

OLDE NEWS

EAST ■ PROVIDENCE ■ HISTORICAL ■ SOCIETY
■ NEWSLETTER ■

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Everyone seemed to have a very good time at our Second Annual Pasta Supper; we've received many compliments about the food. Someone actually said that it was the most gourmet pasta supper that they'd ever attended!

Ray Anderson chose the Vincents as the subject of his Applause Committee report this month and I can't think of a more deserving or hard-working couple. Madeline and Walter have spent innumerable hours on Historical Society projects since they joined.

The whole Ways and Means

Committee (Billie Arden, Mike Charves, Susan Lee, Martha Rivas and the Vincents) deserves our thanks as do all the members who generously volunteered to work on the supper.

Ways and Means can always use new committee members, so if you have any new and exciting fund-raising ideas (or old, tried and true ideas!) please consider joining this important committee.

On another note, now that the weather is warming up, work will begin in earnest on the Hunt House this month. The restora-

cont. page 10

PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

At the Society's regular March meeting the Preservation Committee arranged for a presentation of the Moore Farm development by FTF Partnership. Mr. John Finan, a partner, and Mr. Anthony Buzzetti, a real estate market analyst, presented a thorough explanation of their proposal. A representative group of neighbors and interested citizens were on hand to ask questions and view the plans. FTF also passed out handouts detailing their previous projects. (See "Moore News" on pg. 8 for details on the FTF proposal.)

The Preservation Committee will be meeting on April 17th to consider all the points made by the developers. It is hoped that a recommendation regarding the Moore Farm project can be made to the Historical Society by the regular May meeting. A letter has been sent to FTF Partnership thanking them for their time and careful presentation.

Nancy Moore



OLDE NEWS

is published monthly by The East
Providence Historical Society

Editor

George Field

EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 4774

East Providence, Rhode Island 02916

OFFICERS

President	Claudette Field
First Vice-President	Michael Charves
Second Vice-President	William Wade
Secretary	Lura Sellew
Corresponding Secretary	Virginia Berwick
Treasurer	Martha Rivas
Past President	Arnold McConnell

BOARD MEMBERS

Member at Large	Ellen O'Hare
-----------------	--------------

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Artifacts	Edna Anness
Grant Writing	Ellen O'Hare
Hunt House Restoration	G. Fales Peirce
Membership	Virginia Berwick
Newsletter	George Field
Mailing subcommittee	Florence Adams
Preservation	Nancy Moore
Publicity	Florence Adams
Safety and Security	Raymond Anderson
Ways and Means	W. and H. Vincent

NOSTALGIA

This is our second edition of NOSTALGIA. The purpose is to bring back some of our more recent past. Each column will answer the previous month's question and pose another nostalgia query. Suggestions and answers should be sent to OLDE NEWS, Nostalgia Dept. P.O. Box 4774, E. Prov. RI 02916, or call 438-2464. No special prizes...just fun in reminiscing and learning more about East Providence.

Last Month's Query:

The Pioneer Market operated on Bishop Avenue, next to the Handy Shop (currently the site of the Handy Bake Shoppe).

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION:

My father grew up in Rumford on Ferris Avenue. He told me he was born in the "High House." Do you know where it is? Why was it called the "High House"?

APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE!

Let's hear it for all those who made the Pasta Supper a success, but especially our Ace*1 Primo Ways and Means Couple: **Made-line and Walter Vincent**. On behalf of the members, thank you "viti" much! Two top notch volunteers we can always rely on.

Ray Anderson

(The editor would like to add his personal heartfelt thanks to all those volunteers who baked deserts. I couldn't get to sample all of them, but I tried, I tried...)

OVERDUE DUES

INCREDIBLE BUT TRUE!
There are still members who owe this year's dues! (Due last September, but who's counting?)

If your Dues are
overdue, send them in today!

NAME (S) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

Single (\$10) Family (\$15)

WAYS AND MEANS

We at the Ways and Means Committee wish to thank each and everyone who donated their time and hard work to the success of our Pasta Supper April 1st. Except for the need of a few more waitresses, all duties were carried out very well. For the kitchen clean-up workers who thought there was no end to the dishes, pots and pans; there's a good possibility that Nancy Moore will find someone to learn to operate the dishwasher that just sits there.

We cleared almost \$500 including "Split the Pot" and sale of tickets that night for the raffle. Congratulations to the Vincents: John, who won "Split the Pot" and June, who was the lucky ticket holder for the very lovely afghan.

Thank you notes have been sent out to all who made donations.

Since Lura Sellew is going on a trip and is unable to avail us with designs for our Quilt Project, how about having a contest among a few "Artistes" to come forth with some designs to be used?

Since the Ways and Means Committee has projected a few other projects, we are holding a

meeting Sunday, April 16th to discuss workshops to start making articles for our Boutique. We do have some materials and are waiting for a date to be set.

Hopefully, some of our Works of Art (Crafts) will be completed by Thanksgiving and perhaps we could tie in the Boutique with the Society's plans to hold its first exhibition of our collection and etc.

