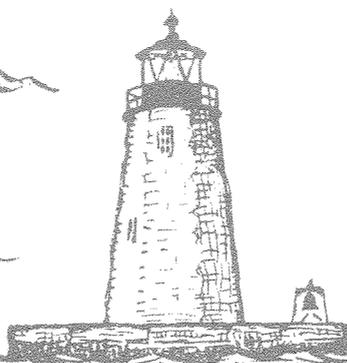


# The GREEN

# LIGHT



## BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

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No. 1

### QUARTERLY MEETING -- JANUARY 28, 1971

The quarterly meeting of the Point Association of Newport will be held on January 28th at St. John's Guild Hall on Poplar Street at eight o'clock. It will be a joint meeting with the Island Ecology Group. The principal speaker will be Mr. Harry Freeman, associated with the All American Engineering Company, the Division of American Industries, Inc. He lives in Slatersville. He will speak about the disposal of solid waste, not by incineration, but by recycling plants, and composting. Senator Calvin Dykeman will discuss the general principle of recycling. Mr. John Giglio will describe pulverizing machinery and show slides; his plant has been in operation for thirty-six years.

The Island Ecology Group would like to find a place on the Point to collect glass cans, etc. Mrs. Field, 67 Second Street, will collect paper in her garage, and it will be collected at intervals.

### QUARTERLY MEETINGS OF 1970

1970 has been a year when the Point Association has been deeply aware of the many problems in Newport, and we have tried to help to the best of our ability with both interest and money.

Mr. Richard Phelps, a new member of the City Council, spoke on what the Island as a whole should plan, before it is too late. He urged that citizens work more closely with the Council.

It was voted to support the Hayes bill to permit the Newport City Council to regulate outdoor advertising.

For the April meeting, we had a panel discussion of the Church Community Corporation, which was formed to help improve the low income housing in the city. The panel was: Miss Ade Bethune, Dr. Stocklin, and Mr. Hershel Carter. Their first goal is to raise \$60,000 in three years with which they hope to buy substandard houses and make them habitable. The Point Association voted to give them \$500 to start the work.

The July meeting was our annual picnic on Mrs. Benson's lawn, which always is most attractive, and you will be glad to hear that we showed our appreciation by cleaning everything up afterward. We had a beautiful evening and were entertained by a Navy combo. We talked to all our old friends, and admired their children and grandchildren and even a few greats. The sun set behind the bridge, and even if you don't like the bridge, it was spectacular.

The October meeting was described thoroughly in the Green Light in October, so we shall not go over it again. Admiral Eccles wrote a powerful letter to the Governor and several judges describing the violence, robbery and vandalism in the city, and Governor Licht, Judge Roberts, Judge Gallogly, and Judge LaLiberte came back with their ideas. Admiral Eccles proposed his Action Program for the Point Association members. Judge Gallogly, Chief Judge of the Family Court of Rhode Island, was the speaker at

our annual meeting. He answered many questions, and led a lively discussion.

In addition to the \$500 for the Church Community Council, we gave:

\$100 to Dollars for Scholars.

\$100 to St. John's Church for the use of the Guild Hall.

\$65 to feed the group of children who worked at cleaning parts of the city on Earth Day.

\$100 to the statewide survey being conducted in Newport this summer so that there will be a permanent record of the Point section. Operation will give the same amount.

This is the fifteenth anniversary of our founding, and considering that we had all our regular expenses as well as these donations, we are pleased to report our balance at the annual meeting was \$7,386.79.

#### CHRISTMAS ON THE POINT

On the Sunday before Christmas, we gathered around our tree near Grafton House to sing Christmas Carols. The tree is flourishing, and Mr. Harry Groff decorated it this year with yellow lights -- beautiful. Fifty or more people came to sing, and it never sounded better, as we gather in the lee of the rectory. The hot cocoa and cake in the Guild Hall were appreciated and several of the Junior Point girls were a great help.

On Christmas Eve, King Covell led a group of carollers to sing for shut-ins, in spite of the cold weather. Everyone appreciated the Eccles' wassail bowl.

#### THE SUMMER EVENT

Our summer event will be a glorified street fair, centering around St. John's Guild Hall and Willow Street. Mrs. Mary Rommel will be the chairman and she already has a large committee to help her, and all sorts of ideas. She would like to emphasize the many crafts on the Point, both for exhibition and for sale. There will be all kinds of booths, and of course delectable food. Also a Granny table. As yet, this is all in the planning stage, so watch the April Green Light for the fascinating details.

