

# The GREEN LIGHT

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

Vol. XXIII

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No. 3

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Have you noticed how our trees are flourishing, after, fortunately, suffering little damage last winter? Have you noticed many houses are being painted, remodeled, restored, or - taking a new lease on life - simply putting their best foot forward? How many people have seen the window boxes returning to favored places, filled with brightly colored annuals to cheer the houses? All of these activities are typical of the growing community called "the Point" and are generated out of the involvement and enthusiasm we feel in common.

Has anyone noticed, especially while walking, the continuous, delightful change of decoration on the door of the familiar "Pineapple House" where our newest members, Ray and Ruth Braga, live? - Flowers for spring and May Day - sailboats for the Bermuda Race - there is a passing parade of intriguing door arrangements.

Moving day does not necessarily mean moving from one house to another. It also means houses moving from one location to another! Such was the case with the tiny Victorian style place, standing on Elm Street opposite the Welfare Center, which traveled to a new site on Poplar Street, between Third and Fourth streets (Fourth is the tracks; note the sign on the house.)

We'd be extremely interested to hear people's thoughts respecting reviving our Point Picnic. Inquiries have been made, but the will to bring it about seems lagging. Call our Board members, or me at 847-1134, and give your ideas for a September picnic. August will be such an extremely busy month making ready for our Fair! The following month is better for our gathering.

Speaking of the Fair, please contact Herbert Rommel and lend him your assistance to make it a successful event against this year. Remember the Fair is the main source of income to keep the Point Association functioning.

Clean-up time is summertime, too. We implore you to clear the sidewalk and street around your home. Make our area the cleanest in town, thereby helping the city and presenting ourselves properly to our guests and visitors. While the wind and the shiftless may have brought what lies there - this is equally true around those properties where no least bit of litter is all wed to rest. Is the saying, "A sweep in time saves nine"?

With concern for our Point section  
Joseph P.T. Vars, President  
Point Association of Newport

DAY ON THE POINT FAIR

August 19th is the day - a Saturday - 10 to 5!  
Willow Street, between Washington Street and Second Street, is the place.

50¢ is the Admission Fee - no additional charges -  
and this includes DAN BUTTERWORTH,  
who will present a one half hour Marionette Show at 11 A M and  
at 2 P M. Both children and adults are enchanted by his shows . We  
repeat: this is free to fair goers.

Auction Mike Corcoran has agreed to be auctioneer. Mr. Douglas  
Campbell is Chairman of the auction; please bring your donations  
to him, or telephone him to have them picked up - 846 - 4711.  
Auction will be at 3 P M.

Ethnic Foods Our friends, Beta Sigma Phi, Philoptochos Society of  
St Spyridon Church, and the Women's Everready Society of the Commu-  
nity Baptist Church will be in St John's Parish Hall.  
In the Hall, also, will be the Point Food Table, Chairman Heidi  
Bach.

Quilt Carrie's Calendulas Quilt is completed thanks to Mrs. Henry  
Eccles and her hard-working helpers, Sherry Murphy, Aileen Sullivan,  
Dorothy Slocum, Mary Rommel, Angela Vars, Donna Maytum, Gloria Hughes  
and Edith Wilson.  
The winner will be drawn at 4 P M. Mrs. Geoffrey Gordon is Chair-  
man of Ticket Sales. See the special article in this issue on the  
quilt.

Fifty Booths We welcome back our old friends who have supported us  
over the years, and we welcome some new participants. Our thanks to  
Mrs. Alexander Nesbit who recommended several from the Christmas in  
Newport list. With such booths, it should be the best variety and  
selection ever.

The Sewing Box We shall have an array of beautiful handmade things  
at this well-loved Point table. Sherry Murphy is the Chairman and  
all the ladies who worked on the precious quilt worked here, too.  
Gladys MacLeod took several of the meetings. We also met at Madeleine  
Holt's, newcomer and new member, and at the enchanting Mabel Watson's.  
(Mabel thought perhaps she could not make -- and then these adorable  
things began to appear --)It was good to have Esther Bates with us,  
and new member Theo Duncan. So many helped and/or donated fabrics!  
Rosalys Hall was delighted when the meetings could be at her house.

