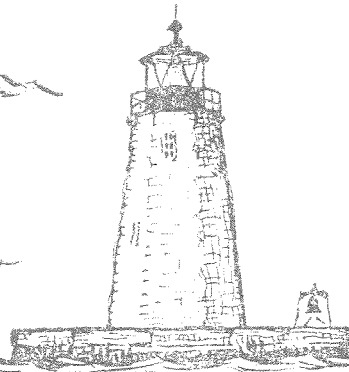


# The GREEN

# LIGHT



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

VOL. XV

JANUARY 1970

No. 1

### JANUARY MEETING 1970

The January Quarterly Meeting of the Point Association will be held on January 22, 1970, at 8 o'clock at St. John's Guild Hall on Poplar Street. The speaker will be Mr. Richard S. Phelps, who has just been elected to the City Council. He is deeply concerned with the future of Newport, and our responsibility as citizens to work with the Council. He feels that NOW is the time to plan, and he has many suggestions.

### OCTOBER ANNUAL MEETING, 1970

The Annual Meeting of the Point Association of Newport was held in St. John's Guild Hall on October 23rd at 8 o'clock, with a good attendance. The report of the Secretary was read and approved. The Treasurer's report, showing a balance on hand of \$7,724.78 was read and approved. The report of the Nominating Committee was read and approved. The complete list of officers for 1969-1970 will follow. The business meeting adjourned.

Police Chief Walsh told us the many ways in which our police force protects us, even though understaffed. He urged us all to notify them of any unusual circumstances or suspicious behavior; a telephone call to the station will always bring a quick response. The City Manager, Mr. B. Cowles Mallory, urged us to cooperate with our city government. There was considerable discussion from the floor, some heated, and our questions were carefully answered. We left feeling that we had a more personal contact with our Police Department. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Curtiss James, and her Junior Point assistants, and were much appreciated.

### OFFICERS OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION FOR 1969 - 1970

President	Rear Admiral Henry E. Eccles	1969 - 1971
1st Vice President	Mrs. John H. Benson	1969 - 1970
2nd Vice President	Mr. Robert Foley	1969 - 1971
Treasurer	Mr. John Howieson	1969 - 1971
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Robert Elster	1969 - 1970
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Edward Carman	1969 - 1971
Nominating Committee	Mr. John Howieson, Chairman	
	Mr. Robert Foley	Mrs. Marc Walsh
	Mrs. Jean Aubois	Mrs. Clyde Sargent

### CHRISTMAS ON THE POINT

This year, after our flu Christmas last year, we had beautiful weather, and over fifty of all ages gathered around our tree on St. John's lawn for Christmas carols. It was cold, so we left the tree, and gathered in the lee of the rectory, and sang with enthusiasm. Robert Rick played his trumpet with the singing, a tremendous help, in spite of the cold which froze his fingers.

On Christmas Eve, under the leadership of King Covell, we sang carols outside the houses of various shut-ins, who always appreciate hearing them. We ended up at the Eccles for hot punch, a fitting warming for the New Year.

#### BEAUTIFICATION ON THE POINT

Now that the Christmas holidays are over it is time to start planning Spring beautification on the Point. People have shown a wonderful interest in window boxes. We can still take a few more orders. The boxes will be green; however, anyone wishing to paint theirs white may do so.

The flowers planted in the boxes will be selected so the color is complementary to their houses. This will create a more pleasant eye appeal rather than a stereotyped effect. Some of the streets in both Lexington, Massachusetts, and Annapolis, Maryland, have an abundance of window boxes displayed by residents. It is a joy to walk through the streets. The Point area can accomplish the same effect; I won't say with little work but the effort will be worth it.

A few more trees and shrubs will be planted this spring but mostly replacements. Our efforts will be concentrated on window boxes and Cross Street Park.

Thanks to Mrs. Bolhouse of the Historical Society I now have a list of flowers and shrubs compiled by Miss Brayton, between the dates of 1700 and 1850. This list has been added to and will be distributed to the members of the Point Association at the next general meeting. During the "Afternoon on the Point" last summer I had copies made and gave to people going through my garden; it was surprising how much interest this created.

