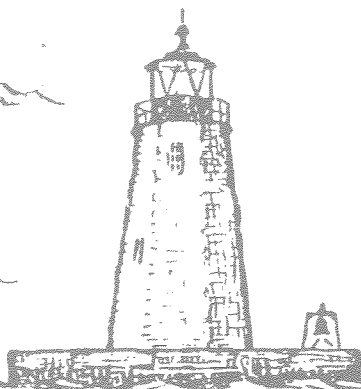


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The GREEN LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

DECEMBER 1993





The GREEN LIGHT

XXXVIII No. 6 DECEMBER 1993

FEATURES

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Photo credits:

Cover photo courtesy of Eleanor Weaver
Probably December of 1957. See how many
carollers you can identify and you can
check your guesses against the list in our
next issue.

Photo credits:

Page 9, Herb Rommel
Page 10 & 11, Lois Dickison
Page 12, Rowan Howard

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GREEN LIGHT

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Poplar and Thames Streets; Aidinoff's
Liquor and Gourmet Shop, Warner Street;
and Clipper Wine & Spirits, Third Street.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The Annual Meeting on October 28 proved to be eventful despite the unfortunate situation of our guest speakers declining at the last minute. It was apparent that the Association was ready to express its feelings and thoughts about the proposed marine terminal with the capability for a cruise ship pier at Goat Island. A motion was received to oppose the site of Goat Island and was voted in unanimously by the members present. There was considerable coverage of the Association's position in both the **Newport Daily News** and **Newport This Week**. While John Pantalone did a conscientious piece on the issue of a marine terminal and the Association's responses, the Editors from the **Daily News** posited that the Association acted prematurely. The Board decided to respond to the **Daily News** with a chronology of our information gathering. The letter sent to the Editors follows as it does provide the background for the Association's position for those members who were not at the Annual meeting.

"In response to your editorial "Our View" of November 2nd, we of the Point Association would like to address your interpretation that the Point Association acted prematurely and unwisely with regard to its position on the marine terminal. At the Board level, the Point Association began to try to separate rumor from fact as far back as January. At the February Board meeting, Bruce Cotta from Island Development Corporation presented a preliminary site plan for a marine terminal on Goat Island. As a result of Mr. Cotta's information, the Board voted to keep in communication with Island Development Corporation and to pursue more information from city and state officials, tourism representatives, other neighborhood organizations, Sail Newport, and our own membership.

We had a general meeting in April which was to have Mr. Cotta as its guest speaker. Mr. Cotta ultimately declined to attend. At this meeting, the membership was presented with the information that was thus far collected and was then asked to put in writing any comments or suggestions.

In the months between April and October, **The Newport Daily News** published at least eight "Letters to the Editor" which opposed the proposed marine terminal at Goat Island. In late June a **Providence Journal** editorial endorsed the proposal and encouraged readers to support it.

In the October 20th **Providence Journal**, an advertisement from the Department of Transportation solicited consultants for the preparation of an "Alternatives Analysis/Draft Environmental Impact Statement" for the Newport marine terminal. In the "Proposed Scope of Work", they stated that the marine terminal should be within walking distance of the Newport Gateway Intermodal Transportation Facility and, at the same time, said that the South Pier would not be viable. Their "Scope of Work" leaves little doubt that Goat Island is their choice.

(Continued on next page)

In an effort to establish a serious dialogue between the Point Association and Goat Island proponents, Keith Stokes and Bruce Bartlett were scheduled guest speakers at our annual meeting on October 28th. These speakers also declined at the last minute. As a result, on the basis of the information collected to date by the Board, the Point Association decided to take the following actions:

1. The 100 members present at our annual meeting voted unanimously to oppose the Goat Island site for the marine terminal. The reason the Point Association voted to oppose the site is in our bylaws (written in 1955) Article II Section 3 as follows -- "The protection of the section against detrimental structures..."
2. Form a task force to look at the impact of a marine terminal for the long range economic health of all of Aquidneck Island. This task force will continue to collect information and inform the Board.
3. The Point Association's Board will continue to solicit information from state and local officials and advise them of the Point Association's position on this issue.

In closing, the Board asks:

1. Was it premature or unwise for a group of dedicated preservationists to form this Association as far back as 1955?
2. When would it have been premature or unwise for Jamestowners to have organized to study the impact of a cross island expressway?
3. When would it be too late?"

We are now ready to activate the study group for exploring the need and impact of a marine terminal for Aquidneck Island. Donna Segal and George Perry have been appointed as co-chairs. A statement of purpose will need to be developed. Those that signed up for the committee at the Annual Meeting will soon be contacted.

In the midst of all this business we cannot overlook the Holiday season with its good cheer and generosity. The Point is such a special place for the Winter happenings. It is the time to conjure up the old to appreciate the new. My sincerest wishes for happiness and health are extended to all.

Christine Montanaro

ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL MEETING

Christine Montanaro, president, chaired the annual meeting of the Point Association on October 28. A record number attended.

Reports were given by the recording secretary and the treasurer. A proposed budget for 1994 was presented, and accepted as presented.

Chairpersons of various committees, including Beautification, **The Green Light**, History and Archives, Membership and Traffic presented reports.

The nominating committee presented the proposed slate for officers for the next two years.

1st Vice-president - Donna Segal

Treasurer - Philip Mosher

Recording Secretary - Ann Wiley

Nominating Committee - Brenda Gordon,
Dorothy Madden, Donna Flynn, Chair.

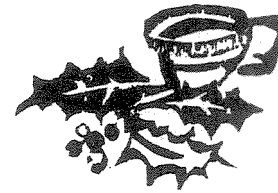
There were no other nominations, and the secretary cast one vote for the slate as proposed.

