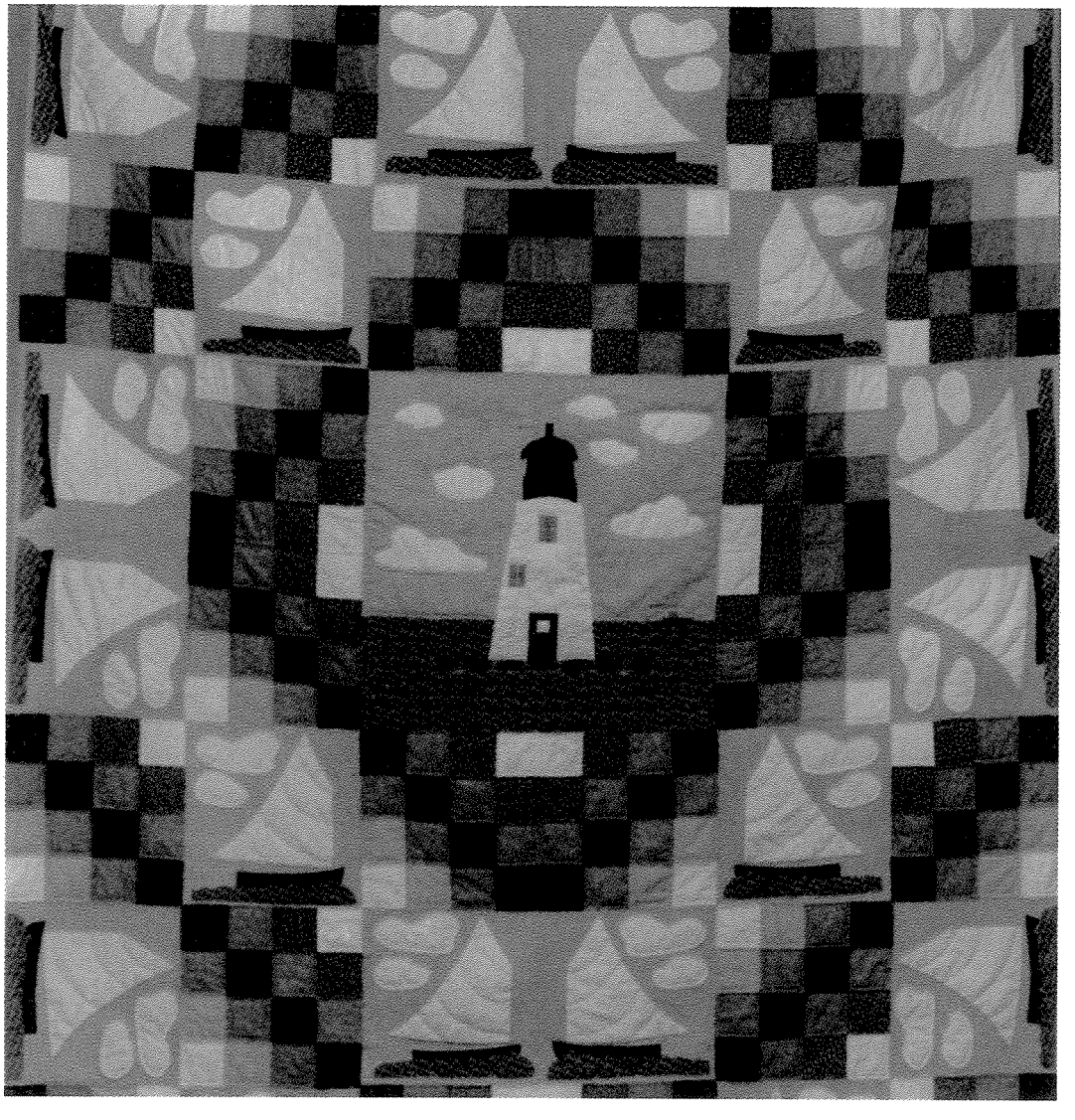
File

The GREEN LIGHT

BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

SPRING 2003



The GREEN LIGHT
XLVIII No. 1 Spring 2003

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STAFF
Editor ..... Suzanne Varisco
Advertising ..... Loretta Goldrick
Archives ..... Vacant
Business ..... Tom Goldrick
Circulation ..... Marcia Mallory
Layout ..... Donna Maytum
Photography ..... Sarah Gill
Production ..... Rowan Howard, Suzy Sturmak
Sketches ..... Dorothy Sanschagrin, Eleanor Weaver

Point Association Executive Committee Officers

President, Jack Maytum 849-4395
First Vice President, Al Lowe 847-5853
Second Vice President, Louisa Boatwright 847-4956
Recording Secretary, Carole Clark 849-5245
Corresponding Secretary, Isabel Griffith 849-6444
Treasurer, Hillar Sarepera 848-9906

Meetings are generally scheduled for the first Monday of the month and are open to Association members. Please call Jack for time, date, and location.

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

The Point Association

The Point Association is a group of neighbors working together to improve the quality of life in our neighborhood by getting to know each other; preserving our historic heritage; maintaining the Point's residential character; beautifying our parks, streets, and piers; and promoting public policies that strengthen all of Newport's neighborhoods.

COVER IMAGE:
The Green Light Quilt. Can you identify the quilters and the year?

Greetings,

As we look forward to the weather changes that accompany the waning of winter and the lengthening days of spring, the *Green Light* staff is also experiencing change. Most noticeably, with this issue we are welcoming Donna Maytum into the fold as our new layout artist. This exacting and time-consuming responsibility—acquitted so expertly these past two years by Patty MacLeish—has now passed into Donna's capable hands. Because change is inevitable in every vital organization, we are inviting others who may be interested in working on the *Green Light* to come to a Get-Acquainted Tea at my home, 35 Second Street, on Wednesday, April 9, from two to four in the afternoon. Current staff members will be on hand to greet newcomers, explain what we do, and sign up potential volunteers. Everyone is welcome, so please join us.

Sincerely,

Suzanne

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Point Association Executive Committee has been considering many issues that will have long-lasting impact on our neighborhood. Dealing with these issues requires a balanced approach, and so I've come to believe that the most valuable training I've received in preparing for this job as president of the Point Association has been learning to ride a see-saw as a kid. Let me explain in more detail.

