

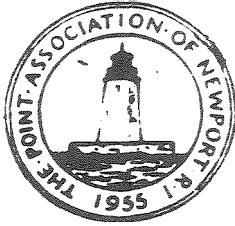
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AUGUST 1983

Vol. XXVIII
#4

The GREEN LIGHT

BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Hi-ho, come to the Fair!
All day on the Point - Aug. 13
10:00 am - 4:00 pm - Willow St.
between Washington & Second sts.
Entertainment & toys for children.
Ethnic foods & good stuff
cooked by neighbors. Art.
Hot dogs. Treasures to junk.
The beautiful Rose Point quilt.
The lucky winning Raffle Ticket for
the quilt to be drawn at 4:00 pm.



AUGUST 1983

Vol. XXVIII

No. 4

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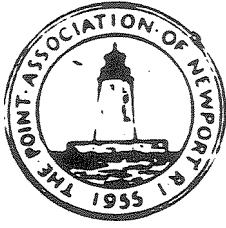
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The GREEN LIGHT

EDITORIAL

In the midst of the glamour and glitter of a "Cup Summer", the life of our community goes serenely on. The great event on the Point is the Fair. The origins of fairs reach back into dimmest antiquity and are evidence of the willingness and the need of human beings to share their work, the work of hands and mind and heart. The Point Fair is a continuation of a fine tradition. Come to the Fair!

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the Point Association
Executive Board Meeting of 21 June.

The Secretary and the Treasurer's
reports were read and accepted.

Due to Bill Fullerton's illness,
Charlie Duncan, Jack Maytum and
Bob Ogurek have agreed to act as
Co-Chairmen of the Point Fair.

A "well done" was extened to Curt
and Dana Magee for their excellent
efforts in coordinating the Plant
Sale.

It was noted that an article was
presented in the Providence Journal
recently discussing the new "coa-
lition" of neighborhood and merchants
groups in Newport.

Virginia Covell, the Point historian,
noted she had discovered a book en-
titled, "Newport-The City By The
Sea". This excellent historical
document on Newport was written by
none other than Charles G. Dow, more
prominently known as one of the
founders of the Dow-Jones group. The
book was written in 1888 and, as far

as Virginia could determine, there
are only three copies left in exist-
ence. The Executive Board unanimous-
ly accepted Virginia's recommendation
we attempt to underwrite or obtain
assistance in underwriting the cost
of reprinting this fine history.

The Executive Board also agreed to
donate \$100 to Tom Kelly of the
4th of July fireworks fame to help
defray the cost of the fireworks
display he presents every July 4th
in Newport.

The next "Meet the Candidates Night"
was planned for August 29th.

The next Executive Board meeting
will be held on July 19th.

* * * *

WE MET THE CANDIDATES

A small group of Point citizens
gathered in St. John's Guild Hall on
the night of June 14th to hear 13
candidates in the forthcoming city
clections. Ward 1 and at-large
candidates made up the panel. Each
was given a limited time to intro-
duce himself or herself, to speak

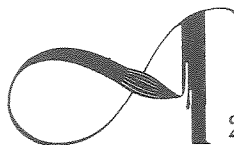
Marine Art Invitational/Newport 1983

Newport's First Marine Art Exhibition For Selected Members of
The American Society of Marine Artists

Participating Artists

Suzy Aalund	Roger W. Ellenberger	James M. Kelly	Daniel W. Perepelitza
Carolyn Bentley	John A. English	Charles Kenney	David W. Peterson
Willard Bond	Fred Freeman	Richard K. Loud	Keith L. Reynolds
James V. Capua	Tom Freeman	Jessie Hull Mayer	Charles Raskob Robinson
Deborah Chapin	Mark Greene	Victor Mays	Peter W. Rogers
Rodney L. Cole	Frank W. Handler	John Mecray	William Stille
Alva Marsh Curtis	Al Helner	Raul J. Mina-Mora	James E. Taylor
Peter Egeli	John W. Hutchinson	James E. Mitchell	Thomas W. Wells
Edward J. Elhoff	Norma Jay	Ben Neill	Elaine Wentworth

The Exhibition Will Be Open to the Public July 19th through August 18th



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of experience in government, to outline priorities and concerns. After all the presentations, questions from the floor were directed to individual candidates, and others had opportunities to comment.

It was an informative evening for those who attended, but it is to be regretted that so few took advantage of the opportunity to meet the candidates and to hear their concerns and their solutions for Newport's problems and needs. President Charlie Duncan chaired the meeting and handled timing and questions well.

