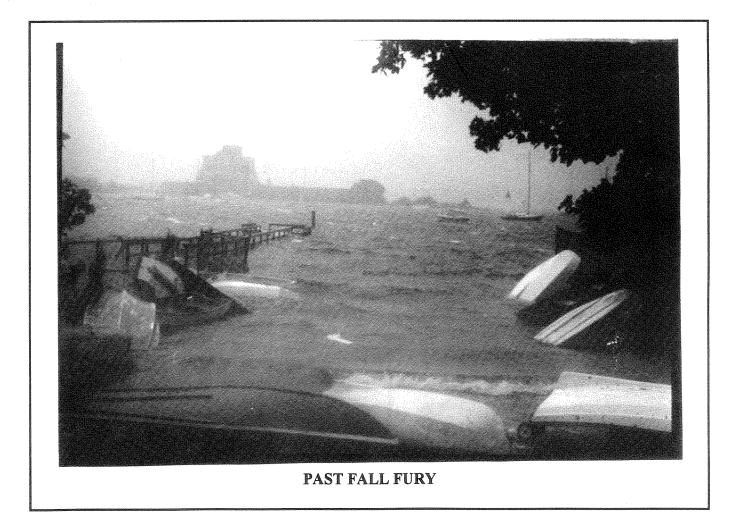


FALL 1994





The GREEN LIGHT XXXIX No. 4 FALL 1994

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Art work by Dorothy Sanschagrin and Eleanor Weaver

CALENDAR FALL 1994

September 11	Hats Off to Forty Cruise Aboard the Spirit of Newport
September 17	Rose Island Lighthouse Clambake and Bonfire
September 25	Wine Tasting
October 20	Annual Meeting
October 30	Ghost Story Telling at the White Horse Tavern

OFFICERS

Christine Montanaro, President 849-4708
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Roberta Majewski, 2nd Vice President 846-6194
Lois Dickison, Corresponding Secretary 846-4367
Ann Wiley, Recording Secretary 846-4011
Philip Mosher, Treasurer 849-4708
(Note Phil's telephone number. He is not the one listed in the phone book.)

<u>GREEN LIGHT</u>

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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; and Clipper Wine & Spirits, Third Street.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The upcoming Fall season will be a busy one for the Point Association. There will be a series of fundraisers designed to appeal to a wide variety of interests. The actual schedule of events is included in this issue of the *Green Light*.

In addition to the fundraising events, the Annual Meeting will be held in October. The election of new officers and the selection of the nominating committee will be completed at the Annual Meeting.

As always, the Board members have been working hard to maintain the integrity of our association and to meet the everyday demands of our members. It is discouraging, however, that we have come to feel that the support of our members is beginning to fail us and has resulted in just a few people doing all the work from an association that boasts 600 members. Interest in the summer schedule of tours was so poor that most events had to be canceled. I know when the ideas were introduced there was great enthusiasm and excitement. What happened that only a handful of people actually signed up to go?

It would be unfortunate if the apathy we are beginning to feel from our members is the mood that will usher in 1995 which is our 40th anniversary year. This letter is an appeal to our members to actively support the association that has been a reliable source of community and a protectorate of the quality of life we desire. Get involved, give of your time, and support our scheduled events. The work that has been done and has to be done is never ending. Be there for us as we have been for you.

Miristine montanaro

If you can become an active member for our association, please contact an officer of the Board. The telephone numbers are listed on page 2 of the *Green Light*.

* * * * * * *

Warren Gray has informed me that a workshop to discuss the sticker parking program, as well as other parking related issues, will be held Wednesday, September 21, 1994, 7 p.m., at City Hall.

POINT ASSOCIATION'S FALL EVENTS

HATS OFF TO FORTY CRUISE

When someone said to Gloria Steinheim "You look good for 40!" Ms. Steinheim replied, "This is what 40 looks like!"

Well, the Point Association is 40 years old and we look good for 40 - in fact, we are in terrific shape. We have approximately 600 members, a bank balance, an active and efficient board of directors and a concerned membership.

The board thinks that turning 40 is such a momentous occasion that a special celebration has been planned. There will be a Hats Off to Forty Cruise on the *Spirit of Newport* on Sunday, September 11 from 5 to 7 p.m.

There will be refreshments, music, cash bar, and a silent auction while we cruise the bay - all for \$15.00/person or \$25.00/couple.

Call now for reservations. Roberta Majewski (846-6194) or Christine Montanaro (849-4708)

P.S. Wear a hat!

WINE TASTING

Newport has the distinction of being a "first" in many categories. And now Pointers and their guests can be a part of a "first."

On Sunday, September 25, the Point Association will be sponsoring a wine tasting that will bring together Coastal New England Wineries - the first time that they have been presented as a group. The four wineries that will be participating are: Chamard Vineyards, Sakonnet Vineyards, Vinland Wine Cellars and Westport Rivers Winery.

The tastings will take place at four historic Point houses: the Culpeper House, the Elliott Boss House, the Caleb and Mary Peckham House and the Sanford-Covell House, all located on the Point within easy walking distance of each other.

So make plans to be with us on Sunday, September 25, 4 - 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person and will be available at various locations throughout the city. Call 846-4011 for more information.

Don't miss being part of this exciting Newport first!

GHOST STORY PARTY

Is your house haunted? Have you seen weird things going on at the house next door? If you're willing to tell about it, you could win a brunch for two at the White Horse Tavern.

On October 30, Sunday night before Halloween, the Point Association has been invited by the White Horse Tavern to bring its members and guests and their best stories to a champagne punch party upstairs at the old pub. The White Horse Tavern has promised many of its fine gourmet treats to eat, but no tricks.

