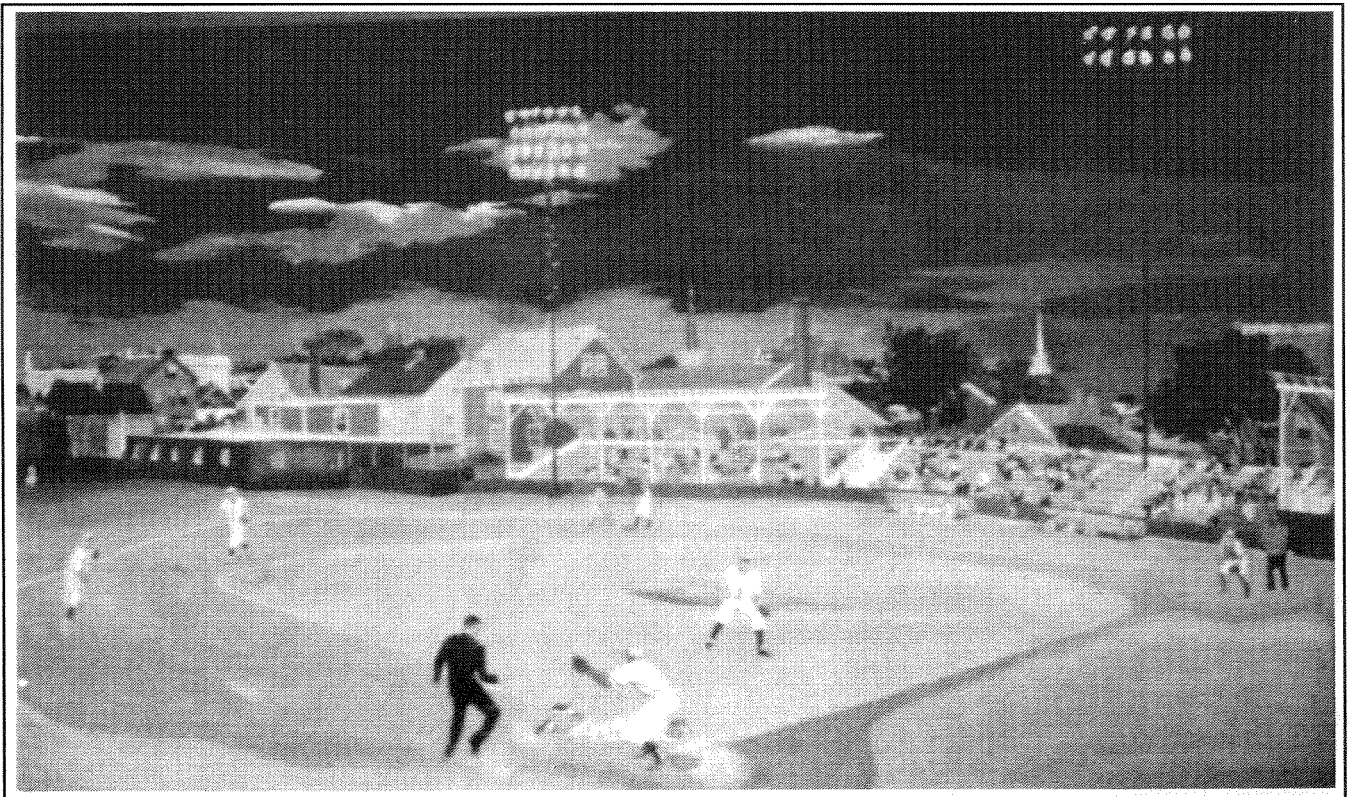


The
GREEN LIGHT

BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

Summer 1997



Cardines Field



The

GREEN LIGHT

XLII No. 2 Summer 1997

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Photo Credits:

Joy Scott	Roberto Bessin
Laura Jenifer	Mike Cullen
Paul Quatrucci	War College Museum

Art Work:

Dorothy Sanschagrin
Eleanor Weaver

Front Cover:

Photo of Dorothy Manuel painting

Green Light

Acting Editorial Board

Beth Cullen (848-2945)
Rowan Howard (847-8428)
Kay O'Brien (847-7311)
Anne Reynolds (847-2009)

Advertising and Word Processing

Sue Gudikunst (849-4367)

Board Liaison

Beth Cullen (848-2945)

Circulation

Beverly Adler (846-1142)
Kay O'Brien (847-7311)
Tama Sperling (847-4986)

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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

Spring is always a special time on the Point. Our streets are ablaze with flowering trees, the bulbs we planted last fall brighten our gardens, the cold northwest wind gives way to a gentler sea breeze, and watching our neighbors work on their houses encourages us to do the same. The pride all of you take in our neighborhood manifests itself in weeding, and scraping, and pruning, and cleaning - small ordinary tasks that taken together by neighbors make the Point a glorious place to live.

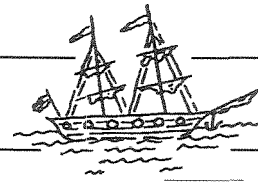
One of the missions of the Point Association is to ensure that our membership is an "informed voting body." To this end, we recently conducted three public forums on important issues facing Newport - the middle-school proposal, the Foundation for Newport's transportation plan, and the Star of the Sea's proposal for the former Cenacle/Corpus Christi property. All three forums were well attended and generated lively discussion and excellent questions. Your continued comments will be important as decisions are made on these issues in the coming months.

The Board established two new committees to deal with specific issues facing the Point. The Harbor/Waterfront Committee, led by Don Dery, will track the development of the Harbor Management Plan and the Newport Marine Facilities project, as well as activities of the Waterfront Commission and the State Coastal Resources Management Council. The Noise Abatement Committee, led by Mike Cullen, will deal with the development of City noise regulations and events that create noise on the Point. If you are interested in either of these issues, call Don or Mike. They need broad participation on their committees.

The *Green Light* does not just happen. It takes an enormous amount of hard work by a team of dedicated Point residents. Year after year, they have made the *Green Light* Newport's premier journal and a clarion voice for our neighborhood. Understandably, some of our hardest workers need a break; we need some fresh energy and enthusiasm. If you are interested in helping write or edit the *Green Light*, please call me at 849-5659. We need your help!



Amistad



Spring 1997 burst upon Newport in a wonderfully unprecedented way. The months of March and (early) April were dominated by a veritable plethora of activity attendant upon the shooting of Steven Spielberg's latest film, *Amistad*.

Inspired by the well documented mid-nineteenth century rebellion of Africans aboard a slave ship, director Spielberg chose several eastern seaboard cities, including our own, in which to film his interpretation of this real-life drama.

The DreamWorks crew began preparing the way for the eventual display of "lights, camera, action" as Queen Anne and Washington squares were gradually transformed into appropriate-to-the-period sets. People from all over town and beyond converged to watch the prison appear and the pavement disappear. There was this lovely, magical sense of everything and everyone moving back in time.

The Point, too, became the focus for a scene shot at St. John's Church on Washington St., and several of our very own Pointers were involved in various aspects of the filming both here and in Mystic, Connecticut, as well as Boston, Massachusetts. Here are their stories, told in their own words...

