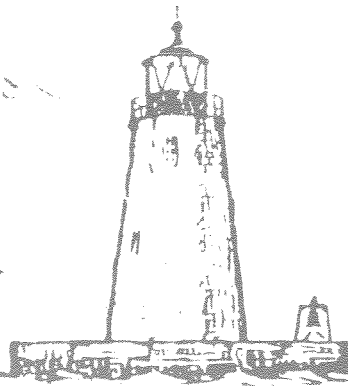


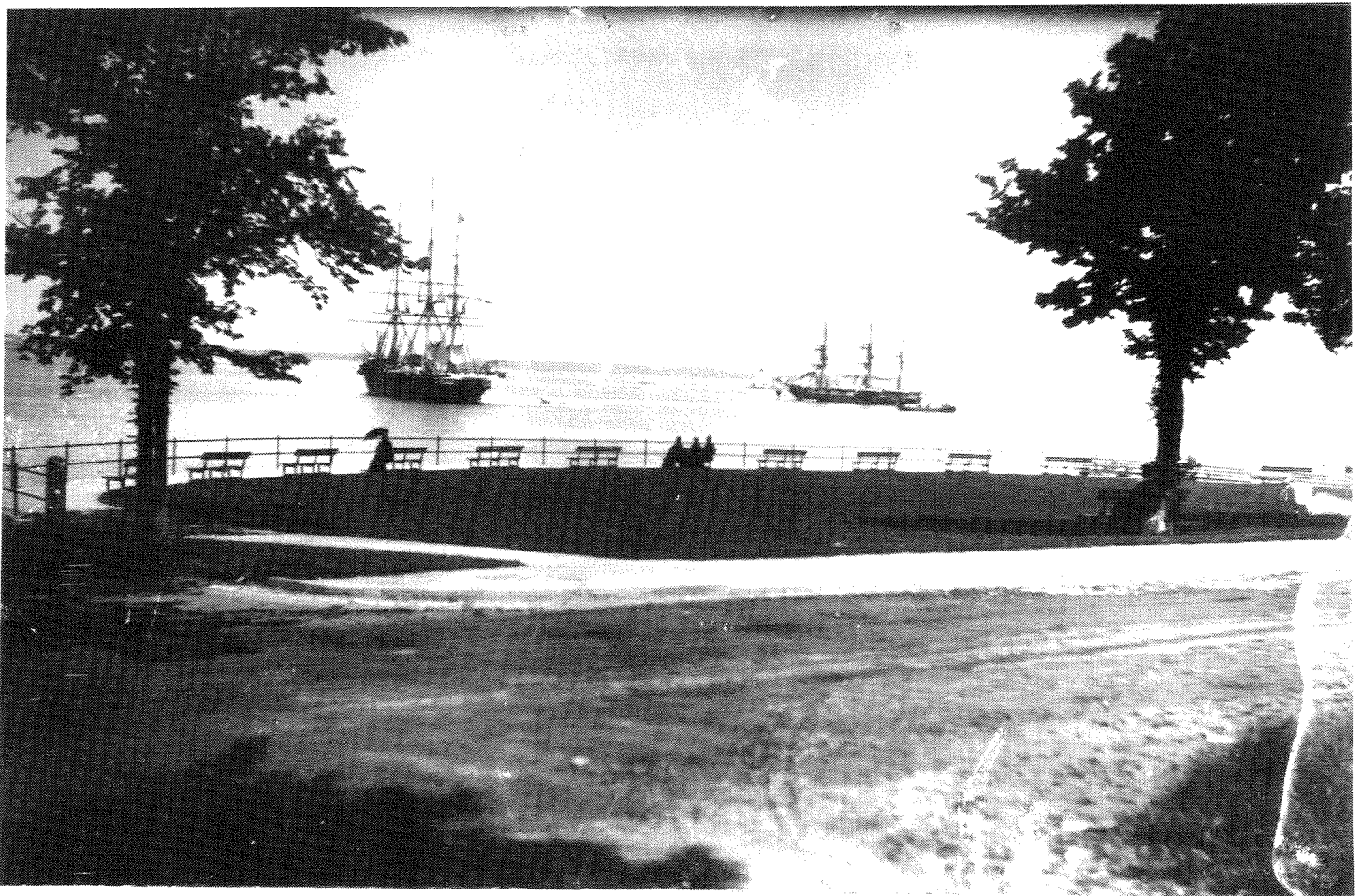
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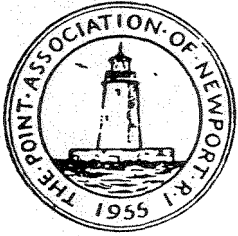
# The GREEN LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION  
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

APRIL 1991





# The GREEN LIGHT

Vol. XXXVI - No. 2

APRIL 1991

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COVER PHOTO: Through the courtesy of  
Annette Chramiec

About 1970, while at Rhode Island School of Design, Brian Pelletier made this contact print from a glass negative made by Clarence Stanhope, a Newport photographer from 1885-95. The training ship **USS Richmond** is in the foreground anchored off Battery Park.

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.

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It was suggested that a review of how community oriented the Point Association is, be outlined again. I've mentioned my consecutive terms as president in the mid seventies. While conducting our flower business at the Water's Edge, I was also conducting Point Association business such as receiving checks for members' dues, advertising copy and payments for **The Green Light**, new residents' memberships, directing problems to be solved, greeting prospective members, preparing for meetings, conferring with committee chairmen, and whatever other Association business came up.

Did we conduct flower shop business? Of course. For fifteen years we ran our business at the Marlborough Street location (in close proximity to the Point) until we moved in 1985. Now, we are back again, conducting Point Association business at 23 Memorial Blvd., conversing with our esteemed councilman who keeps us abreast of the area's problems and solutions in your behalf.

Time passes and we have resolved some of the problems. For instance, we now have a post office box to help expedite dues payments and direct correspondence for immediate attention. I am still receiving calls for flower orders and comments about Point problems. Among them are animals, sewer drains, rubbish, dirty sidewalks, etc. Their solutions would make the Point an extra special place to live.

If **WE** all pitched in **WE** could do those jobs with the exception of cleaning the sewer drains, which is a spring ritual performed by the city. By sweeping, picking up and doing general exterior work, **WE** could make the Point a neater neighborhood. Please consider a "sweep up" when the coming days of Spring dawn upon us.



*Joseph A. Vass*

## THE LIBERTY TREE MARCH

For many years, a few people have marked Rhode Island Independence Day, May 4, with a parade of Newport Artillery members and children carrying 13 lanterns, representing the original 13 states, to hang on the tree as was done in pre-revolutionary days.

