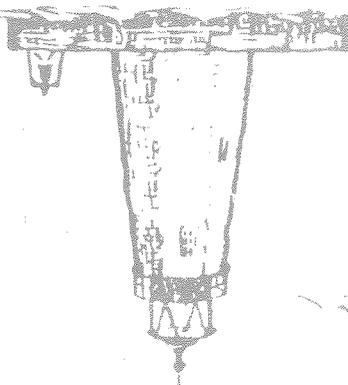




JUNE 1990

BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND



LIGHT

The GREEN

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The GREEN LIGHT



Vol. XXXV - No. 3

JUNE 1990

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Copies of the **Green Light** may be purchased for \$1.00 at Bucci's Convenience Store, Poplar and Thames Streets; Aidinoff's Liquor and Gourmet Shop, Warner Street; Third Street Liquors and the Walnut Street Market.

Picture credits:
Wilfred Warren (**Uncatena**)
Leo Sullivan (Lighthouse)

CALENDAR

Thursday, June 28th: 6 p.m.
Point Picnic, 88 Washington St.
Saturday, August 18th: Day on the Point Fair

Cover photograph:

North end of Washington Street, 1950s.
(See page 7).



The "Green Light" lighthouse has been known also as the "Newport Light", and the "Goat Island Light". An early mariner's report states that the light was

"Built in 1823 with a white stone tower.
Rebuilt in 1922, the edifice is at the
north end of the breakwater.
Latitude 41 degrees 29'25"
North Longitude 71 degrees 19'37" West
Height 33 ft. Vis. 11 miles Bell
The 2500 candlepower beacon has a fixed
green light. Fog horn every 10 seconds."

The original tower was built in 1823 where the Sheraton Islander is today. An article from **Newport History** states that on New Year's Day of 1824, keeper Samuel Watson set aglow the first light, a whale oil lantern. Seafarers soon saw the need for a new light on a sandy reef at the northern tip of Goat Island. In 1838 a new lighthouse appeared at the end of the northern breakwater. The original 1823 structure was dismantled and moved to Prudence Island in 1851. In 1865, the tower was replaced with the white octagonal lighthouse now in use. This tower had a more powerful beam visible for 11 miles, with a fixed white light that flashed intermittently. The tower had a keeper's dwelling attached. In the 1920s this was damaged so severely by a Navy submarine that it had to be razed. After this incident, the light became electrically controlled, eliminating the need for a resident tender. Captain Charles Schoeneman was the last keeper, and at one time the lighthouse was referred to as "Schoeneman's Light."

When the Sheraton Islander was developed, the breakwater was filled in, and a park now gives easy access to the "Green Light."

For those who ponder over the recent increase in the intensity of the light --the Coast Guard, which maintains lighthouses, gives us this reason -- Earlier this year, the light was cleaned and the windows covered with green plastic, intensifying the beam.

As the sun sets in a colorful sky the green glow appears, a friendly beam welcoming seafarers and warning that a sandy reef is there, as it has been for over 150 years.

Dorothy Sanschagrín

THE POINT FAIR

The weather may not appear to herald spring and summer, but the warm, hazy -- and not so lazy -- days of summer are just around the corner. Our main summer event, **The Day on the Point Fair**, is well along in the planning process and will be held on Saturday, August 18th.

You'll see familiar faces as well as some new ones among the vendors and crafts people who have reserved spaces. If you, or someone you know, wants to reserve a space, there is still time, and spaces are available. Call me, and I'll send an application form with all the information you'll need.

This is also the time to gather your donations for the White Elephant sale. Please scrutinize your contributions. If you can't imagine anyone buying it, please dispose of it elsewhere. Any items we cannot sell on Fair Day will be donated to charity.

The children will be in for a real treat this year! Ilse Nesbitt and her volunteers will be putting on a real, live puppet show. So, bring the little ones.

All the merriment and the salt air will whet everyone's appetite. So dust off your baking tools and bring your favorite cakes or cookies or pies to the bake sale. It is one of our busiest and most sought-after tables.

Heartier appetites will be eased at the hamburger and hot dog table. We'll have something for everyone.

To make the day successful as it has been in years past, we need lots of volunteer help. If you can serve for a few hours, or want to work on a particular committee, please call me. It's a day of fun and gives you a chance to chat with all your neighbors.

Melanie Aguiar
Fair Chairman
849-3821



POINT CLEAN-UP

It was on a beautiful spring day that 16 of us gathered at Storer Park for our Annual Point Clean-up. The late Jack Martins started this tradition ten years ago.

From Storer Park, we headed east to Thames Street and north up to Sycamore. Towards the middle of the morning, John Howard had to go home and change his flannel shirt -- he was so hot!

We found many cigarette butts this year as well as Dunkin Donuts containers and styrofoam cups. Busy areas for us were along Marsh Street, the corner of Poplar and Thames, and around Cross Street. By the end of the morning, we had filled 19 large plastic bags.

Shortly after noon, we all gathered at the Jack Martins Memorial Park, formed a circle, and stood in silence for a minute in memory of our friend, Jack.

We feasted on salmon, tuna, and chicken sandwiches that were delicious.

We would like to thank the Walnut Street Market for donating a large bowl of very tasty cole slaw for our picnic. Thanks also to Almacs and Mary Rommel for donating garbage bags; thanks, too, to Herb Rommel for his gift of scented iris and two very unusual violets. The flowers were raffled off and the irises went to Ilse Nesbitt and Anne Plummer, and the violets to Marylynn Rooke and Toni Peters.

It was a great day, and it's so important to the fabric of our community to do things together and get to know one another.

Thanks again to all who turned up.

Taff Roberts

COME TO THE PICNIC

THURSDAY - JUNE 28TH
At 88 Washington Street

Come at 6 p.m. and bring your picnic supper and folding chairs.

Soft drinks and coffee will be served.

CAPTAIN JOHN ROUSSE, PRIVATEER

His Life and the House He Built
17 Third Street
circa 1743

Captain John Rousse, who was born on the Isle of Guernsey in 1699, built this Third Street house for himself and his wife, Jeanne Ruckerts, around 1743. Newport was his favorite place to live, although he spent most of his life on the high seas.

The house was originally two long rooms on two floors. The small rooms in the rear were added later. There is still a fireplace in each of the original four rooms, and they are still in working order. Some portions of them have been covered over by walls, added later. In one of the upstairs bedrooms, you can see the original Roman numeral marking, made on the rustic ceiling beams, over 200 years ago.

