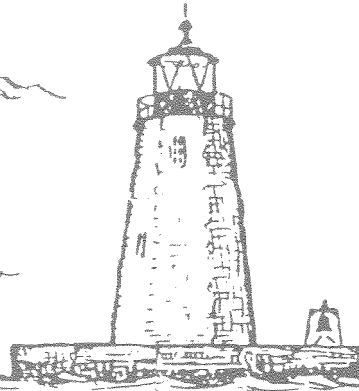


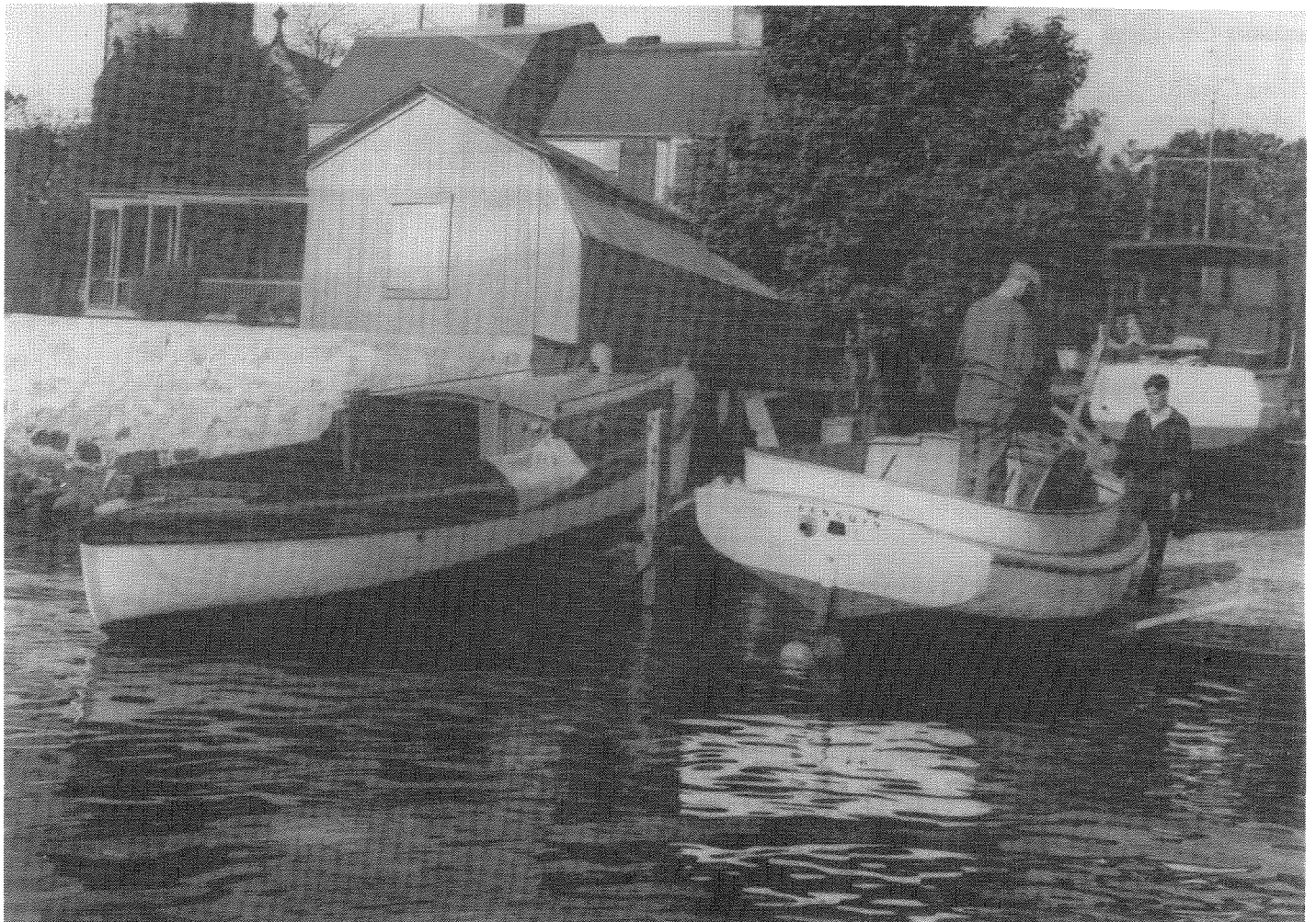
The
GREEN

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LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Summer 1996





The

GREEN LIGHT

XXXI No. 2

SUMMER 1996

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GREEN LIGHT

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Summer 1996 Calendar

June 1	Point Plant Sale Adventure Club Bake Sale Friends of Van Zandt Pier Tag Sale (page 5)
June 8	Point Harbor Cruise (page 5)
June 21 - 23	Secret Garden Tour (page 9)
June 27	Annual Picnic (page 4)
July 11 - 14	A Celebration of British Cathedral Music II (page 9)
July 27	St. John's Fair (page 9)
August 15	Membership Cocktail Party (page 6)
September 7	Wine Tasting (page 5)

The President's Letter

The May 15 meeting, *An Evening of Restoration Stories*, infused me with pride for the efforts and tenacity of our past and present members. The Point section has become one of the most desirable neighborhoods of our city because of its historical integrity and community spirit. For the past 41 years, the Point Association has worked tirelessly to maintain the resources of our area. The current Board and association members are no exception. The Spring Clean-Up, the April General Membership Meeting, and *An Evening of Restoration Stories* set records for attendance and participation and demonstrate our vitality and enthusiasm. A very special thanks to the Beautification, Programs, and History and Archives committees and their continual commitment.

Speaking of commitment, over the past two months, the Board has been involved with meetings and hearing concerned with Goat Island and its growing commercial development. The request for a marina expansion north of the causeway was granted easily because there is no meaningful harbor management plan adopted by the city that could have been preventative. Coastal Resources Management Council's ruling to allow the development puts an end to the tradition of the causeway serving as a natural boundary between commercial and residential enterprises on the waterfront. Our councilor, Laurice Shaw, fought the good fight and has since put forth a resolution to develop a relevant Harbor Management Plan. In addition, Don Dery, one of our members, has volunteered to attend the Waterfront Commission meetings and report his observations to the Board. At the very least, the marina expansion has served as a wake up call to residents and city officials.

