THE QUARTERLY General Membership Meet­
ing was held on Thursday, Jan. 29, in
St. John's Guild Hall, with a grati­
fying number present. The President,
E.H. Brownell was in the chair. The
minutes of the last General Meeting
were read and approved, and the Treas­
urer, R.S. Weiss, reported a balance
on hand of $2117.70, of which h o w­
ever, the greater part is in the
savings account. . . David L Smith
submitted his resignation as Record­
ing Sec'y and hrs Harold Watson was
appointed in his place. . . William
H. Fullerton, Chairman of the Beau­
tification Committee, reported on
the Christmas program and outlined
plans for a garden contest and Flow­
er Show, and a general clean-up
drive. . . Dr. David Nemtsow spoke
of the aims of his Protection Com­
mittee - to promote the health, wel­
fare and happiness of the neighbor­
hood by eliminating nuisances. Atten­
tion will be paid to unsafe and un­sanitary conditions, rat and refuse'
control, etc. He again stressed the
importance of complaints being sent
to his committee signed and IN WRITING

NEW BUSINESS: The meeting was noti­
fied of the intention to amend the By­
laws, establishing the Fiscal Year of
the Point Association from October to
October, to coincide with the Annual
Meeting.

SEAL: A seal showing the lighthouse
in a lettered circle was displayed by
Miss E.B. Price, this to be used on
stationery, membership cards, etc.

LIGHTING: On a motion of Arthur
Lewis, it was voted that the Point
Ass'n should request a survey by the
Newport Electric Corp. or qualified
expert, with a view to improvement of
street lighting on the Point.

TREES: There was some discussion
of the present obscure status of
the tree program.

GREEN LIGHT: Miss Price reported
a mailing list of about 220 for
the Bulletin, and stressed the
fact that about 75 persons are
receiving it who are still in ar­
rears with 1958 dues.

MR. KERR'S ADDRESS

The meeting was addressed by Mr.
Robert J. Kerr III, Executive Di­
rector of the Preservation Society
on "The How of Historic Preserva­
tion." He brought out two possible
approaches to the problem.
1. The preservation of single,
isolated units of historic or archi­
etectural significance. This meth­
od, though least expensive in up­
keep, custodial care, etc. is lim­
ited in scope, less influential
in its sphere of influence, and
may result in loss of important
material in other areas.

2. A better effort is that of ex­
pending all energies and resources
in a major restoration program for
Newport - saving complete areas,
major portions of the town. There
is a better chance, with a larger
exhibit, of interesting national
trusts or securing federal funds.
Better staff facilities, more as­
sistance to individual property
owners and, overall, a more pleas­
and and valuable environment and
a firmer economic base would be
created by this approach.

Mr. Kerr stated that a survey
of the city is soon to be made by
the Yale Department of City Plan­
ning; on the basis of the signifi­
cance of its findings, a program
will be recommended. Based on
attendance at The Breakers alone, exclusive of admissions, §1,300,000 new money was brought into Newport last season. Williamsburg takes in an average of 20 million. This is a reality we could have, the speaker said, if our exhibit were increased to fulfill its potential. Unlike Williamsburg, which is mainly a reconstruction, Newport preserves its original city plan, and is the only one of the 13 Colonial capitals to show its early structure. Mr. Kerr urged the thoughtful support of all Newport citizens to any program designed to capitalize on the city's unique and priceless assets.

After the meeting, several new members were welcomed. Refreshments under the direction of Mrs. Wm Kitts were of superior quality!

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING: The Executive Committee met at the home of Wm H Fullerton on Tuesday, Feb. 3. Most of the business was concerned with matters brought up at the General Meeting. The title of the Beautification Committee was changed to Improvement and Beautification. The appointment of Mrs. Harold Watson as Recording Sec'y was ratified. David L Smith reported for the Protection Committee that there is to be contact with the Health Inspector in regard to a rat control program. Supervision on the city piers, a possible waterfront project for Point children, improvement of street lighting, and the condition of the seawall were also discussed.

SEAWALL AND SEWER: The Sycamore Street sewer is still very much alive, though it was supposed to have been diverted several years ago into the system which carries sewage to the Treatment Plant. Now, a large piece of mortar and aggregate has fallen away at the foot of the steps to the shore at Sycamore St. pulling with it a rusted piece of the old sewer pipe. Raw sewage runs in a sluggish stream across the beach at low tide, and fouls the inshore water when the tide is in.