After guests tell their stories of things that go bump in the night, there will be a vote for the best tale of weirdness and woe. The winners will receive a brunch for two. All story tellers will be asked to give their address. B & B owners are especially welcome to tell stories their guests have told them. A local reservation service told us that some visitors to Newport actually request haunted rooms.

Not surprisingly, the historic White Horse Tavern claims to be haunted, and Tavern Curator Anita Rafael will lead the ghost story session with the tale of the spirit who walks the White Horse. Seen and felt by many of the current staff and some recent diners, Rafael will show the exact spot at which the amiable ghost was last seen. Rafael adds, "It would be too much to ask for the spirit to appear with everybody there, but who knows, weirder things have happened."

If you come, wear all black. The lights will be dimmed and the music turned low for this spooky fireside event. Expect to hear the floorboards creak! There are limited tickets for this fundraising and hair raising event, so you'd best reserve early by calling the White Horse Tavern or purchasing a ticket in advance. Tickets at \$12 each will be on sale at the Point Association's harbor cruise, wine tasting, and annual meeting.



HATS OFF TO FORTY CRUISE

Aboard the Spirit of Newport

Sunday, September 11, 1994 5 - 7 p.m.

Let's celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Point Association together on the high seas

Hors D'oeuvres

\$15/person - \$25/couple

2-Hour Cruise

Cash Bar Silent Auction

Music

Call Roberta Majewski 846-6194 or Christine Montanaro 849-4708 to make your reservation

Wear A Hat!

WINE TASTING

Sunday, September 25, 1994 from four to six in the afternoon

Featuring Wines from four Coastal New England Wineries

Chamard Vineyards, CT Sakonnet Vineyards, RI Vinland Wine Cellars, RI Westport Rivers Winery, MA

At Historic Point Houses

20 Second Street 30 Second Street 55 Poplar Street 72 Washington Sreet

Tickets: \$10 per person

Call 846-4011 for more information

This is the first time Coastal New England wineries will be presented as a group ... An exciting Newport first!

Is Your House Haunted? Ghost Story Party at the White Horse Tavern

Sunday, October 30, 1994 7 - 9 p.m.

Tell your tale of woe - Win Brunch for two at the White Horse Tavern or just come and listen and vote for the scariest and most believable local ghost story. Hear the tale of the spirit who walks the floors at the historic old White Horse.

> \$12 per person Champagne Punch and Halloween Treats. No tricks. Limited tickets Reservations 849-3600

> > DRESS IN ALL BLACK!

Welcome to New Members

Rebecca Hayes Andrews Robert and Margaret Bonney David Clopeck Deborah Herrington and Frank Hearon Ms. Margaret M. Jacoby Susan E. Kominsky Gregory C. Kominsky Mrs. Audrey Kirby Kate and J.P. Mouligne Margot Parker T. A. Rogers Barbara Schuster Maureen and Patrick Toohey Tosca van Vijfeijken and Jim Bruno

BEAUTIFICATION - STORER PARK

Through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Babcock and Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Seigel, of Washington Street, and the cooperation of the Hunter House, the unsightly overgrown bushes to the north have been trimmed back and cleaned out. The area became a real neighborhood concern when it was discovered that people were using it as an overnight shelter, a secret place to drink and party, and an incident of indecent exposure. This added to neighbors' unhappiness with people using the park as a "dog run." Remember, there are leash and dog litter laws in our city which are fineable offenses. I have witnessed people unleashing their dogs only to have them lift their legs on the flowering shrubs that were planted in the park last year. Consideration for human beings and mother nature should be better preserved.

The ground around the trimmed shrubs will be mulched and some planting incorporated next spring. It was suggested by Scott Wheeler, our new tree warden, that that particular area would be ideal as a lily garden. A wide variety of hardy lilies would be a lovely addition to the park. Mr. Wheeler informed me they do extremely well in this climate and spread profusely. Some hybrid lilies do very well by the sea. It was suggested that some of these might be purchased for planting a "Lily Memorial Garden" in honor of loved ones. What a wonderful idea, which we will be hearing about in the spring.

Carol Marinan

Editor's note: Thanks to Carol for the beautiful planters in Battery and Storer Parks.

MEMBERSHIP

The Members' Cocktail Party was indeed a success! Our thanks to Anne Cuvelier for again hosting this annual event at the beautiful Villa Marina. We were fortunate to have such a wonderful site for our party.

Thank you, also, to the great bartending duo of John Majewski and Phil Mosher, who always give service with a smile; Gail Gunning, Kay O'Brien, and Joan Wilson who so warmly greeted arriving guests and helped at the membership table; Angela Vars, her telephone committee, and to all of you who responded by bringing such a wonderful assortment of hors d'oeuvres. And to Christine Montanaro, who is always there to help out, making sure that everything runs smoothly and everyone has a good time.

October 1 is the official start of membership renewal, but you may renew early by filling out the form on page 19 of the *Green Light*. Our 40th anniversary year promises to be an exciting one, and I would encourage you to renew your membership and consider helping out with various Point Association activities and programs.

If you have questions about your membership, or know of someone who is interested in joining, feel free to call me at 846-2907.

Nancy Espersen

POINT ASSOCIATION PICNIC

The weather cooperated for the annual Point Association picnic held on June 16. The small, but faithful, group delighted in the setting of Anne Reynolds' garden with its view of the harbor. The flowers were at their peak, the company was congenial and those in attendance enjoyed the evening immensely.



POINTERS-IN-THE NEWS

Liz Bermender of Second Street was interviewed in a *Newport Daily News* article about the restoration of the Cliff Walk and George Perry of Third Street was quoted in the *Providence Journal Bulletin* following Mary Ferrazzoli's funeral.

