

The GREEN LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

The Green Light

October 1973

The Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Point Association of Newport will be held on October 25, Thursday, at St. John's Guild Hall on Poplar St. at eight o'clock. Mr. Samuel E. Jernigan Jr., the City Planner, will tell us about the future plans of Newport with special reference to the Point.

The President's Greeting

Autumn, like New Year's, seems to generate a special spirit of creative action and accomplishment. Reviewing our Association's eighteen years, we justifiably may be impressed by its manifestation of these attributes for the continuing improvement of our residential area known as the Point. Our past year has been notable-Storer Park, residential integrity, beautification, community character. Our current year offers more challenges for constructive creativity for improving the atmosphere and value of our community.

Our history demonstrates that our neighborhood quality depends on us residents of the Point. The Association is the residents' instrument and agent for collective improvement and development. Ideally, all residents would participate in the Association as their agent for action. Our effectiveness depends on the participation of Point residents. We need creative ideas and constructive activity. The Association solicits positive proposals, for only on a basis of creative suggestions can causes of complaints be removed. Only by participation can residents and members influence actions of the Point Association and guide it to foster the best interests of our community. The Point Association can reflect the views of only those members who participate. I hope that all persons truly concerned will participate this year in the Association, in its activities, its programs for community betterment, and in continuing production of ideas and suggestions. Our success depends on both those of us who have chosen Newport and the Point for our homes and those for whom the Point has always been-and is-home, particularly those neighbors who are fortunate enough to be Born-On-the-Pointers! The Association seeks contributions of ideas and activity from all of the community.

It is hoped that at our October meeting we may begin a series of quasi-historical brief "lectures" and discussions of our Point heritage. In a sense the series was initiated at our last general meeting when we honored our Born-on-the-Pointers and enjoyed their reminiscences. Hopefully at this meeting we will be able to present BOP Testimonial Certificates to all BOPers who registered at the last meeting. We hope other BOPers also will permit us to present certificates to them later.

Greetings and good wishes to all Point residents and Association

Clude Serpent

Agenda

In order to assure the Association's consideration of subjects for discussion and of constructive proposals, an agenda for the October meeting will be developed beforehand and will serve as a guide. If you want to enter an item on the agenda, please telephone Mrs. Eleanor Weaver, 846-2894, as our corresponding Secretary, preferably before Tuesday, October 16. Items not announced for the agenda may be proposed from the floor as usual.

Report of Nominating Committee for 1973-1974

Vice President	Joseph P. T. Vars
Treasurer	Albert Henry
Corresponding Secretary	Deborah Lutman

Alberta Kazanjian, Chairman
Robert Elster
Arthur Newell
Joe Vars
Aileen Sullivan

Eileen Peterson was appointed to take the place of Beverly Kingsley who had to follow the Fleet south. She is Recording Secretary.

Storer Park

On Wednesday, September 5th at the Annual Point Association picnic, Clyde Sargent, President of the Association, formally presented Storer Park to the City of Newport. Mayor Humphrey Donnelly accepted the gift on behalf of the city with an appropriate comment on its suitability as a natural division between the commercial and residential zones of the Point. Thus the efforts of many people over many years have come to a successful culmination. The City as a whole, the Point, and Goat Island all will benefit.

As of October First 1973, the initial phase of the park development has been completed and paid for. The park is now in full and enthusiastic use. Two thousand dollars is immediately available for future development in the form of benches, trees and shrubs under the planning direction of Mrs. Richard Stackpole. It is expected much of this will be done before June 1, 1974.

Throughout the negotiations with the City, the Association representatives emphasized that the Association would have a continuing interest in Storer Park so that other than for routine maintenance it would not be a financial burden to the taxpayers. The Park is beautiful, it is in active use, and we have the plan and money to improve it. The Storer Park Fund is now \$2000, the treasurer says, and any special donations for trees, benches or shrubs may be sent to the president, Clyde Sargent, and will be greatly appreciated. The Point Association is most grateful to all those individuals and groups who have contributed so generously to this unique accomplishment. Our effort has had an unbelievable response from our members and friends all over the country. We are especially indebted to the Newport Restoration Foundation and the Preservation Society for supporting our idea of creating the Park, for without their assurances of financial assistance, it is unlikely we could have undertaken so great a project.

Henry E. Eccles, Chairman

Welcoming Committee

Gladys MacLeod has consented to be the chairman of the Welcoming Committee and has already called on several new neighbors. If you have new neighbors, or would like to help her, call her at 847-1788, and she will be pleased.

Point Memories

My parents, Mr. & Mrs. Jacob J. Mohr, came from Germany, and after leaving New York, where they had lived for a short time, decided to come to Newport and hopefully make their home here. This they did, and their residence was taken up in the First Free School house on the corner of Washington and Marsh Streets, where my sister Louise and I were born. My father was engaged in stone and monumental work as well as designing and lettering.

Almost three years later, my parents moved to the Huddy house, as we knew it, situated on Willow Street opposite the church. Here my brother Bill was born. Again, a little more than two years later, my parents purchased property at 54 Poplar St., now known as the Jonathan Chadwick House, and where they remained until the time of their death.

The Harold Arnolds took up their residence at 56 Poplar at the time of their marriage in 1912 and have remained there ever since. As near as I can recall, I have lived on Poplar St. for over 75 years and at this present time our two sons, Harold and Ralph, are occupying the same property that was owned and operated by my parents.