Most immediately we face the possibility that Goat Island will acquire a Class B Entertainment License that will allow them to have outdoor amplified music from 11 to 11 each day and to 12 midnight on weekends. Goat Island, IDC Clambakes, Inc., has a permit to build a wooden structure approximately 2200 square feet that would house bathroom and kitchen facilities. The City Council voted 5 to 1 (Laurice Shaw objecting and Richard Sardella abstaining) to grant IDC Clambakes, Inc. a victualing license. With a victualing license in hand, Goat Island can apply for an Annual Public Entertainment License and hold numerous events under tents outside the wooden structure. If Goat Island gets its wish for an entertainment license, the south-westerly winds will escort the tunes to our homes. There will be no turn off switch to this music until the performers pull the plug. Noise pollution accompanied by the usual traffic concerns will be constant summer companions. It is our hope that the City Council will act wisely and deny the license at the May 22 City Council meeting and that our concern can be postponed if not eliminated.

American Shipyard has lost the support of the State and City for federal funding because of the financial condition of the shipyard and its lack of progress fulfilling the state's request for environmental study. The future of American Shipyard is in doubt and may face a tax sale. The Association hopes that some type of marine business that will be profitable and ensure that jobs can succeed at the Washington Street site.

As usual, we remain busy and informed. We are never too busy, however, to enjoy the summer activities. The Association's schedule of events promises to provide something for everyone. I look forward to seeing you.

Christine M. Mataro

The Point Picnic

Thursday, June 27 at 6 p.m.

88 Washington Street
(Anne Reynolds' yard)



Welcome summer with friends and neighbors.
Bring a picnic supper and
folding chairs or a blanket to sit upon.
Coffee will be provided.

Spring General Membership Meeting

The annual spring meeting of the Point Association was held on April 11, 1996, with the following highlights. Income from membership is higher than expected because a greater number of people are supporting the Association at the higher levels of membership (Patron and Sustaining). The Traffic Committee has finished a long report concerning traffic patterns and signage on our streets and has made recommendations for improvement. A revised Point Association Mission Statement was discussed and approved. (Copies will be available at the October annual meeting.) The recent approval of the Coastal Resource Management Council (CRMC) for new piers to be constructed north of the causeway on Goat Island, despite the efforts of the Point Association and other groups, led to the decision to have a member of the Point Association be present at the meetings of the Waterfront Commission. Don Dery volunteered. Receiving Born on the Point certificates were Amanda Chrisman, Thelma Ebbitt, and Leon Shaw.

After a short reception, Dr. Edwin L. Dunbaugh gave a lively presentation on the Fall River Steamship Line. His personal memories and affection for this very important part of Newport (and the Point's) history was enjoyed by all. Several members of the Point Association and friends displayed Fall River Line memorabilia. Thanks are due not only to Professor Dunbaugh but also to Melvin Lash for facilitating this enjoyable event through the auspices of The Marine Museum at Fall River, Inc.

Peggy Comfort

Beautification

The Spring Clean-Up was a huge success! We had many familiar faces come out for the cleanup of our parks, as well as several new people. Many thanks to the volunteers who weeded, raked, pruned, and picked up trash. The City of Newport supplied us with two huge piles of fresh mulch which is now decorating our flower beds throughout Storer Park. This year we had help, too, from the Adventure Club in the other park areas. A special thanks to Alexis Ackman for her efforts at organizing the children's work and sponsoring a celebration barbecue at her house after the morning of hard work.

Wanted: Volunteers who are willing to share an hour or two on a regular basis. Marsh Street island and the parks need weed control for the summer. We'd like to add to our list of areas that receive attention so your contribution of time is much needed. Please call Nancy and Paul Quattrucci at 846-2434 or Deb Herrington at 848-9735 if you can help.

We encourage all residents to help clean up the rest of the Point. This winter's heavy snows left much sand on our streets and sidewalks. Please take a few minutes to remove the sand and leaf build-up in front of your homes.

The Point residents appreciate all dog owners who clean up after their dogs. Let's all work together to rid our area of this problem!

Deb Herrington



Deb Herrington, Mayor David Gordon and Paul Quattrucci at the Storer Park clean up in April.

Adventure Club News

May Day

The Adventure Club welcomed the month of May with the delivery of May Day bouquets to 35 members of the Point community. The kids really enjoyed meeting new neighbors, and the flowers got rave reviews too. Thanks to the Point Association and Water's Edge Flowers for the beautiful flowers.

Summer Plans

The Adventure Club will meet weekly beginning Wednesday, July 10th. The group meets at Storer Park, Washington Street and Goat Island Connector at 4 p.m. Activities are chosen by families who organize the activities on a rotating basis. Among the ideas are an art show, trip to Roger Williams Park Zoo, natural tie-dyeing, Native American Day, kite making and wheel day. Children of all ages are welcome to participate. For more information, contact Beth Lloyd at 849-8071 or Jill Spohn at 849-2155. We'd love to have you join us!

Emu, Where Are You?

The emu's weren't up to a visit in March but it is hoped that the trip can be rescheduled for another time. We are looking forward to seeing how these ostrich-like birds react to meeting the Adventure Club kids! Keep posted for an update. Call Karen at 847-5361 for more information.



Don't miss it !!

The Point Plant Sale

Saturday, June 1
9 a.m. - noon

101 Washington Street
(in the driveway on Pine Street)

❖ Support the Sale ❖

Donate your extra plants
Purchase plants for your yard

On the same day:

The Adventure Club's
Bake Sale and Lemonade Stand
9 a.m. - noon
at the Point Plant Sale

Friends of Van Zandt Pier
Tag Sale
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Battery Park

Wine Tasting

Make plans to attend the Point Association Wine Tasting on Saturday, September 7. This year fine wines from around the world will be featured. More details will be announced later.

Set sail into spring on the third annual

Point Harbor Cruise on the *Spirit of Newport*

Saturday, June 8

The cruise will be leave from the dock behind the Newport Harbor Hotel
at 6 p.m. and return at 8 p.m.

