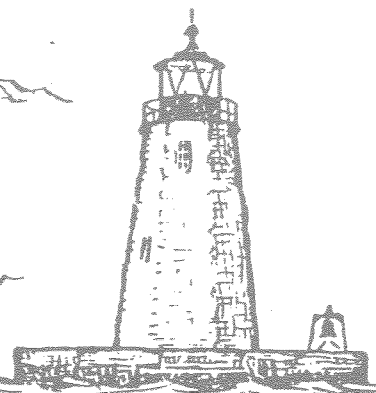


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# The GREEN LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION  
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

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JUNE 1993

Goat Island Light, Newport, R. I.





The GREEN LIGHT

XXXVIII No. 3 JUNE 1993

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Art work by Dorothy Sanschagrin

Photo credits:

Cover; Goat Island Light with the  
 "Priscilla" in the background, early 1900s  
 Page 7 & 13, Herb Rommel  
 Page 9, Liz Bermender  
 Page 10 & 11, Anita McAndrews

CALENDAR

- June 5 - Saturday - White Horse Tavern  
Day - noon to 3 p.m.
- June 11, 12, 13 - Secret Garden Tour
- June 14 - Week-long door-to-door  
membership drive
- June 23 - Point Picnic
- June 31 - "An English Village Fete" -  
St. John's Church Fair -  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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  - David Aguiar, 1st. V. President  
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GREEN LIGHT

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Copies of the Green Light may be purchased  
 for \$1.00 at Bucci's Convenience Store,  
 Poplar and Thames Streets; Aidinoff's  
 Liquor and Gourmet Shop, Warner Street;  
 Clipper Wine & Spirits, Third Street, and  
 the Walnut Street Market.

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The clean-up of Storer and Battery Parks to celebrate Earth Day occurred as planned. Thanks go to Gordon Armstrong, Elizabeth Bessette, Gabriel Bessette, Nancy Espersen, Carol Marinan, Jim Marinan, Tracy Marinan, Ken Moldow, Phil Mosher, Roe O'Brien, Anne Reynolds and Tim Zimmerman. They did the work of hundreds. While we know people on the Point take time to keep their neighborhood clean on a continuous basis, doing a clean-up at a specified time allows a sense of community that we should not overlook. We will be scheduling another clean-up in the fall and hope that many more people will attend and help out.

As has been mentioned before, Island Development Corporation is considering a project to build a pier off the west side of Goat Island to dock cruise ships. As the plan stands now, the dock will extend approximately 300 feet out into the bay towards Jamestown. The length of the structure would be at least 200 feet with groups of pilings extending north and south well beyond the 200 feet. Once people are on Goat Island, they would be greeted by an area of shops that could be leased by local dealers and also by franchise stores such as Ralph Lauren.

Transportation off the island would be by water taxi to Bowen's Wharf or by trolleys over the causeway to the Gateway Center. There has been no formal application as yet as the pier could still be at another site such as Coddington Cove. At the very least, the Point Association Board is keeping close communication with Mr. Bruce Cotta, vice-president of Island Development. We need to hear directly from you in order to represent our membership. It would be best to write to the Board at P.O. Box 491. Some people have already written, and we find their points extremely valuable.

The "Day on the Point" has been scheduled for August 21. The theme of the day will be "The Point--By Land or by Sea." We will have both boat tours and walking tours throughout the day. Consistent with the "Day on the Point" and "Oldport Days" of the 50s and 60s, we will be able to share the beauty of "Newport's only waterfront residential neighborhood" (*Providence Journal*, July, 1960). The activities of the day will include our bake sale, pie baking contest, box lunches, etc. Look for more details in the August **Green Light**.

Finally we hope you can share in our June events at the White Horse Tavern and our annual Point picnic. See you there!

*Christine Montanaro*

## SPRING MEMBERSHIP MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Point Association held the spring membership meeting on April 29th at St. Paul's Church.

### **POINT ASSOCIATION PICNIC**

Wednesday, June 23rd  
6:00 p.m.  
Anne Reynolds' Yard  
88 Washington Street  
Rain Date - June 30th

Come join the fun  
with your friends and neighbors

Bring a picnic supper  
and folding chairs or a  
blanket to sit upon

Coffee will be provided

-----  
Anita Raphael and Rowan Howard are the newly appointed historians for the Point Association. They plan to research and catalog Point-related memorabilia and develop a working archive which will include past issues of **The Green Light**. They are looking for donations of relevant historical items such as photographs and articles. To support this project, the Point Association will hold a fund raiser at the White Horse Tavern on June 5.

-----  
Peter Simpson, Newport's Tree Warden, discussed the declining health of the Liberty Tree and reviewed plans to preserve this landmark with support from the Point Association. Mr. Simpson also described his plan for managing and maintaining Newport's collection of rare and special species of trees. The Point Association will match the city with three trees along Marsh Street and three more at another street location.

-----  
The Point Picnic will be held in Anne Reynolds' yard on June 23. Everyone should bring their own picnic and invite others.

Terry Gavan

### POINT ASSOCIATION FUNDRAISER

**REPAST & REMEMBRANCE**, is the title of a special gathering and exhibit to be held June 5th at the White Horse Tavern. Celebrating White Horse Tavern Day, 306 years since the first tavern license was issued to innkeeper William Mayes, and commemorating the history of the Point Association, the exhibit will draw from photos and publicity kept in the Point Association scrapbooks.

The history of the Point neighborhood is now also in a larger sense the history of the Point Association itself. The exhibit will give newcomers to the organization a chance to review the contributions of many Point Association members to the neighborhood since 1955. Past members can enjoy the reminiscences of the "good old days."

Over punchbowls and platters of special luncheon hors d'oeuvres, guests of the White Horse and members of the Point Association can share in the long and colorful history of the historic neighborhood and the historic tavern itself. **The event will run from noon until 3 p.m.**

Newcomers will receive instant membership to the Point Association as well. The cost is \$20, \$14 of which is tax deductible and proceeds will benefit the Point Association.

