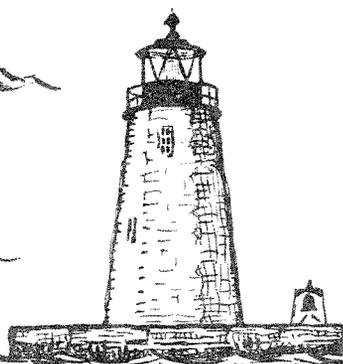


The GREEN

LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

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APRIL QUARTERLY MEETING.

The April Quarterly Meeting of the Point Association of Newport will be held at St. John's Guild Hall on Poplar Street on Thursday, April 24th, at 8 P.M. William Fullerton is giving a talk on "The Colonial Garden for the Point." He has designed two gardens to illustrate his suggestions. If you have seen his own garden, you know how expert he is in making a small area beautiful. So do plan to come, and bring your friends -- everyone welcome.

THE JANUARY QUARTERLY MEETING.

The January Quarterly Meeting of the Point Association of Newport was held on January 23rd at St. John's Guild Hall. The report of the Secretary was read and approved, and also approved was the report of the Treasurer, showing a balance on hand of \$4,888.59.

There was a discussion of the application to the Zoning Board from O'Leary to open an antique shop at the corner of Bridge and Washington Streets; the owners of the adjacent property will confer on the advice of our lawyers.

Admiral Eccles suggested we give Miss Mary Kinsella a vote of thanks for her "one woman clean-up squad," and it was so voted.

There were many questions about the new road by the many house owners whose property will be taken. Mr. David Fenton, our Council member, showed the latest maps of the area, and explained what the State is planning, but many were still confused. There was a lively discussion, and finally Admiral Eccles requested that a letter be sent to the Council stating our position on the road through the Point. We agree that another East-West crossing is not necessary. However, considering the safety of the children going to school, an additional pedestrian overpass would be an advantage.

The business meeting was adjourned, and Mrs. Curtiss James, with the help of

the Junior Point Association, served refreshments.

SPRING COFFEE AND PLANT SALE.

Admiral and Mrs. Henry Eccles are once more welcoming the Point Association of Newport to their driveway at 101 Washington Street for the annual Spring Coffee and Plant Sale on Saturday, May 24th, from 10:30 to Noon. As always we shall depend on our members' donations of their extra plants for the sale, so we hope your perennials have been proliferating. And plant lots of annuals too. This is one of our pleasantest informal gatherings of the whole year, and everyone looks forward to it. We hope our new neighbors will join us.

AFTERNOON ON THE POINT.

"Old Houses with New Owners" will be featured at the Afternoon on the Point to take place on Saturday, August 16th. Mrs. George Weaver is arranging exhibits of arts and crafts of Point residents to be displayed in each house.

Mrs. Francis Carr is in charge of hostesses, and she plans to have little girls in Colonial costumes at the doors welcoming the visitors with tiny bouquets as was done at one of our house tours some years ago. Mothers of girls between

eight and twelve who would like to participate, please call Mrs. Carr at 847-2989. She will also like to hear from adult volunteers to be hostesses at the houses.

The Junior Point Association will serve tea on the lawn at St. John's Parish House.

Some of you may remember the attractive post cards of the Point that Edith Ballinger Price designed. They are being reprinted at last, and will be ready by August sixteenth.

The big attraction, however, is the patchwork and applique quilt designed by Mrs. Eccles, who is a past master at both designing and sewing together these fascinating quilts. She has even inspired ten Pointers to help her with the easy work, and they began in January to have quilting bees every week. They are: Mrs. Harold Arnold, Mrs. Gordon Bates, Mrs. Edward Beach, Mrs. Henry Eccles, Miss Carrie Ericson, Mrs. James Lawton, Mrs. William MacLeod, Mrs. Arthur Newell, Mrs. Herbert Rommell, and Mrs. Clyde Sargent. The quilt is now finished, and will be displayed at the Point Quarterly Meeting on April 24th, and after that in different strategic places. It shows five Point houses, the Green Light, and the new bridge with the Jamestown ferry, all framed by designs of colored patchwork squares. It was made to be raffled off at the Afternoon on the Point; other prizes are a painting by Dorothy Manuel, and the Architectural Heritage of Newport, a gift of the Preservation Society of Newport County.

