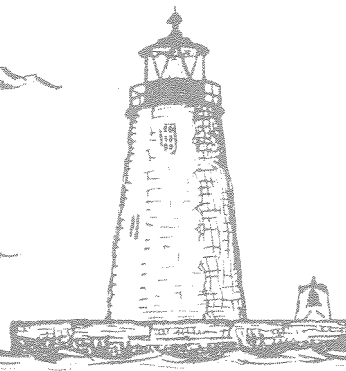


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BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Vol. XXI

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No. 4

OUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

After an extremely busy, and hot, summer we are all back to committees, meetings, programs, and classes. The Point Association of Newport holds its annual Fall General Meeting on October 21st; doors open at 7:30 p.m.; the meeting begins at 8 p.m. sharp. Again a microphone will be used so that everyone will be aware of our announcements, reports, and election of officers. A short program will follow the business meeting. Refreshments will be served.

This is an excellent time for all our new members and our long time members to meet and greet each other -- a good time, too, to come forward and volunteer help with our active and prestigious organization. We are looking for an "Activities Chairman" one who might coordinate the various programs, activities, and meetings of the Point Association. We need a "tree surgeon" also, one who might trim and care for the numerous trees that have been planted by our Beautification Committee.

We welcome our Senior Citizens and will seek transportation for them to come to our annual meeting and to return home.

I'll look forward to greeting you all this election year, and remind you that the Point Association has seen FIVE Presidents of the United States since it began in 1955. How's that?

Joseph P.T. Vars, President

NOMINATIONS:

The Nominating Committee of the Point Association presents the following names for election at the General Meeting:

President	Joseph P.T. Vars
2nd Vice President	Douglas Campbell
Corresponding Secretary	Monica Harrington
Recording Secretary	Heidi Bach

Members of the Nominating Committee are Clyde Sargent, Chairman, and Peter Misiaszek, Corky Ackman, Eleanor Henry, Mary Rommel.

FROM OUR TALENTED DIRECTOR

By popular demand, the Pageant of the Three Beggar Kings by Rosalys Hall will be produced again this Christmas season, December 19th, at 3:30, in St. John's Guild Hall.

Casting will take place on Saturday, November 13th, at 10 a.m. (also in the Guild Hall). Those who participated last year are welcome; but children do get taller, and we may need others. Ages nine to eleven, boys and girls.

Production help is also needed. Committees are: Scenery, including stage hands; Costumes; Props; Lighting; Music for pageant; Carol singing; House, including refreshments. Please volunteer! Call Eileen Peterson, 846 - 7748.

Emilia Cresswell, Director

NOTE: On December 19th come prepared to carol! The doors may not open until just before the performance, so bring your light and we shall bring Christmas in as we have always loved to do. You with good voices who do not mind singing out, do come forward and say you will be there. As stated above, we need a Committee with a leader for the Carols.

MORE ABOUT FLOWERS

Aster means star. The best known one of largest size is the New England Aster. It is a beautiful species, varying from violet-purple to deep rose, pink, and sometimes white. The brilliance of Aster roadside color is contributed largely by this New England variety. Upon every flower head around the central disk the rays are like the points of a star. Bloom begins at the top of the branchlets; all secrete abundant nectar. This showy perennial is a native American, dancing from August through October, all the way from Canada to South Carolina and west to Colorado. Along the highways and byways humbler growths supply the tawny backgrounds for it. If you plant the aster, place it with shrubbery; its own leaves dry and drop just as the flowers are at their best.

In moist places, we may have the Red Stemmed Aster, tall, -- it may be six feet -- and, always, a pale violet-blue. We cannot hope to keep the Seaside Aster when our best shores are paved and polluted. We have many Farewell Summer and White Heath Asters. There are people working on the Point who have testified before the Council of the numbers of trains running daily on the tracks. I do hope such people never find out what is running on the tracks. For others, it must be a steady comfort to see such masses of beauty just beyond where, at the moment, all hell is breaking loose. As one book says, by October the Farewell Summer Aster is everywhere -- "a veritable flowering of the ditches, a descent of the stars."

America was a wilderness. The growth was so thick and impenetrable, those who came in the first Tall Ships and those who came after -- clear up through the Revolution -- colonized, traveled, traded, visited, made war, etc. etc. by water. Ask yourself if they had flowers! They lived in gardens. Into any clearings they made, the posies crowded in.

