I want to personally thank the 15 - yes, 15 - members of the Point Association who showed up for the last General Meeting. It was shocking to have a well known speaker try to give a lecture to such a poor attendance. I will admit we who were there thoroughly enjoyed Lee Gardener as we always do. But let me tell you all, there is a lot of work that goes into General Meetings, and your support is needed for each one. It takes more than a $3 membership to support an organization.

I truly hope that everyone attends the June 18th Picnic and the Meet the Candidates night in July (see the Calendar of Point Events) - and bring a friend! They are always welcome. I want to thank Mrs. Benson for letting us enjoy her sunsets and clutter up her lawn; the Picnic has always been a success there.

Rowan Howard did a terrific job with the Plant Sale; even the rain doesn't stop her. My thanks to Rowan and all her workers. We are also most grateful to Rear Adm. and Mrs. Eccles for the use of their garden. I think that Mrs. Eccles tells her plants to stay in bloom especially for this event.

If you are finished with your Dutch Gardens Bulb Books, please return them with your orders and checks. Others are waiting to place their orders.

William H. Fullerton
President
The Point Picnic

This month's Guest Artist is 8-year-old Jill Hovland of Fulton, New York. No, she is not an expatriate Pointer, but rather my visiting niece. I hope I have as much fun at the picnic as her little girl. The gastronomic details follow.

date .......... Thursday, June 18
........ (That's THIS week!!)
raindate . . . . Sunday, June 21
place . . . . 62 Washington Street
time . . . . . . . . . . 5:30 PM
food . . . . . . . You bring it!
free stuff . coffee & cold beverage
music . . . . . the ARCO Strings
Editor's Note

As I walked on Willow Street a few days ago, I was hailed by a new acquaintance who told me of a lady just up the street who has apparently conducted extensive research into the history of one of the houses on the block. Perhaps I would like to talk to her, I was told, because it might result in a good story for The Green Light. I expressed much thanks and agreed to do that.

I am very pleased to report the many offers of ideas and material that I am beginning to receive. In fact, this issue is a good example. On the following pages you will find Now Only a Memory, Plant Sale Report, A Colonial Mansion, Books Our Readers Might Enjoy, A Sense of Community, Mrs. Addison's Garden, Clean-up and Cook-out, The Guest Gardener, and The Guest Artist (plus two other articles that could not be included in this issue) which were all either written or inspired by other Pointers. I am very pleased indeed, and hope that you will keep up the good work!

My address is 3 Sunshine Court; my phone is 847-1714; and my summer street attire is usually cap, Bermuda shorts, sun glasses, and a tie.

David Robbins

Calendar of Point Events

THIS THURSDAY!! (June 18) - Point Picnic
page 2

June 27 - Clean-up
page 7

June 28 - Cook-out
page 7

July 7 - Meet the Candidates
page 9

New Members

Nancy Harley        Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Shaffell
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald W. Seigel      Mary Schreiber

3
Mary Jo Ogurek
Point Association Recording Secretary

This is the first in a series of short biographies of our elected officers. Since Mary Jo is one of the newest, I thought that she would be the most likely inaugural candidate.

At 33, Mary Jo is enthusiastic, exuberant, and immediately likeable. As Mary Jo Jackman, she grew up in St. Charles, Illinois, in a family of six children. In 1970, she received a BA in English from the University of Illinois (though Mary Jo told me that future genealogists may find her educational history something of a mystery because she attended two other schools that are, even now, defunct).

In 1971 Mary Jo married schoolmate Bob Ogurek, a newly commissioned naval officer, and they came to Newport where Bob served on the USS Newman K. Perry. During that time, Mary Jo managed the Navy Federal Credit Union in the Arnold Art Store, then on Broadway.

Four years later the Navy sent the Ogureks to Norfolk, Virginia. Attending Old Dominion University, Mary Jo earned a Master's degree in education with an emphasis in counseling. For two and a half years following, she worked in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court system as a marriage and family life counselor.

The lure of Newport, though, drew them back here in 1979 for what will probably be another 4-year stay. Now a LCDR, Bob is manager of the propulsion plant trainer at the Surface Warfare Officers School. Mary Jo continues her counseling for the Young Parents Program, a non-profit agency, where she works primarily with pregnant teenage girls. "There are," she says, "more than enough pregnant teenagers to keep us busy . . . (in part, because) they have no place to go to talk about their sexuality."