*Refreshments - Silent Auction - Cash Bar - Music
and Good Company*

\$15 per person or \$25 a couple

For reservations call Sharon Schultz (846-6762) or Roberta Majewski (846-6194)

Pot Luck Supper

The Point Association's annual pot luck supper was held Sunday, March 24 at St. John's Guild Hall. In the true tradition of pot luck suppers, the center tables were filled with a delicious and tempting array of food. Everyone commented on how much food there was! But rather quickly, it all disappeared as hungry Pointers filled their plates.

Besides the obvious reason to be there - to eat - there was also the opportunity to catch up on news with friends and neighbors after an especially long, cold and snowy winter. We also noticed how fast the children of the Point are growing. Babies that were being held at last year's supper are now toddlers and they were busy exploring all of the exciting places at the Guild Hall as their parents trailed behind them.

Our thanks to Donna Maytum and to everyone who helped make this annual event a success.

An Evening of Restoration Stories


Which house on the Point has free indirect backyard lighting until 10 p.m. most summer evenings? Which Newport Restoration house was once the summer home for Hetty Green? Those who attended *An Evening of Restoration Stories* on Wednesday, May 15 at St. John's Guild Hall can tell you the answers. The event, which was sponsored by the Point Association and coordinated by the History and Archives committee as a part of National Historic Preservation Week, gave listeners the opportunity to find out about past, current and future projects on the Point.

Hosted by Anita Rafael, the first part of the program dealt with past projects on the Point. Tim Sturtevant shared an Operation Clapboard story about the work that was done by his mother, Mrs. Henrietta Dane, to 70 Bridge Street, Marjorie Magruder told about her Newport Restoration Foundation house at 6 Bridge Street, and Kay O'Brien related the story of Storer Park.

Current projects were discussed by Phil Cox, Frank and Betty Murphy's contractor at 103 Second Street and Lisa Lewis and Bart Dunbar, the new owners of 22 Bridge Street (The Caleb Claggett House).

The Van Zandt Pier, a special place for many Pointers, is falling apart. Beth Cullen of Friends of Van Zandt Pier, shared the group's plans to save the pier.

The two door prizes, which were donated by Ould Colony Signmakers, were won by Phil Cox (historic house sign) and Suzanne Varisco (pen and ink rendering of her house).



*The Point Association's Annual
Membership Cocktail Party*

Thursday, August 15
from six until eight in the evening

Villa Marina - Sanford Covell House
72 Washington Street

Welcome to Our New Members

Kathryn A. Durgin
Grace Johnston
Frank and Betty Murphy
Geoffrey Oxnam
Mark and Melanie Preston

Following the program there was time to chat with the speakers and view the exhibits that had been prepared by the History and Archives committee.

Since the Point Association began over 40 years ago, restoration and renovation, houses and projects, have been a part of everyday life for many members. As Anita mentioned during the program, this is what we talk about here on the Point when we get together.

Answers to the questions: The Caleb Claggett House at 22 Bridge Street has indirect backyard lighting courtesy of Cardines Field and 6 Bridge Street, which was moved from South Dartmouth, Massachusetts in 1973, was once the summer home of Hetty Green.

* * * * *

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Robert and Judith Leonard, owners of Ould Colony Signmakers, are working with the Point Association to form an historic marker program for the Point. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of signs through this program will be donated to the Point Association. More information can be obtained by calling Christine Montanaro at 849-4708.

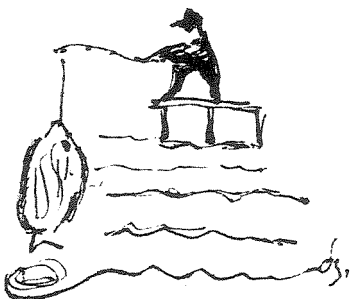
Traffic Sign Survey

Over this past winter, Ross Freeman, Dominic Varisco and I conducted an informal survey of traffic signs on the Point. We did this over a period of weeks, driving through the neighborhood from every possible approach, taking notes and discussing the issues with neighbors and friends who could lend their own perspective. After completing our street-by-street inspection, we concluded that for the most part signage was appropriate and adequate with several exceptions. We did observe that many signs were faded, in disrepair or obscured. Of particular concern, given the current state of traffic anarchy, were intersections where the stop lines were worn away and no longer visible on the pavement which encouraged drivers to slide through.

In general, most residents with whom we spoke felt that traffic volume and speed through the Point is on the increase. Mentioned most frequently was the apparent increase in commuter traffic to and from the Base, and also Goat Island truck/vendor traffic. Commuter hours seem to generate much higher speed traffic while commercial trucks create noise and safety issues, given the difficulty of navigating our narrow residential streets. Residents on Second and Third streets complained about noisy RIPTA buses using the neighborhood as a shortcut to the Gateway Center. This was confirmed by comparing times of passing buses to scheduled RIPTA stops on the Point. Several homeowners on upper Thames felt that it was becoming the route of choice into the city over the multiple traffic signals on America's Cup Avenue.

Ultimately, a formal city traffic survey may be necessary to determine the best means of altering traffic flow to limit thru-traffic and commuter usage. We anticipate approaching members of the City Council who have expressed an interest in traffic issues with the results of our survey (copies are available on request by calling 849-1319). Additional input from Point Association members and residents would be greatly appreciated.

Mark Williams
Traffic Committee Chairperson



Comments About the Spring Issue

It is always gratifying for the staff of the *Green Light* to know that the bulletin is being read. After hearing the comments about the last issue, we know that many of you are reading it carefully!

We apologize for moving the site of the Christmas Eve explosion. It of course happened at the corner of Third and Poplar.

Mrs. Stanley Wald of South Orange, New Jersey, was thrilled to see the picture of her father, Hymie Katzman, standing in front of his store. She wanted to clear up one statement. There were three Katzman owned businesses on the Point, but only two were owned by brothers; the third was owned by a cousin.

We are pleased that so many of you enjoyed the Helena Sturtevant picture on the cover and the story about her exhibit at the Newport Art Museum. Louise Sherman tells us that she had the opportunity to take art lessons from Miss Sturtevant.

As for the typos and goofs - we can always use another set of eyes for proof reading! If this is an area where you can help, or if you would like to submit a story or story idea, please contact one of us on the staff.

We look forward to hearing your comments about this issue!

Marine Terminal Update

The Department of Transpiration has scheduled a public meeting for Tuesday, June 18, 7:30 p.m. at Newport City Hall. The Marine Terminal and other forms of water transit will be discussed.