The candidates presented similar concerns; the two major issues were on taxes and development. Discussion was lively on issues such as:

- Who is running the "show"(Newport)?
- Are our elected officials policy makers, not administrators?
- Who is responsible to whom?
- What of our historic heritage?
- Are middle income people bearing too great a share of taxation?

The primary voting on July 12th declared the following as candidates for election in September:

Ward 1: David Roderick and John Crowley, Jr.

At-Large: Alfred L. Angel, Humphrey J. Donnelly, III, Louise Kazanjian, Thomas W. Kelly, Patrick G. Kirby, and Frederick W. Newton.

The Point board has invited the following candidates for election to the Council in September to meet with all concerned citizens on August 29th at 7:30 PM in St. John's Guild Hall:

Council-at-Large: Alfred L. Angel, Humphrey J. Donnelly, III, Louise Kazanjian, Thomas W. Kelly, Patrick G. Kirby, Frederick W. Newton.

Ward 1: David Roderick vs. John Crowley, Jr.

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Ward 2: William Collins vs. Robert Bestoso

Ward 3: Charles Soliozy vs. Mary Page

Ward 4: Leonard Murphy vs. William Nagle

NOW -- PLAN TO VOTE IN SEPTEMBER!!!

YOU MAY BE THE LUCKY ONE!

This year's quilt, the "Rose Point Quilt" was inspired by the "thank you" gift from a dear friend who visited us last spring. The gift was Belgian lace placemats and napkins purchased in Belgium in 1938. I had been contemplating various designs when this package arrived from Phoenix where our friend lives. After viewing the contents, my mind was set. Thus, the "Rose Point Quilt". Can one imagine how many hours went into creating the center medallion or the work that went into the tiny stitches all over the quilt?



For a relaxed, casual meal where Chef Don Veeck's basic to gourmet cuisine and the colonial atmosphere are as inviting as the historic Point locale discover the RHUMB LINE, 62 Bridge St. for lunch 11:30-3; dinner 5-10, the 12-5 Sunday Brunch. Convene at this congenial restaurant/tavern for daily 4-6 happy hour; jazz Friday and Saturday nights.

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NEWPORT KITCHEN DESIGN

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Next year's project will begin when there is the assurance of at least 12 women who enjoy this type of hobby. Remember, too, that quilting is an American craft and continued by groups and individuals all over the country. Quilts today demand places of recognition in museums, homes and in commercial use. They're used as comforters on beds, wall hangings, decorative accessories and given as heirlooms.

Please call me if I can answer your questions about the Point Association Quilting Bee; I'm Angela Vars at

847-4289. Hope you'll join us for these hours of sewing.

Once again you've found some raffle tickets for the Point Association quilt in your mailboxes. Sally Mackay is watching her mail slot daily to see if she's going to break last year's record money-raising goal. Many of you have worked on this year's exquisite aqua-blue quilt with appliqued "rosepoint" lace, or have seen it displayed in town. Last year's quilt was won by a "Pointer". As you know, the drawing is the day of the Fair. Hopefully this will be your lucky August 13th!

Sally can be reached at 849-2369 or 73 Thames Street for more tickets for you or your friends. Thanks to you all.

HELP HELP HELP HELP HELP

We need many more items for the White Elephant Table for the August Fair. Here's your chance to clear out "extras". We always have lots of eager buyers, but we need your donations and those of your neighbors. Look around--ask around--and give Mary Sargent a call at 847-5736. She'll be home for deliveries or arrange for pick-ups. It's amazing what sells and how the dimes and dollars add up. Mary's awaiting your call and your "goodies".

COME TO THE FAIR

The Point Fair--all day on the Point--August 13th from 10 AM until 4 PM on Willow Street between Second and Washington Streets--50¢ entrance donation. Something for every age--treasures to junk--entertainment for children and toys--ethnic foods and good stuff baked by neighbors--art and hotdogs--the beautiful Rose Point Quilt--the lucky winning raffle ticket for the Quilt to be drawn at 4 PM.

If not a member of this marvelous Point organization--join! We're active all year long.

ASK NO QUARTER by George Marsh,
Wm. Morris & Co., New York, 1945.

Based upon solid research, this rip-roaring romantic novel starts with the Great Swamp Fight in 1675 and takes us through King William's War with the French, 1689-1697.

Especially interesting for us "Pointers" is the vivid picture of our area in Colonial days. We see native sloops anchored in the harbor and foreign ships unloading welcomed cargoes of rum and canary at the wharfs. There are fishermen with a variety of seafood, hunters after wild geese and swans.

