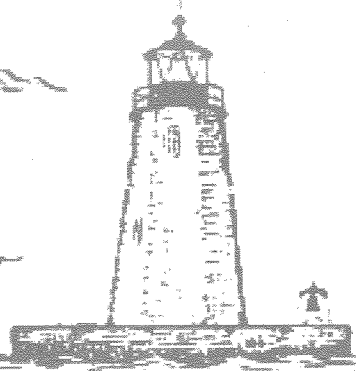


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The
GREEN LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

SPRING 2005



The GREEN LIGHT

L No. 1

SPRING 2005

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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 at Thames.



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 Point Association celebrates its 50th Birthday in June.*



Dear Pointers,

The year 2005 is a one of special anniversaries for our Point neighborhood. The Point Association celebrates its 50th Anniversary. The Nina Lynette Home celebrates its 100th anniversary. The John Stevens Shop celebrates its 300th anniversary! It is truly a time for us to look to the past, while we keep a "weather eye" on our neighborhood's future.

As such, our intent in the coming year is to bring you a mixture of old stories from past *Green Light* issues combined with new retrospectives on the anniversaries and institutions being celebrated. At the same time, we will continue to provide insights on current issues affecting our neighborhood.

In keeping with this plan, this issue will focus on the founding and history of the Point Association.

Finally, I'd draw your attention to the "Green Light Looking For Help" item on p. xx. This bulletin, and the Point Association as a whole, cannot survive without your support.

Alan

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I think we should be little introspective in this issue of *The Green Light*. Our association is a successful and pioneering neighborhood group with a membership of 400, yet we rely on a core group of about a dozen volunteers. I'd like to make this letter a formal call to replenish the core. We will soon have to replace several members of the board who are moving away. The green light in particular will be losing Martha and Alan Wall, our editor. Sarah Gill, photographer for *The Green Light* and event coordinator for the board of the Port Association will be moving to Middletown. Anyone interested in assisting with production of this fine publication is urged to attend a meeting at Marcia Mallory's house (see page 5 for details).

The executive board of The Point Association has had its members doubling up on various duties for many years. The wear and tear is beginning to take its toll. If you look at the masthead of this publication you can see names repeating themselves, and that's not because of editorial oversight. In addition to Alan and Martha, we have Loretta and Tom McGoldrick in charge of *The Green Light* advertising and business, Marcia and Coles Mallory handling park beautification and *The Green Light* circulation. Rich and Patricia Carrubba providing association membership, and Donna Maytum doing *The Green Light* layout and managing the pot luck dinner. Isabel Griffith has rejoined the board to work the plant sale and perform other duties. It's not that these people don't have anything else to do, or that they don't want other people to get involved and take their jobs. We would all like to have other members of the association get involved in more neighborhood activities. To help facilitate this transfusion we're going to spend some time during the business portion of our spring meeting discussing recruitment. Please be prepared to volunteer.

We are thankful to the many association members who contribute articles to this publication. The archives of the green light have been put to good use. This issue includes some mastheads from early issues. The design from February 1961 (shown on page 7) is of particular interest for the survivors of the winter of 2005. We have recruited two interns from Salve Regina University to help Kay O'Brien and Bill Hall organize the archives. We are also adding a classified advertising section to *The Green Light*, starting with this issue. This should be a great opportunity for local exchanges of services and products.



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If you're coming ~ Just call and leave a message on my machine at 849-4395 and tell us how many guests & what you plan to bring ~ THANKS, Donna Maytum

BEAUTIFICATION NEWS

by Marcia and Coles Mallory
Beautification Chairs

Now that spring is upon us, be sure to look at Storer and Battery Parks to see the results of our fall bulb planting. You might also notice new benches in both parks. After talking with the City Parks Department, we've decided these parks now have enough benches, and any more would make the area look cluttered. We are now planning to have any new benches placed south of Van Zandt Pier along the sidewalk on Washington Street. There is one bench there now, and we hope to have more.

Later this spring we are planning to use some of our beautification funds to purchase privet bushes to plant along the fence on Sycamore Street next to the bridge. Since many people take this road to enter the Point, we are hoping to spruce up its appearance.

Finally, please don't forget the Spring Cleanup on Saturday, May 7. Why not come and bring a neighbor?

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Rich and Patricia Carrubba
Membership Chairs

Welcome to New Members!

Tina Dolan
Denise Drapeau
Marilyn Kanter
Terry Nathan
Ruth Paige

Anyone interested in joining the Point Association should contact Rich or Patricia at 847-5815



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GREEN LIGHT LOOKING FOR HELP

Part of what makes the Point Association unique is *The Green Light*. This publication, with its accounts of activities both past and present, is a wonderful way to reinforce just what makes our neighborhood so special. Many of our members first found out about the Point Association from reading *The Green Light*. From its modest beginnings as a mimeographed bulletin, this newsletter has grown into what we have today. The reason *The Green Light* has been successful for so long is because of the volunteer efforts of so many Pointers.

For *The Green Light* to continue, we need to recruit more volunteers. Our editor, Alan Wall, will be retiring from the Navy this summer and moving back to his home state of Ohio. We will be needing a new editor (the job could be shared), more writers, and volunteers willing to contribute in other ways

We are inviting those people who are able to help in any way, as well as the present and past staff of *The Green Light*, to come for tea at the home of Marcia Mallory, 121 Washington Street, at 4 p.m. on Sunday, march 20. We would like your ideas about how we can make this unique publication continue. If you are unable to attend, but would like to help with *The Green Light*, please call Alan, 843-8994, or Marcia, 849-5659.





