

The GREEN

LIGHT

BULLETIN of the POINT ASSOCIATION

NEWPORT

FEBRUARY 1960

RHODE ISLAND

THE QUARTERLY MEETING of the General Membership was held on the evening of January 28th in St. John's Guild Hall, with the president, Edwin H. Brownell in the chair.

Minutes of the October meeting were read by the Recording Secretary Mrs. Harold Watson, who also gave the treasurer's report in the absence of Mr. Weiss. The report showed a total balance of \$2435,70, with expenses of \$220 for the quarter.

Owing to the unavoidable absence of several officers and chairmen, other reports were omitted, and the president took up old business.

He stated that a complete list of projects, with detailed surveys of street lighting, sidewalks and signs for streets will be turned over to Councilman J. Harold McCormick for consideration by the City Council in terms of the budget. The Point Ass'n will press particularly for better lighting in specific areas where there is known danger, such as near Cardines Field.

Under new business, the president was hopeful that the City might again allocate a certain amount for trees if the Point Association matched it with a like sum.

At this juncture, Councilman McCormick announced that he had been given 50 trees for the Point by an anonymous donor. Mrs. G.D. Weaver jr moved that the Executive Committee bring a report to the next Quarterly Meeting stating the sum needed for trees, to be voted on by the membership at that time.

At the next meeting of the Board, disposition of the trees mentioned by Mr. McCormick will be discussed

with Mr. John L. Murphy, chairman of the Tree Committee.

The president announced that Mrs. Henry E. Eccles has accepted the chairmanship of a committee to arrange a summer event.

Mr. James L. Maher, in his capacity as holder of the refuse collection contract, will attend the next meeting of the Executive Committee. The president requested members to check on delays in collection, spillage, etc. and report them to the Board before the meeting, in order that concrete examples of laxity may be discussed with Mr. Maher.

SPEAKER

The speaker was Mr. Francis G. Dwyer, Chairman of the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority, and the large attendance at the meeting was particularly anxious to hear details of the proposed Newport-Jamestown Bridge, a facility that would very definitely affect the Point, especially in its northern section.

Mr. Dwyer explained that the present Authority is a continuation of the old Narragansett Bay Authority, and that plans for a bridge or tunnel have been promulgated for twenty or thirty years. He described the Authority as a five-man, non-partisan commission.

The speaker stated that the bridge is now a necessity because of the development of great interstate highways to the west and north. Without the bridge, he said, Newport will be bypassed and forgotten. The approval of the Navy for the span has been secured

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and the removal of former Navy opposition paves the way for making the bridge a reality.

The location for the Newport end of the bridge has been selected, the speaker stated, and the block between Cypress and Sycamore Streets is the area chosen by the engineers, with exit and entrance roads fanning out north and south beyond the railroad track near Connell Highway. Mr. Dwyer did not state whether the track would be crossed by an overpass or by a grade crossing. Second St. would definitely be a dead end street, and an underpass on Third Street would allow local traffic to flow north and south. The bridge abutments at Washington St. would be at street level, but there would be no access roads west of the track.

There was a period of questions and answers after Mr. Dwyer's talk, and many anxious residents of the northern area involved crowded around a map of the proposed location.

Mrs. Weaver inquired why the State is unable to finance the bridge and Mr. Dwyer explained that Rhode Island cannot afford a \$40,000,000 facility which cannot be paid for by its tolls. Federal funds are not available for a toll facility. The financing is by state authorization of bonds (private capital) to build

the bridge. When the bonds are paid off, after many years, the State owns the bridge. The speaker emphasized that the present deficit of \$300,000 entailed by the ferry would also be eliminated - a sum for which there is no return, only loss.