Grey-clad Quaker merchants, landed gentry in periwigs and broadcloth, ladies in bright-colored silk hoods and capes, farmers in homespun, drab housewives and strange characters with rings in their ears all move about animating the waterfront.

Politicking and roistering take place in the inns--the bawdy Butterfly south of the cove, to the more refined King's Head on the Parade where men whose names we see on street signs today meet and discuss affairs of state.

It is exciting reading for those who like their heroes strong and noble; their heroines beautiful and spirited; their friends loyal and true; their enemies dastardly.

Hugh Jocelyn, the hero, is orphaned during the Great Swamp Fight and brought to Newport as a little boy by a fisherman from whom he learns to know and love the sea.

An old peglegged sea dog, Israel Brandy, teaches him to fight with cutlass and axe, while an indigent aristocratic scholar gives him instruction in mathematics and literature.

Thus equipped, he faces his life of adventure as beautiful women fall in love with him, villains plot to kill him, and pirates attack him.

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He and his friend Israel, survive

(continued on page 14)

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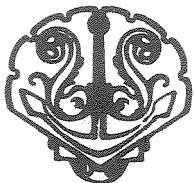
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A DELIGHTFUL PICNIC

On a beautiful afternoon, July 7th, perfect weather greeted more than 75 people who gathered on the Benson lawn for the Point Association picnic. There were family groups, neighbor groups, friends groups ranging in age from grandparents to young adults to teen-agers and toddlers and one very small baby. All enjoyed the informal gathering with a lovely view of the Bay and a spectacular sunset over the water.

"Fisher" Benson and her family were the hosts for the delightful affair. Many thanks to them for sharing their waterfront--and for arranging for that weather!



Hostess Fisher Benson and friends
enjoy pleasant conversation during
The Point Picnic

PICNIC



(continued on page 14)

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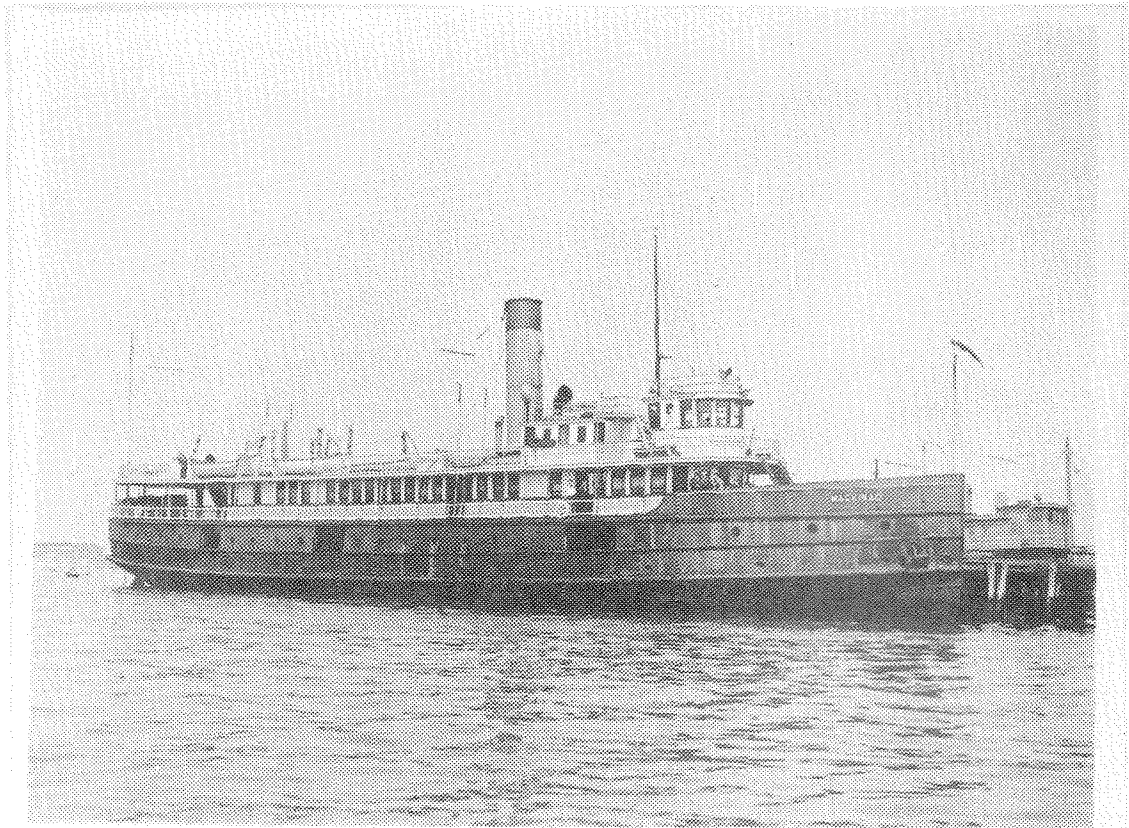
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THE MACKINAC DISASTER

