

# The GREEN LIGHT



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

Vol. XXII

June-July 1977

No. 3

Our president asks: While walking on the Point have you noticed? - -

- - - The Sanford-Covell house on Washington Street has the original five colors that have refurbished this fine example of Victorian architecture? - -
- - - The profusion of flowers at Nat Norris' corner at Bridge and Second Streets? the ground cover is "a juga" a superb plant that is less care than grass! - -
- - - The Douglas Campbell house and workshop complex at Bridge Street and the new road? How handsomely it stands out now. (What's the name of the new road?)
- - - The billboards are down and the lots cleaned up? - -
- - - Bruce Fisher's saltbox Colonial on Farewell and Appleby Streets looks as though it has always been there ♡ ♡
- - - How the trees and shrubs in Arnold Park have made it so desirable as a sitting and resting stop while walking?
- - - How the divider and traffic pattern has been altered at the Goat Island Causeway entrance? - -
- - - The young trees planted by the Point Association Beautification Committee are flourishing and adding shade and beauty to our streets! - -
- - - Although the Walnut Street bridge is completely closed to foot traffic, we have hopes of it opening again once the railroad company repairs its property ♡ -
- - - How many residents walk on Washington Street near Storer and Battery Parks in the evenings? - -
- - - And how many visitors we have strolling our area admiring our homes and gardens?

The Point Association urges you to keep your property and sidewalks clean and to help our visitors whenever possible. Another busy Newport summer makes the Point the envy of many visitors and the pride of all our residents.

Joseph P. T. Vars

THE DAY ON THE POINT -- THE POINT FAIR -- AUGUST 20th --

The big day will soon be upon us. Remember that this is one of the days when all Aquidneck looks to us to show what our island can do and how many creative people we can attract with their wares, and how hospitable we can be. Many old Pointers return for this "Day on the Point." New members and old members, be there to greet them. Have fun. We are listing the people in charge of the various booths and activities so that you can call them and tell them what you would like to do -- where your talents would be best used -- whether you have something to donate.

(Donations may be picked up if necessary). Don't wait for the various chairmen to call you. We want you to be with us. We know you'll enjoy the day, even while you work!

POINT FAIR COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mrs. T. E. Waterbury  
Ass't. Chairman: Walter Everett  
Publicity: Margo Waite  
Treasurer: Peter Misiaszek  
Gate Hostesses: Eleanor Henry  
Ethnic Foods: Alberta Kazanjian  
White Elephant: Lois Kessler and  
Kathy Adler  
Raffles: Mary Rommel and  
Monica Harrington  
Children's Activities: Mr. & Mrs. Jack Cooper  
Annette Chramiac

Children's Table: Rosalys Hall  
Refreshment Table: Beth Everett  
Beautification Booth: Mary Rommel and  
James Douglas  
Quilt Raffle: Isobel Eccles and  
Sally McKay  
Auction: William Fullerton  
Baked Goods and other foods: Heidi Bach  
Cold Drinks: Mr. & Mrs. Martin  
Ice Cream Stand: David Ray

Note: Ethnic Foods and Baked Goods will have food to buy and take home, whereas Refreshment Table and Cold Drinks will provide food to be eaten on the spot.

AUCTION

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The Auction to be held during the DAY ON THE POINT August 20, 1977, is in need of items to be sold. Please check through your attic or basement for articles that we can auction. The response has been very slow, but surely everyone has things taking up space they will part with for the Point Association. We will be glad to pick them up if only you will call:

William H. Fullerton  
41 Washington Street  
847 - 5163

Please don't feel that because the items are not of great value, very rare, or antique, they will not sell. It is surprising with a coat of paint or knocking off a leg just what can be created. And too, it is a shame to have a great auctioneer, Mr. Douglas Campbell, and not have him work.

Bill Fullerton  
Auction Chairman

DONNA MAYTUM is our new MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN:

Come along and join us, if you have not already. We of the Point Association have a lot of fun and accomplish things for the community too.

Donna Maytum's telephone is 849-4395. You may write her at our Post Office Box 491. Donna first moved to Newport in June of 1972 and taught at the Newport School on Ruggles Avenue. She bought a house on the Point in September of 1974. Leaving Newport the following spring, she returned in March of 1977. She says to stay! We certainly do hope so. It is nice when others love Newport as much as we do.

The Point Association sends good wishes to our spritely ANN HUOT at the Eastburne Gallery. There you may see her among many bright pictures.