At the beginning of his career, John Rousse was called "The Young Eagle." Somewhat later, during the King George War, it was said that he would win fame before the end of the war. This he did. Early in his career, he called the captain of his ship a liar and kicked the chief mate in the face. He was imprisoned at Madeira for nine days. On March 9, 1739, he was released and immediately enlisted as a Master's Mate on the **HMS Rose**. He soon rose to the position of Captain and remained on this ship for most of the rest of his life.

In 1742, he came to Newport to round up 135 seamen. At that time, he also captured the Rhode Island sloop, **The South Kingston**. Later that same year, he pursued and captured eight Spanish ships in three days. His own fleet consisted of only three ships at that time. Shortly after this venture, he sailed to Boston in order to refit his ships. While there he contracted smallpox. He petitioned the City of Boston for funds for the cost of his care and received them.

Once again he increased his fortunes when Charleston, South Carolina merchants hired him to protect their commerce from pirates and paid him five francs for every Spanish head. The story of John Rousse's seafaring career tells of one success after another. He must have accumulated a fortune, but there has never been a hint of buried treasure.

In 1745, he was awarded a Captain's commission in the King's Navy. In 1750, Captain John Rousse was lost at sea. If you have any ideas as to where the treasure might be hidden, please do not hesitate to let me know.

June Warren
17 Third Street
Newport, RI 02840

BEAUTIFICATION REPORT

The major activity this month was the planting of the Hawes memorial in Storer Park. It was given by Mrs. Margo Stapleton, their daughter.

I have spoken to Mr. Anderson who is in charge of the storage plant on Washington Street. I had him look at the mess the contractor has made of the planting along the connector road. He has assured me that the contractor will replace the trees and plantings. The maples along Storer Park were planted in 1976 during the celebration of our Bicentennial.

I will be having a meeting of the committee in the near future.

Mary Rommel
Beautification Chairman

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THE COMMON BURYING GROUND

In pleasant weather an agreeable occupation is wandering about the Common Burying Ground (CBG for short) on the north-easterly side of Farewell Street. Although the Warner Street entrance and the first gate going in from Farewell Street are chained, you can enter by the second Farewell Street gate. At once you are overwhelmed by the number and diversity of the stones. The white marbles of the 19th century and the modern pale gray granites seem at first to dominate the view, but shortly your eye begins to pick out the dark slates, threading their way through the uneven rows.

These are the stones to be examined carefully, so that the texts can be read, their ornaments enjoyed; for the CBG is the oldest cemetery in Newport, and in it are buried the forefathers of our City. John Clarke gave the land in 1640 for this special purpose. Of the 3,000 burials here, 800 date before the beginning of the 19th century.

Start your walk where you see clusters of the early slates, being careful, as the ground is uneven and the briars vicious. Bend or kneel before a highly carved slate, so that you can read the names and dates; examine the side borders and the ornament in the top-panel. Then move to another. Is it cut by the same hand? Has it a skull in the pediment or a plump-faced cherub with wings? The lettering is particularly fine. Notice the Roman capitals to which lowercase letters were soon added.

Who were these craftsmen whose artistic output has enriched our City so much? Long conversations with Gladys Bolhouse at the Newport Historical Society have revealed a fascinating tale, to which is added the study of four account books, discovered in the old stone-cutting shop at the north end of Thames Street. Owned and operated by members of the Stevens family from 1705 until 1927, this shop made many of the gravestones you find in the CBG. In fact, with careful study of these headstones you can distinguish the style characteristic of each Stevens; John 1, John 2, and John 3. They were, each, excellent stonecutters. The strength and assurance of their lettering, combined with the well-designed and flowing ornament, adds up to a most successful whole.



Other cutters worked in the Stevens Shop, of whom the most successful was John Bull, an apprentice before moving out on his own. Both he and John 1 used a local blue-black, very tough and long lasting slate, allowing much precision in the carving. The grey-green slate used by John 2 tends to split and weather rather badly. John Bull signed his stones, below grade, with JB clearly in evidence, John Stevens 3 also signed his, with J. Stevens 2 or JS Jr.

Much originality and variation appears in these stones. John 1, a mason, came to this country in 1702, and to Newport in 1705, when he began a new career in the making of gravestones. On his early stones the ornament, a skull with hanging teeth, is crudely cut, although the lettering is excellent. Soon he turned his skulls into cherubs heads, adding feathered wings and leafy borders that swing from side to side in their allotted space. Lower case letters are a pleasing addition.

William Mumford, even earlier than John 1, also used a skull with lower jaw

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and teeth in the pediment, more stylized than John 1. His lettering is less well-cut. One of his stones was cut for William Mays, first proprietor of the White Horse Tavern.

It is impossible to give a complete picture of the CBG. You must go, yourself. Find John Bull's slate with a Jehovah-like figure, bursting from the clouds, and two seductive nymphets carrying flambeaux in the side borders. Find his long stone with six rounded headshapes for the six children of William and Sarah Langley. Find a John 3 portrait stone, neat tiny buttons on the jacket of the deceased, a folded cravat, and other such detail. Slaves are here, governors, Ida Lewis, William Ellery (senior's inscription all in Latin), and many others. Perhaps you will find your own ancestor.

Esther Fisher Benson

A BEFORE-THE-BRIDGE VIEW

In mid-May, travelers from Jamestown on the Newport Bridge were greeted with the beautiful sight of blooming ornamental cherry trees, one on either side of the bridge. The lovely rose-pink has gone for this year, but the two green trees are a welcoming landmark as cars reach the Newport shore.

The trees are the survivors of four trees, as shown on this issue's cover. The photograph, taken in the 1950s, shows the northern end of Washington Street and the home of Judge and Mrs. Walter Currie which was demolished for the bridge approach.

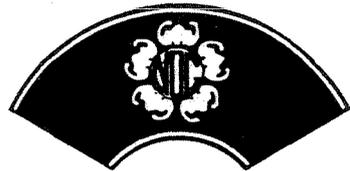
The photo shows the Covell house (still standing just north of the bridge), the red brick house belonging to Admiral and Mrs. Stockdale and an old water tower on the Naval Hospital grounds. This tower was taken down in the 1970s.

The bridge cut off three streets, making dead-end blocks of Washington, Bayside and Second Streets, which are accessible from Cypress Street, opposite the Naval Hospital. Sycamore Street, paralleling the bridge road on the south, existed before the bridge, and continues to be an important access to Washington Street, running south.

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FIREWORKS - 1822

Gladys Bolhouse of the Newport Historical Society staff shares this news item from the **Newport Mercury** of October 5, 1822. We know Fort Greene today as Battery Park.

