

The GREEN

LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

FOR YOUR DUES AND DONATIONS
ARTICLES AND QUOTATIONS —

ANYTHING UNDER THE SUN
THE POINT ASSOCIATION, P. O. BOX 491

Vol. XXIV

January 1979

No. 1

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As a new year begins with the Point Association, I want to take the opportunity to welcome all the old members and especially the new members, of which we have many, to our organization. It is very gratifying to see so many people interested in our aims. The Point Association will continue under the same guidelines as before.

Several new committees have been named and many of the former will still exist. I feel the general membership should be aware of these committees and a list will appear in the back of The Green Light along with the officers. A committee on publishing will be mentioned here - Betty Stephenson, Rosalys Hall, Virginia Covell and Fisher Benson.

And mentioning The Green Light - do you realize what an undertaking it is to get this Publication out? Miss Rosalys Hall, our "Editor-in-Chief" deserved the accolade of the year. It is through her efforts and those of her helpers that this Bulletin appears. Please send in your articles to be printed in time (Including your President).

The Point Association has kept a watchful eye on everything that effects our area and will continue to do so. Over the years we have been helpful in making the Point a pleasant place in which to live. Our Beautification Program is unequalled, and we have invested many thousands of dollars in trees and shrubs. The "Day on the Point" Fair will continue, as will the Plant Sale. The dates of these will be published in The Green Light later.

I want to thank the members of the Point Association for having faith in me as your new President, and I will continue to work as always.

WILLIAM H. FULLERTON
President

Some notes from THE WILD FOOD HOBBY by Mary P. Sherwood, appearing in
NEW ENGLAND WILD FLOWER NOTES

...It takes a lot of scrounging and often miles of expended gas to find enough wild plants to feed even a small family, or to create a weekend feast ... the old idea of the hunting-gathering economy which for eons kept humans too busy and too tired to develop a culture and civilization. Going back to living off the land would not only be reverting to a mindless primitive life, but it is virtually impossible today for people in any numbers to do so. The free lunch from nature was over-exploited long ago. It is a disastrous activity now.

...It has always seemed to me quite fortunate that many wild plants are just too dangerous to eat, or even taste. Some people even ignore that at the risk of their lives. There were no records kept when primitive people died from test eating. Food poisoning, doubtless, was a cause of the high tribe mortality which kept primitive populations low for millennia. For them it was a costly method of trial and error. Lost today is most of the knowledge gathered - safest place for testing is in the lab. ...The mostest and the bestest, in the large natural packages, are carrots, potatoes, tomatoes, turnips, cabbages and onions, than which there is nothing better to be found.

If it fertilizer and poison sprays you believe you are avoiding, you can produce better results by raising your own vegetables in the organic way; or buying them from an organic farming outlet.

... It is ironic that just when the fragile environments of this planet are most desperately in need of protection a nationwide hobby rips further holes in the ecological fabric. That people feel they must go out and eat the wildflowers is inane.

(We are indebted to Herb Rommel for these notes. Thank you.)

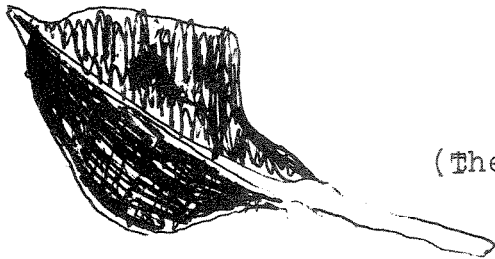
THE TWILIGHT ON THE POINT with THE FEAST OF STEPHEN was grand, wasn't it! Emilia Cresswell the author and the director had further illumined the character of Venceslas and the sense of the times. This year the characters (many of them as there were and briefly as we saw them) were all distinct. The woodsman had dreadful anxieties that made him fierce. The charming lady could afford to be pert to her suitor, whereas the widowed, highborn heiress dare not show what she felt. The duke had come for the excellent refreshments --and so it went - the talk of the pages and musicians even told about them. What a joy to see again the jig of Marya when the feast she has prepared is gone to the king! Our young people do us proud - under this able direction. Since started, a good deal has been asked of them. "Baldwin," "Robert," "Helene" - all - are to be congratulated.

The Producer was our expert, Eileen Peterson!

The scenery, which drew spontaneous applause from the audience, was by Aline and Leo Sullivan, Kenneth Peterson and Bob Elster. Properties were Mary Rommel and Eileen Peterson. Ruppert Nesbitt was not only an actor; he made the pheasant and the shields. We must thank Douglas Campbell for the shield. We had the Boar's Head by courtesy of Mrs. O. Ross.

