

# The GREEN



# LIGHT

## BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

VOL. XIV

OCTOBER 1969

No. 4

### THE ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of The Point Association to be held at 8:00 P.M. on Thursday, October 23rd, at St. John's Guild Hall, is especially important for two reasons.

In the first place the Nominating Committee under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Richard Weiss has worked hard and long with excellent results. We hope that new names appearing on our Board will mean a more widely based representation and a strengthened interest on the part of younger members.

Furthermore, the Committee has recommended a change in the By-Laws as follows:

Page 3, ARTICLE VII - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 2. The Vice Presidents shall act as aides to the President and shall perform the duties of the President in the absence of that officer, in their designated order.

To be Added: "Each Vice President shall have specific jobs or duties on the Executive Committee. The Vice Presidents should be informed of these duties when contacted by the Nominating Committee."

The Nominating Committee feels that prospective Board members should be fully informed that they will be expected to perform specific jobs.

Equally important to our entire membership is that the City Manager, Mr. B. Cowles Mallory, and the Chief of Police Walsh are coming to our meeting in order to discuss the most effective ways for the Point Association to cooperate with the City officials in order to improve our Community and the City as a whole.

On September 19th the Newport Daily News published an excellent editorial entitled "Anti-Crime Campaign" which emphasized the importance of voluntary organized block by block cooperation by citizens with each other and with the police to curb crime.

For many years the Point Association and the City officials have worked together harmoniously and the good results are evident to everyone. However, the level of house-breaking, theft, vandalism and juvenile use of narcotics is much too high, not only on the Point but all over the island, and now threatens to nullify the work of years of constructive effort.

The Board has prepared a special agenda for the meeting which should lead to an informative constructive discussion.

We urge all our members to attend the meeting and to prepare questions and constructive comments for presentation there.

### 1969 Report of the Nominating Committee for the Point Association

<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term of Office</u>
President	Rear Admiral Henry E. Eccles, U.S.N. (ret.)	1969 - 1971
Second Vice-President	Mr. Robert Foley	1969 - 1971
Treasurer	Mr. John Howieson	1969 - 1971
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Edward Carman	1969 - 1971
Nominating Committee:	Mrs. Jean Auboiss, Chairman, and Mrs. Marc Walsh and Mrs. Clyde Sargent	1969 - 1970

## JULY PICNIC

The July picnic at Mrs. Benson's yard was a great success, and members brought their friends, and met old friends of many years. They talked through any music or announcements, and enjoyed the big decorated cake the Point Association furnished. The Seebes Dance Band came to entertain us again, and this time several of them brought their wives. Mrs. Benson's lawn is an ideal place to have a picnic; it was a beautiful clear evening, and everyone watched the sun setting behind the Newport Bridge.

## The Newport Jamestown Bridge (At night)

This massive span stretching from shore to shore  
Above the bay, wrought by a master's hand,  
With beacon after beacon by the score  
Lighting the way, it seems, to wonderland.

George Franklin Merritt

The trip of the Viking Princess took place on August 2nd, another of the hot damp evenings so common this summer. They went up the bay as far as the Crudeslant piers, and in spite of a heavy fog on the way home, the fun was not spoiled.

## GREEN LIGHT AND MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The membership this year rose to well over 500 paid members, the highest it has ever been, and more new people join all the time. We have about 100 former Newporters who have moved to places all over the country, but who still like to hear what is happening on the Point. We owe great thanks to Mrs. Whitman, who mimeographs the Green Light so excellently, and even gets the paper wholesale. Miss Nora Shea and Mrs. Helen Caffrey do the collating of each issue, and do it at least twice as fast as any of the rest of us can.

Here are the figures:

Stamps, envelopes, dues slips, etc.	\$ 128.30	
Stencils and mimeographing	56.50	
Paper	38.10	
Printing of mast head, membership cards	36.00	TOTAL \$ 258.90

The actual editing of the Green Light is interesting, but it is hard to get anyone who enjoys the clerical work, such as: typing membership lists, typing the new address labels, and filling out and sending new membership cards. Volunteers - please contact Esther Bates, 846-0129.

The editor gets many letters telling of remembrances of the Point, and once in a while someone writes an article, carefully researched. We are delighted to hear from you, and whenever we can, we quote from these letters in the Green Light.

