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The  
GREEN

LIGHT

BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION  
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

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**Fall 1997**



*Enjoying the Last of Summer*



The

# GREEN LIGHT

XLII No. 3 Fall 1997

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## **Photo Credits:**

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## **Front Cover:**

Photo by the late King Covell in 1925(see page 10)

## 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; **Aidinoff's Liquor and Gourmet Shop**, Warner Street; **Clipper Wine & Spirits**, Third Street; **The Rum Runner**, Goat Island; and **The Walnut Market**, Third & Walnut.

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## The Point Association Board

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### Publicity

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### Traffic

Mark Williams (849-1319)

### Waterfront

Don Dery (847-8351)

Board meetings are scheduled for the first Monday of the Month, 7:00 p.m. at St. John's Guild Hall and are open to association members. If you have a concern that you would like the board to address, please call Coles prior to the meeting.

## The President's Letter

I hope all of you had a busy and enjoyable Newport summer. For Marcia and me it was a wonderful time - great sailing winds, family visits, time with friends, and the arrival of a new granddaughter (a real cutie).

Newport was at its best, and worst, this summer - like our granddaughter, both a source of great joy and a test of our patience.

There is an election for City Council this fall that will make a real difference in whether future Newport summers are pleasant or frustrating.

The Point Association is currently working hard on several specific issues: noise, traffic, an entertainment license on Goat Island, and a possible ferry terminal adjacent to Storer Park. We will only be successful, on these and future issues, to the extent that the City Council supports us. That support is dependent on whether or not individual Council members truly believe in the value of strong residential neighborhoods.

I urge you get to know the candidates, work on a campaign, and vote.

The Point Association does not support individual candidates. Our mission is to ensure that our membership is informed on the candidates and the issues. We are sponsoring two candidate forums, the first prior to the primary and the second prior to the general election.

One reason this election is important is that we are losing a Council member who cares about Newport's residential neighborhoods. Laurie Shaw has worked exceptionally hard on First Ward issues and has been a consistent voice for all of Newport's neighborhoods. Laurie, you have been there when we needed you.



## In the News ...

With all of the attention our area has been given in the media of late, it seems that the world is catching on to what we all know – we live in an exceptional place. Four of the stories in this issue of the *Green Light* were in the planning stages prior to being disclosed in the press. The Black Duck (page 18), the cover photograph, the Save the Bay Swim (page 9), and the Star of the Sea (page 12) were all scooped before we went to press.

The Point hit the spotlight on July 27<sup>th</sup>, when it was featured as the Neighborhood of the Week by *The Providence Sunday Journal*. The lead story in the Real Estate section, titled “History and Community Make the Point,” extols the virtues of our waterside whereabouts.

The staff writer, Avis Gunther-Rosenberg, mentioned the prevalence of historic architecture: “The Point has the second highest concentration of restored colonials in the nation, second only to Williamsburg...” and she went on to describe the aura “...a feeling that the Point ... is still very tied to the sea.” A color photograph of the Elm Street Pier accompanied the article. Though real estate was the theme, many of our parks and limited retail establishments

were mentioned. The Point Assoc. and the *Green Light* were also given some ink.

Thankfully, the journalist had good sources. She quoted Kay O'Brien, Anne Reynolds, Donna Segal and Patti Murphy. A few of her facts were a little erroneous, like the notion that the Point has only four B&Bs?! But on the whole, the article properly characterized this small part of the smallest state as a splendid place to call home.

Another incident solidifying the fact that we have a special neighborhood is that just weeks after leaving Newport Coral Jessop-Burnell, the Magdalen College, Oxford (page 14) choristers' mistress, was seen strolling down our streets! Mary Jane Rodman could not believe her eyes when she came upon Coral on Washington Street. Coral had fallen so in love with Newport and the Point that, as soon as she returned home to England, she grabbed her husband and came back for a vacation! What will be next? Perhaps Mr. Spielberg, like Coral, didn't get enough, and is dreaming up a way to use the Point as the backdrop for his next movie! Stranger things have happened ...

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## How Do We Look?

Did you notice anything different about the summer issue of the *Green Light*? This issue and the last have undergone a minor “face lift,” as we now are using the desktop publishing services of Jernigan Design. The *Green Light* staff is vigilant in keeping our beloved bulletin as handcrafted as possible. However, with available technology we are striving to keep the sometimes-laborious process of pulling this publication together as streamlined as possible.

We know of one reader who is pleased with the outcome. Anna Wood Murray wrote in early June from Oxford, England. “Dear Green Lighters, Hurrah for you! The best issue ever, especially ‘Cardines Field’ where I have been going since 1942, although intermittently. Now, I look forward to taking my grandchildren when I return to visit the Robinson house, where I grew up between the summers of 1930 and 1952. Thanks!”

The *Green Light* staff appreciates all input. Please write and let us know what you think. Story ideas, photographs and questions are encouraged. Also, as the production process continues to be reorganized, we are forever in search of volunteers to join the staff. Please contact Beth Cullen or Kay O'Brien if you are willing to lend a hand, a camera, a red pencil, an idea, a sketch pad, a ... well, you have the idea!

### POINT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday - October 23<sup>rd</sup>

St. John's Guild Hall  
61 Poplar Street

7 p.m.

Election of Officers  
Committee Reports

Presentation of Born on the Point Certificates

## From Sea To Shining Sea

The Point Association's Fourth Annual Wine Tasting will be held on Sunday, September 7, 1997, from 4 - 6 p.m. at four historic homes in "The Point" neighborhood of Newport.

This year's wine tasting will offer wines from the Pacific Northwest region. This area has grown dramatically over the past twenty years in its wine production and has some very distinct and wonderful wines as well as the classical chardonnay, fume blanc, cabernet and pinot noir, this area's specialty.

In the gardens of historic homes ticket holders will have the opportunity to sample some fine wines. Tickets are limited so that everyone will be able to properly sample the wines.

Tickets at \$20.00 each may be purchased at Clipper Wine, 48 Third Street, Newport, RI.

For further information, please contact Donna Segal at (401) 848-7088.

## Home Tours to Benefit the Rose Island Lighthouse

by Charlotte Johnson

What could the Rose Island Lighthouse have in common with a colonial farmhouse and a palatial estate? They are just some of the most intriguing waterfront properties that will be open for self-guided tours over the Columbus Day Weekend to benefit the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation's environmental education programs.

Come and explore some of Newport's exclusive, private, waterfront homes on the second annual Waterfront Home Tour, Saturday & Sunday, October 11-12, 1997. Tickets cost \$25.00 per day - \$20.00 if purchased before October 4th, \$15.00 for RILF members.

On Saturday, you can visit two totally independent island homes, reached only by boat, Clingstone (Jamestown's "House on the Rocks") and the Rose Island Lighthouse. In case of bad weather, this boat tour will be postponed to Monday, October 13th.

