

THIS POINT.... in time

NEWSLETTER

The Point Richmond History Association

www.PointRichmondHistory.org

Vol. XXXIV No. 2

September/October, 2015

\$3.00



MILLER/KNOX REGIONAL PARK

Do You Remember Your Nursery Rhymes?

Mid

1. Who kissed the girls and made them cry?
2. Who had three bags of wool?
3. What was Little Miss Muffet eating?
4. At what time does the 10 o'clock scholar come now?
5. What happened to the old man who would not say his prayers
6. "I wrote a letter to my love, and on the way I dropped it.".....Who picked it up?
7. What would the little nut tree bear?
- 8.. Who frightened the little mouse under the queens' chairs?
9. "Lucy Locket lost her pocket" Who found it?
10. Who lives in Drury Lane?

Answers are on page 27

Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park welcomes

4th Grade Students through Every Kid in a Park Initiative

New National Program Encourages Families and Classes to Visit National Parks

Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park invites all 4th grade students to visit the park as part of the White House's new Every Kid in a Park program. Starting September 1, 2015, 4th grade students can go to www.everykidinapark.gov to complete an activity and obtain a free annual entry pass to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including national parks.

"This is an exciting time as the National Park Service begins its centennial celebration. We're offering a special invitation to 4th graders and their families to discover everything that national parks offer, including films, walks along the Bay Trail, meeting with real Rosies, and Junior Ranger activities here at Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Site," said Acting Superintendent Sue Fritzsche.

To receive their free pass for national parks, fourth graders can visit the Every Kid in a Park website and play a game to access their special Every Kid in a Park pass. Fourth graders and their families can then use this pass for free entry for national parks and other federal public lands and waters across the country from September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2016. The website includes fun and engaging learning activities aligned to educational standards, trip planning tools, safety and packing tips and other important and helpful information for educators and parents.

In addition to providing every fourth grader in America a free entry pass for national parks and federal public lands and waters, fourth grade educators, youth group leaders and their students across the country will also participate in the program through field trips and other learning experiences. Educators working with fourth graders who are interested in visiting Rosie the Riveter/World War II National Historical Park should contact (510) 232-5040 ext. 0 to arrange their visit.

The goal of the Every Kid in a Park program is to connect 4th graders with the great outdoors and inspire them to become future environmental stewards, ready to preserve and protect national parks and other public lands for years to come. The program is an important part of the National Park Service's centennial celebration in 2016, which encourages everyone to Find Your Park.

Every Kid in a Park is an administration-wide effort, launched by President Obama, and supported by the National Park Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Education, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

From the President

By Mid Dornan

As the thermometer soared to triple digits this past summer, it set records in every weather station in the Bay Area in August 2015. Where was that renown Coastal Fog? A water shortage in California came with a mandated "Use less water!" And, the people of the state responded and reduced their use more than mandated to 30% respecting and being aware of what is needed to save our Earth.

Thank you to those of you who provide THIS POINT....in time newsletters as gifts , and all ours readers are invited to provide us information of memories, Trivia or items of interest to our newsletter. Caitlin Harvey is welcomed as our newest Museum docent. Caitlin is an architectural historian who has her own consulting business, Left Coast Architectural History. Stop by and greet her on the fourth Thursday of the month. Stop by other Thursdays or Saturdays to meet our other dedicated docents.

New PRHA members
J.M. Baeli and wife
Martha are busy fixing
up their newly
purchased turn of the
century home on
Tunnel Avenue.
Nice.
→



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Thank you members for your renewal:

**Simeon J. Burtner
Michael Lambton
Linda Newton**
David Janes**
Jack N. Seuberth
Kevin, René & Griffin Knee**
Roger Glafke
Marilyn Darling**
James Wilson Family
Muriel C. Clausen
Sandy Hawkins
Gary Shows Family
Mitzi Kruse
Donna Wilson**
Mary Highfill
Alyce Williamson Family
Diane (Frosini) Diani
Don & Carole Woodrow**
Diane Marie
Joann Bill-Cannon
Gary Massey*
The Bartram-Owens Family**
Jeff & Barbara Ward Family
Les Hathaway
Jim Allgaier
Ellen Schaefer
Pat Houck
Ann Hathaway Kissling
Gloria & Gino Martinucci Family
Don Amantite
Viola Kennedy
Henry & Eva Marchitiello Family
Billie Bonham Shaw
Ilamay Dein
Evelyn Thill
Altha Humphrey
Donna Diaz
Kathe Kiehn**
Carol Kiehn
Alexis Lane Jensen
Elfriede Morris
Ingrid Lindemann
Karen & Art Gagnier Family**

A warm welcome to new members:

**Caitlin Harvey Family
Marilyn Siegel
Wendy Wirth
J.M. & Martha Baeli Family
Hastings Hart Family
Erin Frame & Steve Rice Family*
Marianne Takeda & Frank Craig
Family*
Lori Kauth
Richmond Convention & Visitors
Bureau****

*Gift Membership

**Special Supporter, *Thank You!*

Thank You! To

Santa Fe Market

For selling

“THIS POINT.....in time”

Support our local retailers

Thanks to the Volunteers who open and close our museum two days each week

Mid Dornan
Pat Pearson
Bonnie Jo Cullison
Heinz Lankford
Gary Shows
Lori Kauth
Caitlin Harvey

*Visit our little museum, view our
slide show of historic Point
Richmond photos.*

Open Thursdays and Saturdays

11:30 am - 2:00 pm

Editor's Notes

Gary Shows

garyshows@gmail.com

Here is your September, "back to school issue of TPIT. By the time the next issue comes out in November we will, hopefully be getting some heavy El Nino rain.

Thanks to all of my contributors for you quality and timely submissions. I am always open to new ideas and suggestions to make our little publication better. If you have something like a story or picture or just some fact that you think our readers might enjoy, please send them to me, you can email, mail or drop them in the museum mail slot to my attention. Enjoy your Fall.

Here Deadline for the next issue is
November 6, 2015.

Thanks to the volunteers at our last mailing party at Mid's home: And thank you Mid for allowing us to use your home for our staple/folding party and meeting.

Jerry Cerkowicz
Gary Shows
Pat Pearson
Tom Piazza
Kathe Keihn
Pam Wilson
Bonnie Jo Cullison
Caitlin Harvey
Karen Engbretson
Mid Dornan
Margaret Morkowski

The Cover:

*Our beautiful Miller/Knox Regional Park with Ferry Point with Ferry Point protruding into San Francisco Bay. Picture was taken from the top of Nichol Nob. Once upon a time train cars were ferried to San Francisco from here.
Thank you East Bay Regional Parks District!*

Thank You!

Our Special Supporters!

History Makers

Doug & Rosemary Corbin
Donna Wilson
Kathe Keihn
John A. Thiella & Rosa T. Casazza
Robertta & Richard Palfini
Patricia Dornan
Les Crim
Norm and Jean Reynolds
Fernando & Becky Garcia
David Janes
The Bartram-Owens Family
Erica & Barry Goode
Burl Willes
Garry & Maryn Hurlbut
Jeanne Pritchard
Joe Pritchard

History Preservers

Royce Ong
Kevin, Renee & Griffin Knee
Sandi Genser-Maack & Lynn Maack
Margaret Morkowski
Maurice & Margaret Doherty
Zoe Egger
Linda Newton
H. Abigail Bok & David Gotlieb
Tom & Shirley Butt
The Dolberg Family
Bill Eger
Bernie McIntosh
Don & Ingrid Lindemann
Robertta & Jim Montgomery
Mary Crosby & Tom Piazza
Karen Buchanan Engbretson
Norma Wallace
Patti, Stephanie & Stephen Kowalski
Don & Carole Woodrow
Marilyn Darling
Richmond Convention & Visitors Bureau

A-Mid Trivia

TPIT
Exclusive
since 1984

Mid Dornan (510-234-5334) (middornan@gmail.com)

QUESTION: January 12, 1915 the House of Representatives rejected, 204-174, a proposed constitutional amendment to give women nationwide the right to vote. When were women given this right? Answer at end of Trivia.

What one generation tolerates, the next generation embraces.

Passports are now available at the Point Post Office. Because of mold found in the Main Post Office on Nevin, it has been closed for repairs.

How nice to see former residents, Kay and Kenneth Madison, as they stopped in the museum on a visit from Springfield, Oregon, to reminisce in the Point.

Our Sympathy to Jerry Cerkowicz on the loss of his father and namesake, Jerry Cerkowicz Sr. 95, in our Over 90 Club.

Chocolate comes from cocoa which is a tree...that makes it a plant which means...chocolate is a Salad!

Best wishes to Suzanne (Bartram) and Neil Owens on their July marriage.

Ants? Try filling a spray bottle with 25% salt and water. Shake well and spray.

People with gray hair have "wisdom highlights!"

When you don't have a long match for lighting multiple candles, grab a stick of dry spaghetti. It'll do the same job, allowing you to reach a candle set in a tall glass jar or to light a whole birthday cake without burning your fingers.

