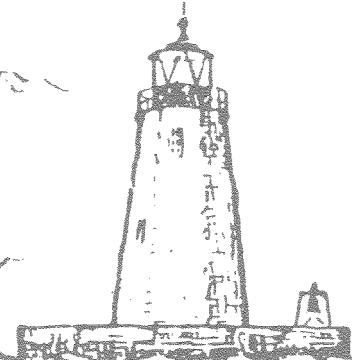


DECEMBER 1987

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The GREEN LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND





The GREEN LIGHT

Vol. XXXII. No. 6

DECEMBER 1987

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CALENDAR

Sunday, December 27, Holly Tea,
St. Paul's Church, 3-5:30 p.m.
December 26, 27, and 28. Christmas-
in-Newport House Tour on the Point.
3:30-5:30 p.m.

January, 1988. General Meeting
Date to be announced.

Cover Photo: Mrs. Herbert Rommel,
right, congratulates the First Place
winners of the 1986 Christmas doorway
contest: Dr. Richard Wiklund and his
wife, Claire, of 43 Poplar St.

Photo courtesy of Daily News

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

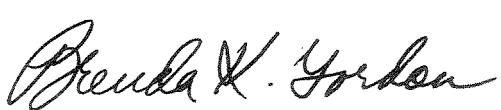
As I start out on my second year as president of this association, I look forward to working with the new people on our Board. We all welcome Roberta Majewski as Recording Secretary; Jean Desrosiers as Corresponding Secretary; Peter Kent as Nominating chairman; and Taff Roberts as chairman of Programs/Activities. It's nice to have some new blood and fresh approaches.

While we have not settled on a new Fair chairman, we're brimming with ideas for next year's Fair. As I said at the annual meeting, we're looking at a new kind of raffle with paintings and/or other prizes such as a ship's model. If anyone has any other suggestions, we'd be glad to receive them. Spencer Valmy has taken on the task of raffle chairman. We are also considering moving the Fair date into September, and thereby making it possible to have more autumnal activities such as cider pressing as attractions.

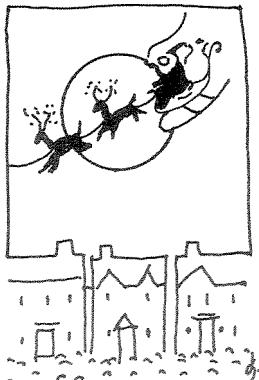
Meanwhile, the holidays are upon us, and Didi Elster is forging ahead with plans for the Holly Tea. We hope that many members will attend this truly delightful event, to be held on December 27th at St. Paul's Church from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m.

I'd like to wish all of you very happy Holidays, and a joyous New Year. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president.

Sincerely,



Brenda K. Gordon



POINT ASSOCIATION NEWS

THANKS TO ALL WHO MADE OUR FALL ACTIVITIES A SUCCESS:

Cocktail Party

Just as the October issue of The Green Light was coming from the printer, we were enjoying the Cocktail Party for new and old members at the Newport Yacht Club. It was an enjoyable and convivial occasion, with much animated conversation! Many thanks to the organizers, Rose Favier and Brenda Gordon, and to all who contributed the delicious and beautiful hors d'oeuvres.

Candidates Forum

On October 7, the candidates for the Council came to a Point Association gathering at St. Paul's Church to answer questions and to explain their views on several issues. Pete Peters was the presiding officer and time-keeper. A short time before the meeting, each candidate had been given a series of questions, and their answers were printed in folders which were distributed to the audience as they arrived. With these answers, plus a short talk by each candidate, and the response to questions from the floor, we felt we were better able to judge their candidacy. Many thanks to all who organized and participated in the program.

Annual Meeting

This took place on October 15. Thanks to our membership chairman's preliminary work, we received many new members, and many renewed memberships. The discussions which took place are covered in other parts of this issue -- particularly in PRESSURE POINTS. The other significant action taken was a vote to contribute \$500 to The Museum Of Yachting in memory of Thomas Benson for recognition of his work toward preservation and restoration.

THOUGHTS ON THE "OPEN SPACE BOND ISSUE"

Nobody doesn't like the open space bond issue. Its passage in the recent election attests to this. Throughout the state, people have suddenly begun to realize that the warning might indeed come true; in five years, there might not be any open space to buy.

Here in Newport, there will be a difficult job ahead just in establishing priorities for a shopping list. Bruce Bartlett, the City's Director of Planning and Development, has already identified 35 properties for potential acquisition. If the Council agrees, that is only the beginning, next steps include approaching owners, addressing zoning issues, possible transfer or acquisition of development rights, and last, but not least, the potential outright acquisition of property.

On the other side of the coin, there isn't going to be that much money to play with. While \$65.2 million sounds like a lot of money, \$15 million will come off the top to the state for its own choice of open spaces. About \$5.2 million will be spent on the state's urban parks. Then the \$45 million that's left will be portioned out in matching grants to the 39 municipalities of Rhode Island -- half for refurbishing, half for the acquisition of open space.

And there's the rub. There will be a great deal of competition for that money. Newport is guaranteed only \$250,000 for the upgrading of Miantonomi and Freebody Parks. While Newport's \$1 million bond issue can hopefully be leveraged with the state money to equal approximately \$3.25 million, what will that buy in Newport? Not very much, these days.

Perhaps we can, like Oliver Twist, ask for more money for the future. Meanwhile, we can only hope that what we get is not too little, too late.



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Brenda Gordon

Hail to the chief! - a grown-up-on-the Pointer, Steven Weaver, who was recently sworn in as the Chief of the Newport Police Department. Steven is the son of Eleanor and George Weaver who presently live in a house at the corner of Chestnut and Washington Streets. His mother reports that even in his early years, he was determined to be in law enforcement. Now he has reached a new peak in his police career, having served many years in the local department, most recently as head of the Detective Division. He is the youngest man to be appointed to this position. We congratulate Chief Weaver.

