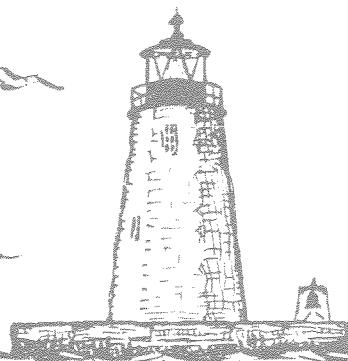


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BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Vol. XXI

January 1976

No. 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

New Year's Greetings to you all, and Happy Birthday to us! Our country is two hundred years old and going great; our Point Association is twenty years old, and we find ourselves in an unusual position: in our historic area, we'll be hosts for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of people. Not only should we Pointers be courteous and informative, but we should present a clean and tidy appearance. Rubbish pickups, sidewalk sweeping, weed pulling and street clearing are all things we can do quietly to contribute, showing our pride and our hospitality.

Our busy season on the Point begins with our Potluck Supper on January 18th, at 4 P M, at St. John's Guild Hall. Follows our Rhode Island Independence Day celebration at the Liberty Tree on Tuesday, May 4th, the Tall Ships week, June 26th-July 3rd, the Point Fair and Weekend on the Point in August, our Annual Picnic in September. Not to be forgotten is our Plant Sale and Coffee, our Spring Meeting and a Spring Garden Tour to be planned, our October General Meeting.

We've got a lot to do and we all can use help on the various committees. Call me at 847-1111 (The Water's Edge), so we can continue to plan for your interests.

A special heartfelt thanks to all those involved in our "Twilight on the Point" presentation of The Three Beggar Kings, a good example of people working together. Shall we consider it to be "our" annual Christmas presentation?

And three cheers for Posey!!!

Joseph P. T. Vars
President

P O T L U C K S U P P E R

P O T L U C K S U P P E R

January 18th 4 P M St. John's Guild Hall is the place --
One-dish supper casserole with meat -- tossed salad -- pies that keep well (no cream pies, please). If you have not been contacted, please call Dede Elster, 847-2273.

We wanted our senior members to feel especially welcome, this is such an old and friendly way of coming together. We initiated the early hour last year, setting the time to suit them. If any of our

Senior Pointers feel they cannot come because of the difficulty of making their way home afterward, let them call The Water's Edge, 847-1111. Perhaps arrangements for driving can be made.

ONE MOST SUCCESSFUL TURTLE FROLIC

It was in 1752 that Mr. George Bresett sailed for the West Indies. While there he sent a fine turtle and a keg of limes to Samuel Freebody. The turtle was at once handed over to a noted turtle cook. There were no entertainments the middle of the eighteenth century more popular than turtle parties.

"Sammy" Freebody obtained permission to have the party at Fort George, on Goat Island, opposite the town. The colonies were then at peace, and the garrison was disbanded. A few men only were retained on the Island whose duty it was to look after the property of the colony. The invitations were sent out without delay for December 23rd; for Christmas was close at hand and no one wished to encroach upon the holidays. When the day came it was thought best to send the guests over in a sloop rather than in open boats, then the usual way of passing to and from the island.

The party was made up of forty or fifty ladies and gentlemen, and when they landed at the fort the flag was hoisted and saluted with a discharge of cannon. Then the company gathered in the quarters of the commandant, and at two o'clock they went in to dinner. Mrs. Philip Wilkinson was seated at the head of the table, and on her right sat Deputy Governor Whipple. Mrs. Wilkinson was well fitted to preside, for she was fascinating in her manners; and she must have been very handsome, judging from her portrait.

The dinner was not served in the old blue and white India ware, of which almost every family had a set, but on Liverpool ware of novel patterns and mixed colors -- blue and brown with cream-colored edges. The covers of the vegetable dishes were moulded into the form of pies and tarts and other devices, and the tureens, curiously enough, were made to resemble a roast turkey. I have not been able to learn that a single specimen of these tureens has been preserved; but as late as 1797 they were in use and were then occasionally imported.

At five o'clock tea was brought in and served in china cups, enamelled in colors, scarcely any two of the same pattern. They were then obtained through European houses, for at that time the colonies had no direct trade with China. As soon as tea was over the musicians were called, and sets for dancing were formed. "Pea Straw," the "Faithful Shepherd," "Arcadian Nuptials," and other favorite dances followed in succession till ten o'clock, when the ladies began to look for their wrappings. But before bidding adieu to the scene of their festivities the company gathered around a smoky bowl of toddy, brought in at the last moment. Then they left the island, taking with them the musicians.

It was a superb night, clear but not cold, and the moon was at the full. When they landed it was eleven o'clock, but, instead of at once separating, every man going to his own home, they kept together and went the rounds, leaving one of the company at this door and one at that, serenading in every instance. In this way the whole company in succession was honored, and then the musicians sought their own quarters.

