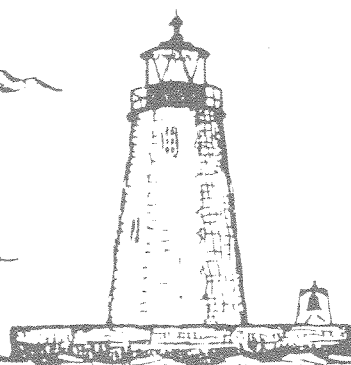


The GREEN

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. XXVI

April, 1981

no. 2

President's Message

It is a happy thought that winter is over and that March 20th was the first day of Spring.

I want to thank De De and Bob Elster, and Mary Jane Hitchings for supervising an excellent Pot Luck Supper. We had a very good turn out (130 people) and everyone had a wonderful time.

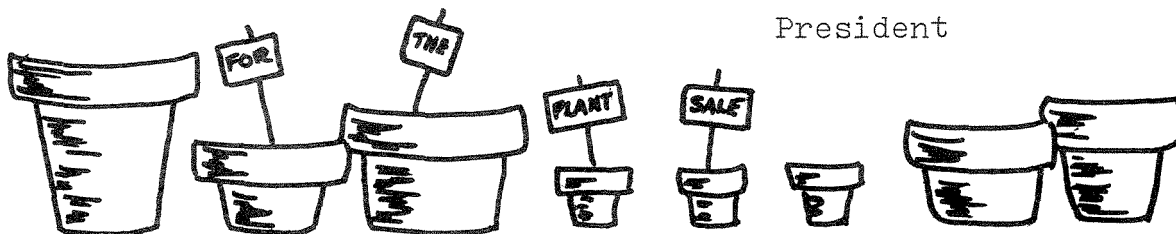
Spring is the time to get all the "brows" cleaned. They are a disaster from Elm Street to Van Zandt Avenue.

Traffic is still a problem on Third, Second, and Washington Streets, with speeding cars taking top priority. The intersection of Third and Bridge Streets is very dangerous, yet people still cut through to America's Cup Avenue on Bridge Street. There is a large sign there stating DO NOT ENTER, but I see Point residents ignoring it.

The tourist season is starting which means litter everywhere. We need more garbage containers for our parks. Too bad the dogs are not trained to use them.

Make sure your seeds are started for the Plant Sale. If anyone has clay or plastic flower pots which they do not want, please call 847-5163; we need them for the Sale. I'll be glad to pick them up.

William H. Fullerton
President



BULLETIN

A Forum On the Effects of the Reagan Budget Cuts On Historic Preservation

Who: Rhode Island chapter, American Institute of Architects
and the Providence Preservation Society, sponsors
What: a public meeting
When: Saturday, April 4; 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM
Where: Bayard Ewing Building at RISD, 231 South Main Street
Why: because of the proposed elimination in the 1982 federal budget of all funding for historic preservation

Poster Contest Continues

Calling all artists! Calling all dilettants even! Only one month remains in the Day on the Point Street Fair Poster Contest.

As announced in February's The Green Light, Fair Chairman Charles Duncan continues to accept entries. So delay no longer; your drawing may be judged most suitable to trumpet the good news to one and all. Contest rules are reprinted below.

1. line drawings only, please (no paintings, half-tones, or other colorful entries);

2. your work must be camera ready, that is, it must be absolutely complete when submitted;

3. date, time, and location of the fair must be included as part of your entry -

Saturday, August 15
10 AM to 5 PM
Willow Street

4. your entry must be in (or be reducible to) an 8½" x 11" format;

5. all entries must be mailed or brought to 44 Charles Street before May 1, 1981.

A Letter from "A Point Hummer"

How very pleased I am to have received in the mail the following letter about activities at St. John's in the early years of this century. I presume that the writer (who signed herself simply "A Point Hummer") was motivated by Virginia Covell's recent article about the Wilbour sisters. I hope that this letter will encourage others of you to be as generous with your memories.

DR

"I went to the St. John's Sunday school in the Fall of 1901. I do not think there was a sewing school at that time, but in the Fall of 1904 there was, and it was run by the Misses Anna and Hannah Wilbour. It was held on Saturday afternoons in the Guild Hall on Poplar Street. When my mother was a child back in the 1880s that (the Guild Hall) was the church and the Sunday school was across the street.

"The Misses Wilbour lived in the house on Washington Street, set back from the sidewalk, but next to the house on the corner right across from the St. John's rectory. We used to go to the Wilbour house to try on costumes, or wings to be pinned on the backs of our dresses, when we were fairies in the play called 'The Wedding of the Flowers'.

"It was a musical, and Mary Thompson who lived on Poplar Street, was the queen, and Albert Knot (who later married Catherine Jencks) was the king. The first act was the smaller children singing and acting with their dolls. The last act was a May-pole dance with a pole in the center of the stage from which long strips of pink and white material hung. A group of girls stood close to the pole, each with a strip of pink or white, and the rest of us on the outside. Then, as we sang and danced around the May-pole counter clockwise, the strips of material formed a block sort of design.

"Catherine Jencks taught a class of us nine year old scout girls to dance every Tuesday after school during the winter, and Polly, her sister, taught us calisthenics. Their mother, Mrs. Jencks, was my Sunday school teacher after Miss Redmond left. Mrs. Jencks lived where the Stella Maris convalescent home is now on Washington Street. We used to go to parties there.

"Miss Redmond, my first teacher, who was wealthy, came in a carriage drawn by two horses, a footman dressed in cream colored trousers, shiny black boots, and a sort of square derby hat (who) sat at the back - the man who drove was dressed the same. In the summer Miss Redmond would wear a chiffon-like dress with ruffles, and carry a ruffled parasol.

"I could write more about St. John's, the suppers they had, the Easter and Christmas services, the time they put on Gilbert and Sullivan's 'Pinafore', etc.; you see, I was born and lived on the Point for over 60 years. Seven generations of us have, and some are still living there."

