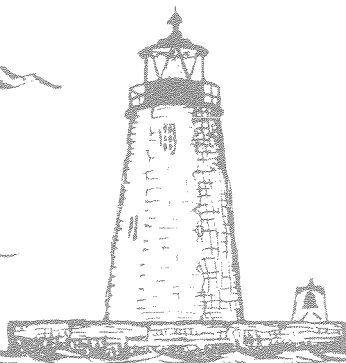


The GREEN

LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

FOR YOUR DUES AND DONATIONS
ARTICLES AND QUOTATIONS —

ANYTHING UNDER THE SUN
THE POINT ASSOCIATION, P. O. BOX 491

Vol. XXV

September 1980

No. 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is a pleasure to thank so many people who worked to make the Point Fair the great success it was - - Art Newell, Bob Elster, Dennis McNamara, Charles Duncan, Ede Elster, Diane McNamara, Betty Stephenson, Rowan Howard, Theo Duncan, Mary Rommel, Virginia Covell --Thanks to Angela Vars for a Super Quilt, to Aline Sullivan for handling all the tickets for the Quilt. There are many others, and to name them all would use all the pages of The Green Light. It takes long hours over long periods to bring about a successful Fair, but all the Committees worked hard and this paid off. We grossed \$5,400. All the bills are not in, however, we shall have a complete breakdown at the October General Meeting.

THE OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING will be on October 16th, at 7:30. A very powerful and thought-provoking film will be shown, depicting what happens to a town with many similarities to our own when gambling casinos move in.

Be sure and attend this very important membership meeting. We need all your support.

I feel we have accomplished quite a few things during the last two years, and yet there are many more unfinished. The Executive Board all have dual committee jobs. Even though we don't always see eye to eye, we work for the betterment of the Point.

Virginia Covell, Esther Benson, Posy Hall and Betty Stephenson all worked week on week getting out NOW AND THEN ON THE POINT. Our new booklet is great and if you don't have a copy be sure and get one. Copies are in many shops in town. They are available at Martin's right here on the Point.

I would like to thank the Executive Board, and all the members of the Point Association, for their cooperation during my two years in office.

WILLIAM H. FULLERTON, Pres.
Point Association of Newport

MEMBERSHIP: Dues are due in October!

Your continued support of the Point Association is greatly appreciated and benefits all. Remember the many activities sponsored by the Association during the year: two meetings with speakers, the Christmas pageant, the Potluck Supper, the Plant Sale, the Picnic, and the Street Fair. Remember, too, that the Association represents the interests of Point residents in neighborhood, civic and historical matters. United we have more power, more voice. Constantly, the Point Association endeavors to beautify and enhance the interest of the area.

Only Point Association members receive The Green Light, issued quarterly. How can anyone know what is going on without reading The Green Light ?

We look forward to seeing you at the October 16th meeting. If you cannot be there, please send your dues to: The Point Association, Post Office Box 491, Newport, R.I. 02840

Single Membership	\$3.00	Sustaining	\$10.00
Family Membership	\$5.00	Patron	\$25.00

Many thanks
ROWAN HOWARD
Membership Chairman

NOMINATIONS

On Wednesday evening, September 10th, the Nominating Committee of the Point Association met, and after due deliberations concluded to place in nomination before the Annual Meeting the following names:

President	William Fullerton
Second Vice President	Emilia Cresswell
Recording Secretary	Beth Murphy
Corresponding Secretary	Betty Stephenson
Treasurer	Theo Duncan

Respectfully submitted
DIRK BACH, Chairman
Nominating Committee

The following Newport merchants were most generous in their support of our Street Fair. They donated beautiful prizes that were used for the children's games. We hope that you will express our gratitude by supporting them in the coming year

AN NATURAL	CLAWSON'S FARMS	INDESIGN	BOOK BAY	E.L. FREEMAN
JUDY'S BEAUTY SALON	VIEWPOINT	KEY WEST FRAGRANCE	PAPPAGALLO	
IRISH DANDELION	ORIENTAL ARTS	THE CHOCOLATE SOLDIER	CONFETTI	
THE NOSTALGIA FACTORY	SCHOCHET GALLERY	CLOUD 9	CASWELL	MASSEY

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THEO DUNCAN, Chairman
 CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

NOTICE 1 NOTICE! NOTICE!

