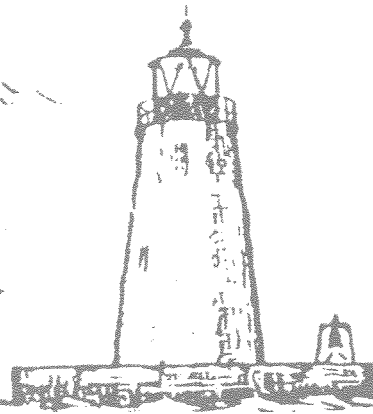


The
GREEN

LIGHT

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BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

SUMMER 1998



Malcolm Storer, son

Dr. Horatio Robinson Storer

Agnes Storer, daughter

The GREEN LIGHT

XLIII No. 2 SUMMER 1998



FEATURES

President's Letter	3
Adventure Club	4
Beautification	5
The Waterfront	7
Traffic Update	8
Walking on the Point	9
History of Storer Park	10
Preservation Workshop	15
Flipback in Time	17
Gardening	18
Councilman George Perry	19
Summer Calendar	20

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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

Dear Neighbors,

The new traffic regulations are in effect and appear to be working well. They are the result of over a year of work by Point citizens and outstanding support by our City Council. Both the recognition that residential traffic issues needed to be addressed and the willingness of the City to work cooperatively with neighborhood groups encourage me. For the first time in decades, the proposed city budget provides funds for a traffic engineer. Much work needs to be done throughout the city. In our area, upper Thames Street's traffic remains a serious and difficult problem.

At the same time we are trying to mitigate vehicular traffic, we are exploring ways to encourage pedestrian traffic. We are talking with the Newport Historical Society about developing a self-guided walking tour of the Point, similar to the one being instituted on Historic Hill. The proposal will be presented at our fall membership meeting to get ideas and see if it has neighborhood support. If you are interested in working on the proposal or just learning more, call Anne Bidstrup at 849-1354.

We have a new 1st Vice President. Because of her upcoming marriage, Deborah Herrington is moving to Washington, DC, and will be replaced by Mike Cullen. Deborah has made a difference to the Point area through her work on beautification, traffic and, most recently, the "tag sale." We will miss her energy and her sage advice. Best wishes, Deborah!

I hope all of you have a great Newport Summer.



Adventure Club

What's coming up in the summer? Long days with no school offer lots of opportunity for fun and games. The Adventure Club meets every Wednesday afternoon at one of the local "spots," from July through August. The children are responsible for choosing the games or activities, so keep your eyes and ears open. Look for signs in the neighborhood for special events or call Beth Lloyd at 849-8071.



Kris Brouker photo

Adventure Club Celebrates May Day

May Day came with a threat of rain, but the skies stayed dry for the May Day festivities. The neighborhood children gathered at Battery Park where they were greeted by a flower flag. All the Adventure Club kids took turns parading around with the flag. Davinica Nemtzow enthusiastically stated, "Jake dropped the flag and he fell, and I got the flag!"

Although the May Pole was missing, the children made crepe paper streamers attached to broken sticks found on the ground. Soon the whole park was filled with color as everyone ran freely and played follow the leader.

Earlier in the week the children had decorated May Day baskets which were now

filled with bouquets. Twenty children delivered baskets to over thirty-five residents on the Point. Songs of "Happy May Day" could be heard throughout the streets. Many residents were greeted at their doors by excited young faces, although some baskets were left hanging on a door knob, if no one was home. Marjorie Magruder of Bridge Street, a recipient of a May Day basket, had never seen this done locally. She recalled how she participated in the tradition as a young child living in Colorado.

Good feelings were shared by both young and old. How long will this tradition continue on the Point? We hope for a very long time!

Beth Lloyd

May flower by
Hannah Lloyd
age 4

Point Parks Bursting With Beauty

The spring cleanup of Storer and Battery parks was done on April 18th. Point volunteers are to be commended for doing a wonderful job of spreading a truckload and a half of city supplied mulch around trees, shrubs and in flower gardens. In addition to this rather exhausting exercise, trees were pruned, weeds were pulled and debris was bagged for recycling. Sincere thanks to all who participated in this effort.

The park cleanup this spring had a new and interesting added dimension. At noon a ceremony was held to dedicate a marker with a plaque honoring the memory of Dr. Storer. The bronze tablet, pictured in our Spring issue, was commissioned by his daughter Agnes and originally attached to the exterior of the Mayer Cottage, now known as Stella Maris. It was recently discovered at a garage sale by Frank LeFebvre, city zoning inspector, who bought the 70-pound plaque for \$10.00 and donated it to the city. Scott Wheeler, city tree and parks supervisor, found a large granite slab, once part of a city sidewalk, to mount it on. Through the collaborative effort of city employees, the Point Association, the Newport Historical Society and the private sector, the marker and plaque were procured, installed, cleaned and the lettering carved and painted.

Attending the ceremony were city employees from various departments, elected officials and residents of the Point. Mayor Gordon officially dedicated the marker, congratulating those who helped with the project and expressing his appreciation on behalf of the City for the addition to the park.

Thanks to Nancy Espersen and Kay O'Brien for background information on Agnes and Dr. Storer, and for constructing posters displayed at the dedication. The posters depicted events associated with the park, as well as copies of recent newspaper editorials.

We all knew it was Storer Park; but with that stone and plaque mounted in a prominent location it somehow makes it official. But remember – although the plaque is dedicated to Dr. Storer, the park is dedicated to Agnes.

Paul and Nancy Quatrucci



POINT PICNIC!!!