In the years following World War I, tourism in Newport was very different from the motorized frenzy which currently afflicts the community. Most of the tourists were day trippers, usually family groups, who immediately headed for Newport Beach via bus or trolley car. At that period, the Beach was a very attractive place with a well-developed board walk and a magnificent Convention Hall. The majority of visitors at that time came by steamboat from Providence and other communities. It is ironic to note this peaceful period produced Newport's greatest maritime disaster--the explosion of the "SS Mackinac" in Newport Harbor. It also should be noted that if it had not been for the outstanding work of the U.S. Navy, this tragedy would have been a veritable holocaust.

On the bright sunny afternoon of August 18, 1925, the "SS Mackinac" left Long Wharf at 1700 hrs. on

the return trip to Providence. In the vessel were over 700 women and small children who had spent the day in Newport. This ship was a medium-sized steamer which had sailed on the Great Lakes and was well-known in the trade. It had a coal-fired compound reciprocating steam engine and had passed Federal safety inspection. The vessel was officially seaworthy in every respect.

"SS Mackinac" had passed Gull Rock and was working up to full ahead in a N x W course for Providence when a terrific explosion took place amidships in the engine space. Later investigation determined this blast to be the result of a defective boiler. Two crewmen were lost from the original explosion, but worse was to follow. Immediately a cloud of steam at possibly 400°F poured through the bulkheads, alley ways, and finally onto the crowded decks.

The steam caused terrible burns amongst the passengers and crew, and a major disaster was in the making.

Fortunately, the ships of the U.S. Scouting Fleet were anchored in the Bay at this time. The explosion was observed at 1730 hours and all available ships' boats were immediately ordered to the aid of the stricken vessel. Meanwhile, the master of "Mackinac" had very properly beached his ship which stayed upright and facilitated boarding by the rescue parties. One can well imagine the problems facing the officer-in-charge of the rescue operation--the need for damage control, panic control and the immediate evacuation of casualties.

The speed and efficiency of the Fleet rescue operators is shown by the fact that within 45 minutes a motor launch from the light cruiser, "U.S.S. Milwaukee" landed the first serious casualties at the Naval Hospital pier and the Hospital Officer of the Day was informed that at least 100 badly wounded people were en route.

The Commanding Officer of the Hospital immediately realized that no civilian facilities were available to handle a disaster of this magnitude and he placed the Naval Hospital on an emergency alert. It became a Navy operation with all personnel or liberty recalled, additional doctors and corpsmen obtained from the Fleet and Training Station, and the local Red Cross called.

Wards were cleared for casualties and medical and surgical teams carried out standard operating procedures for which they had been well-trained. In the meantime, steady streams of people were being carried in by stretcher parties with small children being carried by sailors. All in all, over 700 people were landed on the Hospital pier by the Fleet boats.

* Photo courtesy of Jim Steel

As soon as the extent of the disaster was realized in Newport, the civilian community turned out in force. Mayor Mortimer Sullivan of Newport placed all municipal facilities at the disposal of Naval authorities. The local Red Cross and doctors and nurses were called as was the local clergy.

In addition to the pressing medical problems, the Naval Hospital had to face a heavy administrative burden when the news spread and the press and frantic relatives realized what had happened. An information center was organized under the direction of Naval personnel and immediate attention was given to the many problems involving such an unexpected emergency. In addition to the medical treatment, the Naval Hospital had to feed and shelter hundreds of passengers, many of whom were in a state of shock from their terrifying experience. The passengers who were able to travel were sent by taxi and special railroad trains to their homes. The serious casualties were hospitalized.

In the wards it soon became evident that many of the casualties were fatally burned. Unfortunately, 51 people died of their injuries during the next few days making a total of 53 fatalities in the "Mackinac" explosion.

