The GREEN LIGHT

BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

APRIL 1988
The GREEN LIGHT
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COVER: The Steamer NOBSKA at Long Wharf
(Steamer MT. HOPE in background) Photo by Wm. King Covell, lent by Wm. Ewen

Picture credits: Kenneth Zammer and Robert Covell - house at 86 Third St. Rosalys Hall - Julia Ward Howe
Now that spring is here we can all look forward to the blossoming of colorful gardens all around the Point. On our walks through the neighborhood it is always uplifting to see the care that has been lovingly bestowed on the smallest of garden patches -- sometimes just a pot of flowers on the front steps.

Gardening enthusiasts will be glad to know that Rosalys Hall and her dedicated committee have already begun to plan the biggest and best plant sale ever. Details are elsewhere in this issue. The plant sale provides an opportunity to meet neighbors and exchange information, as well as to acquire some interesting plants.

To show what can be done with our somewhat limited spaces, Mary Rommel will be showing us some slides of summer gardens on the Point at our April general meeting. We hope that many of you will come.

Would that our fauna gave us all as much pleasure as our flora. Gardeners or not, those of us who enjoy walking in our neighborhood, issue yet another plea to dog owners to observe the leash law and to purchase pooper scoopers. The complaints we receive from tourists and residents alike are legion and well justified. Surely we can set as high a standard for our public sidewalks and parks as we do for our own back yards.

On that note of hopeful exhortation, I'd like to wish you all a happy Eastertide and a clear path into spring.
PRESSURE POINTS

SHIPYARD DEVELOPMENT

The Redevelopment Agency has sent a recommendation to the Council that a change to special waterfront use be granted to Capitol Growth's developers. Proposed modifications to the plans include a one-acre yacht repair facility (continued marine use), small restaurant, hotel and condos. Continued concerns outlined in a February 14th letter to the council are: (1) density, that underwater lots should not be considered as part of the land area and (2) parking, that onsite arrangements be adequate. A Walkway is planned as part of the development.

CSO FACILITY (Combined Sewer Overflow)

A single bid of $10.3 million by Hope Building Company of Cranston was received for construction of the CSO Facility. The bid is five per cent higher than the city anticipated. $6.5 million shall be funded by a grant from the Federal Government.

Still a major concern is the location of the sewage outflow pipe now planned to end under the causeway. Globe Manufacturers (owners of Goat Island) spent a considerable sum on an environmental impact study. They have filed formal objections with the Coastal Resource Management Council (CRMC). An easement through to the west side of the island where the outflow pipe would discharge into the open waters of the Bay has been suggested. The CRMC objects to this, citing degradation of water quality. This argument is spurious; if so, it must mean degradation of Point waters also, with the probable closing of Elm Street pier and adjacent shores to swimming and fishing. It is the cost of extending the outflow pipe to west of the island that is prohibitive.

CIRCULATOR ROAD

A Newport Advisory Committee will meet on March 29.

RIPTA BUS ROUTES

Bus routes on the Point will remain the same. The only change will be that the point of departure/return will be at the transportation center.

ROSE ISLAND

The Environmental Review Team Report commissioned by the City Council was not good news for the developers. The major recommendation was that no more than four dwellings be allowed without sewer/water connections to the mainland.

A workshop with the developers will be set on a date to be announced.

Acquisition of the island for "Open Space" has been considered, but the asking price of several million dollars is prohibitive.

WATERFRONT WALK

Friends of the Waterfront have set May first as the day for a Walk along the Waterfront. Details will be announced at their April 21st meeting.

STELLA MARIS/PROPOSED SHAKE-A-LEG DEVELOPMENT (see page 13)

Points to consider:
1. Will set a precedent for other high-density development in our residential neighborhood.
2. Will generate parking problems.
3. Is a private partnership with investors.
4. Profits mandate size/number of units.

