The Bullitin of the Point Association of Newport, Rhode Island

DECEMBER 1989

The Newport Bridge from Stoner Park
by Ilsa Nesbitt
We are indebted to Herb Rommel for all the photos in this issue.

Copies of the Green Light may be purchased for $1.00 at Bucci's Convenience Store, Poplar and Thames Streets.
PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It has been a very busy Fall. I would like to thank Brenda Gordon again for her efforts in organizing and chairing our Meet the Candidates Night. The program went very well and was a significant contribution toward an informed electorate.

The biggest news was the City Council's agreement with the owners of the shipyard property on Washington Street. The owners have agreed to take steps leading to a "structured foreclosure" sale in exchange for the City guaranteed minimum bid of 8.3 million dollars. This doesn't guarantee that the City will win, only that it will start out at a bid that is acceptable to the bank and the current owners. A comprehensive environmental evaluation of the property for potential hazardous materials must be completed before the auction can take place, so it will probably be three to four months before the sale occurs.

You have all seen the ness at the connector road and Goat Island causeway. They expect to be finished in January, but they have until early Spring if necessary. They are required to replace all plant materials with equal or better materials and to leave the area completely restored. We have "before" pictures and we have been assured they will consult with us during the reconstruction. We were unable to have the path avoid the corner of Storer Park because the space under the causeway and through the edge of the shipyard is already congested with various buried utilities. We were, however, able to keep them from using the rest of the Park as a staging area.

Happy holidays!

[Signature]
MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to the following new members:

Theodore Bozyan
Lynn & Maurice de Lavalette
Virginia & Richard Flinchbaugh
Kathryn Galvin
Ruth Glucksman
Mrs. Charles Jesting
Alan & Dee Kent
Saralyn Kessler
Deborah & Ronald Kutrieb
Mrs. Robert Lord
Genevieve Mathison
Kevin O'Connor
Dorothy Phillips
Louise May Sherman

Your membership expiration date is on the mailing label of your Green Light. Dues are now due for the period 1989-1990. I am pleased to report that over 70% of the membership have paid their dues through September, 1990.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have a question regarding your membership.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Roberta M. Majewski
Membership Chair
846-6194

GENERAL MEETING

A meeting of the Point Association was held at St. Paul's on Thursday, October 19th. Many membership renewals were received as well as some new members. The new slate of officers was elected after being presented by Donna Maytum, chair of the nominating committee. They are:

First Vice-president: MaryLynn Rooke
Treasurer: John Howard
Recording secretary: Donna Flynn...
and Brenda Gordon to fill the expiring term of Roberta Majewski as Second Vice-president.

PRESSURE POINTS

Recently, the Daily News asked for comments on tourism which we thoroughly enjoyed reading. Now that we have passed through another summer, let's "accentuate the positive" about it.

The Point looked beautiful. Our parks looked great --- neatly trimmed grass, bright flowers, attractive trash containers, new park benches and, always, our wonderful view of the Bay. Many caring neighbors lent a hand, and Mr. Gurney of the Parks and Recreation Department was alert and on-the-job. Thanks to everyone for an excellent community spirit!

Thanks go to our Point Association Committees. Do your part and join one.

CLEAN-UP COMMITTEE: Takes responsibility for keeping seven parks clean (Storer, Battery, Martins, Ellery/Liberty Tree, Arnold, Bridge St. Playground and Hunter Field). This activity is done once or twice a week. Future goals are to expand activities to include block monitors, adopt-a-park, publicity/posters, prizes and school talks.

Chair: Phil Burnett, 847-0925

CANDIDATE'S NIGHT

A forum of the candidates running for the Newport City Council was held at St. Paul's Church on Thursday evening, October 12. Brenda Gordon presided. A series of questions, with the candidates' answers, had been prepared in advance, and copies were given to members of the audience as they assembled.

A short speech by each candidate was followed by a lively question and answer period. The event was well attended, and the audience seemed to feel that light had been thrown on some of the questions that are coming up to face our future Council.