EVERYONE'S INVITED. Friends, families and children provide the food and fun on the lawn, and the bay and the boats the scenery. Ann Reynolds' lovely garden at 88 Washington Street is the address, Thursday, June 25th the date and 6 p.m. the time. You bring your own picnic supper and drinks along with blanket or chairs. Coffee and fellowship await you. Come and bring your neighbor with you! (Rain date – July 2nd)

MEMBERS COCKTAIL PARTY



Mark your calendars for Thursday evening, **August 20**. Our **Membership Cocktail Party** will once again be held from six until eight at Villa Marina, the beautiful Washington Street home of Anne Cuvelier. Hope to see you there!

St. John's Welcomes the Choir of St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, Scotland

The Choir of St. Mary's Cathedral is unique to Scotland. Made up of 18 treble choristers and 12 lay clerks, the choir can be heard every day during the school term. The choristers are educated at St. Mary's Music School, which acts as the choir school for the cathedral, again unique to Scotland. In 1978 St. Mary's Cathedral became the first to offer girls scholarships to sing with the boys. The lay clerks of the choir are undergraduate choral scholars reading at Edinburgh University as well as more experienced singers. A number of former lay clerks are now making their mark as soloists.

The choir broadcasts frequently on British radio as well as television. Their most recent TV appearance was a broadcast of the Easter service aired on the BBC1. In addition to making recordings, the choir does quite a bit of touring. Soon after they arrived back in Scotland from their Newport engagement, they were off to Switzerland to sing in Basel.

Those who had the pleasure of hearing this renowned choir sing at St. John's in April know what a wonderful experience it is to take part in a beautiful choral offering. We will have another chance in August when the choir of Truro Cathedral, Cornwall, comes to sing at St. John's.

Beth Cullen

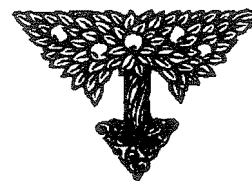


Celebration IV: A Success Thanks to Generous Community Support

Without the generous support of the community, these extraordinary choral services would not be possible. The people of St. John's remain deeply grateful to all who share our enthusiasm for liturgical music, and we hope many will join us again this summer to welcome the choir of Truro Cathedral from Cornwall, England, August 4th through 9th.

Mary Jane Rodman

The Secret Garden Tour 1998 June 19, 20, 21



If you have enjoyed the Secret Garden Tour in the past, why not spend a sunny summer afternoon with us as a volunteer? We need a few folks to work a tough job; sitting in a gorgeous garden for a couple of hours, assisting one of our gardeners as the Tour is going on. The job is great, the perks are terrific! Free tickets for the entire Tour and the satisfaction knowing that you've helped the Island's school children. Call today to secure your garden spot!

The Secret Garden Tour

Telephone: 847-0514

Facsimilie: 848-0895

The Waterfront

State and City plans for an intermodal water taxi and ferry service on Narragansett Bay, with a terminal and landing at Perrotti Park, are moving forward with construction planned to begin in the Fall.

The design parameters for the new Perrotti Park, the docks, and the terminal building have been completed by a special Newport Task Force appointed by the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) and the City of Newport. Don Dery served on the Task Force.

The terminal building will be constructed at the south end of Perrotti Park, on land currently owned by the Newport Harbor Hotel & Marina. The structure's foundation will be built below street level; the building will house a water taxi/ferry ticket office, restrooms, and a badly needed new harbormaster's office.

Construction of the new docks and boarding ramps, and the re-landscaping of the park itself, are scheduled to begin in September and be completed by the summer of 1999. The terminal building will require a few months longer to complete.

In a separate development, totally unrelated to this plan, the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) expects to award a contract for high-speed ferry service between Providence and Newport. The test would be funded by \$900,000 in federal money. The service is expected to begin this summer and run for 18 months. One hold-up has been the feasibility of building a high-speed ferry that can clear the low downtown bridges in Providence and still carry several dozen people.

The shipyard has been operating under bankruptcy protection for two years. Jon and Doug Cohen, owners of the Viking Hotel, and R. Perry Harris, President of Eastern Resorts Co., which owns the timeshare complex on Washington Street and Inn on Long Wharf, have submitted to the court an offer of \$5.6 million for the shipyard. The Cohens and Harris have said they intend to continue operating the facility as a shipyard, although they acknowledge that while they have experience in the hospitality industry, none of them has experience in the marine industry.

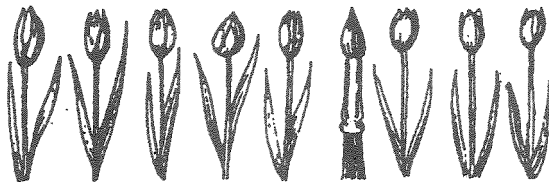
Ships also made Point news in recent weeks. The Coast Guard cutter *Point Turner* was decommissioned in April following 30 years of service to mariners in the waters off Newport. The 82-foot patrol boat spent her entire career in Newport, berthed at Goat Island, adjacent to the Causeway. *Point Turner* will not be scrapped; she is setting sail for the Caribbean, where she will serve the government of St. Lucia.

And HMS *Bounty* was docked at Goat Island for several days this spring, where she was readied for a homecoming celebration at Battleship Cove. The ship was built in 1960 for the film "Mutiny on the Bounty."

Don Dery
Chairman, Point Association
Harbor and Waterfront Committee

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Traffic Update

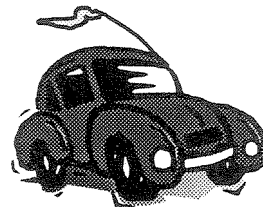
The traffic changes, designed to reduce the amount of cut-through traffic on The Point and also to reduce speeding on our neighborhood streets, are the culmination of almost two years of work by the Traffic Calming Committee.