Many Newporters consider the Point Association to be a social club sponsoring cocktail parties, picnics, pot-luck dinners and other neighborhood get-togethers. Others see us as an activist political group, which functions primarily to present the neighborhood's position to the City Council and other governmental bodies. Some appreciate the association through its literary and historical efforts. The Point Association is all of these things and—like the Ginzu knife—much more. While it is impossible to cover all of these aspects in a few paragraphs, I will try to highlight some of the more pressing issues. Just remember that there is a lot going on behind the scenes.

Storer Park waterfront development has taken up much of the Executive Committee's attention during the past months. Tom Bandoni, chairman of the Waterfront Commission and Point resident, "floated" a proposal for the construction of a commercial marina at the park to the committee at its June meeting. Despite our unanimous and well-researched opposition to this proposal, Mayor Sardella supported the marina and sponsored a resolution to establish a study committee to investigate the feasibility of establishing boating activities at Storer Park. The Point Association, through lobbying and letters, managed to sway the mayor to focus the study on "low-impact, youth-oriented, non-profit sailing activities" and to include the Point Association on the study committee in a number equal to Waterfront Commission representatives. The mayor's resolution was passed unanimously by the City Council, and our first meeting is scheduled for March 5. Jim Stanek, Waterfront Commission member and Pine Street resident, will be co-chairing the study committee with me.

Brad Read, Executive Director of Sail Newport, made a presentation at the Executive Committee's February 3rd meeting about potential sail-training activities at Storer Park. While we were impressed with Sail Newport's operations at Fort Adams, there are still questions about the impact of increased vehicular traffic and other issues that such a facility would have on the Point. Therefore, the committee decided to hold a general membership meeting of the Point Association sometime this spring to discuss the boating facility at Storer Park before any final plans are drawn.

We are still monitoring developments regarding plans for a new convention complex at the current visitor/transportation center. The Newport Harbor Hotel & Marina is still seeking to add 30 rooms to its property. The association, together with other neighborhood groups, will soon be making recommendations to municipal officials about citywide traffic improvements. We'll keep you informed through the *Green Light* and direct mailings as these issues unfold.

Sincerely,

Report on the City

I am certain that most Point Association members have seen the new street architecture being installed on America's Cup Avenue from Farewell Street to Spring Street. Soon, the high-speed highway look will be replaced with an urban avenue/boulevard look, with lights sequentially timed to facilitate traffic flow.

The Executive Committee is working closely with the city and Sail Newport to convert the Waterfront Commission's proposal for a commercial marina at Storer Park into a small public-access youth and adult sailing instruction and rental facility. The Sail Newport plan would entail floats on the north side of the causeway with a small building on a float that would provide toilets and storage. The program would allow Sail Newport to more adequately serve those of us who live in Newport. A joint study of Point members and the Waterfront Commission has been formed, and a public meeting on this proposal is planned for April.

I have also been following the proposal to allow weekly residential rentals (now prohibited) in Newport. This has been referred to the Planning Board for study. Be alert for a hearing on this matter and please contact City Council members to express your position on this proposal.

Bart Dunbar
City Liaison

Beautification *Report*

Please mark your calendars for Saturday morning, May 3, the date for our Annual Spring Cleanup. We will meet at nine in Storer Park. Bring garden tools, gloves, and enthusiasm. The rain date is May 10.

Marcia and Coles Mallory
Co-Chairs

History and Archives *Report*

The ongoing process of consolidating materials from four different sources continues. Researchers have recently used our files to gain information about historic military fortifications. We currently have 155 folders, including Admiral's Gate Complex (Gum Factory), Battery Park, Elm Street Pier, Goat Island, Saint John's Church, Storer Park, and Walnut Market.

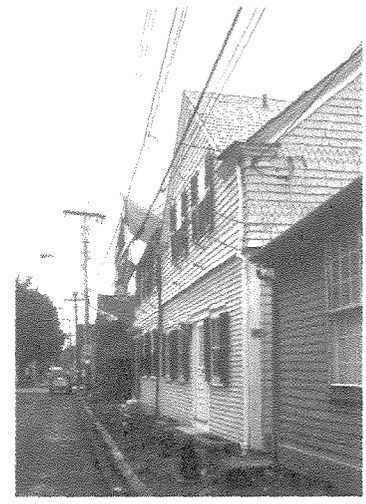
Regular History and Archives meetings are scheduled for the third Wednesday of each month at 11:00 am at Harbor House. Material is also available on other Wednesdays by arrangement. Call Bill Hall at 846-4159.

We welcome anyone who would like to join in this work.

Bill Hall
Chair

. . . and Down They Came

Before (right):
Poplar Street under construction, Summer 2002, before the wires came down



After (below):
Project complete (for details, see Underground Wire Report, Fall 2002)

Membership *Report*

Our report this quarter includes all new members, as well as Patron ($40) and Subscriber ($25) renewals.

New Members: *Welcome!*

Jeannie and John Hensel II
Sara Lyn Kessler *
Capt. Eileen Mackrell *
Kirsten and Andrew McAleer
Lisa Bruer and Dan Rieken
Kathleen A. Russell
Suzanne Thornton
Martha and Alan Wall
Diane and Greg Welch
Bobbi and Jim Wright

**Subscriber*

Patricia and Rich Carrubba
Co-chairs

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Fence posts	**Table legs**
Fence finials	**Rosettes**
Curtain rods	**Industrial parts**

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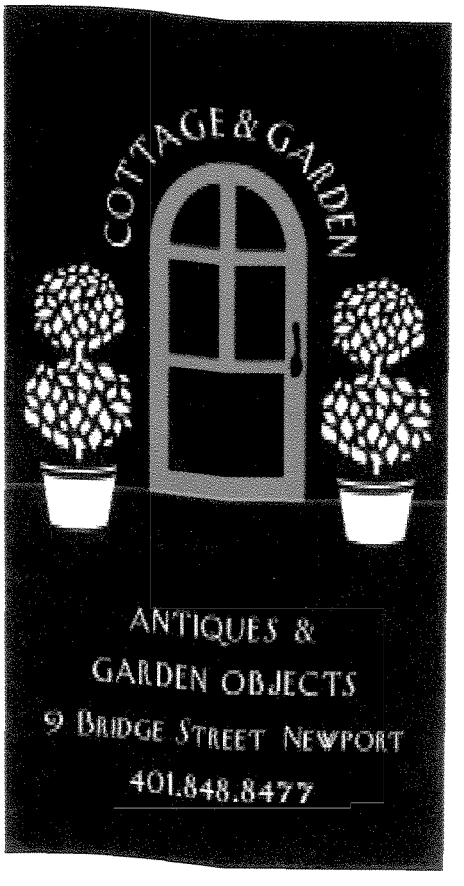
Kristina and George Baer
Merry and Stephen Preston Barker
Sandy and Lee Briggs
Alson Castonguay
Deanna and James Clingham
Paul Crowley
Carol and Gary Cummins
Nancy and Michael Curran
Myra DuVally
Thelma Ebbitt
Donna and John Flynn
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Goddard
Gail and Jim Gunning
Bill Hall
Diana and Carleton Hepting
Mrs. John H. Howard
Leila Jenkins
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Kelly
Lois and Jack Kessler
Leslie Lampe and Bruce Long
Lisa Lewis and Bart Dunbar
Patty and Bruce MacLeish
Newport Life Magazine
Marcia and Coles Mallory
Roe and Kenneth Moldow
Linda and Mark Narbey
Nancy and Paul Quattrucci
Mary and Hillar Sarepera
Suzanne and Dominic Varisco
Margaret and George Vranesh
Joyce and Paul Zimmerman

