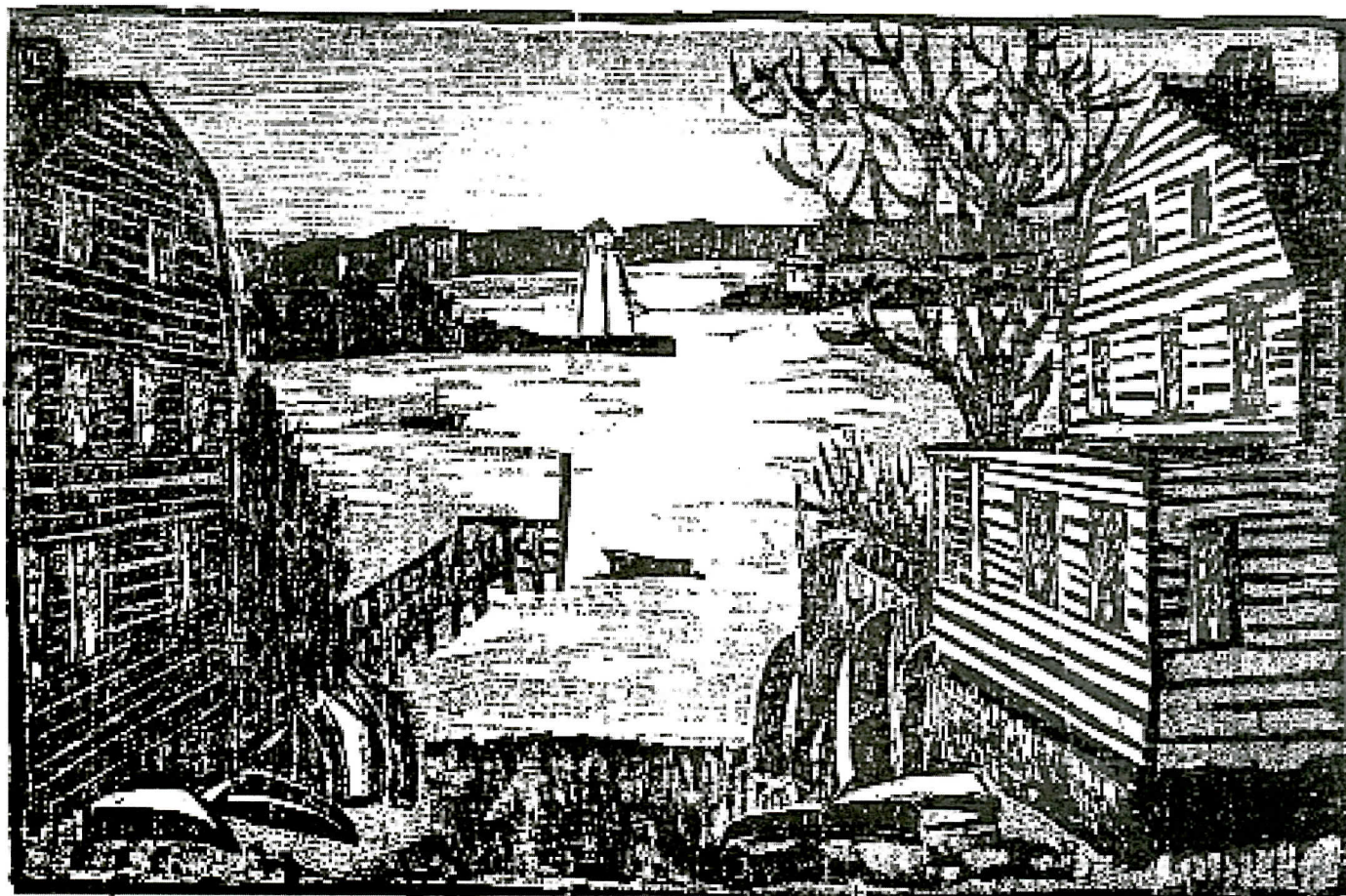


# *The* GREEN LIGHT



BULLETIN OF THE POINT ASSOCIATION  
OF NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

WINTER 2005-2006



# The GREEN LIGHT

L No. 4

WINTER 2005-2006

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## Point Association

### Executive Committee Officers

President, Jack Maytum .....	849-4395
First Vice President, Andy LaVarre .....	846-4849
Second Vice President, Bowen Gerry .....	846-8252
Recording Secretary, Roxy and Claire Ernsberger .....	847-1867
Corresponding Secretary, Rita DellaVolpe .....	846-0703
Treasurer, George F. (Jeff) Marshall .....	847-9979
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 his-

toric 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: *Silent Night on Washinton Street* a greeting card from Third & Elm Press whose inside message reads "Peace on Earth — Goodwill to all", a timely message this holiday season.



