



# OLDE NEWS

EAST ■ PROVIDENCE ■ HISTORICAL ■ SOCIETY  
■ NEWSLETTER ■

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I'm sure you've all heard the expression "the squeaky wheel gets the grease." Well, I can assure that it is true. Before I wrote last month's column I had done just about everything I could to get the City to honor their promise to provide us with heat.

Talking about our plight brought the problem to the attention of people who could help us. First one of our Board members went to bat for us, calling City officials and our local councilman and eliciting assurances that the house would finally get its burner tended to and its oil tank filled. Then *OLDE NEWS* hit the street and Dave Howard of the

*next page*

## MEETING



THE NOVEMBER MEETING  
OF THE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
will be held November 27, 1989  
from 7:15 pm  
at Newman Congregational  
Church  
Guest Speaker, Len Erickson  
*coffee and refreshments  
will be served*

**PRESIDENT'S LETTER** *cont.*

*Post* who has become a staunch supporter of our restoration efforts, wrote about our dilemma in his Postscripts column. It wasn't long after that the oil finally materialized and after much cleaning to undo the years of disuse, the boiler was fired up for the first time during our tenancy.

I'm grateful to everyone who worked to try to resolve the heating impasse and to those who responded with offers of help; the East Providence resident who called willing to do anything to help us including setting up a heating contract and East Providence Cable, who offered to put together a public service announcement for us. deserve special thanks for their response.

But there are still hurdles ahead for the Historical Society. As we discussed before, we haven't signed our new lease yet. Problems with the wording lead us to the law offices of Robert Nocera for help. Mr. Nocera has come up with a much improved version of the original lease. One way we can gauge the City's understanding of the enormous contribution we are making to its

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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 Sellow
Corresponding Secretary	Rose Marie Sirenski
Treasurer	Martha Pivas
Assistant Treasurer	Greta Charves

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Members at Large	Alyce (Billie) Arden
	Nancy Stevens

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Artifacts	Edna Anness
Grant Writing	Jewel Drickamer
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	Scott Booth
Ways and Means	W. and H. Vincent

## PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The Moore Farm property is in the news again with a new developer. Mr. Ken Kazarian

has approached the Historical Society with plans for restoration of the Moore and Peterson houses and barns plus the construction of seven new dwellings. Mr. Kazarian is a local resident and is well aware of the controversy surrounding this parcel of land. This committee will keep the members apprised of "developments".

This committee has received a response from Mr. Rick Greenwood of the RI Historic Preservation Commission as to the intent of the state concerning the inter-

section of Pleasant Street and Pawtucket Avenue

in the Rumford section. Mr. Greenwood explains, "The Traffic Engineering Unit was unaware that this location is within a National Register Historic District and so did not contact the Historic Preservation Commission. They have since been informed that Section 106 consultation is necessary." Mr. Greenwood supplied us with drawings of the DOT's standard (RI Standard 19.2) overhead traffic light design, a representation of which adorns this page. Mr. Greenwood further asked for the Society's opinion in this matter.

*Nancy Moore*

## GUEST SPEAKER

Our Guest speaker for November is Mr. Len Erickson, a past President and the creator of the wonderful model of Watchemoket Square on exhibit in City hall. Mr. Erickson began his research in 1964 and is a leading expert on this part of the City. He will

speak to us about his work and the rise and fall of Watchemoket as the center of the community. His talk will be one that our members will not want to miss. If for some reason you haven't seen his recreation of Watchemoket on July 2nd, 1922, well, shame on you...it's superb!

## WAYS AND MEANS

It is very gratifying to report that our Harvest Supper was another successful fund raiser. The Ways and Means Committee would like to thank all who volunteered and helped to make it possible. (Bill Simpson would like to announce to the world at large that despite the many compliments he has received for his catering of the Harvest Supper that: (1) he did *not* cater the Harvest Supper, and (2) that the entire credit should go to the Ways and Means Committee.)

Let's try to make our December 3<sup>rd</sup> Open House and Christmas sale our most *eventful* and most *successful* of the year. I'd like to make mention of the plans for the next few weeks and hope you'll cooperate with us.