In August, the Point United Methodist Women, Doreen Leighton, Fran Smith, Kristi Johnson, Shirley Butt, Barbara Haley, Dan

Damon, traveled to the Dornan cabin on the Russian River to hold a meeting to plan and elect officers for the 2015 - 2016 year. And enjoy the Redwoods. An unfortunate auto accident at the church before leaving kept Yulia Soloviena from attending.

The Richmond Art Center, founded by Hazel Salmi in 1936, Point Richmond, is the oldest continuously operating non-profit art center on the West Coast.

Driving 5 miles-per-hour above 50 is like paying an additional 19 cents per gallon for gasoline, per AAA's Automatic Engineer, John Nielson.

Sunday, September 20, 7:30 pm, the Dan Damon Quartet will present a jazz concert, "Down By the Riverside" at the Point Methodist Church. Come early for good seats.

The 7th Annual Jean Eakle Art Auction and Gala will be held on Saturday, September 26th, 4-7 p.m. at the San Pablo Yacht Club off Cutting Blvd., a fund raiser for the historic Point United Methodist Church. Door prizes, gift baskets, and more. Tax deductible donations accepted before the event at the church.

The Boy Scouts were discussing the food and equipment for the back pack and a new member was listening as it was his first camp out and he didn't want to be too 'green'. The boys were advised to get some nylon for mosquito netting. As the new member listened, when sizes of netting were discussed he quizzically asked, "What do we want to catch them for?"

Former resident Grethe Tedrick is missed as she has moved to Santa Rosa and is wished happiness and good health in her new residence.

One of the many guests this summer at the

OFRC cabin of Mid Dornan was former resident and BSA Troop 111 member Les Hathaway and his wife, Sandi, from Jackson.

There are many America flags flying throughout the city. Many are on Federal and City offices. Take time to notice other patriotic business and households that also honor this country. Are you one?

A real drone! It was June 11th around noon while at my door talking with a friend, a whizzing sound above was a drone. The first I've seen. It continued to zoom above and around and down the Alley in front of my garage before whizzing back up toward Crest and was gone. Freaky and like something from outer space which I guess, it really is!

Another long time Point resident, Kathy Lord, is moving to Oregon. Kathy is a past president of Washington School PTA and served on the School Board a number of years.

At Children's time during worship at the Methodist Church, Pastor Dan was discussing Hymns. Little Mary Alice listened and then looked up at him and asked, "Can I ask a question?" "Of course." She asked, "What about Hers?"

I'm proud of my granddaughter, Emileigh Barnes, in Washington D.C., who is writing the text for the government's EVERY KID IN THE PARK. All fourth graders will be given a pass to visit all Federal Parks for free for a year. Check the website for details.

ANSWER: Ratified on August 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granted American women the right to vote—a right known as woman suffrage. At the time the U.S. was founded, its female citizens did not share all of the same rights as men, including the right to vote.

BUZZING ABOUT BEES

-from Christine Volker

- * Bees make that buzzing sound by beating their wings more than 11,000 times per minute.
- * Honeybees have been clocked at 15 mph.
- * Bees have an internal navigation system and use the earth's magnetic field (they have magnetite in their abdomens).
- * In the U.S. we have European honeybees and 4,000 types of wild bees.
- * 42% of honeybees in California are estimated to have perished in the 12 months ending 4/15, continuing decades of shrinking populations. Native bee numbers have also reduced with some species vanishing, other populations off. If declines continue apace, bees will be extinct by 2035.
- * Bees are responsible for pollinating 71% of essential food crops, and more than \$15 bn of agricultural value. Without them, say goodbye to your favorite fruits, nuts, vegetable, countless flowers and some trees. Their work also provides food for non-human animals. Bees are a critical part of the ecosystem connecting all living creatures.



HOORAY!!

Those ugly chain link fences that encircled the Community Center and Library and caused their closure are finally gone! I never did inquire why it took six months of off and on work to replace the roof. Very ugly, very disruptive but finally, once again, folks can cross the downtown triangle

Church News



By Dee Rosier

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drosier@sbcglobal.net

Our summer hiatus is over. It was the time to visit exotic places, unless you are retired and then it is always summer.

In honor of the parish dedication date, pictures of the past pastors were on display. Since our 100th year, 19 priests have served; the first being Fr. Martin Scanlan. It is our history and applauded by senior parish members. Additional history is contained in copies of, "Small Parish Centennial", written by Stanley Toledo, a dedicated, previous parishioner.

The front doors to the church have been painted and present a warm welcome. To our knowledge they are the solid wood originals, 112 years old. The door to the hall has been reset and re-hung, with the frame itself straightened and reinforced. The carpet at the entry to the church has also been replaced.

The big maintenance jobs are complete, but the small ones are continual. A parishioner has donated surveillance cameras and installation is presently on hold.

Work is in progress renovating an area in the parish hall to be used as an office for parish ministry personnel, religious education and musicians.

Father's 82nd birthday was celebrated with a well-attended potluck. Thanks to Anne Brussok for coordinating the event. Anne has become the

heart of our parish. She is always present to oversee projects and aware of future ones. She delivers the Eucharist to several parishioners and hosts the bible study classes, as well as being Parish Council President. In June Father blessed Anne and Dave's marriage. We are indeed fortunate to have her as our team leader.

A tradition forms at Sunday Mass as we rely on the very youngest to deliver the gifts. Presently in training are Jack Huie and Henry Bleckinger who always promote smiles and warm hearts.

The Parish Council welcomed Jeff and Sue Mulvihill as guests - we hope to see them return. In July Beth Lewin, Parish Secretary, presented a year-to-date summary of income and expenses.

Thanks to Nancy Noble who recently took up the collection. We tend to rely on specific individuals to perform certain tasks. Jim Cheshareck is our Sentinel. He occupies the last pew in church and his eyes are held on the parishioners. He is the self-appointed collection person, as well as bell ringer. Jim has had a series of medical issues and unable to attend Mass. Pray for his prompt recovery.

On a recent trip to Lourdes, Mike Lambert fell and injured his knee.

The Bible study group will meet in the church hall on September 9 and 23. There is a lot of experience, practical wisdom and religious insight that comes when people connect the writings with their own lives. All are welcome - call: 517-9905.

Linda and Rick Duste never fail to visit when in the Bay Area. As previous parishioners, they presently reside in Texas.

There were indeed some that did their summer duty: Anne Carroll attended a wedding in Ireland, Cynthia Young visited her daughter and family in the Virgin Islands; her other daughter, Dawn and family visited family in Puerto Rico, Jack and Ann Marie Hill enjoyed Rome and Connie Calderon-Jensen and family ventured to Mexico.

Congratulations to the 90 club, Alyce Williamson. A celebration was hosted by her daughter for friends and family.

Also joining the 90 club is John Gerk. John may well be the senior member of our parish. He

was off to Colorado to attend the wedding of one of his grandchildren.

It is with deep sadness that we announce the exodus of another special parishioner, Vince Kafka.

Vince and Judy have opted to reside in an assisted living residence in Concord. Vince was one of the original Small Christian Community members. He was extremely knowledgeable in the Bible and shared with other members. Another void is created in our parish.

Members of the Methodist Church expressed their condolences in the death of Msgr. Kraus.

Mid Dornan stated that Msgr. often asked Pastor Dan to visit the church in Orinda and play his music. He was known to cook meals for Pastor Dan and his wife. Nancy Toledo guided us through a Seder Dinner and the Methodist congregation were our guests. Years ago, the house next door to Janice Park was the Baptist Church; along with the Methodist and Catholic Churches, we all shared in joint celebrations. My children have vacation bible school certificates from both the Baptist and Methodist churches.

Mid also mentioned she can remember back to Father Smith(1946/1947), who was from Ireland, as well as her father-in-law and their discussions regarding their homeland.

Condolences to the family of Frank Kenny. Frank and his brother, Tom were early members of Our Lady of Mercy and served as Altar Boys. A couple of stools were recently unearthed and referred to as altar boy stools. Both Tom and his

brother no doubt sat on them. Sitting in front of the Plunge is a commemorative rock with a plaque which reads, "Kenny Park." It originally sat in a park atmosphere on Tewksbury. The rock was for Joseph Kenny whose plane was shot down over New Guinea and never found. He was a member of the Richmond City Council when he joined the Air Force.

Remember our friends with get well prayers: John Gerk, Bill Smith, Dean Smith, Gino Martinucci, Jim Cheshareck, Dixie and Frank Mello.

It was happy birthday time in July to Tom Boone.

Fred and Diane Siegmund welcomed grandson, Theodore on 6/25/15. It is their fourth grandchild.

Congratulations to Julia Padilla, our soprano vocalist, who purchased a home in Marin County and hosted a housewarming.

With school back in session, we welcome back our smiling crossing guard, Maxine – be sure to wave!

SEE YOU IN CHURCH.

