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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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People who go to Hunts Mills and catch the Historical Society at work often wander over to see what's going on at the Hunt House. Invariably they're appalled by the enormity of the project. It takes a special person to see the potential the house holds; Antoinette Downing saw it when she pronounced it an excellent example of a late eighteenth century house.

Like Mrs. Downing, we realize that this house is worth the commitment, but it will be awhile before the average person recognizes the gem hidden in the "pit".

However, people who toured

the house in June and came through again recently saw a difference. It is starting to "look like an old house". That is very encouraging, it means that as we remove twentieth century floor coverings, crumbling plaster, and expose the cooking fireplace that was bricked-up, the eighteenth-century details are emerging from the dust and people are noticing.

They are also beginning to notice the Historical Society itself. It's always encouraging to receive a letter from an organization offering the services of volunteers, so I was thrilled when

*cont. pg. 2*

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

the local RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) wrote saying that they would like to become more involved with the Historical Society.

As we continue to grow there will be more of those encouraging signs and before you know it the Museum of the East Providence Historical Society will be opening and you can all be proud that you were a part of it. *Claudette Field*

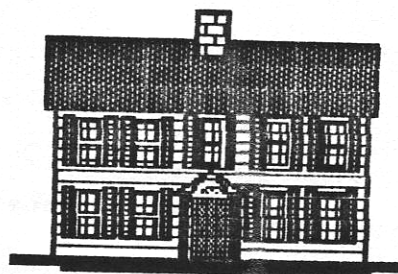
## NOSTALGIA

### LAST MONTH'S ANSWER:

Why did it take so long to close the Red Bridge on hot days? The steel bridge rotated 90° to let tankers through. On abnormally hot days the heat expanded the bridge and it had to be sprayed with water to cool it. The result was a major traffic tie-up.

### THIS MONTH'S QUERY:

What was the name of the five and dime across from City Hall that closed several years ago? They always had those notions and other inexpensive items you needed. *Ray Anderson*



### 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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First Vice-President	Michael Charves
Second Vice-President	William Wade
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Corresponding Secretary	Virginia Berwick
Treasurer	Martha Rivas

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Member at Large	Ellen O'Hare
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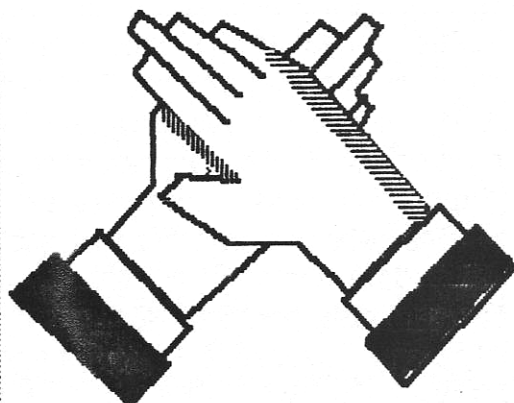
Artifacts	Edna Anness
Grant Writing	Jewel Drickamer
Hunt House Restoration	G. Fales Peirce
Membership	Virginia Berwick
Newsletter	George Field
Mailing subcommittee	Florence Adams
Preservation	Nancy Moore
Publicity	Florence Adams
Safety and Security	Raymond Anderson
Ways and Means	W. and M. Vincent

## PRESERVATION

This month, there's good news and bad news. The good news is that the Moore Farm development project has been abandoned by FTF Developers. The bad news is that, although the properties are back on the market, both the Moore and Peterson lots are to be sold together, making it very difficult for the average home buyer to afford the hefty price tag (\$548,000 in case anyone is interested). This committee has fired off a letter to one of the developers, John Finan, pointing out the benefits of separating the properties and giving buyers interested in historical homes a chance to own a fine example here in East Providence. We'll keep you posted. If you know of anyone interested in these homes, please pass the word along that they are available. Perhaps someone will make an offer that FTF cannot refuse!

On the Bridgham Farm front, it appears that a development of forty-nine single-family homes will replace the condo idea. The new plan, which calls for a placement of buildings similar to the

*cont. on pg. 11*



**APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE !**

When Walter and Madeline Vincent boarded our tour bus during '87 Heritage Days, Lady Luck wasn't just smiling on the Historical Society she was definitely grinning!

They pitched in to help with our first Harvest Supper and they haven't stopped since.

This summer Walter, self-appointed custodian of the Hunt House, has done yeoman service. Alone he's repaired windows, plumbing, and light fixtures. Under the guidance of the Building Committee, he directed volunteers and worked many hours by himself on the two rooms where the restoration has begun.