A Point Hummer

(As I was readying the last issue of The Green Light, Virginia Covell told me of an interesting discovery she had made as she was preparing her article about the Wilbour Sisters. Most of the ladies to whom she had talked about the sewing class had spoken fondly of one particular project - the "yarn ball" - but none remembered how to make this children's toy. The "Point Hummer" does, and she sent directions! Her letter continues - DR.)

"PS - Now I am going to give you the directions to make that ball made with yarn, our very first project in sewing class. We purchased it for a nickel."

How to Make a Yarn Ball

Hunt up some soft rags that you can tear in inch strips. You'll also need some linen (or rug) thread, and 2 or 3 good sized pieces of colored yarn.

1st - Roll the soft rags into a ball the size of an orange.

2nd - Using the thread, make a small stitch at the top of the ball, and then bring the thread to the bottom and fasten it there with another small stitch. In like manner, continue up and down about an inch apart until the ball looks like a tangerine.

3rd - Using a yarn needle and a length of yarn, start at the top, going over and under each thread until you've formed a small "horizontal" circle. Now change color and continue going over and under the thread, using about an inch or two of the yarn. Change color again and do the same until you reach the bottom. Now you should have a pretty striped ball, not too heavy for a child to play with.

April 16 May 4 May 16

April General Meeting -

Thursday, April 16, 7:30 PM at the Guild Hall on Poplar Street. Lee Gardner, expert on things that grow, will be the featured speaker.

Liberty Tree Parade and Ceremony -

Monday, May 4, 5:00 PM at Storer Park on Washington Street. Celebrate Rhode Island independence by a parade to Ellery Park at Thames and Farewell and the lighting of the Liberty Tree.

Plant Sale -

Saturday, May 16, 9 - 12 at 101 Washington Street at the corner of Pine. This is the 23rd annual installment.

This month's Guest Artist is Mabel Watson of Washington Street. Her drawing tells it all - except that these two ladies are obviously making their purchases Saturday morning between 9 AM and noon.



Chairman Rowan Howard has informed me that once again - as always - this pleasant event will be held at the Eccles' house on Washington Street at Pine. Those of you who wish to donate plants, can be most helpful by delivering them there on Friday May 15; but, please, no UFOs (Unidentified Flowering Objects). If you call Rowan, at 847-8428, she can also arrange to have your contributions picked up at your home.

As a special feature of the Plant Sale, bulb catalogues from Dutch Gardens, Inc., of Lisse, Holland, will be available for perusal. Furthermore, this year's quilt will also be shown. Naturally, tickets will be available for the drawing at the Fair, so buy early and buy often.

Whether or not you donate plants, please come to the Sale. Enjoy the refreshments, enjoy the sunshine, and enjoy a Spring gathering of Point friends. It really is a wonderful way to usher in the garden days.

DR

Books

Introducing books that you might enjoy reading will become a frequent feature of The Green Light. I heartily thank Virginia Covell for the idea and the reviews. She told me that she was inspired by Newporters' apparent love of reading and hearing about Newport - especially its past.

DR

This month I mention two choices, both about the Duchesses of Marlborough, of which there were two, who had Newport connections. Each book gives unusual bits about Newport and its association with European social patterns.

The Glitter and the Gold, by Consuelo Vanderbilt Balsan

This is an autobiography that tells about the author's arranged marriage to Charles Spencer Churchill, 9th Duke of Marlborough, and their life at his ancestral Blenheim Castle. It was a loveless union that ended in separation and a church annulment that brought world-wide publicity. Written in 1952, the book throws light on that unusual era when American heiresses were marrying titled Europeans. Word pictures of her sheltered girlhood in New York and Newport society are most vivid.

Gladys, Duchess of Marlborough, by Hugo Vickers

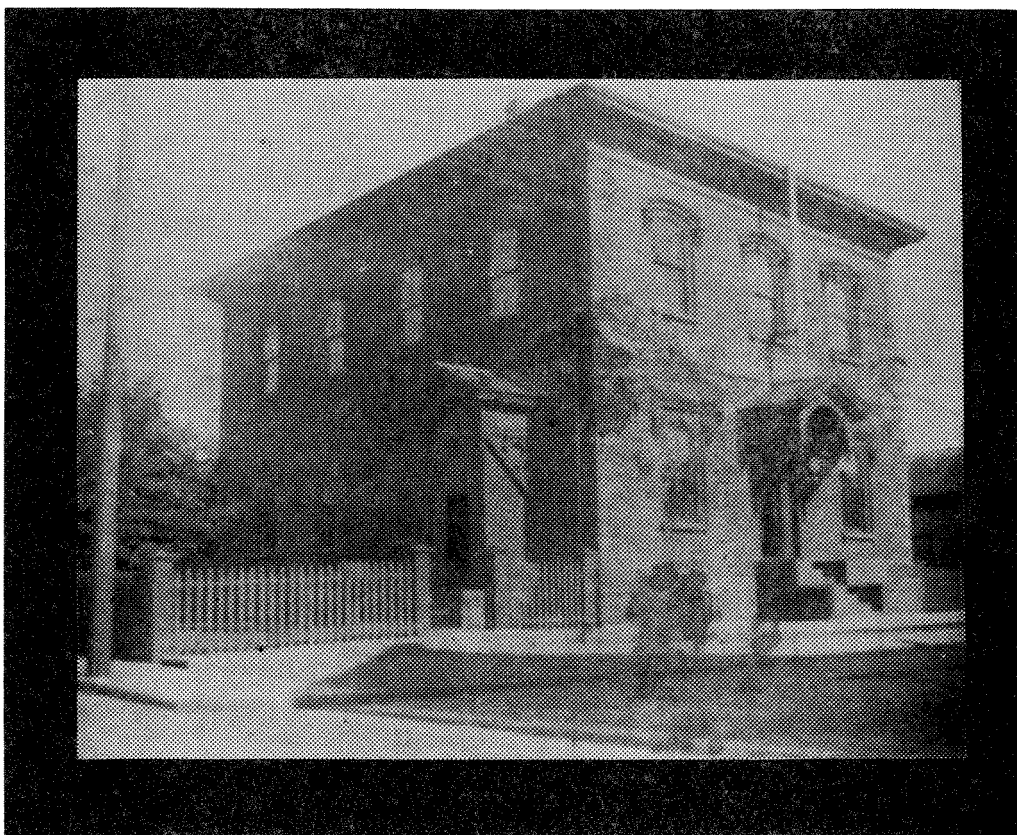
The Duke of Marlborough's second wife was altogether different. Gladys Deacon (1881 - 1977) had a stormy life, even in childhood (Her father shot and killed her mother's lover). Gladys spent her early life between her father in Newport, who had legal custody, and her mother in Paris. As she grew older and became independent, she was the admired darling of aristocratic and artistic circles throughout Europe. Many notables - Auguste Rodin, Bernard Berenson, The Crown Prince of Prussia - sought her hand before the Duke of Marlborough won out. Her life as the Duchess was equally as tragic as that of her predecessor!