Anita Raphael

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to **George Gillis** and **Janice Kelly Gillis** who recently became members of the Point Association. It was a pleasure meeting them at the April General Membership Meeting!

The neighborhood membership drive will be the week of June 14th. What a great way to meet our neighbors as we go door-to-door handing out information about the Point Association and inviting them to attend the Point picnic June 23rd.

Materials and maps showing the areas that need to be covered will be available at my home at 16 Battery Street. So, when you are out for your daily walk, take along some brochures to leave along the way. Call me at 846-2907 to let me know when you can help out.

Nancy Espersen  
Membership Chairperson

## POINT PLANT SALE

We were blessed with a perfect day. The Pointers were there in force - and much of Newport besides. The lines bearing away plants formed before nine - and, something new - continued all morning. We did not...we could not close at twelve.

Helping were Susan Bowen, Lois Dickison, Ilsa Nesbit, Beth Graham, David and Melanie Aguiar, Lois and Sara Kessler, Joan and Douglas Stickley and a newcomer to our midst, Joan Wilson, who pitched right in. There is bound to be a lovely spirit around anything at the McAndrews' with Anita, always the gracious hostess, and the work of Shawn, now serving on the H.M.S. Rose.

I wish there could be a movie of the arrival of the vans loaded with glorious blooming things. One was piloted by William Reardon, with donations from his and Sheila's friends. The other from "Berry Hill" and our constant friend, Bruce Howe. We were so happy to have him drop by. He loves his plants and he could be assured they stood just as straight and tall and that the big gates secured them. Please consider how much these two huge givings help us!

Peggy Vranesh stopped by my house twice with plants. Woodruff, delphiniums, iris - all snapped up at once. Some good man left the hybrid roselike impatiens... thank you, sir. Flower pots came just when they were needed and Rose Favier gave pumpkin bread. Perhaps the pages of The Green Light could be filled with the kind thoughts of Pointers and friends throughout Newport.

Our delightful little president, Christine Montanaro, came, and herself returned at twelve to bear away the gold, putting her finger to her lips as elves do. Someone must ask what the sum was.

Thanks to all who came to the Plant Sale. We had a fine time, I think. I know I love you all.

Rosalys H. Hall

## AN APOLOGY

I tried to get in touch with all those who said they wanted to help with the Point Plant sale, and I failed. My apologies. Please pound on any doors that appear to be locked -- we want you in. There is a long time between our Annual meeting and spring. As with the earth, it is mostly waiting. Pot the things up! Be ready! Everything happens, everything is to be done, all of a sudden.

Rosalys H. Hall

## THE SECRET GARDEN TOUR

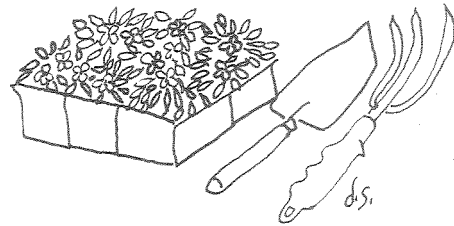
Once again the Benefactors of the Arts will hold its Secret Garden Tour on June 11, 12 and 13. Every year this event draws thousands of people for a garden weekend. Last year 2000 tickets were sold. The phone rings continuously, so who can guess how many this year?

The founders of the tour were inspired by Boston's Secret Garden Tour which has a Flower Festival. Last year Newport had its first Flower Festival at St. John's Church on Washington Street. Its designer, John Cinque Mars, will again coordinate this attractive addition which is free to ticket holders for the tour.

There will be box lunches (advanced registrations only) for \$10 and a plant sale at the Hunter House meeting field.

All this activity needs many volunteers. It's fun...and volunteers tour free! Call 847-0514 to make reservations or to volunteer.

Anne Reynolds



## GARDENS-IN-THE-NEWS

The Boston Sunday Globe of May 9th had a special report of the forth-coming Secret Gardens Tour. Color photographs showed the gardens at the Hunter House and at Old Nat's house on Second Street.

Myra Duvalley, president of the sponsoring Benefactors of the Arts, describes the tour and the variety of the gardens. Anne Reynolds is noted as the designer of several of the gardens on the tour. She says her own garden is not "secret", for she aims for "something that's visible from the street, and welcoming to people coming by."

The June issue of Rhode Island Monthly has a Secret Gardens article with color photographs of the gardens of Lynn and Maurice de La Valette and of Susan Bowen and Jon Powers, both on Second Street, and of Richard and Toni Peters on Washington Street. Kit Hammett

## MEET ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Anita Raphael, co-chairperson of the Historical Committee, has lived in Newport since 1977. She summered here as a child, and remembers childhood impressions of the Navy town, beautiful beaches and the beauty of the island.

She is the daughter and granddaughter of artists from whom she gained an appreciation of the beauty and craftsmanship of Newport's architecture. She has a degree in architectural history and art history from the University of Connecticut, and has traveled in Europe, Greece, Turkey and Central and South America.

After working as a guide for the Preservation Society, and volunteering in many cultural activities in Newport, she combined her love of travel and her experience as a tourist with her interest in Colonial architecture to found "Newport on Foot" walking tours in 1990.

Anita designed a program of teaching and learning to be a short course in above-archeology. She says this is more than just telling stories about the old streets and houses...it is teaching people to see what they are looking at in order to understand the importance of our connections with the past.

Besides her tours, she is curator of the White Horse tavern, and has developed the June 5th White Horse Tavern Day, with an exhibition of pages from the Point Association's history.

She tells us she loves to garden, and also dabbles in photography, drawing, knitting and quilting.

Rowan Howard, the other chairperson of the Historical Committee, is a long-time active member of Point Association groups. She has served as chairperson of the membership and nominating committees and as recording and corresponding secretary of the Board.



She is a "Born-on-the-Pointer", and grew up in a Washington Street home during a period when her father, Admiral Reginald Belknap, was serving in the navy. After the family moved to Connecticut in 1928, they summered here on Washington Street. In the 1950s, she, and her husband, John Howard, lived in Newport while John was on naval duty. Since 1977, they have lived on Second Street. She serves on several boards, including the Swinburne School, The Newport Historical Society, Whitehall, The Preservation Society and The Brick Market Foundation.

