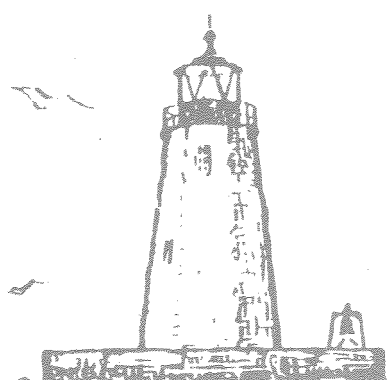
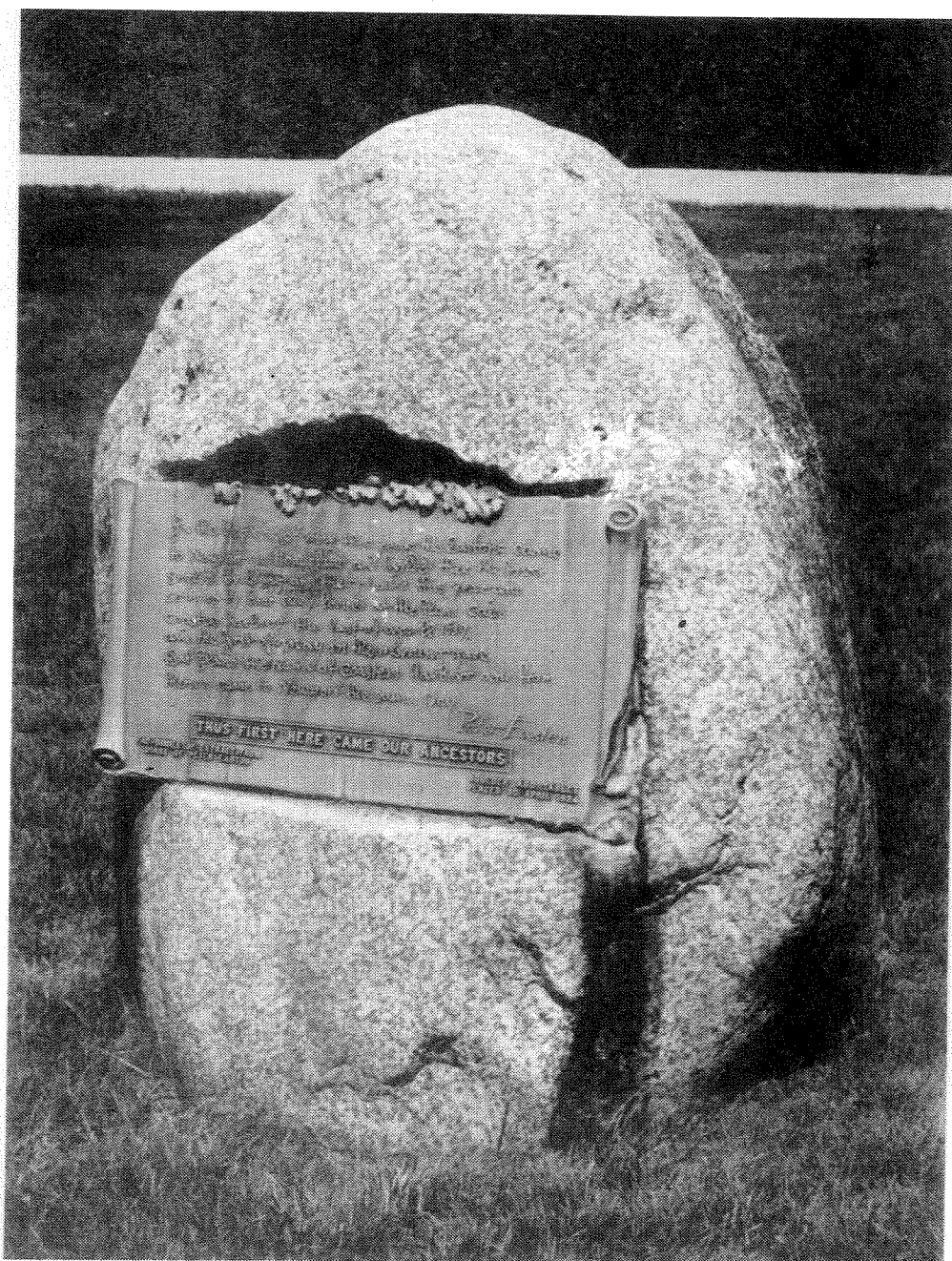


The GREEN LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

FEBRUARY 1989





The GREEN LIGHT

Vol. XXXIV -No. 1

FEBRUARY 1989

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COVER PHOTO: Settlers Stone, courtesy
of the Naval War College Museum.

Copies of the Green Light
may be purchased for \$1.00
at Bucci's Convenience Store,
Poplar and Thames Street and
at Third Street Liquors.

Curtis Magee, Advertising
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Message from the President

More good news. The City Council has passed a resolution concerning the Washington Street shipyard site that rejects construction of condominiums and hotel now, authorizes the City Manager to negotiate a purchase price, and looks to State and Federal sources for funds to purchase the land. The Council envisions preserving this last boatyard on the Newport waterfront for marine repair in perpetuity.

The City Council has petitioned the Coastal Resource Management Council for a hearing to challenge the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) plans for the Fishing Pier construction at the south end of Washington Street. The Council supports the project, but is attempting to negotiate with DEM to limit: the size of the project; its impact on the harbor channel; and the uses that would be permitted ashore.