"A crack of dawn casting call ... a disappointing drive to Mystic ... a successful Nineteenth Century Presidential rally in Boston. My experience in Amistad was a glimpse into the highs and lows of making a Hollywood blockbuster. Although the movie was largely filmed in the parks and squares of Newport, my opportunity came in two scenes filmed out of town. I received a call to go to Mystic where the Supreme Court scenes were being shot. I was told I would be an extra in the courtroom. I was looking forward to seeing firsthand Anthony Hopkins and Morgan Freeman at work. After spending about two

hours getting dressed, which included being laced into a corset and having my hair curled, sprayed and twisted into a bun, I was sent to a 'holding area' with all of the extras. There I waited with anticipation for the better part of the day. I did not go hungry because Spielberg travels with his own caterer who creates a wonderful smorgasbord for the cast and crew. The day wore on and I discovered at 5:00 p.m. that I would not be needed. I was told that I was not used, along with a handful of other women, because we were too young. I guess I should have considered this a compliment, nevertheless I was disappointed.

Several days later I was called to do a scene in Boston. After being promised that I would be part of a scene, I agreed to go. After spending two hours getting ready, an hour of which was spent having my hair tugged on by an amateur hairdresser, I was whisked off to the steps of the State House to take part in a scene which was being rehearsed. Martin VanBuren was campaigning for President and I was part of a group of his supporters. We were each given an American flag to wave and instructed to cheer loudly. It was a damp and rainy day in



Jay Ostrowski and Steven Spielberg

Boston and everyone was feeling chilled. However, after doing this scene about six times we were beginning to get warm. Spielberg was friendly and down-to-earth. Once this scene was completed we were told that all of the women could leave since the next scene would be in the House of Representatives and women were not allowed. (I am glad that I was not a woman during the 1840's.) Although the time spend doing this scene was short and I am not certain that I will even be seen when the movie is released, I am grateful to have been a part of the filming of Amistad."

by Laura Jenifer

Roberto Bessin of Second St. *did* get to Mystic and gives us a picture of what it was like working there with the *Amistad* crew...

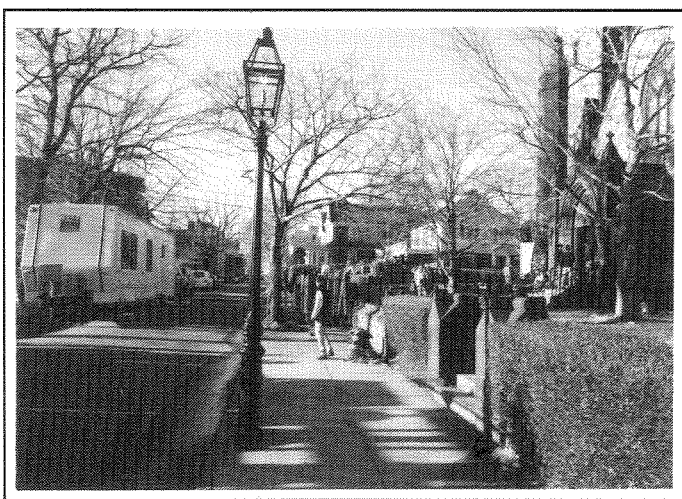
"I had given up hope of being called as an extra and was going to get a haircut when I got called. What a thrill it was, to be a small part of the Spielberg production! Over three days at Mystic Seaport, I toiled as a harbor worker from 1839. With a splendid Italian coat, I learned the do's and don'ts of the film set. The experienced actors working as extras taught me to try not to be seen on film, as that lengthens the number of days you will work. Three 15-hour days is about all I can take, as it took me a number of days to recover. In all, it was one of my life's special moments, and I can't wait until the opening in October!"

by Roberto Bessin

Janna and Tom Pederson of Second St. tell of costume making and an unexpected "close shave" ...

"As part of the costume crew I got to do everything from making men's ties to working on Queen Isabella's crown to altering every kind of costume imaginable from that era. Every day seemed to bring a new crisis or costume challenge to deal with. We were really kept on our toes with last-minute scene changes involving lots of extras. I also got to assist in fittings. All-in-all it was an exciting experience."

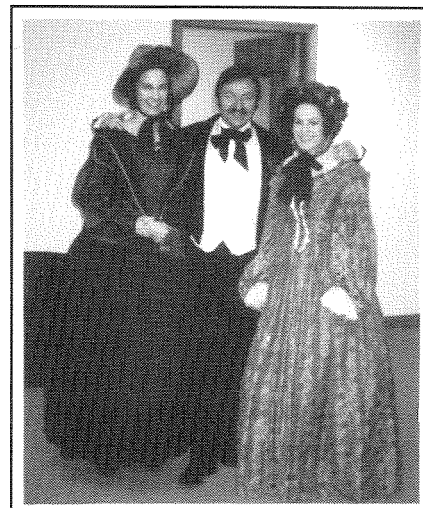
by Janna Pederson



Washington at St. John's

"Along with thousands of other people I stood in line at the DMV for several hours only to toss my application and picture into a cardboard box next to the sidewalk on the way out after a short briefing that must have lasted all of 2 minutes. I thought that would be the end of it, but I got the call! For three days, the first week of shooting, I would arrive at First Beach rotunda at 4:30 a.m. or 5:30 a.m., get into my costume (plaid pants, a gold

vest, a gray frock coat and a bright green stove-pipe top hat) and then get checked out by 'Hair and Makeup.' (They usually left me alone.) We 'background artists' took our orders from the numerous Production Assistants (PA's), who deployed us about on Washington Square like chess pieces. I also ended up working on the last day of shooting in Newport because they suddenly decided that they need one more 'dignitary' for the White House dinner scene being shot at Rosecliff. This time 'Hair and Makeup' cut off my beard, which I had for 20 years leaving me with a mustache and 'mutton chop' sideburns.



Laura Jenifer—on the left

Many of you saw the piece Channel 10 did on the fantastic food Johnson and Wales was preparing for this scene. This indeed turned out to be the food we were served! It might even have tasted good if they hadn't made it two days earlier. Maybe if they had warmed it up a little ... In addition to being a welcome respite from my desk job, it was quite a thrill actually getting to watch Steven Spielberg as he made a movie."

by Tom Pederson

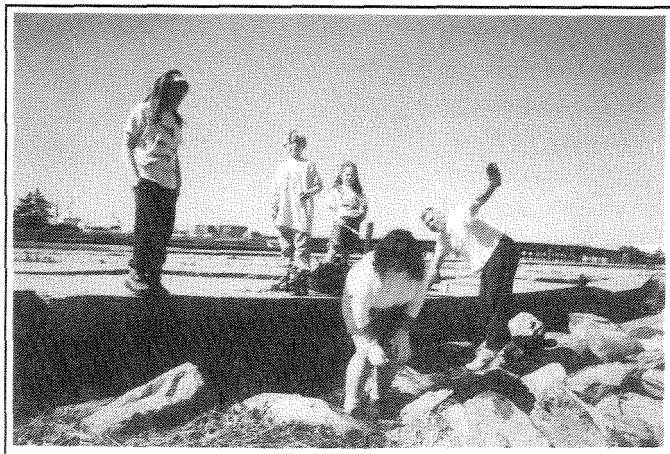
Jay Ostrowski, a Production Assistant working in Los Angeles, arrived with the crew of *Amistad* after two weeks of studio filming in Hollywood. A 1993 graduate of the University of New Hampshire, Jay grew up on the Point and stayed with his parents, Joy and Ian Scott, while the filming in Newport was being done. His mother writes ...

