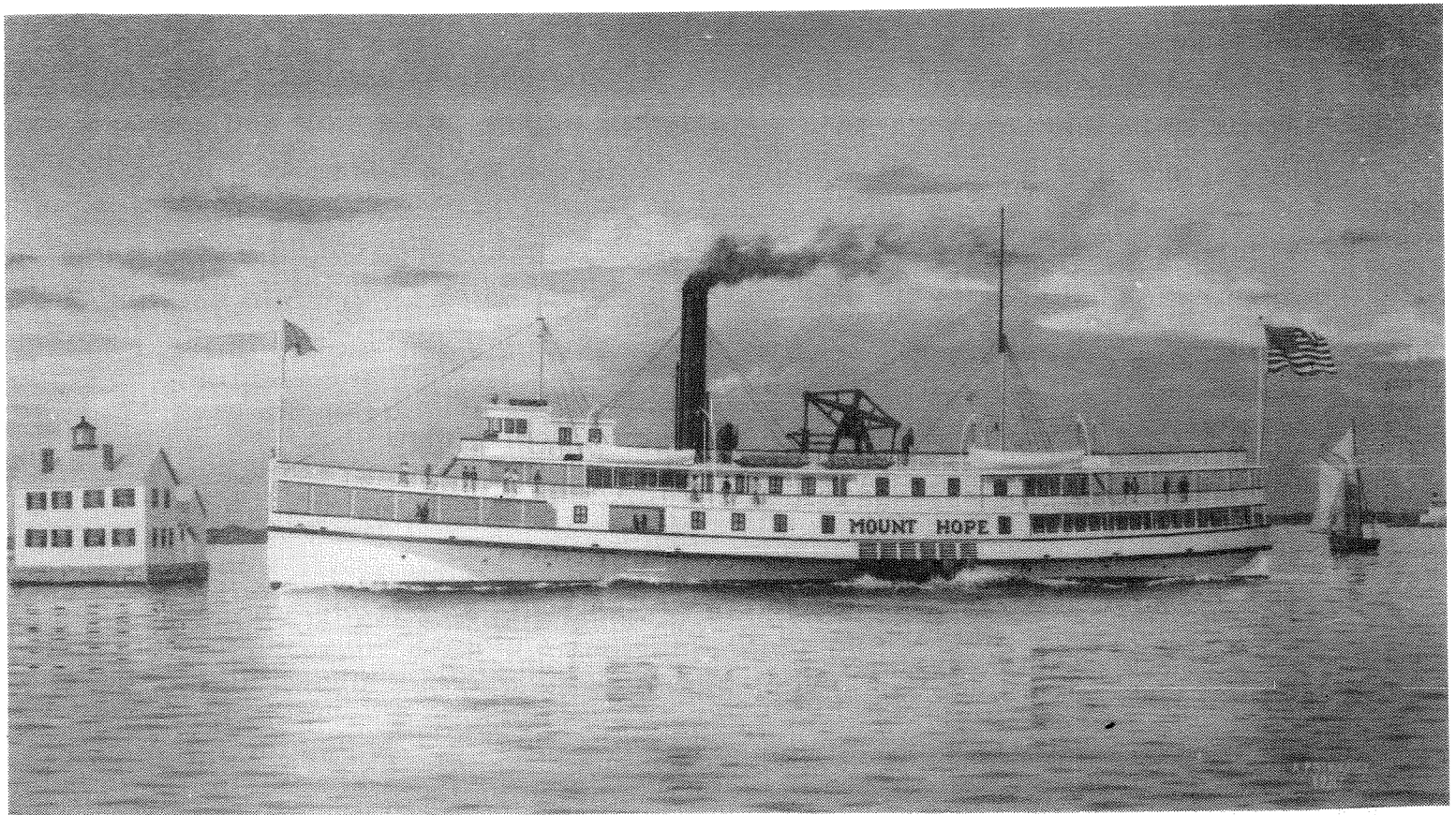


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The GREEN LIGHT

BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

AUGUST 1988



The steamer the "Mt. Hope"~painting by Alden Stickney



The GREEN LIGHT

AUGUST 1988

Vol. XXXIII - No. 4

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ABOUT OUR COVER

Alden Stickney is the artist of the cover illustration, the excursion steamer "Mt. Hope" as seen from the Point shore about 1920. (The lighthouse dwelling was taken down and replaced with the green light in 1922.) It was painted about two years ago and is one of the best known of Alden's boat paintings which are carefully rendered and fastidiously detailed with hues and tints reminiscent of Currier and Ives.

Alden Stickney is the nephew of Mabel Watson, the artist who did the Newport painting on the cover of our October 1987 issue. He was raised on the Point by his aunt after the death of his mother. Now living in retirement in Boothbay, Maine, he has a permanent exhibit there and shows in other cities.

Dorothy Sanschagrin

GREEN LIGHT STAFF

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Howard, Circulation
Florence Archambault, Typing

CALENDAR

Saturday, August 20 -- "Day on the Point" Fair - Storer Park - 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Friday, September 30 -- New Members' Cocktail Party - Newport Yacht Club - 6-8 p.m.

Thursday, October 13 -- Annual Meeting - St. Paul's Church - 7:30 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In a summer when most of the country west of here is scorching and thirsting for rain, Newport is still a haven of cool breezes and bearable temperatures. The Point has never looked more inviting, and we were pleased to read that Princess Margaret asked particularly to see the houses on the Point on her recent private visit here.

It comes as something of a shock, then, to realize that the Circulator Road, which we thought was a dead issue, is not quite buried. Members of the City Council attended a meeting with Matthew Gill, the Director of the Department of Transportation, in Providence, to discuss the reasons why the Council voted against the concept of the roadway just a few weeks ago. Apparently the powers that be in Providence do not quite believe that we do not want the Circulator Road carving its way through our neighborhood. Since the outcome of this meeting was a call for the City Council to hold more public hearings on the project, it is IMPERATIVE that we have a large, organized turnout at City Hall when the hearings take place. Other neighborhood organizations in the city will join with us in voicing our opposition -- among them, The Hill Association, the South End Association, Easton's Beach and Pond Association and the West End Association in Middletown. It is our hope that if enough people show that they do not want the road, the Department of Transportation will drop the idea. And if you are tired of hearing about the Circulator Road, that is just what the Department of Transportation is hoping for.

On a more cheerful note, we are looking forward to a busy and festive day for the Point Fair. The Fair Chairman has received a goodly number of reservations from exhibitors, the raffle is going great guns, and we would simply ask you to please send in your raffle tickets if you have not already done so. Hope to see you at the Fair!