Subscribers

Christina and Robert Agnew
Tom and Christine Bandoni
Margaret and Robert Bonney
Philippa and Neil Coughlan
Mrs. E.B. Dane
Roxy and Claire Ernsberger
Rose Lee and Roy Fitzherbert
Joe Fortunato
Christine and Francis Frost
Dr. and Mrs. Richard Gallagher
Amy Garrison and Thomas Emmett
Vance and Ted Gatchel
Capt. and Mrs. Benjamin Gilson
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Goldrick
Isabel Griffith
Elena and Ray Herrmann
Louisa Holt and Bill Boatwright
Mr. and Mrs. Curtiss James
Pam and Brendan Kelley
Pierre Merle
Anna Wood Murray
Eileen and Eugene O'Reilly
Rev. and Mrs. Jonathan Ostman
Carol Pardee-Havican
Laura and David Pedrick
Carole Peterhansel
Anita Rafael
David Robbins
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Rodgers
Mary Jane Rodman
Mr. Edward A. Sherman
Thomas Sturtevant
Marguerite and Bowen Sweet
Kit and Ralph Weiss
Jay Wilson
Margot Winger



Newport Neighborhoods

The Point Association is not alone!

There are eight other residential neighborhood associations in Newport. Membership varies among them from a few dozen citizens to several hundred; dues vary from none to $100 a year; activities range from social events to political action; and communication varies from phone calls to e-mail to newsletters. The associations cover most, but not all, of Newport's residential areas: Annandale Area, Bellevue-Ochre Point, Castle Hill, Historic Hill, Lower Thames, North End, Prescott-Hall, and Top of the Hill associations—a diverse group, but united in believing that Newport is a great place to live and wanting to keep it that way.

Representatives of all nine neighborhood associations meet once a month to exchange ideas, talk about common problems, and help one another. We have a name—Newport Neighborhoods—but we are an informal coalition, rather than a formal organization. We have no by-laws, no budget, no operating procedures, and no chair. We take no votes. The individual associations, not Newport Neighborhoods, take any action.

Sometimes we meet just among ourselves and sometimes with city officials. We have met regularly with the police chief and the planning director. We've also had meetings with the mayor, city manager, and public works director. Our approach is to share our concerns and offer to work with the city. Our goal is cooperation, not confrontation.

Some of the issues we discuss are particular to an individual association, and it helps to hear what others are facing. Other issues are citywide, and here it is useful to learn what others think and to coordinate the actions of the various associations.

At our January meeting with the city manager there were 19 citizens representing all nine associations. It is interesting that all of us were full-time residents and homeowners.

Coles Mallory
Point Representative

Ed. note: Coles, one of Newport Neighborhoods' founders, will be reporting on this group's activities from time to time in future issues.

Point Plant Sale 2003

I am looking forward to working once again with all the terrific people who helped with the Point Plant Sale last spring. You were and are the best! AND, for those who would like to become involved with a well-established, fun, profitable event, we are always seeking new workers. Again this year, we would welcome your help with donation pick-ups, digging and potting, distribution of announcements, set-up and display, sales, and refreshments. You don't have to be a gardener! Do you have donations from your garden or garden shed? Call early for an appointment to have plants collected and pots or other items picked up. Save the date, Saturday, May 17, for the Point Plant Sale.

Isabel Griffith
849-6444
igriffith@edu-directions.com

Point-Counterpoint: Snow falls on Friday, February 7, 2003, one day after the 25th anniversary of the Blizzard of '78

Waterfront *Report*

The Russians Are Coming!

The *Dauriya*, the Russian fish-processing factory ship, is due to arrive the first week of February, after receiving the required permits from the Department of Environmental Management (DEM). Because of the proximity to the Point's shores, many citizens have a wait-and-see attitude about their mooring west of Rose Island. The DEM has decided that the flume discharge during transfer from boat to boat will not significantly affect water quality in the Bay. However, anyone noticing any unusual flotsam and jetsam or changes in water quality or anyone with complaints about noise, lights, or smell should contact the DEM at its hotline (401) 222-3070.

Development on the Waterfront

A marina at Storer Park, the land swap between the Gateway parking area and Long Wharf Resorts, and development of the Gateway Center area are still in the works. Please watch carefully for any City Council meetings and call your councilor for updates on these critical issues.

Gladys Carr Bolhouse Parkway

A Resolution by City Councilors Rick O'Neill and Steve Waluk was presented at a recent Council meeting to rename part of the Goat Island connector road the Gladys Carr Bolhouse Parkway. Unanimously endorsed, the matter now goes before the Legislature for the name change. A Point resident for many years and a direct descendant of Nicholas Easton, Gladys Bolhouse was noted for her work as curator of the Historical Society and as the first official historian of Newport, appointed in 1984. Her great-grandson, Councilor Waluk, noted what a great lady she was and how her vast knowledge helped many appreciate Newport's rich history.

Liz Mathinos
***Green Light* Waterfront Reporter**

Neighborhood Watch *Report*

The November meeting announced in the previous *Green Light* never happened—for a number of reasons. We'll try again at Harbor House on Thursday, March 20, at 7 pm. The Newport Police Department representative will present information on thwarting housebreaks and personal safety issues. It appears that we probably are not going to get the "Warning" house stickers that were requested. We're told that there's no one manufacturing them at this time. We're looking into an alternative.