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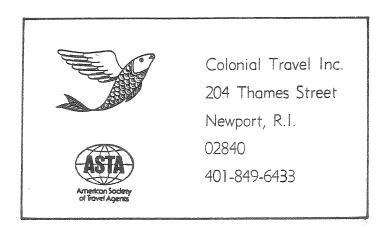
Ade Bethune was the subject of two feature articles recently. One in the *Providence Journal Bulletin* and the other in *R.I. Senior Times*. Both articles were concerning the Star of the Sea Corporation and its plans to renovate the Cenacle.

* * * * * *

It was announced in July that FLICKERS, the Newport Film/Video Society & Arts Collaborative has been awarded a grant from the Rhode Island State Council of the Arts to produce original performances and arts programming. They will produce the series "Arts Alive Rhode Island: Ethnic Roots" for the television program "Between Takes." Two Pointers, Eric Bonner and George Marshall, head up the company.

* * * * * *

Congratulations to Dr. Charles Shoemaker for again winning a national Ensign championship in sailing.



POINT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, October 20, 1994

St. Paul's Methodist Church Marlborough Street

7:00 p.m. Gather to chat with friends and neighbors

> 7:30 p.m. Business meeting begins

Election of Officers (The slate of officers will be announced later) Presentation of Born on the Point Certificates

ROSE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE CLAMBAKE

An event that many Point people look forward to and enjoy is the Rose Island Lighthouse's Annual Clambake and Bonfire. This year it will take place on Saturday, September 17 from 3 to 7:30 p.m. (Rain date Sunday, September 18)

Launches to Rose Island will leave continuously between 3-4 p.m. from Goat Island and Jamestown. Return trips run between 6:30-7:30 p.m. from Rose Island. The launch rides cost \$5.00 per person round trip.

Dinner will be unwrapped and served promptly at 5 p.m. The menu includes hors d'oeuvres, garden salad, bread and butter, lobster, mussels, sausage, sweet and white potatoes, fresh sweet corn on the cob and watermelon for dessert. Lemonade is included. Beer, wine and sodas may be purchased.

Bring warm clothes and a blanket or folding chair. Wear flat, soft-sole shoes for the boat ride. You are welcome to bring musical instruments for singing around the bonfire after the bake. Please do not bring liquor or pets to the island.

Tickets for the clambake are \$25.00 for members and \$35.00 for non-members. Call 847-4242 for reservations or more information.

ADVENTURE CLUB FOR CHILDREN

Have you noticed all the young families out and about this summer? Children are riding in backpacks, in the new three-wheeled racing strollers or traveling under their own power. A wonderful cooperative effort has joined the neighborhood kids together in the Adventure Club. Children up to third grade and their siblings help plan their own Wednesday activities: meeting in parks for lunches, ball and wheel days, a neighborhood scavenger hunt and field trips to the Potter League and the airport. Activities and schedules will change with the end of summer, but plans will continue through the year either monthly or for holiday events. Anyone interested can call Beth Lloyd at 849-8071. The group has a newsletter and now suggest they would enjoy doing a kids' corner in the *Green Light*.

Many of our readers remember what life was like on the Point when they were children. As we preserve the past, protect the present, here's to looking to our future.



Adventure Club joke of the week: Why don't we have any circles living in our neighborhood? Because circles never come to a point!

VISITORS PAST AND PRESENT

The famous author, Robert Louis Stevenson, died 100 years ago in Samoa. Born in Scotland in 1850, he came to America in 1887 and spent two weeks in Newport as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Clark Fairchild on Washington Street. This residence later became known as "Bel Napoli" where Rowan Howard lived with her family as a child. Most children grew up with Stevenson's "A Child's Garden of Verse" and graduated to "Kidnapped" and "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde."

This summer, President Clinton's daughter, Chelsea, came to Newport, staying at a home on Washington Street at Van Zandt Avenue. In mid-August, Chelsea attended the J-World Sailing School's Learn to Sail beginners course. Although the secret service was nearby both on land and at sea, her visit remained both private and fun.

STAR OF THE SEA GARDEN PARTY

A garden party for friends of the Cenacle was held Sunday, July 31, in Anita McAndrew's garden across from Battery Park. Sketches of the proposed renovations and design of the Corpus Christi/Cenacle retreat house on Battery and Washington Streets as well as walking tours were offered by board members. If you are interested in further information on this concept of a cooperative living center, contact Star of the Sea, Ade Bethune, President, 118 Washington Street, or call 847-5428.





LETTER TO THE EDITOR

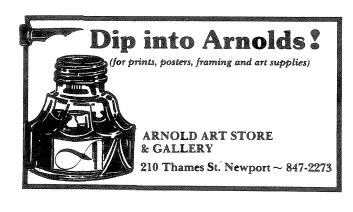
The following sheds more light on the return of the staircase to the Perry House about which we wrote in the last issue.

"In 1964 Susanne and I agreed to buy 43 Elm Street to restore and live in. We were shown this house by Tom Benson, then working for Operation Clapboard. We commenced restoration in early 1965. Tom was extremely helpful and kept our spirits up during the ordeal.

We needed many things: H-L hinges, locks, latches, old floor boards, and windows. Most of all, we needed a fine doorway befitting this wonderful old building. Tom took us to see Mr. Cottrell, who ran a large antique shop in the old Vernon furniture factory that stood on John Street until torn down to make way for Memorial Boulevard extension. (There is a small park now where the northern half of that huge old factory once stood.)

According to Tom, Mr. Cottrell had many of the things we needed for our restoration, including a fine doorway that had been taken from the Mason house that once stood at the corner of Mason's Court and Thames Street.

