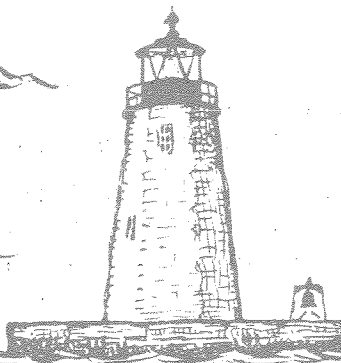


The GREEN LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Vol. XX

JANUARY 1975

No. 1

NOTICE

A Town Meeting program, jointly sponsored by our Point Association, the Hill Association and the Fifth Ward Improvement Association, entitled, "What's Gone Wrong with Justice, Law and Order," will be held on January 16, 1975, at 7:30 p.m. in Thompson Junior High School on Broadway in Newport. The panel will include a Judge, an Attorney, the A.C.I. Warden and the Police Chief. We encourage the Point residents to attend this meeting, and just be sure that someone remains at home for security reasons.

The importance of this meeting cannot be stressed enough. A large Point attendance is expected so please arrive early for best seating.

A prosperous and healthy New Year to all our Association members! An active year has passed, finding us undertaking a successful Pot Luck supper, a busy Street Fair, an Anti-Litter Campaign, an overwhelmingly popular "Neighborhood Watch Program;" Storer Park dedication, a Gas Light project and Bicentennial involvement - with the Common Burying Ground, among other things.

I look forward to increased membership, more participation and involvement from our members and continuation of the programs that make our area a more desirable place to live. Our organization best functions with the voice of our members, with their suggestions.

All interested observers are welcomed to the Executive Board meetings. Written suggestions are urged. At these meetings, the suggestions are acted on, and plans, proposals and ideas are discussed.

JOSEPH P. T. VARS
President

The Christmas Party - "Twilight on the Point" - was wonderful as usual. What a joy it was to have King and Essie on the music, and Isabel and so many who have done so much for the Point greeting us there! With all the other goodies, there was a small masterpiece of a Christmas tree cake. A very special gift to us was Charles Norman's reading of his A Fall of Brightness, and the rapt silence of our small ones was a fitting tribute to the play.

THE GREEN LIGHT has a box number. The box number is 491. Communicate with us. Don't forget it. Send your dues. Please, send your dues! We think they get forgotten just because they are so small. Send entries for The Green Light. Send suggestions for The Point Association. Let us hear from you.

The Point Association of Newport, R. I. was formed in 1955, therefore, with 1975 it becomes twenty years old. It is a good time to speak of one who put so many of her unusual capabilities at its service for so long. Esther Bates was editor of The Green Light for fourteen years. That was, as we all know, not all Esther did. She took care of Membership, being both tactful and firm. She worked with others on "Twilight on the Point" and if people sang Away in a Manger to the tune of Flow Gently Sweet Afton it was not Esther's fault! She had warned them. She was a

generous and helpful member of the various refreshment committees. Our Plant Sale is an extension of the gardens and gardening abilities of such members as Isabel Eccles, Esther Bates and M. Joseph Sullivan. How can we thank them enough?

Fortunately, Esther Bates will keep right on being there, in her beautiful Claggett house, with all her precious things around her. To her treasures The Point Association has added a print of old Fort Connamicut, nearby The Dumplings. The print is hand-colored and has two charming small pictures at the corners and one at top. She told me Fort Adams practiced their gunnery on The Dumplings, perhaps adding to the ruin of the fort. Esther Bates was delighted with her present, said, "Nothing would have pleased me more." The print looks just right on the generous mantel.

"Welcome to all new members and a 'glad to have you aboard' to old members. I would like to mention that membership is \$2.00 per person - not per couple (some give \$10 or \$25). Membership runs from October to October, so those who have not paid for 74-75, there's no time like now. As publicity chairperson I feel there is no publicity as good as members. So, members be vocal; let us know what you think, and encourage your friends and neighbors, Point residents or no, to join one of the strongest civil groups in Newport."

Anne H. Huot

M. Joseph Sullivan will always be part of the Point. Remember how as Chairman of the Beautification Committee he canvassed the whole area, how he planned for and planted the trees in people's yards and on the sidewalks? How many flowers did he make grow for us! How many did he give away? Not even his closest associates can say how much Joe did for all of Newport. A charter member of the Newport Horticultural Society, he not only helped all the garden clubs of the Island, but The Point Association, the Preservation Society of Newport County -- every organization of which he was a member. Joe Sullivan served his city in the police force. He served his country in the Navy. His service on the Point goes on in all the lovely plantings.

The Point Association is considering what is best put in, in the spring, as a living memorial to Joe Sullivan.

The City Manager addressed your Board on the subject of the strainer that is proposed, and how for efficiency it must be near the pumping station. He promised the shoreline would be more clear than in a long time, no more litter escaping. The esthetic difficulty would be in the edifice to house the strainer. It can go high - or it can spread out low - but one way or another it will be quite a solid block. Perhaps the best thing would be to see it was properly landscaped. This project is having difficulties and it is doubtful decisions are immediate.