*more APPLAUSE, next page*

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## WAYS AND MEANS

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The Ways and Means Committee is once again healthy and ready to roll. A meeting was held August 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Vincents' where plans were made and dates set for a Flea Market on October 15<sup>th</sup> (rain date October 22<sup>nd</sup>) at the Hunt House; and on November 4<sup>th</sup>, hopefully everyone will enjoy a Harvest Supper to be held at the Newman Congregational Church.

• PLEASE MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR •

Since workdays on the Hunt House have already been set for our Restoration Project in September and October we have also set these same dates for delivery days for the Flea Market items. Any items may be dropped off at the Hunt House on these dates between 8:00AM and noon: October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. (And if you don't happen to be doing anything on those mornings, the folks working on the Hunt House would be delighted if you stayed and helped!)

Our Craft Workshop, now in its 3rd week is going very well, but can always use more hands. Everyone seems to look forward

to the next meeting. (Every Wednesday from 10:00AM to 2:00PM.)

For all those who wish to make their own items at home we thank you and please keep in touch to allow us to have a nice variety for our Boutique. (A sewing group may soon be added to our workshop, depending on the interest shown by the membership.)

Tickets for the Harvest Supper will be available at our next regular meeting September 25<sup>th</sup>. All returns must be turned over to Martha Rivas, our treasurer, on or before the October meeting.

Looking forward to seeing everyone again. Please be ready to help us with these coming events by signing up when our worksheets are put out.

*Madeline Vincent*

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APPLAUSE, *cont.*

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He even built our new sign.

Then there's Madeline. She shopped for days to assemble the perfect components for the craft projects being made for the

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Christmas sale. All this while planning a Harvest Supper, a yard sale, and a Christmas boutique!

But the real reason these two deserve applause is that they don't brag about the time they spend or whine and complain when volunteers disappoint them, they just work that much harder themselves.

People like the Vincents are the glue that hold non-profit organizations together and in Walter and Madeline we got ourselves some super glue! *Claudette Field*

■  
DON'T FORGET TO VOTE  
SEPTEMBER 25TH!

Remember: If you don't vote, you can't complain! (It's in the By-Laws, trust us.)

TREASURER'S REPORT	
as of SEPT. 13 1989	
General Fund	571.81
Savings	3670.35
C.D.	7863.18
Credit Union	25.57
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,130.91</b>



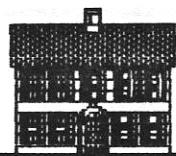
## MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the East Providence Historical Society will be held on **Monday, September 25**, at 7:15 PM at Newman Congregational Church.

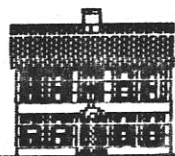
Our guest speaker for the evening will be Fr. Robert Barnes. Fr. Barnes is currently the pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Occum Connecticut.

Fr. Barnes, along with his parents and six brothers and sisters were the last people to live in the Hunt House before the Water Department took it over. Most of the Barnes children were born in the Hunt House.

Fr. Barnes is the paternal uncle of our Board Member -at-Large, Ellen O'Hare.



## HUNT HOUSE UPDATE



### *LEASE SAID THE BETTER*

The Society has retained the services of Attorney Robert R. Nocera to assist us in our negotiations with the City over the exact wording of our new extended lease. Members of the Board and Mr. Nocera agreed that some of the language in the draft version of the lease was troublesome. Conversations with Assistant City Solicitor Gregory Dias are cordial and continuing.

### *INSIDE*

Interior renovations on the keeping room have now progressed to the point where the "modern" floor has been ripped up, and all of the fireplace uncovered. This most recent floor showed itself to be a prime example of the floor levelers art, as it was shimmed to a fare-thee-well to make it level. The floor revealed underneath has enough dips and bumps to make it qualify for a ride at Rocky Point! Especially interesting is the sudden slope from the hearth to the bath-

room door, a perceptuous drop of about four inches over a two foot span. Our nervous restoration workers promptly placed a jack under the floor joist that dips so much, although, as was pointed out later, the floor has probably been like that for a hundred years.

The recently uncovered pine floor with its uniform four to five inch wide planks is not the "original" floor, which can be seen only from the basement, but was probably added either as a reinforcement for the random width planks that were put down when the house was built, or as a cosmetic cover when it was decided that the old floors were not sufficiently fashionable anymore. It is in excellent condition, bears traces of paint, and probably dates from the last days of the eighteenth century.

The middle room in the back of the house has had most of the loose plaster on the walls and ceilings scraped off, and this



**HUNT HOUSE** *cont.*

room, along with the bathroom off the keeping room is next on the floor rip-up crew's hit list. Current plans are to convert the bathroom into a kitchen, and furnish it with recycled cabinets and counters from the keeping room and the room directly above it.

