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The GREEN

LIGHT



BULLETIN of the POINT ASSOCIATION

JULY 1959

QUARTERLY MEETING

OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

DATE : THURSDAY, JULY 23 at 8:00 P.M.

PLACE: ST. JOHN'S GUILD HALL, Poplar Street

The SPEAKER will be: WALTER deSALES HARRIS
Director of Foreign Studies in City Planning, Yale University

Be sure to come -- and bring your friends.

REFRESHMENTS

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THE SPEAKER at the General Membership Meeting, Mr. Walter deSales Harris, is here in connection with the survey being made by the City Planning department of Yale, under the recent Avalon grant to the Preservation Society. His address will be of great interest and importance, especially to Point residents, and we hope for a large attendance. We have a membership of over 250 -- Come, and bring friends.

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Plans for AN AFTERNOON ON THE POINT (see Page 3) are being completed. The article on Page 4 sets the scene for the tea-party on the piazza of "Villa Marina" under the direction of Mrs. Robert R. Covell. There will be a Bake Sale, arranged by Mrs. Wm. F. Kitts, and an absolutely fabulous cake is being made and baked by Mrs. John Pinto of Bridge St. Miss Carrie Ericson is in charge of chances on this. A number of gardens will be open to visitors on that afternoon (August 8th)

As there have been only 13 entries for the Children's Hobby Show, it has been decided to postpone this feature for a later date. Children under 14 who are interested in exhibiting their hobbies will please contact TELEVOICE, VI6-3144. It would seem that there must be more than a dozen Point children eligible and interested!

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THE JULY meeting of the Executive Committee was omitted.

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THE WEATHER GODS gave a kindly smile in the direction of the Point Association and provided the one good day in June for the Editor's neighborhood party on the 20th. About 55 nice people came, stayed all afternoon, and appeared to enjoy themselves. Although the hat was not passed, these good folk left \$12.25 for The Green Light's coffers.

Thank you !

SMOKE: Two Naval delegates paid a surprise visit to Mrs. R.S. Weiss in answer to our letter to Admiral Crommelin complaining of the Goat Island smoke nuisance. These two gentlemen said they were well aware of the problem; that the prevailing SW wind, and occasional mechanical trouble at the plant, presented difficulties. But they stated that conversion from soft coal to oil within the year, and elimination of the open burning dump in the near future, will improve the whole situation. A formal reply from the Admiral is promised.

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CAUSE FOR REJOICING:

Not only has the famous Sycamore Street sewer been diverted into the treatment plant main, but the ugly pipe itself has been removed. The water off Van Zandt pier and along the shore showed immediate improvement. At long last the situation we have deplored has been remedied.

The block between Sycamore and Van Zandt remains to be completed - we were given to understand that the whole job is to be done by Aug. 14. However, no work is going on at present, and repairs to the seawall are also at a standstill. The Sycamore St. steps terminate several feet above ground level, and are still barricaded at the top.

Thorough repair of the seawall under the sidewalk awaits a favorable vote on the highway bond issue, but we may hope that various loose ends on the current job will be attended to this season.

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WE WERE FASCINATED by an experiment carried out as a Clean-up Campaign by the city of Philadelphia lately. During their clean-up effort, all citizens were alerted to be ready for a noontime blast on the fire whistles. At the signal, every merchant and private citizen was supposed to clean up in front of his premises. If the effort was successful, the entire city was supposedly spotless within about a

half hour. The idea was to keep up this plan once a week, with the result that Philadelphia was to be the cleanest city in the U.S.A. - continuously. We have not heard whether or not the notion worked, but it seems a challenging thought, and worth a try. Fifteen minutes a week, at a specified time.

Since our own Clean-up, parts of the Point certainly do look better. Other portions, alas, are just as bad as ever.

PUT YOUR PAPER TRASH AS WELL AS YOUR GARBAGE INTO LARGE PAPER BAGS. Then it won't blow about as cans are emptied. And don't be afraid to speak kindly to the carefree little ones if you see them throwing their candy wrappers and crackerjask boxes to the winds.

