

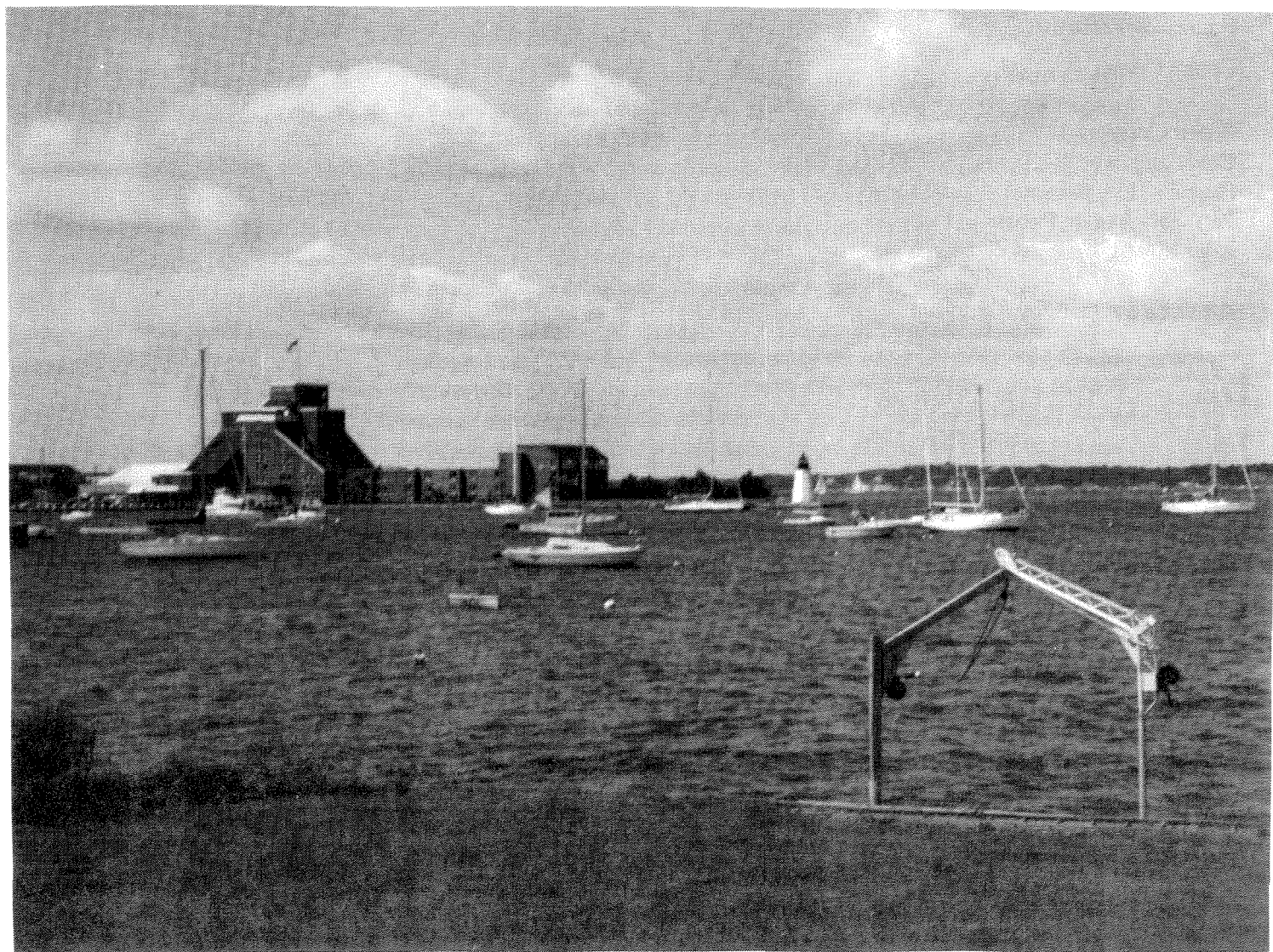
The
GREEN



LIGHT

BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

SUMMER 1994





The

GREEN LIGHT

XXXIX No. 3

SUMMER 1994

FEATURES

| | |
|---|-------|
| President's Letter | 3 |
| Point Association News | 4&5 |
| R. I. Historic Preservation Conference | 7 |
| Gardener's Corner | 8 |
| The Sounds of the Point | 9 |
| What Does it Mean to Live on the Point? | 10&11 |
| I Remember! I Remember! | 12 |
| The Perry House Staircase | 13 |
| Choosing a New Port | 14 |
| The Last Ship | 15 |
| History on Postcards | 16 |
| Cook's Corner | 18 |

Photo Credits:

Cover and page 4 - Florence Archambault
Page 5 - Herb Rommel
Page 11 - Ronald Potvin
Page 13 - Courtesy of Eleanor Weaver

Art work by Dorothy Sanschagrin

CALENDAR SUMMER 1994

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| June 10, 11, 12 | Secret Garden Tour |
| June 12 | Organ Recital St. John's Church |
| June 16 | Point Picnic (June 23-rain date) |
| July 30 | St. John's Fair |
| Tuesdays in August | "See and Learn" Bus Tours |
| August 25 | Members Cocktail Party |

OFFICERS

Christine Montanaro, President
849-4708
Donna Segal, 1st Vice President
848-7088
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.)

GREEN LIGHT

CO-EDITORS

Florence Archambault
Katharine O'Brien

STAFF

Esther Fisher Benson
Virginia Covell
Nancy Espersen
Catherine Hammett
Anita McAndrews
Anne Reynolds

John Howard, Advertising
Katharine O'Brien and Nancy Espersen
Circulation
Nancy Espersen, Typing

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 April General Membership meeting was well attended and well received. During the business meeting, items included the news from the Study Group for the Marine Terminal/Cruise Ship Pier that the Board of Directors from the Island Development Corporation had voted against Goat Island as a possible site for a marine terminal. Alternative sites on Aquidneck Island continue to be reviewed and the Study Group will remain informed. After a short break and delectable goodies provided by Dede Elster, John Tschirch, the Director of Education for the Preservation Society of Newport County, presented his special illustrated program on "Gardens of the Great Houses of England in the 18th Century." Thanks go to Joe and Angela Vars and to Bob and Dede Elster for making such a lovely evening possible.