The on-going pageant, THE FEAST OF STEPHEN will be produced for Twilight on the Point, Dec. 20-21st. We need 15 children, 9-12, who fit the costumes, and 6 men, 5 women. Also technical help.

Auditions for major parts, Saturday, October 25th, at the Guild Hall, 9:30 to 11:00. Please call me - 846 - 9686, or I'll call you .

Emilia Cresswell

NEW EDITOR FOR THE GREEN LIGHT

With '81, we shall have DAVID G. ROBBINS as editor. A great many of you know Dave, but he first appeared in The Green Light with the April number. He is 31, was born and raised in Michigan, where he attended the University of Michigan, and earned a BA in American History, his studies there interrupted by a stint in the Navy, as Electronics Technician. Dave first moved to Newport in '70, just ten years ago. In '71, he married Vicki, with whom he owned and operated the Puddle Lane Workshop, of delightful memory.

Our liason with the City Council almost since he joined the P.A. in '75, Dave tried for a City Council seat in 79. He was a member of the Newport Bicycle Study Commission (among David and Vicki's exploits - a bicycle trip across Canada). A local writer, with several recently published articles, David Robbins lives on Sunshine Court, in the midst of the Point section.

Your present editor is very proud to have joined Edith Ballinger Price and Esther Bates. I have loved these years. I hope to have many more amongst you. God bless you all!

Rosalys Haskell Hall

THE GREEN LIGHT needs all your contributions. Now that the editor will be a man, it is to be hoped the men of the Point will give him more stories, more anecdotes, more pieces of special memory and individual history. Wasn't that a nice piece on Martin's!

At the time the great hurricane was featured on TV, many were stopping by "Jack's" to tell what had happened to them, of remarkable pictures they had. That sort of thing belongs on your Association's news pages.

PLANTS OF THE POINT

What I have to say in this article does not warrant a picture of a flower. I want to talk about planting Fall bulbs. There are so many to choose from - tulips, hyacinths, daffodils, crocus, snowdrops, grape hyacinths, scilla - Each and every one is a joy.

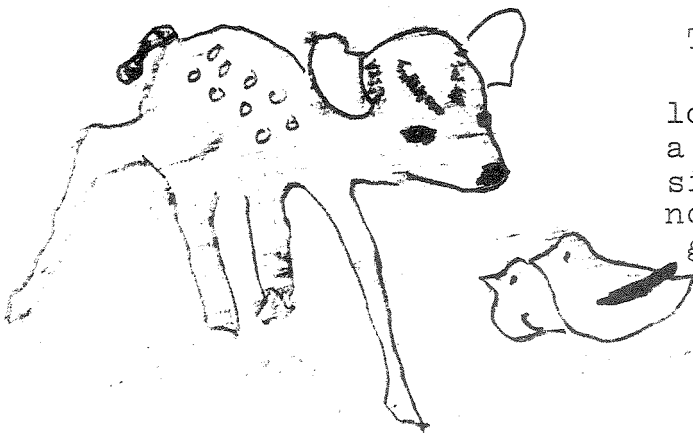
I feel most people do not plant them deep enough, and consequently they are unhappy because their bulbs do not last ever a longer period of time. Make sure all are planted at least 5" - deeper for the larger ones will be fine. It is not necessary to place fertilizer in the hole the first year - though in after years the bulbs will need it. Come next Spring, Bone Meal can be used as a surface dressing. The bulbs should be planted in a well drained area, as most do not like to be continually wet.

Remember one happy thing - bulbs are fine planted in semi shady positions, as they are well into their blooming season before the leaves of trees and shrubs develop. Think of bright flowers in the Spring, where the rest of the year you cannot expect them!

Order your bulbs through the Point Association. We make no profit on these. We do it as a favor to you, and to help beautify the Point.

At the October meeting, we shall have small bags of Hollyhock seeds. These were given to us by Victoria Patykewich, some from her garden and some from a Museum Garden in Newport. These hollyhock are pink and white. They can be planted in a pot now to get a start; it takes two years to bring them to bloom. All colonial gardens had hollyhocks of one color or another. They date back to 1700. If you start your seeds in a pot, first soak them in water overnight. This softens the hard shell and they will germinate faster. SEEDS 25¢ a packet

Bill Fullerton



THANK YOU, PLEASE

For the gifts so secretly sent with the lovely card. These gifts make possible a wall between my front and back upstairs, since the fire a big empty space I could not have used, come winter. The little, golden fly-away lady who set things in motion had already done a great deal - along with that man of hers!