Looks like strong hands are needed as soon as weather permits to start cleaning up the Hunt House. Please sign "Hunt House Work Chart" with Walt Vincent.

Our plans for Heritage Days may be changed as you will probably hear about in a report at our next regular meeting.

The Ways and Means Committee has been looking for a bus tour to New York- South Street Seaport and ferry to the Statue of Liberty. We should be circulating fliers within a week. Be on the lookout for details.

We know that you'll come through with your support and cooperation.

Madeline Vincent

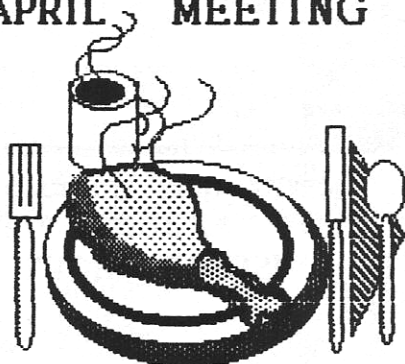
GRANT WRITING

In order to file our grant applications for funding requests we first need to obtain a tax exemption letter from the Internal Revenue Service.

The application for exemption is in the process of being completed and will be filed shortly with the I.R.S along with its required \$150 fee. As soon as we receive the exemption, we will begin to file for grant monies.

Ellen O'Hare

APRIL MEETING



The next regular monthly meeting of the Historical Society will be held at the Rumford Grange April 24th at 7:15 p.m. The Grange will be serving a Chicken Dinner before the meeting. Please make dinner Reservations before April 19th, and remember that if you make a dinner reservation you are responsible for the cost. The Society in the past has had to assume the cost of non-appearing members.

PASTA SUPPER PROFITS:

Supper:	406.70
"Split the Pot"	40.00
Raffle:	17.50

TREASURER'S REPORT as of APRIL 5, 1989.

General Fund	1071.97
Savings	7701.86
C.D.	2863.18
Credit Union	25.57
Total	11,662.58

Meeting: April 24

Time of Dinner: 6:30 p.m.

Price: \$4.50 (note increase)

Time of Meeting: 7:15 p.m.

Guest Speaker: **Charles**

O'Connell, history buff

Reservations: **Anne Bouchard**

(434-4127) or **Ellen O'Hare**

(434-7134)



HUNT HOUSE UPDATE



This months quiz question:
THE GLOW AROUND THE
HUNT HOUSE AT NIGHT IS
CAUSED BY:

(1) A meltdown of the secret nuclear reactor the CIA installed in the basement.

(2) Magic ceremonies performed by members of the Rumford Coven Local No. 666.

(3) An alien starship signaling to its base star that it's okay to invade earth: no intelligent life forms have been found on the planet.

The correct answer is None of the Above. The brilliant yellow glow is the result of improved lighting of the property. If the statement that lighting deters crime is true, then the entire Hunt House complex must be the safest place in the entire city, because it is *BRIGHT* there! Thanks must go to the City for their prompt response to our request for better lighting.

One hundred letters were hand delivered to neighbors in the

Hunts Mills area explaining the Society's plans and asking for their watchful eyes. At our March meeting approval was given for a reward of \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone found guilty of acts of vandalism, breaking and entering, or robbery from the Hunt House. This will be posted on the premises.

Within the next thirty days the Safety and Security committee should have a recommendation concerning improvements to our security system.

HELP WANTED:

Volunteer Restoration Workers needed for outside work on handsome circa 1790 historic home. Scraping, caulking and painting experience desirable but will train willing volunteers. Report Saturday, April 29 (Rain date May 6). Call 438-2464 for further details.

ALSO: Ladders needed for outside work, 22' to 28'. Secure storage available.

MOORE NEWS ABOUT PLEASANT STREET

John Finan, one of the principals of the FTF Partnership, explained his firm's proposed development of the Moore farm property in Rumford during the March 27 meeting of the Historical Society.

Mr. Finan detailed his long-standing involvement in the restoration and adaptation of older buildings, citing as examples both his own law offices in a pair of restored turn of the century homes in the Quality Hill district of Pawtucket and FTF's restoration of the Veloria Manor House, also in Pawtucket.

Finan then went on to describe the apartment complex proposed for the Moore site, explaining that he understood and sympathized with neighborhood objections to re-zoning the property as C1. FTF is preparing to go before the zoning board with the current project and have it zoned for R5 (multi-family) with an exception to allow the construction of a total of 26 rental units. He told the group that he felt this project will be compatible with the character of the surrounding Historic District, and was willing to work

with the abutters to the property to insure the establishment of privacy screening through plantings and preservation of existing trees.

The Peterson and Moore homes will have two units each, and the carriage houses will have one unit each. Parking will be provided on site for 53 cars. Finan emphasized that the entire complex will have a "village like ambience."

Both the Moore farm house, the adjoining Peterson house, and their carriage houses will have their exteriors restored. The four proposed new buildings will be designed to harmonize with the style and color of the older homes. The new structures will each house four apartments and one two level town house, along with an attached four car garage. The preliminary plans show these buildings to be designed in a neo-Colonial style, with the front elevations broken up by gables and bay windows. No details were available for the rear elevations, which will face

MOORE NEWS (cont.)

the abutting property owners. Maximum height of these buildings will be about 36 feet at the peak of the roof. All the units on the property will be reached by a private dead end road off Pleasant Street, and an "exhaustive traffic study" by the architects shows the development will have "no adverse impact" on Pleasant Street traffic.