Brenda K. Gordon

FAIR NEWS

At this writing, approximately 40 exhibitors have signed up for this year's Fair. (Saturday, August 20th, 10-5, for those who haven't circled the date on their calendars), which is about the same as last year at this time. There are several more due in, so we can expect to see at least 50 booths by Fair time.

Progress on the Fair planning is moving right along, but we can always use more help. Specifically, we need bake sale items (if you have not been contacted, call Rose Favier at 847-2765); we need White Elephant items (call Susie Bowen at 849-7079, evenings, or the Gordons during the day at 847-5746); and we can always use more hands for cooking, children's activities, and clean-up (call 847-5746).

And of course there is the Raffle; Spencer Valmy has done a great job getting tickets out to the membership. Now members have to get the tickets STUBS back to Spencer, so get out and sell, sell, sell!

See you all on August 20th and don't forget, BRING MONEY - there will be many nice ways to spend it.

George Gordon

GENERAL MEETING

The summer meeting of the Point Association, held on July 21st, was well attended. With President Brenda Gordon presiding, reports of the secretary, the treasurer, and the very active committees were presented. Our financial affairs are in good order; plans for the Fair progress well; and the various committees have been hard at work on such concerns as traffic, sticker parking, and clean-up. Representatives of the association have been active in hearings on developments that affect our Point area.

Esther Benson took the members on "A Walk on Washington Street" telling interesting stories of the history of the houses and the people who lived in them. It was a delightful journey into the past.

Kit Hammett

MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

Christine Gavan
Roderick J. Lowe
Anita McAndrews
Howard and Mary Newman
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Troy

Hope to see you all at the Fair!

Rowan Howard

CLEAN-UP COMMITTEE

The Clean-up Committee has been working hard in tidying up the Point's seven parks, but there are only four of us, and we really need more help. No one has volunteered for Battery Park. It doesn't take long, as we only need to check the parks a couple of times a week. We have a splendid gadget that actually does the picking up.

Perhaps any of you who live near our parks would join the volunteer while at work.

Phil Burnett, Jane Valmy,
Posy Hall, E.F. Benson, COMMITTEE

The Waters Edge Flowers

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TELEPHONE 847-1111

COCKTAIL PARTY

Although the September 30th gathering at the Newport Yacht Club is called the "New Members' Cocktail Party", all members -- new and old -- are cordially invited. We hope it will prove a very friendly "mix" complete with name tags to help everyone become acquainted quickly. The hours are 6-8 p.m. There will be a cash bar. The appetizers are always a delight to the eye and the palate, as only our experienced Point cooks know how to put together.

Please come and bring a new member -- or two!

BEAUTIFICATION REPORT

Many thanks to the members of the Beautification Committee for the help in keeping the planters going in Storer Park and Battery Park. Unfortunately after we were mentioned in the Daily News for our work at Battery Park, someone came in and stole the geraniums out of one of the planters. Kay O'Brien was so disappointed. Sarah Plumb planted some petunias in the planter by the fountain. Curtis James and helpers are installing a horseshoe pit at Storer Park. The Katzman family is installing a fountain in Storer Park in memory of Mr. Hymie Katzman.

I have contacted a nurseryman for the planting of the strip along Marsh Street. The sign will be returned to Storer Park when it is repaired. We are waiting for the stump to be removed in Battery Park to plant Admiral Eccles' tree.

Mary Rommel, Chairman

POINT GARDEN CONTEST

There will be a Point Garden Contest, similiar to last year's, with judging later in the summer. the garden must be visible from the street. Categories are as follows:

New Gardens	Walkways
Side Gardens	Steps
Window Boxes	Gardens surrounding
Door-step treat-	trees
ments	Backyard Gardens
Fence Gardens	Front yard Gardens
Porches	Co-operative Neigh-
General Gardens	bors' Gardens
Doorways	All Seasons' Gardens

There are several special awards including three rosettes honoring three garden-lovers who are no longer with us: James Douglas, Thomas Benson and Alice Weldon.

For further information, call Mary Rommel, 847-7779.

NEW NEIGHBOR - GOOD NEIGHBOR

Roderick Lowe, general manager of the new Marriotts Hotel which opened in July, is already a part of the Point. He has become a member of the Point Association, and attended the general meeting on July 21st. When the president introduced him, he responded with the hope that the hotel will be a part of the neighborhood as well as the wider Island community.

Brenda and George Gordon were guests at the opening luncheon as representatives of the association, and joined with local, state, and hotel officials in wishing the Marriott success.

As an appreciation to those who operate soup kitchens, representatives of the churches, the Salvation Army and other groups which prepare and serve meals were invited to a very special dinner before the opening day. It was a trial-run for kitchen and serving employees, who put into practice their pre-opening training. About 100 people who volunteer regularly in the various meal projects enjoyed a social hour, and an excellent banquet in the ballroom. They had the opportunity to meet hotel officials and the three chefs who had prepared the dinner. The head chef, in a cook's hat 24 inches high, moved among the tables, and solicited comments about the service and the food. What a cordial gesture to a dedicated group of community workers!

Kit Hammett

SECRET GARDEN TOUR

The Secret Garden Tour was even more successful than last year. The gardens were lovely, thanks to the great efforts of the owners, and to the rain we had in the spring. The weather, though cold, was clear. The people who come to the tour are great; they love flowers. Many come a considerable distance each year. Again, thank you to all the ladies who were hostesses, to the gardeners who helped show off our gardens on the Point, and to those who contributed food.

Mary Rommel

PRESSURE POINTS

In these Dog Days of Summer, a timely reminder to all dog owners! Our Clean-up Committee is working assiduously to keep our parks clean. Please, do not allow your dogs to roam and do clean up after your pets while walking them through our beautiful parks. Let's all do our part to keep our neighborhood clean!

ONGOING ISSUES

Dormant but not dead is the best way to describe most of the major issues--Rose Island, Circulator Road, Shipyard development, CSO Facility.

Please be alert to any possible Public Hearings or City Council Meetings on these issues.

NOISE OF MARRIOTT AIR CONDITIONERS

Hope Goddard has voiced a concern about the noise of the air conditioners at the Marriott. A call to the manager of the Marriott and to City Hall will alert them to this noise pollution.

ELECTRIC WIRES/POLES

The unsightliness of the electric lines on Third Street was eloquently expressed by two Letters to the Editor in the Newport Daily News from Point residents. It is unfortunate that once again the needs of gross development won out over the need to preserve the natural beauty of the Point. Where was the Historic District Commission when this decision was made?