By now many of you have read John Pantalone's editorial that appeared in the April 28th issue of *Newport This Week* entitled "Under Siege; The City Council Gets Gang Tackled by Touchy Issues." Mr. Pantalone discussed the formation of citizens groups over the years in Newport to address city wide issues. One of the groups highlighted was the collaborative called CONGO - "A forum for representatives to share information, alert one another to trouble and solidify positions." Mr. Pantalone goes on to say that the Point Association is a member of CONGO. CONGO - The Coalition of Neighborhood Grassroots Organizations - had its original meeting over a year and a half ago. The focus of that meeting was the impact of an Amphitheater at Goat Island. I, as president, along with the presidents of 16 other groups, continue to meet on a bi-monthly basis. The common ground for all members of CONGO is the desire to improve the quality of life in Newport, a goal which we all know is demanding and at times elusive.

In the same editorial about the formation of citizen groups, Mr. Pantalone quotes Mayor Roderick as saying "that an elitist group has been meeting and planning strategy for the city in private." A further reference was made to an "underground" group whose activities are seen as "factionalizing the City." I find Mr. Roderick's choice of words, while alluding to whatever group he had in mind, curiously interesting. After attending several City Council meetings over the past months with issues such as parking meters and the Economic Innovation Center, I see that the City Council itself is "factionalized" and some members may very well run the risk of being "elitist" who plan for the City in a vacuum independent of the consensus of the very people they represent.

With this observation in mind, I take this opportunity to urge members to take time from their already busy schedules to share your concerns and interests not only with this Association but also with the other established organizations who work hard to make Newport the city we envision. It is also vitally important to actively participate with those who manage our city so that representation is insured. Democracy and unification are goals that we all strive for no matter what our individual role may be.

In closing, I regret that Gary Richards, the General Manager at the Doubletree Hotel has left us. Mr. Richards has been a most cooperative and helpful liaison between our Association and the Doubletree. He was not afraid to roll up his sleeves and help out (I remember he and his wife did all the grilling for our Day on the Point last summer). The Board will surely miss him and wish him all the luck in his next endeavor.

Christine Montanaro



POINT PICNIC!!!

POINT ASSOCIATION PICNIC

Thursday, June 16th
6 p.m.

Anne Reynolds' Yard
88 Washington Street

Come join the fun
with your friends and neighbors

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

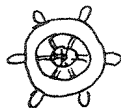
Coffee will be provided

ALL ABOARD !!

Be at the dock on Sunday, September 11, 1994 at 5 p.m. to set sail on the *Spirit of Newport* for two hours of fun.

The fundraising committee of the Point Association has chartered the *Spirit of Newport* for Sunday, September 11 from 5 - 7 p.m. for a cocktail party and silent auction.

When the plans are finalized for this event, more information will be sent to the membership. In the meantime, mark your social calendars for September 11 and plan to attend the launching of this fundraising effort.



POINT PLANT SALE

The Point Plant Sale took place Saturday, May 21. We were lucky to have a beautiful day after the past few weeks of cold and gray weather. Anita McAndrews' beautiful garden was again the place. Anita was not yet back but her son Shawn was our gracious host. He had worked hard in the garden to get it looking its best and he helped us with arranging and displaying the plants. We thank both Anita and Shawn for the lovely setting of the sale.

Donations and help with the sale came from many Pointers. I want to thank you all for your time and work - the regulars, Susie Bowen, Sara Kessler, Sally McKay, Ilse Nesbitt and Anne Reynolds, and others, and the newcomers to the Point, Paul and Nancy Quattrucci and Sue Gudikunst who got involved. Special thanks to Dr. Bruce Howe, who gave us a truckload of things from cuttings and seedlings propagated in his greenhouse to exotic house plants. We are very fortunate to be recipients of his dedicated raising of plants. His contributions form the backbone of our sale.

Hearty thanks, too, to Bill Reardon who brings us donations from almost all the nurseries and garden centers on the island. These are always large and impressive items which add significantly to our proceeds.

Attendance was good and lots of plants went off to homes on the Point to grow and add to the attractiveness of the neighborhood. Once again spring has come and another annual Point event has been enjoyed by many.

Joan Stickley



SEE AND LEARN ABOUT RHODE ISLAND AND MASSACHUSETTS

A BUS PROGRAM EVERY TUESDAY IN AUGUST
FOR POINTERS AND GUESTS

SPONSORED BY YOUR POINT ASSOCIATION

Destinations Will Be To:

Tranquil Lakes Gardens
Rehoboth, MA

The RISD Museum and Benefit Street
Providence, RI

Allen Haskell's Nursery and Aviary
Waterfront Area
New Bedford, MA

Historic Plimouth Plantation
Plymouth, MA

Roger Williams Zoo and Greenhouse
Providence, RI

Cost Per Trip is \$30

Which Includes:

Admission

Bus Transportation

Box Lunch From
Heavenly Ham

Tour of the Sites

Exact Dates
to be Determined

For Information Call
Joe Vars 847-4289

* * * * *

MEMBERS COCKTAIL PARTY



Join us Thursday, August 25
6 - 8 p.m.
for the Members Cocktail Party
Villa Marina (Sanford - Covell House)
72 Washington Street

Welcome to New Members

Paul and Judy Chrisman
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Galkin
Janice Giannini
Norbert A. Grochowski
Elaine L. Kroll
Herbert Lawton, Sr.
Winifred Love, Capt. USN (Ret)
Lawrence P. Mongeau
Thomas and Elizabeth O'Brien
Roger and Ann Palmer
Vincent J. Perry, Jr
Catherine Phillips
Cdr. E. Jane Potter
Donald and Gusina Powell
Mrs. John Silvestri
Vincent Smith
Ron and Diane Vanden Dorpel
Robert and Barbara Vandenhoof

BENEFACTORS OF THE ARTS GARDEN TOUR

The tenth annual Secret Garden will be June 10th, 11th and 12th. Fourteen gardens will be open for visiting.

The Benefactors is a volunteer group led by Point neighbor, Myra Duvally. They fund cultural events for children of Newport and neighboring towns. There have been programs in theater, writing computerized music and instrumental music.

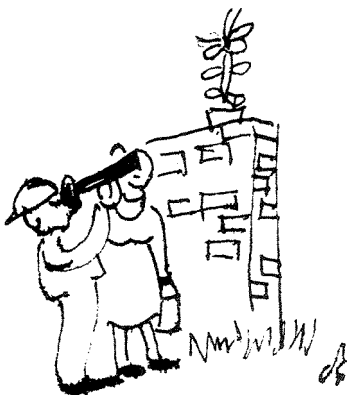
On Saturday of the tour weekend, lunches will be available with reservations which may be booked by sending \$10 for each lunch to 33 Washington Street.

