

# The GREEN

# LIGHT

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## BULLETIN of the POINT ASSOCIATION

NEWPORT

AUGUST 1959

RHODE ISLAND

THE QUARTERLY MEETING of the general membership took place on the evening of July 23 in St. John's Guild Hall, with the President, Edwin H. Brownell, in the chair.

After the reading of the minutes by Mrs. H.E. Watson, Recording Sec'y, the Treasurer, R.S. Weiss, reported a balance on hand of \$2117.77, including \$1911.69 in the savings account.

The Corr. Sec'y, Miss Marion Galvin, read the Association's letter to Radm. Henry Crommelin, asking relief from the Goat Island smoke nuisance, and the Admiral's cooperative reply, restating the information that a change from soft coal to oil within a year should improve the condition.

Mr. Brownell and Miss Price reported on the present status of the sea wall, where work is at a standstill, and on the roadbed from Cypress to Sycamore, which has been left in very poor condition after the sewer job.

Mrs. Weiss gave a report on the May clean-up, and Mrs. G.D. Weaver, jr. moved that the clean-up, as voted at the last meeting, should be a continuing program.

Mrs. I.I. Lulkin reported the trash-can at the corner of Van Zandt and Second as missing, and Dr. Nemptzow moved that the Executive Board look into any question of missing cans and see that they are replaced. (Ed: This can has been replaced.)

On the street repair program as outlined by the City under the bond issue, it was noted that Poplar and Bridge have not been named, though both these approaches to the Point are in dire need of repair, especially near the track. Mr. Arthur Lewis spoke of the Walnut St. sidewalk, about to cave in.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Beautification: Mr. Fullerton outlined the program for the gardens, bake sale and tea, planned for Saturday, August 8. It was voted to allocate \$25 to Mrs. R.R. Covell, tea chairman, for expenses.

Protection: Dr. David Nemptzow told of the red tape involved in the acquisition by Mr & Mrs Ernest Green of the property at 53 Poplar, but stated that they now own the place, which adjoins their own property, that the house is being torn down and that grass and flowers will improve the area. This statement was greeted with applause. Dr. Nemptzow also reported that several conditions complained of are being rectified, and that six new complaints have been received.

Tree: Mr. John L. Murphy stated that he had made a survey of the trees; that 15 trees destroyed will be replaced, and that the PWD is ready to help at fall planting time.

Membership: Mr & Mrs S. Jos. Weaver reported plans for a one-day membership drive on Aug. 5, with a house-to-house canvass. Sample copies of THE GREEN LIGHT will be distributed and renewals of old memberships will be solicited.

Bulletin: Miss Price noted that she had been editor for exactly a year, and that in this period the bulletin had grown to 5 pages and increased its circulation and advertising. She stressed the fact that despite rigid economy it still takes a disproportionate amount of every membership dollar to bring out THE GREEN LIGHT, and explained the necessity of the small moneymaking

projects for its benefit. She mentioned the interest shown by out-of-town subscribers, libraries, etc. and also expressed a hope that Pointers would contribute articles or reminiscences for the Point of Interest page.

Statistics for the year:  
12,000 sheets of paper, 52 stencils.  
1500 copies mailed, 1200 delivered by hand. 500 invitations and 2000 return-address pages printed by the Editor.

Mr. Brownell heartily commended the civic-minded anonymous benefactors who daily tidy up Battery Park. (Ed: We have heard several comments from strangers on the beautiful cleanliness of the Park.)

**SPEAKER:**

Mr Robert Kerr II explained that Mr. Walter deSales Harris, slated to speak, had been called away unexpectedly at the last moment, and introduced Mr Thomas Bosworth, resident planner from the firm of Tunnard & Harris.

Mr. Bosworth presented a general picture of the problems inherent in preservation, and brought out the practical, sociological, historical and architectural values of buildings as significant factors. He referred to Williamsburg as "a page of history torn out with no context" and stressed the much greater value of Newport because of its continuity.

At the close of the meeting, refreshments were served under the direction of Mrs. E.H. Brownell.

**MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:** Mr & Mrs S. Joseph Weaver launched their well-planned drive on August 5. Previous to this date, Mr Weaver and Dr Nemptzow had a half hour on The Open Forum of the Air, courtesy of WADK, and splendid publicity for The Point Association was given. Posters and membership blanks were placed in neighborhood stores, and a blank was printed in The Daily News.

