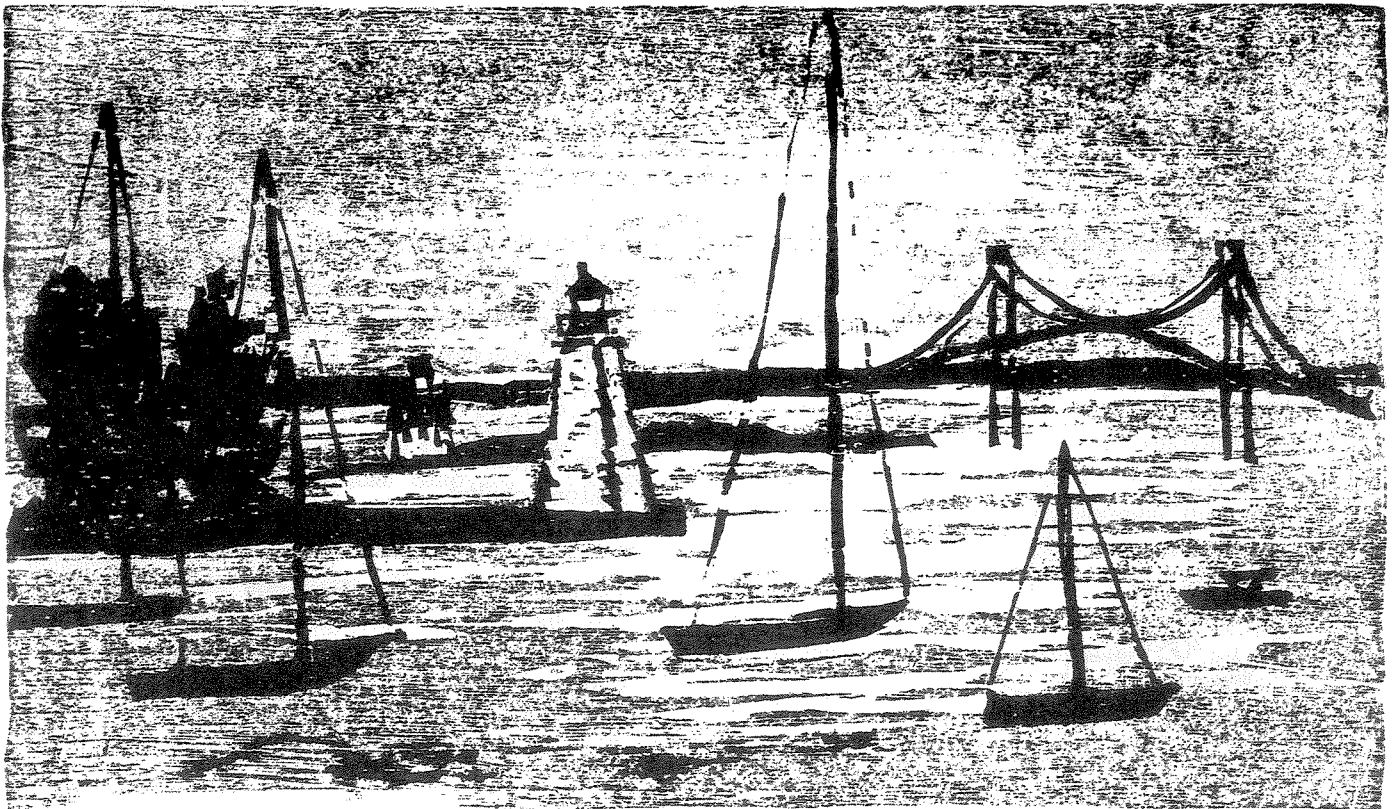


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The GREEN LIGHT

BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

WINTER 1994 - 95



Silent Night over Narragansett Bay



The

GREEN LIGHT

XXXIX No.5

WINTER 1994-95

FEATURES

President's Letter	3
Point Association News	4-7
Christmas in Newport	8
52 Poplar Street	10&11
Point Kids	12
Christmas Past on the Point	15
Gardeners Corner	16
History on Post Cards	17
Cook's Corner	18

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GREEN LIGHT

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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The last three months have been busy and exciting for the Point Association. All three major fundraising events, the Cruise, the Wine Tasting, and the Ghost Story Party were successful by all standards. It was encouraging to meet new people of the Association while revisiting old friends at all the events. I want to thank everyone for supporting our efforts. Once again, the individuals who worked so hard for each event proved to be invaluable.

The Annual Meeting was well attended by our members. In addition to the business meeting, the slate of new officers was presented and elected. Halsey Herreshoff made the meeting complete with his historical overview of the America's Cup races and with his introduction of the America's Cup Hall of Fame. We encourage anyone who has not seen the Museum in Bristol to take the trip.

Probably the most inspiring event that occurred during the past few months was the Halloween Parade organized by the Adventurers. The day was perfect for the children of the Point to gather with their costumes to march down Washington Street. The Board, in its enthusiasm, has voted to support the Adventure Club with a yearly donation from the budget and to invite a representative to sit on the Board.

Good things have been happening with the Newport Preservation Alliance. As you remember, the Point Association is a formal member of the NPA as I sit on its Board. Presently, the NPA's proposed general plan for a preservation needs assessment has as its purpose:

"To outline the basic, preliminary approach to commissioning a general assessment of the historic preservation needs of Newport, Rhode Island, leading toward proposing a policy for all of Newport's organizations to use in jointly managing the city's historic assets as the city develops and grows in the 21st century. In order to develop a comprehensive plan for observing Newport's rich architectural heritage, the city needs a detailed analysis of its historic assets, neighborhood by neighborhood, collating various existing plans, past plans, and information, collating all the requirements identified, extending and linking them through a specific, long-range plan of action for Historic Preservation on the basis of the established Comprehensive Land-Use Plan."

The Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission showed immediate interest in the NPA's proposal and has offered the chance for partial funding to carry out our plan. A Certified Local Government (CLG) matching grant could make \$10-12,000 available to the NPA. Further details of our progress will reach you in the next issue of the *Green Light*.

As you may have read in the paper, Keith Stokes, the executive director of the Newport Chamber of Commerce, wants a plan to revitalize the American Shipyard, Newport's sole surviving shipyard. The privately owned American Shipyard is located on Washington Street just south of the Goat Island causeway. Stokes has asked the City Council to create a task force to devise a redevelopment plan for the shipyard. At the City Council meeting of November 9th, four members from the Point were appointed to be part of the task force. They are John Howard, Thomas Sturtevant, Stephen G. W. Walk, and myself. The task force meetings will be public, and we urge all interested parties to attend as they can. Updates of the development will also be made available to the Association through subsequent mailings.

