.80 be paid.

Moved and seconded that prize given in contest be bought and paid for by League but must not exceed over 25¢.

Moved and seconded that we have food sale in Oct. instead of Luncheon. The Food Sale is to be held Oct. 27.

Mrs. Redman appointed to make advertising cards to be placed in store windows.

Dues:

Mrs. J.P. Smith	\$1.20
Mrs. R.W. Jenkins	.60
Plate Offering	1.70
	\$3.50
Laundry	2.80
Balance	57.85
	3.50
	61.35
	58.55 - new Bal
Sept 10.00 Church fund	
	48.55 new Bal.
Mrs. G. Shaw, Sec	



## Christian Science Church

Healing Conflict and Violence

*by Steven Blair*

There is a need to rise above the fiery rhetoric, mob rule and vandalism we have been witness to in the East Bay recently, through the action of a more quiet and thoughtful approach. In a recent article by Chip Johnson, reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle that covers East Bay affairs, he noted the decrease in violent crimes in Richmond. In the Bible Elijah didn't hear God through the 'earthquake, wind, fire' but through the 'still, small voice.'

Our church welcomes you to hear an international speaker talk on peaceful resolution with a talk called "Healing Conflict and Violence." Our speaker, Timothy Myers, C. S. "volunteered to help build a teen center in Los Angeles, served on their board of directors, studied conflict resolution, and provided counseling for local teens."

Our church has had a presence in Richmond for over 90 years, and with other churches and houses of worship, provides spiritual aid to our neighbors. Our talk is free, open to the public and will be held in our church, 112 Washington Avenue, here in the Point, on Saturday, March 21, 2009, at 3:00 pm.

We invite you, your family and friends to hear this inspirational talk. Childcare will be provided for those too young to attend. For more information call our church and Reading Room at 233-1209.

# WWIC, Est. 1908

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

The Women's Westside Improvement Club met on Tuesday December 3<sup>rd</sup> for its annual festive Christmas luncheon. The Women's Choir, directed with aplomb by **Marion Kent** and accompanied on piano by **Jane Parnell**, treated the assemblage to a montage of traditional Christmas favorites including "What Child is This", "Little Drummer Boy", and "Oh Come All Ye Faithful", and concluded with a rousing rendition of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas!". **Anna Schmidt** sang "Silent Night" in the original German to the delight of her adoring fans. She lamented the fact that ill health had prevented her from accompanying herself, as is her habit, on her accordion, remarking wistfully that life had been much simpler when she was 95. Nonetheless, her voice remains in top form and filled the room from floorboards to rafters with the haunting melody. Judging from the standing ovation she received, her solo performance was a smash hit. Thank you for bringing the holiday spirit to us Anna!

The Methodist Church hall was beautifully decorated with oversized ornaments and snowflakes hung from the ceiling, intertwined with gold garland and tiny Christmas lights. The décor provided the perfect setting for the delicious buffet lunch of chicken, pork, and fresh green salad with mandarin oranges and walnuts - all provided by our talented **Altha Humphrey**. (When she is not whipping up culinary masterpieces, she can be found at the Community Center in Point Richmond

on the first Wednesday evening of each month bravely leading "Knit n' Such" a new generation of knitters out of the morass of wild inexperience.) Also, for those few vegetarians in the crowd, **Norma Wallace** provided a delicious meatless dish that had been a favorite recipe of her mother. Thanks, Norma!

We concluded our festive luncheon with a delicious array of baked goodies consisting of cookies, brownies, and a sublime apricot tart topped off with lots of coffee and tea. The luncheon provided all present with a wonderful, low-key way to start the holiday season!

Happy New Year!

### **The remaining WWIC meetings for the year are as follows:**

February 3, 2009, Distribution of Club Funds and a speaker

March 3, 2009, Meeting Fundraising Luncheon -**\$8** and a speaker

April 7, 2009, Meeting and a speaker

May 5, 2009, Meeting and a Speaker

June 2, 2009, Meeting Salad Pot-Luck and "Hat Day" Fundraiser

Please contact **Margaret Murkowski (510) 234 - 4219** with questions.

*To go to Albany, Berkeley, Oakland or San Francisco, we rode on the Key System street cars. The carefare was twenty-one cents and if you took either the Key System ferry boat or that of the Southern Pacific the fare was another twenty-one cents. The trip from Point Richmond to San Francisco took at least 1½ hours. The transfer from the street car to the SP train (to the ferry) was made at Albany (Solano Avenue, I think) and the transfer to the Key System ferry train was made at 40th and San Pablo Avenue.*

*Harold Shawl*

# Out and About Town

Margaret Morkowski (510) 234-4219

Things are pretty quite this winter, no great events but everyone is planning for the spring...



**The Arts of Point Richmond** is celebrating their first anniversary and they have more than 80 Point Richmond artists, authors and crafters on their sign up list. Their founder, Altha Humphery is overjoyed. If you are interested in more information please call Linda Drake at 234-3822 for details.



WOW.... Have you seen “**The Plunge**” lately? Construction is moving along right on schedule. The **Save the Plunge Trust** is working hard to raise funds to match the \$500,000 grant from the Valley Foundation. If you would like more details or contribute to the restoration, please call Rosemary Corbin at 235-5779.