Esther Benson, Alice Fitzpatrick, Esther Bates, Editor-in-Chief

## FROM THE NEWPORT MERCURY OF NOVEMBER 27, 1869

That noble hearted man William Newton a few years before his death purchased a parcel of land on Washington Street leading to the water, and gave the free use of it to the Baptists for a baptizing place, but there appears to have been no legal action whereby they could hold possession, and it has recently passed into the possession of Mr. Murray Shipley of Cincinnati who owns the adjoining premises. The gathering for baptismal services are always very large, and all people know how much they infringe upon private rights so that it is generally annoying to those who own property in the vicinity. (This land was at the foot of Walnut Street.) The Baptismal places were formerly at Gravelly Point and Green End Road, and now that Mr. Shipley intends making improvements on his new purchase, our Baptist friends will probably have to select a new location.

Found by Mrs. Bolhouse, and copied by Mrs. Cushman.

## JUNIOR POINT ASSOCIATION

Election News:- The results of the 1969-70 Junior Point Association Election are as follows:

President: Cathie James  
 First Vice President: Susan Arnold  
 Second Vice President: Mike Robinson  
 Corresponding Secretary: Paula James  
 Recording Secretary: Sue Marvelle  
 Treasurer: Maryann Carr

Publicity Chairman: Rosemary Kenney  
 Refreshment Chairman: Rita Herrmann  
 Dance Chairman: Brian Arnold  
 Clean Up Chairman: Timmy McKinney  
 Sports Director: Patrick Murphy

Board Meeting:

The September Board Meeting of the Junior Point Association was held on September 18th at the home of President Cathie James.

The President called the meeting to order and asked for suggestions for activities. A Powder Puff football game was suggested to be played early in October. This was set aside for further discussion by the Board.

It was agreed on that the Junior Point Association will donate another Food Basket this Thanksgiving.

Paula James and Sue Marvelle were chosen to be co-chairmen of the Kiddy Hallowe'en Party.

October 15th was set aside as the day that all dues for the 1969-70 year be paid.

Maryann Carr gave the Treasurer's report stating that there are \$230.00 in the bank; \$90.00 was made at the Afternoon on the Point; and \$33.00 was made on the dance at Covell's.

Hallowe'en Party:

The Junior Point Association will sponsor a Kiddy Hallowe'en Party on Saturday, October 25th, from 1 to 4 in the afternoon at St. John's Guild Hall. The price will be 25¢. This will be for children 10 years and under. Costumes will be judged and prizes will be given.

The Junior Point Association would like to thank all those who worked on Refreshments for "Afternoon on the Point." Also we would like to thank Admiral Eccles for giving us the opportunity to raise money by selling the refreshments; also to Mrs. Kay James for helping us prepare the coffee, tea, and lemonade; and also Mr. Curtiss James for his supervision in the kitchen.

Sue Marvelle, Recording Secretary

## AFTERNOON ON THE POINT

The 1969 Afternoon on the Point was held on Saturday, August 16th, from 11 to 5, and was most successful. About 800 people came to see the houses, in spite of the humidity and the heat. The final amount raised was about \$3,600.

The Chairmen were Admiral and Mrs. Henry E. Eccles.

Captain Rommel was the Treasurer, assisted by Dick Weiss and Ted Carman.

The General Committee under Mrs. Eccles was Mrs. Rommel, John Clifford, Lieutenant and Mrs. Elster, Mrs. Arnold, Mrs. Weaver, and Mrs. Carr.

Houses Open and Displays:

- 1) The Pitts Head Tavern, Captain and Mrs. Rommel  
 Cabinet work by John Hegnauer  
 Sculpture by Nancy Pease  
 Quilts by Isabel Eccles
- 2) Small backyard Colonial garden designed by William Fullerton
- 3) Third and Elm Press, the Nesbits  
 Graphic arts by Ilsa Buchert and Alexander Nesbit  
 Weaving by Esther Bates  
 Stenciling by Gladys MacLeod

