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# OLDE NEWS

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EAST ■ PROVIDENCE ■ HISTORICAL ■ SOCIETY  
■ NEWSLETTER ■

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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Spring is here and soon it will be warm enough for us to start working at the Hunt House. I'm hoping that once work at the house begins in earnest and the place no longer looks abandoned that the vandals won't find it quite such an attractive target. We mustn't let a group of misguided kids destroy the goal of the Historical Society to restore this house for the people of East Providence. It's time to stake our claim to the building and show them that we mean business.

However, we must also be realistic. If we can't stop the the persistent break-ins then we

should reexamine our priorities and question the wisdom of putting great amounts of our time, energy and money into the project without solving the vandalism problem first. Perhaps along with seeking money to remove the ell and repair the chimney, the next grant request should be for a beefed up security system at the house

The Board is also considering ways other than new alarms and locks to curb the problem. If you have any suggestions, your input is always appreciated. Please let us know if you think you have a solution

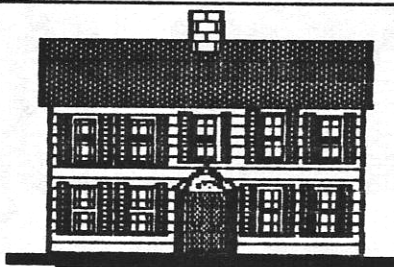
*Claudette Field*

## THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

OLDE NEWS has learned that the Children's Museum is considering Hunt's Mills as one possible site for their proposed new building. The Museum has outgrown its current home in a Victorian house in Pawtucket and is considering several other sites beside the East Providence one. They include Roger Williams Park, Slater Park, and an unnamed site in Cranston that the Museum would have to purchase. The Museum currently has about 180,000 visitors per year.

The Society's Board of Directors has written a letter endorsing the Museum's siting in the Hunt's Mills complex, and as always, questions and comments from the general membership are welcome.

*George Field*



### 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

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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

A new column will begin with this month's OLDE NEWS. 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. No special prizes...just fun in reminiscing and learning more about East Providence.

This month's Question:

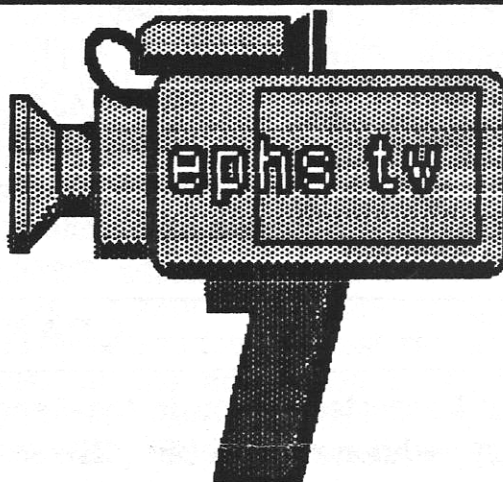
*Where did the Oaklands operate the Pioneer Market?*

Answers, ideas and suggestions may be sent to E.P.H.S., P.O. Box 4774, East Providence RI 02916, or call 438-2464.

## APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE!

This month's ovation goes to our energetic public relations member: **Florence Adams**. Can you believe the coverage in the Post? Well written and complete. Those Journal reports remind us of up-coming Society events.

Florence also organizes the "Get Out the OLDE NEWS" volunteers. Your efforts are appreciated, Florence. *Ray Anderson*



The Historical Society would like to be the first organization in East Providence to have a regular series of programs on Cable T.V. to stimulate the interest of our citizens in the many aspects of our heritage. In order to do this effectively we need a group of people who would like to put these programs together.

It is both a challenge and a lot of fun to produce a program for T.V.. The Cable Company provides free training and free use of the studio and portable equipment for making programs. The train-

CAPTAIN VIDEO Ctd. on pg. 5

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## WAYS AND MEANS

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The Spring Pasta Supper will be held on Saturday, April 1st. at 6:00 pm at Newman Congregational Church. Tickets are available by calling Claudette Field (431-0257) or Ellen O'Hare (434-7134). The cost per ticket is \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children, and free for children 4 and under.