The Glitter is available at both the Public Library and the Redwood Library, and Gladys, only at the latter.

Virginia Covell

One Reader's Contribution

One recent day at Martins, Doris Bacheller very kindly offered me a photo of Callender School for inclusion in The Green Light. I was delighted! Turn the page for a real surprise.



Before enlargement to present size in 1909
Willow Street to the right and Third Street to the left

The Business of Spring

In May of 1959, the Eccles' garden seemed to be especially lovely, and the apple tree and pink dogwoods were in bloom. What a fine setting for the first of what has become our annual Plant Sale.

Henry and Isabelle Eccles knew of the need for some financial encouragement for the then infant The Green Light, and so set their course. Neighbors were invited to morning coffee in their yard, and were asked to bring a plant or two, the sale of which was to benefit the publication. The Plant Sale's early years maintained that purpose.

The unpriced plants (It's more "business-like" now, Isabelle told me.) were sold by the honor system. When "a dime or a quarter" was dropped into the basket, a bell on a model of the real green light rang out - about \$35 worth. Imagine the tolling on that pleasant spring day on the Bay 22 years ago.

Coffee at that first gathering was served by Mrs. Tucker-

man, still of Washington Street, and it and pastries were passed by Carl Thorpe. Mrs. Hale, then the matron at the home for the aged at Cherry Street, was in attendance with some of her ladies who sat under the trees. The Burke sisters began their unblemished record with that first year, too. Nuns from down the street also came to enjoy what for many years continued to be primarily a neighborhood affair.

In those early years, post card invitations were sent to Association members and signs were placed in the Point groceries. Before the Sale's beneficiary became less specific, Carrie Erickson had provided a hooked rug of the green light as a raffle prize. Dorothy Manuel also donated some of her flower paintings to help swell the proceeds.

Mr. Spooner was the first professional gardener to donate greenery, and continued to be "very good to the Plant Sale for many years." Joe Sullivan also was instrumental by eliciting contributory support from the Horticultural Society. For many years, coffee and refreshments have been served by Rose Favier, and, of course, Bill Fullerton's yearly effort has always been a boon. With all of that help, the Eccles these days simply "unlock the cellar door" and then relax and enjoy the morning.

Isabelle described one fascinating result of the many Plant Sales (of which only two have been forced inside); we are now the guardians of a unique heritage. Through the springtime auspices of this yearly event in the driveway on Pine Street, many plants and shrubs have had cousins and offspring scattered to gardens all over the Point. Carrie's calendulas certainly come quickly to mind, as does the Eccles' sweet woodruff.

I am proud to live in a neighborhood that nourishes such a wonderful tradition. I hope you are, too. Let us all ensure that our Plant Sale will continue to bring friends together on sunny spring Saturdays.

David Robbins

In the June Issue

I will begin a feature called "The Side Show", which will present little known interests, activities, or experiences of fellow Pointers.

Ron Ackman plans to revive a favorite Newport activity of years ago. As you might suspect, it will be centered on the harbor.

The Historic District and the Historic District Commission will be detailed and explained.

"The Studio of Truth, Beauty, and Benevolence"

How moving a sentiment is suggested by the words above. Now, in the Newport Public Library, those words also appear above the door of the new Chinese Room. Conceived, orchestrated, and donated by Clyde and Mary Sargent of Third Street, this library is, as its brass plaque announces, "a non-political, educational center to encourage appreciation of the people and culture of China."

Primarily a repository for Clyde's largely English language library on Chinese subjects, especially art, the Room also houses paintings and artifacts. Other resources include several hundred slides of Chinese art (which augment the bronzes, ceramics, sculptures, and calligraphy) and limited language materials for the study of Mandarin Chinese.

Clyde told the gathering at the February 13 dedication that he had first thought of such a project during his student days, but for many years it was on hold. This Room, the realization of that goal, was purposely donated to a comparatively small library, he related, to allow greater public use. At a larger institution the Room and its materials might tend to become lost among the other collections.

The Chinese Room was conceived as a living educational entity which will continue to grow and develop. Thus, donations - especially of books and small artifacts - which reflect "China's cultural creativity" will be gratefully accepted depending on their suitability. Those who wish to make such gifts available should write to the Curator, Chinese Room, Newport Public Library.

Because of the value of the collections of the Room, members of the Friends of the Library have volunteered to tend it. Each week the Chinese Room is open for browsing or study on Tuesday morning (10:30 - 11:30), Tuesday evening (7:00 - 8:00), and Thursday afternoon (3:30 - 4:30). At other times, however, admittance can be gained if the Library is sufficiently staffed to allow one of the librarians to leave the desk.

Thanks Clyde and Mary, you have made a wonderful and important addition to Newport.

DR

Welcome to New Members

Mr. & Mrs. Hillar Sarepera
Mr. & Mrs. William Boggs
Mrs. C. J. Cesario

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. James Dunn
Mrs. Robert Jackson

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A Report on the New Callender School

". . . something that will look modern in the year 2000," is what William Boggs ordered; and what he received is George Ranalli's "City Within a Building". That "Building" is, of course, Callender School. Bill and Greta Boggs' 6-unit project was shown to the press on the afternoon of February 12. As a fledgling member of "the press" I was pleased to have been invited.