We have one new issue to consider. CODAC has announced the move of its clinic from 42 Spring Street to the old IRS offices on the corner of Thames and Marlborough, and plans to begin a Methadone Maintenance Program in these offices. The Board was petitioned by several members of the Point Association to take a stand against this move. The Board spent a considerable amount of energy researching and discussing the issues involved and voted to send a letter to the City Council saying: we fully support CODAC, the work it does in Newport, and its move to the Point; we have serious reservations, however, with the plans to conduct Methadone Maintenance at this site; and we asked the Council to hold a Public Hearing with all parties concerned to look for alternative locations for dispensing the methadone. Most of us are familiar with the use of methadone in a controlled environment, first as a substitute for heroin, and then in gradually reduced dosages to break addiction. In a Methadone Maintenance Program however, the addiction is maintained by daily dosage which the addict purchases from the Maintenance site. Those in the Maintenance Program have been unable to beat the addiction but are judged able to lead relatively normal lives if sustained on methadone rather than left to seek the illegal heroin. There are risks involved in this program. We are advised that distribution should be made from carefully controlled sites such as hospital grounds or at police stations where gathering is less likely to occur. Distribution in Boston and Brockton MA is conducted from a special vehicle that goes to various controlled sites, further reducing the possibility of gathering.

Please let us know if you have any thoughts on these issues. I hope to see you all at the Pot Luck Supper at St. Paul's on the twelfth of February.

"Pete" Peters

POT LUCK SUPPER

DATE: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

TIME: 6:00 p.m.

PLACE: St. Paul's Church, Marlboro St.

THE WARMTH OF WINTER

This warmth could certainly be felt on and around the Point at Christmas time. The Point Association activity was the Holly Tea held the Sunday before Christmas at St. Paul's. Were you there? It's hard to believe that some residents still haven't found this special event. Charlie Duncan's new sign outside the doors of St. Paul's lured in some newcomers walking by. You should have heard their comments and those of others for whom this was a first. Then there was the Providence couple who came when they were first married and every year since, now with growing children. For all of you who baked such delicious goodies, many thanks. For those who worked, thanks was in the enjoyment of being a part. Cakes and cookies which were left were whisked to the Christian Action Center and disappeared with pleasure. It's a big job to put on the tea, all of which is done by Dede and Bob Elster and their willing workers. You'll be hearing more, come December, so put this "must" on your new calendar.

Another highlight which gets bigger and better every year is the three day Candle Light House Tour sponsored by Christmas in Newport. (This and the craft fair at the Viking are the two money-making events for the organization.) Again Dede arranged for the houses to be open and for hostesses in costume. It's obvious guests come from far and near and year after year. Christmas in Newport has just been listed among the top 100 attractions in North America for 1989 by the American Bus Association. No wonder our neighborhood is so popular. As next winter approaches, be sure to be a part of these Point attractions.

Katharine O'Brien

This Year's Pot Luck Supper will be
A TRADITIONAL POT LUCK SUPPER

There will be no admission charge at the door.



MAIN COURSES

will be POT LUCK CASSEROLES

Beverages (Coffee, Tea and Milk) will be provided.

You may bring wine, beer, cider etc.



EVERYTHING SHOULD ARRIVE PIPING HOT
WRAPPED IN NEWSPAPER AND PAPERBAGS

Every Container and Server should be labeled

You will receive a phone call so please be prepared to sign up to bring:

GREEN SALAD	which serves 12
VEGETABLES	which serve 12
MAIN CASSEROLE	which serves 10
DESSERT	which serves 12



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to our newest members:

Jean and Douglas Baker
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Foster
William J. Kotchen
Sue Maden
Sharyn Singer
Nancy Louise Sherman Stebor
(daughter of a Born-on-the-Pointer)

Once more - a reminder that dues were due Oct. 1, 1988. ("It seems to me I've heard that song before - It's from an old familiar score....").

If you find a yellow line through the address label of your Green Light it means you have not paid up yet! (As of Jan. 15th) So please do, or bring your dues with you to the Pot Luck Supper on Feb. 12th. Hope to see you there!

Rowan Howard
Susanne Reynolds

CHRISTMAS CAROLS ON THE POINT

It was on the first day of winter that 32 happy souls met on Braman Street for our annual Christmas Carol Sing around the Point. Our conductor, Captain Arthur Newell, gave his annual "how to sing Christmas Carols" crash course within 20 minutes.

Under a full moon we walked to Washington Street and headed for the Nina Lynette Home, our first stop. We chose "Oh Come All Ye Faithful", "Deck the Halls", and "Silent Night". A few minutes later we were outside Ade Bethune's home, and as soon as we started "Good Christian Men Rejoice" Ade appeared in her traditional apron and joined us in "Joy to the World" and "The Holly and the Ivy". After these, we started our trek southward -- glad to be out on this clear, starlit night.

As we started to sing "Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella" outside the home of Suzanne Aubois, we heard another group of carollers making their way over Chestnut St. There were about 15 of them, mostly children. We crossed the road and sang a few carols for Mabel Watson, Jennifer Paul, and Libby Boghossian.

We walked briskly down Chestnut St. to the Elsters' home where we are always warmly received with sherry, coffee, tea, and a selection of fine home-made biscuits and soda bread. Thank you both for your generous hospitality. The "Oh Come All Ye Faithful" that we delivered for the Howards was probably the best of the evening due to the good cheer that we had received at the Elsters.

Miss Sullivan asked me last August if we were going to sing carols for her this year, and we did. We sang carol after carol as she stood and listened in her red wool cap. One of her cats, sitting on her back fence, watched us carefully.

After singing "Silent Night" at the Newells, we went to Fisher Benson's house, where she joined us; then across to the Peters' homestead where we rendered "O Little Town of

Bethlehem". At this point Captain Newell had to return home, as he was recovering from a severe flu and was now losing his voice.

We were warmly received at the Nesbitts with more refreshments; the little shop was lit by candles and seemed filled with the true Christmas spirit. Thank you, Else and Alex.

The Rommels invited us in also, and as we sang carols in the living room, they prepared another spread for us; the hot buttered rum was truly in the Newport tradition and delicious. Thank you for your hospitality again this year.

