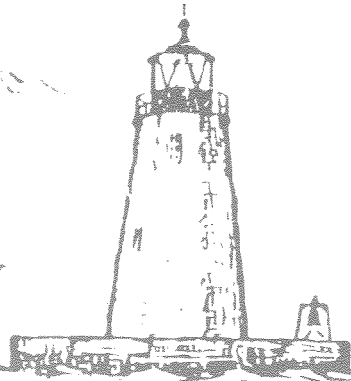


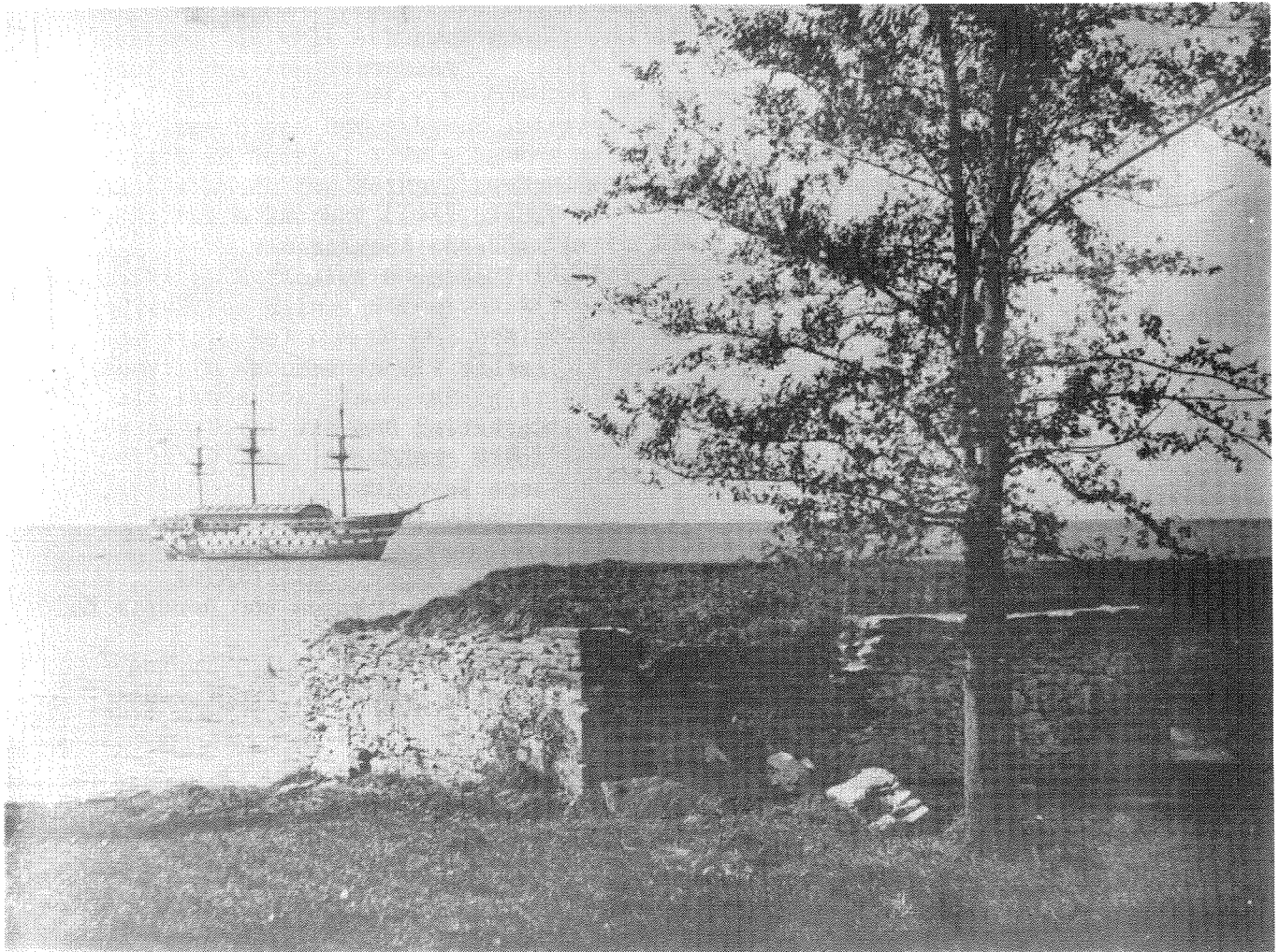
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The
GREEN LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

JUNE 1991





The GREEN LIGHT

Vol. XXXVI - No. 3

JUNE 1991

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Special thanks to Herb Rommel
and Louise Sherman for photos

Cover photo: In this view of Battery Park,
the **USS New Hampshire**, a Navy training
ship for seamen in the late 19th century,
is moored off the shore.

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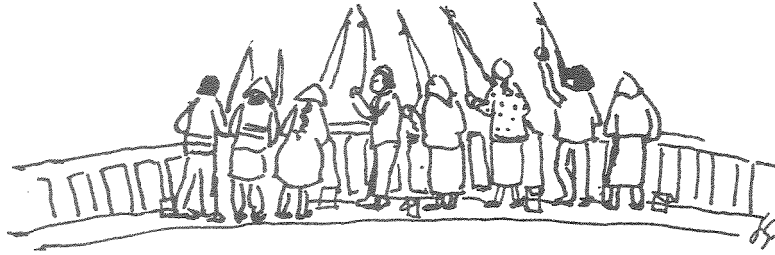
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for \$1.00 at Bucci's Convenience Store,
Poplar and Thames Streets; Aidinoff's
Liquor and Gourmet Shop, Warner Street;
Third Street Liquors and the Walnut Street
Market.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The honk of boat horns, the clang of the tourist train and mounting traffic signal the arrival of the visitor season.

The last few deliveries at the Water's Edge Florist Shop were delivered by me early on Mother's Day morning so that all the mothers would receive their gifts. My point is, that after seeing other parts of Newport, I must say the Point's streets, gardens and houses are most attractive. There were blooming cherry trees, and dogwoods, tulips, phlox, lilacs, etc. and green grass and trees everywhere. How proud you must all be of where you live! Please don't drop your guard...the visitors are here and we must show them, and each other, our best side. PLEASE sweep around your properties and continue this throughout the summer.

You have probably noticed the articles about the proposed fishing ban on the Goat Island Causeway. Your input regarding this health and safety problem is necessary so that the squid fishing season next year might be better controlled and include "people facilities", rubbish control, as well as parking. If you are having a problem with it, send your ideas to our box #491, ...let's hear from you.