"Grand Display of Fireworks. J. Dench, from Richmond Hill Gardens, New York. Informs the inhabitants that on Monday evening, Oct. 7, he will give a splendid display of fireworks at Fort Greene, which will be attended by a band of music, conducted by Mr. Clarke.

Order of Firing. At half past 6 o'clock a brilliant signal rocket, which will be repeated until 7. Then a large Bengolar light. Then a two-pound rocket, which will change to a flower basket. Then a small horizontal wheel, with ten different fires; then a two pound rocket, with brilliant stars. A beautiful passion Flower, with wonderful changes; then a two pound rocket.

A Grand Mutation Piece with reversed fires.

A Grand Piece called the Thunder and Lightning Wheel, or the True Lovers Knot.

A new and beautiful piece--first a rose, then changes to brilliant glories, next to a wheel of great velocity, and lastly to a plume of feathers; after which a flight of rockets.

The beautiful piece called the Mill of Kebon (?); next the Volcano Wheel, on top of which will be a burning mountain, supported by a pillar of fire, together with the explosion of bomb shells.

Then will be given a representation of the wonder of the world, the falls of Niagra. However awful and terrific this Piece may appear, Mr. Dench pledges himself that there is not the least danger to be apprehended.

In the course of the Performance Mr. Clarke will also gratify the audience by playing several National Airs on the Union Pipes and Violin.

The Fort will be brilliantly illuminated, and good fires provided in the houses for the accommodation of those that may wish to be sheltered from the evening, and a number of officers will be stationed around the Fort to promote the most perfect order.

Should the weather be unfavorable, the performance will take place the first fair evening.

Tickets 25 cents, children half price. To be sold at George Wanton's Book Shop; J. Lovie's shop; Union Hotel, and at the house nearly opposite the Fort. Refreshments suitable to the season, may be had within the Fort."

As we look ahead to local fireworks on the Fourth of July and during Black Ships Festival, we can let our imaginations run wild at the names and descriptions of this display, and we wonder how such an amazing performance could have taken place 168 years ago --and at 25 cents a ticket!

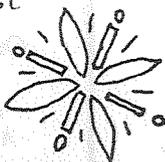
LOOKING AHEAD TO AUGUST

On Monday, May 31, 1790, Rhode Island ratified the Constitution, making the country truly the United States of America. Rhode Island was the last state to accept, and the act was significant enough to President George Washington that he came to the state to add his welcome. He, with Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson, and a delegation of state and national officials arrived in Newport on August 17, 1790. They spent the night here, and the following day sailed up to Providence. At every step of the way, in both cities, they were enthusiastically received by crowds of citizens, as well as by parades, parties, receptions, and every type of welcome.

This year on August 18 and 19, these visits will be re-enacted. William Summerfield, as Washington, will arrive in Newport on the 18th aboard the sloop **Providence** where he will be conducted to the points of interest as was our first president --the Colony House, Trinity Church, Vernon House and Touro Synagogue. After the tour, there will be a reception at the Colony House.

The following day, the 19th, the delegation will travel to Providence on the sloop **Providence**; and further celebrations are planned.

For information and tickets for the tea and receptions, call the R.I. Heritage Commission at 277-2669 or the Rhode Island Historical Society at 331-8575.



BOOK REVIEW

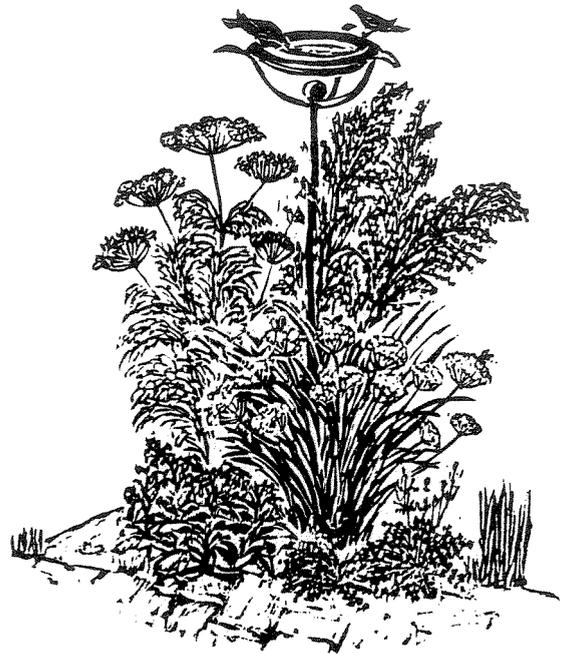
Review: **My Garden** by Ilse Buchert Nesbitt (Newport: The Third & Elm Press, 1988). 40 pages: 7 3/4 X 10 1/2 inches. Prices: Full goatskin, leather-bound copies \$475.00; 1/4 leather-bound copies \$260.00; pamphlet-bound copies \$95.00. Shipping charge \$2.50 for the USA; \$6.00 overseas.

At the beginning of her new book, **My Garden**, Ilse Buchert Nesbitt tells us, "My garden is really not much of a garden at all; it is a small piece of backyard, about the size of a large living room. The soil is poor -- sand and ashes. Two hundred years of backyard dumping and a location near the seashore have left their mark." Given this description, you may well ask, how could such an unprepossessing plot merit the treatment it receives in this splendid little volume?

The answer to this question is simple: Ilse Buchert Nesbitt's love of gardening has transformed this "small piece of backyard" into a microcosm of restful beauty. More to the point, in **My Garden**, the author-artist's love of translucent color and natural form is translated into a delightful series of woodcut images.

My Garden is organized according to the growing cycle and is the story of the garden and the individual plants that thrive there. Snowdrop and crocus, iris and lilac, rose, sunflower, and chrysanthemum are celebrated in turn. In the author's accompanying commentary we are treated to amusing and informative anecdotes.

For instance, we learn about the neighborhood cardinal's apprenticeship in raiding the Nesbitts' two blueberry bushes: He watches an enterprising finch dodge the string-barrier placed to protect the berries and follows him behind and under them. We also unlearn some favorite myths: The sunflower derives its name from the flower's presumed habit of turning



Woodcut from "My Garden" by Ilse Buchert Nesbitt

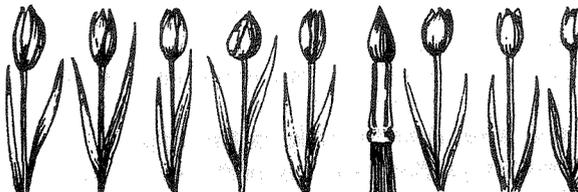
toward and following the sun. In fact, it is the bud that turns: the flower, once in bloom, is too heavy.