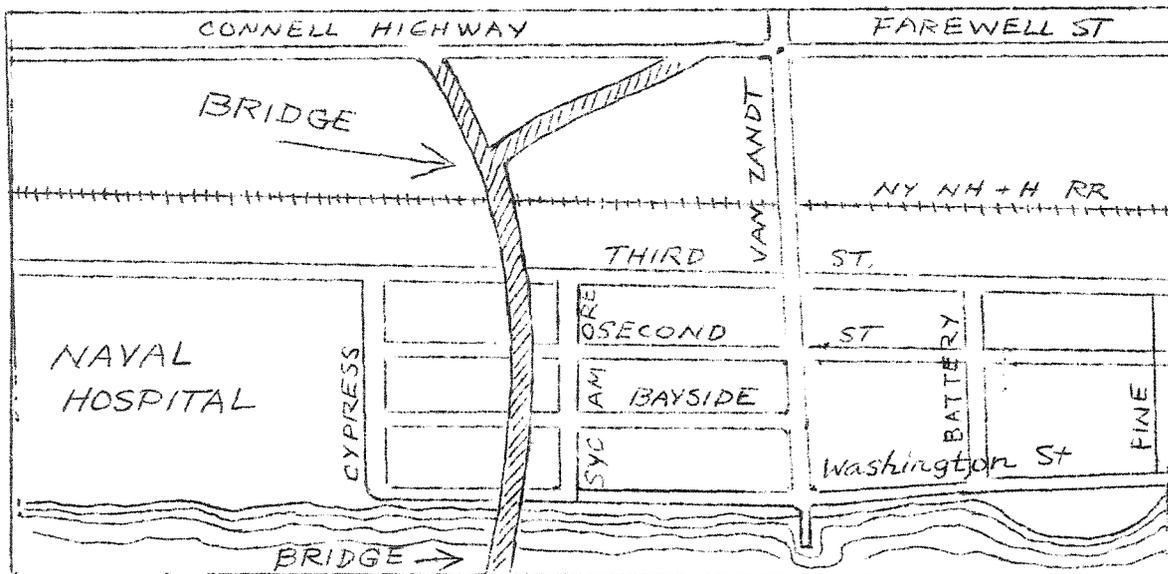
RADM Henry E. Eccles, USN (ret) voiced the feeling of many when he stated that in his opinion the location of the approaches to the bridge could either benefit or ruin the Point, and that it was these approaches rather than the bridge itself which were of most concern.

Mr. McCormick, Councilman for the First Ward, assured the gathering that the problems involved will be treated from a personal as well as a commercial angle.

Mr. Kenneth Stein noted the improved economy attendant upon the coming of throughways in other states.

Refreshments were served after the meeting by Mrs. Wm. F. Kitts assisted by Mrs. Ivy O'Neill.

(Below is a rough sketch map of the proposed location of the Newport end of the bridge)



QUARTERLY REPORT: The Green Light:

Circulation for the Quarter 1101
Out of Town 117
Mailed locally 606
Delivered by "Seagull" 378

Balance \$217.80
Expenses 44.70

Balance on hand Jan. 28 \$173.10

The circulation for the same quarter last year was 601; this year 1101 - an increase of 500! We are planning to have some printing done which was formerly handled by the Editor, and also to obtain the 2¢ bulk rate mailing permit. Expenses will be a little higher, but the Editor will be relieved of certain routine work which, with our greatly increased circulation, was becoming unduly burdensome. However, the membership may rest assured that the Editor and/or Seagull will continue a policy of Thrift wherever possible.

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FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING:

The Executive Committee met on Feb. 9th at 16 Battery St. Mayor James L. Maher had been asked to meet with the Board in his capacity as Refuse Collection contractor. He brought with him Mr. M.C. Massey, driver for this area. In answer to queries and complaints, Mr. Maher stated that the Point was responsible for a greater tonnage of refuse than any other part of the city; that especially on Mondays the amount was tremendous, and that delays in collection were caused by the large quantities and by congestion at the incinerator.

In the matter of improper containers and unsanitary conditions, Mr. Maher seemed to feel that enforcement of existing ordinances was well-nigh impossible without the services of a nuisance inspector - a post which has not been filled since Mr. Robert Delehanty left it.

The Board stressed its unanimous approval of the need for such an inspector, and pointed out that the Point Association has repeatedly urged the reinstatement of this post.

Mr. Massey told of the shocking prevalence of rats, not only on the Point, but all over town. It would seem that the Board of Health could be more concerned over this problem.

