

THE MIRROR

The Richmond Museum Association Newsletter

Summer -- 2011

EXHIBIT CELEBRATES “RICHMOND DAY” AT THE PANAMA-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION -- AUGUST 7, 1915

by Matt Walker

On the morning of August 7, 1915, thousands of Richmond residents boarded the San Francisco ferries on their way to the Panama-Pacific International Exposition (PPIE). They were headed to “Richmond Day,” the grandiose Exposition’s celebration of Richmond’s 10th anniversary of incorporation.

San Francisco’s Panama-Pacific International Exposition was the 1915 World’s Fair held from February 20 to December 4. Although the event was officially dedicated to the recent completion of the Panama Canal, it was much more than an extravagant celebration of the industrial marvel; it was a demonstration of

San Francisco’s remarkable reemergence after the devastating 1906 earthquake. Held on a 635-acre plot on San Francisco’s northern shore, the Exposition transformed what was once a swampy, muddy area into a booming, architectural metropolis. After the official groundbreaking by President Taft on October 14, 1911, the enormous exhibit took more than three years to complete before it opened in early February 1915. By the time of its completion, the extravagant fair was home to hundreds of buildings representing most of the 48 states and nearly all of the world’s major countries. In addition, roughly 1,500 murals and sculptures were created for the event. To demonstrate the diversity of the United States, nearly every day that the fair was open was dedicated to a different theme.

In preparation for “Richmond Day” in 1915, the City of Richmond held numerous meetings to discuss how the city should present itself. In the end, to announce the birthday of a young community, the city decided to present itself through its youth. They ferried nearly 2,000 children to showcase the booming city of Richmond, which, according to D.J. Hall, Richmond’s principal speaker at the event, had grown from a minuscule farming com-

munity of 2,000 in 1905 to an industrial city of 22,000 in 1915. As part of the morning festivities organized by the city, the Richmond residents who made their way to the Exposition paraded through the festival grounds and into the Pennsylvania building where they paid homage to the Liberty Bell, which had been moved from its home in Philadelphia to represent Pennsylvania

at the fair. A group of eleven young boys carried banners demonstrating the city’s extraordinary growth through figures illustrating, year-by-year, a decade of development. Later that evening, Richmond residents who decided to stick around for the entirety of the festivities were hon-



ored at a ball held in the California building.

The day was extremely important to the city, so they wanted to have their best representing them at their grand day at the Exposition. Mayor E.J. Garrard was Richmond’s most notable attendee. PPIE Commissioner W.D. Engilbert presented Mayor Garrard with a bronze medal for the hard work of the Richmond Industrial Commission, whose tremendous efforts made Richmond Day possible. Senator J.C. Owens, a former councilman and mayor of Richmond who was largely responsible for developing Richmond’s harbor, was also in attendance. John Nicholl, for whom Nicholl Park is named and whose property city hall was built on until it moved to its current location in 1949, gave a speech to Richmond’s youth who made their way to the fair.

By the end of the festive day at the PPIE, Richmond had demonstrated to the world that it was not only a neighbor to San Francisco, but a rapidly-growing industrial center. The day was a tremendous success, bringing one of the largest crowds of any city which had a special day dedicated to it. In total, an estimated

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RED OAK VICTORY GOES TO DRY DOCK

HOW YOU CAN HELP

You already know the great news that the National Park Service (NPS) awarded a \$700,000 *Save America's Treasures* grant to the Richmond Museum Association to enable us to send the *Red Oak Victory* to dry dock.

DRY DOCK

Late summer, early fall, has been set aside for the Ship's trip to dry dock. The actual date will depend upon the availability of the yard chosen. Preparations are underway, with the crew doing as much as possible to minimize expense. Also, some work will be farmed-out locally for the same reason. At the last minute, all shore connections must be de-activated, tow and pilot services arranged, and final securing of deck equipment completed.