POTLUCK SUPPER - February 11 at 4:00, St. John's Guild Hall

Chairmen: Jack and Donna Maytum



PLANTS OF THE MONTH
(The choice has nothing to do
with January)



I'm sorry not to get carried away by Poinsettias or Paper White Narcissus, but feel with those you are on your own.

NOW is the time to take cuttings of those Geraniums and Impatiens you brought in from your garden. These two have not the slightest resemblance, yet cuttings can be treated the same way.

Geraniums were brought to this country as early as 1750. Every colonial housewife had a plant in a clay pot, glass dish or metal container setting on the window sill. Scented ones were used in cooking. Many new varieties have been produced since then.

Take a 3 or 4 inch cutting of new growth and place in a clay pot of sand and peat moss. Keep damp but not soaked. Your cutting even may be started in a glass of water; as a rule they will take longer to root. In three or four weeks your cuttings will be rooted and on their way. If you really want to assist them, dip the ends of the stem in a rooting compound. However, I don't bother as I find both geraniums and impatiens very easy to root.

If you want to plant seeds, start them now as it takes longer to bring them to large enough size to bloom in your garden. It is very easy to save seeds from Impatiens. Yes, well - last year I planted 4 packets of seeds and arrived at the Plant Sale with 2 plants (Don't know what happened to that Green Thumb of mine!). I did save more Impatiens seeds and have planted them now, with the hope of having lots for the Plant Sale this year.

A SUGGESTION - if you are having trouble with plants, send in some questions and we shall have answers for you. These answers will be in The Green Light. Mail to: Point Association of Newport, P.O. Box 491. We are not running in competition with Jim Crockett; it is just we are familiar with soil conditions on the Point.

WILLIAM H. FULLERTON

GARDEN MAKING by L.H. Bailey 1898

The satisfaction of a garden does not depend upon the area, nor, happily, upon the rarity of the plants. It depends upon the temper of the person. One must first seek to love plants and nature, and then to cultivate that happy peace of mind which is satisfied with little. He will be happier if he has no rigid and arbitrary ideals for gardens are coquettish, particularly with the novice. If plants grow and thrive, he should be happy; and if the plants which thrive chance not to be the ones which he planted, they are plants nevertheless, and nature is satisfied with them. We are apt to covet the thing which we cannot have; but we are happier when we love the things that grow because they must. The man who worries morning and night about the dandelions in the lawn will find great relief in loving the dandelions. Each blossom is worth more than a gold coin, as it shimmers in the exuberant sunlight of the growing spring, and attracts the bees to its bosom. Little children love the dandelions; why may not we. Love the things nearest at hand; and love intensely. If I were to write a motto over the gate of a garden, I should choose the remark which Socrates made as he saw the luxuries in the market - "How much there is in the world that I do not want."

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MEMBERSHIP UP-DATE

First, the good news! We have forty new active memberships.

But our overall ranks are down to about two hundred paid memberships. If you are one of the people whose name was highlighted in yellow on the address label of this GREEN LIGHT, it means your dues are not received and recorded as paid as of First of December.

In mid-October, prior to the Annual Business Meeting, we invited each neighbor on the Point to join us, and reminded everyone that dues were due. We did this by putting a flyer in each mailbox. Many thanks to the children of the Point who helped make this possible.

Please use the form below and send us your dues if you haven't done so already.

If a new neighbor moves in near you and you want a Green Light to give them to invite them to join us we shall have extra copies available. Call 846-7566 or 849-4395, and we'll see you receive an extra copy.

DONNA MAYTUM, MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

	Individual	\$2
	Family	\$5
	Sustaining	\$10
NAME	Patron	\$25
ADDRESS		
PHONE		

A delighted greeting to our new members!