Architect Ranalli was selected over six others because "his work was the most adventurous," Bill told me. Obviously relishing the outcome, Bill explained that Ranalli had provided "the excitement of this project."

The Boggs chose the school specifically because of the vertical interior space which it could provide; an important consideration, since one of Bill's desires was to be able to "look down from a balcony on a room full of people." I found that to be a constant and dominant theme of the interior designs. Ranalli has said that those designs "tried to preserve the dignity and integrity of those huge (class)rooms, and to create within them, both soaring spaces and smaller, more intimate subspaces."*

During the architect's tour, I found that, though each of the six "houses" is a distinct design, their common parentage is evident. In nearly every unit I first encountered a (purposely) confining hall from which one then debouches into a spectacular three (interior) story gallery. I turned around and bent my head seemingly to the sky to peer at the "facade", behind which are the bedrooms, the baths, the inglenook, the "subspaces". Balconies, windows, doorways, and other openings punctuate the facade. The tallest of these houses is 28 feet.

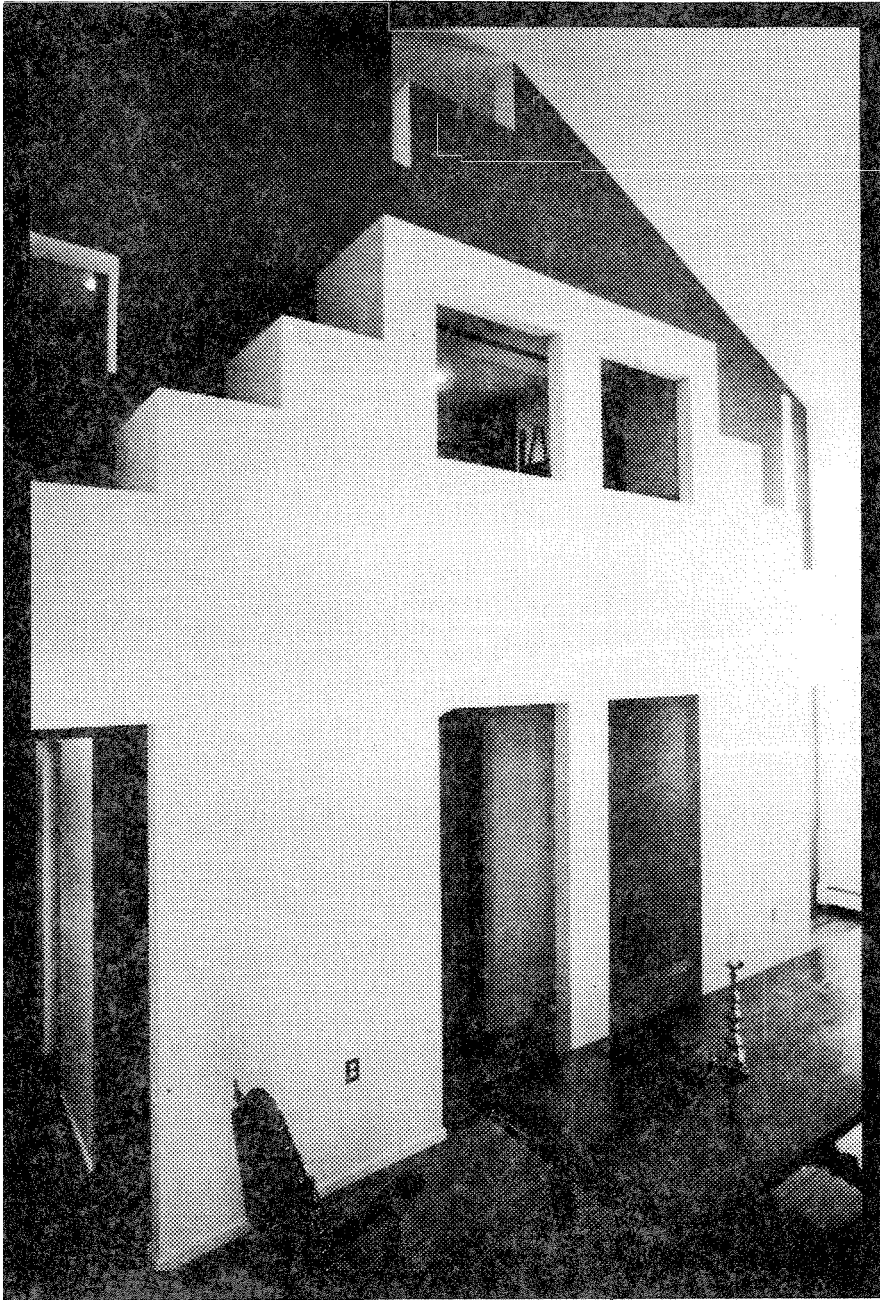
Speaking of them, each of the houses has been named: the Gate House, because it is about the size of many of Newport's gate houses; the Tower House, which is apparently reminiscent of European tower houses; the Artist's House; the Palazzo; the House of Columns, because of the columns that remain from school days.

Throughout Ranalli's interiors, I found that light is coaxed into the rooms behind the facade, visual access is created between the various rooms, and a relationship between gallery and "subspaces" is maintained. I could hardly gaze at a wall - any wall - without being able to peer into another space, perhaps two stories below. New vistas appeared at every turn. Planes and surfaces meet quickly and frequently, and then bound off to converge elsewhere.

Another very interesting aspect of this project is described not by what has been done, but rather by what has not been done. The wonderful exterior of the school has been altered only by trim paint and repair. The public halls and stairway have remained purposely unchanged to remind us that, after all, this is a school building.

* The Callender School Condominium, pamphlet.

Moreover, the houses retain the spatial integrity of the former classrooms. This project thus never contemplated a "gutted" interior, but rather an incorporation of as much of the existing structure as possible. In fact, two iron columns present on the first floor were visibly included in the design, and in the Boggs' living room floor the school desk screw holes can still be clearly seen in what is simply the refinished school flooring.