The Ways and Means Commit-

tee is still looking for a few good men (or women) to wait on tables and/or clean up after the dinner.

We are looking forward to seeing you all there on April 1st for an evening of good food and good fun. Watch for our tasteful Pasta Supper posters in your neighborhood soon!

*Ellen O'Hare*

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## GRANT WRITING

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As I reported to you in the February edition of OLDE NEWS, twenty five letters were sent to Rhode Island and national foundations requesting applications for grants. To date, I have received fourteen responses. Presently, I am reviewing the applications to determine which grants we are eligible for. As soon as all of the applications have been received and reviewed, the Grant Writing Committee will meet to prepare the applications for filing.

On February 21st CLaudette Field, Lura Sellew and I met with a representative of the Rhode Is-

land Foundation. This was a preliminary meeting to review (1) our request for funding, (2) How to file our grant proposal and (3) to provide the Rhode Island Foundation with an opportunity to learn a little about the East Providence Historical Society. The meeting was very informative and our proposals were received. At this time, we are planning to file our grant application for the July deadline. Our funding request will be for \$10,000.

*Ellen O'Hare*

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**CAPTAIN VIDEO** Ctd. from pg. 3

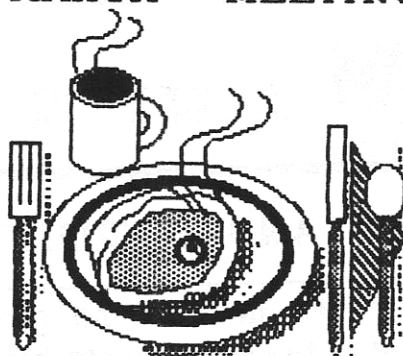
ing only takes a few evenings. From that you will learn what you like to do best. Some people like to run the cameras, some like to write scripts, some like to be the "on camera talent". Whatever your preference may be, anyone in this group can do it, and we must have your participation to make it all work out.

George Donovan will coordinate the operation and would like to start as soon as possible. You can call him for further information at 434-7828. As soon as we have enough names, we can arrange for the training course, and you will be contacted about possible dates.

*George Donovan*

**TREASURER'S REPORT**  
 as of **MAR.2 1989.**

General Fund	573.16
Savings	7644.36
C.D.	2863.18
Credit Union	25.57
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,106.27</b>

**MARCH MEETING**

The next regular monthly meeting of the Historical Society will be held at the Rumford Grange March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:15 p.m. The Grange will be serving a Baked Chicken Dinner before the meeting. Please make dinner reservations before Mar.22<sup>nd</sup>, 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.

Meeting: **March 27**

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

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

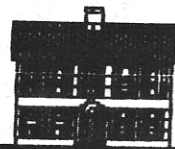
Time of Meeting: **7:15 p.m.**

Guest Speaker: **John J. Finan**  
of the FTF Partnership

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



## HUNT HOUSE UPDATE



### SAFETY AND SECURITY

Good and bad news. The good news is that the street lights have been installed towards the front and rear of the Hunt House. Our thanks go to City Manager James Beeley for prompt action.

The bad news is that someone broke into the Hunt House, again. They did this by kicking in the front door. Security alarms do not stop would be thieves or vandals. But by the time you read this, the Committee shall have installed other deterrents.

The Committee has met with two security companies for advice and cost estimates for improvements to our system. These include smoke detectors and a low temperature alarm to prevent water pipes from freezing. The Society will seek grants for these costly additions.

*Ray Anderson*

### TO ELL AND BACK AGAIN

Once again, our intrepid President sallied forth to meet a contractor at Hunt House to get an estimate for tearing down the brick ell. This time, it was not raining, as it usually is on these occasions, and Fran McBride, the contractor, got to see the place at its best. (Excepting, of course, the large muddy sneaker print on the front door, courtesy of our Pet Vandal. See Ray Anderson's report, above.)

Mr. McBride also agreed to give estimates on several other of the more ambitious undertakings we must do: replacing windows, tearing down the wall in front of the keeping room fireplace, etc. He warned that the ell, which has concrete floors and ceilings, may be steel reinforced and thus be very expensive to pull down. He also raised the question of what to

do with the resultant rubble, since trucking it away could be very expensive as well. His estimate will include removing the ell, burying the rubble, repairing any damage done to the back of the house, priming any new wood and erecting temporary wooden covers for the doors and windows which will be exposed by the demolition. Separate estimates will include replacing damaged windows on a "per window" basis, and another estimate for reinforcing our sagging chimney.