The Maritime Preservation Alliance

The Maritime Preservation Alliance held two public meetings recently for the purpose of gaining membership and support. The newly formed group seeks to address the needs of Newport Harbor in four directions.

1. Support and encourage traditional maritime businesses and trades.
2. Preserve Newport as a viable host for international yachting events.
3. Support a sound Harbor Management Plan.
4. Preserve the Harbor as a natural resource.

Committees have been formed to support each of these goals. Members are encouraged to join one or more committees. To find out more about the Maritime Preservation Alliance please write in care of P.O. Box 124, Newport, RI 02840.

Peggy Comfort

Pointers-in-the-News

Sara Weiss, a longtime Point resident and an activist for those with disabilities, was chosen to be a part of Stephen Brigidi's *Remarkable People* exhibit at the Newport Art Museum.

Louis Souza was honored as a Good Neighbor of the Week in the *Newport Daily News* in March. Mr. Souza has lent a helping hand to neighbor Leo DuTilley many times.

Pamela Kelly was featured in a *Newport This Week* article highlighting local women in business. Ms. Kelly, who is president of Rue de France, started her business in her kitchen in the early '80s and now her company mails out over 2 million catalogues annually.

Art Gudikunst, chairman of the Finance Division at Bryant College in Smithfield, RI, has been named a full professor.

Ade Bethune discussed her philosophy for acceptance of death for the *Providence Journal* and displayed the simple but beautiful coffin she has crafted.

Annette Peterson was a featured artist in the exhibit "The Nude" at the Candida Simmons Gallery on Spring Street in April.

Alexis Ackman was seen enjoying the "Greatest Show on Earth", where she and her fellow students studied how circus stunts relate to physics.

The *Daily News* showed Sarah Gilson and Mary Jane Rodman hard at work during the Point Association's clean up at Storer Park in April.

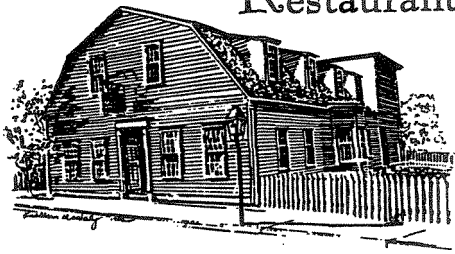
The Boghossian and Lloyd families were used as examples of families who garden together in Jan Hall's *Newport This Week* gardening column.

The Vars have been busy people. Joe was pictured putting the finishing touches on a bridal bouquet and attending a Newport Horticultural Society meeting. Angela, dressed up as a pirate, was shown making final preparations for the Mosaic Club's fund-raiser, Pirate's Cove.

Point dogs and their owners have been pictured in the *Daily News*. Kate Cook and Sam were shown braving one of our many winter snowstorms to go for a walk. Amy Peck waited for a warm spring day to take Angus out to the Elm Street Pier.

Compiled by Sharon Schultz,
Kay O'Brien and Nancy Espersen

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PHONE 847-0035

The Secret Garden Tour

For the 12th year, Newporters and visitors will gather on the Point as the Benefactors of the Arts present its Secret Garden Tour, June 21 - 23.

The self-guided tour includes fifteen private Point gardens, some of which have not previously been shown. There are also the familiar gardens for those who enjoy watching growth and change. Visitors to the gardens always seem to enjoy discovering or rediscovering plant materials and design possibilities.

On Friday afternoon, June 21, forty school children from the All City Honors Chorus and Thompson Junior High will be giving a concert at St. John's Church. The concert is free and open to the public. Imagine the cool of St. John's sanctuary, listening to the sweet music of our children in a bower of flowers arranged by the Newport Garden Club.

A new addition to the tour this year will be a lecture by noted floral arranger and designer Joseph P.T. Vars at St. John's Guild Hall on Saturday at 2 p.m.

Funds raised from the tour support arts education, instruction and experience in schools on Aquidneck

Island. This year the Benefactors funded a special program that made it possible for almost nine-hundred elementary school children to visit the Newport Art Museum to view the Helena Sturtevant exhibit.

A book, *Secret Gardens of Newport Rhode Island's Historic Point Section* written by Newporter Tom Gannon with photographs by Laurie Sullivan is also available. It is truly a lovely little book, that will make a nice souvenir of your tour.

Many volunteers are needed for the tour to be a success. By working a 4-hour shift your are entitled to a enjoy the tour free of charge. Please call Nancy Corkery (683-5347) to volunteer.

* * * * *

Secret Garden Tour

Friday, June 21 - 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, June 22 - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday June 23 - 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Advance Tickets - \$12 After June 15 and on
(available until June 15) tour days - \$15

Please call 847-0514 for reservations and information.

News From St. John's

After a successful inaugural year, St. John's will host *A Celebration of British Cathedral Music II*, occurring over the four days of July 11 through 14. We are extremely pleased to announce that the Choir of Wells Cathedral, Wells, England, will serve as the choir-in-residence. The Choir, consisting of 18 boys and 12 men, will be led by Organist and Master of Choristers at Wells, Dr. Anthony Crossland.

The *Celebration* will feature nine choral services over the four days, concluding with three on Sunday. Brochures are available at the parish office, located in the Guild Hall at 61 Poplar Street, listing the times and repertory of all services. We invite all of our Point neighbors to join us for this gala of prayer and praise.

* * * * *

In response to our notice in the spring issue of the *Green Light*, several families have volunteered to host

our clerical guests. It is not too late to become involved in this aspect of the hospitality program. If you would like to participate, please call St. John's at 848-2561 or Mary Jane Rodman at 846-9199.

* * * * *

A farewell reception was held May 19th for Brady Johnson, Organist and Choirmaster at St. John's, who has accepted a position in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, a suburb of Charleston.

* * * * *

Saint John's Church Fair

Saturday, July 27

Washington and Willow Streets

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.


Food, white elephant sale, silent auction,
crafts and more!

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Pieces to the Point Puzzle

The series, *Pieces to the Point Puzzle*, highlights the organizations, individuals and events, the "pieces" that when put together, make the Point what it is today.

In the Spring issue Operation Clapboard, a name found on many 18th century house signs on the Point, was featured. Now the puzzle gets more complicated with the story of the Oldport Association. The story of Oldport is intertwined with Operation Clapboard, making it difficult to distinguish between the two pieces.