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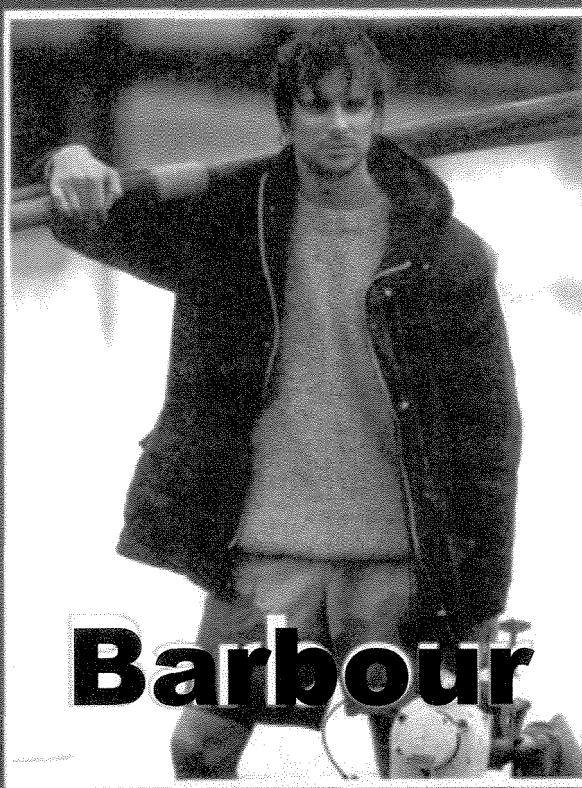
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BORN ON THE POINT

by Bill Hall,
History and Archives Chair

The *Born on the Point* program recognizes newborns and others who were Point residents at the time of their births. The next round of *Born on the Point* certificates will be readied for the April 2005 membership meeting. Applications must be submitted by April 1. Anyone interested in information or an application may contact Bill Hall at 846-4159.

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WATERFRONT NOTES

by Liz Mathinos

MARY FERRAZZOLI POCKET PARK

Kudos to Hank Kniskern, Waterfront Commission member, who is gathering information to finalize efforts to have a pocket park established at the end of Washington Street at Long Wharf. Those contributing include the Friends of the Waterfront (FoW), the Newport Yacht Club, the Point Association, Fairfield Resorts, and the Coastal Resources Management Council. Since 1994, FoW has been hoping to honor its founder, Mary Ferrazzoli, by dedicating this triangular bit of land in her name. As a result of FoW efforts, this area is now included in the Central Newport Urban Design plan as a pocket park, where Newporters and tourists can sit and rest and contemplate the waterfront while walking along the Harbor Walk. After the park's dedication, FoW will work on a historic marker similar to the one at King Park to commemorate the significance of this remarkable corner of the harbor. Once the site of Gravelly Point, where pirates were hanged in colonial times, it also hosted Washington's landing during the American Revolution and was the landing for the Fall River Steamship Line. Our heartfelt thanks for the Waterfront Commission's proactive work on this project.

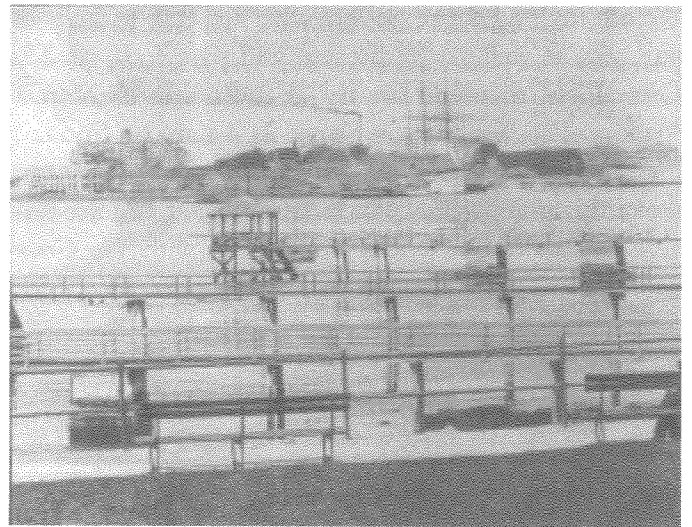


The corner of Washington St. and Long Wharf, site of the proposed pocket park.

PIERS, PIERS, PIERS

Recently, two requests for piers went before the Waterfront Commission, the first step before getting the okay from Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC). Issues discussed were eelgrass beds, proximity of reefs, types of boats docked on pier, effects of wind and wave action in storms, and clearance for people walking on the shore.

Mr. Shattuck of 108 Washington Street (Ade de Bethune's house) asked for a short pier and stated that the pier will be used for kayaks and a sailboat. Since this pier will be essentially "high and dry" at low tide, there was discussion about that issue. Mr. DesRosiers of 94 Washington Street requested a 100-foot pier with a 20-foot L across the end. A lengthy discussion resulted about how many boats and of what size and type would be tied up there, with concern about wind and wave effects in stormy weather. In both cases, reefs and eelgrass beds were close to the pier, as they were for Mr. Reagan's pier near Cypress Street.



This photo taken in Battery Park (circa early 1900s) shows three piers – the Auchincloss estate, Bay Banks (the Rice house), and the Van Zandt pier (farthest to the north with the roof). The Naval Training Station is in the background. This and other old photos, as well as an 1887 Newport atlas, document the historic presence of piers on the Point and are proof that the proposed piers are grandfathered. Thanks to the Waterfront Commission and the CRMC for paying close attention to guarantee safety and public access issues.