Thanks for a very successful Spring meeting in April. Our speaker was superb and her subject interesting. A real special "thanks" to Eileen Warburton. A July Summer meeting is being planned for the 24th. Please watch for Point Association notices. We'll have another special guest with another timely subject.

Have you noticed the Elm Street Pier? Check it out while you're walking. It's nice to see Stella Maris alive again. How pretty and ACTIVE the Walnut Street Market is...stop by. Great thanks to Sophia and Bill. Welcome to our new members and our new residents and "welcome home" to Carol and Bill Marinen. Carol is the chairperson of the Bake Sale table for the Point Fair; please respond when she calls. Thanks, Carol! Plans for the Fair on September 14 are becoming exciting! Keep watching, and listening, and VOLUNTEERING for this major fundraiser.

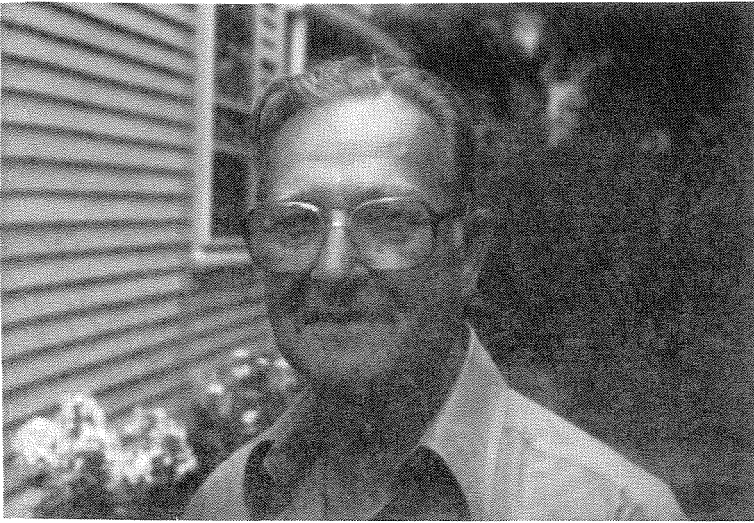
Joseph A. Vass

COME TO THE PICNIC

WEDNESDAY - JUNE 12 - 6 PM

88 WASHINGTON STREET

Bring your picnic supper and folding chairs and enjoy the fellowship of your neighbors and friends.
Coffee will be provided.



WE REMEMBER BILL FULLERTON

Pointers were saddened to hear of the death of William Fullerton in May. The Point has lost one of its most active and concerned citizens. His influence and interest in the beginnings of the Point Association in 1955 helped get the organization started on a firm foundation, and continued for all the years since then. Bill will be remembered as a good neighbor, friend, leader and citizen as he served the Point and its association for ten years as president, and for many years in other capacities. He was our organizer and expert on the Point Fair when it was held on Willow Street.

Many Pointers have reminisced about Bill's many services to people, places and events on the Point, as well as the wider Aquidneck Island community. We quote from a few:

Joe Vars remembers his leadership in the many projects of the Point Association, sometimes in charge, sometimes as an advisor...often as a worker and helper.

Dede Elster remembers Bill's interest and participation in the Holly Tea from the first of these Christmas affairs. He played background music for every tea until his illness prevented his attendance. His repertoire of classical, folk, modern and Christmas music set the delightful atmosphere which has been such a part of the Holly Teas.

Mary Rommel and many others speak of Bill's interest in gardening, and of his help to Pointers in their first attempts at gardening or the beginnings of their

specialized Colonial or Victorian plantings. He supported the community bulb plantings, the Plant Sale and the beautification projects.

In the April 1983 issue of *The Green Light* there was an article entitled "Take a Spring Beauty Walk". Bill provided (anonymously) the material for the suggested walks on Point Streets where small and large gardens could be seen from the street. For many Pointers this year's spring beauty is a "remembering time" for our neighbor, Bill Fullerton.

Kit Hammett

SPRING GENERAL MEETING

The Spring meeting of the Point Association on April 25th gave us an opportunity to get together, to conduct Association business, and to hear Eileen Warburton's wonderful talk on Newport's colonial women.

We were all fascinated with the tales of unusual courage and resourcefulness displayed by our foremothers in the often difficult times of colonial seafaring Newport.

Highlights of the business meeting:

President Joseph Vars gave an update on the hotel situation --- to wit, the Hilton Suites at the bottom of Washington Street will number 192 suites; will cost some \$25 million; and will not feature public dining. There will be mature plantings (in cooperation with the Point Association) around the Colonial-style building, designed by The Newport Collaborative's architect John Grosvenor.

Most of the remaining highlights are covered in other articles in this issue.

A donation of \$500 to the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation was approved by the membership.

And, as always, volunteers are needed and exhorted to sign up for any and all committees --- the Holly Tea, the Potluck Supper and the Fair are some that spring to mind.

If you have not yet signed up for anything, but are interested in doing so, please contact Volunter Coordinator Mary Lynn Rooke at 846-6849.

Brenda Gordon

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

SECRET GARDENS TOUR

Welcome to New Members

Terry D. Hall Francis S. Hester
B. Cowles Mallory Aniceta McDonald
Alma Rusling Troy B. Schneider

Thanks to all who renewed memberships since the April issue of **The Green Light**. We now have 405 members paid-up to October of 1991. We are still hoping to hear from others who missed that mailing.

If someone you know did not receive that April issue, please ask her/him to check if their membership is up-to-date. If there are questions about membership, send a card to MEMBERSHIP, The Point Association, Box 491, Newport, R.I. 02840 or call me in the evening at 846-6194.

Roberta Majewski
Membership Chair

BEAUTIFICATION REPORT

The committee planted two trees in Storer Park; one, a pink hawthorne, in memory of Bob Massey, given by his mother, Dottie Smith, and the other, a summer lilac tree, in memory of Sophia and Bill Pendergast's daughter, Vanessa. These trees were donations.

We will fill the planters the end of May when we are sure there will be no frost. We will have another tree given by David Alexander to plant on the strip between Marsh Street and the Connector Road.

Did you see the lovely daffodils and tulips planted on the Point? I planted the ones as you enter Bridge Street and at the end of Marsh at Washington. Maurice De Lavalette planted tulips and daffodils at the entrance of the bridge at the Connector Road. Anne Reynolds and Kay O'Brien planted some at the Liberty Tree and Arnold Park. I hope I haven't left anyone out.

Garden contest judging will be the second or third week in August. All entries must be visible from the street.

Volunteers are needed for hosts and hostesses for the Benefactors of the Arts' Secret Garden Tour on Saturday and Sunday, June 15 and 16. Call me if you can help.