At Vernon's, Mr. Cottrell showed me the Mason doorway, which I bought immediately (summer of 1965). At the same time he sold me our very fine front



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ANTHONY BUCCI

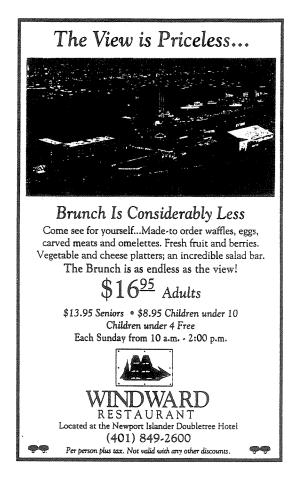
PHONE 847-0035

iron rail, boxes of locks, hinges, fireplace tools, and the remnants of an old stairway that he told me he had purchased years earlier (along with other materials) from the workers who were removing the first floor of the Perry house on the Point.

I had no use for the stair parts so I stored them carefully in my attic. When Nat Norris began restoring his property at Bridge and Second, I told Nat he could have the stair parts provided he would use them in 67 Bridge Street, from the second to the third floor where there was no stairs. I also told Nat that if he did not use them he would have to return them to me. At this time it seemed unlikely that anyone would restore the Perry house.

When Doris Duke purchased the Perry House I was excited and went to Nat Norris to get the stair parts back. I told him that I wanted to see that Doris Duke had the stair to return to the Perry House. He said, not to worry, he would take the stair parts to the Restoration Foundation himself. This should give better proof that the stairs did, in fact, come from the Perry House in the beginning."

> Sincerely yours, Walter J. Whitley



9

This past June, the *West Springfield Record* published a wartime account of a French family, several members of which would, at the end of World War II, move to New England. The Aubois family's courage, their work with the French Resistance, is fascinating reading. Among those family members mentioned in the wartime chronicle is Suzanne Aubois, a longtime resident of Washington Street.

On June 6, 1944 they had heard Eisenhower's announcement of the Normandy invasion on BBC over a short wave radio hidden in their attic in Les Bordes, a small village south of Paris. But as Suzanne's daughter writes in the *Record*:

"Our liberation came two months after D-Day when Patton's army came down our country road on the 21st of August.

The whole day long we watched as tank after tank passed in front of the gate and the soldiers threw us candy and chewing gum.

The soldiers were not allowed to leave their tanks because the countryside had been occupied just several days before as the enemy was taking its last retreat; but a chaplain stopped his jeep as he saw us in front of the house and asked my mother if she would allow him to bless us. She was delighted and after the blessing asked where he came from. "St. Louis, Missouri," he replied, adding: "and today is the feast of Saint Louis the 21 of August!" That is how we remember that incredible day!"

After the war Suzanne, a young widow, her three small children, and her sister Marthe arrived in the United States, seeking a home on the East coast. They came to investigate Newport, a town Suzanne remembered from history of the French army and navy assistance during the Revolutionary War.

"The moment we saw Washington Street and the harbor, we knew this was the place where we could live," Suzanne said. "The French called the street Rue de L'Eau, and we thought it beautiful, too. I was immediately at home in this place where French officers had resided."

Hunter House was, at that time, being refurbished by the Preservation Society. The work was slow, the house old, and Suzanne and Marthe had a difficult time keeping themselves warm on the second and third floors. "My children did not mind at all," Suzanne said. "After all, they had just come out of a terrible war where, for years, there was not enough to eat, and no way to be warm."

When her children first saw New York, Suzanne said, they were unbelieving. One son remarked on the absence of bomb damage. "Everything is standing up," he exclaimed.

The children adapted easily to the American way of life. They learned English quickly; Suzanne sent them to public school where the work, compared to French schools, was not demanding. Suzanne, a social worker in her own country, found much to do helping Navy wives, so many of them off to France, learn the language and ways of the country where they and their husbands would be stationed. Later, Suzanne would teach French at the Portsmouth Priory and French cooking at the Swinburne School.

Marthe married and moved to Fall River. Suzanne lived in Hunter House for two years. Eventually, she was able to own the house where she lives now: 86 Washington Street.

She has always liked America, she says. She is still impressed by American hospitality. "Doors open here," she said. "In France, one can live for years without knowing one's neighbor. Here, you are immediately made welcome."

Suzanne Aubois is a courageous woman; she has a sense of humor which must have rescued her many times in her life - a life full of upheaval. She was widowed after only five years of marriage. She says little of the hardships she suffered throughout the war years. She does not dwell on the pain of having to leave her beloved country, traveling with three little children into the unknown. Instead, she speaks of her teaching, her house on Washington Street, and the many friends she has made in Newport.

Anita Mc Andrews



MORE SOUNDS OF THE POINT

Here are a few other "sounds" of the Point.

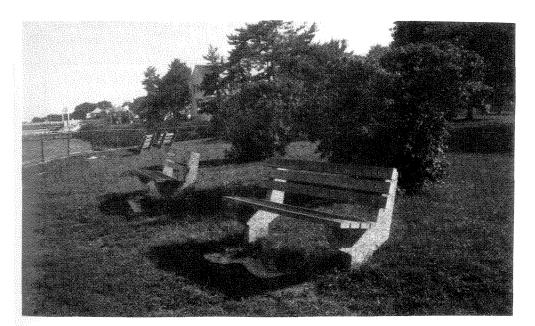
Early in the morning there are the sounds of multiple song birds, but a few birds seem to dominate. Perhaps the loudest are the Canada geese either flying by or feeding. The gulls when fighting are loud, but two distinctive sounds are those of the cardinal and the mourning dove.

