

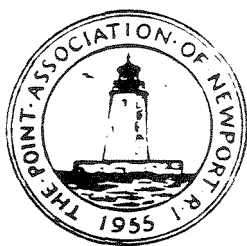
April 1984 F

Vol XXIX
#2

The GREEN LIGHT

BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND





APRIL 1984

Vol. XXIX No.2

FEATURES

- 4 Secretary's Report
- 5 Plant Sale
- 5 Help Wanted!!
- 6 To Whom Credit Is Due...
- 6 Membership
- 7 Pot Luck Success
- 8 The Callendar School
- 11 Spring's On The Way!
- 11 Attention Spring Gardeners!
- 12 Book Reviews
- 14 Claggett Clocks
- 15 Save the Bay

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Editor

Virginia Covell
Catherine Hammett
Katharine O'Brien

Leonard Griffin
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CALENDAR

April 12	General Meeting
May 19	Plant Sale
June 28	Point Picnic
Rain 29	
August 18	Point Fair
October 18	October Meeting



The GREEN LIGHT

SWEET WEATHER

Now blow the daffodils on slender stalks,
Small, keen quick flames that leap up in the mold,
And run along the dripping garden-walks;
Swallows come whirring back to chimneys old.

Blown is the wind, the pear trees' flakes of snow
Lie heaped in the thick grasses of the lane;
And all the sweetness of the Long Ago
Sounds in that song the thrush sends through the rain.

Lizette Woodworth Reese

SECRETARY'S REPORT OF EXECUTIVE BOARD
ACTIVITIES--FEBRUARY/MARCH 1984

The Board moved to support the Hill Association's efforts to obtain sticker parking in designated areas, as it was felt that with the construction of more hotels, closer to the Point, and the possibility of Rose Island development, the Point area could well become congested.

Bill Fullerton announced he would take charge of the Plant Sale on May 19th.

New certificates for "Born on the Pointers" will be printed and inscribed.

A report on the Pot Luck Supper was received. The Board expressed great satisfaction with the facilities at St. Paul's and voted to thank the Ogureks and Maytums for a most successful supper.

Chairman of the Street Fair reported that applications for booths had been mailed and chairmen for all committees had been appointed, except for the white elephant table.

Beautification Chairman reported trees would be trimmed in the near future, and memorial trees which had died would be replaced. A group of Scouts is working on Battery Park and cement planters will be installed there.

The Program Chairman reported that Sue Kiernan of Save the Bay will be the speaker at the April meeting.

Urban Consultants' final drawings and report on the Gateway Project were received and will be studied by all Board members.

Bob Stephenson's resignation from the Super Group was accepted with regret. Brenda Gordon will succeed him as representative from the Point Association.



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The revised by-laws will be voted on at the April 12th meeting (second reading).

Membership Chairman reported 306 local members and 45 out-of-town.

* * * * *

The General Meeting of the Point Association will be held on Thursday, April 12 at 7:30 PM at St. Paul's Church on Marlborough St. The speaker for the meeting will be Sue Kiernan, Project Director for Aquidneck Island for Save the Bay.

Anyone needing transportation to the General Meeting should call Charles Duncan at 846-0294.

* * * * *

PLANT SALE

Don't forget the Plant Sale coming up Saturday, May 19th. Adm. and Mrs. Henry Eccles have been kind enough to let us use their grounds again at 101 Washington Street. Sale starts at 9:00 A.M.

Now is the time to start your seeds and take cuttings from your plants. Call Bill Fullerton, 847-5163, if you need someone to pick up your plants.

Chairman - Bill Fullerton
Rosylin Hall
Robert Elster

HELP WANTED!!

This year's annual "Day-on-the-Point" Street Fair will be held on Saturday, August 18th. As in the past, many vol-nteers are needed to ensure the success of this event--our Association's most significant fundraiser. Some of the committees requiring assistance are:

- Baked Goods Sales
- Hot Dog/Hamburger Sales
- Quilt Ticket Sales & Publicity
- Gatekeepers
- Membership Table
- White Elephant Table

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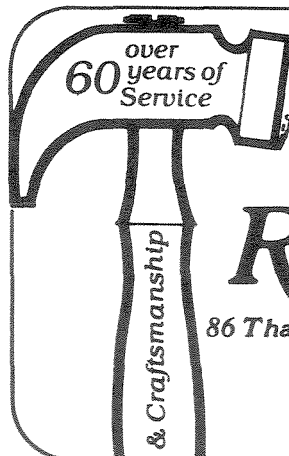
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George H. Koulouvardis

Approximately 3000 people attend our Street Fair each year. We need approximately 50 volunteers to staff the above committees. If you are interested in making an active, positive contribution to this year's Street Fair, whether you have been a member of the Point Association for many years or are a new member, give Bob Ogurek a call at 847-7317 (after 6:00 PM). We are particularly interested in encouraging participation from some of our new members and neighbors. The Street Fair is an excellent means for getting to know some of the "old-timers" (both young and maybe not-so-young). So, don't be bashful, give Bob a call.

