

OLDE NEWS

EAST • PROVIDENCE • HISTORICAL • SOCIETY
• NEWSLETTER •

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The June 26th meeting will be our last general meeting until September but the activity of the Historical Society will continue (and hopefully in some cases intensify) during the lazy days of summer.

Without the press of incessant meetings even the busiest of us will have some extra time to devote to the Society. Summer is also a good time to work on the Hunt House. The Building Committee will continue to meet and work on collecting bids on various aspects of the project. Oral histories will still be recorded and donations to the Museum accepted. The Board

will have at least one mid-summer meeting and there will be a mid-summer newsletter to track our progress.

It's also a good time to remind all our members that we need you more than ever. Call me or Walter and see what's going on at the House that you can help with. But if you can't get up on a ladder to scrape and prime, or you feel you're not up to preparing walls and painting, or that's the kind of work you really hate. . . well there is still something that you could be doing that would help the Society. One thing everyone can do is - talk. Tell your sister, your

cont. pg.2

neighbor, your cousin, your plumber, tell anyone who'll listen that the Historical Society is on the move and we need their support. Not everyone who joins us is going to have the time to participate in our projects but they might have some interesting information about EP or even something to add to our collection or know someone who does. So spread the word!

Claudette Field

APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE!

This month's applause - and thanks - goes to the people who worked on our entry in the Colonial Fair held on the State House lawn. Thanks to Lura and Ginny who attended the Heritage Commission meetings; to Bill, Billie, Helen, Lura, Agnes, Ellen, and Claudette who worked on the baked goods; to Mike and Dave who got the booth to the State House and set it up; and to Ginny, Lura and Martha who donned period costumes and represented us at the Fair; and finally an extra round of applause for Ray and Bob who built the booth that was the nicest at the fair. - thanks for a job well done!



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 Sellev
Corresponding Secretary	Virginia Berwick
Treasurer	Martha Rivas
Past President	Arnold McConnell

BOARD MEMBERS

Member at Large	Ellen O'Hare
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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 M. Vincent

NOSTALGIA

LAST MONTH'S QUERY AND ANSWER:

What popular teen eatery moved from Waterman Avenue at Six Corners to the Waterman Building on North Broadway (near Massasoit)?

Remember

BARBARA'S DELICATESSEN ?

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION:

During World War I, soldiers trained at the Rifle Range off Ferris Avenue. One of the buildings moved when Carl Thompson School was built, and was converted into a Rumford home. Do you know where it is? And who was the first family to live there?

HELP! I NEED YOUR NOSTALGIA QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. ESPECIALLY FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE CITY.

Ray Anderson

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)

MUSEUM-The Series, Part 2

INTRODUCTION

This is the exciting second installment of the Museum Collection Policy which will be presented to the Board this month for approval, prior to approval by the membership at large. Alert readers will remember that we left off in Section 3- Use of the Collection, Paragraph 3.3.

3.4 Money earned from rental of objects or fees charged publishers for reproduction of objects owned by the Museum must be returned to the benefit of the collection for acquisition.

cont. next page

MUSEUM-The Series, Part 2 (cont.)

tion or conservation.

- 3.5 All outgoing loans will be subject to recall by the Museum, upon reasonable written notice, and shall be subject to immediate recall in the event any of the Museum's conditions not being met.

ARTICLE IV Loans Coming into the Collection

- 4.1 The East Providence Historical Society will exercise the same care with respect to objects lent to it as it does to its own. Such artifacts loaned to it will not be removed from frames, mats, mounts or bases for any reason whatsoever, or cleaned, repaired or transported except back and forth to lender, nor will any photographs be allowed without the express permission of the owner. Upon arrival at the Museum, loaned items will be examined immediately and a Condition Report written, a copy of which will be sent to the lender.
- 4.2 It is the responsibility of the Committee to limit the borrowing of objects to only those objects which will be on public display. Upon removal from exhibition the artifacts will be returned to the owners

as soon as possible.

- 4.3 With the vote of a majority of the Committee an artifact may be borrowed temporarily for a specific purpose, details to be worked out according to the specific situation.

ARTICLE V Care of the Collection

- 5.1 The physical care of the collection and its accessibility must be in keeping with professionally established standards and is the responsibility of the Chairman/Curator and the Museum committee.
- 5.2 Each artifact when accepted into the collection must be cleaned, according to its material makeup, accorded an accession number, tagged or marked in an appropriate manner and a file created to contain a statement of condition, its donor, maker if known, provenance with date of origin and area of origin, material, measurements, markings, previous display, value according to donor's privately performed appraisal. No appraisal will be provided by the museum.
- TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH!
(can you stand it?)

WAYS AND MEANS

The June 10th bus trip was a great success. We sold forty-seven tickets, earning us over four hundred dollars! Billie Arden needs to be congratulated for organizing such an enjoyable fund raiser.