*Don't throw that away!* In the past few months, the value of *The Green Light* as a repository for the Point's "history" has come up in conversation several times, and now Dan Titus has given us new technical tools with which to preserve that history. (See his article elsewhere in this issue.) We would welcome whatever you might like to contribute to that cause: pictures, postcards, those old papers in your attic.

Also, I want to recommend to all who have not yet read it, the fine new book by Salve Regina professor, James L. Yarnall, *Newport Through Its Architecture: A History of Styles from Postmedieval to Postmodern* (Salve Regina Press, 2005). The reader will come away from it with a newly educated eye, an awareness not only of Newport's architecture but of its ties to a broader American and European architectural heritage and to the more local social and historical context in which it was created. Professor Yarnall's story begins, of course, right here on the Point.

Happy Holidays!

Alice Clemente

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

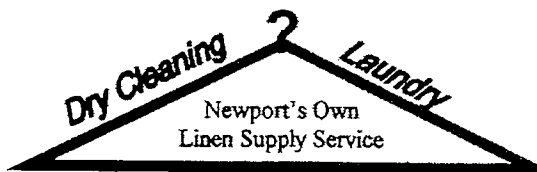
It looks like this winter will be quiet on the Point. In fact, the association is not currently planning to sponsor any official social activities until the pot luck supper next March. No Christmas party, no concerts at Harbor House. We also have no immediate, contentious issues such as marina construction at Storer Park. However, like snow peas, there are several large projects germinating.

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation has drawn up plans to make repairs to the Goat Island Causeway. I recently reviewed these plans and discussed the project with DOT engineers and Keith Stokes at the Newport County Chamber of Commerce office in Middletown. Both ends of the causeway need extensive reconstruction. Since drinking water and other utilities pass to Goat Island along the causeway, the DOT has sought to minimize any dislocation to Goat Island residents during construction. The engineers have decided to build a new narrow bridge way to Goat Island approximately twenty feet north of the existing causeway. The new bridge will serve to temporarily carry utility lines during causeway repair and will become a permanent pedestrian access to Goat Island once the causeway repairs are complete. I will propose to the executive board at our monthly meeting on December 5<sup>th</sup> that the association host an informational session with DOT personnel at our spring members' meeting. Perhaps the DOT will also be able to explain their proposed modifications to the Pell Bridge access ramps.

The navy has also determined that they will sell their hospital property on Third Street rather than lease it, as originally proposed. The city is attempting to anticipate probable projects for the seven acre parcel which is currently zoned as R10 for residential use.

We'll keep you updated on these projects.

*Jack*



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## A POINT LANDMARK

by Debbie Mulcare

# 40



Today Third and Elm Press is a Point landmark and serves as a destination for residents and visitors alike. What is less familiar is how Ilse Buchert Nesbitt, printer in residence, came to settle in Newport forty years ago.

Born in Frankfurt, Germany in 1932, Ilse spent her childhood in Japan where her father was the East Asian patent representative of the German firm, I.G. Farben. Repatriated in 1947, the Bucherts settled once again in Frankfurt. Buchert began her art career working with oil paints which helped to develop her unique printing technique of applying several colors to the same block. She was attracted to woodcutting because of its simplicity and because the graphics are more controlled, more disciplined. She studied with Richard von Sichowsky mastering printing techniques, principles of book design, and woodblock printing until 1959. Ilse came to Providence in 1960 to work as an assistant to Alexander Nesbitt, a teacher of typography and graphic design at Rhode Island School of Design.

She and Alexander left RISD in 1965 to pursue their work in printing and design and moved to the corner



*Jack Maytum, president of the Point Association presented 40 roses to Ilse at her Anniversary Party on Saturday, November 5th*

of Third and Elm Streets. This was the beginning of the Third and Elm Press here on the Point. They married in 1966 and collaborated for many years producing limited edition books and other commissioned printing projects. He continued to produce fine lettering right up until his death in 1995. Ilse and Alexander had two sons: a photographer and owner of Blink Gallery here in Newport and another who is an artist.