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IT IS REGRETTABLE that no flag now flies at Battery Park on holidays. The pole looked mighty bare on Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. We note there is no longer a halyard on the pole. We suppose it is up to the City -- but it would be nice if some good Pointer who owns a short stepladder would volunteer to see that Old Glory is properly flown at the Park at appropriate times. First - the City will have to get a halyard back on the pole, safely out of reach of the hands of vandals.

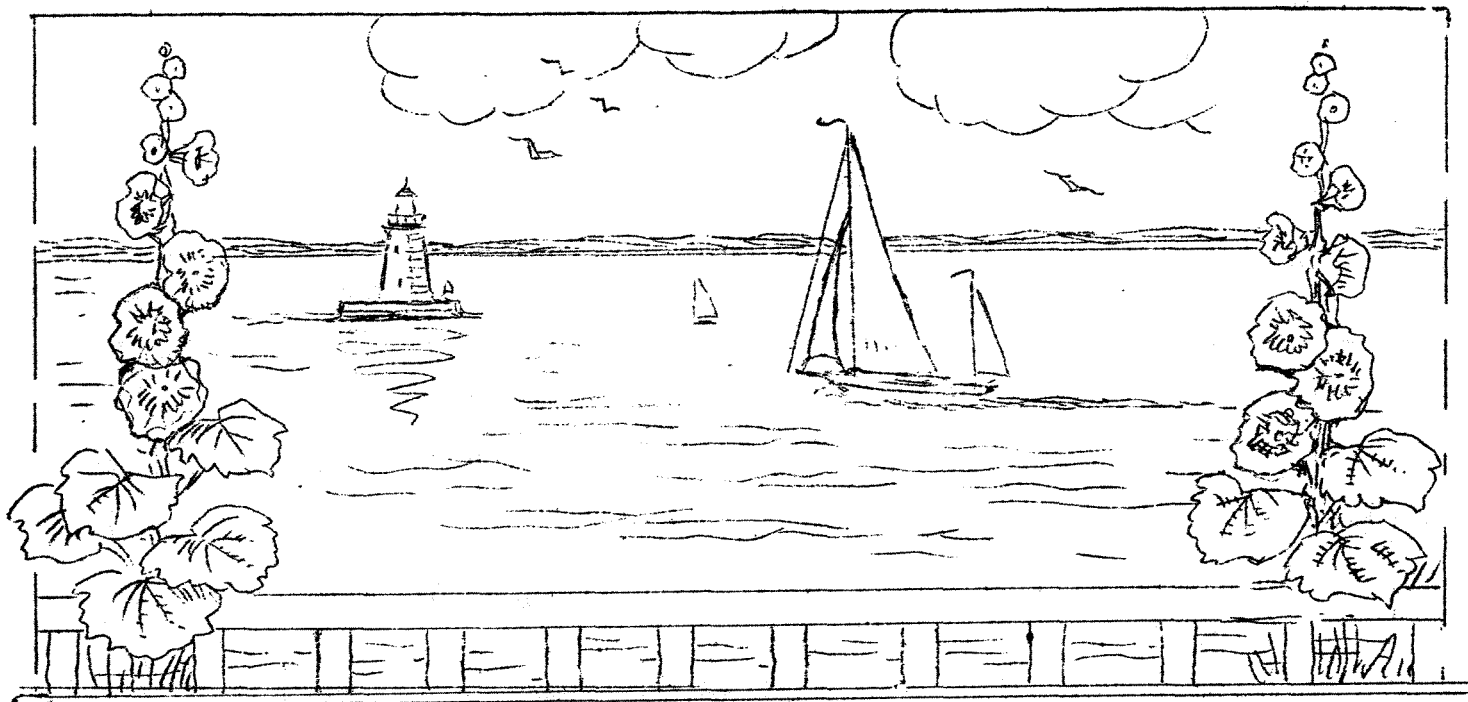
ST. JOHN'S FAIR - -
Saturday, July 18th
11:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.
Snack Bar, Gifts, Aprons,
Candy, Cake, White Elephants,
Gifts, Curios, Plants, Parcel
Post, Children's Table.

