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GREEN LIGHT

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

In the year since I accepted the Presidency of the Point Association, I have come to know the Association as one that looks forward while maintaining the wisdom and traditions of its past.

The historical exhibit of the Association from 1955 to 1975, "Past and Repast," has been completed and has been on display in places such as the White Horse Tavern, the Newport County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the Doubletree Hotel. Many of our longstanding members have been pleased viewing the "good ol' days" and have added anecdotal footnotes that bring you back in such a personal way. New members admire the energy and vision of the founding mothers and fathers and the continued efforts of their successors. The "Day on the Point" strove to strike a comfortable combination of original activities (house and garden tours) and recent activities (boat tours and pie baking contests). Certainly the day's events were well received and will provide a framework for future Point Days.

In this year I have also learned what it means to work with sincere Board members who never refuse undertaking any tasks. There are also those committee members and volunteers who are always willing to pitch in and share the load. My sincerest thanks to them all.

As we look forward, we have our Annual Meeting on October 28 to initiate the upcoming year. In addition to the usual business of election of officers and review of the budget, we will have Keith Stokes and Bruce Bartlett as guest speakers. Their topic of discussion will be the proposed terminal pier for cruise ships. As you know, the idea for a pier, particularly at Goat Island, has been a hot topic for many. It is important that we have a representational showing so all concerns and questions can be addressed. It should be informative for all. Look forward to seeing you there.

Christine Montanaro

P.S. A sad goodbye to the Walnut Street Market. We will miss the Pendergasts and regret the loss of their neighborhood store.
POINT ASSOCIATION SCRAPBOOKS EXHIBITION

The special exhibit, Pages from the Point Association Scrapbooks, first seen at the White Horse Tavern last June, was displayed once again at the home of Anne Reynolds for the Day on the Point in August. In between, the exhibit of 20 panels was hung for several weeks at the offices of the Newport County Convention and Visitors Bureau where many people remarked on the wonderful history of the Point Association.

For the last 33 years, members of the Point Association have been clipping and collecting articles and stories about the Point Association, dating back to the day of its founding in June 1955. For the exhibit, selections from the scrapbooks were photocopied, enlarged, and arranged on display boards that tell the story of the first 20 years of the Point Association. The history of the Point Association is the history of the Point too, and these documents are a fine archive of the dedicated efforts of many Pointers.

The exhibit will continue to make the rounds, and by invitation of the Doubletree Hotel will be on display in their lobby soon. Watch for the announcement of the display dates. The photographs and articles about the Point are a good lesson to visitors to our city about the hard work that has gone into making Newport the architectural treasure it is today, and shows an example of what people can do in their own hometowns as well.

If anyone has ideas or suggestions about where else the exhibit might be displayed in the coming months, please contact me at 846-5391.

Anita Rafael

POINT ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, October 28, 1993
St. Paul's Methodist Church
Marlboro Street

Business meeting starts promptly at 7:30 p.m.

Speakers: Keith Stokes, Bruce Bartlett

Refreshments served following the meeting

NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee will present the following slate of officers at the annual meeting of the Point Association on October 28.

1st Vice President Donna Segal
Treasurer Phil Mosher
Recording Secretary Ann Wiley
Nominating Committee Donna Flynn, Brenda Gordon, Dorothy Madden. (Two additional members to be appointed from the Board)

Continuing in office are

President Christine Montanaro
2nd Vice President Roberta Majewski
Corresponding Secretary Lois Dickison

Pete Peters, Chairperson, Charles Canham, Gail Gunning, Roberta Majewski, Donna Segal.
Those who decided to do the "By Sea" option were treated to a wonderful water tour of the Point. The launch ride paralleled the Washington Street coastline, past Battery Park and under the Newport Bridge for a chance to see the Naval War College. Rose Island, a busy place that Saturday afternoon, was the next destination. Goat Island and the Green Light were the last sights before heading back to the Villa Marina dock. The crew from Oldport Marina made the trip relaxing and fun on this beautiful day.

We all know the Point is special and on August 21 we had our day to show off and enjoy. The weather was great. Residents and visitors gathered at Battery Park to purchase tickets to view the seven houses and two shops on the house tour.

Carol Marinan collected tasty goodies for the Bake Table, and lunch was forthcoming from the grille set up by the Doubletree Hotel and Gary Richards.

The Point Hummer contest was held at noon, and the pie baking contest (see The Cook's Corner) in the afternoon produced eight beautiful and sumptuous entries which presented a difficult decision for the judges.