Also, at the recent Point Association meeting, the question was raised whether these high tension wires are interfering with television reception.

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STICKER PARKING PROGRAM

Vagueness is the best word to describe the Sticker Parking Program. Mary Lynn Rooke has not been able to get definite answers to many of her questions about the implementation of this program at City Hall.

Twenty-five percent of the residents of each street need to be in favor of the program, and their names need to be confirmed as residents. Two readings before the Council are then needed before approval.

Verification of the signatures on the Point Association petitions done in May seems to be holding up the program.

One possible solution would be for a resident on each street to petition again; carefully getting signatures and verifying residency (taxpayers, voters, etc.) and presenting this list to City Hall before the next Council meeting. A second reading in September would grant the right for sticker parking just before the September 30 end of the program!

Liz Bermender



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POINT PICNIC - 1988

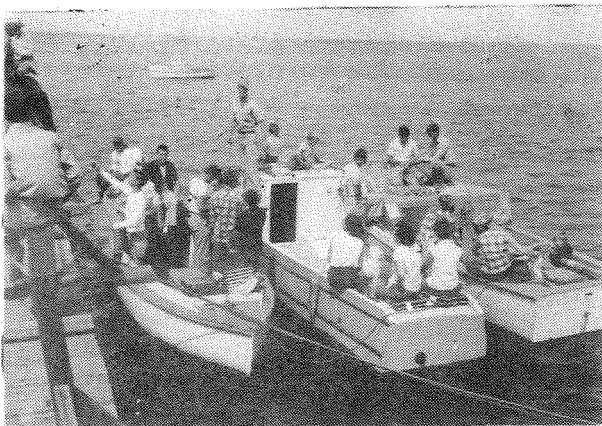
A very enjoyable gathering took place on Esther Benson's waterfront lawn on June 30th. We only wish more people had come, but the threatening afternoon weather had scared some off. By six o'clock, all was sunny and beautiful! Many thanks to Taff Roberts for the arrangements, and to Toni Peters and Anne Reynolds for help with preparations.



A group at the picnic



We particularly enjoyed seeing our former neighbor, Isobel Eccles, who was a surprise guest.



POINT PICNIC - 1954

Boats setting out for a Rose Island Clambake - July 18, 1954

EDITORIAL SLIPUP

In reporting the work of the Parking Committee in our June issue, we stated that the residential parking stickers were valid for two hours of free parking at Long Wharf including the Gateway. The Gateway is not included, and your editor apologizes for any inconvenience that may have resulted from this error.



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POINT NEIGHBORS

THE NORTONS

Some people move onto the Point and find out it is not what they wanted. Others like it and settle in. The Nortons, Kaye and Aylward, have been here six years living in a Doris Duke Foundation house at 39 Washington Street, and they have settled in.

Their business, Norton's Oriental Gallery, is in a modest building directly across from the Whitehorne House on lower Thames Street. There is nothing modest about the work the Nortons do, for they are restorers of old textiles from China and the Far East. To explain this more clearly, we are all familiar with the Chinese Mandarin coat and the full, finely pleated skirt worn on special occasions by members of the wealthy upper class, both men and women. The brilliant silk of these coats was decorated by panels and bands of superb embroidery in rich colors. These garments, treasured for both beauty and value, often made up the dowry of a Chinese bride. Many a Newport Navy wife has purchased such a coat, sold by an impoverished family after the foundering of the empire. Embroidered silk pieces were lining the walls or brought out for the celebration of particular days. Gold and red dragons wind over these lengths; minute flowers and intricate designs intertwine. They are all fascinating, but old age has damaged the worn silk, which frays and tears, and will no longer support the embroidery.

The Nortons have learned by their own effort to save and restore these

pieces, not to their original form but into a framed artifact of varied sizes and shapes, to hang on the wall. It was Aylward's mother who unconsciously started this endeavor. She liked Oriental art and collected paintings, prints, sculpture, and textiles. In fact, her gift to them on their first Christmas together was a stylized Mandarin painting, all done in dark blues. Kaye's interest grew steadily during the years, moving her to take courses in Oriental art, deepening her knowledge and understanding. By the time Aylward retired from General Motors, they were ready to increase their own collection, and began to travel extensively in the Far East. In order to frame their textiles for gifts and later for sales, they took a course in framing at an Adult Educational School. But here they ran into trouble; the embroidered textiles were too uneven in thickness, too lumpy to lie smoothly under the glass of the frame, and the silk backing could no longer be stretched or lined up evenly. Kaye began to experiment and did, finally, find a solution. With utmost care she trimmed away the silk cloth from the embroidery, which, with a special rice paste, was affixed to plain quilting material. Then the whole was sewed by hundreds of tiny stitches to a stronger new silk backing. This was flat enough to frame.

At this period they continued to go on collecting trips and also took their work to shows all over the country. Particular recognition came from museums which had pieces of their own to restore.

In 1982 the Nortons moved to Newport, where they felt their work would be seen by a wider spread of people who were living in or visiting the city.

There is no way to tell you about their extraordinary work. You must see it yourself, but go in the late afternoon when they are nearing the end of their precious working hours.

Esther Fisher Benson



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Several interesting articles about Pointers have appeared in local newspapers recently, and we add a new media - TV - to our feature stories.

Ilse Nesbit, co-owner of the Third and Elm Press, a frequent contributor to the Green Light and the artist of one of the Point Fair raffle prizes (see cover of the June issue) was featured in the Providence Journal on June 4th. The story contained several photographs of Ilse at work with her interesting printing tools and machinery, and a description of her studies of painting in Germany and Rhode Island. She is quoted as saying she is committed "to a delight in papers, impressions, and printed images" -- as people on the Point have long recognized.

An article in the Providence Journal of July 14th is titled "Point Tour With Esther Benson Becomes Newport History Lesson". It describes Esther's Washington Street home, and relates the history of the Point in much detail. This history is very much a part of Esther's life "with roots sunk five decades deep into this city's soil". Esther shares her interest in and knowledge of the Point's history as a member of the staff of The Green Light.

Anne Reynolds' garden on Washington Street, site of this year's Plant Sale (see report on page 15), was the only Point garden included in a description of three area gardens that are "quiet, peaceful, fragrant retreats", in yet another Providence Journal article on July 17th. Typical of garden enthusiast Anne, who gives loving care to several Point gardens, was a photo of her leaning on a rake handle.

Well-known Pointers Mary and Herb Rommel are the ones who made a "first" for this column as they appeared on TV Channel 10 News at the time their iris garden on Bridge and Second Streets was at its peak of beauty. What a joy it was for fortunate viewers to see them and their lovely blooms in full color!