The name Oldport has a history all of its own. Thomas Wentworth Higginson, living here after the Civil War, named the old section of Newport along Washington Street "Oldport" in his book of essays *Oldport Days* published in 1873. In 1929 the name appears again when a small group of Newporters formed the original Oldport Association. A large sprawling summer boarding house, The Faisneau, on Washington Street at the northeast corner of Chestnut was about to be torn down. In order to save the colonial part of the building and a small early 19th-century house, the Oldport Association was founded to "beautify the Point and perpetuate its old time greatness in maritime tradition." A constitution was written and officers elected. The two houses were saved and moved along Washington Street to the northeast corner of Bridge Street, a site then in danger of becoming a commercial location.

As a fund-raiser, "Oldport Days" was established and fairs of that name were held in 1929, 1932, 1936 (the state tercentenary year) and 1938. With its six 18th century houses, St. John's Church and Villa Marina, Washington Street was closed from Elm to Walnut. Newport Artillery soldiers were positioned at each house open for viewing. The following paragraph

from the August 1986 *Green Light* describes the event:



"OLDPORT DAYS"

"Each house was brought to pristine condition, bedecked with vases of flowers, and staffed by young and old in Colonial costumes. Exhibitions supplied by private individuals and the Historical Society of pewter-ware, china, copper, brass, old silhouettes, shawls, fans, and samplers were on view at each house. Candle-making, spinning, and quilting took place. The Robinson House needed no special feature, having so much 18th-century furniture - much of it Townsend and Goddard. On its lawn folk dancing and games were held. Both row and sail boat rides left the pier under the care of Harold Arnold. Harold gave helpful instruction to the young in splicing and knot tying. On several occasions, Princess Redwing of the Narragansetts in South County came with members of her tribe to sell beadwork and fine baskets."

During World War II activity on the Point focused on the Goat Island Torpedo Station and expansion of the Navy Base. Following the war, interest in restoration was revived. Mr. and Mrs. George Henry Warren had purchased the Hunter House which was the beginning of the Preservation Society of Newport County in 1945. John Perkins Brown restored the



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Captain Phillips House at 42 Elm Street and the Peter Simon House at 25 Bridge Street. Interest in improving the neighborhood was reflected in the founding of the Point Association in 1955. In the winter of 1963-64 Operation Clapboard was organized with the goal of saving the Point's 18th-century houses. In the summer of 1965 differences of opinion arose among board members about whether to be profit or non-profit. To resolve the differences, the second Oldport Association was formed and incorporated with a non-profit status.

This second Oldport Association faced many challenges as the Redevelopment Agency of Newport had begun to act, threatening drastic changes with little regard for architectural heritage. Details of the creative vision and hard work of the people involved during this difficult time is well documented in "The Restoration Movement in Newport, Rhode Island, from 1963 to 1976" by Esther Fisher Benson in the Spring 1984 *Bulletin of the Newport Historical Society*.

In the winter of 1968 Doris Duke's Newport Restoration Foundation came into being, adding much strength to the restoration movement. At this time Operation Clapboard and Oldport Association merged, with Oldport maintaining its non-profit status and Operation Clapboard selling houses and running house tours as the profit-making section. A newsletter *Clapboard* had a mailing of 600.

During the summers of 1970 and 1971 Oldport had a contract with the Rhode Island State Historical commission to conduct a survey of Newport's historic buildings. Young people involved in the survey lived at 90 Bridge Street which was lent to Oldport by the Newport Restoration Foundation. Another activity sponsored by Oldport was a slide show "Views of Newport" to acquaint people with what 18th-century


Newport was like. In 1971 a group of Oldport volunteers became docents at the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House. Their enthusiasm and talents created many activities inside and out at this early house. Historical material contained in a guide book *From Indians to Yankee Doodles* was distributed to school children who were also invited to a slide show and walk through historical areas. Oldport also trained guides for the Quaker Meeting House and supported the return of gas lights to streets. Oldport walking tour brochures were prepared for the areas of Colonial Newport.

During the bicentennial year of 1976, five organizations were concerned with preservation in the city: the Newport Historical Society, the Oldport Association, Operation Clapboard, the Preservation Society of Newport County and the Newport Restoration Foundation. Later, the Oldport Association became the "Oldport Committee" of the Newport Historical Society, which now holds the files and records of the Oldport Association and Operation Clapboard. Dedicated leaders and active and energetic volunteers of these organizations are an important part of the Point Puzzle.

Kay O'Brien

Editor's Note: The Finch House (pictured on the cover of the Spring 1996 issue of the *Green Light*) was the home of Gladys and William MacLeod. Their daughter, Jane MacLeod Walsh, graciously supplied firsthand information of Oldport for this article. Her father served as treasurer of the original Oldport and Jane spent much time researching Newport historic houses for the second Oldport Association. The family home on Washington Street was open for the "Oldport Days" fairs with all members of the family involved in the many activities.

This issue's *Works in Progress* features the work being done at the Caleb Claggett House, 22 Bridge Street. Look for it on the next page.




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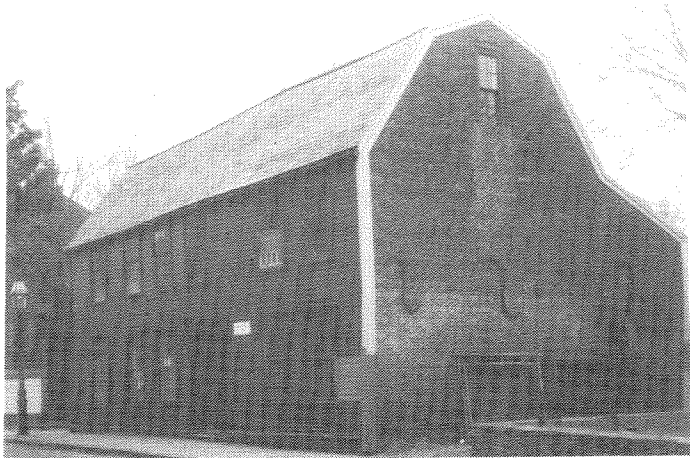
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Coming Spring of '96 - Kayaks

Works in Progress - The Caleb Claggett House

It has been said that effective preservation of an antique house is one that not only preserves the features of the past but also incorporates those features into current life. Bart Dunbar and Lisa Lewis have kept that premise in mind with their loving restoration/rehabilitation of the Caleb Claggett House on Bridge Street. Their battle cry is, "Re-use, not restoration . . ."

