

OLDE NEWS

EAST ■ PROVIDENCE ■ HISTORICAL ■ SOCIETY
■ NEWSLETTER ■

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As we've mentioned many times during the past year, the Historical Society is growing. Any period of dramatic growth is bound to bring change and it has. Starting in September our monthly meetings will be held in Newman Congregational Church's Memorial Hall.

We are not strangers to Newman Church. Our very successful pot luck dinner meeting last January inspired the change. The elevator in Memorial Hall made that monthly meeting accessible to all our older members. Many expressed delight at being able to join us. That, coupled

with the fact that we were beginning to outgrow the parking lot at the Grange, spurred the Board to investigate moving permanently.

The Rumford Grange has always been very supportive of the Historical Society; it seemed somehow disloyal to think about leaving. However the Grange members understood that handicap access to our meetings was important, so they wish us well.

To compensate for the lost of the Grange dinners which many of our members enjoyed over the years, the Board is planning occasional pot luck dinners.

I'd like to take this opportunity

cont. pg. 2

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

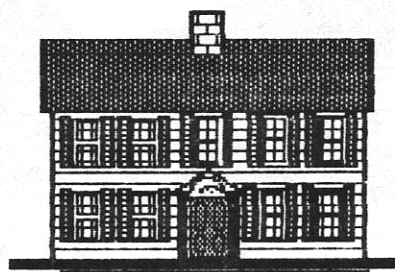
to thank the Grange for all the years the Historical Society enjoyed their hospitality and to wish them well in their fund-raising efforts.

Claudette Field

MOORE FARM

Nancy Moore, Preservation Committee Chairman, received a letter from the FTF Partnership regarding their abandonment of plans to develop the Moore Farm as a "historic theme park" apartment complex, stating Mr. Finan's disappointment that the Society and the abutting property owners were opposed to his plans. He enclosed a preliminary layout of their new plans for the site, which was a conventional plat development of ten house lots of about 10000 ft² each, arranged around cul-de-sac road.

Mr. Finan's beloved oaks between the houses would bite the dust in this scheme, as would the carriage house associated with the Moore House. The Peterson House would be moved from its present site, rendering it ineligible for inclusion in the National Register.



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 Sellow
Corresponding Secretary	Virginia Berwick
Treasurer	Martha Rivas
Board Member-at-Large	Ellen O'Hare
Past President	Arnold McConnell

SPECIAL EXEC. COMMITTEE - BUILDING

Architecture	Scott Booth
Mechanical	Paul Millette
Restoration	G. Fales Peirce
Safety and Security	Raymond Anderson
Specifications	Pat Millette

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Artifacts	Edna Anness
Grant Writing	Ellen O'Hare
Membership	Virginia Berwick
Newsletter	George Field, IV
Mailing	Florence Adams
Preservation	Nancy Moore
Publicity	Florence Adams
Ways & Means	Walter and Madeline Vincent

NOSTALGIA

Last Month's Query and Answer:

During World War I, soldiers trained at the Rifle Range off Ferris Avenue. One of the buildings there was moved when the Carl Thompson School was built. It was converted into a home by the Cronin family and is located at 321 Ferris Avenue.

(Several members accosted me at the last meeting and told me the answer to this one. Fine, but since you didn't *write* to us, it doesn't count! Ed.)

This Month's Query:

Never any traffic jam coming to East Providence across the Henderson Bridge, but do you remember the tie-ups at the old Red Bridge? The bridge would turn 90° to open and let tankers past. Were you ever in line when the bridge stuck open? Why did they spray the bridge with water when it was stuck open in the summer time?

Ray Anderson

Send Your Nostalgia Queries To OLDE NEWS Or Give Them To Ray Anderson at (438-2464)

MUSEUM BY-LAWS

The Series

INTRODUCTION

This is the exciting third installment of the Museum Collection Policy which was presented to the Board and approved at the July Board meeting, prior to approval by the membership at large. Alert readers will remember that we left off in Article 5- Care of the Collection, Paragraph 5.2.

- 5.3 Additional cross referencing files will be created such as a donor file, nomenclature file, maker file, geographic file, collection file and others as the need for them arises. These files will be kept up to date by the Chairman acting as Curator with assistance from volunteers working under his/her direction.
- 5.4 Each artifact will be carefully stored for safe keeping protected as well as possible from water, dampness, heat, moth and/or rodent damage, exposure to sun, artificial light damage, burglary, vandalism
-

and fire. Proper acid-free storage equipment will be utilized.

