

The GREEN

LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

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NOTICE

The April General Membership Meeting will be held April 24th, at eight o'clock, at St. John's Guild Hall, on Poplar Street. This is to be a big year for the Point Association. We have twenty years of progress to celebrate. Watch in the newspaper for announcements of the dedication of the first gas light at Washington and Bridge. The Point Association has contributed ten to our historic district. In this Green Light are news of other doings. We shall have doings at the meeting and hear of still more. Come one, come all!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On June 20th, 1955, the Point Association of Newport, Rhode Island was founded. Twenty years of community interest, concern, caring, participation and service has brought rewards to us and to our efforts. The next five years, culminating in our Silver Anniversary the twenty-fifth year, should show many things pleasing to all of us -- our restored and refurbished homes, the gas lit streets, Arnold, Battery and Storer Parks, projects already in motion put through and new projects started. We have a situation worthy of note, a living area, safe, beautiful, historic, where all may live compatibly.

Joseph P. T. Vars
President

NEWPORT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM SUCCESS

Over 340 have signed up for the Newport Neighborhood Watch Program. Citizens on the Point have been actively participating, reporting suspicious behavior to the police, who can act on it. Thanks to this quiet activity, crime on the Point has fallen off. The 340 have received their Watch booklets and decals. Anyone still desiring to join, call 849-2753, Police Community Relations Office.

WHAT HAS GONE WRONG WITH JUSTICE, LAW AND ORDER?

This important meeting was held the evening of January 16th, at Thompson Junior High School. Rear Admiral Henry Eccles, USN (ret), was Moderator and introduced the Panelists. The distinguished Judge James C. Bulman wasted no words in setting out the complicated, taxing business that is criminal justice. There are the provisions of the R.I. Constitution, and under that the provisions of the Public Laws, for which the General Assembly makes the policy.

Judge Bulman held up before the meeting a thick, thick book, dealing exclusively with "Sentencing and Probation", its title, saying these matters were the most difficult of a judge's work. He assured us that it simply is not so that probation is piled on probation. Offenders he has sentenced write freely to him; he give the chance for rehabilitation when he can -- BUT! We at the meeting could see, here was a man who ruled for law and order. Miss Jennifer Coofer, Assistant Supervisor Classification, at the Adult Correctional Institutions, at Cranston, had something very hard to do: make us, who are concerned for our persons and our property here in Newport, see that if there is no rehabilitation, no training, without them the inmates are merely held for a while and returned, much worse. The judge and Miss Coofer agreed on the terrible things that happened between these prisoners, held like penned animals. Joseph Houlihan, Attorney, told of a young hitchhiker who appeared before a judge repeatedly. When the judge told him he had better get out of town, the young man replied that was what he was trying to do. ??? Some of our most dedicated teachers and workers asked Mr. Houlihan questions. Ronald Miller, Director of New Visions, of which we hope so much, had personal experience with the miscarriage of justice. Young people so highly motivated may bring in more true justice in the future. Assistant Police Chief Frederick Newton gave a picture of the work of the force -- a very long day and a very long night of tense responsibility. He then placed our duty squarely before the meeting. Citizens not doing their part was the biggest problem of the police department. We were to call in, without fear of ridicule -- the police wanted to know what we saw and heard, and then decide what was best.

The excellent instruction sheets of the Newport Neighborhood Watch, set up under Jeremiah D. Sullivan, Chief of Police, Mr. Newton, and Norman S. Mather, Police Community Relations Officer, give full details on how you can support Law and Order.

Judge Bulman paid tribute to the reporting of Gene Gabriel. You will find his coverage of the meeting in the Newport Daily News, of January 17th.

SO! This was a meeting to which many Newport Organizations were called, the Point Association among others. You, who were so very vocal, so demanding, something must be done about law and order! WHERE WERE YOU?

