

BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND



GOD REST YOU MERRY, GENTLEMEN AND LADIES!

A Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.



Notes From The Secretary

City Council Activities

Christmas Present by Virginia Covell

Cur Leaders

Membership

Christmas Past/

THE POINT ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 491 NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND 02840 DECEMBER 1983 Vol. XXVIII No. 6

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OFFICERS

Charles Y. Duncan President Robert Ogurek 1st V. President William H. Fullerton 2nd V. President Herb Rommel Treasurer Rowan Howard Rec. Secretary Mary Sargent Cor. Secretary

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REMEMBER!!

THE POINT PAGEANT "THE TOYS SHARE CHRISTMAS" DECEMBER 17 at 3:30 DECEMBER 18 at 5:00 Saint John's Guild Hall

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

The general membership met at the Guild Hall on October 20th. Regular committee reports were presented followed by the highlight of the business meeting--the election of officers. New officers who will serve a two year term are Bob Ogurek, First Vice President; Herb Rommel, Treasurer; and Rowan Howard, Recording Secretary.

Rowan Howard reported that membership stands at 349 which includes 189 individuals, 104 families, 16 sustaining, 5 patrons, and 35 new.

Historian, Virginia Covell, noted the acceptance of a State Certificate of Excellence for the Point Association Liberty Tree Pageant.

Activities being planned include a Halloween Party for Point children under age 12. Games, prizes and refreshments will be provided. The Christmas Pageant is scheduled this year for December 17 and 18. Linda Vars has volunteered to serve as director and could use the support of adults and children of the Point for actresses and actors as well as production assistants.

Mr. Edward Lavallee of the police department addressed the membership on the need for a new police station. His presentation was followed by a period of questions and answers.

After the business meeting, Mr. George Petropoulos entertained the membership with slides of Newport.

Many things have happened since the last issue of the Green Light. A new City Council has been elected and taken office. The new Council appears to be dedicated to many of the goals and ideas of the previous Council. Four out of five incumbent Councilmen who ran for office were re-elected. The former City Solicitor is now an at-large Councilman. City Solicitor Turner Scott has been reappointed, as well as Assistant City Solicitor Mary Jo Carr. At the inauguration on November 1st, it was evident that the new Council would carry on with many of the previous Council's policies and programs, and of course they also have new ideas of their own to implement.

Two items of particular interest to the Point Association are the Harbor-Front District Zoning Legislation passed by the previous Council, and the Rose Island Marina Development Proposal being addressed by the new City Council.

Harborfront District Zoning Legislation: In September, the City Council passed significant changes to the zoning ordinance by establishing a Harborfront District, encompassing the waterfront lots from Wellington Avenue to the Goat Island Causeway. Many prior "usesby-right" have been made special exceptions or have been prohibited in this zone.

This amendment to the zoning ordinance was controversial, as demonstrated by the range of emotions and legal opinions voiced at the two public hearings and the workshop between the City Council and the Planning Board. The final amendment passed by the City Council was based on specific recommendations of the City Solicitor who felt the original proposal would not be legally defendable. Some of the features of the final ordinance include:

- A prohibition on hotel construction.
- A reduction in the maximum allowable height of new construction to 25 feet.
- An increase in "open space", i.e., a reduction in allowable lot coverage.
- An allowance for greater height for new construction in exchange for reducing the lot coverage even further. The maximum height

to be allowed in this "swap" will be 35 feet.

- A reduction in the density of condominium developments by increasing the minimum condominium unit size allowed.
- Allowing marine-related property usages as a matter of right.

All of the features of this new amendment are too numerous to mention in this article. However, legal action has already been taken by several parties to have this amendment voided by the courts on the grounds the amendment hearings were allegedly improperly advertised, and the new amendment is allegedly a confiscation of property rights.

We should also mention that as an off-shoot of this amendment and the hearings, First Ward Councilman, Dave Roderick, has requested a study by the Planning Board on reducing the height of new construction in the Waterfront Business District, which immediately abuts the new Harborfront District.

Rose Island Marina Development Proposal: On November 2nd, the City Council held a workshop on the proposal to develop Rose Island into an 850 slip marina. The developers have requested permission to dredge some of the area (approximately 60 acres) of the Bay to the east of Rose Island. Two breakwaters would be constructed: the north breakwater would extend generally eastward from the north spit for a distance of about 1375 feet, the south breakwater would extend generally southeasterly from the southeast corner of the Island for a distance of about 700 feet.