- 4) Marve Cooper's Studio - Paintings by Marve Cooper
- 5) Giles Slocum House, Lieutenant and Mrs. Robert Elster  
Paintings by Dorothy Manuel  
Bookbinding by Glenn Bissell  
Stair rises in needlepoint by Nathaniel Norris
- 6) John Allen House, Lieutenant and Mrs. Tyler Field  
Stained glass, ceramics and bronze design by Adé Bethune
- 7) John Goddard House, Mr. and Mrs. Albert J. Henry  
Hooked rugs and applehead dolls by Carrie Ericson
- 8) Havemeyer House, Mr. and Mrs. John Clifford  
Handmade gifts and souvenirs at the Little Grandmother Shop  
Ceramics and Needlework by Cindy Lawton
- 9) George Irish House, Captain and Mrs. Edward Beach  
Crewel and embroidery by Mabel Watson  
Needlepoint by Marthe de Bethune

All the exhibitors live on the Point, and it is encouraging to find that we have so many craftsmen, for which the Point has always been famous.

Phillipine Arnold was in charge of selling the tickets for the quilt, and getting Mr. Bernier to bring his machine for mixing the tickets. There was tremendous interest in it, and after all expenses were subtracted, the quilt cleared about \$1,650. Mrs. Eccles designed the quilt, and the seven Newport scenes herself, going through all the odds and ends of material until she found just the right one. The sewing bees who sewed the background squares together under her direction were: Carrie Ericson, Cindy Lawton, Gladys MacLeod, Ingrid Beach, Esther Bates, Mary Sargent, Mary Rommel, Phillipine Arnold, and Mary Newell. The Sewing Bees also made a variety of things for the Little Grandmother's Shop.

The Quilt was won by Miss Dorothy Peterson of Long Island, who has been coming to Newport for years, and thinks the quilt should stay in Newport. No one has yet decided the best place for it -- have you any ideas?

The second prize, a flower painting donated by Dorothy Manuel, was won by Mrs. Schuber, the wife of an O. C. officer, and she was delighted with it.

Adé Bethune won the third prize - the Architectural Heritage of Newport, donated by the Preservation Society of Newport County.

Sixteen young girls dressed in old fashioned costumes gave small bouquets of posies to people as they entered the houses. Mrs. Alsager had charge of them and Point gardens were cleaned out for the bouquets.

Bill Fullerton put red geraniums at the door of each open house.

The Public Works Department, under Mr. Garcia, gave the whole area a very special clean-up, and we all appreciate it greatly.

Some of the Junior Point boys helped park cars in the lot south of the Hunter House, under the direction of Mr. Curtiss James.

Barbara Carr was in charge of the hostesses and ticket takers at the houses, and they were excellent, but as there were about eighty of them, pardon us if we do not print a list of all their names, but thank them all at once.

Mabel Watson (did you all see her article in Yankee about the quilt?), assisted by Nora Shea and Ann Canole, had charge of the publicity, and did a magnificent piece of work.

Adé Bethune designed the flyers.

Eleanor Weaver planned the exhibits in the houses, and helped arrange them.

The Junior Point girls served tea, coffee, and home-made cookies in the Guild Hall in the afternoon.

Our thanks to each and every one who made this day so successful.

## THE OLD CANDY SHOPS

Ladyman's candy shop on the corner of Elm and Third Streets was the mecca for all the neighborhood kids in our little New England town during the early years of the 1900's. It was just a long and rather narrow room that had been converted into a place to sell candy and toys. Ladyman's and several other little shops in our part of town were called candy shops, but they sold a variety of things. They all had a bell suspended from a spring at the top of the shop door which jingled when the door was opened or shut. In the spring he had marbles, ten for a cent - the fancy agates, glassies and pee-wees a little more; wooden tops, balls and jacks, bean blowers and kites delighted us. There were jump ropes too with wooden handles, but I preferred the kind my grandfather made from quarter inch manila rope with knots at each end to hold onto. We jumped "salt, vinegar, mustard, pepper" starting slowly and ending furiously "eva, iva, over," showing how high we could jump; and "Mary Mack dressed in black, Silver buttons down her back" jumping and counting until we tired or missed. Many pairs of girl's shoes went to the cobbler's in the spring.

The boys spun their tops, and played marbles much as they still do.

At Easter time Ladyman's sold various kinds of Easter eggs, but I liked the chocolate marshmallow ones the best. The creamy white ones decorated with pink or lavender frills were too sweet for my taste. Mr. Ladyman sold hot cross buns on Good Friday. We had them for breakfast, dinner, and supper. Boy, we sure liked them a lot.