This is a matching grant so we need your help, and there are several ways you can participate:

REWARDS FOR RED OAK DRY DOCK DONATIONS

Premiums for specific donations to the *Red Oak Victory* dry dock fund are now available, ranging from a scale model of the clipper ship *Sea Witch* to paintings by the Ship's Purser and ship photographs by local artist/photographer Kathleen Glenn.

The model, built in 1971 by purser Tom Bottomley, was given to the Ship for fund-raising purposes by the estate of the late Phyllis B. Partridge of Point Richmond. A new acrylic case has been made for it, and it is offered for a \$5,000 donation. Bottomley's paintings, mostly landscapes, are offered in 11" x 14" and 8" x 10" formats, all framed, with \$100 donations required for the larger, and \$75 donations for the smaller ones. There are also framed 5" x 7" watercolor sketches for \$5 each. The donor has the choice of any painting in the size range. All are on display in the #4 hold of the Ship.

Fully-framed photographs by Kathleen Glenn, owner of The Glenn framing shop in El Cerrito, are offered for \$25 donations, and matted photographs suitable for display are offered for \$15 donations. All were exhibited at the 2010 El Cerrito Art Show in October.

Annual raffles for the last three years have featured ship models provided by Tom Bottomley, and for this year he has donated a cased model of the schooner yacht *America*. This is the boat that defeated the entire Royal Yacht Squadron in a race around the Isle of Wight in 1951, winning the cup that now bears its name. At least 15 yachts are already expected to be in competition to challenge Larry Ellison's *Oracle* in 2013 when the America's Cup races will be held in San Francisco Bay.

GRANT MATCHING FUNDS

In addition to funds being made available by the Richmond

Museum Association, a fundraising drive will begin with a big push on Veterans Day. Michelle Obama, who wrote the preamble to the legislation that established the grants for restoration of historic treasures, has been invited to give the keynote speech at the annual Veterans Day celebration scheduled in the Richmond Memorial Auditorium on 11/11/11 to kick-off the drive.

SAILING CERTIFICATES

Sailing Certificates are still available: \$20 each, six certificates required for the first trip -- a savings of \$30 off the cost of the first sailing of the *Red Oak*.

CURRENT FUND PROJECTS

A shipboard contribution jar located in the Gift Shop and a plastic jug in the Ship's crew mess room are steadily being filled with change. Individual donations are coming through the mail.

Mail your donations to P.O. Box 1267, Richmond, 94802, attn: DRY DOCK FUND.

SHIP VOLUNTEERISM WORTH \$4 MILLION

Since the beginning of the restoration of the *Red Oak Victory Ship*, volunteers have logged nearly 202,000 hours estimated in 2011 dollars to be worth an impressive \$4,083,675. A number of these volunteers have been recognized in conjunction with the annual President's Volunteer Service Awards for varying levels of service.

This year 42 volunteers received certificates and pins for their dedicated efforts. Ray Sitton, the Ship's Restoration Coordinator, won the highest award for his 5,140 hours of work since 2002, the *President's Call to Service Award*. This award requires at least 2 years of service at 40 hours a week for 50 weeks. Clearly, Ray outdid himself and everyone else.

Other award recipients with more than 500 hours were recognized as "Gold Winners": Richard Arnold, Dick Bezman, Lou Berg, George Coles, Ed Collins, Dee Davison, Charlie Miglia, Dick Nolan, Dave Penn, Lorraine Regier, Jerry Souza and Cliff Warren.

Over a period of 12 years, 441 volunteers have dedicated labor and time in the effort of restoring the *Red Oak Victory*. They have brought skills and unwavering commitment to this work.

JOE FISCHER: RMA DIRECTOR, ARTIST, PROFESSOR, AUTHOR

by Lois Boyle, President

Joe Fischer, a member of the Museum's Board of Directors, is a former UC Berkeley professor, art curator, veteran of World War II, author of five books on Indonesian art and culture, author of *Children's Art*, *Children's Words*, and now the winner of the prestigious Historic Preservation Award from the City of Richmond's Historic Preservation Commission.