Liz Bermender

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POINTERS-IN THE NEWS

Our Point Association President, Brenda Gordon, was featured in the Providence Journal in January. She was interviewed at her Washington Street home in a "spirited discussion of the feisty Point Association." (Interviewer's quote!) It was a long article, pointing out the association's pressure points, concerns about development, parking, traffic, etc. It also referred to Brenda's affection for Newport which has increased in the fifteen years she has lived here.

Arthur Newell of Willow Street, a retired Navy captain, was featured in a Daily News article with a photograph. The article was titled "Clock-wise", which describes Art's present occupation as a restorer of clocks. He has been working on a project for the Preservation Society of Newport County's Marble House, repairing an antique French timepiece which has stood on a mantel in the Gold Room at the Marble House without working for many years, during which time it had acquired much rust and solidified grease and grime. Art disassembled 100 pieces, got them in working order, and reassembled the clock.

Portia Whitley of Elm Street, a member of the Board of Directors of the Junior League of Providence, is show chairman of that organization's Antique Show to be held April 8-10 in Meehan Auditorium of Brown University. Portia's photograph was included in a news release for the show in the Providence Journal.

The editor welcomes news of featured Pointers in other than local papers. Send to Editor, Green Light Box 491, Newport RI 02840

Kit Hammett

LOOKING FORWARD

As spring comes to the Point, we can look forward to the "Secret Garden Tour" sponsored by the Benefactors For the Arts. This is a time to share the beauty behind our fences and hedges, with proceeds bringing concerts to the students of Aquidneck Island and Jamestown. Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 4, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. with an English Tea at St. John's Guild Hall from 2 to 4 p.m.

This year a special attraction will be the opening of the new Hunter House garden and a plant sale in the Meeting Field (the section next to the Bay). As you know, this garden gift on the Point has been given as a living memorial to the mothers of Miss Myra Duvally and Mrs. Robert H.I. Goddard, who were devoted to the preserving of 18th century Newport.

The committee planning this "Secret Garden Tour" would be happy to have volunteers to serve as hosts/hostesses in the gardens or to help at the tea. Tickets for the garden tour will be $10 in advance or $12 that day and $6 for the tea. You may call The Benefactors for the Arts at 847-0514 or call at 33 Washington Street for volunteering, tickets, or information.

You'll find visitors coming from afar to this annual event.
OLYMPIC CONNECTION

Did you enjoy the Olympics? Did you know that there was a Jamestown resident among the judges? Claire Ferguson was one of four U.S. judges in the U.S. Figure Skating and one of the nine in the U.S. Pair Skating. There was an in-depth interview with Claire in the Daily News Sports Section, March 4th by Rick McGowan. It is worth looking up if you missed it. It gives lots of inside information about the skaters, coaches, judges, — the whole group that made up the beautiful Calgary spectacle.

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FOR CARE GIVERS

The Newport Chapter of the American Association of Retired Persons has recently published a small pamphlet, PREPARING FOR HOME CARE. It is a check list designed to aid those persons who are faced with short or long term care of home-bound persons, young and old. It provides lists of different kinds of equipment needed, sources for help, questions for doctors and other professional persons, and community services.

Point Association member, Josephine Carson and Green Light staff member Kit Hammett were in the group that developed the pamphlet.

If you would like a copy, call Mrs. Carson at 847-0792.

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to our new members:
  David and Melanie Aguiar
  Kathleen Bartolomei
  Robert and Carol Beals
  Elise Carlson
  Astrid Knutsen
  John Wilson

We were happy to see so many members and friends at the Pot Luck Supper. And we look forward to seeing you again at the April 21st meeting. Come and bring your neighbor!

Rowan Howard

CLEAN-UP COMMITTEE

The group will begin meeting again as soon as its chairman, Phil Burnett, returns. Meanwhile they are anxious to have suggestions re: posters, slogans, new ideas and approaches — anything our readers think might bring about a cleaner, neater Point.

CALENDAR

Thursday, April 21 -- General Meeting
St. Paul's Church, Marlborough St.
7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 21 -- Plant Sale
88 Washington Street -- 9 a.m.