Chair: Phil Burnett, 847-0925
BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE: The purpose of this Committee is to incorporate flowers and trees into the quality of life on the Point and to encourage residents to garden. The Committee plants and cares for their plantings at the parks. Members also help with the Plant Sale in May.

Chair: Mary Rommel, 847-7779

PARKING COMMITTEE: Sticker parking was in place and congratulations are in order for a job superbly done. Residents did their part, especially in using their guest passes. The City did its part by actively ticketing and enforcing the Ordinance. Thanks again to all.

Chair: Marylynn Rooke, 846-6849

As you settle in for a peaceful winter, it's a good time to reflect on how you will devote your time and talent to future issues that develop. Keep your eyes and ears open and your voices heard!

WASHINGTON STREET CONSTRUCTION

Two recent developments have raised questions for future traffic patterns on the Point.

With construction in process through December at the Causeway and Washington Street, the Point is experiencing limited one-way traffic on Washington Street.

This construction time is a good test period. Would closing off the Point at the Causeway improve the traffic/parking situation on the lower Point? Should traffic be directed one-way into the City?

If you have concerns/opinions contact our Councilman, Jack Crowley.

"VAN ZANDT BRIDGE IS FALLING DOWN, FALLING DOWN"

The deterioration of the Van Zandt Bridge is another concern. The Department of Transportation (DOT) has set a new weight limit of 4 tons. City Manager Edwards requested that the DOT replace the bridge. The immediate concern is whether the new weight restriction will curtail use of the bridge by fire trucks and school busses.

UNSAFE. PASS AT YOUR OWN RISK

How sad it is to see that sign on the Elm Street Pier. Whatever happened to the money that was in the city budget to repair the pilings?

Next it will be no swimming. When the CSO Facility is operational, our SB water quality will be a thing of the past.

Liz Bermender
CHRISTMAS ON THE POINT - 1989

*Dec. 12 Giant Gingerbread House Tour and Old Colony Railroad Ride. Newport Marriott. Admission: Donation of non-perishable food for local charity. 1-4 p.m. Tel. 849-1000

*Dec. 13 Christmas Open House and Art Show Newport Naval War College Museum Coasters Harbor Island, Newport Naval Base. Free admission. 1-3 p.m. Tel. 841-4052

*Dec. 15 A Night of Christmas Music, St. Paul's Methodist Church, 12 Marlborough St. 7:30 p.m. Free-will offering.

*Dec. 17 Holly Tea in the 18th Century Manner. St. Paul's Methodist Church. 3-5:30 p.m. Donation $1.50. (See details on page 6).

Dec. 18 Carols on the Point. Carolers meet at 13 Braman St. at 6:45 p.m. (See details on page 15).


Dec. 24 Midnight Mass, St. John the Evangelist Church, Washington Street at Willow. Service begins at 11 p.m. preceded by a sextet of male voices at 10:30 p.m.

*Dec. 26 Hunter House, 34 Washington Street, open 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Admission $6.50 Children $2.50. Tel. 847-1000

*Dec. 27 Hunter House open (see Dec. 26). Candlelight House Tour of 18th and 19th century private homes. 3:30-6:30 p.m. Admission $2.50 per house. Tel. 847-0563

*Dec. 28 Hunter House open (see Dec. 26). Candlelight House Tour continues (see Dec. 27).

*Dec. 29 Hunter House open (see Dec. 26) Judging of Doorway Contest by Island Garden Club. (See details on page 15).

* A "Christmas in Newport" event.

THE HOLLY TEA

Sunday, Dec. 17th - 3-5:30 p.m.

This is particularly for Pointers and their friends. Take time out from busy Christmas preparations to relax and enjoy a delicious cup of tea with all the good breads and cakes prepared by our expert cooks.

St. Paul's meeting room has been expertly redecorated; it is inviting even before it is transformed to the 18th century atmosphere.