In closing, I want to wish everyone the very happiest and most satisfying Holiday Season. We hope you can join us in our annual caroling and at the Holly Tea.

Christine Montanaro

CAROLING ON THE POINT

The longtime tradition of caroling on the Point will take place on Thursday, December 15. Meet at the Rhumb Line, 62 Bridge Street at 5:30 p.m. for practice and a bowl of chowder before starting out to bring the Spirit of Christmas to the neighborhood. Be sure to dress warmly and bring a flashlight. Call Christine at 849-4708 to let her know that you will be joining in this annual holiday event.

DECK THE DOORWAYS

Since the inception of *Christmas in Newport*, the Point has been a big contributor to the festivities by its neighbors who decorate for the Holiday Season. Holly and ivy sprays mixed with red satin bows and Victorian lace, dried hydrangeas and boxwood sprays and wreaths, Della Robbia boxes and door crown ornaments are just a few suggestions. Of course, the traditional white window lights bring your decorations to life and create a warm welcoming glow to every home. Please be a part of it this year and have a wonderful Christmas.

Carol Marinan

Welcome to New Members

Mark and Heidi Anderson
Elizabeth Armstrong
Patricia and William Armstrong
Anne Bidstrup
Mary C. Connolly
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Denton
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Hayes
John Hussey
Edmond and Barbara McKeown
Daniel and Rebecca McSweeney
Corinne Peckham
Cheryl and Dick Poholek
Linda Powell
Pat Saunders
Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation
Lois and Robert Skaretka

HOLLY TEA

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

There are a number of ways that you can help to make this annual event a success. Donations of tea sandwiches, cookies and cakes are needed, as well as hosts and hostesses to welcome and serve; or perhaps you could make tea, arrange plates of food or help with the setup or cleanup. Call Dede Elster at 847-0563 to tell her how you plan to help.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

As of mid-November, over two-thirds of the membership have renewed and been sent their Point Association membership card and a Goat Island discount card. The VIP card is good for discounts at restaurants, shops and services and we thank the management of Goat Island for making them available to Point Association members.

Are you wondering about the status of your membership? Check the mailing label on the back cover. If your name is underlined, according to our records, you have not yet renewed. Fill out the membership/renewal form found on page 19 and mail it in today! If you have questions about your membership, feel free to contact me at 846-2907.

Thank you to Lucille and Rudy Petrucci and Kay O'Brien for their help during the busy renewal time. And to Donna and Jack Maytum at Micrographix for allowing us to use their computer for the mailing list and printing the labels for Point Association mailings.

Watch for a list of patron and sustaining members that will be published in the next issue of the *Green Light*.

Nancy Espersen
Membership

HISTORY AND ARCHIVES

The cold wintry days of January and February will soon be upon us. What better way to keep warm than to relive the past by sorting through the 40 years of Point Association documents, photographs, clippings and correspondence with the history and archives committee. Call Rowan (847-8428) or Kay (847-7311) for more information about when the group plans to get together. New memories and mementos are always welcome!

Coming in March . . .

THE POINT ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL POTLUCK SUPPER

Details to be announced later

MARINE TERMINAL TASK FORCE UPDATE

The statewide transportation issue is still under study. According to the DOT, the preaudit is almost complete and then it will be submitted to the Federal Government to determine if it is viable and meets their guidelines. Part of the ongoing study is site selection, which has not been determined yet. The site selection will include review from all environmental agencies as well as advisory committee meetings which are open to the public for their input. A further report to the Point Association will be made when there is more information.

Donna Segal



ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Point Association was held on Thursday evening, October 20, 1994. A summary of the meeting chaired by Association President Christine Montanaro follows.

Treasurer Phil Mosher explained the Board's suggestion to increase dues by \$2.00 for single and family memberships and \$5.00 for patron and sustaining memberships for 1996. The Board feels that the cost of the *Green Light*, mailings and meetings should be covered by dues. Fund-raisers should be used to cover the costs of extra funds and not for sustaining the membership. A vote will be taken at the April General Membership meeting.

A letter to retiring Board member Kit Hammett thanking her for the many years of dedicated service was read by Christine.

The slate of officers and new nominating committee were approved. President - Christine Montanaro, 2nd Vice-President - Roberta Majewski, Corresponding Secretary - Lois Dickson, Recording Secretary - Ben Gilson (to fill the unexpired term of Ann Wiley who resigned). Nominating Committee: Diana Hepting, Jane Holdsworth and Pam Kelley.

Christine expressed sympathy for the passing of Mary Ferrazzoli who headed Friends of the Waterfront. The Board has voted to contribute \$150 toward a memorial for Mary.

A report on the status of the Washington Street Pier was given by Liz Bermender.

Receiving Born-on-the-Point certificates were: Amanda Rose Anacleto, Noah Michael Anacleto, Carolyn Anneliese Schultz, Lauren Elizabeth Stanek and George Wolcott Williams.

Following the business meeting, Mr. Halsey Herreshoff was guest speaker on the America's Cup Museum in Bristol, RI. In his slide presentation he described the formation of the museum, its history and goals.

Donna Segal

STORER PARK PLANTING AND CLEANUP

Thanks to everyone who showed up at Storer Park, Saturday, October 29th with shovels, rakes and trowels for bulb planting and cleanup. We had a beautiful 64-degree day under a few clouds for an enthusiastic group of 20 people who planted over 150 assorted bulbs. When we finished, we met at the Marina Pub for a clam chowder lunch, compliments of owner Greg Gamon. It was a nice way to conclude our effort and relax and visit with neighbors old and new. Hope to see you again in the spring for cleanup so we can all see those bulbs popping up all over the place.

Carol Marinan

HATS OFF TO FORTY CRUISE

The Hats Off to Forty Cruise aboard the *Spirit of Newport* was a great success - both as a fund-raiser and a social event. Everyone enjoyed the silent auction and I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank the people who generously donated the auction items.

Vacation home in Maine for two, three-night stays - Lois and Bruce Dickison, Cruise on the Ararat - George Gordon, Shiastu massage - Elizabeth Bessette, Original print - Ilse Nesbitt, Dinner for two at the Music Hall Cafe - Peg and Lyn Comfort, Gardening consultation - Anne Reynolds, Tiffany bowl - Donna Segal, Use of a 14 ft. sailboard for one day - Phil Mosher and Christine Montanaro, Fresh flowers for two months - Joe and Angela Vars, Four tickets to The Legends of Tennis Tournament - International Tennis Club, Sunday brunch for two at the Doubletree - Doubletree Hotel, Bagels for six months - Bryan and Fran Babcock, Home-made desserts for three months - Roberta Majewski.