Special thanks to the Hosts of the homes and shops:
- Nick Benson
- Anne Covelier
- Loretta & Tom Goldrick
- Dorothy & Ed Madden
- Patty Murphy
- Ilse & Alex Nesbitt
- Anne Reynolds
- Angela & Joe Vars
- Ann Wiley

Thanks to the volunteers at the houses:
- Florence Archambault
- Jean Baker
- June Baker
- Jennifer Boghossian
- Ingrid Coddington
- Nancy Curran
- Liz D'Addario
- Lois Dickison
- Dixie Doreau
- Myra Duvally
- Dede Elster
- Brenda Gordon
- Gail Gunning
- Posey Hall
- Trish Loberti
- Margaret Jones
- Sally MacKay
- Gerry McCauley
- Joyce Majewski
- Delores Meagher
- Jeanne Napolitano
- Kay O'Brien
- Peggy O'Keefe
- Eileen Peterson
- Beth Rabin
- Sheila Reardon
- Mary Rommel
- Vernie Sellers
- Mary Shepard
- Pam Stanek
- Joan Stickley
- Dorcas Taylor
- Vicki Williams
- Joan Wilson
- Kathy Younkins

And at Battery Park:
- David Aguiar
- Lois Dickison
- Nancy Espersen
- Terry Gavan
- Gail & Jim Gunning
- Kit Hammett
- Roberta Majewski
- Carol & Jim Marinan
- Christine Montanaro
- Phil Mosher
- Anita Rafael
- Gary Richards
- Donna Segal
Welcome to Our New Members

Pete Barry  
Liz D'Addario  
Jane Dennis  
Harriet Ford  
Sue & Art Gudikunst  
Nancy Hemmerich & James Wells  
Rita Hologitas  
Joan Hopkins  
Donna & Richard Karlovich  
Kevin Kelley & Deborah Kelsey  
Bob Larkin  
Richard Mauleri  
Randy O'Boyle  
Gloria Pignatelli  
Brian Plumb  
Paul Quattrucci  
Marie Ray  
Francis Scanlan/Piedad Gonzalez  
Mary Lou Smith  
Cynthia Stone  
Thomas Sturtevant  
Don Thornton  
Nita Wheeler

NEW MEMBERS COCKTAIL PARTY

Thursday, August 26th, had all the ingredients for a most successful party. The weather was perfect! Not too hot, but sunny. The people were congenial, making up a nice mix of new and old members of the Point Association. The conversation was stimulating, covering many subjects. The setting, thanks to Aime Cuvelier, was opulent, and the food, thanks to all those who contributed, was scrumptious! To add to the festivities, nature provided a spectacular sunset over the Newport Bridge. A more perfect evening and setting couldn't have been arranged even if choreographed by a movie director.

Many thanks to all who participated, planned and worked on this delightful evening on the Point.

Florence Archambault

WANTED: CLIPPERS AND SAVERS, UNPASTERS AND RESORTERS

The loosely formed History and Archive Committee is on the lookout for a crew of volunteers to keep a sharp eye out for articles and stories about the Point Association and Pointers in the local press. Just clip and save, and let us know when you have a folder full so we can add the clippings to the Point Association archives. For the last 33 years, many people have been saving clippings and photos in grocery bags and manila envelopes, but items from recent news are sorely missing.

Over the winter months, a few busy hands will be needed to sort through these collected materials to begin the careful process of removing rusty staples, re-sorting and recataloging the hundreds and hundreds of items that have been collected over the years. If you would like to help, and at the same time learn how to preserve old newsprint and photos, please call the committee chairperson to sign up. Besides, it's great reading along the way.

The long range goal is to prepare reproductions of this important material that anyone can handle and use as a resource for background about the Point and the Point Association, and at the same time to preserve this wealth of information in proper archival form.

Anita Rafael, Committee Chairperson  
846-5391

Ben Gilson and Joe Vars, past Association president, in conversation.
CHURCH MARKS ANNIVERSARY

On Wednesday, September 29, St. John's Church, a familiar Point sight, has plans to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the laying of its cornerstone.

The same hymns sung at the 1893 service will be sung by 60 choristers from the St. John's, Trinity, Emmanuel and St. George's choirs. A special choral evensong service will feature the Navy Band Quintet. We hope that many Pointers joined with others to help St. John's congregation celebrate this important centennial event.

Here are the Kirbys moving into their Bridge Street home. Remember to call Gail Gunning at 849-0812 if you see some new neighbors moving in. She'll be happy to call on them with a Green Light and an invitation to join the Point Association.