Stephen and Elaine Bakios	M and M Alain DeJoux
Margaret Ballard	Barbara Entriken
M and M, J, A. Bonomo	Robert Fye and Mary Louise (Howard) Fye
Susan Bounds	M and M Jody Gibson
M and M P. Raymond Broga	M and M Edward Gifford
M and M Frank Brooks	Mrs. W.V. Hayes
James Hinck	Dale Nelson
Niles Hitchings and Family	M and M Charles Nystedt
Carol Hughes	Ruth Olsen
Mrs. Sophy Martin	Capt. and Mrs. R.A. Peters
Barbara Mathinos	Daniel Powell
Joy Mellem	Thomas and Lola Rathbone
Robert and Lucy Rulon-Miller	Joseph and Susan Yergeau
Dave and Mary Taffa	Frank Aponowich
Ann Marie Wall	Charles Aubin
Mrs. Kenneth Watson	Kelly Dahill
Alice Weldon	Gerald D'Gata
Joan and David Wood	Tom and Trish Hansen
	M and M Gregory MacDonnell

CHANGES ON THE POINT - OLD AND NEW

(First of a series)

Do you remember the BEFORE AND AFTER articles that appeared in popular periodicals of the 1920's and '30's? They were featured in women's magazines, particularly in those that stressed the "new" trends in interior decorating. A smartly furnished room in sparkling color would be placed next to a deliberately drab, ugly "beforehand" picture of the same room. The idea was quickly conveyed - buy our linoleum - or our wallpaper - or curtains - and your decorating problems will be solved; your decor will be up-to-the-minute in chic.

This style of presentation had a reverse effect on some readers. A late Point resident, King Covell, had such devotion to things of seasoned use that he resented the crisp newness of the so-called improvements in the "after" pictures. He insisted that the comfortable, well-worn look of the "before" was far more inviting.

King was so convinced of his preference that he wrote an article about Newport houses, based on the opposite view of the popular "before and after" idea. The "before" was a beautiful old house that had been demolished; the "after" was the gas station or billboard that took its place. The article appeared in Old Time New England, June 1935, a publication of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities. Four of the houses featured in the article were located on or near the Point, and in this and the next three issues of The Green Light, we shall quote from it, and add an illustrated report on the scene as it is today. The first, the Vigneron House, once stood on the corner of Farewell Street and Marlborough Street

"... If one goes from Duke Street up Marlborough Street, he arrives at Farewell Street, so-called because it leads to the old burying ground. Here, on the northeast corner, adjacent to the grounds of the Quaker meeting House, formerly stood the Vigneron House-- the home of Dr. Vigneron, a Huguenot physician, who lived in Newport in pre-Revolutionary days. The house apparently was built about 1760, but in the early nineteenth century, it was extended to the north, given a curious parapet around the roof, and probably a new door. Some six or eight years ago ((that would be 1929 or 27)) it was demolished and on its site has since risen a gasoline station which now enchants the view

...





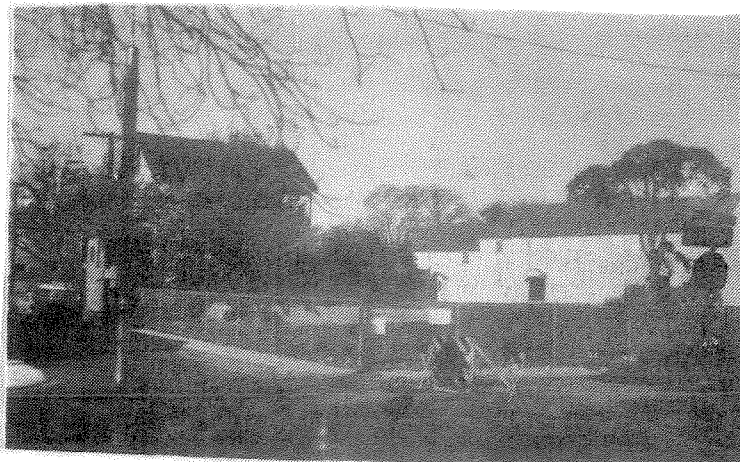
How happy the author would be with the changes of the 1970's. The gas station has gone, and there is now an unbroken carpet of green that joins the sweep of lawn of its neighboring plot and leads one's eye to the Quaker Meeting House. A real visual feast is that landmark now restored to its former dignity. After several years of expert renovations, the Meeting House blooms again in its Quaker-like simplicity. One can imagine the groups of Friends on their way to Meeting, as they are often pictured in the old prints.

The plot of grass, where once the Vigneron House stood, now forms a link between the Meeting House and another of Newport's historic buildings. To the West, across Farewell Street, stands the White Horse Tavern, restored some years ago to its former grandeur and now serving the public as it did in pre-Revolutionary days. In The Architectural Heritage of Newport, Mrs. Downing says about it,

"... its gambrel roof, plain pedimented doors, and clapboarded walls that rise from the sidewalk's edge come straight from Newport's eighteenth century past ... it played its part as the center of town life, the colonial tavern, and as the home of pirate, governor, patriot, innkeeper, cabinetmaker, and silver-smith."