In earlier years, children of Point families were the lantern bearers; in some years Coggshall School students were the marchers. More recently, boys and girls from the Boys and Girls Club have been participants.

It takes early organization, planning and preparation to carry out this program of patriotism. This year, there is a problem in that we have no one to chair this project, and the Board is seeking volunteers. Joe Vars would welcome a call from willing persons. He says there is help and information available. Call him at 847-4289 in the evening.

## CUPS AND SAUCERS NEEDED

Dede Elster is already planning for serving tea during the Secret Garden Tours in June and at the Holly Tea in December. She has a problem! Due to breakage and an increase in tea drinkers, we do not have enough pretty cups and saucers. Dede is asking for donations from Association members. The need is for pretty bone china cups and saucers, **NO MUGS**, please! Those who have attended one of our teas know how the lovely thin cups add to the enjoyment of the tea.

If you have some to contribute, please call her at 847-0563 and make arrangements to deliver them to her at 59 Second Street, or bring them to the Association meeting on April 25th.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

"The Green Light is a wonderful way to be kept abreast of Newport news -- especially the Point, where I spent many years growing up, and as a newly married woman."

Helen Ring  
Spring Valley, California

## POINT ASSOCIATION MEETING

THURSDAY-APRIL 25- 7:30 P.M.

St. Paul's Methodist Church - Marlboro St.

Short Business Meeting

Speaker: Eileen Warburton, Author  
**IN LIVING MEMORY**

A Chronicle of Newport, Rhode Island  
1888-1988

**COLONIAL WOMENS' LIVES IN NEWPORT**

Come meet your neighbors  
Discuss Point Association concerns.

## PARKING STICKERS

From May to October, parking stickers will be required on designated streets in Newport from 6 p.m. until 6 a.m.. This includes several streets on the Point. These streets are marked by signs.

If you have a sticker from last year, marked 1990-1991, it is valid until October, 1991. If you need a sticker, go to the tax office in City Hall. Stickers cost \$1.00 for each car and this year will be only valid for 1991. If you would like a guest sticker, ask at the tax office for one; there is no charge.

## POT LUCK SUPPER

Once again, the Pot luck supper held in February was a great success. Over 150 people gathered to share the many contributions of casseroles, crock-pot dishes, vegetables, salads, and mouth-watering desserts. Diets were ignored and caution dismissed!

Our thanks to Donna Maytum for chairing the supper and to the many who pitched in to help during the meal and the inevitable clean-up. Appreciation is especially due to Bill and Sophia Pendergast, and to the telephone committee of Mary Jane Rodman and Heath Cooper.

Before the supper, President Joe Vars presented a certificate of appreciation to out-going president Pete Peters for good service. Joe also presented a Born-on-the-Point certificate to Louise Sherman.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Betty & Steve Anderson  
Francis Ayra  
Luella Dunn  
Thelma & Paul Ebbitt  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Fisher  
Sarah Gillette  
Emily James  
Trudy Rogers  
Erik B. Stocker

With the cost of printing and postage going up, we have to be sure we're mailing to the current addresses of paid-up members. If you hear of anyone who has missed his or her copy of **The Green Light**, please get in touch with:

Roberta Majewski, Membership Chairperson  
846-6194

or write % The Point Association  
P.O. Box 491  
Newport RI 02840

## CALL GAIL

Gail Gunning has been calling on new neighbors and giving their names to the membership committee. We all watch the moving trucks to see how they maneuver our tight turns. Let's also watch to see where they are stopping and call in the address to Gail, our Hospitality Chairperson, at 849-0812. She's ready and willing to contact these recent arrivals and has recently called on Steve & Betty Anderson, Weldon & Fay Evans, Erik Stocker and Sandra Vollbracht. As the weather warms, we all enjoy our chats as we walk. Let's make everyone feel welcome. Give Gail a call.



**Point Plant Sale**  
and Morning Coffee  
May 25, 9-12  
101 Washington Street

## POINT PLANT SALE

When word arrives that the planning for the Point Plant Sale is underway, then we know that spring cannot be far away.

This year's sale will, again, be held at 101 Washington Street on Saturday, May 24 from 9 in the morning until noon. Come and enjoy morning coffee.

The committee is looking for herbs, annuals, perennials, vegetable plants and groundcovers. If you have any extra seedlings left over, or some perennials that need dividing, this is an opportunity to share them with your neighbors and, in return, help with one of the Point Association's annual fundraisers.

If you pot things now, the plants will look much better at the sale. You may bring your plants to 101 Washington Street on or before May 24th. If you would like to have something picked up, call either **Rosalys Hall 846-7566** or **Ilse Nesbitt (The Third & Elm Press) 846-0228**. Anything heavy can be picked up the morning of the sale by a truck but please note that by then we may no longer be able to dig up firmly rooted plants.

Come and meet your old and new neighbors! There will be refreshments.

Florence Archambault

## BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

The Beautification Committee has been given the gift of two memorial trees, a pink hawthorne in memory of Bob Massey and a pink lilac in memory of Bill and Sophia Pendergast's daughter, Vanessa. These trees will be planted in Storer Park in late March or early April.

We are waiting to see how the planting is progressing in the strip between Marsh Street and the connector road, and will have the city talk with the contractor about any replacements.

Mary Heins Rommel, Chairperson

## THE GARDENING CORNER

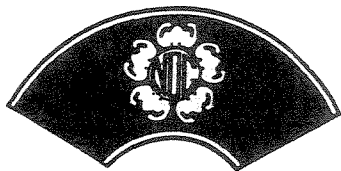
It's still early to plant summer annuals. Petunias, geraniums, and even marigold often thrive and bloom through October, but they languish or rot if put out too early in the spring. It pays to wait until Memorial Day's warm earth for them. Wait until you can sit comfortably on the ground to plant beans and corn.

Indoor seedlings tend to grow "leggy" unless you have a very sunny window. I have to content myself with a sprinkling of lettuce and beets for greens in the cold frame. Some neighbors share their seedlings "over the fence" and at the Point Association's May plant sale.

It is time to take off branches, then leaves, exposing the terrible, shell-free slugs which are already out in battle strength, cutting up vulnerable new growth. We mustn't use poison so I pick them up and squash them with my boot or carry them to the shore. Sometimes I just drown them in a can of liquid fertilizer or dust them in a dry fertilizer which kills by osmosis, drawing out vital moisture through their outer membranes. The dead slugs then contribute to nature's circle of dead to living matter in the compost heap.

Next time I'll tell you about compost, suggest flowers for our long fall, and provide a few alternative choices for that Astroturf of the flower world, Impatiens.