The Board indicated its support of the idea of a "white-wings" for this area, and urged any other steps which may be taken to correct the conditions.

Mr. Maher assured the Board that he will advocate such measures. He The surveys of lighting, signs, etc. were shown him; it was suggested that it would be well for members of the Board to attend forthcoming Budget Hearings, bringing up specific problems at each appropriate hearing.

SUMMER EVENT: Mrs. Henry Eccles, chairman, outlined a program for the afternoon of July 9, featuring the opening of several houses and gardens and the beautification of an entire block. An exhibition and tea will also be attractions.

TREES: It was agreed that the 50 trees donated by a generous friend will be all that can be planted this spring. Mr. John Murphy will soon make a survey to determine their location.

CLEAN-UP: Mrs. Geo.D. Weaver jr spoke of her plans for a campaign still in a tentative stage.

ADVERTISING: It was voted to extend the advertising policy of THE GREEN LIGHT to include ads of businesses not located on the Point, but whose owners reside here - the home address to be shown as well as the business location.

BULK RATE: It was voted to proceed immediately in securing a 2¢ bulk rate for the mailing of the Bulletin.

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The Green Light's August editorial regarding the destruction of St. Paul's parish house has been quoted in Historic Preservation the quarterly publication of The National Trust for Historic Preservation, as well as in The Newport Gazette.

THE NEWPORT FORTY-NINERS

Exactly one hundred and eleven years ago, on February 15, 1849, the ship Audley Clark set sail from Newport for the gold lands of California. William Coggeshall was president of the company which undertook the venture, and Ayrault Dennis was captain of the ship. Southwicks, Friends, Whitfords, Crandalls, Barkers and other Pointers were aboard. The ship herself never returned; she was sold to the Chinese in San Francisco, who burned her for her copper bottom. She was a Crandall ship, built on the Point, and was originally a whaler, as one of her log-books in the possession of Mrs. John Howard Benson attests. The following excerpts from a letter of William K. Covell to his son give a sidelight on the expedition, as well as some quaint comments on winter on the Point more than a hundred years ago, and words of wisdom for the youth away from home on his first venture.

"Newport, Jan'y 12, 1849

". . . You want to know what the Boys are about. William Smith is not in the seaweed trade now; the Kings and Wood boys are round for that. Wm. has had considerable to attend to fetching and carrying Hams for his Father to smoke. But I must tell you about the sleighing; for two or three weeks it has been excellent. The sleighs have been going merrily and such a time coasting down hill never was known before - even the Young Men and wimmin are out evenings coasting. They start from Mrs. Murry's and go away down to the wharf. Some have got hurt by running foul. I understand that our Young Lady got her tooth stove in. John is doing his part; he improves all his leisure hours. Last week he came home with his sleigh broke in two parts - all the crosspieces broke off. I have put new ones on and it is stouter than ever. . .

There is great excitement about going to California. They have made up a Company of 60 and there is many more that want to go. They have bought the ship Audley Clark, and today she was taken up on the rail way at the Point; a very interesting sight - so many of the company warping the ship up to the ways and lots of our Citizens looking on, feeling a deep interest in the enterprize. I say success to them; I hope they will do well and come home rich. John McKenzie is one of them, and most of them are from Newport. They will get away probably in 5 or 6 weeks - it is a long sail to take, 16 or 17 thousand miles. . . . We have got our Shop very comfortable and built the Boat in it. . Robert is not yet engaged to any place; he has had an offer of \$700 per year but thinks he should prefer some other business. . . We have had lectures before the Mechanics Association every week and some have been very good. I have attended them all. This gives a little change to the dullness of the place, for there is much complaint about dull times but we hope it may be better in the spring. . .

I suppose you are anticipating the pleasure of coming home. It is something like toiling up hill for the pleasure of running down. We must know that there is toil in everything that is worth having and I am happy in knowing that you are so contented and doing your part so well in this your first voyage. The time will soon come for your return, when if nothing happens we shall be glad to see one another and you can tell us all about what you have seen, and I hope we shall be made better and wiser and you will be glad that you went. . . Try to make yourself Useful and Happy, which you will be if you are Good and True. . .