This press preview was actually my second viewing of the new Callender School. I had seen two of the units perhaps two months earlier. No fan of such architecture, I was not impressed. After having talked with both the owner and the architect, however, and after having learned of the design goals and methods, I am more appreciative of their efforts though doubts do remain.

Knowing of my altered opinion, a friend waggishly suggested that I entitle this piece From Appalling to Compelling. I did not because both adjectives are too strong to correctly capture my mood. The flow of attitude, though, is right on the mark. The new Callender School has certainly been the center of much conversation here on the Point, and so I am very pleased to have had the opportunity for a second, more intimate perusal of one of the newest features of our neighborhood.

David Robbins

the Boggs' dining room

Contractual Obligations

Each year we, the taxpayers, spend \$315,000 to rid ourselves of our garbage. In an attempt to help us get all we

pay for, I have perused the present solid waste contract and have talked with the contractor to determine exactly what rights we enjoy. Read on to learn what I discovered.

Obviously, the "contractor", the James L. Maher Company, is required to provide twice-weekly service to homeowners(1) and to the "City owned or leased waste receptacles"(2), which include those on the sidewalk in public places like Battery Park and Storer Park. The contractor is also obligated to come into the "producer's" yard (Each household is graphically described as a "producer" of refuse.) for up to "4 containers"(3). In addition, the men will empty two more containers that have been placed on the sidewalk by the homeowner(4).

Mike Maher, V. P. of the James L. Maher Company, and a very cheerful fellow, told me specifically that the men will remove from the yards household garbage only. Other rubbish, such as hedge trimmings, must be brought to the sidewalk by the homeowner. Mike also explained that rubbish filled cardboard cartons, say, can become water soaked and undependable. The chance of spillage during the trek to the sidewalk is greatly increased and such spillage ought not be blamed on the men. Therefore, that too is the responsibility of the homeowner.

On the other hand, the contract states that the contractor must "avoid spilling . . . or the creation of a nuisance of any kind"(5); must pick up "loose litter and papers . . . which result from the collection . . ."(6); and must make the "area of spillage . . . clean, by sweeping if necessary"(7). It is clear, then, that the men are obliged to do their job without creating litter. If they fail, we should complain strenuously.

Complaints of loose litter or unintentionally unemptied cans are received at the contractor's office (847-2646), logged in, and then radio-relayed to the appropriate truck for remedial action. From my conversation with Mike and my experience here on the Point, I inferred that complaint is, in fact, the most reliable method of actually effecting cleaner streets.

To help the men do their best job, all of us must consciously concern ourselves with putting out the garbage in such a manner that it can not be strewn about. I have seen many food-filled plastic bags set out unprotected, giving the stray dogs plenty of time to do their work. I have also seen untopped cans invite the wind to scatter their contents. Litter is one problem that can be so easily contained if we would only try. We all must be accountable - homeowners and garbage men alike.

Mike also explained a little of the collection business that I found interesting. Each day seven trucks (with two in reserve in case of a breakdown) are out on the streets, usually by 4 AM. By midmorning, most of the trucks have returned with their three men crews - the driver, of course, the dumper, and the puller. The latter is responsible for removing the yard cans to the sidewalk, and for consolidating two or three groups of cans for easier dumping.

By the way, if you customarily take your garbage cans to

the sidewalk, but someday decide to leave them in the yard for the men to collect, do call the contractor so that the men will not think that you have simply forgotten to put out the cans that day.

Back in the contract, I found section 19(d). Damaged containers, it states, "shall be replaced by the Contractor at his expense, when so ordered by the City Manager" (8). When a container replacement request is received at the contractor's office, Mike told me, a man is dispatched to verify the need. I urge you all to use this procedure whenever appropriate. No one need allow his property to be damaged without compensation.

Communications or complaints about waste collection are most effectively accomplished by a call directly to the contractor. If, however, you ever are unsatisfied with the response, then call the City Manager at 846-9600. He is charged with (among plenty of other things) overseeing waste collection in Newport. If our voices are raised when the need arises, then perhaps the need will begin to arise less often.

The portion of this contract that may ultimately prove to be the most important to the taxpayers gives the City the right to re-negotiate the contract "at any time at the option of the City . . . with reference to the manner of collection . . . because the City may want to investigate alternate measures of collection and/or disposal"(9). The City has also reserved the right to "establish separate collections for any particular classes of refuse it may desire"(10).

Thus, it seems clear that Newport has assured itself the opportunity to utilize that which is increasingly being recognized as a resource, and not just a burden. I urge the City to begin to seriously contemplate exercising this option, because we all know that the need to mine the ores of the landfill will come sooner or later. We might as well be prepared for that eventuality.

Finally, I was told that we here on the Point have a "guardian angel" in Mary Kinsella. "If I recorded all of her calls (to the contractor)," Mike told me, "I would need a separate book." Let us all take such an interest for better service and a cleaner neighborhood.

David Robbins

1. current solid waste collection contract, Exhibit A, Conditions and Specifications, 23(b)
2. ibid., 23(g)
3. ibid., 23(c)
4. ibid., 23(d)
5. ibid., 19(a)
6. ibid., 19(c)
7. ibid., 19(b)
8. ibid., 19(d)
9. current solid waste collection contract, section 12
10. current solid waste collection contract, Exhibit A, Conditions and Specifications, 23(j)

Another Virginia Covell Vignette

The Green Light does not often repeat articles, but in this case, there is good reason. A photograph has surfaced (another attic clean-up!) and it is here printed for the first time. Keep it in mind as you read the following article from the April 1962 issue.