We plan on making this an annual event so those of you who missed it this year will have another opportunity in 1995.

Roberta Majewski

POINT ASSOCIATION - 40 YEARS OLD

How exciting it is to realize that we have accomplished 40 years of existence. Happy Birthday to all of us! As this year ends and we look forward to 1995, please include your thoughts on our 40th birthday celebration. The Point Association was founded in June, 1955. We have many things to remember and can be proud of those members who have taken the reins of President and all Board and committee members who have answered the call of our association. We speak glowingly of "our" gas lamps, "our" trees, "our" lovely homes and special neighborhood. We work well with city and state officials. There is always someone or something out there anxious to upset the pattern of our lives here on the Point. We are excited about families with children returning to our area, from the decline of one generation of children to the infusion of another generation, evidenced by the newly formed Adventures Club.

By now this article must have stirred up long time memories about your activities in the neighborhood or the Point Association. Please jot them down and let us hear from you. It is quite easy: a post card, a stamp, a memory. Mail them to Joe Vars, c/o The Point Association, P.O. Box 491, Newport, RI 02840.

Joe Vars



TOO MANY HAUNTED HOUSES!

The Ghost Story Party at the White Horse Tavern was a haunting success! A standing-room-only crowd gathered on Sunday evening, October 30, to listen to nearly a dozen tales of woe and weirdness while enjoying champagne punch and gourmet treats. The crowd, dressed in all black funeral attire, and the darkened room, candle-lit and decorated with jack-o-lanterns carved in grotesque silent screams, combined to make the setting even more bone chilling.

In addition to being a fund-raiser, the event was also a hair-raiser. Most stories were about houses and haunted goings-on in residences of the Point. Gordon Armstrong's story about Phoebe, a past resident of his Walnut Street house who comes for "visits", her special relationship with his dog and a ship's bell was voted the winner. His prize was a Sunday brunch for two at the White Horse Tavern. Others sharing their scary tales were Anita Rafael, Carol Marinar, Christine Montanaro, Mary Riggs, Frank Hearon, Liz Fields, and Gerry McCauley.

Many thanks go to event coordinator Anita Rafael and the White Horse Tavern for making it a splendidly spooky evening. The Point Association hopes to repeat the party next year, so plan to reserve early. It promises to be the karaoke of horror and heebie-jeebies as guests will once again be invited to tell their tales of terror!

WINE TASTING



The Point Association's Wine Tasting, held on Sunday, September 25, has been described by many as a "quiet and gentle" event. It was a sell-out, attracting people from all over the Island, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts, as well as many Pointers. All had the chance to enjoy the Point at a leisurely pace, quietly strolling from house to house to taste wines from four coastal New England Wineries.

Many thanks go to Ann Cuvelier, Loretta and Tom Goldrick, Roe O'Brien and Ken Moldow, and Ann Wiley for opening their houses and gardens for this special event; to the four wineries, Chamard, Sakonnet, Vinland, and Westport for giving us the opportunity to taste their wines; and to Judi Berry, Judy and Paul Chrisman, Rowan and John Howard, Nancy and Paul Quattrucci, Anne Reynolds, and Barbara Schuster for being greeters at the hosting houses. And a special thank you to Ann Wiley, who did a great job organizing and promoting this successful fund-raiser.

A MEMORIAL BENCH FOR MARY

The Point Association has donated \$150 towards the purchase of a bench to be placed in a waterfront park in memory of Mary Ferrazzoli. If each and everyone of us adds a little, by next summer, we'll have a bench - a place to contemplate our beautiful Bay and to remember our friend of the waterfront, Mary Ferrazzoli.

A prime location would be the triangle of filled land at the end of Washington Street where the Point Association erected a marker for the Steamship lines.

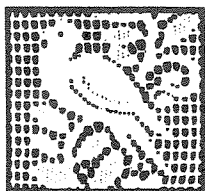
Suggestions as to where the bench should be located are welcome. So far, Ilse Nesbitt has recommended a wooden bench because it is "warm" to sit on; another, a stone slab which is flat and would fit in better with a water view.

If you are interested in contributing towards the purchase of the bench, please send your donation and suggestions to: The Mary Fund, c/o The Point Association, P.O. Box 491, Newport, RI 02840.

CANDLELIGHT HOUSE TOURS

This year, the popular *Christmas in Newport* Candlelight House Tours, will be December 26, 27, and 28. Tours of 18th and 19th century homes, some of them on the Point, will be from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. It is lovely to see the white lights in the windows during the holidays, but a real treat to be invited in to tour these homes. You can add to this enjoyment by volunteering to be a hostess. Vance Gatchel, 848-7017, will gladly assign you to a house and answer any questions. Being a hostess also entitles you to visit any of the homes open on the tour.

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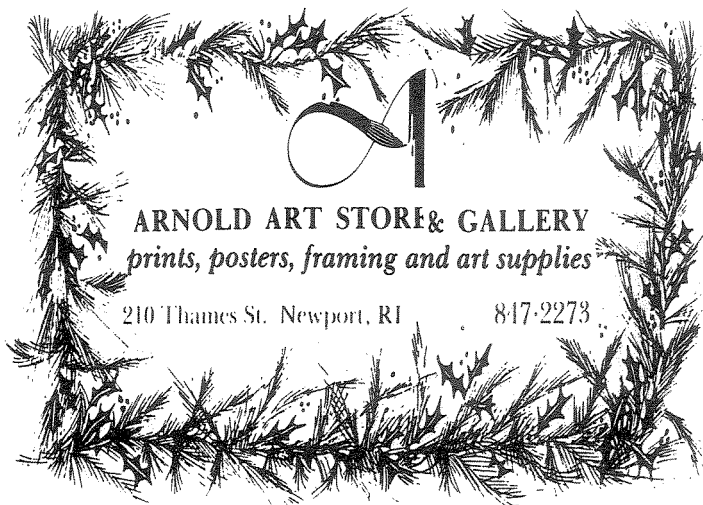


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Christmas 1994 / On the Point and Washington Square