In her account of how her garden came to be, the author shares much information that is useful to Point gardeners who have faced the challenge of creating a garden in one of Newport's numerous micro-climates. Have you tried to no avail to grow dill in your herb garden and attributed your lack of success to your own failure as a gardener? If so, you will be reassured to learn that others, including the author of **My Garden**, have had the same experience here. Dill's refusal to flourish is due to the weather.

The beauty of the images in **My Garden** and Ilse Buchert Nesbitt's informative commentary make it a superb addition to the volumes produced by The Third & Elm Press over the last 25 years. Point gardeners and book lovers alike will welcome it to their libraries because, while **My Garden** is her personal account of her own garden's history and characteristics, Ilse Buchert Nesbitt captures many essential qualities of life on the Point. We could have chosen no better spokeswoman for this task.

E. Kristina Baer

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- July 1... **Missa Brevis**--G. Palestrina
Offertory Anthem--Christus factus
est--Felice Anerio
Communion Anthems--Come, Thou
Holy Spirit--Palestrina
Adoramus Te--Palestrina
- July 8... **Missa Brevis** in C, No.5, K 220--
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (with
orchestra)
Offertory Anthem--Alleluia--
Mozart
Communion Anthem--Ave Verum
Corpus--Mozart
- July 15... **Missa** "In illo tempore"--Claudio
Monteverdi
Offertory Anthem--Christus
Resurgens--Orlando de Lassus
Communion Anthem--Confortamini--
de Lassus
Oculus non vidit--de Lassus
- July 22... **Short Communion Service**--Adrian
Batten
Offertory Anthem--Ehre sei dir,
Christe--Henrich Schutz
Communion Anthem--Psalm CXXI--
Schutz
Was hast du verwirker--Schutz
- July 29... **Missa** Quarti Toni--Tomas de
Victoria
Offertory Anthem--O Magnum
Mysterium--de Victoria
Communion Anthem--Ave Maria--
de Victoria and Saint-Saens

The public is cordially invited to attend the services and join the congregation for refreshments after the service.

There is parking at the rear of the church as well as on the neighboring street; the residential parker stickers are not in effect during the services.

For additional information call:

W. Robert Foreman, 295-0203 evenings
421-4833 days
or The Rev. Henry Turnbull, 846-1324

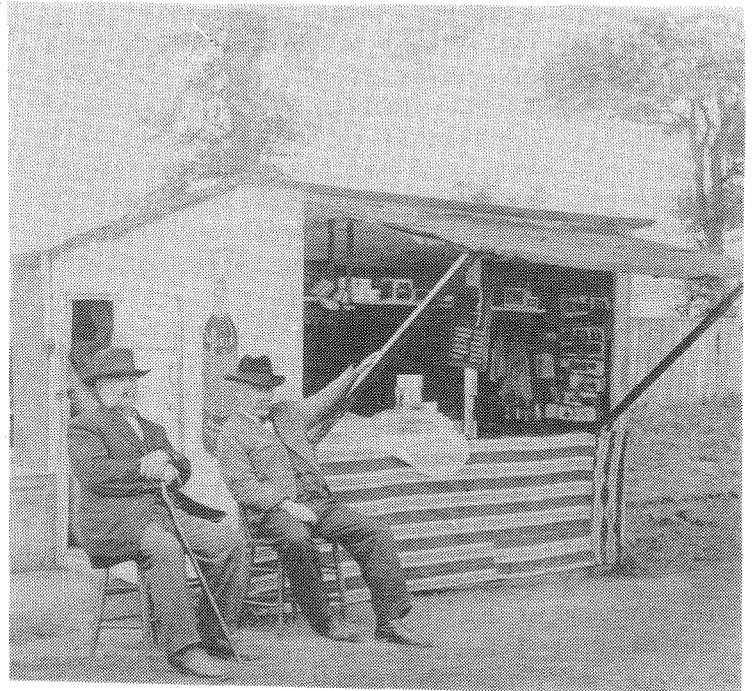
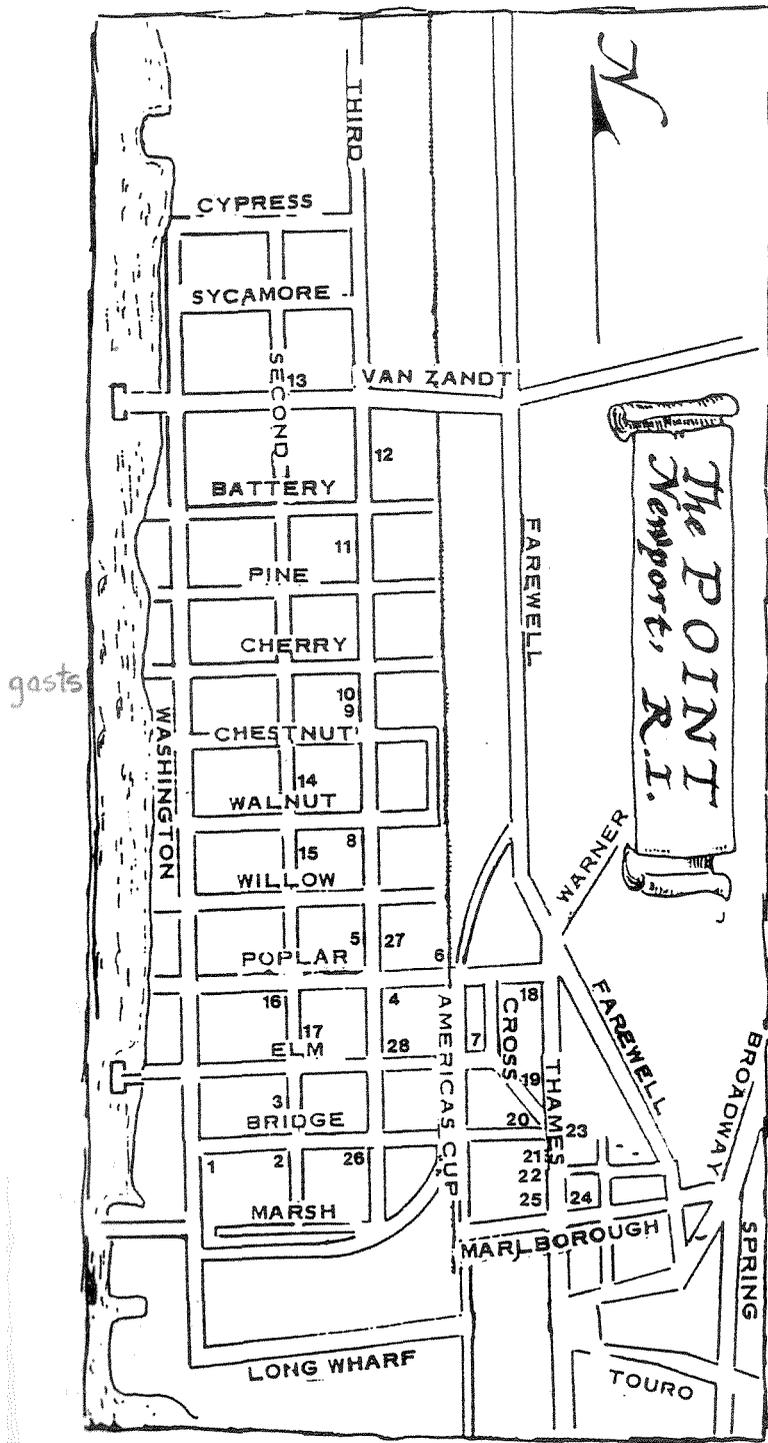
The stores on the Point were there during the 1920s and 1930s. It was a time before every one owned a car, so shopping within walking distance was a real necessity. Pointers who remember those days say that the stores were always open as the proprietors and their families usually lived on the premises.

