

# The GREEN

# LIGHT



## BULLETIN of the POINT ASSOCIATION

JUNE 1959

### JUNE BOARD MEETING:

The Executive Committee met on the evening of June 4 at the home of the 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. R.S. Weiss, who presided.

THE TREASURER reported a balance of \$2116.60 of which \$1911.69 is in the savings account.

CORRESPONDENCE: A letter from Councilman Dennis F. Shea confirmed his telephone statement. The existing sewer line on Washington St. above Van Zandt will be replaced, the line on Cypress St. tied in, and the pipe on the beach removed. The work has started, and should be completed by or before August 14.

A letter from the Point Ass'n to Admiral Henry Crommelin, protesting the soot and smoke nuisance from the Goat Island stack and dump, and asking for relief, was approved.

CLEAN-UP: The expense involved in clean-up publicity amounted to about \$28 (to be taken from savings acct.) Our plans were outlined at the meeting in City Hall and also in a letter to Acting City Manager Bisson, who replied expressing pleasure over our cooperation and promising full support of our effort. (See later page for report on Clean-Up)

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE: Plans for an August entertainment were discussed. As the Point Ass'n hopes to put on a really extensive project next summer, this season will feature only smaller events. (See a notice of plan for August 8 on the third page of this issue)

PROTECTION COMMITTEE: Dr. Nemptzow expressed a concern shared by the Board, over the increasing number of dog bites, and the unlicensed dogs which "hunt in packs". The existing ordinance on dogs will be investigated with view to action.

Other problems are being acted upon. The Committee again urges members to write their complaints to Dr. David Nemptzow, 31 Third st. The Committee tries to be as discreet as possible in handling all these matters.

PLANNING COMMITTEE: Mr. Kerr will hold a meeting with his Committee, which consists of the Chairmen of the other standing committees. Their plans will be somewhat contingent upon the Yale survey, and the status of the Historic Zoning bill.

TREE COMMITTEE: Our new tree chairman, Mr. John L. Murphy, will make a survey of the condition of the trees, and will meet with the former Tree Committee chairmen to discuss future planting.

ORDINANCES: Mr. S. Joseph Weaver is chairman of a new committee to investigate City ordinances. The first reported on is the Minimum Housing Code. It was felt that the Board could approve in general. It was voted that a letter be sent, to be read at the Public Hearing June 10, giving our general support. This does not necessarily mean that we endorse every item.

(Board Meeting, continued)

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:** Mr. and Mrs. S. Joseph Weaver were appointed co-chairmen, and a membership drive will be launched in early autumn.

**MISCELLANEOUS:** There was some discussion of the status of the land (now the north end of the Fleet Landing) given to the City by the late Miss Agnes Storer with her expressed wish that it be set aside as a park for mothers and children of the south end of the Point. The facts regarding the Navy's acquisition of the land will be investigated.

\* \* It was voted that the Point Ass'n join The National Trust. Member organizations include Societies in every part of the world. The National Trust has received copies of THE GREEN LIGHT and has requested an item about the Point Association for an issue of its quarterly publication, "Historic Preservation".

\* \* A letter with map is being sent to Police Chief Radice in regard to the dangerous condition on Walnut St. Bridge when cars are parked both sides on the slope of the bridge.

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#### CLEAN-UP WEEK

The cooperation of the Point in the city-wide clean-up was widely publicized and the result was most gratifying. 500 handbills designed and produced by Mrs. Eleanor Weaver were distributed to every house, and all neighborhood stores displayed posters made by Mrs. Weaver. Under the leadership of Mrs. R.R. Covell and Dr. D. Nemptzow, the following people, to whom we are much indebted, carried the circulars to every door:

Miss Carrie Ericson, Mrs. Wm. Kitts, Mrs. Ivy O'Neill, Mrs. E. Allen Bloom, Mrs. Thomas Irwin, Miss Lucretia Haylor. Also the following young people: Richard Weiss, Barry and Bobby DuFault, Kenny Stein, Jackie Lyons, Skip Carney, Kathleen O'Neill, Ethel Kitts, Adrienne Haylor, Peggy Green, Bobby and PeeWee Bennett, Christine Brooks, Russell Walsh, Lisa Nemptzow, and Saul Schmelzter.

It has come to our notice that a good angel who prefers to remain

anonymous, keeps the Pine Street driftway at the Park tidied up - and above and beyond the call of duty, cleared up the premises of a vacant house during Clean-Up, so that it presents a much more attractive appearance. Example!