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Dec. 1 Official Opening of Christmas in Newport
Washington Square. 5:30 p.m. Free</p> <p>Dec. 3 *Christmas Carols from Around the World
Greater Tiverton Community Chorus.
St. John's Church. 7:30 p.m. \$6</p> <p>Dec. 7 *An Advent Procession with Carols
St. John's Church. 6 p.m. Free will offering</p> <p>Dec. 8 Christmas Tree Hessian by Cora Cheney
Colony House - Reading by Thompson JHS
gifted/talented Grade 6. 6:30 p.m. Free</p> <p>Dec. 9 *Tavernkeeper's Reveillon
White Horse Tavern. Benefit Boys and
Girls Club. 10:30 p.m. \$12</p> <p>Dec. 10 Jonnycake Brunch
St. Paul's Methodist Church.
10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Adults \$7 Children \$4</p> <p>Dec. 10 *White Horse Tavern Curator's
& Fireside Lectures</p> <p>Dec. 17 White Horse Tavern.
Light Refreshments. 10 a.m. \$5</p> <p>Dec. 11 Navy Band Newport Christmas Concert
Spruance Auditorium, Naval War College,
NETC, Gate 1. 2 p.m. Free admission</p> <p>Dec. 13 Giant Gingerbread House Tour
Marriott Hotel. 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Free
Donation of non-perishable food accepted.</p> <p>Dec. 14 Christmas Open House and Navy Newport
Artists and Art Exhibit - Naval War
College Museum. 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Free</p> <p>Dec. 15 Children's Impressions of Christmas
Art by school children. Newport Yacht
Club, Long Wharf. 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Offering donated to Seamen's Church Inst.</p> | <p>Dec. 15 * Caroling on the Point (+)
Point Association Annual Event
See article on page 4 for details.</p> <p>Dec. 16 Judging of City-Wide Doorway Contest
Enter by calling 849-6454</p> <p>Dec. 18 *Holly Tea in the 18th Century Manner
St. Paul's Methodist Church.
Sponsored by the Point Association.
3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Admission \$3 Members \$1.50</p> <p>Dec. 21 Mass Commemorating First Catholic Mass
for French Forces in America
Colony House. 7 p.m. Free will offering</p> <p>Dec. 23 Re-enactment of the "Turtle Frolic"
Doubletree Hotel - Goat Island.
6:30 p.m. Adults \$26.50 Children \$10
Dinner reservations required. 849-2600</p> <p>Dec. 26, 27, 28 *Candlelight House Tours of 18th and 19th
Century Private Homes 4-7 p.m.
\$3 per house. 848-7017 or 849-6454</p> |
|--|--|




NOTE: Due to renovations, events scheduled for the Colony House may be changed. Check the newspaper for updates.

(+) Not a *Christmas in Newport* event.

* more information can be found in this issue.

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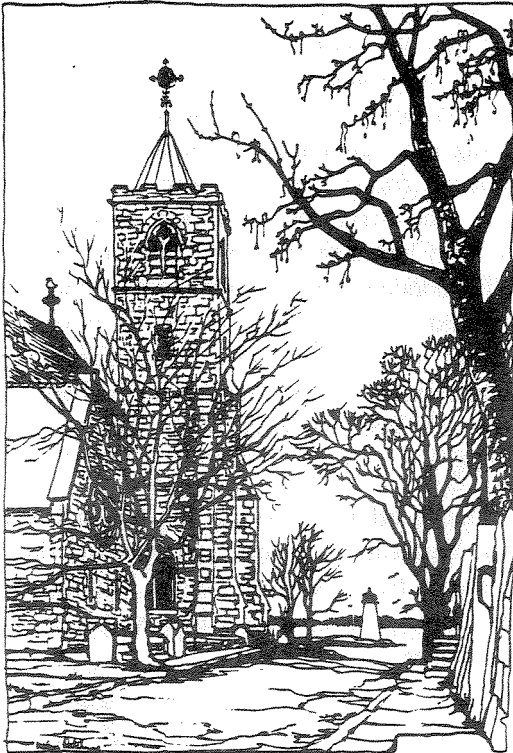
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HELEN HEGNAUER RETROSPECTIVE

Following an exciting designer showhouse this past summer, Swinburne School, 115 Pelham Street, is now exhibiting sketches, drawings, and oil paintings by Point resident Helen Hegnauer. An article about Helen and her work was written by Dorothy Sanschagrin in the April 1990, *Green Light*. Below is Helen's drawing *From My Doorstep* showing St. John's Church and the Green Light from her corner at Willow and Second. You can see more at her show which continues through December 16.



A SPECIAL THANKSGIVING

"Her" ship came in for Thanksgiving. This must be how Rowan Howard felt when the guided missile carrier, *USS Belknap*, visited Newport for the holiday after serving eight years in the Mediterranean as flagship of the Sixth Fleet. Rowan's father Reginald and her grandfather George, both Rear Admirals, had a combined 83 years of naval service around the world. This is the second ship to carry the proud name. Last April, Rowan and her husband John visited the ship at its home port in Gaeta, Italy, and now here at Thanksgiving, the Howards and other residents enjoyed entertaining the officers and crew. Sadly, the ship is scheduled to be decommissioned early next year.

Many times Rowan has shared her memories of happy childhood days when her family lived on Washington Street. A picture of their home "Bel'napoli" can be found in the December 1993, *Green Light*.

The Holly Tea

Sunday, December 18

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

*St. Paul's Methodist Church
Marlborough Street*

Admission \$3.00

Point Association Members \$1.50

NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S

The Parish of St. John's celebrated the 100th anniversary of the consecration of the Zabriske Memorial Church on Sunday, November 20, 1994, by rededicating the church. The special service was as near to the original as possible, using the consecration rite from the 1892 Book of Common Prayer, sung Mattins and a Solemn High Mass. George Hunt, the retiring Episcopal Bishop of Rhode Island, participated.

* * * * *

This holiday season there will be several opportunities to enjoy music at St. John's. On Saturday, December 3, The Greater Tiverton Community Chorus will be presenting *Christmas Carols Around the World*. The concert starts at 7:30 p.m. and there is a \$6 donation. *An Advent Procession with Carols* will start at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, December 7. This service was devised by the Rev'd Eric Milner-White, Dean of King's College, Cambridge. Choral carols unique to Advent will alternate with congregational hymns and Biblical lessons. Free will offering.

The schedule for Christmas Services at St. John's is:

Christmas Eve

10:15 p.m. Carol Sing with Organ Voluntaries

11:00 p.m. Solemn High Mass
Music of Palestrina

Christmas Day

10:30 a.m. Mattins

11:00 a.m. Sung Mass
Music of J.S. Bach and Willan

* * * * *

The Christmas worship schedule for St. Paul's Methodist Church on Marlborough Street is:

Christmas Eve - 7 p.m.

Christmas Day - 10:30 a.m.

52 POPLAR STREET - A NOT SO OLD "I REMEMBER"

In 1954, on the way home from Cape Cod, my husband George and I decided to take the ferry from Newport. We followed the "Ferry" signs and passed a lovely park next to the bay. We parked and walked down a rocky path to the water. It was a gorgeous summer day, quite warm. I put my feet in the water and looked around at the bay and the neighborhood. I thought this was one of the most beautiful places I had ever seen. Two graduate students with barely a dollar between us, I thought only the rich could live in such a place in a "summer" home.