On the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Third and Elm Press, the German journal, *Philobiblon*, devoted their December issue, 1985, to their contributions to fine printing. Nesbitt has been printing her designs for 40 years, producing collections of works reflecting her travels around the US as well as to other countries. Most recently displayed was a collection of works inspired by her travels to Japan, titled, "Lanterns, Trees and Torii". For about the last ten years Ilse has been refining her own paper making process with the belief that the paper she prints on should be included in her artistic process. Striving to make a unified work of art in which the materials, the process, and the image all work in harmony, she has developed the techniques required to make fine Japan papers.

Interested readers may enjoy visiting the Press's website at [www.thirdandelms.com](http://www.thirdandelms.com) where you can see samples of Ilse's work as well as read a history of the Press.

# SCANNING HISTORY

## The Digitizing of the Point Association of Newport Resources

Early this past year, Diane Patrella and Daniel Titus started a project on digitizing the Point Association resources. This project was started through the efforts of the Association, through Jack and Donna Maytum, with Kay O'Brien as the primary contact between the groups. The theory and rationale behind the project was to make as much of the material owned by the Association (e.g. *The Green Light* and historic photographs) available to a much wider audience, help in the preservation of the originals, experiment with the different ways of processing the materials, and determine the feasibility of digitizing a collection of a small neighborhood association.

There are many pro's and con's of digitizing a collection. The biggest pro is the preservation of the resources, through less physical contact with originals and therefore less "wear and tear", accidental damage, and environment damage. It gives the resource owner the ability to preserve/conservate the originals, knowing that access is still available via the digitized copy. In addition, it opens the relatively heretofore closed collection to a much wider audience, in a faster (and through time cheaper) way. However, there are also drawbacks to digitizing, mainly the initial cost of digitizing a collection. The labor is long and skilled, which translates into money. Also, someone who is intimate with the materials has to make the decisions "Is the collection worth digitizing?" and "What should be digitized?" (typical questions of "worth"). In short, "What do we digitize?" vs. "What do we preserve?" With all digitized resources, regardless of what it is, it is still at least one generation removed from the original. It will not be a "perfect" copy, but can come extremely close to it. So the original should be retained if physically possible.

In the case of the Point Association, the collection was divided into two distinct types of materials: text-based (*The Green Light*), and photographs (both color and black and white). Each type of material required a different solution. In the case of the *The Green Light*,

the objective was to digitize them to have both a copy of their existence, and make them more available to members and non-members. The goal was to have all of them digitized for the 50-year anniversary of the Association. Happily, after an initial trial and error period, a standard was developed that would give excellent quality and readability along with a relatively compact file size. This was accomplished by scanning each issue of *The Green Light* in the Portable Document Format (PDF) file standard using 300x300dpi resolution. All *Green Lights* have been scanned and were delivered to the Association Board.

Photographs, on the other hand, required a much different solution. As photographs can contain much more information about an environment (especially an urban one like the Point), and because they come in many different types of media and sizes, each one had to be evaluated on an individual basis: photograph type (color or B&W), size, media (positive or negative), for example. The standard formulated was one that would represent the original as closely as possible: scanning at a resolution of 600dpi and saving it as an "archival" TIFF file format.

Once the collection is digitized the opportunity to expand will be endless. Such tasks could be indexing *The Green Lights* so it becomes searchable via electronic means, creation of finding aids based on text or key words (for both *Green Lights* and photographs), the addition of "metadata" for photographs (which is just a fancy term for "cataloging" photographs), the integration of the material on the World Wide Web, thereby making it available to not only members across the world, but to all people interested in the Point area, no matter where they may be on the globe!

With this first step towards digitizing, the Point Association is positioning itself to both record and preserve the history of this unique historic Newport neighborhood and help other interested people, throughout the world, learn about this place you call "home".

---

*Both Diane and Dan are seniors at Salve Regina University. Diane is an Art History major, with a minor in Cultural and Historic Preservation, and Dan is majoring in Cultural and Historic Preservation.*