David Aguiar reported on the on-going concerns about liquor, noise pollution, party houses and late-night disturbances. The Association is following the City Council's Task Force which has been set up to combine efforts of several groups to meet these issues. Councilman Paul Eckhart contributed to the discussion... especially in relation to noise pollution.

Betty DeLiris spoke of the upcoming city-wide vote on a bond to provide for repairs and a solution of the critical problems at the Rogers High School facility. She urged people to vote for the bond.

The two scheduled speakers on the marine terminal declined at the last minute, but a very active discussion by members took place. This resulted in a proposal that the Association go on record as opposing a marine terminal on Goat Island. This was passed unanimously. (See the president's letter on this, and a task group to consider the larger issue of any such terminal on Aquidneck Island.)

The meeting concluded with fellowship and refreshments. Kit Hammett



The Holly Tea

Sunday, December 26

3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

St. Paul's Methodist Church

Marlborough Street

Donation \$1.50

MEET OUR NEW RECORDING SECRETARY

Ann Wiley was elected the Point Association's recording secretary in October and has already recorded her first Board meeting. Ann is a newcomer to the Point, but moved to Newport from San Francisco in 1983. Last February she moved into a house on Second Street, and has been restoring it. It now is a Bed and Breakfast Inn with Ann as the innkeeper.

Ann is an interior decorator with an interest in the restoration of Colonial houses. The B & B Inn, now named Culpeper House, is the result of her interest and skills. "Culpeper" is a British word which Ann chose because her new home was built in 1771, a time of British influence in Newport. In her marketing brochure Ann says, "This proper Newport cottage has been faithfully restored by a restoration designer for people who like to experience Newport Colonial heritage."

She thinks the Point is one of the greatest places to live, and is enjoying meeting people who live here.

Welcome, Ann, to the Point---and its Association. Kit Hammett

THANK YOU

Many thanks to outgoing 1st vice-president, David Aguiar, for, not only serving in that office, but also for his work towards beautification of the Point.



HOLLY TEA

Soft candlelight, and a relaxing cup of tea. It's all part of the Holly Tea which will be Sunday, December 26, at St. Paul's Methodist Church, Marlborough Street. This is the Point Association's participation in the Christmas in Newport celebration. It's especially for Pointers and their families and guests. Plan to take time out during the busy holiday season to enjoy a cup of tea in an 18th century atmosphere.

There are a number of ways that you can help to make this annual event a success. Donations of tea sandwiches, cookies and cakes are needed, as well as hosts and hostesses to welcome and serve, or perhaps you could make tea, arrange plates of food or help with the setup or cleanup. If you want to help, call Joe Vars at 847-4289 and let him know how you plan to be a part of this neighborhood tradition.

CANDLELIGHT HOUSE TOURS

The Christmas in Newport Candlelight House tours will be December 26, 27 and 28. The opportunity to tour private 18th and 19th century homes, decorated for the holiday season, continues to grow in popularity.

One way to add to your enjoyment of this annual event is to volunteer to be a host or hostess, which will entitle you to visit all of the houses on the tour free of charge. Vance Gatchell at 848-7017 will gladly assign you to a house and answer any questions for you.

CALLING ALL CAROLLERS

This year's Christmas Caroling program is being planned by Angela and Joseph Vars. We'll provide the sheet music...you provide the flashlights, the enthusiasm and the voices! Please wear something red and we'll pin on some holly.

Gather on **Tuesday, December 14* at 6 p.m. at 57 Second Street.**

Call us at 847-4289 to say "yes" and join us to spread Christmas Cheer on the Point. A light supper will be ready before we go!

Angela and Joseph Vars

*Rain date is December 15...same time, same place.

THE WHITE HORSE TAVERN PRESENTS

This holiday season, Pointers are invited to join the festivities at our neighborhood pub, The White Horse Tavern. America's oldest tavern will be hosting three lectures and one evening event, all as part of the "Christmas in Newport" program.

Curator's lectures with the tavern historian will be:

Saturday, Dec. 11, 10:30 a.m.

"Yankee Hospitality - Tavern Life in the 1700s"

Saturday, Dec. 18, 10:30 a.m.

"The History of the White Horse Tavern"

Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2 p.m.

"Homes of our Forebears - Post & Beam Construction"

Light pastries and hot refreshments will be served by the fireside, and the lecture fee is \$3.00.

On Friday evening, December 10, following the Navy Choristers concert, the White Horse will again have its "Tavernkeeper's Reveillon" to benefit the Newport Boys & Girls Club. For \$12, guests will enjoy an elegant late night supper. Following the old French tradition of a small meal after the midnight Christmas mass, the tavern invites all late night holiday shoppers and concert-goers to stop by and warm up by the fire before heading home.

For more information, call the tavern at 849-3600. Anita Rafael

DOORWAY COMPETITION

Deck your doors for the Holidays! The Christmas in Newport Doorway Competition is upon us, and judging will be done by December 17. To enter your home, call 849-6454 to register. Prizes will be awarded.

The traditional decor of white candles in windows, candle-like bulbs on wreaths and trees, imaginative combinations of greens, fruits, dried flowers, ribbons and lace are just some suggestions.

Many of the Point's homes are especially lovely during the holidays, so join in to represent our neighborhood. Good Luck and Merry Christmas.

