

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

June 1982

no. 3



The End of Long Wharf About 1920
(for more information, see page 9)

all photographs in this issue are courtesy of Jim Steele

President's Message

The committee for the Plant Sale really out did themselves this year. A vote of thanks for Mrs. John Howard, Chairperson, and her many helpers. The window boxes created a great deal of interest and we do have more in case you have a spot for one. Call Mrs. Robert Elster or myself and we will get them to you.

Now I have something on my mind that is bugging me no end. The Lighting of the Liberty Tree was a disgrace. I cannot imagine all of you people so interested in your heritage and not showing up to watch the parade and ceremony. We had a guest speaker, Senator Robert McKenna, who could take time from his busy schedule, and only 6 people were in the audience. This is part of your Newport Heritage, however, if you are not interested, then I see no reason to continue the parade and ceremony. But remember this, you can not expect the children (who march in the parade) to support it if you as parents do not.

Charlie Duncan, Chairman of the Street Fair, is doing a great job, and when he calls on you, give him a hand. This Fair is a big undertaking and requires more work than most of you realize.

We will have a table of consigned articles at the Fair. These are better things, too good to be called white elephants. The Point Association will get 25% of the sale price of your treasures. Please call me at 847-5163 if you have items to be sold. This must be done before the day of the Fair.



The Green Light Needs A New Editor

This Fall, after the completion of the October issue, I will resign my post as editor of these pages. I truly have enjoyed (what will then have been) my two years on the job, and hope that you have been pleased by the results.

Thus, in just a few months, a new editor will be needed. Anyone who is interested in the job (or who simply thinks he/she might be interested) should call me and I'll give you a look at what you will be facing. A smooth start to the new job will be greatly facilitated if the editor-designate spends a little time with me during the compilation of the October number.

I am at 847-2575, and I hope my phone rings off the hook.

David Robbins

Second Annual Point Clean-up and Cook-out
Saturday Morning & Sunday Afternoon
June 12 & 13

Even though the first Clean-up and Cook-out seemed very successful, if we judge only by the number of children signed up already for the Second Annual edition, this year's ought to be spectacular! Fully !! ONE-HUNDRED-FIFTY !! children have so far volunteered to pick-up the Point.

Though this is not a Point Association sponsored event, it certainly is supported and encouraged by us. More importantly, it is a Point neighborhood event. So, whoever wishes to participate, congregate at 9 AM at the headquarters, Martins' Liquors, where Chairman Reg Ford will assign the streets to be cleaned. Then it's off in search of litter for the groups of children and their adult/chaperone/guides. As well as giving the Point a good cleaning, Saturday morning's work ought to also demonstrate to everyone the full extent of the problem.

Then on Sunday afternoon comes the real fun. There will be a train ride for the street cleaners on the Old Colony and Newport Railroad, followed by food, games, and prizes at Hunter Playfield (or in the Guild Hall if we have rain). In addition, a camera crew led by TV producer and Point resident, Bill Martinelli, will also be in attendance to film some of the action. This picnic is not limited solely to Saturday's participants, but is open to friends of the Point as well.

Come one, come all, both Saturday and Sunday, and have an enjoyable time de-littering and delighting on the Point.

Plant Sale Report

The sun shone. The dogwood and tulips bloomed. The tables were jammed with a bewildering and tempting variety of flora, edible and/or decorative. And once again the spirit of congeniality that surfaces when Point neighbors foregather surrounded us all.

Our thanks to the members who helped make the sale a success - the Eccles, providers of the locale and gracious hosts; our leader, Bill Fullerton, unfortunately in absentia on the day; Dede and Bob Elster, who picked up where Bill left off (two for one!) and collected plants, planted and arranged the window boxes, set up tables, priced plants, and cleaned up; Bob Stephenson, John Howard, David Robbins, and Curt Magee, the set-up and clean-up crew; Madalene Holt, order-taker for bulbs; Emilia Cresswell, Suzanne Aubois, Betty Stephenson, and Jane Roach, cashiers; Rose Favier and Ruth Martin, dispensers of coffee and servers of the cookies





supplied by Madalene Holt and Dana Magee; Tony Peters and Posy Hall, who collected plants on Friday; Mary Sargent and Donna Maytum, helpers in general; Angela Vars, chaperone of the quilt, and Sally MacKay, seller of raffle tickets for same; Diane McNamara, who handles publicity; Erika Bach and her troops, who distributed the flyers around the Point; Mary Rommel, who contacted nurseries for donations; Bruce Howe, Island Garden Shop, Farmhouse Herbs, Chaves' Gardens, and Bruce Neary, who so generously gave us "special" things; and all those lovely people who contributed plants, with a special star to the Misses Burke for their precise and decorative labeling.