RHH

MEMO: Dorothy's sketch of the Quaker Meeting House is in our new booklet. Buy a copy for a friend who loves Newport!

EXTRA!

A Memorial Exhibit of our DOROTHY MANUEL is on view at the Cushing Gallery on Bellevue. Many, many Pointers have been going up to act as hostesses there, and they are so pleased with the delight of the people coming to see the show.

In our new book Now and Then on the Point there is a sketch Dorothy Manuel did of the Quaker Meeting House. The exhibition contains one of her paintings of the Meeting House and Mr. Fansteel's photograph of the artist, in typical pose, shows it in the background. D.M. did many a painting of the Point section, as we all know. One who grew up here was particularly pleased with her White Horse Tavern. "That is just the way it was before it was fixed over!" he said.

Do, everyone, go and see the exhibition.

SILVER SUMMER QUILT NEWS

Now that the raffle has been held and the Quilt has gone to its new owner, I seem to be lost without this covert possession I've cared for for six months.

As early as November of '79, designs were going through my head, and by December I had formed my ideas and drew scaled plans for our Twenty-fifth Year offering.

Before the Quilters and I were to meet, I had to seek out different people who might have interesting fabric pieces. Our President was of great help with sample materials. Here were the Stars for the Quilt. The squares of Stars and Diamonds were designed to show our celebration of the "Twenty-fifth Year." I chose the Compass Rose because I felt the membership had grown and expanded in all directions. We have members in California and many other states, all former Newporters in some way.

I tried to select places to represent on the Quilt that people went to enjoy themselves - and thus the parks, playgrounds and piers. This is "The Point" to me. Our famous Liberty Tree Park at the corner of Farwell and Thames Street was the first square. The children still hang lanterns on the tree to commemorate our Independence Day, May 4th. The Arnold Park, at the corner of Cross Street and Thames, is a new park to the Point. It is named in honor of the Arnold family who through the years have done so much in civic affairs and in historic preservation. The Elm Street Pier, with one of our historic lamplights, has ever been a fun spot for swimming and diving. Storer Park, at the foot of Bridge Street and on Washington Street, is also a new one - a rather special achievement of the Point Association. It makes a pleasant open space to view our lovely Bay. Youngsters play basketball there, people gather on warm evenings to enjoy its greenery. The Hunter Playground has lots of memories for me: ice skating in the winter when there was a pond, swinging on the swings, using the sliding board, building sand castles -- Van Zandt Pier, at the bottom of Van Zandt Avenue on Washington Street, had a raft where there was always much swimming. Fishing was popular, too, and watching the Fleet, when the Navy was so strong here.

A favorite spot for our family was and is the Blue Rocks (or Battery Park). Picking up periwinkles was my fond memory. For Cardines Field, at West Marlborough and Frank Carrin Highway, there are many things - baseball games, band concerts, parades, the playground - And finally, joining all this together, in the center of the Quilt, the fabric-painted sunset, the lighthouse - the Green Light, symbol of the Point Association (incidentally the sailboat in the scene is my brother's) -

As the design for the Quilt grew, shopping for fabric continued, cutting out patterns began, because the Quilters were to begin in January.

Now my thanks again to my able Quilters without whom this project could not have been done (I must add, a wonderful group of people!) - Cherie Murphy, Lois Cooper, Edith Wilson, Isabel Eccles (my teacher), Ann Dunfey, Phyllis Hurley, Mary Rommel and Donna Maytum.

A last note but surely not the least, the name for the Quilt was chosen by our son Alan C. Vars - just as he named The Water's Edge

Thank you, everyone

ANGELA R. VARS

P.S. A hugh thanks to Mena O'Conner - The Linen Shop - for selling the most tickets. The quilt proceeds totalled approximately \$1800.00

Angela was requested to give The Green Light a full note for the records of this outstanding piece of folk art. Congratulations, Angela! It was hard for any of us to part with it; it must have been a wrench for you to let the Quilt go!