"Jay reported to the Marriott by 3:45 a.m. every day and assisted the actors through wardrobe and makeup ensuring a 7:00 a.m. departure to the daily set. There, throughout the day, he was in constant contact by radio with all the various departments helping to coordinate the actors, extras, props and equipment needed to film each scene. Often he would be in charge of the action taking place in the background of a shot, directing the timing and movements of the extras. There were many 16-hour days and they were shooting six days a week, but Jay thoroughly enjoyed the chance to work at home in Newport and thrilled to be a part of this Steven Spielberg production."

by Joy Scott

Point Children Welcome the Summer

The Adventure Club sprung into action after a long winter! Spring activities included the Point CleanUp and May Day Celebration. The children worked hard helping to clean up Storer Park, the Blue Rocks beach and the Van Zandt Pier. They enjoyed soda and Earth Day water bottles, as their rewards.



Jill Spohn, Mark Brouker and Adventure Club members help with Point Spring Cleanup in Storer Park and adjoining shoreline.

Amistad(continued from page 5)

Ilse Buchert Nesbitt of The Third and Elm Press provided some expert instruction in running and repairing a printing press...

"The Amistad crew needed help with printing. Here they were in the attic of the Colony House with a small hand press borrowed from the Printing Museum in Los Angeles and had no idea what to do with it. Luckily, the chap at the museum had given them my name as an expert. So I looked at their rather sad specimen, obviously, the Printing Museum was not going to give them anything good to ship across the country, which was not in working order. I showed them on my own press what was needed and lent them some additional paraphernalia. My son, Rupert, helped with the repairs on their press.

After everything was set up, a half-hour before the filming was to begin, Steven Spielberg came in, looked at it and decided he wanted the press in the other corner. So it was picked up by two strong men and moved over with all the smaller stuff following helter-skelter, and any logical way of working a print shop went right out the window. I doubt that even the most critical expert will notice it in the beautiful, somewhat dreamy atmosphere of the artificial fog and sunlight up there in that wonderful old attic."

by Ilse Buchert Nesbitt

May Day festivities were held for the second year in a row (making it a tradition!). The children gathered early in the week to make paper baskets, which they filled with flowers. On May 2nd, Adventure Club members gathered in Battery Park for dancing around the May Pole, playing "capture the flower flag" and general frolicking in celebration of the beautiful season. Afterwards, the children broke into groups to deliver their May baskets to area residents. One youngster was overheard to say, "I liked greeting the people." Many smiles were exchanged by both young and old. Thanks to Joe Vars for selecting the flowers and to the Point Association for funding this project.

Look for signs posted around the neighborhood telling of future Adventure Club summer activities. The Adventure Club usually meets one afternoon each week at various places on the Point. The kids decide where they'll meet and what they'll do! For more information, please call Beth Lloyd at 849-8071.

... and Ann Wiley, Nancy Espersen and Ilse Nesbitt collaborated in an effort to present Steven Spielberg with an honorary Born-on-the-Point certificate to express appreciation for his portrayal of historic Newport. According to Ann, the creation of the certificate was a much simpler matter than the dispatching thereof; but fortunately, Ann's own "red-headed, left-handed, thoroughly Irish" persistence (combined with Jay Ostrowski's "insider" cooperation) resulted in a beautifully wrapped document carried by hand and presumably delivered – along with an official letter from the Point Association President Coles Mallory – directly to Monsieur le Directeur – in Hollywood.

And so, "...the tumult and the shouting dies; the Captains and the Kings depart..." and life in Newport resumes its late twentieth century pose and pace. Not, however, without our having first observed recreated fragments of our not-so-distant past. In addition to all the commotion of cameras, crews, and re-directed traffic, Spielberg brought to Newport a vision for this film; he has left us with a reawakened appreciation for our history and a heightened sense of appreciation for the present.

Thanks to Mary Jane Rodman for background and for coordinating all these stories.

Missed

Over the past few years, as the staff finished compiling and computing each issue of the *Green Light*, Nancy Espersen always voiced her favorite phrase, "It's the best issue yet." It became a joke which helped lift our spirits following a demanding process. Now, after setting high standards and shouldering the major tasks, Nancy has decided to turn her time and talents to other Point Association activities. We're not sure what we will do without her but hope we will hear from lots of members who will volunteer their ideas, time and expertise.

Nancy, thank you for a job well done!

Welcome to Our New Members

Mr. and Mrs. Brian Arnold
Mr. and Mrs. Roberto Bessin
Trent Brown and Kate Thunberg
Marcella-Raphelle Guido
Bill and Jamie Krasnow
Richard A. Nelson
James C. Nelson
Janet Rhein
Bruce and Teddi Shaw

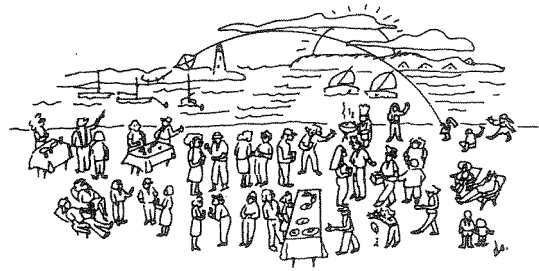


When Leaving the Point
Come to the Southwest

Music Hall Café offers tastes that no other Newport restaurant can match... fresh seafood, prime meats, creative vegetarian and healthy Mexican dishes prepared with our Southwestern flair

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POINT PICNIC

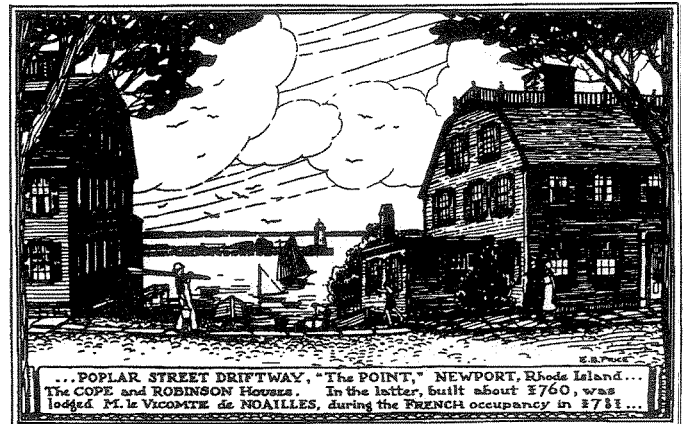


June 26 - 6pm
88 Washington Street

Point Trivia

What was the original name
of Van Zandt Avenue?

Who was
Van Zandt, anyway?
answers on page 15



Our Founder

This familiar view of the Poplar Street Driftway is one of many drawings made by Edith Ballinger Price, author, illustrator and founder of the *Green Light*. On April 26th Miss Price marked her 100th birthday in Virginia, where she has been living for many years after leaving her longtime Battery Street home. We all send her our belated congratulations.

Foundation for Newport

A Proposed Plan to Unburden Our Streets

At the Point Association's spring meeting, a presentation of the foundation for Newport's Harborfront Plan was made to over 80 members. Spurred by the belief that the entrance to Newport is both unsightly and unwelcoming; and the number of cars on city streets is reaching the saturation point, a diverse group of citizens have come forward with a conceptual solution. This group, The Foundation for Newport, is currently presenting their blueprint to various civic organizations to gain support and to then move on to implementation. The end result is to halt the mounting traffic congestion within Newport. The plan's architect, Bill Warner, along with Tom Todd, both of WTG Planning and Design (the firm responsible for the extensive work done to revitalize Providence) described the plan's concepts.