THERE ARE TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD –

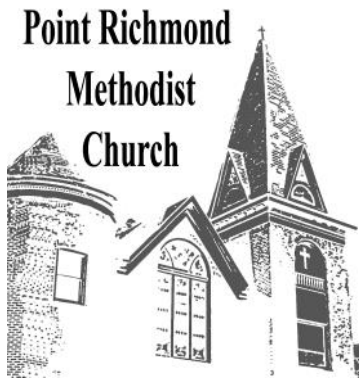
THOSE WHO WAKE AND SAY, "GOOD MORNING LORD,"

AND THOSE WHO WAKE AND SAY, "GOOD LORD, IT'S MORNING!"



***Our Historic Churches
on West Richmond
Avenue***

Photo by Gary Shows



Jean Reynolds

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At Vacation Bible School, we reaped “Aloha by the Basketful.” We examined a Hawaiian forgiveness ritual, *Ho’oponopono*: “I am sorry.” “Please forgive me.” “I love you.” “Thank you.” We considered the characters in five Bible stories and the effect of forgiveness in their lives. Our favorite twins Jacob and Esau reconciled after fifteen years of estrangement. Abigail apologized to King David for her husband’s gaffe. Zaccheaus felt shame after stealing from taxpayers. Pharaoh’s daughter regretted the law dooming Hebrew boy babies and chose to spare him. An apron-clad man who asked for a cupcake at the back gate was our real life version of Jesus asking for water at the well. Eighteen kids participated: attendance swelled when several children invited their friends. Bill Thompson, Bethany Reynolds, Rachel Herrin, and Jean Reynolds led singing, encouraged young artists, listened, told stories, made space for moated clay-volcano play, and played games outdoors. Pastor Dan jazzed up our daily singing. The students made fun-to-do collages with Yulia Solovieva, Karen Bianchini witnessed model boat launchings. Robert Davis mastered all of the song actions. Nick Hayter and Norm Reynolds cooked a tasty lunch for forty on Friday (and cleaned up afterward!) Snack angels Jane Carnall, Mia Sassi, Shirley Butt and Jennifer Metz Foster provided our treats. I had an unexpected surgery in San Antonio just before

VBS and returned a day later than planned. Bethany took the lead on the first day and eased my worry about not being there. “*Mahalo*” [Hawaiian for “Gratitude”] to all who contributed to the huge success of this year’s program!

Dennis Johnson performed a classical piano recital at the church on June 6 to benefit the nonprofit organization “Spirit in Action.” Spirit in Action gives micro grants in several African countries to individuals, families, or communities to start small businesses and community programs. Dennis lives in Placerville, but lived in San Francisco many years. More than sixty people came to listen. As he greeted old friends, Dennis felt like a guest on “This is Your Life.” Attendees generously donated more than \$1100 to Spirit in Action.

Fathers’ Day Jazz spotlighted Dan Damon, piano; Kurt Ribak, bass; Lincoln Adler, sax; Rob Hart, drums; and Sheilani Alix, vocals. Bethany Reynolds, Gill Stanfield, and Eileen Johnson soloed with the band, too. Eileen led music at El Sobrante United Methodist Church, then without passing “GO” came directly to sing for us. She nailed a challenging blues version of “Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit” sans the luxury of a warm-up with the band.

Fran Smith and Jean Reynolds filled the pulpit and taught the adult membership class while Pastor Dan participated at the Hymn Society meeting in New Orleans two Sundays in July. Fran described her faith journey and some of the ways justice seekers in the United Methodist Church have promoted full equality for people who identify as LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning.) Jean gave a summary of the International Peoples Tribunal she attended the week before in Washington DC. Numerous witnesses from the Philippines testified against their government and military. Their testimony highlighted how the Philippine government under President Aquino threatens their safety, health, and economic security. US foreign policy contributes to injustices Filipino people face through its trade agreements, military presence, and labor practices.

In August, Fran Smith traveled to San Antonio for “Gather At the River,” a conference for United Methodists who wish for full equality

of LGBTQ persons. She ached to hear statistics of young people rendered homeless because of their sexual orientation, and the high suicide rates of LGBTQ youth. One transgender man from Uganda, granted asylum in the US, urged people to remember the real threat of death he faced and to take action to help protect him and others. The choir is on hiatus during the summer months, but special music continues throughout the summer: Linda Andrew-Marshall, Jennifer Metz-Foster, Alice Thompson, Gill Stanfield, George Peter Tingley, Linda Woody-Wood, Heather Damon and Pastor Dan all enriched our worship with their musical gifts. Joyful Noise choir meets to rehearse starting Wednesday, September 9, 7:30 p.m., in Friendship Hall. We welcome new singers!

On August 15, The United Methodist Women caravanned to Mid Dornan's Russian River cabin. The UMW used the time away to reconnect, recommit, and plan next season's projects. The women elected new officers: President Doreen Leighton, Secretary Kristi Johnson, and Treasurer Barbara Haley. Our UMW supports mission projects and local community agencies like GRIP and Early Childhood Mental Health Program. Many plans and dreams for future UMW projects have taken shape in the shade of those towering redwood trees at the Russian River.

Several physical plant upgrades took place during the summer. The parsonage has a new water heater. The trustees replaced it *before* it quit.

Electrician Chris Davis gave the electrical system in the parsonage a modern makeover assisted by Bill Thompson and Jonathan Swett. One result: the microwave oven and toaster can be used simultaneously. Chris discovered the church and parsonage electrical systems were never grounded. We expect his fix to resolve the occasional buzz in our sound system. Jonathan Swett and Herman Alvarez replaced rotten flooring at the threshold of the office door. We appreciate the dedication of our Trustees, and our increasingly sound infrastructure!



On the Calendar:

Sunday School for all ages resumes September

13. Everyone Celebrate! Welcome Back Breakfast starts at 9:00 AM; Sunday School is at 10:00 AM. Worship at 11:00 AM.

September 20, 7:30 PM, Concert: *Down by the Riverside*, Jazz and congregational song. Enjoy a reprise of the program Dan created for the Hymn Society Conference in New Orleans! Dan Damon Quartet with Eileen Johnson: Dan Damon, piano; Kurt Ribak, bass; Carrie Jahde, drums; Lincoln Adler, saxophone. Suggested donation: \$15.

Jean Eakle Art Auction and Gala, Saturday, September 26, 4-7 PM, Point San Pablo Yacht Club, 700 W. Cutting Blvd., Richmond. No extra charge for dazzling San Francisco Bay view.

Invite your friends and neighbors! Arts and Crafts: silent bidding; Jewelry for sale; Door Prizes; Live Music; Hors d'oeuvres; No Host Bar. Suggested donation: \$10 at the door. Do you have art to contribute? We would be grateful for your

tax-deductable donations of paintings, textile projects, jewelry, sculpture, themed gift baskets, and more. Please contact: dianefrary@comcast.net or debbenko160@aol.com; or bring donations to Richmond First United Methodist Church, 201 Martina St., Richmond, on Sundays between 10-11 AM or 12-1 PM.

Saturday, October 10, The United Methodist Women serve a Korean Tea. Two times to suit your preference: 11:30 AM or 1:30 PM, \$20 adult/ \$10 child. RSVP to Doreen Leighton (510)

307-5461 or d3leighton@icloud.com



WWIC Est. 1908

News from the Womens Westside Improvement Club

by Linda Newton

After 100 years of service to the West Side, the Womens Westside Improvement Club is conscious of its history in Point Richmond. To the extent possible we've been trying to make that history available to everyone through "This Point in Time" and the Point Richmond History Association so that the WWIC will live on. Two other Bay Area women's clubs have buildings associated with them which have given them a presence in their communities, The Sausalito Women's Club and the Sonoma Valley Women's Club. Therefore, the WWIC is grateful to those who have given us a presence in the community: the PRHA, the PRNC and the women who have kept improving the Point.

In that vein, the following list of presidents of WWIC is provided here. If anyone has information about any of the presidents or knows who were presidents during the years of 1917 – 1939, please share that with us.

Thank you.

Linda Newton, President 2015-16

July

1908 – 1909, *Mrs. George W. Topping*, Temp.
Chair

Mrs. Nellie Adams, President

July to June

1909 – 1910, *Mrs. Curry*

1910 – 1911, *Mrs. Marston*

Sept. – July,

1911 – 1912, *Mrs T. T. Cramer*

1912 – 1913, *Mrs. J. F. Eaton*

1913 – 1914, *Mrs. U.P. McHenry* (served 'til
March)

1914 – 1917, *Mrs. Nellie Adams*

1917 – 1921, Missing~

Or maybe 1939 Research to do

Sept. – June

1939 – 1940, *Mrs. J. George*

1940 – 1942, *Mr. Fred Hess*

1942 – 1943, *Mrs. Gnaga*

1943 – 1945, *Iola Stanley*

1945 – 1947, *Ethel Butler*

1947 – 1948, *Marian George*

1948 – 1951, *Josephine Esser*

1951 – 1952, *Iola Stanley*

1952 – 1954, *Viola Vloebergh*

1954 – 1956, *Marie Ceridano*

1956 – 1958, *Josephine Esser*

1958 – 1959, *Margaret Fischer*

1959 – 1961, *Mildred Saliva*

1961 – 1963, *Ruby Ellis*

1963 – 1964, *Agnes Malloy/ Josephine
Palanchar (Palenchar)*

1964 – 1965, *Josephine Palenchar*

1965 – 1966, *Agnes Malloy*

1966 – 1967, *Agnes Malloy/Ruby Ellis*

1967 – 1968, *Ruby Ellis*

1968 – 1970, *Marion Downey*

1970 – 1977, *Caroline Davidson*

1977 – 1980, *Louise Navarini*

1980 – 1984, *Anna Schwarz*

1984 – 1986, *Maud Alexander*

1986 – 1989, *Liz MacDonald*

1989 – 1991, *Mary Highfill*

1991 – 1992, *Marian Voight*

1992 – 1994, *Mary Highfill*

1994 – 1996, *Anita Christensen*

1996 – 1998, *Virginia Cherniak*

1998 – 2000, *Amelia Drake*

2000 – 2010, *Margaret Morkowski*

2010 – 2012, *Connie Lompa*

2012 – 2014, *Norma Wallace*

2014 – 2014, No president (September to
December 2014)

2015 – 2015, *Norma Wallace* (February to June
2015)

2015 – 2016, *Linda Newton*

Stop and Stay a While

What's Happening at our Little Museum

By Heinz Lankford

San Quentin State Prison Museum

Thanks to the internet I became aware that a museum exists at San Quentin Prison. Sam Mc Canis's wrote an article in the Sacramento Bee about the San Quentin Museum. After reading the article I was hooked; I needed to see it myself.