In reading this part of Newport history, one cannot help but be impressed by the magnificent job done by the U.S. Navy in this tragedy. If the Scouting Fleet had not been here at anchor and there had been no trained and organized Naval Hospital Corps, there would have been a much greater loss of life. One might reflect that the Naval presence in Newport means much more than jobs and shops.

-Donal O'Brien

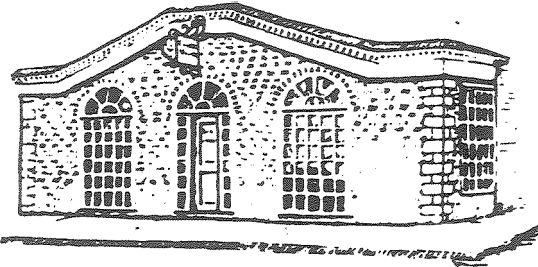
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"Activities at U.S. Naval Hospital, Newport, RI, during Mackinac Disaster"
C. E. Riggs, Capt. U.S.N.

Government Printing Office 1926

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GREAT GRANDMOTHER'S HISTORY: 1787-1878

My Dear Cousins:

I am sending you with this, a thin old silver spoon, that belonged to your Great-grandmother_____, who was a very interesting woman, and lived in an interesting time, so that it is a great pity that none of her children had thought to write down the story of her life, while she was here to tell it.

She was born in 1787 in Conn., and I have been told that her father was the first Episcopal clergyman of the New Haven colony. Her parents both died when she was young, and she was sent to an uncle's home to live. This uncle was an ugly old fellow, who made slaves of his women-folks, and who drank too much in the village tavern with other convivial souls.

When George Washington died, in 1799, services were held in all the towns and villages throughout the country, and Fanny, though only

twelve, sang in the choir in her town, and sang at this service.

One day, when she was not quite sixteen, her uncle told her to prepare to be married, and she did not even dare to ask to whom, but her aunt found out and told her that it was to a man of fifty years of age, one of her uncle's drinking companions.

Although it was highly improper in those days to rebel against your elders, Fanny certainly did rebel against being married to a man old enough to be her grandfather, and a man whom she hated, and who was the town drunkard, but her uncle told her that he had made the arrangements and the wedding was to take place when, he said, if not peaceably, then by force; so she and her aunt prepared the trousseau realizing there was nothing else to be done.

Her husband gave her a watch for a wedding present that was the duplicate of Martha Washington's, and that watch I have, sadly battered from having been pawned by one of her profligate grandsons and afterwards recovered, but with the lady's head in enamel on the back of the case worn entirely off.

Her husband proved all that was expected of him, and more, for when she lay with her little baby beside her (and she only seventeen) he used to bring knives and sharpen them, and lay them by her bed, and a coil of rope, and a bottle of poison, and his gun, and would eye her maliciously the while and ask her if she expected to live til morning. She said she never cared a particle whether he killed her or not, and that is probably why he didn't.

She had two children by this man, and then she left him, and went to live with some good Quaker people, who although their religion taught differently, said that she certainly must never go back to a man of that sort.

I do not know how long he lived, but she used to tell the story of one of their drinking bouts in which one of the party was overcome, and falling face forward into the great bowl of punch before them, and being too drunk to get out, and all the others too drunk to get him out, was drowned in punch.

While her husband was not drowned in punch, it was the finish of him at last, and his young wife was free. She supported herself and children by sewing, and continued to live among her Quaker friends for some years.

Her second marriage was for love, and of her own choice, and your Great-grandfather was a tailor, and a good deal of a dandy, being rather a handsome man and a favorite in society. On the day of their wedding when they were about to start in a covered wagon for the far West (Ohio!), he was twirling a light cane he carried, and broke a mirror. The lady who owned the mirror began to weep, as they supposed, for her loss, but she said she cared nothing for that, it was the bad luck that breaking a mirror brings. She was sure nothing but woe was in store for the bridal couple. Poor Fanny often had opportunity to remember the prophesy. The journey to Ohio took many weeks and besides experiencing many hardships, the bridegroom was taken with typhoid fever, and they had to stop in a clearing of the woods where they found a deserted cabin, with a neighbor not very far off, who had a well. In this lonely spot they began housekeeping with an equipment of a feather-bed, on which the sick man lay, a tin pail, two spike nails, and two bricks. The two bricks were placed upright over the fire, with the two nails on top of them, and the pail with the dinner on the nails. In this way all the cooking was done, and if there was more than one thing for dinner, the pail had to be scoured and used again. They lived mostly on tea, and gave little concern to what they ate for the husband was so very ill that there were many times when she had to hold



