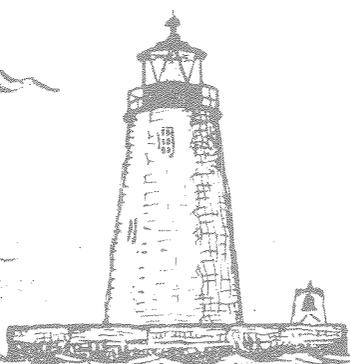


The GREEN

LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Vol. XIX

APRIL 1974

No. 2

The April Quarterly Meeting of the Point Association will be held on April 25th at St. John's Guild Hall on Poplar St. at 8 o'clock. Mr. Edwin Connelly will speak on "Tombstones and Early Newport History," with colored slides of his work in our Common Burying Ground. He is doing a magnificent job, but needs all the help, both physical and financial, that we can give. He will even take interested Pointers on a walking tour to show what he is doing.

The Pot Luck Supper on January 24th was its usual great success, and the food was delicious--meat casseroles, tossed green salad, and pies of all kinds. When there was a crisis that morning, Al and Elinor Henry took charge most efficiently, and with the help of the girls on the committee, all the silverware was washed. Many of the older members came and enjoyed themselves. We especially noticed Chester Carr. Though he joined the Association in 1957 (one of our oldest members), and lives right opposite the Guild Hall, this was the first meeting he has ever attended. Can anyone beat that record?

The Executive Board

The Executive Board of the Point Association wrote a letter to Mayor Donnelly and the City Council of Newport on January 23, 1974, urging the continuance of the Tactical Force within the Police Department. We feel that a unit of trained men with their specialized equipment, who are on call 24 hours a day, is essential to the problems that arise in a modern city. We urge the City Council to give careful consideration to the value and need of this Force before eliminating it. We support the Chief of Police in his concern that the Tactical Force is a necessary force for his department.

The closing of the Callender School is a matter of grave concern to all of us, and the Board is formulating ideas for its future use.

Mr. Joseph Vars, our First Vice President, was appointed to act as a liaison between the Point Association and the City Council. Mr. Vars will attend each meeting except when an alternate takes his place. Mrs. Jane MacLeod Walsh has volunteered to be an alternate.

We have been asked to endorse Mrs. Lillian Gee's selection of a new style of street lights for Newport--one that is in keeping with the Colonial atmosphere. The Board is anxious to do this.

To Mr. John Marshall with Deep Appreciation

The Point Association wishes to express its thanks to Mr. John Marshall for his untiring work in grading Storer Park, and then seeding the grass and planting the shrubs and trees we have been given. This work was Mr. Marshall's gift to the Point Association.

The Point Association has made a contribution of \$200 to St. John's Church.

May we remind late members that Dues (two dollars) should be sent to our Treasurer: Mr. Albert Henry
81 Second Street

Clean-Up Campaign!

As a person sensitive to the many beauties of our Point, I am constantly distracted and saddened by the ever-mounting, unsightly litter and garbage.

If you feel as I do, and want to help in an interesting clean-up campaign, please attend the April 25th meeting.

Annette Chramiee

PLANTS---FLOWERS---VEGETABLES---SHRUBS

At last Spring is here, and it is time for the Plant Sale--to be held May 18th from 10 to 12 A.M. Adm. and Mrs. Henry Eccles, 101 Washington St., have consented to let us use their lovely garden and driveway. Please bring all the plants you can beg, borrow--or part with, late Friday afternoon or early Saturday morning. This will help us avoid all confusion trying to mark and sell plants at the same time; it does get a little hectic at times. Plants should be marked as to name.

Each year everyone has been very generous sharing plants from their gardens. Even the plants you feel are too small will be welcome, and with all the green thumbs we have on the Point, they will all thrive. Tips and advice on how to get the most from your plants will be available.

This spring a great number of people will be concentrating on vegetable gardens due to the food prices. If you have even two or three vegetable plants you can't use, please bring them--someone else will be grateful to have them. Is your garden small? It's very easy to plant vegetables among your flowers.

Coffee and refreshments will be available. Please come and bring your friends.

The Point Association has a list of Shrubs, Trees, Flowers and Herbs of Colonial Gardens dating from 1700 to 1850. This will be available free for the asking.