I parked in the San Quentin visitor parking lot which has a fantastic view of the bay. Walked up a small hill to the main entrance where a guard asked you the purpose of your visit. You are required to show your driver's license and sign a log book prior to entering the grounds. The guard will then point you in the direction of the museum.

There are definite rules on clothing, no blue jeans, no lime green shirts and no orange, like the color of an orange jump suit. Also, no cameras!

The idea to build an on-site museum was hatched in 1984 by Jeff Craemer, Marin Independent-Journal reporter and Associated Warden Richard W. Nelson. A decade later it opened and Craemer spent a considerable amount of his retirement accumulating items for the already expansive collection.

Craemer mans the front desk each Tuesday and Thursday (only days the museum is open) waiting for visitors to enlighten them with stories from the old days. He stated that the building which now houses the museum stood vacant for many years and when the decision was made to turn it into a museum volunteers from the prison population, with building skills, were recruited to assist in the transformation. In return their sentences were reduced by the time spent on this project.

As my wife and I looked at various exhibits Mr. Craemer motioned us towards a closed door marked "Employees Only" and retrieved a ledger which had the signature of Sirhan Sirhan, Robert Kennedy's killer and Charles Manson.

Then there is the story of the rope from the last prison hanging in 1942. Two sisters,

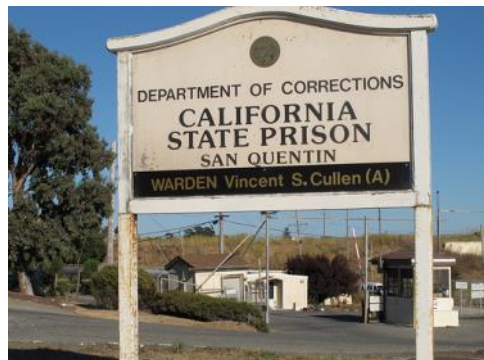
Dorothy Powers and Marlene O'Neill, came into the museum and informed Craemer that their father was the executioner for the San Quentin Prison and would the museum be interested in the rope and his cigar box. Craemer was thrilled to get the items. The cigar box contained miniature nooses with the names of all the people their father had hung. The box was full.

The Gas Chamber display reveals another interesting story, the saga of Robert Wells. Robert Wells was an inmate who helped build the gas chamber in 1938. San Quentin used Wells because he was 4 feet and 11 inches tall and therefore was able to fit into tight places and had the needed mechanical skills.

Shortly after Wells was paroled he killed his brother, his sister in-law and his friend because they broke up his incestuous relationship with his half-sister. He was executed in the very same gas chamber he helped build.

A visit to the San Quentin Museum can be quite enjoyable with a tad of creepiness and gruesome combined. It reveals 162 years of California's first prison, telling stories of some of the most notorious prisoners and the people whose job it was to keep them safely behind bars.

I want to encourage people to visit the fascinating museum, you will not be disappointed.



A Short History of How the Neighborhood Councils Started in the City of Richmond

By Lucretia Edwards

Richmond has a strong, active and useful Neighborhood Council system. I thought this article by the late, great Lucretia Edwards might be interesting to our readers.

Gary

A long time ago, in 1956 to be exact, I (then a newcomer to Richmond) had the job and excitement of being involved in the formation of the first Neighborhood Council in our city. This made quite an impression upon me, and I have followed the waxing, and waning, and waxing again of this concept in Richmond ever since. It seems to me that this manifestation of democracy has great merit, and that it is a simple and pleasant method of bringing people together and getting things done, in which everyone can join according to his or her inclination and ability.

Appreciation of this form of participatory democracy has grown in my mind during the recent cynicism and deterioration of the political process, and I am grateful to have had in my life a mechanism which provides both hope and inspiration. Though not all the people in our city believe in or avail themselves of Neighborhood Councils, it occurs to me that we are fortunate in our city to have this process in place. This brought me to the realization that many people take Neighborhood Councils for granted, since they do not know much about the origin of the idea. This exceedingly brief digest of the Neighborhood Councils initiation and progress is an effort to correct this lack of knowledge (or absence of memory), in the hope that it will provide recognition and appreciation of a positive asset which is happily available to us.

The development of Neighborhood Councils in the City of Richmond came about because of the upheaval of the city, occasioned by the Kaiser Shipyards that were located in Richmond during World War II.

In 1940, just prior to World War II, Richmond was a tidy industrial town of 23,000, centered around the western terminus of operations of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad, the

deep-water port, and the Standard Oil Company (later Chevron).

The African American population of the city at this time was 270 persons, almost all of whom lived in a 4 block area in the northern part of the city.

Then World War II brought the Kaiser Shipyards to Richmond, and in 1942, the population jumped to 50,000, in 1943, to 93,776, and by 1946 hit its peak of 110,000. To house these workers 17,000 units of Lenham Act War Housing units were built on the empty land on the south side of town. The shipyard workers were recruited throughout the United States, and a great number came from the southeastern part of the country. A high proportion was African-American, primarily from the rural agricultural areas of Texas, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Mississippi. From the same states and the same time, Caucasian workers were recruited, and southern blacks and southern whites carried their historical and cultural frustrations and hostilities with them.

When World War II ended, it was assumed by the pre-war, original "core community", that the shipyard workers would return to the far-flung states and towns from which they had come. But this, of course, did not happen, since Richmond, California was preferable in many ways to the circumstances from which many of the shipyard workers had come. While some of the migrants

did leave, and some of the housing units were cleared, many people remained. The chaos of the life in a town with a quadrupled population was compounded, post-war, by unemployment of the shipyard workers, to the extent that the city was given the doubtful distinction of an article in Look Magazine entitled "Richmond, California, a City Earns a Purple Heart".

One of the factors that perpetuated the confusion of life in Richmond at this period was the fact that most of the people who came during the war years did not have any feelings of belonging to the city. It was not possible when

they came pouring in to give them this feeling, since the City was hard put to simply house them. Also, there was the opinion that the newcomers were only in Richmond as temporary workers. Subsequently, many of the residents who came as shipyard workers had no feeling of participation in the life of the City, and no sense of responsibility for the welfare and future of the City. They might experience strong emotional feelings of pride and commitment to the

neighborhood in which they lived, but for the city of Richmond, their feelings ranged from indifference to annoyance.

In 1954, because it was recognized that this was an atmosphere with a potential for unrest and trouble, the United Community Defense Services was requested to make a survey of social services in the City. This organization served the same function for cities that during World War II the United Service Organization, or USO, served for individual servicemen, in evaluating problem situations and providing wise counsel to alleviate them.

The survey recommendation was that a Community Welfare Counsel be formed and that a director be found to work with budgeting and coordinate planning on community problems. And so it was that in 1955, the West Contra Costa Community Welfare Council was reactivated and Dr. Ralph Kramer (later with the University of California at Berkeley) was hired as director.

In 1956, the Group Work and Recreation Section of the Contra Costa Community Welfare Council inaugurated a pilot demonstration project in the North Richmond area, to determine how best to provide for the needs of the neighborhood through more effective health, welfare, and recreation services.

The neighborhood people originally felt that what they most needed to bring them together, and provide a centering of the community was a building, a community center. But after a year of hard work in small groups and large groups, in surveys and discussions and study, the people came to feel that what they really needed was a more effective means of communication with the world outside their somewhat isolated and segregated boundaries.

Neighborhood Councils, a new concept

brought from the east coast (where it had been borrowed from early colonial history and Town Hall meetings) were described and the neighborhoods decided that they liked the idea. So, in 1956, the North Richmond Neighborhood Council was formed, the first neighborhood council in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Funds (\$19,566) were secured from a small family foundation in San Francisco, the Columbia Foundation, to finance this program for three years. There was an assumption that the city would accept financial responsibility for the project if the validity of the concept was demonstrated and proved to be successful. Funding was primarily needed for the cost of staffing. Also for materials needed for Councils, such as research, minutes, agendas and reports.