The scope of the comprehensive plan reaches from the Pell Bridge along the harborfront to King Park, and is focused on meeting the following goals:

- Reverse the growth of traffic congestion.
- Improve access to water along the harborfront.
- Intercept visitors before they drive downtown by providing an attractive and reliable system of public transportation.

This plan has been endorsed by the City Council, and was included in Newport's Transportation Improvement Program recently submitted to the State. By reconfiguring America's Cup Avenue, they envision making the area safer for pedestrians, as well as streamlining the automobile traffic flow.

For further information about this proposed plan you may contact Kristie Gardiner, 849-3390.

The Secret Garden Tour

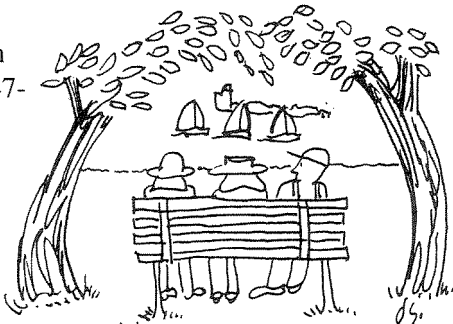
by Anne Reynolds

The Secret Garden Tour starts Friday afternoon, June 20th and runs through Sunday, June 22nd.

Mentioned in a recent article in *The New York Times*, this self-directed tour of fourteen private gardens is the fund-raiser for the Benefactors of the Arts, a group of volunteers led by Myra DuVally. Their aim is to promote the Arts for the schoolchildren of Aquidneck Island. Concerts, Yamaha musical computer systems, workshops and bussing to the Newport Art Museum are just a few of the projects \$265,000 has provided in the last thirteen years.

Tickets are \$18.00; \$15.00 in advance. Call 847-0514 with your credit card ready.

Hordes of local hosts are needed, and each stint entitles the volunteer to view the other gardens. Call Nancy Corkery at 683-5347. Knowledge of gardening is nice, but not a prerequisite for the job.



Harbor Highlights

by Don Dery

As the summer approaches, talk of possible changes on the waterfront which could affect the Point merit our attention.

The Newport Waterfront Commission (NWC) recently discussed three capital improvement items. First, and closest to home, funds for the repair of the Elm St. boat ramp have been allocated and work should begin this summer or in the Spring of 1998. Second, repairs and maintenance of the Van Zandt pier are under discussion, but not yet funded.

The third item, replacement of the existing marina at the northeast corner of the harbor with one that is city owned and operated, is dependent on RIDOT's Environmental Impact Study of this and other possible sites for a marine terminal, as well as other factors and government departments.

The presentation to the Point Association of WTG Planning and Design's vision of a re-configured Newport Waterfront also included a new marine terminal.



Friends of the Waterfront Mark the Ways

by Vic Farmer

In 1982 the Friends of the Waterfront started working on a campaign to mark the historical public rights-of-way to Newport's salt water. After 15 years of research and hearings FOW has launched the final step and hopes to see the markers installed over the summer.

The Coastal Resources Management Council has designated 23 rights-of-way in Newport, which are in addition to the already established city rights-of-way, made when a street dead-ends at the shoreline, and the deed-derived rights-of-way generated from historical real estate deeds.

CRMC designated rights-of-way on the Point include: Cypress St., Van Zandt Ave., Battery, Pine, Cherry, Chestnut, Walnut, Willow, Poplar, and Elm streets, and two at the Goat Island connector.

Look for those bronze markers which will be imbedded in the streets!

Dorothy Holt Manuel

by Anne Reynolds

A photograph of Dorothy Manuel's watercolor of the Cenacle Chapel graced the cover of the *Green Light's* Spring issue. This issue features her painting of Cardines Field, one local scene of many that this nationally recognized artist preserved for us through her art. She could be seen all over town with her brushes and paper.

In our gregarious neighborhood conversations with strangers often begin on the sidewalk and continue on the way to the store for a quart of milk or a bottle of wine.

I met Dorothy in a more conventional way, as a dinner guest of the Henrys, who were restoring the John Goddard House. She asked to paint my garden.

When she came to my house she was intrigued by a streptocarpus in a pot and happily painted all morning, came back in the afternoon to finish. She seemed to enjoy the company and I was smitten by her easy conversation.

She died shortly after that, but having known her just a bit enriched me, though I knew nothing of her honors and reputation. John Pantelone's obituary of her in *Newport This Week* (lovingly saved by Louise Sherman) expresses my feeling and perhaps the sentiments of many who chanced to know her even a little bit. "She was a lovely woman. Kind, warm, refined, sensitive. She painted what she loved. She has left for us a good remembrance of Newport's 20th century life and we are the better for it. During her lifetime she was honored for her work and we were honored by it. I will always cherish having had the chance to meet her if even slightly."

GET "ON BOARD" *THE SPIRIT OF NEWPORT!*

JOIN THE FUN *and*
SUPPORT YOUR ASSOCIATION

THE HARBOR CRUISE IS ALL SET FOR
SUNDAY ~ JUNE 29th

with the
DIXIE ALL STAR BAND

REFRESHMENTS *and*
WONDERFUL SILENT AUCTION ITEMS
FOR EVERYONE

BOARDING TIME **3:45 p.m.**
Sailing from wharf behind Newport Harbor Hotel
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TICKETS **\$15.00** EACH
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available at:
CLIPPER WINE & SPIRITS
THIRD & WALNUTS STS., OPEN TIL 9 p.m.

BUCCI'S PACKAGE STORE
THAMES & POPLAR STS., OPEN TIL 10 p.m.

ANNE BIDSTRUP
35 POPLAR ST., p.m.'s ONLY, PLEASE

SEE YOU THERE!

The Point Association's Annual Membership Cocktail Party

Thursday, August 21
from six until eight in the evening

Villa Marina - Sanford Covell House
72 Washington Street

Wine Tasting on The Point

Mark your Calendar - September 7, 1997

CARDINES FIELD

A Grand Old Ballpark -Right in Our Own Back Yard

TUCKED in the southeast corner of the Point section, nestled between eighteenth century dwellings and a modern transportation center is a place that quietly carries on the tradition of baseball in Newport. This whimsical ballpark rests mostly uncelebrated by those who pass by. Visitors to our city of "firsts and oldests" are unaware of the treasure that lies behind the walls of granite and green.

Today the home field of America's oldest continuous amateur baseball league looks very different than it did 100 years ago. This area, which now boasts a circus-like, tented visitor's center and an upscale hotel, was once a tangle of railroad tracks and muddy ruts. The watery hollow earned the name – that longtime Newporters continue to call it today – "The Basin."

From Puddles to Pitches

Eileen Warburton, in her 1988 book *In Living Memory*, vividly described "The Basin" of the late nineteenth century:

"...Dividing the neighborhood, which lay directly to the north, from Long Wharf and the bustle of the town were the marshy, evil-smelling remains of a shallow cove. Once an arm of the harbor, it had been dammed and partially filled by the railroad company to hold fresh water for its steam engines. ...This reservoir had become practically an open sewer."

By 1891 the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company, owners of the land, began the monumental task of filling this unhealthy, dank cove with thousands of railroad cars of earth. Challenged by the power of tidal water coming from the bay, as well as by the natural springs flowing from adjacent land, the project was not successfully completed for many years. When the city installed sewers and storm drains after the turn of the century, the water on this fen finally surrendered. Although, after a good rain the area would fill once again. Did "Fenway Park" have a similar beginning?