- - - - -

The Benson family has flashed through the newspapers this fall. In the special feature "The 'Cities' By The Sea" in the Providence Sunday Journal Magazine of October 11th, Esther Fisher Benson was quoted in relation to the "Second City" -the Revolutionary period. She was pictured in her 18th century home on Washington Street. Fisher is a Green Light staff member who continuously contributes her love for and knowledge of colonial Newport to the planning of our bimonthly issues.

Douglas Riggs, author of the article is also a Pointer, who lives on Farewell Street. It is an excellent article.

- - - - -

Richard Benson, Fisher's son, is a Born-on-the-Pointer who has been recently recognized for his knowledge and development of photographic printing technologies of the past and present. This most recent recognition was as a recipient of one of this year's Governor's Art Awards. The award was a bronze medallion and a grant of \$500 presented by Governor Edward DiPrete at a ceremony at the Newport Art Museum in October. Other recognitions were given in the fields of illustrating, music, and creative writing.

In his presentation, the Governor said, "The past year has given us a unique opportunity to recognize the special contribution that the arts played in the heritage and culture of Rhode Island."

Kit Hammett

STELLA MARIS

Plans are before the Historic District Commission. The four buildings proposed on the east side of Washington Street are being reviewed.

NEWPORT OFFSHORE

Pete Peters is in charge of an investigative committee to study the Newport Offshore development. Capitol Growth's proposal is before the Redevelopment Agency. A tentative agreement with the shipyard to maintain a one-acre shipyard with some slips, hauling of boats, and minor repairs has been proposed along with the small hotel and condos. The issue will probably wait for the new Council.

MR. MAHER'S SHREDDER

Mr. Loftus of the S.W.A.M.P. Association says his group is maintaining a wait-and-see attitude. Mr. Maher will present his plans to the Council soon. It is probable that more truck traffic will be generated because the garbage has to be brought in, and then processed garbage will be trucked out. 300 tons of garbage a day will be processed by the shredder operation. Watch for notice of a public hearing and please attend.

CIRCULATOR ROAD

Latest plans are at Ade Bethune's if anyone cares to see them. More revisions can be anticipated.

Liz Bermender



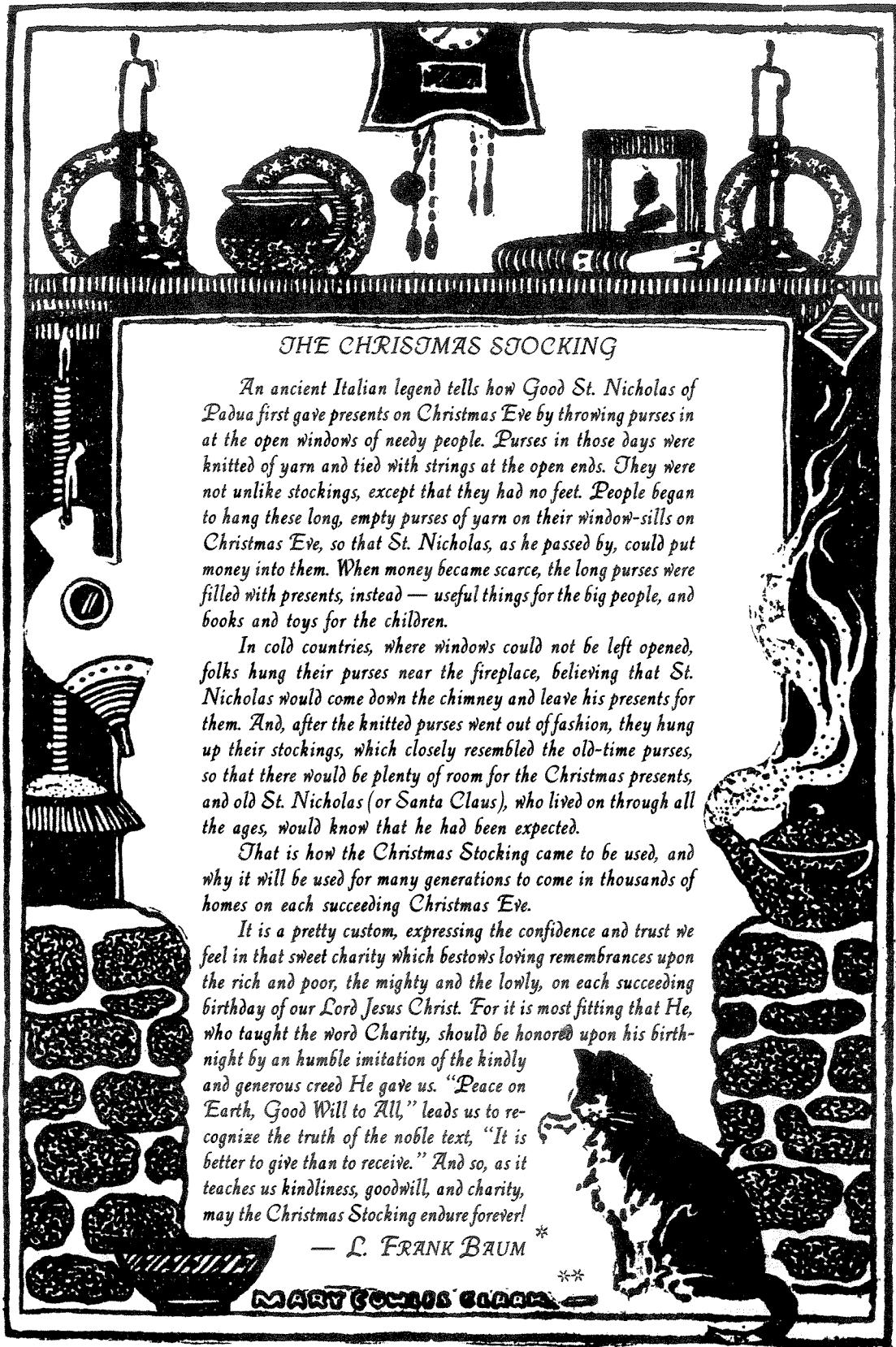
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THE CHRISTMAS STOCKING