The **Washington School Many Hands Project** (residents and business owners in the Point who contribute funds for teacher’s supplies and special programs) consists of two major programs to benefit the Washington School students. One is called “Adopt a Class”... each teacher receives funds to buy supplies for their classroom. The other major program is called Spirit of Leadership, which invites each child in the first through sixth grades to complete a series of assignments on a selected theme. This year the theme is “Ecology” and the children have been selecting subjects such as composting, recycling, “plant a tree,” clean the beach, solar energy, etc. Last year more than 80 students completed their projects. This year more

than 130 students have signed up for the program. Students who complete their assignments are invited to a pizza party, go on a field trip and receive a special educational toy “award” at the school’s year-end awards ceremony. If you would like to participate in the Many Hands Project or contribute to the Project and receive an “Apple,” please call me at 234-4219. Thanks



The Point Richmond Gateway Foundation awarded 11 grants totaling \$9,000 for various projects in Point Richmond. This year’s recipients were:

- The **Save the Plunge Trust** for landscaping of the Plunge and toward the Valley Foundation matching grant
- The **Point Richmond Methodist Church** for the restoration/re-pointing of the Church bricks project
- The **Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church** for the lighting of their historic bell tower
- The **Arts of Point Richmond** for an arts display system
- The **Point Richmond Neighborhood Council** for a mural on the face of the bayside Garrard/Dornan Drive Auto Tunnel
- The **Point Richmond Landscape Advisory Committee** for additional trees and plants around the Indian Statue triangle areas
- The **Point Richmond History Association** for the exterior lighting of their Museum
- The **Womens Westside Improvement Club** for a Historical Plaque commemorating their Centennial Year of 2008
- **Point Richmond Business Association** for “Welcome to Point Richmond” street banners
- **Point Richmond Village** for additional outreach and administrative activities

Both the **Point Richmond Business Association (PRBA)** and the **Point Richmond Neighborhood Council (PRNC)** will be having elections for their Board members this April. If you have any suggestions or questions, please call Marsha Tomassi of the PRBA at 215-6133 or Don Woodrow of the PRNC at 234-3107.



Remember to call the **Point Richmond/West Side Branch Library at 620-6567** and the **Point Richmond Community Center at 233-6881** find out what's new.

## Plunge Renovation Photo Update

*Pictures taken January 30, 2009 by Thomas Mercer-Hursh*



# Archive Photo Gallery

Downtown

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



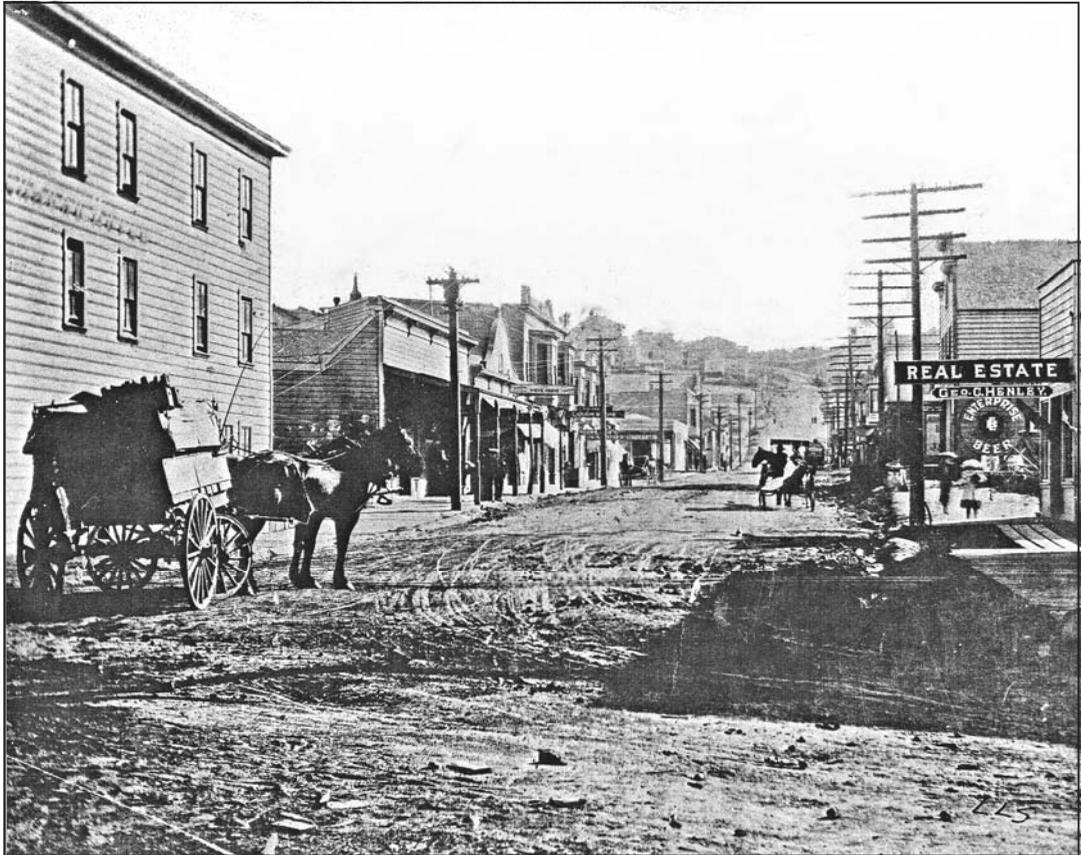
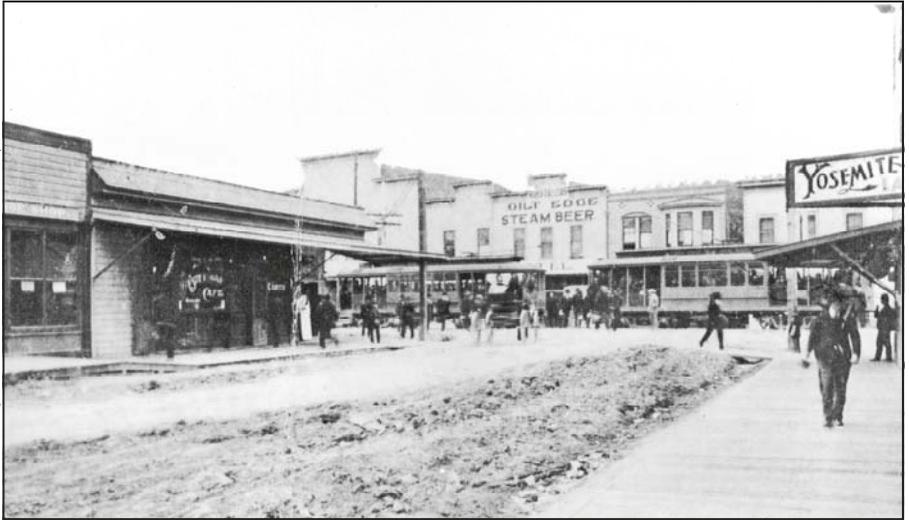
0057-Don Church  
(Upper Left)