Madeline and Walter Vincent are still planning a holiday craft boutique. As most of you know, Madeline has been ill and she had to cancel the craft class she had planned for late May. However, craft items are already starting to arrive at the Vincent home encouraging them that the boutique can still be managed even with a late start. If you are crafty and would like to donate some of your work or share your expertise, please call Madeline at 424-0481.

JUNE MEETING

The June Meeting of the Society will be held on June 26th at 7:15 p.m. at the John Hunt House on Hunts Mills Road, Rumford (*not* the Grange). This is the first general meeting (as opposed to the annual picnic, about more anon) we have held at the Hunt House, so this is An Event. Bring

TREASURER'S REPORT as of JUNE 13, 1989

General Fund	1794.07
Savings	2628.56
C.D.	7863.18
Credit Union	25.57
Total	12311.40

chairs, unless you prefer to stand. The Nominating Committee at this time will present the slate of Society Officers for the election which will be held at the annual September meeting.

The annual picnic will be held 2:00 p.m. on July 2nd (a Sunday) at the John Hunt House on Hunts Mills Road, Rumford. This will be a purely social event, so guests, children and spouses will be welcome. (As will a donation for attending non-members.) Bring chairs, food, and an appetite. The Society will be providing hamburgers and hot dogs and etc. Board members will be contacting the membership the week before the picnic to see who plans to attend, and how many people will be in your part. (See our display ad elsewhere in this newsletter)



HUNT HOUSE UPDATE



The renewal of the Society's lease on the Hunt House came before the City Council at their June 5th meeting, at which time the President and Scott Booth presented a proposal for a longer lease, and a tentative budget and schedule for renovation. Excerpts from Claudette's statement follow:

The careful restoration of the Hunt House and the museum it will house are an important contribution from the Historical Society to the City of East Providence and its future generations. As we are merely the trustee of this important building, we need the continued cooperation of the city ... and the best way the city can demonstrate its willingness to help is by granting us a much longer lease.

...the expertise within our membership ... has been invaluable. With this exper-

tise we have been able to reassess and clarify our restoration goals and to redefine those goals in terms of a ten, five, three, and one year plan. Now we are preparing a bid package using modified AIA guidelines...to protect the city as well as the Historical Society during the restoration.

The Society's Building Committee has estimated the restoration costs of the Hunt House, and by amortizing those figure over the next five years, we are confident that we can successfully complete our plans.

Through a variety of fund raising projects we have already raised more money this year than ever before in the history of the Society. We next plan to ask local businesses and civic organizations to lend their support to our preservation project. In addition we are applying for grants and ...attending

conferences and meetings to improve our chances of qualifying for specific grants.

However, there is a very natural reluctance among some of the membership of the Historical Society to devote a lot more time and money to the Hunt House without a longer lease. The year-to-year lease will also hinder our chances of receiving some grants because it implies the city lacks confidence in our ability to carry out this project. It is obvious that the lease has become a major stumbling block. We need a renewed commitment in the form of a twenty (or more) year lease from the City. Please help us preserve this important piece of the City's architectural heritage.

Acting on City Manager Beeley's recommendation for a longer lease for the Society, and on Claudette and Scott's testimony, the Council recommended a longer lease with a provision for review of the Society's progress.

The President is working on the

language of the lease with the City Solicitor's office.

Progress, slow as it may be, is being made towards a longer lease.

On a more unpleasant note, we have to report that part of the Pump House roof has collapsed due to rotten ceiling beams. The damage has been confined to the flat-roofed area of the Pump House and is not visible from the outside. The city has expressed dismay about the expense of repairing the roof, adding to the Society's concern that this fine old building will be consigned to the same fate as the Weaver House: gradual decline and threatened demolition through neglect. If anyone out there knows of an "angel" who would like to lease the Pump House, or who thinks they can persuade the city to let the Water Department to move back there, let us know at here at OLDE NEWS. Of course your editor has always liked the idea of turning the Pump House into a restaurant...(How does "The Pump House- By the Sparkling Waters of the Ten Mile River"

HUNT HOUSE REPORT cont.

sound? Valet canoe parking? A deck over the falls? Perhaps not.)

George Field

SAFETY AND SECURITY

The Safety and Security Committee recently met with a highly recommended company for fire and burglar protection estimates. The representative pointed out a possible route of entrance and exit that three prior firms had not detected. An itemized estimate is expected shortly. The committee now knows what we need and will secure the necessary bids.

Ray Anderson

MUSEUM COMMITTEE

We hope to present the Museum Collections Policy to the Board for approval at the next Board meeting. (See elsewhere in this month's OLDE NEWS for the next exciting installment of the mu-

seum by-laws)

Joanne Bouchard has joined the Collections Museum Committee as archivist of the Oral Histories phase of our Collection. We have met and formulated a uniform set of questions to be asked of the interviewees. We have three residents to be interviewed and hope to obtain more names after a little "pitch" in the newspaper.

It is hoped that in conjunction with Claudette's ongoing negotiations with Mr. Beeley concerning the lease that he will give us permission to place a display in the lobby of the City Hall with something like "Help Us Make History at the Hunt House. Join the East Providence Historical Society" and have pictures old and new of the house and area.