Carol Marina

CHRISTMAS ON THE POINT
AND ON
WASHINGTON SQUARE



- Dec. 1 *Opening of Christmas in Newport
Washington Square - 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 2 *Reading of Christmas Tree Hessian
Old Colony House - 6:30 p.m. FREE
- Dec. 5 *Official opening of Museum of
Newport History - Brick Market -
1-5 p.m. FREE
- Dec. 8 *Gingerbread House Tour - Marriott
Hotel - 2-5 p.m. - FREE -
Donation of non-perishable food
accepted
- Dec. 10 **Tavernkeeper's Reveillon - White
Horse Tavern - 10:30 p.m. -
Reservations - \$12 per person
- Dec. 11 *Jonnycake Brunch - St. Paul's
Methodist Church - 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
Adults \$7 - Children under 10- \$4
- Dec. 11 *Christmas Open House - Old Colony
House by Newport Historical
Society - 1930-1950's electric &
wooden trains & more - 10 a.m. -
4 p.m. FREE
- Dec. 11 **White Horse Tavern Curator's
& Fireside Lectures - 10:30 a.m.
- Dec. 18 \$3 per person - also Dec. 21 at
2 p.m.
- Dec. 11 *Santa Claus Special - Old Colony
& Newport Railroad - Reservations
Admission - Also Dec. 12, 18, 27.
- Dec. 14 **Caroling on the Point - See
article elsewhere in this issue.
- Dec. 15 *Christmas Open House - Naval War
College Museum - 3-6 p.m. FREE
- Dec. 16 *Children's Impressions of
Christmas - Newport Yacht Club,
Long Wharf - 6-8 p.m. Offering
for Seamen's Church Institute
- Dec. 17 **Judging of City-wide Doorways
Contest by Island Garden Clubs.
Entry required. Call 849-6454
- Dec. 18 *Navy Band Christmas Concert -
Spruance Auditorium, Naval War
College - Gate 2 - 7 p.m.- FREE
Also Dec. 19 - 3 p.m.
- Dec. 19 *Christmas on Historic Hill-4 p.m.
Trinity Church followed by
Christmas Cheer at Colony House.
- Dec. 22 *Mass commemorating 1st Catholic
mass for French Forces in America
7 p.m. - Colony House - Newport
Artillery Co. - Free will
offering

- Dec. 23 *"Turtle Frolic" - re-enactment of
1752 event. Doubletree Hotel -
6:30 p.m. - Adults \$25, Children
12 & under, \$10. Reservations.
- Dec. 26 **Holly Tea - Point Association
3:30-6 p.m. St. Paul's Church.
Marlborough St. - \$1.50
- Dec. 26 *Festival of Nine Lessons and
Carols. 3 p.m. St. John's Church
- Dec. 26, **Candlelight House Tours of 18th
27, 28 and 19th century Houses on the
Point. 4-7 p.m. \$3 per house
846-4513 or 847-9770

* Christmas in Newport events - 23rd year
** See notices in this issue

HISTORY AND ARCHIVES

Watch for notices and dates for a
committee meeting and workshops for
history and archives. Meetings will be
scheduled for January, February, and March
to begin the task of sorting through 38
years of Point Association documents,
photos, clippings and correspondence.

Anyone interested in volunteering to
do some file-cabinet archaeology, contact
Rowan Howard at 847-8428 or Anita Rafael
at 846-5391.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please check the mailing label on this
copy of **The Green Light**. If it has been
underlined, it means you need to renew
your membership to the Point Association.
Fill out the membership form on the inside
back cover and mail it with your dues to:

The Point Association
P.O. Box 491
Newport RI 02840

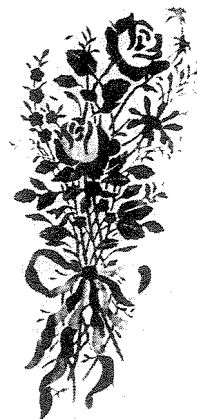
Contact Nancy Espersen, 846-2907, if you
have any question regarding your
membership.



HISTORY ON POST CARDS

This issue we feature three cards of the Brick Market. One of Newport's most familiar buildings, it was designed by Peter Harrison and built between 1762 and 1772. It served as an open air market and as a theatre. The full-sized illustration shows the building as it appeared when it was Newport's city hall prior to its current one which was built in 1912. Note the wonderful horse and carriages. The second has been enlarged to show the detail and the signs when the building was occupied by Daniel E. Sullivan's Kitchen Furnishing and novelty store. The final postcard shows the building looking as most of us remember it. This was published when it housed Newport's Chamber of Commerce. The building has been much in the news lately with the restoration project being done by the Newport Historical Society and the Brick Market Foundation to prepare it for a museum. It has taken three years of intensified work and over a million dollars but the Brick Market Museum of Newport History is slated to officially open on December 5. We salute the foresight of those involved in making this a reality and a perfect showcase for the wonderful history of Newport.

Florence Archambault



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DORIS DUKE

Colonial Restoration in Newport owes a huge debt of gratitude to Doris Duke who died recently. The deterioration of 18th century houses had been a growing concern of many residents and preservationists, beginning in the 1920s and 1930s with the original Oldport Association and followed in the 1960s by Operation Clapboard and a later Oldport group...all of which is a separate story.

These early successes led Miss Duke, a summer resident of Bellevue Avenue, to focus on the restoration movement, and in the winter of 1968, she established the Newport Restoration Foundation (NRF). With the purchase of over 80 historic houses and their subsequent restoration and rental as private residences, Miss Duke's heritage to Newport is visible on many of our narrow streets. For 12 years, George Weaver of Chestnut Street helped to run this ambitious undertaking.

Walking around the Point the past few weeks, you may have seen the yellow ribbons next to the bronze plaques and NRF signs on the Foundation houses...over 25 here on the Point. The ribbons were taken down the day after Miss Duke's 81st birthday on November 22.

Less known is the NRF museum which Miss Duke established in the Samuel Whitehorne House at the corner of Thames and Dennison Streets. This brick mansion of the Federal Period was restored to its 1811 appearance as a museum of 18th century Newport furnishings. When we speak of Newport furniture makers, this means the legendary cabinetmakers from the Point...the Townsends and the Goddards.

Fascinating before and after photos of all these NRF historic buildings tell the story of Miss Duke's vision and generosity of which we are reminded daily.