WE HAVE BEEN LOOKING THROUGH OLD NUMBERS AND --

THE GREEN LIGHT notes delightful contributions from people we have not heard from recently: The Liberty Tree, in three installments, by Louisa C. Sherman; the pleasant recollections of Carrie Ericson come to mind; might we hope for something more from Edith Ballinger Price and from Esther Bates? We have recently heard from Gladys Bacheller Booth who is sharing her memories with us as follows:

Would you like to know what it was like at Callender School in 1901. the year I entered the First Grade?  
Bessie Champlin was my teacher. There were four rooms - Kindergarten .. Miss Clarke and Miss Hamlin - Second Grade ... the principal, Miss Saunders - Third Grade ... Miss Lawton, and later Maud Stevens. There was a big maple tree in the girls' schoolyard. I wonder if it is still there?

The alphabet was written at the top of the blackboard and the primary colors also - red, yellow and blue, with their shadings into orange, green, violet. We had reading, writing and a little arithmetic, using wooden blocks cut like an apple into halves, quarters and eighths. This last used to puzzle me a bit but the reading and the spelling were easy. The teacher passed out a sheet of paper with a sentence written at the top, and on the lined paper we copied it over and over to the bottom of the page. We sang pretty songs which I can still remember. Miss Simester was our music teacher and Miss Worthen taught us exercises. I can't seem to remember who taught us drawing, but a piece of fruit or some object was placed on a front desk, and we had to draw it. Some of the children in the First, Second, and Third Grades were Ethel Cronin, John Bradfield, Myrtle Rouse, Susan and Myrtle Gifford, Alice Pierson, John King, Abby Tilley, Jennie Dennis, Mary and Bertha Deurak, Francis Edgar, Ernestine and Alice Bancroft, Mildred Goddard, and Thomas Moon. Elizabeth Nightingale, the only colored girl, was the best writer in the class. Most of the Irish children went to St. Joseph's Catholic School.

I loved the Second Grade the best. Miss Saunders was a wonderful teacher and she always had the window sills filled with plants or flowers. In front of our desks was a wire with wooden buttons strung on it to help us count. We began to have the times tables in this room and the "take aways." The best readers received little gifts - macaroni letters, a small celluloid spinning top, or a little book. I received The Landing of the Pilgrims. We began to learn poetry in the Second Grade and wrote them in our Gem books. We had "Hiawatha" and "First Snowfall" - - 'The snow had begun in the gloaming' . . I loved that poem. At Christmas we had a tree, and we sang carols and Christmas songs. Hilda Cavanagh stood in front of the room and gave "Rip Van Winkle" Every one of us received a box of candy.

In the third grade we had report cards and examinations in January - only if your marks were good you were excused from these. On February 12th, Lincoln's Birthday - we called it Flag Day - we had exercises in the afternoon and wore our best dresses. We sang Civil War songs and recited patriotic poetry. One of the Grand Army veterans would visit us and tell us stories about the War. For Valentine's Day we had a box covered with fancy crepe paper with a slot in the top to insert valentines. We loved that day! We had booklets for Flag Day, we liked, and also for Arbor Day. For these also we had exercises in the afternoon and recited poems. Once at Potter School, where I went next, we planted a tree.

We will have more of Mrs. Booth's recollections in a future issue. Meantime, we welcome those of any former Point resident who would like to share memories with us.

DOES ANYONE HAVE A PICTURE OF THE HOUSE ONCE KNOWN AS "Bel' Napoli"?

It was the house that stood where Mrs. Tuckerman now lives at 94 Washington Street. It was so named because of its owners, the Admiral Belknap family. In the 1930's it was torn down to make room for the present house, built by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wheeler. Years earlier, it was known as "Bayside" and was occupied by the Charles Fairchilds, and before them, Mr. and Mrs. John Bigelow.

The house is frequently mentioned in historical anecdotes about Newport. Among its famous visitors was Robert Louis Stevenson who came with his mother and his wife in search of a climate that would restore his health. Unfortunately, he suffered from a respiratory complaint, and Newport's usual salubrious climate did not help him; the fact that he was a chain smoker of cigarettes undoubtedly contributed to his misery.

The house is mentioned in the biographical writings of the Jesuit, Father John LaFarge. The book is entitled THE MANNER IS ORDINARY:

. . . Closer to my age were the Fairchilds from Boston, a red-headed family of whom the third boy Nelson -- Neil as we called him -- was closest to my own age. Off their wharf I first learned to swim by the simplest process of falling overboard when nobody was around and deciding the best thing to do was to strike out. It was from their slowly drifting cat-boat that I overcame my timidity and plunged into the brilliant, clear, green salt depths five or six miles off shore on lazy summer afternoons. I must have cadged a lot off the ever-hospitable Fairchilds, but it seemed quite natural and nobody objected. They were wonderfully decent and understanding people with a grand home life, and it seemed to me that, like the ocean itself, they were God's gift to help steer me through the difficult years of adolescence.

