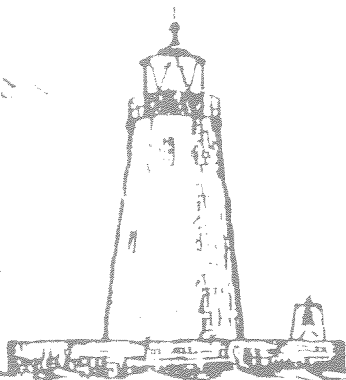


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The GREEN LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

DECEMBER 1991



THE DENNIS HOUSE



The **GREEN LIGHT**

Vol. XXXVI - No. 6

DECEMBER 1991

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Cover drawing: by John Howard Benson
through the courtesy of Esther Fisher
Benson.

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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.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The Annual Meeting is behind us and I'm beginning the second year of my term. My warm welcome to the new Board members, David Aguiar, 1st vice-president, Phil Mosher, treasurer, and Elizabeth Donald, recording secretary.

Leaving the Board after terms of volunteered dedication and service to the Point Association are Mary Lynn Rooke, former 1st vice-president, and John Howard, treasurer. Mr. Howard's service spanned five years. He was efficient, thorough, complete, and always had an explanation for debits and credits. Our appreciation goes to them for their service.

Thank you to our former advertising director, Curtis Magee, for his dedicated service to The Green Light, its staff and production. John Howard will take up that position.

The questionnaire enclosed is important, not only to members of the Point Association, but to the residents of the area. Great care and concern has gone into forming these questions. Our hopes are that the answers will help find new direction for the Point Association. Please answer them and deposit the form where requested.

An article in this issue gives continuing information on the interesting subject discussed at the Annual Meeting concerning the Cenacle (the former Corpus Christi Carmelite Convent on Battery Street). Recalling Ade Bethune's proposal for its possible new life, the assembled members at the Annual Meeting authorized by vote to donate "as seen fit a sum not to exceed \$5,000" towards the amount needed for a feasibility study. More detailed information was in the October issue of The Green Light. The Association's Board, at the November meeting, proposed to give an amount towards that study, realizing that the quality of life of Point residents could be improved in their later years; that headway towards this cause has been taken and that a proposed new direction for the Point Association may be forming.

We offer congratulations to Jeanne Marie Napolitano, the newly elected First Ward councilwoman. I hope you had the opportunity to meet her at the Annual Meeting. We certainly look forward to working with her. Our great appreciation to Jack Crowley, who has worked diligently and tirelessly through the years for the Point Association...always there, available to the residents, and an imprint on our history.

At the Annual meeting I outlined the benefits of a Point Association membership; one most valued is The Green Light. The staff works on your behalf to bring you the history of old houses, recipes, articles about "Pointers" in the news. The advertisers realize the value of an ad in The Green Light. The Holly Tea on December 15, the Pot Luck supper being planned, the Spring meeting, the Point Fair, are a few of the activities planned in your behalf. Check this publication for fees and let that speak for itself. Where else, at a time like this, is a membership so valuable, so inexpensive?



ANNUAL MEETING

The Point Association's Annual Meeting was held on October 17. President Joseph P.T. Vars presided. He opened the program with a report of the past year's activities, and noted the many Association members who were instrumental in bringing about the accomplishment of these activities.

John Howard presented the financial report for the year ending September 30, 1991, and also the proposed budget for the coming year. Both were accepted.

Reports of the standing and special committees were given. Brenda Gordon presented the proposed slate of new officers. New officers were elected as follows: David Aguiar, 1st vice-president, Elizabeth Donald, recording secretary, and Philip Mosher, treasurer. Rowan Howard, Maurice LaValette and Mary Lynn Rooke were elected as the nominating committee.

Ade Bethune presented a report on the proposed Cenacle-by-the-Sea development, including a request for financial help from the Point Association toward the cost of a feasibility study. Discussion followed, resulting in a vote by members authorizing the Board of Directors to determine an amount to be given.

Born-on-the-Point certificates were awarded to Elizabeth and Christopher Boghossian of Washington Street.

A social hour gave a chance to welcome Virginia Covell to her first Association meeting in more than a year. We were happy to make the acquaintance of Rev. and Mrs. Ostman at their first meeting of the Association. Rev. Ostman is the new rector of St. John's Church.

Kit Hammett



Holly Tea, 1990

THE HOLLY TEA

Sunday, December 15

3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

at St. Paul's Methodist Church
Marlborough Street

Donation

\$1.50

This is the Point Association's contribution to the **Christmas in Newport** calendar. It's especially for Pointers and their families and friends from far and near. Plan to take time out during this busy season. Relax and enjoy a cup of tea in an 18th century atmosphere.

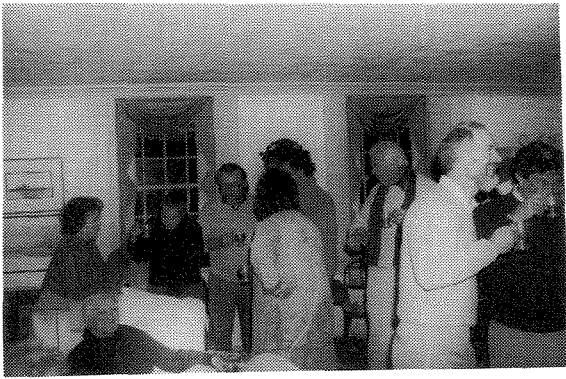
In addition to sandwiches, cookies and small cakes, hosts and hostesses in costume are needed to welcome and serve. Some of us choose the working team in the kitchen...making tea and arranging plates, or helping to set up or clean up. It's all fun and filled with the warmth and fellowship of the season. Give Dede Elster a call at 847-0563 and tell her you want to be a part of this neighborhood tradition.

HOLIDAY DOOR DECORATION CONTEST

Once again, there will be a city-wide doorway decoration competition. Every year some Point doorways have won places in the contest. In 1990, the Boghossians of Washington Street received first place. Those who wish to participate must enter the contest. Watch the newspapers for details. The judging will be by local garden club members on December 27.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The president has appointed two Board members, Lois Dickison and Elizabeth Donald, to the nominating committee. Maurice Lavalette has been appointed as chairperson.