For Decoration Day on May 30th, Ladyman's had small flags mounted on round sticks which we could hold in our hands, red white and blue pin wheels, and balloons also on sticks, but I preferred the kind with the little wooden tube on the end to blow it up.

The week before the 4th Ladyman's large stock of fireworks began to be displayed - big firecrackers that sounded like cannon when exploded, tiny ones that sputtered, snapped and popped, but could sting your ankles if you got too close. Both Mr. and Mrs. Ladyman were kept busy handing out an array of fireworks including sky rockets, pin wheels, roman candles and others like them to be set off at night, as well as long sticks of punk to light them with. The firecrackers, torpedoes, canes and toy pistols were set off for the most part, during the day. There were no sparklers then.

We each had about a dollar to spend; it bought quite a lot in 1906. However, my girl friend's father used to buy her five dollars of night works, as did many fathers in those days. My father said it was just burning up money. My brother spent most of his allowance for fireworks. My two younger sisters bought toy pistols and caps, and invested the rest of their money like I did for ice cream, soda and popcorn - the kind that came in layers of vanilla, chocolate, strawberry and molasses. Instead of a pistol, I bought a red, white and blue cane with a slot at the end in which I inserted a cartridge. By the time I was old enough to have fireworks - the less dangerous kind, there was a granolithic sidewalk in front of our house, so I'd pound the cane down hard on it, with a resultant big bang. I bought torpedoes, too. They were simply tiny stones with a cap inserted between them and wrapped in pink tissue paper to form a small ball. We threw them on the sidewalks with as much force as we could muster so that the stones would set off the cap with a noisy snap and pop.

The 4th really started the night before, when the noise in the neighborhood sounded as if we were being bombarded by an invading army, as the older boys exploded the big firecrackers. This would continue until the early morning hours. Sometimes we'd hear a snapping, ripping, crackling noise as they set off a whole package of the smaller sized ones.

In the evening there were three band concerts, one on the Mall, another at Touro Park, and the third at Battery Park - it was Fort Greene during the Revolution - which was close to where we lived. A band concert was part of the 4th of July celebration and we children were allowed to stay until it was over. A peanut, popcorn and candy vendor had his cart by the curbstone, and he did a brisk business. Everybody seemed to eat a lot of peanuts when I was a child.

After the concert, folks would gather on their steps or piazzas to set off the night fireworks. The climax of the day came as skyrockets zoomed toward the sky and burst into showers of colored stars, pin wheels whirled around throwing out sparks, red lights burned in the gutters, and roman candles held in the slowly circling hand

sputtered, hissed, and threw sparkling pellets of fire up.

Ladyman's little shop kept open until midnight, and folks would be going in and out all evening buying extra fireworks, and punk to light them with.

There were valentines galore at Ladyman's in February, also materials with which to make them. Sheets of gold, silver, red and blue shiny paper done up in a roll for a penny, from which we'd cut out hearts and arrows to paste on our valentines made from store wrapping paper which we bought for a couple of cents. Mr. Ladyman would just pull a yard or so from the big roll on the counter and hand it to us. The lovely store valentines - the expensive kind, all decorated with roses, forget-me-nots, paper lace and the most sentimental verses, were displayed in the shop window. We bought very few of these because they cost a dime and the very choicest ones cost a quarter. It was unthinkable for us to spend that much for a valentine. Fastened with snap clothes pins to a cord running the length of the shop, were the comic ones - large sheets of paper with rather insulting pictures and verses. These we liked to send, but didn't like to receive. The heart shaped candies called "metros" were very popular around Valentine Day and so were the little red cinnamon hearts used to flavor apple sauce.

What a variety of penny candy there was in the glass case and in the large apothecary shaped bottles on top of it. Boston baked beans-peanuts covered with red crunchy candy, a small bean pot of them for a penny, jelly beans measured in a little hob-nailed glass mug, licorice whips, and licorice made to look like a plug of tobacco - molasses sponge that melted in your mouth, peanut bars, marshmallow bananas, hard molasses peppermints which the older folk called "John Brown bullets," and penny bags striped in red, blue, green, and purple. We bought these partly for the surprise of finding what was in them, and partly because we got more candy for our penny. Anyway, most of our pennies landed on Ladyman's counter for one kind of candy or another.

