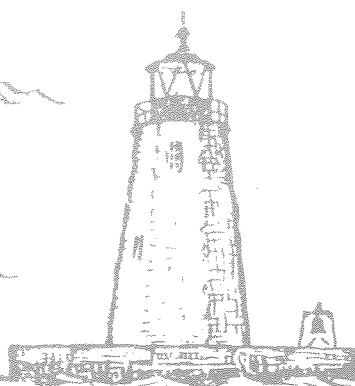


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The GREEN LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

DECEMBER 1992





Vol. XXXVII - No. 6

The GREEN LIGHT

DECEMBER 1992

FEATURES

President's Letter	3
Point Association News	4
Christmas in Newport	5
Chanukah	6
Gladys Bolhouse Remembers	8 & 9
Newport Theater	10 & 11
The Hole at Goat Island	12
Cook's Corner	18
The Cranberry	19



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Thank you to the many members who attended the Point Association Annual Meeting on Thursday, October 15. At that meeting, elections of officers were held for president, 2nd vice-president and recording secretary. Also at the meeting, Police Chief Steven Weaver and Community Relations officer, Michael McKenna, held a panel discussion about neighborhood concerns for tour buses and general traffic, parking and noise. There was an extended exchange about the shocking incident at Battery Park and what preventative steps would be advisable. Jean Napolitano has recommended to the City Council that they consider ways to block cars from the drive on the south side of Battery Park. All in all, we found the police responsive and helpful. They asked that residents apprise them of incidents as they occur.

Robert Shawver, from the Department of Transportation, has responded to letters and inquiries about widening America's Cup Avenue to four lanes across Poplar and Elm Streets. In his copy to me of the Executive Summary, it was stated that the "Modified Build Alternative has been identified as the preferred alternative in Phase I of the Newport and Middletown Traffic and Safety Improvements Project...The Modified Build Alternative is a compromise alternative that is the result of extensive coordination among the State, City of Newport and local neighborhood groups. This alternative incorporates elements of the Build Alternative (i.e. redesign of Admiral Kalbfus Rotary, sidewalk improvements and implementation of wheelchair ramps along America's Cup Avenue, redirection of traffic on upper Thames Street, along with improved signage) while maintaining existing conditions along much of the corridor (two-way traffic on Farewell Street, no roadway within the railroad right of way)." At the present time, the DOT has abandoned widening America's Cup Avenue. We will remain vigilant about any upcoming changes or further alternatives the DOT may have.

Most immediately, as you were informed by our mailing, the Doubletree Hotel is in the process of amending its Waterfront Business District "use regulations" to include "AMPHITHEATER" as follows:

ADD: Section 1260.19 (50) "Amphitheater" means an outdoor structure or temporary lawn facility used for live stage performances for which an entertainment license is required.

Approximately 60 residents attended the Planning Board Meeting on November 16 to protest the proposed change. Although the meeting did not turn out to be a Public Hearing (as a result of Doubletree's last minute request in writing for a continuation), Mr. Peter Janaros, the Chairman of the Planning Board, appreciated our efforts and allowed a dozen or more people to speak to their individual and collective concerns. The next Planning Board meeting is scheduled for December 14. Please note that date on your calendar, and you will be informed as to whether or not it is a Public Hearing with the representatives from the Doubletree. Thank you to all who have given of their time and effort.

In the midst of all this business, we must not forget the Holiday Season is upon us. Newport, particularly the Point with its narrow streets and old homes, lends itself so naturally to the beauty and traditions of the Winter Holidays. It is time to share good cheer and warmth to all we meet.

Finally, I look forward to serving as the Point Association's president for the next two years. The challenge has begun, and I look to our Board and members for support and assistance.

Christine Montanaro

ANNUAL MEETING

Our president, Joe Vars, with his usual lovely floral display gracing the table, presided at the Point Association's Annual Meeting October 15. It was held at St. Paul's Church where coffee, cider and cookies awaited us. With a presidential debate between Bush and Clinton scheduled for 9 p.m., a shortened business meeting was held. The Treasurer's annual report and 1992 budget summary were presented by Phil Mosher. Rowan Howard presented the nominating committee report.

We're happy to welcome the new officers who were elected for two-year terms: Christine Montanaro, president; Roberta Majewski, 2nd vice-president; Lois Dickison, corresponding secretary. Donna Moody was elected recording secretary to fill an unexpired term of one year. Elected to the nominating committee were Charles Canham, Gail Gunning and Richard Peters. Two additional members will be appointed from the board. Continuing in office are David Aguiar, 1st vice-president, and Phil Mosher, treasurer.

Ade Bethune discussed proposals for expanding traffic south/north on America's Cup Avenue through the downtown section, and passed out copies of her map. We are grateful for Ade's expertise and persistence in tracking and keeping us current on the state's DOT plans. Let's try to let the state know our feelings here on the local scene.

Daniel Snyderdacker from the Newport Historical Society spoke on the importance of our YES votes for the Heritage Bond Issue on November 3 to reaffirm our commitment and for the release of money for historic preservation. A representative from the newly formed Newport Preservation Alliance spoke briefly. David Aguiar presented a Ilse Nesbitt picture of Washington Street to Joe Vars as a token of the Association's thanks and esteem.

A lively and productive question and answer period was led by Newport Police Chief Steven Weaver and Michael McKenna, Community Affairs Officer. Topics were many. See the president's letter for details.

Kay O'Brien

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS CRECHE

The creche pictured on this month's Green Light cover belongs to St. John's church where it will be on display beginning at 9:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve and continuing on through the Twelve Days of Christmas.

It was the gift to the church of Mr. and Mrs. Sydney Webster in 1914 and was donated in the memory of Cecily Northcote.

Comprised of figures collected all over Europe, it is displayed against a painted background showing Bethlehem done by Miss Lydia Redmen.

