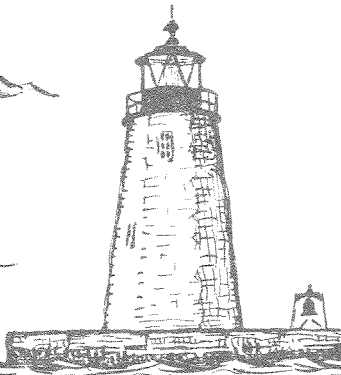


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# The GREEN

# LIGHT



## BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

VOL. IV

APRIL 1960

No. 4

### QUARTERLY MEETING

OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

### MAY 3

ST. JOHN'S GUILD HALL, Poplar Street, TUESDAY, MAY 3rd  
at 8:00 P.M.

**SPEAKER:** Mr. M. Joseph SULLIVAN  
President, Newport Horticultural Society

**TOPIC:** "Planning the Small Home Garden"  
Mr. Sullivan will also discuss Garden Contests,  
Local, State, National and Junior

#### FREE SEEDS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED

Please bring superfluous house-plants, seedlings, cuttings,  
slips, etc., for an impromptu plant exchange sale !

#### REFRESHMENTS

#### APRIL BOARD MEETING:

The Executive Committee met at the home of the Recording Secretary Mrs. Harold Watson, on April 7th.

The TREASURER'S report showed a balance of \$2372.46, of which \$1908.32 is in the Savings Account.

Accepted with regret was the resignation of the Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Gary Sullivan, who is leaving Newport. Miss Mary B. Perry was appointed to fill the unexpired term.

VOTED: that a committee composed of one Board member, two from the general membership, with the President ex officio, be formed to study the whole matter of the land south of Hunter House (now part of the Fleet Landing) which was bought

through the efforts of the late Agnes C. Storer and others in 1940 and turned over to the city for use as a park for mothers and children. Before the project could be carried out, the Government condemned the land in 1941 at the beginning of the War, and constructed the Fleet Landing. As this entire tract is soon to be declared surplus, the Point Association is interested in investigating the whole situation.

TREES: Mr. Behan (PWD), Mr. Bowman (Tree Warden) and Councilman McCormick have met with John L. Murphy (Tree Chairman). The first 25 trees have been ordered, and planting should begin at any time.

GARDEN CONSULTANT:

Mr. Fullerton expressed disappointment that no interest had so far been shown in planning of home gardens. Seeds will be distributed at the General Membership Meeting, May 3. Members are urged to bring "spare" plants, seedlings, cuttings, etc. for a plant sale.

CLEAN-UP: Mrs. Geo. D. Weaver jr reported that flyers regarding the Junior Garden and Clean-up Contest had been handed out at the Potter P.T.A. meeting, and sent to the principals of Potter and Callender Schools.

(A notice of the contest, and entry blank, will be found in this issue of the Bulletin.)

BULLETIN: Miss Price reported a total circulation of 372 for the month of March. Balance on hand April 1, \$100.68. The Association numbers 408 members in good standing.

PROTECTION:

Dr. David Nemptzow stated that a number of complaints have been received, and that both old situations and more recent ones are being worked on.

Our readers must appreciate that as most of the work of the Protection Committee is necessarily of a confidential nature, details cannot be given in the Bulletin.

The chairman urges that complaints IN WRITING be sent to him:

Dr. David Nemptzow  
31 Third Street

SUMMER EVENT: Plans for the "Afternoon on the Point" to be held Saturday, July 9, are progressing under the chairmanship of Mrs. Henry E. Eccles, and widespread publicity will soon be given.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING:

The date of the meeting was set for May 3, the Guild Hall not being available during the last week in April. Mr. M. Joseph Sullivan of The Newport Horticultural Society will be the speaker.

It has been some time since we have had occasion to mention the sea-wall. It is encouraging to be able to report that the wall from the Van Zandt Pier to the Naval Hospital has been completed. The repairs consist of sloping concrete slabs surfacing the old wall. We understand that eventually the sidewalk will be taken up, and the honeycombing of the old wall filled. Barring a severe hurricane, the wall should now hold up pretty well.

Needing immediate attention now is the buttress sea-wall around Battery Park. The holes are many and large, and the perimeter walk above shows symptoms of caving in in places. We hope that the City budget will make allowance for the necessity of this next job.

A street light has been installed on Washington Street at the Willow Street brow - a very dark section where more light was much needed. Many other spots on the Point are badly lighted, or totally dark, and this is one of the needs which will be pressed by the Point Association at the forthcoming city budget hearings.

LET US MAKE EVERY DAY A  
CLEAN-UP DAY. IF WE  
PICK UP AS WE GO ALONG  
THERE WILL NOT BE A  
DISCOURAGINGLY BIG JOB  
LATER ON.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* Be ready for Memorial Day \*  
\* WITH A 50-STAR AMERICAN FLAG \*  
\* All Types and Sizes \*  
\* Steven Weaver, 9 Chestnut St\*  
\* VI 6-2894 \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

PUT PAPER TRASH AS WELL AS  
GARBAGE INTO BAGS ! This  
reduces litter when cans  
are emptied (Paid ad)

MAYOR SUZUKI AND SHIMODA'S  
SISTER CITY . . .

In 1958, by mutual resolution, Newport and Shimoda on the Izu Peninsula of Japan became sister cities. This was because, 104 years earlier, Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry's "black ships" had entered Shimoda harbor on a peaceful mission and the opening of five Japanese ports to Western trade began the intercourse which set an isolated feudal state on the road to becoming a modern nation.

The Japanese greatly value the episode, and every spring honor Perry with a three-day "Festival of the Black Ships".

Matthew Perry should also be remembered for other achievements. He advocated the introduction of steam power into naval vessels, and himself supervised the construction and was then put in command of the first American steam warship, the U.S.S. Fulton II (1837). He devised the system of naval apprentice training; led the African squadron to suppress the slave trade, and commanded the Gulf squadron during the Mexican War. Though less well remembered than his dashing younger brother Oliver, his career was a notable one.

Perry was born in 1794 in the old house on the north-east corner of Second and Walnut Streets, now

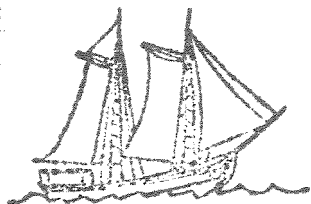
much changed. And to this spot on the morning of April 15, came the Mayor of Shimoda, Sadao Suzuki, accompanied by his aides and by his host Councilman Wilkinson.

In a spur-of-the-moment gesture, The Point Association made Mr. Suzuki an honorary member, and Mrs. Richard Weiss presented him with a hand-illuminated scroll to that effect, which read:

"In recognition of the bond between Shimoda and the old Point section of Newport, Rhode Island, where Matthew Calbraith Perry was born, The Point Association of Newport is happy to confer an honorary membership in the organization upon the Hon. Sadao Suzuki, Mayor of Shimoda, Japan."

Mr. Suzuki, who spoke no English, gazed with Oriental courtesy and slight bewilderment at his surroundings. We could not help wondering if he were not comparing the great Western civilization to which Japan had been opened, with his own flower-studded land; comparing our littered streets and the humble and unrecognized birthplace of his hero, with the marble and bronze shrine erected to the glory of Matthew Calbraith Perry in the spotless and beautiful city of Shimoda, on the picturesque Izu Peninsula of Japan . . . .

-The Editor-



On an October day in 1871, Captain Enoch Lathrop's schooner went aground on Race Rock in Long Island Sound. The Captain and his wife and the crew - everyone, in fact, but the cat (which was rescued later) got off safely. For a while, however, it looked as if little Annie Lathrop would be born while the schooner was aground. But she managed to make Newport her birthplace. Later, Captain Lathrop's schooner carried granite for the piers of the Brooklyn Bridge and the base of the Statue of Liberty, and little Annie lived much aboard during early childhood. She remembers falling through an open hatch into a hold filled with that very stone. But most of her eighty-nine years she has spent on the Point - with her parents on Second Street, and then with her husband, the late Charles E. Bacheller. The lively reminiscences on the following page have been jotted down at her dictation by her daughter, Mrs. Earl A. Booth.

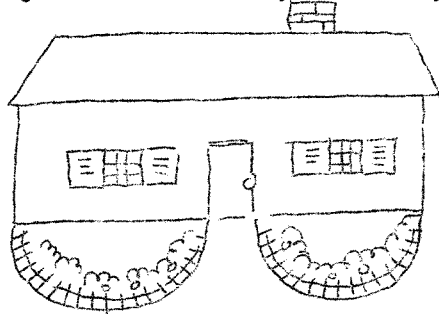
RANDOM REMINISCENCE

George Carr had a private school in a little white house on Third Street opposite Callender School. He also had a shop in this same house, where he sold calico, cambric, needles, thimbles and thread.

Mrs. Foss (or Mis' Foss, as the children called her) lived in a house across from Westall's on Bridge Street, and sold yeast. She had a parrot that used to say "Cent's worth the yeast! Cent's worth the yeast!"

Joby Townsend and his wife lived in a two-story barn-red shingled house on the southwestern corner of Elm and Third. There was a dark red picket fence with two gates - one on Elm and one on Third Street. A large circular garden in the middle of the yard, with a cherry tree and a fig tree. Joby was baggage-master over at the depot. He made sugared flag-root. Joby's wife had a melodeon in the parlor, which she used to play. She also wrote poems - had a book of them published.

Jane Baxter lived in a one-story house painted white, on the east side of Third Street between Elm and Poplar. It had a low, white, semi-circular picket fence which went from each side of the doorway to the end of the house. Pink roses grew all along the fence. Children (mostly boys) would sometimes pull the roses through the fence so as to pick some. Jane would come to the door and say "Boys, please don't yank the roses! If you want some, ask me, and I'll give them to you."



Jane Baxter's (Sketch by Mrs. Bacheller)

The Durfee sisters lived in an old house on the south side of Elm Street between Second and Third. It was painted white and had a picket fence. A trellis with wisteria separated the back vegetable garden from the front yard, which was filled with low, heavenly blue hydrangeas. There was a white gravel stone pathway with myrtle growing along the edges. Three sisters - Liz, who wore a red wig, Amelia, and a third sister who for some unknown reason lived in the attic.

Johnny Pingley (about 50) deaf and blind, lived in an old red house near the tracks on the north side of Elm Street. He carried a cane and tapped the sidewalk with it as he went along with a big covered basket on his free arm. This contained bags of peanuts and copies of the Daily News. "Hot peanuts, five a bag; Daily News, two cents a copy," he'd say. Sometimes he'd get a little mixed up and say "Peanuts, two cents a copy; Daily News, five cents a bag!"

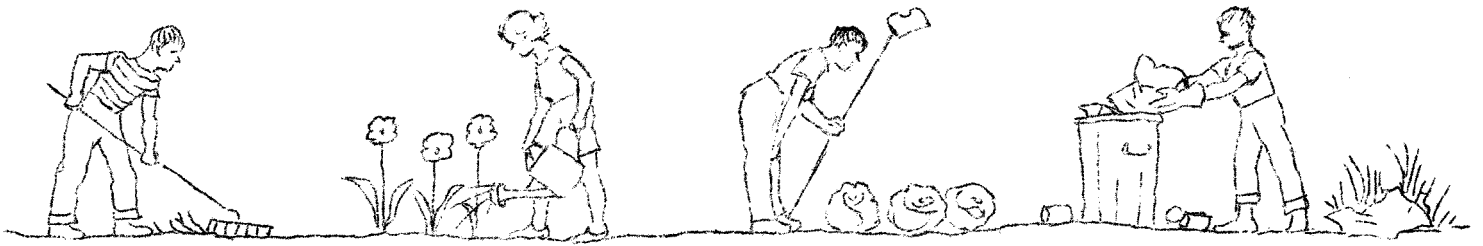
Gus Goffe owned what had been a beautiful old house, diagonally across from Mandy Green (Bridge and Second). It had a lovely stairway with a window at the turn of the stairs. The rooms were big, and the house had large brown entrance steps. One of the bedrooms, which faced Bridge St., had an iron balcony painted black. There was a gnarled old pear tree in the yard. This house was torn down about 1907 or 1908.

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(We shall have more of Mrs. Bacheller's glimpses of the old Point in future issues - and we should be delighted if other "old-timers" would contribute their memories.)

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# JUNIOR GARDEN CONTEST

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OPEN TO ALL POINT RESIDENTS UNDER 16 YEARS OLD

FIRST PRIZE: One Week at Camp  
SECOND PRIZE: Gift Subscription to Book Store  
THIRD PRIZE: Subscription to "Natural History"

- I. Prizes will be awarded for the areas which have been cleaned and beautified by :
- a) Planting gardens - flowers and/or vegetables
  - b) Weeding and removing trash
  - c) Planting window-boxes, flower-tubs, etc.
- II. Upon APPLICATION, materials will be supplied by the Point Association :
- a) Flower and vegetable seeds, plants, stools, paint, etc.
  - b) Adult help may be used
- III . Pictures should be taken before and after, if possible.
- a) Notify Point Association if help is needed.
- IV. ENTRY in contest, either by mail or phone.
- a) Notify Mrs. George D. Weaver, jr., 9 Chestnut St.  
VI 6-2894
  - b) Identify the area you choose to work on; state name, age, address and phone number.
- V. JUDGING will take place in mid-July. Judges' decision will be final. Periodic inspection by judges will be held.

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## APPLICATION BLANK

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of project chosen: (a) (b) or (c) \_\_\_\_\_  
Mail to Mrs. Geo. D. Weaver, jr, 9 Chestnut St., Newport, R.I.  
or call VI 6-2894. If no answer, call TELEVOIVE, VI 6-3144





THE GREEN LIGHT  
THE POINT ASSOCIATION  
Editor: 16 Battery Street  
NEWPORT R. I.