An ancient Italian legend tells how Good St. Nicholas of Padua first gave presents on Christmas Eve by throwing purses in at the open windows of needy people. Purses in those days were knitted of yarn and tied with strings at the open ends. They were not unlike stockings, except that they had no feet. People began to hang these long, empty purses of yarn on their window-sills on Christmas Eve, so that St. Nicholas, as he passed by, could put money into them. When money became scarce, the long purses were filled with presents, instead — useful things for the big people, and books and toys for the children.

In cold countries, where windows could not be left opened, folks hung their purses near the fireplace, believing that St. Nicholas would come down the chimney and leave his presents for them. And, after the knitted purses went out of fashion, they hung up their stockings, which closely resembled the old-time purses, so that there would be plenty of room for the Christmas presents, and old St. Nicholas (or Santa Claus), who lived on through all the ages, would know that he had been expected.

That is how the Christmas Stocking came to be used, and why it will be used for many generations to come in thousands of homes on each succeeding Christmas Eve.

It is a pretty custom, expressing the confidence and trust we feel in that sweet charity which bestows loving remembrances upon the rich and poor, the mighty and the lowly, on each succeeding birthday of our Lord Jesus Christ. For it is most fitting that He, who taught the word Charity, should be honored upon his birth-night by an humble imitation of the kindly and generous creed He gave us. "Peace on Earth, Good Will to All," leads us to recognize the truth of the noble text, "It is better to give than to receive." And so, as it teaches us kindness, goodwill, and charity, may the Christmas Stocking endure forever!

— L. FRANK BAUM *

**

MARY COWLES CLARK

* From:

"The Christmas Stocking Series" of miniature storybooks, first published by The Reilly & Britton Company in 1905.

**

[Mary Cowles Clark drew this fireplace for a 1909 volume, *Hints for Housekeepers*; seven years earlier, she had illustrated L. Frank Baum's *The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus*.]

THE JOY OF LIGHTS

December is a season of lights.

Lights shine early in the late afternoon, on doorways, in the streets, and for those who can see it, there is a soft glow in the western sky. But it is the special lights of the holiday time that bring great joy during December. There is the delight in walking in one's neighborhood and seeing candles in many windows, beautifully decorated doorways or evergreens aglow with bright lights. Through windows, one glimpses lighted trees and candles.

Inside churches and homes, the Advent candles are lighted each Sunday before Christmas. In synagogues and homes, menorahs are lighted at Chanukah. In homes, too, there are more-than-usual candles to brighten holiday festivities and gatherings.

The Advent candles are traditionally three purple and one rose, placed in a circle. Purple is the liturgical color for Advent, the rose symbolizes "gaudete" or rejoicing. The circle represents everlasting life. Often a central candle is the "Christ candle", lighted on Christmas Eve.

In Jewish homes, the lighting of the menorah candles is a ceremony to mark the "Festival of Lights", commemorating the Jewish victory against the oppression of the Syrians and Greeks. Chanukah is also a time of dedication, sometimes called "The Feast of the Dedication". The lights are kindled each evening for eight days, the number increasing by one daily. Usually the menorah holding the candles is an eight branched candlestick, with a ninth candle, the shamash, from which the others are lighted. In some homes, the menorah consists of eight small lamps which are lighted in the same manner as the candles. Chanukah is a time of dedication, of the exchange of gifts, and of festivity.

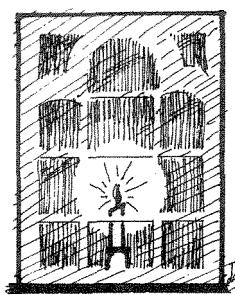
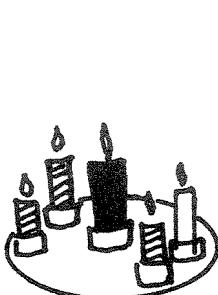
A local custom, revived by Christmas-in-Newport, is the lighting of a single clear white (now electric, but long ago a tallow) candle in many windows. The custom recalls Colonial days when a lighted tallow was a sign of hospitality, and also an invitation to the Christ Child to enter hearts and homes.

Other lovely candle light is shed by luminarias. This custom, from our Latin American neighbors, is sometimes used to outline the path to a doorway. Candles, imbedded in sand in paper bags stay lighted even in wind, and cast a soft glow for those who enter. This lighting, too, invites the Christ Child to enter the home.

Lights of the holidays - what joy they bring!

Kit Hammett

(Our thanks to Rabbi Mark Jagolinzer and the Reverend Robert M. Mitchell for their help.)



TALES TO TELL

Almost every ship off the Point brings forth a story from Bob Jackson of Second Street. Bob has spent most of his life at sea, his license as a marine engineer having been issued 12 times, each for a five-year period. At 90 years of age Bob still walks the waterfront every day. Recently as we met at the causeway checking the progress of the Staten Island ferry which is being converted into a jail for New York City, this tale was brought to mind.