THE POINT PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 21, 2005

by Isabel Griffith, Event Chair

As I am typing this announcement of the date for this year's plant sale, we are looking forward to another snow "event" – six to twelve inches, they say, mere *bagatelle* after the thirty inches we had about a week ago. All this snow should be good for the plants, keeping bulbs and deciduous perennials warm through the coldest months.

It's not too early to think about what you might contribute to the Point's biggest, most important fundraiser. We will sell whatever you bring us. If you need help potting up specimens, just call on us; we have the pots and the soil. If you plan to bring bare root plants, please dig them up the morning of the sale and bring them in plastic bags.

This year we look forward to working with Jennifer Hall, who has volunteered to coordinate solicitations from our local merchants. We count on so many people who make our success possible. Please plan to join us this year. We will be mailing a reminder postcard in May.

Save the date! Contact Isabel Griffith at 849-6444 or Marcia Mallory at 849-5659 if you have questions.

AN EDITORIAL RETROSPECTIVE

Edith Ballinger Price was the second editor of The Green Light, beginning her tenure in August 1958. She followed in the footsteps of Sarah Weiss, who had brought out the bulletin single-handedly since its inception. Price's sense of humor and her dedication to the Point Association were noteworthy. This poem and apology by then-editor Price appeared in the September 1959 issue of The Green Light. While the printing technology may have changed, the current editor's mental state remains much the same! Enjoy!

The Penalties of Progress

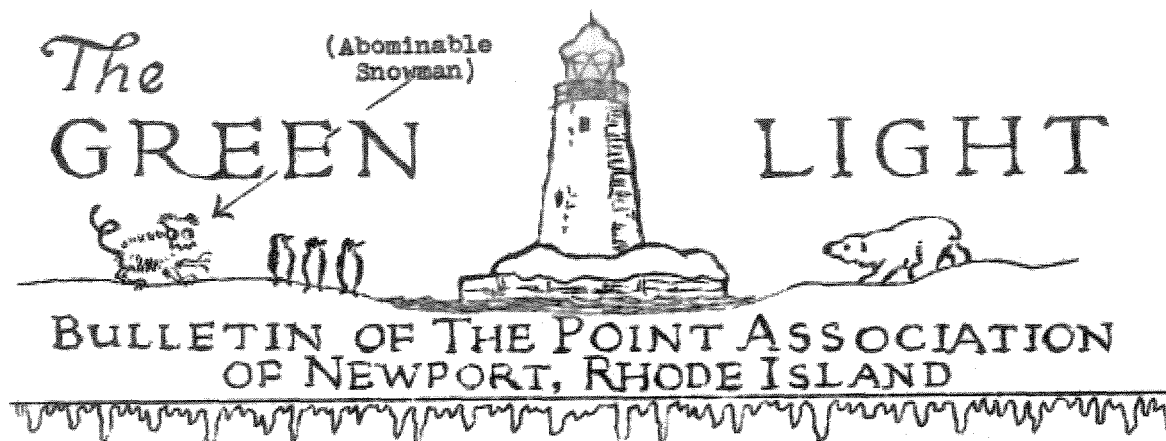
by Edith Ballinger Price

The green light out in the harbor
Shines with a baleful gleam,
As the paper goes through the mimeograph
Ream after ream after REAM.

The Editor's clothes are ragged,
The soot lies deep on the floor,
The weeds grow high in the garden,
The cobwebs hang by the door.

The Editor's hands are inky,
The Editor's thoughts are dark,
As *The Green Light's* circulation
Nears the four hundred mark!!!

This masthead from *The Green Light* cover of February 1961 seems appropriate for the on-going winter.



THE CARRIAGE HOUSE —AN ANSWER

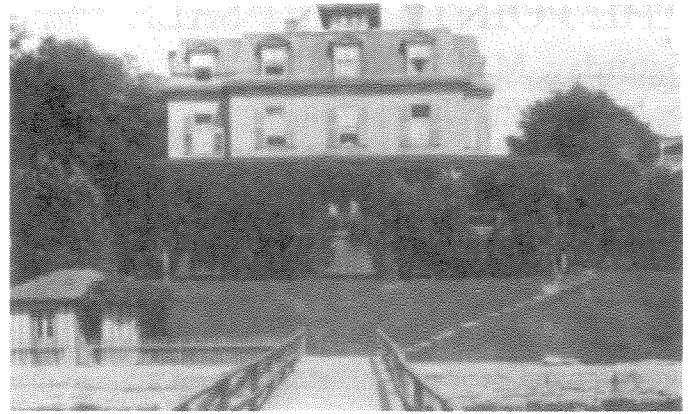
by Kay O'Brien

Who were the Fairchilds whose carriage house, designed by Charles McKim in 1876, sits at Pine and Second Streets and is now the subject of curiosity seekers and possible buyers? After several ownership changes and recent structural stabilization, there's a "For Sale" sign at this corner. (Editor's Note: As we go to print, it's a "Sale Pending" sign.)



An architectural drawing of the final appearance of the carriage house when it is restored

Checking old *Green Light* files, the answer was found in the Fall '94 issue. "The famous author, Robert Louis Stevenson, died a hundred years ago in Samoa. Born in Scotland in 1850, he came to America in 1887 and spent two weeks in Newport as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Clark Fairchild on Washington Street."



This residence at 94 Washington Street later became home to Admiral Belknap and his family and was re-named "Bel Napoli." It stood across the street from the Nina Lynette Home and was torn down in the 1930s and replaced by a smaller house.

When you're out walking today, check the exciting changes at 94 Washington St.