On the evening of Aug. 5, despite a drizzling rain, the following workers performed a notable canvass:

MESDAMES Geo.D. Weaver, jr, Wm. Fitzpatrick, Wm. F. Kitts, Fred Reeve, August Marks, Ernest Green, John L. Murphy, David Nemptzow, Ivy O'Neill, Alfred Anderson, Francis Goldie, Patrick Reilly, Francis Carr, jr., R.S. Weiss, Ruth Trojan, I.I. Lulkin, Kenneth Stein, Jos. Schmelzer, Wm. Coffey, Nathaniel Addison, Walter Blacklock. The MISSES Doris Bacheller, Marianne and Jane MacLeod, Marion Galvin, Nora Shea, Genevieve Harrington, Ann Hagerty, Ethel Kitts, Patricia Reeve, Kathy Murphy and Peggy Green. Also the MESSRS E.H. Brownell, Elton Manuel, D. Nemptzow, Geo.D. Weaver, jr. I.I. Lulkin, Jack Lyons and Bud Chase.

250 sample copies of the July GREEN LIGHT were provided, and the Editor printed the membership slips which were used.

THE DRIVE itself netted 84 new members and many renewals. To date the new members number just about a hundred, and our total as we go to press is 376, a really impressive figure. Three cheers for the growing Point Association, and congratulations to the Weavers and their willing workers.

**AN AFTERNOON ON THE POINT:**

Next on the docket came the affair on August 8, which went off very pleasantly indeed, weather and all.

About 100 people enjoyed the charming gardens of the Fullertons, MacLeods, Eccles, Watsons, Miss Ericson and Mrs Goldie, and then gathered for tea at the Covell residence. An ill-timed southwest squall made the piazza a little too breezy, but the guests enjoyed the beautifully appointed tea tables indoors, and expressed a great deal of interest in the interior of the "Villa Marina".

**Committee:** Mrs. Robert R. Covell chairman. Mesdames Harold P. Arnold, C. Couch, John A. Benson, Wm. Fitzpatrick, Wm. MacLeod, Fred Morrissey, Gordon A. Bates, Miss Marion Galvin.

Sandwiches and cakes were made by: Mesdames A.A. Manuel, sr. David L. Smith H.E. Watson, Wm. MacLeod, A. Bozyan, G.D. Weaver, jr. Grace L. Vars, Vincent Esposito, David Nemptzow; also the Misses Pauline Weaver, Anne Hagerty, Jane MacLeod and Edith B. Price.

Pouring, were Mrs Richard S. Weiss, Mrs. G.D. Weaver, jr. and Mrs. E. H. Brownell.

The helpful young people were the Misses Peggy Green, Kathy Murphy, Cathy Covell, Ruth Covell, Hilarie Haylor, Adrienne Haylor and Mary Alice Fitzpatrick. And not forgetting Bill Fitzpatrick, for furniture moving and the loan of his "traveling garden", which has graced other P.A. affairs!

The Bake Sale, under the direction of Mrs. Wm. F. Kitts, assisted by Mesdames Ivy O'Neill, Thomas Irwin and Ernest Green, was an immediate attraction and the very handsome cake made by Mrs John Pinto and raffled off by Miss Carrie Ericson was won by Mrs Edwin H. Brownell.

Door Prizes were donated by Mrs. Harold P. Arnold, Miss Marion Galvin, Miss Ann Hagerty, Mrs Francis Goldie, Mrs C.J. Harter and William Fullerton, and were won by Miss J.C. Olney, Miss Adé Bethune, Mrs. D. Nemptzow, Mrs. Francis Carr, jr. and Mrs Chas. Gokey.

Miss Marguerite Hughes and Miss Nora Shea solicited memberships and sold postcards of Old Newport.

Capt. C.J. Harter kindly acted as treasurer for the affair.

Previous to the party, flyers were placed around town, in store windows and put in cars, in many parts of the city. The whole affair netted about \$100, and the proceeds are earmarked to defray the growing expenses of publishing THE GREEN LIGHT.

**AUGUST BOARD MEETING:** The next date on the August calendar was the meeting of the Executive Committee on Aug. 13, at the home of Edwin H. Brownell, Pres.

It was voted to write to the Councilman for the First Ward requesting information as to when the roadbed on Washington between Cypress and Sycamore is to be finished, and work

on the seawall resumed. August 14 was the date previously stated in a communication from the City.

A suggestion was made that representatives from the Point Ass'n should meet with City officials for an on-the-spot tour of some of our problems.

Mrs. Weiss and Mrs. G.D. Weaver, jr. will work out a plan for continuing clean-up, to be approved by the Board.