Kay O'Brien



THOUGHTS OF THE PAST

The Green Light presents a variety of items covering the past, present and future of our Point. Often recent events stir memories of the past as have the two recent obituaries of David Nemtzw, formerly of 41 Walnut Street, and of Elizabeth Morrissey, formerly of 53 Washington Street. David, one of the founders of the Point Association, was active on many fronts, but the trees planted after the destructive 1938 hurricane are his most visible legacy.

A story in the December 1985 issue of **The Green Light** tells of the busy Morrissey household on Washington Street. Mrs. Morrissey, a nurse and excellent cook, opened her large home to people recuperating from illnesses or surgery. During World War II defense workers and military personnel joined the group, within which a spirit of camaraderie soon developed.



Imported traditional country
lace of France

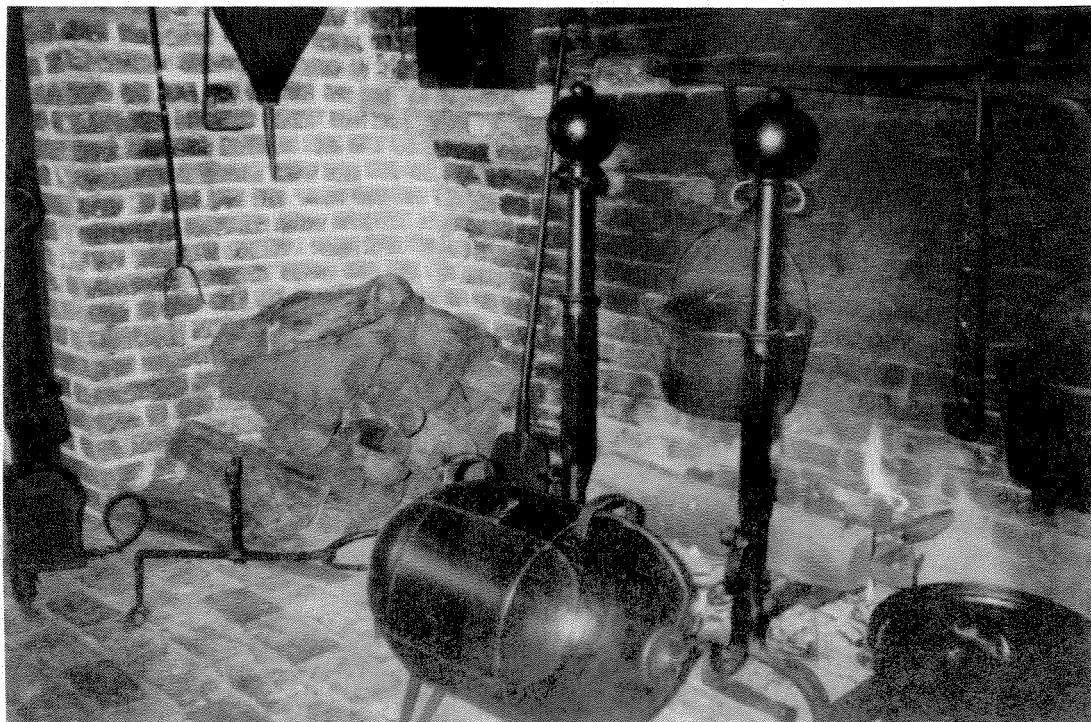
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Mon.-Sat. 10-5:30 Sun. 12-5:00

CHRISTMAS EVE AT THE JOB BENNETT HOUSE



In our last issue we told about the chimney on the Job Bennett house. Here is a story about one of the fireplaces that chimney serves.

The Job Bennett House (circa 1710) at 44 Thames Street was restored by Mrs. J.H.N. Potter of Jamestown and then given to a son. A few years ago we met Mr. Potter who told us about the "uncovering" of the kitchen fireplace. They knew that because of the age of the house there would have to be a large cooking fireplace but at the moment it seemed to be boarded up. They tore the boards away but found a small fireplace instead.

Knowing that this was not correct they decided to knock it down. Much to their dismay they found another fireplace which was just a little larger than the first!

With courage they decided to demolish the second one and finally found the original fireplace that had been hidden away for years!

Because the bricks were protected all these years, we have what I like to think of as 18th century smoke and soot on the bricks. However, we have always been disappointed that the beehive oven was demolished when central heating was installed and a chimney was needed in that spot.

When our family took over this home we decided to cook our Christmas Eve dinner on the fire in the room which is now our dining room. We feel that in this way we are sharing the holidays with the previous families who owned the house.

We use black iron pots which hang on hooks on the crane and they both hold a stew while the 18th century tin reflector cooks Cornish hens on its spit. I have previously marinated the hens in a raspberry herb marinade. Then the dutch oven is set on the ashes and cornbread is cooked in it.

The process takes most of the day as the fire must be started early so that it will be just right for cooking. Then there is a lot of stirring and basting and by the time all is ready, we can really appreciate how hard this part of 18th century life was.

