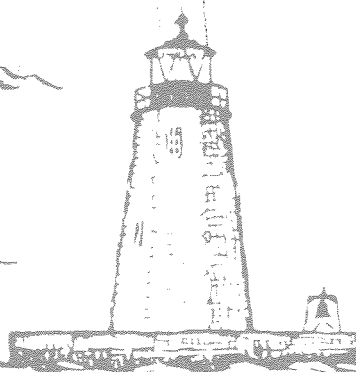


The GREEN

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. XXVII

April, 1982

no. 2

Mark Your Calendars

I like to think of Spring as the truly appropriate beginning to a new year, not January first. Burgeoning greenery is more auspicious than darkening days and lowering temperatures. So, with the coming of the new year, I invite you all to mark your calendars with the dates of some of this year's Point Association activities.

DR

Thursday, April 22	GENERAL MEETING	see page 2
Saturday, May 1	LIBERTY TREE PARADE	see page 9
Saturday, May 15	PLANT SALE	see page 8
Thursday, July 1	POINT PICNIC	
Saturday, August 14	STREET FAIR	see page 2

The Plant Sale needs your empty flower pots. Contribute to the success of Spring by leaving them with Bill Fullerton at his house at 41 Washington Street.

Spring General Membership Meeting

Day Thursday

Date April 22

Time 7:30 PM

Place Guild Hall
Poplar Street

Refreshments Of Course

Program In about 1959

well-known Pointer King Covell photographed many of the Point's beautiful gardens and window boxes. Bill Fullerton will show and narrate this series of about 100 slides. It ought to be an interesting glimpse into the Point past.

Partial Agenda

Discussion of P.A.N. Traffic Committee's report on Point traffic problems and their recommended solutions (see page 3)

!! Urgent Announcement !!

To All Potential 1982 Street Fair Exhibitors

Any of you who wishes to rent an exhibit space in the August Street Fair must do so IMMEDIATELY! Charles Duncan, Street Fair Chairman, told me that by publication time, available spaces would be very scarce, if not completely exhausted. The policy is first come, first served; so he who hesitates is lost.

Charles is at 44 Charles Street.

New Members

Gary A. Berriochoa

Adolphus Brownell

Arnold M. Frucht, MD

Marie Magenheimer

Ruth S. Martin

Christine & Daniel Paquette

Dr. Tom Swanson

Mrs. Theodore Waterbury

Report of the Traffic Committee
written by
Bob Ogurek
Chairman

The Traffic Committee, a special committee under the by-laws of the Point Association, met during the months of February and March to discuss the traffic problems of the Point area of Newport, and to propose recommended solutions to these problems. The Traffic Committee is composed of the following volunteers: Bob Ogurek, Mary Jo Ogurek, Virginia deRochemont, and Sally Mackay.

In order to give the members of the Point Association an opportunity to review the recommendations of the Committee prior to the April, 1982, General Membership Meeting, the Executive Board has directed the Committee to present the results of its deliberations in this issue of The Green Light. We ask you to review the recommendations prior to attending the General Membership Meeting, so that we can reach a consensus in dealing with the traffic problems. The following paragraphs present, in a capsulized form, the problems and recommended solutions of the Traffic Committee.

Problems

1. Individuals enroute to the downtown area and those exiting the city in a northerly direction find it much quicker to use Washington Street, Second Street, and Third Street, than to use America's Cup Avenue and Farewell Street.
2. Because of the quicker egress and ingress from the downtown area via these streets, the Point area receives a relatively large volume of "through-traffic", both by cars and trucks.
3. Traffic through these areas proceeds at too high a rate of speed at times, presenting a significant safety hazard.
4. Too often, traffic proceeds in the wrong direction on Second Street and Third Street.