In 1908 a group of young men working at the Old Colony Repair Shop obtained permission from the railroad to use the filled lot for a baseball game. This crew of boiler makers worked each night to ready the field for play. The "City Base Ball League" consisted of six teams: Rudder Club, Rangers, Old Colony, Prime Makers, Y.M.C.A.

and Torpedo Station Clerks (the Clerks won the 1908 season championship). Despite deplorable conditions: a hard clay surface on which no grass would grow, no seats, no lights and an old fishnet to deflect foul balls, the games drew crowds averaging 700 onlookers at night. The fishnet was their downfall, as too many wayward balls damaged the nearby rail cars and other property. The request to play another season was denied by the railroad company. A decade passed before another adult baseball game was played on the site.

The Years Between the Wars

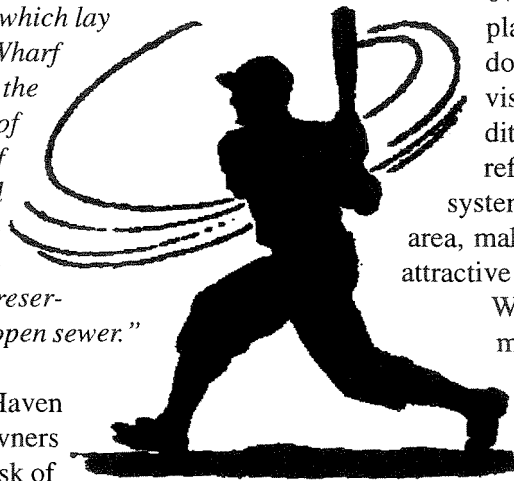
The first two decades of the twentieth century were industrious years in Newport. The steamship and locomotive companies were burgeoning, and so was the military presence. Newport's population steadily increased and jobs were plentiful. Long Wharf and Goat Island were bustling with activity, employing many Point residents. Though no adult baseball games were allowed on the land

owned by the railroad, the city, in need of playground space, leased the field for one dollar a year. The 1919 Recreation Supervisor Report to the City read, "...the condition of the field has been of a nature to reflect discredit upon the whole recreation system ... illustrating the need to amend the area, making it safer for the children and more attractive for the residents."

When World War I ended in 1918, the military was granted permission to use the railroad property as a baseball field. The following spring Newport was swarming with young men returned from the war. Across the nation, baseball had become a passion. The time

was right to reinstate the local leagues. Newport's Recreation Commission agreed to carry a \$100 insurance policy to cover damages caused by errant balls, thus enabling the resurgence of baseball at "The Basin." Without fanfare, in 1919, play commenced after work and continued until sundown. The newly formed ball club – appropriately named "Sunset League" – was born. No one dreamed that their legacy would continue almost 80 years later.

During the depression years baseball became an important diversion. Though money was scarce, some clever improvements were made to facilitate the game. On occasion, for important games and events, a portable lighting system using forty-foot ladders and poles topped with wash tubs painted white was hired to illuminate the field. The



lights extended the use of the park past twilight; however, the crowd was at the mercy of the unpredictable generator and was often disappointed when the juice gave out before the players did!

In 1936 the railroad agreed to sell the property to the city, ending the prior lease. 1937 and 1938 saw big changes. With the demise of the Fall River Line and the N.Y., N.H. & H Railroad Co., the depression had finally hit Newport hard!

Now that the city owned the area, a large jobs program spurred by the W.P.A. was launched. Cardines Field (named in memory of Bernardo Cardine, a soldier who lost his life in WWI) was soon converted into an official baseball park. A wooden stadium and stone fieldhouse were constructed, the grounds graded, additional storm drains installed, and a regulation diamond laid out. Things were really looking up until the hurricane of 1938 submerged the property under five feet of salt water. With a "can-do" conviction, the city restored and upgraded the ballpark. A 450-seat grandstand was built, two dugouts added, and permanent floodlights installed – though they were not used until after World War II, for fear of attracting the enemy's attention.

Cardines Field had proven to be a steadfast fixture in the community. This spirited and vital local institution offered entertainment and inspiration. Many traveling semi-pro teams would come to play against the local talent. Long before television and million dollar salaries, the Sunset League gave Newport's young men the hope for a future in baseball (as it does to this day). This dream was shared by my father, Al McManus, who spent much of his early life playing ball at "The Basin." He was discovered by a college scout in 1939 and sent to play baseball at Northwestern University. Though the war ended his aspirations to be the next Babe Ruth, that fantastic experience remains a highlight in his life. Across the country, skills that young men were learning on the ballfield would soon aid them on the battlefield. Perseverance, determination and optimism – a sense of fair play and teamwork – and the notion of "give it all you've got" – all contributed to the American spirit that went with these men as they entered the war effort.

Cardines Field Today

It is hard to imagine that in the early 1980's the charm of this historical, hometown ballpark was almost lost to the ever encroaching developments of modern day Newport. Thanks to some insightful and pragmatic citizens, city plans to replace Cardines Field with a parking lot were squelched. A lot of praise for saving the park goes to the late George D. Donnelly, whose association with the Sun-

set League (now named in his honor) spanned fifty years as a player, official scorekeeper, reporter and league historian. Currently, another preservation campaign is ongoing to improve and maintain Cardines Field. A grant for \$2,340 has been awarded to develop a master plan to preserve the site, which is in a National Historic Landmark District.

Over the years, Cardines Field has welcomed hundreds of teams. Fraternal organizations and societies, veterans groups, local business and military teams have all played there. You will not find sky boxes, computerized score boards, or Astroturf® at Cardines Field. Rather, you will be treated to old-fashioned fun in a neighborhood ballpark built on a human scale. There is a sense of place that symbolizes the simple joys of days gone by. Pointers should take advantage of this beautiful green oasis, step back in time and visit this grand old ballpark – right in our own backyards.
by Beth Cullen



I would like to thank: Jeff Staats, Ed Harrigan, Judy Souza, Martin Murphy and especially my dad, for all their help in putting this story together.

GEORGE D. DONNELLY 1997 SUNSET LEAGUE

Atlantic Beach Club
Mudville Nine
R&R Construction
R&R Legion
Rhode Island Gulls
Town Dock Mariners

JUNE SCHEDULE

Wed/6/4	Mon/6/23
Thu/6/5	Tue/6/24
Mon/6/9	Thu/6/26
Tue/6/10	Fri/6/27
Thu/6/12	Sat/6/28 - 1pm
Sat/6/14	
Tue/6/17	All Games Start
Thu/6/19	at 7pm,
Sat/6/21	unless otherwise noted
(double header, 4pm & 7pm)	

Star of the Sea Update

Star of the Sea was formed in 1991 for the purpose of restoring the former Cenacle property as a housing community for elders to "age in place." Last October Rhode Island Housing agreed to purchase the property from the former owners and sold Star of the Sea an option to purchase. This, in essence, landbanks the property and allows Star of the Sea time to put a permanent financing structure in place.

Historic preservation of the property is one of the primary goals of Star of the Sea's development plan. In fact, Star of the Sea will raise its share of the equity for construction by using historic tax credits. Although Star of the Sea is a recognized not-for-profit organization, the buildings when completed will pay property taxes to the City of Newport.

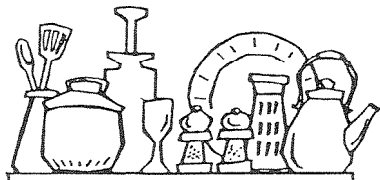
It is important that work begin soon. The buildings have been vacant and unheated for six years and suffer from deferred maintenance. The primary exterior changes will be the replacement of the existing fire escapes by two new fire stairs, as required by building and fire codes.

