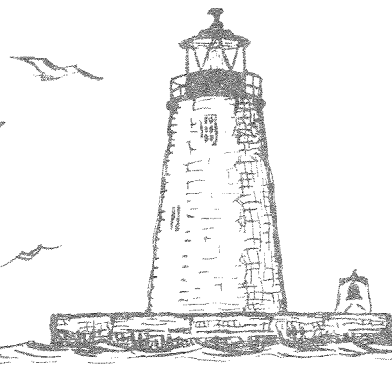


The GREEN

LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

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No. 4

OCTOBER ANNUAL MEETING.

The October Annual Meeting of the Point Association of Newport will be held on October 26th at eight o'clock at the St. John's Guild Hall on Poplar Street.

After the business meeting and election of officers for 1967 - 1968, Mr. Norris Hoyt will give a talk, and show some of his pictures; we are most fortunate that he can come. His subject is:

Sailing Around the Year.

Mid winter - Jamaica, Montego Bay

Spring - San Francisco

Summer - Across the Atlantic, and the English Fastnet Race

Fall - Newport and the America's Cup Races.

JULY GENERAL MEETING.

The July General Membership Meeting was a picnic at Mrs. Benson's lawn on July 27th. At sunset a heavy fog settled down and grew moister and moister as we ate, but no one cared. To entertain us, we had the SeaBee band from Davisville, all thirty-five of them, and were they good! First the whole band played marches, etc., and then their special ensemble for dancing performed from the porch, and all the young people started dancing all kinds of dances, old or new. There were several big circles, and one of the band danced in the circle with the little children. The bandsmen were all most friendly, and we enjoyed talking to them, as well as listening to their excellent program.

We had a very large turnout, and everyone felt most festive, eating to such stirring music. One group even had a cook-out in one corner. What began as a rather sedate picnic grew to be a most enjoyable community affair. The number of children that came and kept coming was incredible, and the amount of cookies they consumed was unbelievable. Mrs. James was able to pro-

vide for all of this until the coffee urn was emptied three times. The view of the fog from the end of the pier was most popular.

All evidence of picnicking was quickly removed, and the chairs moved back to Grafton House in a two-legged procession. Everything went so smoothly it was delightful, and we are looking forward to seeing you all at the next picnic.

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 1967-1968.

President - Admiral Henry Eccles
2nd Vice President - Mrs. John Howard Benson
Recording Secretary - Mrs. George Weaver
Treasurer (Pro Tem.) - Mrs. Francis P.

Carr, Jr.

Nominating Committee for 1968-1969:

Mrs. J. H. Benson

Mrs. G. A. Bates

Miss Ann Hagerty

Presented by the 1966-1967 Committee:

William Fullerton, Chairman,
and Mes. Walter Whitley, William Canole,
Robert Foley, and John Howard Benson.

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The past year has been both interesting and productive for the Point Association. As your President, I wish to express my appreciation for the splendid and enthusiastic initiative and cooperation of the Executive Committee. While we regret that William Fullerton was forced by personal business pressure to resign as President, it was most fortunate that he was able to continue on the Executive Committee and to do such fine work in charge of beautification.

The Association's Resolution of October 27, 1966, wherein we cited the need for increased city-wide cooperative effort to correct long-standing civic defects and to prepare for the opening of the new bridge, attracted a great deal of attention. While some of the response was unsympathetic, most of it was to the effect that it was high time for a non-partisan civic group to lay the facts and needs on the line.

It is gratifying to learn of the formation of the Broadway Association and the Spring Street Group whose work should improve those areas.

We are particularly happy that New Visions of Newport has helped the formation of The Point Improvement Association, a group concerned with certain special situations in our area. We look forward to having their leaders join with us in common improvement projects.

Many people remark about the increasing attractiveness in the appearance of the Point. From early spring through the fall the gardens have been beautiful and the streets and sidewalks are cleaner. We have every reason to believe that with more time to plan and organize, our clean-up squads will improve and more people will keep their own places tidy. The City officials and employees have been most cooperative, particularly in preparing for the various events which have taken place on the Point.