You mentioned fog horns. In addition, when the wind is right, the siren marking the center of the Newport bridge is heard. If the wind is out of the north those of us near the Naval Hospital are alerted to the times of day with reveille, taps, etc.

Other nautical sounds are the hums of various engines - the slow outboard of the lobstermen tending traps, the sound of Oldport's diesel launches and the scream of the cigarette boats or the jet skis. The cruise boats have two unique sounds - the rumble of their anchor chain when they arrive and the roar of their horns when leaving. When the wind picks up the sailboats have a very distinctive sound as their halyards slap against their masts and there is the awful sound when a reefed sail breaks loose then beats itself to threads in the heavier storms.

A more recent sound has been that of the helicopters - - the small private ones landing on the large private yachts or the heavier choppers used by the Coast Guard for search missions. We also get to recognize the commercial jets from Greene and the lumbering C-131 from Quonset and the occasional seaplane taking off near Goat Island.

Charles Shoemaker



GOOD OLD SUMMERTIME

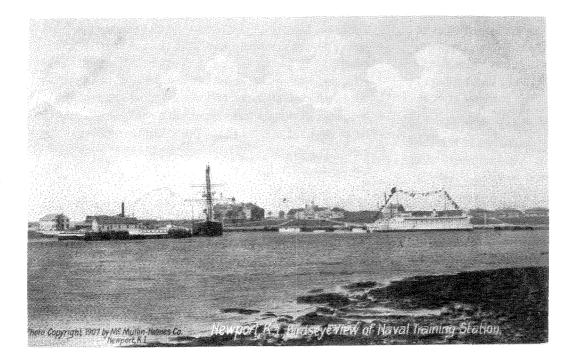
Nowhere on the Point does this theme ring truer than at Battery Park - our special spot for all generations. Yes, there used to be a candy stand and a band stand, a ring of benches, baptisms at the blue rocks, navy ships anchored offshore, and ferries to Goat Island and Jamestown. Maybe this is what some of the long term residents have been reminiscing about during these past months as they gather in the afternoons to catch the breeze. However, during this hot, hazy, humid summer there often wasn't even a breeze, but there were always people and happenings. Maybe some of these will be the memories of sights and sounds you will carry indoors as the weather changes.

> visits with neighbors drinks at the water fountain joggers on their way spectacular sunsets wedding pictures being taken windsurfers setting sails the lunch crowd gathering happy children and racing dogs sun bathers and shade seekers the beautiful planters family picnics changing sights offshore a memorial service men gathering for their nightly visit

THANK YOU

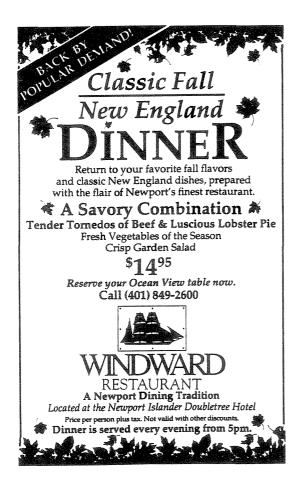
Our thanks once again to Mike and Nancy Curran of Pine Street. Last year Mike arranged the installation of a beautiful new bench in Battery Park in memory of Nancy's father who had so often enjoyed a quiet place to sit by the water. This year Mike's mother died and Nancy arranged for another bench to be installed in her memory.

HISTORY ON POST CARDS



This post card, copyrighted in 1907, shows the Naval Training Station with its two training ships. The one on the left, with the masts, is the Constellation while the large white hulk on the right, flying the flags is the Reina Mercedes, a captured Spanish ship from the Spanish American War. This ship has a very interesting history and will be the subject of an upcoming Green Light article.

Florence Archambault





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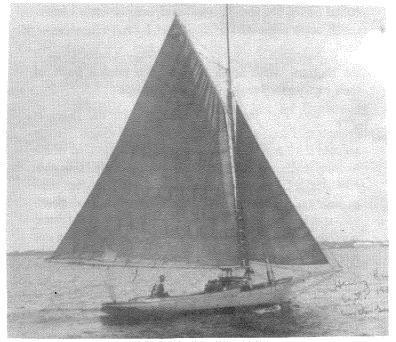
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THAT SEPTEMBER STORM

As September brings seasonal changes, stories of the past feature storms. Here's one from Dorothy Berger Cook, a Born on the Pointer, about her uncle. Captain George Chase, Jr. of Portsmouth and Prudence Island followed in his father's footsteps as an oysterman but was forced to move out of state to harvest oysters in Long Island Sound when that business became extinct here in Narragansett Bay. Since oysters are only harvested in months ending in "r", he used to spend his summers here on the Point with his sister Agnes Berger and her six children on Bayside Avenue next to the Cenacle.



One morning in September of 1938 he set sail from Van Zandt Pier for his home in Bridgeport, Connecticut, in his one-master oyster sloop the "Ruypell" built by his father. The Berger children were all watching his departure although their mother had warned them it was bad luck to watch someone until they sailed out of sight on the water.

There was no advance warning, but the wind and clouds must have signaled danger to this experienced seaman who found himself running into the fury of the 1938 hurricane as it approached the Bay. He hove to in a cove near Westerly and secured the boat, went to sleep ashore, and awoke to think the world had come to an end. He didn't know what had happened, but he knew he had to get out of there and get home. It was several days before anyone heard from him again when he finally got home safely. All the family here knew was that their uncle had disappeared as had the Van Zandt Pier. What formerly were just called line storms could now be devastating hurricanes.