"There are a lot of people who devoted an enormous amount of energy to this project," said Chairman Mark Williams. "The Committee, in particular, wants to thank the many residents of the Point who participated in our public meetings and gave us input and comments. It shows what we can accomplish when we all work together toward a common goal."

The changes approved and implemented by the City include a stop sign on Washington Street heading north at Van Zandt, no left turns off America's Cup Avenue onto either Poplar or Elm between 6 and 9 a.m. weekdays, and one-way south traffic only on Washington Street for one block between Bridge Street and the Goat Island Causeway. That last change is a six-month test which the City and the Point Association will review in September.

Goodbye and thanks

Mark Williams has retired from the Traffic Committee after months of hard work on surveys, meetings, and proposals. Thanks Mark, we know we'll see you with your son and dog walking the waterfront.



Want to visit the Titanic?

Since the release of the movie, visitors have been flocking to Fall River's Marine Museum to view the 28-foot scale model of the Titanic and associated artifacts. However, the main mission of the museum is to keep alive the memory of the "floating palaces" of the Fall River Line, the steamships which docked along lower Washington Street on their stop between New York and Fall River. For history of the Point, take the drive to this fascinating museum under the Braga Bridge near Battleship Cove. William King Covell's photographs are in their collection.

Rhumblin Restaurant

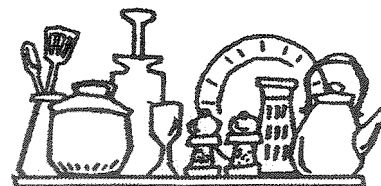


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Walking on the Point

After a tranquil winter pattern, signs of spring are everywhere, on land and sea and in the air. Boats slip back to their moorings, first one by one then by fives and tens as the water and weather warm. *The Viking Queen* and *Amazing Grace* leave their shipyard perches for tourist trips around the bay. From their stacks at the State Pier lobster pots disappear into the deep. New owners of time-shares arrive at the recently opened Long Wharf Resort. Some traffic patterns change. Fishermen drift back to the causeway where hopefully the blue barrels send a message. Across on Goat Island the scene changes with the faithful Coast Guard cutter *Point Turner* gone and the "Regatta Club" structure rising along the skyline.

Blooms at all levels and in all colors run from delicate to dazzling. Now birds and squirrels can hide among the leaves that provide our summer shade. Every walk brings views of works-in-progress: new clapboards, fences, porches, and paint. Front row seats on our water world are plentiful with benches at Storer and Battery parks, the latest bench at Battery given in memory of Barbara Capron Jordan. The baseball diamond and tennis courts at Hunter Playground are busy. Van Zandt Pier is popular for fishing, crabbing, and sunsets. So join the walkers in our friendly Point neighborhood where a kaleidoscope made up of the many fascinating bits and pieces of our past and present awaits you.

Kay O'Brien

Membership News

Our newest members, **Jo Ann Andrews, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bishop, Maura Carney, Florence & Karen Flee, Catherine Covell Orloff and JoAnne Philpott**, as well as other new members who have joined over the past year, were invited by the board to a special gathering in May. This was a wonderful opportunity to welcome our new neighbors and become better acquainted.

* * * *

A list of fax numbers and E-mail addresses of our membership has been completed. Many thanks to Sue Gudikunst for compiling this information that will help us to better communicate with our membership.

* * * *

Nancy Espersen
Membership Chairman



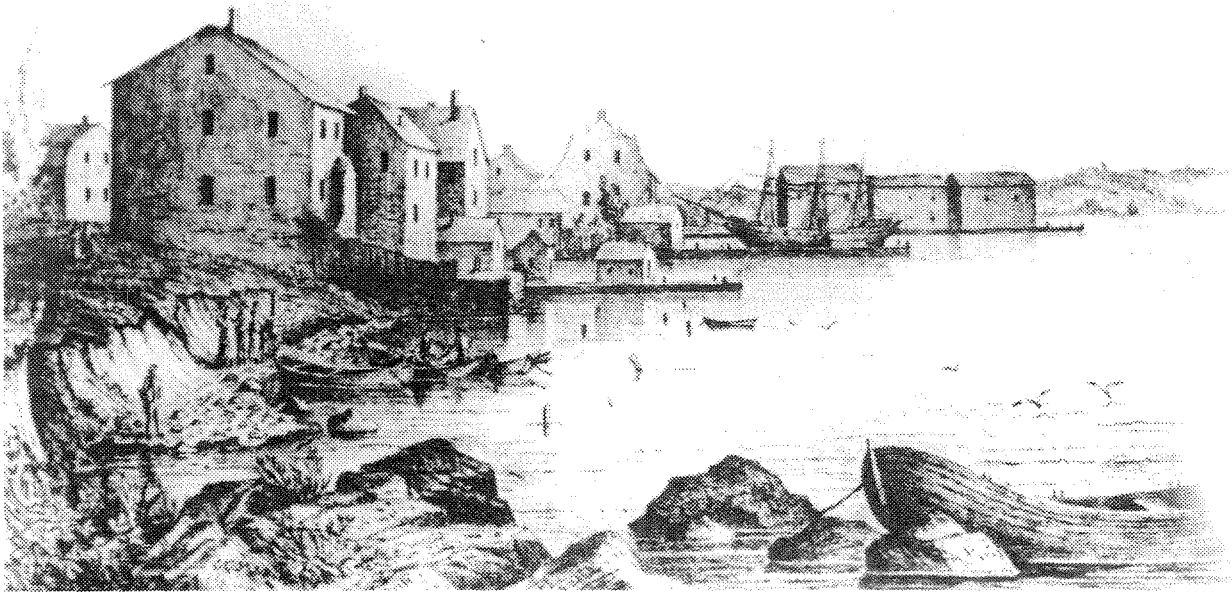
At long last, the new cupola for the top of Sarah Kendall House (43 Washington Street) was raised into place May 7, to the applause of a large group of neighbors who came to celebrate with owners Bryan and Fran Babcock. The original cupola blew down in the 1938 hurricane; this one has been under construction in the Babcocks' driveway for what Fran describes as "eons."