Mary Heins Rommel
Beautification Chairperson

"Our city backyard, where nature is carefully boxed and has therefore an appearance of special value, as of a jewel so precious that it must always be suitably contained." (E.B. White, **Second Tree From the Corner** 1936)

Twenty such jewels on the Point will be open to the public on Saturday and Sunday, June 15 and 16. Tea will be served both days at Nat Norris's house.

It's always gratifying to show visitors "our" Newport and to greet "native" friends and neighbors. If you haven't signed up to be a host or hostess for a garden or a server for the tea, please call the Benefactors of the Arts office at 847-0514

Gardens to be open include;

Nos. 35, 53, 54 (Hunter House), 59 (Dennis House), 88 (Bee-hive Oven House), and 101 Washington Street, 12 Battery St., 20 Willow St., 17 Third St., 29 Elm St., (Third and Elm Press), 13 (Old Nat's House), 18 (Quaker House), Nos. 20, 29 Second St., 7 Poplar St., 57 Farewell St., Nos. 3, 77 (Pitt's Head Tavern), and 82 Bridge St. (Faisneau House).

The following houses will be open the day of the Tour: Sheffield-Huntington House, 43 Elm St. and the Hunter House. There will be an extra charge of \$3.00 for the Hunter House.

Anne Reynolds



DAY ON THE POINT FAIR

ON A MERRY ROLL

What energy! What fun! That's how the Point Fair Committee is feeling, as events they are planning for September 14th at Storer Park fall into place. We are having so much fun with this event that the joy is sure to rub off on Pointers and their friends when we join together for a day of neighborhood high spirits and community celebration. Here is a report from Fair chairperson Christine Montanaro, followed by a few words from her committee chairs.

FAIR CHAIRPERSON

Several years ago, when I lived in Little Compton, I became aware of a lovely community called the "Point" as a result of visiting its annual "Day on the Point" Fair. I was moved by a sense of cooperation, loyalty and cheerfulness among Pointers who worked hard to maintain their integrity in a climate of fast-growing commercialism. For the first time I felt there was a place in Rhode Island other than Little Compton that was not only livable but absolutely inviting.

Now that I've lived on the Point for over five years, certainly a "new kid on the block", I am pleased and excited to be involved in the very event that introduced me to this unique community.

As I watch our committee busily preparing for the September 14th event, I again become aware of the cooperation, hard work, and certainly the cheerfulness I encountered during my first visit to the Fair.

Presently we are reviewing new ideas such as Launch rides to Rose Island, box lunches and Contra Dancing. We are putting a great effort forth to insure a successful Bake Sale, White Elephant Sale and Raffle.

As we work by committee, we know there are people in our Association who could offer many creative and innovative ideas. We want to invite the membership to share with us by simple note or phone call. Help us make this yearly event an occasion when we can reaffirm our solidarity and pride. Who knows, some "newcomer" may become acquainted with the merits of our community and walk away thinking, "The Point - what a lovely place to be!"

Christine Montanaro

POINT FAIR CAFE

This year steamers and corn on the cob are a couple of new additions to the menu and will be served seaside --- or, if you prefer, take a box lunch on the launch to Rose Island for a very special picnic, and don't forget to visit the Bake Sale table for a very sweet conclusion. So don't forget to save your appetite for the **Point Fair Cafe**.

Sophia Prendergast

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

At the General Meeting in April, a number of people signed up to donate items to the **White Elephant Sale** and we are extremely grateful --- but we need lots more!

During the next several months, I will be calling the Association members to solicit items, so please be thinking about what you can donate. As you choose your items to donate, keep in mind that "one person's junk is another person's treasure". We will accept anything except clothing. I will make arrangements to pick up all donations. As you know, all monies raised by this event go towards supporting the work of the Point Association.

Thanks so much for your support and assistance.

Roberta Majewski

RAFFLE

I am pleased to present our fabulous raffle prizes:

1. A five-hour cruise for eight around Narragansett Bay in Jim Stanek's 60-foot charter ketch, **British Steel**. This yacht is well-known, having won many

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ANTHONY BUCCI

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trophies as well as having sailed around the world three times. Its illustrious skipper will be, of course, Jim himself.


2. A night for two at the soon-to-be newly refurbished Rose Island Lighthouse, including an elegant lobster picnic supper donated by the Walnut Street Market.
3. A Victorian Christmas dream come true - a night for two at the award-winning Brinley Victorian Inn during "Christmas in Newport".
4. From Rue de France, an exquisite lace dining room tablecloth and napkins. Embellish your table!
5. A romantic dinner for two at the Rhumb Line restaurant and tavern situated in the heart of the Point and known for its ambiance and delicious meals.
6. Six-volume set of **America's Wonderful Little Hotels and Inns**. The winner's next trip might well be found in this most informative library.

We were very fortunate this year to have all of our prizes donated to us by either our neighborhood merchants or residents of the Point and, on behalf of the Association, I would like to thank them for their generosity.

Since these prizes are so great, ticket sales should be easy. I will be sending you one booklet of raffle tickets to sell. Tickets can either be sold separately for \$1.00 each or only \$5.00 for the entire book of six. Why not buy a book for yourself and get another book to sell to your friends? I will be more than happy to supply you with as many as you need. Remember, it is only through your help that we will be able to make our Point raffle a huge success.

Please feel free to call me at any time for more tickets and I will gladly deliver them to you. Ticket receipts and money (or check made payable to the Point Association) can be dropped off or mailed to me at 70 Third Street (corner of Pine and Third). Thank you, in advance, for all your help.

Gail Gunning

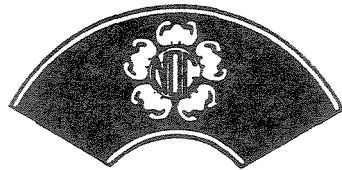


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AVAILABLE TO GO

A SMALL HOUSE MOVES AGAIN

(A continuation of the article begun in the April 1991 issue of *The Green Light*)



Here's a picture of the infamous CSO (Combined Sewer Overflow) plant which will now become famous as it will soon be turned over to the city and be put to work. An effort has been made to make the exterior and planting pleasing, and the big dig for the pipe off the Causeway is complete. The new sewer treatment plant on Connell Highway is in operation with good removals showing up, due to the secondary treatment. It's been a long, costly project, but our patience should now be rewarded.

Some of you may remember the long struggle the city of Newport went through when redevelopment became a reality, not a dream. Of course we wanted this drastic change which would revitalize our city, but each one of us had our own priorities, according to where we lived. The position of the traffic-bearing road from the new bridge through, and then out of the city, presented many serious problems. The Point with its many homes was particularly vulnerable, as the new road would have to cut right through, taking many houses. It was suggested at one time that the railroad tracks be taken up, in this way providing all of the necessary space for America's Cup Avenue. However, many people felt that the tracks should stay. The railroad might well be needed at a later date to haul material to the Naval Base, or possibly a renewal of rail traffic in the future which, once lost, could not be regained.