## BEAUTIFICATION

by Marcia Mallory

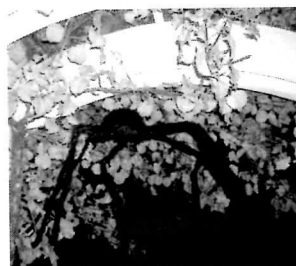
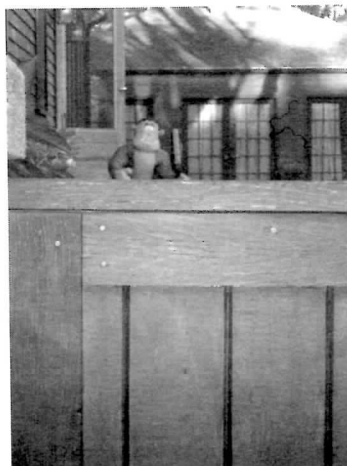
After a rainout the first weekend, several intrepid pointers braved the cold and snow flurries to participate in the annual fall cleanup and bulb planting on Saturday, October 29. Fortified by coffee and goodies provided by Shelly Kraman, we were able to plant over 300 bulbs in both Storer and Battery Parks. Look for the results of our work come spring. Those lending their support were Dave Davis and Mary Jo Valdes, with their daughter Hannah Davis and her friend Megan Fantes. Also joining the work party were Hillar Sarepera, Charlie Duncan, Jim Smith and dog Sarah, Becky Reynolds, Jimmy Winters, Kay O'Brien, Bill Hall, Isabel Griffith, and Coles and Marcia Mallory. Bruce Long very kindly raked the leaves in Storer Park before the bulb planters arrived.



TOP TO BOTTOM  
RIGHT TO LEFT:  
Megan & Hannah,  
Shelly & Mary Jo  
Jim & Becky,  
Bill & Kay  
> > > & Sarah



## ~ HALLOWEEN ON THE POINT ~



## HALLOWEEN AT HARBOR HOUSE

Photos by Helen Byrne



Jane Doherty, a fine singer, led the group in song.



Costumed residents added a Halloween touch!



Pumpkins decorated the walls.

## BORN ON THE POINT

by Bill Hall, History and Archives

The Born on the Point program recognizes newborns and others who were Point residents at the time of their birth.

Certificates were prepared in October for youngsters: William Nettleton Jackson, Lila Amity Jackson and W. Macallan Peck and for adults: Gwendolyn Pike Behan, Mary N. Behan and Julianne Behan Kelley. The next round of certificates will be readied for the April 2006 Membership Meeting. Anyone interested in information or an application may contact Bill Hall at 846-4159.

## CHRISTMAS AT HARBOR HOUSE

Carol Singing in  
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Residents Council, at 848-2706

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## OUR NEW OFFICERS

by Marcia Mallory

### First Vice President – Andy LaVarre

Andy is a long time Newporter. He first came here in 1970, living in Navy housing in the Fifth Ward. After his first house in Portsmouth, later moves to Farewell Street, Elm Street and now Willow Street make him a confirmed Pointer.

Andy completed a Navy career as a Captain, followed by tours as a communications engineer with Booz-Allen and a project manager with Raytheon. He now works as an “operations analyst” with the Navy, conducting research and analysis on a range of systems and processes.

Andy resides at 16 Willow Street. His “other house” is a 15 meter trawler in the Netherlands. He is active in a variety of activities, including writing, travel, boating, running, and SCUBA. He is a member of the Emmanuel Church choir. His children and grandchildren live in California and North Carolina.

### Treasurer - George F. (Jeff) Marshall

Jeff grew up in Portland, ME. In the seventh grade, he decided he was tired of being called “Georgie” and announced he would be known as “Jeff”. Today he is still “Jeff”.

Jeff is a graduate of Holy Cross College and has an MBA from Wharton Business School. He served in the US Army Medical Service Corps in Arizona and Korea. Jeff had a newspaper career in Portland, Maine, with VP Gannett Publishing Company and in Seattle, Washington, as the Executive Director of Pacific

Northwest Newspaper Association. Jeff and his wife Laura moved to Newport in 2001. He currently works as Director of Research for Mathews Marketing, specializing in targeted newspaper advertising. Jeff has an easy commute to work - his office is at 11 Bridge St.

Laura and Jeff have two daughters who live in Seattle and Philadelphia and three grandchildren. The oldest boy has spent a month here for the last four summers and is an enthusiastic participant in Sail Newport.

### Co-Secretaries – Roxy and Claire Ernsberger

Roxy and Claire first moved to Newport in 1982, having spent the previous twelve years in Norwalk, CT. Roxy was an engineer at Raytheon, and Claire was a guide for the Preservation Society. With the exception of a six-year job-related transfer, they have been here ever since. Initially Roxy and Claire lived in a large Victorian house on the Hill, but retiring in 2000, they moved to the Point, where they spent four years remodeling their house on Sec-

ond Street. In September of 2004 they moved to their present house at 119 Washington Street, now also in the process of renovation. They are active members of Trinity Church and the Newport Yacht Club.