When Joe Fischer learned about the rich collection of children's art from the Richmond Kaiser Shipyards child care centers being preserved at the museum, he was intrigued, and it became clear that the collection was destined to become the subject of his next book. Its purpose was to document and affirm the great value and distinctiveness of children's art, with a focus not on art theory, but rather on the paintings of individual children, their comments and those of their teachers, and the environment in which this took place. The book is an important resource for the study of the Home Front, and the social and diverse history of Richmond.

And, directly important to the museum and the collection itself, Joe began immediately to engage in the conservation of the collection, spending untold hours at the museum giving this collection his care: counting and sorting and applying professional preservation techniques to the items. The collection consists of some 4,000 paintings, 800 cut-and-paste pictures, 285 drawings and some linoleum block prints. In addition, there are numerous educational materials, documents, photographs and comments by teachers and pupils.

It is an honor to count Joe Fischer as a friend, as well as colleague, as we share the role of directors leading the museum with others through the various and sundry projects of this organization.

BOOK SALE - CALL FOR USED BOOKS

The Museum held a used book sale on board the *Red Oak Victory Ship* in conjunction with the Home Front Festival activities in October. The sale was a success and we still have books, so we have decided to continue the sale on an ongoing basis. To that end, we invite anyone who has used books to donate them to the Museum for the book sale.

If you want to donate, please take your books to the Richmond Museum of History at 4th St. and Nevin Ave. -- not to the Ship. All used books are now on display and available for purchase in Hold #4 on board the *Red Oak*.

CELEBRATE THE 4TH ON THE 3RD -- ON THE *RED OAK VICTORY*

The annual celebration of Independence Day will be on board the *Red Oak Victory Ship* on Sunday, July 3rd, with a barbecue, karaoke, a classic movie and, of course, fireworks.

Boarding begins at 6:00 p.m. and the barbecue is at 7:00. The fireworks start at dusk, usually between 9:00 and 9:30, and meantime there are people to visit, karaoke to sing and a movie in the #3 Hold at 7:30.

The cost is \$25/person and includes a beverage.

Make your reservation by July 1 by mailing a check payable to RMA with your name, address and number in your party to Richmond Museum Association, 608 40th Street, Richmond, CA 94805. Tickets will be held at the door.

WW II HOME FRONT FILM FESTIVAL

The National Park Service presents classic films of the World War II era onboard the historic *Red Oak Victory Ship* on Thursdays in June, July and August.

Boarding begins at 6:30 p.m. and the movies show at 7:00. The movies are free, but there is a \$5 donation to board the Ship. Popcorn and refreshments are available, and each movie will be introduced by a Ranger from the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park.

The movies are:

June 30 -- Foreign Correspondent (Joel McCrea)

July 14 -- The Great Dictator (Charlie Chaplin)

July 28 -- Destination Tokyo (Cary Grant, John Garfield)

August 11 -- Uncertain Glory (Errol Flynn, Paul Lukas)

August 25 -- To Have and Have Not (Bogart/Bacall)

PANCAKE BREAKFASTS AND MORE FOR SUMMER

The *SS Red Oak Victory* will sponsor several activities during the summer months, although preliminary plans are underway for the Ship's dry-dock restoration sometime in July.

The very popular Sunday Pancake Breakfasts will be held on Father's Day, June 19th, and August 14th. Breakfast includes fresh coffee, orange juice, sausage, bacon, eggs and fluffy pancakes — all for just \$6 per person.

Children under five are free and reservations are not required. The Pancake Breakfasts on the *Red Oak* are a wonderful place to meet friends, take visitors or just get a relaxing start on a Sunday. They start at 9 a.m. and go until 12:30 p.m.

Also on the ship -- the ongoing Book Sale and a new Junque Sale, and don't forget the *Red Oak* Museum and the Gift Shop.



Photo by Ellen Gailing

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

All ages, all walks of life, these stars of the *Red Oak Victory* have come together in a common cause to restore the Ship, creating a lasting memorial to the men and women who worked in the shipyards and in all the wartime industries, and a memorial to all the people of this country who believe in democracy, fair play, freedom and human dignity.