Growing up on the Point with our many friends was all very pleasant and enjoyable, as we found time for recreation beside attending school. Like many of my Point friends, I attended Callender and Potter schools, and in those days we had fun playing about in the schoolyard with ball and hoops before the bell rang for entering class. I assure you, we wasted no time in forming one straight line at the sound of the bell, while our teacher looked down upon us to see that we were lined up properly before entering the building.

I have been a lifelong member of St. John's Church, which was built in 1894. The Guild Hall on Poplar St. which was the chapel before the church was built, has served as a most useful place for the life of the Parish, as well as serving to assist other organizations in later years for a place to hold meetings when necessary. Today, it still stands as a Community Spiritual building.

Much of my early life was centered here, and I also remember well going in and out of 52 Poplar Street, which was called St. John's Reading Room at that time. This building was erected by Mrs. John Jacob Astor, and used by the members of St. John's Parish and persons living on the Point. My mother has told me how theatricals were held there at various times, and how the carriage trade would come down from Bellevue Avenue to patronize the special events that took place there.

This building has had its changes like many others on the Point as far as occupancy was concerned. I remember the laundry next door to us for a while, and at a later date, Burton W. Little purchased this building, and held forth with an antique shop, called "The Old Curiosity Shop". He bought and sold antiques as well as repairing furniture.

After Mr. Little passed on, his shop was sold to Raymond Whalon, who was engaged in making and repairing organs. Next, it was bought by Mr. & Mrs. George Vranish of New York, who now spend their summers here.

Sunday school classes were held regularly each Sunday in Guild Hall. I can well remember Miss Mary Tew who conducted the class of small children upstairs, and how we all sat on little chairs to hear the Bible stories read to us.

As we grew older and showed some promise, we were placed in the advanced classes which were held on the main floor of Guild Hall.

Besides the usual parties and picnics that took place each year in the Sunday School, there was always some activity for us to come to, and the neighborhood children were equally welcomed.

It was in the winter time after school hours that the various activities went on which were usually supervised by adult members of the Parish. The Misses Mary and Hannah Wilbour, who lived at 53 Washington St. held sewing classes every Saturday from 2 o'clock to four o'clock. These sessions were well attended by the girls of the Parish, as well as those who came from different parts of the Point. I assure you, those who did attend reaped the knowledge of what could be accomplished with the "Needle" in all sizes. These fine ladies opened our meetings with a short prayer and closed with a hymn that we all sang and knew so well.

The Boys Brigade was a big drawing card for the boys of the Parish, and equally so for those who were not members of the church. All were welcome. These boys received their instructions from Mrs. Albert Knox also a member of the parish who drilled them to perfection, and yours truly played the piano for these young men to march and drill by.

The gifts that these boys received from Mrs. Webster at Christmas time was beyond description. Each boy was asked by Mrs. Webster what he would like to have for Christmas, and he was always fortunate enough to receive the gift of his choice. A large Christmas tree was on hand, beautifully adorned with all kinds of ornaments. A party followed where chocolate, ice cream and cake were enjoyed to no end. Mrs. Knox and myself were in charge of the young people's dancing class, which took place after school hours during each week.

Any number of receptions took place in the Guild Hall, especially the one on November 22nd, so gala and outstanding, which was the date of the dedication of St. John's Church. Each year on that date a special service was held in the church, followed by a reception in the Guild Hall. Palms and flowers decorated the hall, with music and refreshments.

To be continued,

Phillipine M. Arnold

Point Cook Book

Mrs. Eccles reported that the sales of the Point Cookbook from July 24th, 1972 to September 1st, 1973, have netted a profit of \$928.25. Up to Sept. 1st, 1973, the profits were turned over to the Storer Park Fund, but it has been decided to place them in the general fund from that date on. There are still 1100 copies available.

Storer Park Landscaping

We have spent \$94.50 to date in planting, and are so lucky to have another \$1800 at present to spent on gifts and memorials. It has not been decided how to mark any memorials, but the committee is working on it.

We shall plant four Norway maples this fall, all the bayberry and Russian olive, and more rosa rugosa. The black Japanese pines transplant best in the spring. It has been suggested that we plant a tree suitable for a Christmas tree, which certainly would be lovely. Where to plant it, what kind is best, and how to reach electricity for the lighting are the next considerations.

We also have a head start on the benches and have ordered some of them, happy to say they will be bluestone with backs. John Benson has made a very nice model.

We now have both the City's and the water department's permission to fill in and cement over the old watergate to the Torpedo Station. We will put a bench in that nice shady spot.

The basketball court has been used almost continually from daylight to beyond dusk. And at most, only two or three pieces of paper and old cans have been left as litter during the whole summer. It is a real joy and example that a park can be enjoyed and still be kept free of litter. Thank you to those who have enjoyed it and helped to create such a rewarding park.

Kate Stackpole, Beautification Chairman

Street Fair "73"

The Point Association Street Fair was a huge success and I want to thank all the participants. Especially the Committees who, without their untiring efforts, more than helped make it one of our best. I feel that the Point Association is very fortunate to have so many members who are willing to work together and I feel they cannot be thanked enough.

We cleared \$4,100 and \$3,000 of that amount went to finish paying off the balance of Storer Park. Even had money left to continue planting the Park.

I have had several letters from participants saying they look forward to this event each year and requesting space for next year. One Church group even gave us an extra check as a contribution towards the park. It is something like this that makes it all worth while.

Again, I want to thank everyone and to thank the Executive Board for giving us a free hand. This is my last tour of duty so to speak. I have been on the Executive Board for a number of years and wish my successor all the enjoyment I have had serving the Point Association.

William H. Fullerton
Chairman, Street Fair "73"