* * * * *

TO WHOM CREDIT IS DUE. . .

The Point Association is indebted to Robert Stephenson for his interest in and serious commitment to the aims of the organization. Not the least of his services has been as Point representative to the Super Group, the coalition of neighborhood associations in Newport. His recent resignation from that office is accepted with regret and the profound gratitude of all Pointers for his selfless service.

Our thanks to Edith Ballinger Price for the use of her Newport prints for the cover of our December and February issues.

* * * * *

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to the following new members:

Linda Dunn
Marilyn and Christopher Piurek
Betty and Lynn Walker
Donald and Lee Geary
Jackie and Mark Lansing
G. Garrett Haas
Margaret M. Shea

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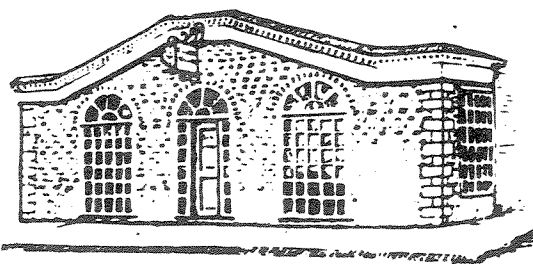
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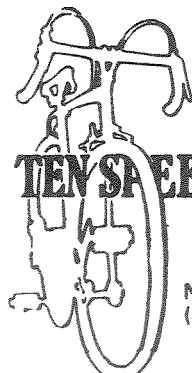


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POT LUCK SUCCESS

Co-chair Donna Maytum and Mary Jo Ogurek want to recognize the following people who made this year's Pot Luck Supper so successful. Thank you all so much!

Mary Schreiber (Mary spent several hours helping set up the hall and couldn't stay for dinner--great Point spirit!), Mary O'Neill, Sophy Martin, Muriel Case, Mary Sargent, Sarah Gilson, Diane McNamara, Mary Rommel, Theo Duncan, Mary Shea, Fisher Benson, Oddie Newell, Elsa Nesbitt, Ned Sherman, Bob Elster, Dede Elster, Jack Maytum, Bob Ogurek, Charlie Duncan, Jo-Anne Reddington.

Hope we haven't forgotten anyone... things do get hectic!

The Holly Tea was held on Dec. 26 at St. John's Guild Hall from 3-6 PM. To those of you who came, we enjoyed seeing you and spending some time with you. To those who didn't make it, we missed you and do hope you will come next year. Dec. 30 from 3-6 at St. Paul's Hall on Marlborough St.

I thank each and every one who helped, those who donated cake, slaved in the kitchen, cleaned the Guild Hall (both before and after), lent card tables and candlesticks, the hostesses who served tea and coffee, the girls who cleared the tables and did all the other "little things"; the talented gentleman who played the piano, the two Colonial hosts, the little girl with the sachet basket; without your help it would not have been possible.

Point members have donated 11 bone china cups and saucers. I have used my cups and saucers each year as well, and if we are to continue to have the tea and it grows (as I sincerely hope it will), we will need more, either by donation or purchase. If you have a cup and saucer you would like to donate, it would be greatly appreciated and tenderly cared for.

(continued on page 11)

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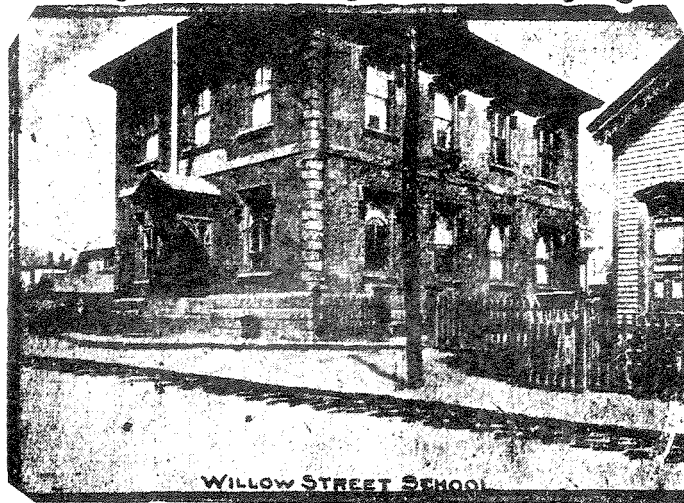
**THE GREEN LIGHT welcomes articles,
suggestions, and letters to the Editor.**