Saturday, June 4 -- Secret Garden Tour
(see local paper for details)

Saturday, August 20 -- "Day on the Point"
Fair -- Storer Park -- 10 a.m.

PLANT SALE

This year's Plant Sale will be at the home of Anne Reynolds, 88 Washington Street, on May 21st beginning at 9 a.m. Besides Anne, the committee consists of Rosalys Hall (Chairman), Ilse Nesbitt, Brenda Gordon, Susan Bowen, and Nancy Pease. We hope it will be the pleasant neighborly exchange of plants that it has always been. Are there any plants in particular that you are looking for? Let us know.

In addition to plants, we are anxious to have pots — any variety of size and material; yes, we welcome plastic!

If you need help in getting things to the sale, call either of these phone numbers and someone will call for your donations.

Ilse Nesbitt
846-0228

Rosalys Hall
846-7566

"The Point, always lovable, holds its own. It is still the most unique part of Newport. Notwithstanding the many changes which have been made, there is much of its old charms left."

Quoted from the The News of August 26, 1921!!
ADMIRAL MAHAN

Admiral Alfred T. Mahan was born at West Point, New York, in 1840, the son of Dennis Hart Mahan. His father was a well-known professor of mathematics at the Military Academy and taught such famous generals as Grant, Lee, Sherman, and Jackson. It can be seen that from his earliest year the future admiral experienced a military environment.

The younger Mahan attended the Naval Academy where he gained a reputation as an intellectual. His naval career was not particularly distinguished; in fact, he once received a fitness report that said naval officers had no business writing books.

When Mahan was appointed to the War College at Newport after 30 years of service in the Navy, he stated his position as "drifting on the line of simple respectability as aimlessly as one ever could". That drifting was soon to end, however.

It took Mahan four years of strenuous work to produce his great work Influence of Sea Power upon History which was published in 1890. This book was hailed all over the world and Admiral Mahan became a world figure. All the great naval powers became very enthusiastic about it.


In view of the current unrest in Panama and Nicaragua, it is interesting to note the effect of Admiral Mahan's great book on the building of the Panama Canal. President Theodore Roosevelt was a friend and admirer of Admiral Mahan's thesis of sea power.

That was a period when the United States was acquiring land in all parts of the world -- the Philippines, Hawaii, Puerto Rico required our attention to both oceans. The construction of the Panama Canal became necessary to fulfill our political and military responsibilities. Admiral Mahan had a decided, although indirect, influence on its location.

Just recently the War College Museum acquired a desk which Admiral Mahan used while he was a guest at the New York City home of the Reverend Stevens Parker. The great-granddaughter of the Rev. Parker, Miss Emily Cunningham Finch, has placed the desk at the museum on indefinite loan where it can be seen by visitors. Passes are available at Gate No. 1 of the Naval Education and Training Center. Admission is free, and visiting hours are 10-4 on weekdays through September.

Donal O'Brien
FLIBBERTY GIBBET'S JIG


Julia Ward Howe was the perfect grandmother to Samuel, Caroline, Henry and John Hall. They knew of her good works, knew she had written the words of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic", but this simply added to the joys of those young people's summers. Early as the Fall River boat docked, she'd be waiting at the door of Oak Glen, out there in Portsmouth. With the words to their mother, "Now, Flossie, you go and rest," she took over. There were walks to the little schoolhouse or Fort Greene, errands to the kind Almys and Thurstons, fishing and picnics down by the brook, parties they rode to in the big old coach.

They had tasks that young Aunt Maud, now newly married to the artist John Elliott, saw were done! The long golden days were not half long enough. Always, at evening, they gathered around the piano. Grandmother Howe played and sometimes she sang, redhaired, sparkling, witty. The children danced to tunes she made up for them. Flibberty-Gibbet even had a little story. Young Henry would scold, "Grandmother, you play "cats on the roof" differently every time!" Then he'd hear her wonderful laugh.

