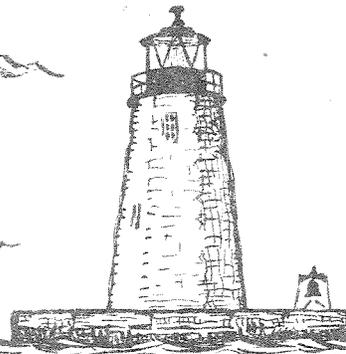


The GREEN

LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

VOL. XII

JULY 1967

No. 3

JULY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

The July quarterly meeting will be held on Thursday, July 27th -- our annual yearly picnic. It will begin at 6:00 o'clock on Mrs. John Howard Benson's lawn at 62 Washington Street, and we are looking forward to a reunion with many of our Pointers who have moved away. Last year it was most enjoyable to see so many old friends, and this year we hope even more will appear. Bring your own sandwiches and something to sit on -- the Point Association will furnish coffee and cookies.

The April Quarterly Meeting.

The April General Membership Meeting was held April 27th at 8 at St. John's Guild Hall, with a good attendance. The Treasurer reported a balance on hand of \$5,109.60. The City Council has voted to apply to the Green Acres program for help in purchasing Storer Park for the city. The meeting unanimously reaffirmed the Association's stand on Storer Park, and the resolution was sent to the City Council. The Point Association sponsored a Poster Project for all grades in the Callender and Mumford Schools, called "Before and After." Mrs. George Weaver arranged this, and she was delighted with the 400 posters, and the cooperation in every way from the schools. Each room that exhibited, was given a book inscribed by the Point Association to be added to the library. Mrs. Weaver had many posters on display at the meeting, and they were certainly most interesting. Some will be shown at the Flea Market in August.

At the annual presentation of scholarships at the Dollars for Scholars program, The Point Association was awarded a plaque for Outstanding Service. The scholarship this year went to Peter Conheeny of De La Salle.

The speed on Washington Street is dangerous, and Mr. Clifford will write to the Police Department about it. The business meeting adjourned.

Mr. John Kinney, the Resident Engineer on the Bay Bridge, gave a most interesting talk on the construction of the bridge and the new techniques being used, illustrated with slides. It was so clear, we all felt we understood what he was explaining, but alas! most of us are not sufficiently engineers to remember it all.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. James.

May Blossom Coffee Hour.

The May Coffee Hour (few blossoms out as yet) was held Saturday, May 20th, in the Eccles' garden. The wind was cold, but everyone just moved around faster and stayed in the sun. It is amazing how many plants, bulbs and seedlings just the members can bring and exchange -- all great bargains. We cleared about \$48, which goes toward the geranium boxes in Battery Park. Everyone greatly enjoyed the Eccles' hospitality, and the coffee cake and coffee vanished fast.

FLEA MARKET AND STREET FAIR.

The Point Association is sponsoring a Flea Market and Street Fair Saturday, August 19th, from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. on Willow Street, from Washington to Second Street. If rain, in St. John's Guild Hall.

List of participants:

ANTIQUÉ DEALERS.

Old Fashioned Shop, Mrs. Niles - Franklin Street
 Old Colony Shop, Mrs. Marian L. Curran - Spring Street
 The Antique Shop, Mrs. Billie E. Clifford - Mill Street
 La Fontaine, Mrs. O. B. Ross - Spring Street
 The Newport Shoppe, Mrs. Shirley Dunn - 126 Spring Street
 Antiques and Junque, Mrs. Burton H. Miller - Spring Street
 Mrs. Edna Evans, Corner of Spring and Pelham Streets
 The Corn Crib, Mrs. Charlotte Cook - Little Compton, Rhode Island

OTHER DEALERS.

The Whatnot Shop, Mrs. Rosamond Hendel - Pelham Street
 Washburn's Book Shop - 152 Spring Street
 Arthur Newell, antique clocks - 27 Willow Street
 William Fullerton, interior decorator - 41 Washington Street
 Heritage Kitchen, Johnny cake cookies, Mrs. James Herbert
 St. Leo Shop, Jennie Amoruso - 118 Washington Street

ARTISTS.