A RESOLUTION *The following appeared in The Green Light in March 1960.*

The following Resolution was read by the City Clerk at the Feb'y 17th meeting of the City Council, and a copy presented to Edwin H. Brownell:

THE CITY OF NEWPORT Resolution of the Council #41-60

WHEREAS a group of public-spirited citizens formed an organization for the prime purpose of beautifying a section of the City of Newport commonly known as the Point,
AND WHEREAS The Point Association of the City of Newport, through its varied activities, has done much to retain the original character of this historic section of our city,
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Newport hereby commends the said Association for an excellent job,
AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Resolution, signed by the Mayor and countersigned by the City Clerk, be transmitted to Mr. Edwin Brownell, president of The Point Association. (signed) James L. Maher, Mayor and John F. Fitzgerald, City Clerk

TOO CLOSE TO HOME

by Anonymous

In late January, I was collecting material for the Spring issue of *The Green Light*. Papers were laid out around my dining room table ready for our editor to review that night. Because there was only one free spot left at the table to work that afternoon, I sat down there. To my surprise, as I looked out the window in front of me, I saw flames coming out of the side of my neighbor's house! Calling the fire department and grabbing some spare keys to the house, I ran into the street. Within minutes a police car arrived, followed shortly by men and equipment from the fire department.

As no one was home next door, I gave the firemen the keys so they could put their axes aside. Several men with backpacks rushed indoors as I told them it must be the upstairs fireplace. The outside flames on my side of the house were obvious, so firemen with axes, ladders, hoses, and chainsaws came into my yard and quickly opened up the covering of the flue where the

fire was just getting a start on the wooden siding. Although the fire was put out promptly, the firemen were still on hand to reassure the startled owner as he returned with groceries. All's well that ends well, but I credit *The Green Light* papers on my dining room table for putting me in the right place at the right time! And a special thanks to the prompt and professional response by the police and firefighters so nearby.



Recent repair work on this corner of the seawall on the Goat Island connector is a huge improvement over the corner's previous condition.



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WALKING ON THE POINT

by Kay O'Brien

In the fall we felt lucky to escape all the hurricanes, but in the dead of winter, Mother Nature seemed determined to put southern New England in the headlines. Comparisons were made between our Blizzard of 2005 and the big one in '78. Recall that in the winter of 1995-96, snowfall approached 100 inches! Basically it all comes down to *where do we put the snow?* It is so much fun walking, but too dangerous with narrowed streets and no sidewalks. Everyone will have a story to tell, and photos will be lasting reminders of our bitter cold and daunting drifts. Thanks to our neighbors for their many acts of kindness and to the electric company for keeping the power on.



Being housebound was a good time to think spring with both the delights and jobs ahead. What would appear as gardens turn green? What new plans and designs would we be working on? Of course, cleanup comes first. Residents must reclaim their sidewalks

and plan to continually keep them clean. During the short days and dark mornings and evenings, some dog owners evidently neglected to clean up after their pets. Please, everyone be responsible with animals in our parks and on our sidewalks.

Being out and about means checking changes in the neighborhood —new benches in Battery and Martin Parks and a new gaslight by Van Zandt Pier. Some houses undergoing major changes are fun to watch. An empty bay with sea smoke on freezing days was awesome, but now watching the harbor fill with boats really signals the new year for our Point neighborhood. Spring activity at the shipyard is always fascinating and a stop at Bella's welcome. People we haven't seen are back again, and we can greet new neighbors. Be sure to get their names and addresses so they can receive a copy of *The Green Light*. Note: If you like the outdoors in all seasons and want to stay positive, look at Ken Weber's column every Saturday in *The Providence Journal* for magical discoveries year round. Then again, you might find some right here at home.

MDB, llc

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STORER PARK – A POINT ASSOCIATION SUCCESS

Named in honor of Point resident and benefactor Alice Storer, Storer Park is one of the true gems of the Point. Though many now take it for granted, its existence is a direct result of the efforts of the Point Association in the early 1970s. The two articles below, from 1973 issues of The Green Light, snapshot the park's development.

STORER PARK (from *The Green Light*, April 1973)

Treasurer's Report by John Kazanjian

Approximately \$22,000 has been collected for Storer Park, with cash gifts of \$16,200; the balance came from the Street Fair, cookbooks, etc. There is \$4,000 in the Storer Park account; all bills are paid except the contractors' to be paid when the work is completed.

Chairman of the Storer Park Committee

by Adm. Henry E. Eccles

Now that spring has come and the grass begun to grow, we can all get a better idea of what Storer Park eventually will be.

Some of our members have wondered why the Point Association should spend all this money on the park, and then give it to the city. The reasons for this are simple.

If the Association were to hold and maintain the park as private property it would have to pay both taxes and maintenance. But just as important the Association would have to assume responsibility for public order in the park. The Newport Police do not have jurisdiction over what goes on on private property. This latter is just too much for the Association to undertake.

As the grass takes hold and matures, and when the basketball standards are erected, we can expect the youngsters to play and enjoy the park. Later when our plans are complete, and additional money raised, benches and tables will complete the park, and make it available for full use by young and old. May they all enjoy it.

STORER PARK (from *The Green Light*, October 1973) by Henry E. Eccles, Chairman

On Wednesday, September 5 at the Annual Point Association picnic, Clyde Sargent, President of the Association, formally presented Storer Park to the City of Newport. Mayor Humphrey Donnelly accepted the gift on behalf of the city with an appropriate comment on its suitability as a natural division between the commercial and residential zones of the Point. Thus the efforts of many people over many years have come to a successful culmination. The City as a whole, the Point, and Goat Island all will benefit.

As of October 1, 1973, the initial phase of the park development has been completed and paid for. The park is now in full and enthusiastic use. Two thousand dollars is immediately available for future development in the form of benches, trees and shrubs under the planning direction of Mrs. Richard Stackpole. It is expected much of this will be done before June 1, 1974.

