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The GREEN LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

A MERRY CHRISTMAS



& A HAPPY NEW YEAR

VOL. IV

DECEMBER 1960

No. 12

Wide, wide there spreads the winter night,
With stars above the sea;
The Christmas Star among them bright,
Pouring its promise and its light
In quiet constancy.

Keen the wind and white the snow
And dark the harborside;
But let the lighted candles glow,
That every voyager may know
We keep the Christmastide.

Peace, peace to every troubled place !
And peace our hearts anoint,
That we may walk in strength and grace,
And show in every kindly face
It's Christmas on the Point !

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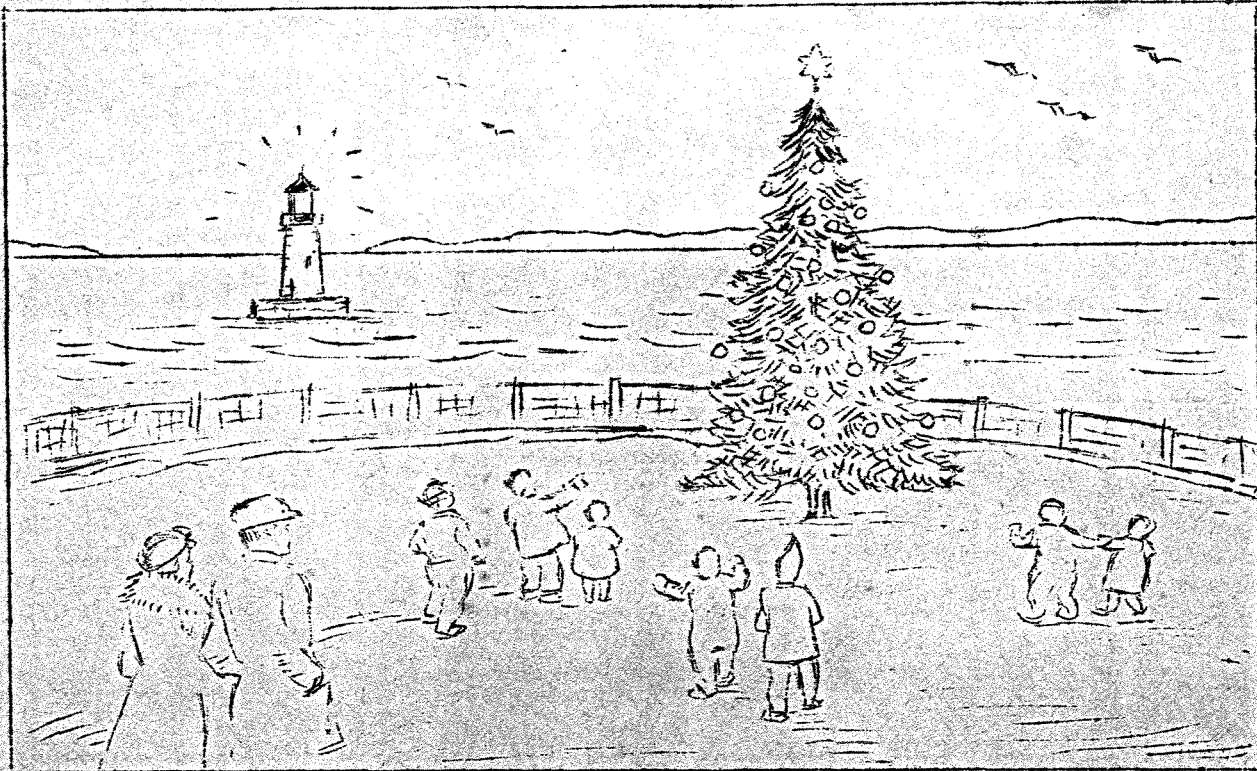
A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

May this Christmas season find you and yours enjoying the blessings of good health, a reasonable amount of wealth, and a feeling of good will towards your fellow man. We on the Point have many reasons to be thankful. We have been blessed in this area of the city with a natural beauty unsurpassed anywhere else in this part of the country. May we help to keep it so !

Again I extend to you the wish for a happy, healthful year endowed with God's blessings.

- William C. Harrington -

CHRISTMAS ON THE POINT *Fig. 1960*



COMMITTEE: Mrs. Robert R. Covell, Chairman
Mrs. William F. Kitts, Mrs. John L. Murphy
Mrs. Richard S. Weiss, ex officio.
JUDGES: Mrs. P. Francis Carroll, Mrs. Thomas A. Bush
Mr. William A. Glynn.

COMPETITION open to all residents of the Point, with the exception of officers and committee chairmen of the Point Association.

1. For the most imaginative outdoor decoration accomplished with the least expenditure.
2. For the best group outdoor decoration - as, adjoining properties.
3. For the most interesting indoor arrangement - such as unusual Christmas cribs, collections of figurines, etc. (Entrants in this category must notify Mrs. Kitts, VI 7-8924)

Two prizes will be given in each class - one for adults, and one for young people under 16 years of age.

Judging will be on December 26th, between 4:00 and 7:30 p.m.