These girls, mostly 14-18 years old, are referred to the YPP by doctors and school counselors. When Mary Jo first encounters them, they are usually in a crisis and don't know how to tell their families. Mary Jo advises the girls of the various available alternatives and then works with the families to implement the decision. Her agency also acts as a directory of the other services and programs available in the city.

After work, Mary Jo's avocations seem to center on activity; sailing, raquetball, biking, and cooking head the list. In addition, she was personally active in the anti-casino effort and is one of the re-organizers of the local chapter of the National Organization of Women.

The Point Association should feel lucky to have found such an active, interested and capable volunteer. Let's hope she stays with us a while.

David Robbins
It is summer and roses will soon be in bloom; perhaps nowhere more abundantly nor pleasantly than in Mrs. Addison's extensive and well-known gardens on Bridge Street.

Though the creator and tender of these beautiful islands of growing color died recently, Mr. Addison has vowed to maintain her legacy. What a delight and inspiration she has contributed to our area.

DR

A Sense of Community
by
Henry E. Eccles

As I watched and talked with our neighbors at the Point Association's Annual Plant Sale, I began to see and feel clearly THE SENSE OF COMMUNITY that has been achieved by our organization in its twenty-five years. It seemed to pervade the whole atmosphere; the cheerful interested attitudes of people, the busy discussions as they selected plants and talked to each other and to those who were working so effectively to bring the spirit of spring and flowers and constructive growth to fulfillment.

Just what is this sense of community? In a very real sense, it is the most important thing we can achieve!
It is the spirit of helping ourselves as we help and get to know others. It is a sense of sharing common values and mutual appreciation among people of all ages and vastly different backgrounds. It is the recollection of those who twenty-five years ago worked to bring a fledgling idea into a working living group. It is the recollections of those diverse personalities who have passed on. It is a sense of our neighborhood heritage and hope for the future.

And when one looks at the great world of turmoil and strife in cities and in nations, it is clear that all too often, it is the lack of sense of community that puts otherwise decent people into the sordid state of careless violence which causes unending grief.

And so no matter who goes and comes, or what changes take place in our city, let us strive to extend, preserve, and strengthen our sense of community so that others can share it more and more.

Books You Might Enjoy

Alpha Omega, A Newport Childhood and the Last Poems, by Winfield Townley Scott, Doubleday, 1971

This autobiography of a boy who lived at 12 Cranston Avenue from 1912 until 1920 will surprise many with its accurate and colorful descriptions of Newport happenings. Many names will strike a familiar chord as Scott recounts the activities of his friends, neighbors, teachers, and store owners. His recall of events in Newport during the World War I period will bring back many memories. He was the son and grandson of the men who had Scott's Hardware Company, but was no relation of the great general of the same name.

The Poet in America: Winfield Townley Scott, by S. Donaldson, University of Texas Press, 1972

If you wonder "what happened next?" after reading the Newport childhood, this biography deals with the years after Scott left Newport: his student days at Brown University, his associate-editorship at the Providence Journal, his writings, his marriage, and his tragic death before receiving recognition as a major American writer. Scott strove towards this goal all his life, and while many critics regarded him as first-rate, he never shared their conviction. He was deeply depressed during his last months, but clung to the hope that his poems might work their quiet magic long after he was gone. Certainly Scott's life-long love of Newport permeates almost everything he wrote.

Virginia Covell
Clean-up and Cook-out

June 27th and 28th are two days for all Pointers to star on their calendars. All are invited to Saturday's Clean-up of the Point and Sunday's Cook-out at Hunter Playfield. The inspiration for this event apparently started with a rather innocent comment, and then burgeoned as the idea was passed back and forth among the group then assembled at Martins' Liquors. Though Jack tells me that no one person can be designated as the originator, the organizational center has settled at Walnut and Third.

Here is the schedule:

★ 9 - 12 Saturday morning, June 27, rain or shine - assemble at Martins

Jack hopes for total participation by the Point children in helping to clean up the Point. Boxes will be issued in which to put the trash, and then the Privates (the young people who will do the bending and stooping) and the Street Captains (the adults who will oversee the cleaning) will be sent forth to police the Point - from Marsh Street to the Naval Hospital, and from the railroad tracks to the shore. The troops will sweep toward Washington Street where a truck will be waiting to transport the bounty.