Anne Reynolds



*Compliments of Nortons' Oriental Gallery*

415 Thames Street  
Newport, Rhode Island 02840  
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## CLEAN-UP ON THE POINT

The Association has traditionally held a Clean-Up Day in the spring. Some years ago this was started by the late Jack Martins; sometimes groups such as Boy Scouts participated; Point families supplied many hands to do the job. Last year, 12 people showed up and did a fine job of picking up trash along Washington Street.

**BUT!** - 12 people! - One day! There is now some question about the value of this one-day effort; by the next weekend, more trash has appeared. As the President suggests in his letter this month would it not be better to have a long-term commitment of residents to tidy up the pavement in front of their houses, or even to take care of the whole block? Families could take responsibility; teenagers could organize younger children; neighbors could join together every Saturday for an hour! Hopefully, a side-effect would be to help young and old see the need for non-littering on our streets and in our parks.

Should we have some sort of recognition for jobs well done throughout the year? Perhaps a sign to hang on a gate, or in a window that states: **WE ARE AGAINST LITTERBUGS!**; perhaps recognitions such as we give for gardens and doorway decorations.

What do **YOU** think? Send your suggestions to the Editors of **The Green Light**, Box 491, Newport RI 02840, or call or talk to a Board Member or bring your ideas to the Association meeting on April 25th.



Sayer's Wharf  
Newport, Rhode Island  
02840

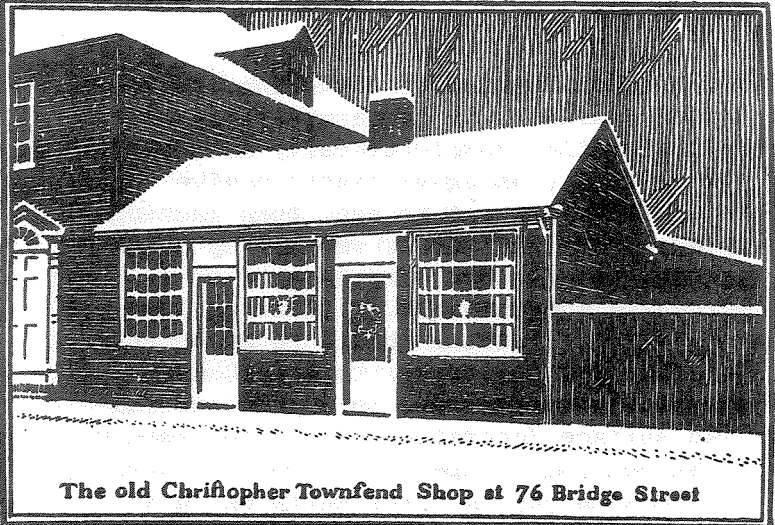
### BUCCI'S COMBINATION STORE

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The old Christopher Townsend Shop at 76 Bridge Street

## BRICK MARKET REMEMBERED

Now that the Brick Market's long history will be culminating in a museum encompassing Newport's past and present, as indicated in our October issue, it's time to recall an activity there. Perhaps you have another "I Remember" to send us.

In our October 1984 issue we featured Restorations, Inc., a volunteer group formed to establish a revolving fund for the purchase and restoration of old houses. When the group discovered that the restoration costs far exceeded expectations, a retail shop was opened at the corner of Second and Bridge Streets in the Christopher Townsend shop. Colors were researched and fabrics made available, in addition to 18th century doors, doorways, mantels, hardware and accessories.

By the late 1950s this shop was much too small and the enterprise was moved to the Old Pitts Head Tavern on Charles Street. Here, in more ample rooms, with central heating, the work was carried on. When the Tavern was moved to Bridge Street, where it is now the home of the Rommels, "Restorations" moved to the Brick Market. This was the era of Newport Reproductions, and many of us remember the truly beautiful displays at the Brick Market.

Kay O'Brien



## TEN SPEED SPOKES

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176 Broadway  
Newport, RI 02840  
401 849-3820

## HAVE BRUSH - WILL TRAVEL

I have dreamed of traveling the United States as an itinerant painter, following the example of early American portraitists, using my craft to give form to what people want to see, then packing up my canvas and colors and moving on to another town like a carpetbagger or mercenary: "Have brush, will travel."

I jumped at the chance to accompany Ann Kiker, a co-worker, to Gran Canaria, in the Canary Islands, to do the specialized surface decoration on a 17th-century house and fully expected to be on a sunny island with yellow birds chirping in a comprehensible language. We arrived instead in a bleak moonscape of rock and palm trees, 70 miles off the west coast of Africa where the peninsular Spaniards couldn't understand the Canario dialect.

Our liaison was a polyglot Lebanese entrepreneur who drove us to the work site directly from the airport. In the village of Ingenio we were to work on two houses while living in the first. All was ready to go. "So beautiful, you will see," he kept saying. "You will love it. The villagers, they all love me. I make everything so pretty!"

Granted the light was a bit feeble when we arrived, but it looked like a bomb site to me. Rubble was everywhere, there was no electricity or water, carpentry and framing in progress, and cement--fresh or crumbling--shed its fine dust over all. Fortunately the owners had an apartment in the northern city of Las Palmas which we could use if we didn't object to sharing it with the decorator and his Brazilian friend.

Bright and early the next morning we returned to Ingenio to find the nightmare a daytime horror, and the construction crew jackhammering in the street, searching for water. So began our work on casa roja--the red house-- a modern Tower of Babel.

The Spanish-speaking construction crew was headed by a blond German-speaking giant. The female owner spoke mainland Spanish. The male owner spoke Canario. The Brazilian only spoke Portuguese. Ann and I understood only American English. The Lebanese translated everything for every-

one, gradually forgetting what fantastic tale he had told in what language and to whom, as the comedy progressed over the next two months. The building material of choice was cement, the soup of the day usually squid, cigarettes were strong, black and 45 pesetas a pack, and the coffee was excellent. Ultimately, the finished house was truly marvelous. Yes, you can expect faux finishes and tromp l'oeil on cement. And we had gone in search of adventure.

Gran Canaria is one of seven islands three hours by plane from Madrid. From ancient times, they have been known to sailors as the Fortunate Islands. "There one can live happily, it never snows, it never has long winters or rains. The Ocean sends a soft breeze to refresh the traveler." Ulysses, going north, must have sailed to the Fortunate Islands and found his Polyphemus, who must have been none other than a giant Guanche (a race of early Cro-Magnon people with large boned



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frames and red hair who looked like the Celts and who can still be seen among the modern Canarios).

