



OLDE NEWS

EAST ■ PROVIDENCE ■ HISTORICAL ■ SOCIETY
■ NEWSLETTER ■

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

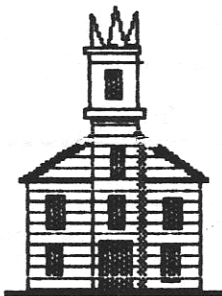
On January 14th Lura Sellew and I attended the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission's reception to celebrate the passage of the Preservation Bond Issue in November. We went to learn how to apply for some of that money for our Hunt House restoration project.

It was obvious from the size of the crowd that preservation is *in*. The Commission had expected fifty people to attend but more than a hundred showed up.

The Commission's Executive Director told the crowd that they are only a small percentage of the people involved with preservation in Rhode Island. The Direc-

cont. pg. 2

MEETING



THE JANUARY MEETING
OF THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

will be held January 22, 1990
from 7:15 pm
at Newman Congregational
Church.

Guest Speaker, Dave Kelleher

*coffee and refreshments
will be served*

tor, Edward Sanderson, said that a recent article had identified Save the Bay with 15000 members as the largest environmental group in New England. Then he said that there are 25000 people working on preservation in Rhode Island — or about 67% more people than belong to the largest environmental group in New England. Those 25000 people form a constituency that will be increasingly difficult to ignore.

The tide is finally in our favor.

Claudette Field

PLEASE JOIN THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

NAME (S) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

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



OLDE NEWS

published monthly by

The East Providence Historical Society

Editor

George Field

EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 4774

East Providence, Rhode Island 02916

Telephone 438-1750

OFFICERS

President	Claudette Field
First Vice-President	Michael Charves
Second Vice-President	Virginia Berwick
Secretary	Lura Sellow
Corresponding	
Secretary	Rose Marie Sirenski
Treasurer	Martha Rivas
Assistant Treasurer	Greta Charves

BOARD MEMBERS

Members at Large	Alyce (Billie) Arden
	Ellen O'Hare
	Nancy Stevens

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Artifacts	Edna Anness
Grant Writing	Jewel Drickamer
Hunt House Restoration	G. Fales Peirce
Membership	Virginia Berwick
Newsletter	George Field
Hailing subcommittee	Florence Adams
Preservation	Nancy Moore
Publicity	Florence Adams
Safety and Security	Scott Booth
Ways and Means	W. and M. Vincent

PRESERVATION

MOORE/PETERSON NEWS

On January 4th the Preservation Committee met again with developer Ken Kazarian to review his latest plans for the Moore/Peterson property. He now plans to restore the two existing homes and barns and build six new homes at their rear on lots ranging in size from 10,400 to 20,000 square feet. Mr. Kazarian also plans to retain the row of trees now growing between the two properties and to run his access road on either side of the row. All persons interested in commenting on these plans should contact this committee.

[As OLDE NEWS goes to press we have learned that the Moore/Peterson project has passed two significant milestones: Mr. Kazarian has obtained financing for the project and the closing on the Moore/Peterson property was held Jan. 11.]

LIGHT DAWNS (SLOWLY) AT THE DOT

If you pass through the intersection at Pleasant Street and Pawtucket Avenue, you will notice that a large gray metal traffic light support is in place, despite the Society's understanding that a meeting would be held to discuss the appropriateness of lights of this design in this location. As a result of persistent phone calls to the RI Department of Transportation and the RI Historical Preservation Commission, a meeting was arranged for January 12th.

Several members of the Society, the East Providence Coalition and the East Providence Planning Office sallied forth to the lair of the DOT to find out what was going on. The results of the meeting were less than satisfactory. The upshot is that (1) Yes, the proper procedure was

WAYS AND MEANS

The Ways and Means Co-Chairmen are delighted to report the huge success of the Christmas Boutique. Although it was originally planned as a small Craft Boutique to be held in conjunction with our Hunt House Open House, the enthusiasm of Society members mushroomed this sale into our largest event of the year. Net proceeds exceed \$1340 with some dollars still coming in.

We are all so proud to be able to contribute these dollars to our general treasury. The success of this event is based on so many members contributing to the extent of their abilities and sincere thanks goes to each and every one of them.