DEAD RECKONING

Quite often at the end of a hot August day, my husband J-B would lock up the dusty John Stevens Shop and make for Washington Street, where our little cat boat "The Penguin" lay at anchor. A light fog hung over the water, just enough to cool us off, so we called our good friends from the Portsmouth Abbey School, Sue and Francis Brady. Soon we were sailing across the Bay, to the rocky Jamestown shore, where a dip in the water was followed by a modest picnic.

Then, to our surprise, we realized that the fog had fallen heavily upon us. Where were we? Could we find our way back to Newport? I had no idea of J-B's competence as a navigator. I kept wondering "How near are we to Rose Island? Have we blown back to Gould Island?"

Then, from quite close by, I heard a couple of men talking. John hailed them, to find that they were walking on Washington Street and that we had crossed the Bay safely skippered by J.H. Benson.

Fisher Benson



Kay O'Brien

During this summer's hot steamy weather, lawns and some hardy perennials died down or went dormant.

I wouldn't be too quick to replace hardy perennials either as some may come to life in cool weather or even next spring. Mark their places with a label and replace in the spring.

Mainstays of waterless gardens this summer:

Platycodon (Balloonflower) has a long tap root that searches the water and waxy leaves to hold it in.

Coreopsis (Tickseed) and its variant form C verticilia never needed water. It bloomed over and over between shearings.

Perovskia (Russian Sage) The huge mist of blue was lovely as a background for phlox. Phlox can be pinched back until mid-July for fuller plants with more flower heads.

Bee Balm is for *laissez-faire* gardeners as it doesn't transplant too well but pops up here and there.

Campion is a wildflower that camped in my garden when I was sick last spring. It was holding down its place so I labeled it "weed" for the garden tour and let it grow. It is still blooming mid-August and has



Right Here in Newport!

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

So when you're in the mood for good northern Italian food, fine wine, and a spectacular view of the harbor, come to the Cafe del Mare. It's not in Italy, but it's the next best thing. Open for dinner Tuesday-Saturday from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Reservations suggested, call (401) 849-7788.

Free botel parking available!

Located in the Newport Marriott 75 Long Wharf, Newport earned its place along with another weed/wilding. My saponaria (soapwart or bouncing bet) was dug by a friend from the roadside years ago. It has a suggestion of pinky white flower heads whose florets remind oldtimers of the bloomers of chubby washer women bending over their tubs. A sudsy infusion of the flowers was used in bygone days to wash fine silks.

I'm sorry I missed the Point Association's bus trip to Tranquil Lake Nursery, growers of fabulous daylilies. I can't remember a year when I have enjoyed my yellow ones as much as I did this year. The hybrid called Stella De Oro is small and the only one I know that blooms all season.

Anemone Sylvesris is a mid-August bloomer as is the fragrant white hosta. These two need a place of their own as they make very large clumps.

Now that the drought has broken the grass is greener and seed sown has sprouted "like magic." I use soluble fertilizers: Roots, Rapidgro, Miracle Gro which have a high concentration of immediately available fertilizer and trace elements, the vitamins of the plant population. A light feeding in September, a good cleanup, and a few freshly grown annuals from our local nurseries in good shape for the mild bright fall days our coastal climate gives us, will extend your autumn garden.

Anne Reynolds



Nancy Espersen and Kay O'Brien ponder which daylily to buy at Tranquil Lake Nursery in Rehoboth, MA on a Point Association sponsored bus trip on August 2.

NEWPORT IN BLOOM

The party to announce the winners of Newport in Bloom was held under a pink awning at the Marble House. Party dresses and flowers everywhere; a big white decorated cake and a tall chocolatey chocolate cake; wine, fruit punch in stemmed glasses, cheeses and pretty hors d'oeuvres for everyone.

There were many prizes, the mayor spoke and there was clapping and kudos enough to please the hardest working gardener.

Point winners were Patty Murphy of the Willows, first place in the Small Business District category and Joan Wilson of Poplar Street, second place in the Residential Area I competition. Visitors to the Secret Garden Tour had a preview of Patty's and Joan's displays on the June tour. Lisa Johnston of Third Street received an honorable mention.

Finalists included Paul and Jennifer Boghossian of Washington Street and Carol Marinan of Third Street (Point Association Beautification Co-Chair).

The Newport Marriott Hotel won first place in the Large Business District Awards and the Doubletree Hotel was a finalist in its division.

Point Association member Madeline LaRock won the Senior Development Award and First Ward voters at the Potter School will be pleased to hear that clerk Geraldine Kelly was a finalist.

The magnificent three-tier chocolate cake was made and presented by Sophia Pendergast, former Point resident, and owner of the late-lamented, unreplaced Walnut Street Market.

Anne Reynolds



SECRET GARDEN TOUR BOOK

The Benefactors of the Arts celebrated its 10th anniversary by publishing a handsome little book, *The Secret Gardens of Newport's Point Section*.

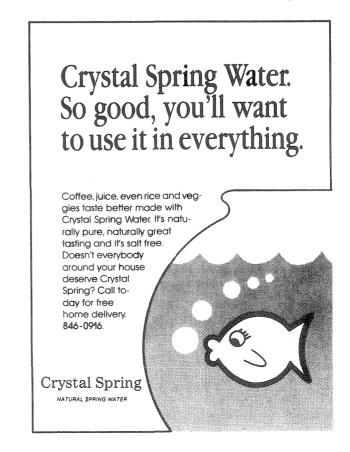
From cover to cover, the slim green paperbound book is a very beautiful record of the gardens as they were in summer of 1993. The photographs, two to a garden, are by Laurie E. Sullivan with commentary and notes by Thomas Gannon. This informative little volume even has lists of the plant varieties in each garden.