Sunday, five homes will be open for self-guided tours. On the Drive, "The Castle" at Hammersmith Farm - the little yellow farmhouse occupied by Yusha Auchincloss; and "Beacon Rock," the former estate of sculptor Felix de Weldon, now owned by Brian Cunha. On the Point, several homes on Washington Street which enjoy a view of the Lighthouse will be open, including: #62 owned by Peggy & Lyn Comfort, the "Quaker Tom Robinson House," and you can stop for tea at the "Sanford-Covell House."

To request a brochure and ticket order form, please send a stamped, self-addressed #10 envelope to: RILF,

## FALL BULB PLANTING & PARK CLEANUP

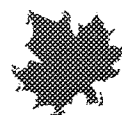
**SATURDAY - NOVEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>**  
(rain date - 11/22)

**STORER PARK - 9 a.m.**

*Bring gloves, gardening tools,  
& friends!*

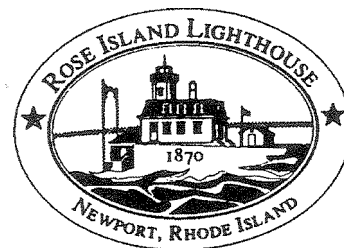
**We will disperse in groups to various  
Point parks & by-ways.**

**Everyone is needed to help maintain  
our exceptional neighborhood.**



Waterfront Home Tour, P.O. Box 1419, Newport, RI 02840-0997. To charge your reservations, call 847-4242. No refunds, all sales are final.

Volunteers are needed to house-sit for half day shifts on both Saturday & Sunday. Of course, you get to tour all the other houses, too. Call Katie Ahearne, 849-2547 or 848-6707, to sign up.



## POINT TRIVIA

**What was the original name of  
Battery Park?**

Answer on page 9

## News from the Nominating Committee

At the Point Association Annual Meeting on October 23rd, the 1997-1998 slate of new officers will be announced. Christine Montanaro, the nominating committee chairperson, along with Ann Wiley, Nancy Espersen, Dick Poholek and Donna Flynn, have been busy pursuing candidates to fill three executive board positions. Donna Segal - 1st vice president, Phil Mosher - treasurer and Ben Gilson - recording secretary currently hold these positions. In addition to these offices, 3 new members of the nominating committee will be announced, as well as the 2 board appointed positions.

Our association has a very long history of dedicated and resourceful members who give so much to keep this organization vigorous and meaningful. As is the case with so many voluntary positions, the work is often done behind the scenes with little recognition. Please join us at the October meeting to welcome and thank the new slate for "stepping up" to the call, and to commend those officers "stepping down" for a job well done. Watch for your mailed notice of the meeting, on which will be the names of the new slate of officers.

## Traffic Committee Report

For the past several months, the Point Association Traffic Committee has been studying traffic flow and safety concerns in our neighborhood. An outline has been drawn up which will be distributed to Point residents soon. This overview will clearly explain the reasons for recommending these changes, and give everyone on the Point an opportunity to comment on them.

The Committee focused on concerns regarding safety, and the large numbers of vehicles using Point streets as a shortcut to other areas of the city. There will be more on this proposal soon.


—Suzy Sturmak

## Welcome to Our New Members

Guntis and Vija Bole  
Mark and Kristin Brouker  
David Carlin III  
Milo and Suzanne Dowling  
Pat Evans  
Joe Fortunato  
Warren and Joyce Galkin  
David Killebrew  
Daniel Kinder  
Al and Pat Lowe  
Mikki Micarelli  
Philip and Shirley Mintz  
Ray and Jackie Morrisette  
June Packard  
Robert R. Richardson  
Don and Loretta Roy  
Henry and Claire Sullivan  
Marika Terlecky  
Ronald R. Turgeon  
Dr. Alan Weitberg

## News from Friends of the Waterfront

Friends of the Waterfront is working with the Newport Waterfront Commission to develop an "Adopt-a-Waterfront Spot" project. Anyone interested in becoming involved in this program is encouraged to contact Liz Mathinos, 847-3977.



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## City Loses Goat Island Case

The Point Association continues to watch a developing legal situation—IDC Clambake Inc. vs. City of Newport—which could negatively impact the Point, and has serious consequences for the city's future ability to regulate outdoor entertainment.

Last year IDC Clambake sought to establish a "clambake" operation on Goat Island and to provide outdoor entertainment. Concerned about its inability to properly regulate such businesses and responding to vocal objections by residents on the Point, the City Council granted only an indoor entertainment license (a prerequisite to an outdoor entertainment license). IDC sued the city for the council's refusal to grant the outdoor license. Asserting that its First Amendment rights were violated, IDC recently won its case in Superior Court.

The Point Association has been closely monitoring this case and has had regular consultations with city officials and independent legal counsel. The emerging conclusion is that an appeal to the ruling is unlikely to succeed and that energies would be better spent constructively focusing on improving existing ordinances that currently do not adequately address businesses operating under non-permanent structures such as tents.

If you have concerns or ideas on appropriate license restrictions, please phone Mike Cullen at 848-2945.



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

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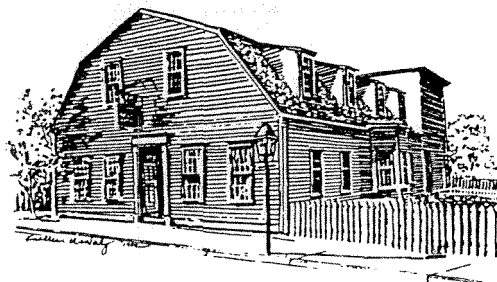
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## Secret Garden Tour



*Nancy & Paul Quattrucci, owners of the Corner House B&B, stand in their lush back garden on Elm Street, one of the 14 "Secret Gardens" open to the public in late June, during the Benefactors of the Arts' annual event. The money raised is used to promote the Arts for the schoolchildren of Aquidneck Island.*

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# Where Did The Summer Go?

## Pointers Support Local Charities Swanhurst Designers Showhouse

Members of the Point Association joined forces with the Telephone Pioneers, Conanicut Yacht Club and St.



Anne Reynolds and Marjorie Magruder outside Swanhurst after a hot morning as hostesses for a good cause.

Lucy's Church to form two shifts for the Swanhurst Designers Showhouse on Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. Their task as hostesses was indeed challenging due to the hot and humid weather conditions, which by late in the afternoon turned into a powerful electrical storm, sending everyone scurrying to batten the hatches in the 1851 "cottage villa." But we all rose to the occasion and graciously greeted the 120 guests touring the Showhouse during our shifts. Many thanks to my co-chairs, Sue Gudikunst and Beth Cullen, who, along with fellow Pointers Anne Bidstrup, Sarah Gilson, Loretta Goldrick, Marjorie Magruder, Christine Montanaro, Anne Reynolds, Mary Lynn Rooke and Mary Jane Rodman, went above and beyond that hot, summer day!