Caroling, 1990

CAROLING ON THE POINT

The traditional sharing of Christmas Carols along Point streets, and in some homes, will take place on December 11. All who are interested - young and old! - are asked to call Sophia Pendergast at 846-8850 for information about where to meet and other details. Rehearsal will begin at 6 p.m. and activities will follow.

"Sing High - Sing Low!"

CANDLELIGHT TOURS

These special tours are on the four days following Christmas. The days on the Point are December 26 and 28. At that time private 18th and 19th century homes on the Point are open to visitors. Watch the newspaper for a list of the houses.

It's lovely to see the window candles with their white lights during December, but a real treat is to be invited to tour and enjoy these homes. In addition, you can add to this enjoyment by volunteering to be a hostess. Dede Elster will gladly supply you with a Colonial costume and assign you a house for one or more days. Just give her a call at 847-0563. Being a hostess also entitles you to visit any of the homes open during those days. Sign up now before your December calendar fills up.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Marie Abois
Doris Cranson
Mr. and Mrs. John Finerty
Margaret Fogarty
Lisa Furtado
Judith Gadoury
Ross Meurer
John & Gerry McCauley
Rev. & Mrs. Jonathan Ostman
Robert Peabody
Victor Sanchuk, Jr.
Joan B. Wilson

October is the month for renewing membership in the Point Association. Did you renew? If not, we are looking for your check. See the renewal form on Page 19 for categories of membership. Payment before the end of the year will insure that you will continue receiving **The Green Light**.

Robert Majewski
Membership Chairperson

BEAUTIFICATION

Bulbs for spring-time blooming, donated by the city-wide Green and Clean Committee, were planted in Point parks as follows:

by Myra Duvally at the small triangle on the Connector Road.
by Mary Rommel, Beth Graham and David Aguiar in two places in Storer Park.
by the Lavalettes at Liberty Tree Park.

SAVE THE DATE!

PLAN TO BE THERE!

POTLUCK SUPPER

SUNDAY - FEB. 9

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH - 6 p.m.

PRESSURE POINTS

ON AGAIN, OFF AGAIN

The foreclosure sale of the proposed Hilton Hotel site at Long Wharf and Washington Street has been postponed and rescheduled for the end of November. Negotiations for the project are still continuing.

ROSE ISLAND

The State's plan to purchase Rose Island as Open Space is in jeopardy due to a recent Court decision that ordered the state to pay \$18 million for a piece of property in Narragansett. The state is appealing the decision, but if it loses its appeal, all of the \$16 million Open Space bond money will be used up. According to Governor Sundlun, another property also has priority for the Open Space money. The Governor suggested that the city should consider using the state's new zoning law, the Zoning Enabling Act, to restrict development on the island until Open Space money is available.

In a recent newspaper article, Charlotte Johnson said that the "political process, the politicians and the legal system have let down everyone who has worked to save the island."

The CMTS Partnership, owners of the island, will ask the state for an extension on the purchase and sale agreement which expires December 31.

If the state's appeal fails, and the state does not have the money to purchase Rose Island as open space, a limited development project may be proposed by the owners.

Liz Bermander

CHRISTMAS ON THE POINT AND ON WASHINGTON SQUARE

- *Dec. 1 Opening of Christmas in Newport-
Washington Square- 5 p.m.
- Dec. 5 Lighting of Hospice tree -
Marriott Hotel - 7 p.m.
- *Dec. 7 Christmas celebration - Brick
Market Place - 2-5 p.m.
- *Dec. 10 Navy Band Newport Holiday -
Spruance Auditorium -Naval War
College - NETC Gate #1 - 7 p.m.
- Dec. 11 Caroling on the Point - 6 p.m. -
Call Sophia Pendergast -
846-8850, if interested.
- *Dec. 11 Guided tour of the Colony House -
Newport Historical Society -
10 a.m.
- *Dec. 12 Giant Gingerbread House Tour -
Marriott Hotel - 2-5 p.m. - Bring
non-perishable food donation for
local charities
- *Dec. 15 Holly Tea - Point Association -
St. Paul's Church, Marlborough
St. - 4-6 p.m. - Donation \$1.50
- *Dec. 17 Christmas Open House and Navy-
Newport Art Exhibit- Naval War
College -3-6 p.m.
- *Dec. 21 Judging of Doorway Contest by
Island Garden Clubs. Call 847-
7779 for information on entering
- *Dec. 23 Re-enactment of Turtle Frolic -
Doubletree Hotel - Goat Island -
6 p.m. Dinner - \$25.00 - Reserva-
tions required - 849-2600
- Dec. 24 Candlelight Carol Service -
St. Paul's Methodist Church -
Marlborough St. - 7 p.m.
- *Dec. 26 Candlelight Tours of Point houses
3:30-6:30 p.m. - Admission \$3.00
per house
- *Dec. 26 Mass commemorating first Catholic
Mass for French Forces in America
- Colony House - 7:30 p.m. - Free
Will Offering

*Christmas in Newport event

For further details on Point activities
see this issue of The Green Light.

This is the 21st Annual Calendar for
Christmas in Newport.



The Waters Edge Flowers, Inc.

23 MEMORIAL BOULEVARD
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND 02840

SPECIAL FLOWERS FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS

TELEPHONE 847-1111

Joseph P. T. Vars

POINT PEOPLE

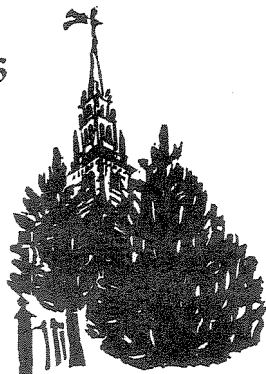
During November and December, an exhibition of drawing and lettering is on view at the Redwood Library and the Swinburne School in celebration of the 90th birthday of Alexander Nesbitt, a most distinguished Pointer. He and his wife, Ilse Buchert Nesbitt, slipped into Newport unheralded in 1965, coming down from Providence where both taught at the Rhode Island School of Design. They bought the house on the northeast corner of Third and Elm Streets.

*Joy
to
the
World!*

Two great printing presses were moved in, as well as type cases, a marble slab for inking, and a 30-inch paper cutter. The first floor west side was made into a working shop, leaving the rest of the building for the family residence, and it soon became a family when two sons were born, Alexander and Rupert.