We finished at the Sanford-Covell House where again we were invited in for some treats. Thank you, Anne and Richard, for your hospitality.

A big thank you to Captain Newell for conducting and to all the carollers for singing on such a cold night.

A Happy New Year to you all.

Taff Roberts

NOSTALGIA NOTE

This was the first year I felt my children were old enough (5 and 8) to join the carol singing on the Point. We drove down from Providence, had a quick dinner with my parents, and caught up with the carollers on Washington Street.

What fun to join with friends and neighbors singing the beautiful words and tunes! Jane Walsh and I sang alto, but I heard some good bass notes from our lively director, Arthur Newell.

The best part for me was the memories it brought back of carolling every Christmas Eve when I was a child, and my Dad and Uncle King coordinated the group. The houses look better now, but the smiles are still the same; the kids loved it, and somehow it made Christmas happen for me.

Cathy Covell Orloff

A FRIEND IN NEED

We all know about the new emergency telephone number 911, but may need an introduction to another personal-response service available to us here in Newport. The Lifeline Program has been publicized recently but really strikes home when some of us have been asked to be emergency responders for a neighbor living alone here on the Point. The Newport Hospital Auxiliary has recently set up a service which has been offered elsewhere in the United States and Canada. Lifeline users are individuals who benefit from knowing that help is just a push of a button away. You must be near the telephone to dial 911, but with a personal help button, worn around your neck or on your wrist, you can be in touch with the Newport Hospital Lifeline Emergency Response Center whenever and wherever. It's really very simple and the fee for installation and rental of the equipment is modest. This program of the Newport Hospital Auxiliary is headed by volunteer, Katherine Hayward, who would be happy to give you all the details (846-6400). She's been a former visiting nurse for the point so may be an old friend.



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PRESSURE POINTS

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NEWPORT OFFSHORE SAGA!

On January 18, Capitol Growth Company submitted new plans for the Newport Offshore site which do not include a public walkway or a shipyard. The latest plans conform to the Redevelopment Agency's guidelines.

City Manager Frank Edwards and City Solicitor Joseph Nicholson, Jr. met with the Capitol Growth officials on Wednesday afternoon at City Hall. There were no comments on the meeting, but the City Council had asked the City Manager to have discussion about the possible acquisition of the property to preserve as a shipyard.

The legal aspects of a deed restriction will be researched by the City Solicitor before action is taken on the resolution at the next City Council meeting of February 8th.

RECYCLING REMINDER

Please remember:

Use paper bags or string for newspapers. Wet newspapers can and will be recycled.

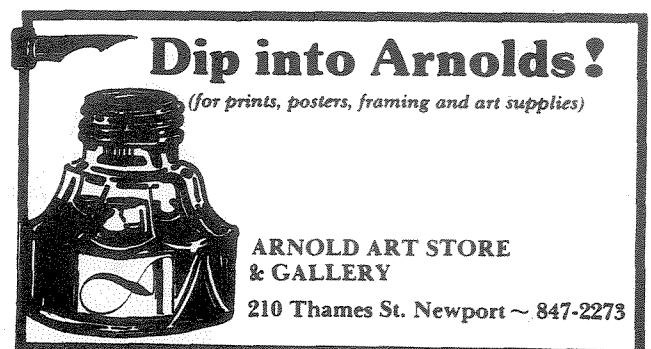
For the blue bin:

Rinse soda bottles, plastic milk/water jugs-- without caps.

Rinse tin cans, remove labels and lids. Labels are OK on all other recyclables.

Do not overfill bins. Use additional cardboard boxes or containers marked recycle.

Liz Bermender



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NEWPORT ON VIDEO

If you have access to a video cassette player, you have a treat in store. A very fine video tape of Newport has been issued by Video Memories of Jamestown. It is available in local bookstores and variety shops.

The actor, Theodore Boyd, plays the part of Benjamin Franklin. The first scenes set the tone, with Ben in full 18th-century dress on the deck of the slope Providence explaining that he is making a return visit to Newport to see what changes have been made in the last two centuries.

Starting with the type of inn he was most used to (the Melville House) he tours the city explaining the landmarks as he goes. In Touro Park, for example, he explains the theories regarding the origin of the Stone Tower; the scene is beautiful--trees in full pink blossoms, green deep green.

Redwood Library, being near, is next, and Washington's statue reminds him of Rochambeau, the Colony House, and the Vernon House, buildings where they consulted. The stops are thus worked in naturally with just enough history and too much talking; it never becomes tiresome.

The tape's creator has interposed some of Edith Price's drawings, plus old prints, and these add immeasurably to the feeling of the Colonial era.

When he visits the mansions, he gives just enough architectural and horticultural detail without being didactic or confusing. When he arrives at Beechwood, there are activities with people in 19th-century costume, adding to the sense of history unfolding.

I wish he had dwelt a bit more on the Historical Society and the Art Museum, and that he skipped some questionable details (such as the organ at Trinity having been played by Handel!) but these are minor flaws in an otherwise delightful performance.

At the very end of the film there are about 30 or 40 kaleidoscopic views of the city that are photographically excellent --- a fitting way to end a unique video experience.

Virginia Covell



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ANOTHER POINT COLLECTOR

DOLLS! --- Tiny dolls, large dolls, antique dolls, 20th century dolls, baby-dolls, girl-dolls, boy-dolls, dolls under glass domes, dolls in baskets, dolls in old carriages, --- You name it, it is undoubtedly found in Sarah Plumb's collection.

The home of Ralph and Sarah Plumb on Pine Street is a museum of dolls. In the living rooms, the halls, the kitchen, they are the main decorations, changing with the seasons or for special occasions. Sarah is a Born-on-the-Pointer but the Plumbs have lived in several states since World War II. When they retired, they returned to live in the Newport house where they had vacationed for many years, and of course, brought the dolls with them.