The craft workshop had its best meeting Wed. Nov. 1st and I hope all the workers enjoyed these sessions as much as I did. For those who have been doing home work, would you kindly make plans to have your donations at

the Hunt House before Thanksgiving so we will be able to set up a time for having "Tag Nite" at the Hunt House. To set these times and dates, you can reach me at 434-0418.

A meeting was held with Edna Anness on Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> to plan together the way the Hunt House will be set up and articles displayed. We can probably give you a more complete report at our next regular meeting Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>.

*Madeline Vincent*

### TREASURER'S REPORT as of NOV. 17 1989

General Fund	1036.47
Savings	11314.05
Credit Union	26.20
Total	12376.72

## GRANT WRITING

The Grant Writing Committee is assembling information to make proper applications for grants. Each of you active members can help. We need:

- Written goals from each Committee with a timetable, if possible, for one to five years.
- A written budget for this fiscal year.
- A biographical note from each person engaged on any project. (This means not only education, but activities such as those with church groups, charitable organizations, etc. and any special expertise.)

Please send the information by the end of November to the President who will forward it to the Committee.

*Jewel Drickmer*

## WE'RE IN THE MONEY!

The Champlin Foundation has announced that it is granting the E.P. Historical Society \$13,000 dollars, to be administered through the City of East Providence for the sole purpose of the

restoration of the Hunt House. The Society plans to use this money for one of the most urgent (and expensive) items on our restoration list: a new heating system.

And speaking of money...we have a lovely offer for you below. Remember: Christmas is coming, and Dues are always in good taste.

If your Dues are  
overdue, send them in today!

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

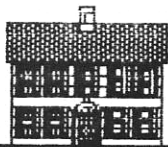
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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

**BE WARNED!!**

If you haven't paid your dues this year, you are on **Ginny Berwick's List**!! She knows who you are and she knows where you live! Get smart and use the coupon, or we won't be responsible for what may happen next.



## HUNT HOUSE UPDATE



### **HEAT!**

Last month's President's Letter apparently was more widely read than the *OLDE NEWS* staff would have believed possible. Shortly after it appeared, the Society received a very generous offer from a private citizen to buy a year's service contract with a local oil company to keep the Hunt House heated. More to the point, the *East Providence Post* applied a little warmth to the City's feet and they finally delivered a tankful of oil, and a repairman to insure that the furnace is working.

Walter Vincent has been running the system since the recent cold snap, but he is still unsure of its reliability. Sometimes it shuts off, sometimes it doesn't, Walter reports. Sometimes it turns on, and sometimes it doesn't. Until we have a time when the system is up and running for a long period of time, it appears as though the heating system will only be working under parental supervision.

### **MIRACLE WORKERS**

The restoration squad has been working minor miracles in the keeping room and the small back parlor, trying to get both of them spiffed up for the Christmas at Hunt House Open House and Christmas Bazaar. If all goes well, the parlor should be resplendent in its original colors by the third of December, and awaiting the tender ministrations of Edna and her people, who hope to fill it with furniture appropriate to its era and faithful to the inventory of Mr. Hunt's estate. I have watched the gradual transition of these two rooms from the seedy offices that the Water Department abandoned years ago to the fine Colonial interior that is starting to appear, and I am still amazed at the transition that has occurred over this past summer. If you haven't been to the Hunt House in a while, be sure to come and see it December 3rd. I guarantee it will knock your socks off!

## ***PIECING IT TOGETHER***

Special mention should be made of the work Walter Vincent and Charlie Jackson have been doing to the two fireplaces. Charlie Jackson has done a masterful job in piecing the keeping room mantle piece back together, literally from everyday things found around the house, and it is a fine restoration job. The Board of directors had a chance to see how far along it has come during their last meeting, complete with the door covering the warming ovens, and were very impressed. Walter has made the parlor mantle his particular labor of love and much of the fine detailing that had been obscured by layers of paint has been revealed.