From this concern an association of railroad buffs was organized, called "The National Railroad Foundation and Museum". The purpose was to preserve the line and keep it open, and to enable young children to know their heritage. Two pieces of rolling stock were acquired by the Foundation, and short trips were run up and down Aquidneck Island. Neither platform or station existed, the passengers stepping right down on the heavy grass by the old McKenzie and Williams feed and grain store.

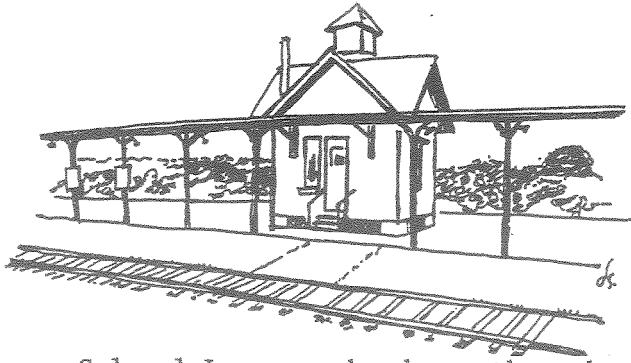
The Foundation had many members from all over the country including Allen Freed of Washington, D.C.; Richard Long, Newport architect; Pat Kirby, former mayor of Newport; Don Elbert, who became executive director; Bob Morris; Don O'Hanley, historian; and especially, Colonel William F. Long, chairman. Also of inestimable value were the volunteers who staffed the project. Many of these were Navy personnel who enjoyed working the trains and maintaining the stock in their spare time. The Navy gave additional support by allowing the train to park overnight on a piece of track that went on their land.

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Colonel Long, as he drove through the Point, had caught sight of a small building behind 18 Elm Street. He thought it was a line shack once used by the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. Upon inquiry he found it was owned by Larry Allen. Colonel Long acquired the shack and moved it one and a half blocks to the south, setting it on a concrete base. In the meantime tourist trips and charters started under the historic name of "The Old Colony and Newport Railway."

It was very evident that the station house would need much repairing. Richard Long, member of the board and highly skilled architect and preservationist, offered to take charge of the restoration. Rogers High School provided the labor from its vocational classes, and the work was well done. Richard Long designed the cupola as well as greatly improving the interior and laying out the platform with shed roof. By 1982 all was complete. In spite of the fact that so much of the work was donated, the Foundation was responsible for a large financial outlay.

In 1983 the station was named for Senator Pell, who has done so much to promote railroads and the wise use of public transportation in the nation. Later on, when the Gateway project needed the land where the station was located, the station and platform were moved to the present site. Including the railroad in the project was important for transportation and for legal reasons, since the land has a federal easement for railroad operations.

In 1989 the Foundation leased the station to the **Newport Clipper Dinner Train** which also operates on the track used by the Old Colony and Newport Railway for tourist and educational rides. So the history of this small building is now complete, and we urge you to take a trip on the railway and support the Foundation in their good work which is a part of the rich heritage of the Point.

Esther Fisher Benson

POINT ASSOCIATION SUMMER MEETING

July 25, 1991

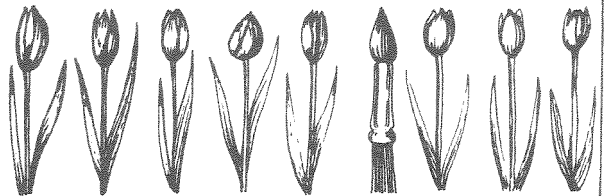
Rain or shine, the Point Association's Summer meeting will be held Thursday July 25th at 7 p.m. on the back veranda of **80 Washington Street** home of George and Brenda Gordon

A musical treat is planned following a "catch up" on Association news.

Come to enjoy an evening on the waterfront with Association members --- old and new.

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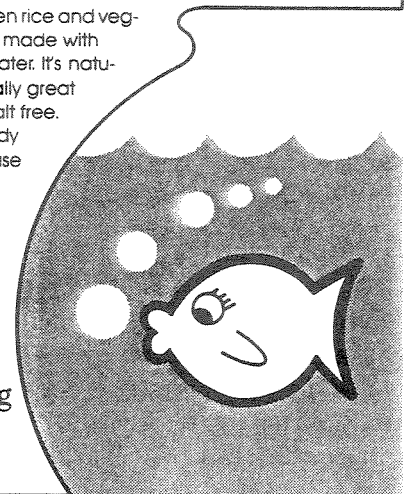


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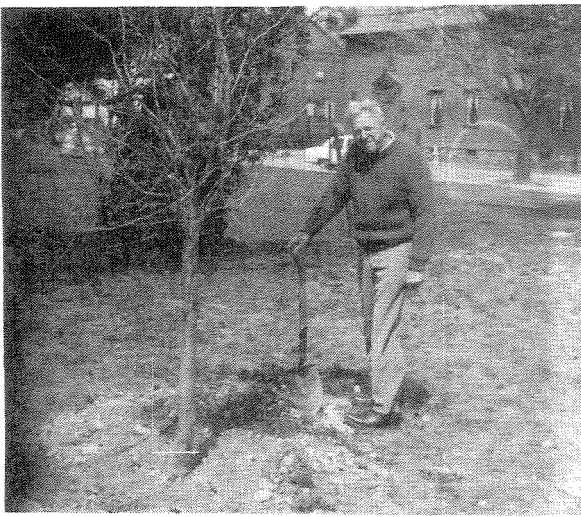
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A BRIEF HISTORY OF



Robert Massey helps plant a Hawthorne tree in Storer Park. It was given as a memorial for their son Bob Massey by his mother Mrs. Dorothy Smith.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF FORT GREENE - PART TWO

(Reprinted from the June, 1961 issue of *The Green Light*, in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Battery Park in August)

In 1797 John Adams was elected second President of the United States and became the first Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Navy. Fortifications along the Atlantic coast were strengthened against the threat of war with France. On August 27, 1799, President Adams purchased the site of the North Battery, "it being deemed necessary to erect fortifications thereon for the defense of the Port and Harbour of Newport."

The fort was rebuilt in a semi-circular form, with an elliptical barbette battery of twelve guns, as described in the May issue of the *Green Light*. It was named Fort Greene in honor of Rhode Island's Revolutionary hero, General Nathaniel Greene, and remained Government property from 1799 to 1926.