RENEW YOUR POINT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

October is the month to renew your membership to the Point Association. Fill out the membership form inside the back cover of the Green Light and mail with your check to:

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

RECENT CHANGES

It's easier to check changes while walking...and they do appear. The improvements at Long Wharf were dedicated September 9 and have been enjoyed by visitors and residents alike...the repaired seawall, added sidewalks, brickwork, lighting, benches and landscaping. The city and state shared the $138,000 cost. The Thames Science Center, new owner of the lot at the corner of Washington Street and Long Wharf, is operating in a temporary location at 77 Long Wharf Mall where you are welcome to stop in to hear more about programs and progress. If you walk out on the pier along the Inn on the Wharf, you can get a good view of the fishing fleet enjoying their extended docking facilities at the State Pier.

Behind the Hunter House the seawall has been repaired and makes a safe walkway. At the Pine Street driftway stands a new sign "No Parking 7 p.m. to 7 a.m." As the days shorten and the winds sharpen, we'll miss seeing so many neighbors walking the waterfront but the scenes and the seasons come and go.

Kay O'Brien

Christmas Cards
& Prints
of Newport
at the Third & Elm Press
29 Elm Street, Newport
846-0228

Visit our shop Monday through Saturday 9 to 5 -

Colonial Travel Inc.
204 Thames Street
Newport, R.I.
02840
401-849-6433
The plaque on this lovely old house, located at 44 Thames Street, says c.1710...but this summer eyes were attracted to the rooftop where the story unfolded.

The Job Bennett house has a central chimney with six fireplaces in the three-room plan. When central heating was installed, a small chimney for that flue was added to the rear of the main one so that all fireplaces would be usable. Now, the old mortar was crumbling and it was time to rebuild the chimney. We called Rick Oriel who is a brick mason, and in our eyes, an artist. He agreed to do the job and after a few days of erecting scaffolding (from the rear, the chimney rises ten feet from the roof) he and his crew began. We learned several interesting things about our chimney from this experience, but we also have questions that we hope someone else can help to answer for us!

The bricks in our chimney are a little larger than those usually found in houses in this area. Were any bricks being made here in the early 1700s? The top 12 to 18 inches had been rebuilt, but the rest of the chimney had the old lime mortar. At one time a black pitch coating had been used. Then in the 1800s the outside of the chimney had been plastered as a way of repair. Rick found the chimney in good repair below the flashing but he did take it down a little further so that he could incorporate the furnace flue into the main chimney. He found that the flues of the smaller fireplaces were quite a bit larger than was needed so he could add an extra flue and dispense with the secondary chimney on the rear.

There is a tale told about this house of a black diamond painted on the front of the chimney to mark the building as belonging to a Tory. What Rick found as he cleaned off some of the old plaster and pitch that had been applied was that the diamond was still there and had been made by bricks that were fired so long that they became black on one end. In our minds, this diamond decoration that Rick was careful to reinstall, was built into the original chimney so had nothing to do with the Revolutionary War and Tories. Other than decoration our only guess as the reason for the diamond was to mark the house because of the owner’s shop which was attached. We would be happy to have other information that could shed light on the puzzle. The other inaccurate tale that is told about Job Bennett is that he fled to Canada as many Tories did. However, he died in 1784 and is buried in the cemetery on Farewell Street. We wish he could tell us what the black diamond symbolizes.

Lois Dickison
Just as I was hauling the last of my rugs, lamps, books, plants and other auto-transportables from Western Massachusetts to my new home at one end of Walnut Street in May 1990, Sophia Pendergast was applying the finishing touches to her new store at the other end. Neither of us the least bit settled, but both of us committed to that lofty goal, we met one hot afternoon on "common ground." I, desperate for a cool drink, wandered from a chaos of moving at my end to the relative tranquility at her end (at least the pastry was in place!) and requested some cranberry juice. The reply, "But we're not open yet," was immediately amended by her throwing wide the portals and fetching forth the most welcome jug of juice I'd ever encountered. Thus, as Sophia became my first acquaintance on the Point, so I became her first customer—and there began the kind of congenial hospitality (accompanied by superlative food!) to which many of us have been treated over the past three years. From steaming hot cups of "designer coffee," to colossal cookies and muffins, perfect pasta, "souper" soups, entire meals (often provided impromptu), catering par excellence—and all of it presented always with taste and elan. How you spoiled us, Sophia, Bill, Jessica, Tiffany and Julie—how we basked in your neighborly ministrations and how we miss each one of you. Such a busy and welcoming corner, now so quiet and forlorn...

Mary Jane Rodman

**AN OBITUARY**

Only three and a half years old. The Walnut Street Market was not just a bread and milk convenience store; it was a gourmet neighborhood friend. Delicious sandwiches, a wide range of attractive food.