For several years there have been Flower Festivals at St. John's Church on Washington Street. The festivals are like the traditional ones held in English churches and this year will be staged by the Newport Garden Club. Entrance is free with the tour ticket.

The busy Benefactors of the Arts have produced a book! Tom Gannon, Newport writer, has written the accompanying text and Laurie Sullivan photographed most of the gardens. There are water colors of some of the gardens by Marian O'Connell, Madelin Porter and Darcy Magrattan who also designed the book.

Tom Gannon's text provides information about the gardens. It lists plant materials and wisdom shared by the owners.

Tour goers may buy the book at 33 Washington Street or by sending \$12.95 to The Benefactors of the Arts, 33 Washington Street, Newport, RI, 02840.



BEAUTIFICATION

Our Point clean up day, April 30, was a wonderful success. The weather was on our side with a sunny morning as many neighbors showed up in Storer Park with rakes in hand. Kay O'Brien, Mary Jane Rodman and the Fosters cleaned up the bridge area, while a group of 8 people from the Doubletree maintenance crew cleaned, pruned and trimmed the south side of the park. Bryan Babcock showed up with cutting shears and cleaned the pots out. Don Dery was in charge of digging around the trees and mulching. Judy and Paul Chrisman spent their time pruning the huge spruce tree. The Marinans, Jim, Diana, Tracey and myself concentrated on the garden area, edging and sweeping. Kate and Rob Cook spent their efforts at the Bridge Street island. We finished our 2 1/2 hour morning at Battery Park. Jerry Dugan, manager of Waste Management sent David Silvia in a truck to pick up over 50 bags of trash and clippings. John and Ruth Barton donated some ferns and Arthur Pitts gave us some hostas to plant in the garden at Storer Park. Everything looks so clean and neat. Many thanks to all who contributed to make the Point look loved and cared for.

Carol Marinaran

NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S

St. John's Fair
"An English Fete"

Saturday, July 30
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Bake Sale, Crafts, English Pub,
White Elephant, Children's Games
and Much More!

St. John's Organist to Perform Recital on June 12

This is a fund-raiser for the parish with a suggested donation of \$10. Residents of the Point are cordially invited to hear the historic Hook and Hastings pipe organ. The recital begins at 5 p.m.

Newly-Formed Choir of Boys Seeking Members

The unique sound of boys singing in choir will be returning to our neighborhood. With the newly formed Boys Choir, St. John's Church is reviving a tradition long absent from this parish.

For more information contact the church office at 848-2561.

RHODE ISLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

On Saturday, April 9, 1994 Point Association President Christine Montanaro and Board Member Anita Rafael participated in the Annual Statewide Rhode Island Historic Preservation Conference at Salve Regina University. About 300 people attended the conference from all over the state representing historical societies, historic district commissions, preservation societies and city planning officials. The theme of the conference was *Preservation Strategies for Liveable Communities*.

Christine Montanaro was part of an afternoon workshop titled *Mobilizing Neighborhood Resources*. The panel also included John Canham of the Newport Preservation Alliance, and Arnold Robinson of the Providence Preservation Society. In answer to the question, "Can all-volunteer organizations organize themselves to achieve their goals in protecting and revitalizing historic neighborhoods?", Christine Montanaro was able to hold up the example of the Point Association as a proto-type for other resident groups. About 25 registrants sat in on this workshop and all expressed surprise at learning the Point Association goes back to the mid-50s.

Anita Rafael, co-chair of the History and Archives committee of the Point Association, led an afternoon walking tour of the Point neighborhood for about 20 members of the conference, including its chairman, Edward Sanderson Executive Director of the State Historical Preservation Commission. In a letter following the conference, Mr. Sanderson noted that this was the first time the conference had offered neighborhood walking tours and it served to illustrate many of the ideas and themes that were discussed in other sections of the all-day conference. Anita Rafael said that during the tour from Thames Street down to Washington Street, the walkers kept asking over and over again, "How does the Point Association do it? How do they manage to keep the spirit of such an organization alive for so long? What makes this neighborhood so liveable?" Ms. Rafael's answer was simply to point out the number of proud homeowners who dedicate time, energy and resources not only to their own front yard, but to their neighbor's yard, the sidewalks along the street and the area's parks as well.

Both Christine and Anita were able in their workshop and walking tour to illustrate the many challenges the Point has faced that have threatened its historic character - the highway, the bridge, the waterfront development, the traffic, the noise, the litter -

and at the same time were able to show the degree of success that can be achieved by maintaining good communication with the City's officials and by sustaining the strength to stand up against controversial issues again and again.

Also on display at the conference registration area was the exhibit *Pages from the Scrapbooks of the Point Association - 1955 - 1973*, a 20-panel display. Every conference attendee had the opportunity to view the press clippings, photos, and correspondence from the first two decades of the Point Association. Again, most were surprised that the efforts to preserve the Point neighborhood had begun so long ago, and that so much had been accomplished over the years.

Thirty-eight years ago, the Point Association founders declared, "We can move out, or we can fight - we'd rather fight and work hard to preserve our neighborhood and our way of life." All Point residents may take a moment to congratulate themselves for a job well done for the last 38 years, and for being ever willing to carry on in the face of new challenges.

An important highlight of the conference for Newport was the *1994 State Historic Preservation Award* presented to the Brick Market Foundation, the Newport Historical Society and the City of Newport for their work on the newly restored Museum of Newport History at the Brick Market. Congratulations to all of those involved in the project design and construction.

The *RI Alliance of Historic District Commissions First Annual Honor Award* was given for generous, learned and resourceful contributions in the preservation of Rhode Island historic resources to the late Patrick G. Kirby II. Patrick Kirby was a member and former chairman of the Newport Historic District Commission and the Rhode Island Alliance of Historic District Commissions.

Imported traditional country
lace of France



Rue de France

Gifts • Accessories • Linens

78 Thames St., Newport, RI 02840 - 401-846-3636

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

GARDENER'S CORNER

Only spartan coastal gardeners worked during our typical cold, wet, rainy, windy spring. The same weather that provided us our seasonal grump made our gardens, weeds and all, break forth in beauty with or without a helping hand from us. The cruel weather made the blossoms last. Sun, air and water, the best things, are free in our climate.

It's spring for me when my reading light is invisible in the 6 a.m. sun. The daylight lasts longer than my back does these days so I chafe indoors resolving to use my new little cart loaded with hand tools, buckets of peat and fertilizer and a bag for "bad weeds", those diseased, buggy or seedy ones that go in the trash. Good weeds and unwanted plants go in the bottom of the cart with a little soil clinging. One trip to the compost will suffice. No more may I range up and down the slope where fancy leads me.