I've recently had a report of car vandalism (broken window) on Second Street and one or two house break-ins, also on Second. Keep your eyes open and promptly call the police (847-9922 or 847-1212). They can't help us if we don't help ourselves. I'm told that winter is the most popular time for thefts—guess they need the money to go to Florida!

Tip of the month: Don't let your vacant house look like a target. Leave lights on timers, have someone pick up your mail and packages (or have these held at the post office), and ask friends or neighbors to keep an eye on your house while you're away. To show your appreciation, do it for them when they're gone.

Nancy Quattrucci
Chair

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The Bulletin Board

The GREEN LIGHT

Bulletin of The Point Association of Newport, Rhode Island

Open House

In an effort to recruit new members,
the *Green Light* is hosting
a Get-Acquainted Tea
on Wednesday afternoon, April 9,
from two to four.

Please drop by 35 Second Street
to meet our staff
and learn about the work we do.

All Pointers are welcome

Born-On-the-Point Certificates

Requests can be submitted year-round.

Certificates are presented

annually in October.

For further information about the process,

Contact

Rowan Howard

847-8428 or MRowanH@aol.com

NRF

The Newport Restoration Foundation
extends a special invitation
to all Point Association members.

After major restoration following a fire,
the Benjamin Howland House
at 6 Bridge Street
will be open for your viewing.

Thursday afternoon, March 27, 2003
from four to six

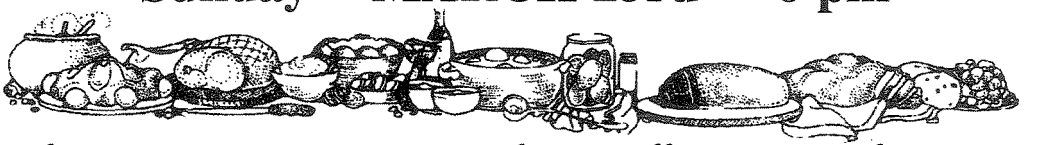
OPEN HOUSE

Sunday ~ March 23
4:30 pm
Nina Lynette
87 Washington Street
For information call:
401-847-2674

Point Association's Pot Luck Supper

Harbor House Washington Street

Sunday MARCH 23rd 6 pm



Again This Year — A True Pot Luck — Call 849-4395 if you are coming

Beverages (Coffee, Tea & Milk) will be provided

You may bring your own wine, beer, cider etc.

EVERYTHING SHOULD ARRIVE PIPING HOT WRAPPED IN NEWSPAPER & PAPER BAGS ~ Every container and server should be labeled

In order to assure some variety and some of everything we ask the following:

If Your Last Name Begins With **A-F** Please Bring: DESSERT which serves 12

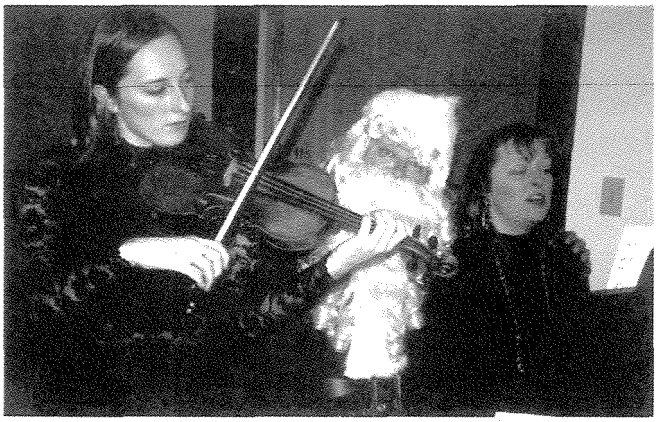
If Your Last Name Begins With **G-K** Please Bring: A SALAD which serves 12

If Your Last Name Begins With **L-S** Please Bring: A MAIN COURSE which serves 10

If Your Last Name Begins With **T-Z** Please Bring: A VEGETABLE which serves 12

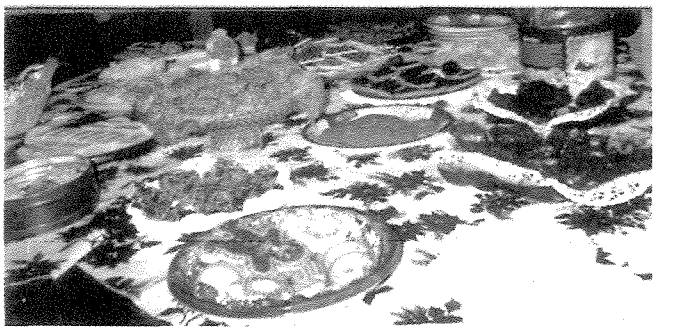
If you're coming ~ Just call and leave a message on my machine at 8 4 9 - 4 3 9 5 and tell us how many & what you plan to bring ~ THANKS, Donna Maytum

Holiday Cookie Swap



Holiday Celebrants at Harbor House were serenaded by two musicians from the faculty of the Point's own List Academy of Music and Arts, pianist Ellen "Dash" Walter and violinist Lauren Reynolds.

Notice their visitor from the North Pole, who bears a striking resemblance to P.A. president Jack Maytum.



A plentiful assortment for the cookie exchange

Pointers gather in song

A Conversation with Rowan Howard

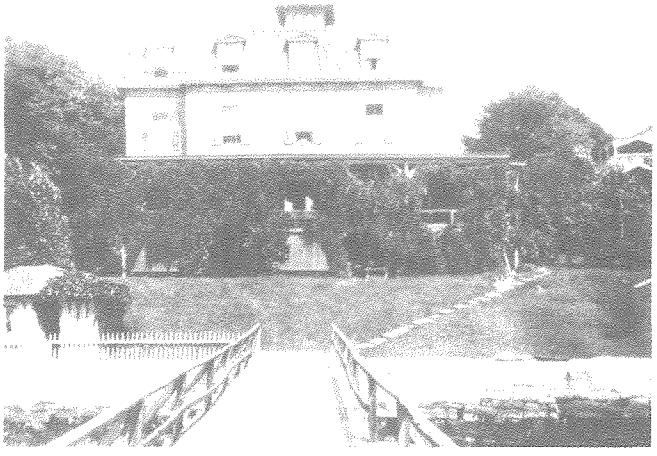
On this December morning, there's a hint of spring in the air. It is in the blue sky, in the squirrels playing tag in the trees, and in the colors of Rowan Howard's Persian carpet reflecting light and warmth into her cheerful living room. Of course, it is also in Rowan herself, who welcomes me in from the cold, "What a beautiful day!"