Drop in and see this wonderful expression of the Christmas season.



CALLING ALL CAROLLERS

Tis the season once again to get together in harmony! You're all invited to join the Carol Sing on Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. at our home, 47 Third St. We'll warm you first with chowder and cheer before starting out to bring the Spirit of Christmas to our neighborhood. Be sure to dress warmly, bring a flashlight and invite a friend to join us in the fun. Please call me at 841-5106 to sign up. We look forward to hearing from you. Happy holidays!

Carol Marinan

THANK YOU, JOE

The Ilse Nesbitt print given to you at the Annual Meeting shows only a few Point houses. In them, and in many, many more are people who appreciate your years of service to the Association through several terms as president.

Our gratitude for that, and we applaud you and Angela for all you have done for the Point.



Christmas in Newport

A Non-Profit Organization INC.

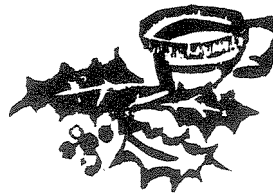
CHRISTMAS ON THE POINT AND ON WASHINGTON SQUARE

- Dec. 1 *Opening of Christmas in Newport
Washington Square - 5 p.m.
- Dec 1-6 *Christmas in Newport Video Show
Gateway Center 10-3 p.m. Free.
- Dec. 8 *Navy Band Holiday Concert
Naval War College - 7 p.m.
Gate 1 - NETC - Free.
- Dec. 9 *Giant Gingerbread House Tour
Marriott Hotel - 2-5 p.m. Free.
Non-perishable food donation.
- Dec 11 *Tavern Keeper's Reveillon
White Horse Tavern - \$12.00
10:30 p.m. - midnight.
Reservations suggested.
- Dec. 16 *Christmas Open House - Naval War
College Museum - Navy/Newport
Artists and Art Exhibit -
4-7 p.m. Free.
- Dec. 17 *Childrens' Impressions of
Christmas - Newport Yacht Club,
Long Wharf - 6-8 p.m. Donation.
- Dec. 17 **Caroling on the Point
- Dec. 19 Christmas Express to a Child's
- 20,26,27 Country Christmas at Green
Animals - Old Colony and Newport
Railway - Adults \$6, Children
\$4. Reservations required.
Dec. 19 & 26 -9:30 a.m. & 12:30
p.m. Dec. 20 & 27 - 12:30 p.m.
Train ride only.
- Dec. 19, 20 **Doorways in Newport Contest
Judging by Island Garden Club.
- Dec. 23 *Turtle Frolic Doubletree Hotel.
6:30 p.m. Adults \$25, Children
under 12 \$10. Reservations.
- Dec. 24 Candlelight Carol Service
St. Paul's Church, Marlborough
Street - 7 p.m.
- Dec. 24 Midnight Mass - 11 p.m..
St. John's Episcopal Church
Washington Street
- Dec. 27 **Holly Tea - Point Association
3:30-6 p.m. St. Paul's Church.
Marlborough Street - \$1.50.
- Dec. 26, 27, 28 **Candlelight Tours of 18th and
19th Century Houses on the
Point. 4-7 p.m. \$3 per house.

*Christmas in Newport events - 22nd year
**See notice in this issue

CANDLELIGHT HOUSE TOURS

Now that your calendars are turned to December, mark the dates of the 26th, 27th and 28th, the three days following Christmas Day. These are the dates for the popular candlelight tours on the Point and the Historic Hill. We all note the windows shining with white lights during December, but it's a real treat to be invited in to tour these 18th and 19th century private homes from 4 to 7 p.m. You can add to your enjoyment by volunteering to be a hostess. Vance Gatchell at 848-7017 will gladly assign you to a house for one or more days and make arrangements for a colonial costume. Being a hostess also entitles you to visit any of the homes open during those days. Sign up now before your December calendar fills us. Check the Newport Daily News for a list of the open houses.



HOLLY TEA

Be sure that Dec. 27 is marked on your calendar. Hopefully you will be able to take time to enjoy being with your Point neighbors at the Holly Tea. This is the Point Association's contribution to the Christmas in Newport celebration. It's especially for Pointers and their families 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.

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

DECEMBER IS AGLOW WITH LIGHTS

Evening darkness comes earlier in December, but indoors and out, houses are bright with the light of candles in windows, early lights on trees and mantles. They make dog-walking, quiet strolling or home-bound walking delightful. The Point's houses are especially beautiful. Lighting candles in some way is a tradition in many homes. Gerry Seigel of Washington St. tells us of the Hebrew tradition of the lighting of the Chanukah menorah.

CHANUKAH

No festival in the Jewish calendar is as much loved as Chanukah. Rare among Jewish holidays, it carries no aura of solemnity, nor does it impose any special restrictions. Instead, Chanukah is a time for thanksgiving and light-hearted rejoicing. It is a time when family and friends gather together around the Chanukah lights to play games while enjoying special holiday snacks.

But Chanukah rituals, foods and games are more than quaint folk customs; they are rich in symbolic meaning and provide insights into the meaning of the holiday and the history of the Jewish people.



The Chanukah menorah, or candleabrum, is the most prominent symbol of the holiday for it is a reminder of the Menorah which once stood in the Temple in Jerusalem. Its eight lights recall the miracle of the oil, which was to burn at most for one day and lasted for eight. The family gathers around the Menorah at sunset, recites the blessings, lights the candles and sings the holiday songs.

While the candles burn, the children play dreidel, using a top which has letters on four sides. Taken together, the letters present the first letter of each of the four Hebrew words in the sentence, "A great miracle has happened there." Traditional foods, potato latkes (pancakes) are a favorite of the Festival of Lights, and jelly donuts, eaten in Israel and called "soofganeeyot", feature the use of oil, indicating the overwhelming central imagery of the miraculous one cruise of oil which burned for eight days. The daily exchange of gifts had its origin in the older custom of distributing money (gelt) to the children, possibly as a reward for study.