If you would like to wear a Colonial costume and help, call 847-0563.

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In October of 1948 my mother died of cancer at the age of 27. It was one of her wishes that my father buy me a dollhouse for Christmas. That first Christmas came and went, and the dollhouse was not under the tree.

The following October, when I was five years old, I became ill with polio and spent several weeks in the hospital. A beautiful dollhouse appeared under the tree on Christmas morning. I loved and cherished this special toy and carefully preserved it for my children.

In 1969 we moved out of state and rented our home. We locked personal valuables in our basement storage including my dollhouse. The renters moved out without giving us notice and took everything with them. I was devastated to think that my dollhouse was gone.

I managed to trace and find out where the tenants had moved. When I called to inquire about my dollhouse, their response was a curt "we sold it" and the slamming down of the phone. Again I was devastated. I was not aware of or didn't think about legal action. I was grieving my loss. I spent the next 18 years looking in antique stores and at garage sales, hoping to find my dollhouse or at least one like it.

In the Spring of 1988, we drove to Newport News, Virginia, to visit our daughter. While browsing in an antique shop, I went into a small room, and there it was... a dollhouse exactly like mine. My mouth went dry, and my cheeks were wet with tears. Childhood memories came flooding back. I ran my hand over the roof and opened the hinged front door.

I let my fingers walk up the stairway. I recalled where every piece of furniture was once placed. There was no price on the dollhouse, which was just as well as our budget was down to our last 20 dollars.

My son-in-law came looking for me. The look on my face called for an explanation, and I walked David back through my story of the dollhouse. The following September, David returned to the "dollhouse" antique store and negotiated and renegotiated the price of the dollhouse. On Christmas morning, he presented the dollhouse to me. Tears of joy flowed the entire day. It had taken 19 years to come back to me, but the joy I felt will last a lifetime.

My mother could never have anticipated that I would receive my precious dollhouse for Christmas twice, or could she?

Lorraine Warner
Petoskey, Michigan

Note: The author asks if any reader has any RENWALL FURNITURE to sell (or any knowledge as to where some may be obtained). If so, please let the Editor of the Green Light know. Mrs. Warner hopes to restore and refurnish the dollhouse exactly as it was.
Captain Robert Gray in the Pacific Northwest by Captain Francis Cross and Colonel Charles Parkin Jr.

In the winter when daylight is short, when wind and rain keep us indoors, we really need a warm fire and an absorbing book. Such a book is Captain Robert Gray in the Pacific Northwest. The Captain was born in Tiverton, R.I. in 1755, and must have rowed or sailed about the Seconnet River, south by Sandy Point and back along the Aquidneck Island shore. I like to think that he followed that shore closely, discovering little bights and beaches, studying tides, currents, rocks, reefs and the courses of winds. This was a learning experience that became the very core of his later success in exploring the northwest coast of North America.

No record exists telling of Gray's involvement with the Revolution. Perhaps he was a privateer, harrying the British Royal Navy, meanwhile gaining much knowledge of the Atlantic Ocean. In 1787 he was named captain of the sloop "Lady Washington", to undertake a five-year trip around the Horn, to sail up the South American coast to the Pacific Northwest. The commander of this voyage was Captain John Hendrick, of the ship "Columbia". Hendrick is remembered for rather too many poor decisions.

The object of the carefully planned endeavor was to engage in the fur trade with the Indians, exchanging cutting tools (knives, chisels, etc.) for the rich furs of the sea otter. When either ship became fully loaded, it was to sail via the Sandwich Islands to China, where the furs brought high payment. The ships could then load up with silks, tea, porcelain and spices to return to America by rounding the Cape of Good Hope. Or they could go back to the northwest coast and do it all over again.