Photo by Corky Ackman-Anderson

SOS

Volunteers are needed for Endeavour, a replica of Capt. James Cook's ship, during her stay in Newport from July 24 through August 10. Volunteers will be asked to work four three-hour shifts and attend a short training session. They will be honored at a reception on the day she sails into Newport Harbor. Please call The Newport Historical Society at 846-0813.

The History of Storer Park



Early harbor view from the Blue Rocks. G. C. Mason, artist

photo courtesy of The Newport Historical Society

by Ron M. Potvin,
Newport Historical Society

On April 2nd Ron Potvin, Curator of Special Library Collections, delivered an intriguing illustrated talk on the history of Storer Park to Point Association members and guests. He also graciously gave us permission to print his speech, which follows, regrettably in a much-abbreviated version due to space limitations.

To tell the story of Storer Park, we must begin with the history of the Point. In 1698 Ann Bull, the widow of Nicholas Easton, sold approximately 65 acres of her late husband's land to the Newport Society of Friends. The Point, of course, is short for Easton's Point. The area was perfect for the Quakers, who sought shelter from the persecution and excesses of the surrounding world. At the time they purchased the land, Bridge Street and Washington Street (then called Water Street) already existed, and a few Quaker homes sprang up randomly and sporadically shortly afterwards. By 1714 the Quakers realized the need for organizing the Point lands. After consulting with the Philadelphia meeting, they established a committee known as the Proprietors of Easton's Point and began to lay out streets and house lots, measuring approximately 50' X 100'. For most of the 18th century the lots were

rented to residents. After the Revolution they were sold outright.

We know from the proprietors' records and from plat maps drawn by Samuel Easton in 1719 and 1725 that there were two divisions of Point lands. The area between Borden's Wharf (the Goat Island Causeway) and Elm Street on the water side were identified as lots numbers 7 through 14 of the first division of Quaker lands on Easton's Point.

Most of the early residents on these lots were Quakers, and the same lot was usually passed from one family member to another, according to the system of rents that the Quakers devised. Essentially, a close family member had a right of first refusal on the land.

The nature of the Point in the 18th century was urban, particularly Water Street. Houses were packed together tightly in the Storer Park area and almost every one had a wharf behind it. The coastal trading schooners that were used primarily by Newport's merchants were like the eighteen wheelers of our day. They would dock behind their owners' homes and off-load goods into warehouses on their property.

The Point was a noisy place busy with industry. Water Street would have been crowded with wagons carry-

ing goods, deckhands and sailors walking between town and their ships, and longshoremen headed for a day of work. Water Street would also have been muddy and manure ridden. The nature of 18th century seafaring commerce probably meant that the neighborhood reeked with the smells of stagnant bilge water, tar used to coat ropes, rotting produce, and the combined odor of dozens of men returning from months at sea.

In 1962 Edith Ballinger Price (founder of the *Green Light*) wrote an article titled "The Court End of Town," which appeared in *Newport History*. This is part of what she had to say: "Let us step back down Washington Street to the south for a moment. How I wish we could see what it was like in the 18th century—houses and wharves and spermaceti factories clustering all along the waterfront, and around the Cove, with the old Ellery ferry house whence the sailing wherry plied to Jamestown, and Gravelly Point thrusting out into the harbor before Long Wharf was extended nearly that far. 26 pirates were hanged on Gravelly Point in 1723, and buried on Goat Island between high and low water. Those were the days."

In the 19th century the area around Storer Park was defined by the presence of the Fall River Line which, from 1847 to 1937, ran from Manhattan to Fall River with a stop in Newport. The shops and warehouses of the line were clustered at the end of Long Wharf and what is now State Pier and the shipyard.

The steamship company had a direct impact upon the land that was to become Storer Park. The 1876 atlas shows the offices of the Old Colony Steamboat Company on Washington Street, next door to the Hunter House, in the building known by many as the "Lantern House." By 1907 the area between Briggs Wharf and the Hunter House was completely owned by the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company, which ran the Fall River Line. Most of the buildings on the site, including many from the 18th century, were still standing then. But by 1921 the steamship company had moved or torn all of them down.

The most prominent and important house lost was the so-called Lantern House, named for the way that light shone from its many windows. This was probably the home of Jacob Rodriguez Rivera, the 18th century Jewish merchant, though the records of the Proprietors of Easton's Point show Rivera's property further south. During the Revolution, the Brigadier de Choisey was quartered there. Later it was known as the Mayberry House, and as the "House of a Thousand Windows." By

1876 it was owned by the Old Colony Steamboat Company, who likely used the building for offices. Later it became the very fashionable boarding house of the Wilbour sisters, the "Misses Wilbour," who were grand nieces of the Newport Quaker clockmaker Job Wilbour. The sisters leased the property from the Steamship Company and promoted it as a spa, where people could enjoy the supposed benefits of salt water baths and fresh sea breezes.

There were other important 18th century buildings along that stretch of Washington Street about which less is known. But we can surmise that at least a few of them had been built by the 18th century pioneers of the Point: members of the Slocum family, Oldfields, Chapmans and Ellerys.