Maude

"Henry Tripp used to drive a one-horse bus named Maude from the Liberty Tree at the head of Poplar Street down Thames Street. It was kept on a Tripp lot on LaSalle Place, and the horse had a stable behind the Tripp house on Bridge Street (now called the Claggett House). The bus had long seats along the sides, and a rope to pull that opened the door in the rear where the steps were. The driver sat behind a glass partition, and riders dropped their money down a glass tube to him. The seats were upholstered, and there was a rug on the floor. The windows had glass in winter, and black oilcloth in summer that could be rolled up or down. On Sundays, Maude picked up Pointers and took them to church - the Misses Green, Mr. Covell, the Swinburnes, the Crandalls, the Misses Ellery, Miss Young, and Yuba Dennis - and brought them home again. Maude also met the boats, and took tourists on the six mile Cottage Drive to Ochre Point, or the ten mile Ocean Drive. First a horse named Murphy pulled Maude, and then Charlie. Maude was finally sold to a man in Jamestown who drove her between the two ferries."

Could this photo be Maude? At first glance, it is difficult to place it certainly as being in Newport. With the aid of a good light and a magnifying glass, however, one can read the ads above the windows (but only on the original photo, I'm afraid - DR. Take Virginia's word for it, though,); three are partly distinguishable:

? {Popple's
People's} ? Market

SEEDS
at Geo. A. Weaver's

at Coles Ph(armacy?)
Thames at . . .

The "glass" windows, "upholstered" seats, and the "rug on the floor" are all present in this photo. Since there is no evidence of a door at the front, perhaps it is in the back. Can anyone recognize the scenery or the riders? (If you do, please do not fail to let me know - DR.)

Report from Councilman David F. Roderick, Jr.

To begin, I would like to thank both the editor of The Green Light, Mr. David Robbins, and the Point Association for the opportunity to include this message in your publication. The City Council over the past several months, due to the resignation of our City Manager, Mr. Paul Steinbrenner, and ever pressing problems with the budget, school deficit, union contracts, and the selection process for a new manager, has really been experiencing an extra heavy work load. This in turn makes it most difficult for me to establish the amount of contact with you, the people of the ward, I would like. Communication is the most important key for representative government and thus I truly appreciate this chance to let you know what actions the City has taken which are of interest to the Point (based on your calls to me), and to once again encourage you to let me know of those problems that concern you.

One of the main topics of concern expressed to me by Pointers has to do with dogs and with the various problems associated with loose dogs. I am personally very much concerned about dogs jumping on people and scaring them, about loose dogs attacking your dog while you are walking it on a leash, about our children being bitten by loose dogs, or about dogs destroying your gardens or getting into garbage cans and spreading debris all over the streets. With the support of my fellow Councilmen, I introduced and had approved a number of resolutions aimed at solving these problems.

For example, we put two dog officers on the day shift together, we restricted the dog officers to each ward one day a week, we had the dog officers' route rescheduled to coincide with rubbish pickup, and we established an Animal Advisory Board to the City Council. In relation to that board, I would like to thank Mr. William Fullerton for volunteering

to serve on the Board. I do realize that we have not solved our animal related problems, though the collection of fines from violators is up considerably over last year, and your local government is attempting to relieve you of these most annoying problems.

Many of you have expressed concern over the physical condition of the Washington Street driftways, and early in my term of office I had the pleasure of working with some of you to establish a small boat storage and driftway maintenance program. Unfortunately, this program met with some opposition at our public meeting at which it was introduced, and I was unable to get Council support, a big disappointment for me. I too am very much concerned over the driftways and want to see improvements made as much as you. I look forward to working with you and to your ideas in this area.

Not all was lost with the driftways, however. I committed myself to do all in my power to correct the extremely hazardous condition of the Pine Street driftway. It gives me great pleasure to report that the City did extensive work to the driftway to make it attractive and to provide safe passage to the water.

Last summer the Newport Seaplane Pilots Association discovered Newport Harbor. This venture was met with much concern and fears by many of you. Mr. Ned Grace, President of this new association, and a seaplane dealer, sought a mooring off Washington Street and started a commuter service from the harbor. The Council met with Mr. Grace and was given a very good presentation of his plans for the area. Of course, he explained that Newport could really benefit from this new service in the area and that he and his group were most anxious to work with us. Some concerns were expressed by the Council, and there were questions of just who has the power to regulate these planes and just how much jurisdiction the local government has. Thus Mr. Steinbrenner agreed to write letters to the various agencies involved with boats, the harbor, and aircraft.

A few days later, a Point resident called me and asked me to drop by Washington Street the following morning to observe the type of irresponsible piloting that was happening over our harbor. I did this. So did a number of others who were really frightened by what we saw; stunts such as dive bombing small craft, circling the hotel, and skimming the water - and then doing it over and over again. From that point on I have strongly opposed this new venture and am happy to report that the Council has since received the support of the Waterfront Improvement Commission after its review and verification of complaints.

There are a number of things that I could write about which concern the Point area, however, I do not plan to abuse this opportunity to submit an article to The Green Light. There is a lot going on in the city and I would very much like to better inform you on those topics of most concern to you. Thus, I encourage you to please give me a call or write me a note on anything that is a problem to you or that concerns

you, or that you might like more information on.

As you know, the Council has just hired a new City Manager, the City is contracting for re-evaluation, we are planning clean-up drives, and we are preparing to start our sidewalk repair program for the coming year. If any of these areas are of concern to you and you want to know more, please let me know. We have done some good work in the Point this year in response to your complaints and suggestions. If we work together, the Point can and will benefit by our mutual efforts. I look forward to hearing from you.

38 Sheffield Avenue
847-1362

Sincerely,



Notes

- All pots and pans which were left behind at the Pot Luck Supper will be available for retrieval at the April General Meeting. See De De Elster.
- Bill Fullerton has volunteered for a position on the City Council's Animal Advisory Board and has been accepted.
- The Gristmill column of the Newport Daily News of February 3 featured the Wilbour Corn Bread recipe from Virginia Covell's article about the Wilbour sisters.
- In response to the Newport Historical Society's appeal for help with the cost of restoration of some of its collections, the "Adopt-an-Object" program, Doug Campbell has "adopted" a seventeenth century chair.
- Both Elton Manuel and the Newport Artillery Company, and Ade Bethune and the St. Leo League were mainstays of recent numbers of Newport: This Week.
- Dirk Bach and Clyde Sargent were featured lecturers at the Newport Public Library's King Room.
- President Fullerton has named the 1981 Nominating Committee: Chairman Bob Elster, Esther Benson, Emilia Cresswell, John Howard, Betty Stephenson.
- Virginia Covell appeared on WADK radio as part of the series of programs on Newport history.
- Clean Up Days is scheduled for the Point for Friday, April 24. Put all your unwanted items on the sidewalk the day before so that the City crews can begin hauling on Friday morning. Just about anything will be taken on this day.

