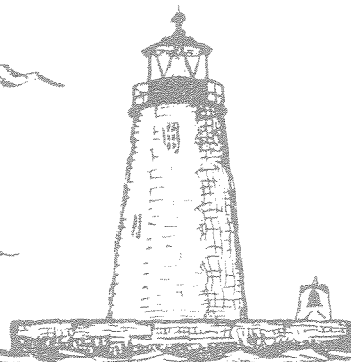


The GREEN

LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

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No. 1

THE JANUARY QUARTERLY MEETING.

The January Quarterly Meeting of the Point Association of Newport will be held on Thursday, January 27th, at St. John's Guild Hall on Poplar Street. This will be an innovation - a Pot Luck Supper, again managed by Dede Elster. The food will be served at six thirty (6:30) promptly, so that the Quarterly Business Meeting which follows will not be too late. Someone will call you to see what dish you would like to bring, and if no one contacts you, please call Mrs. Elster at 847-0563. Also please stick your name on the bottom of your dish to be sure to get it back. The business meeting will come right after the main course, to be followed by dessert, when we have earned it. If Dede can work this without mix-ups, she is even better than we think she is.

We hope there may be some news of Storer Park to announce, but you cannot hurry these things. Our President, Admiral Eccles, has been conferring with our lawyer, various members of the City Council and city officials, and also several interested civic organizations since the October meeting.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Point Association of Newport was held at the Guild Hall on Poplar Street on October 28th at eight o'clock with a good number present. Admiral Eccles told the latest news on Storer Park, but nothing definite has been decided yet. We mention very cautiously with our fingers crossed that for the first time the authorities are discussing possible arrangements, instead of refusing right away. If we can get the land, we shall need to have a capital drive to buy it, for the first time in our history. Be sure to come to the quarterly meeting in January to discuss this project.

The slate of officers for 1972 to 1973 was read by the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Mrs. George Weaver.
Vice President - William Fullerton - 1971 to 1973

Corresponding Secretary - Elinor Weaver - 1971 to 1973

Treasurer - John Kazanjian - 1971 to 1973

Nominating Committee for 1972:

Mrs. John Scott Mrs. Mark Walsh
Mr. Robert Elster

Nominating Committee for 1971 to 1972:

Elinor Weaver, Chairman
Gladys MacLeod Bill Fullerton
Mary Sargent Susan Watts

NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING.

At the November Board Meeting, the other three members of the Nominating Committee for 1972 were appointed:

Mr. John Kazanjian Mr. Robert Elster
Mr. William Fullerton

The President appointed Mr. Elster the Chairman.

Mrs. D. Leo Sullivan was appointed Publicity Chairman.

Mr. Alexander Nesbitt, Nuisance Chairman
Mr. William Fullerton, Beautification Chairman

CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING.

As our own part in the celebration of Christmas in Newport, the Point Association had its annual tree lighting and carol singing on Sunday afternoon, December 19th. It was a cold day, but clear

and windless, and about a hundred people of all ages came to sing. But they all sang joyfully, and it sounded magnificent. Who cares whether they all sang the tune together; they all sang loud and clear with great spirit.

Everyone went into the Guild Hall afterward for hot cocoa and cookies which warmed us up, and you wouldn't believe how delicious everything tasted and how it vanished. Mrs. K. James and her helpers are always excellent.

We are most grateful to Mr. Harry Groff for decorating our tree so beautifully. We planted the tree near Grafton House and the Rectory several years ago, and it has grown so well that we can hardly believe how much larger it is now. The large yellow lights this year were especially handsome.

THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

As you may have noticed, Bill Fullerton has agreed to be the beautification chairman PRO TEM; he keeps hoping that some of our new young members will volunteer to take over this spring. With all the planting Bill managed this year with very little help; can't some of our horticulturalists with strong backs volunteer for this interesting work? Call Bill, or Admiral Eccles; both will welcome you.

Mr. Coloumbe, the Superintendent of Callendar School had the idea this year of getting small growing spruces for Christmas trees in the school rooms, and then planting them in a park, and Battery Park was honored. The day the schools closed before Christmas, most of the third and fourth grades came up to Battery Park escorting the trees, still with a few decorations on them. Mr. Fullerton chose a good place to put them, but there was one trouble -- the ground was too hard to dig, though one ambitious boy tried his best. So the two trees, well balled, were put in a safe place until spring.

