

OLDE NEWS

EAST ■ PROVIDENCE ■ HISTORICAL ■ SOCIETY
■ NEWSLETTER ■

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

On Thursday May 4th members of East Providence's Historic Properties Study Commission got to tour the Philip Walker House on North Broadway. As most of you already know, the house which is one of the oldest in the state, was left to the Rhode Island Heritage Trust by the late Faith Shedd.

While the Heritage Trust decides what to do to the house, there is a caretaker in residence and it remains as Mrs. Shedd left it.

To say that the house is showing its age would not be too great an exaggeration. Compared to the Philip Walker House, the Hunt

House with its straight walls and level floors looks new. The extensive work the Philip Walker House needs is obvious even to the most casual observer. It has been estimated to need \$80,000. worth of work or more just on the exterior. Inside there are the usual problems that beset three hundred year old houses: punky floorboards, stairs worn paper thin by thousands of footsteps, ceilings which have begun to part company with the walls, floors which slant dramatically from one side of the room to the other.

The Heritage Trust is consider-
cont. pg. 3

We still are looking for nominations. Note the two new positions added. Take some time to fill out this form and send it to:

E.P.H.S. Nominating Committee
P.O. Box 4774
East Providence, RI 02916

I would like to nominate the following as officers of the East Providence Historical Society:

For President:

For 1st V.P.:

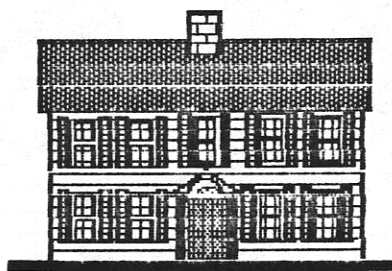
For 2nd V.P.:

For Treasurer:

For Secretary:

For Corresponding Secretary:

For Board Member-at-large (2 positions):



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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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 M. Vincent

NOSTALGIA

ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S QUERY:

The High House is the last house on the left going towards Seekonk on Newman Avenue. No replies, so I still don't know how it got its name.

THIS MONTH'S QUESTION:

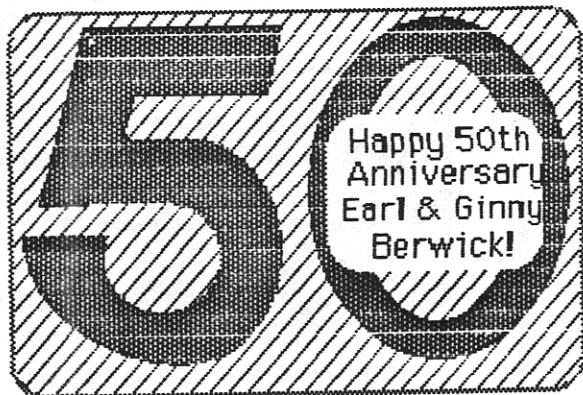
When I was in High School (TAUNTON MANOR) there was a popular teen eatery at Six Corners. In its later days it moved to the Waterman Building on North Broadway near Massasoit Avenue. What was its name?

Ray Anderson

PRESIDENT'S LETTER (cont.)

ing several uses for the building such as keeping the house a single family house and renting it out, or making an old house museum out of the first floor and renting out the upstairs, or using the building for office space. Since this house is such an important piece of East Providence's architectural history I think we should all give some serious thought to how we would like to see the Philip Walker house used once it is restored.

APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE!

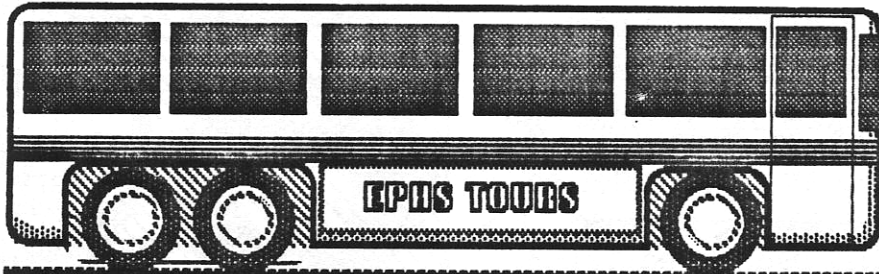


Our very own Helen Smith will be receiving an award at the State House May 15th, Nursing Home Volunteers Recognition Day, for her work at the Scandinavian Home in Cranston. Congratulations Helen, and it's good to see all of these worthy volunteers being recognised for their efforts!