Manuscripts should be typed double space

**and sent to: The Editor
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I remember ---

I remember ---



Built during the presidency of Abraham Lincoln. Enlarged in 1900. Discontinued as a school in 1974.

THE CALLENDER SCHOOL

Like Mumford School which we wrote of in our last issue, Callender is no longer a school but has been remodeled into condominium-type housing. It was sold by the Trustees of Long Wharf in 1980 to a private developer with the proviso that they make no structural changes to the outside of the building.

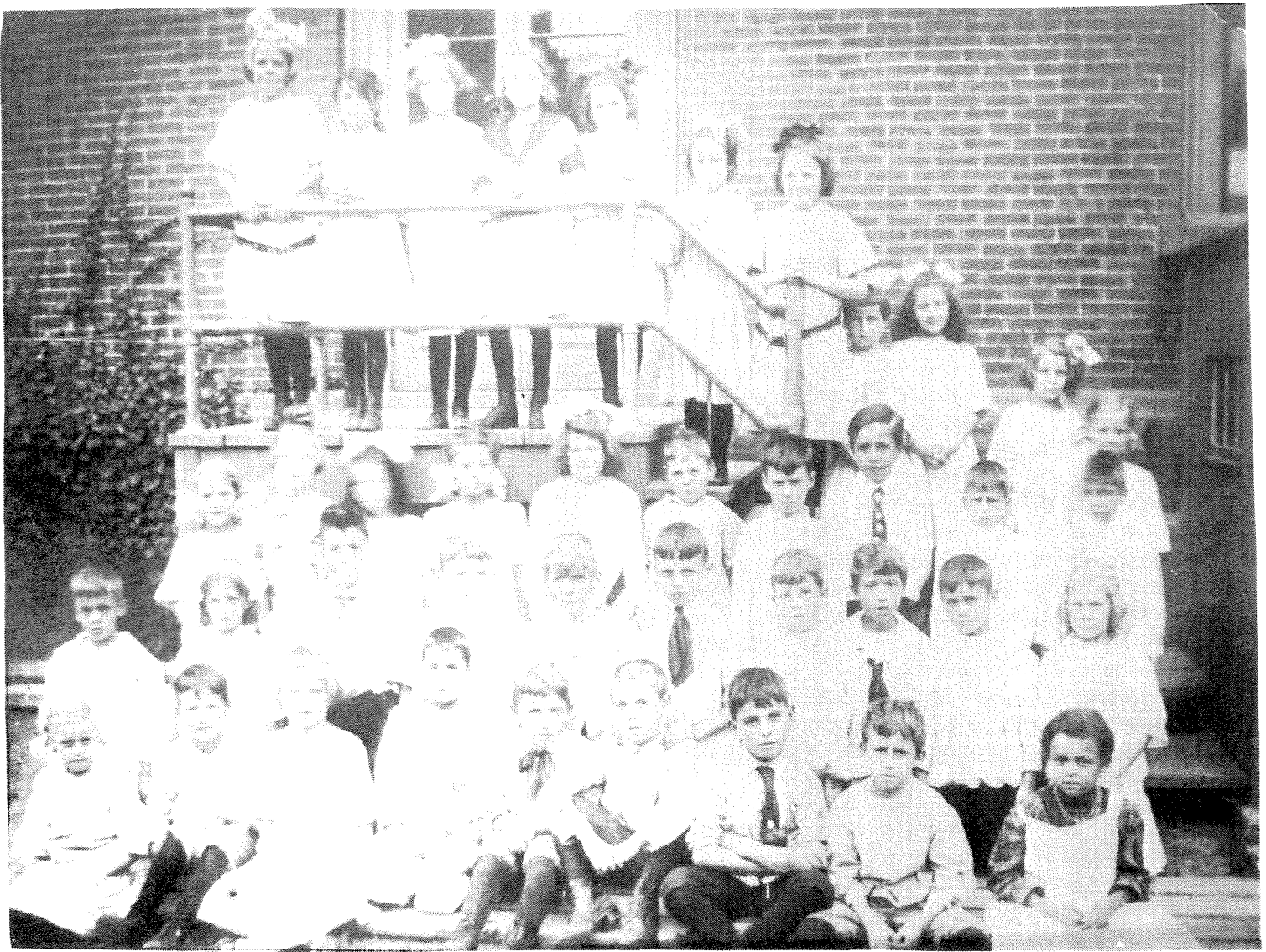
To design the interior, the new owners engaged George Ranalli, a 33 year old professor of the Yale School of Architecture. With a reputation for being an avant-garde designer, he showed great imagination in converting the building into six units patterned on Italian palazzi. Taking full advantage of the structure's unusual height,