The former retreat center had 80 individual rooms as well as common spaces – kitchen, living and dining rooms, offices and the chapel. The proposed plan calls for reducing the 80 individual rooms to 33 private units and maintaining the existing common spaces. The historic chapel will be restored.

Occupancy will be limited to the elderly and the units will be available on a rental basis. Fully supportive services – help with personal care, transportation and meals – will be available.

In order for development to begin, zoning approval for a "use variance" is needed. The strong support of the Point neighborhood will ensure the historic property is preserved in a manner in keeping with the neighborhood.

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Works in Progress

by Nan Pease

What a joy it is to see #17 Third Street undergoing a rebirth. The owner has engaged Gerry Destremps and his crew to take on the job.

Mr. Destremps, a fifth-generation "joiner" and house restorer with full knowledge of colonial building techniques, has done many houses in our area. He does his own millwork and is already making the beaded red cedar clapboards which will grace the front of the house. The other three sides will be red cedar shingles from Canada.

The house is of post and beam, or "full-frame," construction. The technique is that of the ship-builders of the time - first the framework - keel, ribs, then the outer hull affixed to it. The stone foundation, laid up as a sort of stone wall, is revealed in the construction details.

The house is being lifted to its proper stance with new heavy sills and new boards where originals had deteriorated. It will be very well insulated and restored in keeping with its 1743 colonial style.

Mr. Destremps points out that this is one of the very few houses in the area that has stayed where it was built! Come by and have a look!

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The Traffic Committee Report

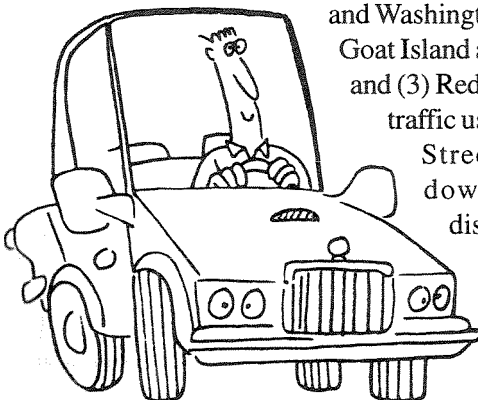
by Mark Williams
Chairman

Several complaints were lodged by Washington Street residents concerning Waste Management vehicles transiting the Point in the early hours on non-scheduled pick-up days in route to Goat Island. A letter from the Traffic Committee to City Manager Michael Mallinoff was forwarded to Patrick Druken, General Manager at Waste Management. Mr. Druken immediately directed drivers to use America's Cup Avenue and the connector road to access Goat Island. He also asked that he be contacted (at 847-0472) should any vehicles be seen transiting the Point on other than scheduled pick-up days.

The City Manager was requested by Coles Mallory to instruct City Water Department vehicles commuting to and from the Washington Street pumping station to use America's Cup and the connector road as well.

Concerns by residents on Second and Third streets about the volume of RIPTA buses transiting the Point resulted in a meeting with local RIPTA Superintendent Kevin Carmody, who demonstrated that total RIPTA volume through the Point had been reduced by about 40% as the result of re-routing. He was asked if the remaining 20 or so scheduled buses transiting the Point couldn't all be of the smaller size. Mr. Carmody pointed out that the large buses are necessary as their routes ultimately take them off the island. He did ask to be notified (at 846-7195) should any RIPTA bus be seen as non-scheduled, speeding or rolling through stop signs.

The formal traffic study being conducted by Cambridge Systematics for the Point Association is nearing the final proposal stage. The study results will ultimately be presented to the City Council. On April 26th the Traffic Committee met to discuss the most recent results of the study and to determine the best options available for meeting our three primary objectives. (1) Minimize commuter traffic using Second and Third streets to access the Navy Base and the Connell Highway traffic circle, (2) Reduce through traffic using Van Zandt and Washington Street to access Goat Island and the waterfront, and (3) Reduce heavy through traffic using upper Thames Street to access the downtown business district.



News from St. John's

You may have missed Celebration II in 1996, but don't miss Celebration III. The successful music series, *A Celebration of British Cathedral Music*, will continue this year with the appearance of the Choir of Magdalen College, Oxford. The choir is under the direction of Bill Ives.

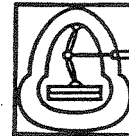
Celebration III will feature nine choral services over the four days from July 10 through July 13, finishing with Matins, High Mass and Evensong on Sunday. The exact schedule will be available at the parish office in June. All are invited to join us for this inspiring musical event. A free-will offering will be taken.

The Celebration of British Cathedral Music will continue as an annual event. Some of the choirs expressing interest are: St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh; Lincoln Cathedral, and our own inaugural choir from our sister parish, All Saints', Northampton.

If any families are interested in hosting our clerical guests, it is not too late to get involved. If you would like to participate, please call St. John's at 848-2561 or Mary Jane Rodman at 846-9199.

St. John's Fair

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420 World Sailing Championship

by Peg Comfort

Beginning in mid-July, teams from 25 to 30 countries, coming from as far away as Australia, will start assembling in Newport for pre-racing training. Three hundred sailors are expected, along with coaches, parents and relatives to cheer them on. The 420 is a two-crew, high-performance sailing dinghy, often considered to be the training boat for the Olympic Class 470. The 420 class is one of the largest sailboat classes in the world. Competitors, ranging in age from 16 to 25, will bring their own boats and are responsible for their own housing and meals.

Of special interest to Pointers, the opening event on July 31st, the 420 World Team Race (or Mouvet Cup), will be sailed between Goat Island and Rose Island. It is estimated that 15 three-boat teams will compete in this two to three day event. Spectators will be encouraged to view the racing from the Pavilion at Goat Island. A sports commentator will explain to interested parties what is going on in front of them.

The main event, the 420 World Championship and the Women's World Championship, will kick off with an opening ceremony on August 3rd. These Championships will be raced over the following four days in the bay, north of the bridge. The events conclude on August 7th.

Last year this event was held in the City of Blankenberge, Belgium. Next year Palamos, Spain (Costa Brava), will be the site for this prestigious world championship. This year the event is in Newport thanks to the Ida Lewis Yacht Club, a group of local sailors, and the assistance of the NYYC. The event will use the facilities of the Sail Newport Sailing Center at Fort Adams.

The organizing committee is seeking all sorts of help from the community. Team sponsors, gift certificates, clothing, gear and mementos are ways for local businesses to get involved. Individuals can help by volunteering for registration, regatta support, etc. How about getting together with some of your neighbors and inviting a visiting team to dinner one evening? Personal contact will make fond memories for our visitors.

As you watch the fleet from shore, please rest assured that the 420 is a self-righting boat. After a capsizing the crew is still legitimately racing until they are helped by a support boat or any other boat. So, the decision to ask for help must be made by the competitor.

Please contact Eve Woodhull (849-3149) if you have any ideas for donations, both monetary and "in-kind" to this event. If you have any time to volunteer help or for further information contact: The Comforts (847-3261).