ON SATURDAY, MAY 17TH, THE ANNUAL PLANT SALE will take place, in the Eccles driveway. Mrs. Gladys MacLeon, 847-1788, or Rosalys Hall, 846-7566, will be happy to hear of your donations of plants - or will gladly assist you to bring them, if necessary. We like flowers and seeds - cookies, too, or cakes. You may begin bringing things in the evening before - to the Eccles, MacLeod or Hall.

Now as the reign of winter ends
The fever to start gardening ascends;
The epidemic spreading to such an extent
That EVERYBODY'S wanting to PLANT

Take out your shovels and rakes;
Whittle a few dozen stakes;
Get father and brother and aunt,
All out in your yard for to PLANT.

To answer everyone's needs,
Buy packets and boxes of seeds
Knowing all the while you can't
Find room for all you intend to PLANT

But come in droves without fail
To the ANNUAL POINT PLANT SALE,
Run with such speed that you pant,
And find there your FAVORITE PLANT!
Deborah Lutman

WILLIAM KING COVELL should be mentioned with music. There are a great many things that could be said of all he was, of all he did. We hope we may have in some future issue of The Green Light something of his life, something of his work with the organ, something of the knowledge and experience he drew upon for articles such as the one on Narragansett Bay, the one on ferries, etc. It did not seem the time to ask.

At his services at Channing Memorial church, we sang a hymn for which he had written the music. Then there is the carol, in which he had lead us joyously so many years. This has a fourth verse we hope applicable also to Easter and the Resurrection.

This happy, holy season
Most joyous of the year
Be it the inspiration
That drives away all fear!
O may we now, and ever,
Look up to God on high
With hope and trust and gratitude
That Christ, our Lord, is nigh.

IT IS SAID -- WHO KNOWS? --

That when the younger William Fitzpatrick was younger still, King Covell was host to a distinguished colleague from the Yale music department. We can imagine what a good time they had. The chiming clocks must have seemed to ring all the hours together, so fast did the time fly. Without, it was intensely foggy. One thing began to bother the distinguished gentleman from Yale. He determined not to let it bother him -- and then it bothered him all the more. The bell on Goat Island, across the water from the big yellow house that sheltered him! The dissonance of the bell on Goat Island, very distressing! Near to his time to leave, he took King Covell into his confidence. Could nothing be done about that bell on Goat Island? This was before the breakwater was repaired; the bell had to be approached by boat. The two music men consulted together. Well, the Fitzpatricks took King Covell every year to gather his own Christmas trees - lots of them, enough to decorate the great hall at Villa Marina. The Fitzpatricks were always going on odd errands of good will. Young William Fitzpatrick, wasn't he just the person to --- ?

Out went the family boat, bearing the representative of the Yale music department, who had pieces of rubber and wood and wire he hoped might do the trick. At the bell on Goat Island the gentleman went expertly to work.

This was observed from onshore. Well, who was he? Well! What was he doing! This was a mystery too dark. The boat, however, had

a number and the number could be read. Away went the gentleman, back to Yale, the bell behind him sounding sweetly, happy as a clam and as silent. King Covell, also, remained serenely still. The Fitzpatrick's received an official call from the Coast Guard. Big Bill was very sternly advised, the Coast Guard would take care of their own repairs in the future. The bell had a sweeter tone. We can just smile about that now.

"A DAY ON THE POINT"

Another year has rolled around, and plans are being formed for "A Day on the Point". This year it is being held the 16th of August, 1975, from 10 A.M. until 5 P.M. on Willow Street, between Washington and Second. Everyone is urged to come and participate in the festivities. As you all know, there will be treasures for everyone. Oh, those delicious ethnic foods; the cakes and pies of the Point Association Table! Leave your diets at home that day. The crafts and handiwork of the Grandmother's Table will charm as usual. White Elephants will be piled to the sky! And by the way, anyone having White Elephants please bring them to Mrs. Martin Adler, corner of Washington and Walnut Streets -- or give her a call. Cathy is Chairman of the "Elephant" Table this year.