— *Lois Boyle*



SPRING CELEBRATIONS

by Clare Fischer

The Richmond Museum of History sponsored or participated in three events dedicated to the appreciation of men and women whose work has contributed to the vitality of the city.

Celebrating the volunteers of the *SS Red Oak Victory* and the Richmond Museum of History, a festive dinner was given on board on Saturday, April 23rd. A few days later (April 27th), a luncheon was held marking Professional Assistant's Day (formerly National Secretary's Day) at the Museum. The third gathering, at Richmond's City Hall on May 9th, celebrated the annual Historic Preservation Awards. Among the recipients of this year's awards was Joseph Fischer, a member of the Museum's Board of Directors and the author of the Museum's publication *Children's Art, Children's Words*.

The Museum hosted a luncheon honoring the work of the city's secretaries for many years. This year 35 guests enjoyed a light meal of chicken salad and good conversation. Among the invitees were Mayor McLaughlin and her assistant, staff from George Miller's office and guests from the Richmond Mainstreet Program and National Park Service. Board members Jeff Wright and John Ziesenhenné were accompanied by staff from their respective offices. A highpoint was the appearance of the "Phantom of the Basement," Robert Amacker., dressed in appropriate attire, who entertained the luncheon group with a fine rendering of the theme song from *The Phantom of the Opera*.

The guests were led by the Museum's "phantom" to the basement and enjoyed explanations of the storage and work areas not generally accessible to Museum viewers. Staff members Inna Soiguine and Matt Walker offered brief commentary about the main storage area and the textile collection. Board member Joe Fischer discussed preserving and storing methods associated with the World War II children's art. There was general agreement that the luncheon program was fun-filled and informative.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Want adventure on the high seas without actually sailing anywhere? Want a job with great hours, no pay, good company and lots of fresh air?

Try sharing your talents with the volunteers on the *Red Oak* as a weekend docent or as a greeter. No experience necessary, standing in line at a union hall not required, and training provided.

Intrigued? Call the Ship at (510) 237-2933. You'll get a vest, a badge, a flashlight, a whistle and a laser pointer! You'll love it. Call today!

USO ON THE *RED OAK*

On Friday evenings in May, the sounds of Glenn Miller and Kay Keyser emanated up the ladders from the #4 hold as dancers enjoyed swing dancing and lessons from instructor Alexis Gable. Most of the guests were in 1940's attire and one in his fancy zoot suit. The concession stand was open, the DJ was John Lytle and singers entertained the guests.



Debra entertains at the USO

The *United Service Organizations Inc. (USO)* is a private, nonprofit organization that provides morale and recreational services to members of the military and currently has over 160 locations worldwide. It was founded in 1941 in response to World War II needs. Centers were quickly established in churches, barns, railroad cars, museums, castles, beach clubs and even log cabins! Most centers offered recre-

ational activities and dances, with many showing movies. Some provided a haven for spending a quiet moment alone or writing letters home, while others offered spiritual guidance and childcare. At its high point in 1944, the USO had more than 3,000 clubs. And now, throughout the United States, civic organizations host mock USO dances for fundraising and to revive historical memories.

PPIE CONTINUED FROM P. 1

3,000 Richmond residents made the journey to San Francisco to take part in the "Richmond Day" festivities at the PPIE. Although the city was just 10 years young, it saw a bright future ahead.

The Richmond Museum of History will open its new exhibit, *Richmond Day at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, San Francisco, 1915*, on August 7, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. The reception will be a great event, with Richmond Mayor Gayle McLaughlin to open the program and other important members of our community in attendance. Music will be provided by students from the East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, and the LMP Trio will perform.

Please join us at the Museum for the opening of the exhibit! The exhibit will run from August 7 to October 1, 2011.

On display will be the bronze medal given to the Richmond Industrial Commission by the commissioner of the Exposition, dozens of photographs of the fair, souvenirs brought back by Richmond residents, postcards purchased at the fair, and many other interesting artifacts that help tell the story of "Richmond Day" at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, San Francisco, August 7, 1915.