The Board heard that the first gaslight poles will arrive on the Point in January. The Board considered when was best to hold the meeting on "What Has Gone Wrong with Law and Order"; they were pleased to hear of all the new members, etc.

HELP WANTED AT MUMFORD SCHOOL! Mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, grandmothers, grandfathers, brothers and sisters already out of school, come along. Correct papers. Further an art project. Take a class where history was lived. Share whatever you do best. Because you know how important education is, a walk with you and a talk with you may stir creative imagination in our children.

We, the Volunteers in Newport Education (V.I.N.E.) have the encouragement and cooperation of the school committee and school administrators. Now we need yours. Volunteer to help the children, whether it is taking on a reading group, listening to a child read on a one-to-one basis, or whatever.

Call Marilyn Moffatt 847-6703, or Kathy Adler 847-7673, to say what you will do -- or ask questions about V.I.N.E.

We have been grave and concerned in this issue, as becomes the time of making resolutions, as becomes some of our problems. Here we insert a tender bit of history. We Pointers love history. The year is 1768, and Mary Robinson, then eleven, is writing to brother William, only slightly older though already apprenticed to the business world in New York.

Dear Brother,

As I have wrote but few letters am at a loss what to say, and asked Momma, she asked me what I would say to thee if thee was here. I thought half a minute and found by my eyes, that I would say nothing, but cry for joy. I suppose Momma would have bid me write what I would have said but am as much at a loss, as at first for how can I write tears, tho love cause em. I can't put em into words, but as I have heard several people say that thou art an ingenious lad I shall leave the translation of my tears to thee, and am thy loving sister.

P.S. If I had not said so much about love and tears, I would scold because thee has not wrote to me so long --MR

NEWPORT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

278 Point residents have registered to cooperate with the Newport police in reducing crime and vandalism. Since the time in October when Norman Mather (Police Community Relations Officer) introduced the Watch Program at the Point Association meeting, other Watch programs have sprung up all over Aquidneck Island. Concerned citizens are realizing that criminals count on apathy to allow them to go about their ill work undetected.

All residents should do the following things to reduce their chances of being victimized:

1. Check the security of your home. Up date old locks, and take extra precautions on doors with glass windows. Use your locks even when on the premises!
2. Keep an inventory of serial numbers. Borrow the police engraving tool and inscribe your Social Security number and/or telephone number on valuables.
3. Deposit cash you don't need. Consider keeping jewelry, coin collections, etc. in a Safety Deposit box.
4. BE ALERT! If you SEE, HEAR or SUSPECT criminal activity, call 847-1212 immediately. Don't assume that someone else has already reported it. If you know of criminal activity, write to Box 611, Newport, R. I. You do not have to sign your name.

The official WATCH pamphlet and decal will be available soon. Anyone who has not registered already may still do so by calling 847-2753.

Annette Chramiec

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY THAT THE POLICE DESIRE TO KNOW ABOUT

1. Suspicious-looking persons in a neighborhood who go from door to door asking for work, directions of the whereabouts of someone, or promoting an unheard of or doubtful organization.
2. A car or truck that stops in front of a home when the owner is known to be away or on vacation.
3. A vehicle that appears on your street several times a day or during the week, moving slowly past homes with the driver apparently looking the houses over.
4. Teen-agers who don't live in your neighborhood and who are going through yards or are lingering around a home that you know is not occupied.
5. The sound of glass breaking or of loud banging (as of a forced door).

6. Lights or movement in a house where you believe the owner is away.
7. Suspicious phone calls where the caller hangs up without speaking or asks for an unknown person on different occasions.
8. Children you observe with large sums of money.
9. Individuals selling household goods at ridiculously low prices.
10. Persons carrying TV sets to a private car or unmarked trucks.

The list offered here is not complete. If you have any suspicions at all--call your police department immediately and advise the desk officer what you are observing. Let him judge whether it requires investigation. It is better to be safe than sorry.

Mrs. Donald Saunders, now of the Captain Phillips House on Elm Street, stayed on Washington Street as a child. She was fascinated by our lighthouse, and had remembered it as having a white light. Mrs. S. wrote the Coast Guard, and received the following answer, which we think our readers will find interesting.

"A review of the Atlantic Coast Light List for 1922 indicates that Newport Harbor Light (LLNR-306) had a characteristic of occulting, white, 20 seconds, while the Atlantic Coast Light List for 1923 indicates that Newport Harbor Light (LLNR-306) had a characteristic of fixed, green."

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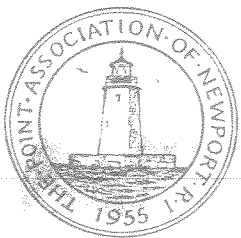
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THE GREEN LIGHT
THE POINT ASSOCIATION
Editor: ~~P. O. BOX 797~~
NEWPORT, R. I. 02840

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