While serving in the U. S. Lighthouse Service on the "Larkspur" out of New York in 1926, Bob spent some weekends and overhaul periods on Staten Island. Then it cost a nickel to ride the ferry into the city. One cold, winter night he was returning to his ship about midnight; at this hour most of the passengers were huddled in the main cabin. However, Bob preferred to sit on the top deck, and he pointed out, this newer ferry in the Newport Shipyard has two top decks rather than the single one of the older ferries. Two young boys suddenly ran up to him screaming that someone had just jumped overboard. Bob hurried them off to the captain in the pilot house.

Immediately the captain ran to the pilot house at the opposite end of the ferry and reversed direction telling Bob to let him know when they got to the correct spot. This was a bit difficult in the pitch darkness, and they never expected to find anyone. A mounted searchlight soon picked out a woman floating in the water; her long skirts had acted as a little pontoon. She had hoped to end her life, not realizing that her clothing would act as a parachute. One of the police on the main deck took off his coat and shoes and jumped overboard as Bob threw out a life preserver and a boat was lowered. The poor, dejected, sad-looking woman was rescued in a bewildered state. She hadn't succeeded in her plan. The next day's papers carried the story, with pictures, of the cop (Bob was back on his ship!) receiving \$1,000 reward and a promotion.

This is just one of his tales. Bob can go on and on. He came to the United States 84 years ago at the age of six from England with his Irish mother. His father had been killed in a railroad accident. There's not much he doesn't remember about people and places in Newport over the years. He learned small-boat handling here in the harbor when he ran shop boats to the navy ships at age 15 and then liberty boats from the Government Landing to the double lines of battleships and cruisers off Jamestown. He says the most treacherous part of that trip was clearing the rocky peninsula north of Rose Island.

Bob ran steam and diesel engines on many of the famous yachts, the Fall River Line, the ferries to the Torpedo Station and Jamestown, and during World War I served in the Navy. He also served in the Merchant Service during the Second World War. He sailed on the URI oceanographic vessel "Trident" on its research trips. That adds up to a lot of nautical miles and lots of stories -- all of which he loves to tell.

Kay O'Brien



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NAVAL UNIFORMS

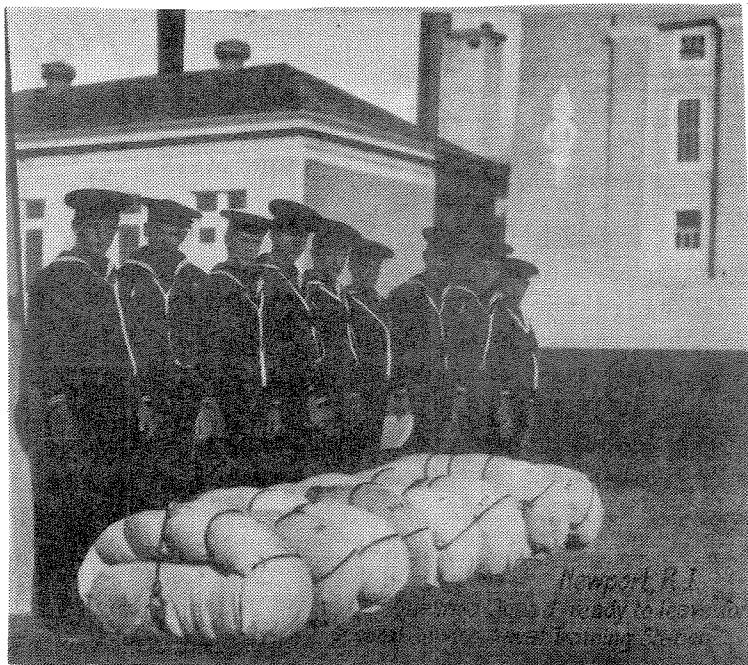
On July 1, 1975, the Navy uniform changed to conform with more modern day standards. It then became harder to distinguish a petty officer from a chief petty officer since the sailor's bell-bottomed trousers were now a thing of the past. A few years ago, the Navy uniform reverted to what it had been previous to 1975.

The more traditional uniform evolved from the practical use of the different parts of what makes up the present-day uniform.

Sailors' bell-bottomed trousers were worn large at the bottom to roll up easily above the knee for scrubbing decks. This type of trouser was of great practical value when seamen went overboard in shallow water to land pulling boats.

The white pill box hat was used to bail out a boat years ago and to catch rain water. The versatile hat also protected a man's head from the sun while on deck duty.

The three stripes on the neck flap are said to be in commemoration of the three original colonies who founded our U.S. Navy, but Naval Customs, Traditions, and Usage by Leland P. Lovette, maintains that they were selected for purely decorative effect, and have no special significance, tradition to the contrary.



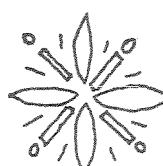
The two stars in the opposing corners of the neck flap are said to be in memory of two admirals who served their country brilliantly -- John Paul Jones, the Father of the American Navy, and George Dewey, who acquitted himself so bravely at Manila Bay.

Lastly, the black silk neckerchief, tied in a square knot, is in the tradition of the original Navy uniform. It started life as a "sweat rag". Black hid the dirt. It was worn both around the forehead and the neck. Some men in "pigtail" days used it to protect their jackets.

On November 10, the Navy announced two new additions to the current uniforms. The new ruling allows Navy men to carry umbrellas in bad weather. They "will be plain, solid black, without ornamentation" and "will be carried in the left hand to permit saluting."

In addition, when it gets really cold, the men and women of the Navy are now authorized to wear earmuffs. They must be Navy blue and may only be worn while wearing an overcoat.