Chanukah is a holiday not just for children. It speaks to all people who are still alive to the reality of the miraculous in life.

Gerald W. Seigel, Pres.
Temple Shalom, Middletown



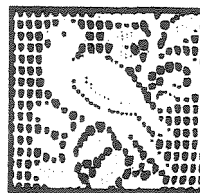
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WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT

Several new developments along Newport's waterfront look very promising and indicate a change in direction for the future of our city. The relocation of the Yachting Museum to lower Thames Street will bring this excellent museum to the attention of many more tourists.

SCIENCE CENTER

Secondly, and with great interest for the Point, is the proposed Science Center at the corner of Long Wharf and Washington Street. Jane Holdsworth of the Thames Science Center of Connecticut proposes a computer-based, multimedia research, development and training center featuring Timescience International. Using National Science Foundation Grant money, the \$35 million, 126,000 sq. ft. Center will feature a "Think Tank" for scientists, educators and industry to assist in the transition of defense-related jobs to private sector training and development.

The use of this property for an educational training center, a first class museum of advanced technology with quality exhibits for families and schools to visit would be a "plus" for our tourist industry.

The only major drawback is it would be tax-exempt in a city that already has 43 per cent of its properties in tax-exempt status.

Now, if only Newport had a first class aquarium to add to the list of stimulating new places to visit!

With the development of the Marine Terminal and the "working wharf" of our fishing industry, Long Wharf has the potential to be the vital center of the City again and would enhance the concept of Newport's active waterfront.

OSHA FINE

Thanks to the watchful eyes of our concerned waterfront Point residents and their many calls to state officials, persistence paid off. It was recently announced that the contractors doing the painting on the Newport Bridge have been fined by OSHA for failure to follow proper procedures to protect our bay and shoreline and us.

MARINE TERMINAL

Work continues on South Pier. With careful planning, both tourism and the fishing industry could be accommodated at this site. There is some concern that guaranteeing docks for cruise ships has become more important than the fishing industry which brings \$25 million to Newport's economy. It is vitally important that South Pier, which was purchased for our fishing/lobstering fleet, continues to be used for this marine industry. The plans for a T-Pier for large cruise ships with other areas set aside for smaller passenger ships and consideration of the purchase of another pier for the fishermen should be carefully monitored.

ECONOMIC SUMMIT

The Economic Summit held recently at the Newport Harbor Hotel was a good start to find direction to improve Newport's business climate. The statistical and state-of-the-City information was valuable for an overview of our pluses and problems.

Several key comments were made: Keith Stokes commented that Newport's most valuable asset is Newport and pointed out that small businesses are the "life-blood" of the State of Rhode Island. Sidney Gorham noted that people are interested in Newport for its quality of life. (For those of us who live on the Point, we certainly know how important that is!) He also mentioned that there are 300 unsold condos (enough for the next 20 years) and one million square feet of office space available! Jake Farrell, harbor master, commented on the fishing industry and its year-round economic value. Most importantly, he stated the need for services for recreational boating and the need for a full service boatyard.

These needs are golden opportunities for small businesses. During the question and answer period, which was all too brief, some criticism was voiced that a representative from the small business community was not on the panel. These concerns were addressed and should be part of the next summit to take place on November 21 at the Newport Marriott.

Liz Bermender

She's a nonagenarian. She has a Born-on-the-Point certificate. She has been named Newport's first official Historian. For over 40 years she has been THE historian at the Newport Historical Society. She recently retired from that position, and now has more time for remembering her own lifetime on the Point.

It's Gladys Bolhouse, of course! We asked her recently to reminisce about events in that lifetime, especially her growing-up years.

Gladys was born just before the turn of the century in a house on what is now called Upper Thames Street, and also lived in homes on Poplar and Elm Streets. She moved to Charles Street when she was married in 1926, and still lives in that house. She was an only child, but has two daughters and one son, plus 15 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren! Thirty two members of her family joined to celebrate her 93rd birthday recently.

She has been a member of the Point Association from its beginning, and has enjoyed **The Green Light** since Edith Ballinger Price wrote, typed and mimeographed the first copies and delivered them by hand...or, as she reports, "by sea gull."

When we asked her for some of her fondest memories of growing up on the Point, she shared many of them with us.

When she was six years old she remembers being house-bound in a blizzard. Her family received word that her father, who was working at Alfred Vanderbilt's Sandy Point racing stable in Portsmouth, could not get home through the snowdrifts and was to remain there for three days.

Later there were hurricanes, especially the 1938 one. Water reached the front door of the Opera House on Touro Street and covered the back steps of her home on Charles Street.

Early childhood memories are of outdoor games on summer evenings, band concerts at Battery and Touro Parks, and Saturday nights on Thames Street, where the stores remained open and she and friends met to stroll and window-shop.

Christmas trees in those days had real candles. There were no automobiles, but horses and wagons were plentiful. Her father, at one time, drove a horse and wagon, starting out early in the morning to take grocery orders, and then delivering them in the afternoon.

In her teen-age school days she had an attic room of her own, and she and a special friend spent hours there listening to an early radio. They wore earphones and were challenged to switch the dial to get stations from far and near. (She admits to a TV remote control now.)



After graduating from high school in 1918, (Frances Schmelke, The Green Light's proofreader, was one of her classmates) she joined the Navy as a yeoman, and was stationed at the Training Station in Newport. There were 30 or so women working there but there was no housing for females on the base. As a result, they all commuted from the station to their homes or rented rooms at night. Her uniform, as she remembers, included a long cape for inclement weather. Since she was short, the cape reached her ankles, but kept her warm in cold winds.