—Nancy Espersen  
Swanhurst Day Chair

The monthlong event, organized by the Newport Showcase Guild, netted \$50,000, which was donated to Lucy's Hearth and the Women's Resource Center. Over 80 Aquidneck Island organizations supplied over 1,200 volunteers to participate in this event.

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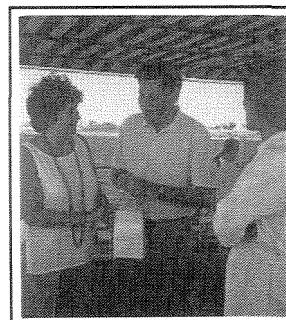
## Harbor Cruise



Christine Montanaro, Rowan Howard, Mimi Krakoff, and Marjorie Magruder enjoy the cruise as the Spirit of Newport passes the Green Light.

On June 29<sup>th</sup> over 70 Point and Hill Association members enjoyed a beautiful afternoon on the waters of Newport's outer Harbor, viewing several magnificent 12-meter sailboats under full sail.

Mayor David Gordon and City Manager Mike Mallinoff (a fellow Pointer) joined others in bidding on



Anne Bidstrup readies the "deck" prize drawing for Mayor David Gordon, while Michelle Christiansen, President of the Historic Hill Association, stands by.

nearly 50 silent auction items which included movie passes, wines, restaurant gift certificates and antiques. Many went home with great bargains. Others just had fun listening and dancing to the lively sounds of the Dixie All Stars. Reports indicate ... a good time was had by all at this annual Point Association summer event, which was enhanced this year by the addition of other fellow Newporters – our neighbors to the southeast – the Historic Hill Association.

—Anne Bidstrup



Patti Murphy and Ed (a fellow Newport innkeeper), along with Paul & Nancy Quattrucci, kick up their heels to the music of the Dixie All-Star Band.



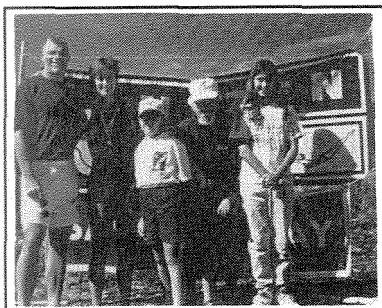
# Point Season Abstract

## Pointers Swim the Bay for a Good Cause

Hats off – or shall we say swim caps – to the 198 swimmers who participated in the 1997 Save the Bay swim fundraiser that took place on July 26<sup>th</sup>. In this annual event swimmers plunge into Narragansett Bay from Coasters Harbor Island, Newport, and dash across to Jamestown (a 1.7 mile jaunt in open water) to raise funds for Save the Bay's education and advocacy work. Of the 198 swimmers, 15 were Newporters and of those, 5 are part of the Point family. Kudos to Russel Walsh, Jr. (his dad lives on Third Street), Melanie Preston, Sarah Everhart, Alberto Coll and Kristin Brouker. The time and energy that these volunteers put into this event benefit all of us who continue to enjoy a clean and healthy bay.

## A Thank You From Save the Bay Team #335

This is to publicly thank the people who sponsored our team for the Save the Bay swim that took place on Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. Their generosity made the difficult part of the fundraiser that much easier. We want to make note that these contributors are all residents or businesses on the Point. Our appreciation is extended to Chris Moy, owner of Moy Works and Thames St. Parking, Narragansett Shipwrights, Inc., Ralph & Kit Weiss, Bart & Beth Lloyd, and West Marine. A special thanks is extended to Bart and Beth for letting us use their boat *Jack*. Another obstacle for teams can be finding a boat to use. In fact, a few swimmers had to cancel their swim because they were unable to get a boat. If you have an 8 – 9 ft. rowboat and would like to help a worthy cause, call Save the Bay (272-3540) and offer your boat for next year's event. Better yet, join a team, it's lots of fun!



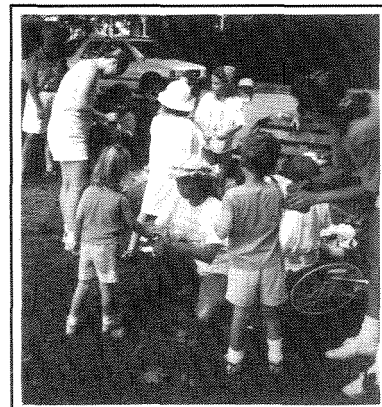
*Mark, Kris, Shayna & Jake Brouker, Ross Freeman & friend, Team #335, prepare for the Save the Bay Swim.*

—Kris Brouker, *Swimmer*  
—Mark Brouker, *Rower*  
—Ros Freeman, *Spotter*

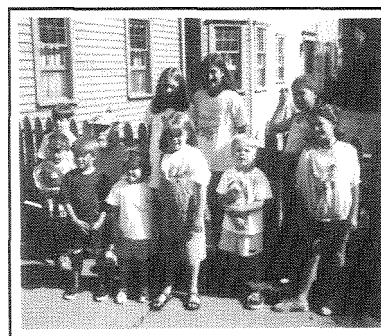
## Adventure Club Hunt for Treasure



*From left to right: Mary Durgin, Ross Freeman, Leala Humbert, Elissa Nabozny, Shayna Brouker, Marguerite Lloyd, & friend, as they read the clues that lead to the treasure.*



*The Adventure Club gathers in Battery Park to prepare for the Treasure Hunt on July 26<sup>th</sup>.*



*Both young and old had great fun participating in the hunt!*

Watch for signs posted throughout the Point announcing the Adventure Club's next event, or call Beth Lloyd to learn more about the club open to all Point children.

## POINT TRIVIA ANSWER

Fort Greene

# Our Cover Girls

The circumstances surrounding the photograph seen here and on the cover are remarkable and curious. A month or so ago, Kay O'Brien, thinking the photograph would work well in the *Green Light*, brought the picture to me as we began to organize this issue. No more than three days later, Kay phoned and with great marvel in her voice told me that the very same photograph was in the August 1997 edition of *Yankee* magazine.

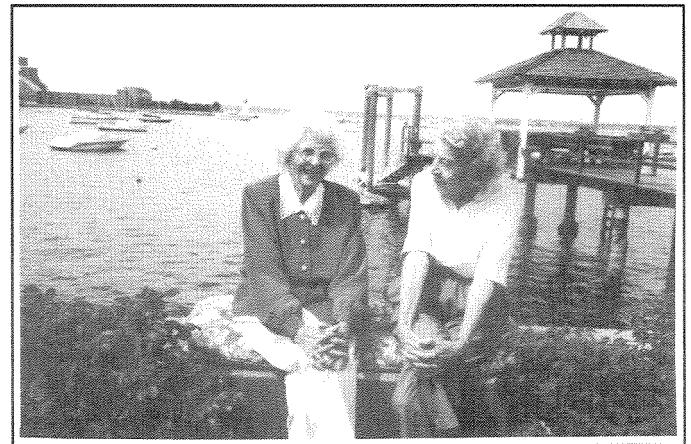
Sarah Plumb (who had given the picture to Kay) thought Kay had submitted it to *Yankee*, but she had not. How the picture made it to the New Hampshire archives of the magazine no one knows, including the *Yankee* Managing Editor, Tim Clark. I contacted *Yankee* via the internet and Tim phoned to discuss the mystery behind the photograph. Does anyone have any clues?