Recommended Solutions

Several assumptions were made by the Traffic Committee in presenting solutions to the above problems:

First, that any short term actions would need to be relatively low-cost in nature;

Second, that there will be no increase in the size of the Newport police force, and that it will thus be unrealistic to expect increased patrols as a solution to any problems, especially during the "on-season";

Third, that the area of the Point bounded by Farewell Street, the Goat Island Connector, and Washington Street must be considered as an entire section in assessing the impacts of any recommended solutions, so that a particular problem would not inadvertently be shifted from one street to

another, thus not really solving the problem.

With these assumptions in mind, the Traffic Committee came up with the following recommendations.

1. Place several stop signs on Second Street and Third Street, at appropriate intersections, to slow down traffic on these north-south streets.

2. Do not make Washington Street one-way south, as this would make it more "tempting" to exceed the speed limit, since there would be less traffic to restrict the speed of travel. In addition, Washington Street being one-way could result in a greater volume of traffic on Third Street, since it would then be the only northbound street on the Point.

3. Add stop signs on both northbound and southbound Washington Street at appropriate locations in order to reduce the speed of travel.

4. Widen Farewell Street in the southbound direction at America's Cup Avenue intersection in order to facilitate the flow of traffic turning right onto America's Cup Avenue from southbound Farewell Street.

5. Add several speed limit signs on Washington Street in both directions.

6. Place additional informational signs, prominently displayed, and replace the existing informational signs with more prominently displayed ones, indicating desired traffic flow to the free city parking lot, major attractions, and no through truck traffic through the Point.

7. Place prominently displayed "wrong-way" signs at appropriate locations on Second Street and Third Street.

8. Ensure that all of the city-owned land used for the Washington Street free parking lot has in fact been "paved" and is available for parking.

9. Request Safeway Disposal Corporation to ensure that their drivers respect the no through truck traffic restrictions of Point streets.

10. Request Viking Tours, Inc., to have their tour bus drivers take appropriate steps to minimize their impact on traffic flow on the Point.

11. As a long-term solution, request the City of Newport to investigate the feasibility of completing the connector from the Newport Bridge to America's Cup Avenue.

Summary

Please review these recommendations carefully so that we can discuss them at the General Membership Meeting. The Traffic Committee feels that these recommendations, most of which could be accomplished at little cost, could result in a diversion of through-traffic from the Point and a reduction in the speed of traffic using these streets, as well as minimizing the inadvertent transfer of problems from one street to another within the area. We are looking forward to receiving your comments.



Marsh Street

Though the view certainly does not appear the same today, this is indeed the corner of Marsh and Second Streets - looking toward the water. The houses on the left are now just a grassy strip between Marsh and the Goat Island Connector Road. The date of the photograph is unknown.

A Pot Luck Supper Thank-You

Our Pot Luck Supper was resoundingly successful this year due to the efforts of many of our members.

A number of people deserve special acknowledgment for their extra-ordinary efforts. They are Mary Bragar, John and Rowan Howard, Theo and Charlie and Teri and Heather Duncan, and Kathy Bowman.

In addition, gratitude is extended to all of the following: Mary Shea, Kathryn Sayre, Heide Bach, Tony Peters, Sally Mackay, Betty and Bob Stephenson, Emilia Cresswell, Gladys McLeod, Corky Ackman, Vicki Robbins, Dan Winters, Gary Berriochoa, Ilsa Nesbitt, Sandy and Rupert Nesbitt, and of course, Bill Fullerton.

The Corner Deli on Thames Street catered the chicken, and everyone agreed that it was scrumptuous.

Dave Edwards (working under less than ideal conditions!) provided top-notch professional entertainment.

Mary Jo Ogurek
Chairwoman

A Recipe Request

A few weeks ago, one of our members remarked how much she had enjoyed a particular dish at the recent Pot Luck Supper, and that she would like to have the recipe. It was a shell-macaroni dish with a greenish sauce, though our friend does not remember its container.

I hope that whoever made this dish will send the recipe to me at 3 Sunshine Court so that I can pass it on to our waiting fellow - and publish it in The Green Light in June. In addition, all others who cooked up contributions to the pot-luck-pleasure are also invited to send those recipes for publication. This might enhance what is already an exciting and successful Point event.