We welcome her back to an active Point Association post.  
Kit Hammett

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### NEWCOMERS TO THE POINT

Jeff and Heidi Cipolla  
10 North Baptist Street

Patrick and Maureen Toohy  
4 Pine Street

George and Janice Gillis  
54 Third Street

have been welcomed to the Point by Gail Gunning. Please call Gail at 849-0812 if you know of someone moving in. She'll be happy to stop by for a visit.

As most of the residents of the city are aware, the Council is reviewing the upcoming budget, trying to figure out how to minimize the impact of increased taxes with the hugh cuts proposed on the school side of our ledger. Because the state, city and school departments are required to submit a budget by a certain date, we are dealing with three entirely different scenarios, adding to everyone's uneasiness about the tax impact. It is important, now than ever, that you voice your opinions... not only to me, but to my fellow Council members as well.

In terms of your neighborhood, the Traffic Committee is looking at a resolution to the problems related to the extension of Pine Street near Battery Park. The most feasible option appears to be no parking after dark.

The Long Wharf Improvement Project should be completed by the end of June. This will include new sidewalks, benches and shrubby and some road improvements.

The proposed Science Center is still in the process of raising capital before it can move forward.

On a more positive note, the Preservation Society has increased their contribution to the city from \$15,000 a year to \$50,000 a year. I have received many compliments for our Tree Warden Peter Simpson. Peter worked out an arrangement with Newport Electric to establish a small city nursery on their property. This should impact positively on his program and the city in years to come.

When Point residents begin toiling in their gardens, it's a sure sign summer is around the corner.

Jeanne-Marie Napolitano  
Councilwoman, 1st Ward

**REMEMBER!**

**A DAY ON THE POINT**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 21**

**LETTER TO THE EDITORS:**

Child and Family Services appreciates the article on our new consultation and referral service for elders and caregivers which appeared in the last issue of the "Green Light". I had no idea what a far-reaching readership you have! An out-of-state caregiver called about in-home services and housing alternatives for her relative who was soon to be discharged from the hospital. At the end of the telephone consultation I inquired how she had heard of ElderACCESS and she replied, "I read about it in the Green Light."

Older Point residents and their families, who need assistance or advice, can call ElderACCESS at 841-0709, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Carol Cummins



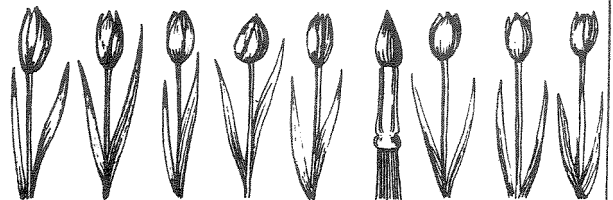
The seawall at Hunter House

The city is negotiating with the Preservation Society to share in the cost of repairing the seawall at Hunter House. We hope this project will move forward this summer when the funding issue is resolved.

Many changes come about in tough economic times and now is no exception. It is important we all become involved in Newport's future and retain our neighborhoods by working toward goals that will complement our economy.

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## THE ISLE OF SKIATHOS

The plane skimmed low over the Aegean, silvery gray in the early morning light. Looking out the port window as we came in for a landing, I recognized the gleaming white house with bright red geraniums at the door. With its balcony perched high above the rocks, this was Mathinos house where my father's family had lived, building boats in the shop on the inlet below. I smiled. Now I was finally finding my roots...my ties to this small Greek island of Skiathos.

The ties to Newport are great with this island in northern Greece. Along with many others, my relatives started emigrating to Newport in the late 1800s, living on Long Wharf (when it was a long wharf!) and working as lobstermen and fishermen. My grandfather, John Mathinos, was a boatbuilder with a shop on Spring Wharf; Ernest, my father, and John, my brother, continued the boatbuilding trade on Long Wharf and later at Hamnett's/Commercial Wharf. Many boats were built and repaired using the skilled craftsmanship; learned and practiced for centuries on Skiathos. (The "Maureen", built for J.T. O'Connell in the 1950s, is still used as a fishing boat out of Gloucester.)

Today, the Greek community in Newport retains close connections with their relations in Skiathos. There is even a Skiathos Club here. One of its community efforts is to provide a scholarship to an outstanding student of Skiathos descent.

Now we were about to land on this very beautiful May day. Earlier, we had boarded a small Olympic Airlines plane in Athens. Flying to the islands is an experience! You board, strap in, and take off, quickly and informally. As the plane slowly rises over Athens, the Acropolis below looks like a tiny desk ornament, vibrant in the soft morning light, with Euboa and the Aegean Sea dazzlingly beautiful beyond.

Landing in Skiathos was rough and as informal as the takeoff. Out the door, into the terminal, out to the taxis. Our bags were grabbed by a driver who said, "Where to?" in very good English. When I told him "21 Konialidou", he shrugged, saying he had no idea where it was, but he would find out. We piled in and the taxi hurtled through the narrow streets, pulling up in front of the taxi stand on the

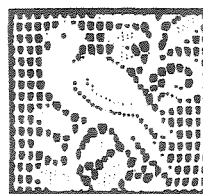
waterfront. Rapid Greek and gestures didn't get him an answer, so we were off again to the Mathinou Travel Agency. Finally with directions, our driver was friendly and talkative. "Onassis Row" was his definition of where we were going, as fast as he could drive through streets barely wide enough for the taxi. Taxi rides in Greece are always memorable!

Slowing down in a small square next to the church, I saw Chariglia, my mother's friend, waiting for us, to show us how to find our way down the winding walkways. We had to walk the last short distance; fortunately it was downhill all the way. Whitewashed houses, brilliant with red and orange and yellow flowers spilling over balconies, beside entrance ways and glimpsed through patio gates... What a colorful village!

We reached our destination at last. The entrance to the courtyard was a tall, wrought-iron gate. Using the large, old-fashioned key, after a few tries we were inside. Large terra cotta amphora used to hold the oil from the pressed olives stood on either side of a bed of daisies; geraniums flowered next to the iron-grill doorway to the house.