At this time the United States, with the Revolution behind her, began to realize that an almost unlimited expanse of land and sea lay to the west. The wise forefathers of the Nation, as well as politicians and astute merchants, saw great possibilities far beyond the existing limits of the continent. The expedition of "Columbia" and "Washington" (the "Lady" had been dropped) was an early endeavor of this sort. Boston merchants underwrote it generously, and financial success deemed sure.

From diaries, journals, and letters home, the incredible and entrancing tale of this voyage is spelled out. The long sail past the Spanish claims covering so much of the California coast was safely accomplished. By the time the Captain reached what is now the San Francisco area, his crew was nearly starved. Fear of hostile Indians was ever present, so that making a landing was precarious.

Captain Gray is revealed as an extremely wise and practical officer. Searching out openings in the coastline, he sailed into those unknown harbors, recognizing sand bars, reefs and rocks, and signs of Indian occupation. He found safe moorings or he retreated.

He provided time for his crew to go ashore to pick nourishing greens and vegetables, to shoot game, and above all to rest. He traded with the Indians continually. Serious skirmishes took place occasionally. When a suitable sheltered beach was found he careened the ship to scrub the weed off her bottom. They made necessary repairs, cut new sails, stocked up on fresh logs for future spars.

They sailed on up that beautiful untouched coast, charting the islands, the mountain peaks, the river entrances, all the time collecting the sea otter furs. They discovered the Columbia River, naming it for the flagship. They reached the Queen Charlotte Islands and Vancouver Island. This is a truly wonderful book and I urge you to read it.

Esther Fisher Benson
THE FRIGATE "CONSTELLATION"

The Grist Mill column by Leonard Panaggio in the Daily News reported in November that the Frigate "Constellation" would be depicted on a 15-cent post card, available in December. (The local post office confirms this, saying it was available as of November 20th.)

Pointers have a great interest in the "Constellation", America's oldest warship, launched in 1797. She was "home-ported" at the Naval Training Station from 1894 to 1946, when she was towed to Boston to be "surveyed", and was eventually taken to Baltimore, Md. Restoration was done there, and the "Constellation" is a showpiece in Baltimore's inner harbor.

As everyone knows, the loss to Newport was lamented. We wanted to keep "The Yankee Racehorse", sister ship of "Old Ironsides", the "Constitution" here.

NEW VISIONS SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY

New Visions provides transportation services to senior citizens 60 years and older to medical appointments, for grocery shopping, and specialized medical appointments in the Providence area. The cost for transportation is 25 cents for a seven-mile trip, but no one is denied this service because of inability to pay.

New Visions also does the intake for the R.I. Elderly Pharmaceutical Program. Through this program, low-income elderly Rhode Islanders can receive assistance with the cost of prescription drugs used to treat specified conditions.

For more information about eligibility, making appointments, and other details, call 847-7821.

SEEKING SENIOR COMPANIONS

(A program funded by Action, State of Rhode Island)

The Elderly Services Program introduces a paid volunteer opportunity for low-income seniors, aged 60 plus, who are willing to share their warmth and compassion with the needy elderly.

Senior Companions help the elderly remain independent in their own homes by offering encouragement and support, transportation, meal preparation, errands, shopping, sharing lunch, letter writing, or just taking a walk together.

This program is funded by a grant through the Department of Elderly Affairs and provides a tax-free stipend to volunteers which does not affect governmental benefits such as Social Security Income or subsidized housing.

We are currently seeking new companions to serve the Newport County area. For more information, call Caroline Molloy at 849-2300.

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November 10, 1986, the Grist Mill column in the Newport Daily News published a letter from William Garniss, a native Newporter. The letter is a nostalgic true story of the influence of a choir master on a boy's life.

The year was 1917, and the choir master was Merton B. Frye, the organist at St. John's Episcopal Church on Washington Street. That September Mr. Frye recruited William Garniss and five other boys to sing in the church choir.

Twelve-year-old William Garniss had lost his father and he relates the rewarding male influence Mr. Frye exerted on his life then, and later.