1958 Four Neighborhoods were active. The program was financed by the Columbia Foundation, the City of Richmond (under contract) and the Redevelopment Agency.

1959 Six Neighborhood Councils were active. The Program was financed by the Columbia Foundation and the contract with the City of Richmond. The Columbia Foundation funds were running out. An exploration of other funding sources, including a request to the United Crusade, for financial support was unavailing. The Columbia Foundation gave an additional \$1,500 as a "rescue" grant.

1960 Eight Councils. Program financed by the Columbia Foundation and the contract with the City of Richmond. (The Redevelopment contract was not renewed.) There was a request in the 1960-61 Budget for the two staff jobs for this program, which was turned down due to an austerity budget.

1961 Fourteen Neighborhood groups were clamoring for staff services. Financial support under contract with the City of Richmond now provided twenty hours per week to the program, or half of the job. The Columbia Foundation funds were exhausted (staff member, Gertrude

Hall, replaced by Arnie Leonard).

1962 The Neighborhood Council program is to continue on a half-time basis until July 1st, at which time the City will once again consider its contract with the West Contra Costa Community Welfare Council (staff member Arnie Leonard replaced by Ed Grosselfinger).

The problem faced by the Neighborhood Council movement was not failure, but success. The idea, once launched, was instantly popular, and with good staff work and training, the Neighborhood Councils were speedily organized. They made many requests of the administration and City Council of the city of Richmond through the Coordinating Committee of Neighborhood Councils, requests that were reasonable and usually granted.

But the City Council was increasingly alarmed at the growing power of the citizen groups, and refused to budget funds for staff that would accelerate the progress already made.

Gradually funds were squeezed down, and when the proposal was made to have a Human Relations Commission in the City of Richmond, it seemed a natural development and a comfortable solution that funding for staff should be diverted to the new Commission.

So for a time, the Neighborhood Councils, as a viable element in the life of the City went into decline through lack of the nourishment of robust funding. But an interesting thing happened. During the few stimulating, triumphant years of the Neighborhood Councils early development (1956-1963) a network had been established throughout the City. Black and white people worked together on project for their neighborhoods, and then for larger projects that affected all the neighborhoods. Friendships were made, trust was created, and success was experienced. People realized that what they did, working together, made a difference. That they could be responsible for change. Citizens had

experienced democracy in action, and it was exhilarating!

During President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty, Richmond, because of its history of problems, was eligible, and the recipient of, federal funds for many different projects. One of them was the Model Cities Program, and it was because of it that the Neighborhood Councils experienced a renaissance. One of the stipulations for acceptance of a Model Cities Program was a Citizen Participation element. Remembering the success of the Neighborhood Councils, the City reactivated the Councils in order to meet the criterion.

The original Councils had been a grass-roots movement, and had drawn their strength and vitality from the needs of the chaotically disorganized neighborhoods after World War II. The second wave of Neighborhood Councils was opportunistically superimposed from above, to serve a bureaucratic requirement, and to some extent backed by the spontaneity and enthusiasm that had marked the first, very successful program. However, under capable staff guidance, the concept flourished, and 30 Neighborhood Councils (and their attendant Coordinating Committee of Neighborhood Councils) today are a significant and positive element in framework of the city's life.

The Neighborhood Council provides the machinery for citizens to function directly in shaping their own community life. When people help to plan programs and shape policies, as they do in a Council and in the coordinating Committee of Councils, they understand and believe in what they are doing far better than when this work is done for them and presented as an accomplished fact. For along with the long hours, hard work, and responsibility needed, goes a sense of pride and involvement. The Neighborhood Council ideas can restore the old-fashioned meaningfulness and friendliness of cooperative community living, and can enrich the lives of those willing to undertake the creative hard work necessitated by this for of group dynamics



Suzi's Sad End

Pat Pearson

After George passed away I moved back to my house. There are a lot of steps here and my 15 year old dog, Kit Fox, could not climb the steps. My daughter took her to her home in Somerset.

My friends decided that I needed a dog. Beth Miller knew Suzi was being fostered by Deborah Wilkinson. She visited and decided this was the dog for me. I visited and found she was correct. She was a 8 lb Terrier, black and tan. I could not adopt her right away as I was involved working on George's Memorial. I picked her up on March 10. She was very scared.

You could not watch her eat. She protected the food and spent a lot of time under my bed. I took her with me when I was a docent at the History Building Downtown. She enjoyed that and seemed good with children.

With a lot of patience, she relaxed. She found that my house would allow full circles to be run before every walk. She started greeting people at the door and eating her food up front. She had come a long way.

When we walked, about 4 times a day, a short walk was down our alley. We had a long route which meant Contra Costa to Western Drive to Ocean and back, and a shorter route which was Contra Costa to Clarence. She enjoyed walking around the sitting area at the end of Clarence.

Last Friday, I chose the short route. As I approached the sitting area I saw a dog running from the Ocean Avenue direction, I grabbed Suzi and held her tightly, in my arms. The dog kept coming, jumped up at me, grazed my hand and bruised my leg as it jumped for Suzi. He took her right away. There were no people around. I started screaming as loud as I could, and kicking the dog as hard as I could. It did not help, he continued to attack Suzi. As I stood there screaming, I saw a man at the end of the block carrying a large stick and heading for the dog.

He hit the dog's back with the stick and the dog dropped Suzi. I immediately grabbed her and walked home, sobbing all the way. My tenants,

Lars and Lizette were out side and helped me.

Mike Cooper took me to the dog Emergency where Suzi was pronounced dead. All the way there I looked at her eyes wide open. There was nothing I could do to help her. We made the arrangements for cremation so she could be buried in the dog cemetery my daughter has.

When I arrived home I had a phone call from the owner of the dog. She was very upset, and said her dog would be euthanized. Later I thought if Sam had not appeared to help, I could have been the next target of the dog.

It was a horrible experience and I thank everyone for their sympathy and condolence.

I shall always remember Suzi running in circles with her tailed curled up, chewing my shoes, and eating anything paper, having her when I really needed a companion was a wonderful experience..



Pat and Suzi
Photo by Deborah Wilkinson

TPIT Reprint

Beginning in the summer of 1992 Muriel C. Clausen wrote an excellent series of articles about the old houses in Point Richmond. In the last twenty-two years we have many new owners of old houses that we treasure here in Point Richmond. For that reason we thought it would be appropriate to reprint her report. Thank you Muriel!

This Old House

By Muriel C. Clausen

As you read this, keep in mind that it was originally written in the Summer of 1992. Please note that parts 2 and 3 were in the last issue even though they were not separated.

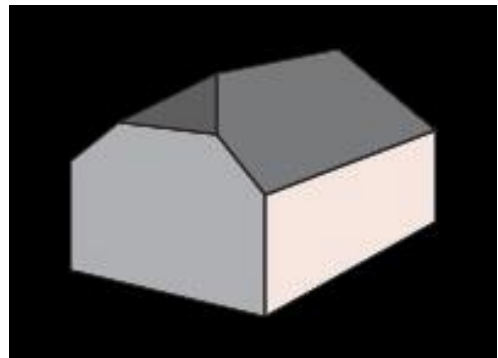
Chapter IV The Simple House: Point Richmond Part One

In previous chapters we have found that early Point Richmond residents quickly graduated from their first “homes”, the tent and shack, to the simple house. Here, in 1900 and 1901, the “smoky row” house, the West Coast “hip roof” cottages, the small, one story, single gable house: and the Italian and Princess Anne “styles” were the dominant types of homes built. In 1902 until 1906 the same home styles were repeated, and the four-square, the homestead, and the bungalow appeared. The first rush of housing development in Point Richmond peaked by 1907. About 25% of all of the houses built by then were bungalows and the rest were a major mixture of Italian and Princess Anne with the addition of a scattering of other styles mentioned above, a few “salt-box” styles, and some more of the formal “styles” such as Classic, French, Flemish and Dutch Colonial.

Later on, up to the 1930’s, a few English style cottages were introduced and a very few Spanish Mission styles.

With all of this variety it would seem that confusion reigned. But no! There was a cohesion of materials and scale; a harmony of colors and textures; and a simplicity that prevailed out of the sheer necessity for economy that bound together the early homes of Point Richmond into a rich tapestry. Much of the cohesiveness was also due to the locale, the materials available, the climate and the terrain.

In this chapter let us examine the very



Simple Hip Roof House

simplest of houses in Point Richmond, those without stylistic influences from Europe and the East Coast, or the adobe influence of Southern California. These were the homes built for the most basic functions: shelter, space and comfort as much as the dollar could obtain. These were homes built early, from 1900 to 1907 in Point Richmond. And these were the homes that were greatly influenced by the area around them, the San Francisco Bay Area and the northern part of California on the West Coast; an area with a unique approach to design all its own. These simple houses were also greatly influenced by the Gold Rush of 1849. These homes that we call the simple homes include the “smoky row” houses, the West Coast “hip roof” cottages, and the small, one story, single gable houses. The other “styles” mentioned above, which were not the basic, vernacular, simple houses, will be described in later chapters.

