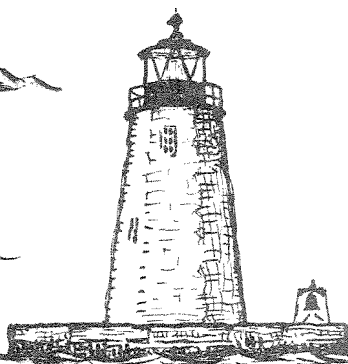


The GREEN

LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

VOL. XIII

OCTOBER 1968

No. 4

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION OF NEWPORT.

The annual meeting of the Point Association of Newport will be held on Thursday, October 24th, at eight o'clock in the Guild Hall of St. John's Church on Poplar Street.

Dr. James Holt of Tiverton will be the speaker. He is a member of the state Air Pollution Commission, and Chairman of the Conservation Commission of the town of Tiverton. He was the moving force behind the acquisition of Fort Barton in Tiverton, which was given to the town of Tiverton by the Newport Historical Society, and which will be developed with state funds as an historical monument, and used for conservation and recreation. He will show slides he has taken all over the bay, with his own descriptions of the scenes, and background music.

Come to the meeting, and bring your friends -- everyone is welcome.

THE JULY PICNIC

The annual picnic was held this year on July 25th at Mrs. John Howard Benson's on Washington Street. The evening was calm with a beautiful sunset, and everyone enjoyed it. The Newport Youth Band, led by Mr. Theodore Durgin, started the evening, and it's hard to believe how well those children play, as some of them are very young, and just beginning. Even outdoors their rhythm and pitch is good, and their enthusiasm is contagious. Our members of all ages kept coming and coming, familiar faces and many new ones, all very happy and relaxed. The children raced around and played games, the older ones renewed their friendships, and enjoyed the view.

The Reverend Father Allen and two guitarists from Cambridge, England, and also two boys from St. Paul's School, all staying with Father Turnbull, sang some beautiful folk songs for us, and urged us to join in some of the simple ones, which we did with enthusiasm. The evening closed with the Battle Hymn of the Republic.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on hand as of September 25, 1968:

Savings Account	\$ 4,176.69	
Checking Account	328.37	
Petty Cash	43.00	
Cash on Hand	19.00	\$ 4,567.06
<hr/>		
Expenditures to date		\$ 1,651.07
Income to date		772.49

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 1968-1969:

The Nominating Committee reports the following nominations for 1968-1969:

1st Vice President - Mrs. John Howard Benson
Recording Secretary - Mrs. Robert Elster
Corresponding Secretary - Mrs. Robert Lewellen

Nominating Committee for 1969-1970:

Mrs. Suzanne Aubeis
Mr. John Clifford
Mrs. Richard Weiss

Report by the 1968-1969 Nominating Committee:

Mr. William Fullerton, Chairman
Mrs. John Howard Benson
Mrs. Gordon A. Bates
Mrs. Robert Lewellen
Miss Ann E. Hagerty

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Clean-Up Chairmen: Mrs. Whitley and Mrs. James

For clean-up, the Executive Board voted \$50 last spring, of which \$20 is still left. The young workers, mostly Junior Point Association members, have worked in one group. For one final clean-up in the fall, they are going to have several groups, and work more on the north end of the Point, which has much more rubbish than usual due to the bridge construction. Mr. Garcia has put attractivetrash collectors in strategic places, and they are really used. The Executive Board commends Miss Mary Kinsella for her untiring efforts in cleaning up her area near the bridge construction.

Refreshment Chairman: Mrs. Curtiss James

The refreshments this year have been excellent, and we are happy to say that Mrs. James will again be chairman next year. Our meetings get larger all the time, but she is never upset by numbers, and always has delicious food. Some of the Junior Point Association help her each time.

Report on Membership, and The Green Light.

This year the paid membership of the Point Association is the highest it has ever been - over 520. The annual meeting, on October 24th, begins our new year, and you will notice your renewal notice for 1969 clipped to this issue of the Green Light, unless you have already paid your dues.

The yearly expenses of the Green Light are as follows:

Paper (Through the kindness of Mrs. Whitman) \$25.20

Printing and mimeographing - \$88.25

Of course stamps are the biggest expense; for the last issue of the Green Light, we sent 450 copies - \$27.00.

Recently we have had many complimentary letters from our members both near and far. They like what the Point Association is doing on the Point, and we like their encouragement.

Beautification Committee:

The Point has shown a decided improvement this year, due to the attitude of our residents as well as the group of teenagers hired to cut grass and mow weeds. It is a never ending job, and will be started early next year.

Many trees and shrubs were planted this spring, even up until June. The trees were planted on the street, as well as in many yards. They consisted of maple, mountain ash, hawthorne, oak, cherry, dogwood, and holly. We had more requests than funds available; however, we will plant more come spring. If you have requested a shrub or tree, it will be forthcoming.