Because the goals of this committee have increased to several events in a year, we are now looking for sub-chairmen to coordinate these individual events.

Thoughts on our 1990 activities are:

March: Spring Pasta
Supper
April: Murder Mystery
Dinner/Ad Book
September: Fourth Annual
Harvest Supper
October: Attic Treasure
Sale
November: Cook Book
December: Christmas Sale

Your input into these events and any new ideas you may have are critical to our success. Please, when someone calls you for your help, remember that any assistance you may give brings us closer to our goals for the Hunt House and future projects.

Again, many many thanks to all and to all a Happy, Healthy New Year.

PRESERVATION (cont.)

not followed when plans were formulated for "improving" the Pawtucket Avenue/Pleasant Street intersection, and (2) the light will be put up anyway because it would be cheaper to build the light than to pay penalties to the contractor for cancelling the project. After the light is up, according to the DOT, the appropriate authorities can then be contacted, the design revised, and it is entirely in the realm of possibility that the light will be taken down, and some *new* signalling arrangement that meets the approval of the Historic District Commission and the E.P. planning people be put up in its place.

The current design calls for a 50 foot long arm attaching to the pole, with new 12 inch diameter traffic lights hanging off it.

It is the Society's position that if a matter such as the positioning and configuration of this light is supposed to come under review by the RI Historical Commission

(Section 106), then there must be alternatives in place which can be proposed by that commission. The Society is asking for a through explanation of those alternatives. It is also felt that a further explanation is needed as to why work must continue on this project despite state laws which mandate consultation with the RI Historical Commission and E.P. city planners. In "light" of the current deficit situation in the State, we can only hope for news of a better solution by the next issue of OLDE NEWS.

Alert readers may have noticed that the Treasurer's Report is missing. This has been a deliberate decision on the part of OLDE NEWS. We felt that since the circulation of OLDE NEWS goes beyond the immediate membership of the Society that the amount of money in our treasury "Ain't nobody's business but our own."

If the issue of how much money is bulging our coffers is of major importance to you than *COME TO THE MEETINGS!* We'd love to see you.

MUSEUM COMMITTEE

The Museum has made some progress this year. The rooms have been readied for the arrival of the collection when heat and alarm systems are installed. The collection amassed over a period of some 23 years has been located, numbered and accessioned.

The collection now has 251 artifacts including books, pictures, newspapers, certificates of recognition, maps, signs, furniture, pamphlets, city and school materials, letters, and additional odd items. There are file folders for each set of artifacts, but we have not been successful in getting help to type the Accession cards.

I am looking for volunteers who have free time to help me type the file cards (at home or at Hunt House). If you can type, please call me (434-3347) or Claudette (431-0257).

The committee prepared the collection policy starting in March and it was accepted in November. Our principal task


now is to accept gifts. Most recent gifts accepted were from the Vincents, Virginia Berwick and Ann Bannister. We have three more gifts to vote on this month.

We fulfilled our goal of having a display for the December Open House. For the coming year we have new goals. One is to formulate a school program in cooperation with Angela Heaton of Martin Junior High School and Mr. Kelleher, principal of the Myron Francis School.

We must proceed to prepare the collection for acid free storage. Toward the goal, fifty mylar folders were purchased and fifty pictures and pamphlets have been safely encased and placed in two acid free storage boxes also purchased. More of this type of storage materials will be bought as the budget allows.

Fifteen oral history tapes have been transcribed. This is an ongoing project. We now have enough books that it would be desirable to build or have donated some bookshelves or old book-cases (any condition, wooden or

THE OFFICIAL OLDE NEWS CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2 hunt house workday	3	4 hunt house workday	5	6
7	8	9 hunt house workday	10	11 hunt house workday	12	13
14	15	16 hunt house workday	17	18 hunt house workday	19	20
21	22 January Meeting	23 hunt house workday	24	25 hunt house workday	26	27
28	29	30 hunt house workday	31	1	2	3
4	5	6 hunt house workday	7	8 hunt house workday	9	10
11	12	13 hunt house workday	14 	15 hunt house workday	16	17
18	19	20 hunt house workday	21	22 hunt house workday	23	24
25	26 February Meeting	27 hunt house workday	28			

metal). We hope to plan some further displays so that the house can be opened to the public at times yet to be decided. There is talk of a Victorian Christmas display for December 1990. And of course while marking time to

complete two years of Museum operation to apply for grant monies from the larger grant sources, the Grant Committee will be searching for other sources of funding in the interim.