Phil Arnold II — List of old stores

Please remember, the plant sale does not open until ten o'clock. Even if you bring your plants early Saturday morning, you may not buy any plants until 10. It isn't fair to those who have to come later to find all they hoped to get, sold out.

POINT MEMORIES

Perhaps I might start off this chapter of my life-long memories of the Point by mentioning the many stores and businesses that used to be located here. Consulting the Newport City Directory of 1878-1879 supports how numerous they really were. Some of these places I remember; others, taken over by new owners, still exist.

From Long Wharf, along Washington, Poplar, Second, Third, Bridge and Chestnut Streets, we were fortunate enough to have sufficient shops and businesses for our needs. There were boat builders, blacksmiths, fish market, coal and wood dealers, grocers, meat markets, dry goods, shoes and variety stores. On the corner of Farewell Street, near Walnut, a soap-maker's business was located.

My dear friend and neighbor, Miss Ada F. Crandall (now deceased), who lived in the charming Victorian house on the corner of Poplar and Second Streets, told me about the brick business that was once carried on near by.

The names of the Misses Ada and Ella Crandall remind me to tell of their substantial dwelling, built by their parents around 1854. Mr. George F. Crandall himself designed it with a style all its own. The fact that the Crandalls were ship builders may account for the nautical touches, for instance, a back spiral staircase encased in a very tall oak-sheathed cylinder, representing a spar, such a spar as might be on a sailing vessel. The spiral stairs start from the first floor and continue up to the third. In addition to this unique construction, Mr. Crandall had recessed closet space built into the framework throughout the house.

The Crandall shipyard was located on lower Washington Street and my friends told me that whenever a ship had been completed and was ready for launching their entire family would attend the christening. It was an event!

William E. Crandall, a brother of George, had also built his home on Poplar, in 1833. This house is now owned by St. John's parish. It is in the Greek style, and the family told us that all the woods used were hand hewn and brought over from Westerly, R.I.

While our parents had never known theirs, all of us were well acquainted with the four Crandall daughters. Three stayed in the house at Second and Poplar all their lives. The exception was Anna. Anna married a McAdam, and their son, Roger W. McAdam, wrote many books on the old Fall River Line. The latest of these was Floating Palaces.

More relatives of these two Crandall families were the Greens, who lived in the Christopher Townsend house with shop attached, on the southwest corner of Bridge and Second Streets. I knew Miss Amanda

Green, her sister and brother, and Ada Crandall told me many stories about these cousins and how the shop attached to the house was operated. Mr. Green sold ladies' and men's shoes. The shop retains today the two doors, one for the "front shop" where men's shoes were sold, one for the back, modestly for ladies.

I would call the Crandalls and their relatives one of the Point's first families, steadfast and true in every way and devoted to the welfare of the Point. It was with their great sense of humor Miss Ada Crandall related to me how a Mrs. Saulpanger's home went past her house one morning. Moving houses in those days was not uncommon to see. But as this lady's house went past, from lower Second Street to a new location, Mrs. Saulpanger was at her usual task of making a johnny cake breakfast.

To return to the stores, with so many in the area Point residents were apt to do their shopping there. While they all received good patronage from us, perhaps the Tripp Market on outer Third Street, Bob Hamilton on the corner of Third and Poplar, and Gladdings Market on Washington and Bridge Streets had the greatest varieties, with all the fruits, vegetables and meats that one could wish for--and I might add the prices were reasonable in those days. A one dollar bill would go a long way toward rounding out a meal. Some of us still remember the five cent loaf of bread, six cents for a quart of milk, sugar and flour five cents per pound, a head of lettuce for five cents and two pounds of top round steak for a quarter.

We would walk with our parents, down Washington Street to Long Wharf, and wait for the fishermen to come in with their catch. Often we would return home with fresh caught lobsters, six for twenty-five cents!

Two places, Westall's Ice Cream Parlor on Bridge Street, and Roland S. Langley's candy store (better known to us as "Bubla Langley's") on Chase Street, were not only drawing cards for us on the Point but for people throughout the city. Mr. Langley's shop was always well stocked with many flavored stick candy, and his chocolate molasses bars and coconut cakes were a specialty. While he did sell ice cream here, it was his brother-in-law, Simeon Westall, that received the tremendous patronage. Mr. Westall took great pride in making his ice cream, invariably using fresh fruits whenever they were in season. Customers came from all over the city and nearby towns to purchase some. During the summer months when trade was the heaviest, he would be obliged to shut long before closing time. The sign in the window read, Sold Out.