Walter Vincent has been doing a lot of this work by himself, and he's getting lonely. Join him every Tuesday and Thursday anytime from 8:00 AM til noon, and on Saturdays, alternating with the Outside Crew: September 16 and 30, October 14 and 28, and November 11. If these hours or days are inconvenient, Walter says, "I'm flexible. Call me." Mr. Flexible can be reached at 434-0481.

**OUT**

A very small group of willing volunteers again attacked the peeling multi-layered coats of paint on the front of the Hunt House on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. Four volunteers sanded, scraped, and primed the lower right quarter of the house. Although our progress is pleasing, a few more volunteers might help

us reach our goal of painting the front of the house this year. Join us from 8 AM until noon on September 23, October 7 and 21 and November 4. Call Ray Anderson at 438-2464 if you have questions.

**SIGNED ON**

The more observant of you will no doubt have noticed the extremely chic and tasteful sign in front of the Hunt House, stating that this is "A Restoration Project of the East Providence Historical Society." This sign is a joint Walter Vincent/Lura Sellew production and is entirely deserving of the cheers and praises being heaped upon it.

**COMPANY**

The East Providence Coalition held their Annual Picnic at Hunts Mills September 10<sup>th</sup> and of course many members, seeing signs of work on the Hunt House, expressed interest in "what was going on over there." Our President, who is also Treasurer of the Coalition, obliged by not only telling them but conducting tours of the house, and in so doing may have interested some people

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**HUNT HOUSE, cont.**

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in joining the Society. The lesson here is that as we start showing some actual progress on the hunt House, it will have a snowball effect and attract more and more interest. It follows then that the more people help now, the more people will be interested in helping out later.

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**MUSEUM COMMITTEE**

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The Oral History Project is progressing well. Eunice Russell was interviewed in July and her name was accidentally omitted in the last newsletter. Since then, Hiram Wood was also visited. Now that vacations are over, further appointments are being made for Fall.

I hope you have saved your newsletters to read the Museum Collection By-Laws in complete form. Now that you have the final installment in the series, they will make better sense when read from beginning to end, for each section builds upon the previous section. You will be asked to vote on the entire set, which the Board has already approved, at September's meeting. If you have

any questions, be sure to ask at the meeting.

When the Collection By-Laws are accepted and legal, the Museum Committee will meet and be able to accept those artifacts which we have received this summer. We have not taken in too many yet for we still have a storage problem. However, those items which were donated to the Historical Society over the years are already in the Collection and have been accessioned. So far I have already accessioned seventy-one artifacts, that is they have been entered into the Accession Records assigned numbers, tagged or indelibly marked and delicate pieces wrapped in acid free paper for storage. We have been offered the volunteer services of "RSVP" who say they will type up the cards that will develop from the descriptive information which has been recorded and placed in individual file folders.

The Museum Committee will be asked to meet after the September Meeting to begin the interesting task of accepting artifacts.

*Edna Anness*

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## THE OFFICIAL OLDE NEWS CALENDAR

	SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>SEPT.</b>						1	2 hunt house work day
	3	4 Labor Day	5 hunt house work day	6	7 hunt house work day	8	9 hunt house work day
	10	11	12 hunt house work day	13	14 hunt house work day	15	16 hunt house work day
	17	18	19 hunt house work day	20	21 hunt house work day	22	23 hunt house work day
	24	25 Annual Meeting	26 hunt house work day	27	28 hunt house work day	29	30 hunt house work day
<b>OCT</b>	1	2	3 hunt house work day	4	5 hunt house work day	6	7 hunt house work day
	8	9 Colum. Day	10 hunt house work day	11	12 hunt house work day	13	14 hunt house work day
	15	16	17 hunt house work day	18	19 hunt house work day	20	21 hunt house work day
	22	23 October meeting	24 hunt house work day	25	26 hunt house work day	27	28 hunt house work day
	29	30	31 Halloween				

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

## MUSEUM BY-LAWS, THE SERIES

### INTRODUCTION

This is the exciting conclusion to the Museum Collection Policy which is being presented for approval by the membership at the Annual Meeting. Alert readers will remember that we left off in Article 6- Deaccession Policy, Paragraph 6.4.

#### 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.

*next page*

BY-LAWS, THE SERIES, *cont.*

- 6.4.2 Objects may be disposed of by exchange or sale. As to exchange or trade with another Museum, the Committee will consider the artifact's specific historical importance to the collection as well as its monetary value. If an object has seriously deteriorated, it may be designated for education "hands on" use within the museum or another educational organization.
- 6.4.3 In disposing of objects, preference may be given to Rhode Island cultural institutions.
- 6.4.4. There shall be no trades or private sales between the Society and the Board of Directors or members of the Museum Committee, except upon the recommendation of the Committee and the unanimous approval of the Board.
- 6.4.5. Members of the Board of Directors or Museum Committee members may purchase museum objects offered for sale at public auction upon providing notice to the Museum Committee of intention to purchase.
- 6.4.6 Unaccessioned or deaccessioned material of minimal value which the Museum cannot sell and which must be discarded, may be disposed of by the decision of the Museum Committee.
- 6.4.7 In the case of public sale of items, the Museum Committee should consider whether the name of the East Providence Historical Society should be connected with the sale.
- 6.5 Use of Funds Raised from The Sale of Museum Objects:  
Funds raised by the sale of objects from the collection must be returned to the benefit of the collection for acquisition or conservation. Such funds should not be applied to the operational expenses of the Society.