Florence Archambault





Holiday Greetings
from the
Green Light Staff



Martha Mellor's Gingersnaps

1 stick butter
 $\frac{1}{2}$ stick of lard or margarine
 $\frac{1}{2}$ pound light brown sugar
1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups Orleans molasses (dark)
4 cups flour
1 TBSP. cinnamon
1 TBSP. (scant) ginger

Cream the shortening with the brown sugar. Add the molasses and the flour (with spices). This makes a solid hunk of dough, fairly heavy. Wrap the dough in plastic and keep in the refrigerator until you are ready to bake. Then cut off a comfortable hunk, roll it out just under $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick and cut into shapes with cookie cutter. This dough makes an excellent gingerbread man, with raisins for his buttons, eyes, etc.

Bake in a moderate oven, about 10 min.
(Watch "em, they burn easy) Will keep
ever so long in a tight tin.

Esther Fisher Benson

Christmas Krisp

1. Place in buttered 10x6x2" baking dish, 4 cups sliced apples.
 2. Sprinkle with 1 TSP. cinnamon, $\frac{1}{2}$ TSP. salt.
 3. Rub together $\frac{1}{2}$ cup flour, 1 cup sugar, $\frac{1}{3}$ cup butter, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup oatmeal.
 4. Press lightly on top of apples.
 5. Sprinkle $\frac{1}{4}$ cup water over all.

Bake 350° for 40 min. Yields 6 servings

Dorothy Sanschagrin

Cooky Press Cookies

I cut this recipe out of the Boston Globe when I was first married and it quickly became one of our family traditions; only now my daughters do the baking and I raid their cookie jars.

1 lb. shortening (Crisco)
1 lb. butter
2 cups sugar
4 eggs
 $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. (10 cups) flour
2 TBSP. vanilla

Mix in a very large bowl in the order given. You may find that you have to mix with your hands. Force through cookie press onto ungreased cookie sheet and bake until brown around the edges. 10-12 min. @ 350°. This recipe makes a lot.

A nice touch is to color part of the dough with green food coloring and use the Christmas tree plate for your cookie press to make miniature trees.

Florence Archambault





Eggnog - Canvas Back Inn - 1943

World War II

6 eggs separated,
1 pint milk
1 pint cream
1 pint bourbon
2 oz. rum
3/4 cup sugar

Beat egg whites until soft peaks form.
Add $\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar a little at a time while beating. Beat egg yolks and add $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar a little at a time while beating. Fold whites into yolks.
Add milk & cream, then stir in bourbon & rum.

Store in a glass or pottery bowl for 2 or 3 days before serving, stirring thoroughly each day. Serve with a dash of nutmeg. Serves 8-10.

Mulled Claret

1 cup sugar
3 cups water
Peel of lemon, cut in strips
12 whole cloves
Cinnamon sticks - 2 or 3 pieces
2 bottles (32 oz. each) burgundy or mountain red wine
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup brandy

Combine sugar, water, peel & spices in a saucepan, bring to a boil, lower heat and simmer 10 minutes. Strain out & discard spices. Stir in brandy and wine. Heat gently but do not allow to boil.

Serve very hot with cinnamon stick muddlers. 20 servings.

Sarah Plumb

(continued on next page)



Chocolate Brandy Balls

(or Rum or Bourbon!)

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups of finely crushed vanilla wafers (about 60 wafers)
1 cup sifted confectioners' sugar
2 TBS. cocoa powder
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup finely chopped walnuts
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup brandy (or bourbon or rum)
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup light corn syrup

Combine wafer crumbs, confectioners' sugar, cocoa powder, and nuts. Stir in brandy (or bourbon or rum) and corn syrup. Add a little water (about 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ Tsp.) if necessary to form mixture into 3/4 inch balls. Roll in granulated sugar. Store in tightly covered container.

Virginia Covell

Scotch Shortbread

1 lb. butter ($\frac{1}{2}$ oleo o.k.)
1 cup sugar
2 TBSP. corn starch
5-6 cups sifted flour

Cream butter - add sugar - mix well.
Add cornstarch to first cup of flour.
Add this flour slowly - mixing well.
Add as much flour as you can. Roll $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick on floured board/cloth. Cut in any shape. I like strips or diagonal cuts. Prick each with fork.

Bake at 300° $\frac{1}{2}$ hr. or more. Dust with powdered sugar.

Kay O'Brien

Making popcorn balls and white pulled candy goes back to my growing-up years, and I still get pleasure from sharing these delicacies at Christmas time. I remember, too, that "pulling candy" - white or molasses - was a gala time, not only at Christmas, but sometimes at teen-age parties when the principal activity was pulling the candy with a boy-partner. Messy, but with delicious results!

Popcorn Balls

6 cups popped corn, sorted to remove unpopped kernals, etc. Place on buttered tray - keep warm.

Syrup:

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. butter	$\frac{1}{4}$ cup sugar
$\frac{1}{2}$ cup molasses	Peppermint extract

Stir sugar, butter, molasses together until sugar is dissolved.

Boil slowly without stirring to the hard ball stage - 290° on candy thermometer, or when small amount dropped in cold water is hard.

Add 2-3 drops peppermint extract and stir. Drizzle syrup over warm popcorn, stirring until kernals are coated (work fast!). With buttered hands, form 3" balls, pressing to shape. Let balls cool. Wrap in plastic wrap or waxed paper squares; twist at top. Tie with bright ribbon.

Pulled White Candy

2 cups sugar
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup white vinegar
 2 TBSP. butter

Melt butter; add sugar and vinegar. Stir until sugar is dissolved. Boil, stirring occasionally, until 290° on candy thermometer, or until small amount dropped in cold water is hard.

Pour on buttered platter - cool just enough to handle.

With buttered hands (using finger tips) fold, and pull until candy is white and firm.

Roll into long strip on buttered platter.

Cut into 3/4 in. pieces - cool.