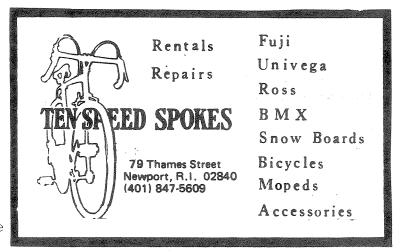
Although the developers are requesting permission only to dredge (and not for the actual construction), the City Council's position seems to be one of evaluating the entire project and its impacts before any permits are issued. Many issues were raised, including water quality, erosion, currents, waste disposal, parking, city services, etc. RI

Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) regulations require parking for about 200 cars for the 290 slips expected to be constructed in phase 1 on the development. The developers are seeking to purchase real estate, probably outside of Newport, to use as a parking lot and shuttle area. and would shuttle customers to the Oldport Marine Launch Dock or the Newport Shipyard, pending the negotiation of the use of these launch services. However, it was obvious that parking and traffic on the Point could increase significantly, especially if the marina expands to 850 slips.

The City Council will hold a public hearing sometime in the future on the dredging permit request. We will be very interested in any further information on this proposal, and we will work to ensure the Point Association concerns are considered in any decision-making process.

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OUR LEADERS

It is not for gain or glory that our officers of the Point Association assume their offices. They are committed to hard work and care and concern for the Point. Each of the six new offices serve for a two year period with three being elected at the annual meeting each year. Our holdovers this year are President Charlie Duncan, Second Vice-President Bill Fullerton, and Corresponding Secretary Mary Sargent. They have our continuing thanks, and for those retiring, our SPECIAL thanks. Jack Maytum turns over his job as First Vice-President to his neighbor Bob Ogurek. Treasurer Theo Duncan passes her polished professional books to Herb Rommel. You've all read and heard Mary Jo Ogurek's great minutes of our meetings. Now you'll hear from Rowan Howard as recording secretary. Rowan has held the membership lists and has kept a finger on everyone. Mary Jo is taking over this task, and Eileen Peterson is turning over the sale of cookbooks and "Here and Now on the Point" to Theo. To all these faithful and talented workers--our thanks and appreciation.

Remember, if you are reading "The Green Light", you are a member and we'd like you to volunteer for the varied activities of the Point Association. Also remember, "The Green Light" welcomes all comments and contributions.

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MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to our new members:

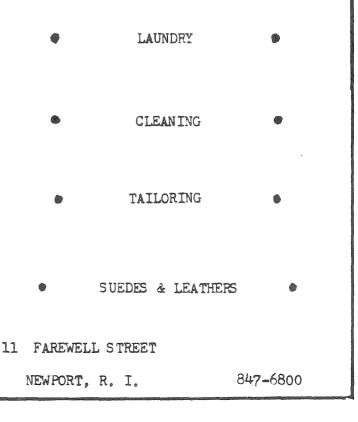
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I hope that old and new members bear with me while I learn to put names and faces together. The Point Association has a long-standing reputation and a solid base of support. But, to remain vital, we need fresh ideas and new blood. If you have thoughts on attracting new members and holding the interest of old, please contact me.

> Mary Jo Ogurek 93 Third St. 847-7317

The Point Pot Luck Supper.

BILL DEL NERO CLEANERS AND LAUNDRY INC.



CHRISTMAS PAST

In Colonial times, there was little in the way of Christmas gaiety, and certainly no public celebrations. Perhaps the early settlers were too close to their Puritan past. with it abhorrence of lavish ceremonies and merry-making connected with religion. Even the Turtle Frolic (now included in Christmasin-Newport) was an event disassociated from the Yuletide; the first turtle arrived for a dinner on December 23rd, and George Mason in writing of it says, apologetically, "Christmas was near at hand and no one wished to encroach upon the holidays".

During the Revolution it was thought that the Christmas tree may have been introduced by the Hessian soldiers, and this legend is the basis of a charming tale by Cora Cheney (illustrated by former Pointer, Edith Ballinger Price). According to the story, the Christmas tree brought note of hope and light-heartedness into an otherwise drab wartime Christmas. The Christmas Tree Hessian is read each year at the Colony House as part of Christmas-in-Newport.

In none of our early Newport writings, however, do we find anything to compare with customs connected with Kriss Kringle in Germany, Saint Nicholas in Holland, or St. Lucia in Sweden. They were to come to American shores much later along with the people who brought them as part of their culture.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT

A glance at the Christmas-in-Newport schedule shows how amply we are making up for this "lost" time! Even Charles Dickens would agree that we are "celebrating Christmas well".