Raised in Iowa and Delaware, respectively, Roxy and Claire met in New Jersey in 1961. During their 45 years together, they have lived primarily in Connecticut and Rhode Island, but have managed to give the appearance of being perpetual transients, with job related stays in such places as the Marshall Islands, New Mexico, Illinois, California and Puerto Rico. Roxy and Claire enjoy water sports, skiing, traveling, and visiting their three children and nine grandchildren. They intend never to move again.



NEW OFFICERS and STAFF  
L to R: Roxy and Claire Ernsberger, the Secretaries  
Jeff Marshall, the Treasurer  
Shelly Kramen, Event Planner  
Alice Clemente, Editor of *The Green Light*



# WASHINGTON STREET CHRISTMASSES *reprinted from the Winter, 1998-99 issue*

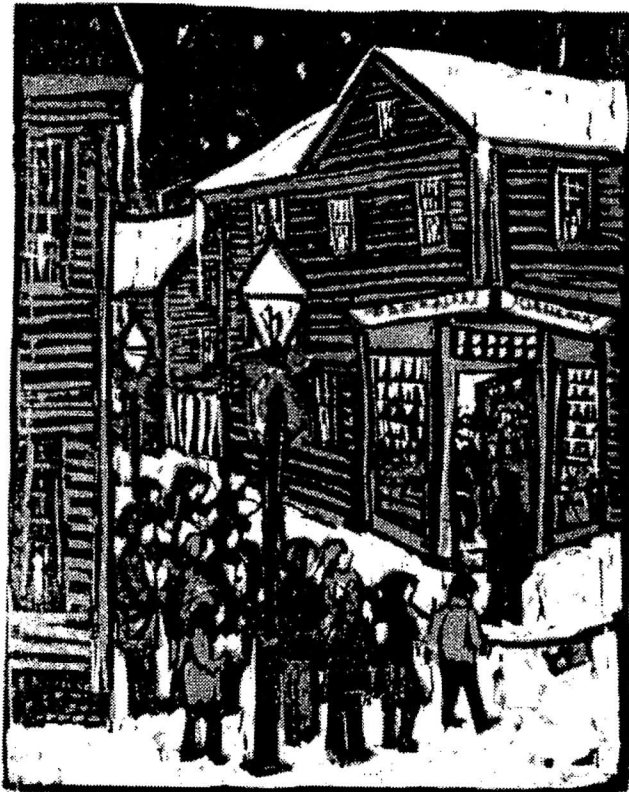
by Jane MacLeod Walsh

I was somewhat surprised when *The Green Light* asked if I'd write a reminiscence about earlier Christmases on the Point. I didn't think I was old enough yet to be writing about "the good old days," but it seems that being born on the Point over half a century ago gives one license to reminisce. I didn't think our Christmases in the 1940s and '50s were much different, except that I have an impression of more snow then - the National Weather Bureau might disagree - and perhaps we took greater delight in smaller things.

Our drafty old house on Washington Street (#78) got colder and colder as the Christmas season approached, and once those wintry winds began to blow off the Bay from the northwest, there was no way to keep really warm in the rooms on the water side of the house. So we just added more and more layers of clothing and spent more time in the south- and eastfacing rooms. Nevertheless, my father always put up the fresh, woodsy-smelling Christmas tree, with great ceremony, in the big curved bay window in the living room, facing Narragansett Bay and the green light, and although it was the breeziest spot in the house the tree usually managed to remain upright, thanks to his sturdy wooden supports.

We always felt the holiday had really begun when, a day or so before Christmas, Aunt Jessie MacLeod (my father's youngest sister) would arrive with the big fragrant red and white striped candy canes, fresh from Edith Logothets' candy shop on Broadway, to hang on the tree. Down from the attic came the boxes of ornaments, and we'd take turns hanging our old favorites. I loved the green glass cucumber, complete with

realistic bumps, and the long transparent icicles that twirled and twinkled in the drafts as they reflected the multi-colored lights strung on the tree. Out would come the old French creche figures, and although the creche itself was long gone, we carefully arranged the beloved animals and familiar figures around the swaddled baby. Somewhere along the way a wooden donkey had replaced the original one, but we loved him just as much and hardly noticed that he was smaller than the sheep.



A few weeks earlier, the Christmas carol books had come down from their special shelf in the attic and we'd gather periodically around my mother at the piano in the warmer front room, often joined by Bozyan and Gordon aunts and cousins from next door (#80), and if it was a Sunday, Uncle Norman MacLeod's booming bass voice would complete the harmonies. We usually strayed into our favorite Bach chorale books before the sessions were over.