Wrap pieces in small waxed paper squares, twisting on ends.

Kit Hammett

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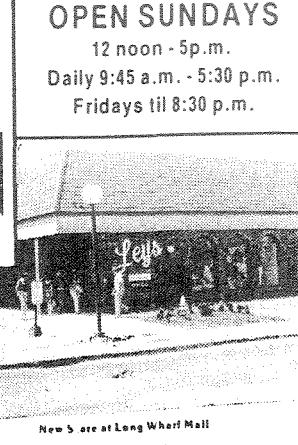
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JACK MARTINS REMEMBERED

Newport has a new park -- its 35th -- as of Sunday, Nov. 8th when the John J. Martins Memorial Park was dedicated. It is a small area bordering on Washington Street and overlooking the Bay, a spot which Jack loved and where he often walked.

Benches for the park were donated by the Friends of Jack Martins and the Point Association; landscaping was done by the city, and more will be done in the Spring.

Over 100 people were present and heard talks by William Gurney (City Director of Recreational and Public Services), Councilman Jack Crowley, Brian Burns (representing the Friends of Jack Martins) and Pete Peters of The Point Association.

A City Council proclamation was presented to the Martins family and Patricia Silveria (Jack's Sister) spoke on behalf of the family.

The speakers emphasized Jack's significant contributions to his neighborhood, his caring work with children, his desire to preserve the environment, and, above all, his love for family, friends and neighbors.

Although Jack died almost a year ago, his presence was very much felt by those who attended the ceremony. We are sure that his memory will long be preserved by the John J. Martins Memorial Park.

Virginia Covell



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THE IRISH NEWPORT

In October a group of 18 New-
porters, led by Mayor and Mrs. Kirby,
toured Ireland with the purpose of
establishing relations with Newport,
County Mayo, and of celebrating our
participation in a reforestation
project there. The group included
Donal and Kay O'Brien and Herb and
and Mary Kommel from the Point.

Newport, County Mayo, Republic
of Ireland and Newport, R.I., USA
have nothing in common except the
happenstance of the same name. But
that is enough to establish a rela-
tionship which can bring to both
communities a broadening of horizons,
friendships and travel opportunities.
Newport is a small town, about 600
population, and it is not a political
entity -- no council, no mayor, no city
government. It is administered by a
county government, County Mayo, one of
the 26 counties of the Republic of Ire-
land.

The people of the town formed a
committee and prepared a royal welcome
for their American visitors. They made
copies of the Newport, R.I. flag; they
had U.S. flags flying; they had an im-
pressive ceremony for the planting of
the representative tree by Mayor Kirby.

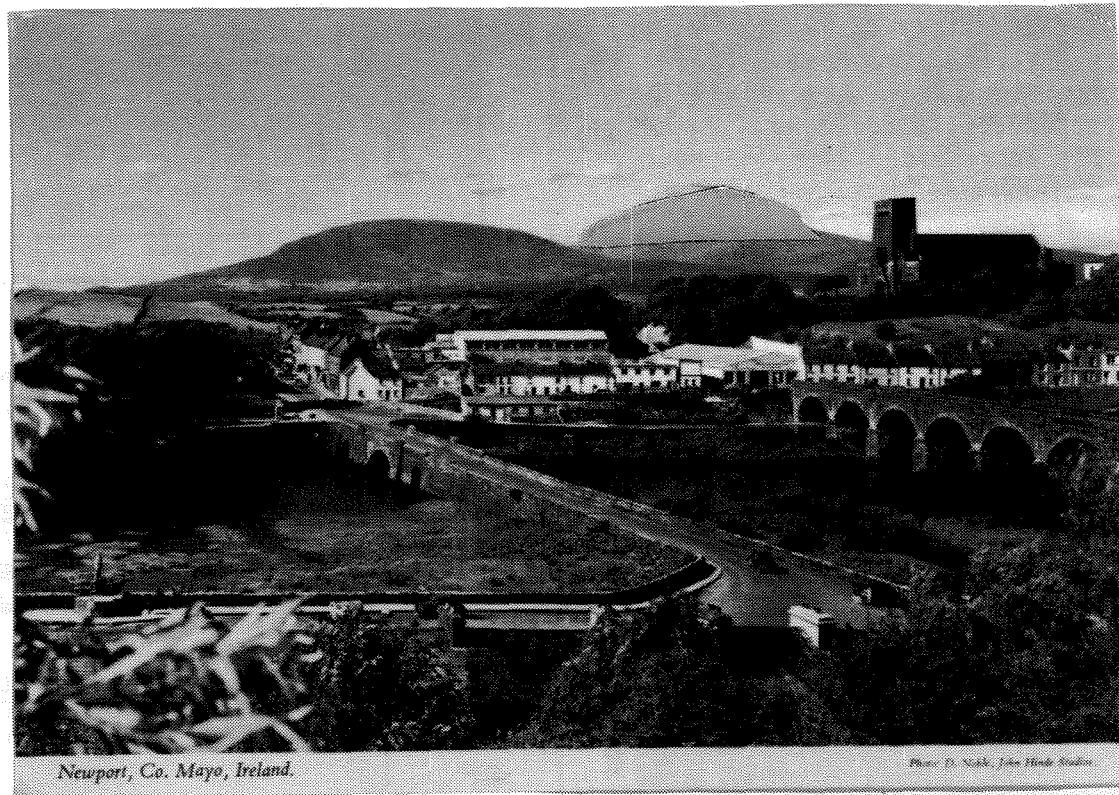
The first evening of our visit there
was a banquet and Irish entertainment,
with singing, dancing, and instrumental
music. When the Irish dance, it is much
like our square dances, though less
structured. More formal dancing is done
by young and old, usually in costume,
sometimes with clogs and sometimes soft
shoe. The next night we were invited to
a community dance hall to participate
in the group dances.