Two places on the Point received much publicity in the past year, and especially in July, as the Marriott Hotel was opened, and the Newport Gateway Information Center was dedicated. Pointers have watched the development of these structures over the many past months (with mixed feelings, we admit!) and now can view them in full operation. A visit to the lobby of the hotel or to the Gateway's main room is well worth the time. WELCOME to our new neighbors!

Another Point place, Cardines Field, is featured in the "Quips, Quotes, and Queries" section of the August issue of Yankee Magazine. Did you know that the first game played in what was then the "Basin" took place in 1908, and that the Sunset League was so-named because games started at 5:30 p.m. and ended at sunset, even if nine innings had not been played?

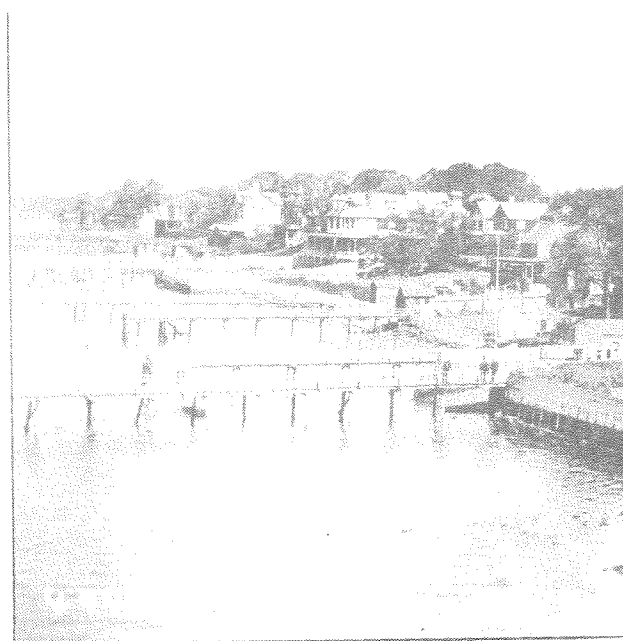
The Editor welcomes features about Pointers, especially those in publications other than local papers, which staff members may not read.

Kit Hammett

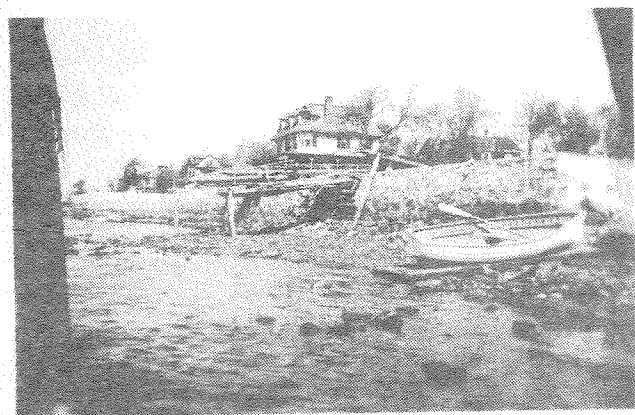




118 WASHINGTON STREET



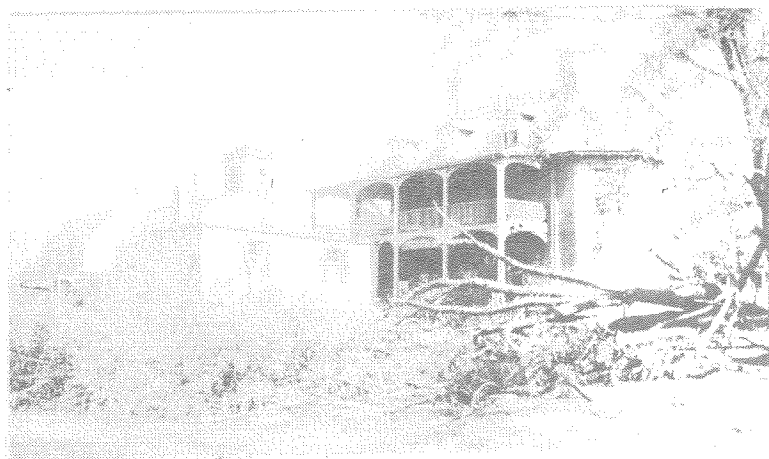
FIFTY YEARS
THE HURRICANE



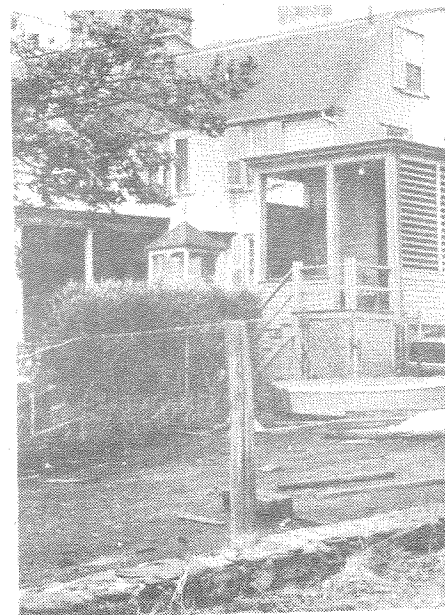
WASHINGTON STREET - JUST ABOVE POPLAR

The '38 hurricane! Fifty years ago, but still vivid to those who lived through it. The Point received its share of the fury and destruction. Everyone, near and far, will be recalling experiences. We share some photographs of the Point that September day, and an account by a local resident at that time.

We are sure there are folks still living who lived on the



62 WASHINGTON STREET
FROM THE WATER SIDE



THE POPLAR

THE HURRICANE

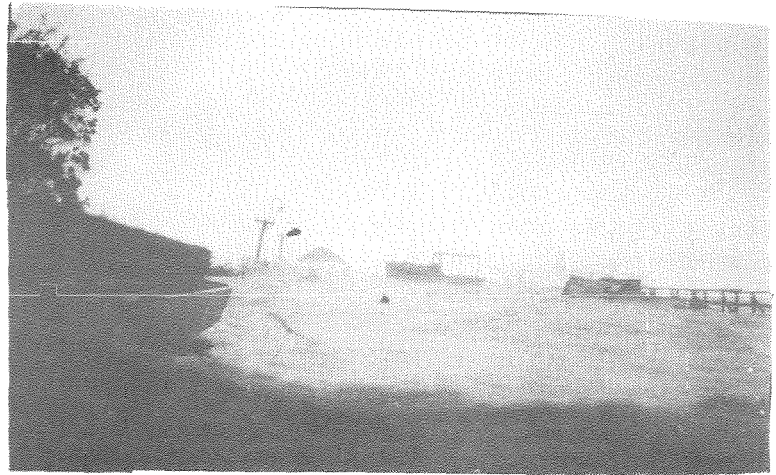


ON THE POINT

September 21, 1938

Point in 1938, and can recall the horrendous happenings. We solicit such accounts for the next issue of The Green Light. Please share your reminiscences or those of your parents, and photographs, too. Send to The Editor, or call 846-1479. Someone will gladly visit you to hear your story, if you prefer talking to writing.