By the time Christmas Eve rolled around, our voices were all primed for the great annual treat that we all looked forward to - caroling with the Covells and Bensons and, later, Aubois' and assorted other helpful voices, up and down Washington Street and to a few houses, such as the Arnolds' complex, on the side streets. Being the youngest in the family, I felt terribly privileged when I finally was deemed old enough to join the carolers instead of staying in with Aunt Jessie to await their arrival.

Bundled up in our warmest coats and mufflers, lanterns in hand, we would assemble next door at the Covell house (#72), where the well-worn carol books would be handed out, with our itinerary and order of

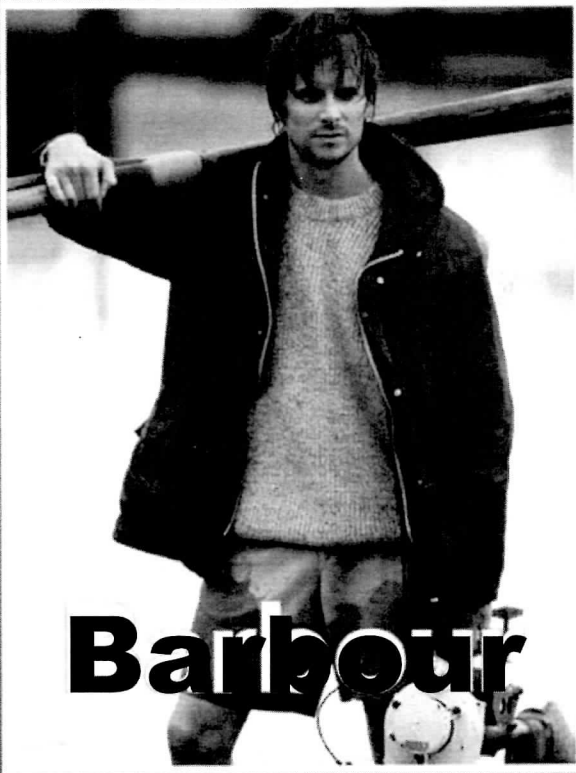
carols taped inside the front cover. Rob and King Covell led the caroling as we stopped at each house and Howard Benson and Nancy Price (Edith Price's niece, who worked at the John Steven's shop) accompanied us on their recorders.

We usually had rehearsed earlier at the Covell house, with King at the organ and Virginia (Mrs. Robert Covell) dispensing her famous cocoa and cookies, and Rob schooled us exactly in our dynamics, tempo and articulation. When it came to "The Holly and the Ivy," we always had to pronounce "choir" as "queer" (i.e. "sweet singing in the queer"), to rhyme with "the running of the deer" in the previous line. To this day I can't sing it any other way.

We sang lustily and joyously for our neighbors and they seemed to enjoy it. At the Nina Lynette Home (#87) the ladies (there were no men there in those days) would be lined up on the stairway awaiting our arrival, some already in their bedtime attire. When the Eccles bought the house at 101 Washington Street, they instituted the welcome tradition of serving us hot mulled wine or cider.

There was a special feeling of peaceful camaraderie as we strolled along the cold street under the stars, humming, singing, whistling, chatting, and playing, and when it snowed, it was particularly magical. By the time we were finished, however, we were all glad to get back home and warm our toes by the fire. My sister and I would hang our stockings on the mantelpiece, put a glass of milk and a plate of sugar cookies on the candle stand for Santa, and climb happily into our beds to await the dawn of Christmas Day.

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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

### NEW MEMBERS

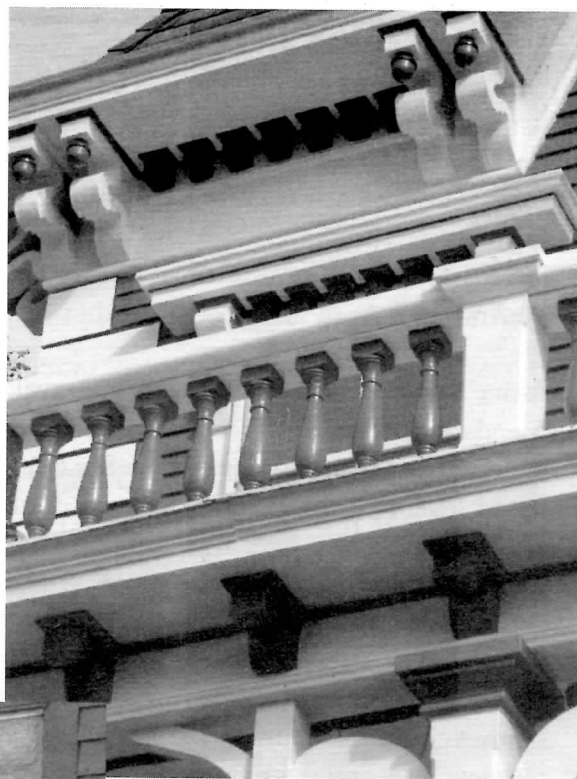
John and Winifred Broughan  
Heather and Chris Curran  
Dave and Beverly Gove  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Maurus  
William Spaide and Sue Brandon  
Jane Timken