We know that the picture was taken by King Covell, in 1925. The girls had gathered at Villa Marina to celebrate Betty Covell's birthday. It was a slumber party, though they did not call it that then. Notice the Newport Light (the Green Light) behind them at the tip of Goat

Island. Pictured in the photograph from left to right are: Annette Harvey, Gwen Leys (there was some debate as to this girl's name, Sarah couldn't remember, but she knew the girl's father was connected with the Navy, Louise Sherman thought it might be Margaret Blessing, whose father was a Naval War College librarian, but Betty Covell Ramsey remembers her as Gwen Leys, whose father was a Naval physician), Elizabeth Anthony, Sarah Barker Plumb, Betty Covell Ramsey, Bernice Harvey (Annette's twin), Dorothy Hayes and Grace Brownell.

All but Sarah and Betty are now deceased. We were lucky to have the opportunity to take the recent photo just before we went to press. Betty Covell Ramsey came from Virginia to visit her daughter Anne Ramsey Cuvelier at the Villa Marina, and Mike & I had Sarah and Betty once again climb up on the seawall for a remembrance photograph. Much has changed in the harbor, but as you can see, the Green Light still is prominently placed in the background.

—Beth Cullen



## The Story of the Green Light

Newport Light, on the north end of Goat Island, was first lighted on January 1, 1825. Keeper Samuel Watson or W. Mumford occupied quarters on the island - but after the breakwater was constructed in 1836 -38, access to the light could be made on foot instead of by boat.

By 1863 the stone house, which is affectionately remembered by many, was constructed at the foot of the tower. Some early keepers were: Pardon Stevens, John Cass, John Heath and Henry Crawford.

On October 1, 1882, the man who was to tend the light for the next forty years took over the duty. Captain Charles Schoeneman, who retired in July 1922 at the age of eighty,

might have continued even longer at his post had not the light then become automatically controlled. Captain Schoeneman made many rescues - including the saving of eight sailors from the Destroyer Myrant, in 1912, when he was seventy. A wave of nostalgia sweeps over us as we remember the Captain's skiff moored in an angle of the jetty, and the bright geranium boxes against the sparkling white walls of the snug little house.

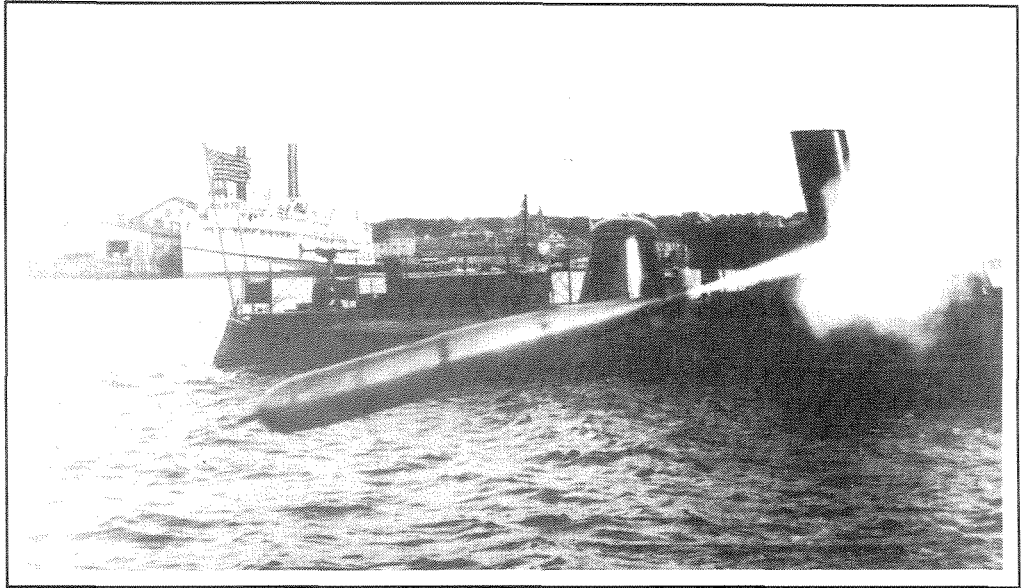
The house was demolished in June 1922, and the winking yellowish light was replaced by the brilliant emerald which gives its name to this publication.

*Excerpt from the September 1961  
Green Light*

# The Many Lives of Goat Island

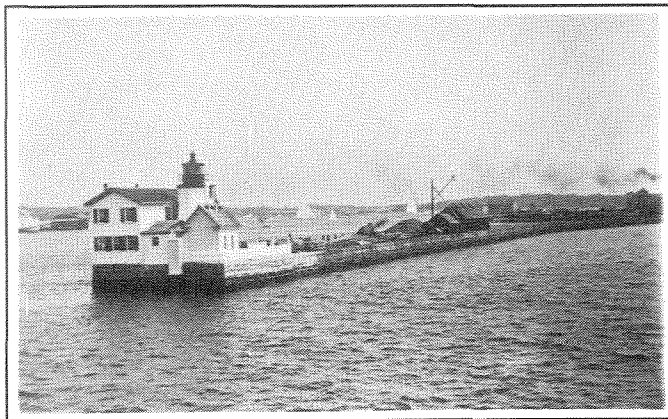
*Excerpts from the January, 1963 Green Light, article titled "Goat Island - Its Forts & Fortifications."*

In Newport Harbor, about 500 yards west of Long Wharf and the Point, lies an island whose history is as crowded as its length and breadth are now crowded with buildings (referring to the remains of the Torpedo Station). On May 22, 1658, it shared with Coasters Harbour Island the date of purchase from Caganaquant, Chief Sachem of the Narragansett Bay Indians, and together on May 1, 1673, they were finally deeded by the purchasers, Benedict Arnold and John Greene, to the town of Newport. Coasters Harbour Island became a haven for the poor, sick and mentally afflicted, and Goat Island became a fortress....