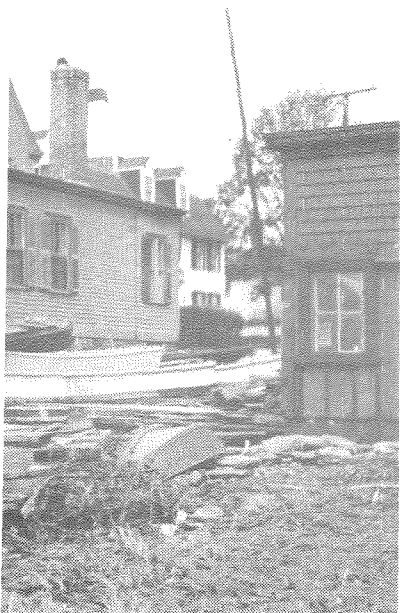
DO YOU REMEMBER?



THE ELM STREET PIER



WASHINGTON STREET FLOODED
HUNTER HOUSE (ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT)



EET SHORE

ON LONG WHARF

Excerpts from a letter written by Elizabeth B. Covell to her daughter, Betty Ramsey, September 1938.

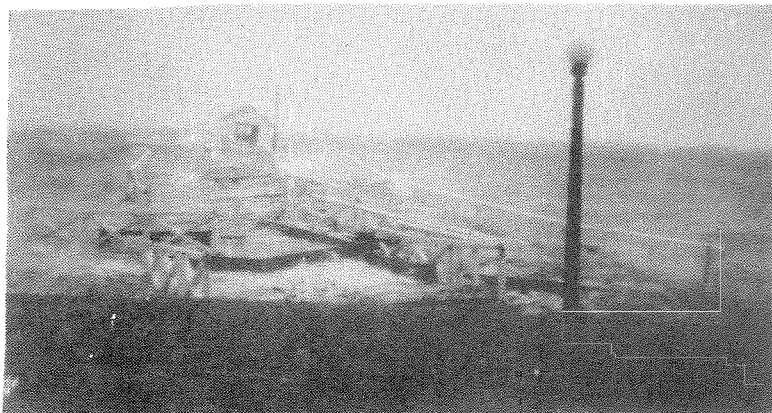
Dear Betty,

I am writing to you by hand because King has been too busy over the weekend and after school to do any typing.

On Tuesday, the day before the storm, we had a very heavy rain here. Wednesday, the 21st, was a warm and heavy-feeling day with the wind still blowing strongly from the northeast. We did not realize here, sheltered as we are from an easterly wind, how severe a storm it was.

About three o'clock I noticed a large, black steamship approaching the Torpedo Station. Thinking she was under her own power, I wasn't disturbed. She lay along side of the breakwater. Soon after this, the wind shifted from southeast to southwest and she slowly passed to the north, and out of sight. Not until the next day did I realize that she had snapped her twelve six-mile mooring cables as if they had been twine, & was drifting, a helpless menace, across the ends of our waterfront street.

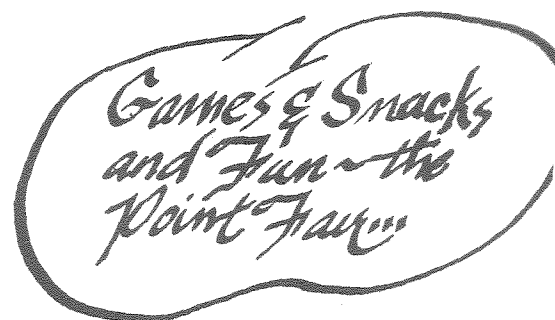
By three-fifteen King had returned from High School. With the shift of the wind, the harbor was getting rougher. One by one the sail and motor boats were being swamped and were sinking. Then the piers began to break up. Even then I did not worry about our place. The "Whittington" had a double mooring. For three winters past, the pile driver had been at work here, replacing worn spiles on the pier. The foundation of the house was solid brick walls ten feet high and a foot thick.



THE NAVAL HOSPITAL PIER

But this was no ordinary storm. The water rose higher and higher. The air was dense with flying spume and rain, so that we hardly knew when boat after boat keeled over and sank. Boys and men were struggling with boats, calling to each other to get back to land, as first one then another pier wavered, rippled throughout its entire length like a wave tossed serpent. The piers broke up not by planks, but in sections, drifting off northward each to endanger the next pier. The flagpole, bent & bent, and finally snapped off, I suppose, but I wasn't there to see it, for other crises were at hand.

Since the previous Sunday Anna, our cook, had been ill with grippe. Her friend, Elsie, had been here helping me, and looking out for Anna. You will remember that Anna and George have the basement apartment. By four o'clock the wind and the high tide had built up such a sea that waves three feet high were coming in. The house is 75 feet from the seawall, the wall is built up three feet above the level of the lawn, and the top of the wall is twenty five feet above low water. But there were waves rolling across the lawn in an unbelievable way, skiffs and broken timbers tossed towards the house, advancing and retreating. Then Elsie called, "What shall we do about Anna? The waves are coming right into the house." How could they? But they were. The two wood panels at either side of the back door had been broken in by the water, and the whole of Newport Harbor was at our door. "Get her up to the guest room. One bed is made up. Put her right to bed." Next Elsie's husband and Anna's husband were coming up the back stairs with



Anna's bedroom furniture, radios, sewing machine, arms full of clothing. "Put it in the little dining-room. Take the meat and vegetables off the coal range, and put them to cook on the little pantry gas stove. George, dump the fire in the range, for fear of an explosion." George did it; twenty minutes later the water, with mud, sand, and seaweed filled the entire basement almost three feet deep: men and boys in hip rubber boots could just get through with the last of Anna's furniture. Where was her cat? No time to think now. Where was her puppy? Up in the guest room with her, & put in the bath-tub for safe keeping.

Meanwhile boats and timbers were bumping against the house walls, against the piazza supports, against the high board fence which disappeared like match-wood. "All at once, and nothing first, just as bubbles do when they burst."