She got started on her historical interests when she researched her family history at the Historical Society for membership in the DAR. This led to a job there in 1946 where she spent the next 46 years at a desk and in the files, acquiring an unmatched reputation for knowledge of Newport's people and history. It has been said of her - "If Gladys does not remember it, it didn't happen!"



Recent TV coverage of election returns brought to mind the years when Newport residents gathered in front of the Daily News building to watch the large lettered bulletins that were posted on the building as the hours passed.

We came away from our delightful visit feeling we had had only a few glances into the life of someone who has been a part of the City's history for almost a century. Gladys Bolhouse is a Point and a Newport treasure.

Kit Hammett
Kay O'Brien

POINTERS-IN-THE-NEWS

Point neighbors were delighted to see Sarah Plumb of Pine Street when she appeared in a political ad on TV several weeks before the election. There was Sarah, big-as-life, stunning in a blue dress, waving a banner for Ron Matchley, a neighbor of her family in Portsmouth.

Anita McAndrews, member of **The Green Light** staff, received an honorable mention for her poem entered in the Edith H. Bozyan poetry and fiction writing contest. The literary competition is sponsored by **The Newport Review** and honors Newport artist, Edith Bozyan, a member of a long-time Point family. Anita's poem was read at a reading held at the Newport Art Museum on Sunday, Nov. 15. Congratulations, Anita!

Kit Hammett

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The staff of **The Green Light** invites Point Association members to submit articles for publication. There are many categories in which you may participate. One is the 1 Remember! 1 Remember! feature of reminiscences of the many activities which took place on the Point over the years. Another area for which we could use articles is the one of historical nature. We feel that one of the purposes of **The Green Light** (along with disseminating Association news and concerns) is the preservation of the Point's history and we know that there are many out there who could contribute to this.

Pieces should be typed, double-spaced on 8 1/2" x 11" paper and run from 2-3 pages. If the piece is exciting enough, exceptions can be made and, if it is not possible to turn in a typed article, a clear handwritten would be acceptable.

The editors reserve the right to edit for length, clarity and grammar.

ANNUAL DUES WERE DUE

in OCTOBER

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NEWPORT THEATER...A BRIEF HISTORY

When we asked Mr. Lippincott, librarian at the Newport Historical Society, for information on the theater in Newport, he gently inquired if we were intending "original research".

Knowing something of the ardors of original research, we replied in the negative. However, after a brief dip into the files, we are left with the belief that a complete compilation of Newport theatricals would be a fine contribution to the history of Early American theater. Newport would play a starring role.

1761 appears to be the year of the first public record of a Newport theater performance and it took place here on the Point. It should be noted that this was not the first play performed in America. It was the first in the English colonies north of Virginia. The date was Sept. 15, and the play was the "Company of the Provoked Wife (or Journey to London)".

The actors, known as Comedians, were sent to Newport by a group of Virginia gentlemen who had obtained the consent of their Williamsburg governor and that town's council. The company's manager was David Douglass.

Newport citizens did not approve of the proposed performance, and voted negatively. Then, perhaps because the Virginians offered to perform for the benefit of the poor, the vote was reconsidered in the affirmative. A temporary theater was erected on the upper area of the Point, near Dyer's Gate. The performances, well-attended by Newporters and also by people who "came by wagon from Boston", raised 1030 pounds (English). The money was given to Mr. George Gibbs who purchased corn to give those "poor worthy to receive it."

Newporters soon became enthusiastic theater-goers. Dramas were staged in the Public Room of the King's Arms Tavern. The 1936 edition of the Rotary Club's *Weekly Whirl* states that site of the tavern was then occupied by Larry Sullivan's Men's Shop (257-259 Thames Street, now swallowed up by America's Cup Avenue). Prior to that it was Garry's Fish and Fruit Market operated by Abigail Stoneman.

In 1762, a theatrical road company presented (again at the King's Arm Tavern) "Moral Dialogues in Five Parts". The title was misleading, deliberately so - play acting was still frowned upon - the play was Shakespeare's "Othello".

May 5, 1801, the *Mercury* announced the appearance in Newport of "The Real Balance Master", a Mrs. Herrington. Billed as a "genteel entertainment", Mrs. Herrington balanced plates, nails, tables; even peacock feathers on her head. She was a gymnast and could swing by one foot, walk a tightrope with a glass of wine on her head, or turn 100 times a minute on one toe.

June 14, 1902, the *Newport Journal* listed coming attractions at the Opera House. September promised some heavy drama including "A Mother's Honor", "Slaves of Russia", "Convict 1240" and more. It is noted that "Quo Vadis" was cancelled "because of the President's funeral."

In 1902-3, the Opera House presented an amazing variety and number of plays. For example, in 1902, this theater staged 19 productions. Restrictions were obviously lifted because Watson's Burlesquers were permitted to perform, and, too, "The Sporting Duchess". Few actresses or actors are mentioned by name, except for a Catherine Lewis who was, it is noted, "stranded here."

The theater earned public approval, opening the doors to vaudeville. June 27, 1903, and the *Newport Journal* announces the Taylor Twin Sisters will roller skate; LeRoy and Woodford present bright talk and songs. Also Lenora Persey, the little electric spark and the Delmonico Singing Waiters. They, and more, performed under a tent in Freebody Park. There were strings of lights, a Japanese Garden and carpeted boxes railed off from the public seating. The 8-piece orchestra, it was noted, made this "vaudeville production go off with a snap."

Dec. 29, a Colonial Dinner was given by the Newport Industrial Co., proprietors of the Colonial Theater. They wished to show their appreciation to both the public and performers with a grand dinner and show. Among others, "Pop" Nisson was honored for his long service with the then 24-year-old Colonial Theater.

Aug. 1, 1913, we find Blanch Shirley Stack at the Opera Huse. On Aug. 27, John Rugen is "taking moving pictures of scenes and will show them at the Opera House." The same year, on Oct. 17, "a moving picture outfit is taking pictures at the Life Saving Station."