Call 847-5163 for Window Boxes within the next two weeks.

"Help beautify the Point, first by keeping it clean."

William H. Fullerton, Chairman-Beautification

#### HOUSES! HOUSES! HOUSES!

Members keep asking why we do not mention the houses on the Point which are being restored at a great rate; at last we're celebrating a year of tremendous improvements - at least in houses. This will be just a beginning, a few that we consider worth mentioning, but we realize each of you thinks his own house deserves mentioning also. So if your efforts are not on this very short list, quick write us your name, address, and what you have done, and we'll put it in the next Green Light. We tried this idea about ten years ago, and many were the outraged homeowners whose improvements were not noticed. So consider this list as a small start on what all of you think worth remembering, and if you don't write about your own struggles, you have only yourself to blame.

The Herbert Rommels slaved over the Pitts Head Tavern on Bridge Street and when you consider that meant rebuilding entirely the huge central chimney before anything else could be done, you can sympathize. But that was not enough, so they bought four plots of land on Marsh Street containing eleven units. Six units are rented, three nearly ready, and the other two started, and only one of the original tenants wanted to move out. Captain Rommel thinks it would be a good idea to leave a strip of land between the sidewalk and the curb, so that trees would have a better chance to survive. No wonder Herb had a heart attack, but he's at home again, and everyone hopes he will try to slow down.

Then there is the Thomas Goddard house on Second Street which was getting quite delapidated. The Alberts have fixed that up as their retirement home, and it is delightful, both outside and inside.

And have you all seen what Nathaniel Norris had done with his little house on 22 Second Street? He moved it down from Warner Street, and has completely rebuilt it, and added a large room in back, put paving stones in the driveway, made the row of garages into stables, and lots more is planned.

Joseph Mathieu, who has a variety store on Third Street, one of the few left on the Point, has completely rebuilt the front of his store, which is all big Colonial type windows, light and airy.

The Clyde Sargents have changed the whole interior of their house on Third Street, now a one family house instead of four.

The Curtiss James have restored their old family house on Bridge Street, and the exterior looks especially well.

The Robert Elsters' house on Second Street is being restored gradually, but with affection.

#### A SAMPLE OF OUR FAN MAIL

I always enjoy reading The Green Light, and when I'm finished with it, I send it on to Seattle to a friend who is a former Newporter. Gladys Bachellor's article brought back fond memories. For many years after I came to this coast, my Aunt Hattie sent me a shoe box filled with Langley's candy once or twice a year. My favorite was the chocolate molasses sticks, though I liked all the lollypops and stick candy bars. Does anyone remember a candy and gum dispensing machine called the Yellow Kid? It was attached to the outside wall of Kessel's bakery on the corner of Marlborough and Thames Street and no one I've asked can remember it.

Frances Edgar Briggs  
San Bruno, California

Our aunt, Miss Harriet Saunders, was always ready during the summer to take us to the shore, which meant Elm Street pier, Blue Rocks, or any of the delectable beaches tucked away along Washington Street. She spent the morning sitting on a rock or old boat, reading, with one eye on us, and willingly carried home all the shells, star fish and bits of colored glass that we could not carry as we raced ahead, climbing over door steps on the way. The triangular building at the corner of Thames and Cross Streets was called the Bijou, and was run by Miss Margery Stevens, but I remember it first as Miss Rodden's shop. I firmly believed that anything I wanted could be purchased there. A long low window on Thames Street displayed the wonders.

Marjorie S. Harrington  
Norwalk, Connecticut

## DO YOU REMEMBER--WHEN

The Point is, and was always a beautiful place, especially the Bay. Gorgeous sunsets, sailboats, quick squalls, even the tidal waves in a hurricane, all left something to remember.