Throughout the negotiations with the City, the Association representatives emphasized that the Association would have continuing interest in Storer Park so that other than for routine maintenance it would not be a financial burden to the taxpayers. The Park is beautiful, it is in active use, and we have the plan and money to improve it...any special donations for trees, benches and shrubs may be sent to the president, Clyde Sargent, and will be greatly appreciated. The Point Association is most grateful to all those individuals and groups who have contributed so generously to this unique accomplishment. Our effort has had an unbelievable response from our members and friends all over the country. We are especially indebted to the Newport Restoration Foundation and the Preservation Society for supporting our idea of creating the Park, for without their assurances of financial assistance, it is unlikely we could have undertaken so great a project.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, WILLIAM KING COVELL, III !

by Marsha W. Francis

One of the most amazing aspects of Newport is how it has transformed itself multiple times over the past 400 years. Of course, it is not the “town” but its people who have changed and reinvented themselves. The depth and variety of its citizens give a town its character. And Newport’s goes very deep. For someone who has lived in 17 houses in ten cities in four states, meeting someone who lives in the house her great-grandfather purchased in 1895 is quite something. Anne Ramsey Cuvelier was gracious and kind to open her home—the Sanford-Covell Villa Marina B&B at 72 Washington Street—and her scrapbooks to me on a recent snowy day and to introduce me to her uncle, William King Covell, III.

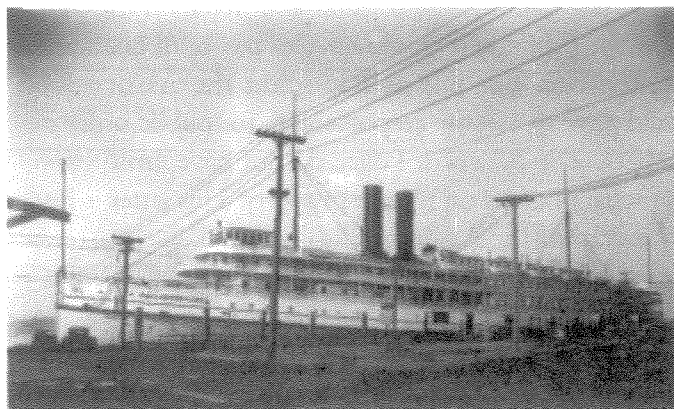
His obituary heading reads, “William Covell dies: organist, collector.” He was so much more. Anne remembers him as a “favorite uncle . . . old English, reserved” and always the teacher. She is one of six nieces who would visit during the summers. With steamboat models all around, he would relate tales of his youth. His great-grandfather, William King Covell, I (1802-1890) became a boat builder on Long Wharf. He had three sons: John, Robert, and William King, II (1833-1919). They knew all of the whistles of the paddle wheelers steaming by. Young William King Covell, III (1904-1975) would be timed getting dressed by the progress of the boats and the sounding of their whistles along the East Passage of Narragansett Bay.

The “Maxies,” a group of local boys who hung around 72 Washington Street beginning in the 1930s (see a delightful reminiscence in *The Green Light*, April 1976), remember Covell as a friend for over 40 years. As youngsters they swam from the Covell pier, moored their skiffs there, looked after King’s motorboat *Ethelyn* by inspecting mooring lines and pumping after rains, did odd jobs around the yard, went on camping trips, and had adventures on the water. It was “a place to go right after school . . . and it saved us.” Maxies were around when Anne was young as well. One stayed at the B&B recently, and Anne hosted a

Maxie Reunion during the summer of 2004. Approximately 30 people attended and had the best time talking and remembering King.

William King Covell, III, was born March 9, 1904, in Newport and graduated from Rogers High School in 1923. He received his BA from Harvard in 1928 and his MA in 1930, and he completed four years of graduate work toward his PhD. His academic work was conducted in the department of fine arts, with the history of architecture his specialty as well as courses in music. In addition, he was listed in “Who’s Who Among the Organists of America” in *The Diapason*, September 1, 1935. He received his organ training from Albert Snow of Boston and played at Channing Memorial and St John’s throughout his life. Organ design and construction, from 1300 AD to the age of Bach, was one of his main hobbies, along with photography and side-wheel steamboats of every kind, especially those of the Hudson River and Long Island Sound. A *Providence Sunday Journal* article of April 2, 1950, entitled “A Rhode Islander Worth Knowing, Mr. Steamboat,” chronicles his start:

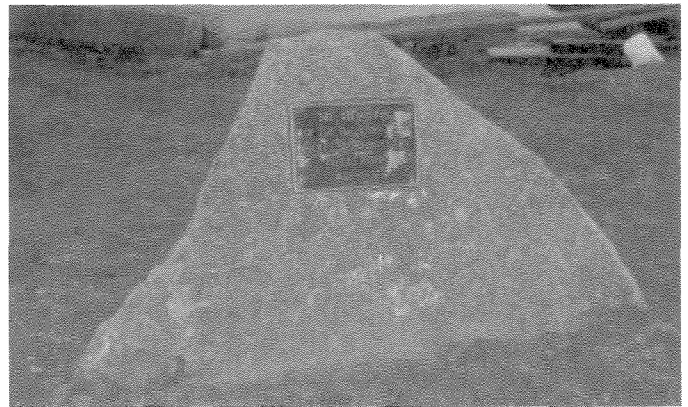
“About 30 years ago Covell picked up an oar from the City of Taunton which had floated ashore at the foot of his lawn and with that almost involuntary act became a collector of variegated flotsam and jetsam from an era of coastal transportation then in its heyday but fast approaching its decline. Some 10 years later he started taking photographs of steamboats and founded a collection or library which numbers about 3,000 negatives of coastwise and inland steamers.”