The next day, in a letter to Bresett describing the party, Freebody closed with these words:

"Upon the whole the entertainment had the preference over all turtle frolics before it, and Mr. George Bresett's health, with "honest George," was freely drank in a cheerful glass by every person; and at the request of the company I return you their compliments for the foundation of so agreeable an entertainment. George, I conclude in hopes of seeing you soon, and so sincerely wish you health and prosperity, and remain your assured friend and most humble servant."

From the pages of Reminiscences of Newport by George Champlin Mason, published by Charles E. Hammett, Jr., at Newport, 1884.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY AT ARNOLD PARK

This Fall another honor fell to our Arnold Park. The Horticultural Society in solemn and impressive meeting there, planted a tree as a memorial to all their departed members. Our own president was among the notables (Your editor saw our gallant leader hurrying off to the park, shovel at shoulder arms position, to do his duty). It is pleasant to recall once more the Horticultural Society's donation of hanging, blooming geraniums to our Plant Sale this May, which hung above Mr. Vars' lane of pink azaleas all the way up the Eccles' driveway. The tree in Arnold Park will bring to Pointers' memory especially Joe Sullivan, that member of the Horticultural Society who did so very much, so many years, for Point residents and to make the Point beautiful.

GLOVES FOUND! Left at St. John's on December 21st -- lady's - Fownes -- lined leather. If they are yours, call 846-7748.

A WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS!

Mr. and Mrs. D. Bach
Mr. John A. Bell
Mrs. H. A. Cecchi
Mr. John Cherol
Mr. Herman Dawson
Mr. and Mrs. B. Dexter
Mrs. Betty Dyer
Mrs. Judy Hilliard

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hast
Miss Winifred Lyons
Cdr. and Mrs. W. Mackay
The Newport National Bank
Mrs. Louise H. Peeples
Mr. John W. Scott

We enclose the program as the best way of recognizing
all who contributed .

THE POINT ASSOCIATION OF NEWPORT
presents

A Christmas Pageant

THE THREE BEGGAR KINGS

by

Rosalys Hall

Cast of Characters

Mother	Jane Walsh
Father	Peter Misiaszek
Karl	T. J. Moffatt
Hans	Robert Steinhouse
Dietrich	Robert Wroblewski
Albert	Michael Steinhouse
Turban King	Leo Sullivan
Crown King	John Bell
Star King	Arthur Newell
Boy	Sandy Nesbitt
Girl	Maria Elena Linton
Priest	Father Turnbull
Neighbors	Belle Griffith, Ed Henrie, Linton family, Nesbitt family, Kenneth Peterson, Aline Sullivan

Scene I: Interior of Karl's house

Scene II: The Village Square

Directed by Emilia Cresswell

Scenery:	John Cherol
Properties:	Eileen Peterson Dorothy Henrie Scott Adams
Neighbors' Costumes:	Stephanie Shumaker
Music:	Gladys MacLeod Gene Edgar
Flutist:	Jo Lynn Windle

For the set, we acknowledge with much appreciation, the
generous cooperation of the following:

Arnold's Art Store for the paint
Tom Benson and Art Newell for transportation of materials
Aline and Leo Sullivan, Kenneth Peterson, Dorothy
Henrie and Peter Misiaszek for building the Village.

THE PLAY'S THE THING ...

How much was made of The Three Beggar Kings in the production directed by Emilia Cresswell! We of the Point Association were pleased to see each and every one of you there, borrowing time from the happy tumult of pre-festival, braving the weather. The applause that greeted John Cherol's stage set, wasn't that fine? Work parties of kings and other Point geniuses must have been warmed, also the wonderful Properties ladies. Emilia Cresswell's rehearsals were fascinating to watch, seeing how all was carried out and arranged, with little businesses introduced. But the play! How very good indeed the players were, young and old. May it have brought a little of Christmas to you new again, may you have been as lifted by the magic of that moment when Karl (T.J. Moffatt) rejoices, "I saw them. I saw them. I saw the three kings." My gratitude and my congratulations to all who made it possible.

Incidentally, the stars that twinkled on the Program were done by Ann Huot! Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer cavorted on Mrs. Shaffell's generous cake.

IT IS NO MYSTERY

You may pay your dues, report you didn't receive your Green Light, ask for volunteers, address any one of us, or whatever, by writing Post Office Box 491. This does not seem to be as easy as it should. The Point Association is all there behind that Post Office Box 491, just waiting to assist you.

There have been recent robberies WITHIN THE POINT -- Washington Street, Second and Third. Keep good WATCH.

THE BELLS OF ST. JOHN'S

When Mrs. Zabriskie provided a church building for St. John's on the Point, she had a three bell "ring," "peal," or "set" placed high in the Tower. These bells were made by Meneely & Co., West Troy, New York, in 1894. The largest bell is E flat, 52 inches, weighing 2,800 pounds. The middle bell is G, 42 inches, weighing 1,500 pounds. The smallest bell is B flat, 35 inches, weighing 800 pounds. These three bells are rung by ropes. In 1905 the same company added a stationary 1200 pound bell. This bell is rung by an altar boy pressing buttons near the High Altar, in the Chapel, or in the Sacristy. It is rung during the Mass to mark the Consecration. The other bells are rung by bell ringers, who climb up to the ringing chamber, either to call people to church services or to mark some great occasion, such as midnight New Year's Eve, the Fourth of July or whatever. Especially during our nation's Bicentennial, we shall plan to ring the bells in unison with other churches in Newport at times suggested by the State Bicentennial Committee.