I have promised myself to simplify. No new planting areas. Much more peat to make weeding easier. Let the gout weed take over where it has done without my say so. And no new plant varieties. Godetia, though, I did fall for at Peckhams. Seeds from Shepherds never got planted but will now. The Godetia is about 12 inches tall with 2-3 inch pink or white blossoms that make little bouquets at the top of fine leafed foliage.

Spring means asparagus. My 8 x 10 foot plot produces enough for all season from early May to early July, depending as it does on cool, humusy soil and plenty of water.

Traditionally asparagus was planted in 12-15 inch trenches and filled in as the plants grew. They grow best in sandy loam and drainage was a problem in our clay. So when seawall construction tore the old plants out I went modern to plant shallow furrows. The crop has been good, but as Garrison Keillor says, "you always knew the rule, now you know why." Asparagus works itself up to grow higher every year so instead of filling in trenches, one mulches the top of the bed to keep the roots well covered ending up with a raised bed which needs to be contained by a wall. Hence the rule! However it grows, a good way to pick it is by snapping

the tender tops that need no trimming at cooking time - a quick rinse and a short boil.

Rhubarb is another not so appealing spring harbinger. I give a lot away but mine often gets cooked, grows mold and ends up whence it came - back to the garden by way of the swill bucket and the compost heap.

We ate rhubarb from father's garden. Excepting Sundays when orange juice was squeezed. The other choice was two or three mouse-sized, wrinkle-skinned, soft-centered, stewed prunes swimming in dark brown juice. Easier to slurp down the rhubarb and be done with it. One or t'other was the only exit ticket from the table.

Cut rhubarb in two-inch pieces including the pink opaque end of the stem. String off the part that doesn't cut easily. Boil in water that comes almost to the top of the rhubarb. Stand right there or it'll foam out of the pot. When it is fairly well disintegrated, remove from fire and add sugar to taste. It's not as good to add sugar while it cooks. I always remember the rule but haven't found out "why." By the way rhubarb makes a base for punch in a country cookbook of the 60s.

Earth-Kind Killing

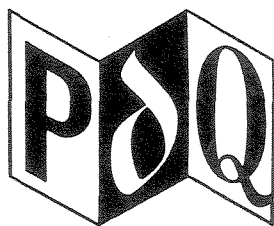
Radio master-gardener Jerry Baker: Mix three tablespoons white vinegar in one pint warm water. Squirt from window cleaner bottle.

Me: Apply a teaspoon of dry high nitrogen (the first number on the bag) on broad leafed weeds when they are wet. Pick off any blossoms or seeds first.

DEM: Salt carpets or put salt in your vacuum cleaner bag to kill fleas and house mites. Rinse your dog with an infusion made by pouring two cups of boiling water over two sliced lemons and steep overnight. Feed your dog yeast or garlic to make him less attractive to fleas - people too, I'd think.

If all these suggestions seem harder then poisons, they are, but they don't pollute our ground water or cause the death of our pets or us. The Dupont Company has spent over \$200 million to repay farmers for damages to crops. (*New York Times* April 24, 1994)

Anne Reynolds



Printing & Copying, Inc.

176 Broadway

Newport, RI 02840

401-849-3820 • Fax (401) 849-3880

THE SOUNDS OF THE POINT

The sounds of the Point are many. One of the pleasantest ones is that of the bells of St. John's church. The stone tower holds three free-hanging bells: E-flat, B and G-flat. The large E-flat bell rings to mark the hour from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. But at 7 a.m., 12 noon and 6 p.m. the bell rings differently than it does at other hourly intervals. At each of these times, a regular pattern can be heard: three bells, a pause, three bells, a pause, three bells, a pause and then nine bells. This pattern of bells is actually a call to prayer, one of the traditional prayers of the Church called the Angelus.

Other bell sounds come from the water from buoys bobbing up and down in the harbor. Summer's foggy weather brings the raucous sounds of the fog horns sounding from vessels traveling up the bay to Providence and the cruise ships arriving and departing.

Have you ever been near the Marlborough fire station when the whistle goes off? If not, you have an experience to look forward to. This whistle resounds through out the Point at 8 a.m., 12 noon and 9 p.m. - if the firemen remember to sound it. But don't set your watch by it because quite often it is slightly off.

Those who live close to the bridge are lulled to sleep by the low rumble of the traffic and then awakened by the occasional loud thump of a truck meeting a bump or pothole.

Some of the sweetest sounds of the Point are made by its visitors and residents. I remember the bustling noise during the setup of the Point Fair on Willow Street and later in Storer Park where the exuberant sound of the children playing the games added to the festivities.

The rise and fall of conversations between visitors to the Secret Garden Tour are wafted through the air as they travel the streets of the Point in June with their maps in hand uttering their excited exclamations over the beauty of the gardens.

Although not a resident of the Point, there are

sounds that I enjoyed last summer when my husband and I walked its streets several times after supper at the Fourth Street Diner. They were also the sounds of voices.

Strolling down Washington Street we met residents walking, some with their dogs, who nodded and greeted us - even strangers. On Second Street we came upon two couples who were conversing with each other from opposite sides of the street about their gardens. Off in the distance we could hear the murmur of other voices in conversation. These sounds reinforced what I already knew - that the Point is a unique neighborhood.

Florence Archambault

Editor's note: What are your favorite sounds of the Point? We would love to hear them - both of today and yesteryear.

Send them to: Editor, The Green Light
P.O. Box 491
Newport, RI 02840

To Support Its Program of
Cultural Events For Children

BENEFACTORS OF THE ARTS

cordially invites you to the

Secret Garden Tour

A tour of fourteen private gardens
in the historic, restored Point Section of
Newport, Rhode Island

June 10 - 12, 1994

Friday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Sunday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Advanced Reservations: \$12.00

On Tour Day: \$15.00

Ticket is good for all 3 days

Benefactors of the Arts

33 Washington Street

Newport, RI 02840

Telephone: 401-847-0514

Ad Courtesy of Rue de France



Paint On Some Charm

I will do for you

Wall Glazing • Stenciling

Painted Furniture • Gilding

Call Mary Lou Smith

(401) 847-0870

Free estimates gladly given.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LIVE ON THE POINT?