*Christmas Cards
& Prints
of Newport*

*at the Third & Elm Press
29 Elm Street, Newport
846-0228*



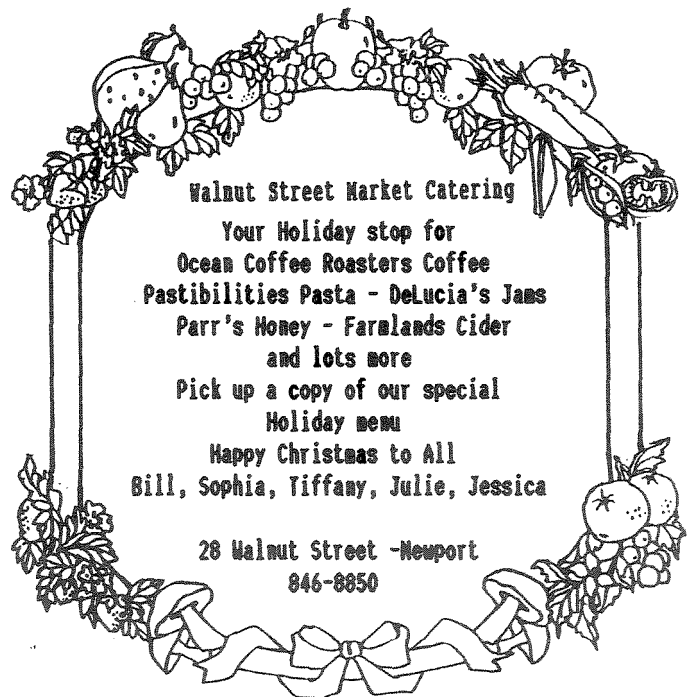
Visit our shop Monday through Saturday 9 to 5 —

In the meantime we Pointers began slowly to realize what an unusual couple had joined us. Of course we were fascinated by the large black presses, seen through the shop windows. Ilse's gifted pen and graver turned out enchanting note-cards, illustrating Point houses, Christmas scenes and flower designs, a reflection of the blooms in her sequestered garden. Other aspects of her work were large framed woodcuts, illustrated books, all of these printed on the presses.

Alex, in addition to his superb calligraphy and drawing, taught at Southeastern Massachusetts University, driving from Newport to Dartmouth, Mass., whether rain or shine. Many students and colleagues came to speak with him, resulting occasionally in summer apprenticeships. Alex and Ilse are both splendid talkers, spreading basic knowledge and enlightenment to their listeners. Around them has grown a circle of accomplished artists in the graphics field. We value greatly their presence on the Point.

The Redwood exhibit can be seen Monday thru Saturday until the end of December. The Swinburne exhibit, Monday thru Friday, 10-4.

Esther Fisher Benson



DO YOU REMEMBER?

History goes back a long way on the Point, but for many current residents even the early **Green Light** which started in 1957 is history. The old issues are fascinating to peruse, causing many questions to be raised. We have noted a page of old ads which year after year includes:

++++++
 PETE'S CANTEEN, 74 1/2 Third Street
 Bakery, Canned and Dairy Goods
 Daily Newspapers, Magazines
 ++++++

Pete's is identified as "Petritz's on Third Street" in a recent Grist Mill column in the **Newport Daily News** under "Some Former Newstands".

The trail started with Bea Petritz at the corner of Battery and Second Streets. You must all be acquainted with her yellow house set cater-cornered on the lot. Her father-in-law was Pete Petritz of the Canteen. When Pete retired from submarine service in the Navy, he was determined to bask in as much sunlight as possible, so built his house diagonally so as to catch rays from all sides.

Now, back to the Canteen which was located in what is now the parking area for the house at the southwest corner of Battery and Third Streets. Prior to Pete's Canteen, it was called "Dad's" and was operated by the father of Fred Sleeper of Battery Street. Fred remembers his mother baking for the store on the Glenwood coal stove in their kitchen. This was a time when shopping was done day by day, and accounts charged weekly or monthly. Fred says his father, Archie Sleeper, also had a bike repair shop on the east side of Third Street near Cherry.

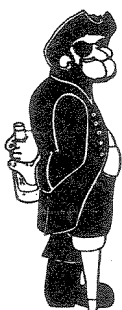
Fred describes Pete's Canteen as a small store with no running water, a kerosene stove and great penny candy. Pete provided a spectacular ending to Fourth of July celebrations when all the leftover fireworks were put outside and set off. That sounds pretty risky today, but there were many more nearby open spaces in those days. Pete was succeeded at the 74 1/2 Third Street store by Margaret and Joe Davenport, but **The Green Light** ads still read "Pete's Canteen".

This is just a little folksie neighborhood story, and hopefully you have one to share with us. As Fred Sleeper says, "The Point was a local community. Everyone knew everyone else, and everyone helped each other."

Kay O'Brien



Speaking of history, here's a photo from Jim Steele which shows what our present-day Walnut Market and Third Street Liquors building looked like in the old days.



The Rum Runner LIQUOR STORE

(401) 847-7600

Goat Island, Newport, Rhode Island



TEN SPEED SPOKES

18 Elm Street
 Newport, Rhode Island 02840
 401-847-5609

THE TREE LIGHTING AT BATTERY PARK

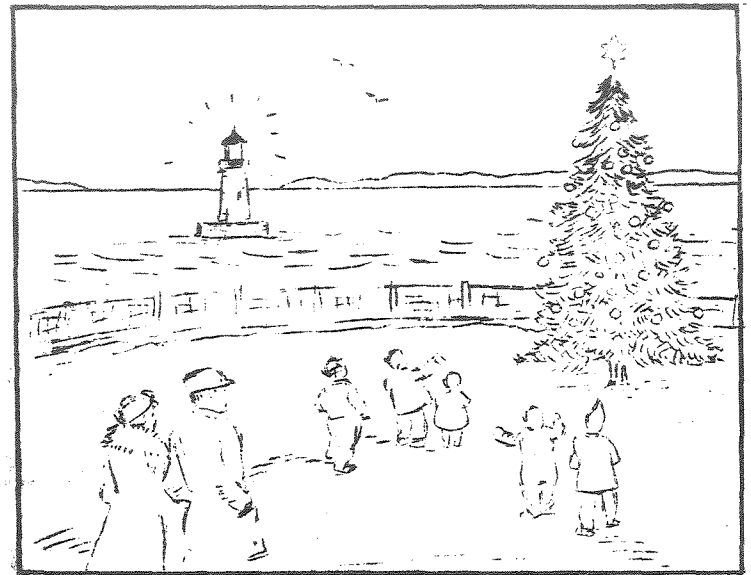
A December 26, 1947 news article in the **Newport Daily News** tells the story of the Point carolers. It tells us that 1947 was the 16th successive year that the singers walked the Point. It was Christmas Eve and they began their caroling after the lighting of the Christmas Tree at Battery Park. A poll of several long-time inhabitants of the Point turned up almost no information about the tree lighting. Fisher Benson believes that it was only done for a couple of years. She remembers that there was a problem there with the wind and thinks that may have been why it was discontinued. There might well have been since the park is so open to the shore.