By-Laws Part II

Article V

Section 3.

Equal privileges shall be granted to all members. These

shall be the privileges of making motions, voting, holding office, and serving on committees.

Article VI - Officers and Their Election

Section 1.

a) The officers of this association shall be a president, a first vice president, a second vice president, a corresponding secretary, a recording secretary, and a treasurer.

b) The term of office for each officer shall be two years, or until their successors are elected. No person shall serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

c) Elections of officers shall be by secret ballot and shall take place each year at the annual meeting of the association in October. If, however, there is but one nominee for any office, it shall be in order to move that the secretary cast the elective ballot of the association for the nominee. Separate ballots shall be taken for each office.

d) The president, the second vice president, and the corresponding secretary shall be elected in even numbered years. The first vice president, the treasurer, and the recording secretary shall be elected in odd numbered years.

e) Officers shall assume their official duties at the close of the annual meeting of the association.

Section 2.

a) There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of five members. Two of the five members shall be selected by the Executive Committee from its body; three members, who shall not be members of the Executive Committee, shall be elected by the association at its annual meeting.

b) The president shall appoint one of the three elected members to serve as chairman of the Nominating Committee.

c) The chairman of the Nominating Committee is urged to attend Executive Committee meetings throughout the year.

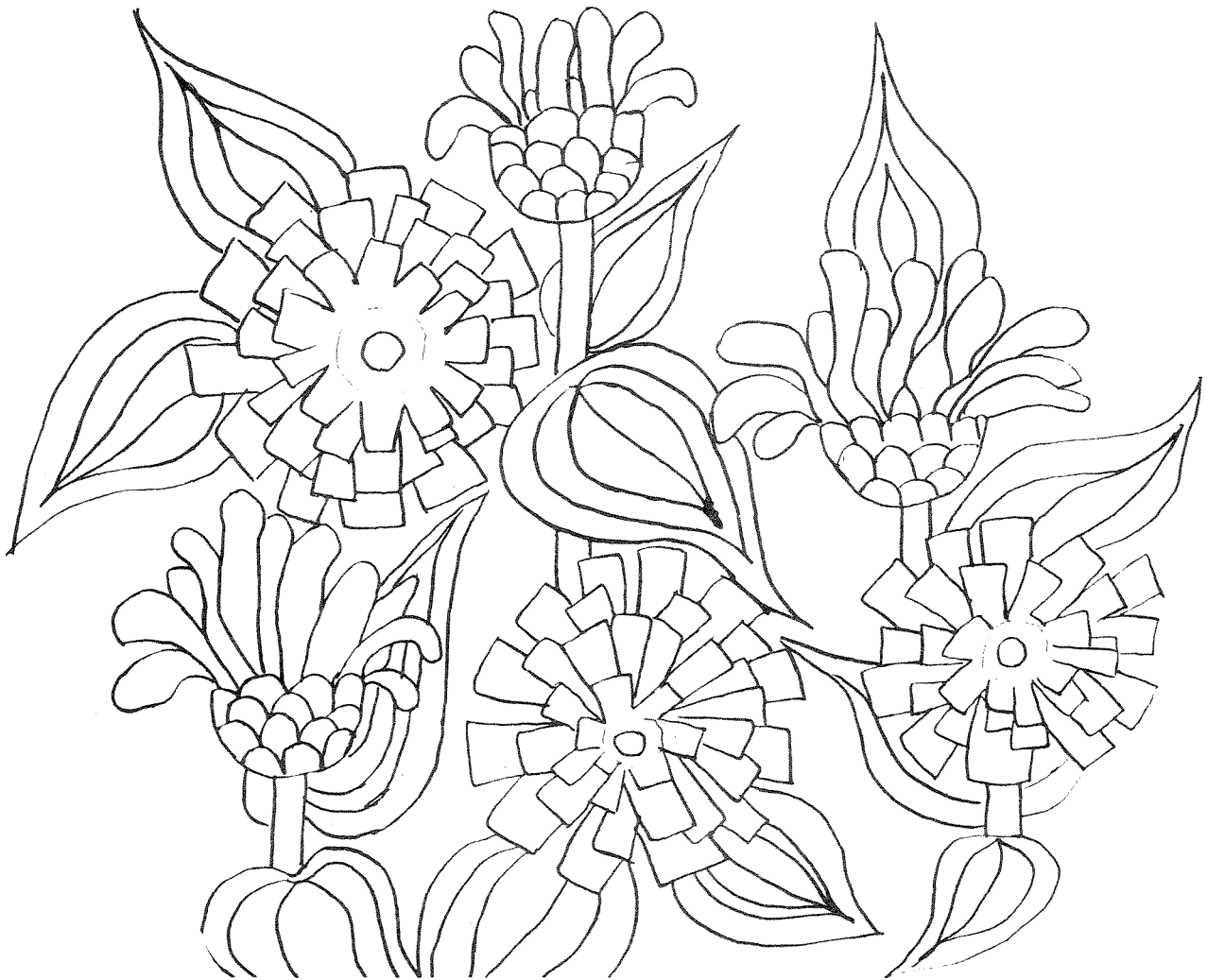
d) The Nominating Committee shall select one nominee for each office to be filled and one nominee for each of the three elective positions on the Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee shall report at the annual meeting of the association in October. Following the report of the Nominating Committee, opportunity shall be given for nominations from the floor. Consent of the nominee must be obtained in all instances.