3rd and Elm Press, Mr. and Mrs. Nesbitt - 29 Elm Street
 Art Association Group, Molly Grant, Chairman - Middletown
 Dolphin Studio, Mrs. Eveline Roberge, Primitive Painting - 243 Lincoln Street,
 Seekonk, Massachusetts
 George Vranesh, Lithographs - Poplar Street
 Charcoal Portraits, Mrs. Paul Planstiehl - Annandale Road

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mrs. Ruth McIntosh, guns, powder horns, etc. - 38 Walnut Street
 Mrs. Clara Jarvis, Embroideries - 507 Broadway
 Senior Citizens, Applehead Dolls, etc. - 42 Spring Street
 Players Guild - Food
 Jewelry, Mathew Weaver - Chestnut Street
 Madelaine Porter, Boutique - Dresser Street

POINT ASSOCIATION.

Flower and Garden Center - Mrs. William MacLeod. Featuring flowers and garden accessories such as garden aprons, kneeling cushions and sun bonnets.
 White Elephant Table - Mrs. Francis Carr, Jr. We urge all of you to comb your attics and cellars for contributions; Mrs. Carr will be glad to pick them up if you call her - 847-2989.
 Tom Carey and two sisters will serve coffee and donuts from 8 to 12.
 Snack Bar - Mrs. Bates and Mrs. James - 11:30 to 2. Sandwiches and coffee.
 Tea - Girl Scouts, Mrs. Mathinos and Mrs. O'Neill - 2 to 4:30.
 Coca-Cola - 4H Girls, Mrs. Mary Smith, Leader.
 The Sand Duners will provide gay music, thanks to James Douglas.
 The flyers were designed by Mabel Watson.

EVENING LECTURE

Abbott Lowell Cummings, of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, will give a lecture on "The Roots of 18th Century Newport Architecture" at the Art Association of Newport, Bellevue Avenue, at 8:00 P.M. All are cordially invited. Admission \$1.00.

OPERATION CLAPBOARD.

On July 8th from 10 to 6 Operation Clapboard is having a tour of thirteen of the houses they have been instrumental in saving, and in several of the houses selected antique dealers will display antiques -- for purchase. The entrance fee will be \$2.50 (Children under 12, \$1.00) for all the houses, and it is suggested you start at the King's Arms Tavern, where tickets, information, refreshments, etc., will be available, though tickets may be bought at any of the houses.

King's Arms Tavern, 6 Cross Street	Mr. and Mrs. William Wood Prince
David Braman House, 26 Thames Street	Commander and Mrs. Albert Iandolo
Mid-18th Century House, 6 Sanford Street	Mr. and Mrs. Donald Koslow
James Gardiner House, 25 Bridge Street	Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Foley
Peter Simon House, 25 Bridge Street	Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Foley
Christopher Townsend House, 74 Bridge Street	Mrs. Robert H. I. Goddard, Jr.
Sheffield-Huntington House, 43 Elm Street	Commander and Mrs. Walter Whitley
Samuel Nichols House, 31 Elm Street	Lieutenant and Mrs. Edward Carman
Gideon Spooner House, Third and Elm Press, 29 Elm Street	Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Nesbitt
Captain George Weaver House, 14 Elm Street	Mr. and Mrs. David Fenton
John Frye House, 35 Second Street	Mrs. E. B. Dane
John Gidley House, 22 Walnut Street	Mrs. Hilary Herbert Micou
Artist Studio of Mr. Richard Banks, 49 Division Street	

POINT BEAUTIFICATION AND CLEAN UP.

The Point as a whole is looking much improved, with so many of the old houses being restored both outside and inside, and so many more being fixed up and painted. The trees planted during the years are growing well, and greatly add to the vistas down the streets. This fall many of the maples that were killed or cut down (house moving), will be replaced; all will be well grown trees, and different varieties, as well as maples, will be used. Also smaller flowering trees, planted in yards, are beginning to blossom, and more rhododendron, mountain ash, dogwood, hawthorne, crab apple, etc., will be added, also in the fall.

