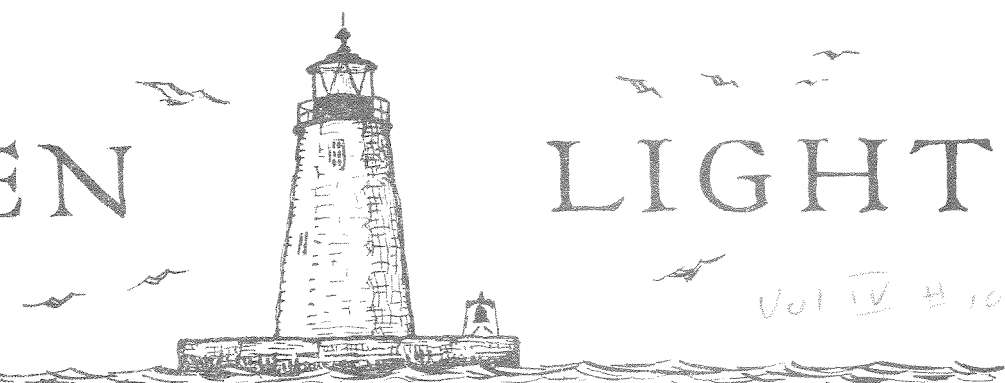


The  
GREEN

LIGHT

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Vol IV # 10

BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION  
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

VOL. IV

OCTOBER 1960

No. 10

ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION OF NEWPORT, R.I., INC.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 8:00 P.M.  
St. John's Guild Hall

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND OTHER BUSINESS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE

FIFTH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

MUSIC BY THE MIDDLETOWN COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA  
REFRESHMENTS

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE will present at the Annual Meeting a slate comprising a nominee for President, Second Vice-President, and Recording Secretary; also three members of the new nominating committee.

Nominations from the floor will also be in order.

The present First Vice-President, Treasurer, and Corresponding Secretary remain in office until October 1961.

A RESOLUTION presented at the May meeting by Mrs. H.E.Eccles has been studied and will be brought before the general membership at the Annual Meeting.

This concerns a proposed Revolving Loan Fund to be used "to assist in the purchase, the reconditioning and/or improvement of houses . . . of such nature and/or significance that preservation or improvement will be in harmony with the traditional character of the Point"

So important a step deserves the serious consideration of the membership.

NOTICE !! OUR FISCAL YEAR begins at the close of the Annual Meeting, and the majority of memberships are due and renewable at this time. IF THERE IS A MEMBERSHIP BLANK attached to this copy of The Green Light, it means that your membership has expired, or that you joined prior to June 1, 1960. We hope that you wish to renew your affiliation with the Point Association. PLEASE let us know promptly, in order that the mailing-list may be kept up to date and that the Bulletin may continue coming to you without interruption. PLEASE !



THE REVOLVING FUND Study Committee met on September 29, with William W. Corcoran as legal counsel. A report of their findings, pro and con, will be made at the Annual Meeting.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE held its October meeting at the home of the president, E.H. Brownell, on the evening of October 11th.

The Treasurer's report showed a total balance of \$3029.55

The circulation of The Green Light for September was 389, and the editor stated that the latest count showed total membership of 451.

Mrs. R.S. Weiss, chairman of the Revolving Fund study committee, reported on the meeting of that group, and there was discussion on the entire proposal, which will be aired at the Annual Meeting.

Dr. Nentzow, Protection Committee, expressed dissatisfaction with the implementation of the dog ordinance and discussed steps for better enforcement. There was also consideration of renewed garbage problems and the condition of neglected and vacant properties. It was voted that letters might be sent to landlords in the case of tenants maintaining unsanitary premises.

The President read a communication from the Deputy City Clerk enclosing a copy of the resolution passed by the City Council upholding the legislation proposed by the Point Association concerning the control of tankers and other vessels with a harmful cargo.

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IF AN OLD HOUSE could only speak, how much it could tell us of joy, grief, romance and adventure ! The Robinson House has seen all this, even before the Vicomte de Noailles was quartered with Quaker Tom Robinson, his hospitable lady and lovely daughters.