There still are streets on the Point that need trees. Elm Street, Willow Street, and Walnut Street are quite barren, and a house to house contact with residents is being started now to see how many trees will be allowed to be planted.

The trees planted on some of the streets were damaged very perversely, to say nothing of one particular spot on Bridge Street. This tree was replaced three times, and always run over by a beer truck which had to drive onto the sidewalk. However, a large tree will be planted there in the spring, and steel posts will protect it - I hope.

The flower boxes in Battery Park were planted by Mr. Spooner and did quite well. Two weeks ago he replanted the boxes with yellow chrysanthemums. Three of the boxes were turned over, and the flowers were broken beyond survival. New boxes will have to be made before spring, as the old ones can no longer be repaired. I do feel they certainly add beauty to our park and should be continued.

We have hired a man to trim trees and he has done several, but during winter when leaves are off, he will continue to trim more.

The Washington hawthorne tree in Cross Street Park will be replaced this spring, and by a larger tree. The two benches will be in the park soon. The park is a great asset to that area, and thanks to some residents close by, papers and trash are picked up.

As Chairman of the beautification program, I would like to thank publicly Mr. Halleck, who, as the City of Newport Tree Warden, planted many of our trees. Also,

thanks to Mr. Raymond Garcia, and Mr. George Behan. Without the cooperation of these city employees, the Point would not have tree lined streets.
I feel that the Point Association should invest in some tools to cut grass and weeds.

William H. Fullerton - Beautification Committee

THE GREEN LIGHT

Read the Green Light, if so it be
Your memory's somewhat out of joint
With the olden ways and the enticing ways
That were identified with the Point.

It tells of Colonial houses that still
Bring back the past along your way;
You'll remember the walks along Long Shore
Where the boys and the girls used to stray.

It also reminds one of old Fort Green,
And how in the evening we'd see
The New York boat on the bay through the dark
With its lights shining brilliantly.

In the summer time, just before noon,
The excursion boats, three or four
Would be crowded with those for a holiday,
Beach-seeking folk by the score.

The lyrics of birds, butterflies, bees,
In their own way were always on hand,
The sunbeams that greeted the full-leafed trees
Brought shade through them to the land.

The ocean breeze with its cooling breath
Wandered along fetter free
With its influence to bring to one's heart
The tonic of buoyancy.

Read the Green Light and know the past
And your heart with remembrance will glow
With the love of the Point and peace in your heart
Of the glorious long ago.

George Franklin Merritt

George Franklin Merritt of Second Street has been named one of the four poets for 1968 by the Rhode Island Writers Guild. The winners were selected on an area basis. Merritt is the author of "Songs Along the Way." The Guild sponsors the observance of Poetry Day each October 15th. (From the Newport Daily News)

ADVERTISEMENT.

Sea Baths on Long Wharf. Every day and every evening from 6 A.M. to 9 P.M., Sundays excepted. Warm shower, and Swimming Baths. These baths impart agreeable sensations to the mind, keep the skin clear and clean, the body healthy and vigorous, removing the dead particles of the cuticula, causing the blood to circulate freely, lighting up a fresh and healthy glow in the most sallow countenance. Those who participate in these luxuries improve their dispositions and memory.

Eleazer Trevett

(From the Newport Mercury, June 15, 1844)

JUNIOR POINT ASSOCIATION

On June 23, 1968, 35 teenagers voted at the first election of the Junior Point Association of Newport. Since that day the six Executive Committee members have been working diligently to promote good citizenship, pride in our community, and knowledge of what our organization stands for. The final list of officers is:

President - Kathy James	Corresponding Secretary - Sue Marvelle
1st Vice President - Steve Sanfilippo	Recording Secretary - Sue Arnold
2nd Vice President - Steve Waluk	Treasurer - Maryann Carr

Treasurer's Report:

Memberships - \$24.00

Two lawn dances at Mr. Covell's - \$49.63

Junior Point Association Dance at St. John's Guild Hall - \$250.00

Donations from adults in the Point Association - \$35.00

Ads for Dance - \$90.00

Expenses: For permit for dance, policeman and fireman - \$30.00

Band - \$100; Coke - \$26.22; Ice - \$4.00; Cups, Prizes, etc. - \$13.08

Donation to Muscular Dystrophy - \$25.00.

The bank balance is \$266.93.

It's a very big sum of money considering that we raised it in two months.