Newport theater prospered. Here on the Point, Christmas pageants were presented at St. John's Guild Hall on a regular basis. In the 1920s, Tableaux Vivants (see photo) were executed.

Looking through The Green Light files we find that in June, 1980, Ilse Nesbitt and her sons presented the Puppet show at the Point Fair. In 1981, "This year's 'Feast of St. Stephen' will be continued, an expanded and enhanced version of Emelia Cresswell's story of King Wenceslas." At the Fair in 1983, the Perfectly Precious Point Players presented "The Prince and the Pea."

By the year 1937, Newport was a "tryout town". Well-known actors and actresses were appearing here in one-night stands. Moving pictures drew large audiences to benefit performances, and Coddington school pupils raised funds to buy their own movie machine. The Opera House manager, John Rugen, opened the Bijou, a new movie theater. Later that year, Rugen signed a lease for the Opera House and renovated it.

1938 and Newport had its own picture making company. The Bijou was still holding its own with plays and films and a lecture on the South Pole by Capt. Roald Amundsen. Something went amiss as Capt. Amundsen left the theater while it was still dark, before anyone could meet him.

Newport's glamorous Newport Casino Theater made headlines during its Golden Age (1927-34). Originally designed as a ballroom (Oscar Wilde was said to have danced here), it stands empty now on the Casino's grounds. The architect was Stanford White. The works of Shakespeare and Shaw, and many other fine playwrights were performed. Newport theater-goers enjoyed Will Rogers, Cornelius Otis Skinner, Frederick Worlock, and other stars...all for the price of \$5.50 per ticket.

In later years, the Newport Players Guild, performing in the Quaker Meeting House and then the Casino Theater and Swanhurst's carriage house, resurrected the theater in Newport. Until its demise, the Theater Guild, with many Point residents participating, was an integral part of Newport's theater scene and deserves high honors.

Other groups over the past 20 years have performed at Rogers High School and in the upstairs theater of a restaurant on Long Wharf. Many dinner theaters have come and gone with one now performing at the Newport Playhouse. The Rhode Island Shakespeare Theater (TRIST) also performed at Swanhurst but now lacks a home as do all of Newport's performing arts. The recently incorporated Arts and Cultural Alliance is targeting as a primary objective a permanent base for these groups in Newport. This center could restore Newport's rightful place in the history of the American theater.

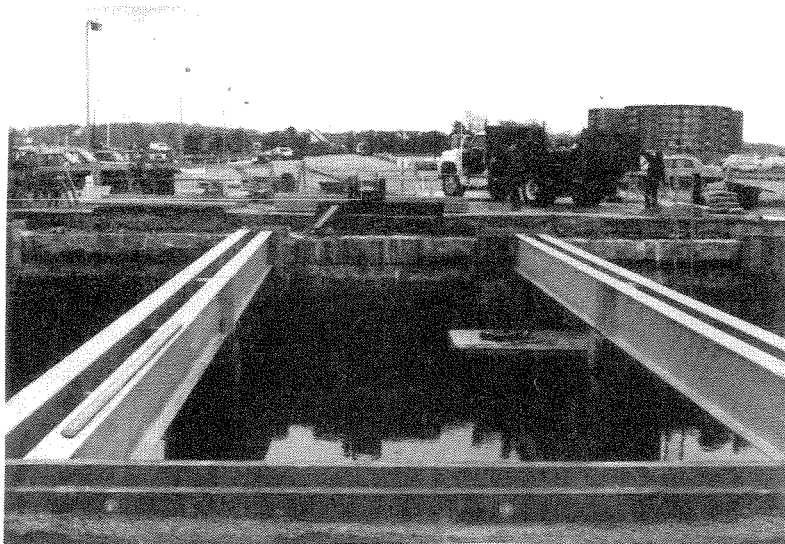
Anita McAndrews



This Tableaux Vivant, presented at St. John's Guild Hall in 1921, pictures, left to right, Rexanne, Averill and Rowan (Howard), three of the six daughters of Rear Adm. and Mrs. Reginald Belknap.

THE HOLE AT GOAT ISLAND

Until recent years Goat Island was off shore, but now with the causeway anchoring it to Storer Park we can call it a part of the Point. It's certainly one of the more popular walkways of our neighborhood, presenting us with an ever changing view. Most of the boats are gone, but there's still an attraction for those willing to brave the chilly breezes ...the hole. In late summer yellow ribbons were extended across the roadway past the spot where the Viking Tour boats tie up and traffic had to detour through the parking lot. Heavy equipment arrived and jack hammers and power tools screeched and pounded as the pavement was removed. Divers were been sent down to investigate why the blacktop seemed to be sagging. They knew something we didn't - there was water under the road, and they discovered that the concrete beams and metal tie-rods were disintegrating. As the pavement was removed, we could see this, too, and so the operation has been on public view and fun to watch. But the real question arises -what is under Goat Island? Here is exposed a bay or slip of large size with a granite bulkhead to the south and fill to the north. It opens to the harbor on the east and extends further to the west than is now uncovered.



So who can tell us more about the history of this boat slip? We've been told that the range boats that were used to retrieve the torpedoes on the test range north in the bay were brought here

for repair. There was a boathouse next to this slip with a large crane to lift out the boats. Another story tells of a flume further to the west of this slip on the outer side of the island. Who knows?

On a recent visit to the Naval War College Museum we found a model of Goat Island made by craftsmen working at the Torpedo Station. We could identify the flume gate building and, we think, the boathouse with its crane. The island was so densely covered with buildings, shops and piers that it looked like a different place entirely which, of course, it was. The museum staff generously gave us some photos of the old Torpedo Station which we'll publish soon, but we're hopeful that some of you will help us fill in the hole with your remembrances.