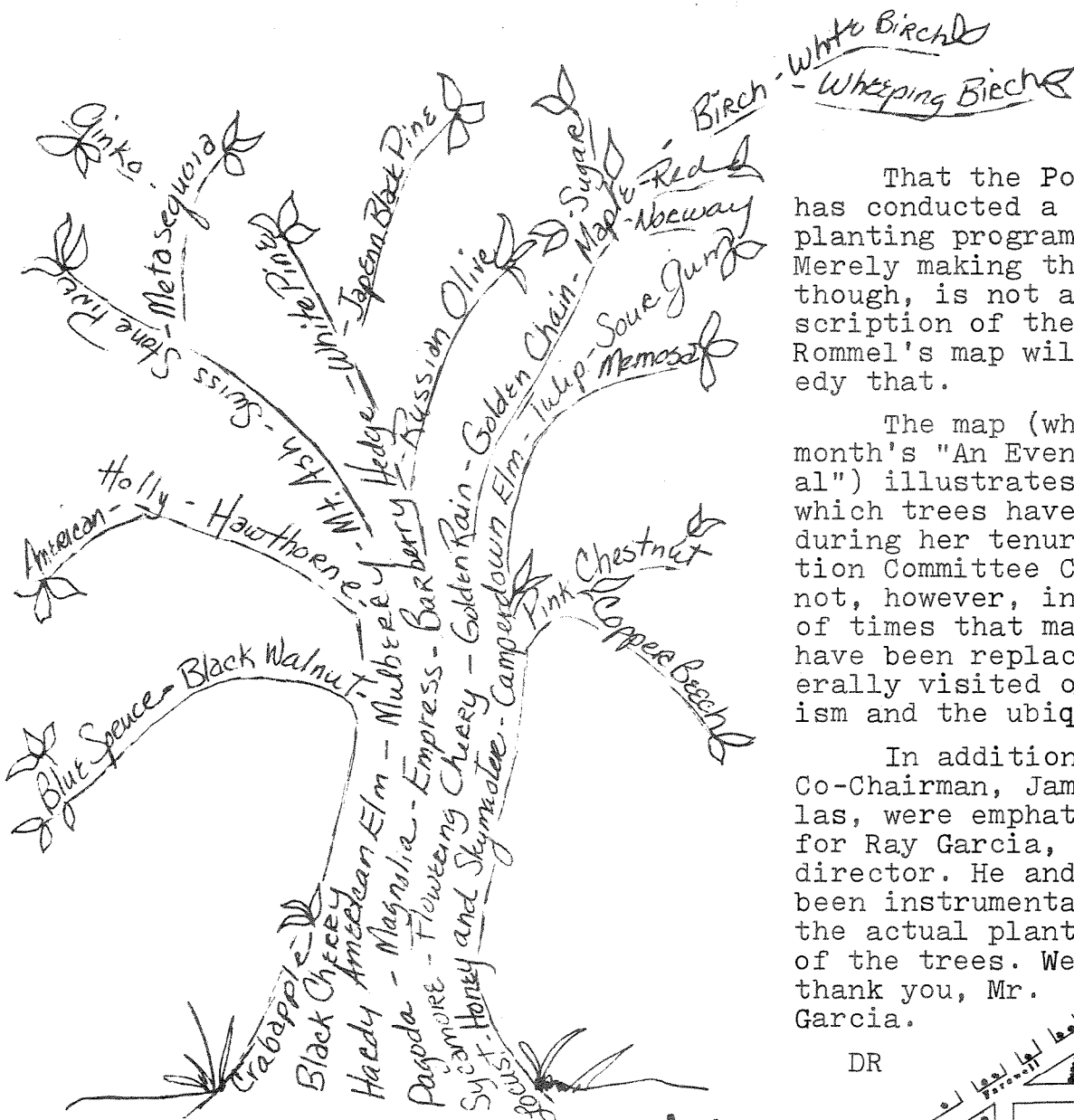
Trees!