Your Executive Committee is keeping in touch with highway and other development plans and is on the alert for undesirable encroachments.

All in all it has been a good year -- but many such matters as Storer Park, are still uncertain, and others, such as garbage and trash and dogs, require further attention and pressure. For this next year we need a Nuisance Chairman, block supervisors for clean-up, and more membership together with continued active interest of our members. In particular we hope that more people will make a point of attending our general meetings, so that they will represent our entire Point Community.

Henry E. Eccles

TREASURER'S REPORT

October 25, 1966 - September 25, 1967

Balance on hand October 25, 1966

Savings	\$ 4,959.69	
Checking Account	598.95	
Petty Cash	43.00	
Cash on hand	<u>20.00</u>	\$ 5,621.64

Receipts

Green Light Ads	\$ 22.00	
Here and There on the Point	31.50	
Dues	396.00	
Bank Interest	183.01	
Refreshment Refund	10.00	
Beautification Donation	5.00	
Plant Sale and Coffee	46.85	
Reimbursement Cutting Bridge Street Grass	28.64	
Claggert Post Cards	4.25	
Flea Market	<u>1,668.80</u>	2,396.05

Expenses

Moore, Virgadamo, Boyle and Lynch	\$ 100.00	
James S. O'Brien	40.00	
Cross Street Park	700.00	
Maplecrest Greenhouse	40.00	
Cut Grass, Bridge Street	28.64	
Trees	350.00	
Storer Park Plans	158.05	
Storer Park Blueprints	9.36	
Christmas Prizes	30.00	
Lighting Christmas Tree	10.00	
Christmas Flyers	8.50	
Christmas Refreshments	32.00	
League of R. I. Historical Societies	22.00	
Chamber of Commerce Dues	60.00	
Preservation Society Dues	5.00	
Dollars for Scholars	100.00	
Books Poster Contest	113.52	
Cokes Teen Dance	16.68	
Chase and Chase	16.49	
Eckhart Printing	40.10	
Dorothy L. Whitman	52.50	
Stamps	74.00	
Guild Hall Attendant	30.00	
Refreshments	30.00	
Service Charge	4.76	
Flea Market Expenses	<u>322.47</u>	\$ 2,394.10

Balance on hand September 25, 1967

Savings	\$ 3,942.70	
Checking Account	1,635.39	
Petty Cash	23.00	
Cash on hand	<u>22.50</u>	\$ 5,623.59

Barbara W. Carr, Treasurer

REPORT OF THE FLEA MARKET AND STREET FAIR COMMITTEE

In spite of unpromising weather, more than 2,500 people came to Willow Street on August 19th. Thirty-nine booths lined the street from Washington to Second Street, making a very festive effect. There were antiques of many kinds - brass, glass, china, clocks, silver, tin, guns, powder horns, and just things from the attic. There were flowers and food, apple head dolls, embroidery, paintings, lithographs, brass rubbings, religious articles, boutiques, books and things too numerous to mention. Thirty-four of the spaces were rented by shops or individuals, and five belonged to the Point Association. We had two white elephant tables, a Flower Stall, a snack bar, and a coca-cola stand. From these sources, gate receipts, and some donations of money, we received \$1,668.80. Our expenses for flyers, advertising, food, coke, and insurance came to \$222.47, which gave us a profit of \$1,446.13. From this, with the approval of the Executive Board, a gift was made to St. John's Church of \$100.00, in appreciation of their generosity in allowing the use of their facilities, without which we could not have held the market. This leaves a balance of \$1,346.33 to add to the treasury of the Point Association.

The committee wishes to thank all who helped to make this venture a success:

The City Council

Mr. Garcia and the Public Works Department

John Clifford's hard-working crew while they set up tables in the early morning and made ready for the opening, and cleaned up the street after it was all over.

