

The GREEN

LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

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JANUARY QUARTERLY MEETING.

The January Quarterly Meeting of the Point Association of Newport will be held on January 23, 1969, at eight o'clock at St. John's Guild Hall on Poplar Street. This quarterly meeting will be entirely open to discussions, as our President feels that many of you have not had the opportunity to bring up matters that interest you. We hope you will come prepared to speak up. Do you have any questions? Do you have any problems? This is the time to talk them all over.

Admiral Eccles plans to explain recent details on the progress of the roads on the Point.

THE OCTOBER ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Point Association of Newport was held on Thursday, October 24, 1968, at St. John's Guild Hall on Poplar Street at eight o'clock. The reports of the Secretary, and the Treasurer showing a balance on hand of \$4,737.28, were read and approved. The committee reports printed in the Green Light were also approved.

Junior Girl Scout Troop No. 756 has permission to work on a new badge to learn more about the history and the surroundings on the Point -- the badge shows the Green Light.

Admiral Eccles explained the excellent cooperation he has had from city officials. Mr. Fullerton, the beautification chairman, reported that in spite of the vandalism of the flower boxes in Battery Park, and also the wanton damage to the new trees put out in the spring, he feels that the planting program should be continued. More trees and bushes will be planted this spring. It was voted to spend \$30 for tulip bulbs for the Cross Street Park.

Admiral Eccles, as chairman of the summer project, has announced the date as Saturday, August 16, 1969, for the Afternoon on the Point. It will include an ex-

hibition of houses, of a variety of architecture, and details, including the committee members, will be announced later.

Mr. Fullerton, Chairman, then presented the report of the Nominating Committee for 1968-1969:

1st Vice President - Mrs. John Howard
Benson

Recording Secretary - Mrs. Robert Elster
Corresponding Secretary - Mrs. Robert
Lewellen

Nominating Committee for 1969:

Mrs. Jean Aubeis

Mr. John Clifford

Mrs. Richard Weiss

Mrs. Weaver moved, and Mr. Lewis seconded the motion that the nominations be accepted. The motion was unanimously passed, and the President delegated the Secretary to cast one vote for the slate. (According to our by-laws, two more members of the Nominating Committee were elected at the November Executive Board meeting, namely, Mr. Harold Watson and Mrs. Robert Lewellen. The President then appointed Mr. Watson to be the Chairman for 1969.)

The business meeting then adjourned, and Dr. James Holt of Tiverton, gave an illustrated talk, accompanied by music, on the wonders of Narragansett Bay. His

slides were beautiful and unusual, some showing the familiar bay scenes, but also many taken on the various rivers that flow into the bay. We're planning already next summer's trips to explore some of these beauty spots.

Refreshments, cider and donuts were served by Mrs. Curtiss James, assisted by some of the Junior Point Association.

CHRISTMAS ON THE POINT

What happened to Christmas on the Point?
To our great distress, it got out of joint.
The Sunday before, we lit the tree
And sang around it happily.
But then our careful plans went ashew
Because of that horrible Hong Kong flu.
King Covell was smitten and so was his crew.
What! No carolling? What could we do?
Our junior members saved the day!
They sang the carols, and kept Christmas gay.
Hooray!

THE BOOKMOBILE

This year the Bookmobile from the Newport Public Library will come every Tuesday to the corner of Third Street and Katzman Place-Chestnut Street. From 10:30 to 11:30 A.M., it will be open for adults and pre-school children. There will be more adult books, and newer ones too -- fiction, mystery, travel, history, whatever you desire. If you want special books, you can reserve them, and you can get a public library card just by signing an application. Mrs. Todd, who manages the Bookmobile, is very anxious to interest more adults, and will be delighted to help them.

The hours for the school children are from 2:30 to 5, and they also will find many new books, as well as their favorites from other years.

THE JUNIOR POINT ASSOCIATION

The October General Meeting of the Junior Point Association took place on Thursday, October 26, 1968, at St. John's Guild Hall at 6:00 P.M. At this meeting plans were discussed for the upcoming months. It was voted on and agreed to that the Junior Point Association would donate a food basket to a needy family through the Welfare Department. Plans for the Halloween Party and Halloween Dance were also discussed.

On Saturday, October 26th, the Junior Point Association sponsored a Halloween Party for the young children on the Point. Over 100 children showed up. They were divided into age groups. These groups were supervised by: Rita Herrmann, Maryann Carr, Paula Barton, Jane Barton, Tisa James, Cathie James, Stevie Waluk and Sue Marvelle. Sue Arnold was Chairman and Mrs. Willie Jones was the adult supervisor. Judges were Mrs. Luellen, Mrs. Harold Arnold, Jr., and Mary Arnold.