In the winter of 1918 there had been a fire in the house just south of the Lantern. This prompted the fire department to inspect the nearby houses, which were being rented by the steamship company to a variety of tenants. The fire department discovered hazardous conditions and alerted the steamship company to the possibility of another fire, which could have threatened the repair shops of the steamship company, or even the steamships themselves. The loss of the *Bristol* by fire in 1888 was not far removed from their memories. The steamship company considered repairing the buildings to attract "a better class of tenants," but ultimately they decided that destruction was the best course of action.

The Lantern House was the first to go, and the remaining six were torn down in 1918 and 1919 by a Boston wrecking company, which took the good lumber and shipped it by rail to Boston. There were rumors that a big lumber yard was going to move into the space, or that the government would use the land as a naval repair facility, even that there would be a tunnel built to the torpedo station on Goat Island. But all that happened, perhaps fortunately, was that the lot was left vacant and muddy, like other parts of Washington Street owned by the steamship company.

It seems that this area was destined to be a park. But before we come to the actual creation of Storer Park, something should be said about the family that lent it their name.

Horatio Storer was a graduate of Harvard and a renowned obstetrician and gynecologist. He was also a descendant of the Perry of family of Newport and the Point. After an extended tour of Europe, he came to Newport in 1877 to rest and spend time with his young

daughter Agnes. Dr. Storer purchased the Hunter House in 1881 and had intended to found a convalescent hospital for women there, but he cut his hand during an operation, it grew badly infected leading to septicemia, and his days as a surgeon were over. He instead began to champion ethical causes related to women's health, including abortion. He was particularly concerned with women who became ill and never fully recovered due to the stresses of life in the early twentieth century, and the heavy burdens that household work placed on recovering patients. He realized that a long-term care facility was the best hope for these women to completely regain their lost health.

Horatio Storer was the author of several scholarly works, including a short biography of Dr. John Clarke of Newport. His beliefs on medical ethics are frequently cited by those who oppose abortion. He died in Newport in 1922 at the age of 92. His obituary in the *Newport Mercury* said that "Dr. Storer had a heart that was bigger than his body."

Agnes Caroline Storer was born in Sorrento, Italy, in 1874 during her father's tour of Europe. She died in 1943 at her home at 58 Washington Street, across the Elm Street driftway from the Hunter House. Her obituary in the *Newport Mercury* hailed her for "life-long work in the interests of the preservation of Newport's historic charms and her charities and acts of thoughtfulness for the city and its people."

She was a moving force in the early years of Oldport Association and was involved in the preservation of several historic properties, including the Colony House and the Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House. She wrote an early history of the Hunter House, titled *The Wanton Hunter House*. A convert to Catholicism, she was a devout worshiper and patron of the church. Her faith was a factor in her many endeavors to preserve properties on the Point.

The first of these was the property on which the Cenacle Convent stands. In 1905 one of the heirs of John Auchincloss deeded this land on Washington Street, along with the coach house, to Miss Agnes Storer and Miss Marie Cisneros for one dollar. In 1906 the two ladies deeded the land, also for one dollar, to the St. Regis Society of New York, the formal name of an organization of French nuns known as the Religious of the Cenacle. The sisters built a new convent building in 1907 (wooded with plaster on the outside), and in 1914 the present chapel was built. In 1955 the Cenacle nuns sold the property to the Corpus Christi Carmelites,

who, in 1969, moved the Rice house, which stood on Washington Street, about a block north, to a spot fronting on Battery Street, completing the complex of buildings that stands there today. The legacy of Agnes Storer is being prolonged with the conversion of the property to the "Star of the Sea."

Agnes Storer bought Stella Maris and the two lots across the street in the mid 1920s and set about realizing her father's dream of a convalescent home for women. It was established there under the auspices of the Catholic Diocese of Fall River and was staffed by sisters of the Holy Spirit. On the side of the building a plaque was erected, which dedicated the convalescent home to Horatio Storer. It read, "To the glory of God and in memory of Dr. Horatio Storer by his daughter Agnes Caroline Storer." The plaque had been lost, but recently found its way back to the Point. It has been appropriately placed in Storer Park. I think Agnes would have approved.

Agnes also made sure that the little park across the street from Stella Maris was preserved. She paid to have the plantings and paths maintained, and opened for use by all residents of the Point. So, in a way, there was an earlier Storer Park on the Point. The convalescent home at Stella Maris was closed in 1966 when it was found that extensive changes would have to be made for the home to conform to state codes.

At a time when the steamship company was demolishing other houses of equal age, Agnes and her father maintained the Hunter House until selling it to St. Joseph's Church as a home for the nuns. The nuns lived there until the early 1940s, when they decided to move closer to the church. Once again the Hunter House was in danger of falling into severe disrepair and perhaps demolition. Miss Storer helped persuade Katherine and George Henry Warren to buy the house from the church. From the Warrens and the Hunter house, the Preservation Society has grown. Again, Agnes Storer's legacy lives on.

And now, Storer Park.

Between 1939 and 1940 Miss Agnes Storer, Mrs. Hamilton Fish Webster, and Mrs. Guthrie Nicholson raised \$5,000. In December of 1940 they bought most of the land that now comprises Storer Park from the steamship company, which still owned it even though the Fall River Line had folded in 1937. The property amounted to .47 acres, between the Hunter House land on the north and a strip of city-owned land just north of Brigg's Wharf, near the location of the on-ramp to the

**Washington
Street shoreline
in the 1880's.**

photo courtesy
of The Newport
Historical Society



Goat Island causeway. The three benefactors donated the land to the City upon the condition that it be used for a public park. The City even went so far as to name the property after the principle "guiding spirit" of the donation. As early as 1940 it was called Storer Park, after Miss Agnes Storer, even though it was still merely a bare vacant lot.