5.5 Admission to the collection will be limited to those who accompany the Chairman/Curator or member of the Museum Committee with the knowledge of the chairman.

The collection when unattended will be locked at all times. Rules for conduct while handling the collection will be posted in the conservation area.

5.6 Any artifacts used to furnish the house or an exhibition will be protected from exposure to light, heat and water damage, vandalism and any unnecessary handling or usage, with particular attention to light and light damage.

5.7 All artifacts accepted into the collection will be photographed to assist recovery in case of burglary or other insurance claims.

ARTICLE SIX - Deaccession Policy

6.1 The disposal of objects from

the Society's collection for any reason has ethical, legal and financial consequences which must be considered by the collections chairman, the Museum Committee and the Board of Directors. The deaccessioning of an object should be considered on an individual basis and according to the Tax Laws of the State of Rhode Island.

6.2 Any or all of the criteria below will be sufficient for an object to be considered for deaccession:

- a. The object is no longer relevant and useful to the purposes and activities of the Museum.
- b. The Museum is not able to preserve the object properly.
- c. The object has deteriorated beyond usefulness for exhibition or study.
- d. The object is duplicated in the collection.

6.3 Procedure for removal of objects from the collection:

- 6.3.1 Unaccessioned material of minimal value may be disposed of by the Committee in

consultation with the Committee Chairman.

6.3.2 Material found in the Collection which, in the opinion of the Committee or Chairman, constitutes a potential hazard to the building, personnel of collections will be disposed of immediately by the best available means.

6.3.3. Accessioned material of value (and unaccessioned material of possible interest and value) to be removed from the collection shall be recommended for deaccession to the Museum Committee by the Chairman. If a simple majority of the Museum Committee approves the deaccession, then the Chairman shall recommend for deaccession to the Board of Directors, who must also approve the action by a majority vote.

6.3.4 As a courtesy and where appropriate, the Committee should consider notifying the donor or his immediate heir(s) when a donated object is to be deaccessioned.

6.4 Methods of Disposal

6.4.1 The Museum Committee will approve the methods of disposal of museum objects. In addition to the financial return from the disposals, the Committee should consider the full range of factors affecting the public interest.

**MORE NEXT MONTH!
WATCH FOR OUR EXCITING CON-
CLUSION TO THIS THRILLING MINI-
SERIES!**

TREASURER'S REPORT as of JULY 21, 1989

General Fund	338.82
Savings	4,092.72
C.D.	7,863.18
Credit Union	25.57
Total	12,320.29



HUNT HOUSE UPDATE



25 FEARS

Perhaps the most exciting news regarding the Hunt House made the front of the *East Providence Post* this summer. The *Post* reported that the City Council voting 5 to 0 granted the Society a twenty-five year lease on this historic building. This came as a pleasant surprise. Considering the Council's full slate of emergencies and controversies these past few months everyone involved thought that the issue had been forgotten. The Society is demonstrating that this trust in us has not been misplaced. As many of the following articles show, lots of things have been happening this summer that may bear fruit quickly.

SCOTT AND MARVIN

Scott Booth introduced Marvin Windows at the last Board meeting, when he appeared struggling up Hunt House's narrow hall stairs with a model window of the type the Marvin people

could make for us. Scott had just received a quote for these custom made beauties, manufactured by the last major window company that still produces windows with real, actual divided muntins and not those (ugh!) snap-in fake ones. The price he was quoted for a window sized to our specifications, 12 over 12 lights, with internal removable storm windows, and painted at the factory was (gasp!) \$750.00. (Is this what they mean by window "pains"?) When one realizes that the Hunt House has 22 windows, it can be more easily understood why we pass the hat at each general meeting.

CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS

Rose Marie Sirenski has been making her word processor smoke as she bravely types up the contract specifications for the Building Committee. The language of these contracts is de-

signed to provide maximum protection for both the Society and the City as they spell out in great detail all of the contractor's obligations and responsibilities.

These specifications, necessary as they are, still do not make thrilling reading and Rose Marie deserves a lot of credit for slugging away at them.