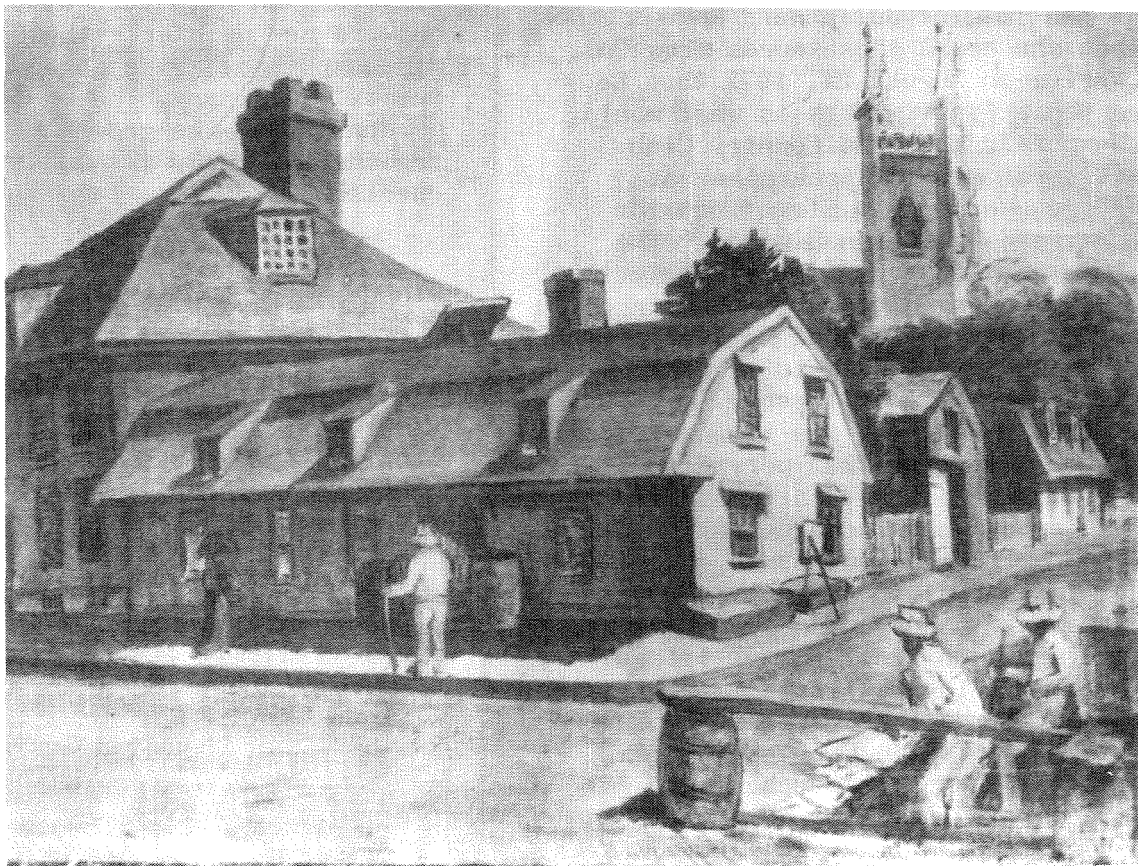
I serve an orange and grape salad with this but we try different desserts and have never settled on just the perfect one. By 8 p.m., when dinner is served, there are hearty appetites all around. We then toast the Bennett family for building this home which has given us so much joy!

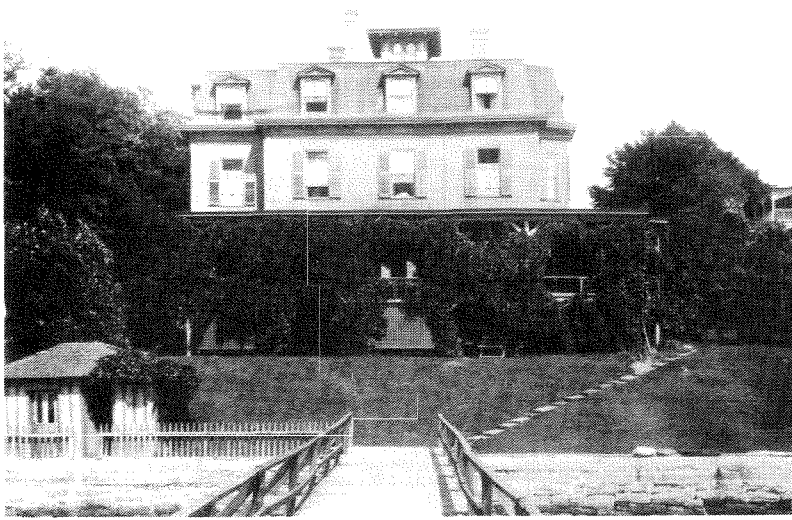
The recipes are not special but the flavor of the food is completely changed by cooking it on the wood fire.

Lois Dickison

THE JOB BENNETT HOUSE

This picture shows the corner of Thames and North Baptist Street as many of us remember it. This building was built in the late 1800s and was torn down in the mid-1960s and the lot is now Lois Dickison's garden. When it was torn down, it was hoped that the original building as shown in the photo below would be found inside but only the outline against the Job Bennett house was uncovered. Note the steeple of the Second Baptist Church at the corner of North Baptist and Farewell Streets in the background of the old picture. This church has disappeared from Newport's skyline.





A harborview of the family home of Rowan Howard and her parents, Admiral and Mrs. Belknap, while he was stationed here in the Navy. It stood across from the Nina Lynette Home and was one of the places in which the Town and Country Club met.

Every Aspect of the Creative Mind, and Nature, too...

"In every dining room there are two guests to be entertained: The body and the soul."

One can imagine Julia Ward Howe's smile when she heard those words from Col. George Waring on August 24, 1871 when he welcomed those first guests to what would become Newport's Town and Country Club.

That first meeting took place at "Bayside", on Washington Street, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Bigelow. The guest list was composed of the intellectual elite, then residing in Newport.

The Town and Country Club, initiated by Mrs. Howe, was intended to strengthen "the aristocracy of intelligence." It was the intellect's reply to the intensely materialistic ambience then pervading Newport's summer colony. In the years previous, Newport had had a delightful anti-bellum culture. Now though, there was a new industrial society composed of those with newly-made fortunes, people with, seemingly, no knowledge of literature, art and world politics.

That first meeting on Washington Street was conducted in Latin and Greek. Records reveal that the speeches were humorous. Col. Thomas Higginson spoke on "How to Sacrifice an Irish Bull to a Greek Goddess." Col. Waring lectured on "Small Potatoes" and "How to Enlarge the Eyes."

