



# OLDE NEWS

EAST • PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
• NEWSLETTER •

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The rummage sale which the Historical Society held with the Rumford Junior Women's Club on Saturday October 1, was an ambitious start to the Ways and Means Committee's fund raising activities for the 1988-89 membership year.

I would like to thank the Committee and the Historical Society members who gener-

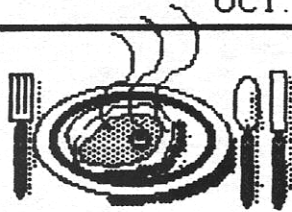
ously gave their goods and their time to make the day a success. The Vincents, who co-chaired the event, deserve a round of applause for all the extra work they did to insure a successful sale.

At the October meeting, the Ways and Means Committee will be looking for volunteers for the Harvest Supper. I would like to ask all of our members to consider doing a little something — anything — to help the Committee with the supper. You can help make the supper a success even if you are not able to help with the set-up, cooking, or clean-up. Any show of support, no matter how small, will be appreciated.

*Claudette Field*

### REMINDER!

The October meeting of  
the E. P. H. S. will be on  
Monday, October 24  
at 7:00 p.m.  
(note new time)  
at the Rumford Grange



**NO  
DINNER,  
But...**

The Rumford Grange will be unable to serve dinner before October's meeting.

As compensation, a decision was made at September's meeting to serve coffee and dessert between the program and the business part of the meeting.

Dr. Kevin Jordan, Director of Historic Preservation at Roger Williams College will be our guest. He will speak to the Society about the preservation Bond issue which will help finance the purchase of Linden Place, a handsome Bristol mansion.

Please note that the meeting this month will begin at 7:00 p.m. rather than the usual time of 7:15 p.m., and the program section of the meeting will be held first. Refreshments will be served before the business meeting.

Reminder: Dues for 1988-89 are due and will be collected after the meeting.

**MEMBERS ON NOVEMBER  
BALLOT**

E.P.H.S. has the distinction of two of its members running for election to public office in November. Ray Anderson is running for City Council in Ward One (the Rumford area) and Nancy Stevens is running for School Committee. I'm sure that each of them would welcome any interest in their campaigns and be glad to answer your questions.

Don't forget to exercise your voting privilege on November 8th!

*Nancy Moore*

**BNE'S HISTORIC PRINTS  
IN RUMFORD OFFICE**

The Bank of New England's Rumford office is now adorned with a fine collection of old photographs and reproductions of postcards and engravings all dealing with East Providence history. There are reproductions of newspaper stories dealing with the old Vanity Fair amusement park, old photographs of Crescent Park in its heyday, Watchmocket square, the Rumford Chemical works and so on.

This reporter has made a total fool of himself, I am sure, gawking at the pictures while I should have been tending to the business at hand, (usually

**BNE** ctd.

something dull like paying the mortgage.)

Bank of New England must be commended for presenting such a fine collection of artifacts to the general public, many of whom would probably be unaware of any of the history of East Providence. All of the pictures are of a uniformly high quality, nicely framed and matted. Indeed the only complaint that could be leveled at them is that some are hung in areas where the public cannot easily examine them without crawling on top of BNE employee's desks for a better view.

*George Field*

### RUMMAGE SALE VIGNETTES

Overheard at the Rummage Sale:

Lady with china, cheerfully going to pay up: "From someone else's attic to my attic!"

Man kneeling under table: "How much are your loose screws?"  
(Bought several jars of same.)

Woman surveying the hall filled with a thousand items: "You don't have any pot pourri."

Claudette's comment: "Didn't anyone offer to go out and make her some?"

Young mother: "Hoped to get some books, but they're torn. Oh well, at that age they all tear them."

*Jewel Drickamer*

## WEAVER HOUSE UPDATE



A year ago the Weaver house was a boarded-up orphan no one wanted to adopt. Now the venerable

structure has the opposite problem. The East Providence Library has included it in their \$1.8 million expansion plans, several groups have expressed an interest in using it to house their organizations, and now the heirs of Susan Anthony have announced that they have petitioned the city for the return of the Weaver house. They contend the city is not putting the Weaver House to the uses stipulated in the the Anthony will.