Sarah says that she has always loved dolls, but that she became a serious collector as an adult. When she lived in New Jersey, she followed a neighbor's suggestion, and joined a doll club in a nearby community. It was some distance from her home, so before long, she started a doll club in her own town. When the Plumbs moved back to Newport, she found no club here, so she started one in 1980.

The local club is named for Ida Lewis of lighthouse fame, and is affiliated with the National Federation of Doll Clubs. The members of

the Ida Lewis Doll Club are now planning for their tenth anniversary in 1990. Of the ten original members of the club, eight are still active; one moved away, and the other was Miss Elizabeth Anthony, well-known doll collector and doll maker, who remained interested in dolls until her death at 102 years of age.

In Sarah Plumb's collection, the oldest doll is a two-inch one made from a piece of wood, with a carved head and jointed limbs. The largest doll is 22 inches tall; it was made in Germany by Simon and Halbig and dates back to the 1890's. It has a bisque head and is beautifully dressed.

Most of the dolls are displayed individually but a three-storied doll house has miniature figures, animals, and furniture. The house has no kitchen, because in Sarah's own kitchen, over the sink, there is a built-in shelf that is a miniature old kitchen with tiny figures and furnishings for her to enjoy while doing dishes.

Another interesting piece is an Ida Lewis diorama. The background is a water color of the Ida Lewis lighthouse; in the foreground is a six-inch figure of Ida, complete in a blue and white gingham dress and a "skimmer" hat with wide stiff brim, known as an "Ida Lewis hat". These are copied from an old photograph. A small model of a rowboat of the type she used in her famous rescues and small rocks from the lighthouse shore complete the picture.



Visitors to the Point Fair last summer were fascinated by the Doll Club's exhibit, and the doll-related wares which the members had made to sell. They expect to be back this coming summer, and are making special plans for their tenth anniversary booth in 1990.

Sarah Plumb invites other doll collectors to visit a meeting of the club. Contact her at 849-3973.

WHAT a collection! And those fortunate to have Sarah enthusiastically tell about her treasure will add WHAT a collector.

Kit Hammett



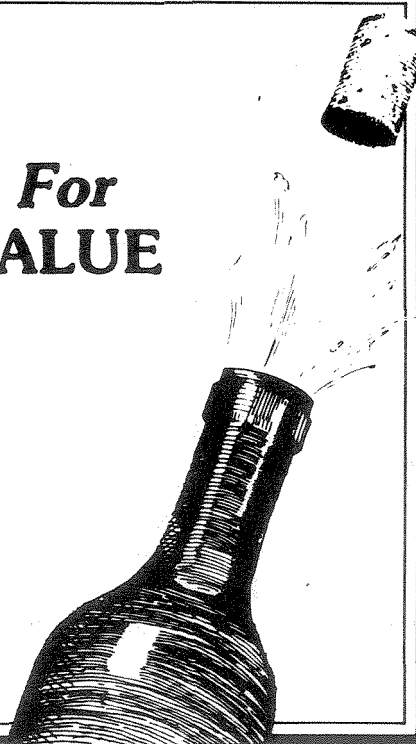
The Green Light staff is looking for other collectors on the Point. Contact the Editor at Box 491, Newport, R.I. or by telephone 846-1479.

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THE FOUNDING OF NEWPORT

In this 350th celebration of Newport's founding it seems appropriate to take note of the fact that the founding of the town began on the Point.

On April 28, 1639, the entire government of Pocasset (the settlement located on the northern portion of Aquidneck Island and later named Portsmouth) headed by William Coddington signed a covenant agreeing "to propogate a Plantation in the midst of the Island or elsewhere."

There is a difference of opinion as to whether or not this was because of dissension or because they felt that the original town was becoming overcrowded.

Nicholas Easton records that the next day he and his two sons, Peter and John, came by boat to an island where they camped and on the following morning named Coasters' Harbor. The name was derived from their boat, a coaster, so called because it was not suitable for travel except along the coastline.

This entitles Easton to the honor of being considered the first settler of Newport. The coast along Easton's Beach had been explored but the tremendous force of the surf there could not offer the settlers a safe harbor.

In addition to William Coddington and Easton, the original settlers were John Coggeshall, William Brenton, John Clarke, Jeremy Clarke, Thomas Hazard, Henry Bull, and William Dyre, all names that abound in Newport on streets, buildings and other geographical locations.

The town was established on both sides of a spring which is located at the present site of Gold's Texaco station on Spring Street. Easton built the first home located on the east side of what is now Farewell Street, west of the Quaker Meeting House; Governor Coddington's house was located on Marlborough Street; and Henry Bull built his house on Spring

Street opposite the site of the spring.

Easton's house was burned by Indians in 1641, Coddington's house was razed in 1835 but Bull's house had the distinction of being the oldest house standing in the state until it was destroyed by fire in 1912.

It seems there was a little confusion as where to locate the town because the land sloping down to what is now Thames Street was very swampy. The story goes that while the men were contemplating the problem, some Indians came along in a canoe. One of the white men asked them how much it would take to clear the swamp.

After a short consultation one of them replied, "Your coat." The coat was given to the warrior and he cut the large brass buttons off, put them on a string, and hung them around his neck. Shortly after, the Indians set fire to the underbrush on the swamp and, without any difficulty, cleared one great obstacle to the founding of the town of Newport where it now stands.

The winter of 1639-40 was a memorable one. Due to the diminished food supply (outside of game and fish which abounded) it was necessary to count the residents in order to divide the store of corn and records show that 108 bushels were divided among 96 inhabitants.