Before noon the driveway was swept clean of plants and people, and the treasury of the Point Association was richer by more than \$300.

Rowan Howard

Annual Point Picnic
Thursday, July 1 at 6 PM
62 Washington Street

Are you a member of Peter Lanouette's parade, obviously on its way to the merriment of the annual Picnic? If not, then join the crowd for an evening of Point friends and Bay-side relaxing. Once again, with the kind permission of Fisher Benson, we will convene on the lawn of her home at 62 Washington Street, at the water-side corner of Poplar. When you arrive with your picnic basket in hand, you will find beverages by the Point Association and music by Del Long and his piano. If it rains on the 1st, we will try again a week later.



Editor's Compensation

In the last issue, you may have noticed that one of the advertising pages was inadvertently omitted during the printer's collation. Trying to ensure that those 16 advertisers receive full value for their contribution to The Green Light and the Point Association, I have, in this issue, included the lost page in a rather unusual spot.

David Robbins



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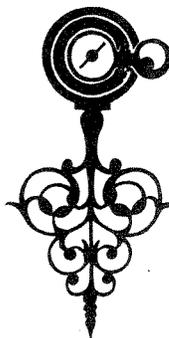
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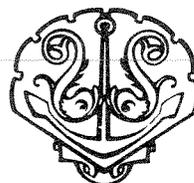
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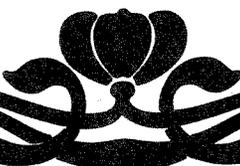


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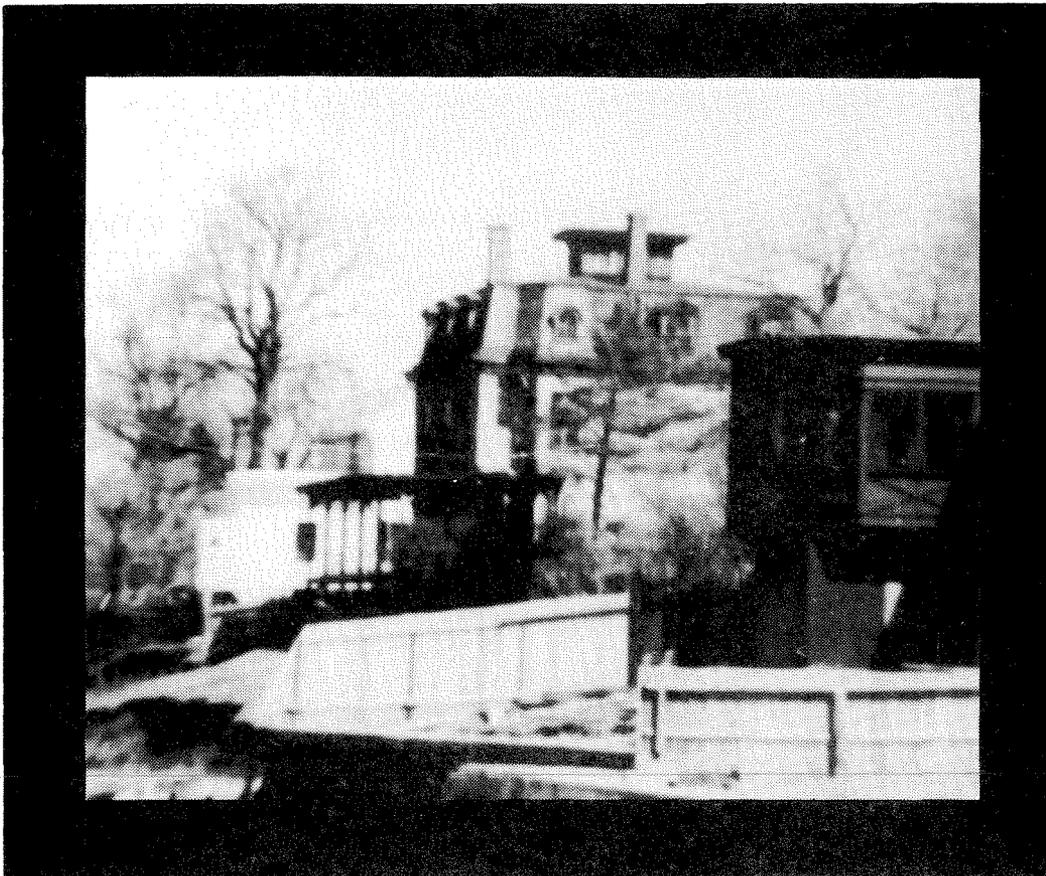
JOSEPH P. T. AND ANGELA VARS