THE GREEN LIGHT

We greatly appreciate your response to our appeal for help in publishing the Green Light, as every dollar helps. We cannot get a bulk rate, as the cost of that rate is high. We keep trying every year; one of the first things our new Treasurer does is to make another appeal, and again it is refused. Before the end of our year at the annual meeting in October we had 500 paid members. As of January 1st, we have 340 paid local members, and 74 off island. Usually a greater proportion of the off islanders remember to pay sooner. The rest of our members come in all the year in driblets, and everywhere the editor goes, people remember to pay her their dues. We are sending one final number of the Green Light to all who have not paid yet. We are happy that so many husbands have returned to the fold. We are delighted to hear from our faithful readers, and try to publish anything of general interest. Mrs. Whitman still takes time from her travel office to mimeograph our paper. If you will believe it, the Board requested the editor to sign her name to this!

Esther Morton Bates, Editor-in-Chief

Esther Fisher Benson) who smooth out and edit the language,

Rosalyn Hall) and censor doubtful remarks.

NICKNAMES

Speaking of nicknames, a Providence lady wrote in asking about Blind McCarthy. He was a one-eyed cobbler who had a little shop on West Broadway and his wife was always referred to as Mrs. Blind McCarthy.

There was another McCarthy woman who lived on the Point. She was a top-heavy kind of lady, very chesty with small hips and thin legs. She walked with a bit of a waddle. She was always referred to as "The Mount Hope" (and "Hope" with an Irish brogue is impossible to spell). "The Mount Hope" was either a tug boat or a small ferry boat that plied to Fall River. It was a perfect description.

Note - The SS Mt. Hope was the excursion boat which plied summers between Providence and Block Island via Newport where she docked in the morning and on the way back at Commercial Wharf opposite Franklin Street in Newport.

Gardner Dunton

STORER PARK

Storer Park never really existed, in spite of the land bought from the New England Steamship Company and given to the city for that purpose. Very few people remember what happened accurately, so here is the story. King Covell furnished the older history, and Mr. Leys, when the Redevelopment Agency took over the property, looked up all the records in the city land records.

The New England Steamship Company, which bought all the wharves from the Old Colony Company, in 1890 was using the south wharves for all kinds of repairs to the Fall River Line Boats, except those that needed a drydock. In 1890 it seemed a good idea to buy all the land south of the Hunter House and make a drydock there but they found it was too expensive to build it, and so continued sending the boats to New York for dry-docking as usual.

At this time there were six small houses on the land on Washington Street which the steamship company rented out, but never repaired. In 1920, one burned and after that the rest were gradually torn down. The land was used to store life boats no longer used on the steamers.

Miss Agnes Storer lived in the house north of the Elm Streetway, and she was tremendously interested in getting the children a playground. Also, before there was any organization in Newport for saving old houses, that was her other activity. The Hunter House was standing dilapidated and empty, and for sale. Miss Storer bought it about World War I, and repaired it. She gave it to St. Joseph's Church as a home for the nuns. They stayed there until it was found more convenient to move nearer the church. So once more the Hunter House stood empty. This time Miss Agnes persuaded Mr. George Henry Warren to buy the Hunter House from St. Joseph's Church, in the '30s, and from that beginning, the Preservation Society gradually developed.

In 1939 Miss Agnes Storer, Mrs. Hamilton Fish Webster, and Mrs. Guthrie Nichols raised \$5,000 and in December 1940 bought land from the Steamship Company, which still owned it, though the Fall River Line had folded in 1937. This land ran from the Hunter House land on the north to the land opposite the south side of Bridge Street, -.47 of an acre. The land now proposed for the park goes all the way south to the Goat Island causeway.

In December 1940 this land from the three ladies was accepted by the city and Alderman Gladding commended them for their time and effort finally obtaining at their own expense this proposed shorefront park. It was named Storer Park, as Miss Storer was the guiding spirit, and then turned over to the Recreation Department for maintenance. The city gave a contract to Wattruss and Company to build a pier just south of Briggs Wharf, but World War II stopped that. Later in the war, a slip was built here where the ferry from the north end of Goat Island came in.

In 1941 the city stopped work on the pier, and the tenth of July they authorized the sale of the land to the Federal Government for \$6,500 -- \$5,000 for the land, and \$1,500 for the work done on it. In December 1942 the Council authorized the return to the three ladies of the \$5,000.

The Navy used all of Long Wharf and the land, and stored many supplies there, and made repairs until their own repair dock was built. In 1964 the Redevelopment Agency bought the whole of this property for \$170,000.

Has the time come at last for Storer Park?