Unfortunately, at this time, history intervened. In 1941, with the threat of war looming, the City sold Storer Park to the federal government for \$6,500 and returned the money to the three ladies who had purchased and donated it. The Navy used the property to store supplies and make repairs of vessels. The Navy owned the land until 1964, when it was sold to the Redevelopment Agency for \$170,000. Once again, the future of Storer Park was in doubt.

At this moment the Point Association stepped in.

In 1966 the Association successfully opposed a petition to the City Council to have the zoning of the area changed from residential to commercial. They were joined in their opposition by the Preservation Society, the Conservation Commission, and Operation Clapboard. At the same time, members of the Association began to draft plans to convert the area to use as a public park. In December 1966 the Point Association submitted its plans for Storer Park to city officials. According to the *Green Light*, they were "the result of very careful planning and consultation, climaxed by the very special work of Miss Ade de Bethune and Thomas Benson who drew up and reproduced the final plan."

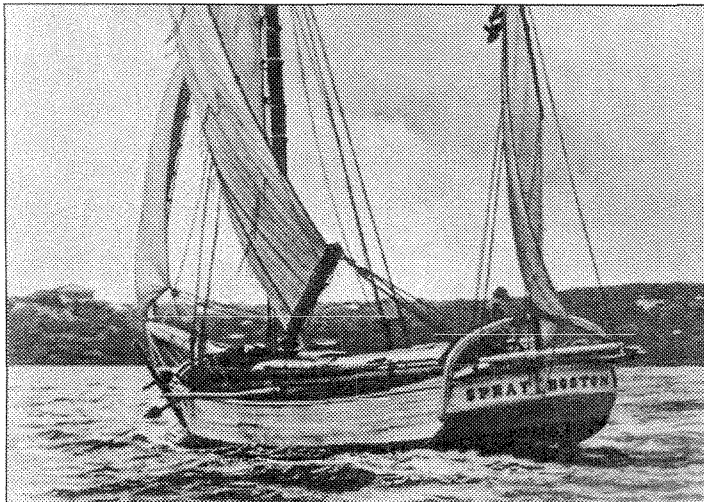
The Association raised nearly \$40,000 through the Street Fair, book and plant sales, and private contributions, including pennies collected by school children. The costs for purchase of the land amounted to \$25,600, and

more than \$22,000 was spent on improvements, including the planting of many trees and bushes, the addition of lights, benches and the basketball court, and the laying of walkways. The Preservation Society donated a strip of land alongside the Hunter House property, and the City chipped in with the small section near the Goat Island causeway. By June 1973 the park had been partially landscaped and was in full use by residents of the Point.

On September 5, 1973, Dr. Clyde Sargent, President of the Point Association, and RADM Henry E. Eccles presented Storer Park to the City of Newport during a ceremony at the park. Mayor Humphrey Donnelly accepted the gift on behalf of the City, and during his speech stated that the park would make an appropriate buffer between the old parts of the Point and the new. According to the deeds for the land, the lots "shall be used and maintained solely for park and recreational purposes and no buildings shall be erected thereon."

In conclusion, we repeat what Henry Eccles said in 1972: "Storer Park is both a symbol and a challenge. It is a symbol of what can be accomplished by constructive neighborhood and community cooperation. It is a challenge to the neighborhood and the community to overcome neglect, vandalism, and civic indifference. It is a symbol of people of all sorts who can work with other people, with every person having an opportunity to contribute in accordance with his capacity, in order that all may benefit. No contribution—a penny, a nickel, or dime—is too small; no individual effort or work is too small to be useful or too small to be appreciated. It is an opportunity to offer a living memorial to a loved one. Above all, it shows that in a world of conflict and violence, suspicion and hatred, human decency and love for fellow human beings is enduring."

**100th Anniversary of Joshua Slocum's
visit to Newport aboard *Spray***



"Around midnight, a small, sea-battered sailboat ghosted her way toward the harbor entrance at Newport, RI, hugging the shore. The Spanish-American War was raging and the harbor entrance had been mined, but her helmsman — and sole occupant — reckoned he would be safe in shoal water. No warship, friend or foe, would risk going aground on the rocks

that lurked close beneath the surface."

That is the opening paragraph of an article in the May 1998 issue of *Smithsonian*, commemorating the 100th anniversary of Joshua Slocum's solo sail around the world. Slocum was the first person to make that arduous voyage alone, and as he concluded his voyage he slipped into Newport Harbor at 1 a.m. on June 27, 1898.

It was an historic moment, and this month — 100 years later — in honor of the man and his boat, there will be celebrations in harbors around the world, including Newport.

Slocum's arrival in home waters after three years at sea was noted by the *Newport Herald* in its issue of June 28, 1898. The story was buried under news of the war, on page three. Chances are the story of this month's centennial celebration will make page one!

Slocum died in November 1909, at age 65. He set sail from Vineyard Haven bound for Venezuela. He circled Martha's Vineyard a couple of times and then disappeared over the horizon in a rising gale. He was never heard from again.

Don Dery

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Living with History ...

A Mystery to Unlock and a Story to Tell

The Point - a subdivision - how can that be? The term "subdivision" evokes images of modern tract housing in suburbia - right? Well, if you attended the May 13 workshop sponsored by the Point Association's *Green Light* staff and presented by the Newport Historical Society, you found out that indeed our quaint neighborhood is in fact a subdivision laid out in the early 1700's by Quakers.

For the last 27 years the National Trust for Historic Preservation has encouraged communities nationwide to organize local events to celebrate various preservation efforts. This year their national theme was "Preservation Begins at Home"; what better way to acknowledge the history that surrounds us in Newport than to dedicate an evening to historic home research. Novices and professionals alike gathered at S. John's Guild Hall to learn about the vast resources available at the Historical Society and to meet the helpful guardians of this information.