We paused to look out over the Aegean. With several small islands in the distance and brightly painted boats bobbing on the turquoise water below it was a most spectacular view, bathed in that light...that lucid Greek light. It was a special moment for my daughter and me. We had arrived.

Liz Mathinos Bermender



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## FLAGS ON THE POINT

Visitors and newcomers to the Point often comment on the number of flags that are flown in the neighborhood. What a colorful display as one walks around the area. Flag Day, June 14, commemorates the adoption in 1777 of the official United States flag. But as recent walks have proven, everyday is flag day here on the Point.

The most popular flag seems to be "Old Glory" in its 50-star version. But there are other United States flags being flown, such as 13-star versions in both "Betsy Ross" (stars in a circle) and navy (stars in a row) patterns. The "Star Spangled Banner", with its 15 stars and 15 stripes is represented. The display of historic flags continues with "Grand Union" (Union Jack rather than stars on red and white stripes) and a British Red Ensign (Union Jack on red).

Ties to the Navy are well represented in other historical flags such as the rattlesnake (Don't Tread on Me) and Commodore Perry's DON'T GIVE UP THE SHIP.

The familiar stars, anchor and Hope of the Rhode Island State flag was flying as were flags representing France, Greece, Sweden, Scotland and the United Kingdom. Finally the flag of the Episcopal Church and an unidentified three-color jack were seen.

No celebration flags or banners were out recently, but at special occasions, such as Christmas, they are indeed popular.

As the summer season comes upon us it will be prime time for flying and observing more flags and banners on the Point.

Nancy Espersen

Note: Skiathos is a small village with a population around 3800. Noted for its beautiful beaches, said to be the best in Greece, especially Koukounaries where you can shelter under pine trees, the island has an influx of 80,000 tourists each summer mainly from Germany and England. With a charming waterfront where you can relax at the outdoor tavernas while watching the evening "stroll" along the water, the sights and sounds reminded me of Newport. Comparing "tourist stories" with our new friends was entertaining. Two islands so far apart with the same experiences!

## AN UPDATE ON THE CENACLE

Star of the Sea has obtained an option on the property at 21 Battery Street, formerly "the Cenacle," a Retreat House with happy childhood memories for many older Newporters. The buildings are in urgent need of repair and we will spend the next months working on an architectural and financial package to help transform the historic buildings into a cooperative community of elders.

Combining shared ownership of the common areas with exclusive rights to one's own room or suite, elders will retain personal privacy and independence in a safe center under one roof.

We are grateful for the generous help that the Point Association gave us last year. It enabled us to go through the difficult early stages of the work. The "Save the Cenacle" program will preserve a favorite landmark on the Point, for the benefit of the whole neighborhood, while also putting it on the tax roll of the city of Newport.

Ade Bethune, President  
Star of the Sea Nonprofit Corp.



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of your newest  
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## THE SIX MARIAS...AND MANY MORE

It was just two years ago that we made our first visit to the highlands of Guatemala and decided to fund a literacy program for those members of the new Bancos Comunales (community banks for women) who could not read or write in Spanish, the language of their country, as detailed in the December 1990 issue of The Green Light.

There are hundreds of indian dialects spoken in Guatemala, and often one indigenous people does not understand another. In isolated villages shut away from the outer world - language and customs are pridefully maintained. The fact of being Quiche or Cakiquichel is far more important than being Guatemalan. The age-old dislike and mistrust of anything or anyone Spanish has added to the isolation.

Today, the outside world infringes. Expensive land, complicated real estate laws, and the sale of produce, not traded as before, leads to the victimization of these people. Two years ago we watched women who could only sign their names with a blurred thumbprint.

For two years now, every month, twice a week, a teacher from Guatemala City visits these villages: Santa Maria de Jesus, San Juan Alotenango and San Juan Sacatepequez. We met first with the women in Santa Maria de Jesus. Our rapport was good because we were women and mothers.

"We want to go to class, but we have no time," said one woman.

We understood. They rise at 3 a.m. to grind corn for tortillas, then accompany their men to the cutting fields of corn, cane or coffee. They walk long rough miles, often barefoot, accompanied by their children and... sometimes the newest baby on their back. Time must be made to cook three meals and do other household tasks including weaving clothing for the family and the market place.

No time to study without child care. Perhaps some kind of day care could be provided. This was a new idea, and difficult for the older women to accept. Their children...their treasures...are never left to another's care.

One young woman understood and her eyes brightened. We suggested trained child care personnel from the city and perhaps the children could be taught also? It was an idea we would all discuss later. Privately, we were concerned about the lack of space. Classes were held in one

room homes with dirt floors and little furnishings...as well as no electricity or plumbing plus many interruptions.

The next village had a more severe problem...the shortage of water. It is spring in Guatemala and the trees and flowers bloom like miracles in the clouds of choking dust. There is no rain. Cisterns are a lesson still to be learned. One well to a village, and if that well is dry or the pipes broken, there is no water for weeks. Often, before dawn, the women, or children, walk miles to another village and stand in line, waiting to fill their pilotas with water. A one-gallon jug is carried on the head; both hands hold the other jugs. It is back-breaking labor, especially for small children. Water is good business, too. It is sold privately; 10 cents for one pilota, and, this one gallon must last three days.

The countryside is dry and littered with discarded plastic pilotas. Dust chokes the lungs and reddens the eyes. You can't cook or care for children without water. As Rigoberta Menchu wrote in her biography: "People say the indians are dirty; they are dirty because they cannot wash."



Anita McAndrews and the six Marias

Despite a multitude of problems we witnessed a new pride and more smiles. In all three villages, we received letters written by individual women. Many proudly showed us how they wrote their names. In the last village the older women were out in the fields but we were welcomed by six smiling girls...las seis Marias, the six Marias. Each of them wrote her name for us and, with the crayons we had brought, they

drew flowers and birds. Too young to be burdened with babies, these girls were excited about their classes. They have no time for regular school, but with their parents' permission, they attend the twice a week reading and writing classes.