This unusual brick-ended house was probably built between 1725 and 1727 by Caleb Claggett, a Welshman and a baker who moved here from Bristol, RI. The focal point of the house is a central chimney that serves four (possibly three) original rooms of the house. While the front rooms have standard fireplaces, the back rooms (or room) has two unusual large corner hearths that provided the large double ovens for the bakery. At the time, Bridge Street was known as Shipwright Street and ran along the edge of the Cove. Originally the house was located wharveside, perhaps to allow a ship to load up on baked goods before setting off to sea.



In the 1950s, the owners of the Caleb Claggett House received permission from the city to raze the building - and put up a parking lot. At this point the house had been converted to a two-family residence and was seriously dilapidated. Fortunately, Restorations, Inc., stepped in and saved this historic property from demolition. Further restoration took place in the 1960s under the ownership of Esther Morton Bates.

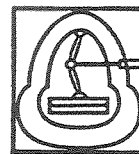
So many changes-of-use, additions and rehabilitations were made to this structure over the years that the major concern for Bart and Lisa was to which point in the house's history it should be restored. Clues that would show the exact configuration of the original house had been obscured. Rather than rely on what, at best, would be guess work, Bart and Lisa chose to enhance the beautiful features from all the early eras,

the central chimney, exposed posts and beams, an early ceiling, flooring, mantles, staircase, tiles and hearths, while at the same time making the house extremely livable.



There are a few exterior changes - skylights, dormers and two doors, all in the back of the house. These few changes, however, allow reconfiguration inside that will accommodate today's taller stature in the low-ceilinged 18th-century rooms. Second story flooring under the shed roof in the back has been removed, leaving the space open to the first floor. This brings light and airiness to the back room, which will be the kitchen/family room. The beautiful double hearth will be the main feature of this room. The front rooms maintain their colonial flavor, while the added dormers on the third floor allow that floor to be used for bedrooms or studies instead of attic space. The couple plans to move in on June 1. Best of luck, Bart and Lisa. May you re-use your historic home in the best of health!

Peggy Comfort



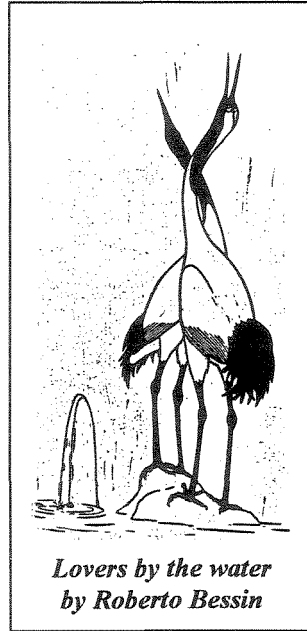
The Third & Elm Press
Ilse Buchert Nesbitt
29 Elm Street, Newport

Meeting New Neighbors

In 1853, when Commodore Matthew Perry sailed his "Black Ships" into Tokyo Bay opening relations with a country closed to the outside world for many centuries, he was not responding to an invitation to Japan. But a new neighbor on the Point, Roberto Bessin, now living across the street from the Matthew Perry house, has been to Japan recently by invitation, to be an artist in residence.

Born in Venezuela, Roberto spent many years in the San Francisco Bay area, where he met his wife Suzanne while both were students at the University of California-Berkeley. Later they lived on Long Island and made trips to Newport to visit Suzanne's aunt. Three years ago Roberto received a call to bring his family to a small town in northeast Hokkaido, a large island at the

northern tip of Japan. This is a heavily forested area where currently the government is sponsoring a restoration. Creative people in the Japanese government are eager to preserve ancient arts and



*Lovers by the water
by Roberto Bessin*

crafts and Roberto was asked to be the artist in residence for 2 1/2 years. Suzanne taught English in the Japanese schools and their children learned Japanese. Roberto's work in Hokkaido has won him another invitation to design and build a park. Before his return trips to Japan an exhibit of his work, including metal sculptures of marine animals and birds, will be at Norton's Oriental Art Gallery on Thames Street, May 25 - June 24.

The Bessin's two children, Christopher (12) and Jennie (10), are attending Newport public schools and Suzanne is teaching in the Pawtucket school system. Comparison of the strengths of education in both countries gives much food for thought.

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Kay O'Brien

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While Walking on the Point



Hurry up spring - then slow down so we have time to get everything done. April is the yellow month with forsythia, daffodils, dandelions, and marsh marigolds. May is the month of green leaves and grass. June will bring the artists to the corner of Second and Bridge to capture the beautiful iris garden of the Rommel's.

After the long hard winter each bursting bud and warm breeze gives added pleasure. Each boat is welcomed back. Neighbors are once again outdoors. Fisherman appear on the causeway hopeful that the squid and flounder will also be there. The sun is already on its way to marking the longest day of the year.

A new bench in memory of Gladys Carr Bolhouse has been placed in Battery Park by her children. It is a perfect spot to enjoy the sights and sounds of summer.

by Kay O'Brien

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From Councilor Laurie Shaw

Looking back at the first four months in office, the new City Council and City Manager have been keeping up a pace that has been strenuous but productive. We continue to grapple with many of our perennial problems: noise, litter, party houses, parking, the waterfront and finances. Here, I would like to focus on the latter two issues.

The waterfront has received long overdue attention recently in the form of a clash with Coastal Resource Management Council (CRMC) over the expansion of the Goat Island Marina north of the causeway and the City's attempt to remove the barge/boathouse and marina from Long Wharf. The American Shipyard's uncertain future has us nervously wondering about the fate of Newport's traditional maritime industry. Lack of planning has marred the waterfront's past. It is time to take a more prudent, proactive approach to the invaluable asset that is Newport's harbor. It is time to commit ourselves to creating a Harbor Management Plan (HMP).

The CRMC has jurisdiction over our waters but will delegate a large part of that responsibility to the City if an appropriate and accepted plan is in place and will provide guidelines and support for its creation. Sure to be a controversial and difficult process at least in part, the development of a HMP will do for our waterfront areas what the Comprehensive Land Use Plan did for the rest of our community. It will set the framework and intent for how we wish to conserve and enhance our "waterside" community in the future for the benefit and enjoyment of all.