Rehearsals for the two Sunday services were held three times a week. It was a four-mile walk to the church but the boys enjoyed it, especially when they received pay envelopes. William Garniss, being the oldest, received the princely sum of $1.10. Six years later he was earning $5.50 a month. Paydays were celebrated at Langley's, where Mr. Frye presided over a feast of homemade ice cream.

St. John's choir became well known, participating in Choir Festivals in Bristol and in All Saints' Church, Providence.

Rear Admiral Belknap was a part-time choir member and it was his gig that provided transportation to Providence. Mr. Garniss writes of the excitement the boys felt when boarding the smart boat manned by white-clad sailors.

Mr. Frye owned a Stoddard Dayton touring car and he took his boys to Bunker Hill. On the way there, Mr. Frye stopped in Fall River at a lumber mill to have a bench fitted behind the driver's seat so that the boys could see everything. This was in 1918 and the war had closed the monument, but the picnic lunch and the outing itself made every one content.

Another time, Mr. Frye took his boys to Royalston, Massachusetts to visit his parents. The farm was not far from Mt. Monadnock in New Hampshire which the boys would eventually climb. The farm visit was so successful that Mr. Frye built a bunkhouse there and charged the boys $5 a week for campsouts. Mr. Garniss remembers that his family could not afford that sum ($10 dollars for himself and his brother) and Mr. Frye made it $2.50 each.

In 1923, when Mr. Frye left St. John's to become organist and choirmaster at Emmanuel Church, William Garniss was unhappy; he did not go to sing at the Sunday service. Mr. Frye came looking for him and invited him to sing at Emmanuel. Eighteen years old now, but still a soprano, William accepted with pleasure and remained there for six happy years.

In 1929, Mr. Frye married the choir mother, Mae, and moved to Holy Trinity Church, West Chester, Pa. William Garniss entered Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, N.Y.

William's mother had died two years previously and the young man was low on funds and lonely in the new city. Remembering the fun and comradeship of St. John's choir in Newport, he auditioned at Grace Church and at Trinity in New York City. Due in part to Mr. Frye's fine training, William was soon the leading soprano at Trinity, and remained there for 12 years. Later he joined the St. James choir in Upper Monclair, New Jersey.

Always William had aspired to the large choir of St. Thomas's Episcopal Church on Fifth Avenue, and one day, with that same confidence gained in his years with Mr. Frye, he auditioned there. He was accepted as an alto soprano, and remained there for three years.
William Garniss gives credit to his first choir master, Merton Frye, for forty-one happy years of music and friendship. And it was almost as many years before he would hear from his choir master once more.

A long distance phone call -- Mr. Frye's wife had died and he was lonely and seeking old friends. It was William's turn to help his mentor, and he wrote, or spoke to Mr. Frye once a week until the latter died.

This is a story that began on Washington Street. It is timely for our holiday season. It is a reminder of how vital we can be, important to someone, to that someone's future.

Anita McAndrews

CHRISTMAS EVE AT
ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

The traditional Solemn Midnight Mass will be celebrated, beginning at 11 p.m. on Sunday, December 24th. There will be instrumental and organ preludes starting at 10:30 p.m. The Rector, The Reverend Henry G. Turnbull, will be the Celebrant, and the music will be under the direction of W. Robert Foreman. Organist and Choirmaster.

The service music for the Mass is the "Messe de Minuit pour Noel" by Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1634-1704). Performed also will be "In Dulcio Jubilio" in a setting by Dietrich Buxtehude and "En Trinitas Speculum" from the Musae Sioniae of Michael Praetorius.

The public is cordially invited to attend this traditional, sung, Anglican service. Part of the service is the procession to the creche from the sanctuary for the Blessing of the Creche. The St. John creche is a wonderful group of 18th century Neapolitan figures; it is on display through Epiphany.

Anita McAndrews

With size 3 or 4 needles, and lightweight wool, cast on 20 stitches.

Knit 6 rows (garter stitch).

Do next 16 rows in stockinette stitch (knit one row, purl next).

On the next right side row, knit 13 stitches. Turn so that the wrong side is on top and purl 6 stitches. Turn over and knit same 6 stitches. Continue last 2 rows until 9 rows have been worked on center 6 stitches.

Break off yarn. With right side on top, tie in yarn below last stitch on right needle. Pick up 9 stitches along side of vamp of stocking. Knit center 6 stitches. Pick up 9 stitches along other side of vamp and knit to end of row. Purl back across the entire row.

Knit 2 stitches together at beginning and end of next row to shape heel. Knit center 2 stitches together to round toe. Continue to decrease in this way 2 more times on knit rows, doing total of 6 rows.

Bind off, leaving yarn to sew sole and back seam.

Corrine Ackman and the Newport Needleworks Ltd.
SOLD, THE STELLA MARIS!

"The Stella Maris is sold! The 'For Sale' sign is down. Who has bought the Stella Maris?" Washington Street was rife with questions, predictions of doom.

Your Green Light was alerted and, just as we were going out the door to question realtors, the buyers of the property paid a call on us.

Dorothy and Edwin Madden of 71 Washington Street were visiting home owners on all sides of the Stella Maris to assure us that they would respect trees, shrubs, and both the outside and the inside of the beautiful old house and its grounds.

"We are not going to cut down a single tree," Mrs. Madden promised.

"We want to keep the house as it is," said Mr. Madden.

The Maddens plan an inn, with just five bedrooms available. The rear of the house will have two apartments for rent.

The Maddens expressed an interest in the Point Association, and in the Green Light. They appear keenly interested in Washington Street, its history, and its beauty. They told us renovations would begin on December 21st, this year.

"And the condos across the street?" we asked.

The Maddens knew little about those long-empty buildings that serve no purpose except to block any view of the water. All we could find out is that "the bank has taken over."

Well, when pushed too far, banks will take over. Perhaps, pushed further, they will bulldoze?

Anita McAndrews
Born-on-the-Pointer Dr. Patricia Mathinos Blakley, who has a Ph.D. in developmental biology/teratology, has entered the College of Medicine of the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, Canada, as recently reported in Honors/Awards in the Daily News. Dr. Blakley is the daughter of Mrs. Bertha Mathinos of Katzman Place. She lives in Saskatoon with her husband, Dr. Barry Blakley, and their son and daughter.

Congratulations, Patricia!

John Benson and his son Nicholas of the John Stevens Shop on Thames Street were the stone carvers for the black granite monument which was recently dedicated as a memorial to those who died in the civil rights movement, located at the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama.

Father and son carved a quote from Martin Luther King on one side of the monument; John designed the typeface for a chronology of the Civil Rights movement on the other side. A photo in the Daily News showed Nicholas and construction supervisor Fulton Dorminey at the monument.

More Benson! What a family of Green Light staff member, Esther Fisher Benson!

The name Thomas T. Benson will be seen all over Newport Harbor on the newly-commissioned boat in the harbormaster's fleet. The 26-foot aluminum utility boat, built for Tom Benson before his death, was christened the Thomas T. Benson at a ceremony on Sunday, Nov. 19th at the Newport Yacht Club. Tom was a founder and the executive director of the Museum of Yachting at Fort Adams State Park. A photo of the boat appeared in the Providence Journal.

Virginia Covell, Green Light Editor, was author of an article published in a recent bulletin of the Newport Historical Society. Entitled "In the Footsteps of Henry James", the article recounts favorite walks of a youthful Henry and friends to the Big Pond, Easton's Beach, Purgatory, Hanging Rock, to the relatively undeveloped southern end of the island and along the Newport harborside.

Boyhood residences in Newport in the 1850's and 1860's were the basis of Henry James' love of nature, art and writing -- stimulated by friendships with John LaFarge and Sargeant Perry.

Photographs by Gertrude Santos enliven the article.