Later we met their teacher, a woman with the patience to take the bus up the mountain twice a week after her regular teaching. She had few materials to work with, she said. We promised we would send more. She was enthusiastic about the child care idea, suggesting one woman from each village be trained for the job with the pay coming from the community banks.

The six Marias - we cannot forget them. They are the future of Guatemala. They are their people's future. Their weaving is a superb art, not to be undervalued; their ancient culture will be preserved proudly, in their own writing.

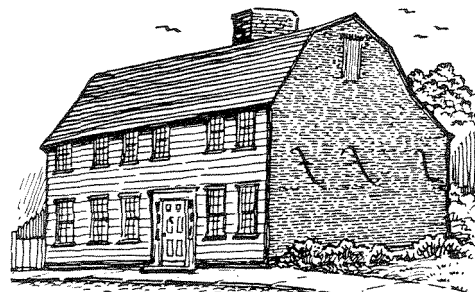
We cannot promise the miracle of water, but we did promise those extra pencils, another ream of paper, and books now, because those six Marias, like their sisters on the other side of the mountain, are learning to read. These are empowered women, creating new identities, signing their names now. They are more than a blurred thumbprint. They know who they are...where they are going.



Due to the difficulty of mailing packages to Guatemala, only financial contributions for the Guatemalan Literacy Fund will be accepted. Checks should be made out to FAFIDESS, and mailed to Anita McAndrews, 101 Washington St., Newport RI 02840.

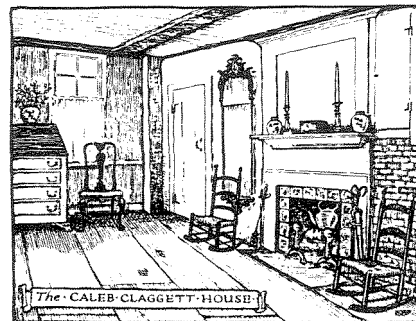
Anita McAndrews

## WE REMEMBER ESTHER BATES



*The Caleb Claggett House*

Old-time Pointers were saddened to learn of the death of Esther Morton Bates in Wellesley, Massachusetts on March 29 at the age of 93. Esther moved to Newport in 1959, and lived in the Caleb Claggett House, a 17th century building on Elm Street, which she restored, doing much of the work herself. She was a part of the early restoration efforts on the Point. An active member of the Point Association, she served as the editor of **The Green Light**. Her daughter, Sally Gilman, remembers that she was frequently asked to help, particularly in the folding, mailing stage. During her Newport days Mrs. Bates played cello in the Harbor String Quartet which met at the McLeod home at 78 Washington Street.



## CAMP GIBBS

The *Newport Daily News* of July 9, 1894 tells us that on the next day (Tuesday) 170 High School Cadets from Southern Massachusetts were due to disembark from the 11:05 a.m. train. They were to come from New Bedford, Fall River, Brockton, and Taunton for their annual encampment at Camp Gibbs.

Camp Gibbs was located on the Point in a large open field of the Maitland place on Second Street directly opposite the training ships. It was an ideal spot with the blue waters of the bay in front and the cool shade of Maitland Grove to the rear of the camp. It was also in easy walking distance of downtown Newport. The camp was named for Major T. K. Gibbs, a native Newporter and veteran of the Civil War.

When the boys arrived they marched to the camp taking a route along Bridge, Third, Battery and Second Streets. Tents had been pitched the day before by an advance contingent. Two tents were set aside as mess tents with an adjacent commissary tent. All the food except for the meat was prepared there. Caterer D.J. McGowan of Newport supplied the provisions.

That evening the boys were treated to a dress parade by the Newport Artillery Company and afterwards the Artillery escorted the cadets in their own parade which included a police contingent, the Newport Band, and a Naval Torpedo Station Reserve Company through the streets of Newport. They traveled down Second to Washington, up Long Wharf to Thames, over Young and Bowery to Bellevue Avenue, down Touro to Thames and back over the Walnut Street bridge to the camp.

That the cadets were welcome in Newport was shown by the display of red fire, fireworks and applause along the parade route. Throngs of people whose homes were not on the route lined the streets to welcome the cadets to Newport.

Further accounts detail the movements of the cadets as they marched to the Training Station and visited the two training ships. They also visited Fort Adams.

A typical day began with a drummer's call at 5:50 a.m. and reveille at 6. Both morning and afternoon were taken up with guard mounts and drills. Breakfast was at 7 a.m., dinner at noon, supper at 6:15 and taps were sounded at 10:30 p.m.

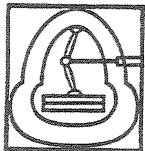
They were having such a good time that it was decided to postpone their departure back to Massachusetts from Friday to Saturday.

On Friday the caterer served them a fine shore dinner. A number of Newport citizens also had dinner at the camp. In the afternoon the boys enjoyed refreshments sent by Major Gibbs and the Taunton Company left on the 5:20 p.m. train.

That evening the less bashful of the remaining cadets brushed up their uniforms, put on clean gloves and visited the Ocean House where they quietly enjoyed the entertainment and dancing provided by Manager Leland. They left Newport on Saturday on the 2:55 p.m. train.

A search of Newport maps does not show where Maitland grove was. It must have been adjacent to the shoreline. Anyone have an ideas or information? Also, what was red fire?