Nostalgic Encounter
by
Edith Ballinger Price

To my amazement, I ran into old Cap'n Scuttlebutt* the other day, down on the waterfront here in Virginia, pretty far from home. My surprise was compounded on learning that he had sailed all the way from Newport in his catboat - but Newport cats are like that. He hailed me with delight, seemed astonished that I had never even seen Newport Bridge ("Does kinda git in the way of the sunset, some," he commented) and agreed that after twenty years away from Newport I would see a lot of changes.

"Y' know Missis Cresswell has built her a French shally or viller in them woods back o' your house on Batt'ry? You rememmer 'Meliar Belknap?" I nodded, and he went on. "You recklect all them little Belknap kids playin' with all them little Admiral Sims kids - they was all of a size. It was in the big house they called Bel' Napoli (some kinda furrin joke, that was)." I nodded again and chuckled.



Bel Napoli
at the sw corner of Washington & Cherry
viewed from the south on the water

* who was occasionally quoted in early Green Light numbers

"That house ain't there no more," he went on. "There's a new one - and a real old one they drug in from some'eres away. I rememmer the Fairchilds in the big house. Mr. Blair was a pianner player - and Miss Saddy, they called her, was smokin' cig'rettes long afore any other female girl did so. They say that real famous writer fellow Robert Looie Stevenson visited 'em thar. You recall that trellis all along the street side, with them grapes hangin' down? The Harbor Arbor, we called it.

"But acourse first that house was the Bigelows' - Bay Side, they called it - and a lot o' 'portant folks come thar - Juliar Ward Howe and all them top lit'ry people*. And you know that big stable up on Second Street b'longed to that house - built by some famous arkyteck. Folks call it the Fairchild barn, but it ain't - it's the Bigelow stable. By cracky - I rememmer them beautiful horses the swell folks had then - an' that silver harness a-jinglin'. Kin you rememmer that?"

I said that indeed I could, and reminded him that I am very nearly as old as he is.

"What are you doing nowadays, Cap'n?" I wanted to know.

"Oh, lobsterin' still," he said with a sigh. "Nothin' like it was, though, and fishermen comin' from down here up to N'port an' hornin' in on our grounds. They dunno what a real lobster is, anyhow." Now it was I who sighed, thinking of a Newport lobster.

"And all the Navy destroyers has come down here where you're at - all the eggs in one basket, I'd say, when them nookler bums starts a-droppin'. You rememmer when the hull Atlantic fleet come inter Narragansett Bay - all them battle-ships painted white with gold trim, an' the la'nches comin' an' goin' like waterbugs? An' the Constellation an' the Reina Mercedes tied up over to the Trainin' Station pier? Baltimore oughtn't never to have grabbed the Constellation away from N'port." By this time I was reaching for my handkerchief.