The island is an irregular circle of volcanic rock coming to a peak in the center. It is dense, that is the single descriptive word, like traversing the crenellations of the brain. The ocean can be blue, our Atlantic cleansed of its grey film. More than the constant sea, the mountains change with each region; plantations in the north and west, large flats of greenhouses filled with tomatoes and bananas on the lower slopes, villages clinging to the mountains, one higher than the other, always surprisingly large; many, many people on the face of the rock and within.

The Canarios have lived in natural caves in the porous stone since pre-history. They still do, in multi-roomed habitats comfortably joined to the modern world by snaking coils of power stapled to the outside of the cliffs, bringing television, telephone, and electricity. From these caves the sea is very far but visible. The sun beats down through the stone into the very center of the earth and from that center something black rises

to meet it. Some say the Canaries are the lost Atlantis. There are many theories. Some say the Canaries rose from hell.

We met families descended from the Conquistadores, husbanding their plantations and elegant haciendas with private chapels of softly glowing gold ornamentation, noble public rooms and ascetic bedchambers. And pipe smoking village women dressed in black equally interested in two foreign women working at a man's job, covered with dust and paint, magically putting stone over plain cement and silk pillows casually arranged behind non-existent beds.

They came and watched as we progressed from room to room filling each with the light of different colors. They energetically commented on the large black and gold headboard I painted in the master bedroom and the multi-toned soft red color washing over ceilings and walls. It was a very different kind of job than those I've done in Boston or New York. These colors were mellow yet bright.

We had searched the islands for examples of indigenous Canario colors, blending them into walls that were of the landscape but contemporary. The approval of the villagers who tended their families, washed their clothes in outdoor troughs, and massed fantastic roof gardens was important. So much so, that one ancient, taking a dislike to the blue kitchen door, put a curse on it and had us unnerved until he returned with a gift of food so we would know he hadn't put a curse on us.

Columbus outfitted his ships and set sail from Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, Spain. After discovering the New World, he returned to this large port to re-group for other voyages. His house still stands as a museum. I would like to make this voyage of exploration in reverse and return as an artist to this circle of islands, to live and paint in the caves where the layers of the world penetrate to the center.

Rita Rogers



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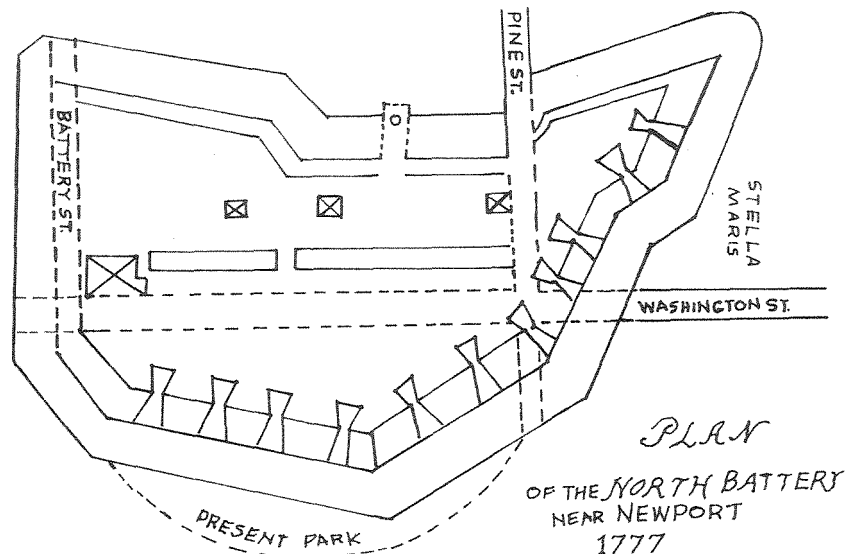
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## A BRIEF HISTORY OF FORT GREENE

The following is reprinted from the May, 1961 issue of The Green Light in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Battery Park in August.

"In pre-Revolutionary days, the land now encompassed by Battery Park was the pasture land of Thomas Robinson, but with the coming of the British a fortification was thrown up in one night of early 1776 to give battle to the British ship Scarborough, then off Rose Island. Taken by surprise, the man-o'-war retreated before the fire from the new fort.

Later in the year, the fort was extended across Water Street (now Washington) and about 100 feet south and east, into the present grounds of "Stella Maris". Daniel Austin's small house, which stood just about where the north curve of the "Stella Maris" driveway now is, was removed in June 1776, to make room for erection of that portion of the "North Battery", as it was then called.

It was an enclosed fort, whose only entrance was from Pine Street. From about 50 feet up Pine, it extended across the property now owned by Rear Admiral H.E. Eccles and the next lots north, to the northern side of Battery Street, where it circled to join the western portion of the fort.

Newport fell before the overwhelming British invasion, and the fort became part of the British lines which encircled the city until the evacuation of the invaders.

In 1798, the North Battery was re-named Fort Greene, in honor of Rhode

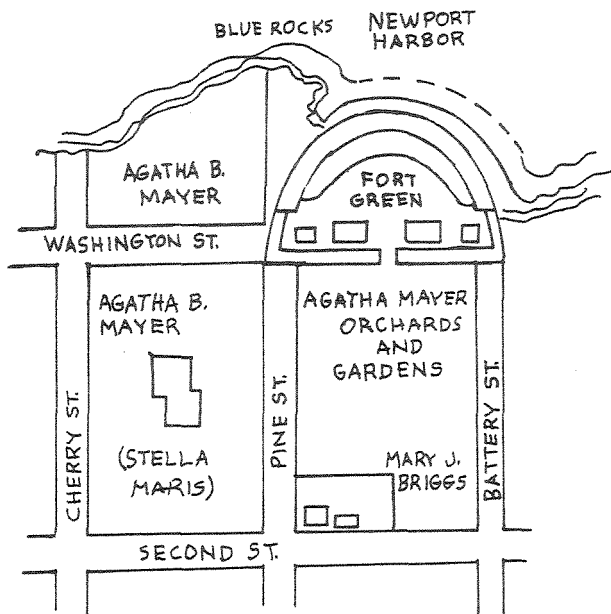
Island's great Revolutionary general, Nathaniel Greene, and Water Street became Washington Street, to honor the first President.

On July 19, 1814, the Newport Artillery Company, under Colonel Benjamin Fry, took possession of Fort Greene and there performed camp duty until February 1815, by order of the Secretary of War. Many Newport and Point names are to be found on the roster:- Sergeant Sylvester R. Hazard, Corporal Joseph W. Hazard, Clerk Holmes Weaver, Drummer Samuel H. Lawton, Fifer Jesse Burdick, and Privates Benjamin Tew, Stephen N. Jacques, John Howard, Benjamin Dunham, James Boone, Silas Brownell, John Boone, William Pitt Carr, Edward Berry, William Wilson, Abraham Sherman, David Huntington, Benjamin B. Howland - and the cook, Phillip Wyatt.

