



OLDE NEWS

EAST • PROVIDENCE • HISTORICAL • SOCIETY
• NEWSLETTER •

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This month I have the privilege of announcing that we have a new Artifacts Committee to be headed by Edna Anness. I know that some of you are thinking, not *another* committee. I've already had some good-natured ribbing from Ray Anderson on my fondness for committees (see Page 8 on the 'Applause Committee') so I think this is as good a place as any to explain the rationale behind all these committees..

The job of running the Historical Society is getting more complicated and time-consuming. The more projects we involve our-

selves in, the more work there is to be done. As long as we have the membership and the interest to support the various activities we are interested in, we should proceed. On the other hand, the President and officers cannot organize all the various activities alone. Everyone one of us has a full schedule even without our Historical Society involvement. So on top of the duties that come with each office, we cannot raise money, seek grants, write and mail newsletters, arrange publicity, make repairs and improve security at Hunt House, and work

CITIZENS GROUP

The East Providence Coalition has been formed by a group of residents concerned about the future of our city. Their immediate focus is the proposed coal-fired plant on Dexter Road. The next meeting is March 1, at 8PM at Newman Congregational Church.

OLDE NEWS

is published monthly by The East Providence Historical Society

Editor George Field, IV

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 Rivss
Past President	Arnold McConnell

BOARD MEMBERS

Member at Large	Ellen O'Hare
Member at Large	Joan Vaughn
Member at Large	Richard Woodbine

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER cont.

to preserve East Providence's architectural heritage without help.

We are very fortunate to have as members people who either have expertise in these areas or a willingness to learn. They are giving their time to the Society by heading the various committees.

But that is not the only reason for having committees. Committees involve more people in the work of the Society and the more people, the more energy and enthusiasm they generate. I believe that without this help, without this energy the Society would not be able to meet even its most important goal —restoring Hunt House!

Claudette Field

OUR NEW ADDRESS

We have a new address, have you noticed? After years of using Lura Sellew's address we have finally gotten our very own Post Office Box. So if you'd like to try it out (for your dues money, maybe or a letter to OLDE NEWS) send them to:

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



Our angel of the month is anonymous! When we asked one of our neighbors if she'd like to go to the Harvest Supper last year she had a previous engagement but she offered to crochet something for us to raffle in the future. I forgot all about her kind offer until she showed up on our doorstep with the finished afghan in January.

The afghan which is white, purple and lavender is crocheted in the popular zigzag stitch and it will add a warm cheerful note to anyone's home. We began selling raffle tickets at last month's meeting and the tickets will be available at the February and March meeting and at the Spring Supper, when it will be raffled off.

Tickets are fifty cents each or three for a dollar, tell your friends.

I'd like to thank our anonymous friend on behalf of the members of the His-

torical Society. Anyone who crochets knows the time that goes into these projects. It was a very nice gesture and it is much appreciated.

RJWC FASHION SHOW

The Rumford Junior Women's Club is sponsoring a Fashion Show on March 15 at the Johnson and Wales Inn on Rt. 44 in Seekonk. The show which begins at 7:30pm will feature men's and women's fashions from Cohoes and children's clothing from Teddy Bearskins.

In addition to the fashion show, and the chance to win a door prize (last year there were 45 door prizes!) hot and cold hors d'oeuvres will be provided. Tickets are \$15.00

The fashion show is the RJWC's major fund raising event this year. The club always returns the money they raise during the year to the community. Last spring they gave the Historical Society \$1500. for Hunt House.

If you are interested in buying a ticket to help this worthwhile organization you may call either Claudette Field (431-0257) or Ellen O'Hare (434-7134) for tickets. Raffle tickets are also available.

WAYS AND MEANS

At our last meeting and Pot Luck Supper, we were so anxious to get on with the Penny Social that I cut out my full report on projects the Ways and Means Committee have tentatively planned for 1989.

These particular fund raising ideas were considered because we felt most of our members would show interest and could give us a helping hand.

First on the agenda is a Pasta and Meatball Supper, as we had quite a few requests for a spring supper. As I announced, that will be held on April 1* at the Newman Church. Tickets should be available at our next regular meeting.

Other projects are: the making of squares for a quilt that may be raffled off at a planned Christmas Boutique which hopefully could be held at the Hunt House. As you know, the goal of the Historical Society is to complete one room as well as other repairs to the outside of Hunt House; so what better place for a Boutique? We already have a few Rumford Juniors vol-

unteering to make squares. We may have to hold a quilting class for those interested in learning depending on the number of volunteers we get for that project.

Also for Heritage Days (and we do hope for a better booth), we'd like to have a sale of "Sloppy Joes" (torpedo sandwiches) and cold drinks. This may entice people to our table where they might enjoy historical photos, history and information that we will have displayed.

Many other great ideas for fund raising projects were brought to our attention but just couldn't be used for one reason or another. A little research work has been done on having cookie cutters made up in the shape of historical buildings, but have had very little progress.

Hope you realize your expertise and volunteer your services.

Madeline and Walter Vincent

GRANT WRITING COMMITTEE

I am pleased to announce that a Grant Writing Committee has been formed.