Henry, with his ear for music, remembered Flibberty-Gibbet all his life. He played it for his children --

The Third and Elm Press has brought out an edition of Flibberty-Gibbet's Jig. Julia Ward Howe's tunes are there, "cats on the roof" still better done extemporaneous. The tale is of a boy who can make people dance to his fiddle and how he upset the marketplace. Oh, do see Ilse Nesbitt's woodcuts! Flibberty-Gibbet's Jig is available, of course, at the Third and Elm Press.

Rosalys Hall
STEELA MARIS STILL IN THE NEWS

Within the past few weeks, the house and immediate surrounding grounds of the Stella Maris property have been offered for sale, by the developer of the condominiums directly across Washington Street, to "Shake-a-Leg", an organization that serves people disabled by spinal cord and related injuries.

At first, many neighbors on the Point were delighted with the news, both because "Shake-a-Leg" had been one of the original bidders on the property and because the healing tradition has so long been associated with Stella Maris. Even before Miss Storer gave the land and building to the Sisters as a haven for the convalescent, Mr. and Mrs. Roeblings (of Brooklyn Bridge fame) had spent the summer there to help Mr. Roeblings regain his health when he was suffering serious complications from "The Bends".

On March 1, 1988, "Shake-a-Leg" made a presentation of their plans to invited abutters and neighbors. It was a well-attended meeting at which both the developer and the listeners had opportunity to express views and questions. According to the proposals unveiled at that meeting, the original Stella Maris building would remain as an institution dedicated to provide congregate living and at-home services for disabled and elderly people.

A 30,000 square ft. addition would provide 39 accessible apartments, one bedroom and efficiencies, with the possibility of assisted care, when needed, from the main building. These residential units would be rented, or purchased on a condominium basis.

In order for "Shake-a-Leg" to build and operate profitably, the proposal they presented was for a dense development, including a staggered residential building, the length of the block fronting Second Street, and connected to the main house by a long corridor with an elevator, for accessibility to the three floors of both the old building and the new.

However, as the architect's drawings were presented, objections began to come from one person after another. Density and traffic gave concern, with apprehension about possible "commercialism". In the end, fears that the property would become a heavily used area caused general opinion to veer towards the negative.

At this writing, it appears that "Shake-a-Leg" may withdraw the proposal, or plan to modify their design by reducing in half the facade on Second Street, in keeping with the neighborhood. New construction would be limited to 20,000 square ft., the same area already approved by the City for the present developers' proposed duplex condominiums at the four corners of the lot.

We shall report further in the next issue.
A TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA WOOD

By the time this issue is published, the Point will have said farewell to Virginia Wood, who is moving to Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania. Her cheery greeting and her true concern for the Point will be missed. She has been a good neighbor.

Virginia moved here from Nantucket less than three years ago, and before that Philadelphia claimed her; moving to Chadds Ford will be a return home for her.

During those three years she has been involved in civic activities, including trying to save "Stella Maris" from the developer and have the lots deeded to the Point. She was on the board of the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation, and has pushed the Landbank Open Space project, similar to the one in Nantucket. She also served on the Council for International Visitors and gave a coffee hour for Ronald Dick during the recent political campaign. Recently she was a volunteer at the Art Museum Consignment Shop.

In the Point Association, Virginia served as corresponding secretary, was the hostess for the Plant Sale, and last summer she managed the White Elephant table at the Point Fair. Along the way, she has helped to raise funds and distribute pamphlets for a number of projects.

In moving to Mendenhall in the Brandywine Valley near Chadds Ford, she will be within ten miles of Winterthur and Longwood Gardens. She has promised to return on a visit to the Point and tell old friends about her new venture.

Meanwhile her neighbors will regret not seeing Virginia (and her dog, Matilda) on their daily walks through the streets of the Point.

Good luck, Virginia!

Dorothy Sanschagrin

NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S
WINTER SERIES

If you have missed the first four lectures on Aquidneck's Historic Congregations, take advantage of those that are left. You will find in them a sense of renewed pride in Newport's tradition of religious tolerance.