DO YOU REMEMBER (away back) when the old men used to clean the streets? They were dressed in faded blue over-alls, with either a blue or red handkerchief hanging from their back pocket. Some of the men used hoes to remove every weed and others used heavy brushes to sweep the cobble stones. Along would come the dirt cart, and another man would shovel the neat piles of dirt into the cart. These men were affectionately called the "sore heel gang." They were glad to get out and earn a dollar to buy their tobacco. NO WELFARE in those days.

DO YOU REMEMBER the watering cart? It used to be filled from an old L-shaped black pipe on Washington Street opposite Bridge Street, and I think there was another one on Bridge Street near the Tot's lot. It would go by sprinkling down the dust, while the kids ran along side trying to get their feet wet.

DO YOU REMEMBER when Mr. Easton on Cherry Street would come along with the steam-roller to smooth out the crushed stones that filled the holes and ruts left after the winter storms? NO LITTER in those days, but then today everything is in packages; even the beer comes in cans.

DO YOU REMEMBER the scissors grinder, ringing his bell? Out would come the housewives to have sharpened the scissors or a kitchen knife, or perhaps have fixed a broken rib of an umbrella. Remember the Armenian woman with a black kerchief around her head? She would open up a leather pack to display and sell her goods of needles, thread, combs, hair-pins, lace and other odds and ends. No shopping centers those days.

DO YOU REMEMBER the vegetable peddler with his wagon filled with fresh fruits and vegetables, and the back of the wagon filled with plants? This was a gathering place for the ladies to stand and chat before they returned to the back yard to sit and shell the peas, string the beans, or husk the corn, or perhaps plant that geranium. No super-markets those days.

DO YOU REMEMBER when you breezed in from school you could always tell the tea-man had been there. Mr. Brayton, a short curly-haired man came from Fall River, and it was from him you got your tea or baking powder and the coupons for those roller skates. He smoked the most fragrant cigars and the aroma lingered on.

DO YOU REMEMBER the canvas covered wagons, and the men dressed in white coats delivering meat to the grocery stores? Remember the ice carts with the back step that the kids would hop on to get a piece of ice to suck on?

DO YOU REMEMBER the junk man going by yelling "Any rags-any bones-any bottles today?" The kids would come running out with their gatherings to earn a few pennies.

DO YOU REMEMBER, growing up, we had no such thing as a Teen-age Center, or even a playground. Yet we got plenty of exercise, fresh air and fun just by playing games. WHERE? At the shore, and in the streets, as there wasn't much traffic in those days.

DO YOU REMEMBER going to Ladyman's or Margie Steven's "the Bijou" to buy your top, marbles, jacks, or jump rope? We played jacks on the sidewalk or someone's stone steps. The boys played marbles, pugged for agates, and the older boys and men played horse-shoes at Brigg's Wharf (Causeway). We jumped rope (someone's clothes line) to the tune of "salt-vinegar-mustard-pepper"; played hopscotch, squares drawn with chalk on the sidewalk; rolled hoops, which we got from Henry Thorndike, who made the fish barrels, and we walked on high stilts. We played tag, hide and seek, puss-in-the-corner, leestork, and even danced the barn-dance in the street. Then came the roller skate craze. First we had skates with wooden rollers, then iron, and when we became expert we got the ball-bearing ones. There was skating on all the streets that had cement sidewalks, and a big roller-rink where the Mono-Watt now is. In the winter there were sleigh rides, skating, or jumping from one cake of ice to another along the shore. There was always rowing, fishing, bathing, catching crabs, or cooking mussels in a tin can at the shore. Walking was another good exercise, and up to Battery Park we would run to the band concert, which was always an evening's fun.

DO YOU REMEMBER the Naval Officers, swinging their canes, and walking up Washington Street, out Long Shore and over to the Naval Training Station? Remember when the recruits paraded in Newport on a Thursday and the Chief Petty Officers would be shouting

"Left foot, right foot" and the weekly drills that were held at the Training Station. A familiar sight on Sunday mornings was the boys from Cloyne School with their headmaster walking in from Training Station Road to Trinity Church. Do you remember the bells at St. John's ringing for the four o'clock Lenten service and the lovely ladies in their horse-drawn carriage riding up Washington Street to attend? I can remember Mrs. Webster and Miss Rose Grosvenor.