★ 3 - 6 Sunday afternoon, June 28 - reconvene at Hunter Playfield

All the helpers of Saturday (and EVERYONE ELSE who wants to join in the fun) will be rewarded by hot dogs, raffle prizes, games, and good friends. The city has authorized the use of the field and of the privately donated gas grills for cooking the goodies.

Jack told me that he hopes this will become an annual affair. Not only will the Point become cleaner, but the youngsters might gain a little extra pride in the area after having had a part in this effort. "The Point kids are damn good ones," he said enthusiastically.

Anyone who wants to volunteer time, supplies, or money to this completely neighbor-sponsored activity, should contact Martins. Your help is the investment that will produce the dividends of a happier neighborhood.

David Robbins

In August You Will Read — —

the delayed story of the Historic District and the Historic District Commission. Particularly interesting, I think, will be the members' views on various aspects of the Commission's work.

all about the parks of the Point. I was certainly surprised by some of the details that surfaced during my investigation.

about the Street Fair. I will preview the activities and fun that will be had by all.
Plant Sale Report

In spite of the early thunderstorms and lowering skies, the faithful gathered in the Eccles' driveway Saturday, May 16th, to join in the 22nd annual neighborly get-together known as the Plant Sale. Much was exchanged besides plants - news of family and friends, mutual concerns, political opinions, and horticultural nuggets. It was also the first official viewing of the quilt!

The committee chairman, knowing full well that there are other contributors she doesn't know about, and apologizing to them for omission of their names, would like to thank the following helpers and donors: Bill Fullerton (Mr. Everything), the Eccles, Rose Favier, Posy Hall, Bob and Dede Elster, David Robbins, Curt and Dana Magee, Angela and Joe Vars, Mary Jane Hitchings, Donna Maytum, Heidi Bach, John Howard, Madalene Holt, Diane McNamara, Theo Duncan, Sally Mackay, Nancy Harley, Ilse Nesbitt, Betty Stephenson, Stewie Emerson, Shirley and Peter Wood, Sue Arnold, John Harris, Mary and Herb Rommel, the Misses Burke, Bruce Howe, Island Gardens Nursery, Chaves, Kempenar, and the Newport Horticultural Society.

Thanks also to all those who came looking for plants and swept them all away so early on.

It was a lovely morning, and about $200 was added to the Association's treasury!

Rowan Howard

Let Them Eat Cake . . . and Pasta and Krumkake and Schnitzel and Frijoles and . . .

Which Pointers can prepare "ethnic foods"? If you can, contact Charles Duncan, 1981 Street Fair Chairman. The Guild Hall (site of the Ethnic Food booths) still has plenty of rental space available for booths. Your group or organization (or family of room mates) could strike it rich on August 15th. Chairman Charles has all the details.

He is at 847-4667, or 44 Charles Street.
A Colonial Mansion

Elton Manuel of Bayside Avenue has contributed the following drawing that he made from an old photo. His comment and request follow.

This is one of several large colonial homes whose original owner's name is lost in Newport's history. Around 1899 it was occupied by a John Keeley, who used it as a boarding house until 1918. It stood on the east side of Washington Street, below Marsh Street.

This drawing calls to mind other dwellings on the east side of lower Washington Street. Much has been written of the houses on the water side, but there seems to be a scarcity of knowledge about their opposites, even though the names of several of the people who lived there are known: Topham, Hazard, Tefft, Maxon, Clarke, and Robert Franklin. If anyone can provide information about this area it would be most welcome and would serve to promote further research (send to P A N, Box 491, Newport).

Meet the Candidates

Election time is here! Again this year the Point Association will sponsor a Meet the Candidates program.

"But if the general election is not until September," I can now hear many ask, "why is the notice in the June issue?"
The reason is simply that the general election may not be the most important. In September we do indeed pick the winners, but if we don't vote for our favorites in the July 14th primary election, they won't even be on the ballot in the fall.