Sophia and Bill Pendergast worked hard to provide us with a beautiful and useful asset. We hope they will continue their interest in the Point.

What went wrong? I guess all of us are a little guilty—we jumped in our cars and spent our time and our gas to save a little on the price. We failed to appreciate our good fortune. High rent, high utilities, and grueling working hours—it didn't add up.

We will miss the Walnut Street Market—we were richer for its life with us and we are the poorer for its demise.

A not-ardent-enough patron
The following won First Prize in the Point Hummer contest held at "A Day on the Point", August 21st.

**POIN'T HUMMER**

(A Half Century or More Ago)

How they did Hum on the Point - that wonderful group of men who sat on the benches at the entrance to Poplar Street shore.

They hummed in perfect harmony - each one singing his particular part to the tune of planning the Spring's launchings, the Fall's hauling out of their marvelous wooden boats, and their many other tales of the Point and their shore, etc., etc. They were neighborhood men. You might call them a fraternity - of sorts - all sharing, exchanging ideas of their mutual love and passion for their shore. There were many verses sung in unison - where to drop a new mooring, how they would share the maintenance duties of their shore. They were a close group. Their lives were simple, trusting with a sort of pureness to them. They shared their boat work and their shore work. They shared the sad memories of winter Northeasters, the '38 Hurricane and other storms. They marveled at the sight of the Atlantic Fleet (ComCrusDesLant) - the battleships, the destroyers, the destroyer escorts, the aircraft carrier, and those little liberty launches. They reminisced, with rolls of laughter, of the occasional times they colored their world with a jest or two of merry harmless mischief.

These Point Hummers loved their country - many of them with a daily ritual of raising "Old Glory" every morning on their homes or in their yards on flag poles - never leaving a flag out after sunset. They brought them down every sunset, folded in military fashion and put to rest until sunrise. Daily, in the background, taps were heard echoing across to the Point from the Training Station. Some of their boats had patriotic names - my grandfather's, "The Young America" - my uncle's, "The Uncle Sam" - my father's, "The Viking", and there were others too.

The shore was part of their five senses. Yes, their eyes saw its beauty of portrait sunsets, its rage of turbulent storms, the rotation of the Green Light's beacon on the still dark waters; their ears heard its lapping of changing tides, the fog horns, the clanging of its buoy bells. Without looking, they could tell when the "Governor Carr" was rounding the end of the Green Light or the Fall River Line's "Priscilla" was docking at the end of Long Wharf to pick up New York-bound passengers. They could smell and feel and predict the next day's weather or an approaching disturbance and they could taste the salt in the air, the sun's hot summer heat and the frost of a winter's snow.

The driftways were made of wooden planks. The Blue Rocks were alive with mussels. Summer months, the only boats in their Point harbor were those belonging to Point Hummers. Their skiff tenders were pulled up on the driftways or attached by pulley lines to King Covell's pier. Their oars were kept under King Covell's porch where the next generation of very active boys held their own secret Maxi meetings. Winter months the wooden boats were stored on both sides of the driftways.

I was very young in those days. Some of my memory of specifics and names is becoming a little hazy. Some, I remember well, the Arnolds - Harold and Philippine - their sons and families - Harold, Jr. and Susan and their many children, Ralph and Almira and their twins; the gracious King Covell providing his yard and pier for use by Point Hummers; the always most fascinating activities of the wonderful Benson household and the weekend convoys of the Point Hummers to Taylor's Point, Potter's Cove, Alan's Harbor, Wickford and the West Passage. I often wonder, in awe, how they
ever navigated us home on some of those thick foggy Sunday nights with bushels of steamers we had dug on the weekend, which after the gear was stowed away, my mother would prepare and we delightfully consumed over spread newspaper on the kitchen table.

Sunrise, every morning, my father would walk down to the shore to check out how Her spirits would fare that particular day - and again at sunset - every night - he would put Her to bed. His father did it before him and the third generation, my brother, on his short visits back from California spends much of his time rewalking the same footprints.

My father's final sunset as a Point Hummer was when his ashes were spread from Benson's pier over the waters of his beloved shore. When I visit the Point today I look out to the water and say, "Hi Dad." A sense in me feels and hears the humming in the lapping tide of voices of Grampa Kelly, his son, my father, Ray; John Howard, his son, Tom; Harold, his sons, Harold, Jr. and Ralph; King Covell and a few others. I can picture the group of them huddled together. Grampa Kelly asking, "Where are those little liberty launches? the Priscilla? the Governor Carr? What's that little bridge doing going over to the Torpedo Station? and What's that red brick grain chute-looking building at the end of the island? Another asking, "Ralph, look at those boats in our harbor. Aren't they beauties? What are they made of? It's not wood."