Our first combined memory of the Point is of peering through the darkened windows of the place that was to be our first home together. We had just driven over 600 miles and Ashley wanted to see the apartment that I had chosen for the two of us. We had been separated for close to eight months after finishing graduate school in Connecticut - she in Richmond, Virginia, and I in New Bedford. Without a key yet to this place on Poplar Street, we must have looked like a couple of peeping Toms that night. One thing was obvious: it was small. Both of us were trying very hard to convince ourselves that we would be happy in this place.

In the light of day we saw how much our new home had to offer. Less than two blocks away was the water. It was only March, but the buoys bobbing about foretold the sailboats that would be there in the summer. The Elm Street pier promised many nights spent looking out at the bridge. It was a place alive with history. Our apartment was in a nondescript Victorian tucked in between two restored colonials. A typical Point house we would come to find out.

Yet these were only the first glimmerings of appreciation for the neighborhood in which we made our home. I was in a perfect position to find out more. As Curator of Manuscripts and Staff Editor of the Newport Historical Society it is my job to be an advocate of the history of Newport. As I conducted research for the opening of the Historical Society's Museum of Newport History at the Brick Market, I came to realize how much Newport's history is tied to the residents of the Point - from the earliest Quakers, the Revolution, the Fall River Line, Newport's fishermen and boat builders, to the restoration movement of the 1960's, and today's active participants in the preservation of our neighborhood, the Point has reflected the culture and ideals of Newport.

The resources of the Newport Historical Society have both peaked and satisfied my curiosity about the Point. The Museum of Newport History contains a computer database with photographs and historical information about every house on the Point - a perfect place for a new resident of the neighborhood, or someone who has been there a while, to learn a great deal about their home. I have seen the earliest plan of the Point, drawn in 1725 by Samuel Easton. I have looked at hundreds of early photographs of houses on the Point, and read correspondence of their earliest

residents. Our library contains numerous sources for the curious Point resident. Our quarterly journal, *Newport History*, has published articles by Edith Ballinger Price, Esther Fisher Benson, and Gladys Bolhouse, about the history of the Point. When I see these people, I sometimes badger them with questions: Where are the Blue Rocks? How far did the marsh extend? Where did the Fall River Line Steamships dock? What is a Point Hummer?

Still, there is one question with an answer that is different and inexpressible for each person: What does it mean to live on the Point? That is something we are learning in our own way, simply by living on the Point. So, here are some things that we've noticed and experienced during our first year:

Initial impressions are not always final impressions. Crossing the railroad tracks that first night provoked images of living on "the other side of the tracks." The light of day made us decide to live here as long as we possibly can.

Standing on the Elm Street pier during the middle of the March storm in 1993, and seeing the Coast Guard training ship, *Eagle*, ghostlike through the snow. Later, going to Clipper Wine and Spirits to buy ingredients for a hot toddy. It was then that we bought our first issue of the *Green Light*.

The first time we walked to the end of Poplar Street and realized how close to the water we were.

Sunsets in Storer Park, appearing over the bridge. Seeing tourists watching the same sunset and feeling sorry for them that they wouldn't see nearly as many as us.

(cont. next page)



The Waters Edge Flowers, Inc.

23 MEMORIAL BOULEVARD
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND 02840

SPECIAL FLOWERS FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS

TELEPHONE 847-1111

Joseph P. T. Vars



Ashley Finch



Ronald Potvin

Seeing the Point in full bloom in the Spring, and the many wonderful gardens. Though supposedly "secret," many tell us "Yes, please do come in & see the garden, Thank You."

The Fourth of July.

Seeing unexpected fireworks from the Naval War College, and rushing to the end of the street to get a better look.

The power outage last summer. Walking around the Point, with the bridge and parts of Jamestown darkened, and candles burning in the windows, and the sense of stepping into the past this experience gave us.

Endless exploring the neighborhood, finding something new and interesting in the architecture, shapes, colors, and sounds that make the Point alive.

The church bells of Saint John's. Who needs a watch? Also, midnight Mass and walking home on Christmas Eve in the first snowfall of the year.

Everyone on the Point has a dog - or so it seems. After nearly a year we convinced our landlord to let us get one too. Walking our dog has allowed us to meet people and explore more places than ever before. We recommend it to everybody - but bring your baggy.

Two feet of snow and the wonderfully horrible winter of 1993-1994. Watching our dog bound through the snow, or plow through it with her nose buried, suddenly stop, burrow, and emerge with a Quahog shell.

These simple experiences alone certainly can't make us "Point Hummers." Though maybe we are closer now than when we first crossed the tracks. We do little things that help the process along. We never saw ourselves as the gardening type, yet there we are, on our hands and knees pulling weeds from our flower bed. I guess the biggest thing we've learned is that even people who aren't yet true Hummers can cultivate their garden on the Point.

Ashley Lynn Finch
Ronald M. Potvin



Ten Speed Spokes
18 Elm Street, Newport, RI 02840
401-847-5609 • Fax 401-847-7238



Colonial Travel Inc.
204 Thames Street
Newport, R.I.



02840
401-849-6433

I REMEMBER! I REMEMBER!

The photo of the Brick Market in the December *Green Light*, with Daniel Sullivan above the door, brought back childhood memories. Navvie Sullivan's (I think that was what my father called him) had the biggest stock of fireworks in town. We'd have bought firecrackers with our nickels and dimes for weeks beforehand at candy stores that carried a small stock. But having my father take us to Navvie's to get the fancy items was one of the big events of the year. Which one to choose!

Those were the days when loud reports of firecrackers and torpedoes started at dawn on the Fourth. (I think torpedo was what we called the round thing we exploded by throwing it with force on a cement sidewalk.) All morning long, and then again when we came home from the beach, we played with fireworks. We had packets of little firecrackers tied together that went off in quick succession when you lit one of them. There were varying sizes of larger ones, and the largest we'd place under tin cans to see how high we could blow the can. I think we had something called snakes that uncoiled unto long snaky ash when lit. Then there was a flat, hard round item that would sputter fire when we held it in hand and scraped it on the sidewalk.

After supper the fathers were in charge. Families sat on front steps all up and down the street while fathers sent rockets whooshing into the sky, bursting into color. I don't remember any municipal fireworks as we have today. And I don't remember anyone I knew being hurt by fireworks, but the newspapers were always full of serious accidents caused by them. I was glad when my children were growing up that they were no longer allowed, although I was sorry they missed the fun we had on the Fourth.