Mrs. Harold Arnold, 56 Poplar Street, is in charge of the tickets - \$1 a piece, or a book of 6 for \$5, and they will be on sale at the quarterly meeting. We are hoping very much that the quilt will not leave the island, or better still will stay in Newport.

NEWS OF THE JUNIOR POINT ASSOCIATION

The February General Meeting was held on Friday, February 14th, at St. John's Guild Hall. President Cathie James presided. At this meeting, plans to sponsor a basketball team representing the Point were discussed. Plans to raise more money were also discussed.

Membership cards were made through the courtesy of Pat Murphy. Prior to this, paper receipts were used. Paula James was appointed 2nd Vice President to fill the vacancy due to the resignation of Steve Waluk.

The Junior Point Association was asked by Admiral Eccles to serve refreshments during the Afternoon on the Point.

Father Turnbull has allowed us to use the Hall monthly so that we will be able to accomplish more than if we had just four meetings a year.

The Junior Point Association sponsored a Valentine's Day bake sale on Saturday, February 15th, at St. John's Guild Hall. The food was donated by parents, friends, and members of the Association. Over \$50 was made at the sale, a portion of which was donated to St. John's Church in order to help in the raising of money for the automation of their bells. The rest was added to our treasury which now stands at \$188.00.

Sue Marvelle, Corresponding Secretary.

(And judging by the delicious food the girls made, they are living up to the traditions of their mothers and grandmothers, who were superlative cooks.

THE GREEN LIGHT.

The editors of The Green Light are proud to report that we now have a paid membership of over 480, by far the most we have ever had, and more are still coming. We also have more sustaining members. Ninety-six of the members are off the island, mostly former Newporters. They are spread all over the country, and deeply interested in the Point. We are fortunate to have Miss Nora Shea and Mrs. Helen Caffroy to collate each issue, and what a help to have real professionals do that job. We have three editors now, and would be delighted if some young hopefuls would like to help us --- the final editing takes only one evening every three months. And don't any of you have old tales you would like to write?

Esther Bates
Esther Benson
Alice Fitzpatrick

OLD GROCERY STORES

(From Memories of the Point, by Gladys Bacheller Booth)

Thorndike ran a barrel factory across from Bucky Spencer's on Bridge Street. He used to sit outside in a captain's chair during the summer time, and in the morning when Bucky Spencer came out to sweep off his sidewalk, Henry would whistle:

There she comes, there she goes

All dressed up in her Sunday clothes

which used to exasperate Bucky, who was a grumpy little old man, but Henry, who was fat and happy-go-lucky would just laugh at him. A Miss Lawton and her brother had a little shop right next to the Hamilton house on Bridge Street just above the barber shop, where she used to paint and sell china and pictures. She and her brother also sold beans and brown bread.

The old grocery stores had sawdust on the floor, which sometimes got quite dirty, a pot bellied stove in winter, a kerosene bracket lamp on the wall for winter afternoons, and flies galore in summer. The stores smelled of damp, sawdust, kerosene, salt cod, smoked herring and freshly ground coffee.

Bob Hamilton, who had red cheeks and white whiskers, was very active in politics, and drove a high stepping horse ~~and~~ buggy. His store was at Third and Poplar. He had a large square of cardboard tacked to one side of the wall which gave notice of a band concert:

Shortly after eight o'clock

The band will play in Battery Park.

Of course everyone on the Point knew it had to be a Tuesday or Thursday evening, and only during the summer months, but the sign was there all year.