Led by Dan Snyder, Executive Director of the Newport Historical Society, a group of about fifty people viewed a slide presentation that highlighted the many architectural styles found on the Point. The presentation was a thorough primer on detecting and deciphering the characteristics of various American building styles.

The evening was enriched by the contributions of Society staff members as they explained their areas of expertise. Pieter Roos, Director of Education, showed slides of tool marks that are explicit telltale hints to dating structures. Saw marks, planing cuts and drill holes are all substantive ways to place the origins of the construction within a certain time frame. Bert Lippincott, Librarian, described the numerous documents and reference materials available, both at the Society and at City Hall, that hold a wealth of information for the home researcher. Everything, from atlases to probate records, offers insight. Ron Potvin, Curator of Special Collections, admitted his propensity for Point history. His enthusiasm for our special neighborhood is contagious! Many collections of founding family papers have been bequeathed to the society. Thanks to meticulous Quaker record keeping, we can trace the lives of the pre-Revolutionary War Pointers.

Joan Youngken, Deputy Director for Collections, concluded the discussion by offering some ker-

nels of hope for those who may have reached a dead end in their earlier research. There is a vast photographic collection (over 200,000 images) stored at the Society. Joan suggested that an old photograph might generate a revelation, thereby reinvigorating your quest. Often a house will have been moved from one section of a neighborhood to another. Photographic records give evidence of the patterns of development and lead to other possible clues. With so much material available, Joan asked that those interested in visiting the collections first phone (846-0813) to set up an appointment. The staff representative of the department you wish to call upon will need preparation time to organize the materials that pertain to your specific focus.

A spirit of curiosity and inspiration filled the hall as the workshop came to a close. Hopefully all came away with a better understanding of the keys available to unlock the mysteries that lie in attics and behind basement doors. Now the real challenge - be they complete histories or mere snippets, any anecdotes that surface during your research will add to the tapestry of our extraordinary Point neighborhood. Please share your findings in future issues of the *Green Light*. Contact any member of the *Green Light* staff. We will be happy to hear from you.

Let's mimic the Quaker model and leave copious notes for future generations to discover!

Beth Cullen



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Come to the Southwest**

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We Reduced, Reused & Recycled Successfully

The first Point Tag Sale was held on Saturday morning, May 30th. This was an opportunity for folks to empty their houses of all the extra "stuff" that accumulates over time. From kitchenware to furniture, books to pictures - we had a variety of interesting "treasures."

To add to the excitement, we combined efforts with the Rose Island Lighthouse Foundation, allowing both organizations to save on precious manpower and publicity. However, all articles donated to the Point Association were credited to our own budget. If you missed this event this year, stay tuned for next year's notices, as we may just make this an annual event!

Not only were old possessions given new life at the Tag Sale, but just across the street at the Point Plant Sale the beauty of Point flora was made available to the procuring public. This annual (no pun intended) event has historically been a very successful fundraiser for the Point Association coffers; this year was no exception! Thanks to all who volunteered and contributed ... your participation made the difference.

Deb Herrington

Saint John's Summer Fair

Saturday - July 25, 1998

10am to 2pm ... rain or shine!

Free Admission

Washington at Willow Sts.

Baked Goods, White Elephant, Silent Auction, Crafts, Kids Korner, Food & more ...

Please join us for a fun day!

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5 TO 7 PM ... RAIN OR SHINE

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Backflips in the Green Light

Ten Years – 1988

From the President's message we read that the sticker parking ordinance has been passed for those streets on the Point where residents want it, and that the Gateway Center, the Visitors Center and the very large hotel have been built. Brenda Gordon continues: "...our thanks to the City Council for their overwhelming response and great support in voting 6 to 1 against the concept of the Circulator Road. This is the result of a great deal of dedication on the part of the Traffic Committee and its chairperson, Ade Bethune. We hope that improved signage and intersections, and some serious study of satellite parking during the summer months, will help to solve some of our pressing traffic problems."

Another Ten Years – 1978

When does the Green Light come out? "The time was set long ago when it should come out. Ye officers asked me the question the other evening, their notes for the publication in their hot little hands, their hearts all a-flutter with what would be fine to put in now. I think you will find they are good notes, that their ideas were fine. I wish to thank the contributors, who all sent their material in plenty of time. Certain notes have not come in – so you will not find them. The witch of Coddington Street hopes "they" have a horrid Hallowe'en!"

Another Ten Years – 1968

The Dog Problem – "Dr. David Nemtzow for years has been concerned about the difficulties of enforcing the dog ordinance. As he was willing to investigate further, he was at once made chairman of the dog control committee. He has no report to make yet, having been unable to meet with Mr. Mallory (a familiar name), Mr. Fenton, and Mr. Sanfilippo, the dogcatcher. In the meantime call the dog catcher."

Another Ten Years – 1958

Point Tree Program – "The tree warden, Mr. William Bowman, says it is too late in the season to put in the quota of 100 trees. He would like to break the sidewalks, shovel out the rubble, and fill the holes with loam, allowing it to settle in until fall when the trees can be planted."

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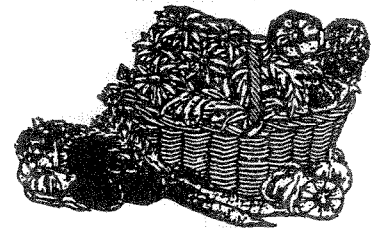
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OPENS



9am-1pm
Saturday, June 13th
on Dr. M. Wheatland
Blvd.