Eileen O'Reilly



The Third & Elm Press
Alexander Nesbitt Ilse Buchert Nesbitt
29 Elm Street, Newport

POINT BOOK IN THE WORKS

Eileen Nimmo of Third Street and Kathy Burrows have completed the main part of a book about houses on the Point. They wish to include interesting stories about the homes and their owners in the volume from current owners and residents. If you are interested in being a part of this project contact, Eileen at 846-0173.

As she says, "There are many books about Newport in existence, mainly of the mansions. We wish to have one that is more personal, that will bring back memories that we have cherished and again give us something that we can share with people; the homes that were, and are a part of our lives."

THE HIDDEN ROOMS OF SWINBURNE

The Hidden Rooms of Swinburne, a designer showhouse, will be held August 12 through September 11, 1994 at the Swinburne School on Pelham Street. Over 30 spaces decorated by designers from New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island (including Point Association members Jean Baker, Pat Sherman and Mary Lou Smith) will be on display. The Showhouse hours will be Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sundays: 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays by appointment. Tickets are \$15.00 at the door, \$12.00 if purchased in advance.

A Preview Party, with an Edwardian Garden Party theme, will be Thursday, August 11 from 6 to 9 p.m. There will be music, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a birthday cake celebrating Swinburne's seventieth year. Cost is \$50 per person.

Proceeds from the Preview Party and the Showhouse will help with badly needed restoration of the Greek Revival mansion which house the School, as well as support the educational program.

For more information call 847-8194.

BILL DEL NERO CLEANERS AND LAUNDRY INC.

11 Farewell St. Newport, R.I.

THOMAS C. BENISCH
Production Managers
WILLIAM F. BENISCH II

(401) 847-6800

THE PERRY HOUSE STAIRCASE

The recent trip of Newport's mayor to Japan for their Black Ships Festival and our upcoming one reminds us that Matthew Calbraith Perry, who opened the ports of Japan to Western trade, was born right here on the Point in April 1794.

Standing on the northeast corner of Second and Walnut Streets, the Perry house is now a pristine example of Colonial architecture but it was not so long ago that it was in a rundown condition.

Eleanor Weaver, of Chestnut Street, tells the story of the Japanese Ambassador in the mid-1960s who announced that he wanted to visit Perry's birthplace. The grounds were in such disreputable condition that the city agreed to send a cleanup crew to put them in order. However, they began to clean up the wrong yard - but Eleanor soon directed them to the correct one and the cleanup was done.

Due to the unsightly condition of the building itself, the Ambassador had to be content to view Perry's birthplace from the street. Now one of Doris Duke's Newport Restoration Foundation properties, the house has been restored to a semblance of its original condition.

One of the more interesting stories of the restoration concerns the staircase. Instead of raising the house (as was often the case in Newport) the first floor had been completely gutted to accommodate a store with an exterior staircase added to make the upper story accessible. In the process the hall paneling and the staircase were removed and tossed aside.

An old Point carpenter was so horrified at this sacrilege that he begged to be allowed to carry away some of the bits and pieces of the balusters of the staircase. Granted permission, he stored them for many years and then either sold or gave them to a woman on the Point.

This woman held on to them for some time and when Nat Norris was restoring his house offered them to him. However, he didn't use them but continued to store them. When Nat heard that the Restoration

Foundation was restoring the Perry house he called George Weaver and offered them to him.

From these little bits and pieces the carpenters were able to reconstruct the original staircase and this, coupled with the appropriate paneling, has turned the entrance hall in this house into a fine example of 18th century elegance.

In 1976 two groups of Japanese visited Matthew Perry's home and found a building which appears much as it was during the time the Perry family resided there.

This gambrel-roofed house, as does many others, adds to the ambiance of the Point neighborhood and presents a vivid picture of 18th century architecture that is found nowhere else in the United States.

Florence Archambault



BUCCI'S COMBINATION STORE Liquor, Grocery and Videos

3 THAMES STREET NEWPORT, R.I. 02840

ANTHONY BUCCI

PHONE 847-0035

CHOOSING A NEW PORT

Where to move and what to do? These were the questions Janice Kelly Gillis and her husband George recently had to face, and if their names ring a bell, you will already have their answers. In one wintry January week last year, they bought a house on the Point, leased space for a shop, and visited schools for their son. Several months later in April they moved and in June opened their eye-catching folk art store - Kelly + Gillis - next to the Gap on America's Cup Avenue.

I first met Janice and George at a Point Association meeting and after browsing and visiting often at Kelly & Gillis couldn't resist asking how they happened to choose Newport and the Point.

Both are from the South. George grew up in Tennessee, did graduate study in philosophy at Tulane and produced TV news programs in Louisville, Kentucky. Janice, a Louisville native, studied for her degree in architecture at the Rhode Island School of Design. She became enamored of the North but returned to Louisville where she practiced architecture in historic preservation districts. George met Janice as his landlady. Together they restored a Victorian home

and Janice designed greeting cards on recycled paper now sold nationally by West Graphics of California.

When they adopted their three-year-old Korean son, Cooper, they decided to look for a new home town. Visits took them to the Northwest, Southwest and Northeast. They wanted a small town urban setting and had thought of college towns but found these made them feel old. When they came to Newport, Janice said she had that special feeling of "just right." So decision number one was made. Obviously they had also been mulling over what to do. George had worked in a New Orleans gallery while studying at Tulane and Janice had her background of design. They also had been living with things they loved. Hence the home and business sites were settled in that one wintry week.

Standing in the store surrounded by folk art of every description and design, I asked "How did you find all this? How did you find the artists and craftsmen?" They found that not too difficult. Fruitful were meetings with dealers, sharing sources, going to the Baltimore Craft Fair, tripping to Kentucky, and keeping in touch with folk art dealers and artists. Their shop is full of fascinating and unique creations with inviting window displays. Currently they are setting up a gallery upstairs for special crafts and contemporary studio jewelry. Organizing, setting up, expanding, balancing life with an eight-year-old are all challenging, but they say reward is living on the Point. They love stepping outside and seeing the water and boats, hearing the fog horns, but do miss the Walnut Market for fresh bread and the latest gossip.

Kelly + Gillis is work in progress, a fun and exciting local business in a tourist town. They have requests to ship crafts all over the country and are fast becoming a regional source of folk art. You'll enjoy stopping by on your summer strolls.

Kay O'Brien

**SALT FREE.
CALORIE FREE.
DELIVERED FREE.**

What more could you ask?