April 4, 8 p.m. Community Baptist Church
THE BLACK CHURCHES OF NEWPORT

April 11, 8 p.m. St. Mary's Church
THE CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF NEWPORT

April 17, 7:30 p.m. United Baptist Church
UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH 350 YEARS ON AQUIDNECK

April 23, 9:30-11:30 a.m. St. Paul's Methodist Church
19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY PROTESTANT CHURCHES

April 30, 9:30-11:30 a.m. St. Spyridon and Jesus Savior Churches
JESUS SAVIOR AND ST. SPYRIDON

May 1, 1 p.m. Quaker Meeting House
THE QUAKERS - The Society of Friends in Newport

May 3, 8:00 p.m. Newport Congregational Church, Spring and Pelham Streets
ORGAN RECITAL OF 17TH THROUGH 19TH CENTURY AMERICAN CHURCH MUSIC by Barbara Owen (member of Organ Historical Society of America and organist of the First Unitarian Church, Newburyport, Mass.)

Further information may be obtained from the Historical Society - 846-0813
IT'S NOT TOO EARLY!!

The "Day on the Point Fair" will take place on Saturday, August 20 in Storer Park. Our White Elephant Chairman, Susan Bowen, asks that you think "white elephant" when you are doing your Spring cleaning. If you find some treasures, or something you decide you can live without, call Susan, EVENINGS, at 849-7079.

MARKING RHODE ISLAND INDEPENDENCE

Rhode Island Independence Commemorative at Newport (RIICAN) will have its celebration this year on the weekend of May 1st. The actual R.I. Independence Day, May 4th, falls in the middle of the week.

Friday, April 29th at 8 p.m. there will be a concert by the Navy Choristers under the direction of Marion VanSlyke at Rogers High School.

Saturday, April 30th, the Point Association will sponsor a parade of children, representing the thirteen original colonies, from Washington Street to the Liberty Tree at Farewell and Thames Streets. There they will hang lanterns on the tree as their ancestors did in 1775. Other children may join in the parade, wearing colonial costumes, if they wish to. The Newport Artillery will accompany them. This will take place at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 1st at 9:30 a.m., contingents from the Armed Forces, the Navy Band, and the Newport Artillery will assemble at the Colony House on Washington Square for the reading of the Governor's Proclamation of Independence. From there, the company will parade to the Newport Congregational Church (corner of Spring and Pelham Streets), where an ecumenical service will begin at 10:30 a.m. Music has been arranged by Marion VanSlyke and Gracious Audette; The Rev. John E. Wilson will preside. Senator John Chaffee has been invited to give the main address. All are cordially invited.

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Dear Editor:

I'm new in town. Picked up recent copy of Green Light and fascinated with the home town nature and easy-going way of the publication. Like the recipes too!

Especially enjoyable was the tale of the gal who steered "Neptune's Car" around the Horn in 1856, despite respectable difficulties.

Also liked "N. Zealand Junket" written by Rowan and John Howard.

Dennis Brennan-Lopez

Dear Editor:

Leo and I were pleased to read your article on the USS Richmond, a ship, we feel very close to because of 44 Elm.

Some years ago we had the history of the house researched, and discovered it had been built for a Navy man, George Keating, who was attached to the USS Richmond.

As far as it could be determined, Warrant Officer Keating lived there with his bride. It appears he had a child, who died at age 4. Carrie Erickson remembered that on the porch was a child's chair and a doll, which the children of the neighborhood could admire but were not allowed to touch.

Sometime ago, we were told there was an elderly woman in Newport who knew of the Keatings, but unfortunately she passed away before we had a chance to meet her.

Aline E. Sullivan

Dear Editor:

For Mother's Day, Easter, or a new Spring look — Handcrafted semi-precious gemstone jewelry at wholesale prices. Custom orders are available. I also restring your old necklaces for a fresh look.

Call 849-1756. Melanie.
April is the time when we gather the first violets from pale lavender to darkest purple and the grandchildren bring in bouquets of dandelions to put in a tiny crystal vase in the center of the kitchen table. As surely as April flowers unfold, May will welcome a patchwork of color to the garden. When we were children we made paper May Baskets, filled them with flowers and took them to the neighbors. We'd ring the bell and run and hide. We don't see many these days but we'll send a few and maybe you will too -- especially to a shut-in or a neighbor.