There was a genuine neighborly feeling between the store owner and customer. Every one knew every one -- especially the children, who were often the errand-runners. It is also said that when the Great Depression struck the store people were most understanding and generous in extending credit and help to their old customers; in many cases this was a life-saver to people with families.

We welcome the ~~Burgesses~~ ^{Penic} as they open the Walnut Street Market in the old tradition of family ownership -- following the Gilson's, and later Jack Martins. We wish them success and happiness in their undertaking.

These are the neighborhood stores in the Point section in the early 1930s. Any omissions or corrections will be gladly acknowledged.

1. Morris Slom-corner of Washington & Bridge
2. George Siletchnect-corner of Second & Bridge
3. Shaffers-corner of Bridge & Second
4. First National Store-corner of Third & Poplar
5. Barney Katzman (my father) 28 Third near Poplar
6. Louise Amler-corner Fourth & Poplar
7. Spiers-corner of Cross & Elm
8. Max Gilson-corner Walnut & Third
9. Defray's-corner Chestnut & Third
10. Philip Katzman-64 Third near Cherry
11. Pete's Canteen-near corner of Third & Battery
12. Marie Tripp-corner Third & LaSalle Place
13. Martin's Market-corner VanZandt & Second
14. The Point Market,Hyman Katzman-corner Walnut & Second
15. Bateen's-Second between Willow & Walnut
16. Abe Nemtzow-Second near Poplar
17. Jestings Market-Second near Elm
18. Gamage's (Joe & Vi)-Thames near Poplar



A "seasonal store" at Battery Park

- 19. First Nat'l-corner Bridge & Thames
- 20. Toppa's Market-Thames near Bridge
- 21. Integlia Bros.-Thames near Cozzens Ct.
- 22. Hymie Smith's market-Thames near Cozzens Ct.
- 23. Mattoes-Thames near North Baptist
- 24. Marlborough Market-Thames and Marlborough
- 25. Manhattan Fruit-Thames and Marlborough
- 26. Westall's Ice Cream-Bridge near Third
- 27. Langley's Ice Cream-Chase near Poplar
- 28. Ladyman's-corner Elm & Third

Irving Katzman, compiler
Dorothy Sanschagrin, art work

The Walnut Street Market
28 Walnut Street
846-8850

Now open and offering:
prepared foods
deli selections
fresh produce
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Puerini's pasta
french bread and pastries
Ocean Coffee Roasters

THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

About five years ago someone up in Barrington thought it would be a fine idea to revive the custom of placing a Nativity Scene on the town lawn in front of the library. It wouldn't be anything new, since the same idea had been used several years earlier without protest, and then dropped. But this time there was a protest, for the reason that a religious display of this nature would violate the "Constitutional Separation of Church and State."

Back in 1789 the primary model for the new Constitution then being prepared in Philadelphia was the system of government in England. One of the details of that government that was strongly disliked by the delegates to the Constitutional Convention was the degree of involvement in government by the Established Church, the Church of England.

When the separate details of the American Constitution were being deliberated, there was little doubt that the reason for the inclusion of the Establishment of Religion, and the related constraint on Congress, was to forestall the duplication of the Church of England on this side of the Atlantic.

And yet the delegates also felt that the new Constitution should contain certain elements of Religion, so that it would have an affinity with the natural religious instincts of the inhabitants of the separate 13 colonies, who had already founded about 20 denominations by the time the delegates had assembled in Philadelphia for their great task.

The delegates lost no time in making the element of Religion obvious to all. In the very first session of the House of Representatives, two acts were put through which openly embraced Religion. The first was to establish the system of Chaplains to open each session of both houses of Congress with appropriate prayers. The second act took the form of a resolution asking President Washington to issue the first in what became a long series of Thanksgiving Day Proclamations. The religious element was also involved both in the texts of the oaths of office required of all elected government officials, and in the physical presence of the Holy Bible.

Upon investigating the back surfaces of the paper currency still in use today, we find the following:

on \$1 bills- IN GOD WE TRUST over ONE
on \$5 bills- IN GOD WE TRUST over the
Lincoln Memorial
on \$10 bills- IN GOD WE TRUST over the
U.S. Treasury Building
on \$20 bills- IN GOD WE TRUST over the
White House
on \$50 bills- IN GOD WE TRUST over the
U.S. Capitol Building

Beyond the \$50 denomination the location of the buildings shifts to Philadelphia.

Religion also dominated the contents of the First Amendment. In his book on the role of the Supreme Court, entitled **Separation of Church and State--Fact or Fiction**, Robert L. Cord states: "The First Amendment did not, nor was it ever intended to, create a high and impregnable wall between church and state. The religious prohibitions of the Amendment were designed to act as a limitation on the Federal Congress, constitutionally denying it the power to establish a national church or religion. The Amendment was intended to make certain that the relationship between religion and the state would remain under the control of the individual states, several of which had already established state religions by 1781."

The next development in the history of the relationship of Religion to that of the government was the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment. It followed close on the heels of the Thirteenth Amendment, which had abolished Slavery after the Civil War. In its very first paragraph the Fourteenth Amendment contains these words: "No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws." Thus the "umbrella of jurisdiction" was extended to include all of the separate states.

Almost 80 years passed before the legal possibilities opened up by the Fourteenth Amendment caught the attention of the various justices of the Supreme

ANOTHER DON'T MISS

Court; but soon after 1947, in various suits based on the original "Establishment Clause" of the First Amendment, it became almost an obsession with them to promulgate new interpretations of it. Several of these new interpretations contradicted previous opinions from the same source, the incumbent Justices of the Supreme Court at an earlier time. Thus a new fabric was evolved to which was attached the equivalent role of a new amendment to the Constitution. No one bothered to realize that, upon analysis, this fictitious fabric had the foundation only of a house built on sand. This is the basis for Robert Cord's justified conclusion that despite the currently popular misconception, the Separation of Church and State is a real fiction which should be entirely divorced from the original Constitution.

Rhode Island celebrates the 200th anniversary of its own ratification of the Federal Constitution, and the nation as a whole observes the anniversary of the related inception of the Constitution as the Supreme Law of the Land, the time seemed ripe for this exploration of the status of Religion as an essential part of our government.

Robert Covell

Once again we are reminded of the interesting exhibits at our neighboring Naval War College Museum. One hundred years ago, Captain Alfred T. Mahan, the second president of the War College in Newport, published his famous **The Influence of Sea Power upon History, 1660-1783**. In commemoration of his work and the centennial of its publication, an exhibit has been opened titled "Sea Power According to Alfred Thayer Mahan".

As our local representatives return from Japan where they celebrated a Black Ship festival in Newport's sister city of Shimoda, the museum is preparing for the opening on June 18th of its Perry exhibit. This commemorates the 1854 voyage of Newport's Point native Commodore Matthew C. Perry, who negotiated the Western world's first trade treaty with Japan. Newport's Black Ship Festival will be celebrated July 27 through the 29th.

There are many who have not visited this museum in Founder's Hall on easily accessible Coaster's Harbor Island just inside Gate One. The hours are 10-4 on Mondays through Fridays and on weekends from 12-4. Admission is free. This summer's visit should be a "must". You'll learn as you enjoy.

Kay O'Brien



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THE DAY LILY - HERB OF FORGETFULNESS

My recent trip to Japan and China strongly endorsed what I have always believed; human beings the world over are very much alike; and a few minutes of talk and tea heal a multitude of misconceptions and misunderstandings.

People in Japan and China share with us Americans a love for flowers and trees. The cherry trees were blooming in Japan and, in parks and private gardens, many of these trees were grown and shaped to look like pink parasols.

Japanese gardens are meticulous: each flower, tree, and stone shaped and placed to make a perfect picture. Nothing is superfluous; raked white gravel, falling water, the dwarfed pines -- the whole is a painting; the colors and lines deliberately chosen to create the desired ambiance.

Chinese gardens are more like our own. Herbs and vegetables are a necessity; brilliantly colored flowers enhance the dark and pitted shapes of ancient rocks, these taken centuries ago from the sea.

A popular flower in China is the day lily. It is edible, and said to produce a refreshing sleep. Chinese writings assert that ingesting the **hsuan-tsao** makes people happy, causing them to forget their worries. In China, the day lily is called the Herb of Forgetfulness.

Country people believe that the day lily turns unborn babies into boys. Pregnant women wear the flower when praying for a son. Today, in the villages, the day lily is referred to as the Son-Giving Herb.

Those legendary Lotus flowers known to Ulysses and other sailors were also called **hsuan-tsao**; they resembled our day lily and were eaten to induce forgetfulness, to ease the pain of homesickness. Too, the **hsuan-tsao** was always planted at the north edge of the house or hall; the north side of the room was always the mother's or matron's place -- called the **Hsuan**. Today, Chinese children express love for their mothers with a bouquet of day lilies.

Day lilies, higher in iron content than spinach, are eaten when freshly picked. Sometimes they are dried for later use. One recipe calls for day lilies in a soup made of pork ribs. Dried day lilies should be a light yellow and have a strong fragrance. The darker lily has a sour taste.

It seemed to this traveler that the Chinese, dining often on fragrant **hsuan-tsao**, live to a healthy old age. Despite their constant smoking -- and the popular cigarette brand is called Longevity -- the grannies and grampses are hardworking people, glad though to stop for cups of green tea served in a room or a garden bright with day lilies -- forgetful then of time passing.

Anita McAndrews



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Artists Inna Ulrig and Anita McAndrews (**Green Light** staff member) will show their work at DeBlois Gallery, DeBlois Street, June 23 through July 6.

Inna's brilliant pastels and Anita's work in oil and acrylic combine colors and shapes for an exhibit aptly named "New Images".

The opening reception will be held at 5 p.m. on June 23.

REVIEW

In 1987 Mrs. Val Simpson of the St. George's School Library hired Jim Weyant, owner of The Scribe's Perch, to begin work on a special collection of books on early sea voyages. As he catalogued and sorted books for this project he came upon **The Travels, Voyages and Adventures of John Benson**.* Jim Weyant felt that this journal deserved reprinting.

Research was done at the Redwood Library, at the Connecticut, Newport, and Rhode Island Historical Societies. In the latter was found an original copy of the first voyage. Permission was given for the publication which came out in August of 1989.+

The first voyage (there were to be seven) began about 1759, when John Benson was 15 years old. He had been given an education by his father, who died early. A kindly grandfather became his guardian, desiring for his grandson a better life than sea-faring. But the boy insisted, no doubt having dreams of exotic far-away lands and strange adventures. Actually he knew nothing about the realities of life on shipboard.

At this period of history, before the Revolution, French, British and American privateers roamed the Atlantic, sailing into the Caribbean back and forth across the ocean. They were pirates, ruthless, predatory, hunting for valuable cargo. In the journals, John Benson wrote in detail everything that happened to him. His words flow hurriedly, one awful situation following another. Survival seems incredible, although his character, obliging and polite, no doubt helped him.

During the first voyage, across the Atlantic, the ship was captured by a French privateer and later added to a convoy. Benson was imprisoned in France for some time. When freed he walked miles to the coast, where a British ship started him on his long way back to Newport. The French peasants were kind to him, providing fresh clothes, good food and often two or three days of rest.

At one instance, when imprisoned on a French ship, he was much affected by the rituals of the Catholic Church. Before a sea battle the priest on board called all the men together to chant prayers for their success and safety.

Terrible storms came upon the ship, which was blown every which way, suffering much damage, and losing cargo. Foundering was an ever present possibility. Slaves were picked up on two of these voyages into the Caribbean, traded for sugar, which was delivered to Newport on the return trip. On the sixth voyage an insurrection occurred, in which 50 slaves were killed and 30 drowned. Benson was distressed by the slave trade.

During one terrible storm the ship broke apart and Benson swam to land, watching a fellow sailor who was not a good swimmer drown. Only two of these voyages made a profit, most being financially disastrous.

John Benson finally gave up the sea, being worn out and in poor health. The rest of his life he devoted to religion, preaching the gospels in many churches. It was not until the end of his life that he wrote the story of his younger years.

Esther Fisher Benson

* Not the stone-cutting Benson.

+ Reprint is available from The Scribe's Perch, P.O. Box 3295, Newport RI 02840

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POINTERS-IN-THE-NEWS

THE POINT was featured in a number of ways in **Newport Magazine** Summer 1990, a supplement of **Rhode Island Monthly Magazine**. The bright colored cover shows a section of the porch of the Sanford-Covell House on Washington Street with a hard-to-beat view looking across the harbor at the Green Light lighthouse and sailboats at anchor and under sail. This is from an oil painting by local artist John Hagen. The house is owned by Richard and Anne Cuvelier.

Inside the cover, two advertisements show Point pictures, one of a full moon over the Sheraton Islander Hotel, and the other a view of the Green Light and the Newport Bridge. A back cover ad pictures scenes from the Marriott Hotel. Inside the magazine are several pictures of the Point harbor, the lighthouse, the bridge and sailboats.

In a section titled "Neighbors", two Pointers are included in an article "Four Who Call Newport Home". One is Robert Foley, photographer and architectural restorer, a former Pointer who was first vice-president of the Point Association in 1970. He now resides on Historic Hill. The other Pointer is Pam Kelley, often in our news. She is the well-known owner of **Rue De France** on Thames Street, and has been active on the Association's board.

Newport stars in the June issue of **Connoisseur**. Hunter House on Washington Street is among the houses mentioned. Also, a brief history of the Point and its architecture is part of the "glamorous fable" that is Newport.

"GLADYS HAS THE ANSWER" was the title of a Profile feature in the **Daily News** in April. None other - of course! - than our oft-reported Gladys Bolhouse, staff member of the Newport Historical Society since 1946. As Leonard Panaggio, Grist Mill columnist, says, "She's a living encyclopedia of Newport history and events." Once again, we claim her as a Pointer since her growing-up years. Although she has had her 90th birthday, she still is found at her desk every workday, answering questions about Newport's historical past.

Barb Schloff, who lives on Third Street, was the subject of another **Daily News** Profile in April. Three photographs, one in color highlighted the account of this singer/songwriter. Five years ago, she sang at the Blue Pelican. She has returned from travels in Europe and Puerto Rico, and engagements along the Atlantic seaboard, and she calls Newport her home. She sings her own songs in coffee houses and pubs, accompanying herself on her guitar. Her present goal is a record contract; she hopes that will be an actuality in the near future.

Kay Atkins is another repeater in a **Daily News** Profile. We last mentioned her in relation to her calligraphy and her book **Masters of Italic Letters**, published when she lived on the Point. She has now moved to Pelham Street, where she is the director of the Swinburne School. She is now concerned with a wide curriculum of classes, but is still very much a calligrapher and does free lance work. A color photograph in the article shows her lettering a sign for the recent Earth Day at Touro Park.

On May 14th at 5:30 p.m., TV Channel 10 had an interview with Ade Bethune. The background was her Washington Street home, complete with the Newport Bridge in the distance. She told of her childhood in Belgium when she made trips to church with her grandfather. There the beautiful Catholic cathedral made a lasting impression on her, and she has followed the path of church artist and liturgist all her life. Asked about retirement, she replied, "One of the advantages of being self-employed is that there is no enforced retirement!" The camera picked up many of her works in color -- stained glass, statuary, and drawings -- to remarkably good effect.

More of our famous Pointer, Ade. On May 20th, she was one of eight Rhode

Islanders who were inducted into the Rhode Island Hall of Fame for "their achievements and contributions which have added significantly to the prestige of the state." Miss Bethune's recognition is for work as a Liturgical Consultant, and her volunteer efforts for low income housing. Congratulations - AGAIN - Ade!

Kit Hammett

SECRET GARDEN TOUR

As you turn your calendars, be sure you've marked the second weekend in June for the Secret Garden Tour, sponsored by the Benefactors of the Arts, held on the Point. It's an official start to summer by showing off our special spots to visitors from far and near. We have all been following signs of spring in our neighborhood -- snowdrops, then crocuses, daffodils, tulips, flowering trees, iris, and rhododendron, but this is a chance to do more than just peek over the fence. Each opened garden will display a flag, and you are welcome to take your time and enjoy them all. There will be 15 gardens open Friday, June 8, from 1-4 p.m. and on Saturday, the 9th, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. On Saturday a plant sale will be held from 10-4 and coffee served from 10-12 at the Hunter House Meeting Field. In addition, novel Secret Garden T-shirts will be available.

An English Tea will be served in the Courtyard behind Old Nat's House at 13 Second Street from 2-4 on Saturday (charge \$6). Tea tickets are going fast so hurry if you want to partake of this popular, tasty affair. Tickets for the gardens are \$10 if purchased in advance or \$12 the day of the tour. Advance reservations may be made by calling The Benefactors of the Arts at 847-0514.

Now that you are determined not to miss this annual Point attraction, maybe you would like to be a part of it. Volunteers are welcome and may serve as hosts/hostesses at the gardens by calling 847-0514, or at the tea by calling Dede Elster at 847-0563.

As you know The Benefactors of the Arts have been sponsoring this tour for seven years. The proceeds support music programs for school children. Many of us

enjoyed the vivid artwork by Soviet children on display at the Art Museum this winter, brought here under the auspices of the Benefactors.

There will be lots of visitors on our historic Point on June 8 and 9, so join the sight-seeing and enjoyment at the following:

THE TOUR:

- 33 Washington Street, Anne Webber House, c 1794
- 43 Washington Street, Samuel Southwick House, c 1851
- 54 Washington Street, Hunter House, c 1748
- 53 Washington Street, Minturn House, Mid-18th Century
- 88 Washington Street, Beehive Oven House
- 101 Washington Street
- 71 Third Street, Eleazer Trevett Academy, c 1690
- 57 Second Street, Merritt House, c 1850
- 29 Elm Street, Third and Elm Press, c 1745
- 18 Second Street, Quaker House, c 1774
- 13 Second Street, "Old Nat's" House, c 1770s
- 77 Bridge Street, "Pitt's Head Tavern", c 1726
- 85 Bridge Street, Faisneau House Ell, c 1770s
- 55 Poplar Street, Caleb and Mary Peckham, c 1777
- 3 Bridge Street, Joseph Stevens House, c 1750

The following houses will be open the day of the Tour -

- 57 Farewell Street, Cozzens House, 1765 and 82 Bridge Street, c 1900

Kay O'Brien

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COOK'S CORNER

I am writing this in Myrtle Beach in South Carolina and the temperature is climbing towards the 90's. After spending a week aboard the SS Meridian on a cruise to Bermuda, it is difficult to think about food after the wonderful cuisine on board that ship..but here goes.