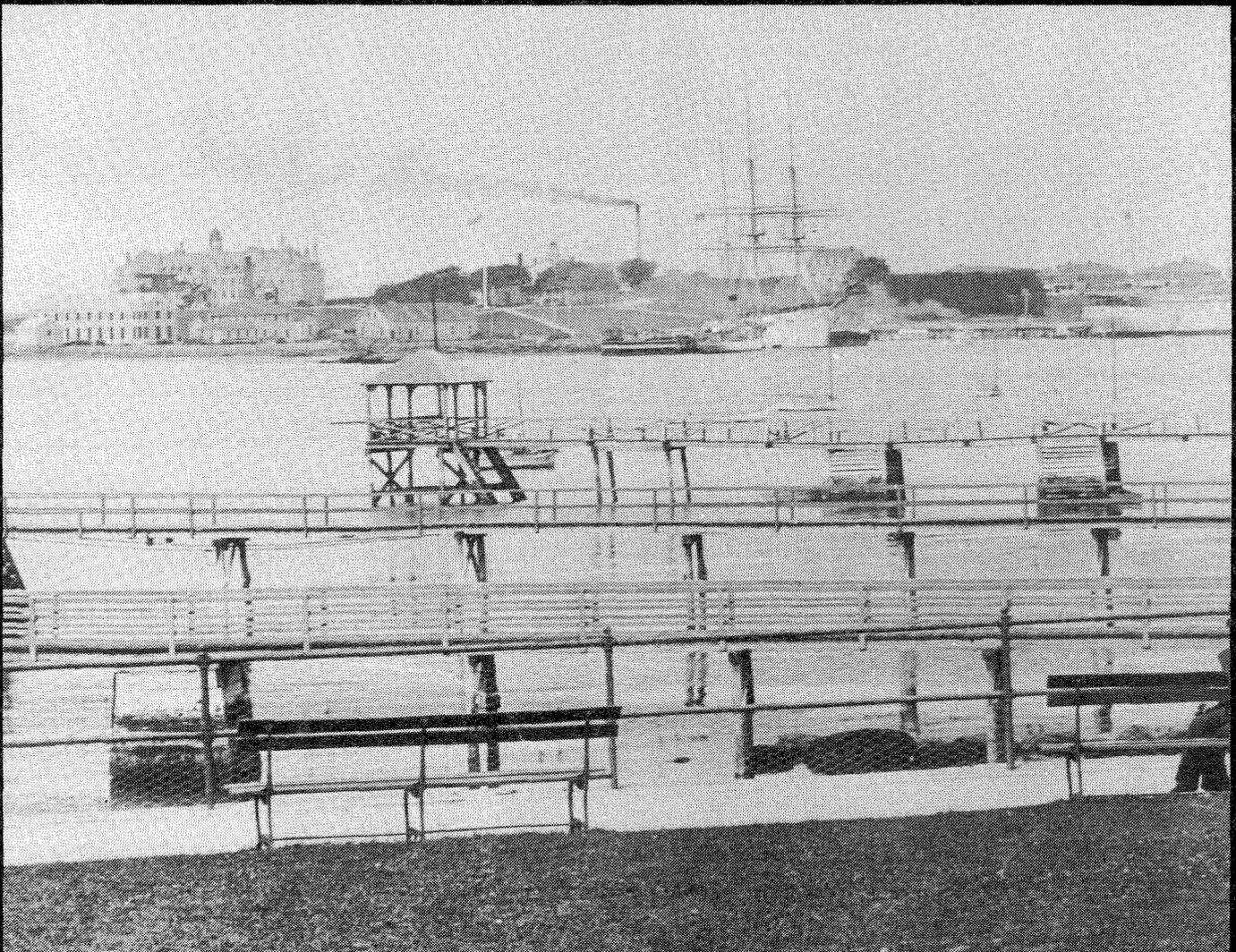
"Wal," he sighed, "I gotta git under weigh an' head back up home. It ain't like it was - but it's been real nice talkin' to somebuddy that rememmers."

"Me too, me too," I agreed as I clasped his horny hand, and we both needed handkerchiefs. Then he ran up the big sail on the cat and headed her into the sunset.

* see The Green Light, June/July, 1977

On The Next Page

Boxer
A photo taken from Battery Park of the Training Station, with the Constellation (left) and the Reina Mercedes (very far right). The farthest of the three piers is the Van Zandt pier.



By-laws
Part 3

Article VII - Duties of Officers

Section 1 - The president shall preside at all meetings of the Association and of the Executive Committee; shall be a member ex officio of all committees except the nominating committee; and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed in these by-laws or assigned to him by the Association or by the Executive Committee.

Section 2 - The vice presidents shall act as aides to the president and shall perform the duties of the president

in the absence of that officer, in their designated order.

Section 3 - The corresponding secretary shall handle all communications and shall notify all members of meetings and other functions of the Association; and shall perform any similar duties that may be delegated to him.

Section 4 - The recording secretary shall keep an accurate record of all meetings of the Association and of the Executive Committee, and shall perform such other duties as may be delegated to him.

Section 5 - The treasurer shall receive all moneys of the Association; shall keep an accurate record of receipts and expenditures; and shall pay out local funds only as authorized by the Association. The treasurer shall present a statement of account at every meeting of the Association and at other times when requested by the Executive Committee, and shall make a full report at the annual meeting.