**ARTICLE SEVEN - Security and Insurance**

- 7.1 The Hunt House and the collections within it will be protected by a professionally installed burglar and fire alarm system.
- 7.2 The care and protection of the collection has been addressed in Article Five-Care of the Collection.
- 7.3 The Committee will limit our liability by accepting as few loans as possible into the collection. Lenders must sign releases at the time of the loan with the understanding that the Museum will not insure them. Most home owner policies will cover the item while it is in our collection. The Lender should check first with their own insurance company.
- 7.4 Assuming that proper safeguards are in operation and proper conservation methods are in use, decisions to purchase insurance to cover the entire collection or special individual artifacts will be left to the discretion of the Museum Committee.

**ARTICLE EIGHT - Personal Ethics of the Collection**

8.1 No Object in the Collection may be used privately by any members of the Historical Society.

8.2 Objects in the collection which are to be loaned or considered for insurance coverage should be appraised by an independent recognized appraiser who is not a member of the East Providence Historical Society.

**ARTICLE NINE - Amendments**

9.1 These policies may be amended subject to approval of a majority vote of the Museum Committee and the Board of Directors.

THE END!

**PRESERVATION, cont.**

previous plan, has been presented to the Planning Board for consideration. The area residents seem to favor the single family concept, but there has been much discussion about zoning, traffic, access, school impact and housing design. The matter still has to appear before the City Council. If you are interested in this matter please watch for notice of the Council Meeting or call Nancy Moore.

Very close to home, the Field home to be exact, work is being done by the State at the intersection of Pleasant Street and Pawtucket Avenue in the heart of the Rumford Historic District. Out of curiosity, a letter was sent to the R.I. Historic Preservation

Commission asking for details of this project. (The State is required to file plans with the Commission for any work which lies in an historic district.)

*Nancy Moore*

**REMEMBER!**  
**DUES ARE DUE THIS**  
**MONTH!**

**Use the handy coupon below**

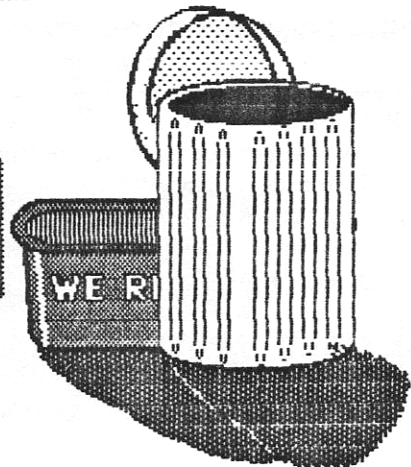
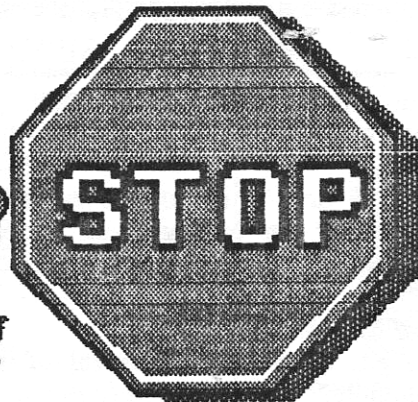
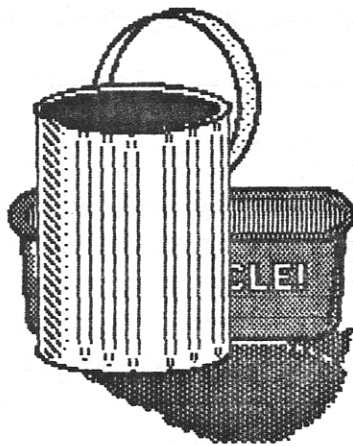
If your Dues are  
overdue, send them in today!

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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



**THAT'S RIGHT, STOP!**

**YOUR TRASH MAY BE SOMEONE ELSE'S TREASURE!**

Before you toss it away, Think!

Could the East Providence Historical Society use this stuff  
as part of their Fantastic Flea Market, on October 15?

**DROP OFF DAYS: OCTOBER 3, 5, 10 & 12 • 8:00AM TIL NOON AT HUNT HOUSE**

**OLDE NEWS**

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