A SAILOR ON THE *RED OAK*

by Joseph Fischer

World War II and the Home Front in Richmond touched many lives. Memories of the past and coincidences of the present are part of the numerous human-interest stories. This is just one of them. It involves two daughters, a sailor, a ship and a museum.

Herbert Allen Perry served as a Machinist Mate First Class on the *Red Oak Victory Ship* from December 5, 1944, to November 27, 1945. He had two daughters, Phyllis and Patricia, who share with us remembrances of their past and their father.



Phyllis Doering is presently a member of the Museum board; her sister, Patricia King, lives in Bakersfield. They recall visiting the machine shop on the *Red Oak* with its tools precisely hung on the wall. It stirred memories of their father's workshop at home while they were growing up. Herbert Perry "could make or fix anything, especially if it involved ... metal or rope." He created in his back yard, with monkey bars and swings, a great playground for his daughters and neighborhood children. He built an elaborate hutch for his daughters' pet rabbit. He co-invented a pressure valve that is still used in oilfield pumps. He was an ardent pleasure-boat sailor and loved to go fishing with his family. He built bird houses for family and friends. It appears that perhaps most of all he favored "tinkering" in his garage workshop.

Herbert Perry was recalled to active duty in July 1950 and served in the Korean War on the *U.S.S. Sitkoh Bay*. He was discharged from the Navy, having earned a Good Conduct Medal and a WWII Victory Medal. He passed away in 1993. Phyllis writes that "he was a man who, had he been born in a different time ...and had been well educated, could have done anything he wanted." His two daughters wish their father could be with them today and watch the restoration and rebirth of the *Red Oak Victory*. They think he would be proud of their involvement with the ship and even feel his presence on it. Phyllis remembers the first day she visited the ship seeing "two black crows sitting on some rigging." She immediately recalled that as a child, she and her dad put together a puzzle called "Heckle and Jeckle" (two cartoon-character black crows). Perhaps this was no coincidence.

In a poignant way, a daughter and her father were reunited after many years on "their" long-moored ship that is about to sail again.

(I am grateful to Patricia King and especially to Phyllis Doering for all the information they provided for this article.)



BECOME A MEMBER OF THE RICHMOND MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

Privileges:

- ◆ Reduced admission to events
- ◆ Discounts on services, books, and gift items
- ◆ Quarterly newsletter, "*The MIRROR*"
- ◆ Advance notice of tours and events
- ◆ Free entrance to Museum and Ship

Yes, I want to become a member

Enclosed is my check for

\$ _____ (payable to RMA)

Categories of Membership

| | |
|--------|----------------------|
| \$25 | Senior/Student |
| \$35 | Individual |
| \$50 | Family/Organization |
| \$65 | Contributing |
| \$100 | Sustaining |
| \$500 | Patron |
| \$1000 | Benefactor/Corporate |

___ **New** ___ **Renew** ___ **Gift**

___ **I Would like to volunteer**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

___ **I would like my newsletter sent by e-mail**

(saves money & trees).

Mail to:

**Richmond Museum of History
PO Box 1267
Richmond, CA 94802**

RECENT DONATIONS

Tom Mathis 03.23.11

2 bricks from Richmond High School

Rosemary Corbin 03.25.11

Collection of glasses from Contra Costa cities from her travels as Mayor

Fans, including some from sister cities Shimada, Japan and Zhoushan, China

Christini Istine 04.07.11

Certificate signed by Jimmy Carter to Jimmy P. Southwork (Richmond resident)

2 employee badges from Willamette Iron and Steel Company, 1311 Canal Blvd., 1960 - 1979

Robert Perricone 04.10.11

CD with 240 photos of Japanese Nurseries in Richmond

Richard Chivers 04.15.11

Kaiser Shipyard Launching Program "SS Carleton Victory," March 17, 1945

Donna Reid 04.16.11

Community Heritage Festival (notice, information, tapes)

Anonymous 04.22.11

Masonic Master's Chair from Point Richmond Lodge in old City Hall Bldg.