Gardener's Corner

by Anne Reynolds

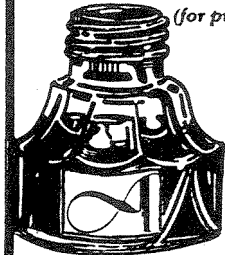
Every year residents of this waterfront community wait for spring days. We have spring moments but never whole spring days. Mornings may begin sunny and mild, but better put on the wellies early or you may be too late. If the forecaster says, "sunny becoming windy," I believe him. That breeze picks up cold from the icy Atlantic, making gardening a finger-freezing activity.

The spring bulbs bloom on time, proving that it is spring for them. The saved dahlia bulbs sprout in their packages in the store and in the cellar in their buckets of peat. I pot them up but keep them in a warm place till June. Meanwhile, I watch the buds on the Kerria bush swell to individual shapes for leaf and bud till the first yellow puffs at month's end.

I couldn't plant lettuce in April, but alfalfa sprouts did well. They are cheap to grow though, with our own spring water. Buy seeds at the health food store so they will be free of poisonous coating. Rinse them well a couple of times a day in a sprouter or make do with a mason jar with netting in the cover. The spring water is free of chlorine and cleaner than tap water. In days the sprouts are ready to eat. I make a yogurt mayonnaise lemon dressing

mix with chopped walnuts for a salad. Fill whole wheat pita bread with the mixture for a healthy lunch on the run. As the sprouts are ready in a few days, this is fun for the children, and you can educate them about seeds and roots and leaves if you must.

Summer hints from *Organic Gardening*. "Vegetables freeze well in a plastic carton filled with water ... One half teaspoon cider vinegar in a quart of water will keep fleas away from dogs" (and people?). And one I'll surely try, "grow basil cuttings in water."



Dip into Arnolds!

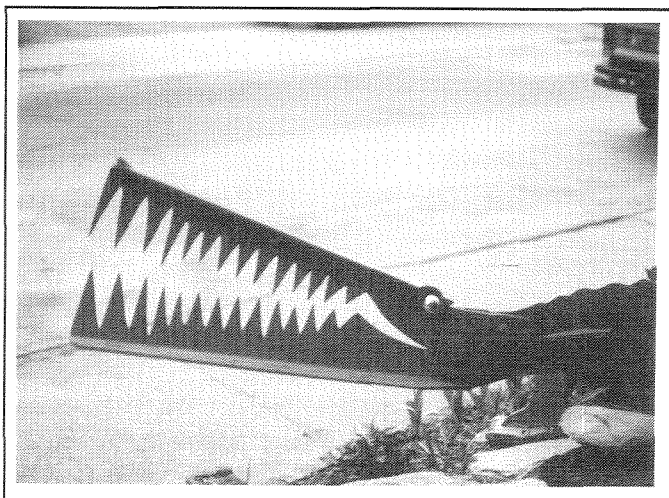
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Alexander the Alligator

by Roberto Bessin

Fifteen feet in length and 800 pounds, "Al" is currently hiding in the flowers in front of 54 Second Street. Al came to life in 1987 on Long Island in the Town of Huntington. The Town Supervisor invited me to display the sculpture in front of Town Hall. Well, it turns out Al offended the Town Historian, the orange clashing with his pious hysteria. Al landed in the slammer, actually impounded at the jail in the basement of Town Hall.



"Al" has finally found a home in Asia. He is soon to be on his way to Bihoro Town, Hokkaido Prefecture, Japan. Al will stand guard in front of a children's health clinic. Children, I have learned, are the great audience for this piece. Many adults are too uptight to understand that this piece is all about FUN, pedal-to-the-metal fun. Nothing is more satisfying to me as an artist than occasionally witnessing the pure joy this work elicits from children. They see that Al is smiling, something we need to do more often.

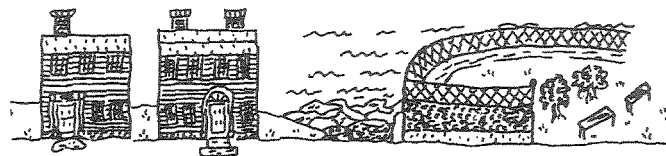
Trivia Answers

Hawthorne Street

Named for a tree like most
other Point Streets that
run east to west

Charles C. Van Zandt

Governor of Rhode Island, 1877-1880
Born in Newport, August 10, 1830.



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From Councilor Laurice Shaw

Spring on the Point. Wow! It's great to see neighbors and friends out working in their yards, children dancing around the Maypole in the park and boats reappearing at their moorings. The sense of community that "The Point" represents makes it Newport's most successful neighborhood. One element of our success is the effective leadership, both past and present, within the association - the clear vision of what we want to be based on the strong foundation of our past. It is the crucial role of leadership that I would like to write about in this column.

We're back at the threshold of another local election cycle. Just two years ago city manager Frank Edwards left to take a job in New Jersey. The budget process was about to kick into high gear, and the grapevine was buzzing with who was or wasn't going to run for City Council. Newport was as ready as it had ever been for change. We now welcome the new City Manager Mike Mallinoff, his wife Laura Jenifer and their children as neighbors. We elected a City Council very different from any I've known and I sincerely believe we've seen a notable improvement. So now what?

Well now, have *you* ever considered running for public office? Despite what some incumbents are saying, it is not too early to decide - or at least think about it. In less

than a month people will be filing their candidate papers. It is not too early to start shaping our collective future.

I am a public involvement junkie. You can't see, in written word alone, how wonderfully exciting, and frustrating, and creative I feel this whole "leadership process" can be. Newport, especially, brings out one's passion because the stakes are really high.

So ... I'm looking for a few good folks who might want to be leaders. In the City Council or School Committee, there are fourteen jobs to be filled. The time has never been better for new people to "take the helm." This certainly includes my job. I haven't yet decided whether I'll run again - not because I don't like it—just ask anyone who knows me - I love it! But it might be a good time for someone else to take a shot at the job.

The School Committee race deserves special consideration given the overwhelming opinion expressed by the people in the April 8th bond referendum. None of the old ways of doing things are going to satisfy this community any more. We expect the best we can afford and given what we are paying we can expect a lot.

Newport's politics are non-partisan. We write our own rules here for how things work, and believe me, please, there's room for you if you want to give it a try. If public office isn't your inclination try volunteering for a committee. Call me at 848-9451. Newport is worth it.

While Walking on the Point

by Kay O'Brien

Month by month the sights and sounds are different. What would walking on the Point be like without our seasonal changes? However, one constant is always the pleasure of neighborly greetings which become more frequent as the weather warms.

March brought the myriad of trucks parked by the Marriott to service the filming of *Amistad*. Walkers were drawn to Washington Square and transported back 150-plus years. The *Pride of Baltimore*, used to portray the slave ship, tied up at Goat Island and Long Wharf.

April brought the welcome profusion of yellow daffodils and forsythia. The squirrels enjoyed their salad days dining on the bursting buds of Point trees. Storer Park looked lovely, as did the Connector Road with bulbs in bloom. The first lobster boats appeared in the bay, soon followed by pleasure craft back on their moorings. Dreams of flounder and squid brought back the fisherman.

Parking meters will appear on lower Washington Street, south of the causeway. Work in progress is always interesting at the shipyard and now construction begins across the street on the next phase of timeshares.

As summer approaches activity is everywhere, at each house and garden. It's great to be surrounded by green. Even the weeds are almost welcome!

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Pointers-in-the-News

The magical garden featured on the cover of March *Rhode Island Monthly* is hidden behind the **Mackays'** colonial at 73 Thames St. It's an unbelievable lush oasis backed up to Cardines Field, all creatively planned, planted and perpetuated by Sally and Bill.