Another asking, "Ray, where are our moorings? Do you think they can fit any more strangers' boats in our harbor?"

Another, "King, what are all those out-of-state cars doing parked in front of your house?" and yet another, "Harold, why are there so many stop signs on Washington Street?" I envision their heads whipping from side to side - as if on pivots - wondering. "What's going on here? What was once our own quiet private territory now is buzzing with unrelated and unlimited passing activity."

Yes, the old Pointers are still humming at the water's edge.

Point Hummer is so much more than a term describing who is in residence and how long on the Point. Point Hummer cannot be described in shallow pretentious terms of outlining credentials. A Point Hummer is one who has fallen in love with Her, The Point! Point Hummers possess a deep innermost characteristic - those distinctive qualities of a simple inborn natural spirit for the endearment, preservation and protection of the waters and land they love so well - the shore waters from Long Wharf to Cypress Street and properties from those waters to Fourth Street.

Let's remember those dignified men of yesteryear who honored and carried, with bursting unboastful brotherhood pride, the name of "Point Hummer".

Elise G. (Kelly) LaParle

Elise Kelly LaParle as a small child.

WINNER - MOST ORIGINAL CATEGORY
POINT HUMMER CONTEST

The Point, in contrast to the Hill, was always known for its philosophers and academics. In the old days when someone from the Point carried on, they were labelled "just another Point Homer"...but, when said with a Rhode Island accent, we get something like "POINT HUMMER".

Joyce Majewski
I REMEMBER! I REMEMBER!

Newport has always been a walking town. From the very beginning, if you wanted to get somewhere, you had to walk. In this final decade of the century, we have begun once more to walk. Is it because the parking of cars is so difficult, or the traffic unbearable? Washington Street now sports many joggers in bright-colored garments, running with energy and devotion.

In the 1930s when I settled in Newport, I very soon knew all the oldish men who walked up and down Washington Street. Most of them had worked at the New England Steamship Company. They often sat on a bench in one of the driftways, companionable and talkative. They knew my three boys well, often keeping an eye out for possible accidents. I can remember Patrick Harty, Jim Lawton (who could make a fine chowder), Lars Larsen (who lost an eye in the terrible explosion at the Torpedo Station), Jake Anderson, Ray Kelly, Jim Steel, and finally, Harold Arnold.

Everyone knew Harold because he worked in the City Clerk’s office. After work he would walk south on Washington Street to Thames, where he conversed with the fishermen whose boats were moored off Long Wharf. Often he brought buckets of fresh fish home with him, handing out mackerel and flounder to Point friends.

Somehow he was always on hand when help was needed...to launch a boat, to moor a boat against the prevailing wind, or just to carry something heavy, like water-logged timbers for firewood. And Harold had the most wonderful smile, and was always so obliging. None of us will ever forget him.

Esther Fisher Benson

(In the cover photo, Ray Kelly is third from the left and Harold Arnold, fourth from the left.)

KIT HAMMETT HONORED

Even as the staff of The Green Light is working on paste-up for this issue, Kit Hammett is on her way to Toronto where she will be honored with a membership in the Olave Baden-Powell Society. Kit, one of the first Girl Scouts in Rhode Island, is also retired from the national staff of Girl Scouts and has spent 76 years in scouting.

The Olave Baden-Powell Society began in 1984 as a tribute to the memory of the World Chief Guide and to provide support for the vital work of the World Association. The Society recognizes and honors individuals throughout the world who have made significant contributions to the World Girl Guide/Girl Scout movement.

Kit will be presented with The Olave Baden-Powell membership in Toronto, September 29-30, by Her Royal Highness Princess Benedikte of Denmark.

Congratulations Kit!

Florence Archambault

LEAF AND GARDEN WASTE PICKUP

Bill Bailey (849-2380), who is in charge of the program, said the date would probably be November 1 but that we should watch the papers for the date.

Pickup will be on a regular recycle day (Monday on the Point).

Up to 20 bags per household.

Use brown kraft-paper bags available at Broadway Hardware and Almack, among others. Paper bags go in the shredder.

No grass clippings, unless they are mixed with leaves. They break down into hot slime and clog the machine.

There will be a vendors’ display and reduced prices on composting devices at the Johnston landfill for those who wish to buy them.

The regular landfills will be closed to garden waste in the near future so it’s probably time to make room for a backyard "composting facility" at your house.

Anne Reynolds
(Although the Fisherman and Whaling Museum is not located on the Point, the editors feel that parents and grandparents who are looking for activities for children should be aware of its existence.)