## ***SECURITY BLANKET***

Scott Booth has readied the final specifications for the security system and will have the contracts out to bid within this month, complete with the "boiler-plate" general provisions that Rose Marie Sirenski slaved over this past summer. The new specifications embody what Scott feels are most of the best features from earlier bids, and if all goes well, and the Society can free up the

appropriate funds, the new security system could well be installed and functioning by the end of the year.

The system will be controlled by a programmable keypad, which will allow the access code to be re-programmed easily. Motion detectors will protect the rooms, along with switches on all the outside doors, and supplementary switches on the interior doors in the Museum area. In addition there will be water and temperature sensors in case there is a major heating system or plumbing malfunction.

If all of this makes you want to grab some tools and help, and you're not a member, join us!

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 COMMITTEE

After much thought and discussion, added to by messages from various members and Officers of the Society, the Museum Committee has voted not to change the Policies regarding Deaccession. We will explain (very nicely!) to a potential donor that if we cannot receive a fee outright gift, then the potential donor should consider loaning the item.

We also recommend amendment to the By-Laws of the Society to include the Museum Committee as another permanent standing committee, with the notation that it adhere very closely to the Collections Policy which includes under Article VI, Section 6.3.4 that we will attempt to locate the heirs of a donor if the gift is to be deaccessioned. To wit:

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

When an item is donated and the donor is concerned about this then a list of heirs should be placed in the accession file. The



Committee felt that the concern of donors regarding the disposition of their gifts is a legitimate one. But they also felt that the complications that could ensue from a policy different from that in Article Six could create substantial problems for the Collection in the future. It would obligate the Museum Committee to engage in a search for relatives many years after the time of accession, and would hamper the Committee's flexibility in improving the collection by forcing them to contact long lost or distant family members every time they wish to dispose of an article, or trade it for a different or a better one.

We reviewed our first year goals which we have met except for getting money, because the collection process has to be functioning for two years before we can raise funds for the Museum alone. Nancy Stevens volunteered to approach the Chamber of Commerce for used typewriters, dehumidifiers, etc. so I am making another wish list.

Preliminary goals for next year were discussed and will be augmented with other ideas before



## THE OFFICIAL OLDE NEWS CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2 hunt house workday	3	4 Harvest Dinner
5	6	7 hunt house workday	8	9 hunt house workday	10	11 hunt house workday
12	13	14 hunt house workday	15	16 hunt house workday	17	18 hunt house workday
19	20	21 hunt house workday	22	23 Thanksgiving	24	25 hunt house workday
26	27 November meeting	28 hunt house workday	29	30 hunt house workday	1 	2 hunt house workday
3 Hunt House Christmas	4	5 hunt house workday	6	7 hunt house workday	8	9 hunt house workday
10	11	12 hunt house workday	13	14 hunt house workday	15	16 hunt house workday
17	18 December Meeting	19 hunt house workday	20	21 hunt house workday	22	23 hunt house workday
24	25  Christmas	26	27	28 hunt house workday	29	30 hunt house workday

31 Workdays at Hunt House in December: Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 8am-12pm

Note that December Meeting is 3rd week of the month.

next Jan., such as:

- Move into the storage area.
- Arrange for short term displays to open the House once there is an alarm system.
- Talking to Mr. McNulty at the

High School about including Hunt House etc. into the History Curriculum.

- Working up an education program with the elementary

*next page*

**MUSEUM COMMITTEE***cont.*

schools.

• A suggestion: Show George Donovan's video about important places in the city at a Society meeting.

Nancy brought a beautiful tab curtain for the window in "the Room" downstairs and it's great. Plans were made for selecting furniture for the room Dec. 3rd.

Rose Marie Sirenski and Joanne Bouchard are printing up some decent-looking gift agreements, and I interviewed Len Erikson Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> as part of our Oral History Program.