Mrs. Bates and Mrs. James and helpers who made all the sandwiches, and ran the Snack Bar. Commander and Mrs. Bush, who moved into Dr. Frucht's house the day before the fair, furnished hot water from their kitchen all day for the coffee.

Miss Canole and her assistants who gathered and sold the White Elephants, and all our members and friends who gave them.

Mrs. MacLeod and her helpers and all who contributed to the Flower Stall.

Mrs. John Smith and the sunbonnetted LH girls who took charge of the coca cola stand.

Mrs. John Mathinos and Mrs. John O'Neill and the trimly uniformed Girl Scouts who made and served tea.

Tom Carey and his sisters who served coffee and donuts.

Mrs. Barker and Admiral Eccles for their handling of the money.

The gate keepers and the change makers.

Mrs. Harold Watson and those that helped her with the wonderful publicity, which was responsible for the success of our Flea Market and Street Fair.

Isabel Eccles, Chairman

Mrs. Harold Arnold

Miss Muriel Case

Commander John Clifford

Mrs. Arthur Newell

TEEN AGE LAWN DANCE

This year the Point Association sponsored two lawn dances.

The first was held on August 3rd on the lawn of Mr. William Covell, and the chaperones were Mr. and Mrs. Curtiss James, Mrs. George Bennett, Commander and Mrs. Walter Whitley, and Mr. William Jones. Door prizes were donated by local merchants, and the Marsh Street Rebellion donated their time to supply our music. This dance earned \$61, which was sent to CARE.

The second dance was held on September 3rd in the yard of Commander and Mrs. Walter Whitley. This dance earned \$28.00. The money will be used as a floating fund for next year's dance, if we are lucky enough to have another one.

Both dances were managed by Mrs. Curtiss James, and teenagers formed the committee and ran the dance. Policemen were on duty at both dances, and their fees were paid from the proceeds. Coke for both dances was furnished by the Point Association, and for the first dance, mothers of the teenagers made cookies and cake.

We Teenagers thank the Point Association for letting us have these dances, and we hope to have another one next year.

Cathie James

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE.

Mrs. Curtiss James, the Chairman of the Refreshment Committee, wishes to thank all the people who have helped her so nobly, both by donating food, and serving at the meetings. This year she is planning to enlarge her committee in order that more members will share in the responsibility of providing our refreshments. Mrs. James has done a marvellous job, often with too little help, and we should support her and do our bit by gladly making goodies whenever called on.

CLEAN-UP COMMITTEE.

The Clean-up program got underway this spring. It was an experimental program, and only the worst areas (from Bridge to Walnut and intersecting streets) were the target. I had hoped to hire older boys who would not need supervision; however, I was unable to find any who were interested in working for 50¢ an hour. I therefore had to rely on younger children who worked for 25¢ to 50¢ an hour and who needed constant supervision.

Before the children were to begin working I had hoped to have the Boy Scouts or some other organizations help with a larger clean-up program of the area. The railroad tracks and vacant lots were the prime targets. The local Boy Scout troop was most enthusiastic, and the city, with the cooperation of Mr. Garcia, Director of Public Works, volunteered two trucks and two drivers to assist in the clean-up. The big day was set for May 6th. As usual it rained. The boys arrived and had to be turned away. The next Saturday was the first warm sunny Saturday of the year. The truck and driver showed up, but not one boy scout, much to the embarrassment of the leader. The weekends thereafter the boys had camp-outs and other scout activities, and were unable to assist as a group. So that part of the program had to be temporarily given up.

Next, the children and I began spot cleaning up. One of the difficulties we ran into was a lack of sufficient refuse containers. Mr. Garcia again responded to the call, and provided us with new city containers placed in strategic locations. We worked through May and early summer. I found working with smaller children that after an hour they gave out, and so did I! So, due to the lack of lengthy concentrated help I never felt I completely got the whole area clean at the same time. However, I did note some improvement, although far from perfect.

I have been unable to devote any time to cleaning for the past two months. Mrs. Curtiss James has offered to help me, so we should get started again in the next few weeks.