HANDS ON LEARNING

"Massachusetts, Connecticut, and other coastal states have their sea-related museums," said George Klein, director of Newport's new Fishermen and Whaling Museum. "Rhode Island, because of its bays, beaches, and fishing industries, definitely needed such a museum."

George, a marine biologist, and his wife, Linda, a teacher, came to Newport several years ago. They established a small museum on Spring Street.

"Not much foot traffic where we were located," George said, "and when the Seamen's Church Institute, on Bowen's Wharf, expressed interest in our work and offered to rent us space upstairs in their building, we gladly accepted."

It is a perfect partnership. Fishermen and sailors live at the Institute which is maintained primarily for sea-going folk. Three months ago, the Fishermen and Whaling Museum redesigned several rooms upstairs and installed their museum. It is non-profit, and its aim is to increase public awareness of Rhode Island marine life.

There is a small museum shop where sea-related handicrafts, books, and ornaments are for sale. The other rooms have hands-on exhibits of horseshoe crabs, starfish, and other marine life. Just about everything is touchable and explorable.

There is a model of a fishing vessel's wheelhouse where you can eavesdrop on a marine radio and hear real fishermen out at sea. You can learn how the vessel is piloted, or listen to a fisherman tell sea stories. Children can dress up in a fisherman's boots and foul weather gear, and play ship's Captain.

Another room offers a whale watch experience, and still another display explains the intricate lobster trap. Did you know skate fish are used as bait for lobsters?

One side of the room displays a dolphin's skeleton, and near it a human skeleton. The joints of both are color-coded for comparison. Fossilized whale bones are a marvel to behold.

Visitors can manipulate waves in a box, thus learn how waves are made. You can thrust your hands into sleeves, feel the myriad objects hidden inside, and learn the difference between periwinkles and quahogs.

George Klein, who has a degree in Zoology from URI, hopes that many more children will visit there during the school year. Open since Memorial Day, the museum has staged several successful summer programs in the Institute's library right across the hall. A fisherman resident of the Institute lectured on life at sea.

The Fishermen and Whaling Museum, open every day (except Wed.) from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., is a learning experience for both adults and children. Admission is $2.50 for adults, $1.50 for children over two. Enter either from Bowen's Wharf or through the front door of the Seamen's Institute at 18 Market Square.

Anita McAndrews
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 (from the early 1900s) shows the training ships that were then stationed at the Naval Training Station. The large odd-shaped white one is the "Reinas Mercedes" which was captured from the Spanish in Havana Harbor during the Spanish American War. The sailing ship furthest to the right is the "Constellation" (a sister ship to the "Constitution") which now, after being restored, serves as the cornerstone of Baltimore's seaside park.
There's a wonderful new bench in Battery Park with the inscription "Dr. William Marler Russell - Memorial Bench". This was a surprise anniversary gift from Mike Curran of Pine Street to his wife, Nancy. Dr. Russell was Nancy's father whose pleasure when visiting was to sit in Battery Park and enjoy the ever changing waterfront scenes. Mike made the arrangements through Susan Cooper at the Recreation Department who would be happy to answer any questions about the procedure for other memorial benches.

Thanks, Mike, for this special gift to all of us who treasure this special spot. The Curran's generosity has prompted this "I Remember" from Liz Bermender.

THE POINT AS PLAYGROUND

Many years ago, when I was growing up on the Point, there were two activities that all Point children enjoyed...walking the shore and jumping the benches at Battery Park.

At low tide, it was an easy walk along the shore. With an hour at lunch-time, or after school, a walk along the shore was our entertainment. Each day, there was something unusual or interesting or disgusting to catch our eyes...a dead sand shark, or a large timber with ancient, rusting nails. Sometimes, we would poke around the Blue Rocks at the end of the seawall (near the Shoemakers') and collect as many white shells, or stones, or colored sea glass as we could find, admiring each one.

As the tide came in, the adventure began. We all loved a challenge, and the sport was to walk the entire shoreline as close to high tide as possible. Each driftway had access to the shore with stone steps or a ramp, so we could always head "for higher ground."

The most fun was to walk the stone abutment at the base of Battery Park, along Ade Bethune's property to Van Zandt pier and beyond.

Each child had a strategy to stay dry. Timing was everything. Grace and speed and surefootedness were essential to walk the narrow rocky shelf. Slippery when wet, covered with seaweed in places, this walk called for daring-do! As the Bay receded, steps had to be carefully planned and hurriedly taken. As the waves advanced, shrieks of "Hurry! Hurry!" filled the air. Gaining the next piece of solid ground, a large rock, seawall or sandy shore was the goal...without getting wet was the ultimate prize! What satisfaction it was to "make it" to Van Zandt pier, DRY!