0080-Don Church  
(Lower Left)

0252-County Museum  
(Upper Right)

0258-County  
Museum  
(Lower Right)

All taken from the  
Point Richmond  
History Association  
Photo Archives



# ABSENT FRIENDS

## *at the Masquers*

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

Awkward, what? A few delicate difficulties exacerbate a rare gathering of old friends in *Absent Friends*, written by **Alan Ayckbourn** and directed by **Angela Mason**. The situation is ripe for the kind of tragic comedy for which British playwrights, especially Ayckbourn, are well known.

A different kind of play, my first reaction was that I didn't know how to understand it. There's a lot of the kind of humour I don't like (or maybe don't understand), but I enjoyed the performance nonetheless. The audience found the play hilarious—except for the tragic pieces, there was semi-continual laughter throughout. (*photo by Jerry Telfer*)

Masquers Theatre has new seats—they are wider and *much* more comfortable. Thank you!



The set is fine; designed by **Dave Wilkerson**, it comes very far forward, almost into the audience's lap. Curious, there is one seat too few for the actors requiring a choreographed dance—subtly appropriate for the tension this play invokes. The rain is very good.

Diana (**Katina Letheule**) (*photo, bottom right*) reveals her inner insecurity amidst the meaningless clutter around her tea party. She is a woman for whom saving face is paramount. Her tightly controlled presence is palpable, strengthened by indiscreet flashes of immense, repressed anger. She is the character who changes most. Good guys and bad guys are often easy to detect in theatre, but Katina's performance is so well done it took me most of the play to decide how I felt about her.

Diana's husband, Paul (**Michael Clark**), is an ambitious and successful businessman with many of the habits one has come to associate with such types. He's cruel in the way the commercially successful call honest. He's a man who wants to control the people he's with, subliminally. He says he wants to skip the tea party, but absent that he tries to control what people say. He does this from the back seat, as some aggressive people do, by complaining about what has already been said, rather than leading by example and starting a pleasant conversation. He's superficially reserved, filled with smug self-conceit, and surely, sexually irresistible.

**Pamela Ciochetti** (*photo, bottom left*) wonderfully conjures up Marge, a favourite aunt whom one would cheerfully strangle for her well meaning, but stubborn and dim attempts to be helpful—oblivious to the emotional undercurrents. Marge's fashion sense also severely tries her friends' ability to remain polite. Of course she volunteers to tidy up after a particularly exciting altercation, but, being Marge, she tidies up well beyond the original scope. I found myself worrying about her and had to drag myself back to the play! Marge is a gem.

Marge's husband Gordon is interesting, too, particularly as he makes no onstage appearance. The ensemble, particularly Pamela, deserve kudos for how well structured Gordon becomes. By the time the play has well advanced, we intimately know this huge, hypochondriac, short-tempered

man and his relationship with this mothering, smothering wife.

Colin (**Simon Patton**) looks like the happiest man at the tea party, but I don't know that Colin actually *is* enjoying himself, really. He's trying so *very* hard to be jolly. Colin plunges right into the middle of awkwardness and raises the embarrassment quotient to the next level by his obliviousness. I found myself wondering how an intelligent man could have reached his present age and know so little about people, particularly his friends. So I thought Colin might be *very* unhappy which made Simon's performance subtle and excellent.

Wayne (**Daniel Campbell**) is a new baby with predictable cries whose parents have discovered an interesting way to clean diapers.

Evelyn (**Michelle Pond**), the new mother, is a complete sourpuss. She is a perfect straight-man—able to make or take the most awful remarks without cracking a smile. The usually attractive Michelle's face is so perpetually disfigured by grimaces that I rested my eyes by scrutinizing her lovely figure, noticing at once that her legs have now grown several inches longer. I have reason to know that Michelle doesn't look at all like Evelyn, a testament to her skill in this play. I found Evelyn's disgruntlement and complacent superiority completely maddening; I wanted to strike out and do something—anything—to change that unpleasant scowl—surely a worrisome impulse under the circs.

John (**Philip Sales**) (*photo, top*) is the perfect cuckold, his demeanour shaming but bright. His responses vacillate between the obsequious and the tentatively forceful. He is also our resident funnyman, shooting off remarks intended to be funny with that anxious pause to see whether the recipient got the joke.