It is worthwhile again to note the very strong contrast that exists between the area’s early homes and the early Southern California adobe architectural style. Southern California had adobe construction from its Mexican heritage with the flat roof of heavy beams cantilevered out to form an outdoor veranda. The roof was covered with either brae (tar) or with Spanish tile. The walls were of non-waterproof, adobe material. These adobe homes were often built in a “U” shape forming an interior courtyard with veranda roof overhang partially covering the courtyard to provide a shelter from the heat of the sun. When there is the rare second story, the stairs reaching it are exterior stairs. Towns too were laid out in the central courtyard style around a town square. Wooden houses were first built in Southern California in about 1860. These wooden houses followed a strong East Coast influence rather than a Northern California influence. Neither the adobe style nor the Southern California wood style was consciously adopted by the American settlers of Northern California mostly due to the many differences between the Californians North and South. The strongest influence in Northern California design was the 1949 Gold Rush with its “frontier style” and its resulting freedom of expression. The “frontier style” was a style with a casually laid out, narrow, strung-out main street

with a rough boardwalk. Buildings were parapeted to hide their gabled roofs or wood canopied and front front faced with rustic wood or low fired brick, sometimes on rubble, schist rock foundations. They had deep door and window reveals with heavy iron shutters for protection from theft and fire. The influence that carried over from the “frontier style” was the very casual building manner with a carefree expression not found in European styles, East Coast or Southern California structures. This casual nature of the Gold Rush style quickly influenced the character of building design in the entire San Francisco Bay Area, making it quite distinct. San Francisco Bay Area designs released themselves from European and East Coast formality. Even when traditional “styles” were used in the San Francisco Bay Area, they were interpreted in a very casual manner, developing into designs with refinement but with the same freedom of expression generated by the “frontier style”. Notable San Francisco architects introducing the freedom of expression were Willis Polk, Bernard Maybeck and later Julia Morgan. The entire Northwest coast as well as Point Richmond picked up the casual trend in 1900 with the added visual expression of the “frontier style” with its boardwalk main street and parapeted and canopied buildings. The unity of the various types of domestic structures built here was achieved in part because of this very casual atmosphere. With freedom of interpretation, buildings became less



Frontier

Style

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

restrained, less dogmatic and more stimulating. As such they formed a very warm and unified composite of design styles.

On first examining the charming carefree design style of the San Francisco Bay Area we come to the startling realization that these very different wood structures we call the homes of the Bay Area were only very recently built; built only from the time of the Gold Rush of 1849. This was just 160+ years ago! It wasn't until 1841 that the first organized American settlers came to this area by land! Such a short history! Before that there were, for over 3000 years, the Miwok Indians with their tents; and in 1823, here, the Spanish/Mexican Rancho San Pablo, a widely spread out adobe structured central patio type rancho. In the context of history as a whole, 160+ years is not a very long time. Most certainly wooden houses were built in America long before that. On the East Coast they were built as early as the 1620's and consistently from then on, 390+ years ago. This unique San Francisco Bay area style is a style that clings to the Northwest coast of California with its hilly, woody terrain. It is an area with more than adequate supplies of timber and water than Southern California, giving reason for construction of wood. This hilly, woody terrain is reflected in designs that have steep pitched roofs covered with wood shingles. It is a gusty, fogg, moderately cool climate encouraging the building of structures opening to and facing the sun and with interior stairways. In Southern California there is a flatter terrain backed by distant mountains allowing more space between structures and flatter roofs of mud or tile. Its warmer, milder climate encourages building around central courtyards with exterior stairways, as needed, and with materials not concerned with the lack of timber and water. So we have the rustic textures of Northern California contrasted with the smoother textures of Southern California; each interpreted uniquely in building designs typical of their own area; and each quite different from the other.

Out of the need for homes for the Americans rushing to the San Francisco Bay area, a small group of simple houses, built in San Francisco, with some East Coast influences, were

constructed in a manner reflective of the urgency of the Gold Rush itself and of the local conditions and materials. For example the East Coast "salt box" design was constructed in San Francisco between 1850 and 1853, but by using heavy timbers that were floated in, assembled and mortised and tenoned together, quite a different interpretation developed than that of the smooth, tight East Coast "salt boxes" that we know. This



Side view of "salt box" style

was a clumsy building solution as well as a time consuming one, and so very few "salt boxes" were actually built. Then the Gold Rush was on and no one wanted to stay by and build houses. Meanwhile a great demand for all kinds of structures rapidly developed in San Francisco. Builders tried again to draw inspiration from the East Coast. To meet some of this demand, prefabricated structures were brought in from the East Coast, from England and Australia, and from China. These were structures reflecting their own country in design. They were made up at the source, disassembled there, shipped to San Francisco, and reassembled without nails. It is estimated that over 5000 of these were brought to San Francisco from 1849 to 1852. This prefab concept was further tested in San Francisco when a demand for East Coast formal "styles" surfaced. As a result pattern book designs of these "styles" were made up for San Francisco with modifications to meet West Coast wood construction methods. In this way the Eastern

influence was readily transported to San Francisco. However, it is doubtful if many prefabricated houses or houses from pattern books were built in Point Richmond. The tight economy of the working man's town kept the focus on the simple house, differentiating the houses of Point Richmond to the degree from many of those in San Francisco. Early, in Point Richmond, the more indigenous, simple, vernacular house dominated design.

Vernacular and indigenous are terms which describe, in this case, the simple house built as a basic shelter with the materials at hand in the easiest and most economical way possible to suit the worker's housing needs. Such basic housing becomes a domestic, native structure identifiable with the particular locality. It pays little attention to what is fashionable elsewhere but becomes a

conservative, functional extension of the people of that locale. Our discussion centers mainly around the types of indigenous houses built in the San Francisco Bay Area with examples from the mining area of the nearby Sierra foothills and from Monterey, with specific emphasis on Point Richmond. In Point Richmond in this case we see the "smokey row" houses, the West Coast "hip roof" cottages; and the small one story single gable houses. At another time we will discuss the foursquare, the homestead and the bungalow with its Post Victorian antecedent. We will also discuss the Italian and Princess Anne "styles", and the English cottage. These later styles are seen in Point Richmond in local interpretations different from East Coast and European traditions.

Next issue, Chapter IV The Simple House:
Point Richmond



"Smokey Row" house on Marine Street



Early Minutes of the Women's Westside Improvement Club

It's amazing what's in the WWIC minutes! They date back to July 1908 when the Club started. The ladies met weekly. In the first six months they set projects in motion that we enjoy to this day: a statue a Washington and Park Place, a large drinking fountain, a park next to the Baptist Church, and the establishment of a reading room where the city hall had been in Mr. Crichton's place. Even the names are historical. These minutes are a priceless treasure of Point Richmond's history.

-Linda Newton, President

July 21, 1908

The regular meeting of the Womens West Side Improvement Club met at Currys Hall.

The meeting was called to order by the President Mrs. Adams.

Roll call of Officers and Members resulted in all Officers being Present, except Mrs. Topping and about 4 (looks like 40 but must be 4) being absent.

Reading of Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Applications for Membership

The following names were enrolled as members

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Mrs. J.V. Laneouve | Mrs. James P. Arnold |
| Mrs. T.G Smith | Mrs. Martha Parks |
| Mrs. Mary R. Thomas | Miss Riddle |
| Mrs. C.L Abbott | Mrs. Chas. Hoover |
| Mrs. Lizzie Baker | Mrs. Clara Adams |
| Mrs. Lena Whiteside | Mrs. Katie Whiteside |
| Mrs. B. Badgeley | Mrs. McCafee |
| Mrs. Neil | Mrs. Geo. Riggs |
| Mrs. P. Leburgh | Mrs. Lucetta Wood |
| Mrs. I. Sickles | Mrs. T.T. Ceramer |
| Mrs. Sutherland | Mrs. Wm. Younglove |
| Mrs. Parks | Mrs. W.A. Walker |
| Mrs. Cord | Mrs. J.R. Coward |
| Mrs. M. Ceary | Mrs. S.G. Little |

Bills Presented

The Bill of the Daily Leader laid over from last meeting for Postals \$2.75

Report of Finance Committee

Reported favorable on the bill

It was moved and seconded that warrant be drawn to pay the bills. Carried

Report of Spec and Standing Committee

The second reading of the By Laws was moved and seconded; we change the name of Ladies to Womens to read Womens West Side Improvement Club. Carried

In article 5, Section 7 was inserted in the Bylaws the duties of the Finance Committee. It was moved and seconded that the Section be adopted and inserted in the Bylaws as read. Carried

Also in Order of Business, No. 7 inserted to read, The Report of Finance Committee. The Committee on Hospital reported seeing Mr. Nichol and getting the plans of the Hospital. Nothing can be done until we see the Lawyer. Whether we will accept the proposition.

The Hospital will be finished by June, 1909, they want to present it to the City and County through the Womens Westside Improvement Club. We were to act as directors and all honorary work to go through us and if we neglect our duty the property and all falls back to the heirs.