e) (provisions for establishing the initial Nominating Committee are enumerated)

f) Any vacancies occurring by reason of the resignation, death, or disqualification of an officer may be filled until the next annual meeting by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Executive Committee.

These zinnias won't be for sale on Saturday - though plenty of others will be! These are part of a needlepoint design that Corky Ackman of Washington Street has created.



Chairman Rowan Howard again announces that - as always - this pleasant Point event will be held at the Eccles' house on Washington Street at Pine. Those of you who wish to donate plants - and, of course, EVERYONE is encouraged to do so - can be most helpful by delivering them there on Friday afternoon; but please, no UFOs (UNidentified Flowering Objects)! If that is not possible, call Rowan at 847-8428 and she will arrange to have your contributions collected.

Whether or not you donate plants, please do come to the Sale. Enjoy the refreshments, enjoy the sunshine, and enjoy a Spring gathering of Point friends.

The Liberty Tree Parade

Everyone! . . . dust off your colonial costumes and assemble at Storrer Park to honor Rhode Island Independence Day. Saturday, May 1, is the day and 6 PM is the hour for the Liberty Tree Parade.

From Storrer Park the Artillery men, the children carrying flags, and everyone else will parade to William Ellery Park (at the corner of Thames, Farewell, and Poplar Streets), where thirteen lanterns will be hung on the Liberty Tree to commemorate the original states. The ceremony's speaker will be Rhode Island Senator Robert McKenna.

Another Invitation

You may remember that in the last issue, I made the (accompanying) announcement of my plan to spotlight some of our creative neighbors, and that I asked for contributions. Well . . . the response wasn't really what one would call encouraging. I hope the volume will increase, though; I still think that this kind of feature would make very interesting and informative reading. I continue to be at 3 Sunshine Court.

I Need Your Help Again

In a future issue, I plan to exhibit yet another color of the patchwork fabric that is the Point; the artists, craftsmen, and other creative "producers" who are in our midst. That our neighborhood embraces what seems to me to be a disproportionately high percentage of these people is our good fortune. Off the top of my head, I can think of an artist, potter, restorer, writer, furniture maker, bookbinder, poet, pianist, designer, singer; get the idea?

I surely do not know of them all, so I need your help. Please send me the names, addresses, and brief descriptions of the products of your creative neighbors. Those of you who are members of this category, be not bashful about blowing your own horns. I want this compilation to be as comprehensive as possible.