he planned the units with galleries (instead of living rooms) overlooked by pairs of balconies. Each condominium has an inglenook--a sheltered space of angles, fireplace, shelves. The total effect is one of light, airiness and space.

The owners live in one of the condominiums and are selling the others.

Continuing with her reminiscences of the Point schools, Gladys Bacheller Booth writes:

"Callender and Potter were built exclusively for the Point children, and I'm so glad that my father, mother, brother and sisters, as well as all our children and some of the grandchildren attended there. I



Third Grade Callender School

One of the members supplied 30 of the 40 names.
Can you connect the faces with the names?

Mildred Tingley, Charolett Devlin, Ruth Miller, Mildred Bacheller, Edie Goddard, Esther MacFadden, Jennie Larsen, Martha Tarr, Mary Brice, May Ackerman, Ruth Milham, Emily Ferngis, Agnes Hackett, Arthur Potter, John Synder, Joe Russell, Donald Sandford, Joseph Bedford, Vincent James, Charles James, John Roberson, Elton Manuel, Maria Johnson, Dorothy Potter, Meses Dannin, William Twigg, Francis Kelly, Raymond Bancroft, Arthur Milliam, ? Sargent.

* * * * *

would not want to be a parent living on the Point today with those beloved schools unavailable to my children.

"What wonderful memories of walking to school and stopping at Ladyman's for candy on the corner of Elm and Third Streets, or Bubba Langley's shop on Chase Street for his wonder-

ful home-made candy; I've never had any since that can equal it.

"We played in the school yard until the bell rang summoning us to get into our respective lines preparatory to entering our classrooms. Then at 11:30 a.m. home for lunch and back again at 1 p.m.

"I entered Callender first grade in 1901. There were four rooms: kindergarten with Miss Clark and Miss Hamlin; Miss Champlin taught the first grade; Miss Saunders, the principal, taught the second; and Miss Maud Stevens the third. Every teacher was a "miss"; there were no married teachers in those days, and no men except those who taught in high school. I think the children loved Miss Saunders best. She was short and stout and wore glasses; she was so kind to us children and she made school such an interesting and happy place to be. We had special teachers once a week. Miss Simester taught us singing, Miss Worthen was our exercise teacher, and Miss Burber taught drawing and painting. We had black tin boxes of water colors and brushes with bamboo handles.

"We copied poems in gem notebooks and memorized them--parts of 'Hiawatha' by Longfellow, and Miss Saunders taught us Lowell's 'First Snowfall' one December when it was snowing.

"There were pictures of Greek statues on the wall, together with 'The Horse Fair' by Rosa Bonheur and Millet's 'The Gleaners'.

"We celebrated Lincoln's birthday February 12th with Civil War songs and poems, and a Civil War veteran visited us when we were in the third grade."

In 1974 the school was no longer needed; it was boarded up and used for storage for five years or so. It was a sad sight to many who had happy memories of their ealy school days there.

Now the old Callender classrooms have embarked on a new life--unique living quarters with the atmosphere of a Mediterranean courtyard. May the creation of joyous memories continue for those who will dwell therein.

Virginia Covell

Callender School in Newport's Point Section.



(continued from page 7)

Would you like to help with the Tea, either by donating your special Christmas bread or cake, serving as a hostess, helping in the kitchen or in any way that will make the Tea a "Point Association Tradition"? Call Dede Elster at 847-0563.

SPRING's ON THE WAY!

Each season has different joys for different people. One of my special joys has to do with the coming of spring--those earliest signs that spring is surely on the way. Small delights, they are found at unexpected times in unexpected places. There is the first crocus blooming in a southern garden corner, followed by snowdrops and scilla. The willow trees are soft and feathery; the maples in swampy places are red with tiny flowers. Sprigs of forsythia brought indoors out of the snow miraculously become golden. The birds sound different, and the first red-winged blackbird or grackle appears. Daffodil and tulip bulbs shoot up too soon, one fears, and are covered by late winter snow--but emerge full of promise. Along a country road at twilight the shrill song of the peepers greets the ear.