The other simple pleasure was to jump the benches at Battery Park. Way back when, there was a ring of benches near the fence (only three remain, today). Each bench was a short distance from the next, and it was easy for older children to jump the space. For younger children, with a hand held, it was possible. With one exception, one "dangerous" space, perhaps a yard wide, which needed some thought or momentum to clear. It was an achievement if you had enough speed to clear this difficult space. Most of us were not daring enough to try!

I do not remember exactly how many benches there were...nine or more, but how important they were to all of us children on the Point.

It would be wonderful to start a fund to replace all the missing benches. Individuals or groups could contribute to an ongoing fund (through the Point Association), and when enough money was raised, a bench could be added, and so on. Then the children of the Point could "jump the benches" again!

Liz Bermender
My neighbors use lawn service companies to spray their lawns. Will the chemicals hurt my cat? I called a veterinarian's office and they said they hadn't seen any conclusive studies but that cats had very "fine-tuned" nervous systems that were sensitive even to shampoos and flea killers used for dogs. Then I called URI's Eastern Rhode Island Extension Service on York Street, who said, "There is risk when the grass is wet, but when the poison dries, it bonds. The wet poison could be absorbed by the pads in his feet. You would have to find out what chemical is being used. 2-4-D is a known carcinogen but the risk is to the workers who apply it. Used responsibly it is relatively safe."

A recent (9/9/93) article in the Providence Journal, "Grass Under Attack", cited Senate hearings in 1990 which "revealed that 32 out of 34 major lawn pesticides have not been fully assessed for dangers." The article also stated that "The National Academy of Science found that home owners used up to 10 times more chemical pesticides an acre than farmers, amounting to 70 million pounds in 1990 alone."

The article also says "accumulated use of nitrogen-heavy fertilizers...have been known to pollute the aquifers and water supply, causing miscarriages and other ills."

The drought ruined my garden. Well, the impatiens did their stalwart best, holding the fort and providing color when others collapsed. For many perennials it was strategic retreat to dormancy. As I write the rain has greened up lawns which are really vast perennial gardens. Mark your plants well and watch what emerges next spring. Clematis, for instance, sometimes "dies", only to grow again the following spring.

Some plants did very well in the drought. The list that follows is of plants that remained relatively healthy and bloomed in this year's dry heat.

Anemone, fall blooming, large nice foliage, long blooming.
Aruncus, foliage flower, midsummer
Centranthus (red Valerian)
Chelone (turtlehead) What drought?
Cimicifuga (wild white bloom)
Coreopsis
Epimedium, foliage now blooms in spring.
Geraniums, many kinds.
Phlox (bloomed their hearts out)
Heuchera (foliage now) blooms in spring.
Oenothera misur
Sedum spectabile, nice now but pretty in bud and spectacular against the snow in winter.
Platycodon (Balloon flower). If you deadhead, it blooms till frost.
Buddlia, shrubby plant, must be cut in spring.
Caryopteris, shrubby blue flower, also needs cutting in spring.

RACOON ALERT!! Stay away. They are cute but, as we read in the paper, they carry rabies. On the Point they can be seen peeking from storm drains and raiding garbage cans!

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It is difficult to keep up with news of Point people, or of articles with bylines of Association chairpersons or staff members of The Green Light. Look for them every week! We hope our readers recognize the names, and welcome the articles.

September had several such articles.

Ade Bethune, board member, was recently the subject of a Daily News feature article, "Birth of a Notion", describing Ade's hopes for the development of the Cenacle-by-the-Sea.

Ade was also reported in the Daily News as the designer of the processional cross carried by Pope John Paul II in Denver during the World Day of Youth; this cross was shown in a photo of the Pope.

Anita McAndrews of The Green Light staff is often in local newspaper articles relating her activities in the Arts or in writing. Most recently she wrote an article for Newport This Week telling of her interest in a literacy project in Guatemala.

The byline of Florence Archambault, co-editor of The Green Light, often appears on articles in Rhode Island Senior Times and Old Rhode Island, both state-wide publications. Her latest was on "Lotteries in Rhode Island."

A letter to the editor of the Daily News by Liz Bermender, who writes for The Green Light, bemoaned the theft of porch flowers that had been given to her mother as birthday gifts.

Anita Rafael, co-chairperson of the Point Association historical committee, and a member of the board, who conducts walking tours of Newport, in another letter to the editor addressed the problem of noise pollution on downtown streets from motorcycles and small planes and helicopters, as well as heavy delivery trucks and heavy rap music from open car windows on our streets and at traffic lights. Anita says, "It's noisier than you think!"