TREASURER'S REPORT as of MAY 10, 1989

General Fund	1,006.68
Savings	3,520.50
C.D.	7,863.18
Credit Union	25.27
Total	12,415.93

N.Y. BUS TOUR



sponsored by the East Providence Historical Society
LEAVING 7:00 A.M. • JUNE 10
BUS LEAVES TAUNTON AVENUE PARK AND RIDE
\$30.00 ADULTS • • • \$25.00 CHILDREN
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: THE VINCENTS: 434-0481
OR BILLIE ARDEN: 438-4904
DEADLINE MAY 21- FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED!!

PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The Preservation Committee, acting with a representative neighborhood group from the area around the proposed Moore Farm development, has voted to go on record in opposition to the developer's announced attempt to obtain a zoning variance to allow construction of the Moore Farm project. The variance would allow the project to be built essentially as described to the Society

at our March general meeting.

The group and the committee has several reasons for this opposition: they prefer to see the neighborhood continue to be one that is predominantly owner occupied, they were concerned about the rapid erosion of open space in the entire city, and feel that the properties could be more valuable to the city as a watershed to the Turner Reservoir.

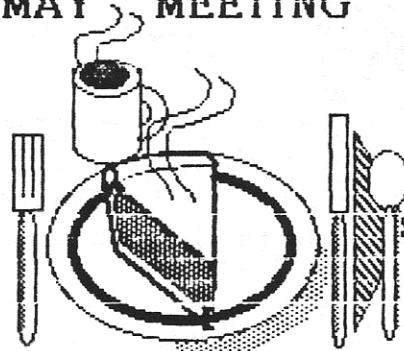
They are also concerned about the future fate of the adjoining plot of land known as the "Sullivan property" fearing that it too could be given over to apartments if Moore Farm is built.

The letter was drafted and presented to the Board for approval on May 10th, and was accepted with minor changes.

The Committee has also learned of yet another zoning variance request to come before the Zoning Board concerning property near the boundaries of the Rumford Historic District. Edward Lundgren, a Seekonk builder, has agreed to buy the property at 24 Doro Place, a cul-de-sac off Greenwood Avenue. He intends to subdivide the property and build a house on the new lot. A variance is sought because the newly created lot will not meet current zoning requirements. The Zoning Board of Appeals meets May 31st. All interested parties should attend.

Nancy Moore

MAY MEETING

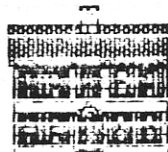


The next regular monthly meeting of the Historical Society will be held at the Rumford Grange May 22 at 7:15 p.m. The Grange will be serving a Meat Pie Dinner before the meeting. Please make dinner Reservations before May 18, and remember that if you make a dinner reservation you are responsible for the cost. The Society in the past has had to assume the cost of non-appearing members.

Meeting: **Monday, May 22**
 Time of Dinner: **6:30 p.m.**
 Price: **\$4.50**
 Time of Meeting: **7:15 p.m.**
 Guest Speakers: **Anne Farber**
 & **Marijoan Bull** (E.P. Planner)
 Reservations: **Anne Bouchard**
 (434-4127) or **Ellen O'Hare**
 (434-7134)



HUNT HOUSE UPDATE



Hunt House has been a hive of activity lately, with scraping and cleaning parties happening almost every week.

On Saturday, April 29* five volunteers started the outside restoration of the front of the Hunt House. With scrapers, putty knives and sandpaper they made a big dent in the project. Short on ladders, but high on energy, we are off to a good start. We have the loan of a large ladder from Earl Berwick and a promise of any ladder needed by Rep. Ed Lynch. Care to join us for our next work day? **8:00AM TO NOON, SATURDAY JUNE 10 AND SATURDAY JUNE 24.** (Be there or be square!)