This is the year of the quilt. Talk about a work of art! The design is a masterpiece and would be the highlight of any Bicentennial. It will soon be completed and on display, first at the Art Association in their historic show of such hand craft, after at different shops in town. Mrs. Henry Eccles and her sewing ladies have turned out a jewel this year. You may rest assured more than the Spirit of '76 went into this wonderful quilt.

Mrs. John Wilson and all her ladies are turning out crafts for the Grandmothers' Table --- but then I always knew the Point had an abundance of talent.

The Committees for the Day on the Point are as follows:

Chairman - William H. Fullerton
Co-Chairman - Mrs. Albert Henry
Treasurers - Mrs. Robert Elster
 Mr. Albert Henry
Publicity - Mrs. George Harrington
 Mrs. Harold Watson
Hostesses for Gates - Mrs. Henry Eccles
Ethnic Foods - Mrs. John Kazanjian
Point Association Food Table - Mrs. Kenneth
 Peterson
Grandmothers' Table - Mrs. John Wilson
White Elephant Table - Mrs. Martin Adler
Children's Activities - Mrs. Mark Cramiec
Chairman, Raffle Prizes - Mrs. Herbert Rommel
Chairman, Street Committee - Mr. Harold Arnold

Harold is to be commended on the excellent job he does, seems he and the Public Works Department do more than their share. This year, we are adding a Children's Toy and Book Table. We need someone to assume Chairmanship of this.

The applications for the Tables are coming in every day, so if you have been mailed a contract get it back in the mail early. As you

know, we have limited space, and: First come first served.

Looking forward to seeing you the 16th of August.

William H. Fullerton
Chairman

POTLUCK SUPPER

My! Lots and lots of us were there, so what can I say astonishing? That we had a good time? Everyone knew we would. That too many cooks spoiled the broth? Of course not, but we had enough left over to be generous. That Dee Dee and Robert seemed to do it all with a wave of the hand? We are used to that. Next year let's help KEEP the casseroles moving out - the onslaught is merry but terrible. We are so sorry that the people with flu could not come. We hope you are all better now. These are the people who helped by telephoning the membership, - Mrs. Albert Henry, Miss Nora Shea, Mrs. John Kazanjian, Miss Posie Hall and Mrs. D. Leo Sullivan. A thanks from our hearts - or shall we go lower - to Dee Dee and Robert Elster for our happy and satisfying Potluck Supper.

THE BICENTENNIAL QUILT

Isabel Eccles did the design, and, as the needles fly on, she sees to the sum-of-the-parts, with a band of new quilters at work. The BiCentennial Quilt has as its center the Old Colony House. To its four sides are crossed flags - the one with the blue field, the other with a circle of stars. Eagles hold their shields at the corners of the quilt.

Old Colony House, flags and eagles rest, every one, in a garland of leaves. At the top edge of the quilt are the dates, 1776 and 1976. Big, gay stars are distributed over the whole. Around the sides goes a quaint swag design.

The members of the quilt committee are, - Lois Kessler and Sara Kessler, Anne Huot, Corky Ackman, Angela Vars, Lynn Roberts, Joy Johnson, Stephanie Shoemaker, Donna Maytum, Cathy Adler, Gail Nittle, Monica Harrington, Liz Sargent.

The quilt committee is working hard, planning to have the quilt to show at the April meeting of the Point Association. We hear Angela Vars even took her work on her Bermuda vacation, and doubtless others took theirs with them.

The whole is done on white. The emphasis in the designs is, of course, on the national colors. The lovely, soft green of the garlands is just right to bring the whole quilt together, giving an effect of seeing vistas of history.

GRANDMOTHERS' CORNER

We are going to have the Grandmother's Corner, under the charge of Mrs. John Wilson, with handmade articles to be sold at the Fair. Many are already at work, - Carrie Ericson, Gladys MacLeod, Eleanor Henry, Mabel Watson, Isabel Eccles, Phyllis Hurley, Sherry Murphy, Ivy O'Neill, Cindy Lawton, Dotty Slocum, even your editor, when there is a task simple enough. Any who would care to sew at home or make

something to donate may call Mabel Watson. The number is 847-4263. There is some material available, if you need it.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

It is most fitting that in every New England landscape there should be a church. Looking back on Washington Street from the water, a most pleasant thing to do, there nestles St. John the Evangelist. Its parish house, its rectory will be found in descriptions of old historic houses, not so the church itself. For all that St. John's has settled in, related to so many of the beautiful traditions that have gone before, at peace with all that is there. Washington Street would not be the same without it.