In 1853, Agatha B. Mayer purchased land to erect her mansion (the house we now know as "Stella Maris") and additional land for orchards and gardens. During 1853, the Mayer property was extended from Cherry Street to Battery Street; from the harbor to Second Street. On September 30 of that year, the Overseers of the Rhode Island Monthly Meeting of Friends conveyed to Agatha B. Mayer "the lots on which Fort Greene stands." This amounted to rental, as the fort itself remained government property. Washington Street, which in 1853 ended at Fort Greene, was extended by 1859 to Battery Street.

By Act of Congress approved February 23, 1887 and ratified in July 1891, the Secretary of War authorized the City of Newport to use Fort Greene solely for the purpose of a public park - and at this time the fort was filled in to become the attractive park we see today; though we no longer have the bandstand, where many remember the concerts of a moonlit Sunday night.

On June 7, 1926, the U.S. War Department announced the proposed sale of Fort Greene. Frederick P. Garrettson, a

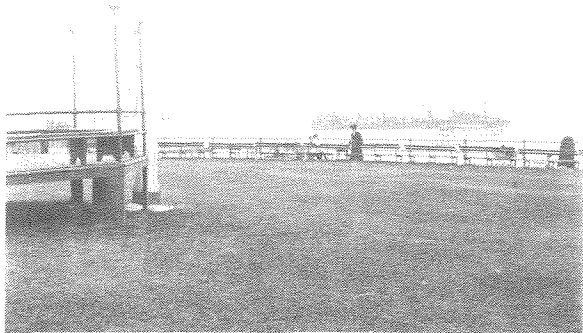


Sophia Prendergast, second from right, and neighbors at the planting in Storer Park of a memorial lilac for her daughter.



The Third & Elm Press
Alexander Nesbitt Ilse Buchert Nesbitt
29 Elm Street, Newport

FORT GREENE - PART TWO



prominent merchant who was Mayor of Newport 1900-1902, generously offered to purchase and present the site to the City of Newport. The auction was held on July 22, 1926. Mayor Mortimer Sullivan bid for the City of Newport, and other bidders withdrew in respect for the City's offer. The tract was purchased for \$5471.41 - and on September 30, 1926, Frederick P. Garrettson presented Fort Greene Military Reservation to the City of Newport to preserve it forever as a public park.

Today, the outer wall is the only visible part of Fort Greene, which lies buried intact beneath the soil and green grass of Battery Park. An observant visitor can follow a faint indentation of half circles, where the park has settled inside the barbette area. It outlines the battery - where twelve guns mounted in pairs turned to defend the Port and Harbour of Newport.

Louise Sherman

HELP!!

Our August issue will be devoted to the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Fort Greene as Battery Park. We are looking for recollections of the many activities which took place there. Perhaps you have a memory of listening to a band concert at the bandstand which once stood there, or the baptisms at the Blue Rocks, or picnics and other events which were held. You do not have to write down these remembrances if you do not want to. All I ask is that you give me a call at 846-9024 and tell me about them and I will compile them all into an I REMEMBER! I REMEMBER! article. Deadline is July 10th. Thank you.

Florence Archambault

FORT GREENE PARK

F.G.P. stands for Forte Greene Park,
And F.P.G. for a name,
This strange coincidence, we mark,
'Tis fitting, just the same,
A little gift so well bestowed,
Shall bless the heart that gave,
The oldest fort in this old town
From obloquy to save.

From its northward side a tunnel ran
Eastward to old Bliss mine
Then southward ran past Morton Park
Far beyond the picket line
Thus smugglers brought provisions in
And information out
For the British foe who held the town
Were vile beyond a doubt.

Near its southern side there was a spring
At the foot of Battery Street,
Where town folks came to fill their pails,
And gossips there to meet
A thing of beauty its crescent wall
Methinks it has no peer,
Our thanks to thee, dear F.P.G.
For this gift to our town so dear.

Reprinted from **Newport Poems** by Ernest Jasper Hinds. (The F.P.G. referred to in the poem is Frederick P. Garrettson, mentioned in Part Two of the Fort Greene History.)

TREE DEDICATION

A small group of Point "old-timers" gathered with Mrs. Henry Eccles at Storer Park on May 24th to dedicate the copper beech tree which has been planted there. The tree is a memorial to Admiral Henry Eccles, former president of the Point Association who was very active in the establishment of Storer Park, and who was responsible for the wording of the deed of the park to the city of Newport which provides that the title of the park shall revert to the Point Association if the park is used for commercial purposes.

Joseph Vars, president of the Point Association, read a dedication in which he stated:

"...we offer Henry's tree to the future generations. Its shade will offer comfort on a sunny day; its green mass will help in cleaning the environment; its branches will provide a resting place for birds; its beauty will be a lasting, living memorial to Admiral Henry Eccles."

Kit Hammett

ORIOLE II

A beautiful and classic old wooden boat, familiar to Pointers 15 years ago, will again be gracing the waters of Narragansett Bay, thanks to the Museum of Yachting School of Restoration. **Oriole II**, a 30-square-meter racing sailboat designed by L. Francis Herreshoff in 1930 and built at the Lawley Yard in Squantum, Mass., for Elizabeth "Sis" Hovey of Marblehead, is being restored by the School. George Gordon, a Point Association member and a student at the School, is helping to rebuild this lovely boat.

George, and his brother, Bob, owned **Oriole II** for several years. She was moored off their Washington Street home, where her bright international orange hull was easy to recognize. The Gordons sold her about 15 years ago to two men who promised to restore her. However, they never were able to complete the job.

After founding the Museum of Yachting, Tom Benson, being familiar with the boat, tried for several years to obtain her for the Museum. **Oriole II**, and her predecessor, **Oriole**, were historically significant. They were the first boats ever designed for a woman to sail in international competition, they were the only 30-square-meters designed by Herreshoff, and they introduced several innovative features, which were "state of the art" at the time, including roller reefing of the mainsail.

The Museum finally obtained ownership of **Oriole II** in 1988, and through the generosity of Sis Hovey (now a charming 80-years-young) was able to start the restoration. The goal is to have her ready to sail in the Classic Yacht Regatta on Labor Day this year, to race against another 30-square-meter, **Cythera**, restored by the Museum two years ago.

Sis Hovey attended the first meeting of the restoration class and told several anecdotes about **Oriole's** early years.

In those days, a jib was not normally much larger than the foretriangle of a sailboat. Herreshoff designed what he called his "biggest, biggest jib", which today would be called about a 220% jib. When **Oriole** sailed in Italy, she finished "in the money" in every race. The following year when Sis's team returned to Italy, they found all the Italian boats sporting "Genoa" jibs, hence the name we now all use.