Florence Archambault



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*Alexander Nesbitt Ilse Buchert Nesbitt*  
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## TEN SPEED SPOKES IN NEW HANDS

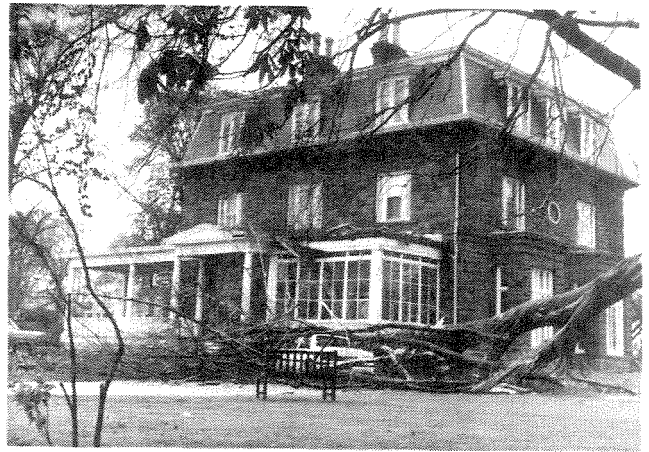
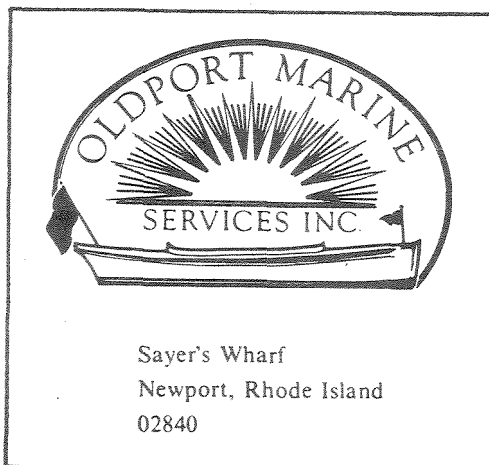
George and Beth Simone are the new owners and managers of Ten Speed Spokes on Elm Street at America's Cup Avenue. They are continuing the expertise of the former owners in the assembling of new bicycles, and in sales, repairs and services, including rentals. They continue to sponsor special bicycling events. **The Green Light** has reported some of these in past years.

George has been in the bicycling business for 20 years. He was on the staff of Ten Speed Spokes in 1983. He and his wife lived in Newport, and dreamed of returning. Now they have come back and live in Middletown with a son and a daughter of pre-school age. George has also worked with bicycles in Washington, D.C. and in Connecticut.

Beth is an editor for Productivity Press, publishers of material on business management. She has an office in the Elm Street building. She is also involved in the business management of Ten Speed Spokes.

They are, naturally, bicycling enthusiasts, and maintain that Aquidneck Island offers good opportunities in cycling to enjoy the beauty of the countryside, and the many homes and other buildings of the Colonial, Victorian and present-day architecture. They say bicycling offers unparalleled chances to "go slow, stop and look, to see small details." They are concerned with teaching bicycle safety, and are interested in community projects such as donating their used rental bikes to New Visions last Christmas.

Kit Hamnett



Another beech tree tragedy on Washington Street. This one at Stella Maris.

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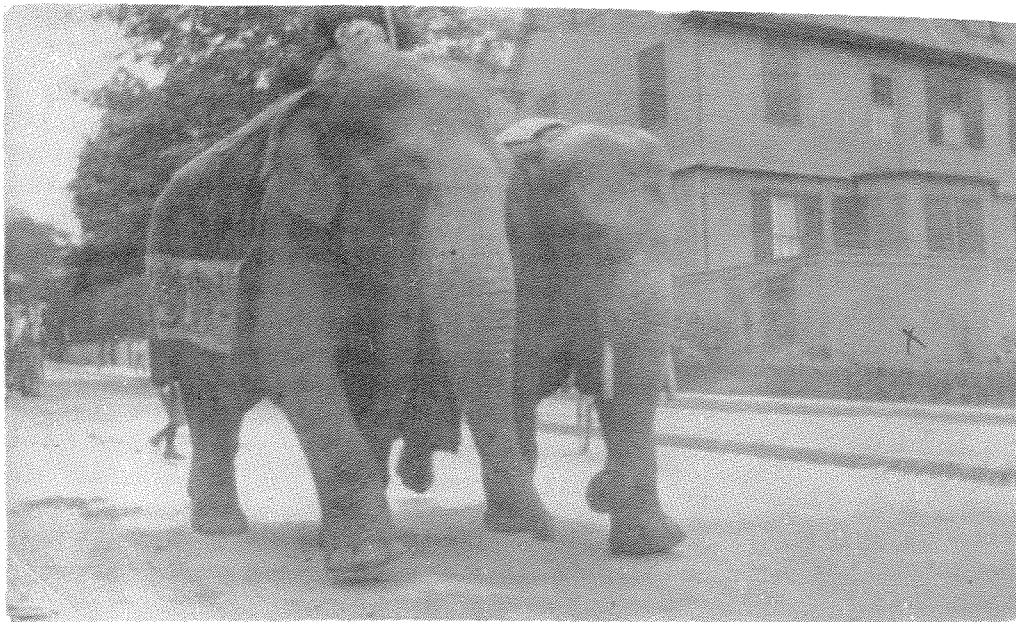
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## HISTORY ON POST CARDS

We are still looking for post cards of the Point. There is so much history pictured on them that does not appear anywhere else, so if you have some unusual ones, please contact me.

Florence Archambault  
846-9024

This card is a good example of a real photo card and shows a circus elephant parading down Mann Avenue. I'm sure there are many Pointers who remember when the circus came to town and the circus train was unloaded at the station here. An article in the Fall 1991 Newport Historical Bulletin tells us that we can add to Newport's list of "firsts" that America's first native-born circus performer came from Newport. "In 1774 Christopher H. Gardner astounded Newporters by performing feats of skilled horsemanship. The show was presented in an outdoor enclosure called a "manage" which was located in the northeast part of the city.....The Circus Historical Society now recognizes him as being America's first circus performer."



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## GARDENER'S CORNER

Here are some more questions concerning your gardens.

**Q. I like timber edging - in your opinion do you think it adds or detracts from the looks of a garden?**

**A.** I prefer stone or brick because the texture and scale are easier to control and I'm not a fan of geometrical symmetry, but that's personal -- remember, you asked. Timbers are great stacked for raised beds or retaining walls and mowing strips. The long-run expense is high in our wet climate. The wood rots and may be eaten by termites and other worrisome gnawers. Pressure-treated wood is said to last but is made with a deadly poison that could end up in your salad.

**Q. Gladiolas are a wonderful flower for mid-summer. Unfortunately my planting area is in partial shade. Will mixed Glads thrive in partial shade?**

**A.** All I know about gladiolas is thrips and scab--trouble. Orchids are easier. Growing them in the shade seems tantamount to disaster. If you must, work on the soil. Make it soft and free of tree roots. Sometimes the only sun is on a terrace. Why not try growing them in a container with other flowers or leafy plants?