Mrs. Weiss reported on a visit from Dr. Richard Howland, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, who was shown a number of Point houses. It was voted to name the President of the Point Ass'n to be a member of the National Trust. The possibility of some representative attending the annual N.T. meeting in Washington in October was mentioned. Such a contact would be useful in comparing notes with persons from many parts of the country regarding problems similar to our own.

Dr. Nemptzow reported the house at 53 Poplar as completely razed, and a serious rat problem there successfully terminated. An old shed behind the property will be removed and the entire area beautified.

Reports on the Membership Drive and the Afternoon on the Point were made, and letters of thanks will be sent to those responsible.

## HOBBY SHOW !

All Point children under sixteen are eligible! The Hobby Show will take place, if you are still interested.

DATE: Saturday, August 29  
(Sunday if rainy)

PLACE: Weiss yard, 42 Walnut St.  
TIME: 3-5 P.M.

All exhibits must be on hand by 2 p.m. Exhibitors must be responsible for their articles.

NO PETS ELIGIBLE

Call TELEVOICE, VI 6-3144 to register. Please confirm your entry, even if you have registered before. People of all ages are invited to attend !!!

VANISHING VISTA  
+ + An Editorial + +

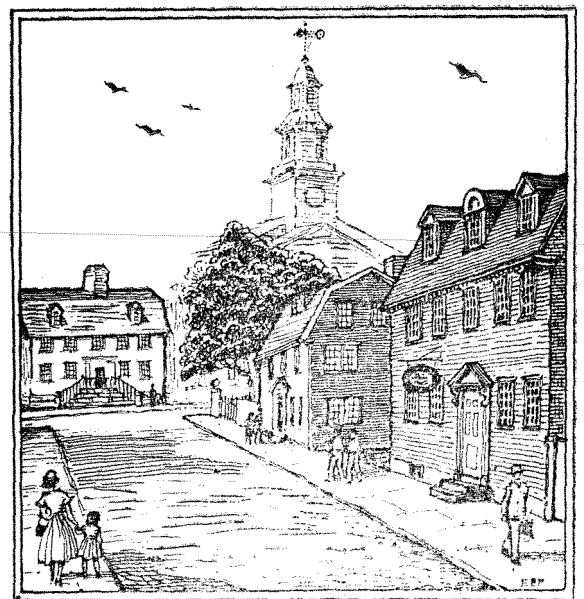
Stand in the Mall, or in the lee of the Savings Bank, and look north through Charles Street. Never mind the parking-lots on the west, but follow along the east side, past the fine facade of the Pitts Head Tavern (now Restorations, Inc.) and on to the sturdy gambrel roof of the Decatur house. Beyond, rises the interesting steeple of St. Paul's Methodist Church. Built in 1806, the church is recognized as a very good example of ecclesiastical architecture of the period, and its congregation seem to be quite proud of the fact that it is the first Methodist church to have a steeple. So far, so good.

Square across the end of Charles Street, visible all the way from Touro Street through the park, sits the house presently used as the parish hall of St. Paul's. What a lovely, close-knit unit it is, this vista through Charles Street; what a satisfying composition - carrying the eye and the mind straight back to a much earlier Newport! It is one of the few remaining sequences uninterrupted by modernity. The old house (a Southwick, a Townsend, house) is planted foursquare - its fine double entrance steps and wrought iron rail intact, its door sometimes open to reveal the good turn of the stair, its two big chimneys proclaiming the existence of its many fireplaces.

The good people of St. Paul's appear to value their history. Recently they donned old-time costumes and welcomed many put-of-town Methodists for a commemoration of the visit of Bishop Asbury more than a century ago. Yet they are about to tear down their parish house and replace it with a large "functional" building. Plenty of room exists for such an edifice behind the old house (which could even be used as a facade entrance; or a charming little courtyard between church and old house could lead to the door of the new building). One can only wonder if their architect thoroughly approves the demolition.

Any one who wants the house may have it for one dollar. But to move it is not the point. It is so desperately needed EXACTLY WHERE IT IS. With it would go the whole of that vitally important "street-scape". The church itself will suffer irremediably from the loss of the flanking companion which so well completes the whole scene. And one more bit of irreplaceable Newport (a Newport, incidentally, that could be so financially important to the "tourist trade") will be lost.

Time runs out. September first, we hear, is the date now set for this relentless demolition. O good folk of St. Paul's - pray over this! Stand off and look for yourselves. Build your fine new hall behind the brave old house that so graciously completes one of the most charming and important vistas left in old Newport!



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