All the money earned by the Benefactors is put to good use for programs in the Arts for Island schools. Over 175 volunteers man the garden tours every year and, as many of the volunteers and all of the gardeners are from the Point, this book will be of interest to *Green Light* readers.

The book sales will help the schools and the arts. You may purchase copies at Carroll Michael & Co. Pharmacy on Bellevue Avenue or the Newport Art Museum. Island Gardens in Portsmouth, Chaves Gardens in Middletown and a number of local bookstores also stock the book.

For out-of-towners or for a number of copies, you may call me at 847-2009 or Benefactors of the Arts, 847-0514 at 33 Washington Street, Newport, RI, 02840. Payment of \$12.95 may be made by personal check or by charging on Visa or Mastercard.

Anne Reynolds



MARY FERRAZZOLI

One of the true Friends of the Waterfront died on August 2 - - Mary Ferrazzoli, a Newporter who wanted her City-by-the-Sea to be for all the public to see.

Public Access to the waterfront was her goal, to have the old city streets to the water line defined and marked to guarantee public access forever.

Founded in the 1980s, Friends of the Waterfront (FOW) increased steadily in membership with Mary at its helm. A kind woman, Mary, was a "no fuss, no frills" person who simply felt she had a job to do. She volunteered countless hours, questioned, researched, attended city council meetings late into the night, traveled to Providence to CRMC Hearings and Legislative sessions. Promoting the Public Trust Doctrine, time and time again, she emphasized that this law protected the rights of the people to public access to the water.

Through the "S&L" days of rampant, questionable development of the waterfront, FOW and Mary suffered the slings and arrows of outrageous developers and the meanspirited rudeness of her denigrators with quiet grace. Mary knew her cause was right, and Friends of the Waterfront would prevail.

With no interest in personal gain, Mary's altruism was a shining example for us all. Newport was fortunate to have such a good Friend of the Waterfront.

Perhaps it's wishful thinking but when I see a gull perched at the end of a wharf, I'd like to believe it's Mary, back, checking on public access to the waterfront! **GEORGE JOHNSON**

The death of George Johnson, a Washington Street resident for many years, has saddened Newport's sailing and waterfront community. Mr. Johnson was President of the Seamen's Church Institute for five years.

In the early 1980s George Johnson, a fine sailor and world traveler, began his dedicated service to the Seamen's Church. Serving on the Board, he helped to restructure the Institute's policies, and brought the Institute to the attention of both government and civic councils in Newport. He opened the Institute to various civic groups, thus enlisting the necessary aid and interest.

It was Mr. Johnson's vision that succeeded in bringing together the various elements of the waterfront. He wanted, and succeeded in establishing, a real "Haven for Seafarers."

The R.I. Fishermen and Whaling Museum is just one of the present facilities at the Institute that brings both children and adults to Newport's home away from home for sailors, fishermen, and voyagers from all parts of the world. Mr. Johnson upgraded lodging facilities and improved the Institute's restaurant. During George Johnson's term as President, the Institute prospered from the increased participation of the community.

Civic-minded, a generous man, George Johnson, will be greatly missed by those who work at the Institute, and by those many more whose various needs are served by the Institute.

Anita McAndrews

Liz Bermender





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In our April issue we paid tribute to Mabel Watson, one of the founders of the Point Association, on her 100th birthday. Now with sadness we note her death on August fifth. Working closely with Mabel during the early days of the preservation and restoration movement on the Point was Nancy Hay who shares some of her experiences.

Forty-five years ago I looked down from the window of Bob and Virginia Covell's second floor (now the Villa Marina) to see two women returning from an antiquing trip. I said to my mother, "I would like to know that woman with bangs." Two years later my family and I were again putting down roots in Newport when I had a call from a stranger whose name was Mabel Watson. She turned out to be the lady with bangs.

She explained that John Perkins Brown had come to Newport to restore a house for himself at 25 Bridge Street. He had interested the real estate dealer Dick Adams in buying an old house at 42 Elm Street that had then been done over. Mary and Herb Rommel had moved into it, and it was John's hope that this process could be repeated in this town where so many interesting 18th century homes were neglected. He also felt there should be some office which was informed about which old houses were available and their condition. In those days it was possible to acquire original hardware, mantels, doors, wainscot, interior shutters, doorways and flagstone. The one-storied Townsend workshop attached to the Goddard's house at 74 Bridge Street had been rented and Philipine Arnold and Mabel had moved into "Restorations Inc." Would I be interested in giving some time to this new project?

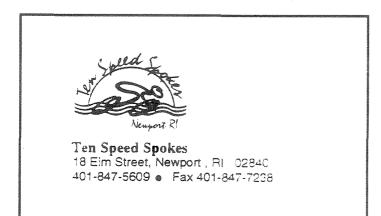
This was the beginning of a twenty-year effort which took us far afield for architectural necessities and monthly trips to Boston wholesale houses for the documentary fabrics and trims requested by our following. We had formulas made by Pratt and Lambert paint company for the six really authentic Newport colors. Suzanne Aubois gave us a helping hand for a while and taught us how to get the most heat from our only source, a little pot bellied stove. Mabel was known in this period for her rug hooking.

Mr. Brown was upset by the possible razing of the Hunter House if the nuns who were residents could not find a buyer. He persuaded three local men to buy the property, one of them being Mr. George Henry Warren. Once purchased, how to take care of it? Mr. Warren was asked to become president of this threeman preservation group. After some thought, he declined but said his wife would take his place . . the beginning of the Preservation Society.

Restorations Inc. had to move so we rented the two finished rooms in the Pittshead Tavern on Charles Street. When that building was moved to 77 Bridge Street, later to become the Rommels' home, we were invited to rent space in the Brick Market when the Preservation Society took over the running of the show room. Restorations Inc. had been ahead of the trend but had done over a second house, the Wilbour Farm.