Yes, you'll be able to drive the roadway again. There are big steel beams tied across the hole with wooden beams being bolted in place as work progresses. Keep walking and watching...there's fascinating history all around.

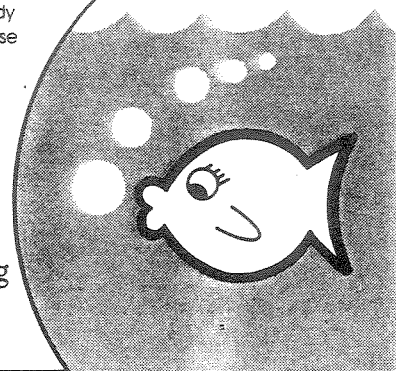
Kay O'Brien and Nancy Espersen

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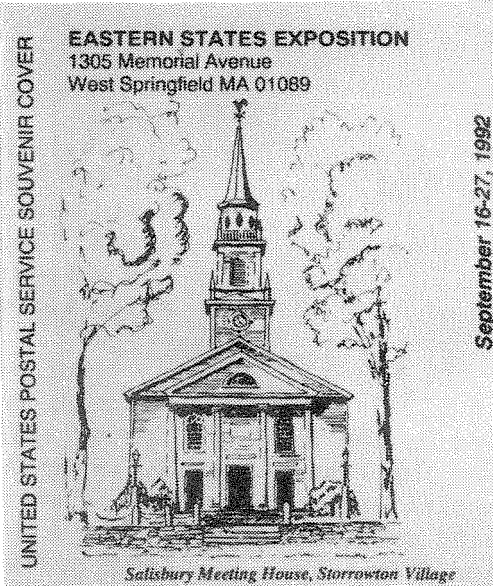
**POINT ASSOCIATION MEMBER
CREATES FIRST DAY COVER**

Marie Abois Coburn, who has drawn pen and ink sketches of town scenes and historic buildings for the West Springfield (Mass.) Record, is the daughter of Susanne Abois of Washington Street. She lived on the Point from the age of nine and is a member of the Point Association. Marie went to St. Joseph's and St. Catherine's schools and later to the Art Museum School before attending college at Sacred Heart College in Newton, Mass.

She took art classes in college and at the Art Museum in Springfield, as well as Art History at the University of Paris. She now lives in West Springfield, is married and has three sons.

Marie has done a First Day of Issue cachet sold by the U.S. Postal Service at a station set up at the Eastern States Exposition during the run of the Fair from Sept. 16-17, 1992.

Reproduced in red ink from a pen and ink drawing of the Sudbury Meeting House at Storowstown Village, the cachet commemorates the dates of the "Big E" and was cancelled with a Storowstown Village postmark.



Dorothy Sanschagrín

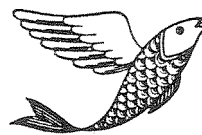
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TREE SOCIETY REPORT

On Saturday Nov. 7, a number of us met at Storer Park for a Tree Mulching Clinic taught by Urban Arborist, Bruce Payton. After the clinic, volunteers from the Point Association and members of the Tree Society spent the remainder of the morning and afternoon mulching trees in Storer and Battery Parks and on the Marsh Street Connector Road.

The mulch had been delivered by the City of Newport at the request of the Tree Society. We felt the Point Association has a most aggressive tree planting program and our trees should be protected from mowers, line weed trimmers and general abuse. My heartfelt thanks to all who volunteered: Kay O'Brien, Anne Reynolds, Shawn McAndrews, Charles Weishar, Toni Catlett, Pete Peters, Tim Brown, Paul Geroux, Steve Casey and Bruce Payton, and any others whose name I missed in a bent-over position. If you have a street tree near you please consider mulching it this fall remembering to keep the mulch two to three inches away from the trunk. Field mice like to live in mulch sometimes and eat the trunks of trees. Many thanks.

Toni Peters

CHRISTMAS TREES

Bill Bailey, co-ordinator of recycling for Newport, is making plans with Waste Management to recycle Christmas trees. The city is considering buying a new shredder which would supply quality mulch for our city trees.

Our parks look tidy after the mulching workshop in November, and next Spring will bring flowers from bulbs given to us by Deborah McQuade of Newport Clean and Green as part of its now three-year-old program of bulb distribution to the neighborhoods.

The city has equipment to trim trees and hopes to hire a man to use it by December. The former employee is now on sick leave.

The city will also have a tree warden "to establish an overall maintenance and management program for the city's public trees, as well as to enforce the city's recently adopted Tree Preservation and Protection Ordinance."


Anne Reynolds




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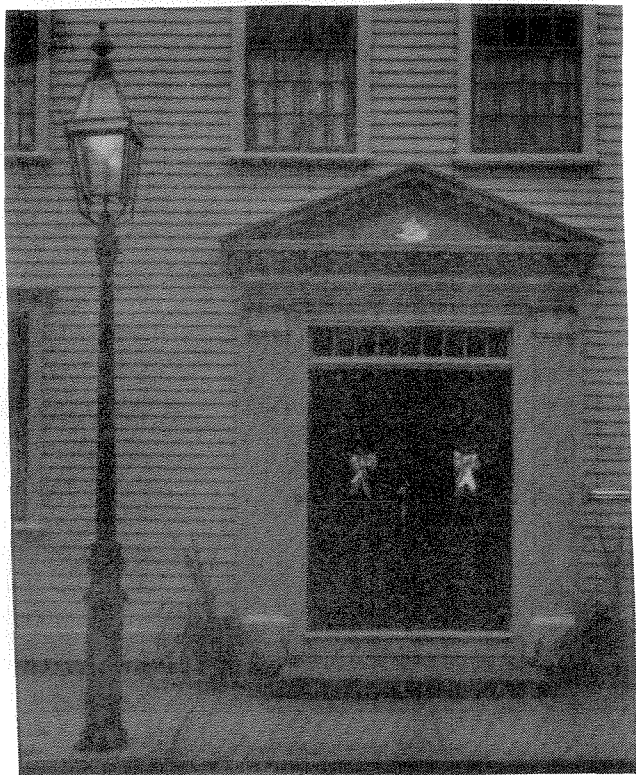
48 Third Street
Newport, RI 02840
401 846-7993



BORN-ON-THE-POINTERS

At the Annual meeting in October, President Joe Vars, presented Born-on-the-Point certificates to Elizabeth and Christopher Boghassian and Morgan Haley Dickison.