Our columbine is a pure child of America. No flower can surpass it for airy grace, form and color. It swings on so fine a "rope" the bell seems to have no attachment at all. Columbine comes the generous season from April through July and upon departure presents a fairy glove above the fans of leaves. To come upon it in some inner woodland, dancing

above the hard packed ground, is to know a joy our forebears knew well. Called columbine because of some fancied resemblance to a circle of doves and Aquilegia for the spurs likened to an eagle's talons, it has equal claim to the roles of dove of peace and eagle of war. The columbine comes easily from seeds planted in May, or some divide the plants in spring. It takes two years to flower and once it has given a really fine display it often finishes -- but others will be coming on. Seed men and nurseries have enchanting ones to offer. People on our waterways in small boats have seen the lovely red one pictured in Wild Flowers of Rhode Island. If only we might have sightings on the Point! Also welcome would be the big, blue Rocky Mountain Columbine.

TEAS OF THE GREAT TEA WAR

In this bicentennial year, reference should be made to what the colonists found among the native flora to drink instead of Bohea with its detested tax. Sassafras was one thing they found and sweet golden-rod. They made use of members of the mint family, of horehound, sage and bee balm. Knowledgeable people represent some of these teas as being superior to any Eastern variety. Euell Gibbons praised the blossoms of basswood. If Green Light readers would care for some recipes, we shall supply them here. As also, we should be happy to receive any recipes and any recollections as to their use.

" DAY ON THE POINT" STREET FAIR

The Fair was a great success even though the weather was quite warm. We made \$3,500, after expenses, which I think was very good. Tried for the first time, the Auction was a money maker, thanks to Doug Campbell and Herb Rommel who were the auctioneers. If we have one next year we should have a special Committee to concentrate on it.

May I here express my gratitude to the fine Committees who worked on this year's Fair with me:

Co-Chairman: Odell Favier
 Treasurers: Bob Elster & Al Henry
 Publicity: Aline Sullivan & Eleanor Weaver
 Hostesses: Eleanor Henry
 White Elephant: Rose Favier
 Ethnic Foods: Alberta Kazanjian
 Point Food: Eileen Peterson
 Raffle Table: Ann Canole
 Raffle Prizes: Mary Rommel
 Street Chairman: Harold Arnold

Grandmother's Table: Edith Wilson
 Children's Activities: Annette Chramiac
 Children's Table: Rosalys Hall
 Refreshment Booth: Monica Harrington

Special thanks to the people who donated articles for the raffle: Mrs. Oliver Cushman, Arnold Art Store, John Gidley Shop, and a very special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Campbell who donated the beautiful Queen Anne chair for the auction.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Captain and Mrs. Arthur Newell for always letting the Point Association use their home as Headquarters for the Fair. It is a great imposition, I am sure, with people running in and out, but it is deeply appreciated and I thank them sincerely.

All the information for the Fair will be turned over to the next Chairman, for 1977. Again thank you,

William H. Fullerton, Chairman

The Point Association is happy to acknowledge its special indebtedness to Mr. Fullerton. Much of the work of a Fair is done in advance. It was more than "quite warm," Bill. The "day at the Fair" of song and story was a bit hard to enjoy this year. We are grateful to our workers; we are grateful to all our devoted friends who came. What William Fullerton had in hand before the first table was set up insured success. THANKS, BILL.

THE POINT PICNIC -- Sunday, August 22, 1976

This particular Sunday turned out to be one of the hottest ever. A few brave souls gathered to march from the Colony House to the Point, among them our president and his wife, together with Mayor Donnelly and members of the Newport Artillery. Their spirit was much admired!

The coolest place in Newport was the porch of the Sanford-Covell house where those who braved the weather enjoyed a gentle breeze off the water. An unusual addition this year was the string quartet music. Because of the absence of wind, the sound carried over the porch and lawn, and the listeners enjoyed the strains of Haydn's Quartet in G Major and selections from Mozart's Eine Kleine Nacht Music. The players were Denise Joseph, Vincent Gebhart, Peter Miller, and Mark Motycka; their official name is the Kingston String Quartet. Their performance had true professional finish and was enjoyed by all.

PRAYER FROM THE TRINITY TOWER

George Washington wrote a "Circular Letter Addressed to the Governors of all the States on Disbanding the Army" in 1783, and it was long ago that a portion of it was turned into a prayer. We copy it from The Trinity Tower.

Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that thou wilt keep the United States in thy holy protection; that thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; to

entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large. And finally that thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility and pacific temper of mind, which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

BUILDER OF BROOKLYN BRIDGE ONCE VISITED THE POINT.

What distinguished guests the Point has had over the centuries! Contemplating their presence here, even though they came in the distant past, we can feel in touch with their world. One notable visitor was Colonel Washington Roebling who, with his wife, the former Emily Warren, spent the summer of 1882 in a Point cottage.

As a young man, Roebling had done outstanding service during the Battle of Gettysburg. He was General Warren's right-hand man, and together they had helped the Union forces hold Little Round Top, thus contributing to a Union victory. Roebling's friendship with his commander led to a meeting with General Warren's sister, Emily. They were married during the Civil War, and their union was as close to the state of "living happily everafter" as is possible in this life. Emily's fine education and her command of mathematics were to be of signal help to her husband -- and to the nation -- in later years.

Young Roebling had been trained as an engineer. It was his father, however, John Augustus Roebling, who was already famous in the annals of bridge building. The idea of a suspension bridge was new and untried when John Roebling, a German immigrant, undertook to build one. Some of the first builders in America had attempted suspension spans without a full knowledge of their hazards; the tragic collapses which resulted had all but destroyed the public's faith in them. John Roebling had much convincing to do, and when his first two bridges were completed -- one over the Ohio and one over Niagara -- they were completely successful.

In spite of his achievements, the idea of a bridge over the East River, connecting New York City and Brooklyn, was considered fantastic. The swift currents, the enormous distance to be covered, the heavy loads the bridge would have to carry -- all were frightening obstacles. Roebling, senior, in spite of everything, took on the task. His son, by then a graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, was his indispensable assistant. The basic plans were set up by the two Roeblings, and this circumstance proved to be most fortunate for the future of the bridge.

One day, while taking measurements on a pier on the New York side, the elder Roebling caught his foot in the ferry slip as the boat was docking. His toes were badly crushed and required amputation; in those days, before antibiotics, it was almost inevitable that infection set in. Lockjaw followed, and after weeks of intense suffering, John Roebling died. The fate of the bridge remained in question until his son, Washington, was given the job and made chairman of the Board in his father's place. The year was 1869; and it would be fourteen years before the bridge would be finished.

The process of building the Brooklyn Bridge was one of gruelling labor, and the loss of life and limb through accidents at that time almost impossible to avoid. The man in charge worked harder than any. In addition to the day-to-day labor, he faced constant anxieties for the workers, political intrigues with Tammany politicians, and always the uncertainty over funds and materials.

Work on the huge caissons was particularly dangerous. The problems involved in pressure changes were only partially understood, and while precautions were taken to decompress on each trip to the work area, Roebling was too anxious about the work to give his own health the care he should have. The seizure and subsequent illness that overtook him was known as "caissons disease" and was akin to the bends. For many months he was in pain and suffered a loss of sight; contorted facial muscles and extreme shaking caused him to avoid seeing anyone but his wife and son. Gradually, as he recovered, he made his way to a chair by a window which overlooked his beloved bridge. His mental processes were as good as ever, and he was determined to see his work to the end.

Because of Emily Warren Roebling's mathematical mind and her basic understanding of the bridge project from its beginning, she was able to care for her disabled husband and at the same time make daily trips back and forth to the work area carrying messages and responses from her husband to the workmen. Soon, however, they were faced with a more difficult problem -- gossip. Word spread that Roebling had really lost his mind and the fate of the bridge was in the hands of a mere woman. Much pressure was exerted on him to resign from his post and to turn the work over to others. This he refused to do. He also refused, because of his physical handicaps, to appear before the Board.

It was about at this point, when the bridge was well on towards completion that they made arrangements for a summer in Newport. It had at that time a reputation as a gay social capital. As soon as gossips heard the word "Newport" they began to question. "If he is well enough to have a season in Newport why can't he at least grant an interview to the Board?" Little did they realize that his summer in Newport meant a much-needed rest in the quiet Washington Street Meyer Cottage (now Stella Maris). His doctors had recommended ocean air combined with leisure and privacy as his key to recovery. Mrs. Roebling had seen all these possibilities when she saw the spacious porch and the upstairs front bedroom from which he could enjoy all the prescribed elements in addition to beautiful sunsets and the ever-changing patterns from activities on the Bay. An added advantage for the invalid was the trip to Newport on the Fall River Line; his wheel chair could be easily brought on at New York and off at the Newport landing and thence the short trip up Washington Street. How they must have enjoyed our restful and salubrious Point in contrast to the noisy city.