The wharf or driftways were filling higher and higher: the row boats had to be shifted two or three times towards higher land. Then they were needed to rescue people from houses two blocks away, where the water was eight feet deep in the streets.

We moved large couches and tables against the French windows, lest they blow in, as they were doing in other parts of the town. The entire basement quarters were drenched and full of sand and mud, altho the water drained off as soon as the tide went down.

Elsie slept on a mattress on the guest room floor to be near Anna; the two husbands slept on a mattress on the library floor. Late at night, by candle light, the rest of us dared to go to bed.



THE PIER AT 86 WASHINGTON STREET

The shining sun of Thursday looked out on a scene of desolation. Every pier was gone, public and private, ten of them. Every sea-wall down north of ours, which stood intact. Great caves ate into the lawns; shed, boat-houses, piers, lawns, gone, every one, for half a mile. Schooners were up on private grounds, twenty feet above the now quiet waters of the harbor.

Trees, shrubbery, flower beds, were brown as if from a killing frost, but this was barely noticed, so much was waiting to be done. At once the boats on the harbor bottom must be rescued, if possible. Everyone helped everyone else. One by one, through the following week the boats were dragged ashore. Day after day the harbor front was searched for pier timbers, lawn furniture. Great trees were cut away, from streets and private grounds where they lay in amazing confusion.

It was impossible to get men to clean out the basement. We were fortunate that Anna & Elsie's husbands were willing to help after their regular days' work. Fifty hours each of them worked that next week. All day long the first day they flushed the rooms out with the hose, for the city water system was working. Then, after things dried out somewhat, every room had to be scrubbed down, wainscoating and floors, with disinfectant soap, and left to dry. Fires were rekindled, motors of equipment sent to be dismantled, freed of sand, oiled, and reassembled. Electricity was available again in a few days, and within a week we had telephone service once more.

I shall not attempt to describe the general havoc: I've sent you the papers, and we'll send photographs later. Forlorn as everything is, we are alive, the houses are intact, our sea-wall stood up, and we'll get the repairs done and the bills paid sometime and somehow.

From your discouraged but not hopeless

E.B.C.

THE "THOMAS W. LAWSON"

Recent spectators of the Spanish brigantine "Juan Sebastian de Elcano" under full sail in the harbor were heard to comment on the four impressive masts of this ship. Possibly they did not realize that such spars were once commonplace along our Atlantic Coast as the American merchant service had many schooners of four, five, and six masts. Only one had seven 150 foot spars. This was the "Thomas W. Lawson" the only seven-masted schooner ever built and constructed of steel.

The "Lawson" was designed by B.B. Crowninshield and built at the Fore River Ship and Engine Co. in Quincy, Mass. She was completed and launched in 1902. Her measurements were 5218 gross tons, 4914 net, and she was 375.6' long with a beam of 50' and a draft of 32.9'.

The "Lawson" was all steel except her topmast spars and wooden decks. She was equipped with donkey engines for operating the vessel and handling cargo. She even had electricity, a telephone rig, and steam heat in the crew's quarters. The anchors weighed 10,000 pounds. Her seven great steel masts and wooden topmasts were almost 150 feet in height. Nobody ever seemed to agree about the nomenclature of the masts so that question remains in doubt. It is amazing to note that the total cost of building and equipping this ship was only \$250,000 (1902).

She immediately entered the coal trade. When the "Lawson" was loaded to capacity with 9000 tons of coal, she was so deep drafted that she was inclined to go aground frequently. Newport News, Va. was about the only port at which she could load without touching bottom. The sailing qualities of the "Lawson" were always in question. According to the designer, she would sail well when fully loaded but was very cranky when lightly loaded or in ballast. The general opinion was that she did not tack well and was very hard on the crew.

In 1906 the "Lawson" was converted into an oil tanker and leased to the Sun Oil Company for a period of five years. While loading oil at Sabin Pass, Texas, she rolled over and was salvaged with great difficulty. The cause of the mishap was improper ballast stowage.

The "Lawson" made her last voyage in 1907. She was chartered to the Standard Oil Company for a trip to England with a cargo of 2,003,063 gallons of oil. The captain was George W. Dow, an experienced Maine seaman. "Lawson" sailed on 19 November which is a very dangerous time on the western ocean. Off Newfoundland she was caught in a gale of hurricane force and was forced to run before the gale with sails blown away under very difficult conditions. On 13 December land was sighted, the English coast, and the anchors were let go with 75 fathoms of cable. Captain Dow had hoped to make his landfall at Bishop's Rock on the western approach to the Channel, but bad weather had prevented an accurate fix, and he was in Broad Sound in the Scilly Islands with Annet Island dangerously close to leeward. The Scilly Islands, close by Lands End, Cornwall, are a notorious graveyard of ships.



joellyn tremain GRI

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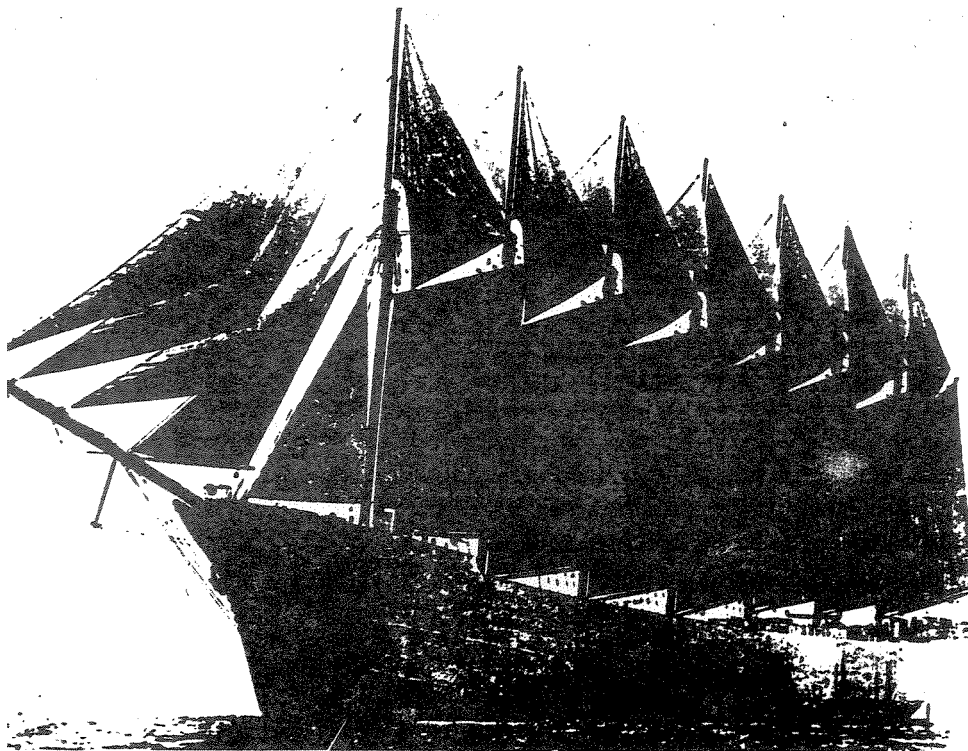
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THE "THOMAS W. LAWSON", THE ONLY SEVEN-MASTED SCHOONER EVER BUILT