Ten years later in 1964, we were walking through the Point Section of Newport with Tom Benson looking at houses for sale. There were at least 15, mostly Colonial, priced at around \$3000 each. (1964 is not so far back in time as things go on the Point.) "What's in this place?" we asked. The "place" was a very plain clapboard building. It attracted my husband because it was not Colonial. As houses went, this one was definitely the "new kid on the block." It had a high, pitched, peaked roof, a Dutch door in the center with two double-hung windows on each side and two more windows up above. A thin brick chimney stuck out behind the building. There was an old broken down picket fence enclosing what appeared to be a jungle of weeds, bushes, and swamp maples.

"Oh, this is where a fellow makes organs. Look in the window." We peered in and saw nothing but a huge room. Just what my artist-husband was looking for. Colonial rooms were too small. Here was space! This was a perfect place for a studio.

"Is this place for sale?" he asked Tom.

"I think I heard he was interested in selling."

So for the next year George dickered and negotiated with Raymond Whalen, a pudgy white-haired Irishman who lived over on Washington Street. He had bought 52 Poplar Street in 1949 for storage and a workshop. He was the Whalen-Welty Organ Company and member of the Organ Builders' Guild (total 7 members). We bought the house for \$4000, all the money we had managed to save in our lifetime. Two foot-loose renters had become landowners, something that we had never contemplated.

Native Newporters are supposed to be rather snooty to those not born here but our neighbors greeted us with open arms, especially Philippine and Harold Arnold next door. They hoped the old place would be fixed up and the yard cleaned. Expectations do bring results.

As we scraped off paint and cleaned the yard, neighbors on their daily rounds would stop and chat, give advice, and answer our questions. It took several years of work. We bought our main water pipe out of one of the condemned houses making way for the Newport Bridge.

I pulled weeds, cut down trees and removed brambles from the side-yard, the only outside area we had. A friend of ours was taking off his front porch and found hundreds of used bricks which I hauled in Brian Arnold's wagon for weeks and bricked in the side-yard with the help of three youngsters (now grown) one being Brian who has been aiding us ever since (takes after his parents and grandparents). As an apartment dweller who had never grown anything in real soil, I was learning about gardening. I had always wanted a hedge, so another friend told me where to find some holly to put in. They have become a most gorgeous, and I think only, holly hedge on the Point. Someone else gave me a small rhododendron bush with instructions: keep pruning it and it will become a tree. I nursed it through droughts and borers; now every spring spectacular blooms appear. Everything growing came from the way things are done around here: shared cuttings and thinning.

Shortly after we bought the house I was walking down Washington Street and passed Battery Park. There was the path! I was living less than five blocks from the very spot where I had waded in the Bay ten years before.



A history teacher, I wanted to find out about this very different (for our block) building. Mrs. Arnold gave me my first information when she told me that it had been built as a reading room for the Point children who were assumed to be in need of social uplift. She said some of the kids would come in, pick up a book or

magazine and spit chewing gum (and maybe other things) into the pages, quickly closing the tome. (This is from the woman who was then in charge of the Hunter House Auction and I don't know how many other good works).

Checking the tax rolls in City Hall, I found that on May 29, 1869, Mary Fowler left the land (including the house on the corner of Second and Poplar) to her son George. In 1875 for \$32 a year, Mr. Fowler leased the vacant lot to the Free Chapel of St. John the Evangelist Church for five years.

In 1907 Randall Fowler now had the site where a building existed. He must have rented it to various enterprises: I heard it had been used as a laundry, then for boat building. In 1922 Burton Little and his wife bought the building outright. People still remembered the Littles. One day while George was working outside, a man stopped to chat. George Shaw had worked for Burton Little for many years. This is what he told us:

Little was in the antiques restoring business. He had the house moved back three feet from the sidewalk so he could put his furniture out for sale. At the same time, as the house floor was rotting, he raised it up a couple of feet. He put in the wooden Dutch door so he could lean on it and talk to passers-by (he was apparently rather corpulent). He put in new flooring and built a second floor. All the wood and the doors for these improvements came from a Bellevue Avenue stable that was being torn down. The linoleum he laid on top of the new floor is still there. An old attached shed in the back was torn down and rebuilt with tile and concrete into a room across the back. The date, 1931, with the name "Little" is immortalized on our east wall. Shaw told us there was a woman living in the house behind who had a still. She wanted no windows or doors opening on to the back. So Little had two tiny windows up near the ceiling put in. No one could see anything but the sky.

Later, when we had the upstairs floors refinished, the finisher said he worked in this building when he was a boy. A taciturn man, he never said what he thought of these newcomers coming in and making the workshop into a home.

Little retired and sold the house to Whalen who, in the interest of testing his organs cut a 10 x 13 foot hole in the second floor, closed it in and used it as a sound chamber. It made for a rather weird floor configuration. (A guest accidentally took a short-cut and slipped into the hole even though there was a railing - fortunately not hurt.) We decided to fill the floor in after that. But this is a prosaic history.

The real history was found in the Historical Society newspaper archives. What happened between 1880-1907 when the building was in the hands of Randall Fowler? Where and when had the building been erected? The librarian helped me get the background. Unbelievably she gave me the exact date and even pages to check in the *Daily News and Mercury* about our house. Why in the world would there be news about such a plain old house? It turned out our house was a product of "Summer guests" who used to come here. I quote from the *Mercury Newspaper* of September 8, 1877: "Mrs. J.J. Astor has given \$1200 to erect and furnish a reading room to be used in connection with the mission work now being prosecuted by the Chapel of St. John, the Evangelist, on the Point."

On Monday, November 17, 1877, the *Newport Daily News and Mercury* had this to say:

"NEW READING ROOM ON THE POINT"

"The building on Poplar Street to be used as a free reading room, called the St. John's Reading Room, is completed, and is now being furnished ready for occupancy. The room is to be formally opened in about a week. The building is situated nearly opposite the chapel of St. John, the Evangelist, is a neat and tasteful structure, painted with a handsome shade of brown. It is 45 feet long and 25 feet broad. The posts are 12 feet high while the peak of the room is 23 feet above the floor of the building. The building is adorned with a Gothic roof which gives it an exceedingly pretty aspect...The one story building is divided into three apartments. The first which occupies the front part is to be used as the reading room. Back of this are two small rooms...one which is to serve as a general store room, while the other...will be employed as a kitchen whenever entertainment will be held in the building...It is designed to admit any persons who behave themselves in a seemly and orderly manner, tickets to all such applicants will be issued. All contributions of newspapers, periodicals, etc., will be gratefully received. ...The reading room will supply a long felt want in the region of the city in which it is located and great praise is due its originators for their forethought in establishing it."