Our first General Meeting was held on July 5, 1968, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Curtiss James, with President Kathie James presiding. Secretary Sue Marvelle read the letter we received from Admiral Eccles, and the members were proud to know the adults were behind us. A committee was appointed to protect the ladder we put up at Elm Street Pier. A one year nominating committee was appointed, consisting of Mike Robinson, Steve Sanfilippo, and Sue Marvelle. Clean-up Committee Chairman William Earley reported that three cleanups had been held in four days, and that the patches of grass around all the little trees that line the streets had been trimmed. Next, Vandalism Committee Chairman Richard Logan gave his report stating that the gate that had been broken in Mrs. James' backyard had been repaired by sawing an old door in half and nailing it up. The group of boys who had a jellyfish fight in Mr. Covell's yard were sent down to clean it up (headed by Clean-Up Chairman William Earley), and to apologize to Mr. Covell.

The Junior Point Association Board has been invited to attend the board meetings of the Point Association, and on July 12th they attended their first board meeting. This was a great opportunity for our board to become acquainted with the Point Association Board.

The Junior Point Association is planning a dinner for which orders will be taken and dinners will be delivered to the members of the Point Association. This will be our September activity. For October, we are planning a Halloween Dance for the teenagers on the Point. On Thanksgiving, the Junior Point Association will donate a food basket to a very needy family on the Point. The money raised at the September dinner and the October Dance will be put aside in order to sponsor a Christmas dance at the Guild Hall, and on Christmas Eve, the members of the Junior Point Association will go caroling throughout the streets.

A check for \$25.00 was sent to the Muscular Dystrophy Association in the name of the Junior Point Association to help in the fight against muscular dystrophy.

The summer of 1968 has been an unforgettable one because for the first time the teenagers on the Point were joined together by a bond of mutual understanding and interest, a bond called the Junior Point Association.

Sue Marvelle, Secretary

In connection with the Junior Point Association, you may not know that Mrs. Curtiss James was the guiding spirit of the Teen-agers. She held meeting after meeting at her home, and encouraged them in all sorts of ideas. They have learned to work together for civic improvements as well as parties, and are a great credit to her, and to the Point as well.

SCHOOL DAYS -- 1900-09

Sometimes I marvel how well off we are today. Looking back to the beginning of the century there has been many changes. For instance, do you remember the Saturday night bath? A kettle of steaming water sitting on the coal stove, an oil lamp on the kitchen table, and on the floor a galvanized tub of steaming hot water. You got a good scrubbing with Ivory soap or a more thorough one with the yellow Bee or Welcome soap. A big bumble bee was on the Bee wrapper and crossed hands on the Welcome wrapper. Even in those days the wrappers were saved and redeemed for premiums. A flat iron or brick was heated in the oven, then wrapped in a towel and put in the bed to warm the cold sheets. You had a glass of warm milk or hot cocoa and then into bed you hopped in your flannel nightgown. The bedrooms were cold and drafty but there were plenty of warm blankets and patchwork quilts. In the morning the window panes were coated over with frost and you blew your breath on these to make a hole to peep out at the day.

You dressed warmly. Fleeced-lined long sleeve shirts and long underdrawers, which must have been the fore-runner of today's snow or ski suits. Little girls wore a feather-bone stitched flannel petticoat underneath a tucked fine lawn one perhaps edged with lace. Winter dresses were made of woolen plaids, navy serge or cashmere with a bertha collar or sailor suit style, while in summer printed calico, voile, pique, or Japanese crepe were worn. Her winter hat was either a tam-o-shanta or a long stocking hat. Young boys wore short knee pants and blouse and the older ones wore knicker-bockers and oxford jacket, warm coat, cap, and sometimes a sailor's watch-cap; and both boys and girls wore long ribbed black stockings with either button or high-laced shoes. (It was an art to wrap your long drawers smoothly inside your long stockings.) In stormy weather black shiney rubbers or knee high boots were worn. Come Memorial Day the white shoes, and flowered trim strawhat or a leghorn with velvet streamers came out, while today this generally takes place on Easter Sunday. For this event or on special occasions a little girl's hair was rolled up with curlers made of rags and the older ladies wore kid curlers. This too, must have been the fore-runner of today's thriving business of rollers and other gadgets. Now that you have an idea how we dressed, the next important event was SCHOOL DAYS.

We had to be vaccinated, and mine was done by a Dr. Curley on Touro Street. At Callendar School the grades were from Kindergarden to the Third grade. I started in the First grade, and my teacher was Miss Champlin. She was very pretty, with brown eyes, black hair and very red cheeks, and she taught us our A-B-C's. She lived in the house on the northeast corner of Third and Walnut Streets, and later lived with her sister, Mrs. Sanford on Washington Street, where Mrs. H. Katzman now lives.