Mrs. James Parton gave a dissertation on "Rinosophy: Our Noses, and What to do With Them." Professor William Goodwin gave his listeners a Greek version of "The Man in the Moon."

The Town and Country was a success from its start. It would continue until 1898. There would be picnics, sailing, teas and soirees. Literary personages from distant cities were introduced to Newport's scenery and architecture. Alexander Aggasiz lectured on the sea and stars. John LaFarge, both artist and writer, spoke on freedom of expression. Col. Higginson lectured on the dangers of restraint in the arts brought about by a society which considered itself an aristocracy.

Many women of intellect and talent were included in the membership of the Town and Country Club. Kate Field, a resident of the Sanford-Covell House in those years, Helen Hunt Jackson and more were among the 50 members of this elite club. The dues were \$2.00 a year. The members met every 10 days and could bring as many guests as they wished.

It is encouraging today to stroll along Washington Street and think of those 19th century residents and their guests walking the same paths, deep in conversation with each other. The latest book, a new painter - these and more were discussed and, as we do today, mention of the extraordinary blue of the harbor, the garden there, the growth of a particular tree here. Then, as now, the Point was cherished.

Anita McAndrews

(Information for this article was taken from Virginia G. Covell's dissertation (Master of Arts) University of Rhode Island, 1964. Records of the Town and Country Club are also at the Newport Historical Society.)

BUCCI'S COMBINATION STORE

Liquor and Grocery

3 THAMES STREET

NEWPORT, R. I. 02840

ANTHONY BUCCI

PHONE: 847-0035

WALNUT STREET MARKET

OPENING MID-DECEMBER

This notice recently appearing in our neighborhood has brought many smiles. The new proprietors, Sandy Najmy and Michael Dwares of Farewell Street, are busy making plans. They own the Oyster Bar and Grille in Jamestown so already have a following as well as expertise. They plan to carry basic items plus specialties.

The deli will have meats, cheeses and their own salads. Fresh meats and chickens and produce will be offered, as well as their own freshly-prepared items.

You will once again be able to get your daily and Sunday papers nearby, plus tantalizing fresh breads.

The hours have not been set yet. Your needs will help them decide. Sandy and Mike are enthusiastic and eager to please, with many ideas in mind. We welcome them to the Point and they will be happy to welcome you as soon as their door is open.

Kay O'Brien

NOISE AND NUISANCE

The first meeting of the newly named Task Force for Noise and Nuisance was held in late November. This Newport City Council appointed task force has been assigned the task of recommending specific measures to improve Newport's quality of life as it relates to these issues.

The task force is expected to come up with both immediate recommendations as well as long term strategy to deal with these problems. Recommendations could include ordinance changes, city policy changes, increased enforcement measures, zoning measures, State level legislation changes as well as business self-policing measures.

The task force is made up of business owners/managers as well as members of the general public and neighborhood groups. Businesses represented include restaurants, bars, hotels, liquor stores and B&B's. Salve Regina University and three neighborhood groups are also represented. Several of the members are "just interested citizens."

Meetings will be announced by the local media and are open to the public. Let's hope that we can make a change for the better with constructive citizen input.

George Perry

BORN ON THE POINT

We are happy to note more young families on the Point, and congratulations to those with new babies. Remember we have "Born on the Point" certificates for you. Write for information to The Point Association. P.O. Box 491, Newport RI 02840, and we'll follow-up.



A Newport Shopping Tradition Since 1796

For nearly 200 years the Leys Store has been serving the families of Newport County and its many visitors with personal, friendly service. Leys features nationally known brands and its own selective merchandise. Be sure to stop in and visit our interesting store while in the Newport area.

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SPECIAL FLOWERS FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS

TELEPHONE 847-1111

Joseph P. T. Vars

I REMEMBER! I REMEMBER!

My cousin in California sent me an old copy of "The Green Light". I am a real Point Hummer as they used to call us and I enjoyed reading it. It really takes me back a long way. I am, or was, Mary Dennis and my family and I lived at 28 Marsh Street for years, then we moved to Third Street.

I do remember so much. I can go back to when I was a child. My father, the late Joe Dennis, who lived at 2 Third Street drove a horse and wagon to deliver laundry from King's Laundry on Washington Street. My grandpa, the late Charles Dennis, worked at the Old Colony. Joe Dennis, my dad, played the trumpet in the Newport Municipal Band and many times in the band concerts at Battery Park on weekends. Many times I stood outside the bandstand listening to the band.

Many times I would go swimming off Elm St. Pier in the summer. When the fleet came in the sailors used to row over and swim at the Pier also. Many nights in the early part of the evening my dad would sit on the bench and watch the swimmers.

I remember Langley's Ice Cream parlor and Westall's homemade ice cream. I ate so much on my way to Potter School.

My dad worked in later years at the Torpedo Station until he retired. He lost one leg from a fall.

I worked a while in the home of the late Peter King who had the well-known Boston Store, then I married a sailor, Paul Willis, who was stationed in the Dispensary at the Torpedo Station. He played football on the Point football team back in 1937-38.

I can remember so much and I am happy to do this because I just passed my 83rd birthday.

I have a half-brother, Joe Dennis, who lives on Marsh Street, and Jesse Dennis, who lives on Simmons Street (downtown), and Arthur at 53 Chapel Terrace.

I also remember some of the Vars girls, one I think was Grace Vars. If I heard their names they would come back to me.

My cousin, Gloria Goulet, has done some work with the Point fairs so she has kept me up on them. I haven't been to Newport since 1973. Mary Dennis Willis Maryland

THANK YOU, MARY! THANK YOU, FRIENDS OF THE WATERFRONT!