The 1947 carolers were led by William King Covell and an accompanying photograph pictures him with William Fitzpatrick, Jr., Vincent and Marie Aubois, Catherine Covell, Adrienne and Hilarie Maylor, and Ursula Jarewzewski.

The occasion was Christmas Eve and the carolers moved through the neighborhood, singing inside Stella Maris and the Home for the Aged (now the Nina Lynette Home), as well as at the homes of many Point residents. Pointers still have an opportunity to join their neighbors in caroling on the Point. This year the date is December 11.

If some of our readers remember the tree lighting, we would be glad to hear from you. Please send your memories to Editors, The Green Light, P.O. Box 491, Newport RI 02840.

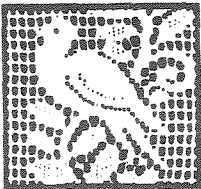
Florence Archambault



Reprinted from Dec. 1960 Green Light



Colonial Travel Inc.
204 Thames Street
Newport, R.I.
02840
401-849-6433



Imported traditional country
lace of France

Rue de France

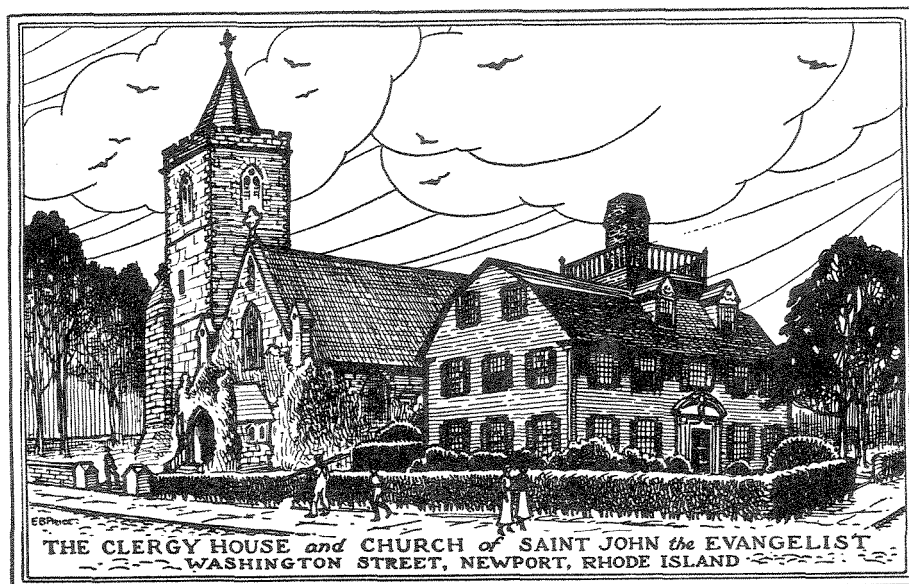
Gifts • Accessories • Linens

78 Thames St., Newport, RI 02840 - 401-846-3636

Mon.-Sat. 10-5:30 Sun. 12-5:00

PDQ Printing and Copying Inc.
176 Broadway
Newport, RI 02840
401-849-3820

AN OLD CHURCH, A NEW MINISTRY



It was a Sunday in July, 1875, when St. Stephen's Guild, a society formed to interest young men in mission work, hired a room in a house at Poplar and Third Streets, and held their first meeting. The house belonged to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Quire, both communicants of Trinity Church. The Episcopal Service was used, and the sermon was preached by Rev. I.P. White, then Rector of Trinity.

Because of increasing interest and participation in the Guild's work, it was soon evident that one meeting room was too small. The Guild decided it needed a new building and work was started in October of the same year. Because of construction costs, a plain chapel was decided on. However, due to unexpected contributions and the help of Newport's town government, a tower and bell were added to the original design. Sadly, before the chapel was completed, Dr. White, whose dream this was, died.

The continuing interest and support of Trinity Church enabled work on the chapel to proceed, and, on February 13, 1876, the first service was held with five clergymen present. Choir members of Trinity would sing at all services during the first year.

Dr. White's widow organized a Sunday School which grew from eight children to 150 under the guidance of Edward L. Dockray. Mrs. White moved to the Point, at Second and Poplar Streets, to be near the new chapel.

Newport residents continued to support the project. Mrs. John J. Astor gave money to build a Reading Room across from the chapel. The building is still there though it no longer belongs to St.

John's. Edith Ballinger Price, who served for many years on the Altar Guild, wrote an interesting article on the ecclesiastical arts of St. John's. A treasured possession of the church is a copy of a small image of the Virgin and Child from the 10th century. Edith Price saw the figures of our Lady's Shrine being carved in Bruges, studio of Mons. When the sculpture arrived at St. John's, she remembers how a young and then unknown stonecutter, John Howard Benson, cut the memorial lines *in situ* on the wall behind the carving. Edith Price, herself, gilded the incised letters with, she says, radiator paint.

In 1881, Rev. S. Wilson Moran, from Wisconsin, was put in charge of the project; it was then that the church was finished. An organ was installed and stained glass windows were given. One of these (the east window) by Mrs. Zabriskie. Her family, wealthy New York landowners, contributed generously to the church project. The west window was given by her daughter, Ethel. The walls and ceiling of both church and chancel were decorated by Newport artist, Mr. Hayman. By 1882, all bills had been paid in full, and the church was consecrated on the feast of St. John that year.

"The infusion of new energy given St. John's by Rev. Moran", and we quote from Rev. Henry G. Turnbull's (who was until recently Rector of St. John's) pamphlet on the church, promises to be repeated by the new Rector, another Wisconsin gentleman, Father Jonathan Ostman.