The only criterion is that the listees be accomplished in their pursuits; which need not, by the way, be the activity that puts the bread on the table. I hope you will all help me.

I am at 3 Sunshine Court and 847-2575.

David Robbins

A Contribution from Delia Davis

In the last issue appeared an old photograph of the brick lightkeeper's house that once accompanied the (Green Light) lighthouse on Goat Island. I called for information about its demise, and Delia Davis of North Baptist Street answered.

She told me that at some foggy time in the 1920s, a submarine inadvertently rammed the wall. That so undermined and weakened the house, which was noted for the flowerboxes in its windows, that demolition was ordered. More than that Mrs. Davis does not know.

If anyone else has information about the history of the Green Light, please do not hesitate to share it.

A Comment From the Editor

Summer is approaching, and more of us will be enjoying the outdoors more often. General litter is perhaps one of the most visible distractions, and its absence would certainly be a boon to the neighborhood. I think that it is a problem that we can begin to solve this summer.

Litter can be attacked on various fronts. Mary Kinsella of Second Street certainly has her method. If lined up end to end, all the litter that she has personally snatched from the streets would probably reach the moon.

Jack Martins is trying another worthy manœuvre. He is well into the organization of the 2nd Annual Point Clean-up. This effort focuses primarily on illustrating to neighborhood children the extent of the problem (an entire dump truck load last year), the work needed to remedy it (the kids did all the stooping), and that good works are rewarded (by a picnic at Hunter Playfield).

Another tactic is to encourage everyone to pick up litter when and where it is found. Admittedly, picking up candy wrappers on the walk to downtown and carrying them to one of the infrequent trash barrels is not a pleasant, convenient - nor very effective - solution. Those who do this, however, should be applauded.

The task of reducing litter on our streets, though, can be encouraged if each of us becomes responsible for cleaning the area around his/her own property. Who could argue that removing the unwanted result of another's laziness is repugnant; especially when more of the same will magically reappear a day or two hence. Yet, we must be diligent because the Point must never look as if it invites litter. Our streets must never allow passersby to think that "one more bit couldn't possibly hurt".

In the same way that it is often hard to stand away from the crowd and be singled out, that most of us venture into virgin realms only when another has taken the first step, that an unnoticed sploch gains notoriety when on a field of pure white, littering becomes more obvious and less casually done on consistently clean Point streets. Herb Rommel has the right idea.

A few years ago while referring to the problem of persistent vandals, Herb said that we must not let the damage remain unrepaired; that the vandals can not have the last word. If we right their work every time, they will tire before we do.

Similarly, I believe that if we pick up the gauntlet of litter every time it is thrown down, we will eventually prevail. Such a course, I know, is not the only or total solution, but it is a good way to start. I hope that we all can look forward to a happy and less-littered summer.

David Robbins

Oliver Hazard Perry
conclusion
by
Virginia Covell



Perry in the Painting "The Battle of Lake Erie"

Perry had chosen to build his fleet in a small, protected inlet of Erie harbor. Here the ships could be constructed and fitted out while safe from the watchful enemy across the Lake. Unfortunately, a sand bar with shoal water locked them in; before they could be floated free, they had to be divested of their heavy guns and lifted over the bar with pontoons. Opportunity for this back-breaking operation had to be grasped while the British fleet was off for maneuvers. It took Perry's men twenty-four hours of frenzied activity to free the ships, but at last the armaments were remounted and the squadron of ten set sail.

By the time they reached Put-In Bay, Perry had instructed every man in the plan of battle. The ships were to proceed in two columns: the TRIPP, SOMERS, SCORPION, TIGRIS, and NIAGRA in one; the PORCUPINE, CALEDONIA, OHIO, ARIEL, and

LAWRENCE in the other*. Each ship's sailing master was instructed to engage a specific antagonist from the enemy fleet. Should any seem to be in bad straits, his partner ship was to come to his aid.