Thanks to Mrs. Dennis McNamara who is working on publicity; Mrs.  
Robert Covell, Chairman of Hostesses, Mrs. Mark Chramiec who is des-  
igning the flyer and poster, to Captain Arthur Newell, Willow Street  
Chairman.

Thanks, too, to the City Council for issuing a license for the Fair (without fee), and to Mr. Ray Garcia, Director of Public Works, who sees we are assisted in fencing off the street.

Thanks to St John the Evangelist Church for the use of the Parish Hall. Thanks in advance to the as yet unknown Chairman of Children's Activities; it may be necessary to appoint a volunteer. There will be fun for the children!

Our "Day on the Point" is the main fund raiser of the Point Association. But it is more than that. It is a showcase of community spirit. It is a fun day for all. Herbert Rommel, Chairman of the Point Fair

CARRIE'S CALENDULAS As we all know, the new quilt is named in honor and in memory of our beloved Point lady. Carrie Ericson lived all her life on Washington Street. The land across from her beautiful house and garden became Storer Park, when the Point Association, having completed much of the laying out, deeded the property to the city. To the success of this project Carrie Ericson bent her best endeavors.

She was one who worked on the first Point Quilt.

Many Pointers can remember from the time they were young sitting on the Ericsons' steps through long summer evenings, watching the sunset, greeting the neighbors -- They have enjoyed her reminiscences. Carrie knew! And, her hands were always busy. She was an active member, of more recent years, of the Senior Citizens, and is much missed at their gatherings in the old King house. Carrie's nylon balls, her dolls, her embroidery, her hooked rugs are famous.

The new Quilt, commemorating her love of flowers, was conceived by Mrs Eccles when a friend donated the materials in her memory. Mrs. Eccles, who is of course responsible for all the Point Quilts, has concerned herself that new people be brought into the work each time. The craft must continue! With this Carrie Ericson would agree,

The Quilt is on view in various public places of Newport, where chances are available - or they may be purchased from Jan and Geoffrey Gordon, 35 Second Street. Chances cost one dollar, or a book of six costs five.

THE PLANT SALE

William Fullerton and his committee of Rose Favier, Bob Elster, Rosalys Hall, Sherry Murphy, Rowan Howard think we did very well and we certainly added to a lot of gardens and had a lot of fun. We made \$225, with other plant sales going on the same day!

As usual, we owe profound thanks to the Horticultural Society. We are profoundly and continuously grateful.

Our Joe Vars always sends lovely things.

It is splendid that Mr. Bruce Howe takes such an interest in our Plant Sale, and is so generous. Those of us who went to meet John Salvador in the greenhouses will never forget the vision of those daffodils and other Spring flowers parading over the rolling land. Mr. Howe was clear across the world, and yet he did so much! Our thanks.

SAMUEL HOPKINS LETTER

The United Congregational Church of Newport, now standing at Spring and Pelham, was recently invited to send an official delegate to the ordination of Robert Thomas Pardon to be the new minister of the First Congregational Church of Middleboro, Massachusetts. Mr. Pardon with much kindness and perception showed the delegate a letter of long ago of historic interest to us, and to all Newport. Thanks to Mr. William Vareika, the delegate, it is copied here.