#### THE SPRING PLANT SALE

The spring plant sale (formerly the Apple Blossom and Coffee Hour) was held on May 23rd on the Eccles' driveway and garden. It was a pleasant and cool day, though threatening at first. Everyone brought all kinds of plants and seedlings, some to clear out parts of their gardens, but they bought many new varieties, that the gardens are all filled again. Mr. Mazza brought a large flat of his delicious tomatoes, Bill Fullerton raises all kinds of annuals in every warm spot in his house all winter, and Mr. Thomas Spooner brought a great variety of annuals that vanished at once. Mrs. Elster made some mama-sun aprons, and we had chances on a book donated by Dr. Stanley Hart and won by a former Newporter in California. Bill Fullerton gave a painting of flowers won by Mrs. Mary Rommel. Altogether the sale netted \$160.43 which was used to renew the boxes of geraniums in Battery Park. Mrs. Eccles served coffee and donuts in her always gracious manner; everyone had a delightful time, and many thanks to the Eccles. This time we are hoping to expand the plant sale, and have new features.

#### BEAUTIFICATION OF THE POINT

Bill Fullerton has been very busy all year, and his efforts were handsomely rewarded. The big work was the Cross Street Park, which will be dedicated as an Historic Landmark this spring. Mrs. Benson and Mrs. Wharton plan to have a history

of the site, which has had a long and varied career. The house between the park and the John Stevens Shop was finally torn down, and thanks to the city the cellar hole had been filled in and seeded, and part of the fence put up. The stone seats will be put in this spring. The planting will be finished as soon as possible; a ground cover will be used to save maintenance.

A few replacement trees were planted, and a few more will be added this year.

The other big beautification project was the fifty window boxes filled and given to all who wanted them -- the only specification that they be watered. We had many flats of different bright colors, and several experts to plant artistically, and they flourished. Except for a few that were tipped over. They certainly added greatly to the vistas as you looked up our Point streets. PLEASE return these boxes to Bill Fullerton, so they can be re-beautified next spring.

The city removed the large dead elm in Battery Park (it is too bad that elm trees do not flourish on the Point). A copper beech, a memorial to Harold Watson, is now planted in the park nearer to the water, and is flourishing. It will have a fence protecting it in the spring. The Water Department, where Harold worked for so long, started this fund, and turned it over to the Point Association. Mable Watson decided a copper beech would be her choice. We are gradually adding to this appropriate memorial, and welcome help. Go and see how beautiful it looks.

#### SMALL GARDEN TOUR

The Small Garden Tour, directed by Mrs. MacLeod, was finally held on July 18th as the gardens were late in blooming last year. Nearly everyone who came was amazed what beauty and variety could be combined in such small spaces and little of it showing from the street. They may not all have been strictly Colonial, but there were a lot of brilliant colors. Mrs. MacLeod served lemonade on her porch overlooking the Green Light, and some of the gardeners had little flowers to give.

The gardens were: Mrs. Gordon Bates, Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Addison, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Foley, Mr. and Mrs. William Cooke, Mr. and Mrs. William Fullerton, Miss Carrie Ericson, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Nesbitt, Mrs. Ogden Younger, Mr. and Mrs. John Murphy, Mrs. William MacLeod, Mrs. Harold Watson, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Bryer, Mrs. James Lawton, Admiral and Mrs. Henry Eccles.

Mrs. Field had permission to get school children to paint trash cans. Mr. Garcia left the barrels at the various schools and picked them up later. They certainly brightened the landscape.

Lt. Elster volunteered to teach a class of beginners in swimming at the MacLeod beach and he was much pleased with the results.

## MEMORIES OF FRANK GOLDIE

I was born in a house next to the railroad on Walnut Street in 1884. Our house was a two-story one, with the upstairs flat on Walnut Street and the downstairs one facing the tracks. The house is still there. There were plenty of tramps walking the tracks from Fall River who would stop in our yard and ask for something to eat.

When I was about four years old, we moved to No. 3 Willow Street. This house is also still there and is surely an old one. The boarding of the house was vertical and the edges of the boards were never straightened. In the attic you could see where the spaces were filled with plaster. The lathes were nailed to the inner side of the upright boards with no air space between. The chimney must have been built first, as the floor timbers rested on it. The base of the chimney in the cellar was at least six feet square.

Facing the railroad tracks, between Elm and Poplar Streets, were two houses, with an alley leading to them. The railroad officials tried to keep people from using this alley by blocking it with upright ties. The ties would stay there for two or three days and then would disappear -- probably for firewood -- and the railroad would try again.

When we were kids, we played all over the Point and sometimes went down to Morton Park to watch the baseball games. This was a long distance to go in those days. I had a Newfoundland dog and we would often take him with us. He was too big to jump and when he saw us getting ready to climb a fence, he would wait to be helped over. He was the only dog I ever saw with a double nose. Each nostril was separate and we would tease him by putting a match or a feather in the space between the two parts. The dog would lie in the snow all night because his breed was used to this kind of weather. All we could see then was a pair of shining eyes. He would swim in the Cove when it was frozen over and we were skating on the ice.