True, Dr. Vigneron's house is gone forever, but the land on which it stood is serving as a bridge between two eighteenth century buildings of inestimable importance. It is also serving as a bridge across the years as it recalls for us, the present-day Newport citizenry, our eighteenth century forebears, who enjoyed these same streets and buildings.

VIRGINIA COVELL



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Certain people of undoubted talent have spoken before now of their desire, and the practicality, of using the Gallender School as a craft center and for teaching the creative arts. This is, if it cannot be used, and well used, for teaching Point children on the Point!

The Green Light was happy to carry their suggestion.

Gladys Bacheller Booth who has written us so many accounts of the Point, who says five generations of her family have gone to Callender School, recommends such a use - if it cannot be used for the children.

This is the backing of an old Pointer.

BEAUTIFICATION DEPARTMENT

Mary Rommel and James Douglas, Directors, say there will be a Mini-Flower Show and Garden Tour, on May 26th, here on the Point, under the joint charge of the Naval Officers' Wives Garden Club and Point Association Beautification. Who has a garden that will be beautiful then? Perhaps for that we had better see what the winter does. Certainly hostesses for the various gardens will be needed. Please volunteer for what you can do!

CHRISTMAS IN NEWPORT

We have before congratulated Ruth Myers and the wonderful people who work with her - including the brave Captain Myers!

Let's see what the Point has to do with it.

Well, first off, the Yule Log in Washington Square with our Art Newell and the Ancient Artillery Company. That's the beginning - Dec. 1st.

Credit for all that goes on at the Old Colony House? Yes, certainly. The "new" Colony House was built to be the dignified heart of the growing, thriving seaport - the Point.

The Christmas Fair, which we are delighted to admit draws talented craftsmen from all over, is put on by the master craftsmen of the Third and Elm Press - Ilse Buchert and Alexander Nesbitt. Many exhibitors, such as Heide Bach, are from the Point. Pointers are in the ranks of the Swanhurst Chorus, are making "sweet music in the choirs," young ones are hosting, are making decorations, are in the cast of too many things to mention. The teachers and children making Christmas in the schools must be remembered. Pointers are among the Navy officers and officers' wives singing, putting on the Festival of Trees - Mary and Herb Rommel are responsible for a truly representative exhibit of Newport artists, for a delightful party where The Gallery is filled to capacity - every year. "Twilight on the Point" began as a simple desire to sing together and be together at this Season of all others, and celebrate our joy at being on and of the Point. May it never lose that sense of the participation of all, now that there are so many talents working on it! Passing the Christmas fairyland created by Angela and Joe Vars, up a little to take in the Oldport Committee, with our Fisher Benson and others. Who had the original Turtle Frolics long ago? Right, and Pointers are showing the way to do it now. After the Candlelight Tours, unwilling to have it all over, comes that grand sing and festive gathering at the Sanford-Covell House (if it is not a "groaning board" it is because that table is so mighty). The trees and plants are sleeping now, the noble ships are far away, the foreign dignitaries scattered - James Douglas should be remembered for his work to make Newport more beautiful, for his hospitality to all the world.

One more thing was of the Point. However, no claims, be they ever so affectionate and light, may be made upon the performance of the Community Baptist Church Senior Choir. All the beauty, all the spirit belongs to them. How pure, how sweet, how uplifting their singing was!

May the Point keeps its best forward through a very happy 1979.

Our nice new Pointers the Stephensons have "taken right hold." Betty Stephenson was in charge of the Program, and Robert Stephenson, with John Howard, of Ushers. Alberta Kazanjian was Publicity, and Dede with Bob Elster were Refreshments - and who knows how to do these things better! Gladys MacLeod made the arrangements for the Music - those sweet young voices and lovely sounds. The Recordist was Susan Woythaler, for the others see the Cast of Characters. Art Newell had everybody singing the carols, ably backed by Barbara Benson as Accompanist. As Carol Leader - or King - Art Newell does it well.

The pageant tells of the merry keeping of the Feast of Stephen, Christian martyr, which was particularly celebrated in the Duchy of Bohemia, where Wenceslas ruled, Saint Stephen being the patron saint of that domain. Wenceslas was known as the "Good King" because of his able rule and charity toward all. He, too, attained sainthood and, according to legend, the warming of his footprints for those who accompanied him on his errands of mercy was one of his many miracles.