The Point Association is sponsoring the event of December 17th and 18th, "Twilight On The Point" in St. John's Guild Hall. It includes the singing of carols together with a pageant. Members of the Point are encouraged to volunteer; adults and childrens are still needed for some of the roles. (Call 847-4667 after 5 PM.) The times of the performances will be on Dec. 17 at 3:30 PM and on Dec. 18 at 5 PM.

On the day after Christmas, accompanying the Candlelight House Tours, there will again be the Holly Tea in St. John's Guild Hall from 3 to 6 PM. (In this connection, Mrs. Robert Elster, the hostess, will gladly accept a gift of any cups and saucers that may be sitting unwanted in your cupboards.)

Members of the Point may wish to participate in the Doorway Contest of private homes sponsored by the Island Garden Club. There will be a judging on December 20th.

If there is anyone who has not seen the slide presentation of Christmas-in-Newport, be sure to include it in your schedule; it will be shown at the Colony House at 10 AM on Dec. 8th. You'll recognize many Point faces and places.

The Outdoor Market, selling Christmas greens and food, will be held on Dec. 10th from 10 AM to 4 PM on Long Wharf Mall.

Whichever events you may choose, a walk about our area to see the candlelit windows and the many beautifully decorated doorways will add to your "Merry Christmas".

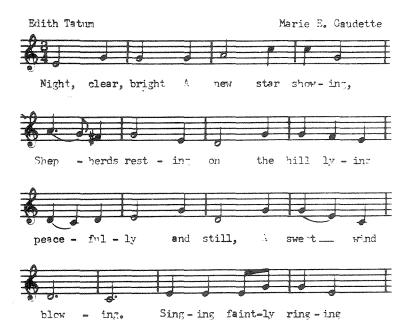
Virginia Covell * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

THE GREEN LIGHT welcomes articles,
suggestions, and letters to the Editer.
Manuscripts should be typed double space
and sent to: The Editor
The Green Light The Point Association
P. O. Box 491 Newport, R. I. 02840

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The First Christmas



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The singing of this song should build up to a crescendo at "Glory be to God on high!", and then become quiet, almost a lullaby.

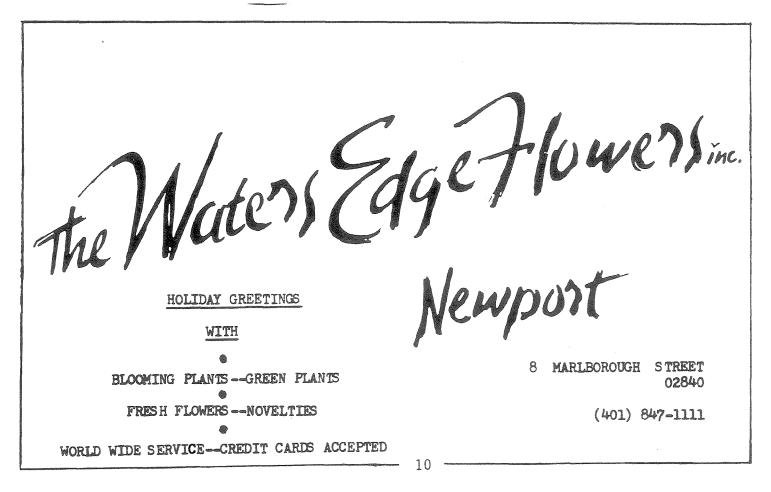
From MARIE GAUDETTE'S SONGS used by permission

GREENHOUSES GREENHOUSES

In the old days, Newport flowers were shipped to New York on the Fall River Line along with all the barrels of fish. The flowers came from large greenhouses on the island where they flourished and bloomed in abundance. We are all familiar with that kind of greenhouse. Today, some greenhouses have become part of homes to provide solar heating. In the past weeks, the Murray Commission has revealed a proposed "Greenhouse Compact" for Rhode Island. Also, the Environmental Protection Agency talks about another greenhouse which in time would swallow the Point!

Today our lives are much affected by local greenhouses--for plants or for heating. Soon, we will be asked to vote on the greenhouse proposal for the State. But in future generations the "greenhouse effect" being studied by the EPA could destroy coastal communities of the world. In general, the "greenhouse effect" lies in the presence of atmospheric air pollution from carbon dioxide (CO2). This comes from us--internal combustion engines and animal (including human) metabolisms. It is well known that green plants such as trees, flowers, grasses, et cetera remove CO2 from the air. Thus, worldwide destruction of forests, plants, and grass lands is thought to increase such air pollution.