The Fall River Line’s steamship Priscilla, at Long Wharf in 1937. Photo by King Covell.

Every major publication on coastal navigation uses Covell's library. In addition to artifacts at 72 Washington Street, the majority of his extensive collection of steam gauges, fire axes, whistles, bell pulls and bells, chandeliers and capstan heads, stateroom doors, and mural panels became the nucleus of the Marine Museum in Fall River.

King taught Ancient and Medieval History at Rogers High School. He died on February 23, 1975. His memory lives on in the lives of all the people who came in contact with him. His example of pursuing his passion is a model for us all!



The Point Association placed this historic marker on the corner of Washington St. and Long Wharf on October 26, 1985, commemorating the area's use by the Fall River Line from 1847-1937.

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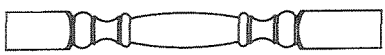
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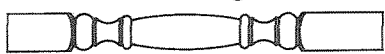
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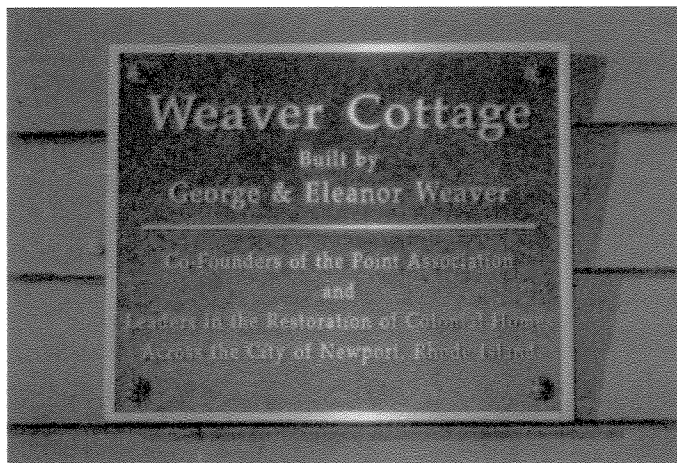


JANET'S IDEA: THE FOUNDING OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION

by Martha Wall

Who says one person can't make a difference? Fifty years ago, one woman thought of a way to improve her neighborhood by bringing her neighbors together to form a community organization. Today, Janet Brownell's idea, the Point Association, celebrates its fiftieth anniversary of improving and protecting our neighborhood.

In 1955, Janet Brownell and her husband Edwin (Ned) were relatively new to the Point. Ned had previously visited family in the area, and he came back to Newport to work as a silversmith at Wheelock's on Clarke Street. The Brownells purchased the Peter Simon house at 25 Bridge Street and, along with many in the neighborhood who were beginning to appreciate the historical significance of their Point homes, were working to restore it.



A historical plaque marks the home of George & Eleanor Weaver.

At the same time, Eleanor and George Weaver were restoring the George Gibbs house at the northeast corner of Chestnut and Second Streets. Unlike the Brownells, the Weavers knew everyone in the neighborhood. Therefore, Janet Brownell realized that the Weavers were just the people to ask about her ideas. Janet called Eleanor and asked if she and Ned could come over some evening to talk.

During this evening visit, the Brownells sounded out the Point "natives" on the notion of establishing an organization to help restore the Point to its original beauty and historic consequence. According to George and Eleanor Weaver in their October 1965 recollections in *The Green Light*, the Brownells "came armed with" the following questions:

- .. Were there enough Point residents interested in a neighborhood renewal program?
- .. Would a large enough cross section of neighbors become involved to make the project completely representative of the entire Point?
- .. Would the local government lend its support and aid?
- .. Could we surmount—even avoid—the inherent problems that plague all organizations: narrow-minded factions, lack of diversified leadership, scarcity of workers, and so forth?

The Brownells' questions raised important issues, but overall, the Weavers were thrilled with the idea of a neighborhood association. (Editor's Note: Many of these questions remain relevant even today.) In the days before zoning and historic districts, with bars cleared out of upper Thames Street looking for a place to relocate, associating turned out to be a very good idea indeed.

At a meeting attended by the Brownells, the Weavers, George Weaver's brother Joe and his wife Ann, and Eleanor's sister Tama Nemtsov and her husband David, the new group was dubbed the Point Association and our neighborhood organization was born. Along with the name, the eight came up with the Point Association's purpose, goals, and bylaws. Its aims from the beginning were as follows:

1. The general improvement and enrichment of the Point.
2. The beautification of approaches, streets, properties, waterfront, and other areas of the Point.
3. The protection of the section against detrimental structures, obnoxious enterprises, and nuisances.
4. The encouragement and promotion of active interest in all properties with special emphasis on the historical aspect of the Point.

Joe and Ann Weaver were given the duty of drafting the constitution. The remaining six selected the time and place for meetings and contacted Point residents sympathetic to the cause. The founding members held a block-by-block membership drive to increase involvement, with annual membership dues set at \$1 to prevent costly fees from hindering participation.

The first official meeting was held at the Chamber of Commerce, then in the Brick Market, in June 1955, with Ned Brownell presiding. Janet may have been just one person, but her idea had taken life. It lives on today as the Point Association, and the residents of the Point continue to work to make our neighborhood a place of charm and historic authenticity.

Sources:

- "Janet's Idea" by Kay O'Brien, *The Green Light*, August 1993

- "A Brief History of the Point Association," *The Green Light*, October 1965

REMEMBERING FRANK BOBBA

by Dottie Bobba Hopkins

Vincent "Frank" Bobba in his youth played for the Hunter Athletic Club, a semi-professional football team. He was a World War II Army veteran and served in the Rhineland, Northern France, and Central Europe. Frank was very proud of all his accomplishments over 86 years.