Becoming housebound Mabel designed and made needlepoint rugs, yards of crewel work and tried her hand at painting which she had not had time to enjoy in earlier years. She often said her mother told her she was made of catgut and steel; she was right. The manner in which she accepted the emotional and physical blows that came to her was an example to all her friends. Why had I ever been attracted to her? Could it be that we discovered we had an 18th century ancestor in common. We each had 19th century ancestors living in the little town of Painesville, Ohio and we were both born Buckeyes. I hope some of her qualities rubbed off on me.

Nancy Hay



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COOK'S CORNER

With the cold weather approaching it is time to be thinking about soups and chowders. The following appeared in *This Week*, a Sunday supplement magazine some time ago. It is illustrated with a photo of John Howard Benson making his ancestor's chowder and describes the Bensons' home on Washington Street.

THOMAS TEW'S BLACKFISH CHOWDER

3 4-pound blackfish 3 guarts fish stock 1/4 pound salt pork, sliced 1 at. onions, coarsely ground 1 gt. peeled diced potatoes (8-10) 1 gt. canned tomatoes 1 lemon 1 1/4 tsp. poultry seasoning (sage, basil, marjoram, thyme) 1/2 tsp. ground clove l tsp. sugar Pinch of cayenne pepper 1/2 tsp. black pepper Salt to taste 1 cup red wine 1 TBSP. butter or margarine

Clean and scale fish leaving head on, as head contains good gelatin. Wrap fish in cheesecloth, put in a deep pot and cover with water; simmer over a low fire until fish is tender enough to flake from the bones, allowing 12 minutes to the pound. Remove fish, save the stock - there should be about three quarts. Flake fish from bones. In heavy iron skillet fry salt pork until golden, add pork to fish stock retaining fat. Add onion to fat and fry until limp and pale gold and add to stock. Take a half cup of stock and rinse out frying pan to get every last bit of the flavor, then pour into chowder. Add potatoes and tomatoes. Simmer until potatoes are tender.

Wash a lemon and thinly slice; discarding tough ends. Quarter the slices and place in saucepan, covering with water; simmer slowly. After 10 minutes (do not let boil or the flavor will be bitter), add seasonings, stir a few times and add to chowder. Next add flaked fish. If you think more lemon is needed, add juice to taste; cook 10 minutes. Just before serving, add wine and butter or margarine. Heat until very hot but do not boil, serve in deep bowls with pilot crackers. Yield: 10 portions.

Florence Archambault



Activities abound in Newport from May to September! There is never a lack of something to do or see.

Many enjoyed the Black Ships Festivities and meeting our visitors and guests from Japan. Members of the International Hospitality Commission proved to be an invaluable resource for the city. There are openings on this commission and others. Please share some of your time and talent. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Applications may be requested from a council member or by calling the city clerk's office at 846-9600.

Congratulations to Frances Walker on her recent appointment to the Tree Commission.

The council received the final report from the Summer Task Force in July. The city has implemented several of their recommendations and will continue to move forward with others. After the meeting, I contacted the Newport School Department. Through the efforts of Mark Gorman from the School Committee and Superintendent Mercy Columbe, the School Department agreed to include discussions of city ordinances in three areas of their curriculum: health, drivers education, and civics. The Hospitality Association has agreed to develop signs which will be located in members' restaurants to inform the public of some of Newport's regulations on noise and alcohol. Additional signs will be posted in local marinas upon approval from owners. Councilman Simpson worked tirelessly for the Citizens Complaint Ordinance. This process allows a citizen to file a formal complaint with the city and discuss the merits of it with the city There are safeguards built in to avoid solicitor.

those complaints without merit. More information can be obtained from the city clerk's office.

If you get a chance, take a look at the renovations at Rogers High School. These changes will not only enhance the building's physical appearance, but save on energy costs as well. The primary benefit will be student safety, but a secondary benefit should be an improved attitude and sense of pride for all who attend and work there. The progress is clearly visible.

Walking on Easton's Beach, with its newly renovated facilities, or taking a leisurely stroll on the Cliff Walk provides relief to this summer weary Newporter. I'm not sure if it's the beautiful scenery, or the sound of children laughing that seems to put things into perspective for me. It works better then anything else I've tried.

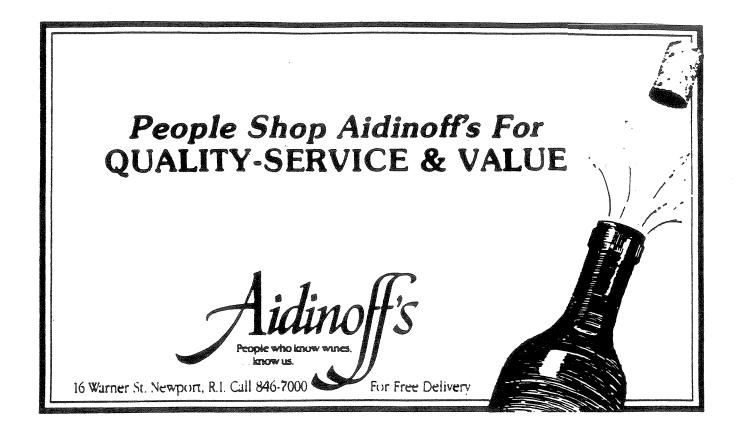
In closing, I would be remiss, if I did not acknowledge the passing of one of Newport's most dedicated citizens, Mary Ferrazolli. Mary's efforts focused on retaining waterfront access for all citizens. She will be greatly missed, but has left an indelible message in our community.

Jeanne Marie Napolitano



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