Our first order of business was to contact eighteen Rhode Island and seven national foundations to request applications for historic preservation funding. Once we have received the applications we will begin the process of filling them out and filing them.

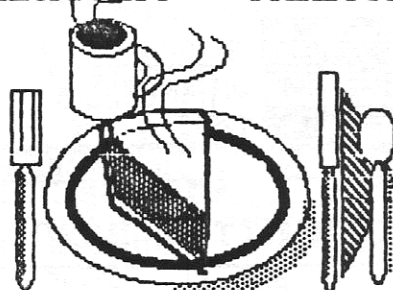
Joan Lord, Nancy Winfield, Angela Prew, and Edna Anness have volunteered to work on this committee. Any other member interested in joining our committee should contact me at 434-7134.

Ellen O'Hare

TREASURER'S REPORT as of Feb. 7 1989.

General Fund	628.90
Savings	7616.34
C.D.	2863.18
Credit Union	25.57
Total	11,133.99

FEBRUARY MEETING



The next regular monthly meeting of the Historical Society will be held at the Rumford Grange February 27th at 7:15 p.m. The Grange will be serving a Meat Pie Dinner before the meeting.

Please make dinner Reservations before Feb.22nd. Please 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.

Meeting: **February 27**

Time of Dinner: **6:30 p.m.**

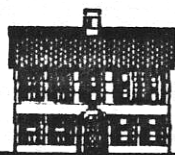
Price: **\$4.50** (note increase)

Time of Meeting: **7:15 p.m.**

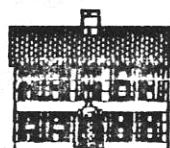
Guest Speakers: **Dan Horton**
and **Anne Jenks** of the

Seekonk Historic Commission

Reservations: **Anne Bouchard**
(434-4127) or **Ellen O'Hare**
(434-7134)



HUNT HOUSE UPDATE



SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Safety and Security Committee is pleased to announce the completion of the following security measures. All inside windows have a second "lock" to prevent entry into the Hunt House. Nine basement and first floor windows have been covered with hardware cloth to prevent glass breakage by stone throwing vandals. After a meeting with the City Manager, he has agreed to install two street lights adjacent to the Hunt House. These should deter vandals and provide needed light for night use of the house.

Ray Anderson

TO ELL AND BACK

On January 30, I met with Tom Smith, of E & D Construction of Rumford, at the Hunt House to discuss removing the brick ell

from the back of the house and repairing the damage caused by the ell to the wooden exterior wall.

It was pouring rain that day (as it always seems to be as I escort masons and contractors around the house) and the leak between the house and the ell was quite spectacular. I'm sure it gave Mr. Smith some food for thought and that he probably went home and tacked quite a few dollars onto the estimate he's preparing in anticipation of the widespread rot they may find when the ell finally comes down.

Claudette Field

ARTIFACTS

Edna Anness, who has a Master's degree in Historic Textiles and Related Decorative Arts and who is Assistant Registrar the Rhode Island Historical Society's John Brown House, has offered to help the EPHS sort out and catalogue its possessions. I welcome her

offer and have appointed her Chairperson of the Artifacts Committee. Mrs. Anness, and any one who is interested in helping her, will be tracking down and cataloging the Society's scattered possessions. She is looking for donations of used office equipment to facilitate the work. We have a small desk and the typewriter which Len Erickson donated but she needs filing cabinets, file folders and a large work table and other office paraphernalia. Interested in helping with cataloging? Have equipment (or historic artifacts) to donate? Please contact Edna Anness at 434-3347.

C. Field

POTLUCK REHASH

The potluck supper went off better than I ever imagined it would. For a while I wondered if we could get enough people out on a January night to achieve our stated purpose i.e. getting the old members and the new members acquainted.

However, I needn't have worried because over sixty people sat down for dinner. Even people who can't usually attend the meetings were there, thanks to the elevator

in Memorial Hall. From the noise level and comments from the diners later, I would guess that everyone had a good time.

The business part of the meeting was a lively affair thanks in part to our 'livewire' Treasurer, Martha Rivas. Martha, who in real life is a bank manager, delivers a report that is anything but staid.

Then the evening ended on a high note with the mystery penny social. The wrappings were very imaginative, especially the glove containing — what? Mike Charves got the strangest prize and a big laugh from the crowd when he won an object whose purpose and origins were unfathomable.

Let's do it again next year; we can't always be serious!

C. Field

But Seriously, if your Dues are overdue, use this coupon today!

NAME (S) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

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

Applause! Applause!

As he left the December meeting Ray Anderson quipped to his friends that he wanted to get up and ask for a round of applause for George and me because of our work on the newsletter but he was afraid I'd make him Chairman of the Applause Committee! When Ray decided to chance the appointment at the January meeting, I didn't want to disappoint him so after I recounted his December witticism I 'appointed' him Applause Committee Chairman. Well, Ray took his 'appointment' more seriously than anyone would have guessed and as a self-styled committee of one has produced the official Committee Report which follows. Not bad, Ray, maybe we'll keep you!