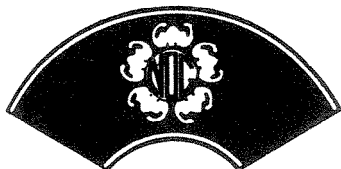
Lechford (a English lawyer who was at the Massachusetts Bay Colony from 1637-41) visited both Providence and Aquidneck and places the population of the entire island at around 200 families in this or the following year. Irving B. Richman, author of Rhode Island, Its Making and Its Meaning feels that this computation is probably correct. At the same time the Providence settlement was half that amount.

Picturesque Rhode Island by Wilfred H. Munro tells us, "On the first day of May, 1639, they landed near the site of Newport; on the 16th the town was laid out and named. Four acres were assigned for each house-

lot, and six acres were granted to Mr. Coddington for an orchard. (This was the second orchard planted in the State. William Blackstone had planted the first in 1635.) The first street marked out was Thames Street. It was about a mile in length, and was laid out 'according to the convenience of the shore,' as the quaint phrase of the olden time puts it. Almost all of the dwelling-houses were placed upon the east side of the street. It was hardly supposed that buildings would ever be placed upon the west side, except in a few unusually favorable locations. No room was therefore left for the purpose. But in course of time the necessities of commerce called for the erection of stores and warehouses, the owners of the adjoining land encroached more and more upon the highway, and the narrow street which now so surprises the visitor, is the result."

It was this commerce which led to the building up of the land which we now know as "The Point" in the late 1600's and early 1700's by the Quaker merchants and the sea captains.

The spot where the original settlers of the town of Newport landed on that warm May day is commemorated by a stone located in front of the Naval War College.



Compliments of Nortons' Oriental Gallery

415 Thames Street
Newport, Rhode Island 02840
401-849-4468 — 401-847-2307

Thirty years after the landing Peter Easton recorded in the margin of a page dealing with the year 1639 in his copy of Nathaniel Morton's New England Memorial:

In the beginning of May this year the Eastons came to Newport in Road Iland and builded ther the first English building and ther planted this year and coming by boat they lodged at the Iland caled coasters harbour the last of April 1639 and the First of May in the morning gave that Iland the name of Coasters Harbour and from thence came to Newport the same Day."

This is the inscription which was placed on the stone when the monument, a large egg-shaped boulder to which is affixed a bronze plaque, was dedicated on April 30, 1924.

Florence Archambault

* * * * *

FLOATING AN IDEA

There will be many events marking Newport's 350th anniversary this year but hopefully none bigger or better than the parade being planned for May 7th by John Lauth. The suggestion has been made that the Point Association enter a float. What could be more appropriate than the boat and the first settlers landing on Coasters Harbor Island? We'll be waiting to hear from you for suggestions and offers to help. This chance doesn't come around very often so please contact any one of your officers or the staff of The Green Light.

WHO CANNOT LOVE A TREE?

It is interesting and of some concern to note that the Island of Aquidneck was, 350 years ago, heavily wooded. Oak, walnut, and chestnut trees grew in magnificent profusion; there were pine forests and cedar swamps.

It was during the Revolutionary War that the British stripped this island of its timber and, since then, little forest growth has taken place. By the late 18th century no wood was available on the island; fuel and building commodities had to be hauled great distances. Lumber arrived in Newport by ship; mahogany and walnut the first choice of house joiners and cabinet makers.

It was not until the early 19th century that Newport's population began to expand and wealth was accumulated. Carpentry was coming into its own. Sturdier and finer homes were needed to house the new high-boys and clock cases.

The desire for a better house led to further deforestation. The brighter side of this coin was that a better house must have a larger garden and trees were needed to enhance these gardens. In his book, The Trees of Newport, Richard L. Champlin relates how the wealthy families of Newport vied with one another importing trees from everywhere in the world. These trees, many still flourishing today, make Newport a fabled arboretum.

However, deforestation continues on Newport streets. On sites of industries, and condos, trees are low on our list of priorities. Mary Rommel, chairman of the Beautification Committee for the Point Assoc., told us that "nowadays, people don't like trees." It would appear so when we realize that there is no Newport law against the cutting down of trees on private property. Many valued trees have been destroyed in this manner. A white oak, an endangered species, was recently demol-



ished, and a rare white dove tree in Arnold Park was allowed to die. Now, the Point awaits, with some trepidation, the fate of the grand old trees on the Stella Maris property on Washington St. Point residents threaten to camp out under the Stella Maris trees to protect them from destruction. Mrs. Rommel, who lives on Bridge Street in what was once the Pitts Head Tavern, has her own orchard --apple trees, a cherry and a pink chestnut. Her holly tree, seeded in Bristol, R.I., is 75 years old. "One tree," Mrs. Rommel told us, "is worth \$35,000--ecology-city-and people-wise.

The Point Assoc. sponsors a program of planting trees in memory of a person or an event. There are three cherry trees in Storer Park, given by the Weaver family; two walnut trees on Walnut Street. Streets on the Point were named in 1800 but not named for trees already there. Not long ago, a resident of Second St. asked the Point Assoc. for a tree outside her window. This tree bloomed in the spring time, giving great pleasure to the woman before she died the following summer.