The public is going to be an essential part of the planning. The Point Association has always been a model of citizen/community participation and I'm sure it will continue that role as the HMP process gets underway.

The second issue I would like to expound on is the

City's sorry financial condition. When Mike Malinoff agreed to become our new City Manager back in October it was implied that we were \$2.5 million in the black. That's not great for a \$65 million budget, but not bad. After being here shy of a month, he had unscrambled the convoluted and indecipherable "checkbook" he had been given to run the City with and found it to be \$6 million overdrawn. As a result, a few ago we had to borrow \$6 million plus \$70,000 in interest just to pay the necessary bills through the end of the fiscal year. That's even with a spending freeze in place since February and having recently received almost a million dollars in back taxes from DeWeldon's Beacon Rock.

What does it mean to be starting the new fiscal year on July 1st six million dollars in the hole? For starters it means higher taxes, reduced expenditures, maximized assets, and the absolute need for an all out community effort to find other sources of revenue that do not put the burden on the homeowner. We are hamstrung by needing enabling legislation from the State to raise new forms of revenue. The only way to get what we need is to join together as a community and LOBBY for it. This is an election year for state legislators so now is the time. Once again, the strength of the Point Association, represented by you it's members, can be an important element of the endeavor to make Newport a more livable and affordable home.

Clearly our challenges are substantial but so are our tools available to meet those challenges. Newport is an incredibly beautiful city of abundance I have never experienced anywhere else. One of the greatest gifts we have is our people - talented, generous, resourceful and caring. Please participate in our shared future in whatever way you can. If I can be of any help please call me at 848-9451 or drop me a line at 87 Washington Street. Thanks.

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The Gardener's Corner

by Anne Reynolds

Patience. A record wet spring and now it is time to get started - right? Wrong. In the words of the Electric Company "don't touch that shovel." Tread carefully on lawns and gardens until the soil dries out. Digging too early compacts clay soil making it harder for summer roots to penetrate. Test by squeezing a handful of soil, then releasing it. If it stays in a dense ball, wait. Read a book till it dries a bit. Waiting awhile saves slicing up the coy balloon flower or that shy lily just waiting for warm weather to debut.

Then there is procrastination, the dark side of patience. Every year I have "gonna list." I'm gonna spend time pulling out the wild morning glory - alias bind weed and devil guts - and not wait to free ripe raspberries from their grip in July. Also, I'm gonna put hoops around the emerging balloon flowers and chrysanthemums so they'll stay upright without needing the unsightly sticks and ties that such neglect dictates. Sometimes in an uncharacteristic "Martha Stewart moment", I spray the stakes and hoops black to make them less obtrusive.

I intend to take advantage of our late season by taking mid-summer tomato cuttings to make late season bearing plants. Or I could plant seeds directly in the ground in late June for an October crop.

This year I'm going to spread compost over the asparagus bed as the roots grow upward on these

plants. Asparagus is an almost no-work crop. A small patch of sunny ground will produce enough stalks for a small family to enjoy for several weeks in the spring. The plants will last half a lifetime. It takes three years for plants to reach maturity - enough time to daunt young gardeners but a spit in my ocean of time. My dad dreamed of wrist-thick spears, but I am satisfied with the slim product I grow and eat 'em raw.

From *Organic Gardener's* readers page: Spray vinegar on dandelion plants when you expect a couple days of sun. They are suppose to die. It can also be used on unwanted sidewalk weeds, says the writer. Then there is the mixture of baking soda and horticultural oil said to be effective for mold on zinnias and lilacs. The recipe is 1 Tbsp. each of baking soda and horticultural oil per gallon of water. I have used horticultural sulfur on phlox and lilacs effectively. Just dust it on the leaves on a damp day when it will stick to the leaves for awhile till it falls on the soil. Phlox fares well if some of the center stalks are cut to the ground to allow for air circulation.

On the Cover

"Where did you get that picture?" we are often asked. This is the story of how we found the photograph for this issue's cover.

One Sunday afternoon while chatting with Pierre Merle in his Battery Street driveway, he said that he had a picture to show us. Margo Grant Walsh of New York City had found this photograph and gave it to Pierre because he was able to identify it as a Newport scene - a driftway off of Washington Street with St. John's Church in the background. Can any readers identify the people in the photograph, give an approximate year of when the picture was taken or any other information?

Thank you Pierre and Margo for sharing this summer scene from a past Point summer.



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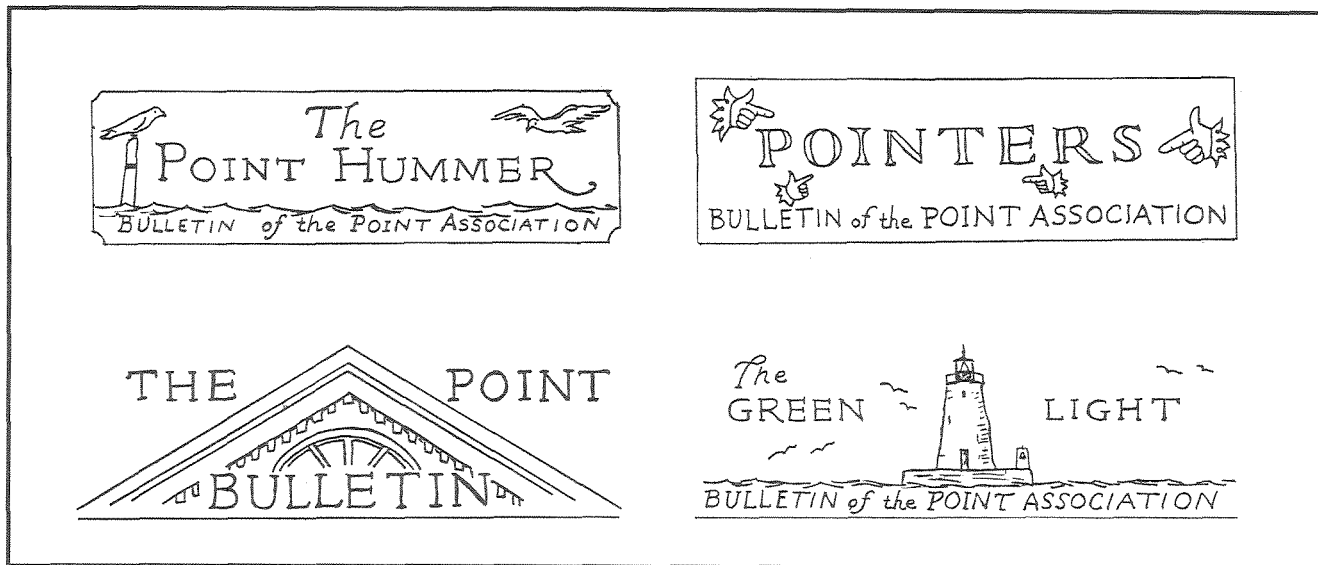
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While looking through some old *Green Lights*, History and Archives found the sample headings designed by Edith Ballinger Price for the Point Association Bulletin. By a unanimous vote at the October 1957 General Membership meeting, the Green Light was selected to be the heading for the Point Bulletin and it first appeared in the December 1957 issue. Which design would you have voted for?