Rector and Mrs. Ostman are recently arrived on the Point and are settling into the rectory, known as the Dennis House. When we interviewed them, boxes were still unpacked. They were feeling, Mary Ostman said, "a bit overwhelmed". Excited, too, because this is Father Ostman's first post as Rector. He came to Newport after two years as the Curate of All Saints Church in Wynnewood, Pa.

Father Ostman has not always served the Church. He was a bio-chemist with health care companies in Chicago and in Boston. His interest was genetic engineering, primarily hepatitis. He had always felt, he said, a certain discontent with his chosen profession and, with his company's permission, he took a year off in England and attended the London School of Economics. "This gave me time to think, and to pray," he says. In 1986, he returned to the United States to enroll in the Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria. He was ordained a priest in the Episcopal Church in May of 1990.



Mary Ostman will concern herself, she said, in all facets of parish life. She likes travel, and she also would like to start painting again. Art is one of her main interests. The rectory is lovely, she said, and she looks forward to furnishing it with her own things. Mary will go to work as an administrative officer in the Department of Justice Office of the US Trustee in Boston. Another interest shared by both Father and Mrs. Ostman is their snow-white Samoyed, Sergius.

Father Ostman has many plans for St. John's. He wants to restore it to its original position in the Point community - that of the neighborhood church. He would like to see Guild Hall refurbished - "that will take some money," he said - and used, as it was intended, for public gatherings and Point meetings.

For the time being, the Dennis House will remain a Bed and Breakfast. "This brings in necessary funding," Father Ostman said. He has officiated at several Sunday services already, and he stated that the congregation was on the "up-slope".

"St. John's is unique in this state," he said. The church service is High Anglican and St. Stephen's in Providence, he believes, is the only other church in Rhode Island that offers a similar service.

A study group is planned for Advent. Father Ostman has not had time to unpack his books, but both he and his wife are even now scheduling events. "She is the greatest help to me," he told us, and we could see in the smiles they gave each other that each will help the other in this "overwhelming" immediate task of welcoming and being welcomed by new and old communicants on the Point.

We thanked both Father and Mrs. Ostman for their hospitality, and more especially for St. John's wide open doors and the profusion of golden flowers on the front steps. Point residents have already remarked their pleasure in this. "Like renewing the acquaintance of an old friend," a Pointer said.

Sunday services at St. John's are: Matins at 7:40 a.m.; Low Mass following at 8, and the Sung Mass at 11.

Anita McAndrews

CHRISTMAS MUSIC AT ST. JOHN'S

- Dec. 15 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols - 4 p.m.
- Dec. 24 Procession, the Blessing of the Creche, and sung High Mass and Sermon - 11 p.m.

The Creche is a wonderful set of 18th century Neapolitan figures and animals. It will be on display in the church from Christmas Eve through Epiphany, January 6.

The public is invited to attend these services.

W. Robert Foreman, Organist

(A continuation of the article which appeared in the Spring 1985 issue of **Newport History**, the bulletin of the Newport Historical Society. Three installments have been published in the April, June and October, 1991 issues of **The Green Light** and we will be running additional portions in the future.)

THE POINT 1925-40

by

L.F. Gracey

Times were changing rapidly in the late twenties and early thirties with automobiles, buses, and trucks becoming increasingly common. Earlier, people used steamboats, trolleys, and trains as principal means of travel and for freight. **The General**, a small paddlewheel steamer, left from Long Wharf passenger dock every morning to connect with New York trains at Wickford Junction. In summer, the majestic, white sidewheeler, **Mount Hope**, exposed walking beam flashing, sailed past Fort Greene every forenoon on her way to Block Island after a stop at Commercial Wharf. A little, black and white propeller steamer, **May Archer**, tagged along behind carrying mail to the same places. Neither boat sailed during the off-season, and the job was taken over by an old World War I, gasoline driven submarine chaser. The **Mount Hope** served forty six years and was retired in 1935, and the hurricane of 1938 destroyed what was probably the most popular steamboat that ever sailed bay waters. New York style sidewheel ferries, like the **Jamestown** and **Beaver Tail**, had carried traffic across the bay since 1873, and they were now joined by the **Governor Carr**, a luxurious propeller steam ferry whose engine had been taken from A.C. James' big, black sailing yacht, **Aloha**.

The United States Fleet summered in the bay, filling it along the Point and across to Rose Island with destroyers moored to giant can buoys. Battleships, cruisers, supply ships, and occasionally the oiler, **Patoka**, her high mooring mast holding the dirigible, **Los Angeles**, lay off the Jamestown shore. Rumor had it that the explosives stored at Rose Island could blow Newport away.

Catboats, sloops, dories, and motor-boats were tied to wooden sticks away from shore. There were no more summer picnic sails to Taylor's Point, and boats were being used less than in the past. People, out of tradition and desire to keep their

boats in good condition, put them overboard all season and stored them on brows for the rest of the year. But these were not the only boats on the bay. During Prohibition, the Coast Guard patrolled in force with old World War I destroyers, wooden, gas driven ex-submarine chasers, and fast picket boats. Newport was a base for rumrunners, and at night they set out to meet mother ships at sea in international waters. In the early morning hours, Pointers could hear the **rat-tat-tats** of machine gun fire as hot chases became open warfare.

Washington Street had some interesting families and houses. Mrs. Sage lived in a dark, brown bayside place, just north of Fort Greene at the Esplanade. Her grounds sloped shoreward to a low seawall, and she had no pier. But she did have domestic servants, a chauffeur, and a Pierce Arrow limousine. Frederick Cunningham's big brownstone, later to become the **Stella Maris**, had grounds that covered an entire city block. Tall chestnut trees grew on spacious lawns, and there was a separate laundry building and drying yard enclosed by high, blue lattice. A beautiful wide gravel driveway led in from the street to a broad, comfortable veranda. At Cherry, stood the magnificent, gleaming white, black shuttered Old Ladies' Home with its gravelled turn in behind tall front hedges. Next door was an empty, winged and verandered dwelling that had been a summer hotel. This was cut apart and part was transported, minus the veranda, to the corner of Bridge Street where the sections stand today. A beautiful, well-kept flower garden was planted in the remaining lot.