Whenever anyone says "Callendar School, 2nd grade," immediately our thoughts go back to the most beloved of all teachers -- namely, Miss Saunders. She wore her hair in a pug on top of her head, wore a white apron, and looked like the motherly Old Lady who lived in the Shoe. She lived in the lovely old house on the west side of upper Thames Street, with the wisteria covered verander (now removed). What I remember most was singing at Thanksgiving time, the old song "Over the river and through the woods to Grandmother's house we go." Remember that? Pussywillows always stood in the corner of the room and by passing time in June these were rooted and given to each pupil to plant. Around the blackboard was a border of little stick-men.

The Third grade was taught by Miss DeBloise, who had dark hair and looked somewhat like Miss Champlin, and it was also our last year at Callendar. Some memories of these three years were: we started our day with a prayer and a salute to the flag, and we learned reading, writing, language, spelling, and arithmetic. We sang our times table $2 \times 2 = 4$, and sat on little chairs at our desk that had an ink-well. Very important was per manship. We had ruled line copy-books and every letter had to be vertical and perfect. This was before the Palmer method came in. In addition to this we had a drawing teacher, Miss Blaisdall, who came once a week. She had several pieces of different shaped pottery to draw, and I still remember some of those awful lopped-sided vases with the high light that the pupils drew. Miss Curley was our singing teacher, who taught us the notes and scales, and blew a little pipe pitch to get the right key. We also had fire-drills and were taught to get out quickly and quietly. Report cards were given out quarterly and had to be signed by our parents.

Passing into the Fourth grade meant going to Potter School on Elm Street; today this building is used for school supplies and by the Welfare Department. Here again we learned another A-B-C. Always Be Careful crossing the car tracks, for at this time there were the incoming and outgoing passenger trains, not to mention the string of freight trains switching back and forth. Miss Wilcox taught the fourth grade and she ruled with an iron hand. I think the class was too scared of her to learn, therefore half the pupils were held over another year and that included me.

The Fifth grade was taught by Miss Friend, a small, oldish lady, who lived across the street with a Barker family. Miss Peckham was an assistant teacher. Studies were beginning to get a little harder and we had compositions to write. There was also a little fun too. The snow wasn't removed so quickly those days so the boys engaged in snow battles after school and the different grades had sleigh rides. On Lincoln's birthday, February 12th, we had a visit from the GRAND ARMY men, Mr. George Smith, Mr. Peter Melville, and Mr. George Ray, who told stories of the Civil War and other patriotic exercises were held. February 14th we had our Valentine box. In May, we had to learn and recite poems for Arbor Day, and we planted a tree in the north side of the schoolyard and each pupil put in a shovel of dirt. If you were out sick and returned to school, you had to be examined by the Doctor and have your throat, hands and feet inspected. Every so often you were taken into the dressing room to have your head, or rather your hair examined. If you were absent for a long time you received a call from Mr. Toppan, the truant officer, who rode a bicycle about town. Remember when each grade had their picture taken annually? During class, the windows were thrown open, we stood in the aisle, drew in the fresh air and had STRENUOUS ARM AND LEG exercises. When we reached the fourth grade through the ninth we went to Townsend Industrial School for half a day each week. One week we went to sewing class taught by two very genteel ladies, Miss Manuel and Miss Stacy, who were always dressed in black. The next week we went to cooking school taught by Miss Becky Bosworth. We wore a white cap, apron and long pull-up sleeves and learned to cook, sweep and dust. The boys attended the Manuel Training class and learned carpentry.

The Sixth grade was taught by Miss Tilley, a very sedate lady with white hair and who was deaf. Miss Martha Ryder was an assistant teacher and she took each pupil into the dressing room to recite geography or history.

Potter School included grades from the fourth to the seventh, and Mr. Harry Alger was principal, and taught the seventh grade. He was a Quaker, very stern and used the words Thee and Thou, and he lived on Walnut Street near the High Bridge. Any pupil who didn't behave was sent to Mr. Alger for punishment. He didn't hesitate to crack your hands or legs with a rattan, and some pupils he made chew a piece of yellow Manila paper.

Mumford School was not built at this time so the Eighth grade was a room in the Townsend Industrial building, where we were taught by Miss Eleanor Mackie. The pupils from the Point section went to the Ninth grade at Cranston-Calvert School. This was a long walk four times a day - no auto rides as of today. Here you joined with the regular pupils of Cranston-Calvert and Coggeshall schools and were taught algebra, rhetoric, and more advanced subjects. There were two Ninth grades, one taught by Miss Bosworth and the other by Miss Caswell, with Miss Hedberg as an assistant. In June, 1909, I graduated from this school and received my diploma. From the First through the Ninth grade, we walked to and from school in all kinds of weather.

Looking back over the years, there has been so many, many changes, such as the Ninth grade dropped, newer methods of teaching, different dress styles, transportation by auto and bus, etc., etc., but one thing remains that you can still hold onto -- the MEMORIES of your SATURDAY NIGHT BATH and SCHOOL DAYS.

Carrie Ericson