A description of the fort as it was set forth in a Report of the Board of Engineers, April 7, 1820, shows it to have been as follows:

"Fort Greene is an elliptical barbette battery for 12 or 13 guns, with a palisaded gorge. The work has a development measured upon its interior crest of 240 feet. Its parapet is 21 feet thick, its rampart 26 feet broad, its scrap wall 20 feet high, has command of 29 feet above low water, and within the work is a brick barrack and guard house, a bomb-proof magazine, and a hot-shot furnace."

## THE USS RICHMOND



The comment of the Board of Engineers states that "this is sufficient for its purpose."

(Historical Sketch of the Fortification Defenses of Narragansett Bay, by Bvt. Major-General George Cullen, U.S. Army, ret. 1884)"

Louise C. Sherman

In the June issue of **The Green Light** we will trace the subsequent history of Fort Greene, and its eventual transition into the Battery Park of the present day.

### CORRECTION

In the last **Green Light**, we inadvertently gave Louise Sherman's birthdate as July 19 when it should be July 29. We apologize. Also Louise writes that Gull Rock Cottage is now 11 VanZandt Avenue and that Van Zandt Ave. from the corner of Third St. to the harbor was named Hawthorne St.

The staff of **The Green Light** is greatly indebted to Louise for the way in which she shares photos and information with us. Louise formerly worked on the staff and continues to take an interest in our publication. Thank you, Louise!

The Green Light Staff

The USS Richmond was a wooden steam sloop-of-war of 2,700 tons displacement laid down at the navy yard in Norfolk, 1858. Soon after her 1860 launching she was deployed to the Mediterranean.

Upon her return in July, 1861, she was sent on the chase for the Confederate raider Sumter which was commanded by Raphael Semmes.

She was assigned to the West Gulf Blockading Squadron as part of Admiral Farragut's fleet. The Richmond participated in the Battle of Mobile Bay.

In 1866, outfitted with a new engine, she cruised to various parts of the world until 1877--European waters, West Indies, the South Pacific and back to the west coast of Latin America. Designated as the flagship of the Asiatic Fleet in 1879 she served in that capacity until 1887. At that time she became part of the North Atlantic Squadron and two years later part of the South Atlantic Squadron. On October 7, 1890, she began her career as a training ship at Newport until 1893.

The Richmond was Admiral Stephen B. Luce's flagship in 1887 and carried a crew of 350 officers and enlisted men. It seemed appropriate that her anchorage off the Point put her within almost shouting distance of Luce's great accomplishments--the Naval Training Station and the Naval War College.

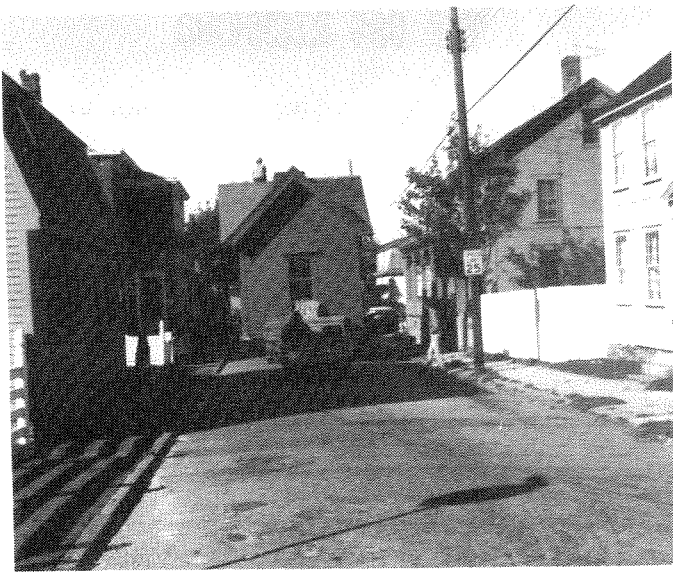
It was in 1891 that an old anchor, believed to have belonged to the Richmond, was fished out of the bay between Rose and Conanicut islands. It weighed three and a half tons and had 75 fathoms of chain attached to it.

The Richmond became a receiving ship at League Island, Philadelphia, from 1894 until 1900. She was an auxiliary receiving ship at Norfolk from 1903 until after World War I. On June 30, 1919, she was stricken from the Navy list and sold to Philadelphia interests.

Her ignoble end came in May, 1920, when she was towed to Coney Beach at Eastport, Maine, and the "once pride of the United States Navy" was burned for the copper in her hull.

Leonard J. Panaggio

A more detailed story about the USS Richmond, written by Virginia Covell, appeared in the February 1988 issue of **The Green Light**.



## A SMALL HOUSE MOVES

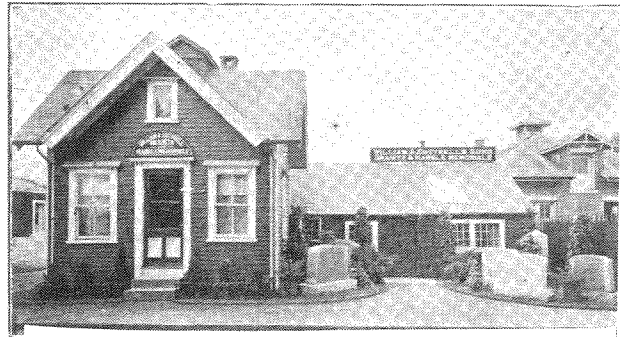
The Island Cemetery owned a parcel of land on Warner Street, running on the west side from Callender to the lot owned by the Cottrell family. Here was stored all the gear needed to carry on the work of the Cemetery; shovels, rollers, pry-bars and a hand-pulled cart used by old Jim Moriarity, who dug graves and set stones. At the northeasterly end of this property stood the Cottrell House, in all probability 18th-century, with a gambrel-roof and a large chimney. Three generations in all had carried on the monument business. Early in our century the Cottrells had built a charming little house for their office. It encroached somewhat on the Cemetery's property.

In 1915 or thereabouts, at a board meeting, the Island Cemetery company voted to build a modern substantial stable. They now owned a horse and wagon, and needed more storage. This stable of red brick with limestone corners, still stands, quite handsome. The Cottrells were asked to move the little house, so it would be on the property line. This they did, still having room for a fine display of granites and marbles.