Mrs. Belknap and baby Mary Rowan

Rowan Howard is a native Pointer and an active member of the Point Association. For more than 25 years she has served the Point Association in a variety of ways: as secretary and membership coordinator; as a participant in Point quilts and other fund-raising projects; as a member of the Green Light *editorial board; and as a contributor to Point history and archive efforts. In our conversation, her comments draw deeply from a broad-based knowledge of the Point Association and the neighborhood she loves.*

GL: What do you remember most fondly about the Newport of your childhood?

RH: My first memories are of the Point and our family's home on Washington Street, Bel'napoli. It was a big Victorian on the water, a wonderful place for children from the first floor ballroom—designed for elegant adult evenings, but a perfect indoor playground—to the ivy covered porch, which shielded us from the hot summer afternoon sun and winter winds off the water. My two best friends, Billy MacLeod and Betsy Lammers, and I loved to climb out the third floor windows and march around the eaves, until a phone call one day from the Nina Lynette House across the street begged my mother to "Please bring those children in off the roof!"



Bel'napoli, 1920

Later, when I was ten, I remember riding my bicycle to Miss Wilks' School on Whitfield Place, where my geography teacher was Gladys MacLeod, Jane Walsh's mother. Often, on my way home, I would stop at Hyman Katzman's grocery store, on the corner of Second and Walnut, to buy penny candy.

But most of all, during those childhood years and later, coming back and forth to visit family, I remember the wonderful feeling of a neighborhood, where people knew one another, neighbors socialized together and offered help when it was needed.

GL: What made you decide to return to Newport?

RH: Jack and I had visited my sister Emilia, who lived on Elm Street at the time. When Jack retired from American Cyanamid in 1977, we discussed the idea of coming up here, but Jack wasn't certain, so we decided to rent for a year to see how it would be. I knew I wanted to be back on the Point and we were fortunate to find 51 Second Street, a Newport Restoration Foundation property that was just being restored. Well, we came and of course we never moved out!

GL: Once you were finally moved in, how did you feel? What was the Point like?

RH: I was thrilled to be back, just thrilled. After living in a suburban bedroom-community, I was delighted to get back once again to a real neighborhood. Also, many of my old friends—the Bensons, the MacLeods, and the Boyzans—were still here. And there was so much going on. This was after the fleet's departure, in 1974, and the beginning of so much renewal by Operation Clapboard and the Newport Restoration Foundation. Just walking around the Point was extraordinary. So many houses under repair or restoration...

GL: Had the Point changed much during the time you had been way?
RH: Yes, there were big changes. For one thing, the Goat Island Causeway and the Newport Bridge created a new framework, new boundaries, even for the Point. And the city's urban renewal efforts had transfigured the Long Wharf area. But, fundamentally, the heart of the neighborhood, the narrow streets and old houses, remained unchanged.

GL: How did the Point Association get its start?
RH: In the late fifties, two neighbors, Ned Brownell and Joe Weaver, got together to form the association. Jane Walsh's father, an attorney, helped them draw up the by-laws. Their main concerns were those we still emphasize: retaining the residential and historical character of the Point. Specifically, they looked at the Lobster Claw on Bridge Street, the crumbling seawall at Battery Park, and traffic throughout the Point.

The Howards return to the Point and set up housekeeping in their newly restored Second Street NRF home

Several years later, Henry Eccles became concerned, as the association's president, about the city's plans for the area beside Hunter House. Buildings there had been torn down, and there was some idea that this would be commercialized. Henry began to talk to people, soliciting contributions to buy the land from the city, in order to preserve it from development. He was very effective, and the result was Storer Park.

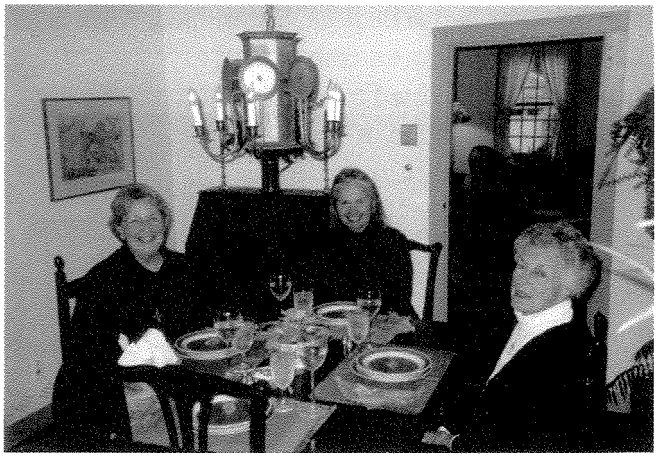
GL: What was the Point Association like then?
RH: I guess you could say that the Point Association began as an activist neighborhood group and has continued to play that role. The neighborhood itself is special, in that it is very cohesive. You see your neighbors out and about; people take care of one another. When you get a group of people who care very much about where they live and one another, and you give them a way to express and defend that, well, you end up with a group that sticks up for its interests!

GL: What were some of those interests?
RH: In addition to those I've identified, there was the proposed development of the Gateway; Radcliffe Romayne's idea for a hotel at the State Pier (defeated); the possibility of having condominiums on all four corners of Stella Maris; and the Circulator Road (postponed pending further study).

There have been other, smaller issues, which the Point Association has helped to shape. Each could have had a deleterious effect, and the Point Association helped to stop or modify them.

GL: How has the Point Association changed?
RH: In recent years, with fewer battles to fight, the Point Association has been able to focus more on quality-of-life issues, such as beautification, with planting and park cleanups making life more agreeable for all of us. Nevertheless, the Point Association remains the single best way for Point residents to communicate with the city about issues that directly affect the neighborhood's well-being.

GL: What are some of the challenges the Point Association may face in the near future?
RH: It's clear that the proposed Marina by the Causeway, the new plans for the Visitors' Center, and the development of the entire Long Wharf area will have an impact on the Point. What Point residents think about these and how the Point Association decides

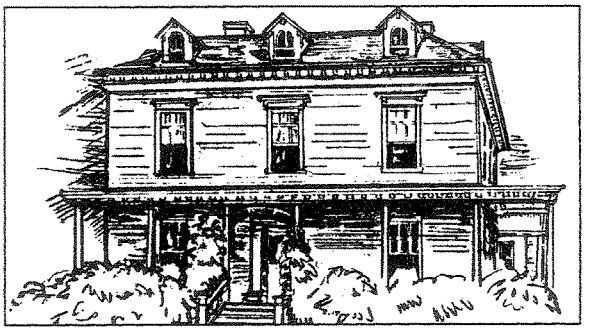


Rowan and friends at a recent luncheon

to act will determine the Association's impact on the city's decision-making process.