He lived so long ago, this Wenceslas we still sing about! Cheers for Eileen Peterson who by diligent research uncovered who he was, where and when, and why "the Feast of Stephen."

Scene: The Castle of King Wenceslas
Time : December 26th - St. Stephen's Day - IX C.

Cast of Characters

JOHN, A Wait	Matthew Kent
TOBY, A Wait	Missi Hanson
A WOODSMAN	Keith Duncan
MARYA, The Cook	Belle Griffith
KING WENCESLAS	Jeff Gordon
PRINCE ROBERT	Ruppert Nesbitt
HELENE, The King's Ward	Terry Ward
CROWN PRINCE BALDWIN	Stephan Day
THE KING'S TORCHBEARER	Andrew Kent
THE KING'S FLAUTIST	Sandy Nesbitt
LORD TREMAINE	Tom Hanson
LADY TREMAINE	Heide Bach
BARON RUPERT	Jack Maytum
LADY AUBREY	Jan Gordon
THE DUKE OF GASCOIGNE	Leo Sullivan
THE DUCHESS OF GASCOIGNE	Trish Hanson
LORD COURTNEY	Dirk Bach
LADY ELEANOR	Liz Chilton
 MAIDS - IN - WAITING	 Erika Bach - Martha Kent Britt Ostrowski - Kristin Chilton
 PAGES	 Cody Bach - Sandy Donald Heather Day - Chris Migliore
 WAITS	 Lynn Furtado - Cindy Rangstaff Laura Ratcliff - Lucia Ratcliff

WHEN DOES THE GREEN LIGHT COME OUT?

Charmed and grateful for the kind words of our President and others, the editor can only say - it has something to do with when I receive the material for it and a little something to do with the time it takes me to type it on this wonderful machine the Point Association allows me to use. When the Board suggested, for the last issue, that we reprint the article on THE LIBERTY TREE, I was delighted. I thought I would have to retype it. I found an excellent original copy - and therefore was able to bring out the whole newsletter faster than I feared. It is as simple as that.

Yes, some of you have offered to help me. I have received a lot of help. Virginia Covell has been grand, for one. We do need the grist for our mill. Now of course the months when it appears are January, April, July and October. If I might have material for The Green Light by midMarch, midJune, midSeptember AND - sorry you are not going to do it the Christmas month either -midNovember?

Charles Duncan may be willing to do some fine lettering and decorating for The Green Light, if he has the material when he has the time to devote to it.

STORES FROM THE GREEN LIGHT.

Already gathered in are some things the new Pointers may not even know about. Here is a partial list of material you may have for a nominal fee. Address The Green Light, care of P.O. Box 491

EARLY ON

COASTERS HARBOUR ISLAND

GOAT ISLAND- Its Forts and Fortifications

WILLIAM AND MARY DYRE - First Family on the Point

THE TRIALS OF THE SOUTHWICKS

A HISTORY OF ROSE ISLAND

1700 -

PRAYER OF GEORGE WASHINGTON - TEAS OF THE GREAT TEA WAR - COLONY HOUSE

SAMUEL HOPKINS* LETTER

JAMES LILLIBRIDGE or JAMES MURRAY (Apologies, this is early 1800s)

OLD DANCES

THE LACQUER BOX - the Love Stories of Mary Robinson Morton

ROBERT DUNHAM, HIS HOUSE

FORT GREENE

THE CLAGGETT ENIGMA (this and other engaging pieces appeared in Here and There on the Point)

1800 -

THE FAISNEAU

STRIKE UP THE BAND

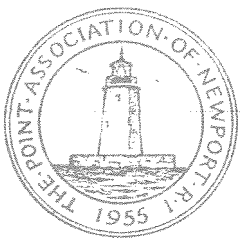
"LITTLE NELL OF NARRAGANSETT BAY" an "effecting ditty"

Sorry, we are running out of space. Some of you would like the recollections of Philippine Arnold, Esther Bates, Carrie Ericson, Gladys Bacheller Booth, Esther Benson, belonging, of course, much closer to now. JUST LET THE GREEN LIGHT KNOW - ask about others.

Membership: Donna Maytum
Cookbook Sales: Eileen Peterson
"Day on the Point" Chairman:
Herbert Rommel
Committee for Guest Speakers:
Emilia Cresswell, Alberta Kazanjian
and Arthur Newell
Chairman-Nominating Committee:
Robert Elster

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THE GREEN LIGHT  
THE POINT ASSOCIATION  
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NEWPORT, R. I. 02840

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