Admiral Belknap's high, large, and gray house had verandas around three sides. Standing across from the Old Ladies' Home, it was a busy place with grounds along the bay to Chestnut Street. It became vacant and was finally torn down and then became the site for former Mayor Wheeler's home. Mrs. Guy Norman's stucco, fronted by a flagged slate sidewalk, shared the next blockside with Mr. Bozyan, an art dealer of repute, and his family. MacLeod's and Covell's came next on the same side of the street. Mr. MacLeod was a lawyer and politician and at one time had been mayor of the city. The Covells were successful downtown merchants whose boys were interested in sailing, the Fall River Line, and ship's time. In summer, bell time was regularly rung out on the little upper balcony, mixing with a multitude of clanging destroyers just up the shore.

(to be continued)

POINTERS-IN-THE-NEWS

Robert and Dede Elster of Second Street traveled to California in September to attend an awards ceremony for their son, Navy Commander Robert E. Elster, held at the Naval Dental Center in Camp Pendleton. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal from the President of the United States. Retired Navy Lieutenant Robert Elster, in a surprise part of the ceremony, pinned the medal on his son's uniform. The Commander's mother, Dede Elster, says their son spent his teen-age years on the Point and considers himself a "Pointer".

After three decades as rector of St. John's Episcopal Church on Washington Street, the Reverend Henry G. Turnbull has retired. A feature article in The Newport Daily News reviewed many aspects of his ministry "steering St. John's along a controversial, yet rigidly traditionalist course." He officially retires in January, but has already celebrated his last Anglican High Mass, and welcomed his successor, the Reverend Jonathan Ostman. Point neighbors wish Father Turnbull well in his retirement.

Kit Hammett

Patricia Parker, assistant manager of the Sanford-Covell Villa Marina on Washington Street, shared a feature article in the **Newport Daily News** with Deanna Evans, her partner in a new venture, "The Tree House", which provides customers with detailed histories of their properties. The name "Tree House" comes from the two women's interest in family trees and property history.

Alexander Nesbitt is profiled elsewhere in this issue but his exhibit at the Redwood Library and Swinburne School to commemorate his 90th birthday was noted in local papers and the Redwood Library Notes.

Paul Boghossian III of Washington Street was the subject of a major article in the Business section of **The Providence Journal** in November. Paul is president of Concordia, a family-owned business that manufactures specialty yarns and fibres. He is vocal about disadvantages of manufacturing in Rhode Island, especially in relationship to energy and Workmen's Compensation.

Myra Duvally and the Benefactors of the Arts were mentioned in Rob Reimer's "Newport Live" column in **The Newport Daily News**. Reimer answered the question "Who are the Benefactors of the Arts?" for those who do not know and recounted the good work they do providing music programs for the schools.

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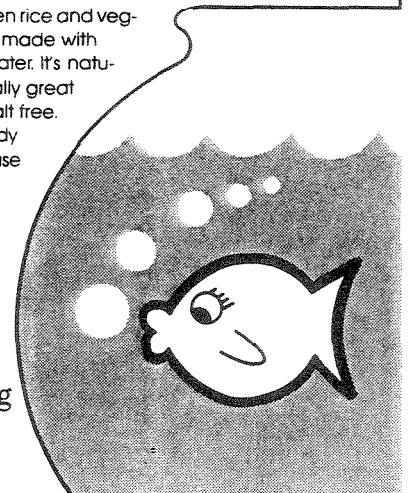
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THE GARDENING CORNER

Every day we intrepid Pointers walk. In summer we tend to be strollers, but in winter you'll see pedestrians walking dogs or just doggedly walking.

It isn't so much that we are outdoor people; most of us are, but we feel so much warmer when we go back to our drafty homes!

Our shore climate also blesses outdoor devotees with soft windless winter days for puttering outdoors. Putter-people needn't apologize as much as some do. It's a pleasant way to play and at the same time be conscience-free. Some things do get done.

We seed little bare spots in our lawns and rake up all the leaves and put them on the compost, then go in to make pie and a pot of coffee, and take the peelings and grounds to the compost heap. We trim browned-off perennials to a few inches from the ground, marking the late-spring emergers, like balloon flowers, so they won't be beheaded by over-eager spring cultivators. I use my tomato hoops for this, but stakes or sturdy wire will do.

Plant a few bulbs and clean out the refrigerator. Dead "soda" and moldy maple syrup, little jars of egg whites, and those old bananas you were saving for bread...into the compost heap for the next year's crop. While you're out there scoot out forgotten onions and tiny peppers for stirfry. My garden has fresh little dill feathers for salad.

If you aren't fussy about colors, harvest seed from annuals...nicotiana and cosmos. Save some for spring and sow others where you choose to see them next spring. Watch for diseased plants and put them out in the trash.

Be sure to give the lawn a "last" mowing whenever it needs it...easier than raking and it helps keep it free of snowmold and fungal diseases.

You may dig dahlias and summer bulbs when frost strikes the tops down. If you have duplicates, try overwintering them; just cut off their tops. In mild winters the frost doesn't reach the tubers and they come up sooner and bloom earlier.

Label the rest and store them in a bucket of clean sand and store in a cool place where they won't freeze.

When dread winter sulks, as it will do, spend a morning at Redwood Library looking over the books that were given in memory of Bill Fullerton. Richard Champlin, recently retired Head Librarian, chose some special ones that serve diverse interests.

Anne Reynolds

GARDEN BOOKS AT REDWOOD LIBRARY PURCHASED IN MEMORY OF WILLIAM H. FULLERTON

Hill, Lewis & Nancy. Daylilies.
Hill, Lewis. Secrets of Plant Propagation.
Hill, Lewis. Pruning Simplified.
Schneck, Marcus. Butterflies.
Proctor, Noble. Garden Birds.
Loewer, Peter. The Annual Garden.
Halpin, Anne. Foolproof Planting.
Appleton, Bonnie. Landscape Rejuvenation.
Baldwin, Edward. Birdfeeders, Shelters and Baths.
Solit, Karen. Keep Your Gift Plants Thriving.
Bayard, Tania. Sweet Herbs and Sundry Flowers.
Art, Henry W. A Garden of Wildflowers.
Yepsen, Roger. Encyclopedia of Insect and Disease Control.
McEwan, Currier. The Japanese Iris.

The American Horticultural Society's Encyclopedia of Plants.

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A CHRISTMAS WEDDING

(Reprinted from the December, 1960 issue of *The Green Light*)

On Christmas Day, 1783, the third John Stevens was married to Mary Shepard.