OK, OK, your first month's cooler rental and 2 bottles of spring water are FREE.*

Call 846-0916 and ask about our Introductory Offer

*New customer only-deposit required

Crystal Spring
NATURAL SPRING WATER



**Come in
and meet one
of your newest
neighbors.**

Specializing in fine
imported & domestic
wines

48 Third Street
Newport, RI 02840
401 846-7993

THE LAST SHIP

On Monday morning May 16 the frigate *Estocin* sailed under the Newport Bridge toward the open sea ending an era that had begun in 1775 when Rhode Island established the first Continental Navy under the command of John Paul Jones aboard the sloop *Providence*.

Navy ships sailing up the harbor have been a Point sight since then. As early as 1799, a permanent naval base on Narragansett Bay was lobbied for. At that time Rhode Island slave-trading merchants quietly killed the proposal.

In 1821 the Navy established a base in Newport without Congressional approval and it was ordered disbanded.

The Naval Academy, during the Civil War, was relocated in Newport along with its training ships, but after the war it returned to Annapolis, Md.

In 1869 an experimental torpedo station was established on Goat Island. The subsequent permanent installation became a familiar sight to Newporters and an integral part of its economy until after much downscaling it closed for good in 1972.

In 1883 the first facility to be based on land to train Navy seamen was established at Coasters Island Harbor by Adm. Stephen B. Luce.

This facility brought several training ships to Newport which became a familiar sight anchored of Battery Park. They included the *New Hampshire*, the *Constellation*, and the *Reina Mercedes*. Later the *New Hampshire* was sold out of the service, the *Constellation*, after being refurbished in Boston was claimed by Baltimore and now serves as the corner stone of her historic harbor restoration and the *Reina Mercedes*, a captured Spanish vessel from the Spanish-American war was lost to Annapolis.

In 1917 Narragansett Bay became the base of operations for Navy ships in the campaign to protect the North Atlantic sea lanes.

In 1934 the Navy chose Norfolk over Newport for its main East Coast base and many ships sailed south but in 1936 the city gained new ships as

Roosevelt's construction program increased the size of the fleet.

In 1941 the *Augusta*, the command ship for the Atlantic Fleet, was assigned to Newport making it the base of operations for the Atlantic Fleet.

During World War II, Newport was a bustling Navy town and for quite awhile after that. In the mid-60s, Piers One and Two were constructed but in 1973, Newport was struck another economic blow when the Nixon administration closed the Newport Naval Base and Quonset Naval Air Station, sending 45 ships out of the bay, many again to Norfolk.

Now in 1994, the final Newport-based Naval vessel has left the area - but if you thought that you would not see Navy ships sailing up the bay again, you were mistaken for on May 18 Point residents were astonished to see a ship making its way to the Navy's Pier Two.

The amphibious warfare ship the USS *Ashland* arrived in Newport for a five-day stay with a crew for training on a pair of Navy hovercraft. The two Landing Craft Air Cushion vehicles (LCACS) were seen churning up water in the harbor sending ocean spray up into the air. They were here as part of the celebration of Armed Forces Weekend.

Florence Archambault

Splash Some Color into Your Life



ARNOLD ART STORE & GALLERY
210 Thames St. Newport RI ~ 847-2273

Framing • Gallery • Art Supplies

SHRIMP MANIA

FOR MAY & JUNE

"Windward Shrimp at its best!"

Tender grilled shrimp with your choice of sauce...
Barbecue, Teriyaki, Sweet N'Sour or Cilantro Garlic.
Served with a special house salad.

Enjoy the best Newport has to offer,
Enjoy the Windward!

\$14.95

Reserve your Ocean View table now!
(401) 849-2600



WINDWARD RESTAURANT
A Newport Dining Tradition

Located at the Newport Islander Doubletree Hotel
Goat Island, Newport, Rhode Island 02840

Free Parking Available

Price per person plus tax. Not valid with other discounts.
Dinner is served every evening from 5pm.

HISTORY ON POST CARDS

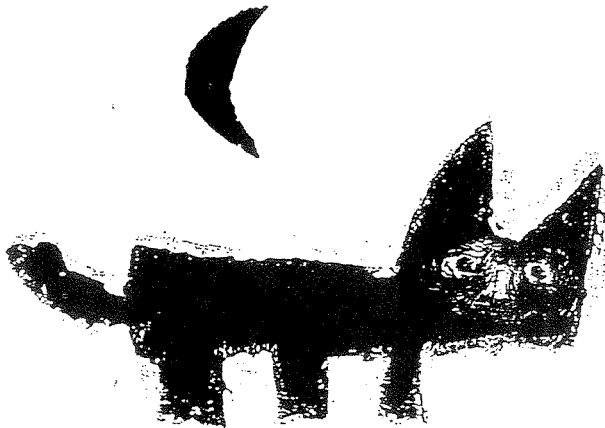


This post card dates from World War I. Although there is no postmark on it the fact that the word censored is printed in the bottom left hand corner gives us a clue as to its date. It depicts recruits at the Newport Naval Training Station being inspected by a line of officers. Two of the inspectors are wearing hats that are reminiscent of Gilbert and Sullivan's "H.M.S. Pinafore." Perhaps they are admirals? The recruits as well as the company commander, are wearing the leggings that

were a part of the uniform of those days. The company commander looks very dapper with his sword held against his right shoulder and all of the men are standing at perfect attention. It is cards such as this one that provide us with a glimpse into the history of the navy on Aquidneck Island. I imagine that during the 1st World War the Training Station was a very busy place.

Florence Archambault

Contemporary Folk Art, Crafts & Jewelry



KELLY ⊕ GILLIS

29 America's Cup (next to the Marriott) Newport, RI 02840 (401) 849-7380

FROM COUNCILWOMAN NAPOLITANO

Within a few short weeks, the Newport City Council will be addressing a topic which affects all of us, namely the budget. Budget meetings are open to the public. Input from the public is done at a regular council meeting during the adoption process. If you have particular concerns in regard to some of the expenditures, please do not hesitate to contact any of the council members. Budget hearings are scheduled for May 31st, June 1st, and the school department budget on June 13th. All budget meetings are at City Hall and begin promptly at 7 p.m. Between these meetings another Council Meeting is scheduled for June 8th at 8 p.m.

The bus idling ordinance is now in effect and all parties have been notified. Simply stated, buses should no longer sit idling their engines for an inordinate amount of time. Violations should be reported to the Newport Police Department so that they can issue citations if necessary.

There have been ongoing phone calls and a meeting with members of the board of the Point Association, Christine Montanaro, Roberta Majewski, and Donna Segal in regard to a number of activities planned on Goat Island. To date, the only approvals granted by the council have been for "The Irish

Festival", "The Opening of Summer", and one event for chamber music in conjunction with the Newport Music Festival. Due to a concern expressed by the zoning officer, other events scheduled will not be considered until a resolution is reached.