*Firing a "Whitehead Torpedo" off the Goat Island Torpedo Station, 1894. Note the Fall River Line boat docked at Long Wharf in the background. Photograph from George Perry's collection of historical Newport scenes.*

*Throughout the seventeenth, eighteenth, and early nineteenth centuries, Goat Island fortifications protected Newport from the Dutch and the British, and a few pirate raids as well. The entire history of Goat Island will be included in a future issue of the Green Light.*

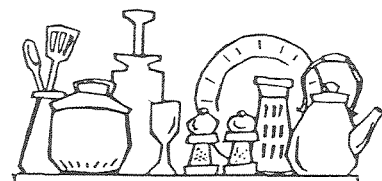


*The Goat Island Lighthouse (the Green Light), date unknown. Courtesy of Louise Sherman.*

... On July 29, 1869, the occupation of Goat Island by the Navy Department was authorized by the Secretary of War, and during the summer of that year the Torpedo Station was established. A pledge of secrecy was exacted from officers and an oath of secrecy (was taken) from civilian

employees in connection with work carried on at the Station. Once again Goat Island became, in effect, a fortress island. The manufacture of torpedoes continued through the Spanish-American War and the two World Wars, and the Torpedo Station became an important part of Newport's growth and economy. Goat Island is once again the property of the City of Newport (remember this was first printed 34 years ago). It may some day become an actual arm of the Point. What future events are waiting in the wings? It will be interesting to see what lies in store for Goat Island.

*Editor's note: We would welcome an article about the Torpedo Station, either personal recollections, stories that have been passed down, or a researched historical piece. If anyone is interested, please contact Beth Cullen.*



kitchen pot-pourri

Sandra Crane • Proprietor

42 West Main Road, Middletown, RI 02842  
Tel: 401 847 5880 • Fax: 401 849 4770

## Star of the Sea Clears Two Important Hurdles

The Newport Zoning Board of Appeals voted unanimously at its June meeting to approve Star of the Sea's proposed development plan for the former Corpus Christi property on Washington Street. Strong support from the Point neighborhood made the approval possible. The plan also received approval from the local historic district commission.

The former retreat center had 80 individual rooms, as well as common spaces, which include kitchen, living and dining rooms, offices and the chapel. Star of the Sea's proposed plan will reduce those 80 individual rooms to 33 private units and maintain the existing common spaces. The historic chapel will be restored.

Occupancy will be limited to elderly, and the units will be available on a rental basis. The private units will be geared toward seniors who no longer want to maintain a

large home for themselves, but still prefer independence and privacy. In addition, fully supportive services, help with personal care, transportation and meals will be available to those who wish. Twenty percent of the units will be dedicated to affordable housing for elders.

The Rhode Island Housing Mortgage and Finance Corp. has given Star a grant of \$330,000, as the first piece of a complex financing structure needed to renovate the property. Star continues to work on securing the remaining 3 million dollars of financing, and expects to begin construction in the spring of next year. Occupancy is projected for the spring of 1999.

To ask questions, articulate interest or offer help, please call Ade Bethune, President of the Board, Star of the Sea, 847-5428, or Martha Marie Grogan, Development Coordinator 847-4443.

## Walking on the Point

As daylight hours diminish, it's time to store the many summer sights and sounds for later indoor flashbacks. Seasons dictate walking paths and summer always means the waterfront. Scenes change daily as do the variety of watercraft. Watching six vintage America's Cup 12-Meter yachts racing off Battery Park and Goat Island was an almost onboard experience. A young man in a wheelchair beside the Goat Island seawall gave a vivid description of the excitement, joy and difficulty he experienced crewing with a spinal cord injury the day before on one of the 12-Meter sailboats. As the boats sailing in front of us heeled over in the brisk wind, their crews appeared to be standing straight up. One afternoon black thunderclouds rolled down the bay scattering a covey of white sails in front of them as the sailors scurried for safe harbor. At the shipyard three long fuel trucks lined up to top off the tanks of a large Coast Guard vessel while a chain of crewmembers passed supplies up the gangplank. The *Escanaba* was off to homeport with a new paint job. One day I was surprised to

see a lively miniature pony prancing jauntily up and down Washington Street, both pony and sulky decked in flags.

Ladders, ladders have been everywhere as carpenters and painters take advantage of good weather. Hunter House, shrouded in plastic as renovations took place, now shows its shining façade ready for 2000. The current "Battery Park Social Club" gathers daily to bat the breeze and regulars come to catch the ever-changing sunset shows. New construction on lower Washington Street has frustrated drivers waiting for trucks and equipment to make tight turns but has fascinated sidewalk superintendents checking changes at the once vacant lot. At the Gateway, with RIPTA's new summer bus routes, signage and parking, the Visitor's Center looks more friendly. Flowers are everywhere and now our canopy of green leaves resounds with snap, crackle and pop as squirrels discover the acorns. Please, no atmospheric conditions to attract hurricanes as the autumnal equinox nears! Too soon our summer sights and sounds will be past tense ... gone but not forgotten.

—Kay O'Brien

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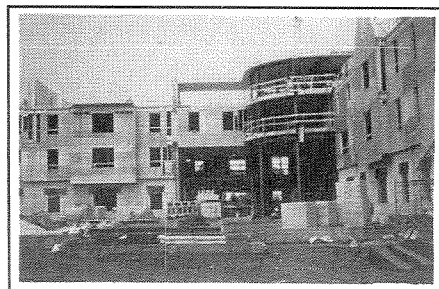
# Long Wharf Resort Construction in Full Swing

*(This is an excerpt from "The InnFormer," an Eastern Resorts Company publication, Summer, 1997.)*

The first 11 units of Long Wharf Resort, ERC's premier Gold Crown resort, were completed and first occupied in late summer, 1996. Final plans have been formulated and bids accepted for Phase II of the development. Ground has been broken and construction is well underway at the site at the corner of Long Wharf and Washington Street. Occupancy in the new main development of the resort is projected for spring, 1998.

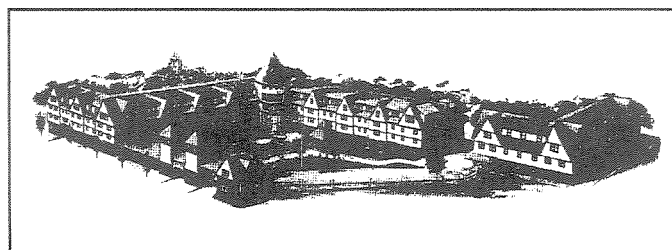


Long Wharf Resort, with the completion of Phase II, will feature over 80 luxuriously appointed units. The majority will be two bedroom, two bath units. All units at the resort will offer kitchens.



Long Wharf Resort's planned amenity center will be among the finest in New England. A large indoor and outdoor heated pool will offer year-round swimming for the whole family. Hot tubs and sauna are planned as well as men's and women's locker rooms. A movie screening room and large lounge with fireplace afford rainy day activities. The health spa at Long Wharf Resort will feature top-notch exercise equipment. The large landscaped lawn area of the resort will include barbecue grill and children's play area. Long Wharf Resort will have something for every member of the family!