Therefore, reserve the evening of Tuesday, July 7th for a political gathering. All 19 of the candidates for City Council seats will be invited to attend. Even though our First Ward Councilman Roderick is running unopposed, we must still choose from the 11 at-large candidates. I think that is at least one excellent reason to attend this important event.

DR

date ... Tuesday, July 7
time .......... 8 PM
place ... The Guild Hall
moderator ....... Dirk Bach

The Guest Gardener

Irises
by
Herb Rommel

June 1 is, depending on the weather, the peak of the blooming season for tall-bearded irises. What used to be great grandmother's "blue flag" has been bred into a gorgeous array of colors; plicates (stitched and dotted edges), bicolors, bitones, standards (the three petals which go up, and the falls, the three petals which go down, are of different shades of the same color), and etc.

Tall bearded irises are 27 or more inches tall. Blooming earlier are miniature dwarf bearded (less than 8" tall), standard dwarf bearded (8" - 15"), and intermediate bearded (16 - 27"). These are not just stunted versions of the familiar iris; they have been bred from different species found on different continents. My standard dwarf iris bloomed May 10 last year, and this year I hope to have my first miniature dwarf bloom even earlier.

So far I have been talking about the bearded iris which has the beard or fuzz on the falls. There is, however, a whole world of irises which are beardless. The Siberian iris has thinner leaves, smaller, though sometimes taller, blooms, and less of a variety of color. The clumps can grow bigger and bigger with more and more bloomstalks. They bloom at about the same time as the tall bearded, or perhaps a few days later.

Early in July the Japanese iris blooms. I planted my first Japanese iris last year and should have a bloom or two
to show you this year. I get the impression - could be wrong - that they are slightly more difficult to grow.

Irises, though, are generally easy to grow and are inexpensive - less than $1.00 each. They need sun and good drainage, but can tolerate neglect and a wide variety of soil. They multiply about two for one each year, and dividing them after three or four years is desirable but not necessary. One problem is the borer - but occasional application of Cygon beginning early in April will take care of it.

For those who get bitten, there is the American Iris Society which publishes a quarterly bulletin. Dues of $7.50 a year should be sent to Ronald Mullin, Rt 3, Pawnee, Oklahoma 74058. For those who wish to know more, send $15.00 to Dorothy Howard, 226 E. 20th Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119 for the book, The World of Irises (also available at Redwood Library).

Look for a row of different shades of pink irises along Second Street just North of Bridge Street (because of the lateness of this issue, I'm afraid you must wait until next year - DR).
Sometime before 1930, this fine old house had deteriorated to this sad state and was razed. Now, however, this corner is the site of the home of one of our well-known Point couples.

You may want to wander about the Point one sunny afternoon to try to determine just which corner is in question. If so, I'll tell you that this is the northeast corner and that the house in the background is unchanged to this day. If not, look in the Notes for the site's identity.

The Side Show

Who among us has not heard of Broadway composer Richard Rodgers? Certainly we have heard his music, and perhaps we have read about the man. For more insight, though, where would one turn? Why, to our own Eileen Peterson, of course.

For 17 years, from 1950 to 1967, Eileen was personal secretary and household manager for the Rodgers. In her charge were the Rodgers' 12 servants, their 18-room Park Avenue apartment, a country home in Southport, Connecticut, and the conduct of innumerable items of daily business. It was a grueling and demanding job, but Eileen stayed so long partly because she "got to be a fixture there", but mostly because the Rodgers were "extremely worthwhile . . . and kind people."

"In the midst of the fanfare of Park Avenue and Broadway," Eileen said, "the Rodgers never forgot their fellow man. They gave to people who needed help."

Eileen and Mrs. Rodgers (who is still living) seemed to have quite an affinity for one another, so Eileen naturally took part in many of her employer's activities. Mrs. Rodgers occupied considerable time in redecorating the apartment. Because of Eileen's previous decorating experience and an agreement in taste, Eileen often took part in the decision-making. Many times she chose fabrics, dealt with the craftsmen, and "raced in and out of antique shops." She was also often consulted when art galleries sent over paintings for perusal by the Rodgers. In fact, Eileen actually cataloged the Rodgers' fine collection of Impressionist paintings.

Eileen's career with the Rodgers produced so many interesting and unusual tales that she gained something of a reputation in her Bronxville neighborhood. At home after work Eileen frequently received the calls of friends who hoped to hear the day's anecdotes.