RICHARD WARD, Governor of Rhode Island (1689-1763)

The Histories of the early Governors of Rhode Island are inseparable from the History of their State. What is important to historians - they were innovators. They had to be, in the exceptionally difficult circumstances of having to adapt the strict, antique law of the Mother Country to completely new situations in this.

"We, being freeborn Englishmen ..." began many a hopeful petition, confident that a few words to other Englishmen would explain difficulties about "the King's timber" in forests stretching thousands of miles, or transporting cargoes of salt fish measured in tons, not pounds.

Richard Ward was chosen Governor after the death of John Wanton, May 7, 1740.

Up to the time Richard's son Samuel (1725-1776) was Governor, all Governors of Rhode Island were "Royal Governors." However, Rhode Island was indebted once again to the pacific powers of Roger Williams. Ca 1674, he and John Clark went to obtain a charter for the Colony (Roger Williams had before obtained a charter, but now a king was back -). The one they brought differed in an important respect from those of many of the other Colonies: the charter included the choosing of their own Governors by the people of the Colony. Rhode Island was always governed by men of their own choosing! This was

in contrast to the often tyrannical "Royal Governors" elsewhere, such as Governor Andros.

But although this was an important difference, this did not mean that Rhode Island was not required to make frequent reports, and to abide by the too-often stringent laws laid down by a far-away Parliament. Governed by themselves, they probably had a freer sense that Parliament would listen to a united Colony, not one left to be interpreted by some newly brought over Englishman.

Richard Ward served but two terms as Governor, resigning some said because "of his interest in the War." This "War" pertained to the "Austrian Succession," which touched off strange repercussions in these far-away Colonies. At any rate, at the ten advanced age of 56, Richard Ward was present in person at the siege of Louisburg. He had been a member of a Council of War, in 1741, following which "soldiers were recruited in response to his proclamation, Fort George was enlarged and the Colony's one sloop, the Tartar, was made ready to go to sea." (Quotes are from the Dictionary of American Biography)

The Governor had already "made ready" along several less war-like fronts. As early as 1717, he and three others, including the Deputy Governor Joseph Jenckes, were "appointed to put the laws into print for the convenience of the people, the first time this had ever been done." (National Encyclopedia)

Another task he also carried out. Pirates were harrying the busy seaborne commerce out of Newport. In 1723, he was registrar of the Admiralty Court which tried a crew of 26 pirates and sentenced them to be hanged.

This story was related to me when as a child I first visited the Old Colony House. I was allowed by the then custodian to step out on the balcony and look down on Washington Square. The custodian told his story with grim emphasis. According to him, there were 26 lampposts. "... and your Grampaw had a pirate strung up to each an' every one of 'em!" I have hurried past lampposts on Washington Square ever since.

One of the three important controversies Richard Ward engaged in as Governor was "a dispute with the Mother Country over the right of appointment of a judge of the Court of Admiralty." The other two involved the perennial argument with Massachusetts over the common boundary. He "stoutly protested to England over the border rights."

When I visited the Rhode Island Historical Society, in Providence, two years ago, I heard of the great interest aroused by the bringing to light of Richard Ward's papers on his pioneer attempts to arrange paper currency. "He had an able report on paper money to the English Board of Trade, Jan. 4, 1741, which may be found in the Rhode Island Colonial Records." (National Encyclopedia) The problems of paper currency had not yet arisen in most of the other colonies. I hope able economic historians are investigating how far in advance of his times was this work of Governor Ward and will bring out a definitive study on it.

- 8 -

The Governor died in 1763, peaceful, prosperous and possessed of wide lands in this State. He had bought the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard house (as we know it today) while he was Governor, but only held it five years. He had married Mary Tillinghast, and as part of her dowry her father gave the couple a large farm at Kingston. It is possible the family used the Newport house at necessary times during his Governorship or during extreme weather. There must have been a steady stream of messages between the absent father, the wife and the fourteen children and the workers on the large farm.

Of Governor Richard's sons, Samuel was three times Governor of Rhode Island, and the first Colonial Governor to oppose the hated Stamp Tax. After that, he represented Rhode Island at the First Continental Congress, in Philadelphia.

So much for Governor Richard Ward.

JULIA WARD HOWE HALL

WHY DIDN'T SAM HAVE HIMSELF INNOCULATED?