Membership Committee  
Rich and Patricia Carrubba

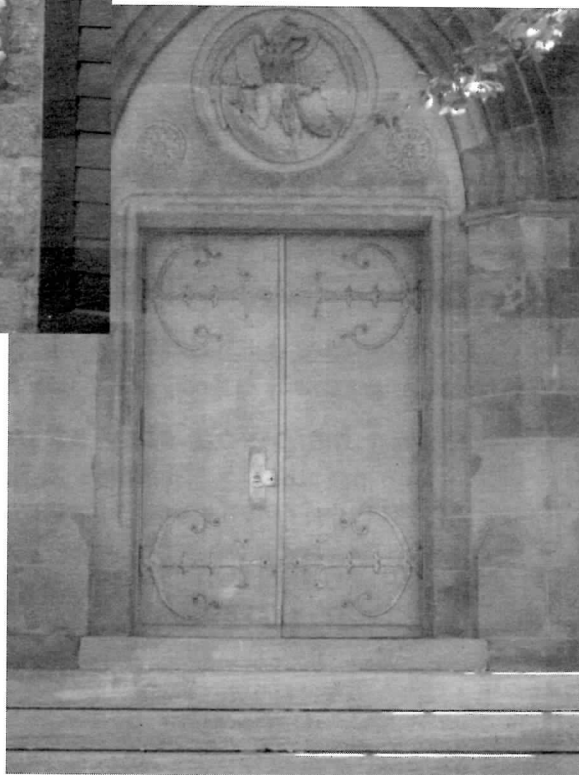
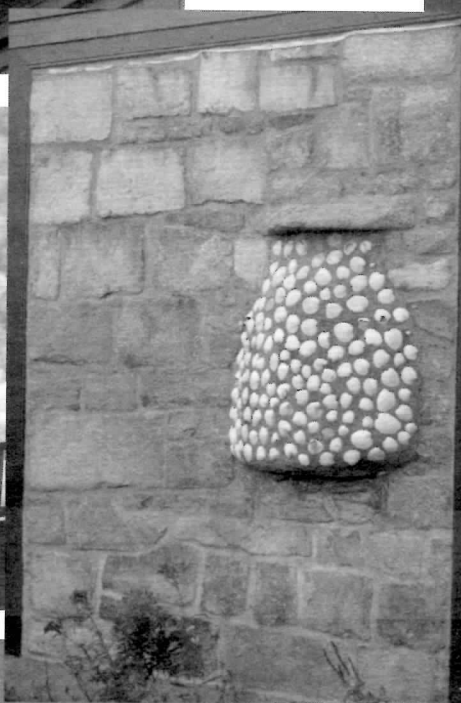
## POINTscapes....

visual vignettes assembled with appreciation, affection and delight in what meets the eye whenever we go out our front door

by Jane Hence



These architectural bits and pieces are found along Washington Street as were the Hallowe'en notes. Various other viewpoints and subjects and parts of the Point will follow in future issues.



## A GOOD NEIGHBOR

by Kay O'Brien

Take any block on the Point and it's full of history. Take your own block and it becomes more personal. Here on Washington, Pine, and Battery Streets, we have lost a good neighbor, Anita Grosvenor McAndrews, April 22, 1924 - October 15, 2005.

Anita had a large family, loved to travel, and had friends everywhere. When she moved to 101 Washington Street at the corner of Pine Street in 1988, she fell in love with the Point. Her next door neighbor also facing Battery park was Annette Peterson, and we all soon learned to use the garden gate as a shortcut for our many visits.

A talented writer and painter, Anita eagerly accepted assignments on the staff of *The Green Light*. Planning meetings were lively with Fisher Benson, Virginia Covell, Kit Hammett, Anne Reynolds, Florence Archambault, and Nancy Esperson. Our efforts were rewarded by Anita's fabulous annual Christmas Party. When Anita's family including children came for visits, the neighbor-

hood was filled with laughter over hide-and-seek excitement. Anita loved her years on the Point and leaves us with happy memories and many stories to tell.