At its meeting on Wednesday night February 11, the City Council took action, apparently in response to a letter of protest from the Point Ass'n and a complaint made by Judge Walter Curry, and authorized Metcalf & Eddy to seek bids for the Washington St. and Wellington Ave. sewer jobs, with Washington Street being given priority. A danger sign and barrier has been placed across the top of the Sycamore St. steps, and it is to be hoped that drastic remedial action will be taken the moment the weather permits.

MEMBERSHIP: There was not very much response to the S.O.S. in the last Bulletin. A lot of people seem to be still in arrears with 1958 dues. Please! We don't want to lose you! TREASURER: R.S. Weiss, VI 6-9457 42 Walnut Street

DISCOUNT TO MEMBERS OF POINT ASS'N The Sherwin-Williams Co. at 128 Broadway will give a 10% discount to Point Ass'n members in good standing. Be sure you can show your 1958 membership card, and take advantage of this generous discount to lay in your paint for the spring clean-up!

FAR-AWAY PLACES: We now have eager readers of The Green Light in Boston New York, Providence, Long Island, Minneapolis, Alabama, Washington and California. Home is where the heart.

FINE FEATHERED FRIENDS: The editorial window commands a splendid view of the bird-feeding activities of our good neighbor to westward. Ever since late January a Redwing Blackbird has felt spring is near enough for him to give out his welcome "Chip-churrr". A flock of Evening Grosbeaks are a stunning sight - their golden sides and their black-and-white backs flashing out against the blue water beyond. A Purple Finch (or could it be a Redpoll?) flits like a dash of rose-red. Moreover, on Sunday, Feb. 8, appeared the FIRST ROBIN - yes, indeed. And, we suppose, the early worm. Spring bulbs are sproutin' up, too!
A HOUSE AND ITS LADY

In our ignorance, we assumed in the January number that the "Lady" Southwick house was gone, along with everything else at the south end of Washington Street. To our surprise and delight, we find that we see it every day -- for it is the house mentioned in the last Green Light, belonging to Mr. and Mrs. John J. Lyons, and has been standing at 77 Third Street since 1862, when one Matthias Petska, a Hungarian gardener, moved it there at the time the Cove was filled and the railroad came to town.

Mrs. Clifford Sherman and Mrs. Lyons have done a great deal of research on the ownership of the house since 1796, both at the Historical Society and the City Hall, and have kindly sent us much material. We only wish that we had space to print it all.

Lots 97 and 98 in the first division of the Point by the Easton Proprietors were just about where the junkyard is now located. The site of the house was bounded east by the Cove and west by Washington Street, and in 1796 it seems to have been owned by George Southwick -- though it was built earlier than that; some time around 1750. The property passed through various hands until in 1829 it was purchased by Joseph Southwick (again from the Easton Proprietors, though its occupant had been Jonathan Haxson).

Mrs. Sherman amusingly notes: "Funny about dower rights. If you bought a house, you might also get a widow too, if you didn't read the fine print carefully." And Joseph Southwick did get the Widow Haxson -- though she did not turn up until thirty years later when, in 1859, she exercised her right of dower, was awarded a fine of $40 and the privilege of using the south part of the house, going in and out the front door, and passing up and down the front stairs. She might also use the south part of the yard, the well, and the "outdoor plumbing". The Southwicks had not long to be inconvenienced by the old lady, for three years later "progress" invaded the Point, and lower Washington Street was laid waste.

Joseph Southwick, boat-builder, born in 1780, was a grand-nephew of the patriot printer Solomon Southwick, and a brother of Pitts, who lived up the street in the house on the corner of Walnut now owned and occupied by the Arthur Lewises. Joseph was twice married -- first to Dorcas Easton, then to Dorcas Sweet. (At any rate, he could go right on saying "Dorcas, my dear.") The second Dorcas was known as "Lady" Southwick. But why the title? Did she give herself airs? Was she a beloved lady bountiful? Did she have a private fortune? What earned her the sobriquet? We know that her eldest son, Christopher, built the quaint Round House, lately the scene of a tragic fire. And "Southwick's Grove", in which it stood, was the setting...
of Ward McAllister's fabulous "picnics" in the heyday of the Four Hundred.

Somehow one imagines "Lady" Southwick flaunting finer India shawls and more Lowestoft china than her neighbors. Let us think that she was gracious, lovely, and admired. And let us be grateful that the old house still faces the harbor, looking the full length of Battery Street to the blue water - snug and handsome in its new red paint. It does not vie with the Hunter house in architecture, nor the Robinson house in history - and "Lady" Southwick was Victorian rather than colonial - but it does preserve for us one more link with the vanished past of southernmost Washington Street and the good folk who lived around the Cove.

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