Some of the grocery stores had a hitching post for the horses, but Bob Hamilton and Al Groffe had a metal awning, held up by posts, to which the horse reins could be tied. A man would drive up to either of these stores, tie his reins to the post, and drop an iron weight in the cobblestone gutter. A leather strap was fastened to this weight, the other end to the horse's bridle. If it was near noon, the driver would hang the straps of a canvas bag, half full of oats, over the horse's head, and then go into the store, knowing his horse would not walk off. It might be a Middletown farmer with fresh vegetables, and shelves in front of the store would be opened to display them.

Al Groffe's store on Bridge Street, where my grandmother traded, must have been two hundred years old. In back of the store, but quite plain for all to see, was a barroom with men standing around drinking beer. There was another room in the rear of the bar, where Al, some of his fishermen friends, and men who worked on the New York boat, which was tied up at nearby Brigg's Wharf or pier, played cards. On Saturday afternoons during the summer, he'd make a quahaug chowder and serve it to his friends in the evening, with pilot crackers.

Big carcasses of lamb and beef, ham and bacon hung from hooks on the rafters, so did salt cod and herring. Part of a side of beef would be on a chopping block, from which a fine porterhouse steak would be cut for less than twenty-five cents a pound. Milk was in ten or twenty quart cans. Al or his son "Commodore" used to tip the can up and down and shake it to distribute the cream before pouring it into the pitcher or pail. There was always a barrel of dill pickles, and a barrel of molasses with a pump to fill the earthenware jugs folks brought. Apples and common crackers also came in a barrel, but milk crackers and pilot crackers called by the old timers hard tack, were in big tin boxes, with covers. Potatoes, onions, carrots, squash and pumpkins were in bins. In the summer, cabbages, peas, beets, string beans, radishes, and white squash were on the shelves outside the store.

A galvanized iron barrel with a spigot contained kerosene which was run into one or five gallon cans of the customers', and there were round bundles of wood tied together with a cord, for kindling coal fires.

Most everything was out in the open, but bread, cake, and doughnuts were in a glass showcase on one side of the counter. A red and black iron coffee mill or grinder with wheels on each side was also on the counter. Tobacco was kept in a small glass case. Chewing tobacco was cut with an iron cutter that had a long handle with a sharp blade. Tea was in red or black japanned lacquer boxes. Coffee beans were sold, and then ground

in the coffee grinder. Salt pork, corned beef and corned pork shoulders were in kegs of brine. My grandmother would say to Al, "Put about a five pound pork shoulder in brine for me, and I'll get it Saturday." Butter and lard were measured out in wooden firkins, small thin wooden containers. Cheese was cut in half pound or pound wedges, and usually sampled first. Flour came by the barrel, or in a ten pound bag, and salt in a cotton cloth bag. Vinegar was measured into a jug, from a barrel.

Al was a little man with whiskers, and he wore a light brown frock coat that kept his pants and shirt clean while he worked in the store. Although he sold various smoked and salt fish, fresh fish and clams and quahaugs were bought at Pike's or Wood's on Third Street, or from a peddler. He came through the streets, mostly in the spring, pushing a large cart with a handle at one end, and crying, "Scup, fresh scup" or "Fresh mackerel," or "Robin tails." Lobsters and crabs were bought for a song from fishermen at nearby Briggs or Long Wharf. Point people very often had lobster stew or salad for Sunday supper in summer.

A red-headed man named McGowan drove his horse and wagon filled with boxes of strawberries through the streets, and yelling, "Strawberries, ten cents a box" or "Bananas, ten cents (or even a nickel) a dozen." The huckleberry man with a pail of huckleberries on each arm went from door to door selling them, and so did a man who sold hulled corn. He carried a goodsized wooden firkin, measuring out the corn with a wooden scoop. Will Twomey who lived on the Point, dug horse radish roots, scraped and ground them, added vinegar, and sold it from door to door. It was so strong it burned your throat and brought tears to your eyes. His wife made the most delicious bread and biscuits, which the Twomey boys delivered in a little covered wagon. A man named Coffey sold, even earlier, meat from a wagon, and the housewives stood around with platters or plates waiting for him to cut and trim the steaks and chops.