So now we know! Okay, so we can't put a sign on our house that says: John Frye House 1760, Henry Taggart House 1756, or Crandall House 1851. So what will ours be? Reading Room 1877 (Gift of Mrs. John Jacob Astor)?

I apologize if some of the hearsay is incorrect and important names left out. Any additional information or corrections would be gratefully accepted.

Peggy Vranesh, 52 Poplar Street

Point Kids

We had a Halloween parade in our neighborhood. Everybody dressed up in their costumes and we walked down Third St. There was a wagon at the front of the line that had a radio inside. The radio was playing songs like The Addams Family or The Purple People Eater. Beside the



radio there was a plastic ghost that stuck out of the wagon. After we walked around the Point, we went to Battery Park and ate cupcakes and drank cider. The babies climbed all over the radio with big smiles on their faces. After the party, we said good-bye and went home.

by Elissa

The Adventure Club in action!

Where's your favorite place in the neighborhood?

reporters: Ben and Clay

Teddy - Blue Rocks

Cooper - Battery Park

Claire - Storer Park

Clay - Hunter Park

Ben - Goat Island

Elissa - Blue Rocks

Davis - Storer Park

Maggy - Battery Park

Clara - Battery Park

Look for more responses in the next issue!

Call Beth Lloyd 849-8071 or Jill Spohn 849-2155 for more information about the Adventure Club.

Ball day. We had fun
on ball day. We
played with the big
Ball. by Davis



THE NINA LYNETTE HOME SAYS:
Thanks Edith, Welcome Laurie

Last summer, The Nina Lynette Home suffered a sudden change, its even pace interrupted by the retirement of Mrs. Edith Groux from her long-held position as director of the organization. Of course, all of us living at 87 Washington Street were anxious about our own situation, and what plans for our future were being made. Edith's departure was to take place on October 1st, giving the home three months to find its new director. Very quickly we felt the strong capability of Edith, putting her energy and grasp into moving herself and Walter to their new home in Florida. We were all - as one voice - pleased that their 23 years of work were now to be rewarded. How much we had depended on her - what steady care she had given us. How faithful Walter was, making things right - whether the light bulb on the stairs or door latches. The months sped by, with little anxiety. Edith and Walter removed from the third floor their possessions. Suddenly they were gone and we were ready for our new director.

Laurie Shaw has settled very comfortably upstairs, making a usable third floor apartment. We all welcome her and look forward to the continuation of our happy home.

Fisher Benson

* * * * *

THINK SPRING

The Nina Lynette vegetable garden on Chestnut Street, guarded by the realistic scarecrow, is a familiar sight on the Point. With the Grouxs' retirement to Florida, this fertile spot will be looking for new gardeners. Are you interested in a community plot or have any other suggestions? Call Laurie Shaw at 847-2674.

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**WALNUT STREET MARKET
AND DELI**

OPENING JANUARY 1995

The Walnut Street Market and Deli, located at the corner of Third and Walnut, plans to open in January, 1995. Owner and Point resident, Susan Cooper, is looking for suggestions, comments, and opinions about what types of products and services you would like to have at the market. Call her at 848-9616. She would love to hear your ideas!

WASHINGTON STREET EXTENSION PIER

A deed is on file at City Hall showing that the Washington Street Pier now belongs to the Inn on Long Wharf. Our friend, Mary Ferrazzoli, warned us of this possibility.

In its brief in the court case, the City failed to give a strong enough defense - filled land, Public Trust Doctrine, and the judge sent the case to a "Master", who divided the land three ways, giving one right of way to the Inn on Long Wharf; another, Newport Realty; the third to the City (by Newport Yacht Club).

In a recent phone call to Mr. Perry Harris, of the Inn Group Associates, he commented that the pier was open to use by the public "for now."

Liz Bermender

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OPENING NIGHT '95

Soon it will be time to say good-bye to 1994. One way to welcome in the New Year is at *Opening Night*, Newport's New Year's Eve Celebration. Coordinated by the Newport Cultural Commission, *Opening Night* is described as family entertainment at nearly 20 venues around the city. Many of these, including the Old Colony House, Brick Market Museum of Newport History, Thames Science Center and Visitors Center, are a short distance from the Point. Free shuttle buses will be available to take you to other sites.

The non-alcohol event, which runs from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., will include a wide variety of music, many forms of dance, lots of activities for kids, hands-on craft projects, storytelling, exhibits, science demonstrations, and a number of open houses and receptions. The festivities will conclude with a spectacular fireworks display over Newport Harbor, beginning at 10 p.m.

A complete schedule of events is available at the Visitors Center located on America's Cup Avenue. Admission buttons are \$5 each. Children 12 and under are admitted to the activities free of charge.



Newport's New Year CELEBRATION

Jammin' New Year's Eve Bash!
Featuring RCA / Novus Recording Artist

Maceo Parker

After 20 years with James Brown & the JB Horns, Parker's funky rhythm & blues will ring in Newport's New Year 1995.

- Overnight Accommodations for Two.
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in the Award Winning
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Four Course New Year's Eve Menu
Including Wine or Champagne

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• RING IN THE NEW YEAR •

THE WHITE HORSE TAVERN PRESENTS

This holiday season, The White Horse Tavern, on Marlborough Street, will be hosting two lectures and one evening event, as part of *Christmas in Newport*.

The *Curator's Fireside Lectures* on the history of the White Horse, which is America's oldest tavern, will be December 10 and 17 at 10 a.m. Light pastries and hot refreshments will be served. The fee is \$5.

On Friday evening, December 9, at 10:30 p.m., following the Navy Choristers concert, the White Horse will have it's *Tavernkeeper's Reveillon* to benefit the Newport Boys and Girls Club. For \$12, guests will enjoy an elegant late night supper. In the old French tradition of a small meal after the midnight Christmas mass, the tavern invites all late night holiday shoppers and concert-goers to stop by and warm up by the fire before heading home. Call the tavern at 849-3600 for more information and reservations.

PHOTOGRAPHY AWARD WINNER

Point resident Denise Drapeau of Walnut Street took first place in the Nature/Scenic category of the Rhode Islander Magazine Photography Contest. Her photograph, *Winter, 1994*, showed a snowy Tiverton scene. It was published in the October 30, 1994 edition of the Sunday magazine.



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CHRISTMAS PAST ON THE POINT

As the Point Association celebrates its fortieth anniversary, the staff of the *Green Light* wondered how houses on the Point were decorated when the organization was young. Editor Edith Ballinger Price gives us an early account when she writes about the 1958 Christmas decorating contest in this reprint of her January, 1959, *Green Light* article.