Section 6 - The president, the corresponding secretary, and the treasurer shall be authorized to sign checks, with two signatures needed to make the check valid, except that the treasurer can sign checks of up to \$250 with only his signature needed to make them valid.

Pot Luck Supper Mystery Dish Revealed

Dear David,

Here are the instructions for the mystery dish you asked for in the (April) The Green Light: I am so pleased that someone liked my simple contribution to the Pot Luck Supper.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Sayre

Pasta With Pesto Sauce

Although most pastas can be used for this dish, I like it best when it is made with fine spaghetti or fine noodles, or with a macaroni such as ratelle, cavatelli, or gnocchi. The best results are obtained when fresh, frozen, or imported dried Italian pasta is used.

For those of you who wish to learn more about pasta, I recommend Elizabeth David's Italian Food (Penguin Books) which has two delightful chapters on this subject. Of pasta with pesto she has this to say:

"Tressette is the Genoese version of fine pasta, about the thickness of a match, and the same shape, but in long pieces. Pesto is the marvellous Genoese basil sauce . . . The pasta is cooked as usual and when it is ready in the serving dish, about 2 tablespoons of pesto (which is neither cooked

nor heated) are heaped up on the top, and on top of the pesto a large piece of butter. The butter and the sauce are mixed into the pasta at the table. Grated Parmesan or pecacino are served separately. This is perhaps the best pasta dish in the whole of Italy."

pesto sauce

4 cloves garlic, peeled
2 cups fresh basil leaves, washed and dried
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup fine nuts (or use walnuts)
1 cup olive oil (the best you can find)
1 teaspoon salt
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon red pepper crushed
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup freshly grated imported Parmesan cheese

If you use a food processor, quickly turn it on and off until garlic is chopped. Add basil, nuts, olive oil, salt and pepper. Process until this forms a paste. Add cheese and process until well mixed. This same method may be used in a blender. The classic way is to do it all by hand in a mortar and pestle. This produces a courser sauce with more texture. This sauce will keep in the refrigerator for a few weeks. It can also be frozen.

I use basil and hot peppers from my garden for pesto in season, and freeze a lot for winter.

Fine-Leaved Basil (Piccalo Verde Fino) is the true pesto basil. Epicure Seeds, Box 23568, Rochester, New York, 14692, usually has the seeds for this. Though basil is an annual, it can be grown indoors year-round. I once kept a big plant going for several years. It looked like a large bonsai and was both fragrant and ornamental.

(Part of) A Letter from Florida

. . . Another point in question - dogs!! So many are running loose and not on leashes. Here in this state, by contrast (to Rhode Island), one never sees a loose dog - the law is strictly enforced. Furthermore, a very high fine is incurred if a dog uses anyone's sidewalk or lawn. This law is (also) strictly enforced!!

New Members

Jeffrey M. Allen

David R. Pedrick

Long Wharf

The following article first appeared as a radio broadcast on WEAN, Providence. Sarah Plumb of Pine Street submitted

this and told me that it was heard on February 10, 1966.

Long Wharf, Newport, is one of that city's ancient places. The first town record of it was in 1685 and it was the most important and the most popular of all wharves built in the town.

By 1702 it was called the Old Town Wharf and in that year the owners of it established rates of wharfage and appointed a wharfinger to collect these fees. In 1739 it was widened and lengthened and the owners stated that the renovations were "for the benefit of the inhabitants . . . the lower part of said wharf will be commodious for the lying of larger vessels, which will greatly tend to encourage great commercial interests."

Seven years later a ferry was established at Long Wharf between Newport and Jamestown - and thirty years after the first widening, that is, in 1769, the proprietors had to build on 170 feet more. At that time they asked for a grant for a lottery which was the usual way to raise money in those days.

Then came the Revolutionary War, and in 1775 several regiments of British soldiers landed on Long Wharf. When the British left Newport almost three years later, they burnt the wharf to the water's edge.

For years after the war, Newport built and re-built the buildings ruined by the British occupation and finally in 1795 they got around to Long Wharf. In that year some men formed the Board of Trustees of Long Wharf. They too, asked for a grant for a lottery to raise \$25,000 to rebuild the wharf and to build a hotel on it. They then promised that all profits and rents from the wharf and hotel would go to building one or more free public schools. By 1800 Long Wharf was once more being used and the first school to be conducted with Long Wharf profits was on Washington Street. It was called the Long Wharf Free School. It existed from 1815 to 1832.