To the church of Christ in Middleborough, under the pastoral care of the Rev. Mr. Barker, the first congregational church in Newport sendeth Greeting -

Beloved Brethren,

We have thought good to inform you that God in his holy and wise providence hath afflicted and brought us low, and greatly impoverished us, by means of the war in which these united states are engaged, and by which we have suffered in a distinguishing manner and degree. Our meeting house has been turned into a barracks and hospital - the inside almost wholly ruined - the greater part of the windows broken or lost, and the bell carried off by the enemy. Our parsonage house is wholly destroyed. We by dispersion and deaths are greatly diminished - And we are in a state of great poverty, not only by the losses we have sustained but by the peculiar situation of this town, being on an island, so near the enemy and without any defence; which is the occasion of an almost total stagnation of trade and business. So that it is with great difficulty that the gospel is in any measure supported among us, or that even we and our families subsist. And we have a large number of poor, who constantly depend on others for help. Yet in the midst of our poverty and distress we have thought it our duty to attempt to repair our meeting house, for the want of which we have suffered great inconvenience with respect to public worship. But we find ourselves unable to support the gospel, relieve the poor, and repair our house of worship as those who have the honor of God and religion at heart would wish.

In these circumstances we make application to you, desiring and asking that assistance only which you shall find yourselves able and inclined to grant, agreeable to that benevolence and compassion to suffering fellow christians, which is so much inculcated and encouraged in the gospel.

Whatever you can procure for us in your church and congregation will be received by us with thanksgiving to God and gratitude to you. But if by laying our case before you we only obtain your christian compassion and prayers, this application will not be in vain, nor will you lose your reward.

Wishing you prosperity in all things, especially that you may abound in every spiritual gift and blessing, we subscribe your Brethren and fellow servants in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ.

SAMUEL HOPKINS, PASTOR

Newport, Nov. 4, 1782"



## FLOWER OF THE MONTH - JULY

HEMEROCALLIS - Does that name throw you? How about coming down to earth and calling it "plain ol' Day Lily." This is one of the easiest plants to grow, needing a minimum of care. Requires only ordinary soil and will grow in the shade or sun. Every few years, divide the clumps, making new plantings, and share some lilies with your friends.

They come in many heights, from fifteen to thirty inches. Oh! what colors. Yes, and I can hear you saying, I hate those old orange flowers. But then you have not seen the beautiful yellows, pinks, deep reds, mauves, corals and double orange ones. Even yellow ones that open up at night and send off perfume equal to Chanel No. 5.

There is not a place on the Point that Day Lilies will not grow. In fact they were growing in New England when the Pilgrims landed. They have come a long way in development and refinement since then, however. I think the main problem with growing Day Lilies is people letting the clumps become too large. A mass of them will divide, but you will find them producing fewer blossoms. They must be in smaller clumps to get the maximum of bloom.

They are resistant to blight. Unfortunately slugs like to chew on them (slugs - that's another ballgame)

Different Day Lilies may start blooming in July, in August or even, late ones, in September. I have a dwarf Lily that was given me by the late Joseph Sullivan (known by everyone on the Point who had a garden), which blooms in June with the Columbine. The pale orange and deep purple is a beautiful combination of color.

The new hybrids are out now - and they have a second blooming just like many of the Iris.

William Fullerton

Does everyone really want a flower as tall as they? So they can dance off with it perhaps? They are not then like me at all. So as not to be caught short, nurserymen plan stalks six feet tall, flowers as large as dinner plates. Their ramblers and their vines they must envision draping skyscrapers. This is the "instant gardening" I've heard of?

I am not tall and my house has been cozily settling into the earth these several hundred years. I have a feeling we both like to look down on flowers. Too, the question arises with such tall ones: who leans on who? The nurserymen don't grow them "woody;" Woody that's quaint! The fragile giants look around to me or the house for support, and not finding it try the treacherous wind, and - Are you buying those frail, long, green sticks - they'll not support a cosmos on a still day. An array of broomsticks causes curious neighbors to ask curious questions. I like sweet, shy things peeping up at me, others nodding at my knee or hobnobbing through the windows.