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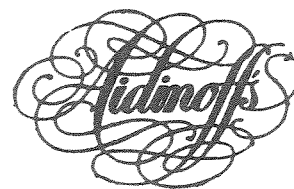
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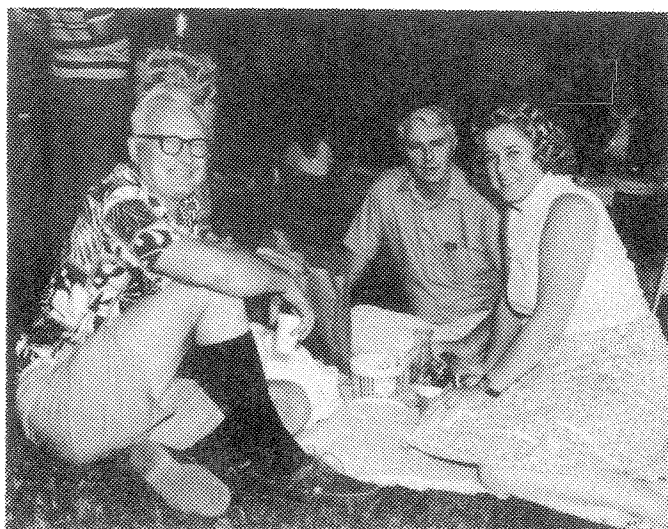
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a feather before his lips to see if he still breathed. The tin pail had also to be used to washing, and at night fires must be built to drive away the wolves. Fanny was very much surprised to have her husband recover in spite of all, but he did so, and as soon as he was able they went on to Painesville, then a very small village. Here he opened a tailoring establishment, and invented a system of cutting which brought him some profit. In time they bought the finest house in town--a red brick mansion on the top of a hill--and here their three children were brought up. Among their school mates in Painesville were the Beards, William and Dan, the writer and artist of later days.

Your Great-grandmother lived to be nearly ninety-one, and was as smart as a whip to the very last. Any of us, who were children at the time, can tell you how she used to joke and sing old nursery songs in her quavery voice. She died at our house in the Spring of 1878.

These spoons, which I am giving to the six great-grand-daughters, she got by saving all her spare silver money, and having it melted and made up. Silver was very scarce and high-priced in those days, and it took a long time. She left her spoons to be melted up again and made into a keepsake for me, the only daughter of her only daughter, but my mother never had it done; I thought that if each one of your six girls who are her great-granddaughters had one of the spoons, it would be a very pretty keepsake for you. I hope you will like to have them and to know all that I can tell you about our interesting ancestor. It is, as I have said, a great pity that no one thought to preserve more of her reminiscences. She was a very cheerful character, as I remember her; I suppose it may be owing to that she lived through so much and lived so long. Her husband, on the other hand, was of an extremely melancholy disposition and did a great deal of grunting.



From left to right Herb Rommell,
John and Anne Twomey at The Point
Picnic



Aline Sullivan enjoys some wine
at The Point Picnic with
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There are nine great-grandsons too. I wish there were spoons for the lot, but it was a case of "ladies first" this time.

I shall be glad to hear if the spoons reach you safely, and

I am, dear cousins all,

Yours very affectionately

January, 1911

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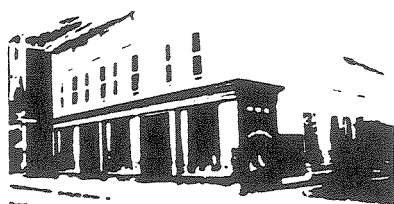
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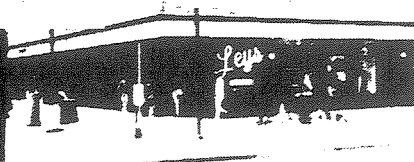
Daily 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Fridays till 8:30 p.m.



Ley's

Est. 1796



New Store at Long Wharf Mall

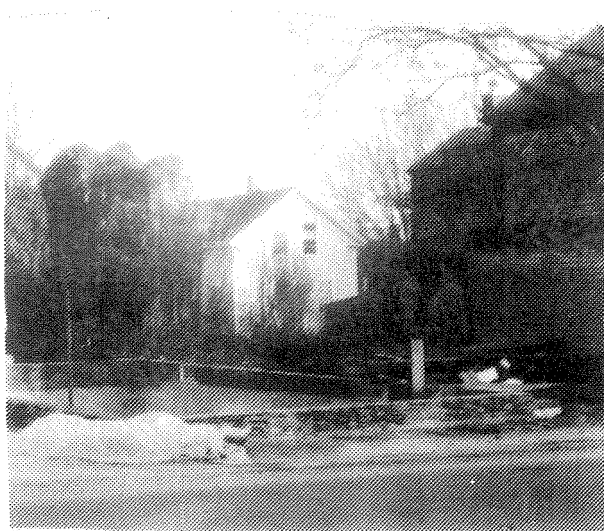
A HOUSE IS REBORN

A Picture Story by Virginia Covell

Rescued and moved from its former Gould Street site by its new owners, Pamela and Brendon Kelley, the house has a new lease on life.