Herreshoff also developed a major advance of the spinnaker on **Oriole**. The 30 Square Rule limits the spinnaker pole to the "J" length, only 6'3". However, noting that nothing in the Rule said that the pole had to be used, Herreshoff designed a very large sail which kept its shape by a series of vent holes down the centerline, without using a pole. After the first few races in Germany, race officials changed the course so that there were no direct downwind legs, as **Oriole** was winning all the races. This same style spinnaker was used in the Herreshoff-designed "J" Boat **Rainbow** (built for Chandler Hovey, Sis's father) with much success.

When the Gordons owned **Oriole**, they painted her international orange, thinking that the boat was named for the bird with the bright orange breast. When George explained this to Sis, she laughed, telling him this story:

Sis and her father were sitting in their kitchen when Herreshoff called to tell them the boat (which, incidentally, had a bright, varnished hull) was ready to launch and wanted to know the name. Chandler Hovey looked around the room and his eyes fell upon the word "Oriole", thereby making **Oriole** the first and only boat to be named after a kitchen stove!

George Gordon

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SPRINGTIME AND FLOWERING TREES

Crabapple, Cherry, Apple - all of our trees bloom crimson, pink and white. This is an early Spring; the Point Plant Sale may well turn into a welter of flowers, and the Secret Garden Tour promises to be the lushest ever.

In Panama our Spring is just over; the winter rains have begun. We were there to watch the blossoms fall, as they do in Newport now. We carved our names on a leaf of the Autograph Tree, a West Indian evergreen whose thick, ovate leaves were used by the early Spanish for playing cards and writing paper. Of course we picked bananas, only one bunch to a stalk and, throughout the Caribbean, over 300 edible forma from which to chose.

On an island in Panama Bay, we walked between the snakelike roots of the Vada Tree, the sacred Indian Banyan. The country people of Panama say that the roots of the Banyan stretch under the ocean, all the way to India. If a person is unlucky enough to fall asleep under the Banyan, his body will be eaten by the tree, and his soul stolen.

We stood in shade, playing with the pink and white tassels of the Barringtonia, the seeds of which are grated and tossed into the water to stun fish.

Northwest, in the Valley of the Moon, we rubbed a bay leaf between our palms; the scent was rum. In many gardens, the Breadfruit Tree, brought by Captain Bligh to the West Indies, stood tall. Fried, roasted, or boiled, the yellowish-green Breadfruit is rich in vitamins.

We wandered in the rain forest near the Panama Canal, and found the Candle Tree. Its fruits are candle-shaped and have the scent of apples. Walking in one of the new National Parks we saw the Cannonball Tree. Its flowers push from the trunk, through the bark; the fruit is round and tough as a cannonball and used in the countryside as a container - another hardier calabash.

Panama's flowering trees serve multiple purposes. There is the Cashew Apple, the nut of which must be roasted before eating. And the Cocoa Tree with its bitter seeds from which cocoa and chocolate is made. The Chewing Gum Tree, the Chicle; its fruit is eaten raw or made into preserves or syrup, and the trunk tapped every few years for - you guessed it: Chiclets!

All the Flamboyants bloom in Panama's Springtime. The Royal Poinciana, the spreading Guayacan, the purple Jacaranda and the African Tulip Tree called Flame of the Forest or Fountain Tree because its buds, when squeezed, spout water. Always we search for the Lignum Vitae, the Tree of Life. It has small blue flowers, and the wood is so heavy it will sink in water.

We remember the Pink Trumpet Tree, and the yellow pompoms of the Rose Apple said to have grown first in the Garden of Eden. The golden blossoms of the Pouí, the Gold Tree, signal the onset of winter, the Rainy Season.

Panama's Palm Trees cluster thick as stars across the Isthmus. The Coconut Palm, the stately Royal Palm and the Monkey Nut; the Date Palm too and, last but not least, the great fan of the Travelers' Palm whose leaf stalks hold at least a quart of water.

We can still taste the sweetness of the fruit of the Mango Trees. The King of Fruits, so it is called. The Mango is an evergreen, flowering from winter to spring with small pink hairy blooms. The maturing fruits proliferate from March to October, differing in taste and the subject of much argument as to which is best. We prefer the Mango found deep in the jungle; other people cultivate the tree in their gardens, preferring that tamer and larger fruit. Like peach, or cantaloupe - like pineapple - we cannot decide; we eat our fill then make what remains into chutney. Mango leaves smell like turpentine and are used sometimes to clean teeth and harden the gums.

Springtime in Panama; Papayas are huge green oval shapes on the trunks of the Pawpaw Trees. The yellow blossoms of the Ylang-ylang, the Perfume Tree, scent the air. Crepe Myrtle blossoms litter the ground where the Cassias, too, spill their pink and gold.

Spring is a lovely time, anywhere in the world. The names of trees, and the uses of trees; the beauty of flowering trees...we are glad to be alive in the scent and color and blooming of here, there, everywhere.

Anita McAndrews

POINTERS-IN-THE-NEWS



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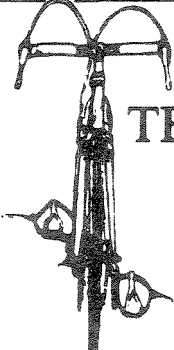
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Elsewhere in this issue you will find news of the 1991 Secret Garden Tour, but if you are fortunate to have --- or even to see --- the June 1991 copy of **House Beautiful**, you can have a preview. Color photographs of several 1990 gardens are shown. Myra Duvalley, organizer and chairperson of the tours, gives a brief account of the seven years of the Secret Garden Tours which benefit the Benefactors of the Arts.

Point gardens of Richard Nelson and James Michael of Cross Street, Nat Norris of Second and Bridge Streets, and Toni Peters and Anne Reynolds, both of Washington Street, are pictured.

Two little-known Third Street residents were featured in **Newport This Week** in May. Hans Weiffenbach and Kely Albertine, former roommates at the University of Rhode Island, have become international exporters and traders, acting as intermediaries between American manufacturers and businesses and foreign clients. Good luck to these Pointers in their new venture.

Kit Hammett



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THE CONVENT

Point residents walk by the Carmelite Chapel and Retreat House at Washington and Battery Streets, and wonder what the future holds. A recent headline in **Newport This Week** reads: Their vision of aging includes growth and productivity" and goes on to describe efforts to turn the complex of buildings into a multi-use living center for elderly persons. The focus would be on "personal growth and mutual help in a lifestyle of simplicity". Several local women are trying to fit that vision into something concrete, and we hope to hear more.