Much later, in the 1970s, the Cottrell family sold their land to Douglas O'Neil of the D and D Fence Company. Although realizing the attractiveness of the little house, he did not want it sitting there in the midst of his working property. He was ready to tear it down. At this moment Christie Smith (of the Robert Potter League) came into the picture. One look at that little house told her that it must not be torn down. At

once she wrote a check to Doug O'Neil, then said to her husband, Ed Smith, and his partner, Tom Benson, "I've just bought a house. Where will we put it?"

At that time Tom was part owner of 18 Elm Street (now the bicycle shop) which had some land in the back. A foundation was put in, and then the exciting process of moving the little house began. Ed and Tom had worried about the cost of moving, with all the electrical wires to come down, but the electric company was sympathetic and sent a tall man to stand on the top of the little house. He and Tom Benson, also tall, raised the wires on tall sticks, allowing the house to move easily underneath. It went west on Warner, south on Thames, took a right turn onto Bridge, then across the tracks, coming to rest behind 18 Elm Street. Such a move was great fun to watch, and everyone enjoyed it.



## COTTRELL'S MEMORIAL WORKS

For a little while the house just sat there. Gary Martin polished its silver and brass pieces for a bit. Then Larry Allen bought it. But that is another chapter, because an awful lot happened next, and you will hear about it all in the next issue of **The Green Light**.

Esther Fisher Benson



*The Waters Edge Flowers, Inc.*

23 MEMORIAL BOULEVARD  
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND 02840

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*Joseph P. T. Vars*

## WHEN THE IRISH LIVED IN NEWPORT

A most interesting exhibit "A Place To Come Home To, Where the Irish Lived in Newport" has been mounted at the Newport Historical Society as part of the celebration of Irish Heritage Month. The exhibit will continue through the end of April.

Eileen O'Reilly and her committee, Sally Jenkins, Dorothy Palmer, and Mary Bellagamba, have selected photographs from the society's archives and the recent architectural survey of nine neighborhoods in Newport, including the Point. There is a tendency to lump all the Irish in the Fifth Ward but this exhibit shows that they did indeed live throughout the city.

Four representative houses and families from each neighborhood are highlighted and the accompanying placards tell us who lived in the houses and who and where their descendents are today.

The Point houses and families include:

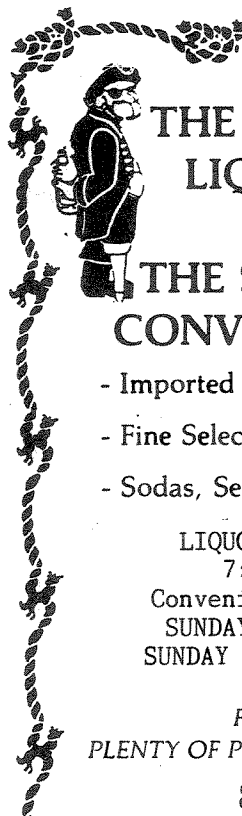
22 Third St.-Mr. & Mrs. Henry Flowers  
27 Elm St.-Mr. & Mrs. Martin Grimes  
57-59 Farewell St.-Mr. & Mrs. John Danahy  
1 Maitland Ct.-Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Dwyer.

This is a very interesting look at a viable part of Newport's history and if you like to play the old Newport game -- "Who's your mother? Who's your father?" -- here it is on paper.

Florence Archambault



*The Third & Elm Press*  
Alexander Nesbitt Ilse Buchert Nesbitt  
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On Goat Island

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Alerting readers to proposed or on-going projects on the Point reminds us that there is much repetition in this column. That Newport's new Water Treatment Plant is on line is welcome news. The Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) out-fall pipe which runs north of the causeway is nearing completion.

The Coast Guard's **Eagle** has left the shipyard, and the owners of the shipyard (P.C.&J.) are completing negotiations to purchase the land. It appears the shipyard will remain a colorful and productive part of our waterfront.

The developers of the 198-room Hilton Hotel for the Washington St./Long Wharf corner seem to have secured the zoning permits for height and parking. Architects have revised the hotel's design to reflect concerns which were expressed, and the latest rendering is a Colonial style of brick and stucco. We may see groundbreaking before long.

The Sheraton-Islander Inn and Conference Center on Goat Island is becoming part of the Doubletree Hotel chain. Its name will change, but the ownership will not. Globe Manufacturing Co. of Fall River owns the land at Goat Island and the hotel, which has been a Sheraton franchise, will be managed for them until June 1 when the change is official.

In January a Superior Court judge ruled that the 30-foot wide right-of-way at Gravelly Point (south end of Washington St.) is not public, but private land, owned in common by three Gravelly Point owners; the City of Newport, Inn Group Associates, and Newport Realty. The city has appealed this decision, and Friends of the Waterfront will continue to provide evidence and other documents in their fight to save Newport's 250-year old public ways.

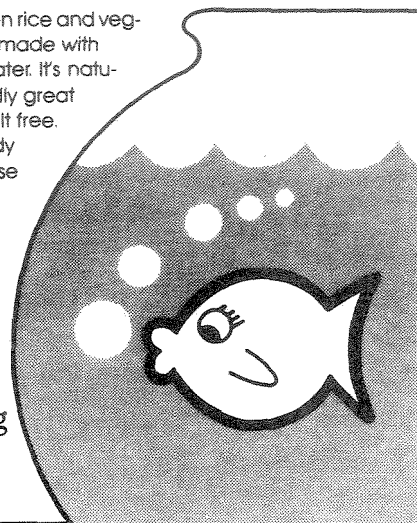
Kay O'Brien



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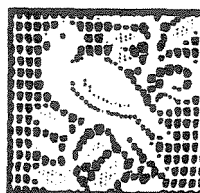
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Ilse Nesbitt

## POINT ARTIST'S WORK IN GERMANY

Fifty woodcuts and drawings by Ilse Buchert Nesbitt were recently on exhibit at the Galerie Eva Wolf-Buetow in Oberursel/Frankfurt, Germany. The show received critical notice and popular success with 18 pieces being sold at the opening reception.

Of special significance is a work called "**Along the Havel**". Depicting a calm view of a river which flows through East Germany, it is based on a sketch the artist made on her first trip there in September. West Germans, who only began to travel through East Germany again in 1990, were moved to see a symbol of their unified country prominently displayed at the entrance to Nesbitt's show.

Touched by the landscape, but without materials, the artist sketched it on a cardboard backing for a tablet of graph paper. Within a week of her return to her studio at Third and Elm Streets, she carved the woodblock from which she created a series of 25 prints.