Challenge and response. This is the story of the Point Association, then and now. We can take inspiration from Pointers like Rowan Howard and others, who have seen the value of neighbors working together to make the Point a better common space for us all.

Nina Lynette



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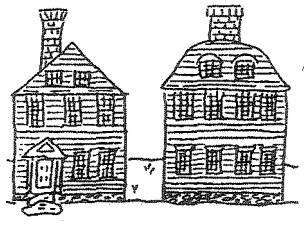
Time and Technology

I didn't write this with a quill pen, nor was the *Green Light* printed on a hand-cranked press. Many things have changed over the last 200 years...and it's not just the buildings or the clothes; it's more fundamental. It's the way we think.



I discussed this recently with two of our NRF carpenters, as we surveyed a wall at the Benjamin Howland House, recently damaged by fire. The wall is composed of vertical pine boards neatly joined, but with absolutely no pretense at symmetry. The edges of most boards are joined with a featheredge on one fitting into a half lap with a quarter-round on the next—an 18th century tongue and groove. Were it built in the 21st century, each plank would have a featheredge on one, and a half lap on the other; each plank would fit into the next; and they would march down the wall in orderly precision. These don't. One board has two featheredges, others have two half laps, and only a couple have one of each. In the middle of the wall, planks have no edge joint at all, being simply butted against one another. One nicely made joint is off plumb by at least seven degrees. The effect is a little chaotic. We are moved to say, "How quaint," or, worse, "Who the heck did that?" But that misses the meaning.

Our ancestors spoke English, but, otherwise, theirs was a foreign culture. Our forebears' thought patterns were as different from ours as their clothing, and this wall is evidence of that. Carpenters before 1850 or so followed the time-honored traditions of their trade. They did not think with machine-like symmetry about how to be build a wall. One board was produced one way, the next one perhaps differently and of another size. Eighteenth century manufacture often displays an informality that seems haphazard to us. In reality, we are seeing into the minds of people to whom mass production and precision were utterly foreign.Clockworks, for example, were almost magical in the 18th century. The wheel and levers that we now take for granted were wondrous to our ancestors, but today we forget what marvels of handwork it took to produce so precise an engine.

Chronologically, standing between us and our wall is the industrial revolution. It wrought major changes, not only in the way we manufacture, but also in the way we think about the finished look. Early machinery mimicked human motions: the pivot of the elbow swinging a hammer, the push of the hand against the handle of the plane. But early innovators quickly discovered that machines needn't copy human motion. Not only did machines have their own motion that could produce identical products in a fraction of the time, but it was *inefficient* for them to do otherwise. Perhaps the most revolutionary thing about the industrial revolution is that we stopped *thinking* as we had from time immemorial. We not only adapted to a new method of production, but we also adapted—perhaps a little insidiously—our very thought processes to technology. Housewrights in the 18th century were not owners or patrons of machinery. Aside from cutting a tight joint, they didn't think about uniformity or symmetry. It just never occurred to them.

Our pre-industrial wall will be reproduced to the same measurements and seeming eccentricities of the original. And, yes, we will use some machinery and be thankful for the time it saves us. We will also use hand tools. An adze will resurface damaged posts. Scrub planes and jack planes will dress all exposed surfaces. When we are done, it will not be an original, only an imitation, but it will keep for those that come after us the memory and the thought process of the original. For me, that is always the most critical object of preservation.

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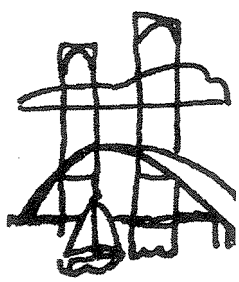
The America's Cup Twenty Years Later

Twenty years ago on September 26, 1983, the 12-meter *Liberty*, steered by Dennis Conner, lost the historic final race of the America's Cup competition to John Bertrand's *Australia 2* by 57 seconds. After 132 years in America the cup was lost and going down under. It was an event of such importance in Australia that the prime minister declared a national holiday.



In Newport, after both boats were towed back to their berths at Bowen's Wharf, *Australia 2* was lifted out of the water and its secret was revealed: a winged keel, the breakthrough idea that changed the course of racing history. The triumph was short lived for Australia, however, because Dennis Conner regained the cup in 1987 with a brilliant effort on the Dave Pedrick-designed *Stars and Stripes*. Unfortunately, he lost it again in 1995, this time to Team New Zealand.

Two years ago Dennis Conner reunited with the New York Yacht Club to mount a new *Stars and Stripes* campaign. It was going to be his best attempt ever. As a sign of how much things have changed in 20 years, Dennis was rarely seen sailing on the boat, concentrating instead on raising money for the campaign. To take his place as helmsman, he chose talented Newport sailor Ken Read. In addition, he selected many local talents, including bowman Jerry Kirby, Rob Myles, and Tony Rey. The two boats were beautifully built by New England Boat Works in Portsmouth, and hopes were high.

Alas, despite the successful campaign and talented crew, Connor's lack of time on the water had a telling effect on the outcome. Within weeks of the competition's early qualifying races, *Stars and Stripes*, Dennis Connor, and the New York Yacht Club were out of the running.

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Pointers in the News

by Kay O'Brien

Boat International USA featured Newport's own **American Shipyard** in its February 2003 issue ("Shipyard in Motion"), including a profile of owner **Charlie Dana**.

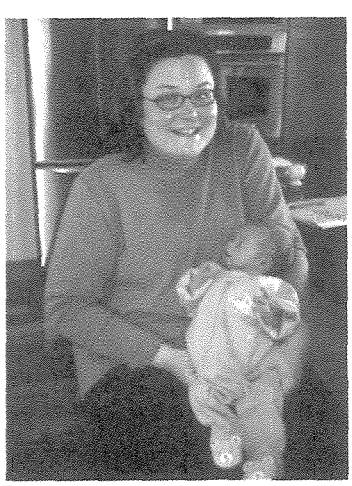
Rogers High School senior **Jan Bessin** was named Student of the Week by the *Newport Daily News* in November 2002. Congratulations, Jan!