Eighty-three years before, his grandfather, the first John, had come to Boston from Oxfordshire; thence in 1705 to Newport, where he carried on his trade of mason and began the tradition of stone-carving that is continued by the shop that still bears his name. He built the house in 1709 that stands (in sad condition) directly opposite the shop, at #30 Thames Street - and he set the mark of his primitive genius on many a Rhode Island grave-stone.

His son, the second John, called himself a bricklayer; and indeed he was, as the Touro Synagogue and the countless big central chimneys of old Newport attest - but his output of stone-carving was immense, and the intricate design of the armorial bearing on the tombstones of his famous clients, and the hundreds of humbler headstones that crowd many a New England burying-ground, stand in enduring testimony to his skill.

The third John, his son, born in 1754, was something of a prodigy. His best and most original carving was done in his 'teens. The delicacy of his "portrait" stones with their graceful borders and fine lettering, show an amazing proficiency and a sensitive imagination.

But now he is 29. The Revolution is over (an ardent patriot, he was one of the young men who carried the second Liberty Tree by night from Middletown and planted it at the head of Thames Street.) His father had died five years before, in the midst of the hard times of the British occupation - and though John is the support of his widowed mother, the young man finds it is time to marry.



He was always rather vain and quite a dandy. When only thirteen, he writes out a list of his clothes for the year - and they include gold thread garters, a blue broadcloth coat, the very best of beaveret hats and a very expensive silk handkerchief. So we may imagine that he cut a fine figure for his wedding.

It must have taken place at the old Congregational meeting-house which his father had helped build - for the Stevenes were all of that denomination. And then the happy couple returned that Christmas Day to the old homestead on upper Thames Street - a Thames Street lined with the substantial houses of its merchants and mariners, its craftsmen and artisans; houses still standing there, now mute and many of them sadly shabby.

This Christmas night - can you shut eyes and ears to the glare of neon signs and the hum of motorized traffic - and instead, can you see the shadowy flicker of candle-light in the small-paned windows, and catch the ghostly echo of a fiddle tuning up - and the laughter of John Stevens and Mary his wife?



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I REMEMBER! I REMEMBER!

Whenever I glimpse the tall reeds in the marshland area along the railroad tracks, I recall our wintertime fun, skating along the narrow, frozen stream from Hunter's Field as far north as we could go. It was a long, narrow skating rink; a foot wide in some places, a yard wide in others!

It was an adventure to skate around the reeds and dried grass, over rough, rippled spots, to find a smooth, glassy patch of ice where we could practice new skating skills, then back we skated to the pond to show off our figure eights.

Every winter, as soon as it was cold enough, the Fire Department would come and flood the small pond in back of Dyer's Gate, so we could have a safe, smooth skating pond.

The boys in the neighborhood, all ages and sizes, and some exceptionally good athletes, would line up barrels, showing their prowess by jumping over as many as possible.

One winter, a pretty child, probably four years old, with tiny white figure skates, showed all of us a thing or two! She skated beautifully! How we all enjoyed watching her.

What simple pleasure we all had skating at this tiny pond and along this narrow frozen stream.

Liz Bermander

WE REMEMBER NAT NORRIS

Pointers were saddened to learn of the death of Nathaniel Norris in October. Neighbors, visitors, and members of the wider Island community will miss his friendliness, cordiality, sharing of love for his garden, and his great interest in and concern for restoration and other aspects of the Point area.

His "Nat's Compound" on the corner of Bridge and Second Streets is made up of two dwellings that he had moved and restored, a lovely bricked courtyard and his beautiful garden. "Old Nat's" house, reputedly built by the first freed slave in Newport in 1717, and the Sherman Clarke house, built in 1740 are much admired and publicized.

Anita McAndrews remembers Nat and his friend Ed who has moved to a retirement home near Hartford, Conn.

TWO GENTLE GENTLEMEN

Nathaniel Norris and Edward Schoenhardt...two unforgettable gentle gentlemen! They are gone from the Point, but never really gone. Ed has simply gone marketing; we will see him any minute on his tricycle, rounding the corner, his basket full of goodies. Ed is one of the best cooks we ever knew; dinner at his house was always a treat.

And Nat...he is among his flowers. He cherished everything that grew. A flowering weed, and Nat would say, "Leave it! Let it bloom." His garden on the corner of Bridge and Second Streets is a delight to all passersby. We looked forward, every Secret Garden time, to Nat's new designs. his colorful borders, the square of brilliance in his garden, the green shade of his patio...and, always, his roses.

They will be missed, Nat and Ed. We recall their kindness, their keen wit; Ed's stories and Nat's laughter. They are still with us, both gentle men...a garden blooms forever, an old brick wall glows with different shades in each season's light.

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ARTIST ON THE POINT

Porcelain restoration is a time-consuming art requiring patience and skill. The techniques used to restore broken porcelain are intricate. Newport has had Ogden Newell as a porcelain restorer since 1973, when she turned from furniture restoring to the restoration of porcelain, a skill she "fell" into. Katy Lazell from Germantown, Pa. gave Ogden a crash course, and trial and error since then has sharpened her skill.

Restoration schools are rare. West Dean College, just outside of London, England, has a course in porcelain restoration as well as a course in clock restoration...of special interest, for Ogden's husband is Captain Arthur Newell, a well-known clock restorer.

When the Newells started out they had space in Tom Benson's Elm Street building, a consortium of artisan's businesses, which included rug and furniture restorers, a scrimshaw artist, and a potter, in addition to the Newells. They worked in this environment until the building was sold to Ten Speed Spokes.

The Newells then moved to the basement of the Richardson House Church on Farewell Street where Ogden continued her artisan's work restoring all sorts of broken porcelain. A Chinese Circus bowl, the size of a punch bowl, broken into several pieces, has been restored so skillfully that the mended seams are invisible. A ceremonial wine pot with a broken lid is in the process of being restored. Two Chinese Foo dogs or lions have been restored and painted to their original storied appearance and now grace Ogden's window.

When porcelain breaks, tension is released...the tension that holds it together. Once this is released, it is difficult to fit pieces together once more. Sometimes the fragments warp. Adhesives add to the refitting difficulty, for they not only adhere but add to the bulk of the seam. Ogden uses a two-part epoxy, perfectly clear, that takes a longer time to dry, allowing more time to fit pieces together. A sandbox allows two pieces to be tilted at an angle so they

fit without being held. making a bind more successful. Sometimes tape is used.