DO YOU REMEMBER the organ-grinder with his music box and the little monkey perched on top, who collected pennies in his little felt hat? Remember the hurdy-gurdy drawn by a man, and the woman who collected the money in her tambourine? There was a group of colored boys who came every summer from the South and played in a brass band. I guess they were the fore-runners of the Jazz.

DO YOU REMEMBER awakening early in the morning to hear the squeak of the circus trains rolling in? Jumping up and dressing quickly you would go down to see the animals unload. All A.M. the whole family with the rest of Newport would gather at Washington Square to see the circus parade with the pretty ladies and the funny clowns and to hear the old steam calliope. You didn't always get to the circus but some of the boys earned a pass by helping the circus men feed and water the animals. In the evening you did get down to Long Wharf or the tracks to see the circus people returning to their trains and by the light of oil torches the men would load up and pull out. What a day and what a thrill! Two familiar Newport men who worked along the tracks were Mr. Herbert Tuttle and Mr. Joe Barker, who tended to the lights and switches. Of course you remember Tom Wood who tendered the gate crossing, and Mr. Frank Morgan, the engineer.

DO YOU REMEMBER the fleet in the harbor, the bells ringing the hour, and the liberty-boats going back and forth to the Government Landing? Do you remember the New York boats leaving the dock and turning the Light House, with thousands of lights blinking and heading for New York. (We were allowed to remain out until the boat turned the light.) I could go on and on and say DO YOU REMEMBER?

Sam Young's wharf, the short cut to the shore where we played is gone, the fish houses on Brigg's Wharf, the New York boats, and now the Newport-Jamestown ferries. Time goes on and changes take place. Old houses are taking on a new old look and new families are moving in. We have the Causeway to the Torpedo Station, where a new motel is going up and the new bridge across the bay. Now we will be saying "Do you remember that last farewell ride we took on the ferry," or "Do you remember that first ride you took over the new Newport-Jamestown Bridge opened on June 28, 1969? BUT

REMEMBER: the POINT is still beautiful, especially the Bay, with the sailboats, gorgeous sunsets, and now a new bridge.

Carrie Ericson - July 20, 1969

P.S. To all this we can now say, "DO YOU REMEMBER--WHEN the two astronauts, Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin E. Aldrin on July 19, 1969, performed the miracle of all times, and landed on the Moon?"

After reading Carrie Ericson's article, the editors started remembering.

DO YOU REMEMBER the Hathaway brothers who came in a wagon from the Hathaway Farm in Portsmouth, especially freshly churned butter in round wooden firkins.

DO YOU REMEMBER the whale boat races, manned by apprentice seamen, and starting at the Training Station? Plenty of power and crabs, but not much coordination, exciting to watch.

DO YOU REMEMBER the German Band that played on street corners on the Point in summer. Give them a slight donation, and they would play indefinitely.

DO YOU REMEMBER when Washington Street stopped just beyond the Bethunes, and we climbed down rickety steps to the sea wall -- no Van Zandt pier then.

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INTERIOR DECORATOR  
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Religious Articles and Cards  
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Imported directly from Holland at substantial savings:  
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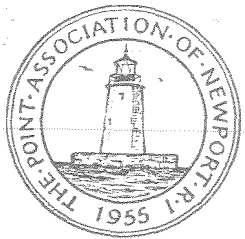
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Arnold Art Store Established 1870  
26 Broadway 847-2273  
Art Supplies, Books, Greeting Cards, Doll Furniture.  
The Right Frame for your Art Work.

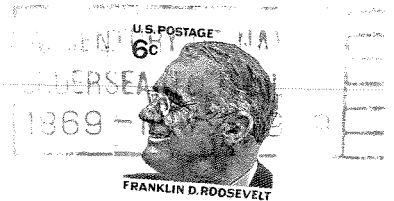
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Let's all work the year around to keep the Point clean and beautiful. Try  
to teach children to respect the trees, and to pick up paper, not throw it down.

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