June is upon us and the season for fresh fruits and vegetables is beginning. Most associated with this time of the year are strawberries and rhubarb. There are many recipes using these fruits and we have all, at some time, taken part in the debate over whether or not strawberry shortcake should be made with biscuits or spongecake. I leave that up to you. Instead, here is a Southern recipe.

WILLIE'S STRAWBERRY PIE

1 cup ripe berries cut in half
1 9" baked pie shell
1 cup crushed berries
1/2 cup sugar
1 TBS cornstarch
1/2 cup heavy cream, whipped
Few grains of salt

Place the cup of halved berries into pie shell. Heat to boiling the one cup of crushed berries. Add sugar, cornstarch and salt. Cook 5 minutes. Cool and pour over berries in pie shell. Refrigerate for two hours before serving. Top with whipped cream when ready to serve.

The following is a recipe my sister-in-law, Twinkie Wilderman, found in her recipe box. She has made it often and assures me it is delicious.

RHUBARB CAKE

3-4 cups diced rhubarb
1 cup sugar
1 small box strawberry gelatin
2 cups miniature marshmallows
1 box yellow cake mix

Place rhubarb in a greased 9x13 cake pan. Sprinkle with sugar, gelatin direct from box and marshmallows. Mix cake mix according to directions and pour over mixture in pan. Bake at 450 degrees for 45 minutes.

This cake resembles a pudding cake.

Several months ago I came across the following recipe and I now buy my bunches of radishes by the condition of the tops - not the bottoms. I hope that you will at least try this.

SAUTEED RADISH TOPS

Allow the tops of one bunch of radishes per serving.

Cut off the tops and wash well. Dry. Heat frying pan, add 1/2 teaspoon of olive oil and some minced garlic (according to your taste) for each serving. Stir fry quickly until radish tops are wilted and serve immediately as a vegetable.

Florence Archambault

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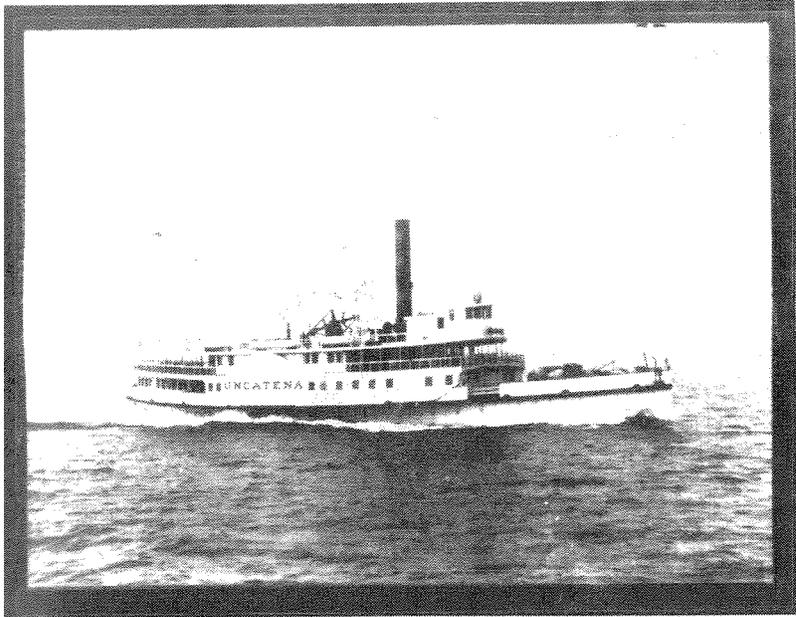
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*The paddlewheel boat, with her walking beam,
Her churning wheels and her plume of steam
Has paddled upstream; far, far upstream
Beyond the wharves of the morning.*

*She was dazzling white and fretted with gold,
Her name on the paddlebox stood out bold;
She walked over waves with a queenly stride,
Her tall, thin smokestack shrill with pride.*

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GRAND REPUBLIC, AVALON,
MARY POWELL, GAY HEAD and NAUSHON,
CYGNUS, PEREUS, CHARTER OAK,
TICONDEROGA and ROANOKE,**

*And a thousand others — each one dear
To the long lost children on the long gone pier.
There was nowhere a harbor that could not boast
Of its paddlewheel steamboat — the best on the coast.*

*Something of America steamed away
On the cindery decks where the violins play;
Something of America followed the track
Of the paddlewheel boat, and it never came back.*

*The paddlewheels stopped, and the walking beam;
Excursions ended in a landlocked dream
At a mooring upstream; far, far upstream
Beyond the wharves of the morning.*

Robert Hillyer

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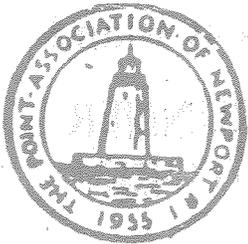
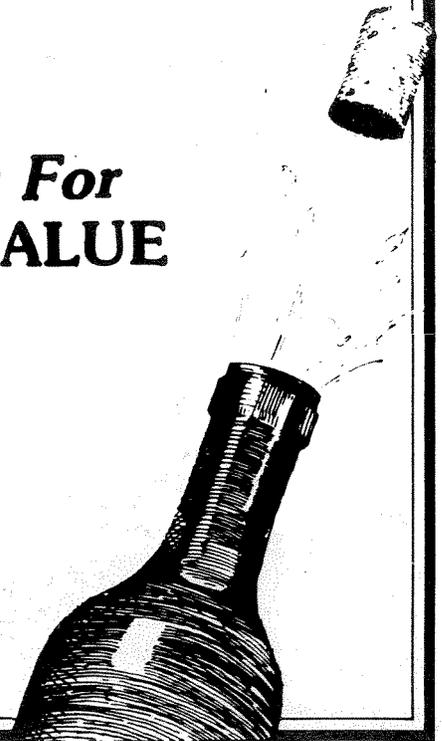
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