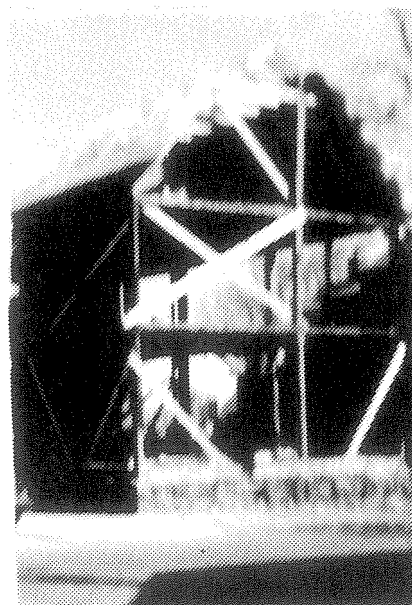
It is thought to have been built originally somewhere on the Point, but no one seems to know exactly where.

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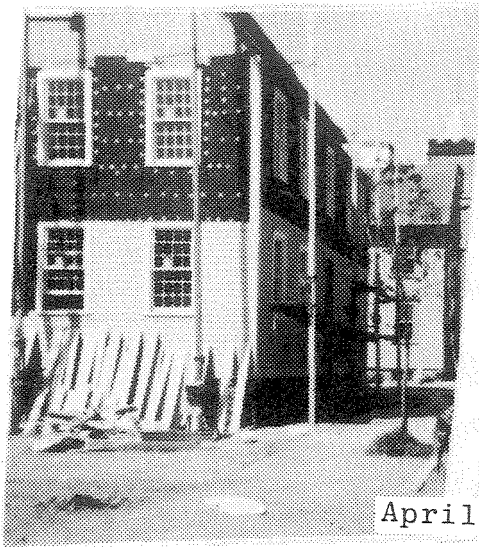


← Second Street →

The Foundation--Winter, 1983



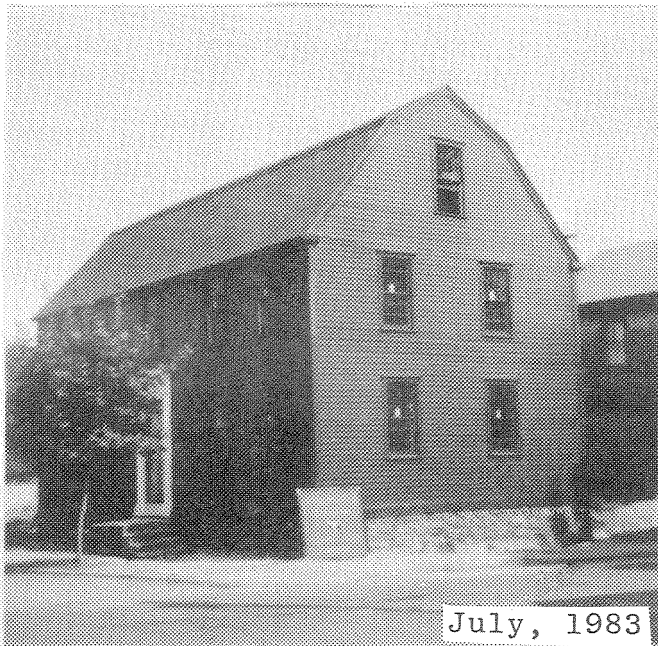
March



April



May



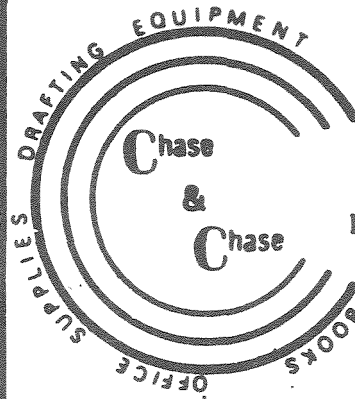
July, 1983

Work by Arthur Marshall, Restorations Contractor

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*See you
at
The Fair!*

MUSSELS RHODE ISLAND

The following is a grand first course for dinner or a good luncheon dish.