**Q. My Gardenia has little white flies. Help!**

**A.** White fly can be eliminated with soap and water. Spray your plant with lots of water. Then wash it gently with Dawn dish detergent. Only Dawn will do. Leave it on for a few minutes, then wash it off. The water treatment is usually enough outdoors but you can use a hose attachment to spray Dawn. This treatment works with spider mites as well. Spray a strong stream of water and catch the underside of the leaves.

Questions regarding gardens are always welcome.  
Anne Reynolds

## I REMEMBER! I REMEMBER!

### THE POINT AS PLAYGROUND

On the corner of Chestnut and Washington, opposite the Abois' house, was an empty lot. In the spring and early summer, it was one of our favorite playgrounds. When I say "our," I mean little girls who lived on the Point. Cherry blossoms, apple blossoms, lilacs, flowers gone wild softened the overgrown play area.

There was a pond rimmed in slate, a stone bench and other remnants of a formal garden. The wonderful trees with their low branches and weathered shapes, with their scents and their petals were an important part of our play.

We would gather petals to serve at our imaginary "tea parties." Each girl would have a "home," an area of the lot. My favorite was the pond--the dark, smooth bark of the cherry tree, interesting shape of the tree limbs loaded with delicate blossoms hanging low over the stonework of the pond created the most beautiful "living room." My visual memory of this natural "playhouse" is vivid to this day! Our lively imaginations, natural "toys"--blossoms, leaves, ferns and berries, and our "let's pretend" in this lovely landscape, created a new game every day.

I remember how disappointed I was when I saw the "real" house being built there, although I believe the cherry tree still blossoms to this day!

Liz Bermender

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## POINTER-IN-THE-NEWS

Sophia Pendegast, of the Walnut Street Market, and former program chairperson of the Point Association, has been in local and state news many times since May of 1985. It was at the time that the Pendegast's small daughter, Vanessa, was killed in a school bus accident in Middletown.

A sad and harrowing experience campaigning for improved legal action for school bus safety has been recognized in an article in the June issue of **Family Circle** magazine. It is included in the series "Women Who Made a Difference" and is titled "Danger Zone".

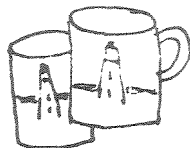
The story tells of the vigorous campaign waged by Sophia and another concerned mother, Winifred Kathleen Brady, to get positive action from the Middletown School Department, and to get local and state legislatures to pass laws dealing with school bus safety. This resulted in the first school bus monitors being placed on the Middletown school buses in September of 1985.

State action on laws for increased school bus safety came the next school year in 1986. Since that time, there have been **NO** school-bus-related deaths or serious injuries in Rhode Island.

Accomplishment was not easy. There was resistance because of costs from school authorities and bus operators. However, there was help from the American Automobile Association (AAA), and from parents, relatives, friends and concerned citizens. More than 2,000 people were organized in networks all over Rhode Island. An organization, Families Insisting on Safe Student Transportation (FISST) spearheaded lobbying, demonstrations at the State House and individual appeals.

Publicity about FISST has brought requests for information, advice and help from across the country.

**MORE POWER TO WOMEN WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**  
Kit Hamnett



## TREES ON THE POINT

Early morning of May 3rd found Peter Simpson, David Aguiar, Carol Maranin and myself at the Marsh Street Connector. Shivering and stamping in the all-too seasonal offshore breeze, we agreed on a plan to redesign the planting in the median strip to make it easier to care for and more useful as a greenbelt for cooling in the summer and to mitigate that cruel breeze in winter.

We think the planned arrangement will make a frame for the houses facing Marsh Street and mask the intersections at Washington and Third Streets. The crews were to be brought in and plants moved soon after the meeting. But...the work has been delayed, because of the huge power-lines that supply Goat Island. There must be a way. Watch for news on that front in the August **Green Light**. Or maybe our greenbelt will be in place with its cover of fairy roses and you can check it out yourself!

In the meantime the Liberty Tree is scheduled to be treated with "Roots" (an organic supplement with vitamins and minerals derived from seaweed and peat and applied in a solution of water). It will then be mulched and underplanted with funds from this year's Plant Sale. The Liberty Tree is in the little park in the "V" where Farewell joins Thames Street at Poplar...one of Newport's nightmare traffic hazards. The tree is part of our heritage and it's in need of all the help we can give. Thanks to our Posy, the Plant Sale is a big-time success now so we can afford to do something about our special tree.

Anne Reynolds

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## NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY WINTER SERIES

The recently concluded Newport Historical Society's Winter Series had as its focus Newport and the Navy. Many of the lectures involved places and people familiar to Pointers.

Those in attendance were privy to the beginnings of the Navy with the first naval engagement occurring with the H.M.S. *Rose* in Rhode Island and tales of the men who deserved to be remembered as the founders of the Continental Navy. We were treated to a discourse on the Perry brothers and I learned that Matthew not only participated in the founding of Liberia but actually chose the site.

A talk on the War College mentioned several Point residents including Admirals Eccles and Belknap. We also learned about the Torpedo Station on nearby Goat Island, the Naval Training Station and the PT boats at Melville.

A lecture on fortifications was enhanced by a walking tour of Fort Adams. A treat...since the fort is not open to the public at this time. A tour of the Naval War College gave participants a glimpse of places not usually open to the general public.

The Newport Historical Society is to be commended for presenting this overall view of the interaction between Newport's citizens and the naval presence here.

Professor John B. Hattendorf of the War College and Captain Frank Snyder, USN (ret) collaborated on the organization of the series and are to be congratulated on a job well done!

Florence Archambault

## POINT "HUMMERS"

It is a perennial question: to whom does the term "Point Hummers" refer, and what is the history of that name? Recently there was an answer in Leonard Panaggio's *Grist Mill* column in the *Newport Daily News*.

He quotes Newporter Connie O'Neill, who relates that her late uncle, "Boney" Devlin, and other men from the Point, used to run on Washington Street and gather on Briggs Wharf to fish, to relax and to sing or hum songs. They were referred to as the "Point Hummers."