I'm a simple spectator—the actors speak, I follow their conversation. As a reviewer, I'm learning to watch what occurs outside the main story and John is an ideal subject, though whether the credit for this broader scope for visual humour came from the actor, director, or playwright, I don't know. John is a character one must keep under one's eye, regardless of the main action in the play. He is restless—its perpetualness becomes almost a subplot—

The MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE  
*presents*



# absent friends

by Alan Ayckbourn  
directed by Angela Mason



**JANUARY 23-FEBRUARY 28**

The Masquers Playhouse  
105 Park Place, Point Richmond

we have many occasions to laugh at his irreverent antics. Superb delivery!

In writing this review I was surprised to discover that my description of each character could easily be transplanted to cover any number of my acquaintances. These characters are ordinary people, though quite unlovable in this story. A description of their life conditions wouldn't sound like the basis for comedy, but it is a typically British style of humour. Were one in the same circs in reality, one would be terribly embarrassed—but happening to other people, and on stage—many people found the play very funny indeed.

*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.*

# Notes On Keller's Beach

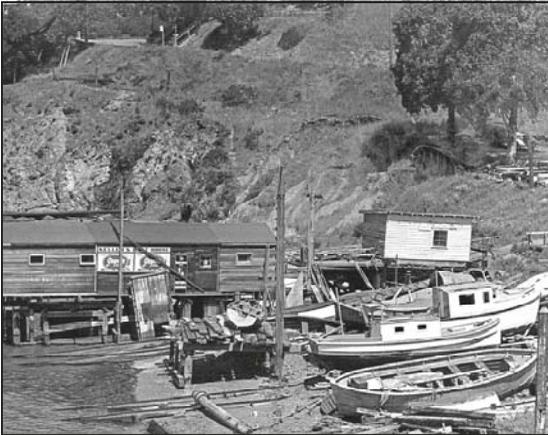
*Fraser Felter*

Cover Article

Gus Keller, a pile driver, was killed in an apparent industrial accident on July 21, 1915 inside the Point Richmond Santa Fe railroad tunnel just as the tunnel project was nearing completion.

Through some fashion, the Keller family was given - believed to be by Santa Fe - the beach property which the surviving Keller's owned and operated until Daniel ("Danny") Keller, Gus' son, also a pile driver, was killed in an auto-pedestrian accident in December of 1964 while he was walking across Standard Avenue in The Point.

Danny, and his wife, Marie, operated a small tavern, rickety fishing pier and berthing facility on the .88 acre property. Outsiders, attracted to the fishing pier and venturing into the tavern, were given suspicious looks and grunts from the regulars. It quickly became obvious their business was not wanted and their presence equally unwelcome. Few tarried more than a few moments. The muddy beach was strewn with rocks, driftwood and the remains of several boats.



PRHA Archive photo #032-PS

On occasion, some boats were hauled out to repair using a small rail track which extended into the Bay.

Water depth under the pier was a constant source of concern to Keller. As the railroad dredged at the Ferry Point to assure deep water for the rail car barges and ferries the dredge spoils were pumped over toward the now Miller/Knox Regional Park lagoon area. Tidal action picked up dredge material and carried it to the Keller Beach area and distributed it under the pier. Keller and his friends were kept busy digging new piling holes and putting in pilings and new planking to extend the narrow pier into deeper water. Keller was well known and had a reputation involving alcohol. He at one time was president of the Point Richmond Business Association.

The beach was a natural attraction for many of the children living in The Point and many old-timers today recall swimming, fishing and playing with small boats there. The youngsters avoided venturing into the railroad tunnel because of stories surrounding the death in there of Danny's father, Gus.

The City of Richmond purchased the Keller property from his estate in 1966. One price mentioned in newspaper articles was \$75,000, although there is some reference to \$62,000. The purchase gave the city direct access to some 250-acres of underwater land.

The city spent \$65,000 to create a landscaped park and picnic area which opened in late 1967. It became an immediate success. In November 1968 the city council resolved to begin discussions with the East Bay Regional Park District and the Santa Fe Railway to transfer Keller's Beach and the underwater acreage to the park district to form a portion of the evolving Miller/Knox Shoreline Park.

# The Village Concept for Point Richmond

By Linda Newton

When people move to the Point, they tend to want to stay. It's a magical place. Just read the "Birthdays" page in this newsletter year after year. According to AARP nearly 95% of adults 55 years and up, if given the choice, would prefer to stay in their own homes as they age. Unfortunately, some of our neighbors have had to move to retirement communities and/or assisted living, leaving their friends, the views and the quality of life.

Now in Point Richmond there is an organization forming to enable people to stay in their homes as they age. This organization will assemble and deliver programs and services that allow all its members to lead safe, healthy and productive lives right here in our beloved Point. Called Point Richmond Village (PRV), it is based on the successful Beacon Hill Village membership model which was founded in 2001 in Boston, MA ([www.beaconhillvillage.org](http://www.beaconhillvillage.org)).

On year ago Martha Bielawski and I received a grant from the Point Richmond Gateway Foundation to purchase the Beacon Hill Village Manual and explore the feasibility of starting a Point Richmond Village. By Talking with neighbors, we formed a core group to hold community meetings and social activities and to make policy decisions as we structure the organization. PRV has received another grant from the Gateway Foundation to continue progressing towards offering services people need.