New Business

Mrs. Marsten suggested, in regard to having a dance in the near future

It was moved and seconded we give a dance in the near future and committees be appointed.

Carried

Committee for Hall and Music, Mrs. Runyou,
Mrs. McHenery, Mrs. Lucas
Committee for Advertising, Mrs. Janke, Mrs.
Cramer, Mrs. Hopkins
Moved and seconded that tickets be \$1.00 a
couple and 50 cents for an additional lady.
Carried
Good of Club
Mrs. Marsten suggested a free reading room.
Mrs. Whitecomb stated that she was talking to
Mr. Nichols in regard to land for a Library. He
asked what kind of a building would be erected if
he gave the land, she told him she could not tell.
It was moved and seconded a committee be
appointed to see Mr. Dim in regard to getting a
communication to Mr. Rockefeller and he bay do
something in regard to a Library. Carried
Committee appointed, Mrs. Coleman, Mrs.
Whitecomb, Mrs. Peard.
It was suggested to see if we could not fix small
park by the Baptist Church.
Also others were suggested
Moved by Mrs. McHenery, sec by Mrs. Hopkins
that discussion on Parks be postponed until next
meeting. Carried
Moved by Mrs. Dimick sec by Mrs. Curry we
adjourn until next Tuesday. Carried
Receipts
Mrs. JB. Lamour .50 fee
Mrs. J. P. Arnold .50 fee
Mrs. T.G. Smith .50 fee
Mrs. C.L. Abbott .50 fee

Mrs. Hoover 1.00 fee & dues
Mrs. L. Baker .50 fee
Mrs. Clara Adams .50 fee
Mrs. Lena Whiteside .50 fee
Mrs. Katie Whiteside .50 fee
Mrs. B. Badgeley .50 fee
Mrs. S.R. Curry .50 dues
Mrs. Stokes .50 dues
Mrs. J. Hendricks .75 dues
Mrs. Grover .75 dues
Mrs. Coward .50 fee
Mrs. McCafee
Mrs. Neil .50 fee
Mrs. Riggs .50 fee
Mrs. L. Wood .50 fee
Mrs. Church 1.00 fee & dues
Mrs. Troutfetter .50 dues
Mrs. Sickles 1.00 fee & dues
Mrs. T. Cramer 1.00 fee & dues
Mrs. C. Lucas .50 dues
Mrs. Sutherland .50 fee
Mrs. Butterfield .50 dues
Mrs. Younglove .50 fee
Mrs. Parks 1.00 fee and dues
Mrs. C. Cord .50 fee
Mrs. Janke .50 dues
Total for admission fee and dues \$19.00
Disbursements \$2.75
No further business appearing before the club the
meeting closed.
(signed) Ella Demick, Secty pro tem

*A Korean Tea is the theme for this year's Annual Tea Party
given by the United Methodist Women in the Historic Point
Church on Saturday, October 10th. There will be two seatings,
11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.*

Mid

Time Flies, Point Richmond in 1991

Excerpt from the book

“Undiscovered Islands of the U.S. and Canadian West Coast”

By Linda Lancione Moyer and Burl Willes

1991 but it seems like yesterday! Thanks to Burl for suggesting this little story. Burl gave us a copy the book to keep in our museum. It is interesting, come by and take a look.

Line Drawings are by Donna Roselius

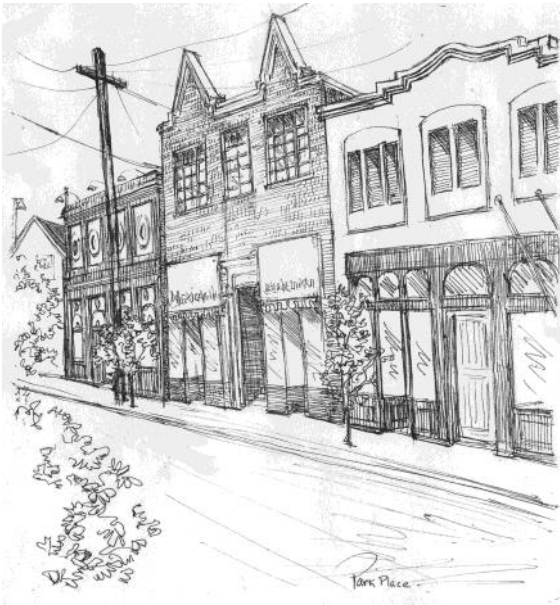
The hidden, historic community of Point Richmond, once an island itself, is only a short drive from the East Brother Island boat dock. Developer Jacob Tewksbury filled in the surrounding bay, and by 1904, the island became attached to what is now industrial Richmond.

Point Richmond remains an island in time. Early twentieth-century buildings have been beautifully restored around a central triangle where the new fire station, the library, a small history museum, and a colorful park are located. A walk around town only takes ten minutes, but don't rush. Stop and meet some of the locals and get a true sense of “life in the Point.” Start at the fire station, where Jon Skaglund has painted a

charmingly illustrated folk art street map at the corner of Park Place and West Richmond Avenue. Head north along Park Place. The old firehouse and the Baltic Restaurant (1910) are noteworthy buildings of decorated brick at 145 and 135 Park Place. The Baltic has an impressive “Old West” bar and a restful outdoor dining area. The Masquer's Theater (good local live productions) and Hidden City Café are a few steps farther along. Turn right on Washington Street and Edibles Catering at number 31. Across the street, the refurbished Hotel Mac (1908) is now a popular restaurant and bar.

Wave to octogenarian Hazel Ruby Carr, who sits regally in her ornately furnished red and gold real estate office at the corner of Cottage Street and Washington. That big red, classic Imperial parked nearby belongs to Hazel. When this raven-haired lady is behind the wheel slowly circling the town triangle, there's no doubt that she is one of the Point's grande dames. Then step back in time at Sherry and Bob's Department Store at Washington and West Richmond Avenue, formerly the Bank of Richmond. Owner Sherry Hartnyk has been selling her merchandise since 1947. She'll be happy to show you her pièces de résistance, sequined evening dresses, from among the overwhelming amount of merchandise for sale.

In the library, next to the Indian Statue and park, librarians Jo Bycraft and Jan Burdick will direct you to the latest issue of “This Point in Time,” a monthly newsletter of the Point Richmond History Association which includes local residents' birthdays, all the latest gossip and trivia, and listings of town events as well as old





photos and history. Next door is the history museum, housed in the town's oldest and smallest building, which was recently saved from the wrecking ball, hoisted on a dolly, and brought to this new site. Volunteer labor, old and young, continues to restore it inside and out. You'll have completed the tour when you've passed Lee's Flower Stand, the friendly Santa Fe Market, Ellie's Boarding House Reach Café, and Yoghurt and Espresso.

You can drive or walk up steep Washington Street, with its picturesque Victorian houses and churches. Linsley Hall (1904), the little brown shingle building on the left once a church, is now a private residence. The owners ren the carden and chapel for weddings. At the top of the hill (¼ mile), there is a fine view of Mount Tamalpais, Marin County, Angel Island, and all three bridges, Bay Bridge, Golden Gate and Richmond-San Rafael.

Follow Western Drive along the waterfront one-fourth mile to Keller's Beach. The cold bay

water doesn't seem to deter the hardy locals. Bill Kollar, for one, has been swimming here since 1920.

Back in the town side of the hill through a short tunnel, the enormous indoor Point Richmond Plunge (1926) is heated to a toasty 85 degrees. "My friend Kanny Keller and I were the first ones in the plunge on opening day," Bill Kollar tells us. "They used half seawater, half fresh then, and we stayed in the pool until closing time." To swim, bring your bath towel and \$1.75 for admission. There is no charge to walk along the upstairs observation gallery, from which you can see the pool in all its faded glory. A mural of the Taj Majal once covered the west wall, and when future restoration and seismic work are completed, the old mural will be replicated as closely as possible. Enjoy the plunge, but don't look for Bill: he's down at Keller's Beach, Looking tan and health 65 years later.

Can a town like this really exist just fifteen miles from San Francisco? It can and it does. Hazel Ruby Carr will be the first to tell you it beats life in the fast lane with Howard Huges.



Bill Kollar (deceased)



Lovely old home on Washington Avenue being restored. Kudos to the owner!

Birthdays

September

Donna Roselius
Marianne Takeda
Joan Gatten
Pam Dutrow Horn
Carol Kiehn
Marie Peckham
Ivar Elle
Daniel Butt
Don Diani
Emileigh Barnes

Greg Brougham
Frank Christopher
Linda Newton
Roberta Wilson
Ingvar Elle
Bonnie Jo Cullison
Simeon J. Burtner
Gayle Kaufman
John Hadreas
David Reynolds

John T. Knox
Jerry Cerkowicz, Jr.
Kenneth Dolan
Theresa Daniel
Jan Feagley
Lorin Buhler
Isobel Shaw
Audrey Lee Rentfro
Stephen Kowalski
Stephenie Kowalski

Gene Smith
Diane Frosini Diani
Margaret Morkowski
John Bailo
Alice Jordan
Michael Heckmann
Elisa DeLaTorre
Jackie Lizarraga
Sonja Gandola
Craig Healy

October

Terry Wynne
Frank Craig
Ingrid Lindemann
Kate Lord
Florence Wilson
Maria Shaw

Marguerite Clutts
Linda Pereira
Timothy Doherty
David Vincent
Jan BurdickJody Bagley
Jeff Ward

McKinley Bradshaw
Tim Montgomery
Brian Tedrick
Dean Smith
Rich Weirick
Marc Bisio

Chris Ward
Helen Frosini
Tony Peter Bernabic
Chad Feagley
Isabel 'Boo' Shaw

***You share your birthday
with about 9 million other people in the world!***

Mid

Memorials.....