That same Saturday night a dance was held in the Guild Hall for the teenagers on the Point. The chaperones were Mr. Curtiss James, Major Mould, Mrs. Arnold, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Jones, and Commander and Mrs. Walter Whitley.

A November Board Meeting was held at the home of Sue Marvelle. Plans for the Thanksgiving Basket were completed and a suggestion to hold a dance at Christmas was made.

A December Board Meeting was held at the home of Sue Arnold and it was decided on that the members of the association would go caroling on Christmas Eve. The association was also planning a drive to collect old toys that could be fixed and given to the Welfare Department. It was voted on that the dance scheduled for Christmas will be postponed.

Our organization is six months old now and for the last six months we've all been busy working on activities that will benefit the adults on the Point as well as the

teenagers. This way we can repay them for everything they've already given us. If we don't achieve much in this association, at least we know that we've learned a great lesson in life - that it's more fun to give than it is to receive.

Sue Marvelle, Corresponding Secretary

REMINISCENCES CAUSED BY CARRIE ERICSON'S SCHOOL DAYS

by Arthur Spooner

My sister in New Jersey sent me a copy of the October Green Light, and in it there was an article by Carrie Ericson. I do not remember her, although she was about my time. I graduated from grammar school in 1906, while Miss Ericson shook off her shackles in 1909. She recalled the school days so plainly that it made me homesick. I was thinking the other day about how we used to begin the school day when I attended the third grade in the Callender School on Willow Street. After the "Good morning, children" - "Good morning, Miss DeBlois" bit, we recited the 23rd psalm, and then said the Lord's Prayer. I always felt better for it. That was before our Supreme Court told God he couldn't attend our public schools any more.

There were some small differences, such as the color of Miss Champlain's hair. I thought she was a blonde. I checked with my sister, Helen, in Passaic, New Jersey, and she agrees with me that Miss Champlain's hair was blonde. Miss DeBlois was dark; she was the first lady I fell in love with. When she got married, I felt awful.

I don't think anyone could forget Miss Saunders. She was short and plump and taught the second grade at Callender School. I never attended the second grade, as I began school at the age of 10 in the third grade. I remember going into the second grade to watch the members perform. They were running around singing "Here comes a bluebird in through the window." Lately I learned that the Willie Leys who was a part of the show was the father of the Mr. Leys who is part of the city improvement at present.

I went to Potter School in all four grades; Miss Friend, Miss Wilcox (we used to call her the female wife beater), Miss Tilley, and Mr. Alger. From there I progressed to the eighth grade and Miss Mackie, at that time at the Coggeshall School. Miss Mackie was by far the finest teacher I ever had, and I have had lots of them in my eighty years.

From there to Calvert and Miss Caswell. While there I had a slight fever, and Dr. Sweet declared it was scarlet fever, and quarantined the whole family for five weeks. It was great! No school for five weeks. I remember Miss Blaisdell, the drawing teacher; I used to think she owned the Blaisdell pencils.

I was born in Brookline, Massachusetts, and moved to the old Spooner house at the corner of Third and Elm Streets (where the Elm Street Press is now) when I was two weeks old. Gideon Spooner was my great grandfather. My parents later moved to Coddington's Point, where I lived until I was eighteen. We, too, walked to school from Coddington Point in all sorts of weather. Nowadays there are buses for the pupils. They get so soft riding that the schools require gymnasiums to keep the pupils in condition.

THE WRECK OF THE BRIG SUTLEDGE

On walking east, over the Walnut Street bridge, one gets a view of the old Common Burial Grounds. Just behind the iron fence that separates the cemetery from the roadway, there can be seen a tall marble monument, set high on a slight mound of earth. This monument was erected over three large graves of eighteen persons, mostly children, who perished on the Canadian brig Sutledge in 1846. The information available on this disaster is tragic, but interesting.