One that Eileen told with much gusto concerned a particular aspect of Rodgers' personality. He could deal efficiently and effectively with crises of major proportions, but let a pen run out of ink and he was lost.

One morning, Eileen was desperately trying to determine why the balance on the major checking account, for which she was responsible, was $200,000 short (the discrepancy was discovered, but was not Eileen's fault). At her office door appeared Rodgers, half
dressed, wild-eyed, and holding his shoes in his hands.

"Are you busy?", he asked sharply.

"Yes, I've lost track of $200,000," Eileen replied with understandable distress.

"Never mind that," Rodgers retorted, "see if you can find me some shoe laces!"

What a laugh we had at that; though I detected in Eileen a fondness for the opportunity of association with two people whom she greatly respected. Rodgers (who died in 1979), was shy, witty, and humane; "he had such expressive eyes and a wonderful, warm smile," Eileen said.

Mrs. Rodgers had a variety of interests, one of which was invention. She actually owned at least two patents (an adjustable dress pattern and the ubiquitous bathroom Johnny Mop) and worked on the development of other mechanical innovations. One was a device to indicate when the thread on a sewing machine bobbin was low, and another was a mechanism inside refrigerator doors to allow trapped children to open the door before suffocating. Eileen, being rather small, was drafted to test the prototype.

"You never knew what you were going to have to do (when) working there," she told me laughing. Luckily Mrs. Rodgers' device worked properly because Eileen actually climbed into the refrigerator and closed the door behind her.

Eileen was also deeply involved in Mrs. Rodgers' book, My Favorite Things, and is thanked in the Foreword for being "an invaluable sounding board." Later she was charged with overseeing the completion of a country house that Mrs. Rodgers was building. That occupied about a year after she had actually retired from her regular duties at the apartment.

As Eileen and I talked in the late afternoon, she told me so many more hilarious stories about the Rodgers. The kindness and affection with which she spoke indicated that her work, though tiring and hard, was gratifying and rewarding. Would that we all could recount our experiences so joyfully.

David Robbins

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July 14th is Election Day

On the following page you will see a drawing (by whom, I am not sure) of an "election time torchlight parade." It appeared in The Green Light nearly 21 years ago, and may serve today to remind us that every election is important. Please mark July 14 on your calendars, and vote. You need not necessarily march to the polls with bands and torches, though.
An Evening Constitutional

Walking about the Point, I am often pleasantly surprised by the many little gardens that I encounter. On this month's map I have detailed many of my favorites. Some are grand and carefully planned, others are merely agreeable patches of flowers, many are informal plantings, and a few are simply pleasant views that make me feel good. After a day's work, take a walk on the Point and be refreshed by your neighbors' green-thumbmanship. Everyone of these little oases is visible from the sidewalk.

DR
Battery
  nw corner of Third Bridge
  3 (back), Stoddard Court,
  31, 53, 64, 74 (back), 77,
  84, 88
Charles
  40
Chestnut
  17, 19
Coddington
  6
Elm
  5, 24, 39, 43½
Guerney Court
  10, 11
Marsh
  31, 33
Pine
  4
Poplar
  12, St. John's Rectory

Second
  19, 39, 49, 50, 57, 59, 67,
  75 (back), 91, 114
Sunshine Court
  3, 5, 6
Thames
  53 (south side)
Third
  36 (back), 45, 51, 70, 95,
  The Garden
Van Zandt Avenue
  24, ne corner of Second
Walnut
  15, 37
Washington
  41 (south side), 47, 75, 78,
  79, 88, Stella Maris, 101,
  Corpus Christi, 125
Willow
  25½

Notes

* Eleanor Weaver of Chestnut Street recently won the first prize in
  the senior division of the Elks Poetry Week competition. Her
  winning entry was "City by the Sea". Good work, Eleanor!

* After having read last issue's article about Newport's garbage
  collection, a neighbor passed along this appropriate hint; a
  little ammonia in an unprotected garbage bag will keep the
  dogs away. That would certainly be a big help.

* The Memory on page 11 is the Boss house which stood at the corner
  of Bridge and Washington, now the site of the home of Bill and
  Hazel Fullerton.

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