In 1863 a building at Third and Willow Streets was dedicated and turned over to the city. This was the Board of Trustees of Long Wharf School House, or the Willow Street School, still standing, although altered, and still being used as a school. The Potter School House (on Elm Street) is another Long Wharf School.

In 1863, Long Wharf was leased for a hundred years to the Newport and Fall River Railroad Company, but today the tip of it is used by the Navy. The Wharf, in fact, looks like a street lined with shops. It is one of the institutions of Newport, bound up with the history of the city.

Events Progress at the Southern End of Washington Street

As you all know, the Point Association has filed a legal appeal of the Newport Zoning Board's issuance of a building permit (for a foundation only) to the Long Wharf Development

Company for its proposed time-sharing hotel on the site of the former Periwinkle Restaurant - or more universally and historically known as Leo's Last Stop. At a recent Executive Committee meeting at the home of Bob & Mary Jo Ogurek, principal LWDC member, Herb Finley, and his attorney, Richard Sayre, appeared to present new plans which, they hoped, would satisfy the Point Association's objections. If that happened, then, presumably, the disputed plans could be discarded, the new ones submitted to the City (for approval of a zoning variance that the developers elected to seek because the proposed building would occupy a greater percentage of the property's land than is allowed), and legal delays avoided.

After having heard the presentation, and after the two had left, the Board discussed at length what, if any, action to take. It was decided to state the Board's opinion simply: to require that the development fully comply with all zoning ordinances and restrictions. If one can believe what one reads in the newspaper, then the Board's action was effective. The developer has withdrawn the new plans and intends, it was stated, to prepare others that will. We shall see. More new later.

David Robbins

Further News of the Local Lighthouse

The following is from an article that appeared in the September, 1961, issue of The Green Light. It was researched, written, and rendered by Edith Ballinger Price.



Newport Light, on the north end of Goat Island, was first lighted on January 1, 1825. Keeper Samuel Watson or W. Mumford occupied quarters on the island - but after the breakwater was constructed in 1836 - 38, access to the light could be made on foot instead of by boat.

By 1863, the stone house which is affectionately remembered by many, was constructed at the foot of the tower. Some early keepers were Pardon Stevens, John Cass, John Heath, and Henry Crawford.

On October 1, 1882, the man who was to tend the light for the next

forty years took over the duty. Captain Charles Schoeneman, who retired in July 1922 at the age of eighty, might have continued even longer at his post had not the light then become automatically controlled. Captain Schoeneman made many rescues - including the saving of eight sailors from the Destroyer Myrant, in 1912, when he was seventy years old. A wave of nostalgia sweeps over us as we remember the Captain's skiff moored in an angle of the jetty, and the bright geranium boxes against the sparkling white walls of the snug little house.

The house was demolished in June 1922, and the winking yellowish light was replaced by the brilliant emerald which gives its name to this publication. It first shone on July 1, 1922. The old light was rather dim in competition with increasing illumination around the harbor - but don't you remember how fascinating it was to watch the shield which controlled the "flash" slowly revolving; from inshore it looked almost like a funny little gnome solemnly trudging round and round inside the lantern!

SINCE 1846

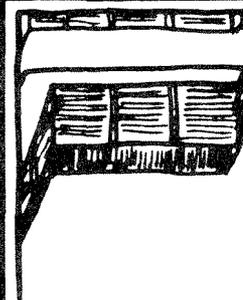
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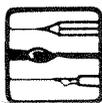
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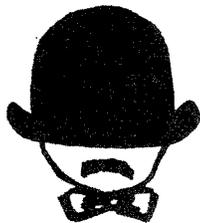
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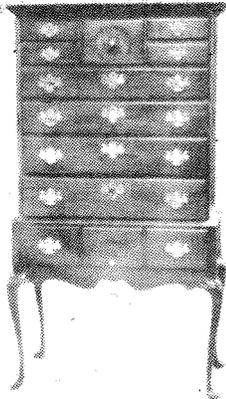
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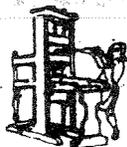
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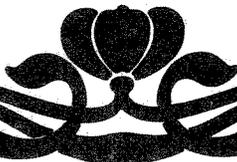
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