I am Your Loving Father,

Wm. K. Covell "

Marble's V.I.
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NL 7 NLB 3 1/2 ROSSBY RD

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Farewell & Marlborough Street
Luncheon and Dinner
(Closed Mondays)

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Initialling on Leather
Glenn A. Bissell
16 Walnut Street VI 7-4340

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THE CORNER CUPBOARD VI 6-2894
Antiques Prints and Frames
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"At the Sign of the Piper"
7 Walnut Street

A Bookshop and Military Museum
Visitors to Museum Welcome

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CAPPY'S MARKET VI 7-6229
47 Thames Street
Mary E. Flynn, Proprietor

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THE JOHN STEVENS SHOP VI 6-0566
29 Thames St. Founded in 1705
Letter Carving on Wood and Stone

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POINT MARKET VI 6-1088
Groceries Frozen Foods
Free Delivery
Second and Walnut Sts.

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JUST ONE NUMBER TO REMEMBER !
TELEVOICE - VI 6-3144
All Local Information, Free

THE SAINT LEO SHOP, INC. VI 7-5428
Religious Cards and Articles
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SPIERS' CLOVER FARM GROCERY
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CORPUS CHRISTI CARMEL RETREAT
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INTERIOR DECORATOR VI 7-5163
William H. Fullerton
41 Washington Street

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GAMAGE'S VARIETY STORE VI 7-9626
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Candy, Cigars, Cold Cuts

Ice Cream, Newspapers, Magazines

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(Paid Ad) IF YOUR REFUSE IS NOT
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is spillage, call VI 7-2646

+ + + + +

(Paid Ad) BAG UP YOUR PAPER TRASH
AS WELL AS YOUR GARBAGE ! This
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New Point advertisers are wanted ! Contact The Editor VI 7-3341
Four months, One Dollar. More than 400 readers see your Ad.

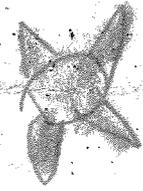
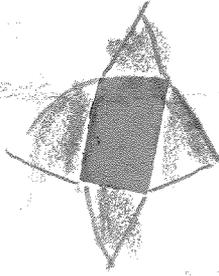
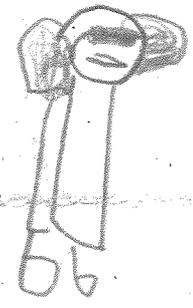
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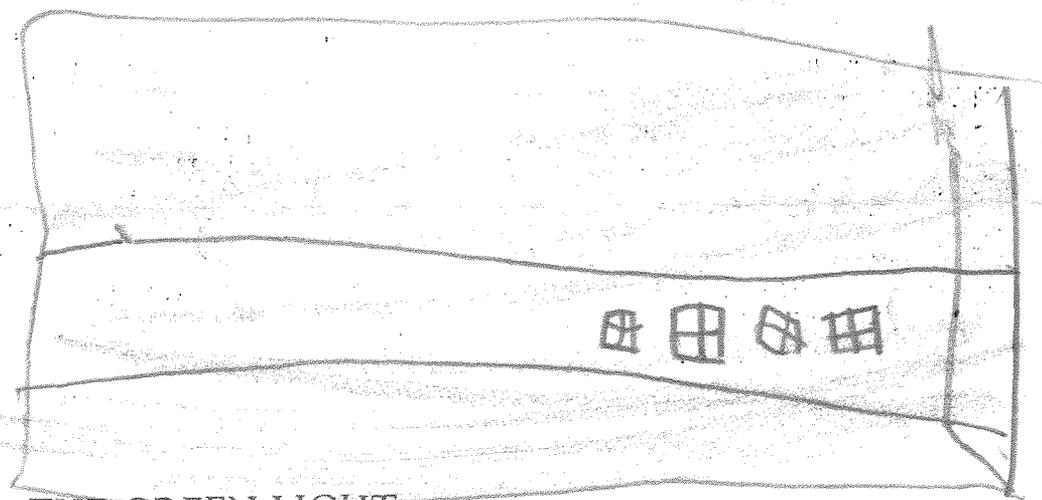
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Steve Weaver



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