The city has placed several trash containers from the World's Fair at strategic places, and the street sweeping has been most efficient. We certainly feel that the city is cooperating with us in every way to try to improve the cleanliness of the area, and we hope that our many visitors this summer will notice the great improvement.

In Cross Street Park the city has finished digging out all the blocks of concrete, and has dumped in top soil, the narrow end has been covered with bricks, there is a curving gravel walk through the middle, the wooden posts are in place, and the chain linking them will be added next week. In the fall, the Point Association will furnish trees to begin the planting -- a row of magnolias for the background, a sugar maple, and a hawthorne tree.

A HISTORY OF ROSE ISLAND.

The first mention of the purchase of Canagonockutt (Rose) Island seems to come from two documents. The first one reads:

"seventh day of February one thousand six hundred fifty nine. John Cranston and Caleb Carr both of Newport hath sould unto Benedict Arnold of Newport one fourth part of the Islands Caled by the Indians Aquebinockutt (Gould Island) and Canagonocutt and by the English Round Island and Rose Island being in Narragansett Bay and between Rhode Island and Quononaquutt Island."

The second reads:

"first day of May sixteen hundred and seventy and five. Conronocus formerly

called Maussupp cheife sachim of Narragansett & doe make over unto Peleg Sanford of Newport A certaine Island called Connockenquitt, by the English Rose Island."

The Newport Mercury of April 7, 1766, mentions two thirds of the South half of the island was for sale by the estate of Daniel Goddard, by John Goddard, executor of the estate. How two thirds of the island came into the possession of John Goddard's father is not apparent.

A fort was built by the British several years later on the island, as part of the defense force of the city of Newport. When the British left the city for a period in 1776 they destroyed the fort. In July of 1778 General Pigot returned to rebuild the forts on the island, as well as those on Brenton's Point and on the Island of Conanicut. The French fleet entered Newport soon after, and the forts were abandoned to the American forces. From that time the island was left a silent sentinel to guard the entrance to the bay.

The Newport Mercury states on October 16, 1869, that the "New building on Rose Island intended for a light house and keeper's dwelling, was raised yesterday, and located directly on the South Battery."

During World War I the island was occupied by the U. S. Naval Reserve Forces as a training base for personnel. From that time until the end of World War II the U. S. Navy used the island for the storage of explosives. The island has received little attention since and has fallen into a state of disrepair. It was purchased by the city in 1960 for \$2,300 with the stipulation that it be used for recreational purposes. The Rhode Island Striper Tournament proposed the island's use as a headquarters for their organization but lack of interest forced them to return the island to the city.

If the Rose Island proposal that I have made comes to light, then the island might become a mecca for Newporters looking for a good old-fashioned picnic and weekly band concerts.

James T. Douglas

ST. JOHN'S GUILD HALL

In the early 1900's St. John's Guild Hall was the center for much of the Point activity, not only for a flourishing Sunday School, but for all kinds of entertainments. The one remembered most fondly is the girls' sewing class, where every girl was welcomed.

But there was also a flourishing Boys Brigade, every Tuesday and Thursday from 2 to 4, sponsored by Mrs. Hamilton Fish Webster, where each boy wore a brown suit, and had a gun. Catherine Jenks Knox was the drill master, and Phillipine Arnold played the piano. Mrs. Knox was an excellent teacher, and the boys became very good. The highlight of the year was a meeting before Christmas, when each boy wrote what present he wanted, and Mrs. Webster gave it to him. They also had a big party with other presents, a Christmas tree, and all sorts of things to eat.

For years there were dancing classes, children from 4 to 5, and grown-ups from 7 to 9. The boys first learned to bow and the girls to curtsy, and then they began little dances. The grown-ups had regular ball room dances, and the Virginia reel was very popular. Mrs. Knox, who also taught these classes, was always asking the class to change partners.

The girls' sewing class was held every Saturday from 2 to 4 from September to June, and there were usually 30 to 40 girls, who worked hard. It was taught by the Misses Mary and Hannah Wilbour, who had had a boarding house on Washington Street below the Hunter House, but had moved to 53 Washington Street. They were assisted by their nephew's wife, Mrs. John Wilbur, and the Misses Mary and Daisy Parrish. The girls had to have clean hands, inspected, and then Miss Wilbour would seat them and make a short prayer, and sing a hymn, and that was repeated at the end of the class.