The Point was very sparsely settled above Van Zandt Avenue, which was originally called Gibbs Street as far as Third, and Hawthorne Street from Third to the water. There was a house on the corner of Van Zandt and Third and one on the corner of Second, with one house next to each of these -- no houses beyond, either on Second or Third except for one a good way up Third Street. I remember when Sycamore Street was cut through what they then called "Hayes Woods."

The whole area around the present Van Zandt Avenue bridge was a playground, with the baseball diamond under the present bridge. When the bridge was first built, they found that it was too steep at both ends -- apparently the architect had not estimated the distance accurately. The land at each end had to be filled in and the bridge lengthened, to make the grade less steep.

Battery Park was originally Fort Greene and in those days, instead of a fence, there was an earthen breastworks not more than two feet high. In the southern part, underground, was a place where they stored ammunition. I can remember an iron table down there. There were no flashlights in those days, so no exploring, partly because the bricks were falling from the ceiling.

The First Baptist Church was at the head of North Baptist Street. Across the street were two school houses -- the one facing Farewell Street was not in use. The other, facing Edward Street, was the one I attended. The Townsend Industrial School was started in the Farewell Street school while the present building was being built on Broadway. After it was finished, the two original schools were moved across the street and made into houses. They are still standing.

My grandfather lived on Edward Street and worked for the city. He knew where all the sewer lines were located, and after he retired he was often consulted by city men because there were no records kept in those days. Sewer lines were sometimes laid across private property.

My grandfather told me that Farewell Street was cut through what was known as the "Old Cemetery" at North Baptist Street. There was a slaughter house across the tracks from Maitland Court, in what is now part of the Old Cemetery. It belonged to Fred Coggeshall who had a market at the foot of Washington Square. We kids used to carry the animal hides to an old building nearby. I remember when soldiers from Fort Adams used to fire a salute in Braman's Lot for the Fourth of July parades. Then the lot was marked into streets and house lots. But they did not sell and it became the

Braman Cemetery.

My brother and I used to dig dandelions. We had some customers year after year, because they knew that ours were properly cleaned. I remember one time we saw a big lawn that had been treated with fertilizer and we took a chance and went in. The dandelions were big from the treatment they had. The gardner came around where we had been digging. He saw that we carefully covered the holes, and he did not come near us.

Two sisters lived where Mrs. William MacLeod lives now, and all the kids avoided them. On Saturday mornings one of them would be at the gate. When she saw a small boy coming, she would grab him and pull him into the yard. We had to cut the grass, take big barrels of ashes up to the street, and do any other chores that were wanted. One of the sisters would stay, so you could not get away, and she would keep hounding you to hurry. They caught me once, but the one who was guarding me had to go in to the house for something, so I got away. There were a couple of boys who were kept busy until late afternoon -- they said they were rewarded with the whole sum of a nickel -- no food, not even a sandwich.

At the time of the bicycle craze, Saul Caswell bought one and a pair of knickers. He would ride his bike sitting up straight with his arms folded. He worked for Bill Peckham whose stable was at the foot of Third Street. Part of his work was delivering to the grocery stores cases of goods that came in by freight. One day Saul was in a store and a drunk drove his wagon away. Saul called the police and the old Black Maria answered and soon caught the man. He was arrested and Saul had him on the floor and was sitting on him during the ride to the station.

A man named Sprague lived in a house on wheels in a barnyard on Vicksburg Place. He was a little queer and used to ride a white horse at the head of every parade, wearing an old uniform. He thought he was George Washington. Someone told me that he was nominated for the state legislature as a joke, and that he won but they would not seat him.

I remember a barn being moved from the corner of Washington and Willow Streets. The barn was made into a house. On the lot was built the Zebriski Memorial Church in honor of the donor. The name was later changed to St. John's Church.

The lobster men used to bring their traps ashore on Willow Street and sell lobsters to us, nine for a quarter. I had a few customers that would gladly buy them from me every Saturday.

Even though I was born and grew up in Newport, when I was nineteen years old, I received a notice to go to the City Hall to be naturalized!

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Candy, Cigars, Cold Cuts  
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THE THIRD AND ELM PRESS  
Calligraphy, lettering, fine printing, woodcuts, private-press  
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THE AFTERTHOUGHT 22 Bellevue Ave. Opposite Viking Hotel  
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THE ST. LEO SHOP 117 Washington Street 847-5428  
Gallery of religious art, icons and statues  
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Specialty of books on Montessori pre-school education

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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.

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