Hats off to Mary Ferrazzoli and Friends of the Waterfront! Thanks to a successful petition drive (with over 1000 registered voters' signatures) and support of Newport citizens, Mary and her Friends were able to achieve victory. Their goal, an ordinance of the Council No. 33-93, Chapter 1090: Waterfront Public Streets and Rights of Way, is finally in place.

For 11 years, Friends of the Waterfront (FOW) petitioned the Council and the Courts, citing public access laws to historic wharves and to the waterfront.

With the tenacity of FOW's bulldog emblem, Mary Ferrazzoli has always guided FOW to stick-to-its-position...its primary goal to protect our rights to public access to the waterfront.

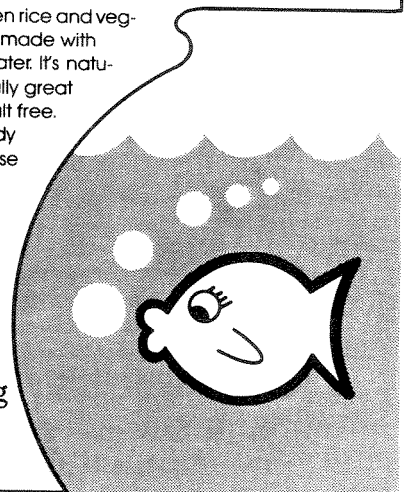
Thank you, Mary, and Friends of the Waterfront. Success is yours, and all of us thank you for serving Newport well!

Liz Bermender

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UNDER THE BAY

November brought to light some underwater activities off our shores when the Narragansett Bay Underwater Archaeology Project presented an overview of their 1993 research (all done by volunteer divers, scientists and support personnel) in a target area west of Newport, at the "Naval Diving and Shipwreck" symposium, hosted by The Naval War College. Open invitations to attend and learn some underwater history were offered to the public. Some underwater objects have surfaced and are on display in the War College's exhibit "Bottles from the Bay." These bottles were recovered from an area off Coasters Harbor Island where the old training ships were anchored in the late 1800s and early 20th century.

If you want to see what was above the water, check the exhibit of the historic training ships ported here in those early days which includes recruit uniforms, training equipment and weapons.

Another recently opened exhibit focuses on naval recruit training from those early days to the present professional schools at the Naval Education and Training Center. A visit to the War College Museum on Coasters Island is a great way to spend an extra hour or two. It is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and admission is free.

Kay O'Brien

BOOK REVIEW

In view of the current concern over development interests at Goat Island for a marine terminal, a good book for all locals to read about how developers think and work, about the impact large scale development can have on a community or a landscape, is titled "Going Home" by Ron Powers.

Available at the Redwood Library, this newly published book takes a close up look at the politics and economics of real estate and tourism development in two communities. The author interviewed many families in these communities who lamented, more than anything else, the loss of their way of life, but who also recognized the need for economic growth as essential to their future.

Anita Rafael

A REMINDER

With cold weather approaching, none of us will be out and about as often and will miss seeing each other. Let's try to remember to check on neighbors who might need a ride for groceries, errands, or help with snow removal...or just a chat.

Also Child and Family Services' ElderACCESS at 841-0709 is always available for a free consultation and connection service to help elders and caregivers find the resources they need.

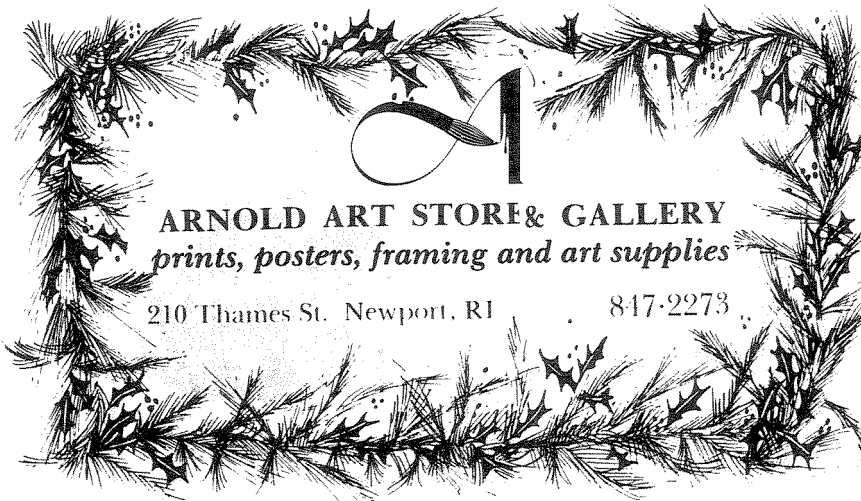
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GARDENER'S CORNER

For the November leaf collection I couldn't find leaf bags and they are too expensive.

Cramming them into big trash barrels is OK with the recycling people. As I drove around the Point on a Monday morning, I saw so few paper bags that I figured Yankee thrift is forcing us to be ecologically correct by composting in our yards.

A few hints follow. Mow before you rake. Leaves will break down faster and take up less space mixed with nitrogen-high grass clippings. Layer leaves with soil or half rotted compost. Make your heap so that it is dish-shaped to catch rain and snow. Take the trouble to add vegetable waste, especially coffee grounds and tea leaves. A few handfuls of garden fertilizer will help the process.

All our leaves will go to a farm in Portsmouth where they will be shredded, bags and all, and composted. Perhaps we'll be able to follow Jamestown's lead: the leaves are composted and citizens pick up loads of the resulting "dump dirt" for home garden use.

A NEW SIGHT

Have you bundled-up walkers seen some high posts appearing alongside the west seawall at Goat Island? During the summer months we've seen tents appear and disappear for clam bakes and special events. Now an open air pavilion is being erected which will eliminate the ups and downs of the tents. If you walk over, you can't smell clams, but you'll enjoy lots of fresh air and the view.