Louise Eaton Genosick was born in Madera, CA on September 15, 1933 and passed away peacefully at her son's home in Oakley, CA on July 15, 2015. As a young girl she moved with her family to Richmond, CA. She had many jobs over her lifetime, including being a teacher's aide in the Richmond Unified School District. She enjoyed kids, cats, reading, crossword puzzles and helping others. Louise was preceded in death by her sister Ruth and two of her four sons, Roger and Michael. She is survived by her brother Kenneth Eaton, her other two sons, William, Robert and his wife Michelle, and her daughter-in-law Ellen. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Michael, Tommy, Aaron, Jesse, Nick and Jennifer. She also leaves behind great and great great grandchildren.

Fred Beesley, age 96, died May 22, 2015. The fourth of ten children, he grew up in Point Richmond, attended Washington School, graduated from Richmond High School, served in the US Navy during World War II and was a 30 year employee of Pacific Telephone Company. Fred was a long time loyal member of the Point Richmond History Association and attended out "Kids" reunions. He is survived by his daughter Diana Bailey, grandchildren Christine Hansen, Lynn Hester, Michael Christenson, two great grandchildren. Also sisters Beatrice Casey and June Solosabal, and brother Richard Beesley. He was preceded in death by his wife Dorothy, his daughter Judy Christensen, his parents and six siblings. Memorial services were held at on June 27, at St. Joseph's Cemetery on Church Lane in San Pablo.

Louise Genosick, age 81, died July 15, 2015 in her son's home in Oakley. Her family moved to Point Richmond when she was a young girl. She was as a teacher's aide at Washington Elementary School for a number of years where she also served in a numerous capacities in the school's PTA. Louise was preceded in death by her sister Ruth and her sons Roger and Michael. She is survived by sons William and Robert, her brother Kenneth Eaton, six grandchildren as well as great and great-great grandchildren.

FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL HOUSE SITE

(Taken from the files of the Richmond Daily Record, under the date October 24, 1902.)

It said that Mrs. Emily Tewksbury, who donated the present school house site to the district, will resist any attempt of the board of trustees to dispose of the property. This probably settles the matter for good and all, but the just the same it is not a fit place for a school house and anything Mrs. Tewksbury may say or do does not make it such. It is understood that the lady's reason for holding the public school at this point is that it breaks the line of salons along Tewksbury avenue—a state of affairs much to be desired. Under the statutes a saloon is not permitted to exist within 500 feet of a public school and if the present site is retained the avenue will be cleared for a least one thousand feet in each direction.

Mid

EXCLUSIVE OVER 90 CLUB

Our oldest known birthday

Lupe Padilla Lopez - 101

Delphina Franco Tawney - 97

Billie Bonham Shaw - 92

Elfriede Morris - 95

Martha Bielawski - 92

Shoney Gustafson - 97

Grace Cerkowicz - 92

Beatrice Beesley Casey - 97

Madelilne Bellando Albright - 97

Mid Dornan - 93

Charlotte Kermabon Birsinger - 96

Viola Lala Kennedy - 97

Lee Christian - 93

Jean Stark - 99

Mark Gebhart - 98

Mary Highfill - 91

Muriel Clausen - 90

Tom Kenny - 90

June Beesley Sosabal - 91

Helen Wysham - 90

Jim Wilson - 90

Ann Bartram - 90

Age is not a number, it is an attitude.

**Please send corrections and additions to
“Over 90 Club” to middornan@gmail.com
or call 510-234-5334.**

**Thank you to those who update these numbers.
It would be nice for us to know the month as well.**



Answers to Nursery Rhymes from Page 25

1. Georgie Porgie.
2. The Black Sheep
3. Curds and Whey
4. At noon.
5. He was thrown down the stairs
6. A little boy.
7. A silver nutmeg and a golden pear.
8. Pussy Cast.
9. Kitty Fisher
10. The Muffin Man.

Mid

CALENDAR/DIRECTORY

ARTS OF POINT RICHMOND

Art is for everyone, the artist, the viewer, the Point is art. Meets at 139 Washington Avenue. Contact: Irene Hightower, irene1328@comcast.net More info: <http://www.artsofpointrichmond.com/index.html>

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE READING ROOM

114 Washington Avenue, Point Richmond, 510-223-0487

GOLDEN STATE MODEL RAILROAD MUSEUM AND EAST BAY MODEL ENGINEERS SOCIETY

900 Dornan Drive, Miller/Knox Regional Park. Sunday 12:00 to 5:00. Special openings on Saturdays and Holidays. 510-234-4884 for details.

MANY HANDS PROJECT TO SUPPORT WASHINGTON SCHOOL

Contact, Margaret Morkowski, 510-234-4219

MASQUERS PLAYHOUSE

Quality productions, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm, Sunday Matinees at 2 pm. Tickets are \$22. Call 510-232-4031 for information or reservations or visit MASQUERS.ORG

PARENTS, RESOURCES AND MORE (PRAM)

A volunteer, nonprofit organization serving families with children 5 or under. Playgroups, social events, educational opportunities, Information go to <http://www.PRAM.net> or call 510-215-1734.

PARENT, TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Joanna Mina, Contact, 510-235-0157

POINT RICHMOND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Contact: Andrew Butt, 510-236-7445

POINT RICHMOND COMMUNITY CENTER

Info: 620-6905

POINT RICHMOND HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Museum is at 139½ Washington Avenue, and open Thursday's 11:30 to 2:00 and Saturday 11:30 to 2:00. The deadline for the next issue of TPIT is Friday November 6, 2015. Info call President Mildred Dornan at 510-234-5334.

POINT RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Meets last Wednesday each month, Point Richmond Community Center; 7:30 P.M Contact: Margaret Jordon at 412-3673

POINT RICHMOND/WEST SIDE BRANCH LIBRARY

Information call 510-620-6567

RED OAK VICTORY SHIP

Open Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday, 10am to 3 pm. \$10 Donation/Boarding fee.

Pancake Breakfasts one Sunday a month, April - June, August - October, \$9/adults, \$5/kids under 8 years,.

For more information call the ship at 510-237-2933 or the Richmond Museum of History at 510-235-7387 or visit www.richmondmuseum.org

RICHMOND SWIMS

The Children and teens "Sail Fish" and Masters swim teams at the Richmond Plunge. Contact: Coach John Schonder, 510-504-0330 - September 25, 2011 open water bay swim raises money for coaching, equipment, pool fees and swimming scholarships for inner-city youth throughout Richmond. More info at <http://www.richmondswims.org/> or call (415) 892-0771

ROSIE THE RIVETER NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK VISITOR CENTER

1414 Harbour Way South, Oil House next to Ford Craneway

Tuesday and Saturday Betty Soskins talks about Richmond and being Black in a segregated town

Thursdays @ 2:00 Flora Oishi talks about being Japanese and internment

Fridays 10 - 2 Richmond Rosies are in the classroom to chat

The tours are once a month and reservations are required. GREAT movies all day

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 (established 1908)

Richmond's longest standing women's club. Contact: Linda Newton, President. (510) 235-0081

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E Mail: _____

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 |

Membership in the Point Richmond History Association includes a one year subscription to "THIS POINT...in time" newsletter (five issues). Please make your check payable to the Point Richmond History Association and mail it to:

Pam Wilson
521 Western Drive
Point Richmond, CA 94801

If you would like to have birthdays noted in the newsletter, please include names and 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

email: garyshows@gmail.com

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

139 ½ Washington Avenue
Point Richmond, CA 94801

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Bonnie Jo Cullison, Museum Manager/Staff Coordinator

Main Contributors to this Issue:

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Gary Shows | Editor/Uncredited Photos |
| Mid Dornan | Various Articles and Information |
| Don Church/Allan Smith | Historic Photos |
| Jerry Cerkanowicz | Proof/Information |
| Pam Wilson | Membership Info |
| Jean Reynolds | Article |
| Dee Rosier | Article |
| Donna Roselius | Line Drawings/article |
| Linda Newton | Article |
| Muriel C. Clausen | Article |
| Pat Dornan | Article |
| Heinz Lankford | Article |
| National Park Service | Information |

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Visit our website

PointRichmondHistory.org

Join our Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/prhafan/>

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

The Point Richmond History Association is registered with the IRS as a 501 (c) (3) organization. Contributions to the PRHA are deductible under section 170 of the code.

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