*George Field*

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## ARTIFACTS

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The Artifacts Committee plans to proceed in its task of creating a collection for the E.P.H.S. in four phases; the first one being to explore whatever facilities the John Hunt house has to house a collection, and to discover what items the Society already has in its care.

Phase Two will be to formulate a Museum Collections Policy which will give the committee a framework in which to operate. The committee will begin this task in March. In the meantime,

we have received offers of file cabinets, chairs, worktables, and paper. Still needed are old clean white sheets, a couple of old clean white mattress pads, file cards, a ledger, white cotton gloves, tubes of oil paint: white, red, and black, a few very fine art brushes and file folders. We can then accession what artifacts we do have and can accept new donations to the collection.

Phase Three will mark a more elaborate approach to the storage and preservation of historic articles in the acquisition of such equipment as a dehumidifier, hand vac, polyester screening to use with the vac, acid free storage boxes and tissue paper, glassene to protect papers, etc.

We hope that before the end of this year to enter Phase Four which, in conjunction with other plans of the Society, will entail the first public exhibition of our collection and our work and storage areas. Nothing inspires people to donate their historical "treasures" better than to be able to see that the Society can protect display and preserve their donations safely and professionally.

*Edna Anness*



## Letters and Comments

(Excerpt from a letter to Nancy Moore, Preservation Committee Chair, from one of

the principals in the FTF Partnership, regarding their proposed apartment complex on Pleasant Street.)

I would like to have the opportunity to address the Society at its next monthly meeting and/or your executive committee, as I believe our plans are architecturally and historically compatible with this fine area.

I have given my assurances that both the Moore house and the Peterson house, including the two lovely carriage houses, will not be razed but to the contrary will be completely rehabilitated and refurbished, thereby, maintaining the historical significance to the area. The century old oak trees between the two properties will not be disturbed.

I do look forward with

meeting with you and the East Providence Historical Society.

Very truly yours,  
John J. Finan, Jr.  
Attorney at Law

Mr Finan will be the Society's guest speaker at this month's regular meeting.

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February 24, 1989

Dear Mrs. Field:

A great deal of misinformation has been circulated about our project. Well meaning doctors create fictitious health threats, self serving politicians that literally can't run a grocery store are suddenly experts on power plant construction, insurance salesmen give speeches on bag houses and filter systems.

Would you like to get the real facts from real experts? We understand your organization is strongly opposed to our project, that is your right, just as it is our right to build a power plant if we comply with all federal



and state regulations and pose no health threat to the community. Reasonable people can differ on whether or not compliance can be achieved but reasonable people can also listen to each other. Progress is sometimes achieved in that fashion.

We propose to give you the facts as we see them. We are willing to listen to your concerns. Would you please advise us if time is available at your next meeting to address your membership.

Sincerely,  
Howard F. Bovers  
President,  
Newbay Corporation

Claudette responded to Mr. Bover's letter and said that she would put the matter before the Board of Directors. On March 7th the Board met and decided to recommend that the membership decline Mr. Bover's offer, on the grounds that the Historical Society does not afford the proper forum for this issue. The matter will be put to a vote during the March meeting.

## DUE DUES

Speaking of which, the dues for 1989 are now payable. Those of you out there who haven't paid yet, remember: We know who you are and we know where you live! For your convenience, we have provided a coupon to fill out with your name and address to mail in (with money, of course). If you have changed your address, you can also use the coupon to inform us of that as well.

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

NAME (S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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

# THE OFFICIAL OLDE NEWS CALENDAR

		SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT	
					1	2	3	4	
		5	6	7	8	9 board meeting	10	11	MARCH
		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	1 pasta dinner	
APRIL		2	3	4	5 board meeting	6	7	8	
		9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
		16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
		23 30	24 meeting & supper	25	26	27	28	29	

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**P.O. Box 4774**  
**East Providence, RI 02916**