This year, when we celebrate so many historic events, our St. John's celebrates its one hundredth anniversary. According to the Reverend Henry G. Turnbull, rector, plans are being made for many special events there, as well as the on-going parish activities.

St. John the Evangelist was established as a Free Chapel of Trinity Church in 1875 to do missionary work in an unchurched area. For several months, evening services were held on alternate Sundays, in a private residence, with Trinity's rector and a portion of the choir leading a growing congregation. Within a year the first church building was erected on the present site. In 1882, the Free Chapel became an independent parish, with eighty communicants transferring to it from the mother church. The present structure was built in 1893, by Sarah Titus Zabriskie, as a memorial to her mother. The Reverend Turnbull is the second to be called to St. John's after serving Trinity as curate.

The special celebrations marking the hundredth anniversary year will begin July 11th, the day of the first gathering. Dr. Donald R. Childs, is Chairman of the Centennial committee.

In connection with the annual Day on the Point of the Point Association, Saturday, August 16th, the church will be open for guided tours; the church's treasury of religious art will be on exhibit; there will be a midafternoon organ recital and a closing service of Evensong. Other events will follow. Watch for announcements. St. John's has sheltered the Point Association so long and so many times. We have so joyously settled in beside St. John's for our annual Day on the Point, it is good to mark their doings.

SEEING OUR BIT ABOUT THE GREEN LIGHT - WHEN IT WAS WHITE - Editor Edith Ballinger Price wondered if we would like to reprint her article about the lighthouse. Here it is, from The Green Light of September 1961.

"Newport Light, on the north end of Goat Island, was first lighted on January 1, 1825. Keeper Samuel Watson and W. Mumford occupied quarters on the island - but after the breakwater was constructed 1836-38, access to the light could be made on foot instead of by boat.

"By 1863, the stone house which is affectionately remembered by many, was constructed at the foot of the tower. Some early keepers were Pardon Stevens, John Cass, John Heath and Henry Crawford.

"On October 1, 1882, the man who was to tend the light for forty years took over the duty. Captain Charles Schoeneman, who retired in July 1922 at the age of eighty, might have continued even longer at his post had not the light become automatically controlled. Captain Schoeneman made many rescues - including the saving of eight sailors from the destroyer Myrant, in 1912, when he was seventy years old. A wave of nostalgia sweeps over us as we remember the Captain's skiff moored in an angle of the jetty, and the bright geranium boxes blooming against the sparkling white walls of the little house.

"The house was demolished in June, 1922, and the slowly revolving, dim, yellowish light was replaced by the brilliant emerald which gives its name to this publication. It first shone out on July 1, 1922. The old light was rather dim in competition with increasing illumination around the harbor -- but don't you remember how fascinating it was to watch the shield which controlled the "flash" slowly revolving: from inshore it looked almost like a little man solemnly trudging round and round inside the lantern!"

Edith Ballinger Price

From two publications of the Coast Guard: Coast Guard History, CG-213, and Historically Famous Lighthouses, CG-232 the following has been gleaned.

"On August 4, 1790, Congress passed and Washington signed a bill authorizing the construction of "ten boats" for guarding the coast against smugglers. Thus, in point of continuous service the Coast Guard is considered the oldest of the Nation's seagoing armed forces. It was Alexander Hamilton, the first Secretary of the Treasury, who asked for these "ten boats" - armed cutters - and he is regarded as the founder of the Coast Guard.