The project for beautification of Marsh Street is progressing, thanks to the efforts of Anne Reynolds and Carol Marinar. Unfortunately, the city has lost its Tree Warden, Peter Simpson, to the Newport Electric Company. Peter has assured me he will see the Marsh Street project through. In his capacity as Tree Warden, he has been an effective and enthusiastic addition to our city. In his short tenure, he had become well known because of his constant interaction with the residents. I'm sure I speak for many in wishing him well in his new endeavor.

The council has been informed of a number of openings on various boards and commissions. This is an opportunity to share your time and talents with others to help make Newport a better place to live. If you have an interest, please contact me at City Hall for an application.

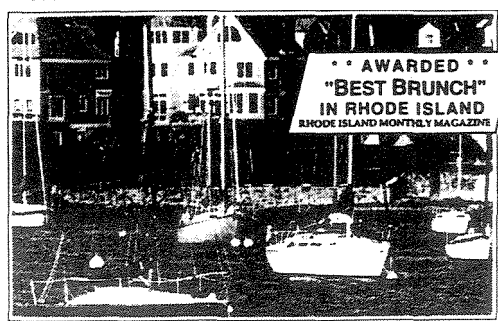
Jeanne Marie Napolitano



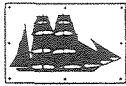
The Rum Runner
LIQUOR STORE
(401) 847-7600
and
Ship's Larder Convenience Store
Located at Goat Island Marina
7 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Summer hours
401-847-7600

T-SHIRTS
PRINTED
IN
A
DAY
65 WEST BROADWAY
846-0294

The View is Priceless...



Brunch is considerably less.
Come see for yourself... Made-to-order waffles, eggs, carved meats and omelettes. Fresh fruit and berries. Vegetable and cheese platters; an incredible salad bar.
The brunch is as endless as the view.
See You Sunday!
\$15⁹⁵ adults
\$13.95 Seniors * \$8.95 Children Under 10 * Children Under 4 Free
Each Sunday from 10am - 2pm



WINDWARD
RESTAURANT
A Newport Dining Tradition
Located at the Newport Islander Doubletree Hotel
(401) 849-2600
Per person plus tax. Not valid with any other discounts.

COOK'S CORNER

Mary Dennis Willis, an old Point Hummer, now living in Varnville, South Carolina has written several times to let the staff know how much she enjoys the *Green Light*. She also has included some recipes including two of her favorite Southern ones from Cottageville, South Carolina where she used to live so I decided to make her guest cook for this issue.

Mrs. Willis's first recipe is appropriate this time of year. Let's hope that it won't be much longer before we are out in Middletown and Portsmouth picking those big red succulent strawberries.

STRAWBERRY PIE

2 TBSP. cornstarch
One 10 oz. can of 7-UP soda
3/4 cup sugar

Mix together and stir until mixture thickens. (DO NOT BOIL). Let it cool. Pour a little in the bottom of a cooked pie shell. Add strawberries, pour the rest of the cooled mixture over the berries. Let set. Add Cool Whip on top. Yummy!

(I would imagine that you could slice the berries or stand them up whole to make an attractive dessert.)

CANDIED SWEET POTATOES

Six (6) sweet potatoes, sliced

Mix together
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/4 cup butter
1 tsp. lemon juice
1/2 cup syrup drained from canned pineapple or peaches

Add to potato slices and layer in greased casserole. Cover and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake another 10 minutes.

WATERGATE SALAD

Mix together and chill the following:

9 oz. container Cool Whip
1 pkg. INSTANT pistachio Jell-O pudding
1/2 cup nuts (cut-up)
1 small can crushed pineapple
1 cup mini marshmallows

Quantities can be doubled for a larger salad.

Mrs. Willis also writes regarding the reprint of Carrie Ericson's remembrances about Marsh Street. She says, "It all came back to me. I remember most of those families as I was raised by my grandparents who lived at 22 Marsh St. after my birth mother, Mrs. Joe Dennis, died at the age of 18. I sure remember most of the folks on Marsh St. My grandparents had what they called block parties. They had local fellows play music for dancing in the street. They gave people a wonderful time. In fact I can remember people attending from what we used to call the Fifth Ward that was away down near the Wellington Ave. area. Does anyone know what happened to the Pederson family from Washington Street?"

The Cook's Corner always welcomes the submission of recipes which readers think others may be interested in. Our next issue will be the Fall Issue. What do you do with your surplus garden output?

Florence Archambault

MARY SARGENT

We regret to announce that longtime Third Street resident, Mary Sargent, passed away on May 25. She and her late husband, Clyde, resided in the imposing red 18th century house at the head of Battery Street for 25 years. They were both active members of the Point Association and served on its executive board. They also donated the Chinese Room to the Newport Public Library. Mary will be sorely missed by all who came in contact with her.



A Newport Shopping Tradition Since 1796

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

- Apparel & Fashion Accessories for Men, Women & Children
- Toiletries and Jewelry
- Linens & Home Furnishings
- Gifts for all Occasions
- Mementos of Newport

On the Waterfront -Long Wharf Mall
Opposite Gateway Center
Open Daily and Sundays

All Major credit cards accepted Free validated parking.



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 hotel parking available!

Cafe del Mare

Located in the Newport Marriott
75 Long Wharf, Newport

LOOK FOR THE FALL ISSUE OF THE GREEN LIGHT COMING IN SEPTEMBER

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

New Member _____ Renewal _____

I would like to be active in the following areas:

Activities & Programs _____ Beautification _____ Day on the Point _____
Green Light _____ History & Archives _____ Membership _____ Plant Sale _____
Potluck Supper _____ Publicity _____ Raffle _____ Telephone Committee _____

Dues: Please make checks payable to The Point Association

| | | | |
|------------|--------|------------|---------|
| Individual | \$5.00 | Sustaining | \$15.00 |
| Family | \$8.00 | Patron | \$25.00 |

Dues run from October 1 through September 30

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

People Shop Aidinoff's For
QUALITY-SERVICE & VALUE

Aidinoff's
People who know wines.
... know us.

16 Warner St. Newport, R.I. Call 846-7000

For Free Delivery



THE GREEN LIGHT
THE POINT ASSOCIATION

Editor: P.O. Box 491
Newport, RI 02840

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Newport, RI
Permit No. 36

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED