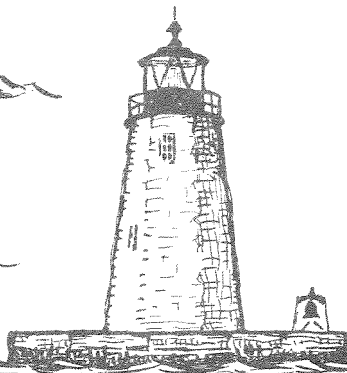


The GREEN

LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

VOL. V

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1961

No. 11-12

CHRISTMAS CONTEST

CHRISTMAS ON THE POINT will again feature a contest for decorations, and the lighting of a tree in Battery Park. William H. Fullerton, chairman of the committee, announces the following categories:

1. Most in the spirit of Christmas
2. Most original
3. Best with least expenditure
4. Best original decoration by children under 16

A First Prize of \$5.00 and a Second Prize of \$3.00 will be awarded in each category. In the case of the children's entries, Mr. Fullerton should be notified of the name and address of the contestant. VI7-5163

The decorations will be judged on the evening of Tuesday, December 26, between 8:00 and 9:00 P.M. Miss Marion Carry of the Art Association, Mrs. Ralph Emerson of the Daily News, and Mr. Francis J. Holbrook of the Chamber of Commerce, have consented to act as judges.

A Christmas Tree will be placed in Battery Park and lighted at 5:00 P.M. on Christmas Eve, at which time the Carollers will sing there.

AVE ATQUE VALE ! which, we believe, is the way the Ancient Romans said "Hello and Good-bye !" This issue of THE GREEN LIGHT is a sort of joint - or possibly OUT-of-joint - number, as the outgoing and incoming Editors each have had other things on their minds. Ye Olde E.B.P. and/or Seagull bid you a reluctant farewell and introduces Esther Morton Bates of the Claggett House at 22 Bridge St - our valiant successor. She will welcome contributions of reminiscence and research, and any other assistance available.

Mr. George Franklin Merritt sends us a verse in the spirit of the Season :

CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a festive time,
 Setting the mortal spirit free;
 And on the Point these days are
 prime
 Wreathed in the flowers of
 memory.

* * * * *

THE ANNUAL MEETING of The Point Association was held on the evening of Oct. 26 in St. John's Guild Hall with William C. Harrington, President, in the chair.

Mrs. Gordon A. Bates, Recording Secretary, read her report, and the Treasurer, Richard S. Weiss, reported a balance on hand of \$2979.77. Receipts for the year being \$710.59 and expenses \$760.37, the net expenditure was shown as \$49.78. The Treasurer stated that owing to the tabling of the Revolving Loan Fund project, a \$500 grant from Homeland Foundation for this purpose had been returned.

A recapitulation report from Mrs. Geo. D. Weaver jr, chairman of the summer Garden Tour and general beautification, told of the success of the project.

Mr. Harrington noted the fact that Goat Island and the Section Base are being considered as a unit, and that the Redevelopment Agency is seeking Federal funds to tie them in with the larger development. It is understood that the land at the north end of the Fleet Landing, referred to as "Storer Park" will be returned to the City for its intended purpose.

GREEN LIGHT: Miss Price reported a total circulation for the year of 3324, with 42 out-of-state members. As of Oct. 26 the membership stands at 393 - a regrettable loss of 61 over last year. Expense for the year was \$140.85, and The Green Light shows a balance on hand of \$203.67.

It was VOTED on a motion of Mrs. E.H. Brownell that the City be requested to place a Stop sign at Bridge St. and Corridon Highway, and that better lighting be provided there. She also suggested that a fence should be put around the J.T. O'Connell lumber yard, where many unsavory incidents occur.

Mrs. Francis Goldie spoke of the need of black-topping on La Salle Place. Miss Price spoke for James Douglas, who is anxious to plant myrtle around the Point Association trees.

Kenneth V. Stein, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate for election:

First Vice President:

Mrs. Harold E. Watson

Treasurer: Miss Ann A. Hardy

Corresponding Secretary:

Mrs. Henry E. Eccles

Three members of the new Nominating Committee:

Mrs. John Howard Benson

Mrs. Frederick Morrissey

Mrs. Kenneth V. Stein

There being no nominations from the floor, Mrs. Weiss moved that the Secretary cast one ballot for the slate. This was so voted, and the nominees duly elected.

Following the business meeting, Mrs. Benson introduced a film made by the noted Robert Flaherty, and spoke humorously of the problems that arose during the filming. "The Making of a Pen" by John Howard Benson revealed the meticulous care used by a great calligrapher in the fashioning of a pen from a white turkey feather. The quill, in the same skillful hand, then formed the beautiful letters for which Benson was famous. The film was all too short, and the audience wished they might have seen more to remind them of their friend and neighbor.

Edward Sturtevant operated the projector, and refreshments were under the direction of Mrs. E. Allen Bloom.

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING:

The Executive Committee met on the evening of Nov. 9 at 22 Bridge St. Members of the old Board as well as the new were present, to discuss held-over problems.

New business was concerned with the Christmas on the Point celebration, and Wm. H. Fullerton was appointed chairman of a committee which includes Mrs Harold Watson, Miss Ann Hardy and Mrs Gordon A. Eates.

There was also discussion of a major summer event - perhaps an Oldport Day - also a clambake for

members as an additional possibility. The goal for a money-making project, it was felt, should be not merely the routine expenses of the Association, but a concrete aim.

There was serious consideration of a part-scholarship to further the education of an eligible young person from the Point.

MYRTLE:

Soon after the Annual Meeting, young James Douglas and his friend Paul Holbrook spent a busy and hard working morning planting myrtle at the base of almost all the Point Ass'n trees. The plants are thriving and look well - and should help to keep down the weeds.

DUES:

Over 250 members have paid up their dues. Our membership is 395. You missing 140, please do hurry up! If you find a "Final Notice" attached to this Green Light, it does mean "Final Notice"!

Every so often we receive a heart-warming letter from a reader.

Like this:

"The Green Light is truly a joy to receive. I have been a Newporter all my life, but I have learned much about the Point section from the Green Light. My own memories of "hulled corn", horse radish, etc. are very real, and I can actually feel the atmosphere of my childhood home as these things are brought again alive. Thanks for the time and effort that makes this magazine possible."

Another, from California, is of interest:

". . . I have just arrived home from a visit to Newport and the East Coast. I noticed quite a few improvements in the Point district due to the efforts of the Point Association, but to my dismay I found the city itself quite untidy.

"The dog situation is a sad one. I hope the new dog constable will be able to remedy it. Here in San Diego, dogs are not allowed to run the streets. Licensed or not, they

must be kept on the premises or on the leash.

"My husband and I greatly enjoy The Green Light, and wish for all a very successful 1962."

In connection with DOGS, we again remind people with problems that the Constable is Joseph Sanfilippo of 37 Elm Street - VI 7-6316

NEVER A DULL MOMENT on the waterfront, what with tugs and oil barges going ashore, and a huge timber banging more holes in that pathetic Battery Park seawall and being dragged away by Navy boats.

That seawall! Another winter is upon us, and the holes grow ever deeper, burrowing into the very fabric of the old Fort. Let us hope that the new Council will "Take a Walk along the Shore" and see what must be done.

TAKE A WALK

George Franklin Merritt

Take a walk along the shore
As the sifting sunset rays
Mirror all the waters o'er;
Take a walk along the shore -
Sparkling jewels shine before
Your eyes, inspiring silent
praise.
Take a walk along the shore
Blessed by the sifting sunset
rays.

OFFICERS OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION:

William C. Harrington, Pres.
Mrs. Harold E. Watson,
1st Vice Pres.
Miss Ann E. Hagerty
2nd Vice Pres.
Miss Ann A. Hardy, Treasurer
Mrs. Gordon A. Bates
Recording Sec'y
Mrs. Henry E. Eccles
Corr. Sec'y

SOME OLD-TIME POINT STORES

ANNIE LATHROP BACHELLER REMEMBERS when there were many markets on the Point - Bob Hamilton, on the corner of Third and Poplar; Tom Carr, northwest corner of Bridge and Third; the Stevens grocery on upper Thames corner of North Baptist; Tripp, next to the Claggett house on Bridge St.; Pike - a fishmarket on Third between Elm and Poplar; Al Goffe in the old house north side of Bridge near Washington, and Tom Gladding, on the southwest corner of Bridge and Washington.

The floors were covered with sawdust; pot-bellied stoves heated the stores in winter, and kerosene bracket lamps provided the illumination. And there were flies galore in summer !

In the markets, big carcasses of lamb and sides of beef hung from the rafters. Part of a side of beef would be on the chopping-block, from which a fine big porterhouse or sirloin would be cut - for less than twenty-five cents a pound.

Milk was in ten or twenty gallon cans, measured out into the pitcher or pail of the customer. Of course there was always a barrel of dill pickles - a barrel of molasses with a pump, a barrel of apples, and a barrel of "common crackers". Salt cod, smoked herring, ham and bacon, hung from hooks on the rafters, and milk crackers, hardtack or pilot crackers were in big square tin boxes with covers.

The vegetables were in bins - potatoes, onions, turnips, carrots, squash, pumpkin, celery and cranberries (in winter) and in summer, cabbage, peas, beets, string beans (they were cooked with a piece of salt pork - streak of fat, streak of lean) radishes, corn, summer white or yellow squash. Seldom was there lettuce.

There was a barrel of kerosene with a spigot, to be run into the five or one gallon cans of the customers, and there were round bundles of wood for kindling coal fires.

Most everything was out in the open, but bread, cake and doughnuts were in a glass case on one side of the counter. Tobacco was also in a case, - and the chewing tobacco was cut with big shears.

Tea was in red or black japanned lacquer boxes, and there was a big coffee-mill with wheels on the sides. Salt pork, corned beef and corned shoulder were in kegs of brine. Butter and lard were in wooden firkins - measured out into small, thin wooden containers.

Lobsters and crabs were oh so cheap - bought for a song from fishermen at Long or Briggs Wharf. People very often had lobster salad or stew for Sunday supper.

The stores smelled of dampness, kerosene, salt cod, smoked herring, and coffee that had just been ground. And the stores were meeting-places as well - for gossip and chat and exchange of news and friendly greeting; just as the neighborhood stores of the Point are today, even though the packages are in cellophane and nobody buys kerosene for their lamps.

YE
NOSTALGIC EDITOR'S
FAREWELL

Where I go, camellias bloom, and the sun shines;
Like jewels, azaleas gleam under the stately pines,
And jasmine streams in gold from cascading vines.

But faintly, beyond the song of the mocking-bird,
Like the beat of my heart - dimly felt, dimly heard -
Comes the sound of the bell in the fog on Newport Light,
And the whistle of boats in the bay on a moonless night.

Snow lies in the narrow streets, and boats are hauled
on the brow.
Christmas candles shine in the old gray houses now. .
. . No, I shall not forget the sound of the bell in
the night,
Nor the emerald gleam of the steadfast harbor light,
Shining on down the years. . . far, far from sight.

E. B. P.



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William H. Fullerton
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FIFTY-STAR AMERICAN FLAGS
All Types and Sizes
Steven Weaver VI 6-2894
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HELEN'S BEAUTY SALON
All Branches of Beauty Service
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Helen Preece Willis, Proprietor
Residence, 16 Second Street

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29 Thames St. Founded in 1705
Letter Carving on Wood and Stone

+ + + + +
BOOK BINDING AND REPAIRING
Initialling on Leather
Glenn A. Bissell
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THE POINT MARKET VI 6-1088
Groceries - Frozen Foods
Second and Walnut Streets

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G & H TV SERVICE, 28 Third St.
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Service Day and Night
Saturday and Sunday Included

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LEARY'S OIL COMPANY
Range & Fuel Oil. Metered Service
George Leary, Prop'r.
47 Washington Street. VI 7-5591

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at 64 Thames St.
Ladies' Haircutting a Specialty

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GAMAGE'S VARIETY STORE
9 Thames Street, VI 7-9626
Candy, Cigars, Cold Cuts,
Ice Cream, Magazines, Newspapers

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The Point is a beautiful place - let's make it more so. Don't throw
papers DOWN - pick 'em up! Teach the little ones to treat the trees
with respect. Clean-up, tidy-up should be a year-round project.