We were shown the forest plots
planted by groups from New York and
Boston and the commemorative plaques. New-
port, R.I. will be the third city to have
a special plot for its donated trees.

Newport is on Clew Bay on the west
coast of Ireland, 100 miles north of
Shannon and 150 miles west of Dublin.
It was established in 1719 when a nearby
town, Burrisheole, was abandoned.

In 1798 Newport had a "Tree of Lib-
erty" which was planted on Main Street
after a French invasion had a limited
success. The "Tree of Liberty" lasted
only five days as the insurgents evacu-
ated Newport and the tree was burned.

Newport is a farming community --
sheep and cattle -- and a tourist com-
munity. The season runs from April 1
to October 1. Newport has one facility
which Newport, R.I. cannot rival -- the



Newport, Co. Mayo, Ireland.

Photo: P. Niall, John Hinde Studios

Newport House Hotel. This is a mansion and garden overlooking the Black Oak River. Built in the late 17th or early 18th century, it was a home until 1940 when it was converted into a hotel run since then by the same family. It is truly elegant; imagine one of the Preservation Society mansions operated in a five-star manner.

The town is dominated by St. Patrick's church built in 1918 on a hill. There is a small Church of Ireland Anglican church. Main Street has a postoffice, but no banks. Three Irish banks provide mobile service, but only on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

We crossed the border between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland twice. This is a true international border. You change currency as well as postoffices. Both times the bus was waved through with no check of passengers or luggage. Most cars were being waved through, but some were stopped and it seemed that all the trucks were stopped for customs or security checks. The driver asked that we not take pictures as another driver had a passenger who did and their bus was stopped and delayed for several hours while all the baggage was checked and identifications verified.

Of course, after two weeks in Ireland one becomes an expert. (That is intended as irony.) Mrs. Kirby arranged for us to have a tour of the Dail, their parliament. This tour is not available to regular tourists. The guide proudly showed us a large original of the 1916 Declaration of Independence which was moving to read. When the revolution failed, all of the signatories were shot. Rebellion continued, and in 1922 a treaty was signed granting 26 counties independence with six counties remaining British.

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I think it is fair to say that an overwhelming majority of people on both sides of the border decry the violence. There are strong forces moving towards accommodation. But there is a minority of strong-willed people on both sides who want to have it all. I think violence will be defeated. The Irish Times newspaper reported the "line of the week" from a play about the troubles in Belfast when one of the characters said, "I wonder what it was like before the Christians came."

Herb Rommel

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REPORT FROM THE CLEAN-UP STUDY GROUP

Five members of the Point Association responded to the invitation of President Brenda Gordon to take a look at the problem of trash and litter: Fisher Benson, Phil Burnett, Posy Hall, John Macomber, and Jane Valmy. They have met three times as a self-styled Clean-up Committee.

This committee has no easy answer to the perplexing problem. It does believe that a city or town or a neighborhood can be as clean as it wants to be. For a significant improvement two points seem essential: 1. that each householder and business proprietor accept responsibility for keeping his or her own premises clean; and 2. that the task of the Point Association is to encourage such responsibility, not now and then, but continually.

To these ends the Committee has developed a number of recommendations as a starting point. They should be amended as time goes by. Nothing in these recommendations is intended to suggest or imply other than voluntary action on the part of the householder or business proprietor except as state laws or city ordinances direct.

Recommendations

The Association encourages each householder and business proprietor within the Point area to accept responsibility for keep his or her front yard, driveway, parking area, sidewalk, streets approximately to the mid-line, and trash storage areas free of trash and litter, including dog-deposits. It encourages such maintenance to be carried out if possible on a daily basis.

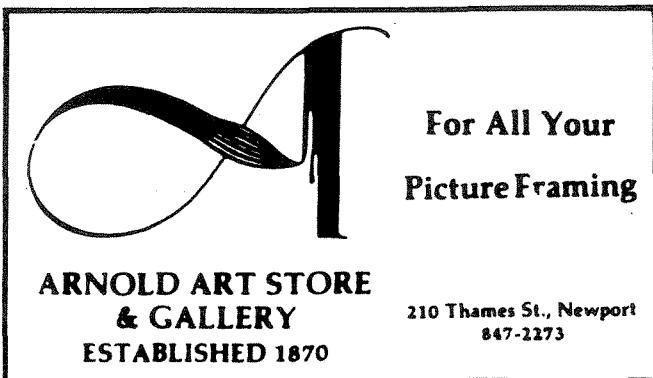
1. That a liaison be established by the Point Clean-up Committee with appropriate departments of the city government, including the Police Department, Public Works, Recreation Department (parks) and Refuse Collection.
2. That to implement our cause we work with school children in making inventive posters and suitable special projects; that we prepare signs and leaflets, and detailed studies of the many aspects of the litter problem, considering our hope for future recycling; the taking of regular space perhaps once a week in the Newport Daily News or Newport This Week, to contain a quote, a thought, a brief announcement of a humorous angle.

3. That we explore the possibility of extra trash barrels in strategic places.

4. That we consider an Adopt-a-Park program, in which one or more people undertake to keep one of our parks clean.

In conclusion, persistence and continuity are all important. Therefore this proposal aims at a steady effort, directed to the indefinite future with a view to changing attitudes of both householder and business proprietor, perhaps even of tourist, so as to bring about gradually a cleaner neighborhood for all of us to live in.

The committee welcomes suggestions.



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A SPECIAL REPORT ON DOGS

In our pursuit of cleanliness on the Point a major problem is the control of wandering dogs who deface our pavements, grassy areas, and parks. The Clean-up Committee is addressing this difficult issue once more, hoping to change attitudes and find reasonable solutions.