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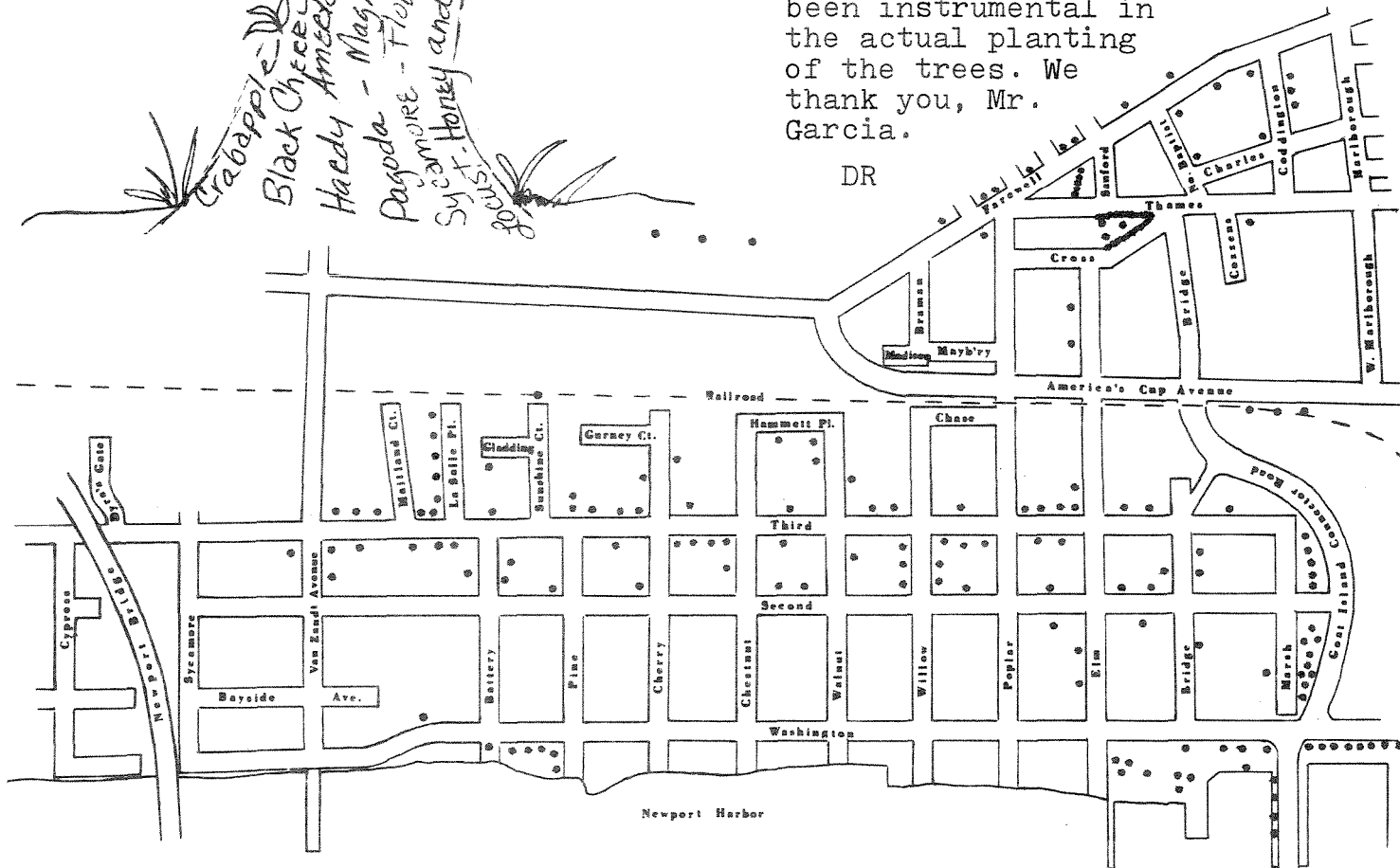


That the Point Association has conducted a vigorous tree planting program is well known. Merely making the statement, though, is not an adequate description of the situation. Mary Rommel's map will certainly remedy that.

The map (which is also this month's "An Evening Constitutional") illustrates the 162 sites on which trees have been planted during her tenure as Beautification Committee Chairman. It does not, however, indicate the number of times that many of the trees have been replaced - a fate generally visited on them by vandalism and the ubiquitous automobile.

In addition, Mary and her Co-Chairman, James Thomson Douglas, were emphatic in their praise for Ray Garcia, the Public Works director. He and his men have been instrumental in the actual planting of the trees. We thank you, Mr. Garcia.

DR



The Newport Taxpayers Association

"The objects of this Association are to foster, encourage, and promote a non-partisan interest in government and particularly to promote such interest in the study of the business and fiscal activities of federal, state, municipal and county governmental agencies, as such activities may affect the people of Newport, and, by cooperation with such agencies, to strive to assist in effecting economy and efficiency in such activities."

In the past, Association President Bill Collins told me, the Association has had a rather "negative" image. It is now conducting a publicity campaign to combat that perception by spotlighting its positive approach to its mission.

While the Association has always been, and will continue to be, the taxpayers' watchdog at City Hall and the School Committee, the advancement of positive alternative fiscal plans is also very much part of the work. During 1980, for example, five new proposals for gaining extra non-property tax revenue were identified. "To be effective," Bill said, "the Association must (be able to) respond outside a crisis atmosphere." That is being accomplished by continuous and direct involvement in the City's fiscal affairs.

Immediate past President, Bob Beaver, told me that the Association is "fundamentally in favor of more local democracy." To promote that ideal, "interaction with . . . local and state officials" is sponsored. Association members meet at least yearly with Newport's state legislators, have recently met with Police Chief Newton, a professional arbitrator, and the Newport School Committee in public session. As well, it has corresponded with Newport's Congressional representatives. We are "committed to continuing that trend" in the future, Bob affirmed.

Benefits to new members of this 20-year-old organization are many. Attendance at the Board of Directors meetings, normally scheduled for the 1st Tuesday of the month, is always welcomed. As well, an NTA representative monitors the City Council meetings. By making themselves available for the work of the Association, members can "develop a greater understanding of budgetary workings in the City," and thus, Bob believes, be able to "express their view points in a more democratic way." Perhaps the most important benefit, Bill Collins explained, is simply being one of a group which is actively attempting to ensure that "as taxpayers, we get our money's worth."

An Active membership requires \$5 and a Contributing, \$25. Payment should be sent to Main P. O. Box 485, Newport. It may be the wisest investment you will make.

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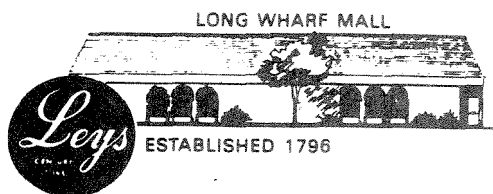
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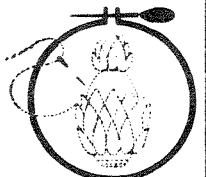
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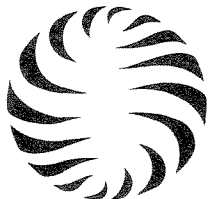
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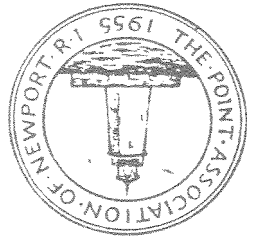
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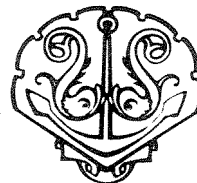
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