As reported in the East Providence Post, the heirs have stated their intentions of taking the matter to court since their petition was denied by the City Council. It's nice to be wanted, but why did everyone wait so long?

*George Field*

## BY-LAWS CHANGES PROPOSED

The following are the changes to the existing E.P.H.S. By-Laws as recommended by the By-Laws Committee. All changes in the by-laws are required to be sent to our membership in written form via first class mail. Please refer to your copy of the present by-laws as you note the changes. (If you need the old by-laws please call Ginny Berwick at 434-0998) There will be ample time for discussion at the November meeting before these changes are voted upon.

ARTICLE I: Stays as is

ARTICLE II: Section 1- delete word youthful

Section 2- as is

ARTICLE III Section 1- There shall be four classes of membership: INDIVIDUAL, FAMILY, CORPORATE/PATRON, LIFE.

Section 2- As is

Section 3- Dues shall be \$10.00 annually for INDIVIDUAL, \$15.00 annually for FAMILY, \$100.00 annually for CORPORATE/PATRON, and \$75.00 for LIFE memberships.

Section 4- As is

Section 5- As is

ARTICLE IV: Section 1- The regular meetings of the Society shall be held monthly, September through June, on the fourth Monday of the month, beginning with September, which shall be the Annual Meeting.

Section 2- As is

Section 3- Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held monthly at the call of the President.

Section 4- As is

ARTICLE V: Section 1- As is

Section 2- As is

Section 3- Change quarterly to monthly. Add: All checks in excess of \$500.00 shall be signed by the President and the Treasurer.

Section 4- As is

Section 5- As is

ARTICLE VI: Section 1- A nominating committee of five (5) members, none of which shall be present office holders shall be appointed by the President, two (2) regular meetings before the Annual Meeting. The committee shall present the nominees for office at the regular meeting (June) preceding the Annual Meeting..

Section 2- As is

Section 3- As is

ARTICLE VII: as is

The following recommendations are presented for discussion to the group. They will require

**BY-LAWS cont.**

discussion and a vote at some later date.

ARTICLE IV: Section 1- Change month for Annual Meeting from September to May or June.

ARTICLE V: Section 1- The President should serve no more than two consecutive terms.

Section 4- The chairman of each committee shall be a voting member of the Board of Directors

ARTICLE VI: Section 1- The membership shall be polled by newsletter for nominees for office three (3) month prior to the Annual Meeting. The results shall be forwarded to the Nominating Committee.

The following committees shall be listed in the By-Laws:

Section 4- The Ways  
and Means Committee

Section 5- The Preservation  
Committee

Section 6- The Hunt  
House Committee

*Nancy Moore*

**OLDE NEWS TEASER:**

Where was the earliest covered  
bridge in the U.S?  
(Answer in this issue)

## New Slate Elected

### 1988-89 Officers and Board

<b>Claudette Field</b>	President
<b>Mike Charves</b>	1- V.P.
<b>Bill Wade</b>	2- V.P.
<b>Lura Sellow</b>	Recording Secretary.
<b>Virginia Berwick</b>	Corresponding Sec'y.
<b>Martha Rivas</b>	Treasurer
<b>Ellen O'Hare</b>	Board Mem ber-at - Large

### Committee Chairpersons

<b>Madeline &amp; Walter Vincent</b>	Ways & Means
<b>Nancy Moore</b>	Preservation
<b>G. Fales Peirce</b>	Restoration
<b>George Field</b>	Newsletter Editor

### Preservation Commission Meeting

The first meeting of the new East Providence Historic Properties Commission will be held October 13, at 7:00PM in Room 308 in City Hall. Look for an explanation of the commission in next month's issue of OLDE NEWS.

## WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The Ways and Means Committee held a meeting at the home of Ellen O'Hare on Sept. 7th to more or less finalize plans for the Rummage Sale on Sat. Oct. 1.

Our volunteer members really came through with their support on both Friday, to set up and mark items, and lending a helping hand on Saturday, the day of the sale. The committee, would like to thank each and every one who helped make this event a success.