For years Ogden was able to get paint from Philadelphia made for use on porce-

lain. However, now she must use trial and error with paint mixes. For instance, titanium white in a clear glaze makes a near perfect white. Using an air brush and friskets she cuts a design to match and then sprays with matching color. Pigments are hard to match. Blue, for example, is a heavier pigment and sinks to the bottom of the air brush cup, changing its intended color.

A dental drill is used to score the edge of the piece so excess adhesive flows into the scores making a better fit possible. A humid day adds to the sealing difficulties...the adhesive won't dry. Porcelain must be dry before sealing. All moisture must be removed by a dryer or low temperature oven. Water will penetrate the body of the porcelain as far as one inch. Another dental product is used for molding...a peelable, flexible, easy to remove molding material.

Ogden Newell regretfully is not working at Porcelain Restoration now. She has been retired for almost a year and a half, working only on a few personal pieces. She says she misses her art, and Porcelain Restoration will miss Ogden.

Dorothy Sanschagrin



Splash Some Color into Your Life

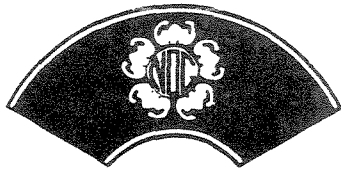


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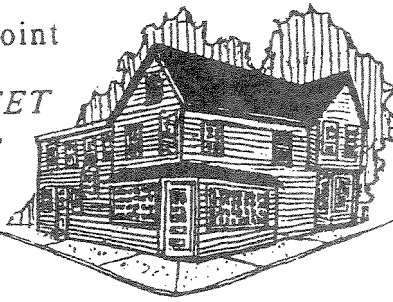
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This issue, instead of the usual Christmas recipes, let's concentrate on celebrating New Year's with some traditional recipes. A long-time tradition in the South is the making of a sesame seed cookie called benne cookies or wafers in Charleston, South Carolina. They are also known as good luck cookies in the Myrtle Beach area.

The seeds (*Seasamum indicum*) came to Charleston in the late 1600s from Africa, where the seeds were called benne. The slaves believed the benne seeds brought good luck if they were sprinkled on the doorsteps of their cabins and planted in their gardens.

These thin benne wafers are easy to make but tend to stick to the pan if left to cool too long. Sometimes reheating the cookies briefly will soften them enough for easy removal. Another way to solve the problem is to line the cookie sheet with lightly greased waxed paper. The paper is easy to peel off if the cookies stick. This version contains less sugar than most recipes.

GOOD LUCK COOKIES

3/4 c. toasted sesame seeds
1 c. all-purpose flour
1/4 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. salt
3/4 c. unsalted butter
1 1/4 c. light brown sugar
3/4 tsp. vanilla
1 large egg

Preheat oven to 300 deg. Place seeds on cookie sheet and toast in oven for about 10 min. or until golden. Stir halfway through baking time. Remove from oven and set aside. Raise oven temp. to 325 deg.

Measure flour, baking powder and salt and combine on waxed paper. Cream the butter and sugar together in a medium bowl using a wooden spoon, or with an electric beater at low speed, until mixture is fluffy. Mix in the egg and vanilla and gradually add the flour and mix until just blended. Mix in sesame seed with a wooden spoon.,

Line a 10x15-inch cookie sheet with lightly grased waxed paper. Drop level 1/2 tsp. of batter onto cookie sheet, spacing about an inch apart. Bake until light

golden brown (about 8-10 min.). Let cookies cool about 1 min. Repeat with remaining batter. When cool store in a covered container. May be frozen for up to 3 months. Makes about 100 cookies.

In Greece, pork pie is traditional for the New Year, but Greek-Americans prefer chicken pie which is more delicate.

Kotopita (Greek Chicken Pie)

3/4 lb. butter
2 small onions, chopped fine
3 lbs. uncooked chicken, diced
1/2 c. water
1/2 tsp. salt
5 eggs, lightly beaten
1 TBS. minute tapioca
Pepper to taste
8 oz. filo pastry sheets

Place 1/4 pound butter in pan, and add onions. Cook until golden. Chop chicken meat medium-fine. Simmer with onions and salt in 1/2 cup water until chicken is just done, about 10 minutes. Set aside to cool.

When ready to assemble pie, turn oven to 350 degrees.

Add beaten eggs and minute tapioca to meat. Add pepper to taste and adjust seasoning.

Melt remaining butter. With a pastry brush and working **very** carefully and rapidly, butter 5 filo sheets, one at a time. Place each carefully in a deep 9" x 13" pan, one on top of the other. These sheets are extremely fragile and dry as soon as exposed to air. If they crumble a little, it will not hurt the pie. Fit against the bottom and sides of pan.

Cover with half the meat mixture. (A thick layer is not necessary.) Place 5 more well-buttered pastry sheets over meat, then remaining meat mixture. Top with 5 buttered pastry sheets, and pour over any remaining butter. Roll overlapping edges over and over together, to

seal pie and make a pastry border just inside pan. For easy serving, top may be scored in large squares.

Bake 30 min., or until top is golden brown. Best eaten hot, but good cold. Serves 8 to 9 generously as a main course.

Have a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Florence Archambault

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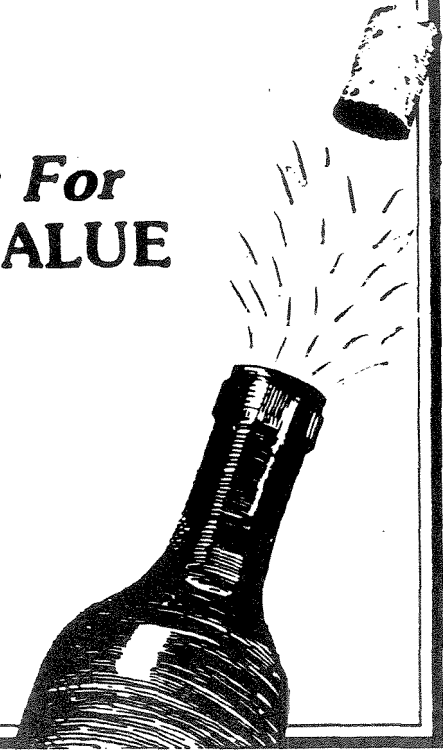
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