We are indebted to Heidi Bach for her work on the Questionnaire

POINT ASSOCIATION QUESTIONNAIRE 1978

1. Is the Point Association responsive to community needs?  
yes 69%      no 15%      other 15%
2. Should more active membership drives occur to embrace a wider spectrum of the Point's population?  
yes 78%      no 12%      other 10%
3. Does the Green Light accurately reflect the activities and concerns of the Point community?  
yes 63%      no 21%      other 15%
4. Is the neighborhood "Watch" program an effective deterrent to crime on the Point?  
yes 42%      no 21%      other - didn't know 21% - unanswered 12%
5. Do you feel that a surplus of absentee property owners contributes to deterioration of certain sections of the Point?  
yes 39%      no 45%      other 15%
6. Is there an unreasonable amount of noise, debris, violence caused by pets in your neighborhood?  
yes 39%      no 48%      other 12%
7. Are sufficient numbers of trees planted and/or gas lights erected as part of the Point Association Beautification program?  
yes 42%      no 39%      other - 15% more lights - 15% less trees.
8. The Callender School (Third and Willow sts) should be  
A. renovated to serve as a community center for the Point 48%  
B. developed into living quarters (apartments) 6%  
C. left in current status (boarded up) 6%  
D. developed into non-commercial office space 12%  
E. other 9% Arts-Crafts 6% school
9. The Point Pub should be urged to A. restrict its operating hours 30%;  
B. close down 27%; C. convert into a restaurant 27%; D. continue as is 9%;  
E. other 6%
10. Please indicate where areas of traffic congestion exist on the Point -  
- areas where unchecked speeding occurs - areas where traffic directives are poorly marked -  
To this question there were so many answers it was impossible to tally them. The results are being studied and will be acted on.

- 11. Should the Point Association spearhead a clean-up campaign for the Railroad tracks?  
     yes 97%           no 3%    other area    none
- 12. Should the Walnut Street Railroad Bridge be opened (rebuilt) for pedestrian traffic?  
     yes 78%           no 18%
- 13. Briefly describe what you feel to be the negative aspects of the area of the Point in which you live  
     Streets 27%   Point Pub 12%   Dogs 2%   Litter 22%   Yards 7%  
     Vandalism 12%   Children 6%   Real Estate prices 3%   No sidewalks 3%  
     The positive aspects  
     Community feeling 27%   People 15%   Natural and man-made beauty 21%  
     Preservation 15%

The editor, no mathematician, somewhere along the line found the percentages confusing. Heidi says she used a computer. Will you apply to her, please, if you wish clarification?

**ROSES**

The following suggestions were contributed to The Green Light, drawn from an article in The Minnesota Horticulturist.

Water is the most important care you can give your roses. Each plant needs five gallons per week (an inch of rain). With proper drainage, it is impossible to over-water. But do not water the roses when the sun is too hot or when roses would not dry before nightfall.

Fertilize early May, early June, early July, early August. But do not use a fertilizer containing nitrogen after August 15th (Agway has a fertilizer with 0 nitrogen, but only in 80 lb. bags). No-nitrogen fertilizer is good for daffodils, too. The May to August fertilizing should be with a balanced fertilizer, of course.

Pruning - cut faded blooms back to first five part leaf. If plant is not growing strongly, cut flowers without taking foliage; a new plant needs all its leaves for the food contained in them.

Spraying - a mixture of Phaltan and Isotox (another source recommends Bonide). Once a week. Spray in morning after dew is gone, or in evening, but never during heat of day or when windy.

Note - some people think roses are too much trouble. They do require care - but AREN'T THEY BEAUTIFUL!

Hans Andersen wrote,

The roses bloom and fade away  
 But the Christ Child cometh again one day!

A letter of John N. Barron, appearing in The Newport Daily News of April 27th, says how saddening and disturbing it is to hear that three, and perhaps more, lobster boats will be leaving Newport. "a true marine industry, fishing - including shell fishing - should be considered important to the economy of our city. Commercial fishing also gives a diversification and a character to the waterfront with a greater appeal for the tourist and visitorz This balance or "mix" of commercial and recreational activities results in a stronger and more reliable economy." ...

OFFICERS OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION

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