Navy Reserve Commander (and new father!) **Jeff Cares** has been named as the contact person for the Naval Order of the United States. Jeff can be reached at 847-2752 and www.navalorder.org.

Rich Carrubba has received a broker's license and will be providing services as a broker associate from the Middletown office of Prudential Prime Properties. Rich—an Accredited Buyers' Representative and graduate of the Realtors Institute—is the first Prudential realtor in Rhode Island to be certified in e-commerce.

The **John Stevens Shop** has a new apprentice, Rhode Islander **Cristine DeMarco**, whose experience is described in the *Newport Daily News* ("She's Carving Out a New Life," December 9, 2002).

Manuel Brothers Moving and Storage, once located in the former Gum Factory building at one Cherry Street, has been featured in several recent "Grist Mill" columns in the *Newport Daily News*.



The Point's first baby of the New Year, Jeff Cares Jr., poses for the camera with new mother Betty in their Willow Street home.

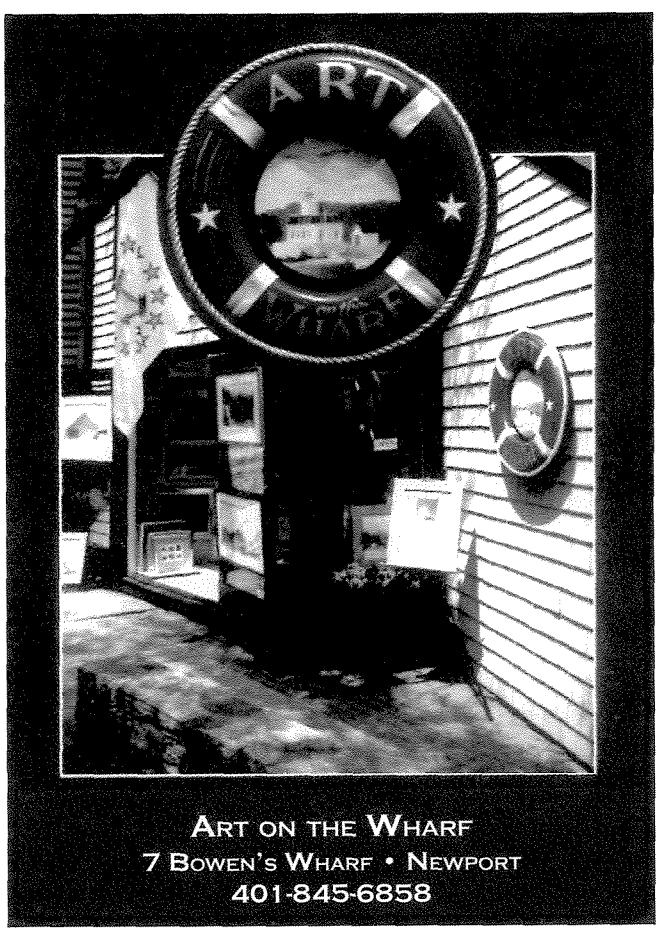
The engagement of **Jacqueline Mei** and **Joseph Aiello** was recently announced. A wedding is planned for summer 2003.

Rhode Island attorney general Patrick Lynch has announced the appointment of city councilor **Rick O'Neill** as an investigator/auditor in the state Criminal Division's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit.

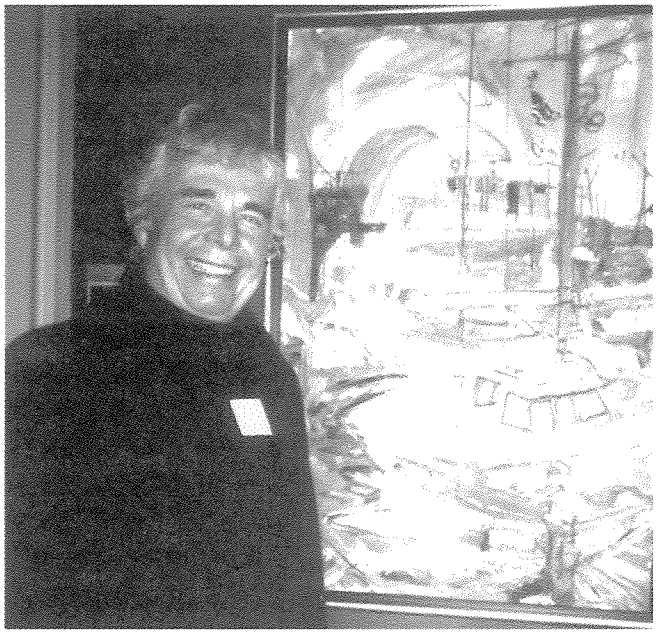
The Point Association Executive Committee was featured in Leonard Panaggio's February 2, 2003, column, "Grist Mill," in the *Newport Daily News*.

Newport This Week has a new editor, the Point's own **Burt Quint**. Congratulations, Burt!

Retired New York detective **Andy Rosenzweig** is now consulting full time with the Providence Police department. About his new job, Andy says, "I'm a policeman. That's what I do."



Pointers' Art Exhibited



Rita Rodgers and Hugh Naisky pose with their work at the Newport Art Museum's Members Juried Show, which runs through March. Also on exhibition in the Members' Show (not pictured) is artwork by Pointers Dick Poholek and Ilse Buchert Nesbitt.
Tell the receptionist at the Art Museum, 76 Bellevue Avenue, that you belong to the Point Association and get $1.00 off admission to the Museum while the Members' Show is hanging.

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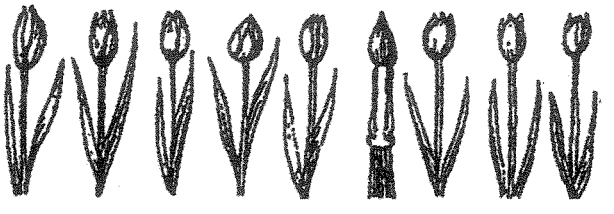

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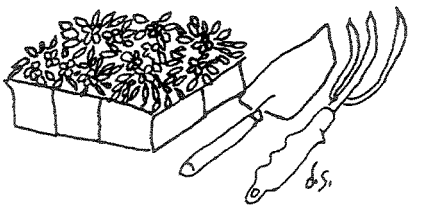
Scattered and Strewn Thoughts

This time of year most of you who garden are stacking up those seed, plant, and garden catalogues, which are arriving weekly, sometimes DAILY! Have you looked out your window at your winter garden and thought, "What a mess"? Well, there is a school of horticultural thought that recommends not cleaning up so carefully in the fall. Those sticks and that debris are actually protecting tender perennials and bulbs.