Mr. Robert Hamilton, better known as "Bob" Hamilton, in the early 1900's held his shop on the corner of Third and Poplar Streets. He received a heavy patronage from many of us who lived on the Point. His shop was reliably well stocked with a variety of fresh cut meats and a good choice in family groceries. Once you placed your order, it was delivered free of charge. Mr. Hamilton's son, William, also assisted, waiting upon customers and delivering the orders in a horse drawn wagon. I happen to have one of the Hamilton store bill heads, showing the picture of the delivery wagon and son William at the reins. Out went the wagon several times a day to make delivery to the customers. During

the days of the Hamilton shop, "Bob" had shown great interest in the problems of Point residents, and at one time was elected Street Commissioner of Newport. During his term of office, the streets were well kept and in good repair.

This brings to my mind the large number of men of all ages engaged in cleaning the streets throughout the city. They were known as the "Sore Heel Gang." One could hear the clinking of hoes and shovels when they did arrive. Many of these men, along in years, took great pride in their daily work.

One or two men of a group would start using their hoes and dig out all the weeds that had grown in the gutter--in those days the gutters were laid with cobblestones. Once the gutters were cleared, more men would follow with a wide push broom to sweep the debris in piles, while still another group shovelled up the piles into a waiting dump cart.

It is sure, these men took the interest to come up on your sidewalk and rid it of any weeds that had grown along the house line or between the pickets of your fence. During the summer, after the sweeping, the watering cart would come through, once or twice a week, to lay the dust. I can remember there were times when the watering cart ran out of water. Then it hooked up to some overhead swinging attachment that happened to be in our block for a refill.

Once Mr. Hamilton was elected to office, many political and influential friends might visit him any day at his shop. Children like myself, sent on errands by our parents, were obliged to wait quite some time before he noticed we were there, so engrossed was he in serious conversations with his callers.

Mr. Hamilton had made his home at 38 Bridge Street, as long as I can recall, and remained there until the time of his death. The house is now restored and owned by the Newport Restoration Foundation.

Another store that was known to many of us was the William J. Ladyman's variety shop, on the corner of Elm and Third Streets, now occupied by the Third and Elm Press. The Ladyman's carried on an active business and the school children from Callender and Potter were continually going in and out to purchase candy, chewing gum, pencils, pads. In the spring, this shop did a rushing business in agates and marbles. The boys would leave for school ahead of time, to play their marble game. A boy would offer to put his agate on the ground between his outstretched legs. The others, standing at a certain distance, tried to hit the agate with a marble. They called this pugging. Once the agate was hit, the boy on the ground would gather up all his marbles and allow the one who hit the agate to take his place. While the boys had their game, the girls had their Jacks, played with a hard rubber ball.

Many Pointers were acquainted with the Ladyman family and the assortment of goods they carried. We are delighted in having Bill, one of the family, along with us as a member of the Point Association. He and Mrs. Ladyman return for a visit here whenever possible to see their old friends. They are now living in Phoenix, Arizona.

We are always happy to see a Pointer return to his native place!

Do any of our members or friends recall the following stores that come to my mind?

Miss Annie Lawton's home with her hand-painted china shop, on Bridge Street.

Manuel De Fray, Grocer, corner of Third and Chestnut Streets.

Samuel Booth, Bakery, corner of Third and Poplar.

Philip H. Caswell, Watch-maker, at 14½ Third.

Edward Spencer, Variety Store, on Bridge Street, next to Westall's Ice Cream Parlor.

Henry Thorndyke, Barrel Factory, on Bridge and Second Streets.

Margie Stevens, Dry Goods, on Thames and Cross Streets, now Arnold Park.

Burton W. Little, Antiques, 52 Poplar Street.

Charles Austen, Granite Works, Walnut and Farewell Streets.

Carr's, Grocer, corner of Third and Bridge Streets.

Ashers Fish Market, between Poplar and Elm Street

Frank's Paint Shop, Bridge Street.

Hurley's Paint Shop, corner of Cross and Bridge.

Mrs. Irene Battenes, 33 Second Street.

Seth W.M. Battene, 45½ Second Street.

Strange as it may seem, almost all the "shops" on the Point still remain as a part of the main house.

Phillipine M. Arnold