Frankie was a Point Hummer and visited Battery Park practically every day since he retired in 1985. Everyone knew what Battery Park meant to Frankie. A bench with a plaque has been donated and placed there in his honor.

The one defining thing Frank will be remembered for was his complete devotion to the New York Yankees. The year before he was born was the year the Boston Red Sox won the World Series. Most of his friends and his very large family are Red Sox fans. A baseball season never passed without Frank saying, "Never in my lifetime will the Red Sox win the pennant."


On October 3, 2004, Frankie's room in Newport Hospital was overcrowded with visitors and he was still repeating his then famous words, "Never in my lifetime..." The devoted Yankee fan died that day and never lived to see the Red Sox beat his beloved Yankees and eventually win the World Series. Now that Frankie Bobba has left us, do you think we have to wait another 86 years for the Red Sox to win the pennant?

SING A SONG OF TREE STREETS

by Edith Ballinger Price
(from *The Green Light*, June 1959)

Sycamore, Cypress and Poplar,
Willow, Cherry and Pine,
Walnut, Elm and Chestnut –
And so on, down the line.

Thus are named our tree streets,
(What a varied haul !)
But here's the joker in it –
There are MAPLES on them all !



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A WINTER'S TALE

by Florence Archambault

Editor's Note: This is a reprint of a story that first appeared in The Green Light in December 1986. Though it doesn't have an entirely happy ending, it seemed timely in light of the Blizzard of 2005.

On December 16, 1916, shortly after 8 a.m., after the first appreciable snow had fallen in Newport, a city team of horses driven by Allan D. Weaver was delivering the first load of snow from Thames Street to the City Wharf, when a terrible accident occurred.

The horses, Peanuts and Nancy, two of the best in the City Department, having had no hard work the past few days were feeling good. The wharf was covered with fresh snow and when the horses were backing up to dump the snow into the harbor they "put a little vim into their backing and struck a slant which carried cart, horses and driver overboard, all in a confused mess."

If it weren't for the fact that several men were nearby all would have been lost—but thanks to the assistance of some Greek fishermen and city workers, the only casualty was Peanuts. Edward Toomey, of the city roller gang, supported Nancy's head in a superhuman effort for nearly 20 minutes. The horses toppled over on Mr. Weaver who did not have a chance to jump from his seat. It was a miracle that he was saved.

The heavy wagon pulled the horses down and Peanuts' struggles caused him to kick one of his feet into the wheel where it became wedged and held him under water. After much trouble Nancy was cut free from her harness and towed round to Gravelly Point against a strong wind where the instant she felt her feet touch bottom she plunged and ran up on the shore.

Mr. Weaver was taken by force to the wharf office. His one thought was the welfare of Peanuts and he wanted to stay and see him saved. Mr. J.K. Sullivan was called upon for his wrecking lighter to help raise the wagon and the unfortunate animal. He informed Street Commissioner Sullivan that there would be no charge to the city for his services. J.K. Sullivan had

been instrumental in the purchase of the team when he was the commissioner. They had been purchased from the present Commissioner Sullivan.

The two Sullivans were not the only ones interested in the pair of horses since they were much loved by their driver and the employees of the department who contended they were all but human. They were large horses, great workers, but gentle as kittens.

Since Mr. Weaver was so wrapped up in the horses it was decided not to inform him of Peanuts' demise. He had received a severe cut in his head, injured his right shoulder and side and was suffering from the shock of his immersion in the icy waters. Several days later it was reported that he was steadily improving and although quite lame and bruised was walking about his rooms and expected to be out and about in a few days.

Nancy was receiving careful attention at the department's stables lest she get pneumonia from her dunking but apparently recovered and was none the worse for her sudden drop into the cold waters.

ARCHIVES PROJECT

The archives department of the Point Association is getting some professional help. Two interns from Salve Regina University, Diane Patrella and Dan Titus, will be assisting Kay O'Brien and Bill Hall in their continuing efforts to collect, maintain and organize our archives. Diane, an Ohio native is pursuing a graduate degree in historic preservation. Dan, a Newport native, is also studying historic preservation and serves as Newport's deputy zoning officer. In the summertime he is particularly busy traveling with city police officers at night and inspecting Newport residences where occupants may be guilty of rowdy behavior and possible zoning violations.

Diane and Dan will make use Salve's computer equipment and scanners to index and digitize our many historical documents. Their work will make it easier for other historical organizations to have access to this material via the Internet. This will allow a broader distribution without researchers having to access the original source material.

BLIZZARD SCENES FROM AROUND THE POINT



Icicles curved by the high winds cast eerie shadows.



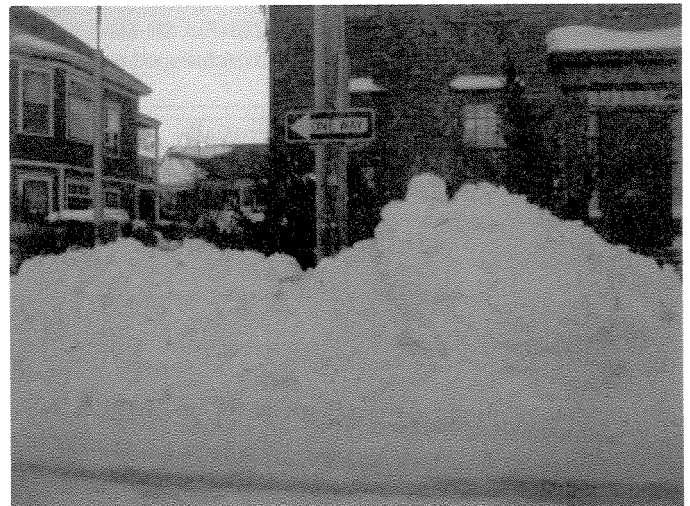
Peter on Second Street helps neighbors with snow removal after the blizzard.