Mr. Frank had a paint store next to Thorndike's barrel factory on Bridge Street. Thorndike made barrels for fish to be packed in, to be sent to New York on the New York boats. Mr. Caswell had a clock repairing shop on Third Street between Elm and Bridge.

Where Did The Name Point Hummer Originate?

For almost a hundred years the folks who have lived in this part of town have been called Point Hummers. Although there is no record of how this name originated, my mother, Mrs. Bacheller, who was born on the Point, and lived there for most of her long life (she lived to be over ninety-two), says it was the name of a boys' club that Willie Hamilton organized. He lived on Bridge Street.

Mrs. Gladys Booth has most kindly sent her Memoirs of the Point to the Green Light, and given us permission to publish excerpts from them, which we are sure you will all enjoy.

BEAUTIFICATION OF THE POINT

Two streets on the Point will be planted with trees this Spring. Elm Street has first priority, then Bridge Street. These streets are very much in need of shade trees, particularly from Second Street through to Cross Street. Now that several houses are being restored in that area the trees planted will be protected by new owners. Orders for shrubs and trees have been coming in during the winter; however, you may still call Mr. Fullerton (847-5163) and we will try to fill as many orders as money allotted. The following is a list of what is available.

Trees -- Dogwood, Mt. Ashe, Crab Apple, Flowering Cherry
Shrubs -- Holly, Yew, Rhododendron

The Flower Boxes will be replaced in Battery Park this Spring. The old ones have finally deteriorated so new ones are being built. Red geraniums will be used this time as the color will have more eye appeal. The vandalism was not so great and they add so much beauty to the Park. Two hundred tulips were planted at the Cross Street Park last fall and with God's hand it should be a very pretty addition. I'm sure we will need help trying to keep little hands from picking them to carry to school.

William Fullerton

THE ST. LEO SHOP 847-5428	OLD COLONY SHOP
117 Washington Street	Corner of Bridge Street 846-4918
Religious books, icons, and statues.	43-45 Thames Street

LEARY'S OIL COMPANY, INC.	BRIGET'S BEAUTY BAR 847-0236
Range & Fuel Oil Metered Service	90 Connell Highway
George Leary, Proprietor	By Appointment Only
47 Washington Street 847-5591	Mrs. Joseph Waluk, Res. 34 Third Street

MATHIEUS VARIETY	CORPUS CHRISTI CARMEL
62-1/2 Third Street 847-1755	RETREAT HOUSE
Meats - Groceries - Provisions	21 Battery Street 847-6165
Strictly Island Eggs	Religious Articles and Cards

GAMAGE'S VARIETY STORE	INTERIOR DECORATOR
9 Thames Street 847-9626	Draperies, slip covers, reproduction fabrics
Candy, Cigars, Cold Cuts	William H. Fullerton
Ice Cream, Magazines, Newspapers	41 Washington Street 847-5163

AQUIDNECK REALTY	THE JOHN STEVENS SHOP
41 Mill Street 846-4550	Founded in 1705
Sales, Rentals, Management, and	29 Thames Street
Colonial Homes Our Specialty	846-0566
John G. Clifford	Letter Carving on Wood and Stone

NEWPORT CRAFTS 846-7243	Old Brick Market 127 Thames Street
Home of historic Newport reproductions.	
Furniture, china, silver, and gifts.	

REGINALD M. BRYER	24 Van Zandt Avenue 846-1053
Picture Framing. Oil Paintings restored, cleaned and varnished.	
Engravings, etchings and lithographs cleaned and bleached.	

THE THIRD AND ELM PRESS	Ilse Buchert and Alexander Nesbitt
Calligraphy, lettering, fine printing, woodcuts, private-press	
books, documents, seals.	
29 Elm Street	846-0228

Antique clocks repaired, restored, and sold.	
Captain Arthur Newell	at Wheelocks Silversmiths
11 Clarke Street	847-6362

Let's all work the year around to keep the Point clean and beautiful. Try to teach children to respect the trees, and to pick up paper, not throw it down.



THE GREEN LIGHT
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