The British life boats came alongside, but Captain Dow estimated that his anchors would hold and he requested that they go back and signal for a tug. The life boats put aboard a Trinity House pilot and departed. Unfortunately the weather steadily worsened and by midnight hurricane winds were blowing. At 1:15 the port anchor cable snapped and at 2:31 the starboard cable let go. The "Thomas W. Lawson" was finished. Within ten minutes the great schooner struck on Hellwether Reef near Annet Island and broke in two and sank.

Captain Dow and Engineer Rowe were saved although badly injured. All the rest of the crew and the pilot were drowned. The cargo of oil was insured but the ship was not covered and the owner lost \$150,000 from the loss of the vessel.

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FURTHER NOTES ON THE MAY PLANT SALE

So many people were interested to see Anne Reynolds' house, with its story, and her garden. How can enough be said about the co-operation, the hard work and the generosity -with their plants and with their genius- of the Committee,- Brenda Gordon, Ilse Nesbitt, Nancy Pease, Anne Reynolds, Susan Bowen, Suzanne Reynolds, and our treasurer, Herb Rommel! As always, we are indebted to Ilse Nesbitt for flyer and poster. Weren't they lovely? We had the delightful surprises of Susan Bowen's individual signs for the plant categories, and of Donna Maytum's "gang" coming to do so much with smiling young faces.

Are we grateful the weather relented!

Let us salute the great people of the Point, who came, brought so much - the giant jade tree, the little white spruce, a host of treasure - and took away things to make our neighborhood beautiful. Thanks, Bruce Howe, for more fine plants than we can count; we cherish them all.

Rosalys Hall
alias Posy
Chairman

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AN UNUSUAL SIGHT AT BLUE ROCKS

This writer recently saw something which he has never seen in this vicinity. It was a complete family of Canada Geese about 20 yards off the Blue Rocks. This group consisted of ten recently hatched goslings swimming diligently in a perfect line ahead column formation. At the head of the column was one parent and bringing up the rear was the other.

This family group was heading directly towards the War College where they would be sure to find shelter, food, and protection. It has been suggested that the Canada goose is extending its breeding range in a southerly direction. Let us hope that we may see more such spectacles at Battery Park.

Donal O'Brien

WHO? WHAT? WHERE? WHEN? WHY?

Answers to last issue's questions:

Gladys Bolhouse of the Newport Historical Society's staff has sent us these notes:

QUEEN'S HITHE - a dock (rather than a wharf) on what is now Long Wharf, shown on the first map of Newport drawn by John Mumford in 1713. In the article "The House That Went to Sea" in The Green Light, February 1983, the Pilot House on Farewell Street is noted as being named "The Queen's Hithe" when it was moved from Washington Street to a spot across from the landing dock known as The Queen's Hithe in the early 1800's.

Mrs Bolhouse tells us that DYER'S GATE on Third Street (unfortunately no longer marked by a street sign) was on the property of Charles Dyer (son of William) who was granted "liberty to hang a gate at ye end of ye way between land of John Clarke and land formerly of Easton, now deceased, now of Henry Bull -- a gate convenient for pas and repas for one year's term" by the Town Meeting, April, 1684. Thanks Gladys, for your good help.

Sarah Plumb reminds us that an article about William Dyer, first resident on the Point, and Dyer's Gate is in Now and Then On The Point, a booklet of reprints from The Green Light, 1980. (Copies available at the Point Fair for \$3.50.)

NOW FOR SOME NEW QUESTIONS:

Where was Shipwright's Street, and what is it now called?

Where were First Street and Fourth Street?

Why was the present site of the War College called "Coaster's Harbor Island"?

Which street from Third over the railroad tracks had a "High Bridge" - demolished when America's Cup Avenue was established?

Where is the place once called "Gull Rock"?

What Pointer has lived longest on the Point?

No one asked a question, or sent an historical item to share. We welcome them both. Send to Editor, Box 491, Newport, R.I. 02840.

Kit Hammett

BOOK REVIEW

IN LIVING MEMORY: A Chronicle of Newport, Rhode Island, 1888-1988, by Eileen Warburton; published by Newport Savings and Loan Association/Island Trust Company, 1988; 177 pages. \$30.

This book, published to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Newport Savings and Loan Association, is different from the other books published for previous bank birthdays in that it relies on text, more than pictures. In addition, the author has used many photographs which have not appeared in other books. The book deals with the everyday life and people of the community rather than concentrating on the Bellevue Avenue sector.

Newport historians who thrive on Newport books as well as those citizens of the city who have an interest in where Newport has been and seek insight into what lies ahead will enjoy the book and find merit in it. The book provides a journey into the last 100 years of the daily life of the citizens of the "City by the Sea" that none other has done.

Check page 23 for a picture of Esther Benson taken during her first summer in Newport.

The book may be purchased at any of the bank's branches.

Florence Archambault

It is wonderful to take a ride in the country in August and in September. Backroads and byways offer some delightful surprises. The roadside stands have a stunning variety of fruits and vegetables and the fields are full of Queen Anne's lace and black-eyed Susans. Everything seems to have intense color and vigorous growth belying the fact that these are indeed the waning days of Summer.

SAUTÉD TOMATOES

3 pounds green or ripe tomatoes
1 cup flour
1 TSP. salt
1/8 TSP. pepper
1/4 cup margarine
1 cup either sour or heavy cream
6 slices toast
1 TBSP. parsley

Cut tomatoes into 1/2" slices.
Dredge them in seasoned flour. Saute on both sides in margarine until golden. Place on toast. Add cream to pan drippings and simmer 5 minutes. Pour over tomatoes. Serves 6

Perhaps you will serve one or two of these recipes on your patio as summer draws to an end.

PATIO FONDUE

Melt over hot, not boiling water
4 cups sharp American processed or Old English cheese, shredded.
Gradually stir in...
3/4 cup light cream or gingerale for less calories
1/2 TSP. dry mustard
1/2 TSP. Worcestershire sauce
1/4 TSP. salt
dash of pepper

Cook over medium heat until cheese is melted and mixture smooth.
Place in fondue pot.
Have baskets of crusty bread chunks and bowls of fruit beside the fondue pot with forks to spear and dip the bread and fruit.