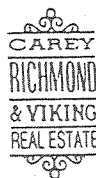
*It sounds like our new neighbor to the south is going to be quite an addition to that rather smelly, sleepy, weedy corner of the Point. Questions about the development may be directed to Robert A. Gentry, VP Operations, ERC - 845-0100.*



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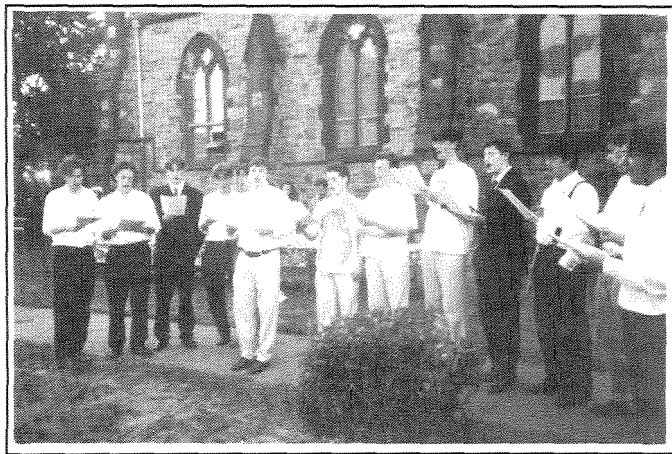
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The following excerpts were written by Virginia Covell for the February 1985 Green Light. This summer the Point streets were once again traveled by English "public" school boys. St. John's Church hosted their third annual Celebration of British Cathedral Music in July. This year, the visiting choir from Magdalen College, Oxford, offered nine choral services within four days. Unlike the boys at Cloyne House School, the young men from Oxford did not wear waistcoats and high hats. Nonetheless, they brought a spirit of old world charm and dignity to our neighborhood.



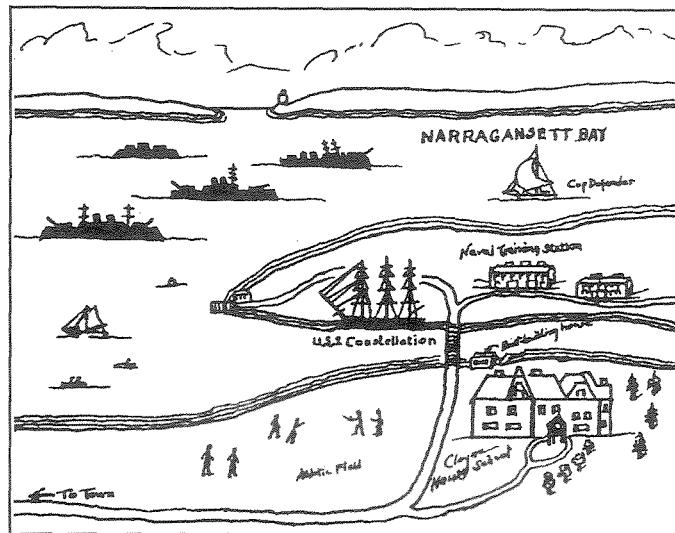
The Magdalen College, Oxford Academical Clerks' talents stretched from Classical Cathedral Music to The Beach Boys! They serenaded the assembled with a medley of Pop tunes during an "All American Picnic"—just one of the many activities organized by St. John's hospitality committee.

## The Cloyne House School: 1895-1917

By Virginia Covell

Past issues of the *Green Light* have contained articles about the three public schools that Pointers attended. Cloyne House was a private school for boys patterned on the British system; it was located on the north side of Training Station Road, just across the arm of the Bay separating the mainland from Coasters Harbor Island. The main building was the Hunter-Dunn estate, since torn down. A small street, Cloyne Court, is now the only reminder. One Point resident remembers seeing the boys walking en masse down Third Street on their way to St. John's Church, clad in long trousers, shirts with Eton collars, waistcoats and high hats. Very like a scene from Dickens! Unlike the grim, forbidding English schools we often read of, Cloyne House seems to have been a happy place. A former student, J. Scott MacNutt, wrote an article about it for the Historical Society Bulletin entitled "Happy School By the Sea." He speaks of the *Constellation* anchored in the harbor; the boys could hear its ship's bell as well as the calls and whistles of the Naval trainees on the ship.

The name "Cloyne" was taken from the Bishopric of the Rev. George Berkeley, the famous visitor to Newport



The Cloyne School neighborhood, ca. 1895, drawing by J. Scott MacNutt.

in 1729-1732. The school was founded in 1895 by Dr. Oliver Whipple Huntington and Leslie Green (onetime owner of the Pineapple House at Second and Walnut streets). Its purpose was to prepare boys for college, and enrollment was limited to fifty. At Redwood Library there is a file of the *Clononian*, a magazine put out by the students. In a copy dated December 1897 one boy writes: "We go to Newport to study French with Mme. Goelet, and then to Townsend Industrial School where Mr. McCready teaches us mechanical drawing, wood carving, and boat-building. The boys have built three boats (kayaks) which they paddle about the harbor." The boys were particularly fond of the water, and with their home-built kayaks and sailboats they visited the many war vessels in the Bay. They also delighted in the America's Cup competition. They spoke of Sir Thomas Lipton's many challengers named *Shamrock* as well as the defenders *Columbia* and *Reliance*.

Our informer, in an 1897 issue of *Clononian*, said the fall season was so mild that they played baseball instead of football. They went over to Newport's baseball grounds to play with Rogers High School and "Mr. Diman's School" (St. George's in its early stages). St. George's was also the scene of a Halloween party to which the Cloyne House boys were invited. "We started off at 7:15 by coach and arrived just before 8 o'clock." Quite a dignified way to begin Halloween capers, but the writer goes on to tell us about the games and refreshments, which sounded gay and imaginative. The Cloyne House School closed its doors in 1917 when the property was appropriated by the U.S. Government as we were entering World War I. J. Scott MacNutt concludes his article: "'Happy' seems a proper epithet for Cloyne; the time, the place, and the people — boys and teachers — may well be described by that word. The country was prosperous and untroubled, with no forebodings of a worldwide war. Life at Cloyne would no doubt have been approved by the genial Bishop of Cloyne."



## Church of St. John the Evangelist

For 103 years the brownstone church of St. John the Evangelist has stood on Washington Street midway between Long Wharf and Van Zandt Avenue. It is a landmark familiar to many that goes largely unnoticed as we pass by. Sometimes we notice the tower bells that sound the hour throughout the day and the ancient call to prayer, the Angelus, at prescribed hours. The church was founded by Peter Quire, a black son of freed slaves, who requested the Rector at Trinity Church to start a mission on the Point. The first services were held in Peter Quire's home (the Poplar St. house blown up in the '30s) and later in the Guild Hall, which was built as the Free Chapel of S. John the Evangelist. Since its founding S. John's has been the only neighborhood church on the Point. The Guild Hall, somewhat older, has been a meeting place for neighborhood functions for many years. S. John's is one of the last of the traditionalist Anglican churches left in this part of the country and remains open to all. It may be the only church in Newport that stands open every day so passers-by may stop to visit, meditate and pray.

