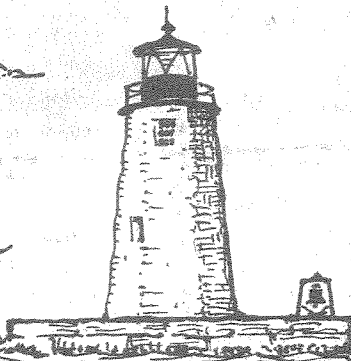


The GREEN LIGHT



Vol 3 - #3
Mar. 59

BULLETIN of the POINT ASSOCIATION

MARCH 1959

HAPPY EASTER

MARCH BOARD MEETING:

The Executive Committee met March 2 at 42 Walnut Street. The 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. R.S. Weiss, was in the chair. Minutes of the February meeting were read and approved, and the Treasurer reported a balance on hand of \$2149.41. Letters received were from the Preservation Society relative to their membership drive; the R.I. Development Council in regard to summer events; from W. Harry Groff, donating his lighting of the Christmas tree as his contribution to the Association (for which many, many thanks) - and from the City Council, explaining that further patching of the seawall is contemplated. It is proposed to have three City laborers on this project, the job to take "120 working days".

Continued discussion of a summer money-making event included suggestions for an antique show, art fair, maritime exhibition, hobby show, block party, etc., but no definite decision was made. Suggestions from the membership will be welcomed.

In regard to investigation of street lighting on the Point, some brochures from the Westinghouse Co. have been received and will be studied.

Dr. Nemtow, Chairman of the Protection Committee, reported a meeting with Mr. Taylor, Health Inspector, and stated also that he expects a conference with Dr. Ciarla, Commissioner of the Board of Health.

Miss Price reported a circulation of 235 on the February GREEN LIGHT - 128 mailed, 107 delivered in person.

POINT OF VIEW

(The following Editorial comments do not necessarily express the opinion of the Point Association at large.)

We feel that the proposal regarding the seawall, as stated by the City engineers, is certainly better than nothing - but may prove to be "too little, too late" in view of the present condition of the wall. The winter storms have played havoc with it; serious undermining and additional large holes have developed. Three men, "working with the tides" are supposed to complete the job in 120 working days. Even allowing for continuous good weather, this would bring completion far into the autumn, and much would remain to be done, owing to the condition of the wall behind the face and under the sidewalk. It would almost seem that a bond issue should be proposed, allowing this vital major job to be put out to contract. At present, the whole north end of Washington St. is more or less in jeopardy.

We heard with dismay the apparent dismissal by some members of the Council of any need for an Inspector of Nuisances. The feeling expressed seemed to be that the city will be

As dirty five years from now as it is today, and that we are all guilty of tossing out cigarette packs. We cannot help feeling that the function of the Nuisance Inspector is far more important than to deplore scattered candy wrappers and discarded cigarette packages. Conditions exist where garbage, junk, and refuse accumulate on private property; where City refuse collection requires inspection and follow-up; where unsanitary and unsafe conditions need the enforcement of existing ordinances. The Health Inspector can scarcely be expected to interrupt his important duties in the laboratory to attend to such matters. These are the no less vital duties of the Inspector of Nuisances. We can only hope that his position may be filled.

SINISTER STREAM: The broken sewer at the foot of Sycamore (or shall we say Sick-a-more) St. runs ever more merrily - fast and strong, with an audible gurgling. And on the beach at low tide, small children play innocently with "the pretty brook". We are assured that the whole sewer is to be diverted to the Treatment Plant, eventually, - but could not this foul hole be temporarily plugged in some way?

THE NEW LOOK: The masthead of the Green Light and the new stationery and membership cards are professionally printed -- but Ye Editor has done the new outside page of the Bulletin, and we hope you like it. (We think the purple and green motif is particularly suited to Easter!) This sort of thing saves money. The Editor is a miser, and has even trained a sea-gull to deliver about half the Green Lights. This is probably why the P.A. has "all that money" . . . Or . . . could it be, with all that nice green ink, and a printing-press down cellar, that -- oh no, we suppose the FBI might have something to say about that! Oh, well . . .

IF AT FIRST YOU DO SUCCEED - TRY SOMETHING HARDER !

TIMELY THOUGHT:

Good Saint Augustine has said, "If every man sweeps in front of his own door, all the street is made clean." We will by-pass the spiritual significance of this pronouncement (a good thought for the Lenten season) - and call attention to the fact that its PRACTICAL application would make quite a difference in the appearance of our Point, which could be so beautiful. Do we care ?

WE HAVE QUITE A LOT of new members, (and also quite a lot of old ones who have not signified their desire to remain so by paying their 1958 dues.) Increasing interest in THE GREEN LIGHT has gained us members in areas remote from the Point. We hope that this interest will extend beyond the pleasure of reading historical bits, and that more and more people will actively support the Association's aims, and help with ideas, suggestions, contributions, and WORK.

* * * * *

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DUES: Active, \$1.00
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Point advertisements solicited
25¢ per month.

MEMENTO OF LIZZIE BORDEN

by Virginia G. Covell

Did you know that the famous Lizzie Borden once visited a Point family ?

The story of the "unfortunate Lizzie" of Fall River recurs at such frequent intervals that it seems to have the proportions of folklore or legend. Just recently, it was unearthed again and was made the subject of a Broadway play. The production was sadly unsuccessful, but the research that went into it brought out once more those grisly details of the summer day back in 1892 when Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Borden met their deaths at the hands of a hatchet-wielder.

The fact that their quiet, respectable daughter, Lizzie, was accused and tried for the murder was a subject of unbelievable horror to her friends and church associates. All of them stood by her and staunchly gave evidence of their faith in her innocence -- some as witnesses at the trial, some silently as they accompanied her to and from the sessions of the "terrible ordeal".

Among this body of faithful stand-bys was the family of Mrs. William K. Covell, formerly Sarah Remington of Fall River. Sarah's sister, Marianna Holmes, gave testimony at the trial, as did her husband, Charles Holmes -- both reiterating their complete faith in Lizzie's inability even to contemplate murder.

That faith was sustained by the jury's verdict -- INNOCENT . Unfortunately, with that verdict seldom comes the quiet anonymity of life's former pattern. In Lizzie's case, because of the focus of national attention, notoriety pursued her relentlessly ever after. She could never go any place where she was not recognized. The whisper of gossip would soon fan the smouldering embers of curiosity; silent withdrawals and hostile stares would make any vacation jaunt or hotel sojourn turn into a nightmare for the unfortunate Lizzie.

One time, when she felt the need of a vacation, she wrote to her old friend, Sarah Remington Covell, and asked if she might spend a few weeks in Newport. The Covells welcomed her cordially and, although the details of the visit are lost in the anonymity she so longed for, we like to think that her troubled mind found solace here on the quiet Point waterfront.

Exactly when she came, how she passed the time here -- all this must be left to the imagination; intangible, incomplete, unsatisfactory.

Not intangible, however, are the sterling silver pie-forks which Lizzie sent to Mr. and Mrs. Covell as a "bread and butter" gift for their hospitality. They are the treasured possession of the present generation of Covells, who now serve pie -- with the forks -- with the legend of Lizzie and her visit.

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