Nancy Moore made arrangements for any items not sold to be donated to the Wheeler School. Three truck loads were taken to the school after the sale.

At our most recent meeting Sept. 26th, plans had just been confirmed to hold a "Harvest Supper" at the Newman Church. Again we will be asking for your support to assist with the meal and also for a volunteer clean-up committee. Tickets will be available at the October meeting, or by calling the Vincents at 434-0481.

Just a reminder and with Christmas not too far away: our T-shirts make lovely gifts!

*Madeline Vincent*

## Letters and Comments



Yes! OLDE NEWS has actually received many comments about our first issue, most of them actually polite, if not kind. (One sample from Isabel Izzo: "I really like the OLDE NEWS, suits an olde lady") We welcome any sort of written matter from our readers, and will try to print what we can, given our space constraints.

This is your chance to see your very own name in genuine print! Send all cards, letters, articles and/or checks to OLDE NEWS' editorial offices, at 1474 Pawtucket Ave., Rumford, RI 02916. No nasty letters or explosive packages, please.

November's Guest Speaker  
**Clifford Renshaw**  
 noted restoration architect  
 will discuss his survey of the  
 Hunt House

## COLT MEMORIAL

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Colt, long time members of the East Providence Historical Society, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary a year ago this last August at Audrey's in Seekonk. It was a wonderful time for them and for those of us who attended. It was with sadness that we learned within a few months that Marjorie Winne Colt dies suddenly, leaving a gap in the lives of her family and many friends. Her quick wit, bright friendliness and controversial statements were missed by all of us, but especially by Kenneth Hewitt Colt who felt his loss more deeply than any of us realized. His will to live evaporated and in a few months this kindly, humorous and easy-going friend died too.

When Mrs. Colt died, their children suggested that friends send donations to the East Providence Public Libraries in her name since she had been a moving force in the growth of the library system. When Mr. Colt died, their children suggested that friends send donations to the East Providence Historical Society since that was one of his prime interests. Both Marjorie and Kenneth attended meetings regularly and voiced their opinions on matters of importance. The sum of the donations realized was five hundred and twenty-five dollars, a substantial amount, to be used to defray some of the expenses that will inevitably occur with the Hunt House.

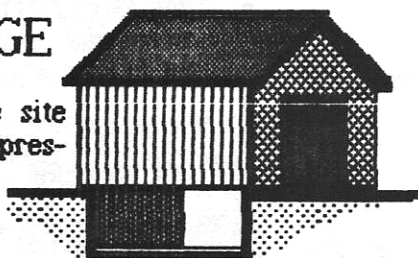
The members of the Society miss

their presence at the meetings and we are grateful to their friends and relatives who gave from the heart.

*Lura Sellow*

## WASHINGTON BRIDGE

The site of the present day Washington



Bridge was popular as a ferry crossing by both the Indians and the white settlers, and the nation's earliest covered bridge was built here by John Brown in 1793 who named the bridge after his idol, George Washington. (A statue of Washington was placed on the Providence end of the bridge.)

In 1807 this bridge, and its statue, was carried away by a spring flood, rebuilt and blown away again in the Gale of 1815. The third bridge was apparently a sturdier affair and lasted 70 years until it was replaced by an iron bridge in 1885. The current bridge, the fifth one built on this site, was opened for traffic in 1930.

*Research by Clint Sellow*

### October Bakers

Thank you to Billie Arden, Ann Bannister, Ginny Berwick, Lilian Dickinson, Nancy Stevens, and Mildred Unkuski who volunteered to bake for the Oct. 24th meeting.

**VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED!**

Motivated person to do publicity for local Historical Society. No experience necessary, typewriter provided if needed. Call 431-0257 to volunteer.

Person or persons to do grant writing for a Historical Society seeking to restore old house! Experience preferred but not essential. Call 431-0257 for details.

**PERSONALS**

The East Providence Historical Society wishes to thank Len Erickson for the typewriter he generously donated to the Society recently.

OLDE NEWS  
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