At mid-morning, September 10, 1813, they met the British fleet, and Perry gave the order to hoist the battle flag. He made the rounds of the LAWRENCE, speaking words of encouragement to his Newport friends as well as to the awkward - almost comical - Kentucky mountaineers who had been assigned to this unaccustomed "sea" duty.

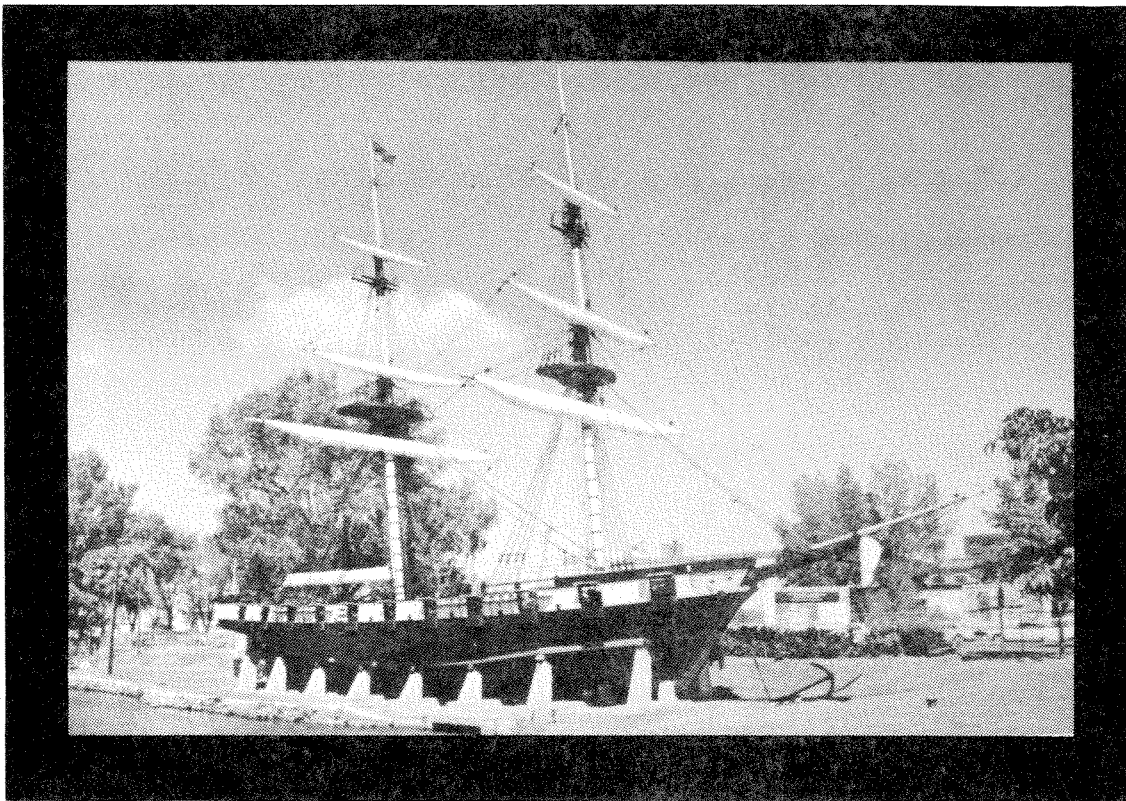
When the battle began, the entire British fleet bore down on the LAWRENCE, and she was completely disabled. Her masts and rigging were torn away, her guns silenced, and every man but eighteen had been wounded. And where was the NIAGARA, her partner in distress? Under Captain Jesse Elliott, it was hovering in the distance, safe from the battle! It was at this point that Perry's "sublime obstinancy" took over; he refused to accept defeat.

Turning the command of his sinking flagship over to John Yarnell, he jumped into a small boat and ordered it to be rowed to the NIAGARA. As enemy fire showered them, his men forced him to lie on the bottom. When they reached the NIAGARA, Perry took command from Elliott, sailed straight for the enemy ships and opened fire. His other captains followed, and after an hour's fighting, the British surrendered their entire fleet. Thus, Perry had snatched a victory from almost certain defeat, enabling him to send his famous message: WE HAVE MET THE ENEMY AND THEY ARE OURS.