24 medium size mussels, well scrubbed with beards removed. In a large skillet, heat $\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup minced parsley, $\frac{1}{2}$ tbsp. minced garlic and freshly ground black pepper.

Place mussels in hot butter, cover and cook over high heat, shaking frequently, for about 5 minutes or until mussels open. Serve at once.

CURRIED CREAM OF MUSSEL SOUP

(Billi bi au Cari)

2 tbsp. butter
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup finely chopped onion
2 tbsp. finely chopped shallots
2 tbsp. curry powder
3 lbs. well-scrubbed de-bearded mussels, (about 10 cups)
2 cups dry white wine
4 large sprigs fresh parsley
1 bay leaf
6 cups heavy cream
freshly ground pepper, salt.

Heat butter in soup kettle and add onions and shallots. Cook, stirring, until wilted. Add curry powder and stir until well blended. Add mussels, wine parsley, bay leaf, cream, salt & pepper to taste. Bring to simmer and cook over low heat until mussels open, 5 minutes or less. Strain through fine sieve. Remove mussels from shells and add to soup. The soup may be served piping hot (do not boil), or chilled and served cold. 8 to 10 servings.

ITALIAN SOUFFLE

2 cups of cooked squash (zucchini, summer or hubbard)
3 oz. cream cheese
1 medium onion, finely minced
2 tbsp. minced parsley
1 egg
salt & pepper freshly ground

Place ingredients in mixing bowl and beat at medium speed until mixture is smooth. Pour into buttered casserole, top with flavored bread crumbs and parmesan cheese. Bake in 350° over for 35 minutes. Serves 4.

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BUILDINGS ON PAPER: RHODE ISLAND ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS 1825-1945, by William H. Jordy, Christopher P. Monkhouse with contributors. Brown University, Rhode Island Historical Society, Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, 1982.

In the spring of 1982, the Rhode Island Historical Society mounted an exhibition of Rhode Island architectural drawings. A comprehensive history of the work of the State's outstanding architects in the years from 1825 through 1945, the exhibition traveled from Providence to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the National Academy of Design, New York, and to the Octagon, the American Institute of Architects Foundation, Washington, DC. The Catalogue being reviewed here is a stunning volume and should be part of the library of anyone interested in preservation.

The book has a special interest for Newporters (its cover is a sketch of Chateau-sur-Mer), not simply because so many of the buildings are in our island community, but also because credit for the preservation and publication of the drawings must be given to George Chamlin Mason, Sr. and George Champlin Mason, Jr. This father and son team shared an architectural practice in Newport in the second half of the 19th century. It was their active interest in Newport's past which led to the collection and preservation of the drawings which are the foundation of this volume.

The drawings include not only the homes and public buildings of Rhode Island, but also the handsome mills which dominated the landscapes of the State's textile towns. To try to list even a few of the outstanding architects who worked here in the 19th and early 20th century would make too long a list. Buildings on Paper is a wonderful book and it should be yours.

Helen R. Holland

GLADYS BOZYAN MACLEOD

As we go to press, word has been received of the death of Gladys Bozyan MacLeod. Gladys was one of the earliest members of the Point Association, and she was an enthusi-

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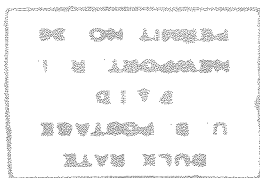
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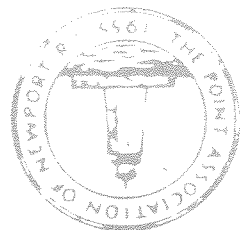
astic and faithful supporter of all our endeavors. In the words of Anne Ramsey Cuvelier, who was with her when she was fatally stricken:

"I was devastated when I heard that Gladys hadn't pulled through, but comforted when I reviewed her beautiful life and my long friendship with her. Through the example of her life, to which she brought such a positive philosophy, she gave generously to her friends and family. She saw every day as a new source of pleasure for herself and an opportunity to give pleasure to others. In her gentle way she was warm and forthright, always able to express herself without being critical.

"Up to the very last day she was in her garden digging, planting and enjoying with her children and her children's children around her. When she finally lost consciousness, it was with the sound of her beloved concert music in her ears. We will miss her, but she gave us all a part of herself which will stay with us forever."



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