Asparagus has just begun to send up tiny shoots but we can find plenty in the market.

Asparagus and Mushrooms

1 pound fresh asparagus
3 TBSP. salad oil
½ cup water
1 small onion, minced
½ cup sliced fresh or canned mushrooms
½ TSP. salt 1/8 TSP. pepper
1 cup heavy cream

Wash asparagus and slice diagonally into ½ inch pieces. Put oil and water in a large skillet and bring to a boil. Add asparagus, onion, mushrooms, salt and pepper. Cook covered for 8 to 10 minutes, shaking skillet occasionally. Add cream and reheat. Do not boil.

Rhubarb Strawberry Jelly

Cut 1 quart rhubarb very fine. Crush 2 quarts ripe strawberries. Bring to a boil. Squeeze juice through jelly bag. Bring to a boil:
3½ cups juice
6 cups sugar
Add 1 bottle commercial pectin and boil 1 minute. Remove from heat and skim. Pour into sterilized jelly glasses and seal.

This recipe comes from Alaska from one of our nieces.

Easter Bunnies and Chickens


Springtime and pineapples just seem to go together. Although pineapples are available all year round, more come to market this time of year. Just remember pineapples do not ripen or improve in quality after harvesting. The pineapples that are "jet flown" to market are the best. Sweet, fresh pineapple is the perfect complement for these pan fried ham steaks.

Ham Steaks with Pineapple

1 fresh pineapple 1 TBSP. brown sugar
1 TSP. butter 2 TSP. cornstarch
4 boneless fully cooked ham steaks 2 TBSP. raisins
(about 1½ lbs.) 1 cup pineapple juice

1. Peel fresh pineapple. Cut four ½ inch slices from widest part. Remove and discard cores from slices and from remaining pineapple. Finely chop remaining pineapple to make 1 cup.

2. In large skillet or electric fry pan, heat butter. Sauté pineapple slices until browned on both sides — about 5 minutes. Remove to platter to keep warm.

3. Place ham steaks in skillet and cook until lightly browned on both sides. Add ½ cup pineapple juice. Reduce heat and simmer, covered, 5 minutes. Remove steaks to platter.

4. Add brown sugar to skillet. In a small dish, stir remaining juice into cornstarch. Add mixture to skillet and cook, stirring until thickened. Fold in chopped pineapple and raisins. Cook until heated through. Spoon over ham and pineapple.
Strawberry Chiffon Pie

1 baked pie shell  ½ cup boiling water
1 ½ cups strawberries  1 TBSP. lemon juice
3/4 cup sugar  2 egg whites, at room temperature
1 TBSP. gelatin  1/8 TSP. salt
½ cup cold water

Wash, hull and slice strawberries, cover with sugar and let stand ½ hour. Sprinkle gelatin over cold water, let stand 5 minutes, add boiling water and lemon juice. Stir thoroughly and pour over berries. Stir well and chill mixture until it begins to thicken. Fold in well beaten egg whites and salt. If desired, and you are not on a diet, fold in ½ cup heavy cream, whipped. Pour into baked pie shell. Garnish with a few perfect berries and dollops of whipped cream. A perfect ending to your Easter dinner.

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We have a surprise this issue. Timmy Ramsey, Virginia and Bob Covell's niece sent us some recipes from California. She said she really enjoys the Green Light.

California Dip
2 cans (4 oz.) chopped green chilies
2 cans (4 oz.) chopped black olives
2 tomatoes, diced
4 green onions, diced
2 TBSP. cider vinegar
1 TBSP. salad oil

Mix together the night before or at least 3 hours ahead. Refrigerate. Serve with tortilla chips.

Mexican Dip
1 can chili with no beans
1 8 oz. package cream cheese

Warm together and serve with tortilla chips.

If you have a recipe that you would be willing to share, please send it to us. Thank you.

Sarah Plumb
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