Immediately after the battle, Perry showed deep concern for the wounded, making a hospital ship out of what was left of the LAWRENCE so that the suffering men would not have to be moved. Burying the dead, dispatching prisoners to Washington, arranging for ship repairs, writing battle reports, allowed just one week of respite. Then Perry went to the aid of William Henry Harrison's army. The new flagship ARIEL ferried Harrison's army across Lake Erie from Fort Meigs to Bass Island, thence up the Thames River until it became too shallow. At every point, they expected to meet the enemy forces, but they found that news of Perry's victory at Put-In Bay had caused the British and Indians to retreat into Canada. The Northwest had been freed.

At last, Oliver Hazard Perry and his brother, Midshipman James Alexander Perry, were given a furlough. They returned to Newport, every step of the way becoming a triumphal procession. Reunion with family was punctuated by the ringing of bells, the firing of salutes, and other joyful noises of celebration. The following winter, similar scenes took place in Washington and New York. The whole country recognized Perry's heroism and the importance of his victory.

* The LAWRENCE was Perry's flagship, named for his friend Commodore James Lawrence who had only recently died in action. His last words, "Don't give up the ship", were inscribed on the flag of Perry's ship.



The Restored Brig NIAGARA, Erie, Pennsylvania

Oliver's final assignment was one that combined naval and diplomatic skills. Spanish-American privateers were preying on shipping under the guise of revolutionary (or sometimes counter-revolutionary) forces. The United States wanted compensation for its losses but without giving offence to the South American governments. Perry was ordered to Venezuela to seek restitution of American property.

His mission was successful but at a frightful cost. In the uncharted Orinoco River, he and his men waited for days in the insufferable tropical heat. One after another, they came down with Yellow Fever. As soon as their mission was concluded, they headed north for home. Approaching the coast of Trinidad, Perry became so ill that the ship's doctor knew that death was imminent. The CONSTITUTION had been sent to join Perry's ship, and on it was a letter from his wife giving him news of his newly arrived daughter. The following day, his thirty-fourth birthday, he died.

Perry was buried at Port of Spain, but seven years later his body was brought home to Newport. The whole city joined in a heart-felt ceremonious burial in Island Cemetery.

In 1863, the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Lake Erie was celebrated. In 1885, Perry's statue in Washington Square was dedicated amid ceremonies; and in 1913, the centennial of the famous battle was celebrated.

In Newport, throughout the years of the 19th century,

the Perry expedition was remembered in a unique way. During parades, the band halted before the homes of the various survivors and honored them by special patriotic music or by a volley of musketry. The three final survivors were:

Thomas Breeze, reputed to have fired the last cannon from the LAWRENCE, sw corner of Thames and Ann Streets;

Thomas Brownell, commander of the ARIEL, 78 Washington Street;

William V. Taylor, sailing master of the LAWRENCE, 392 Thames Street.

Henry Adams once said, in speaking of Oliver Hazard Perry; "More than any other battle of the time, the victory on Lake Erie was won by the courage and obstinacy of a single man."



The Centennial Celebration of Perry's Great Victory

This is a view down Long Wharf - note in the distance the steeple of one of the New England Steamship Company's buildings - from (I believe) Thames Street.

The Guest Gardener

Part II

Virginia deRochemont of Third Street concludes her feelings about

The .014 Acre Garden

From the first crocus and grape hyacinths which surface during or shortly after sap season, there will be flowers in my back yard until snow settles ten months later around the chrysanthemums. They will proudly carry the banner after the others have exhausted themselves or gone to seed or born fruit. The last of the fruits, the last ripe tomato, graced Christmas dinner, a symbolic feast. This year the Concord grapes, growing up the stairs to the deck, produced many handfuls of sweet, beautiful fruits. I made grape juice, saving some for my daughter who was away during harvest. As any good farmer knows, the first glass of the first press goes on the ground: mute gratitude for bounty.