Two Pointers, Ade Bethune and Esther Burnett, were pictured in the Daily News as they viewed the recent restoration of a Park-Holm public housing unit as part of the celebration of Affordable Housing Week. They are members of the board of the Church Community Housing Corporation.

Both are well known, very active Point Association members, especially on the Clean-up and Beautification Committees.

Kit Hammett

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A FLAG-RAISING ON THE POINT

A special ceremony was held at the Nina Lynette Home on Monday, October 30th, when a flag was flown for the first time. It was given to the Home by Judith Richardson Sylvia in memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Heidler. Mrs. Heidler had been a member of the Board of the Home, and Mr. Heidler had been a resident there for a short time before his death.

Music accompanied the ceremony, after which refreshments were served.
CHRISTMAS DOORWAY CONTEST

You are welcome to compete in this activity. The rules are as follows:

Use freshly cut greens such as pine, boxwood, or holly.
Add fresh or artificial fruit and other accessories such as wreaths, garlands, or swags.
Clear bulbs in candles or clear twinkle lights may be used (colored bulbs will disqualify your entry).
The design should reflect the period of the house...Colonial, Victorian, Contemporary.

Judging will be done during the daylight hours of December 29th by members of the Island Garden Club. If you would like further information call either: 847-7779 or 849-2299.

Mary Rommel

CAROLLING ON THE POINT

The date will be Monday evening, December 18th. Please plan to come to 13 Braman Street at 6:45 p.m. The carol books will be there. Dress warmly and bring a flashlight. If you need more information, call me at 849-5525.

Taff Roberts

SWANHURST CHRISTMAS CONCERT

This concert will be held at St. Joseph's Church, Broadway and Mann Avenue, on Sunday, December 3rd at 4 p.m. While not exactly on the Point, it is near it. Also, the chorus has always had Pointers as faithful members, both past and present.

This year Bach's Cantata No. 147 and the Vivaldi Magnificat, accompanied by orchestra, will be featured. Admission is $10.00. For information call 849-6634.

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GLADYS A. BOOTH

Our readers will be sorry to hear of the death of Gladys Booth, lately a resident of Mt. Kisco, N.Y. She contributed several nostalgic pieces to the Green Light; she also wrote a book, Memories of the Point, which described life growing up here during the early part of this century.

Born in Newport in 1895, Mrs. Booth was the daughter of the late Charles and Annie Lathrop Bacheller. She lived most of her life in this area.

During World War I, she was among the first women to join the Navy. She served until August 1919 when she received an honorable discharge as a yeoman first class.

In later years Mrs. Booth was a Brownie leader whose troop met at the Potter School. She lived in Newport until the death of her husband, Earl Booth, in 1964, at which time she went to Mt. Kisco to be with her daughter. She remained there until she died in October of this year.

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16
CRIME LOG ESTABLISHED

Is crime increasing on the Point? It's a matter of concern to neighborhood residents and businesses, yet despite the importance of such information, statistics are hard to come by.

The group, Newporters for Safe Neighborhoods, originally formed to fight methadone distribution at Thames and Marlborough Streets, believe Pointers ought to find out about the frequency of burglary, auto break-ins, and any other type of illegal activity in the neighborhood. And to help the neighborhood do so, a crime log has been established.

The group is urging all residents who are victimized by a crime to report it immediately to the Newport Police. Then, the group asks the crime be reported to Newporters for Safe Neighborhoods' crime log which is kept by Liz and Ruth at Rue de France. The number is 846-2084.

The group will provide the Point Association with periodic reports on the number, and nature of calls received. The information acquired will help determine whether some neighborhood action is warranted.
Our Colonial forebears did not celebrate Christmas with the rituals and customs that earmark this season today. With the coming of the Reformation in 1517, most of the Christmas ceremonies developed by the Roman Church were dealt a serious blow.

British customs, however, were not seriously affected and continued throughout the Tudor years. But the Puritans disapproved, and in the time of Cromwell the celebration of the Nativity, even in the churches was prohibited.