Frances Berwick has donated 9^{1/2} yards of unbleached muslin to the Society. It is one of the items on our wish list, and we are very grateful.


Edna Anness

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 • **COME TO THE PICNIC!** •
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Bring Potluck, A Chair,
 & A Friend!

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THE OFFICIAL OLDE NEWS CALENDAR

	SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT	
					1	2	3	
JUNE	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 N.Y.C. bus trip	JUNE
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
	18 dad's day	19	20	21	22 board meeting	23	24 hunt house work day	
	25	26 meeting	27	28	29	30	1	
JULY	2 PICNIC	3	4 	5	6	7	8	JULY
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
	30	31						

BY-LAWS CHANGE

One of the more important topics to be voted on at this month's meeting is an amendment to the By-Laws to change the month of the Annual meeting (and thus the election of new officers for the up-coming year) from September to May or June. (This change was mentioned in the October Issue of *OLDE NEWS*).

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, rather than having "lame duck" officers running the show all summer. This change will not take place until *next* year, and will not affect the proceedings of this year.

**Letters and Comments****OLDE NEWS**

(Copy of Memorandum on file at the R.I. Historical Preservation Commission.)

DATE: May 11, 1989

FROM: Don Faxon

I met with Claudette Field of the East Providence Historical Society on Monday, May 8, 1989 to look at the Hunt House on Hunts Mills Road in East Providence. The house is owned by the city; until recently it had been used for office space by the Water Department. The Society has organized a Building Committee and is currently raising funds to have the building restored, and requested my visit to retain my advice along with a review of a site report and proposal by Architect Clifford Renshaw. Their biggest question for the present seems

to be whether to remove a brick ell, apparently added in the 1950s, which has been causing significant water damage to the main house where they connect.

I found Mr. Renshaw's report to be very thorough and well prepared, and I can add very little to what he has recommended. As he says in his report, the shell and exterior weather protection of the house is in basically good condition. The roof seems not very old and is in good shape. I agree with his assessment that the chimney masonry, particularly its basement foundation, should be repaired first so that other items such as cracks around the fireplace walls above can be properly addressed.

The decision of whether to remove the three story brick vault ell at the back of the house seems to be best left up to the Society. It is up to them to decide if their budget and their need for the protected

storage of the space dictate its removal or retention. I would tend to agree with Mr.

Renshaw's suggestion that the best way to address the leakage problem caused by the poorly flashed opening connecting the house to the ell would be to remove the ell and replace the outer wall structure of the house.

c.c. Claudette Field/ B.P. Historical Society

C.M. Renshaw

.....

June 2, 1989

Fellow Historic Society Members:

As the present principal of the Historic Union Elementary School. I am concerned as to the future of this fine old building.

As Society members, you might be interested to know that once the building is no longer used as a school, the School Department must return

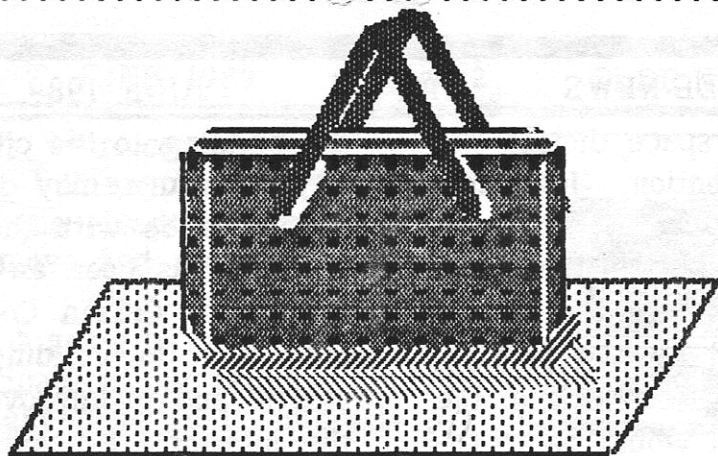
the building to the city. The city, in return, may do what it wishes to do with the building.

There has been an interest by the Senior Citizen Council to take over the building, to maintain it, and to improve some of the interior. However, the latest information seems to indicate that the cost will be around \$400,000. This *may* change their mind. Hence, the building may now be open for other interest who may not be interested in maintaining the building, but may wish to demolish it and build a new facility.

As a Historic Society member, I believe we should somehow make our concerns known to City Hall that we *do not* wish the building to be greatly altered, and definitely not demolished.

Also, is it possible to begin the process of having the building placed on the Register of Historic Places?

David J. Kelleher



FIRST ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY PICNIC

SUNDAY, JULY 2ND

A REAL OLD FASHIONED PICNIC

AT THE HUNT HOUSE, 2:00 PM 'TIL

6:00PM

MEMBERS FREE --- GUESTS \$1.00 DONATION REQUESTED

OLDE NEWS

East Providence Historical Society

P.O. Box 4774

East Providence, RI 02916