TO ELL WITH IT! (positively my last ell pun)

Scott Booth also presented the latest bid for demolishing the ell to the Board from National Wrecking. Their quote for tearing the ell down to the foundations and removing debris from the site was \$3200. The board recommended approval of this bid, when they realized that the Building Committee had received a bid of over \$2500 dollars just to repair to roof of the ell. It was felt that the extra money to raze the ell would be well spent since it would remove an appendage that was not original to the building, and added nothing to its visual appeal.

George Field

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Now that we have a set of floor

plans and directions from the Building Committee, we can expect a detailed bid and contract specifications within the next thirty days. "Motion" detectors with hidden wiring devices will allow us to restore rooms without the interference of ugly wires. The process may be slow, but much long range thought at this level can avoid future problems.

HUNT HOUSE- Outside Team Needs Help!

Starting in September, volunteers are needed to complete our project of painting the front of the Hunt House. On *every other Saturday* morning starting September 9th from 8:00 to 12:00, volunteers will be needed to scrape, sand, caulk, prime and paint what we started this spring. If you can volunteer for one day or as many as needed to complete the front restoration, your help would be most appreciated and needed.

Dates will be as follows: Sept. 9, Sept. 23, Oct. 7, October 21, and Nov. 4. Call 438-2464 for details; if needed. Sign up sheets will also be circulated at the

HUNT HOUSE ctd.

September meeting. Let's show the city what the Historical Society can do!

Ray Anderson

MUSEUM COMMITTEE

Work is still progressing through the summer months. We received a brand new beautiful ledger from Committee member Rose Marie Sirenski and I am glad to report that accessioning has started on artifacts which were stored in the vault in City Hall. The accessioning files are beginning to multiply and we would appreciate receiving any file folders which no one has use for anymore. We *really* need file folders. Committee member Nancy Stevens was successful in securing some memorabilia from Wilson School. An oak work table was delivered to the Hunt House a few weeks ago. Joanne Bouchard has been successful in getting an interview with Mr. Howard from the East Providence Post concerning the Oral History project. Thus far interviews have been conducted with William Rix, Milton and Doris

Miner, Earl Berwick, Clinton Berwick and Hope Ivers. Warren Ivers allowed me to audio record the interview he did with Rowena Bowen which was video taped by Arnie McConnell. We hope to interview past presidents (of the E.P.H.S., since Messers Nixon, Carter and Reagan have not responded to our calls as yet) and have two residents of Riverside to do. We hope that anyone who has anecdotes of interest who were living in East Providence around 1920 would get in touch with Joanne or myself. (434-3347 or 434-3072). They need not be members of the Society; neighbors, friends, relatives. Just from the interviews done already there is emerging a new "old" picture of life in "Town" from 1900 until 1962 when we became a City.

If you were in City Hall lately you have noticed proudly that the Society has a display outside the Council Chambers..many thanks to Virginia Berwick, George Adams, Lura Sellew Michael Charves, Gary Butterworth, Claudette Field and Charles O'Connell who all contributed towards our getting the exhibit "launched" on July 3rd. We have

THE OFFICIAL OLDE NEWS CALENDAR

	SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT	
			1	2	3	4	5	
AUG.	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	AUG.
	13	14 Victory Day	15 board meeting	16	17	18	19	
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
	27	28	29	30	31	1	2 hunt house workday	
SEPT.	3	4 Labor Day	5 hunt house 1/2 workday	6	7 hunt house 1/2 workday	8	9 hunt house workday	SEPT.
	10	11	12 hunt house 1/2 workday	13	14 hunt house 1/2 workday	15	16 hunt house workday	
	17	18	19 hunt house 1/2 workday	20	21 hunt house 1/2 workday	22	23 hunt house workday	
	24	25 Annual meeting	26 hunt house 1/2 workday	27	28 hunt house 1/2 workday	29	30 hunt house workday	

NOTE: Tuesdays & Thursdays 8am → 12pm and even numbered Saturdays are Inside workdays
 Odd numbered Saturdays are Outside workdays.

HUNT HOUSE ctd.

also received our first donation of five East Providence Record booklets dating 1881 for the Museum Committee to consider when we meet later this summer (All according to our Museum By-Laws appearing in OLDE NEWS which we *just know* you are saving.)

Edna Anness

more Hunt House next page!