Rhode Island has two historically famous lighthouse. On the south end of Conanicut Island, Beavertail Lighthouse was the third lighthouse to be built in what is now the United States, the original tower having been constructed in 1749. Prudence Island Lighthouse is on Sandy Point on the east side. During the hurricane of 1938 the dwelling house on the lighthouse reservation was swept away and five persons, including the lighthouse keeper's wife, were carried out to sea and drowned. Prudence Island Lighthouse is only 23 feet above water. It is visible for ten miles.

Any more about lighthouses?

We "have it on good authority" there will be goings-on on the Point this summer. A most charming and hospitable hostess has suggested we might master the words of Little Nell, that song produced by Esther Bates so successfully at the last picnic, to provide entertainment.

We have reproduced it for you on page 9.

SPRING ARRIVES IN SPITE OF THE DAYLIGHT SAVING BLACKOUT

Pitch darkness at 6:45 A.M. engulfs those who walk dogs before work. But, from one length of Washington Street to the other, we are heralded and led through the dark by the music of a succession of song sparrows, who perch on tree and shrub and bush -- This fanfare illuminates the morning dark.

In a few days, as the sun begins to rise minutes earlier, we can, peering through the gloom, make out tiny clumps of snowdrops -- first their green shoots, then the white bells -- but Spring on the Point is evasive. Three snows fall and the flowers earn the right to their name, for as each snow melts, they seem taller, whiter and stronger.

After the third storm has drained into the earth, and with the skies now grey at seven, crocuses begin to appear, in clusters along south walls of houses, in front garden beds, near the warmth of porches and steps, gold, then blue and purple and lavender.

On the Bay, if you can see it through fog or rain, there is now flat calm, now violent winds pushing from the northwest. The shore birds are restless; the loons are almost gone, and cormorants perch as black, ungainly silhouettes on the rocks the harbor seals have deserted. The sun is really up, and daylight here. Twenty geese make music overhead as they fly north. The cardinals pour their persuasive notes, the finches twitter, and the mourning doves are murmuring. The first red-winged blackbirds sing out, and, if you see a robin it could be the first real robin, a migrant, not one that has wintered here --

Deborah Lutman

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LITTLE NELL OF NARRAGANSETT BAY

Full well do I remember My boyhood's happy hours
 The cottage and the garden where bloomed the fairest flowers,
 The bright and sparkling water o'er which we used to sail,
 With hearts so gay, for miles away before the gentle gale,
 I had a dear companion, but she's not with me now,
 The lily of the valley is waving o'er her brow,
 And I am sad and lonely, and mourning all the day
 For bright-eyed, laughing little Nell of Narragansett Bay.

Chorus:

Toll, toll the bell at early dawn of day,
 For lovely Nell so quickly passed away,
 Toll, toll the bell a soft and mournful lay,
 For bright-eyed, laughing little Nell of Narragansett Bay.

I loved the little beauty, My boat it was my pride,
 And with her close beside me, What joy the foam to ride.
 She'd laugh with tone so merry, to see the waves go by,
 As wildly blew the stormy wind, and murky was the sky.
 The lightnings flashed around us, and all was dark and drear,
 We loved to brave old Ocean, and never dreamed of fear,
 The Arrow bounded onward and darted thru the spray,
 With bright-eyed, laughing little Nell of Narragansett Bay.

Chorus:

One day from us she wandered, and soon within the boat,
 The cord was quickly loosened and with the tide afloat.
 The treacherous bark flew lightly and swift before the wind
 While home and friends and all so dear were many miles behind.
 Next day her form, all lifeless, was washed up on the beach,
 I stood and gazed upon it, bereft of sense and speech.
 'Tis years since thus we parted, but here I weep today
 For bright-eyed, laughing little Nell of Narragansett Bay.

Chorus:

PLEASE BRING THIS COPY ALONG IF THE OCCASION ARISES

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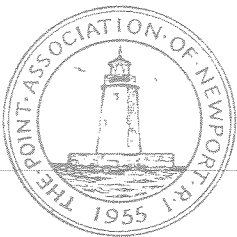
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