Christine Montanaro, newly-elected president, presented this certificate to Joe Vars.

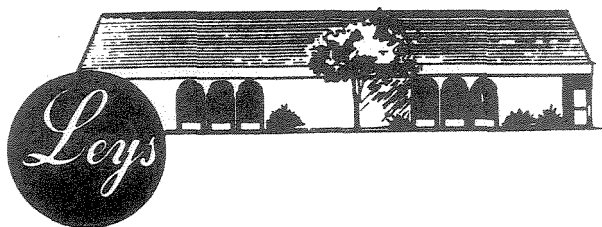


NEWPORT'S HOLIDAY DOORWAYS CONTEST

Members of the Island Garden Club will tour city streets on December 19 and 20 to judge holiday decorations. No registration is required this year. The judges will look for decorations that can be seen from the street. Doorways and porches must be decorated with live greens and outdoor lighting must have clear bulbs. Inside candles with clear bulbs will be considered part of the decoration.

Watch the newspapers for announcements and details.

*Joy
to
the World!*



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- Toiletries and Jewelry
- Linens & Home Furnishings
- Gifts for all Occasions
- Mementos of Newport

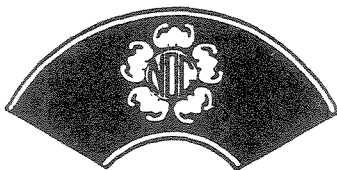
**On the Waterfront -Long Wharf Mall
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Open Daily and Sundays**

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The man who made it is Charles Jestings of Middletown, whose grandfather ran a store on Second Street many years ago.

With all the excitement of the "at last" opening of the new Jamestown bridge, it's hard to think of life in the days when the bay itself was the principal transportation route. Getting "off island" meant on the water...not over it. Going in that direction were boats from Newport to Wickford Junction for rail connections into Providence or Boston or south to New York City. The good old days were not lived in the fast lane.



Compliments of Nortons' Oriental Gallery

415 Thames Street
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401-849-4468 — 401-847-2307

Planning and putting together an issue of **The Green Light** takes a bit of doing from a number of people. We end up with a cutting and pasting day, and then off to PDQ for the printing, and then labeling and to the post office for mailing. In 1959 the editor, Edith Ballinger Price, did it on her own. She even wrote a poem to accompany her labors entitled:

THE PENALTIES OF PROGRESS

The green light out in the harbor
Shines with a baleful gleam,
As the paper goes through the mimeograph
Ream after ream after REAM.

The Editor's clothes are ragged,
The soot lies deep on the floor,
The weeds grow high in the garden,
The cobwebs hang by the door.

The Editor's hands are inky,
The Editor's thoughts are dark,
As the Green Light's circulation
Nears the four hundred mark!

(P.S. And she delivered the copies by hand (and foot) and was called the "sea gull".



Right Here in Newport!

The new Cafe del Mare prepares authentic northern Italian dishes from an array of delicious appetizers, pasta, chicken, fish, and veal specialties to freshly baked desserts.

So when you're in the mood for good northern Italian food, fine wine, and a spectacular view of the harbor, come to the Cafe del Mare. It's not in Italy, but it's the next best thing.

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Cafe del Mare

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75 Long Wharf, Newport

Dear Pointers:

I read the monthly newsletter from cover to cover. My husband, George Williams Fisher Sherman, was born in 1909 in the house at 39 Second Street.

When we were married in 1934, we lived at 90 or 92 Second St. and could watch the young nuns play at Stella Maris. My memories of the Point are happy ones. Our daughter, Nancy Louise Sherman Stebor, was born in 1935 when we lived there. George played ball on the team called "The Point Hummers."

I graduated from the Newport Hospital School of Nursing in 1930 and have many good friends and some relatives in Newport and Middletown.

The best to all,

Louise Sherman (Mrs. George)
Poulsbo, Washington

ELTON MANUEL

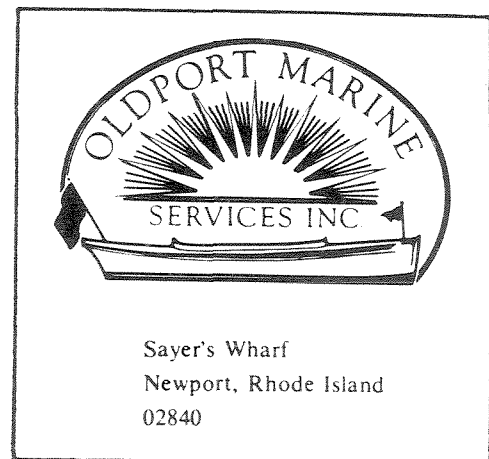
We note with sorrow the death of Elton Manuel, formerly of Bayside Avenue. Elton was for many years a contributor to **The Green Light**, as he shared his interest in and knowledge of Newport history. His articles covered a wide range, from individuals to old homes, to shipwrecks and the Common Burying Ground. He was instrumental in establishing the military museum of the Newport Artillery Company, of which he was an active member for more than 30 years. He was a member and former director of the choir at St. John's Episcopal Church, and served in many other musical organizations.