The girls were arranged in circles, and the youngest class began by hemming a cotton or linen napkin, and this was repeated until the stitches were perfect. When the napkins were done, they were given to St. Andrews School.

The next step was the making of gay woolen balls. Newspaper was rolled into balls, and covered with colored yarn woven around tightly -- very pretty.

Then came the fancy stitches to be learned. By this time each girl had a white bag with her name on it, and her work inside. Now they used embroidery hoops, and made

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different varieties of flowers and sprays, violets, forget-me-nots, roses, etc., all carefully shaded, and looking as fresh now as they did then. Every June the closing event was a big entertainment, the Musical, in which everyone took part. The smallest were in the Doll Drill, which many can still sing - "Here we come with our dollies dear."

Then there was the Parasol Drill, colorful and gay, and the Maypole Dance where each girl had a streamer to wind around the Maypole and then unwind, singing sweetly all the while. The hardest was the Tambourine Dance, where the oldest girls had to dance and sing, and had a terrible time keeping their tambourines still while singing. Mrs. Knox trained all these dances.

Meanwhile all the work for the year was displayed on tables, each article marked with the maker's name, and most were bought by the parents of the children, who had accomplished something so worthwhile during the winter. What a tribute it is to the teachers that the memory of this class is still treasured by the girls.

THE CRANDALL SHIPYARD

William Hazard Crandall was born in Westerly, Rhode Island, February 21, 1797, the oldest son of Joel and Ruth (Peckham) Crandall. He had just six weeks of schooling in his life, but was very fond of study, and even taught himself the higher mathematics. His first wife was Harriet Lewis, of North Stonington, Connecticut. After teaching school for several years, he decided in 1828 to go to Newport, Rhode Island, and set up a shipyard, taking with him several men from Westerly, among them Jonathan James and Nelson Merritt, whose descendants are still living here.

Mr. Crandall had had no training in the business of ship building, but again taught himself by the aid of books and observation.

The first shipyard was on the northwest corner of Washington and Elm Streets, where the Storer property now is, and where he built the ship "Erie", launching it on September 10, 1831 (?). And it was probably from this same yard that the ship "Audley Clarke" was built and launched in 1849, the occasion being a memorable one, as it was in this ship that the gold-seekers from this region started for California.

Mr. Crandall did not bring his family to Newport until 1831, when they occupied what was then known as the John Brown house on Elm Street, until the homestead on Poplar Street was built in 1833.

17/183
was also
made

Later (date unknown) Mr. Crandall moved the shipyard to the southwest corner of Washington Street and Briggs Wharf, and took his oldest son, William E. as partner, under the firm name of William H. Crandall & Son. In January, 1855, he withdrew from the business, and his third son, George F., entered it, and it was carried on under the name of W. E. & G. F. Crandall until 1874, when the plant was abolished, and the land was sold to what is now known as the N. E. Navigation Company.

Mr. Crandall died in Newport December 4, 1870.

It might be of interest to note that Mr. Crandall's men with their hoisting apparatus raised the monument to Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry in the Island Cemetery.

Ada F. Crandall - March 20, 1929.

Tom Hunter to Brother Charles. Newport, Apr. 27, 1833.

The Point is on the way of improvements, though the means of its inhabitants will allow them only to patch and cover over, and now and then put on a coat of paint. Your friend Crandle, however, is building a house, and bids fair to be the lion of these parts. He builds ships as fast as Barlow builds boats; he has two yards and employs nearly fifty men. His enterprise is a great annoyance to us in several respects. Our grounds (Patre volente) is planked over with his lumber, our ears are bored and ear drums nigh broken by the infernal Pandemonium of Caulker and hammerers and baulers (?) and last tho not least his ugly railroad has caused the house to be run over with rats. Our residence can never be an agreeable one while this man is our neighbor. I wish some of us were rich enough to buy the Mayberry house.

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