More recently, Gloria Goulet of Newport wrote to the *Grist Mill* editor about the nickname. She relates that many years ago there was a bridge on what is now Bridge Street. Many Pointers used to meet on the bridge to socialize and to sing - thus the "Point Hummers." Annie Greenwell, an original Pointer, now a non-agenarian, had furnished this information.

Who has another tale?

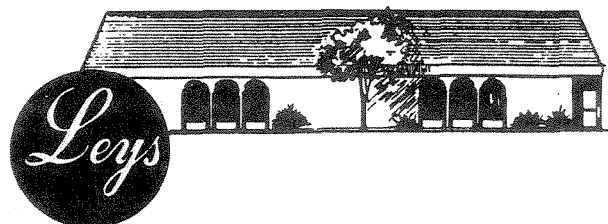
Kit Hammett

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## COOK'S CORNER

The olive is a holy symbol. It is one of the most ancient foods in the world and is mentioned often in the Bible. The earliest use of the olive dates back to 6000 B.C. The dove brought Noah an olive branch signifying his deliverance from the flood and it has since become a symbol for peace.

The goddess Athena bestowed the olive on Athens and the Greeks have been making use of it ever since. The creation of a market in the Mediterranean for their olive products was what necessitated the formation of their navy.

The Greeks and the Romans used the oil, not only for lubrication, but for flavoring and we should not be afraid to either.

It is now maintained that olive oil is good for us. It contains no cholesterol as it is not an animal fat. It is also believed that the oil will break down cholesterol that has already built up in our systems.

When buying the oil, take into consideration its use. For salads buy a good extra virgin oil and a medium grade to use on pasta.

When using olive oil for frying or sauteing be sure to have the pan hot before adding the oil.

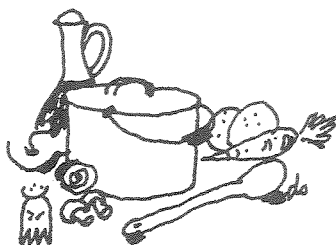
Here are some ways to use this versatile food.

### Roasted Pepper Salad

Drain a jar of roasted peppers and add some chopped garlic, chopped fresh parsley, ground fresh pepper and enough olive oil to cover. Allow flavors to meld and serve cold as a garnish. Especially good in a sandwich, too.

### Olive Bread

Prepare the dough to your favorite Italian or French bread recipe and knead in some green stuffed olives. Bake according to your recipe. Scrumptious!



Stir fry is very popular now and makes a good accompaniment at any meal.

### Stir Fry Veggies

To hot olive oil in pan, add some cut up zucchini, diced onions, sliced fresh mushrooms, chopped fresh tomatoes, oregano, minced garlic, salt and freshly ground pepper to taste. Stir fry until limp.

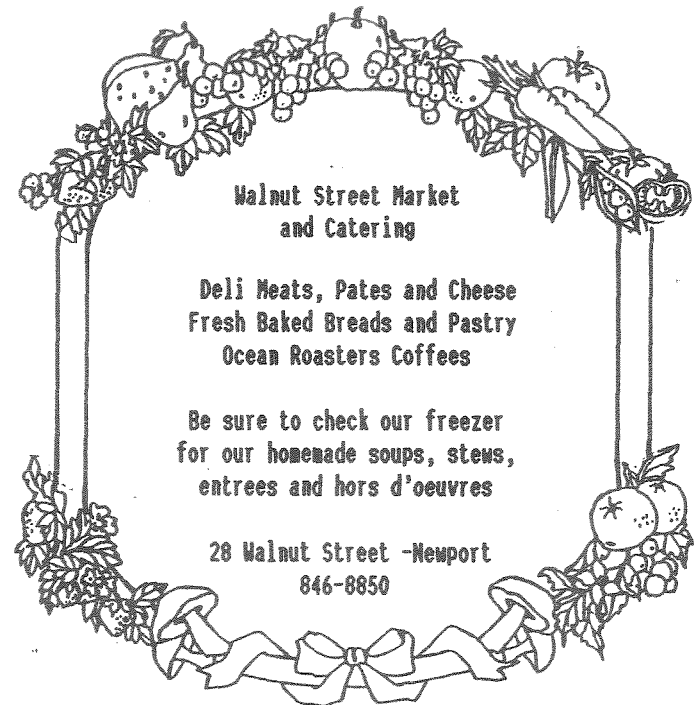
This salad dressing is great on any kind of a salad.

### Greek Salad Dressing

3/4 cup good Greek olive oil  
1/4 cup fresh lemon juice  
salt & pepper to taste

Just mix the oil and lemon 3 to 1 and season. You could add a bit of oregano if you so choose.

Florence Archambault



 Book Bay



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Newport Mercury - July 26, 1894

"A very unique entertainment was given this week for the benefit of St. John's Church. It was called a Colonial Tea and was held in the old Hunter House on Washington Street where the historic associations of the place combined with the loan collection of famous antiquities and the last century's costumes of those in waiting tended to carry the visitors back to the days when Washington and Rochambeau, Lafayette and Chevalier de Tiernay were visitors to the spot. The tasteful decorations were a fitting setting to the belongings of the celebrities of the early Colonial days and not even in those days were more pleasant entertainments held in that house than those of Thursday evening. During the afternoon and evening Mrs. Jungen rendered several selections in an excellent mezzo-soprano voice and Mrs. Cornwall, another celebrated vocalist was also heard. Mr. Sullivan Sargent, Boston's famous basso, sang in a charming manner and Prof. Riera, of the conservatory of Paris, rendered several selections on the piano. Mr. Harry Girard acted as accompanist to the vocalists. In the evening Chinese lanterns were lighted on the piazza facing the water and dancing on the lawn was enjoyed to the music of the harp, violin and flute."

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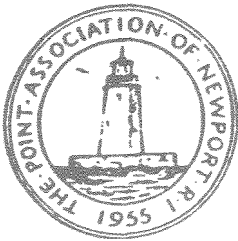
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