In 1956, this writer addressed a letter to Pictou, Nova Scotia, requesting information on this tragedy. I received an answer from a Mr. Arthur Godfrey, one of the writers for the Pictou Advocate. In the correspondence with Mr. Godfrey, a discrepancy in the spelling of the vessel's name was noticed. On the monument it is spelled "Sutledge," while the Newport Mercury of July 4, 1846, spells the name "Sutlej." During the year 1845, the British armies in India obtained a victory in the Sukh War, known as the campaign of the Sutlej: the Sutlej being the name of a small river in Northern India. It seems improbable that the Mercury reporter would have known of this obscure river, much less the spelling, if it had not been spelled out for him. It seems possible that Captain Thomas Graham, the owner and master of the brig had his personal reasons for wanting to honor this victory, and simply anglicized the spelling to Sutledge.

The brig took on a load of coal, and for extra revenue, about seventy people, principally Scotch miners and their families bound for the coal mines of Maryland and West Virginia. On the morning of the 27th of June, Captain Graham found his ship in a thick fog in an area off the Massachusetts coast known as Martha's Vineyard. This section of the coastline abounds with numerous underwater ledges, and has been noted for a variety of shipwrecks. The vessel struck a ledge of rocks known as Sow and Pigs, and shortly after, the strong tide caused her to swerve. She pulled off the ledge, and sank bow first. The boats were immediately lowered and all attempts were made to save the passengers. Being early in the morning, darkness seriously hampered these rescue attempts, and a number of young children were drowned.

The schooner Dusky Sally, under the command of Captain Henry Wilder of Hingham, Massachusetts, also found herself shrouded in fog. On emerging from a fog bank, the distress of the brig was noticed and Captain Wilder and his crew rendered valued service by rescuing twenty-eight persons. Finding no other survivors, it was decided to place the bodies of those who had drowned on the Dusky Sally. This being accomplished, the schooner proceeded to Newport.

On learning of the grisly cargo the schooner had in her hold, Mr. Thomas Roach offered his house on Bannister's Wharf to be used as a temporary morgue. The survivors were adequately lodged, and through the efforts of a number of sympathetic people, an ample supply of clothing and other necessary articles were obtained. Mr. Peter B. Remington, the overseer of the poor, was placed in charge of all funeral arrangements.

On Sunday at one o'clock, the funeral took place from the home of Mr. Roach and was attended by more than two thousand persons. The dead were borne in sixteen coffins to the burial ground by all available hearses, barouches and wagons, and were interred in three large graves. The procession extended from Bannister's Wharf, northward almost the entire length of Thames Street. The Reverend Thatcher Thayer and the Reverend J. Smith attended and read the funeral prayers at the house. The Reverend Mr. Watson of Zion Episcopal Church read all the burial services at the graveside.

In the afternoon, collections were taken in all the churches for the relief of the sufferers which amounted to \$578.60. To this sum was added \$104.16, gathered by fraternal, naval, and other groups throughout the town. A special donation was made for the purchase of a silver cup to be presented to Captain Wilder.

Judah Touro, a son of the wealthy Jewish philanthropist of New Orleans, gave to the committee in charge of raising funds for the survivors, a marble monument, this being the former monument that stood in the Touro family burial grounds. Mr. Touro had previously arranged to erect a new monument over his family's graves. The old one was recut and now bears the following inscription:

In Memory of
Eighteen Persons
Who Perished
By the Wreck
Of Brig Sutledge
From Pictou
And Were Here Interred
June 28, 1846

A letter of thanks from Captain Graham and the survivors of the Suttlej was received and placed in the local papers. In part it acknowledged the "prompt assistance rendered by Captain Henry Wilder and crew of the Dusky Sally of Hingham, Massachusetts, in rescuing them from a watery grave," and, it continues, "bringing them to a port, among a people who have received us so kindly and done everything in their power to make us comfortable. We can never forget the kindness of the people of Newport."

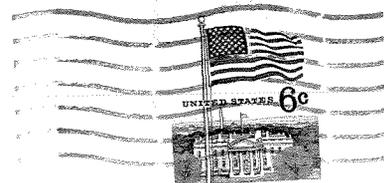
In order to bring this article to a conclusion, a few more short incidents must be recorded. On July 4, 1846, the body of a girl aged about 25 years, was found on the shores of Castle Hill farm. It was identified by one of the survivors as being the body of Joanna Graham, one of the passengers of the Suttlej. The body had drifted approximately 25 miles from the scene of the disaster. Another body of a boy, aged about 10 years, was found on the town beach. Two more were also washed ashore on the beaches of Little Compton, but these were never properly identified.

The passing of time has practically obliterated the inscription on the monument. With so much restoration now being done in Newport, it would be a nice gesture on the part of some local organizations to take a part in restoring the inscription so that the future generations may know of the genuine charity of our forefathers.

Elton M. Manuel
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