Solar energy rays are strong enough to pass through the polluted atmosphere, but lack the energy to return on their upward journey after being reflected from the earth. The trapping of solar energy is thought to be gradually increasing the temperature of our atmosphere, causing serious doubts about the future. The common analogy used is the functioning of a greenhouse where the sun's rays pass through but cannot completely escape, thereby raising the temperature inside. Raising of worldwide temperature levels would have seri-



ous effects on our agriculture. It is obvious that any wholesale melting of the polar ice caps would raise the ocean level and thus destroy the coastal communities of the world.

Although these effects will take many years, we should all be concerned with the restoration of forests, grass lands, and green belts. While we are all conscious of the current arms race of bombs and bullets we should be aware of the need to channel energy into constructive efforts of restoration for a green and growing world. You can start in your own backyard.

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NEED FOR MORE MUNICIPAL RESPONSIBILITY ON THE POINT

Now that summer is past, we should reflect on what needs to be done to improve conditions on the Point. There are laws on the books concerning speeding, littering, public drinking, vandalism, et cetera which need to receive more attention from the people in City Hall. The tax accessors thought this was a desirable section of the city and placed a heavy burden on property owners of the Point. Let us ask for a review and recommendations to clear up the summer's trouble spots, such as:

- Littering and trash from Storer Park to Van Zandt Pier;
- 2. Activities of drunks, drug addicts, and vandals, particularly in Battery Park and the nearby driftway. (If it were not for the daily clean up by nearby residents, this area would have been intolerable.
- 3. Wholesale violation of speed regulations all over the Point. Cross walks have not been painted in years and pedestrians crossing Washington Street into Battery Park are in constant danger.

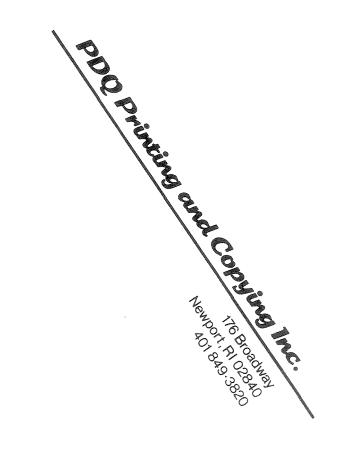
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SAFE SPOOKING

This was a first-time event for the Point Association. It was well attended and may become an annual happening. About 50 or 60 goblins, ghosts, monsters, and witches dropped in and were greeted by a haunted house, a pin-the-nose-onthe-pumpkin game, a costume contest, and refreshments. The latter included a "take home" bag of goodies in lieu of the "trick or treats" they had missed by not going from door to door.

The party was the brain-child of Theo Duncan who, with the help of her family, and Mary Jo Ogurek, engineered the good time that was had by all. Special thanks are due to our Point "superteens", Heather Day, Stephan Day, Terry Day, Kelly Fink and Britt Ostrowski who decorated before and cleaned up afterwards. And grateful thanks to all who contributed goodies and treats. This should be an annual event.

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HOLIDAY DECORATIONS FROM

THE OUT-OF-DOORS

Decorations and gifts you make yourself are enhanced when the materials come from nature's treasure store. Look around you, in your garden, along the street or a country lane, in a friend's woods, on the beach. You may find cones, nuts, acorns, seed pods, berries, shells, sycamore balls, horse chestnuts or teasel heads. Watch for someone clipping evergreens; after a storm, look for broken branches; at a Christmas tree market, ask for branches that have been cut to shape a tree. Flower shops sometimes have cones and dried things for sale.

Depending on what you do, you may need some of these tools and materials: glue; poster, gilt or silver paint; bright wool and ribbon; nylon thread; colored rubber bands; fine elastic; fine wire; a sharp jackknife; tweezers; wire cutters; a large needle; an awl; clips; small brushes; newspapers for work surface--and your imagination.

In general, leave articles in their natural color or brighten with clear shellac for shininess. Use white or colored poster paint or gilt or silver pain to tint inside surfaces or the tips of cone scales. Put string, wire, etc. in place before you use paint or shellac. Sometimes pressing a bit of evergreen will make it easier to mount on card or paper. Use clips to hold things in place until they dry, when possible.