* * * * *

A large temporary tree will be purchased by the Point Association, installed at Battery Park with the cooperation of the Public Works Dept, and lighted through the kindness of W. Harry Groff. Carol singing will NOT be held at the tree, but the Washington Street Carollers, under the direction of Robert R. Covell, will begin their singing in ST. JOHN'S GUILD HALL at 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve, where they hope many Pointers will join them.

DECEMBER BOARD MEETING: A meeting of the Executive Committee was held on the evening of December 8 at 16 Battery Street, with the president, Wm. C. Harrington, presiding.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$3810.78, which includes the \$500 from Homeland Foundation held in escrow.

George D. Weaver, jr. Properties Committee, noted with pleasure the recent sale of the houses at 47 and 58 Third St. and the immediate improvement taking place.

The GREEN LIGHT reported a circulation of 400 for the November issue, but the Editor noted that renewals of membership are still slow in coming in, and urges all those who have not yet sent in dues to make a New Year's resolution to do so.

Mrs. Robert R. Covell, Chairman of "Christmas on the Point" gave a detailed report. (See preceding page)

Miss Edith B. Price and Richard S. Weiss were appointed to the Nominating Committee, and the chairmen of standing committees were tentatively reappointed, pending the acceptance of some absent members.

Miss Ann E. Hagerty, Second Vice-President, was appointed Chairman of the Publicity Committee, with power to appoint other members to assist her.

A letter merely signed "A Well-Wisher", suggesting an extensive rose-planting program, was read and received.

The date of the Quarterly Meeting was tentatively set for January 26th.

(Advertisement)

FOR SALE
Small Colonial House
Point Section
VI 6-2894

(Ad) Report all Violations of
Refuse regulations at once to
VI 7-2646

SKATING, ANYONE ?

Under the aegis of First Ward Councilman J. Harold McCormick, the Hunter Playfield tennis court has received treatment that will make it suitable for ice skating. More lights have also been installed, and the field-house has been refurbished.

This should provide some much-needed winter recreation in the Point section, when cold weather makes the pleasures of the shore impractical. In the recent cold snap, the court was flooded and began to freeze - but unfortunately youngsters immediately tossed bricks and cans into the forming ice and rode bicycles through it, ruining the surface.

It is to be hoped that the children will all realize that the pleasure of skating and sliding is really much greater than the fun of spoiling the ice, and that the little rink will prove to be a welcome addition to our recreational facilities in this area.

ITEM: An ex-Newport Point Association member is Mr. J. Allen Boone of Hollywood, California. We recommend his fascinating books, LETTERS TO STRONGHEART, and KINSHIP WITH ALL LIFE, as a remarkable adventure in reading.

ITEM: Recently a lady-member of the Point Ass'n spent six hours of hard labor cleaning up the Blue Rocks shore. Another female is providing street-signs here and there. In our own small way, individual members can take up the slack !

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VI 6-2894

FOR RENT : Fine 3-room with Bath
Apartment, 3rd floor; heat included.
19 Walnut Street. \$60.00
Call VI 6-2552

++ A CHRISTMAS WEDDING ++



On Christmas Day, 1783, the third John Stevens was married to Mary Shepard.

Eighty-three years before, his grandfather, the first John, had come to Boston from Oxfordshire; thence in 1705 to Newport, where he carried on his trade of mason and began the tradition of stone-carving that is continued by the shop that still bears his name. He built the house in 1709 that stands (in sad condition) directly opposite the shop, at #30 Thames Street - and he set the mark of his primitive genius on many a Rhode Island grave-stone.

His son, the second John, called himself a bricklayer; and indeed he was, as the Touro Synagogue and the countless big central chimneys of old Newport attest - but his output of stone-carving was immense, and the intricate design of the armorial bearings on the tombstones of his famous clients, and the hundreds of humbler headstones that crowd many a New England burying-ground, stand in enduring testimony to his skill.

The third John, his son, born in 1754, was something of a prodigy. His best and most original carving was done in his 'teens. The delicacy of his "portrait" stones with their graceful borders and fine lettering, show an amazing proficiency and a sensitive imagination.

But now he is 29. The Revolution is over (an ardent patriot, he was one of the young men who carried the second Liberty Tree by night from Middletown and planted it at the head of Thames Street.) His father had died five years before, in the midst of the hard times of the British occupation - and though John is the support of his widowed mother, the young man finds it is time to marry.

He was always rather vain and quite a dandy. When only thirteen, he writes out a list of his clothes for the year - and they include gold thread garters, a blue broadcloth coat, the best of beaveret hats and a very expensive silk handkerchief. So we may imagine that he cut a fine figure for his wedding.

It must have taken place at the old Congregational meeting-house which his father had helped build - for the Stevenses were all of that denomination. And then the happy couple returned that Christmas Day to the old homestead on upper Thames Street - a Thames Street lined with the substantial houses of its merchants and mariners, its craftsmen and artisans; houses still standing there, now mute and many of them sadly shabby.

This Christmas night - can you shut eyes and ears to the glare of neon signs and the hum of motorized traffic - and instead, can you see the shadowy flicker of candle-light in the small-paned windows, and catch the ghostly echo of a fiddle tuning up - and the laughter of John Stevens and Mary his wife ?