"On the evening of December 26, Miss Nancy Hay, Robert Kerr III and David P. Leys had the difficult assignment of judging the decorations to be seen on the Point. After some lengthy discussion, prizes were awarded as follows:

(1) **MOST APPROPRIATE TO SEASON:** Miss Ade de Bethune, 118 Washington St., who showed a stained glass medallion of Madonna and Child, of her own making, gracefully framed with wreath and garland against a brilliantly lit white background. Honorable Mention: Mrs. Reginald Bryer, 24 Van Zandt Ave., whose French-roofed house glowed with a subdued light in every window, and gave the effect of a cozy Victorian Christmas card.

(2) **MOST ORIGINAL:** The only prize given in this class went to W. Harry Groff, 79 Washington St., whose flood-lit display gave the unusual effect of a charming summer garden.

(3) **MOST EFFECT FOR LEAST EXPENSE:** The sun-porch of the Patrick Murphys at 54 Third St. combined red and white striped curtains with a restrained use of glass-wax stencils. Honorable Mention went to John Murphy of 36 Second St. for his beautiful wreath of laurel and pine-cones, spotlighted.

At the last moment, a fourth category was created - **APPEAL TO THE YOUNG AT HEART** and this

prize was given to the Nathaniel Addisons of 15 Bridge St. who displayed a gay and riotous ensemble of all the figures dear to childhood. Joseph Zammer of 82 Third St. received Honorable Mention for his welcoming snowman and picture windows displaying lighted trees.

First place in each class was \$5 and honorable mention received hand-lettered scrolls.

Though the officers and board members of P.A.N. were not eligible for a prize, The *Green Light* cannot forbear mentioning the charming Della Robbia wreath made by Wm. Fullerton and ... over the door of the Hannah Robinson house, our clever president had affixed a real pineapple, gilded and festooned with laurel and light!"

Editor's Note: The initials P.A.N. stand for Point Association of Newport and the "clever president" that Miss Price refers to is Edwin Brownell.



A Newport Shopping Tradition Since 1796

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

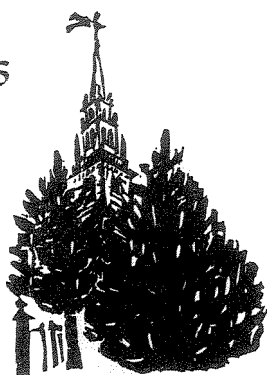
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GARDENERS CORNER

Paper white narcissus bulbs make great stocking presents. They don't need any dirt - just stones that you can buy at any aquarium store.

Cover the bottom of a 4-inch-deep dish, put in the bulbs and cover all but an inch of the bulb with more stones. Be generous with the stones or the thrust of the growing roots will push the bulbs out of the dish. Add water to a level just below the bulbs. The roots will seek the water. Too much may rot them. Now put them in a cool (55 degree) place. In some of our houses that cool place might well be under the sofa.

If all this sounds complicated, it's not. Once you've found the stones and chosen the dish, it won't take as long to do it as it has to read this.

* * * * *

Gardener's Supply Company had a reader's suggestion for keeping cats away from gardens by burying citrus peels in the soil. You can blend them in a blender and sprinkle them too. I mean to try it as I hate to find their spoor buried in my garden.

* * * * *

Remember the television ads last summer for pesticides, assuring buyers that they were "safe, non-toxic and free of risk." Well, I do and felt vindicated when I read that two big chemical companies have been forced by the New York Attorney General's office to sign a promise not to claim that their pesticides are "safe, harmless, and free of risk." The Texas Attorney General's office has sued more than twenty companies in that state. If we see a false claim we are asked to report it to: Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP), Box 1393, Eugene, OR 97440. They will forward complaints to the Environmental Protection Agency and Congress.

Anne Reynolds

T-SHIRTS PRINTED IN A DAY PRINTS FOR CLUBS, SCOUT TROOPS, FAMILY AFFAIRS, BIRTHDAYS, AND MANY MORE EVENTS. T-SHIRTS PRINTED IN A DAY PRINTS ON CAPS, SHIRTS WE EVEN PUT PHOTOS ON SHIRTS & CAPS T-SHIRTS PRINTED IN A DAY WILL PRINT AS LITTLE AS ONE SHIRT OR AS MANY AS YOU WANT

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"AND THE OLD WOMEN KEEP THE BEAT"

In ancient times, old women held power and status. Rich with the wisdom of accumulated years, freed from child care and work, these elder women were revered as healers and teachers. As times have changed, as women's status deteriorated, those widows, spinsters, and grannies became a burden both to their families and to society. Witch, Crone, and other expletives described these older women who had once been the harbingers of tradition, of people's history.

It was in Maine, in 1982, that a group of women decided to renew the ancient croning ritual. The ceremony, in which elder wise women are honored, that has its roots in the myths of Europe. And it was in 1992, in Newport, that other women "picked up the beat" and created their own ceremony. This year, the "crowning" took place the last Sunday of the *Women's Sacred Arts Festival*, a series of programs designed by, for, and about women, the whole created by Victoria Williams.


Several women on the Point were honored. Ade Bethune was welcomed into the circle, as was Dixie Doreau. Women of all ages joined hands and voices in song, poetry, and dance to elevate Ade and Dixie and ten other older women to the status they deserve.

Old age is scary. Those of us who cross its threshold need the affirmation of our peers, and our children. "You are honored and beloved women. You have made a difference in the world. You have a wealth of stories and ideas to share..."

And Dixie Doreau's heartfelt statement: "At my age, there is nothing more satisfying than a great game of golf!"

Yes, "the old women keep the beat"! Without that drum far ahead, where would the younger women follow?