This general air of spiritual gloom found its way across the Atlantic to the Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay colonies where the observance of Christmas, outside of keeping it as a matter of devotion, was banned.

Indeed, in 1659, the Puritans of the colonies enacted a law in the General Court of Massachusetts declaring that "anybody who is found observing, by abstinence from labor, feasting, or any other way, any such daye as Christmas day, shall pay for every offense five shillings."

This law was repealed in 1681 with the increasing entry into the country of the Church of England but those whose roots were anchored in the Puritan tradition objected to the secular observance of the holiday because it interfered with their religious devotions. They also associated the celebrations with the English Court and those political influences which had forced them to emigrate in the first place.

So it was many years before Christmas in the New World was celebrated anywhere near the way in which we celebrate it today.

The Victorians must have thought it was incredible that anyone had ever disapproved of Christmas when they recreated the "old Christmas" prompted by their poets, novelists, and historians. As the century went on they added to the festivities. They invented the Christmas card, greater prosperity brought the turkey, and a love of home entertainment produced new "traditional" Christmas songs and carols.

Still, at the heart of their celebration, there remained the religious significance of the day itself and from the example they learned in church they made Christmas a time of giving. Not only did they give presents to family members but also to the less fortunate who abounded in the society of that time.

Today's Christmases are a combination of a great many customs - religious, historical, and ethnic. Each family has a different way of celebrating as well as many diverse culinary dishes upon the table.

One of the most historical foods associated with the holiday is the plum pudding which had its origins in England. Recipes for this dessert can be quite complicated. Here is a recipe from a 1922 cookbook published by Good Housekeeping Magazine:

**English Plum Pudding**

- 1/2 each of suet, seeded raisins, currants, citron, and brown sugar
- A 1 lb. loaf of stale bread.
- 1 c. flour
- 1/4 c. cider
- 2 TBS. lemon juice
- 1/2 TBS. each of cinnamon, ground cloves, & nutmeg
- 1 tsp. soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 c. milk
- 4 eggs

The Christmas Bread
Mix together in a large bowl the suet chopped fine, the seeded raisins chopped, the currants, the citron thinly sliced, the brown sugar, the inside of the loaf of bread crumbed fine, and the flour sifted with the spices, soda, and salt. Add the milk, eggs well-beaten, cider and lemon juice. Mix well together and pour into a well greased pudding mold with tight cover. Steam 5 hours. Serve with a plum pudding sauce.

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without some sort of fruit cake. Here is a recipe which appeared on the label of a jar of Dromedary Fruits and Peels quite a few years ago and which I have used often. It makes a cake that weighs about 4 1/4 lbs. and is a nice simple recipe.

**Miracle Fruit Cake**

Combine 1 cup Dromedary Dates, sliced, 1 cup seedless raisins, 2/3 cup butter or margarine, 1 1/4 cups brown sugar (packed), 1/4 cup dark molasses, and 1 1/2 cups hot water in a saucepan. Boil gently for 3 minutes. Cool in a large mixing bowl. Beat in 2 eggs. Add 1 jar Dromedary Fruits and Peels and 1 cup chopped nuts.

Sift together 3 cups all-purpose flour, 1 tsp. cinnamon, 1/2 tsp. nutmeg, 1 tsp. each soda, baking powder, and salt. Add gradually to fruit mixture, beating well after each addition. Pour into a 9-inch tube pan, lined with greased wax paper. Bake in a very slow oven (275°F) for 3 hours.

Remove cake from pan. Cool thoroughly. Wrap securely in aluminum foil. Store in a clean, air-tight container in cool place. Age 3 to 4 weeks to improve flavor. Will store well for 6 weeks. (Sometimes I sprinkle a little brandy or rum over the top while it is aging.)

Have a Merry Christmas and aren't you glad we don't live in the 1600's?

Florence Archambault
MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR

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