He sold the most fascinating little dolls. The tiny penny ones were made of white china with their hair and features painted on. Their legs and arms were held on with wire. The nickel dolls were also china, but they were flesh colored, a little larger, and they had set-in eyes. The ten cent ones were the biggest and best with curly hair, arms and legs that moved, and eyes that opened and shut. Being china, they were easily broken, so we bought new ones quite often. We made them dresses, coats, hats and bonnets and played with them most of our spare time, utterly ignoring the big beautiful dolls given us for Christmas. We made doll houses for them from orange crates, fashioning curtains, rugs, tables and chairs to fit them. We bought most of the tiny doll furniture at Ladyman's. It was printed on cardboard; we simply cut them out, then fastened them together with tabs.

In the summer our nickels were usually spent for ice cream at either Joe Westall's ice cream parlor on Bridge Street or Bubba Langley's little shop on Chase Street. Bubba also made candy - quite a good deal of it in the Fall and Winter, but Joe only made a few batches of chocolate caramels in November just before he and his family left to spend the winter in Florida. Both Joe and Bubba made their ice cream in large tin cans, deep ones, and they stirred it by hand with a long wooden paddle. These cans of ice cream were then put in large wooden chests, and coarse salt and chopped ice was packed around them. They both used the best ingredients, and folk came from all over town to get their delicious ice cream.

Tuesday or Thursday evenings during July and August there were band concerts at Battery Park, and when it was over most of the people attending it headed for Westall's. Some bought ice cream by the quart or pint, whereas others liked to sit at the tables in a room off the shop and eat theirs in a short-stemmed glass. A large glass of two flavors was a dime; a smaller one with one flavor was a nickel. My favorite was chocolate and orange ice.

Bubba Langley made the most delectable candy. His lollipops and stick candy wrapped in wax paper (most candy wasn't wrapped in those days) as well as his chewy coconut patties will long be remembered. To make a batch of these patties, he used fifteen or twenty coconuts, breaking them up with a small hatchet and then grating the coconut meat with a hand-turned grater which he had manufactured. His candy had a wide choice of flavors, including spearmint, peppermint, sassafras, cinnamon, clove, wintergreen, anise, chocolate, and caramel. His lemon flavored molasses candy covered



with unsweetened chocolate was unexcelled. He cooked his candy in a big iron kettle, then put it on a marble slab to knead it after which he'd throw it on a big hook and work it back and forth.

Langley's little shop was open all year, every day in the week from eight in the morning until nine at night. During the school year it was always crowded with kids before and after school. Sometimes during the early years of the Second World War, the precious oils, spices, and other ingredients used in making this delicious candy became too costly and too difficult to procure, so Bubba had to discontinue making it, much to the regret of old and young.

All the little candy shops were attached to or part of the owner's house. At least three of these had been built in the 1700's, one of these being Bucky Spencer's house and little shop on Bridge Street. His sitting room was separated from the shop by a curtain at the door, and when the bell on the door tinkled, he'd come out from behind the curtain. He was usually chewing something, maybe spruce gum, because his shop was the only place in town where it was sold. Boy! Chewing spruce gum would sure make your jaws ache.

Bucky was a grumpy little man with chin whiskers and very slow, slow movements as he passed out candy or hunted for a spool of thread among the various boxes. He never knew where things were, or so it seemed. Besides candy and thread, he sold patent medicines - ipecac which was an emetic, squills, a cough syrup for babies, and paregoric and jamaica ginger for just plain "tummy ache." Bucky also raised herbs in his garden - sage, sweet marjoram, thyme and dill which he dried and sold. There were seldom children in his shop, because it was known that he didn't like them, so most of them steered clear of his place and bought their candy at Ladyman's or Langley's. However, he sometimes sold small wooden furniture which attracted us small girls so much we braved his grumpiness to buy a little table or chair.

Sometimes while we waited for Bucky to appear, the spicy odor of gingerbread, apple pie, or the delectable aroma of home made bread which Mrs. Spencer was baking would waft into the little shop; and in the fall when she made jellies, preserves or mince meat, the exquisite fragrance of cinnamon, clove, apples, pears, quince or grapes would make our mouths water.

Gladys Booth