First of all, we must try to understand the nature of dogs. They can be taught to use a definite area in their own yards, but their instinct leads them not to deface their own territory. A grassy place outside the yard is often chosen. The pavements are a convenience for older, feebler dogs, also an easy answer for the wanderers. Yet we want our pavements pristine and our parks unsoiled. Where can the dogs go?

The pooper-scooper law (belittled on the front page of the Newport Daily News of October 29) has not succeeded because neither the dog-owner nor the city has implemented it. Yet in New York and other large cities it has been extremely successful. A conscientious dog-walker has the pooper-scoop or plastic bag ready and takes care of his own dog. This is what we mean by a change of attitude. Dog-owners must themselves be personally responsible for their own dogs.

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New Gardens:

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Second Prize: Third and Bridge Sts.
Third Prize: 70 Bridge St.

Side Gardens:

First Prize: 70 Bridge St.
Second Prize: 80 Washington St.
Third Prize: 17 Third St.

Window Boxes:

First Prize: 42 Poplar St.
Second Prize: 18 Second St.
Third Prize: 7 Maitland Ct.

Door Step:

First Prize: 4 Third St.
Second Prize: Sunshine Ct.
Third Prize: 10 Cross St.

Fence Gardens:

First Prize: 67 Bridge St.
Second Prize: 43 Poplar St.
Third Prize: 3 VanZandt Ave.

Porches:

First Prize: 16 Third St.
Second Prize: VanZandt & Washington
Third Prize: 121 Washington St.

Gardens:

First Prize: 57 Second St.
Second Prize: 6 Second St.
Third Prize: 8 Farewell St.

Driveways:

First Prize: 47 Washington St.
Second Prize: 26 Third St.

Walkways:

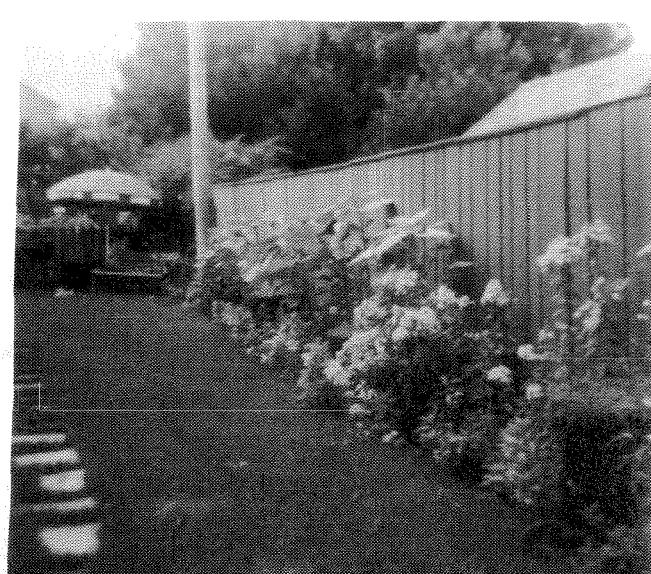
First Prize: 12 Bridge St.

Steps:

First Prize: 8 Bridge St.
Second Prize: 11 Elm St.

Gardens Surrounding Trees:

First Prize: 121 Washington St.
Second Prize: 82 Third St.
Third Prize: 59 Second St.



Back Yard Gardens:

First Prize: 78 Bridge St.

Front Yard Gardens:

91 Third St.
Second Prize: 111 Second St.
Third Prize: 24 VanZandt Ave.

Cooperative Neighbors Gardens:

First Prize: 32 and 34 Third St.
Second Prize: 8 and 10 Willow St.

All Seasons' Garden:

First Prize: 19 Elm St.

Special Awards:

The Nina Lynette Home
Senior Citizens' Housing; 20 A &
22 Coddington St.
The Rhumb Line
Fire House at 21 Marlborough St.
Third & Elm Press
The Hunter House

We have added three special awards
this year in honor of three very spec-
ial people -- Alice Weldon, Tom Benson,
and James Douglas -- who have gone home
to God's garden.

The James Douglas Rosette

71 Third St.

The Tom Benson Rosette

32 and 34 Willow St.

The Alice Weldon Rosette

19 Elm Street

This year's chairman was Mary
Shepard. The judges included Alice
Weldon, Esther Burnett, Kay O'Brien,
Suzanne Auobois and her daughter, Marie
Coburn.

Thank you everyone for your lovely
plantings which made the Point the
prettiest garden spot in the city.

Mary Heins Rommel, Chairman
Mary Shepard, Vice-chairman
Beautification Committee



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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A warm welcome to our newest members:

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 Jean Higgins
 Robert Houlihan
 Melanie Preston
 Lisa Smith
 Mrs. Philip Smith
 Lauren Stevenson
 Margaret M. Thompson
 Mrs. Irene Weston
 George L.G. Whitley

Heartfelt thanks to all of you who responded so promptly to our first time ever first class dues notice mailing! As of Nov. 15th, paid memberships total 317 - remarkable for this time of year. For "you others", if you've lost the card, there is still a membership renewal form on the last page of The Green Light. Do let us hear from you.

Rowan Howard

CLASSIFIED
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Dorothy Sanschagrin 846-6714

French translator & interpreter seeks translations. Certified & completely bilingual. French/English (American) or English (American)/French. Commercial & legal documents. Letters.

References available upon request.

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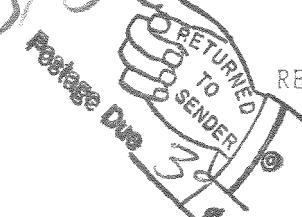


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