When you go inside you notice a couple of things about S. John's. One is the quiet. The other is the great beauty of the religious art you see as you look around the church. The church, modeled after the 10<sup>th</sup> century Gothic churches seen in many English villages and towns, has especially notable stained glass windows. Starting clockwise around the church from the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, the windows tell the New Testament story of the birth of Christ, His life, His death, His resurrection, and, in the last great window over the altar, His ascension. This sequence speaks to many years of planning for the placement of these fine art objects in exact order.

For the last three years, S. John the Evangelist has been host to a succession of great English Choirs for the Celebration of British Cathedral Music. Some of these choirs have a history dating back to the Reformation, and each summer the Point has rung with the soaring music of young voices singing the ancient liturgies. S. John's location on

the Point has made it ideal for these events. Our English friends go back to England with tales of the beauty of the area, the graciousness and hospitality of the people and the enthusiasm of our neighbors, making it easy for us to continue these important cultural events. The choirs eat with us and live with us and play with us for a memorable week each year. Many of the hosts who house our visitors are not parishioners but our good neighbors on the Point. Their continuing hospitality and support makes it possible for S. John's to continue to offer this free series of fine musical events, which is beginning to be noticed throughout New England. The series continues in 1998 with two choirs, S. Mary's Edinburgh in April and Truro Cathedral in July. Come and visit us for services, or just come and visit.

Bruce Shaw

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## From Councilor Laurice Shaw

The usual signs that summer is almost over are upon us; delicious sweet corn, kids going back to school, and politicians popping up everywhere. Yes, it was a lovely summer in spite of our battle with DUCKS and other vigilant efforts to keep commercial intrusion from our neighborhood. I would once again like to applaud the Point Assoc. and the *Green Light* for being the 'glue' that keeps this neighborhood together and one of the most desirable places to live in Newport. The work that the association does to protect your quality of life should not be underestimated. Please consider volunteering in some capacity. Not only is it critically important – it's also fun. Call Coles Mallory at 849-5659 right now to see what needs doing.

I'd like to write about our rich quality of life for a minute. How would you define what that means to you? What do you value most about your community? What detracts from that value? These questions are rather simple but the answers are hardly easy. The fact that the Point Association has defined the quality of life here and worked to protect it for the past 40+ years is what has made, and kept, this a beautiful place to be. The strength of 'The Point' is that people who live here have put lots of effort into protecting what they love and value. Bravo and thank you. That willingness to value what you love is the singular factor that distinguishes a successful community from one that has no heart. Call it 'grassroots' or call it 'special interest' but the source of what is really powerful is people being willing to work for what they value.

The Hospitality Industry in Newport has had substantial success in working for what they value. Money. Money

is not bad. Money is good. We all need it. However, the effects of their success have been causing some difficulties to other parts of the Newport community. These difficulties are expressed in the form of traffic, litter, noise, and property taxes that still only go up no matter how many people think Newport is a nifty place to visit. It takes away what many people would say they love and value; safety, beauty, peace and quiet, cleanliness and reasonable taxes.

Do you feel that your quality of life in Newport is being threatened? Every year we have to fight harder just to keep what we have, never mind making any improvements. Somehow you feel that your elected officials should be doing this for you but that's not working either. Why doesn't the system work?!

The 'system' isn't working because too many people feel the 'system' is someone else. The system is not someone else – it is YOU. It doesn't matter whether the system in question is your child's school, your church, The Point Association or your Government. The system is you and I, so, if the system isn't working we only have to look into the mirror to find the source of the problem – and the solution.

As you may know I've chosen not to run for re-election. Come January I hope to take my experience back to the grassroots level and offer to help where it's wanted. I feel very strongly that lots of vigorous grassroots organizations make for a very healthy community. Nothing could give me more satisfaction than a Newport where the qualities that all parts of the community value are in balance and respected.



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# Meet the Ward I Candidates

**David R. Carlin III**  
37 Bedlow Avenue – 845-0396

Mr. Carlin is a 27-year-old Financial Planner at Target Financial Services (Broker Dealer FFP Securities, Inc.).

His memberships include: Fort Adams Trust (treasurer and board member), Friends of the Waterfront, NAACP – Newport County Branch, National Association of Securities Dealers, Newport Lions Club and Point Association.

## **Views on Issues**

**Quality of Life** – My overall concern is to preserve and enhance our Newport quality of life.

**Taxes** – We must exercise budgetary restraint to keep taxes as low as possible.

**Gambling** – I will vehemently oppose any expansion of gambling in our community.

**Noise** – Newport must enact strong ordinances to prevent noise pollution emanating from Goat Island.

**Waterfront** – I will fight to protect the Point waterfront from commercialization.

**State Aid** – Newport must demand its fair share of state financial aid.

If you have any suggestions, concerns, questions or comments, please feel free to call me.

**George C. Perry, Jr.**  
102 Third Street – 848-5598

Newport is a wonderful place to live ... its natural beauty, its harbor and Narragansett Bay, its cultural activities, its history, and its caring people ... all contribute to the place we Newporters are lucky to call home.

Newport's First Ward has all of these attributes plus clean, attractive neighborhoods and many people who make a difference. I would be honored to represent Newport's First Ward.

Our City Government is now on the right course. With my many years of experience as a citizen spokesman, I will contribute to Newport's ongoing improvement.

We have had enough poor management of city resources. It's time to recognize what is truly valuable to us and to preserve and build on those strengths. As your First Ward Councilman, I will bring integrity, accountability and trustworthiness to the Newport City Council.

**Education:** Boston College, BS Economics; Dartmouth College, MBA

**Military:** Lt. (jg), US Navy, Destroyer *Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr.* – Newport, RI

**Business:** 25 years of corporate management – Scott Paper Co. and Mobile Chemical Co.; Owner in "On the Point" Bed & Breakfast since 1991.

**Government Appointments:** Newport Beach Commission, Newport; International Hospitality Commission; Poll Warden, First Ward – Coggeshall & Potter Schools

**Board of Directors:** Council for International Visitors, Star of the Sea (senior housing).

**Memberships:** Point Association (active); Friends of the Waterfront (active); Newport Art Museum; Newport Historical Society; Redwood Library.

Newport property taxpayer for 22 years.

**Bob Rilee**  
5 Thurston Avenue – 848-9733

I moved to Newport over two years ago and own a home here. Choosing to live here was easy; Newport is full of opportunity and potential.

While earning degrees in mathematics and physics, I learned how to logically analyze and solve problems. My work as a computer software engineer has taught me how the implementation of rules can solve very difficult problems. I believe Newport can benefit from my training and experience.

I also know the political process. I ran for congress in 1994 and know the importance of getting regular folks involved politically. I feel it is my civic duty to be a candidate.

I know our community has problems, but we can solve them with fresh, bold ideas.