Who do we thank for this successful start? Ginny Berwick, Steve Potter, Florence Adams, Dave Kelleher and Ray Anderson. Good start, crew!

Steve Potter, our newest member and "all round man" from Slater Mill in Pawtucket put a temporary patch on the brick vault roof. The leak is stopped!!

An inspection after a rainstorm revealed no more horrendous puddles and damp spots. It is hoped that this simple measure will have stopped the water damage occurring to the house every time it rains. Since the ell is unlikely to be removed until the Society can get a sizeable grant for its demolition, stopping the leak is an important intermediate step in preserving the house.

Tuesday, May 2*, saw yet another horde of volunteers scrubbing walls, woodwork and cabinets in anticipation of installing Edna Aness and Museum storage on the second floor. During this session, our intrepid President, aided and abetted by several members who should probably remain anonymous, succumbed to their curiosity and started picking away at the chimney wall in the keeping room, working with improvised tools hoping to unearth a fireplace. Their hopes were realized and the outlines of a bricked-up fireplace,

HUNT HOUSE UPDATE ctd.

somewhat larger than the other ones in the house, can now be seen emerging from behind the plaster.

During this same period Patricia (Rix) Millette and her husband Paul have joined the Society. The Millettes bring a unique combination of talents to work on the Hunt House. Mrs. Millette who works for Brown University as a project manager maintaining and restoring the University's trove of older buildings. She has 18 years experience in construction and is a trained estimator. Mr. Millette is a mechanical engineer.

Mr. Millette was impressed at the general soundness of the house, and kept exclaiming at the trueness of the walls, and Mrs. Millette kept tapping walls and murmuring about gypsum board over the plaster, and how she wanted to get out on the roof of the ell to see what shape it was really in.

On the Board Meeting May 10th (at Hunt House, the first of what we hope will be many such meetings there) Pat Millette suggested that the Society draw up a comprehensive plan detailing what

we hope to accomplish at the Hunt House over the next few years and present this plan to the City Council in an attempt to get a final commitment for a longer lease. Our readers may recall that Claudette and Fales Pierce obtained a memo from Mr Beeley recommending to the Council that the Society be granted a twenty year lease. Since then, other events in East Providence have intervened, and the issue has never appeared before the Council. The Board resolved to give the City a little "nudge" and get them to grant us a lease for a more substantial period of time than the one year lease we currently enjoy.

Pat also suggested that in setting our priorities we first concentrate on making the house weather and water tight before committing more time and resources to such things as finish coats of paint and plaster.

In response to these suggestions, the Building Committee met May 12 and 15th to formulate a plan of attack on the Hunt House.

Ray Anderson & George Field

HUNT HOUSE ctd.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

The Safety and Security Committee is in the process of getting official recommendations from the East Providence Fire Department concerning the number and placement of smoke and heat detectors. Because the security package price of upgrading our system was substantial, the committee is now attempting to secure an itemized bid of necessary improvements and saving further improvements for grant funding.

Ray Anderson

MUSEUM COMMITTEE

The night of the April meeting we taped our first oral history-Charles O'Connell's recollections of his family history and stories of Rumford.

We have finished writing the Museum Collection By-Laws and they will be submitted to the Board on May 10th. (The By-Laws will also be a major mini-series in Olde News starting this month, and continuing until they are printed in their entirety.)

I did attend the League of RI Historical Societies at RISD on collection methods and policies. I recieved a picture of Ponham Light from the Cranston Historical Society.

We have a WISH LIST of supplies still needed for the Museum storage. Nancy Stevens is taking copies of it to various City organizations in hopes of getting some donations. We will note the donors on a list in the Keeping Room of Hunt House.

We thanked Mrs. Ripley and Nancy Stevens for white sheets and Virginia Berwick for white oil paint.