Some days are raw, chilly, dismal, but suddenly there is that sunny, mild day that quickens the pulse and whispers that real sun and soft winds will soon be here. Children take off their jackets on the way home from school and splash in puddles and through the mud. Winter clothes are unbearably heavy and bulky.

The florists' windows are bright with flowers that are not yet commonplace in gardens. I purchase a small pot of miniature daffodils--and do not count the cost.

SPRING--it is on the way--just around the corner.

Kit Hammett

ATTENTION SPRING GARDENERS!!

The Providence Journal recently carried an article about a Portsmouth resident who experimented with growing cotton. He's a Navy man, born in Mississippi where cotton is king! He admitted Aquidneck Island is not the ideal place for a cotton crop (it takes 3 months of very hot weather), but he thought it would be fun to try. To his amazement, the plants grew to 5 feet in height and produced beautiful cotton. He realized one or two bushels from his 12'x 15' "plantation".

His efforts brought to mind the subject of other crop experimentation. In 1744, Ezra Stiles began the culture of the silk worm. It had become a regular craze in several parts of Rhode Island; it was found that the white mulberry would grow in this climate, and, of course, silk clothing was a much desired luxury. Mr. Stiles had several thousand silkworms, and with the help of his wife and friends to do the laborious spinning, succeeded in getting enough silk for almost one dress. It had to be added to by a Philadelphia silk enthusiast, and the thread had to be manufactured into cloth in London. Both Ezra Stiles and the other silk experimenters found that unwinding the thread from the cocoons was a tedious and time-consuming labor for which no one in the Colonies was prepared.

In more recent years, flax has been proposed as a crop well-suited to the Newport climate. With this product too, the matter of a labor force to get it from field to factory seems to be lacking.

With present day prices of old-fashioned cotton, real silk, and pure linen, they are products that are once again in the luxury class. Perhaps the experimenters should have another try for the new markets.

BOOK REVIEW

Two books are recommended this month: Maverick in Mauve and Upset: Australia Wins The America's Cup.

MAVERICK IN MAUVE

The Diary of Florence Adele Sloane (1873-1960) with commentary by Louis Auchincloss.

Adele Sloane was born into most fortunate circumstances. Her father, William, was one of the founders of the well-known furniture and rug business, W. & J. Sloane Company. Her mother was the former Emily Vanderbilt, one of Henry Vanderbilt's eight children. Adele had a happy home life and many aunts and uncles to visit. They included Uncle George in Asheville, North Carolina, Aunt Lila Webb at Shelburne on Lake Champlain and, of course, Newport.

The commentator speaks of these visits: "Accompanied by a flotilla of first cousins: Vanderbilts,

Shepards, Webbs, Twomblys, Sloanes... they move in an amiable, chattering flock... We see them cantering through the hills in the Berkshires on a crisp autumn day, riding a buckboard on the trails of Mount Desert Island, watching a sunset from the deck of a steam yacht..."

The diarist is a sensitive, highly intelligent young lady with an intense interest in people and in her surroundings; in addition, she has a true writer's gift for words. It is an experience to read about the things one has known for years--the Newport estates and their families, the picnics, cotillions, coaching parties--and watch them take on new life from her word pictures. Adele enjoys them all, and through her eyes you enjoy them, too.

Adele Sloane was the grandmother of Louis Auchincloss's wife; hence the wonderful "family album" pictures that accompany the diary.

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The diary covers a relatively short period of the author's life, but the commentator fills in carefully, so you are never left to wonder how things turned out.

UPSET: AUSTRALIA WINS THE AMERICA'S CUP by Michael Levitt and Barbara Lloyd. Color photography by Dan Nerney.

This book was published just before Christmas, 1983, and it is still a big seller at the Armchair Sailor Bookstore. It is also available at the Newport Public Library and Redwood Library.

If you were confused over last summer's events, especially the keel controversy, or if you felt the news was largely in favor of the American boats, you will enjoy reading UPSET. It gives Australia's side of the story.

In addition to a comprehensive history of the America's Cup races, it tells about the lives of those who participated in the 1983 challenge: John Bertrand, Alan Bond, Ben Lexcen. How different were their early lives and education from that of their American counterparts! But there was also a subtle similarity--their ingenuity, their love of the sea and boats, their informality, their sense of humor.