Some basic decisions we have made include:

1). PRV will provide many of the **benefits** of a retirement community without giving up one's independence or one's own home. When someone becomes a **member**, there will be a membership fee that is yet to be determined. Then it will just take **one phone call** to request services.

2). PRV will be **multi-generational**. Not only seniors have needs for local services. In our daily lives we all appreciate accomplishing things with greater ease whether it be a ride to the airport, a

reliable handyman or a home cooked meal delivered to us when we're sick or disabled.

3). PRV will be **volunteer based**. Residents of Point Richmond help each other already, and we value that. But not everyone is part of such a network. Even if we are, we don't like to lean on anyone too much. PRV would organize volunteers and match them with members who call in with a need. If no volunteers are available, PRV would contact a service provider offering, in most cases, a reduced rate to members.

4). PRV will **screen** volunteers and paid service providers. It is essential that whoever enters a member's home is someone who is trustworthy, reliable and respectful. An immediate feedback system will be in place.

4). PRV will organize social/cultural activities. On questionnaires filled out by residents of Point Richmond, this was a popular item. In December 2008 PRV held its first annual holiday potluck which was well attended. If the noise level was any indication, everyone had a good time. We were besieged by requests to hold more potlucks and not wait until December.

5). PRV will provide transportation. Seniors are aware that one day their independence will be decreased when they no longer drive. Working parents juggle who will pick up the kids and take them to after school activities. Being able to arrange free or reduced-cost transportation is a boon to us all. Imagine just making one phone call to set this in motion.

We will keep you informed of our events and our progress. Feel free to visit our monthly web page, linked to Point Richmond On-Line ([www.pointrichmond.com](http://www.pointrichmond.com)). Most of all, please contact us if you are interested in PRV, to volunteer in any capacity, and to share your skills and ideas.

**PRV Development Board, P.O. Box 70164, Point Richmond, CA 94807** [prvinfo@ghmail.com](mailto:prvinfo@ghmail.com)

## William L. Thompson, M.D.

### *Memories of Old Point Richmond*



*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 two and conclusion*

I remember the First World War. I was in about the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in the old Washington School. Everything was very patriotic. Down the center of East Richmond Avenue there was a strip of parkway. This was to be used for street car tracks in the future should these become needed. A similar parkway was also left on Cutting Boulevard for the same reason. At that time they were only areas where there was dirt and we used them during the war for liberty gardens. Each child was allowed a small section to plant a simple vegetable if he desired. About once a week during the war there was a parade up Macdonald Avenue in the evening to demonstrate patriotism and sell liberty bonds. The students of most of the schools in town marched by classes. We had to walk all the way over from Point Richmond all in an ordered array with teachers with us. Some of us carried signs. I recall one boy; I think it was Joe Brazill, who carried a sign saying "let us beat the Kaiser". However, a head of liberty garden lettuce had been substituted for the word "lettuce" and a red beet took the place of the word "beat".

I remember the great impromptu celebration that occurred on the morning after the signing of the armistice. There was a great parade of essentially all the employees of the Standard Oil Company.

Starting at the plant they marched in a long procession down Standard Avenue, turned down Washington Avenue and Park Place to Richmond Avenue and out Garrard Boulevard (then called Ashland Avenue) to Macdonald Avenue. I remember a little old German man who, with some help, was pulling a rather rapidly and crudely made coffin shaped box with the words "the Kaiser" painted on the sides. It was a most hilarious celebration.

I can remember the construction of Cutting Boulevard and its associated side streets through an area that had been only a salt marsh. Dredgers were dredging out for the inner harbor and huge pipelines were laid along the course of the intended street and poured huge quantities of mud and silt along the route of the street. As they progressed other joints of the huge pipes added one after the other to the present terminus as the junction with Richmond Avenue was reached. This ridge of mud was allowed to harden and later graded to form the basis of Cutting Boulevard which was formed in two lanes for traffic and a central parkway to accommodate a possible street car line. This of course was never built.

I recall the old street car tracks that formed a route down Park Place and around Richmond Avenue and up to join the main line at Standard Avenue. I don't think that this was ever used but

shows in old photographs. There was another similar line that branched from the main line to Garrard Boulevard and went up Ohio Street to Tenth Street and then up to Macdonald Avenue. One street car a day ran up this line each afternoon just to maintain the right of way.

Mention has been made in previous issues of “This Point.....in time” of Carrie Ellsworth, a well known child dancer of the time. She and her family lived on West Scenic Avenue. She was a classmate of mine in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades and was known locally having danced at many local parties. At one time she and Edith Kettlehut, of the bakery Kettlehuts, put on a dance for us at school. Carrie later became a professional dancer at some of San Francisco’s less savory night clubs.

The old Santa Fe Station at Richmond and Railroad Avenue has long been gone but at one time was an important depot. For Point Richmond it was much easier to take a train here and then the ferry to San Francisco than to take the tedious street car ride to Oakland. I recall the old 10:20 am train picking up passengers here. They usually returned about 5 pm. On one such trip my mother was on Market Street in S.F. when the famous

bomb explosion occurred just one block from where she was. This occurred at the start of World War I. Street car lines to Oakland were rather slow and tedious and I recall riding for miles along the future San Pablo Avenue without seeing a house. There was nothing between Solano and 40<sup>th</sup> Street. The cars rocked so much people got car sick.

I remember a temporary water shortage when no water was piped to houses, especially in the hill areas. The water company brought old horse-drawn water wagons of the type once used to water dirt streets and placed in spots around town so people could take buckets out and get the water they needed from the wagons.