Here Are Possibilities:

SEED PODS, such as milkweed pods, make interesting ornaments. Tint the inside lightly, and dangle small objects, cones, shells, a gilded nut, a small figure or a tiny colored tree ball inside; make a loop for hanging.

CONES--pine, spruce, hemlock and cedar cones come in many sizes and shapes, and have endless possibilities. If cones are not opened, place in a warm oven for a short while, and shake out seeds. Tip the end of scales of cones with white or bright colors; sprinkle with glitter while wet. String small cones in circles of festoons to hang on a tree. Make wreaths on foam or wire bases, using a combination of many cones, nuts, berries, etc. Tie boughs of green together at top, with cones hanging from string or ribbon for an ornament for a door or over a mantle. Add a bright ribbon bow and a hanging loop. Wind a fine wire or nylon thread around the top row of cone scales, leaving a loop for hanging.

SHELLS--small and large. Use in natural state or tint inside with light colors. Clam and scallop shells are good as background for creche figures, animals, little trees, etc. Use shells graduated in size, using a ribbon background for a hanging ornament. Cut small strips of construction paper or wood shavings, and make circles in which to hang small shells. Make a tree of circles, one at top, two for next layer, three for final layer, and a single long one for the stem. Hang tiny shells--all different if possible--one in each circle.

NUTS, SYCAMORE OR SWEET GUM BALLS, ACORNS, OR HORSE CHESTNUTS--all make good dangling ornaments. Make holes in top with a pointed tool such as an awl; cut strings, ribbons, wool, etc. in needed lengths including loop, knot at end, and stuff in a hole with a drop of glue. Glue caps on acorns. You will probably need to purchase mixed nuts; walnuts are especially good. Carefully split whole walnut shells, keeping halves intact. (Use nut meats for cookies!) For a treasure box, wrap a tiny object in tissue and place inside; glue halves together, with a bright wool loop; tie a bow of the wool at the top; paint with silver or gold and sprinkle with glitter while wet. One half of a walnut shell may be used to shelter a tiny shell, cone, or object; paint inside with

bright color, and make a small hole at top for wool or string of thread, including a loop.

Make a <u>dancing doll</u> of nuts, acorns, etc. for head, body, hands and feet. Put together with single strips of colored rubber bands or fine elastic. Bore holes as needed, and tuck ends inside with spots of glue.

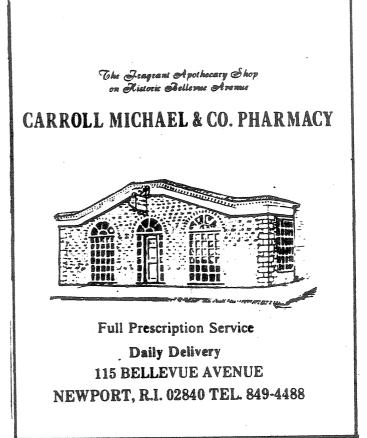
CRANBERRIES AND POPCORN are timehonored homemade decorations for trees. String in festoons, or place with straight pins on the tips of branches.

LAPEL ORNAMENTS OR BUTONNIERES may be made with cones, berries, nuts, etc. Place on a backing of leather or firm cloth cut in the shape of a leaf, with bright wool or ribbon at the top and a safety pin in back.

For a family gathering or for the top of a present, tie small sprigs of pine or spruce and small cones or shells or berries together with a wire to hold in place, and a bright ribbon bow. These will last only a day, but the fragrance will add to the festivities.

PLACE CARDS for the festive dinner may be made with folded cards, on which a small red tub is drawn. Make a "tree" of a bit of evergreen; dot with bits of glue and sprinkle with glitter. Top with a tiny star.

FOR FRIENDS WITH FIREPLACES make a small Yule log, using a small dry log, 8-12" long. With a bit and brace, make several 1" holes in the top. With a jackknife, make plugs to fit the holes. Put fireplace color powder (purchase at gift or home supply stores) in the holes; plug them, and tie a large ribbon bow with sprays of evergreen on the top. Make a tag that tells the recipient that the log will brighten the fire with its colors.



If you can find an abundance of pine and spruce cones, make a bag of red or green netting or dyed cheese cloth, and fill with cones. Tie at top with bright ribbon.

TRY SOMETHING! FUN FOR YOUNG AND OLD!

Kit Hammett

(Material adapted from "Christmas and the Out-of-Doors" written by Kit for the Girl Scout magazine, "The American Girl" in the 1940's.)