OF THE CHURCH GROUNDS
POPLAR AND WASHINGTON

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CORPUS CHRISTI CARNEL
Lawn Fete - Saturday Afternoon
July 18th
On the Grounds. 21 Battery St.

AN AFTERNOON ON THE POINT



AUGUST 8TH

SATURDAY, AUGUST the EIGHTH is the date to remember !
(If it rains -- Sunday the 9th. If in doubt,
call TELEVOICE, VI 6-3144)

TEA - on the Piazza of "Villa Marina" the Covell residence
72 Washington Street.
Three to Five P.M.
Sixty-Five Cents

DOOR PRIZES ! Chances on a FABULOUS CAKE !!
Cool Breezes and an Unparalleled View !!!



*** BAKE SALE ***

2:00 to 4:00 P.M. - the Following Gardens open to Visitors -

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Fullerton, 41 Washington St.
Miss Carrie Ericson, 43 Washington Street
Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Watson, 75 Washington St.
Mr. and Mrs. William MacLeod, 78 Washington St.
Mrs. Francis J. Goldie, 11 La Salle Place
RADM and Mrs. H.E. Eccles, 101 Washington Street

"VILLA MARINA"

From Notes by W. King Covell

In 1869, Milton Sanford bought and moved John Goddard's house and the old Easton house next north, and built his summer residence on Washington St. at the corner of the Willow Street driftway. He named it "Villa Edna".

Mr. Sanford came from Massachusetts; he made considerable money during the Civil War - in fact, was known as a millionaire. His chief interest appears to have been Horses; at any rate the stable up Willow Street (later converted to an apartment house and still later moved to upper Washington Street) was unusually large and had space for six horses and perhaps six to eight carriages.

Mrs. Sanford was the former Cordelia Riddle. She was exceptionally beautiful, and talented in music and art. Her husband's wealth, together with his preoccupation in his own interests, enabled her to be a generous patroness of art. It was said of Cordelia Sanford ". . . in her beautiful villa in Newport, she drew around her a choice and distinguished circle of friends, among whom were Charlotte Cushman, Edwin Booth, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin P. Whipple, Thomas Ball the sculptor, Charles Caryll Coleman, Julia Ward Howe, Adelaide Phillips, and other persons whose names have flown to world-wide fame." *

Mrs. Sanford's niece was the well-known Kate Field. She too often visited "Villa Edna", in fact regarded it as her second home. One room is still known as "Kate Field's room". In reminiscences of Newport, Miss Field once wrote of the house that it was "artistic in construction and adornment", and that "many a gay party of kindred souls have watched the setting sun and bade the moon welcome on the broad piazza. ." *

The Sanfords had no children; when they died the house went to two of Mr. Sanford's nieces. One, Miss Edna Barger, occupied the house on Bellevue Avenue now known as "Edna Villa". When the Washington St. house was sold, the deed provided that the name "Villa Edna" no longer be used. The buyer my grandfather, had the name "Villa Marina" cut into a granite block at the entrance of the 72 Washington Street house.

Since 1896, the house has remained in our family. Very few changes have been made in the structure, and in repainting the rooms, we have tried to retain the original colors. We also have much of the furniture which had been made for the house. My grandfather, after taking possession, was able to trace many large pieces that had been sold separately, and to buy them back.

Soon after they had moved into the house, my grandparents had unexpected callers who brought with them a long panel picture bearing the motto WHAT ARE WE HERE FOR, IF NOT TO HELP ONE ANOTHER? The strangers explained that Mrs. Sanford had painted this, and that it was her wish that it always remain in the house. It had been removed when the house was sold, but had fallen into the hands of someone who remembered Cordelia Sanford's intention. It was a surprise gift to my grandparents, but they were happy to respect the desire of the original owner - and so they placed the painted motto in "Villa Marina" where it has hung ever since.

* Whiting, Lilian: Kate Field, A Record, Boston, 1900, Little Brown & Co

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