Many years earlier, the house was the scene of the first gathering of Julia Ward Howe's famous Town and Country Club. The Bigelows were the hosts to her "Mother Goose Commencement", an event dreamed up by Mrs. Howe and her friends, as an intellectual answer to the Mother Goose Ball which had recently been given on The Avenue with much attendant publicity. Mrs. Howe and her Boston friends were concerned for fear that the social excesses of some of the newly-made-rich would mark Newport as a shallow playground of a financial aristocracy. Her "commencement" stressed other factors. It was planned by Professor George Lane of Harvard, a well-known classics scholar and humorist. It was written in Latin, but it is still clear enough to give us a picture of the evening as well as a list of some of the famous visitors who attended the affair on the Point so many years ago.

One item, "Poema. 'The Pacific Woman' " by Franciscus Bret Harte; Another, a Latin oration by the Reverend Charles T. Brooks, pastor of the Channing Memorial Unitarian Church; Colonel Thomas Wentworth Higginson, who had just published a treatise on Greek Goddesses, was asked to speak on the theme

"How to Sacrifice an Irish Bull to a Greek Goddess." Colonel George Waring, who had come to Newport to establish the H.A.C. Taylor model farm, spoke on "Social Small Potatoes - How to Enlarge the Eyes." Fanny Fern (Mrs. James Parton, who had a prominent nose) spoke on "Rhinosophy - Our Noses and What to Do with Them." Professor William Goodwin, also of the Harvard Classics faculty, spoke on "Hebrew Roots, with a Plan for a New Grubbarium" which he followed with a Greek version of "Hey Diddle Diddle". Not to be outdone, Dr. Gorham Bacon gave a Latin rendition of the same poem:

"Heu! iter didilum  
Felis cum fidulum  
Vacca transiluit lunam  
Caniculus ridet  
Quum talem videt  
Et dish ambulavit cum spoonam"

These recitations were followed with mock degree-granting ceremonies, studded with pleasantries; the evening was so enjoyable that the Town and Country Club was formed for more of the same type of frolic. The "Commencement" took place in August, 1871, and the club remained active until after the turn of the century. It met in the summers only and the members rotated in being hosts to picnics, sailing parties, beach parties, teas, and soirees, all with a dual purpose: to improve the mind and to enjoy the shining intellectual lights that gathered in Newport for its renowned summer season.

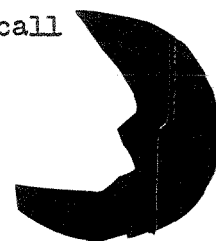
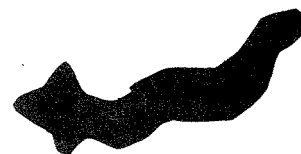
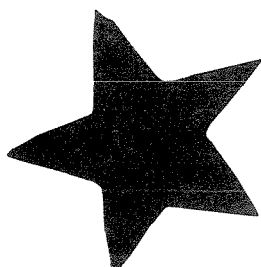
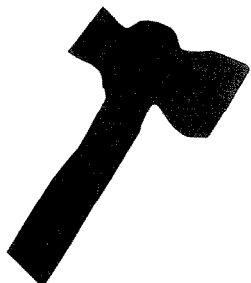
Although the beautiful old house is gone, we can still enjoy its happy memories through the printed word.