There was much media coverage of the re-lighting of the Rose Island Lighthouse in August. Many Point people are part of the volunteer efforts that have successfully brought about this tremendous undertaking. The lighthouse was mentioned in the Sunday Journal Magazine's continuing series "The Edge - Landmarks". Pointer Doug Riggs described opportunities for interested persons to stay in the lighthouse over-night and enjoy the island setting and to help by being "keepers-for-the-night". A color photo showed the lighthouse from the north side with small sailboats on the bright blue waters of the bay in the background. Cheers to Charlotte Johnson, Chris Owens, and all the individuals who made the re-lighting possible.

A newspaper report of Newport-in-Bloom, the city-wide recognition of gardening displays held in August, recorded that Jennifer and Paul Boghassian of 73 Washington Street were awarded honorable mention in Residential Area I, which includes the Point. Mumford Manor on Farewell Street received Special Recognition for Public Gardens. Gail Gunning of Third Street was a member of the committee that organized and judged the contest.

Kit Hamnett
The array of pies in "A Day on the Point" pie contest was interesting. Key lime seemed to be the favorite.
Here are the winning recipes.

**FIRST PRIZE - Roberta Majewski**

**Key Lime Pie (6-8 servings)**
1 env. unflavored gelatin
1 cup sugar
1/4 tsp. salt
4 eggs, separated
1/2 cup fresh lime juice
1/4 cup water
1 tsp. grated lime peel
few drops green food coloring
1 cup heavy cream, whipped
baked 9-inch pie crust

**GARNSH**
1/2 cup heavy cream, whipped
grated lime peel
finely chopped pistachio nuts
lime wedges.

Thoroughly mix gelatin, 1/2 cup sugar and salt in saucepan. Beat together egg yolks, lime juice and water. Stir into gelatin mixture. Cook, stirring, over medium heat, just until mixture comes to a boil. Remove from heat and stir in grated peel. Add food coloring sparingly to tint mixture pale green.

Chill, stirring occasionally, until mixture mounds slightly when dropped from spoon (about 1 hour). Beat egg whites until soft peaks form. Gradually add 1/2 cup sugar, beating to stiff peaks.

Fold gelatin mixture into egg whites. Fold in whipped cream (mixture is ready to be put into crust when a spoonful of filling, picked up and put back into filling, really mounds; if not, chill for about 5 minutes). Pile into cooled crust and chill until firm.

When ready to serve, spread with whipped cream, edge with grated peel, and center with grated nuts. Garnish with lime wedges.

**SECOND PRIZE - Joyce Majewski**

**Sour-cream Apple Pie**

**Crust**
2 1/2 cups unbleached all-purpose flour
5 TBS. granulated sugar
3/4 tsp. salt
3/4 tsp. ground cinnamon
6 TBS. sweet butter, chilled
6 TBS. shortening, chilled
4 to 6 TBS. apple cider or juice, chilled

1. Sift flour, sugar, salt and cinnamon into a bowl. Cut in butter and shortening with a fork or pastry cutter until mixture resembles rolled oats.
2. Moisten with just enough cider, tossing ingredients lightly with a fork, to permit the dough to be formed into a ball. Wrap and refrigerate for 2 hours.
3. Cut off 1/3 of the dough and return it to the refrigerator. Roll out the other 2/3's between 2 sheets of wax paper. Line a 9-in. pie pan with the dough, trim the overhang and crimp decoratively.
4. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

**Filling**
5 to 7 tart apples
2/3 cup dairy sour cream
1/3 cup granulated sugar
1 egg, lightly beaten
1/4 tsp. salt
1 tsp. vanilla extract
3 TBS. unbleached all-purpose flour

1. Peel, core and thinly slice apples; drop slices into a mixing bowl.
2. Whisk together sour cream, sugar, egg, salt, vanilla and flour in a small bowl. Pour mixture over apples and toss well to coat. Spoon apples into pastry-lined pie pan.

**Topping**
3 TBS. brown sugar
3 TBS. granulated sugar
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
1 cup shelled walnuts, chopped

1. Mix sugars, cinnamon and walnuts together and sprinkle evenly over apple filling.
2. Roll out remaining pastry between sheets of waxed paper to form a 10-inch circle. Cut into 1/2-inch strips, and arrange these lattice-fashion over apples; trim ends of strips and crimp edge of crust decoratively.

3. Set pie on the middle rack of the oven and bake for 55 to 65 minutes. If crust browns too quickly, cover loosely with foil. Pie is done when juices are bubbling and apples are tender.

4. Serve warm or cool, topped if you like, with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream.

Our congratulations to this mother-daughter team of pie bakers!

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