Kay O'Brien

How do I "put my garden to bed?"

Clean out all the weeds and cut down stems of perennials. Dig up around annual plants and potted plants for your compost heap. The rule is not to put diseased or seed bearing matter in the compost. I read that some gardeners put vegetable garden refuse in one pile and flowers in the other, then use vegetable for flowers and flowers for vegetables. Not for me, but I thought I should pass it on.

While you're doing all this, get rid of all slugs and snails that have found hiding places in your plants. Some people mulch with salt marsh hay to keep the ground from thawing in mid-winter but I take my chances as the mulch makes a nice home for slugs, as well as small mammals.

One last mowing and harsh raking of the lawn to prevent fungus and disease and it's done!

Last call for bulbs. They're better in the ground than in the shed.

Anne Reynolds

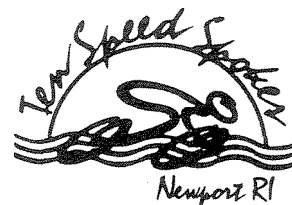


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LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Our cover photo in the last issue of the "Point Hummers" brought us some mail.

"When I looked at the cover of **The Green Light** for October 1993, my eyes did a double take. Standing on the left in the picture of six Point Hummers stands my dad, Henry Barker. My niece, Carol Huggins, who lives in Edina, Minnesota, has my sister Emily visiting her. I called Carol to have Emily check her Green Light cover. "She already has," Carol replied. "Emily was so excited she cried out, 'That's my father with the cap!'" So two sisters separated by many miles, both born on the Point, verified that indeed, Henry in his cap is included in the "Point Hummer Group." Sarah Plumb

"Perhaps I missed it but the identification of the men on the cover of the October 1993 **Green Light** is, right to left, Chester Thomas's father, Pat Hagerty, Harold Arnold, Jr., Ray Kelley, probably Mr. Larson, and the last unknown." Bowen F. Sweet

We also received a letter from Leo Du Tilly telling of how his wife, Julia, has lived on the Point for over 79 years and a few months except for the ten years she was in the Children's home with her sister and two brothers. He says, "Her grandfather, Brick Melvin, who lived on Cross Street, was getting too old to take care of four young children and had to put them in the home. Their mother, who died in 1910 at the age of only 31, was married to Joseph Lawrence." He asks, "Can anyone honestly say they have lived on the Point that many years?"

TREES

Members of Carol Marinnan's Beautification Committee met with Peter Simpson, Newport's tree warden, last week to make final choices for fall planting. Three Golden Honey Locusts have since been planted near the train station at Marsh Street and a Ginkho has been planted in memory of Donal O'Brien on Second Street. Several other trees will follow now that the rain has finally come.

Watch the site for Peter's proposal for Marsh Street in the next few weeks... or next spring...for, as we all know, the mills of Public Works grind slowly.

Anne Reynolds



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COOK'S CORNER

"Tis the season to be jolly" and also hospitable. This issue we will explore some party recipes for those moments, both planned and unplanned, when we need a snack for company.

Those of us who have enjoyed Lois Dickison's Cheese-Pesto Torte at the Association's New Members cocktail parties will be delighted to find that she has decided to share the recipe with us. For those who have not had this delicious cheese treat a memorable experience lies ahead.

CHEESE-PESTO TORTE

2 8-OZ. blocks of cream cheese
16 OZ. Mascarpone (Italian cream cheese)
1/2 LB. unsalted butter
PESTO

Cream mascarpone, cream cheese and butter until smooth. Soak a piece of cheesecloth in olive oil and line a bowl or mold with it. Layer cheese mixture and pesto alternately beginning and finishing with cheese. Chill overnight and then unmold and peel off cheesecloth.

Some other simple cream cheese recipes for when you have unexpected company include the following:

Top an 8 or 16 oz. block of cream cheese with either

1. A jar of red or black caviar
2. Green jalepeno jelly
3. Tiny drained canned shrimp mixed with seafood cocktail sauce.

Serve with a variety of crackers.

STUFFED MUSHROOMS

Mushrooms are naturally made good containers for canapes.

Fill mushroom caps with the following:

1. Escargot topped with garlic butter.
2. Seasoned bread crumbs moistened with melted butter or margarine and topped with a small piece of bacon and grated parmesan cheese.
3. Tiny bay scallops topped with bacon.
3. Softened cream cheese mixed with herbs and topped with a tiny shrimp.

Bake either in oven or microwave until done.

Another scrumptious dish is a warm clam dip for either crackers or vegetables made in the microwave oven.

CLAM DIP

2 slices bacon
1 8-oz. package cream cheese
1/4 c. finely chopped onion
2 TBSP. grated Parmesan cheese
2 TBSP. chili sauce
2 TBSP. milk
1/2 tsp. dried basil, crushed
1/4 tsp. garlic salt
1/8 tsp. pepper
1 7 1/2 oz. can minced clams, drained

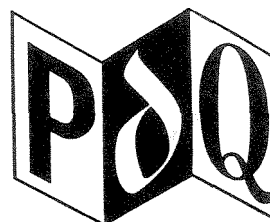
In a 1-qt. casserole place bacon slices between layers of paper toweling. Microwave until crisp, about 2 min. Remove bacon and toweling; crumble bacon and set aside. Place cream cheese in same casserole. Micro-wave, covered, until just softened, about 1 min. Blend in remaining ingredients except for clams and bacon. Stir drained clams into cheese mixture. Micro-wave, uncovered, until heated through, about 3 min., stirring after each minute. Stir in crumbled bacon. Serve warm. Makes 1 2/3 cups dip.

Florence Archambault



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Jesse Dennis

Mr. & Mrs. W. Fitzpatrick
Eleanor Gillen
Ed K. Gladding

Mrs. G. Carleton Hepting
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