*Edna Anness***MOORE FARM VISIT**

On November 13 members of the Preservation committee and your Faithful Editor were given an extensive tour of the Moore-Peterson property by Ken Kazarian, who has entered into a purchase agreement with FTF Partnership to purchase the property. We walked to the back of the property with Mr. Kazarian as he

explained his plans to restore the existing buildings and sub-divide the property into seven more house lots. He hopes to preserve the row of trees between the two houses by splitting the access road to the new properties on either side of them, then terminating the road in a large cul-de-sac at the back of the property. We then explored the buildings themselves.

The Peterson house is a typical dwelling from the 1840-50's era which was a period of stylistic transition in this neighborhood. Its basic form and proportions are that of the Greek Revival, overlaid with Italianate bracketing and detailing. The floor plan is a bit confused, with the only access to the second floor a well concealed stairway opening up from a rear vestibule, but the upstairs rooms, which have been unoccupied for many years, are very much as they must have been when the house was first built. Over all, the house seemed in fine structural condition: the roof seemed sound and the basement was clean and dry.

The large house on the property, the Moore home, revealed itself to be a potentially magnifi-

cent home. It was built somewhat later than the Peterson house, and it's style is much more in the Queen Anne/Shingle style, when house forms became more complex and rambling. The rear of the house is marred by a somewhat unfortunate two story addition which we speculated may have been an office for Dr. Moore, but everyone had some brilliant idea over how to improve it (almost all of them at Mr. Kazarian's expense, of course.) Once again, the first floor had been cut up and modified by previous owners, and the second floor, which was in more original condition, gave us a better idea of just what a gracious home it once was, and could be again.

The Committee members gave Mr. Kazarian encouragement in his venture, and some advice on the sort of renovations they felt would be most appropriate for the two houses. The developer in turn described his hopes that the two restored homes would act as a drawing card to the other houses he would build on the site, which would be similar in scale and design to the Moore/Peter-son houses. He is therefore will- ing to expend the resources

needed to make these houses the show places they once were, and could be again.

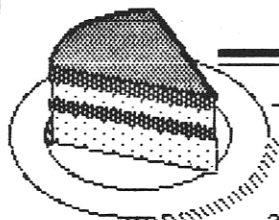
We all left with a restored sense of enthusiasm for the potential of this project, and the hope that a spirit of co-operation between the developer and the Society could result in a project that not only would save and preserve these two neglected beauties, but could result in a development that would actually enhance the area.

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### PRESIDENT'S *(cont. from pg. 2)*

residents by restoring *their* Hunt House for them will be their re- sponse to the new lease. Time will tell if we've made any strides at all.

*Claudette Field*



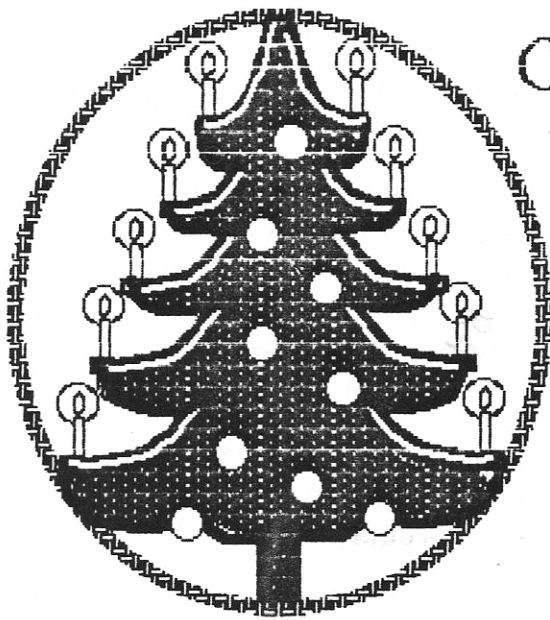

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### BAKERS

Our bakers for November are Greta Charves, Fran Gross and Nancy Stevens.

Last month's bakers once again demonstrated to Your Editor the important contribution baked goodies make to the quality of our meetings. He is looking forward to having that proved to him again this month. Thank you all.

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# Christmas 1989 at Hunt House

Sunday, December 3  
10AM to 5PM

Crafts, baked goods, gift,  
and decorative items  
and  
our first restored room  
decorated in  
18th century style!

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