UPCOMING ROSE ISLAND EVENTS

- Dec. 9 - Winter Celebration and Get-Together - Waverleys Lounge - Newport Harbor Hotel & Marina 5-6:30 p.m. Charge \$10 at door.
- Jan. 1 - Annual Cleanup/Potluck on Rose Island - 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pack up your food and family and be at the Goat Island Marina gas dock by 11 a.m. to catch an Oldport Launch.

RAIN DATE - Sat. Jan. 2

For information, call Charlotte Johnson at 847-4242.



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COOK'S CORNER

Cranberry time is upon us again and those bright red berries are showing up in the stores. Not only do they add a festive touch to the holidays but they can be utilized to give your meals some zest throughout the year since they can be frozen for up to nine months. You can store them in the refrigerator in their original bags for up to four weeks. To freeze, wrap the bag in freezer wrap. Frozen cranberries can be used in baking and other recipes without defrosting.

The recipe for cranberry sauce which appears on the package is a foolproof one. I add a little lemon juice and nutmeg to enhance the flavor.

We are all familiar with the raw orange and cranberry relish. Here is a recipe for one that is a bit different.

QUICK CRANBERRY RELISH

1 bag (2 1/2 cups) cranberries
1 med. onion, cut into chunks
2 tsps. grated orange zest
1 c. sweet marmalade

In a food processor fitted with a metal blade, coarsely chop the cranberries and onions. (You can also chop them in batches in a blender.) Add the orange zest and marmalade and process until mixed. Serve with turkey or ham. Good also with cheese. Makes about 3 cups.

Not only do they taste good but cranberries are low in calories (before you add all that sugar to them!). One cup has 46 calories, 94% of them from carbohydrates. A cooking tip: Don't add sugar to cranberries when cooking them for sauces until after they've popped; sugar toughens their skins. A bit of butter in sauces and fillings helps cut the sourness.

FRESH CRANBERRY CAKE

1 cup fresh cranberries
1 1/2 cups biscuit mix
1/4 cup sugar
1 egg, slightly beaten
1/3 cup milk
2 TBS. sugar

Wash and drain cranberries; remove any stems. Set aside. In medium bowl, combine biscuit mix, sugar, egg and milk until just blended. Spoon into a greased and floured 8-in. round or star-shaped pan. Toss cranberries with 2 TBSP. sugar; spoon evenly over cake batter. Bake at 375 deg. for 20-30 min. or until golden brown and firm when gently pressed. Cool cake on rack. Remove from pan and cut into wedges. Serve with a scoop of vanilla ice cream, if desired.

Florence Archambault



The Christmas Bread

THE HOLLY TEA

Sunday, December 27
3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.
at St. Paul's Methodist Church
Marlborough Street
Donation \$1.50

THE CRANBERRY

Cranberries, along with Concord grapes and blueberries, are the only fruits native to North America. The name "cranberry" is attributed to the distinctive shape of the cranberry flower. It resembles the head, bill and neck of a sandhill crane--thus "crane berries." Cranberries grow on low-lying vines that require an acid-peat soil, a top layer of sand and an ample supply of water.



The commercial cultivation of cranberries was started by Henry Hall of East Dennis, MA in 1816. They are now grown in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Wisconsin and the Pacific Northwest. Harvesting begins in early September and continues through early November. Originally cranberries were harvested by pushing scoops along the dry ground by hand. In the 1950s mechanical dry picking machines replaced the scoops. While such dry harvesting is still done, the current most popular method is wet harvesting. The bogs are flooded and the berries knocked off the vines with egg-beater-like "water reels." Cranberries float to the surface, are corralled with floating booms, and directed to conveyer belts at the edge of the bog.

The ability of the cranberry to float is its first quality selection factor. Damaged berries are not harvested because they sink to the bottom of the bog. Once at the processing plant, the berries go through a separator which employs a selection technique which dates back to the 19th century. Early cranberry growers noticed that good berries bounced. The harvested berries were shaken next to a 4-inch high wooden barrier. Good cranberries bounced over while bruised, soft or rotten ones remained behind to be discarded.

Gordon Armstrong

NEW MEMBERSHIP OR RENEWAL FORM

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I wish to be active on the following committees: Activities/Program _____
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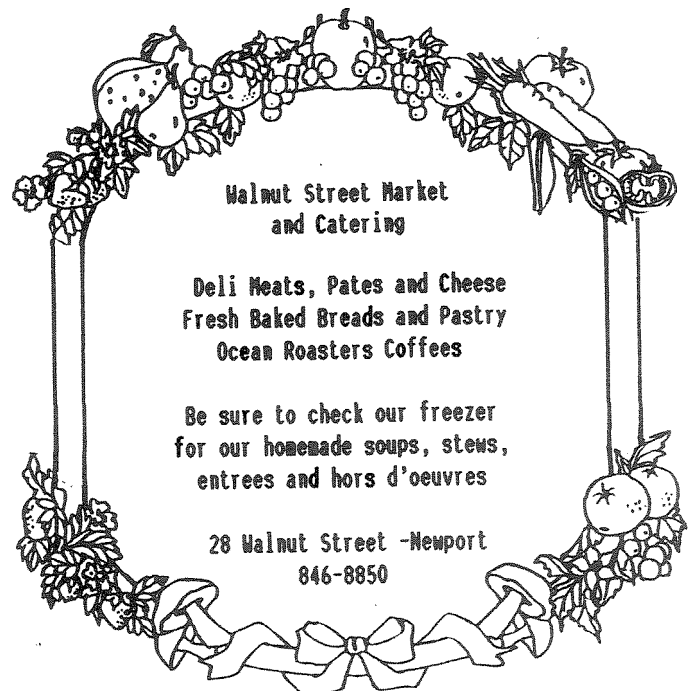
THE POINT ASSOCIATION

And mail to:

The Point Association

P. O. Box 491 Newport, RI 02840

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