During the First World War soldiers from Company B. made up of volunteers mostly from the Richmond area, were quartered in buildings on the lower Washington Avenue near the office of Dr. Lucas. I recall that uniformed soldiers standing and lounging in the region. They later were sent to France and served with distinctions.

*Conclusion of Memories of Old Point  
Richmond*

*Santa Fe  
Train Station  
on Railroad Avenue*

*PRHA Archive  
Photo  
#0015-Don Church  
Enhanced by  
Thomas Mercer-  
Hursh*



# 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.*

## Fifth Installment:

By 1874 or thereabouts the Portuguese population began to increase. As far back as I can remember there were quite a number of these people here but they were landowners, who originally left whaling ships in the United States . Whaling was a very profitable industry in those days, the crew working on a percentage basis of the season's haul. A little explanation may be advisable on this. New Bedford and New London were the home ports for the whaling vessels, consequently the ships fitted out at these ports left with just enough men to work them until they reached the Azore Islands when they would secure a full crew. They would leave there, proceed around the Cape of Good Hope to the Asiatic coast and follow the sperm whale northward reaching the Arctic circle for the winter and hunt for them for two or three years before returning home. Whale oil and whale bone were greatly in demand. The oil of the sperm whale was the most valuable as it was used for lighting purposes. Whale bone was used in many ways, the most common usage was for women's corsets and hoops for their skirts which I remember most distinctly.

I recall the introduction of kerosene to replace the whale oil in lighting. It was considered more dangerous than dynamite is today. If a lamp was lighted it must not in any case be moved and to use it in lanterns was certain suicide. Tallow candles were used in our bedrooms and kitchens.

Those men hired on a commission basis so that with a ready market, good prices, good luck and long voyages they had in most cases a

handsome pay when discharged in the United States. San Francisco and New Bedford were favorite discharge ports so a great many of these men bought land and started most prosperous ranches in this section.

One peculiarity of these ex-whalers was that a majority of them wore small gold earrings. The reason for this I could never understand until I grew older and found out from my brother-in-law, Chas. L. Watrous (whose father owned and was a captain of a whaler) that a superstition existed that if a man wore earrings he would be saved from snow-blindness. The first thing a new recruit did on a whaler was to have his ears pierced by the captain, a silk thread run through the hole, turned every day until the wound healed and then insert a gold ring.

I was brought up to believe that this class of people was penurious but that was another grave mistake of the early settlers. These ex-whalers were very thrifty, never lived beyond their means and as their finances improved their living conditions kept pace with their purses. I once asked a butcher, who drove a meat wagon out from Berkeley twice a week, why he quit the service. His answer was when the Portuguese asked for porterhouse steaks he did not need to drive all that distance because he could sell that type of meat in his shop in Berkeley . By this time a great many of the early hardships had been overcome and luxuries were creeping in due to improved transportation facilities and a desire to keep pace with the spirit of the times. The increase of the Portuguese population was also due to a heavy immigration, which was a blessing to the farmers.

They were good law-abiding people as thrifty and industrious as their predecessors and filled a long felt need during hay making and hay baling time.

The descendants of the early Californians (i.e. the early Spanish settlers) were excellent help in the grain harvest. They were past masters in the art of binding the reaped grain and could accomplish so much, as the grain pouring into the sacks was most appealing to them. Nevertheless the hay field did not tempt them and winter work did not interest them in the least. They had many annoying and peculiar habits, one of which that they never could be depended upon to show up on Monday mornings. As this type of labor grew scarce farm help was at a premium. Chinese were tried and failed. Other devices were resorted to but nothing settled the problem until the advent of the self-binding reaper.

I have often been asked why so much dampness is apparent on San Pablo Avenue at the county line. The land at that place is of a marshy nature consequently soft and very troublesome during winter months. I remember seeing Charles Shimmens (who was then road master) with ox-teams hauling huge rocks into this road, thereby forming a very substantial roadbed but there has always been seepage of water that causes dampness.

I was born on December 4, 1863. My old home is still in use after 82 years of service. It formerly stood at what is now 14th and Ohio Streets. It was moved to 15th and Florida Streets two years ago and remodeled. My most cherished memory is of the noble women of those early days, who under such adverse conditions, by

determination and force of character overcame those obstacles and built better than they knew and succeeded in producing a very different environment. This community as it is today is a living monument to their courage and devotion.

There was one happening in October 1868 that will ever be fresh in my memory. That was the great earthquake. I was very young but the excitement was so intense that it left a very lasting impression. People were panic stricken running in every direction, but mostly to the hills, while stock ran bellowing toward the bay and I got a spanking for standing too near a chimney. This earthquake was not as severe as 1906 but of longer duration. The property damage was small as compared to 1906 and I do not recall any fatalities while in 1906 the financial estimate was at \$600,000,000 in San Francisco and the number of deaths was not or ever will be known,

I recall an incident related by my father which happened in New York in 1858 when he was returning to San Francisco from England. He went into the bank Drexel, Church and Sather where he was entrusted with a letter to be delivered to an attorney for the Sather Bank in San Francisco at the earliest moment on arrival. So precarious were the mails that they preferred to entrust a vital document to a stranger. This letter gave information that the New York bank was about to fail. This warning gave the San Francisco bank time to arrange their affairs so that they escaped a suspension. The Sather estate are the donors of Sather Gate and the Campanile at the University of California.