I urge everyone to help us by cleaning their own sidewalks and streets after each trash collection. For those who have children and grandchildren, please educate them to the use of the city trash cans for candy and gum wrappers. If there is not a can available, encourage them to stuff wrappers in a pocket until they reach home. With the cooperation of all, we can have a clean neighborhood.

Susanne P. Whitley

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Trees - Park - Weather !

During this month the Cross Street Park will take on a new look. The trees will be arriving within the next couple of weeks. The Public Works Department under the guidance of Mr. Garcia and Mr. Behan, are having the park graded and seeded.

I was at the Forest Hills Nursery in Seekonk Saturday, and selected the Norway spruce, which will be nine feet high, and also the Washington hawthorne (white) which will be 8 feet in height. The magnolias were selected in May and tagged. However, the delay in planting is due to the weather. The landscape gardener at Forest Hills said the magnolias could not be planted until the first light frost. They are most difficult to transplant and have survive.

The trees will be planted this month on Washington Street, Bridge Street, Walnut and Willow Streets.

It is advisable for members on the Point to put in their requests for trees for next year, so that plans can be made for their purchase.

As an experiment, ivy will be planted around the base of some of the trees, to see if it will survive, and improve the general looks of the streets.

William H. Fullerton

GREEN LIGHT

Our Point membership continues to increase, and with it the Green Light readers. We now have 396 paid members, many of them former Newporters who have moved away. They write us how much they enjoy catching up on the latest Point news. The cost of all this for four issues - for paper, printing, mimeographing and stamps, comes to slightly under \$200. This year we are publishing the committee reports, so that the members will be sure to see what we are doing.

We find it worrying that so many of our oldest friends on the Point have dropped out, even though many of them are still most interested. We welcome suggestions on

ways to increase our membership, and this may be the year to have a door to door membership renewal. In early years Edith Ballinger Price used to deliver most of the Green Lights by hand, and collect the dollar dues - perhaps we need more of the personal touch? We have never raised the dues, and think what you get for a dollar: four interesting meetings with refreshments, four Green Lights, and a chance to meet all the new people who have moved to the Point.

We'll hope to see you all on October 26th.

Esther Benson
Alice Fitzpatrick
Hilary Auboie
Catherine Harrington
Esther Bates, editor-in-chief

THE REVEREND GARDNER THURSTON HOUSE

On March 10, 1757, the deed reads:

Abigail Dyre, widow, for love, good will, and affection to my well beloved Nephew Gardner Thurston, cooper, all my messuage or dwelling house and lot of land

N. on land Isreal Woodward

E. on Thames Street

S. on small gore of land formerly belonging to Nathaniel Coddington,

W. Southerly or Westerly upon Street together with all buildings.

Thus settled the Reverend Gardner Thurston (1721-1802) upon what is now the site of the new park on Cross Street.

On April 29, 1759, he was ordained Pastor of the Second Baptist Church. He married Martha Sanford in May of 1760. Reverend Thurston was a cooper by trade but refused to use his craft for the manufacture of any kind of casks used in the shipment of New England rum "to the Coast." Instead he confined his work to the making of milk and water buckets. Then came the Revolution. By 1780 every church, except Trinity, had been used for barracks by the British and was in ruinous condition. The Reverend Thurston, the only clergyman who remained in town, held public worship in Trinity Church until his own church could be repaired.

On September 27, 1783, the Second Baptist Society of Newport, under the Reverend Gardner Thurston, was incorporated as The Six Principles Baptist Society. He remained Pastor of The Second Baptist Church until his death in 1802 having in that time baptized 328 persons and married 1,114 couples. He was buried in the Old Common Burying Ground on Farewell Street.

His fine house was sold in 1845 to William Messer, a retired sea captain.

On June 19, 1867, William Messer sold the house to Harley W. Pray for \$2,600. Soon after, it was converted into a store. The house was demolished in 1947 to make way for a "fine block of brick stores."

It is most fitting that we remember and honor this colorful Newport clergyman.

James Thomson Douglas