The Daily News and Station WADK were most cooperative during the Point Associations' campaign. Mrs. Weiss was guest on the Open Forum of the Air, and the Daily News gave prominent coverage.

An enormous amount of trash was put out for collection, and the resulting effect was praised as a "fairyland of cleanliness" by Acting City Manager Bisson, who viewed the Point after its face-lifting. Of course, certain trouble-spots remain, and there are those whom no example nor education seems to touch, but the Point is certainly cleaner since the drive -- and we must all put forth every effort to KEEP IT CLEAN. Papers are again beginning to blow about. Do let us put our paper trash in bags, so it will not get loose when cans are emptied.

Lots of houses are being painted, and how nice they look!

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**THE LEAK:** At the instigation of a member, Acting City Manager Bisson viewed the leak in the sewer at the Sycamore St. Shore, and immediately caused it to be temporarily repaired. We are most grateful for this prompt action, remedying the condition we have so long deplored. The big sewer job will correct it permanently. It is discouraging to hear of the vandalism committed on the new sewer line. More constant policing of the whole Washington St. area would seem advisable.

**SEAWALL:** Permanent repair of the wall under the sidewalk is dependent, we learn, upon a YES vote on the \$300,000 bond issue in the coming referendum. This is indeed an important item for us in this appropriation.

Meanwhile, patching of the seawall continues, and the steps are being repaired.

# AUGUST 8 EVENT

A meeting was held in Mrs. Weiss's pleasant back yard (the house was being painted a fine red) on the morning of June 9, at which time plans were coordinated for our August 8th event. So far as we now know, this will be:

- AN AFTERNOON ON THE POINT
- 2:00 to 4:00 Children's Hobby Show, St. John's Guild Hall
  - 3:00 to 5:00 Tea and Bake Sale, Piazza of the Covell House  
72 Washington Street
  - 2:00 to 5:00 Tour of a few Point Gardens

Mrs. Robert R. Covell, assisted by a committee, is in charge of the Tea. Mrs. William F. Kitts will manage the Bake Sale. Mrs. Henry E. Eccles is chairman of the Hobby Show. Mrs. William MacLeod heads the Garden feature.

Point children under 14 are eligible to exhibit in the Hobby Show. Hobbies and collections -- NO PETS !

Call TELEVOICE VI 6-3144, leave name and telephone number to be given to Mrs. Eccles, who will call you up.

## GREEN LIGHT GRATITUDE GATHERING:

After printing the invitations to this affair (not much of a garden, but plenty of cool woodsy shade !) Ye Editor suddenly remembered that the 20th of June is Midsummer Night's Eve, a full moon, and the summer solstice. All this adds up to a possible three-day nor-easter that weekend. If this should happen, the welcome mat will be out on the following Saturday, June 27. If in doubt, please call Televoice, VI 6-3144 for latest advices !

All members of the Point Association are invited to these little neighborhood get-togethers -- and of course this includes their families. And if there are any guests they'd like to bring, they are most welcome.

By the way, Old Cap'n Scuttlebutt hobbled in, blew a cloud of shag tobacco-smoke in our face, and said, "Huh! Tryin' to make some money, and gittin' all them fancy invites printed up. Take it in with one hand and throw it out with the other, hey?"

We withered him with a look. "You should know very well," we said, "that we print up those invites ourself. Go and tend to your lobster-pots before we dye your whiskers with green ink !"

## FAIRS: St. John's, July 18th Corpus Christi Carmel, July 18th

There are many members of The Point Association whose talents we don't know. If any of them would like to volunteer for some job, it would be wonderful. And don't forget to tell people that anybody in the world who is at all interested in the Point will be welcomed as a member. No one has to wait to be "asked".

## SING A SONG OF TREE STREETS

Sycamore, Cypress and Poplar,  
Willow, Cherry and Pine,  
Walnut, Elm and Chestnut -  
And so on, down the line.

Thus are named our tree streets,  
(What a varied haul !)  
But here's the joker in it -  
There are MAPLES on them all !

\* \* \* \* \*

PUT YOUR PAPER-TRASH IN BAGS  
AS WELL AS YOUR GARBAGE, SO  
THAT PAPERS WILL NOT BLOW ABOUT  
WHEN CANS ARE EMPTIED. IT MAKES  
A BIG, BIG DIFFERENCE !

(Paid Ad.)