*to be continued*

***Prior to 1926, all "kids" in Point Richmond, Richmond, Giant (El Sobrante) San Pablo, Oleum, Pinole, Hercules and El Cerrito attended the only high school, Richmond Union High School, at 23rd Street and McDonald Avenue. B.X. Tucker was Principal and Theodore Madsen was Vice-Principal. The new Richmond High, toward Pan Pablo, was built in 1925-1926, and I think the old campus became a Junior High School. Students from Giant, Pinole and Hercules commuted daily by SP train.***

***Herald Shawl***

# PAT'S PLAQUE UPDATE

*From Patricia Pearson*

We have two more plaques.. These plaques will be dedicated at the May 2009 meeting of the Point Richmond History Association

## **RICHMOND SUPPLY COMPANY**

This plaque, commemorating the Richmond Supply Company Building, now the Point Richmond History Association Building, was completed and installed last Fall. Months of discussion went into the final wording. For this plaque. We went from too many words to so few that it made no sense. With help with the wording from John Helfrich of the East Bay Brass Foundry and the Board of the History Association, the final wording was approved. The Board also approved an etching of the first truck owned by the Richmond Supply Company to be part the plaque. We asked Andrew Butt to do the etching Andrew volunteered his services as he had for the art work on plaques at the Methodist Church , The Catholic Church, The Baptist Church and the Critchett building.

We asked Michael Cooper local craftsman to do the installation. Mike volunteered his service as he had for the installation of the Catholic Church Plaque and the Frosini Plaque.. The weight of the plaque and the concern for prevention of theft required that the plaque be secured to the exterior of the structure from the inside. This involved relocating old framing and installing new framing to support the weight. The decision to position the plaque on the wall of the building facing West Richmond Avenue was made by Association President Mid Dornan and myself. That decision was also approved by the board.

## **DR. LUCAS RESIDENCE AND OFFICE**

The owners and residents of the building at 214 – 218 Washington Avenue, Linda and Chris Newton, commissioned East Bay Brass Foundry to make a plaque commemorating their building as the original residence of Dr. William S. Lucas. The structure was built in 1910 for Dr. Lucas and was his residence and office. Dr. Lucas served as the only physician in Point Richmond for many years. In addition to his other duties he delivered many local babies. (some of us are still living here). Dr. Lucas rented the adjoining office to a dentist, Dr. Nielsen. We thank Linda and Chris for joining the History Association effort to commemorate the historic buildings of Point Richmond.

We are grateful to Andrew Butt, Martin Mc Nair and Michael Cooper for making these projects a reality. If you are interested in a plaque to commemorate your historic building, please call me, Pat Pearson, at 234-2532.



*Photo by Patricia Pearson*

# Deaths.....

**Peggy McNeil Beck** passed away on December 2, 2008. Age 87. Born and raised in Point Richmond, Peggy attend Richmond High and U.C. Berkeley. She was preceded in death by her husband of 54 years, Theodore Beck, and is survived by daughters Barbara Beck and Deborah Beck Harlan, and two grandchildren.

**Harold (Hal) Ira Marshall, Jr.** on November 13, 2008. Age 71. Hal was born in Akron, Ohio, and moved to San Francisco in 1977. He helped build Davies Symphony Hall, Levi Strauss Plaza, Opera Plaza, Marriott Hotel and many more in San Francisco. His co-workers called him 'MacGyver' because he could create any kind of tool needed for the job. He was a member of the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Forth Interests Group (FIG), a computer language group. He is survived by his wife Linda Andrew-Marshall and twin sons Aaron and Michael, a sister Gladys Bolin, Phoenix Arizona. A Memorial Service was held at the Point Methodist Church on November 22, his birthday.

**Michael Allen Kirkpatrick** died on December 17, 2008. Age 56. Born in the Albany Hospital on November 11, 1952, Michael was a childhood resident of Atchison Village and attended Washington School. He was an avid Scout, joining first as a Cub and then Troop 111 with Scoutmaster Mr. Robert Dornan whom he spoke of frequently in admiration. Scout summer camping weeks gave him a love of nature and camping. His wife, Carolyn, called him a kind hearted man. Michael was a jack-of-all-trades. His last job was at Ace Hardware on Cutting. He is survived by his wife Karolyn, daughters Anna and Rebecca, 6 grandchildren, his mother Angie and a sister Diane Siegmund. Memorial servces were held at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church on January 3, 2009.

**Jim Morrison** died in Hanford, CA in January. Jim was raised in the Point, attended Washington School and was a member of Bob Dornan's Scout Troop 111, he served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. A son, John preceded him in death and he is survived by his sons, Jim and Joe and ex-wife Phyllis.



# Cards, Letters & E-Mail

Dear Pam,

Just a short note to let you know how much I enjoy *THIS POINT.....in time*. I moved away in June of 1953 and have been back a few times since. The news you include in *The Point* helps me to remember the short but wonderful time I spent in The Point. Tell Steve I am looking forward to another year!

Best Regards,  
Sim Burtner  
El Paso



Dear Sir,

My name is Joan Noarni Glover Carter. I was born on July 28, 1936 at Richmond Hospital. My family home was 100 Pacific Avenue in Point Richmond. My father was Arthur F. Glover and mother Leta Ghieri Glover.



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year to all! I am writing to inform you all, one of your most avid supporters and proud Pt. Richmond newsperson & resident - Philip H. Dorn III died Nov, 18, 2008 after a long illness. He was 58 yrs old. He treasured the History and Town of Point Richmond. He was a Proud American, Musician, Navy Vet, Family Man. Please remember him in your Pt. Richmond magazine.