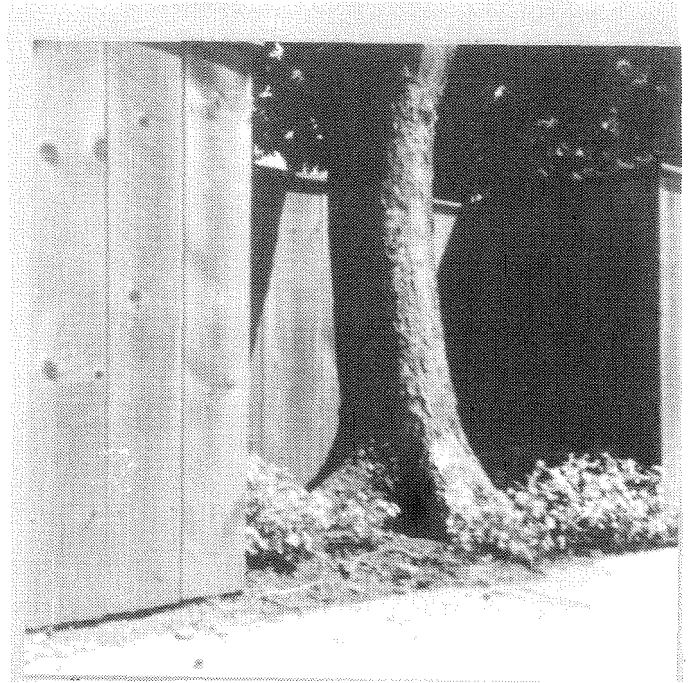
There is a Japanese weeping cherry tree in Storer Park, planted by friends of someone gone but not forgotten, and there are several pine trees on Washington St. set there by friends in memory of a friend. The Point Assoc. hopes to plant a maple tree in Battery Park in memory of Adm. Eccles. It is difficult to plant a tree in this park due to the deep pitting of the earth by old battlements; also those who reside across from the park do not want to lose their view of the harbor.

Plant a tree in memory--it is a lovely idea. But perhaps, as Mrs. Rommel says, not enough people respect trees. She speaks from experience because her committee recently planted a Christmas tree in Storer Park and that tree was immediately stolen, roots and all. Nothing left but a large hole in the ground! Yes, just as park benches are uprooted; and flower borders and planters destroyed, so are trees ruined--by baseball bats, garbage, or outright theft. It is macho now, on the Point, to turn over the newly-acquired trash disposals.

In my family, as children we loved trees. The beeches at the Elms were our "petticoat trees" - they were hiding place and palace; we would not have harmed a leaf.

We would like to give a tree, in memory of other trees. If you would like to do the same, or to remember a loved one, call Mary Rommel, 847-7779. Trees are expensive, up to \$100, but they will last, almost forever, if we allow them to. TLC--tender, loving care --and the continued cooperation of the city of Newport is what is called for. It is we ourselves, and our children, who must learn again to love a tree.

Anita McAndrews



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Since 1796*

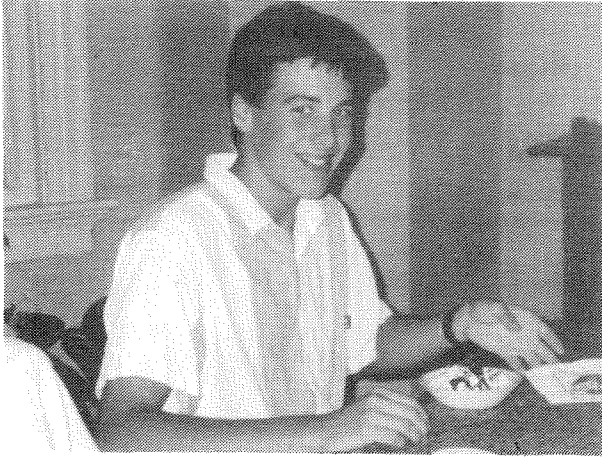
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A YOUNG CONTRIBUTOR



We've been trying to find the oldest resident on the Point, and now we can talk about one of our youngest contributors. Chris Scott, who has summered on Battery Street with his grandparents, Donal & Kay O'Brien, has written for The Green Light several times the past few years. He is now in Japan living with a Japanese family and finishing High School. He's taken time out from filling out college applications to send us this poem.

A Delicate Eternity

A winter's morning
Slowly dawning
To a blanket of cold
Draped over the silent city
The snow-covered landscape
Frozen beauty
A flawless fragment from nature's
looking glass
A momentary snowflake on my hand
Melted too soon
In a delicate eternity
On an iced street, faces
Issuing forth wisps of life from
parted lips.

Christopher Donal Scott

LONGEST RESIDENT ON THE POINT

Other challenges! Elton Manuel, we think you are too young! Leo DuTilley of 20 Walnut Street nominated his wife for this distinction. She is Julia (Lawrence) DuTilley, Born-on-the-Pointer on Elm Street in 1903. She has lived all her years on Elm, Cross, Marsh and Second Streets and since 1960 her home has been on Walnut Street.

But is she the one? Mrs. Peter Bolhouse's daughter, Mary Bolhouse Gainey, submits her mother's name. Gladys Bolhouse grew up on the Point and has been closely associated with it through all of her life. She is the Green Light's source of historical information, at her desk in the Newport Historical Society, where in spite of her advanced years of 89, she still puts in a full day's work. She lives on Charles Street, near the Association's meeting place in St. Paul's Church, and in the block just east of Thames Street. In every way, she is considered a Pointer! Is she the one?

Kit Hammett

Questions about the Point's history, or about people of the Point are welcomed by The Green Light staff. Who? What? Why? When? Send to Editor, P.O. Box 491, Newport, R.I.



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MOVIE ON THE POINT - 1915

The filming of "Mr. North" in 1987 was not the first movie-making to invade the Point. In 1915 the Lubin Company filmed "The Peril" here under the direction of a Mr. Terwilliger, and starring the handsome matinee idol, Earl Metcalf. Several of our readers reminded us of it, and some of them thought the movie had a connection with "The Perils of Pauline", a series starring Pearl White. This was not one of Pearl's many cliff-hangers that we remember from Saturday afternoons in our childhood, but a completely separate movie.

Seventy-five years ago the Lubin Company worked in Newport beginning in the early Spring and ending September 13th when the final thrilling fire scenes were shot on the grounds of the Naval Hospital. Since the story was about Army and Navy personnel, the area around Newport was a "natural" for the setting. All summer, the company filmed waterfront scenes of battleships, submarines, yachts, and the ever-present flocks of Navy men who frequented the city. Whenever there was a fire, the film company would rush to the scene and record pictures of fire to be later spliced in with their own conflagration at the end of the movie.