Anita McAndrews
Graduate Crone



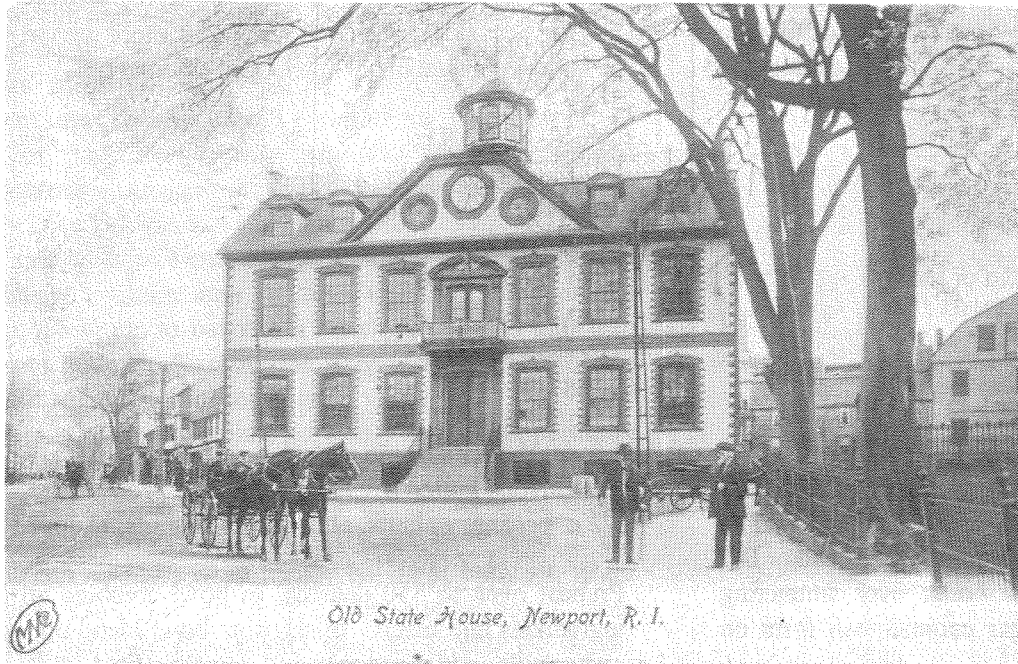
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HISTORY ON POST CARDS

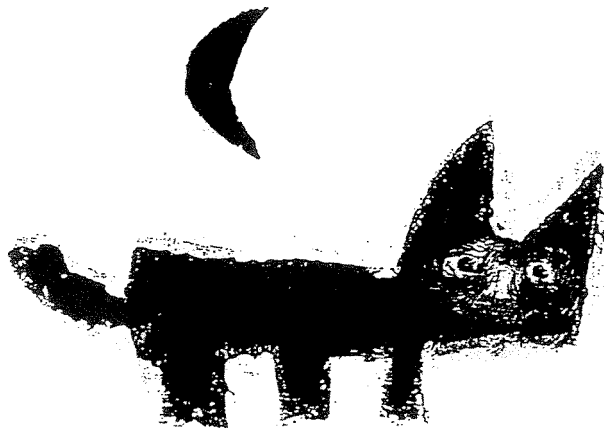


This 1909 post card depicts what we now know as the Colony House. Built in 1739 by Richard Munday, it has the distinction of being the second oldest capitol building in the country. It alternated with Providence as the seat of the state legislature until 1900. Inside its walls much history has taken place. The repeal of the Stamp Act and the Declaration of Independence were read from its balcony. The British used it as a barracks during the occupation.

It was the first home of the Newport Artillery Company and Washington met here with Rochambeau. The first Catholic Mass was said here upon the death of Admiral de Ternay of the French fleet. The building is now undergoing renovations and it is hoped that they will be completed in time for the *Christmas in Newport* and *Opening Night* activities.

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COOK'S CORNER

Tis the season to be jolly...but for those of us who don't want to spend hours in the kitchen during the holidays, here are a few simple dessert recipes.

CARAMEL BREAD PUDDING

1 c. brown sugar
3-4 slices buttered bread (day old or more)
3 eggs (or Eggbeater equivalent)
2 c. milk
1 tsp. vanilla
pinch of salt

Put sugar in top of double boiler. Cube bread and place over sugar. **DO NOT STIR!** Beat eggs and add to milk, vanilla and salt. Pour liquid over bread. **DO NOT STIR!** Cook in double boiler over simmering water for 1 hour. Brown sugar caramel will form on bottom.

* * * * *

This next recipe is really simple!

SUPER EASY TRIFLE

1 Sara Lee frozen pound cake (thawed and cubed)
1 six-pack Jell-O vanilla pudding snacks
Sliced strawberries or sliced peaches
12 oz. Cool Whip
Liqueur or flavored brandy

Place cubed pound cake in a trifle bowl or deep sided glass bowl and sprinkle with flavored liqueur or brandy. Place pudding on top of cake. Layer fruit on top of pudding and finish off with Cool Whip. Chill before serving, allowing time for liqueur to soak into cake.

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For the occasions when you need a bit more dessert this carrot cake baked in a 9-by-13 pan fills the bill.

CARROT CAKE

2 c. unbleached flour
2 c. sugar
2 tsp. baking soda
2 tsp. cinnamon
1 1/4 c. vegetable oil
4 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
1 c. crushed pineapple with juice (canned)
3 c. carrots, grated (by hand or in food processor)
1/2 c. pecans, walnuts, almonds or peanuts, chopped

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In bowl combine all dry ingredients and blend. In separate bowl blend oil, eggs and vanilla; add pineapple and carrots. Fold in dry ingredients and mix well together. Pour into floured 9-by-13 inch baking pan and bake 1 hour until cake springs back when touched lightly. Dust top with sifted confectioner's sugar. Makes 16 slices, 346 calories per slice.

Florence Archambault



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!

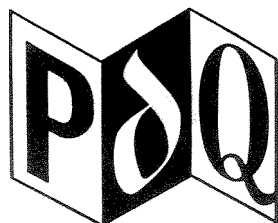
Cafe del Mare

Located in the Newport Marriott
75 Long Wharf, Newport

CLAIRE MAYTUM

Claire Maytum, daughter of Jack and Donna Maytum and a Born-on-the-Pointer, has been selected to participate in the People-to-People Student Ambassadors' program. The program selects students from all over the country and gives them the chance to experience the different cultures of many foreign countries. As a part of this program, she will spend four weeks in Europe this summer, visiting England, Ireland, Wales, and Scotland with a group of 45 Rhode Island students. Claire says, "I think visiting other countries will allow me to become a better person and will help me to better understand the simple strands of life that hold the human race together."

There are costs that go along with an opportunity like this. Since Claire is only 13 and not yet able to get a "real" job, she is asking you to hire her to do simple household chores that you may not have time to do. She can also gift wrap for the holidays, baby sit, water plants while you are away, clean and do many other things an average teenager can do around the house. Contact Claire at 849-4395 if you are interested in hiring her.



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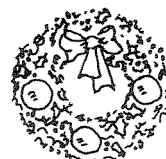
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Green Light Staff _____ History & Archives _____ Membership _____

Phone Committee _____ Plant Sale _____ Potluck Supper _____ Publicity _____

Dues: Please make checks payable to The Point Association

Individual \$5.00

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Patron \$25.00

Membership year runs from October 1 through September 30

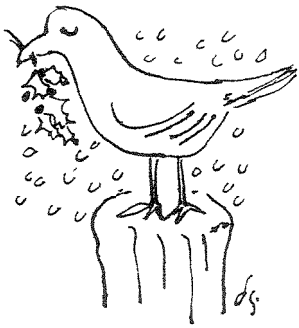
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