Committed to the ancient craft of cutting wood and fine letterpress printing, Nesbitt produces original woodblock prints, limited edition books, note paper and cards on an 1830 Acorn hand press and an 1897 Golding platen press.

Her woodcuts have often been exhibited at the Newport Art Museum and the Providence Art Club, and she has had one-woman shows at galleries here and in Germany. Her books and prints are found in libraries and collections all over the world.

Ilse Buchert Nesbitt and her husband, Alexander Nesbitt, founded the Third and Elm Press in 1965. This event was honored by a recent exhibition at The Redwood Library which documented their work over the last 25 years.

Amy Weintraub

## THE SECRET GARDEN TOURS

The "secret" is the location of the gardens -- secret until the day of the Benefactors of the Arts fundraising event, June 15 and 16.

The proceeds are used to fund art programs for school children. Last year they were used to fund the Russian exhibit "Views Through the Eyes of Children" at the Newport Art Museum.

The group will fund an exhibit of local children's art work. The works of children in grades four through six will be displayed at Newport's school administration building on Broadway.

Two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to art students graduating from Rogers High School, and seed money will be given for a new project in Theater Dance and Fine Arts at the school.

Next spring, money raised through this year's event will pay for the cost of bussing children who attend Sullivan School to the Boston Science Museum.

Here is a chance for you to help raise even more money by volunteering to help at this tour. It will be held on Saturday June 15 and Sunday June 16 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you would like to be a host or hostess for the gardens or the afternoon tea which will be held in one of the gardens from 2 to 4 p.m. each day, call 847-0514. Many hands will be needed.

Anne Reynolds

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## POINTERS-IN-THE-NEWS

Amy Weintraub, Point Association publicity chairperson, was featured in February in a **Daily News** article on the occasion of a staged reading of her play **Tin Cans** at the Art Association. Members of The Incredibly Far Off Broadway Ensemble Theatre presented the performance as part of Swinburne School's Special Winter Event Series. This playwright role is a "first" for Amy, who has written for television and is currently working on her fifth novel.

- - - - -

Being a writer is only part of Amy's life. She and Mary Lynn Rooke, the Association's 1st vice-president, were among the exhibitors in "Form and Friendship", a ceramic sculpture show at the Swinburne School recently. The show consisted of work done by a class of six women at the school. Amy displayed her Medusa and her primitive earth goddesses. Mary Lynn's pieces included abstractions of vessels and other forms.

A news item in **Newport This Week** recounts that the exhibit marked the close friendship of the class members, and an expression of gratitude to their teacher, Anne Scott Plummer, an internationally recognized sculptress.

- - - - -

Our Liberty Tree at Thames and Farewell Streets was in the news this past month. A group known as America's Historic Forests announced in a **Daily News** article that seeds from the tree will be included in a nation-wide project designed to create historic forests to be used to trace American heritage through trees. The project is sponsored by the American Forestry Association. It is hoped that 500,000 trees will be planted, representing famous people and places. Also to be included will be seeds from rare trees, signifying unusual events and legends.



The present Liberty tree is the fourth to bear the name. The first was planted in 1764 to mark what may have been the first act taken against the British Crown.

The flowering dogwood trees in Touro Synagogue's Patriots Park will also be represented by their seeds. The trees growing there today are representative of the dogwood trees planted when the synagogue was built in 1763. They signify the coming of spring and are part of an annual New Year of the Trees holiday observed at the synagogue.

- - - - -

The latest bulletin of the Newport Historical Society, **Newport History**, includes in its articles about The Fall River Line, a reprint of a **Green Light** article from the January 1962 issue. "A Trip on the Fall River Boat" is described by our staff member Esther Fisher Benson, and tells of the journey of the five small Smith children to vacation with their grandmother on Washington St.

- - - - -

Pointer Rita McCarthy Rogers has been awarded an Artists Projects Grant from the R.I. State Council on the Arts for her project "Shields: A Series of Paintings". The recipient of previous grants from them, this is her first for a body of work in progress.

Kit Hammett

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# THE NEWPORT TREE ORDINANCE

One natural resource in Newport that has been neglected for years, partially for budgetary reasons and partially because we take them for granted, is Newport's public trees.

Under the leadership of The Newport Tree Society, a major step towards remedying this situation lies in the adoption of a tree ordinance, which has been presented to the Newport City Council for readings on March 13 and March 27.

Officially titled "THE NEWPORT TREE PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION ORDINANCE", the intent of this ordinance is

"to establish City policy and protective regulations regarding the preservation, protection, maintenance, removal, and planting of trees to protect and enhance a valuable natural resource and protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Newport."

One of the four main elements of the ordinance is a comprehensive plan for Newport's urban forest. The relationship between tree planting and tree maintenance is a dynamic one. The best way to save money on a planting program is to extend the lives of the trees already planted through regular maintenance. Under a Systematized Tree Management and Planting Program, maintenance needs are categorized, prioritized, and budgeted.

The Point Association has, over the years, spent its own funds to plant trees on Point streets and in Point parks. Once given to the city, these trees have rarely, if ever, been properly maintained. The result is a reduced life expectancy for those trees, increasing the need for additional monies for replacement trees.

The administration of this comprehensive tree management program will be by a qualified tree warden and with the support and assistance of a nine-member Newport Tree Commission.

How is the public involved in the tree ordinance? The tree ordinance focuses on improving the management and future growth of our urban forest. This responsibility cannot be shouldered entirely by the City. The public can help in a number of ways.

Under the ordinance's terms no one is allowed to deface or destroy a public tree without risking a fine and the cost of replacing public property. To avoid putting the wrong tree in the wrong place on public property, approval for planting a public tree must be obtained from the City. Permits are also required for the removal of a public tree. The City will in turn provide professional guidance to anyone wishing to donate a tree for public enjoyment.

Privately-owned trees are affected in two ways:

1. If they pose a threat to the safety of the public, the City can rectify the situation by pruning or removal after appropriate notice to the owner.

2. If a tree is of noteworthy interest because of its type, age, size, or historical association, it may be nominated by the owner to be classified as a "Protected Tree". If accepted by The Newport Tree Commission, it shall henceforth be deemed to be in the custody of the community. As we all know, there are magnificent privately-owned trees in Newport and this provision allows for the property owner to voluntarily earn public recognition for a special tree.

Lillian R. Dick, President  
The Newport Tree Society

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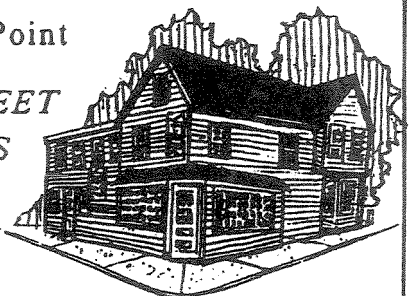
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## I REMEMBER! I REMEMBER!