A complete street of quite solid buildings was constructed along the waterfront of the Naval Hospital grounds, right up to Training Station road. It was called Lubin Street. Solid, new lumber was used and the houses were finished on two sides, including window frames, clapboards, and real roofs. A most convincing set.

At last the day came for the final scenes --the complete destruction of Lubin Street and all its houses: September 13, 1915. A huge crowd was expected, and this fact gave Mrs. Elsie French Vanderbilt an idea for raising money for her favorite charity: the Ambulance Fund for France. Arrangements were made for an entrance gate to a field near the hospital, while other means of

access were closed off. A fee of \$2.00 was charged for cars, 25 cents for adult pedestrians, and 10 cents for children.

The Newport citizenry did not take kindly to this development; they had been drifting in and out of the area for weeks without impediment. Many ways were found to crash the gate, and there were loud cries of "fishermen's rights" -- although there wasn't a fishing rod in sight! The irate, milling crowd threatened to disrupt the peaceful destruction of Lubin Street. When things became too much for the police detail to handle, Commander Frank T. Evens of the Naval Training Station called forth a large number of apprentice seamen who urged the crowd back of the barriers.

There was a spirited "attack" on the village, Lubin Street became filled with a "fleeing populace", people were being "shot" --, and over all, there was deafening sound of rifle fire. A horse from the Illuminating Company reared and ran away, not having been trained to work in public commotion!

Director Terwilliger shouted directions through his megaphone, and during the course of the melee the buildings were partially wrecked. Then the fires were arranged, people were filmed "choking" from smoke and flames, and finally the entire Lubin Street was consumed in the flames.

Mr. Terwilliger said that when viewed on screen through red film (which at that time was passed out to audiences to look through at fire scenes) flames would appear so realistically on all sides that the public would wonder how anyone escaped unscorched.

Wouldn't it be great to see a revival of this cinematic gem?

Virginia Covell

I am indebted to Mrs. Louise Sherman who did much of the research for a similiar Green Light article in October 1963.

Point residents have been members of the Swanhurst Chorus for years.

"To Please a Lady", a Twelfth Night celebration in honor of Elizabeth I, the latest Swanhurst Chorus production, was a fine performance. Voices and music, under the direction of Constance Andrews, were superb, and we wished a repeat for every olde English song.

This Janaury 7 production celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Swanhurst Chorus. The Rhode Island Shakespeare Theater and the Rhode Island Moving Company participated in the program which was performed in the Rogers High School auditorium.

The juggler, stilt-walker, and the accordian player were among our favorites. The children too deserve a round of applause, and the Queen herself was altogether bewitching. Lindy Nettleson's Queen Elizabeth was a true portrait of the great lady.

The dancing was professional; staging and lighting were equally so. The production played to a full house, and our only complaint was that the pleasure given us did not last long enough. Sixty years of bringing fine music to a great many people - the Swanhurst Chorus deserves community participation. Its annual Spring Concert will be given in the Chapel of St. George's School, May 7. The box office address: P.O. Box 3186, Newport, R.I. 02840-0994.

Anita McAndrews

Now that Christmas decorations have come down, it's hard to find bright spots during some of our gray days. There are many colorful poinsettias indoors, and some garden catalogues are arriving. The trees are full of fat and frisky squirrels, and birds come flocking into backyard feeders. Canada geese can still be seen and heard. Joggers look warmer than walkers, but walkers can stop to pick up windblown litter. And one bright spot - we do have some handsome new trash barrels by Battery and Storer Parks. Oh, yes, another bright note, the days are getting longer as the sun starts creeping its way up to the Jamestown shore at sunset.

DOORWAY DECORATION CONTEST WINNERS


This contest was city-wide and sponsored by Christmas In Newport. First place went to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Oxx, 214 Eustis Ave., Newport.

Doorways receiving awards on the Point were :
First: 47 Poplar St.
Second: a tie between 47 Second and 6 Bridge Streets
Third: 57/59 Farewell St.

Honorable mention:
52 Second St., 43 Farewell St., and 15 Walnut St.

Restaurants receiving awards were:
First: White Horse Tavern
Second: Rhumb Line

Rue de France won first prize among businesses with honorable mention going to the Arnold Art Store.



TEN SPEED SPOKES
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The calligraphic art of Kathryn Atkins of 10 Third Street has been on display in the Redwood Library's showcase for several months. Recently Kay and her work were featured on the front page of The Newport Daily News. Her "work" has to do with calligraphy, specifically the 1988 publication of her book Masters of the Italic Letter, which details the art of the italic handwriting of 22 Italian masters of the 16th century.

The exhibit at Redwood, which ended on January 31st, showed the process of the ten years which Miss Atkins devoted to what she describes as a "fearsome task". She began an interest in calligraphy in a college course in 1962; this led to other courses and to increased skill in her own artistry. She now teaches courses at the Swinburne School in Newport. Her early teaching prompted what started out to be a small booklet to help her present to her students the best examples of italic handwriting; this eventually grew into her remarkable treatise.

Kay is on the staff of the Redwood Library, and during the exhibit was happy to discuss its contents with interested viewers. She still is pleased to show the book and to answer questions.

PICTURES OF POINTERS have been in the news in the past month, all of often-photographed Point residents.

"Dede" Elster was pictured at the tea table of one of the houses opened for the Candlelight Tour of historic houses on the Point, a Christmas In Newport event. She also appeared in a photo at the annual Turtle Frolic, a costumed party modeled after an 18th century dinner. This, too, was a Christmas In Newport event. Both were newspaper photos.

Mary Rommel was shown in a Daily News photo, hanging mistletoe as part of the holiday Colonial decorations at the Hunter House, in preparation for the Open House on the day after Christmas.