Our gardens have had a difficult year with drought conditions most of the summer and frigid cold this winter, and replacement may be necessary. So, go forth with enthusiasm! If those delphiniums you loved don't show up this spring, replace with Amsonia and Geranium Roxanne, both reliable blues. Your boxwoods are looking yellow, weak, and shabby? There are some lovely Japanese hollies or dwarf barberries in nurseries now. Japanese black pines are dying up the entire East Coast, thanks to a miserable beetle. A great replacement is *Pinus parviflora f. plauca* or Japanese white pine. Its cones start out a startling blue and fade to light brown. There is also a dwarf variety.

In your "planning for pots," try to include some perennials in your planters. Rosemary, hosta, hardy gold-veined ivy, and smaller sedums provide a green base that allows one to add seasonal bulbs and annuals without starting over.

For inspiration and just plain fun, do visit our own Roger Williams Park in Providence. The Master Gardener participants from U.R.I. have volunteered countless hours toward new displays, show gardens, and garden design. Their new greenhouses are a joy!!!

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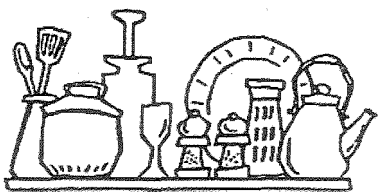
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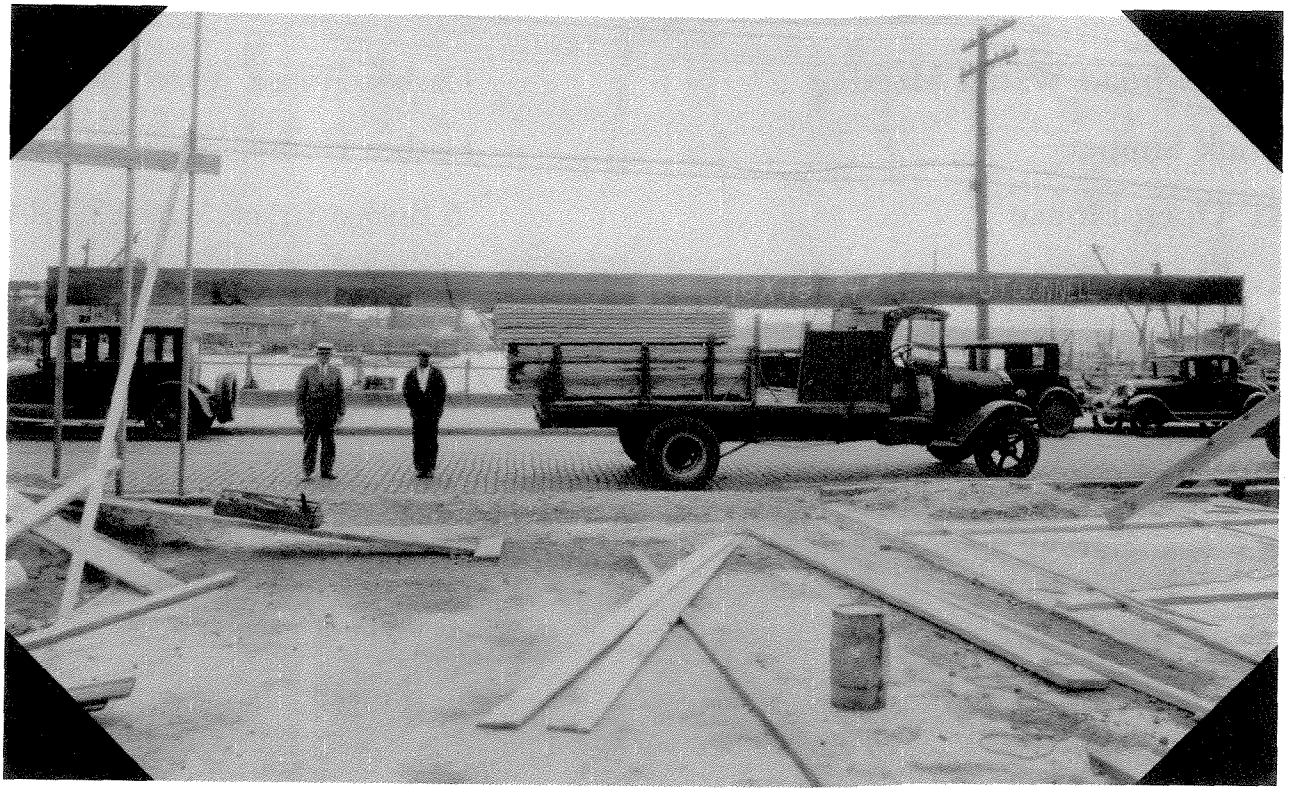
Nostalgic Moment from Our Scrapbook



A View of J.T. O'Connell's Lumber Yard on Long Wharf (J.T. in straw hat), 1931

The Point Association Membership Form

Please make check payable to The Point Association and mail with form to PO Box 491, Newport, RI 02840. A subscription to the* Green Light *is included with all memberships.

_____ **Individual $10** _____ **Family $15** _____ **Subscriber $25** _____ **Patron $40**

Name _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____ **E-Mail** _____

Mailing Address: _____

Second Address (if applicable): _____

Committees and Activities

Your participation is needed. Please check the categories of interest to you.

_____ **Beautification** _____ **Harbor Watch** _____ **Green Light** _____ **Plant Sale** _____ **Membership**

_____ **Program/Event Planning** _____ **History and Archives** _____ **Children's Adventure Club**

_____ **Neighborhood Crime Watch** _____ **Underground Wires** _____ **Publications/Communications/Web**

Save the Date

Neighborhood Watch Meeting	Harbor House, March 20, 7:00 pm
Potluck Supper	Harbor House, March 23, 6:00 pm
NRF Open House	6 Bridge Street, March 27, 4-6 pm
Green Light Get-Acquainted Tea	35 Second Street, April 9, 2-4 pm
Spring Membership Meeting	Harbor House, April 17, 7:00 pm
Spring Cleanup	Storer Park, May 3, 9:00 am
Point Plant Sale	*Location To Be Announced*, May 17, 9:00 am
Point Association-Waterfront Commission Joint Meeting	*To Be Announced*

Contact Suzanne Varisco at 841-5220 to list your group's activities in *Save the Date.*

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