(formerly West Broadway)

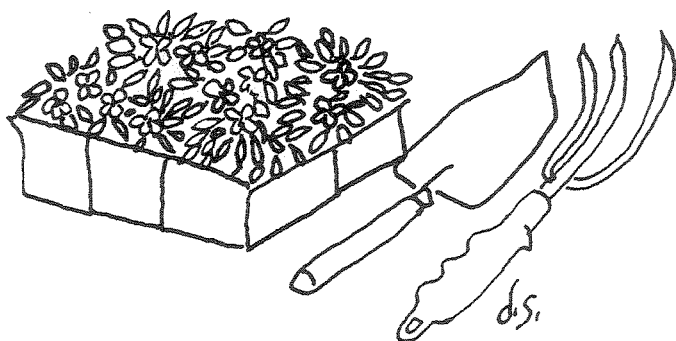
Thursday, June 18th, 3-7 pm, First Beach

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Container Planting

or beyond *Impatiens* and *Vinca*

So, it's time to gather up all those pots and containers. Clean your pots, washing with a mild solution of Clorox, rinse and let dry. Place a piece of old screening over holes in the bottom, no crocks please. Use a commercial potting mix, Pro-Mix, Balls #2, etc. Mix soil, a water retentive product (small sponges really) and a slow-release fertilizer. Now you are ready to plant.



Sun Combinations

- 1) yellow marigolds, helichrysum (licorice plant), blue pansies
- 2) pink geraniums & variegated ivy
- 3) red petunias, lysimachia ciliata

Shade Combinations

- 1) yellow non-stop begonias, ivy, light green coleus
- 2) blue and white browallia, small leafed hosta
- 3) pink hydrangea, Japanese painted fern

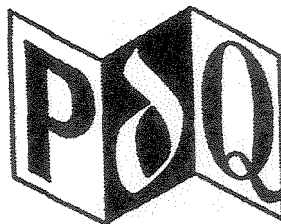
The above are just suggestions – look about your own garden – pot up some perennials that need separating, plant some pots of the new shorter sunflower seeds, or try some pots of salad greens ... Enjoy.

Toni Peters

Kindness to Lobsters

My recent guest from the Edinburgh choir gave me a copy of *Traditional Scottish Cookery* which contains the following advice: "Lobsters should never be plunged alive into boiling water for they do not die instantly but make violent attempts to emerge and live for around 58 seconds in agony. The method recommended by laboratory research is to put them into cold seawater on a very low heat where they show no signs of discomfort. When the water reaches 70 degrees, the lobsters fall over on their sides and faint, the warmth destroying the nervous system gently and painlessly. Lobsters cooked this way are much more tender than those plunged into boiling water, tenderer and more digestible, so kindness to lobsters is also kindness to one's own stomach." The decision is yours!

Kay O'Brien



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The Third & Elm Press

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Around the Ward

A Note from Your First Ward Councilman

I've enjoyed representing you since January. The most significant happening for the Point neighborhood in the past four - five months has been the approval by the city council of the Point Association Traffic Calming Committee's recommendations. Congratulations to the committee, their hard work - studying the situation, holding public forums and lobbying for the resulting outcome - is to be commended.

In April, Coles Mallory and I joined a delegation of other interested parties in a visit with key people from Rhode Island DOT. The reason I asked for the meeting was to attempt to get DOT to make a top priority of re-connecting the two ends of Connell Highway. Once this has been done, the Point should suffer less "cut through" traffic. I believe our request fell on receptive ears. Let's hope that DOT acts upon this issue - soon.

Planning continues on the Marine Terminal at Perrotti Park. A building will be constructed on land acquired from the Newport Harbor Hotel and Marina. Docks will be built for water taxis and other small craft. Larger craft (ferries, etc.) will use Fort Adams.

By now I'm sure you've read of the new ownership of the American Shipyard. Let's make sure that the new owners keep this property for marine oriented use. As with all scarce waterfront property, we must keep close watch on the development of this precious tract, and please make your feelings known to the Point Association board and to me. As always, I want to hear from you - you can reach me at 848-5598 - your feedback is important!



George Perry



The Point Association Membership Form

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing address: _____

Fax: _____ E-mail (if applicable) _____

Committees & Activities

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adventure Club | <input type="checkbox"/> History & Archives | <input type="checkbox"/> Plant Sale | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Potluck Supper | <input type="checkbox"/> Waterfront |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Green Light | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise Abatement | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Wine Tasting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Harbor Tour | Please check the categories that you would like to learn more about | | |

Dues Structure

Individual: \$7.00 Family: \$10.00 Sustaining: \$15.00 Patron: \$25.00

Please make check payable to The Point Association. Note if new membership or renewal. The membership year runs from October 1 through September 30. A subscription to *The Green Light* is included with all memberships.

Clip and mail to the Point Association, P. O. Box 491, Newport, RI 02840



POINT SUMMER of 1998



June

4 ~ (through the fall)
Naval War College Exhibit
*The Navy in
"The Splendid Little War"*

19 - 21
Secret Garden Tour

21
Friends of the Waterfront
Inspection Cruise

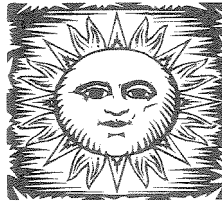
25
Point Picnic - 6 pm
Anne Reynold's Yard
raindate - July 2nd

July

3 & 4
Navy Band Concerts
6 pm - Dewey Field

18
Navy Band Concert
6 pm - Dewey Field

25
S. John's
Summer Fair
10am - 2pm



August

4 through 9
S. John's Celebration V
Choir of Truro Cathedral
Cornwall, England

8
Navy Band Concert
6 pm - Dewey Field

20
Member Cocktail Party
on the Villa Marina Veranda

22 & 23
Newport Art Museum's
Wet Paint Auction
(Artists often paint Point scenes)

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