As long as public schools have a monopoly on education tax dollars, public school students will suffer. We should introduce competition into the education market by giving parents of nonpublic school students substantial property tax credits. Parents of public school students should get school vouchers and have school choice. Childless homeowners should also receive substantial property tax relief since they do not benefit from the public schools.

We should make Newport a business-friendly community by eliminating the inventory tax and repealing unnecessary regulations.

Finally, we need to stop the State House from looting our industries, and we must end our addiction to state hand-outs. I would like to see Newport become self-sufficient and not subject us to outside political manipulation.

# Sudden Death Off Goat Island

## The Black Duck Incident

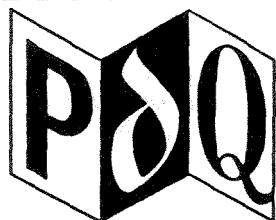
At the present time, when Newport is well endowed with bars and liquor stores, it is hard to realize the city was once totally dry (officially). This was the period of the 13 years from 1920 to 1933, when the 18th Amendment was the law (and rum smuggling was common in Narragansett Bay). Many Newporters can remember incidents of this illegal traffic. Some had rather humorous overtones as in the case (no pun intended) where a cargo of whiskey washed ashore on the Cliff Walk to the delight of some local citizens. Others were tragic in the extreme and had wide-reaching repercussions extending to Congress and the White House. Such was the incident of the motor vessel "Black Duck."

At approximately 2100 hours on the foggy night of 28 December 1929, a small U.S. Coast Guard cutter, CG 290, made fast by the stern to Dumplings Bell Buoy No. 1 (off Jamestown's east coast). It can be understood the depth of 20 fathoms made it impractical to anchor in the event of a quick pursuit. The vessel was showing no lights and the crew was on full alert. There was a good reason for this - Coast Guard intelligence had determined that the "Black Duck" had loaded liquor on Rum Row offshore from the British vessel "Symor." It was thought the smuggler was

going to run the inshore patrol, possibly into Narragansett Bay. The Coast Guard was well acquainted with "Black Duck" and must have been highly desirous to capture her red-handed. At approximately 0200 hours, the sound of powerful motors was heard, and fateful events transpired rapidly .... *to be continued.*

*We are reprinting this story first written for the June 1983 Green Light by the late Donal O'Brien (Kay O'Brien's husband and native Newporter) because it is so timely. Starting in September, the preparation for a film titled "Rum Runner" will begin at Fort Wetherill, Jamestown. Rick Smith, head of the Rhode Island Economic Development Corp.'s Film and TV Office, says the film will be an independently made romantic/action movie based on the shootout between the rum runner "Black Duck" and the Coast Guard that took place in the waters between Jamestown and Newport during the 1920's Prohibition era.*

*If plans go forth, we will surely be hearing more about this event in the local media as filming begins. The remainder of our story will be printed in the next issue of the Green Light, due out the first week of December.*



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## Dim Sum – “A Bit of Heart”

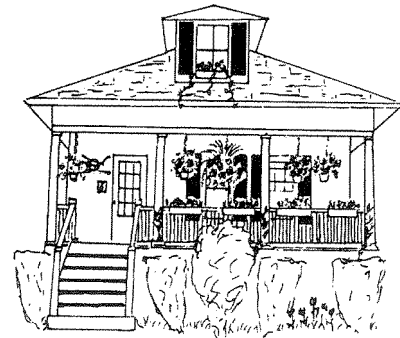
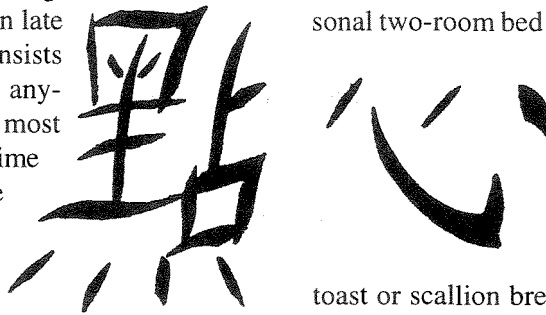
Chinese culture has always focused on food – indulgently and obsessively. Dim Sum, literally “a bit of heart,” is a traditional Cantonese style of eating. It is a brunchlike meal, usually eaten late morning or early afternoon, and consists of anything small and munchable, anything that goes well with tea, and most any food that sits nicely in a brunch-time belly. Portions are similar to the Spanish style of “tapas” – small portions (mouthfuls) so that many different dishes may be eaten for a complete taste sensation. The luxury of Dim Sum is that the meal itself may very well consist of 20 different dishes. What a treat for your tastebuds!

In Boston and New York a good Dim Sum restaurant is typically noisy and crowded with mostly Chinese customers. Servers push steam carts around the dining area and stop at your table to display their dish. You have the option of accepting or declining. Menus can easily offer up to 100 different dishes or more, including the standard myriad of dumplings, mostly steamed, made from shrimp or pork variations with mushrooms, water chestnuts, and scallions, in many shapes and different wrappings. Non-dumpling dishes can include flat rice noodles with little goodie bits inside, stewed chicken feet or short ribs, snails with black bean sauce, clams with brown sauce, glutinous rice with yummy bits steamed in bamboo leaves, crispy pork or shrimp balls, pan fried scallion bread, shrimp cakes,

stuffed tofu, and steamed buns stuffed with vegetables, shredded pork, or sweet bean paste.

The Pine Street Inn, located at 6 Pine Street, is a seasonal two-room bed and breakfast, which I opened in May of 1996. Dim Sum is offered to guests mostly on Sundays and the reception has been enthusiastic. The standard Dim Sum starts off with mango and nasturtiums, green or jasmine tea, and includes 3-4 different steamed dumplings, sesame toast or scallion bread, and glutinous rice packets served in a two-tiered bamboo steamer. Guests can practice their skill at using chopsticks, although cutlery is provided. In addition, guests create their own dipping sauce from soy sauce, sesame oil, hot chili sauce, and freshly minced scallions, ginger, and garlic. It seems that, whether guests are staying with me for the first time or revisiting, they always say the same thing, “Yum-yum, Dim Sum!”

—Jacqueline T. Mei



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## Fall Events

### September

3

Ward 1 Candidate Forum

7

Wine Tasting

see page 5

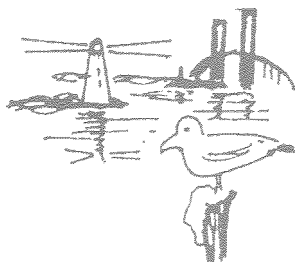


### THE GREEN LIGHT

The Point Association

Editor: P.O. Box 491

Newport, RI 02840



### October

5

St. John's Open House

11 & 12

Rose Island Home Tours

see page 5

23

Annual Meeting

see page 4

Candidates' Debate

TBA

### November

4

Election Day

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see page 17 for candidate views.

15

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