*Of local interest, her most recent book, The Photograph Upstairs, is a novel set in her ancestors' home, The Elms, here in Newport.*

### Anita McAndrews' Garden

by Isabel Griffith

For as long as anyone can remember, Anita McAndrews invited the Point Association to use her garden at 101 Washington Street for the Plant Sale every May. It is the perfect setting for the sale, and I believe some people stopped by just to see the garden in bloom. It has an air of serenity – a lovely mix of mature trees, shrubs, and perennials in a rainbow of colors, bordered by a low stone wall.

I did not know Anita well, except by reputation. I think I might have met her at the Plant Sale once or twice. But, I will remember her through her garden – hers must have been a beautiful spirit.

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Michael Dennis-Bale



## WATERFRONT NOTES

by Liz Mathinos

Friends of the Waterfront (FoW) has launched its Harbor Walk signage program, which will place approximately 70 signs, identifying public access along the harbor. Working in cooperation with the city, the Harbor Walk Sign Fund Program is well into its design phase, and FoW is looking for additional support to pay for the placement of the signs. The segment of Newport Harbor Walk that will be marked will run along the waterfront from Storer Park to King Park. The FoW Web site, [NewportHarborWalk.org](http://NewportHarborWalk.org) will provide a printable map and history of the waterfront, which along with the signage program will provide a self-directed tour of the waterfront. Anyone interested in more information can call Martin Douglas, President, 846-7536.

### WASHINGTON STREET EXTENSION (WSE)

Recently, City Solicitor, Joe Nicholson, filed a brief in the WSE lawsuit filed by Mr. Reagan and Mr. Moy against the city. According to Mr. Nicholson, the trial will begin at a later date, possibly in February. Interested citizens need to monitor these legal proceedings, closely.

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## FAVORITE RECIPES

### LAP OF LUXURY

by Kit Weiss

Let's face it, none of us actually live in the lap of luxury but there are some things that come close. My favorite two things are a huge popover Sunday morning and a hot soothing soak on a cold winter night. Well, I certainly don't want you to miss out on this sumptuous delight, so here you are.

No, wait just a minute while I tell you about our get rich quick scheme. We love these popovers so much we decided to market the recipe in a popover cup. So we went out to buy cups – no problem. Then we worked up the mix, (flour and a little salt). The instructions were simple: Add two eggs and milk, mix and bake etc. Excuse me! Just what are the buyers getting? Flour in a cup? The rest you buy and add? What is wrong with this picture? So we gave the cups away as presents and canned the idea. Now here is the recipe.

#### GIANT POPOVERS

Mix one cup of flour, a pinch of salt, two eggs and one cup of milk. Distribute into four heavily greased oven proof cups (mugs, custard cups, even muffin pans. I use huge brown stoneware cups). Bake 20 minutes at 425°. Do NOT peek. Turn oven down to 375° and bake another 20 minutes. Open the oven and if they are nice and big and tall, quickly jab a hole in each one with a sharp knife. (If they are not nice and big, quickly close the door and wait a few minutes longer.) Bake another ten minutes to allow them to dry out inside. Make sure everyone is sitting at the table when these come out!

Ralph usually makes these delights for the family. One morning he got up early and made these using the flour he found in the cabinet. We were all called to breakfast and he pulled the tray out of the oven. Such despair. They were shorter than when he started! He used all rye flour (“How was I to know?”). We named them “scuppers” and had a great time sailing them off the back porch and into the woods. I can't tell you where we were living at the time because the bunny boys and tree huggers are still looking for us in the case of the mysterious death of several wild animals near our home.

#### LUX BATH

Mix together: 1 cup powdered milk, ½ cup Epsom salts, 1 tablespoon baking soda, 1 teaspoon cornstarch and 3-4 drops of your favorite essential oil (optional, but desirable and available at most health food stores). You may then pour directly into your tub as you run a warm bath, or you may choose to place on a square of cheese cloth and tie securely with a ribbon. Frankly it seems to me that it would slowly sift through the cheesecloth. But whatever works for you. Yield: Two terrific soaks.

ENJOY

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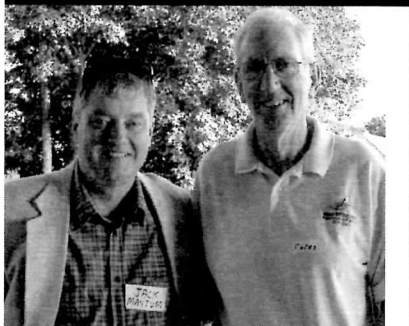
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