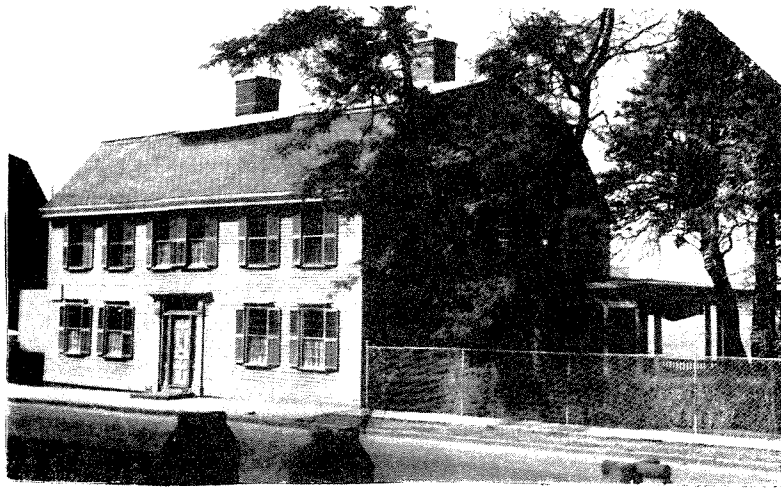
#### THE JIGSAW PUZZLERS - A CLUB WITH NO DUES AND NO MEETINGS -

Well, there will have to be one meeting to get the organization worked out, but after that, the only obligation will be to enjoy the puzzle you have for two weeks and pass it on to the next member on the list. "Passing day" will be the 1st and 15th of each month. Each person should have one, good, wooden jigsaw puzzle to belong. If you like to do jigsaw puzzles and don't happen to have a wooden one, please come anyway; many of us have more than one that we will contribute. Eight members have already signed up; we hope to have twelve. We should then be provided with puzzles for six months, trading them in succession twice a month. The organization meeting will take place:

Sunday, August 28th, 5 p.m. at the Sanford Covell house

Come and bring a puzzle if you have one. If you have questions, please call either: Miss Galvin -- 847-5438 or Mrs. Covell -- 846-1479.





### THE ROBINSON HOUSE

Old house that stands beside the sea  
In quiet Quaker gray,  
The cool salt winds blow in to thee  
The livelong night and day.

The soft sea fog comes floating down  
Over the Dumpling shore  
'Till village, island and harbor light  
Are seen by us no more.

And far to seaward the lightship rolls  
And chats with Beaver Tail  
Of calms and tempests and rocks and shoals  
And "The Great September Gale!"

Old house that stands by the bay  
Through many a season flown  
The secrets of night and day  
Ere now have become thy own.

The twinkling stars shine down  
The moonlight floods thy place  
And the glory of setting suns  
Shines in thy quiet face.

Old friend that steadfastly stands  
Gently thy blessing falls  
On all who dwell serene  
Or shelter within thy walls

And our hearts turn back - and back  
To others who loved thee well  
Who knew the healing strength of thy peace  
When bolts of Heaven fell.

Esther Morton Smith

1865 - 1940

# A NEW LOOK AT INFLATION (from Virginia Covell)

In a recent attic clean-up, some receipted bills for a wedding reception came to light. They were dated 1903, and they give graphic testimony of how times have changed.

For example, from Tiffany, Union Square, New York, there was listed 50 cards and 100 envelopes --- \$1.88. Yes, the decimal is in the right place!

From H. D. Frascch, Confectioner:

16 Quarts of ice cream	\$8.00
6 Quarts of ?? ice	4.00
20 Quarts of lemonade	3.00
8 Doz. Macaroons	.96
8 Doz. Lady Fingers	.96
2 Doz. Brandy Slices	.30
1 Doz. Mac. sticks	.20
2 Doz. Fruit Macs	.30
2 Doz. Kiss fingers	.30
2 Doz. Choc. Kisses	.24
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Strings	.20
1 lb. Jordan Almonds	.80
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. chocolates	.30
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. white cocoa	.05
1 lb. Cr. Mints	.40
Hire of 3 doz glasses	.30
Service of Man	2.00
	<u>\$22.31</u>

What delicious memories come back at these names. But does anyone know what the "strings" were? Or the "white cocoa"?

The house was evidently decorated with flowers for the occasion, as there was also a bill from Arend Brandt, Florist, Van Zandt Avenue.

6 Palms to rent	\$3.00
2 Doz Amer. Beauty Roses	4.00
2 Doz Perle roses -yellow	3.00
4 Doz best Pinks	3.00
1 Doz Pinks	1.00
1 Doz Narcissus	.75
4 Doz Tulips	2.00
Spargeria	1.50
	<u>\$18.25</u>

A delightful memory trip to the "good old days" !

+++++

## OFFICERS OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION

President Joseph P.T. Vars	Recording Secretary Heidi Bach
Vice President Douglas Campbell	Corres. Secretary Monica Harrington
Treasurer Peter Misiaszek	Membership Chairman Donna Maytum
Editor of <u>The Green Light</u>	Rosalys Hall

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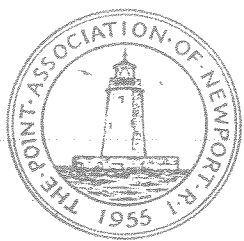
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THE GREEN LIGHT  
THE POINT ASSOCIATION

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