FTF feels the market for these \$1000 a month units exists within Rumford. They claim these units provide a unique housing option for "older, mature" residents who want to continue to live in the area, but no longer want the expense and responsibility of maintaining their own property. Finan explained that by selling their homes and investing that money, tenants could easily pay the rent with the interest.

When asked what FTF's plans were if their zoning exception was turned down, Mr. Finan replied that he believed so strongly in the existing project that he was unwilling to consider any alternatives. He also emphasized that the design of the com-

plex would make it very difficult to be converted to condominiums in the future.

The Society is pleased to provide an informational forum for the developers and the neighbors to discuss this important project. FTF is willing to continue working with the Society as the project unfolds. *George Field*

MUSEUM COMMITTEE

By the time you read this the Museum Committee should have completed writing its Museum Policy which will then be considered by the Board of Directors. The weather will hopefully improve so that we will be able to clean up the rooms in Hunt House assigned for storage. This will allow us to move in the file cabinets and office furniture donated by the City. We will then be able to accept donations of artifacts as soon as our security system is upgraded. (see Hunt House Update).

The Committee is still accepting donations of file folders, old sheets and mattress pads, old white gloves, fine sized paint

THE OFFICIAL OLDE NEWS CALENDAR

SUN MON TUES WEDS THURS FRI SAT

APRIL

						1
2	3	4	5 board meeting	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 preserv comm.	18 income tax!	19	20	21	22
23	24 meeting & supper	25	26	27	28	29 point hunt house

30 e.p.c.	1	2	3	4	5	6
				11	12	13
				18	19	20
				25	26	27

MAY

HUNT HOUSE SIGN-UP

I won't be at the meeting, but...I want to help work on Hunt House!

name:

address

phone

Send to P.O. box 4774
E. Prov., RI 02916

PRESIDENT'S LETTER cont.

tion project acquired two new sub-committees at the last meeting. Walter Vincent will organize the inside work and Ray Anderson is responsible for the outside work. If you can't attend April's meeting and want to join us as we finally get down and dirty with the Hunt House, please use the form on page 9 to sign up. As discussed in the December issue of OLDE NEWS we have a list of goals which we want to achieve by year's end.

And don't forget to avail yourself of the nomination form on this page. If you think it's time to throw us rascals out of office, here's your chance to nominate people you think will do a better job. (And don't be modest here, either: you *can* nominate yourself, you know!)

If you think the current officeholders are doing a good job, well, nominate them for another term. Either way, the Society needs to hear from *you*.

Claudette Field

It's that time of year again to start thinking about next year's slate of officers. Take some time and fill out the form below and send it to:
E.P.H.S. Nominating Committee
P.O. Box 4774
East Providence, RI 02916
(And remember, it's okay to nominate yourself!)

Letters and Comments

At the last meeting, an overwhelming majority of our members voted against inviting Mr. Howard Bovers, President of the Newbay Corporation, to speak to the Historical Society.

In a letter to the officers Mr. Bovers had offered to come to a meeting to explain "the facts as we see them" about his company's proposed coal-fired cogeneration plant. The members felt that the Society's meeting was not a proper forum for this discussion and that if we accepted Mr. Bovers' offer we would be obligated in the spirit of fair play to invite a member of the group opposing the plant to a following meeting.

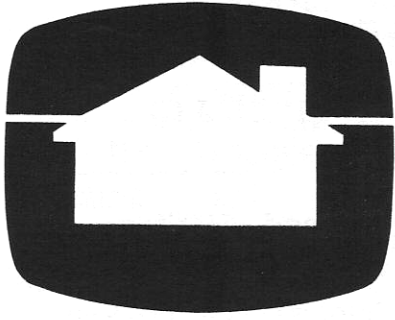
Claudette explained this in a letter to Mr. Bovers, and further stated that she felt involving the Society in this controversy would only detract from the Society's basic role in the community, that of preserving and maintaining the sense of continuity we have with the past.

COLONIAL FAIR

The Rhode Island Heritage Commission will present its Second Annual Colonial Fair on Sunday May 21, 1989 and the East Providence Historical Society will be one of the many Rhode Island historical societies and organizations helping to recreate an eighteenth century market day on the State House lawn.

Ginny Berwick and Lura Sellow attended the Colonial Fair meetings for the Society and came back with the approved plans for an 'authentic' market stall and patterns for the required eighteenth century garb.

The Colonial Fair is an exciting opportunity for us to promote the Society, make a little money and have a lot of fun. We will discuss it in more detail at the next meeting and we will be looking for volunteers for a special Colonial Fair Committee.



Cable TV

of East Providence, Inc.

One Office Parkway

East Providence, RI 02914-1685

(401) 438-7953

OLDE NEWS

East Providence Historical Society
P.O. Box 4774
East Providence, RI 02916