Serves 6

For a larger group, make a recipe of medium white sauce and add the cheese and seasonings. Omit the cream. Some Rhine wine added is delicious.

Carey, Richmond & Viking

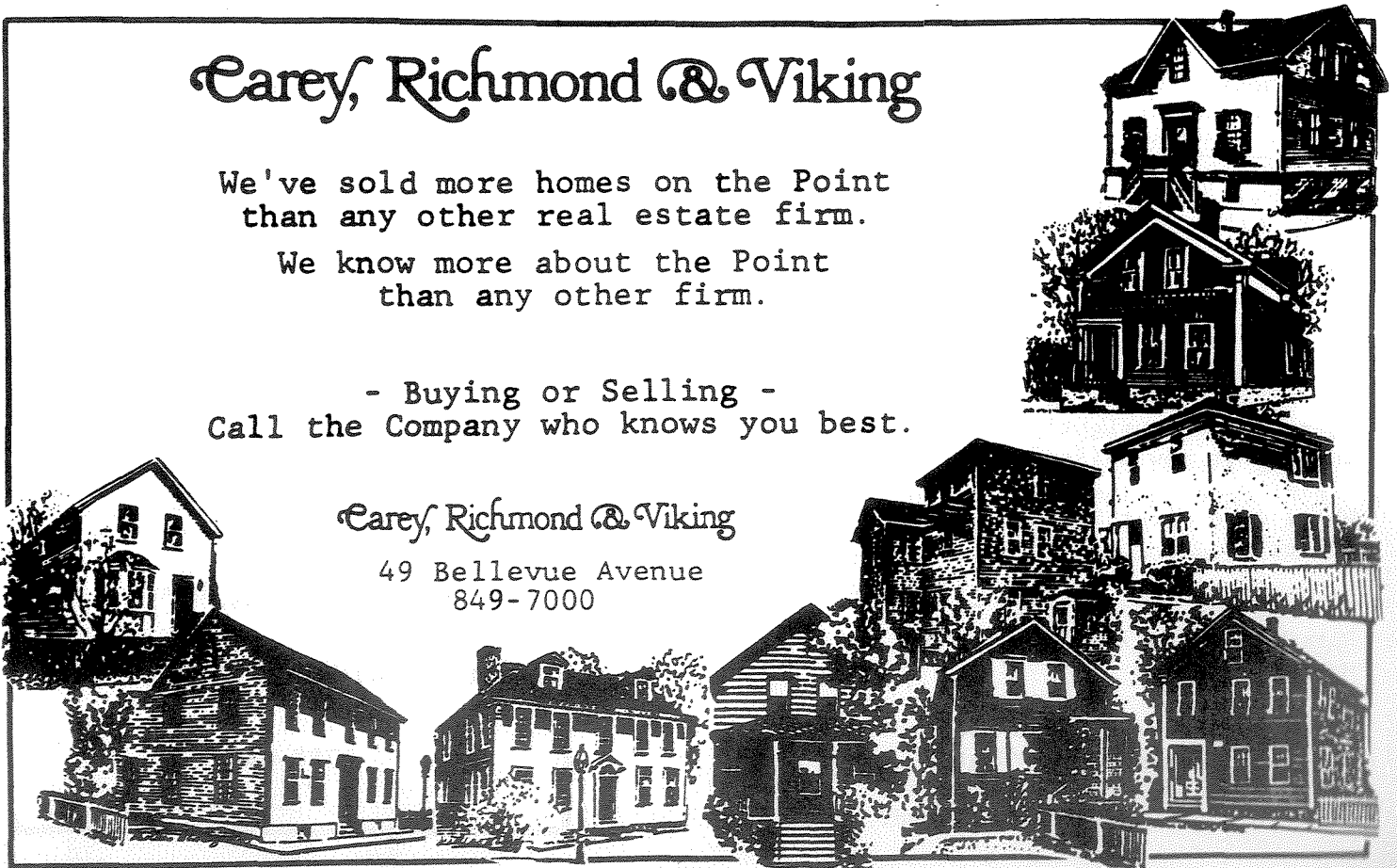
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PEACH COBBLER

Filling:

- 1 cup cold water
- 1 TBSP cornstarch
- 1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1/4 TSP nutmeg
- 4 medium-sized peaches (1 pound),
peeled and thickly sliced
- 1 TBSP lemon juice
- 1 TBSP butter or margarine

Topping:

- 1 cup unsifted all-purpose flour
- 2 TBSP granulated sugar
- 1 1/2 TSP baking powder
- 1/4 TSP salt
- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter or
margarine
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 large egg

1. Heat oven to 400 degrees.
2. Prepare filling: In an 8" cast
iron skillet, stir water into
cornstarch until smooth. Stir in
brown sugar and nutmeg. Cook over
high heat until mixture thickens--
3 to 5 minutes. Remove from heat.
Stir in peaches, lemon juice, and
butter.
3. Prepare topping: Into medium size
bowl, sift flour, sugar, baking
powder and salt. Cut in butter
until mixture resembles coarse
crumbs. Stir in milk and egg. Spoon
topping over peach mixture in
skillet.
4. Bake cobbler 20 to 25 minutes or
until topping is golden brown. Cool
slightly on wire rack. Serve warm
or at room temperature.

It is up to you whether you put whip-
ped cream on it or not.

Did you start your pot-pouri jar
yet? Mine is almost full. If you have
lost your recipe, it is in the "Green
Light" - August/September, 1987.

Sarah Plumb

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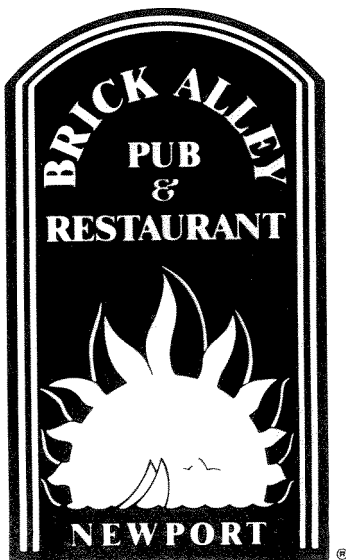
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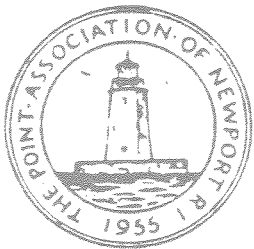


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