BY-LAWS CHANGED

It was voted at last month's general meeting to amend the By-Laws and change the month of the Annual meeting (and thus the election of new officers for the up-coming year) from September to June.

The purpose of this proposed change is to give the newly elected slate of officers the entire summer to plan their programs and projects for the new year,

BY-LAWS ctd.

rather than having "lame duck" officers running the show all summer. Please bear in mind that *this* year's Annual Meeting will be held in September as usual. The 1990 Annual Meeting will be in June.

MORE HUNT HOUSE

from pg. 9

HUNT HOUSE- Inside Work Ongoing

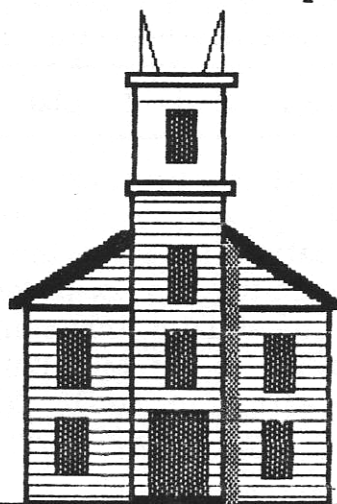
This summer the inside crew has been removing crumbling plaster and scraping woodwork to remove badly peeling paint. Paint sampling has revealed that the original color of the woodwork in the "keeping room" was a light Prussian blue. But most exciting has been the emergence of the "keeping room" fireplace bricked in years ago for the use of a wood stove and hidden behind the "How to Install a Meter" display when we took possession of the house.

The four feet of soot left in the fireplace contained an interesting find: a piece of 1928 junk mail discarded by the Barnes', the last family to call the Hunt House home and the paternal

grandparents of Ellen O'Hare, our Board Member at Large.

Starting on September 2nd., Walter Vincent *et al* will be working at the house every other Saturday and every Tuesday and Thursday from 8am to noon (see calendar for dates). Call Walter for details (434-0481) and bring your friends.

DON'T FORGET!!
EPH.S. ANNUAL MEETING
 at
NEWMAN CHURCH
 SEPT. 25, 7:15 pm




 Letters and Comments


 OLDE NEWS

27 June 1989

East Providence Historical
Society
Rumford, RI 02916

As you requested, we have given consideration to the eligibility of the Union Primary School, 1310 Pawtucket Avenue, for the National Register of Historic Places. It appears the school building may meet the eligibility criteria for the register.

The Union School dates from 1873, with additions in 1888, 1900, and 1904. The school seems to retain integrity; its exterior and interior form and detailing reflect its period of construction and early alteration. The School seems to meet National Register criteria A & C (copy enclosed). As the City's oldest school building, it appears to be associated with events in the history of education in East Providence

that have made a contribution to the broad patterns of the City's history, especially the development of schools for the rural areas of the City. In addition, the school seems to embody in physical form the distinctive characteristics of its time and period. A final assessment of the Union School's eligibility must await a thorough documentation of its integrity and significance, but a preliminary assessment suggests that the school is a good candidate.

If I can answer any other questions, please call me.

Sincerely,

Pamela Kennedy
Deputy Director

(Letter received after an inquiry to the R.I. Historical Preservation Commission prompted by Dave Kelleher's concerns over the future of Union Primary School.)

Design a Sign!

**We need a sign to identify the
Hunt House as a restoration
project of the Historical Soci-
ety. Any ideas??????**

The following is the slate of nominees for 1989-90 presented by the Nominating Committee at the June meeting :

PRESIDENT - Claudette Field
FIRST VICE-PRES. - Michael Charves
SECOND VICE-PRES.- Virginia Berwick
(choose one) William Simpson
RECORDING SECRETARY- Lura Sellew
COR. SECRETARY - Rose Marie Sirenski
TREASURER - Martha Rivas
BOARD MEMBER-AT-LARGE -
(choose two) Alyce (Billie) Arden
Jewel Drickamer
Nancy Stevens

If you would like to cast an absentee ballot please circle your choice and send your ballot to our Post Office Box. Please note that we have run-offs for two offices, Second Vice-President and Board Member at Large and that you

Join the Historical Society today! Send this coupon (with money) to
E.P.H.S.
P.O.Box 4774
East Providence, RI
02916

NAME (S) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

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

must vote for ~~two~~ new board members.
Absentee ballots must be signed to be valid.

OLDE NEWS

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