But any one who has been watching the major repairs going on at the historic structure might feel that the old house has a good deal to say about its construction. On the "new" north end of the house (1759), the great hand-hewn vertical siding is of pine; on the "old" end, it is of oak. And probing of the anatomy has decided the experts on the job that the south end of the house cannot be a day later than 1720.

It has been revealed that the shell cabinet in the SE corner of the dining-room was built up of slabs of pine to a thickness suitable for carving the shell. And originally, each segment of the shell was painted in a different color.

Removal of the door frame (the window lights on each side of the door were apparently added by architect McKim in the mid-19th century when many changes were made) has uncovered the dim outline of a wide, pointed pediment - so wide, that it could only have risen above a double door similar to that at "Whitehall", Bishop Berkeley's Middletown manse.

Meanwhile, new window casings, new beaded clapboards, new sill, all milled out "on location" on the broad piazza by the skillful New Hampshire artisans on the job, are giving a lifetime of another two hundred and fifty years to this fine old dwelling, still cherished and occupied by the sixth generation of "Quaker Tom's" family.

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THERE IS NO LIMIT TO WHAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED IF IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO GETS THE CREDIT.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

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+++ HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US ! +++

The Point Association of Newport, R.I. came into being in the summer of 1955, the concern of a few people led by Edwin Hammond Brownell, who felt that an organization dedicated to the general improvement of the historic section could do much to restore it to its former significance.

The Association was incorporated on November 9, 1955, by its first officers - Edwin Brownell, Marianne MacLeod, Eleanor P. Lyons, Charles Hoffman, and William King Covell - and it may be timely to quote from our Charter the aims of the Association:

"Said corporation is constituted for the purpose of the general improvement and enrichment of the resources of 'the Point'; the beautification of approaches, streets, properties, waterfront, and other areas of 'the Point'; the protection of the section against detrimental structures, obnoxious enterprises, and nuisances; the encouragement and promotion of active interest in all properties, with special emphasis on the historical aspect of 'the Point'."

It would be impossible, in the space available, to pay tribute to all those who have labored, or to set forth everything the Association has accomplished - or tried to accomplish - in its five years. But we may mention the planting of some 150 trees (mostly appreciated), action taken over the soot problem, the condition of seawalls, the rat population, the control of dogs, the survey of unmarked and ill-lighted streets and bad sidewalks, and many other aspects of upkeep. That not all these problems have been solved, or that some have been solved by other means, is not for lack of agitation on the part of the Association.

Through our efforts, a number of worthwhile houses which otherwise might have been lost are now rescued and restored to significant usefulness. Those that have been lost, we have tried with all our hearts to save.

In addition, we have arranged a full-scale "Oldport Day", an outstanding exhibit of "Arts & Crafts of The Point, Past and Present" and two "Afternoons on the Point", all of which affairs attracted many hundreds of interested visitors and added substantially to our treasury.

Cleanup campaigns have brought at least temporary improvement, and the contest this summer interested many of our children in the beautification of premises. A garden contest, with 30 attractive entries, revealed the charm of many a Point back yard, and "Christmas on the Point", with its lighted tree, carols, decorations and prizes, has become an annual feature.

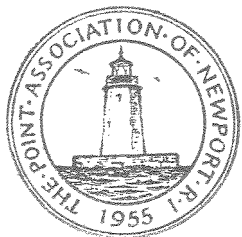
The Bulletin was instituted by S. Joseph Weaver, our second president, and appeared as an occasional report. Mrs. Richard S. Weiss, in addition to her numberless services to the Association, expanded it and envisioned a wider scope. The present editor has attempted to bring out a monthly publication combining news of the Association's activities with historic or reminiscent articles. "The Green Light" is read by hundreds of persons outside our own membership.

From a handful of interested people, the Association has grown to a membership of 451, in 16 states. Its voice is heard and, we hope, respected, in the community. In the years to come, may it speak with ever-increasing authority and usefulness.



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THE GREEN LIGHT  
THE POINT ASSOCIATION  
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NEWPORT R. I.

RADM & Mrs H E Eccles  
101 Washington Street  
Newport, R.I.

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