++++ FOUR WIDOWS +++++

As we read colorful romances of Salem or New Bedford in the days of sail, and share the anxiety of women who watched from the "Widow's Walk" atop the house, scanning the harbor-mouth for a ship that never returned, we sometimes forget that our Newport was quite as much of a maritime community, and that her ships sailed the seven seas long before the era of the clipper and the East India trade made other ports famous.

We are indebted to Mrs. Peter Bolhouse of the Historical Society for a glimpse into that past as it affected one family. Between the faint yellowed lines of writing traced two centuries ago by a clerk's quill, how keenly our imagination may animate the dry words of deed and document !

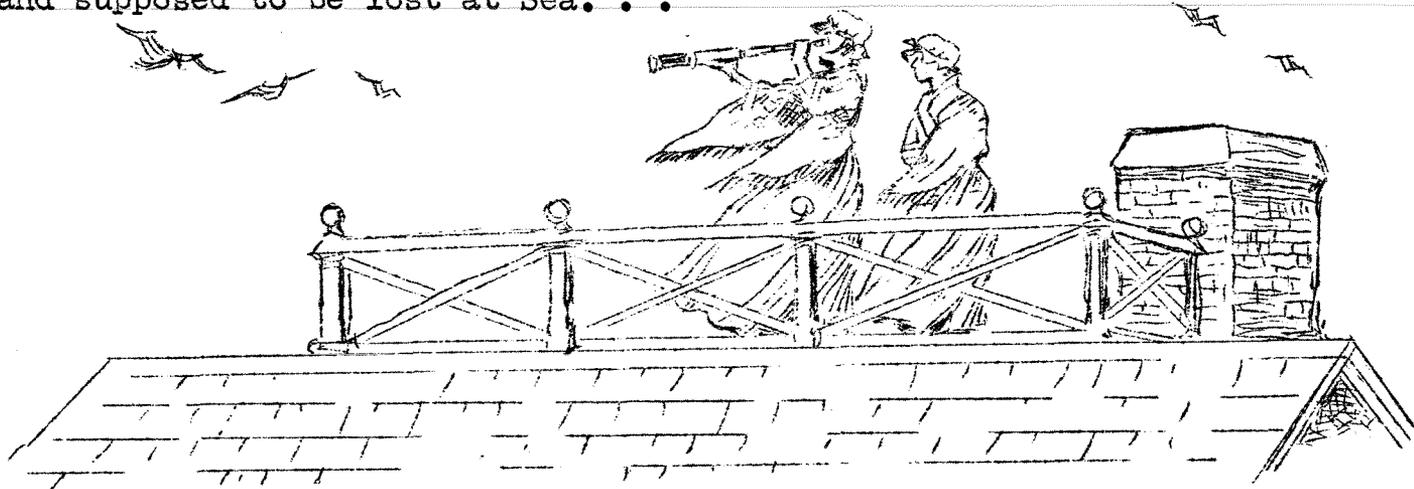
On the corner of Farewell and Coddington Streets, where now lives Miss Emma Beldan the well-known singer, there once stood a much older house. It was probably destroyed by the British during the Revolution, as Col. Henry Sherburne, who then owned it, was a prominent patriot. But there seems to have been a house or building on this land as early as 1717, when one Samuel Warkman sold it to John Coleman of Nantucket, yeoman. In 1721, Coleman sold it to John Draper of Newport, Mariner, for \$290.

Captain Draper had a wife and four daughters, and he died at sea in 1739, leaving no will. By 1750, Widow Draper was selling her property to Benjamin Sherburne, Gentleman -- and the four daughters are named in the deed as well, being seized in fee of the premises.

Widow Joanna Draper - and "Rachel Toman, widdow of Thomas Toman late of Newport, Mariner, deceased; Mary Child, supposed to be y<sup>e</sup> widdow of Thomas Child of Newport, Mariner, her husband, who has been missing for some Yeares past and is supposed lost at sea; and Sarah Newton, supposed to be y<sup>e</sup> Widdow of Thomas Newton of Newport, Mariner, her husband, who has been missing for some Yeares past and unhearde of and is supposed to be lost at Sea. . . ."

Of the four daughters, only Elizabeth, wife of John Jepson, Mariner, still had her man alive. . . and who knows but on the next voyage he too may have been aboard a ship which never again dropped anchor in the Cove or warped in beside the Queen's Hithe?

Just a few words in the dull volumes of land evidence. Dull? Not so. Alive with unwritten stories of forgotten heroism and joy and grief. Of peril and adventure. . . and the long, long waiting. "Unheard of, and supposed to be lost at Sea. . . ."



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10. MEMBERSHIP SERVICE  
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Furniture Repairing  
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