Brightening the gathering darkness of the early winter is the lovely feast of Hanukkah. It commemorates the victory of the Hebrews in 165 B.C. over the Greeks who profaned the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem. The Hebrews cleansed the temple of pagan defilement and rekindled the Eternal Light, the symbol of God's presence among us.

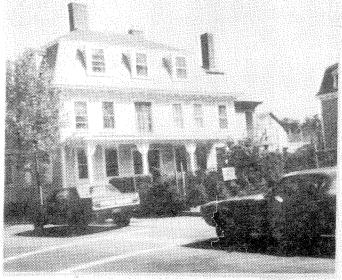
Every year, in remembrance of that ancient victory, on a winter night, when the moon is almost dark, a single menorah

(continued on page 15)

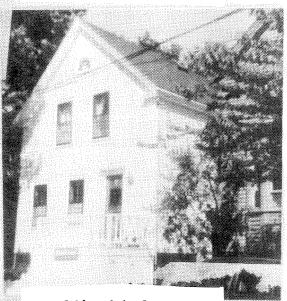
SOME RECENT "FACE LIFTS" ON THE POINT



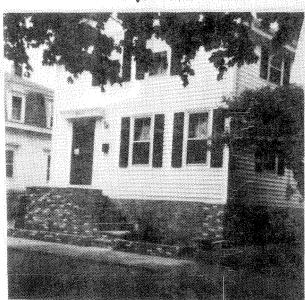
13 Third Street



43 Farewell Street



135 Third Street



96 Third Street





candle is lit. For seven nights thereafter the ceremony is repeated until every branch glows with a piercing light.

Culinary customs abound for this Feast of Lights. The following is a recipe for a Hanukkah treat.

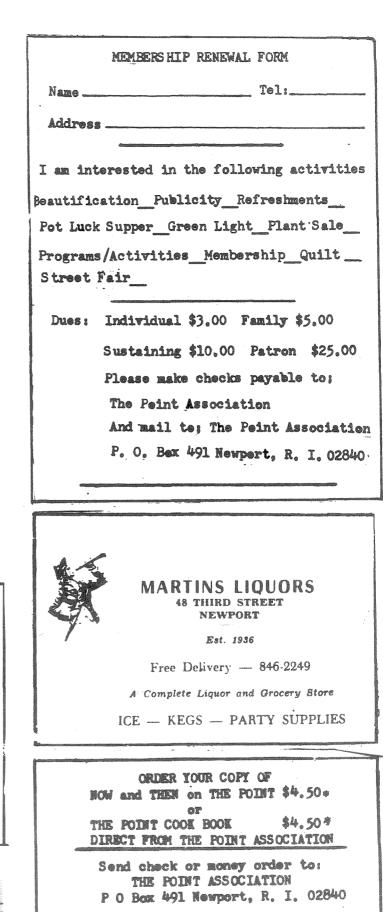
SYMBOL COOKIES

- $l\frac{1}{2}$ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. aniseed, crushed
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup pure vegetable shortening
- ¹/₂ cup sugar
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup honey
- l egg yolk

Stir together the flour, baking powder, and aniseed. In mixer bowl, beat shortening on medium speed for 30 seconds. Add sugar; beat till fluffy. Add honey and yolk; beat well. Add dry ingredients to honey mixture; beat well. Working with <u>one-third</u> of the dough at a time, on lightly floured surface, roll dough to 1/4 inch thickness. Cut into desired shapes. Place on greased cookie sheet. Bake in 375° over 6 to 7 minutes. Cool 1 minute; removed to wire rack. Makes 30.

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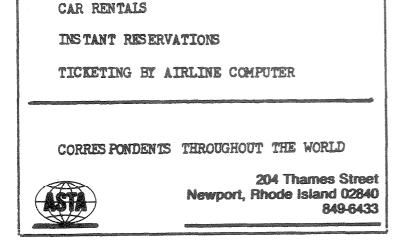
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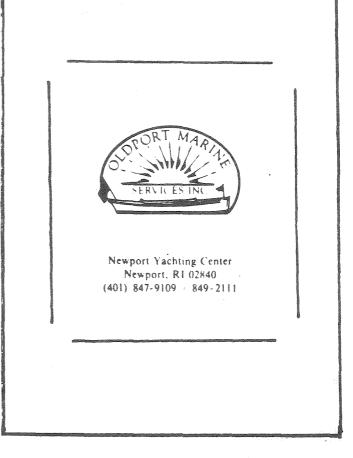


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