THE GARDENING CORNER

HOUSE TOUR

Here is the promised list of plants that do well in shade. Remember that especially in shade, good gardens must have good soil.

When I dig in Newport gardens, I usually find heavy clay with a solid fibery base of roots, ashy leavings of coal and clinkers from past generations. Also nails from their kindling, knife handles, rags, bones and bits of china (mostly figured in brown or blue) appear. Once I found a Mickey Mouse spoon and a child's ruby ring.

Roots are no respecters of property lines. Even if you cut down all your trees, you must keep after trespassers from your neighbor's trees.

Dig at least a foot down and remove all artifacts and stones. Then mix a big bale of peat, or better still, the more expensive professional mix of peat, perlite and mica, into the soil. If you have any of this good mix leftover, top dress your lawn with it.

Now try some plants from the list, or find a book about wild flowers. Clumps of trillium and scatterings of shooting stars are effective. Star flowers and sweet woodruff or wood anemones make a natural ground cover. With all that peat your wildings should thrive.

SHADE PLANTS

| | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Foam Flower | Chelone |
| Ferns | Turtlehead |
| Maidenhair fern | Lysimachia |
| Hosta | Japanese Loose- strife |
| Epimedium | Cimicifuga |
| Bleeding Heart (white is nice, too) | Coral Bells |
| Thalictrum | Balloon Flower |
| Meadow rue | |

Impatiens, my last word! I wish I had kept still about that plant. Why did I choose to do battle with such a popular wimp?

Impatiens is a show in which act one, scene one, features the finale...the full cast all alike in size and shape like Rockettes stomping out the reprise all night long. It is an entire concert of "the lost chord found at last". It's a regular **Reader's Digest** of a flower, truly U.S. of A. success story --- no sweat.

Anne Reynolds

There will be a two-day house tour of 18th-century homes in July. On July 27th, homes will be open on the Point and on July 28th, in the Hill section of the city.

The purpose of the tour is to raise money for the benefit of the Artillery Company of Newport so that they may have new wheels built for the cannon which was cast by Paul Revere. The wheels have to be constructed of wood and made by hand, as they were in the 18th century. The tour will be from 1 pm to 5 pm each day, with hostesses in Colonial costume and Artillery men in uniform at each house. For further information call 847-0563.

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As we follow the Black Ships Festival coming up in July, we are reminded that in 1958, by mutual resolution, Newport and Shimoda on the Izu Peninsula of Japan became sister cities. This tie goes back to 1854 when our Point's native Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry sailed his "black ships" into Shimoda harbor on a peaceful mission and began the intercourse which set an isolated feudal state on the road to becoming a modern nation. Matthew Perry should also be remembered for other achievements. He advocated the introduction of steam power into naval vessels. He himself supervised the construction of, and then commanded, the first American steam warship, the **USS Fulton II** (1837). He devised the system of naval apprentice training, led the African squadron to suppress the slave trade, and commanded the Gulf squadron during the Mexican War. His younger brother was Oliver Hazard Perry. Matthew Perry was born in 1794 in the house on the northeast corner of Second and Walnut Streets.

MIRACLES OF MAY

Our seasonal clocks have really set off an alarm in May. We were used to a somewhat gray, chilly world, when suddenly, overnight, it turns green and glorious. The burst of brilliant blooms of bulbs, azaleas, lilacs and flowering trees shocks our senses. Boats appear in the harbor as do the BOC solo sailors who left Goat Island last August for their round-the-world adventures. Painters scramble up ladders and scrape; gardeners prepare to show off their handiwork. Tourists will be coming by land and sea. All too soon we will be aware of the sun setting north of the Bridge, and the longest day will be here --- a reminder that the seasonal clock keeps ticking.

Kay O'Brien

NEWS ITEM

Has the gaslight outside of your home gone out?

If so, call the
Newport Public Works Department
846-2474

Give the street and the number of the house where the light pole stands.

Courtesy Joe Vars

PRESSURE POINTS

CONTROVERSY ON THE CAUSEWAY

The controversy over fishing rights on the Causeway is an old one, but recently, because of an unusual "squid run", it reached crisis proportions.

We need to remember that Newport has always been a city of goodwill, welcoming international visitors, tourists and Naval personnel. Once again, Newport has an opportunity to show fellow Rhode Islanders and all America that Newport supports the Constitution, providing equal rights and opportunities for all. As the **Newport Daily News** so ably noted in its May 16th editorial addressing the City Council's decision to ban fishing there, "We urge them to view these fishermen as part of the long-term heritage of the community, to welcome them as newcomers have been welcomed." The newspaper goes on to stress "communication" as the solution and that is the responsibility of the Council.

When the problem occurred several years ago, one of the proposed solutions was to post signs, in several languages, stating the guidelines for fishing from the Causeway. Many state parks provide information in this way. Drinking restrictions, parking guidelines, directions to restrooms, hours open to the public, etc. are posted. Often a handout flyer with the information is available. Perhaps a fishing club could donate the use of portable toilets at a certain time. Sticker parking regulations could be prominently displayed. Then enforcement would follow in an orderly way.

There is a good object lesson for all of us here and a valuable lesson for our children. It was emigrants who worked hard and used the freedom of opportunity that made this country, and they still have that right. Newport welcomes people of all kinds, the "haves" in \$200-a-night hotels and the "have-nots" eager to fish for a free meal.



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The responsibility of the City Council is to insure that a hasty solution does not create an injustice. Rules and regulations, clearly stated and posted for all to read, followed by firm enforcement, could solve the problem.

DO GOOD FENCES MAKE GOOD NEIGHBORS?

What is the message that the condo owners are giving us with their black, chain-link fence down to the high-water mark at the Blue Rocks? How unfortunate that the owners erected a fence that is so intrusive. Before, one could stand in Battery Park and have a lovely view of the Blue Rocks and the shoreline in all its natural beauty. What purpose does the fence serve? It certainly is not going to keep anyone off the Blue Rocks that for 50 years or more have been used by the public.

The legal controversy has not been resolved. Councilman Jack Crowley is working to have the upcoming hearing brought to Newport so we can make our voices heard. Watch and listen for the hearing date.

REMEMBER: ETERNAL VIGILANCE

is the price of freedom from break-ins, and eternal vigilance is what we need during the summer months. An informal neighbor-hood watch is needed. Keep a friendly eye on your neighbors. Report any strange noises or activities.

REMINDER TO DOG OWNERS

Do you know where and what your dog is doing? Please be responsible when walking your dog so that all of us can enjoy the beautiful scenery instead of watching where we are walking!