Each race of the fateful summer of 1983 is presented with simple clear diagrams showing its course and outcome. The appendix has a complete chart of every race since 1851, with the timing, course, competing boats and results, all in meticulous detail.

A beautiful section of two dozen color photographs brings to mind the summer's high action.

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Besides the racing information, there is a chapter called "The Party Circuit" which reviews the social events: the British Victory Ball, the America's Cup Ball, the Italian Syndicate's Ball, the Louis Vuitton clambake (à la Française), the Canadian's breakfast and hockey game, the many syndicate parties. One socialite, who has spent 60-odd summers in Newport, said "It was the greatest summer ever. . . there were more interesting and attractive people than ever before, more glamorous boats, more wonderful parties, more tension, more suspense, more intrigue."

If you were too busy last summer to keep abreast of the daily round of events, this book is an invaluable help in getting caught up with the happenings.

Virginia Covell

CLAGGETT CLOCKS

When your nephew, brother or friend visits you here in Newport and you discover that he is an antique clock buff who wants to see Claggett clocks, do you know where to find them? It's easy! Even without visitors, you may be interested in these famous time-pieces made by Pointers before the Revolution in the time of Newport's great cabinetmakers, silversmiths and clock makers.

So, where to go? The Newport Historical Society on Touro Street has three Claggett clocks. One is a wall clock, which hangs in the Seventh Day Baptist Church which is part of the Society's building. Also in that building are two tall Claggett clocks which we call "grandfather" clocks. One, on permanent loan, was shipped here from Seattle, Washington. The other was given to the Society by a gentleman who had a number of antique pieces in a warehouse here. A week after the clock was installed in the Historical Society, the warehouse burned, and all pieces were lost. What a fortunate bequest!

Another Claggett clock is to be seen in the Redwood Library. The case for this clock is "japanned", a fashionable type of finishing for furniture in the pre-Revolution period.

The Caleb Claggett family came to Newport in the early 1700's, and eventually settled on Bridge Street, where the main house with its brick end still stands. Caleb, the father, was a baker, his oldest son William became the famous clock maker, and two other Claggetts followed him in the trade. William was much more than a clock maker; he was an organ builder, a maker of compasses, and an experimenter in electricity--a mechanical genius. His sons, William, II and Thomas, and his son-in-law, James Wady, continued the clock making. A James Wady clock is to be found in the Historical Society.

Claggett clocks were made in the pre-Revolution period, and it is assumed that many of the beautiful cases were made by Goddard or Townsend cabinetmakers. Works for the clocks originally came from England, but after a ban on such imports, the Claggetts used their own mechanical skill to make the various parts. Some of the clocks are marvels of ingenuity, showing the days, months and even the tides. The faces were indeed works of art. The early Claggett clocks were "tall", and Thomas is credited with making smaller or "grandmother" clocks.

Richard Champlin of the Redwood Library staff has written several fine articles about the Claggetts, James Wady and also Quaker clockmakers including David Williams who may have apprenticed with the Claggetts. Williams is also known as a maker of barometers. These articles are found in Newport History, bulletins of the Newport Historical Society. Our thanks to him and to Mrs. Peter Bolhouse at the Society for their help.

Kit Hammett

SAVE THE BAY

Save the Bay plans citizens' conference on Aquidneck Island: To help residents of Aquidneck better understand how to protect the Island's natural resources, Save the Bay will sponsor "Shaping Aquidneck's Future-- A Citizens' Conference on Land Use Decisions".

The conference will provide an opportunity to meet elected officials and environmental regulators, to exchange ideas with other Island groups and individuals working to preserve Aquidneck Island's environment and to learn how to influence land use decisions that will shape the Island's future.

Workshops will cover areas of concern such as harborfront development, promoting regional cooperation and strategies for saving open land. Other workshops will concentrate on skills such as effective public input at planning boards, zoning boards and town councils, researching an issue and communicating your message to other concerned citizens as well as the press.

"This conference is crucial for everyone who cares about what happens to Aquidneck Island's waters, its open spaces, its special way of life", said Janet McHale, Save the Bay's Public Education Coordinator and organizer of the conference.

The conference will be held at the Portsmouth Middle School on Saturday, April 28th from 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM. The cost per person is \$6 to cover lunch and all hand-out materials. To register, call Save the Bay at 272-3540 or 849-8430.

* * * * *



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