(The following article appeared in the Spring 1985 issue of **Newport History**, the bulletin of the Newport Historical Society, and is reprinted here with their permission. We will be running parts of the article in future issues.)

THE POINT, 1925-40

by

L.F. Gracey

In the decade after World War I, Newport's Point Section had generally good housing, economic stability, and a broad social mix. It was an airy, pleasant place peopled by those who earned their living at a variety of crafts, professions, and businesses. Residing in harmony were families from North European stocks, many who traced their lineage back to Colonial days, of negroes, and recently arrived Italians, Portuguese, Greeks, Russian Jews, Armenians, and Arabs.

The city's main social classes of very wealthy, Navy, and native townspeople were also found on the Point, and, while great wealth was absent, a clear social stratum existed of those who had and those who had not. The affluent were high naval command officers, downtown businessmen, professionals with good, established practices, and summer families. They lived along the bayside of Washington Street and in the wooded Cloyne School area, owned the best houses and land, and employed domestic servants, usually from Europe. Lesser naval officers and moderately income natives dwelt along Washington Street's east side and on immediate, adjacent cross streets, and the general community of working class, small professionals and businessmen, and enlisted navy men with their families were found on other streets between Marsh and the Naval Hospital. On earlier settled Marsh and Bridge Streets were older, smaller, more densely packed houses that harbored a somewhat poorer group of people. Northward, a gradual economic and housing improvement was

evident in neighborhood differences, houses were more commodious with larger yards, streets were better, and there were some large open spaces.

On Third, between Chestnut and Cherry Streets and again at Battery, were large vegetable truck farms, cultivated and harvested by a single, small family. And beyond Mr. Hayes' dark red house and farm buildings, across from the Naval Hospital's south end, a big, empty field reached back to the railroad tracks and, interrupted only by a Red Cross hut, stretched on to a group of houses at the chewing gum factory. Tom Duffy's farm, north of the Cloyne School, was separated from Coddington Point, a vast collection of Navy World War I training barracks, supply and administration buildings, by an estuary flowing into the Swamp meadowlands. Another large, open field lay north of the Naval Hospital's white, wooden medical buildings where a short cut could be taken to the Naval Training Station causeway. Another path led along Long Shore and huge, gray granite blocks, dumped there after the City Hall fire, and continued past the Naval Hospital to Washington Street Esplanade. Across from Fort Greene, a big lot extended to Mr. Mason's house at Second and Pine where boys reenacted the sham battles they had seen, World War I, and the old Crusades. More open land lay behind the Old Ladies' Home along Cherry to Second, and at the Blue Rocks was a large parcel with tennis courts, unused and empty. Hunter's Field was a playground, but younger children usually played on sidestreets, in open fields, and at the shore. Teenagers found Van Zandt Avenue and Elm Street piers very attractive places to meet and for summer swims.

 **Book Bay**

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## COOK'S CORNER

Spring is here! That means that the stores are stocking fresh new asparagus. There are so many ways that the cook can use this versatile vegetable.

Warm asparagus can be served with a number of different sauces...leftover asparagus can be used in any number of dishes...or, the best way, yet, just serve it with butter. Cold asparagus makes a nice salad dressed with a vinaigrette and served on a lettuce leaf. Simple, but delicious!

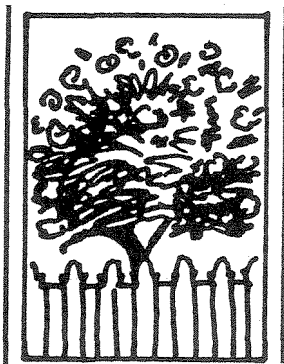
Asparagus used in a quiche makes a nice luncheon or light supper. Here is one that is simple and sooo...delicious.

### IMPOSSIBLE ASPARAGUS PIE

1/2 lb. cooked 1" pieces of asparagus  
4 oz. can mushrooms, drained  
1/2 c. chopped onion or scallion  
2 crushed cloves garlic  
1 c. (4 oz.) shredded Cheddar cheese  
1 1/2 c. milk  
3/4 c. Bisquick  
3 eggs  
1 tsp. salt  
1/4 tsp. pepper  
chopped fresh dill or parsley, as desired

Lightly grease quiche pan. Mix asparagus, mushrooms, onion, garlic and cheese in quiche pan. Beat remaining ingredients (except herbs) until smooth. (1 minute with hand beater). Pour into pan. Sprinkle herbs over top. Bake until golden brown and knife comes out clean, 30 to 35 min. in a 400 degree oven. Let stand 5 minutes before cutting. Makes 6-8 servings.

To lower the cholesterol count, use an egg substitute for the egg portion. It cooks up lighter.



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Last month we used a recipe from a Point cookbook. It was, however, from the first book published by the Association. The one which is on sale now is Volume 2 with the green cover. Here is an easy one from the right book.

### LEMON-SHERRY DRESSING FOR FRUIT SALAD

submitted by Maggie Ballard

4 TBSP. lemon juice      1/8 tsp. salt  
4 TBSP. sugar              2 TBSP. sherry

Combine lemon juice and salt and slowly stir in sugar. Stir in sherry and mix well.

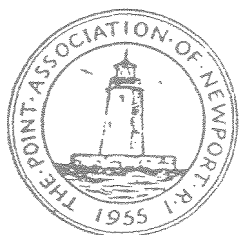
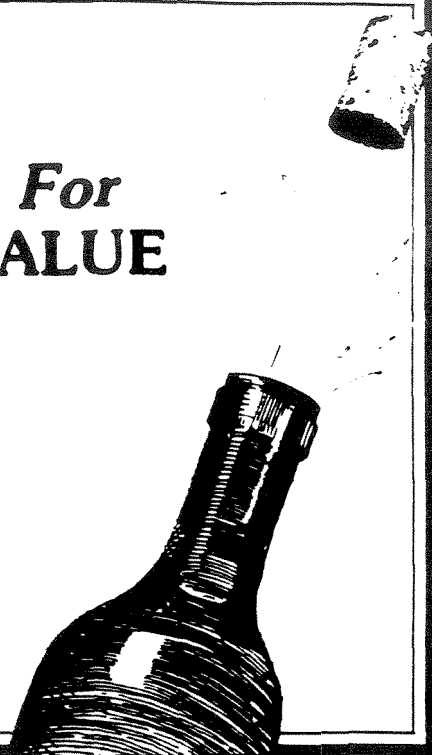
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