When I moved here five years ago my former neighbor, a nurseryman, gave me three bushes I treasure: his own Wicksia azalea, whose rosey-pink blooms mask the leaves and low-growing branches, a white rhododendron and an andromeda. I brought also a black walnut tree and one sugar maple, who seems to have an ambivalent attitude toward city living. This year there were enough elderberries for jam. I brought these few hybrid bushes with me also from the farm in Middletown that I miss so much. But circumstances change, and this little garden is marvelous in its fecundity and serenity.

Each permanent citizen of my garden is important to me, each has a story, each has beauty. My job is to help them on, as they help me on. The garden grows food for the body, food for the soul. As soon as possible, when the yellow tulips stand beside the fuchsia honesty blossoms, I carry my breakfast outdoors. Picnicing in my nightie and winter jacket, I am awed and impressed by the exquisiteness of Everyplant, some of whom grow here. Buds swell on the maples and the bushes. I start a few seeds in a jerry-built cold frame, some tomatoes, zinnias, marigolds and lettuces. Before they are knee-high to a grasshopper, the sorrel has leaves for my salad. The fragrant narcissus intoxicates me and the iris blooming near the peonies dazzle me with their beauty. From now on there will be fresh flowers on my kitchen table - gifts from the garden. Next week the lambs quarters have zoomed up, more garden produce. I have saved a little patch just for these weeds, shaking the seeds of the ripe old gentlemen on the ground as the fall darkens and the evenings chill up. And here they are. Wonder of wonders. What joy behavior harmonious to the natural world brings the humble participant.

Planning where to place the sunloving annuals is a problem. Prime space is half-day sunny, and patches go down from there. I plan the Beefsteak tomatoes, lilliput zinnias, Heavenly Blue morning glories, double-ruffled petunias,

man-in-the-Moon marigolds and Kentucky Wonder beans to have as much sun as possible. Bibb lettuce, Tampala spinach, impatiens, begonias, alyssum, thymes and parsley manage with indirect light. The mint, lamium, ajuga and chickweed fend marvelously for themselves and fill up whatever empty spaces they can find.

While Newport is America's Cupping or jazz festing or just living it up, my garden quietly blooms away. All the houseplants are outdoors too, camping in the mild, damp air, basking in the filtered light from the trees or the deck. I pinch, fuss, cultivate, feed, prune, harvest, enjoy, photograph, water, inspect, admire and give thanks in my garden. My garden instructs me by observation and practice in lessons of patience, serenity, security, harmony, abundance, continuity. So much reward from so small a patch of ground.

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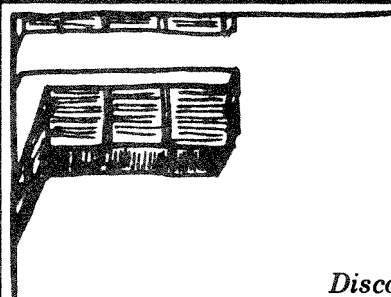
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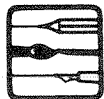
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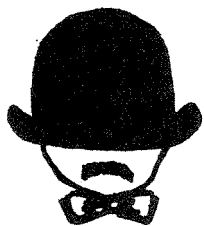


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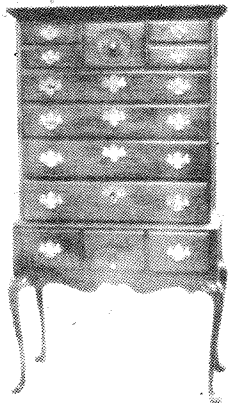
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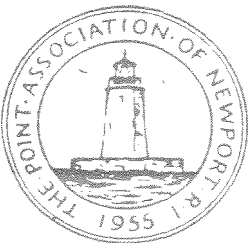
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