Claudette Field

The Applause Committee of One would like a rousing "clap of the hands" for this month's award winner - **Nancy Moore.**

As Chairperson of the Preser-

vation Committee she organized a meeting of residents concerned about commercial zoning in a historic residential area. Win or lose, Nancy, we applaud your effort.

Ray Anderson



Those of you who have been following the Newbay coal plant might be interested to know that a peaceful protest march is planned for Sunday, February 26th at noon. (Rain date: March 5th at noon.) The march will begin at the Dexter Road site and march to the center of the Henderson Bridge to meet an East Side march. For details call **David Faria** at 431-0062 or **Ray Anderson** at 438-2464.

Ray Anderson

Ray's announcement is just one indication of a wide-spread concern over the coal-fired generating plant that is proposed for the site on Dexter Road, little more than a stone's throw away from the Phillip Walker house. While perhaps not strictly a matter for

the Society to become involved in, Ray and many others of us have come to believe that the presence of such a facility would be of benefit only to the Newbay Corporation (whoever *they* are) and not the the City of East Providence.

Perhaps a few figures will place this plant into perspective. The stack will be 350' high, this because it must be 2 1/2 times higher than the highest part of the facility. Some elementary math results in the figure of 140' for the highest part of the building! That's 14 stories, folks. Despite Newbay's disclaimers, the plant will use a great deal of water for condensing its steam, and this water will initially come from the Scituate reservoir until a treatment plant is built to allow water from Omega Pond to be used. This water will be evaporated rather than returned to the pond, resulting in a large plume of steam on a winters day (almost 1000' according to Newbay's figures) and may also result in the formation of clouds of ice fog

around the plant on extremely cold days. There is no information on what a such a vast outpouring of moisture would do to our microclimate in Rumford on a typically hot, humid summer day.

Another fact not generally known is that the plant, which computer models say will be commendably clean when running at a steady output, will in fact not meet clean air standards when "shifting load", i.e. changing its output. Since this plant is a "dispatchable" plant, one that may be called upon to generate varying amounts of electricity, it would appear that load shifting and its consequent burden of pollution will be a major aspect of this plant's operation.

Olde News urges its readers to find out as much as they can about this proposed behemoth. We think the more you find out, the less enthusiastic you will be about our new neighbor.

George Field

FURTHER UNPLEASANTNESS

The Society, and more specifically the Preservation Committee, has learned a great deal of late (perhaps more than we wanted !) about the process of property zoning in East Providence. This is due to the zoning change proposed so an apartment complex can be built on the Moore farm property on Pleasant Street (see last month's OLDE NEWS).

The EPHS sponsored an informational meeting February 2nd at Newman Congregational Church to acquaint the neighborhood with the details of the development by the FTF Partnership of Pawtucket.

Nancy Moore and George Donovan prepared a scintillating video that showed the Moore site and the bevy of historical buildings that are adjacent to it. Also on view were the preliminary plans the developer submitted to the Zoning Board, and as an extra added bonus, there were guest stars City Councilman Gerald Lynch and Mayor Leo Sullivan. Over a hundred people attended and listened as the the arcane mysteries of the zoning process were revealed by the experts.

Nancy told the audience that the developer desired to change the property zoning from R-2 to C-1 because, simply, it was the easiest way for him to achieve the density he desired. In order for him to achieve the same number of units with an R-5 zoning, FTF would have to undergo a more complex, two step, zoning procedure.

Mayor Sullivan explained that the City Council is under no obligation to change the zoning classification of a piece of property just because the buyer needs the change to make his proposed project work. "When you buy the property, you buy its zoning as well," was his summary.

Comments made during the meeting led to the taking of an informal vote on the zoning change. It was the almost unanimous consensus of the group that they opposed any change to the zoning of the Moore farm property.

OLDE NEWS has just learned that FTF Partnership, responding to the neighborhood opposition, has withdrawn its petition for a zoning change, and will re-

THE OFFICIAL OLDE NEWS CALENDAR

	SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3	4
FEBRUARY	5	6	7	8	9 board meeting	10	11
	12	13	14 ♥	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27 meeting & supper	28	1	2 O.H. deadline	3	4
MARCH	5	6	7	8	9 board meeting	10	11
	12	13 ♥	14	15 RJWC fash. show	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27 meeting & supper	28	29	30	31	

UNPLEASANTNESS cont.

submit a modified proposal at some later date.

The Preservation Committee of the Historical Society hopes to insure that any new plans which will be drawn up meet the neighbor's approval, preserve the historic quality of this district, and still allow the developer to see a reasonable return on his investment.

George Field

FEBRUARY SPEAKERS

This month Dan Horton, a house restorer and expert on post and beam construction and Anne Jenks, Seekonk town historian, will be our guest speakers. Both are members of the Seekonk Historic Commission. They will illustrate their talk on the trials, tribulation and accomplishment of the Commission with slides of historic buildings and discuss the differences between Historic Commissions and Historical Societies and the importance of both. Seekonk residents are welcome.

Joseph's

**FAMILY
RESTAURANT**

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