Thank you,  
Paula J. Dorn (ex-wife)

*March 1919, Richmond Daily Independent*

- *Standard Oil Company now has 3600 men and women upon (sic) its payroll at Richmond Refinery.*
- *Richmond has 14 modern places of worship.*
- *Richmond Baking Company, 1 Park Place, owner Ketelhot, has installed a modern bread making machine and the Baking Company has a model plant.*

*from Mid Dornan*



*123 Nicholl, drawing by Donna Roselius*

***In those days most houses were heated by burning coal, which was delivered to homes in large burlap sacks and dumped into a coal bin. Cooking was done by wood or coal stove or by burning kerosene, before the advent of natural gas. My brother and I had a Saturday job (I was 9 or 10 years old) carrying coal by the bucketful, from the basement to the second floor coal bin, over McWhorter's Grocery Store on Richmond Avenue. Where were the child labor laws in those days?***

***Harold Shawl***

# *Birthdays*

## *February*

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA	Chris Rotting	Dody Perry	Kay Mayfield
Mark Gebhart	Walter MacMillan	Ethel MacMillan	Madison Artrese
Sarah Wilson	Connie Healy	Kim Ward	Morrison Adele
Steven Mertle	Helen Valentine	Velma Healy	Bruno Waymire
Fred Beesley	Marcos Rotting	Anne Brussok-Roth	Anne Roth
Billy Bob Karl	Arlene Rodini	Jared Bigard	Gretchen Van Tassel
James P. Kenny	Landow Howe	Lupe Padilla Lopez	Shaw
	Rowene MacMillan	Allegra Fenton	

## *March*

GIRL SCOUTS	Dolly Frosini	Brian Richardson	Lucile Cottingham
CAMP FIRE GIRLS	Reba Downs	Susan Berman	Meyer
Sheba Warith	Rich Schuldt	Mary Valenzano	Henry Marchitello
Dale Hawkins	Kathe Kiehn	Isobel Folsom	Evan Jahromi
Karolyn Macdiarmid	Ben Bray	Rachel Palfini	Kenneth Madison
Carol Paasch	Janice Jones	Myron Pestana	Kara Piantidosi
JoAnn Bray	Jean Knox	Delphina Franco Tawney	
Carol Darling	Lavinia Karl	Lorna Huffstetter	
Claire E. Crowson	Avis Blanchette	LeRoy Williams	

## EXCLUSIVE OVER 90 CLUB

An impressive list that grows each month.

Bena Bowles - 95  
Lee Christian - 93  
Eunice Ruth Hursh - 93  
Jean Moyle Spiersch - 96  
Mark Gebhart - 95  
Gretchen Van Tassel Shaw - 92  
Jim Patrick Kenny - 96  
Dody Perry - 92  
Lupe Padilla Lopez - 95  
Ruth Mallette - 97  
Avis Blanchette - 95  
Anna Schwarz - 96

Anita Brougham - 95  
Steve Wyrick - 94  
Ed Squires -  
Alice Helseth - 98  
Goldie Mobley-95  
Ann Hanzlik - 95  
Shoney Gustafson -92  
Madelilne Bellando Albright -92  
Roger Wiese - 92  
Jerome Vloebergh - 92  
Reva Ward - 95  
Bernard Dietz 94  
Al Frosini - 91  
Maxine Stoddard - 95

Betty Dornan - 90  
Charlotte Kernabon Birsinger 92  
Otto Barni - 92  
Thelma Mae Harvey - 93

### **100 Year Club**

Ruth Wood Mullen - 102  
Gordon Miller - 100  
welcome new member  
Rena Cairo Gonsalves - 100

**Please send corrections and additions to “Over 90 Club” to [midornan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:midornan@sbcglobal.net)**

# CALENDAR

## **GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM AND EAST BAY MODEL ENGINEERS SOCIETY**

900 Dornan Drive, Miller/Knox Regional Park. The museum is closed for the winter. Will reopen April 5th and every Sunday 12:00 to 5:00. Special openings on Saturdays and Holidays. Admission is \$4.00/adults, \$2.00 for over 65 and under 12, maximum family admission is \$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 March 27, 2009. 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**

Washington School at 565 Wine Street offers traditional and Spanish dual immersion curriculum, K - 6th grade. Contact principal Lisa Levi at 231-1417 for more information.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:gary@alkos.com)

"This Point...in time" is a publication of the Point Richmond History Association, a non-profit organization at:  
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#### **Main Contributors to this Issue:**

Gary Shows	Editor
Mid Dornan	Various Articles
Thomas Mercer-Hursh, Ph.D.	Design/Photo Enhancement
Don Church/Allan Smith	Historic Photos
Jerry Cerkanowicz	Proof/Information
Pam Wilson	Membership Info
Jean Reynolds	Article
Dee Rosier	Article
William Thompson, M.D.	Article
Theresa de Valence	Article/Photos
Margaret Morkowski	Article
Bruce Beyaert	Photo
Evan Griffins	Article
Pat Pearson	Articles
Bernie Moore	Article

#### **Phone Numbers**

Mid Dornan 510-234-5334  
Gary Shows 510-235-1336  
Fax 510-965-0335

Visit our website  
[PointRichmondHistory.org](http://PointRichmondHistory.org)

*Thanks ALKO office supply for hosting our site*

Richmond Museum of History 510-235-7387  
Red Oak Victory Information 510-235-7387  
Rosie the Riveter Park 510-232-5050

Point Richmond History Association  
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