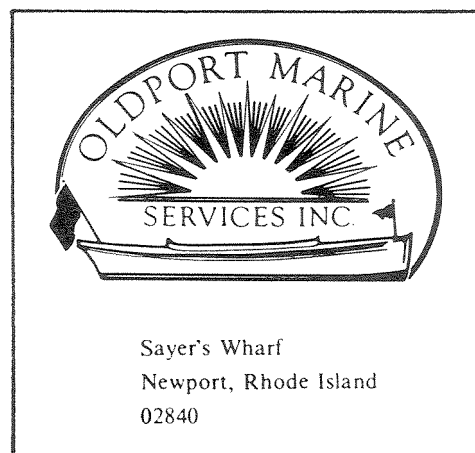
If you looked carefully at a recent Daily News photograph of three men enjoying the light from a north window of the Redwood Library's Reading Room, you perhaps caught Donal O'Brien nearest the window.

Kit Hammett

* * * * *

FUN FOR ALL

Side trips through the lobby of the Marriott in December provided glimpses of some creative construction. The almost lifesize gingerbread house taking shape was fun to watch. If you got an early start, you could see the plywood interior, but it soon became plastered with gingerbread rectangles which arrived on a trolley of baking trays. Day by day and step by step the bakers baked and the builders built with the finishing touches provided by cookies and goodies. The ingredients must have been overwhelming so we won't include the recipe, but we are hopeful this "tasteful development" on the Point will be an annual affair.



COLONIAL COOK'S CORNER

Aren't we lucky that we don't have to cook like the early settlers who used an open fire and spent the entire day making a meal?

We can, however, still make some of the same dishes that they made.

Old-time New England cooking was based on three vegetables; corn, beans and squash.

Corn was unknown to the Old World before Columbus's discovery of the New World and is America's greatest gift to the food of the world.

The early cooks discovered by trial and error that corn contained no gluten and would not rise as wheat did. Thus was born the Johnny-cake. It is thought that the name evolved from journey cake as the flat cakes were frequently carried on journeys into the wilderness.

A true Rhode Island Johnnycake should be made with white cornmeal and contains no sugar.

RHODE ISLAND JOHNNYCAKES

1 cup white cornmeal Boiling water
1/2 TSP. salt Bacon fat.

Place cornmeal with salt in a large bowl. Scald by pouring boiling water gradually over meal; mix to heavy batter. Form cakes 1/8 in. thick and 3/4 in. in diameter and grill in bacon fat on spitting hot griddle. Dab a little fat on uncooked surface of cakes before turning. 4 servings. (From Foods from the Founding Fathers.)

The Indians soon acquainted the settlers with a one dish meal called succotash which they frequently dined on. This dish, a combination of corn and beans, could also be made with meat, if it was available. Roger Williams' first meal in Rhode Island with the Indians was boiled fish and succotash.

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SUCCOTASH

2 cups Lima beans (fresh or frozen)
2 cups whole kernal corn (fresh,
frozen or canned)
2 TBSP. butter 1 TSP. salt
dash of pepper 1 TSP. sugar
1/2 cup water 1/4 cup heavy cream

Cook Lima beans until tender. Mix with corn (if fresh, cut from cob; if canned, drain; if frozen, use straight from package), and other ingredients except for cream. Cook over a low heat for 10 to 15 min. Drain, then add cream. Heat through but do not boil. 4-6 servings.

(From The American Heritage Cook-book)

The settlers were introduced to corn meal mush by the Indians. Thrifty colonial women soon discovered that cold leftover mush could be sliced and fried. When topped with molasses or maple syrup, it is delicious as the fried cakes do not absorb the liquid. Every box of corn meal has a recipe for corn meal mush on it.

In an era when women had to be creative when it came to using whatever foodstuffs were available, they did; and left us many delicious recipes.

Florence Archambault

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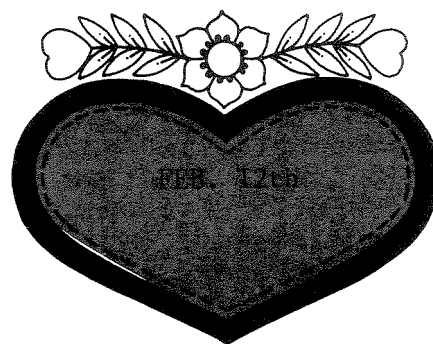
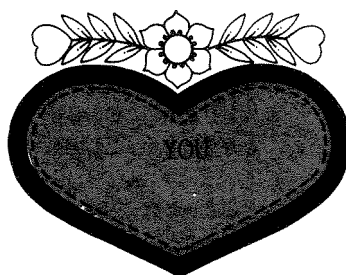
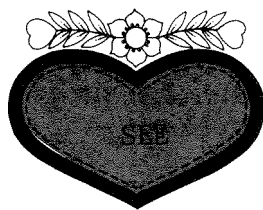
The Point Association

P.O. Box 491 Newport, R.I. 02840

STAFF NEWS

Sarah Plumb, contributor of Cook's Corner for several years, is taking a leave of absence. We will miss her seasonal recipes, and her chatty comments, and we do thank her for all her good help. Florence Archambault will continue the feature for forthcoming issues of The Green Light.

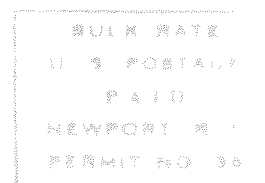
We welcome Mrs. Anita McAndrews to the Green Light staff. A journalist and an historian, she makes her first contribution in this issue. Mrs. McAndrews lives on Washington Street in what is known as the "Eccles House", and which later became the home of Virginia Wood. She has already been active in Point Association affairs, and was a Pointer-In-The-News in our October issue. We are happy to have her share her expertise and her enthusiasm with our readers.



POT LUCK SUPPER



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