This came up in the Rhode Island Year Book. The author thought maybe Sam did not know he could die. In Final Marks, it was eloquently expressed how close a knowledge our forefathers had of death. Sam said when he left Newport, "God must look after my children. I must look after my country." He had signed up to serve like any soldier. He had no time to go to the pest house between sittings of the Continental Congress that broiling summer. You were inoculated with the live pox, incarcerated for three weeks, very sick and likely to die. He had his servant inoculated; he believed in it. Cudgo survived. Samuel Ward took the smallpox and died -

RHH

FRENCH NOTES There were people to tell me Axel Von Fersen, who lodged here on Clark Street, was Antoinette, the Queen's lover, That in after years he tried to save the royal family, and was torn to pieces by the mob for his pains. Our James Douglas, along with various prestidigious organisations, arranged the Rochambeau Exhibit at the Art Association. Delightful and informing, I hope you all saw it. Among the exhibits was a French-English, English-French Dictionary presented to his aide, Littlefield, by Nathaniel Greene, to aid him in communicating with our gallant allies; there were communiqués of Rochambeau. In the one, a young French officer refuses promotion since it will pass him over someone senior in service, who did not happen to be present at a battle. So chivalrous were our young French allies! What a gentleman was the general who took note of it! Lafayette's map showed the Battery on the Point.

There are two stories about the French in our NOW AND THEN ON THE POINT. There are stories of a-little-while-ago, of the first family, long ago, to live on the Point, stories of our houses - so many! Do buy our new Point booklet. \$3.50

THE BURNING OF THE BRISTOL

(from the notes of W.K. Covell=1904-1974

In the early morning of December 30th, 1888, the Fall River Line pier on Washington Street and Long Wharf was the scene of a spectacular fire. The steamer Bristol had just discharged its Newport passengers and was preparing to leave for the run to Fall River, when a fire was discovered in the galley.

The Bristol was one of the largest wooden hull boats built for Long Island Sound. It was a "three-decker," having two complete tiers of staterooms above the main deck - there were 240 staterooms in all - and a high open gallery in the main saloon, which increased the spaciousness and attractiveness of the passenger accommodations.

Because of this open area, the small fire in the galley spread rapidly and was soon out of control. Deep snow delayed the arrival of the fire engines, and the steamer's crew was unable to check the flames. The remaining passengers were hastily awakened and escorted ashore, but the fire, aided by a southwest wind, spread throughout the superstructure, and in a few hours practically everything above the hull was burned away. The ornamental wooden boxes over the paddle wheels were so saturated by salt water that the fire passed them by.

Later the same day, what was left of the Bristol sank to the bottom, thus extinguishing the last of the fire. The hull remained in a partly submerged state for several weeks, but because it prevented the use of the wharf for other steamers, it was raised in January 1889 and moved around to the south dock. There it was sold. Wreckers removed what remained of boilers and engine and towed away the hull. It is said that it was beached on the shore of Long Island not far from the entrance to the East River at Throgg's Neck. There its timbers rotted away.

Thus ended one of the "World Renowned, Mammoth Palace Steamers"-words used to advertise these boats, and with little exaggeration. They were described as having "internal fittings of the most elaborate description, beautified with carved work, frescoing, gilding, and the richest of carpets, furniture and hangings." They exemplified the American version of the American style in its fullest development.

The fate of the Bristol was the only instance in the long history of the Fall River Line in which a steamer was wholly destroyed by fire. The Bristol was also the only one of the Line to have a sister ship. The sister was the old Providence, which lasted into the Twentieth Century. A new Providence was built in 1905.

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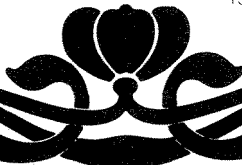


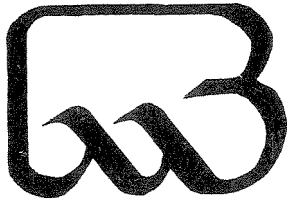
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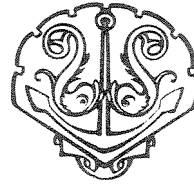




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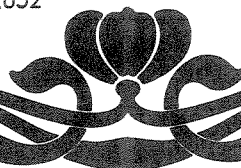
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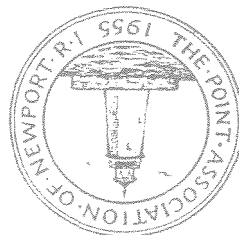
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