Richard Mota 05.07.11

2 photos of A. Mota Grocery in 1928. Store was at 460 B Street, 1923 - 1943, Richmond

Donna Johnson (granddaughter of Otis McCoon) 05.08.11

Copy of colored drawing of Kaiser Shipyard #3, c.1943 (McCoon was Superintendent of Shipyard #2 and later Shipyard #3)

Steve Gilford 05.11.11

Shipyard Terms

"The Ingot" August 1967, "In Memoriam Henry Kaiser 1882-1967"

Photo of City of Red Oak

Lori Dobbs 05.12.11

Yearbooks of Richmond Union High School (Jan. 1946, June 1946, Feb. 1947, June 1947, Feb. 1949)

Penelope H. Foster 05.19.11

Chief Petty Officer dress

Christine Dean 05.24.11

Richmond Hospital Vase

Dr. Snodgrass (long-time Superintendent of Schools)

Bluebooks from UC Berkeley

Dedication Program for Ford Plant, August 1, 1931

City Auditor's Report, June 30, 1931

Chevron uniform, c.1950

Richmond Auditorium Binder

ITEMS NOT ON DISPLAY

by Lynn Maack



This item came to my attention after Museum basement cleanup. I understand it was recently added to the Main Gallery display, but it is inconspicuous, and it piqued my interest enough to bring it up close because it is just strange.

At first it looks like a whiskey bottle nearly full of whiskey, but there is no whiskey label. However, there is a bright red label warning "POISON." Above that on the bottle shoulder is a brown, hand-cut paper label with some details about the contents: "Bottled Sept. 5, 1938 Richmond, California J.M. Bareilles."

The Museum accession record explains that inside the bottle is a large cucumber that was grown in the bottle. The bottle was subsequently filled with an unspecified liquid, perhaps alcohol or formaldehyde, preserving the cucumber for eternity. Was this an experiment? We may never know. Who is J.M. Bareilles? Richmond City Directories list a John M. Bareilles in Richmond from 1929 to 1953, most of that time in the 500 block of Barrett Ave. He and family members worked at Richmond Steam Laundry on Ripley Ave. during that time.



The one-quart bottle rests horizontally in a wooden cradle made for the purpose. You cannot see the cucumber in the picture because of the darkness of the liquid, but it takes up about half the space in the bottle or more. Donated by Mrs. Frances Michel in 1975.

SEA CHARTS FOR SALE

More than 2,000 sea charts of country coastlines and islands from all over the world are available for sale at \$5.00 each on the *Red Oak Victory*. For information, contact the *Red Oak* Gift Shop at (510) 237-2933.

Richmond Museum Association, Inc.

Museum open Wed-Sun, 1-4 p.m.
400 Nevin Ave., P.O. Box 1267
Richmond CA 94802
(510) 235-7387

Richmondmuseumofhistory.org

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The Richmond Museum of History is a 501 (C) 3 non-profit educational organization. Gifts and donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



Admission:

Members: Free
Seniors/Students: \$1.00
General: \$2.00
Children: Free w/adult

Richmond Museum Assoc., Inc.
P.O. Box 1267
Richmond, CA 94802

HELP RAISE THE ANCHOR!

CERTIFICATES OF INVESTMENT

We have launched a *Red Oak Drydock Campaign*. Savings Certificates, redeemable for passage on the Ship's first cruise after dry dock, are now being sold at \$20 each. The first cruise requires six (6) certificates, which will have an appreciated value of \$150 -- the cost of the first cruise. Certificates must be purchased by December 10, 2011, and are available in the Ship's Gift Shop, or by calling the Ship's office at (510) 237-2933.



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The Museum is open Wednesday thru Sunday, 1-4 p.m.
Call (510) 235-7387 for information and tour appointments.
Visit us online at: **RICHMONDMUSEUMOFHISTORY.ORG**

DATED MATERIAL -- PLEASE EXPEDITE DELIVERY

Return Service Requested