They were not left completely free here, however. Seth Low, then mayor of New York, and the leading figure in pressing for Roebling's resignation, pursued him to his summer haven. Low made the similar boat trip, walked up Washington Street to the Meyer Cottage, and again demanded that Roebling resign. Roebling refused. Low then walked back down Washington Street, onto the boat, and back to New York.

Washington Roebling saw the job of building the Brooklyn Bridge to its triumphant conclusion; the commemorative plaques on the bridge honor both him and his wife for the wonderful accomplishment.

Should his spirit ever return to his temporary Newport home, what a pleasant surprise he would have to see a beautiful suspension bridge right at his doorstep -- one worthy of being a Roebling design.

STRIKE UP THE BAND

The Newport Brass Band was the first - 1834. Then there was a Redwood Band. Then there was a row in Newport Brass Band and they split up and formed the Newport Military Band. The Military Band had a row and that was where the municipal band formed.

The Newport Band played half and the Seventh Coast Artillery Band out at Fort Adams played half. On the Fourth of July, the Newport Band would play at Touro Park and the Seventh would play on Washington Square. Got a fight going about that and the Newport Band wanted the Mall. Jimmy O'Connell was in the Council and said if they couldn't agree each take half; they'd cut out the appropriation.

The Newport Band played at the inauguration of Wilson. Played for Black Horse Cavalry. Gave a couple of concerts to the hotel lobby - only there three days. The Band was supposed to go to the Centennial in Philadelphia but the state would not give them the money. Formed a bugle and drum corps that played on a boat crossing Lake Michigan. Tommy Turner drank the water of Lake Michigan when told not to, died. Anon.

From the Records of Newport Band, beginning April 1875 (starts as Newport Brass Band):

"A motion was made and seconded that the Band do not go to Waltham for less than five dollars and expenses on the 19th of April. . . . "It was voted as a token of regard that the Band present to the widow of our late president Thomas Aspinwall a cross of flowers! . . . "It was voted that the Band attend the funeral of our former president in citizen's dress. The members being about wet through, the meeting was adjourned." "It was voted that the committee on torches concerning the No. 1 Engine Co. be discharged." . . . "It was voted to accept the invitation to attend the band contest at Oakland Beach, July 30th. It was voted that each member not present that day be fined three dollars." . . . "Committee appointed to go to Providence for the band convention. Each member taxed twenty-five cents to pay their expenses." . . . "It was voted that the band give two concerts this season. One on Washington Square and one in Touro Park. A motion was passed that Shields be forgiven providing he does not play with Redwood Band again." . . . (Immediately after start putting things in order for they are consolidating with Redwood!)
 "Motion made and seconded that Messieurs Slocum and Spooner be authorized to advertize for the Newport Band in regard to claims of Creditors Carried." "Business Meeting Jan. 12, 1876, Mayor Slocum, Chairman. The meeting was for the purpose of reorganizing the consolidated bands. A motion was carried that the band be called the Newport Band. Committee appointed to get up a concert. Carried that the clause in the by-laws prohibiting smoking while in the band room be left out. One appointed to write to the state uniform committee to see about overcoats. Committee appointed to have the uniforms fixed over." . . . "Motion carried that we purchase the hats, with the addition of R.I. under Newport, at \$6.00 each. . . . that we purchase the black and gold epaulets at \$5.50 each. . . . that we purchase the baldric body belt and pouch at \$10 per man. . . . a motion was passed that the money earned on the last engagement be put in the treasury, each man's share to be credited to pay for coloring the pants. . . . that the band get up a dance in order to earn money for the uniforms." The amount made on the dance was \$60.20. This Mr. Slocum was the trustee who came when he was asked and did what he was asked. It shows up in the records.

DOROTHY (HOLT) MANUEL

This talented artist and good neighbor is appearing in many current shows and permanent exhibitions now. The Green Light is delighted to mention two special exhibitions of her work this Summer and Fall. The first was the collection of historic buildings of Newport, at the Redwood Library, borrowed back for the occasion from their proud owners. The other was Dorothy's flower paintings. She asked her friends for their favorite flower and many Point names in this lovely way were attached to her work. This show was at the Art Association of Newport.

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