In 1969, after several years of silence from the three bell "ring," parishoners and friends of St. John's donated more than three thousand dollars, as memorials, and the bells were put back in order. In addition, the E flat bell was given an electric control which automatically strikes the hours and the Angelus (at 7 A M, noon, and 6 P M). From 1969 until now the bells have been telling us the time -- but not all the time -- because as with other mechanical devices there are breakdowns. Art Newell has devoted much time and skill, over and over, but the problem is beyond him. The bells have now been silent for the past several months. But -- good news -- they will soon be set right. A maintenance contract has been given the company that restored them in 1969. A Bell Fund has been established to apy for this service and, hopefully, any exceptional repairs needed in the future.

If everyone just sent a dollar? Maybe the bells can ring forever then?

Donations to the Bell Fund as Memorials and Thank Offerings will be gratefully received by St. John's, and will ensure one more Point Tradition enduring into the future.

DR. ISAAC SENTER
AND RHODE ISLAND WILD FLOWERS

During this nation's Bicentennial there is a happy opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our past and of our nobler citizens. One Revolutionary hero belonging to Newport -- and to all Rhode Island -- who has been recently honored is Dr. Isaac Senter, surgeon general to Colonel Benedict Arnold, surgeon of Rhode Island state hospitals after the war was won, and practicing physician here up to the time of his death. The beautiful floral tribute composed by Joseph and Angela Vars was made up of the wild flowers of the state he loved so well and defended so valiantly -- Queen Anne's lace, tansy, asters, daisies, chicory, loosestrife, goldenrod --

Someone declared, "It's hard to believe a bouquet so colorful and lovely could be created with wild finds. Joseph Vars, who does so many colorful and lovely things there at The Water's Edge, said the only floral shop additions were a few daisies, and those "only because Rhode Island's own natural daisies had faded away by August, when the memorial service took place. It is proposed the picture of the wild flower bouquet be made a poster, that the bouquet be used as a crewel pattern.

Dr. Senter joined the Rhode Island Volunteers after the Battle of Lexington, in 1775. Twenty-two years old at the time, he was chosen surgeon to the expedition commanded by Arnold that together with General Richard Montgomery's forces was to attack Quebec. His Journal is a chief source of information concerning that campaign. Dr. Senter went on to a distinguished career in Rhode Island.

Those gathered to honor him this year were in colonial dress. All was done as it might have been done then. There was a drum corps salute, and honor guard of musketmen -- and the bouquet, placed on the old, weatherworn stone in one of Newport's small colonial cemeteries. "Angela and I felt," said Joseph Vars, "that colonists probably honored their dead with wild flowers gathered on their way to the cemetery. So that is what we did. Rhode Island is rich in wild flowers. We merely gathered them and arranged them" A quiet and beautiful Bicentennial gesture.

In ECHOES FROM SOUTH COUNTY KITCHENS, published by The Farm Home & Garden Center, Wickford, R.I. Mary Cornelia Talbot says,-

The first men of the U.S. Navy were taken from the fishermen, as they were the only men who knew about the sea, and it was decided in New England that cod fishing would take them out into deep water and make them strong, well trained sailors, as there was no school or other way of training them.

Thus it was voted that every family must eat cod fish on Saturday when the fleet came in, and what was left was made up with potatoes into fish balls for their Sunday morning breakfasts.

CODFISH BALLS

Take a good salt codfish and soak overnight. In the morning remove all bones and pick it into fine pieces.

Take as much white potatoes and put together on the stove to boil.

When the potatoes are done, drain and mix well together, mash and add a good-sized piece of butter and a little black pepper.

Mold in your fingers until either round for deep fat frying or flat, about one inch thick, to be cooked in a frying pan which has been well greased.

Thou, who loveth all wild things,
Keep us safe beneath Thy wings.

Keep us from the careless boots
Trampling on our tender shoots;

From the ones who take for granted
Every flower can be transplanted.

From the people who can think
Flowers will live without a drink,

And from those who let us lie
Half withered in a heap to die.

We pray Thee, then to be our Shield,
Who loved the lilies of the field.

Frieda Elton Young
(A poem from England)

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SEND ME YOUR OLD "SAW" AND SAYINGS, PLEASE

I said, "I am going "shanks mare." The man stared. "I haven't heard that expression in goodness knows when." I felt a Rip Van Winkle, but - Neighbors! let's get them down before they are lost - the old saws, the old sayings. If you were wasting illumination - "Two lights in the window and not a ship at sea! If you left doors and windows gaping wide - "Were you bought up in a mill! (The mill people were said to leave everything open because of the flour dust) How about the good old - "Use it up. Make it do. Wear it out." Send them to me, please - Rosalys Hall, Point Association, Box 491.

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THE POINT ASSOCIATION
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