Ninety-year-old Crystal Spring Water Company has received a certificate of excellence and high marks on its annual inspection...good news for its customers and Point owner **Ian Scott**.

Activities at Rogers High School are highlighted in the Saturday editions of the *Newport Daily News* by **Alexis Ackerman** in her weekly Viking Voice column.

Congratulations to Captain **Charlotte Johnson**! With her new license, "master of inland auxiliary sail vessels of not more than 50 gross tons," you'll find her available to get you out to Rose Island.

The *Newport Daily News* of April 14th featured an AP story and picture titled "Master Stonecutter **John Benson** of Newport Works Recently on the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in Washington." This memorial was dedicated May 2nd.

"A Woman's Work," a show presented in April by the women of Thames Street Gallery, featured sculpture by **Mary Lynn Rooke**.

Anne Bidstrup of Popular Street has just completed the Master Gardener Program at the University of Rhode Island. We now have another Pointer to rely on for gardening tips.

Our neighbor, **Jack Perry** of Cross Street, was featured in the May 10th *Newport Daily News* "Good Neighbor" column. A retired engineer, Jack demonstrates the wonders of science to the students at Thompson Middle School.

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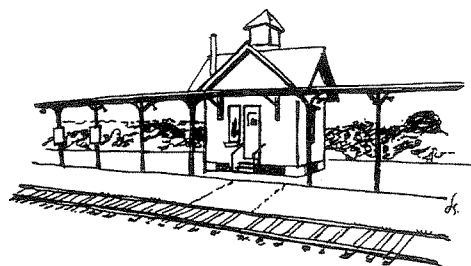
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41 BELLEVUE AVENUE, NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND 02840

Evening of Restoration Stories Part II

by Nancy Esperson



Did you know that the railroad station on America's Cup Avenue has been moved four times from its original location on Warner street? The saga of this building and other moving stories were shared on Thursday evening, May 15 with a large crowd gathered at St. John's Guild Hall for *An Evening of Restoration Stories*. The program, hosted by Anita Rafael, featured Kay O'Brien's description of the station's many moves, Bryan Babcock's account of the changes Sarah Kendall made in the Elm and Washington Street area, Herb Rommel's tale of the Pitts Head Tavern, and Anne Reynold's story of the John Tripp House. Following the presentations there was time to chat with the speakers and view the displays highlighting Point houses which had been moved.

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Old-time Sea Bathing

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Newport Water Cure

Originally printed in the *Newport Evening Mercury*,
Tuesday Evening, September 20, 1853

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Advertisement

Dr. W. F. Reli's Floating Sea Bath

Originally printed in the *Newport Daily News*,
June 29, 1854

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Prices the same as on the Beach.

These articles were re-printed in the Green Light, April, 1967


People to People Youth Ambassadors

This summer, thirty junior high school students will go to Europe as People to People Youth Ambassadors. The program was founded by President Dwight D. Eisenhower to promote world peace and international understanding through direct contact between citizens.

The students are recommended by past participants or are chosen from a national educational listing. They will visit the Parliament in London, the E.C. in Belgium, the Anne Frank Museum in Amsterdam, the Louvre in Paris, and will stay with a German family for three days.

Chris Bessin of Second Street, a thirteen-year-old Thompson Middle School student, has been chosen as one of the students for this year's trip. He'll leave June 26th and will be gone for three weeks. He'll receive high school credit for participating and for keeping a journal.

Chris is very excited about this opportunity and has been working hard to help pay for the trip. He'll baby-sit, rake, pull weeds, walk dogs or any other odd jobs. He can be reached at 847-2527.




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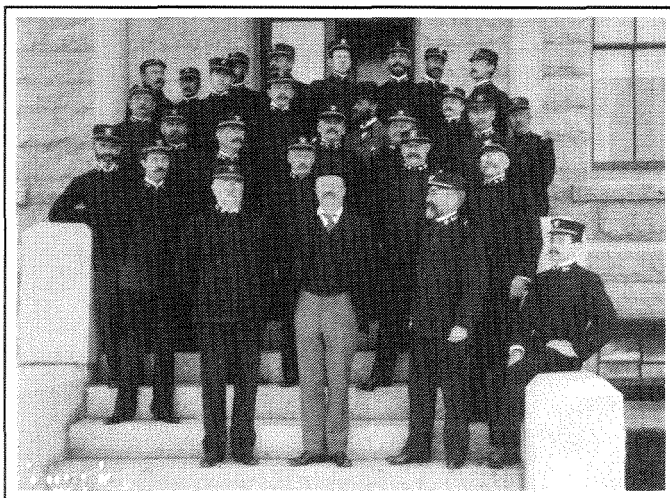
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New Exhibit at the Naval War College Museum Commemorates Theodore Roosevelt

Currently, the Naval War College Museum (our neighbor on Coasters Harbor Island) is featuring an in-depth look at Theodore Roosevelt and his influence upon bringing the U.S. Navy, its methods and materials into the twentieth century.

The exhibit opened April 18th, the eve of the 100th Anniversary of Roosevelt's assuming the duties of Assistant Secretary of the Navy. It will run through the fall. Admission is free and visiting hours are 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. on the weekends. For further information, call 841-4052.



Seated, Rowan Howard's father, RADM Belknap as a young officer. This photograph was taken on the steps of the Naval War College when Theodore Roosevelt visited Newport in 1897.

Pierre Deux • Palais Royal
Le Jacquard

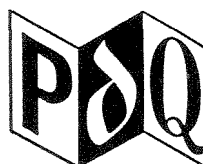


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FAX: _____ EMAIL: _____ (if applicable)

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POTLUCK SUPPER PROGRAMS PUBLICITY WATERFRONT WINE TASTING
Please circle the categories that you would like to learn more about.

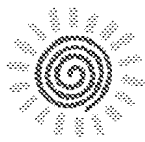
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Please make checks payable to The Point Association. Note if new membership or renewal.

MEMBERSHIP YEAR RUNS FROM OCTOBER 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30.
A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE GREEN LIGHT IS INCLUDED WITH ALL MEMBERSHIPS.

CLIP & MAIL: THE POINT ASSOCIATION, P.O. BOX 491, NEWPORT, RI 02840



SUMMER EVENTS



JUNE

20th-22nd

SECRET GARDEN TOUR
page 8

26th

POINT PICNIC
6pm, Anne Reynold's Yard
88 Washington Street
page 7

29th

HARBOR TOUR
3:45pm, Spirit of Newport
page 9

T. R. EXHIBIT
Naval War College Museum
All Summer
page 19

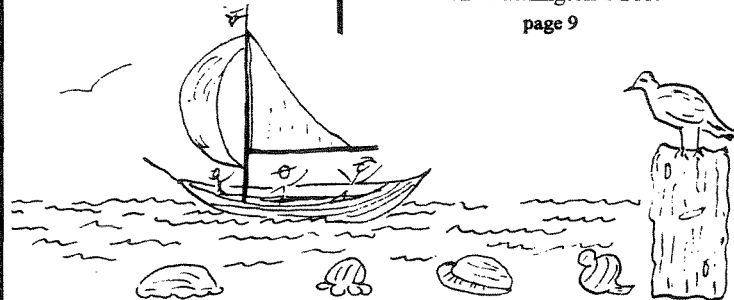
JULY

10th - 13th

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL
MUSIC
page 13

26th

ST. JOHN'S FAIR
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July 30th - 7th

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21st

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