History and Archives is a very active committee. April and May were spent coordinating *An Evening of Restoration Stories*, the Point Association's program for National Historic Preservation Week (see story on page 6). Now two exciting field trips are being planned for the summer. One trip will be to the Fall River Line Museum at Battleship Cove in Fall River, the other to a private library in Pawtucket where a woman has catalogued her family's vast collection of historical material. The next "working" meeting for the committee will be: **Wednesday, June 12, 10 a.m.**, at the Nina Lynette Home, 87 Washington Street (please use the Cherry Street entrance).

Our collection continues to grow with the addition of Point Association correspondence, several interesting newspaper articles and photographs from Eleanor Weaver and a book filled with old newspaper clippings from Joe and Angela Vars. Leon Shaw has sent his remembrances of the Point on a cassette tape. A tape recorder, purchased through the generosity of Rowan Howard and Bill Urschel, will enable others to record their memories.

If you are interested in finding out more about History and Archives or have something you would like to donate to the collection, please call Rowan Howard (847-8428) or Kay O'Brien (847-7311).

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Summer Cookin'

by Sharon Schultz

Summer is my favorite season . . . especially when it comes to food! Clambakes, fresh veggies, and barbecue are my favorites. Here are a few simple recipes to help you enjoy this wonderful time of year!

Cold Curried Rice Salad

2 cups cooked rice (made with butter)
10 oz. frozen peas
1/3 cup mayonnaise
1 tsp. curry powder
1/3 cup ranch dressing
8-10 oz. artichoke hearts, halved
2 cans sliced water chestnuts
optional: 1 cup shrimp or chicken

Cook rice and peas and chill. Combine mayonnaise, curry and ranch dressing. Mix well with rice, peas, artichokes, and water chestnuts. Chill 24 hours.
Serves 4.

* * * * *

Baked Tomato Fettuccine

3-4 large tomatoes
1/3 cup olive oil
8 cloves garlic, minced
1/2 cup fresh parsley, chopped
1 lb. fettuccine
1 Tbsp. margarine/butter
fresh basil leaves
salt and pepper to taste
grated Parmesan cheese

Cut each tomato in half and place cut side up in a greased 9 x 13 inch pan. Combine oil and garlic; mix well. Brush over tomato halves. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Prepare fettuccine. Remove tomatoes from oven and cut into small pieces. Combine tomato, remaining oil, parsley, margarine/butter, basil leaves and pour over pasta. Toss well. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and Parmesan cheese. Serves 6 as a side dish.

Citrus-Marinated Flank Steak

1 1/2 lb. beef flank steak (or London broil)
1 cup citrus-spice marinade (see recipe below)
1 medium orange, sliced
crushed pepper

Score meat on both sides and place in a shallow pan. Marinate beef with orange slices for 6-24 hours. Grill on medium grill 18-22 minutes or until desired doneness. Sprinkle with pepper. Serves 4-6.

Citrus Marinade

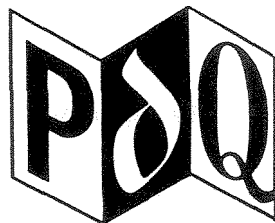
Mix 1 cup orange juice, 1/3 cup lemon juice, 3 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce, 3 cloves minced garlic, 1 tsp. ground cumin, 3/4 tsp. onion powder, 1/2 tsp. salt, 1/2 tsp. pepper. *Note: This is also great brushed on fresh vegetables and grilled.*

* * * * *

Lazy Luscious Lemon Cheese Pie

8 oz. cream cheese, softened
2 eggs
1/2 cup sugar
2-4 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice (to taste)
9 in. baked pie shell or graham cracker crust
1 cup whipping cream
2 Tbsp. powdered sugar
1 tsp. vanilla

Beat cream cheese until fluffy. Add eggs and beat. Blend in sugar and lemon juice. Pour into baked shell. Bake at 350 degrees for 15-20 minutes until slightly firm. Chill. Whip cream with powdered sugar and vanilla. Spread on pie right before serving.



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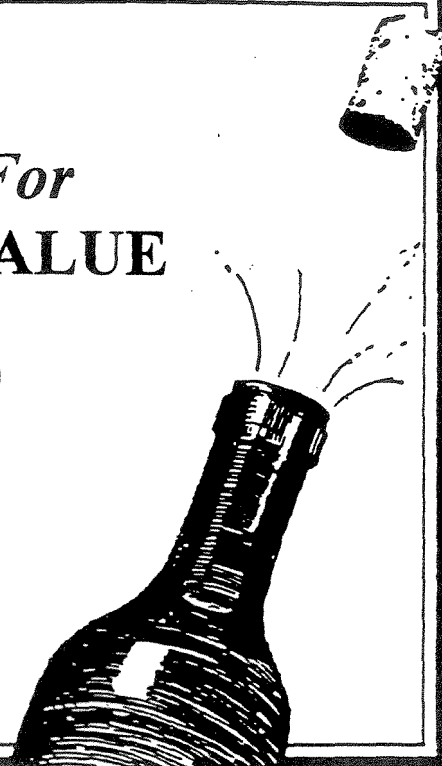
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