Brian Arnold cleared many sidewalks on Poplar and Second Streets.



Despite deep snow almost everywhere, Battery Park was blown surprisingly clear.



Piles of snow along streets and sidewalks made getting out and about a challenge.

FAVORITE RECIPES

The February 1984 issue of *The Green Light* included a book review by Kit Hammet of *Foods From the Founding Fathers* by Helen Newberry Burke, Exposition Press, Hicksville, NY, 1978. The book, written by a Newporter, had chapters on five colonial seaports, one of which was Newport. *The Green Light* article included three recipes from the Newport chapter of the book — Rags and Tatters, Cobblestones, and Rhode Island Clam Pie. The latter recipe is reprinted below.

Rhode Island Clam Pie

Makes 4-6 servings

1 recipe for 9 inch pastry
3 potatoes, sliced thin
4 tablespoons butter
Pepper to taste
1 pint chopped clams
1 pint whole clams, reserve liquid

Line the pie tin with half the pastry dough. Put in a layer of raw potatoes, then dot with 2 tablespoons of the butter and sprinkle with pepper. Add a layer of chopped clams; dot with remaining butter and sprinkling of pepper. Add a layer of whole clams, plus a little clam liquid. Place top crust over the layers. Bake the same as a pie in a 425-degree preheated oven for 30-40 minutes.



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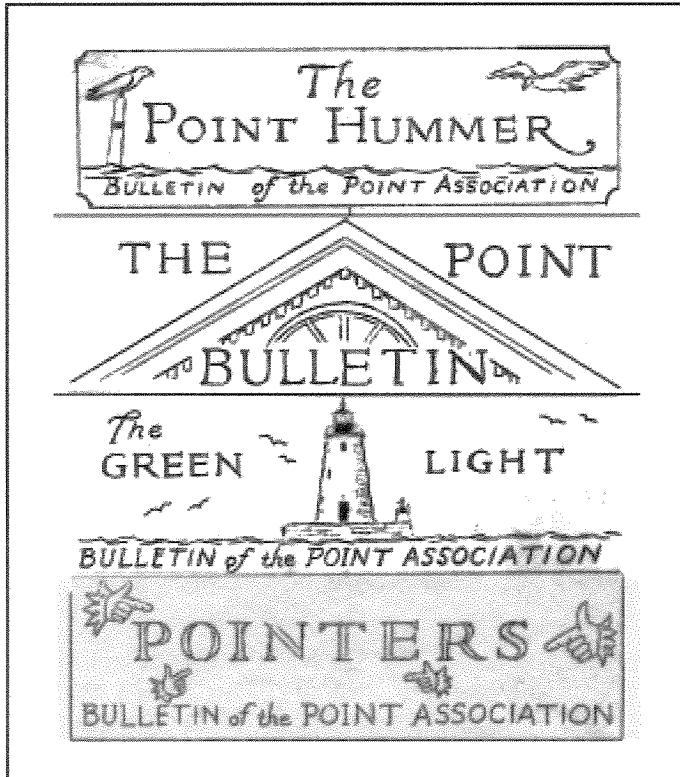


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Nostalgic Moment from our Scrapbook



THE GREEN LIGHT MASTHEAD

If the voting had gone another way at a general membership meeting in late October 1957, the front cover of *The Green Light* could have had quite a different look and title from the Goat Island lighthouse. At that long-ago meeting, Point Association members were asked to vote on a masthead for what was then a simple newsletter sometimes titled *The Point Bulletin*. The archival record is unclear, but at least four different masthead choices were offered to the membership. These four are shown here, and appeared in the bulletin in the months before that membership meeting. The winner, our current masthead, first appeared on the December 1957 bulletin. We know which version won the vote, but which of the four would you have picked?

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: _____ Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Second Address (if applicable): _____

Committees and Activities

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

- | | | | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Harbor Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Green Light | <input type="checkbox"/> Plant Sale | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Program/Event Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> History and Archives | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Activities | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publications/Communications/Web | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Underground Wires | | |

SAVE THE DATE

- Green Light Afternoon Tea** **Sunday** **March 20** **4:00 p.m.**
Come and meet *The Green Light* staff. Bring your ideas, enthusiasm, and a willingness to help. For more information, please call Marcia, 849-5659, or Alan, 843-8994.
- Potluck Supper** **Sunday** **April 3** **6:00 p.m.**
Watch your mailbox for a flier! Bring a dish and come enjoy a potluck supper with your neighbors. For more information, please call Donna at 849-4395.
- Spring Membership Meeting** **Thursday** **April 21** **7:00 p.m.**
Meet in Harbor House – Use the chapel entrance on Battery Street. Watch your mailbox for a postcard
- Spring Cleanup** **Saturday** **May 7** **9:00 a.m.**
Join your friends and neighbors to clean up our neighborhood parks. For more information, please call Marcia or Coles Mallory, 849-5659.
- New Member Cocktail Party** **Sunday** **May 15** **6:00 p.m.**
Come and meet the new members. Watch your mailbox for a flier! For more information, please call Donna at 849-4395.
- Point Plant Sale** **Saturday** **May 21** **8:30 a.m.**
Come and find just the thing for your yard or garden! For more information, or to contribute plants, please call Isabel, 849-6444, or Marcia, 849-5659.

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