The rooms for Museum storage were scrubbed and cleaned by a stalwart crew of eleven on the evening of May 2nd. They really sparkled by comparison of before and after. The furniture was selected on May 11th and was delivered on Friday May 12th.

Our first Oral History was recorded when Mr, Charles O'Connell delivered his reminiscences on April 24th. Since then a second oral history has been

THE OFFICIAL OLDE NEWS CALENDAR

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

done. We are looking for volunteers to be interviewed and have their memories tape recorded. Their memories will help us identify important events or buildings, streets and residents and just fond tales of historic significance told to them by their parents who were living in this area prior to 1915. Please contact Edna Anness at 434-3347 to make an appointment. The interview can be easily conducted at

leisure in one's own home. One does not have to be a member of the Historical Society. Friends, neighbors, family members: we are waiting to hear from you.

Edna Anness

MUSEUM BY-LAWS

- Part 1

INTRODUCTION

OLDE NEWS is publishing the policy guidelines drawn up by the Museum Committee because we feel it is vital that any potential donor to the Society's collection should have the

opportunity to become familiar with the policies of the Museum. Due to their extensive length and thoroughness they will be published in installments.

ARTICLE I Purpose of the Collection

- 1.1 The object or Purpose of this Historical Society Museum is to collect facts and material objects relative to the history of East Providence and such portions of the adjacent towns as have at any time become or were a part of East Providence and to increase the interest of the Citizenry in their heritage.

ARTICLE II Procedure for Collecting

- 2.1 When an object is offered for donation or loan to the Society, its merit is considered by the Museum Committee Chairman. If the object merits consideration by the Museum Committee, it is received and registered as a temporary loan.
- 2.2 At the next meeting of the Museum Committee, the Chairman presents the object to the members, along with a recommendation to accept or

reject, supported by reasons for doing so. Upon the vote of a simple majority of the Committee members present and/or polled by phone, the object will be accepted into the collection or directed to be returned to its owner.

- 2.3 In cases where a decision MUST be reached prior to the next scheduled Committee meeting, committee members will be called. Members will be encouraged to come to the Museum and examine the object in question and vote to accept or reject.
- 2.4 A gift so accepted becomes the property of the East Providence Historical Society Museum when the Society receives a gift agreement (deed of gift) signed by the donor (or his legally authorized representative) and a legally authorized representative of the Society, in this case the Chairman.
- 2.5 The Society gives serious consideration to all objects offered to it and expects in good faith to retain all objects it acceptions. However, the Society reserves the right to

de-accession from the collection and does not accept restricted gifts which might compromise its ability to act in its best interest in the future.

- 2.6 At their discretion, the Museum Committee may spend Museum acquisition funds for the purchase of Museum objects.
- 2.7 Objects deemed inappropriate for the permanent collection, but having instructional or utilitarian value may at the Museum Committee's discretion be added to the Study Collection.
- 2.8 In case of damage or fair wear and tear necessitates repair of an object, the decision as to how the repair should be handled rests with a majority vote of the Museum Committee.

ARTICLE III Use of the Collections

- 3.1 The artifacts given to the Museum Collection will be used:
- a. to furnish the Hunt House
 - b. to place on exhibition at the Hunt House

c. for study by researchers at the Hunt House

d. to loan to other museums and institutions. (3.2)

e. for commercial purposes. (3.3 & 3.4)

- 3.2 Loans to museums and other institutions and organizations must receive the approval of a majority vote of the Museum Committee. In making its decision, the committee will take under consideration the length of the loan, the consequences of removing the object from display or storage, and the safety and security of the artifact in transit and its destination.

- 3.3 With the approval of a majority of Committee members, objects may be rented or lent for commercial purposes for short term use only if the complete safety of the object is assured and the remuneration is adequate to inconvenience involved. Objects on loan to the Museum can not be loaned without express written permission of the owner.

TO BE CONTINUED!

HOME OF THE BIG SCOOP



305 NORTH BROADWAY RUMFORD, RHODE ISLAND

OLDE NEWS

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