ELM STREET PIER

Only the pilings remain at the present time. The barge is in place, and work continues on restoring the pier. Again, there's a sign posted with rules and regulations for its use and a reminder that it belongs to all of us. Care for it would be appreciated!

SOUTH PIER 9

The Department of Environmental Management (DEM) has been authorized to purchase 195 feet more of the eastern half of South Pier. The purchase price is \$1.1 million. The DEM is seeking bids to build fixed piers for 37 additional vessels which will guarantee a fishing future for Newport. When the Marine Terminal is eventually completed, it will be an interesting place to visit and to see the fishing, lobstering and shipbuilding industries in action...so important to Newport for centuries.

Liz Bermender

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I REMEMBER! I REMEMBER!

(A continuation of the article which appeared in the Spring 1985 issue of **Newport History**, the bulletin of the Newport Historical Society. A portion of this article was published in the last issue of **The Green Light**. We will be running additional parts of the article in future issues.)

THE POINT 1925-40

by

L.F. Gracey

There were a number of businesses resident on the Point. Greek commercial lobstermen, with boats moored along Long Wharf, lived in the Marsh Street area where also were a laundry, hay and grain store, lumberyard, and two ice companies bordering the railroad freight yard and roundhouse. Small grocery stores owned by Jewish families dotted lower Second and Third Streets below Walnut, and continued north, but in fewer number, to Van Zandt Avenue. In a time of iceboxes, these little stores served an important function to their surrounding neighbors by supplying needed fresh, perishable products as well as general foodstuffs. On Washington Street at Bridge, only one served the working community there. And challenging these stores were street vendors with their horse drawn wagons hawking fresh fish, fruits and vegetables during warm weather. Down at Poplar and Third a large, new chain-operated food store opened which cut into the older system by offering a greater selection of products and sales. Downtown markets began to use gasoline powered delivery trucks, and grocery shopping was becoming more and more a weekly rather than a daily task. Still, the small stores continued to provide a needed convenience and credit to many.

Other business flourished. There were two moving and storage companies on Cherry Street that were changing from horse-drawn wagons to gasoline trucks, Mr. Sweet's stone cutting shop at Walnut and Long Lane, cobbler, tailor, barber shops, and the gum factory. During warm weather months, streets sounded to hurdy-gurdy music and the ring of knives being

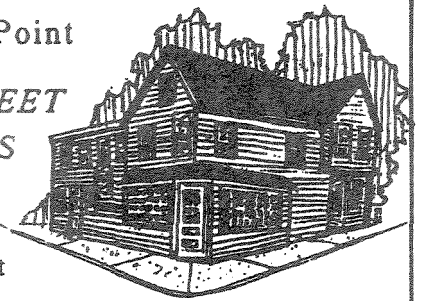
sharpened on a big, stone wheel by a little, old Italian umbrella repair and knife sharpening man who pushed his green and red hand cart along the streets. Langley's, near Poplar Street railroad crossing, made ice cream, coconut patties, candy sticks of many flavors, and fruity, longlasting lollipops. Westall made homemade ice cream, too, at his shop on Bridge Street where one could sit at a small, round, marble-topped table in a wire framed chair and enjoy whipped cream topped sundaes, ice cream sodas, and all sort of delicious concoctions. Both men enjoyed local fame, but Langley was favored for his candy which was bought, especially at holiday time, and shipped to family members in other parts of the country. Schoolchildren walking to Potter School loved to stop at his shop and buy a lollipop that lasted and lasted.

Many Pointers worked at the Torpedo Station, New England Steamship Company, (better known as the Old Colony), Naval Hospital, downtown stores and businesses. And some who lived there were retired from the Navy or by age.

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COOK'S CORNER

This is a most wonderful time of the year as far as the kitchen is concerned. When the dandelion greens and the rhubarb appear, we know that the strawberries are not far behind. And then there are those wonderful Vidalia onions!

For some time I have been searching for a recipe for onion relish and still haven't found one. I ordered ten pounds of onions from Vidalia hoping that there would be one in the accompanying booklet; but when they arrived via UPS the other day there wasn't...so I made this one up.

Vidalia Onion Relish

3 Vidalia onions
1 green pepper
1 red pepper
Red Wine Vinegar & Olive Oil prepared
salad dressing
Sugar to taste

Chop all vegetables in food processor. Place in saucepan with about 1/2 cup salad dressing. Sweeten to taste. Bring to a boil. Turn down heat and simmer until vegetables are tender. Put in jar and refrigerate. Makes about 1 1/2 pints.

Next time I might try a little honey for sweetener but this recipe turned out to be an acceptable substitute for the wonderful relish I purchased at a flea market in Charlestown last summer.

Spring also brings us tender lamb. If you don't want to cook a leg of lamb or invest your life savings in some good chops, try this recipe.

Springtime Lamb

4 to 6 lamb patties
3-4 slices of bacon
1 medium-size onion, diced
12-18 (1 1/2-2 lbs.) small red-skinned potatoes, washed and cut into quarters
4-6 medium carrots, scraped & sliced
3 whole cloves
1 1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
1 1/2 cups water
1 1/2 cups diced celery
1 1/2 cups shelled fresh peas (about 1 1/2 lbs. unshelled)
2 TBS. chopped fresh mint

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1. Cut the bacon into 1-inch pieces; cook until crisp in frying pan or electric skillet; drain on paper towels; save for Step. 4.
 2. Brown lamb patties in bacon fat; pour off excess fat; add onion and saute lightly 2-3 minutes; add potatoes, carrots, cloves, salt, pepper and water; cover.
 3. Heat to boiling; cook 10 minutes; add celery and peas; cover; cook 10-15 minutes longer, or just until peas are tender.
 4. Sprinkle crisp bacon and chopped mint over top and serve.
- Makes 4-6 servings.

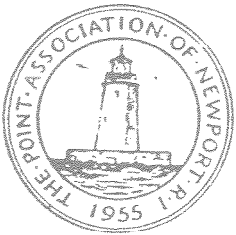
Some of the herbs are appearing in our gardens. My chive wintered over, my oregano thrived in a pot in the house and is ready to go back out in the yard, and my mint is coming up. Over the winter I have been buying fresh herbs whenever I needed them. At first, I was discouraged at the size of some of the bunches, until I discovered that it was a simple matter to dry the leftovers in my microwave. Simply put the washed and toweled dry herbs (about 1/2 oz. at a time) between two layers of paper towels and set the microwave on high for 2-4 minutes, turning and repositioning every minute; they are ready when they are just crisp. Store them in tightly covered containers, either whole or crumbled. The color and flavor are much better than the commercially dried herbs.

Florence Archambault

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