Eona Anness

HELP WANTED

The following Historical Society committees need volunteers to fill specific jobs

Hospitality

Two people are needed to coordinate refreshments at meetings. This involves a very small time commitment since the baking is done by a changing cast of volunteers.

Museum

Edna needs typists to help her create the Museum files. Typists may work at home or at Hunt House, whichever is more convenient.

House Plaque

This committee needs a few more people to fine-tune the Society's house plaque program. Members who have expressed an interest in research would be a great asset to this committee.

Telephone Tree

Florence Adams, Ginny Berwick and Jewel Drickamer have formed a telephone committee. The committee would like to recruit two or three more members who are not on the Board. This is a volunteer position which

would be perfect for someone who still believes in the goals of the Historical Society but who finds it difficult to attend the meeting. It would be a good opportunity to talk to other members.

Ways and Means

This committee needs additional members to work on fund raising. You can choose to become a member of the committee and help out in various ways during the year or you can choose only to chair a particular project. Either way your help is needed.

JANUARY MEETING

David Kelleher, who is principal of the Myron Francis School and a member of the Historical Society, has graciously agreed to entertain us with his wonderful presentation on the Carousel.

A few years ago Mr. Kelleher presented this program to the delight of the members present at the time. Now that we have so many new members we thought it would be appropriate to ask for

an encore. It's a perfect companion piece to Cable TV of East Providence's video on the Carousel. We hope to see a lot of the Carousel's fans at this meeting. You don't have to be a member to attend.

SINGIN' THE DUES

Since August the Board has grappled with the problem of the Society's dues, i.e. how to collect them, how to prorate them and just basically what to do about them since our membership boom last year.

It was wonderful to have so many people join but they did not all obligingly join the Historical Society in September but rather joined throughout the entire year. We decided to prorate the dues since it's hardly fair to expect someone to join in May and asses them again for full dues in September.

As an example: if you joined as a family for '88-'89 in April of '89 (\$15) then paid another \$15 dollars in September for your '89-'90 dues you too would be upset to learn that come June of 1990 you will owe *another* \$15. for the 1990-'91 dues! That's forty-five dollars in dues to the Historical

Society in fourteen months!
Good for us; bad for you.

The dues crisis is just one of the many things that the Board has to address as the membership grows and changes, but fret not, good members, we're up to the challenge. One idea: divide the membership year into quarters and when you join you are assigned to a quarter with your dues prorated accordingly.

Thus our family who joined in April of '89 (4th quarter of our membership year) would only have to pay \$2.50 in June for the the 1990-91 year.

If anyone has a more brilliant suggestion please give us a call.

This prorating scheme would only be applicable during the second year of membership. If you were a member before 1989 and just didn't get around to paying your dues until February the next year's dues will *not* be prorated!

If you have not paid your dues yet there will be a notice bound in your Feb. OLDE NEWS reminding you that your subscription has ended!

Please renew today!

UNION SCHOOL

The Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission dealt the friends of Union Primary School a blow recently when they refused to consider the school as a candidate for inclusion on the National Register.

Before the application process for the National Register of Historic Places can begin the Preservation Commission meets to decide whether or not the building is worthy of consideration. If it passes this first test the owner of the building being considered can proceed with the application process.

According to the minutes of the Commission meeting everyone except Antoinette Downing voted against Union Primary School. The panel felt that the interior of the school did not reflect the age of the building and that the partitioning of the rooms had altered the building too much. They also felt that the 1953 addition did not meet their criteria for a historic structure as it is less than fifty years old.

The former principal of Union Primary, David Kelleher, asserts that much of the interior is origi-

nal and that the partition walls which the Commission objected to could be easily removed.

But guidelines for an addition to a structure on the Register state that it should not attempt to copy the details of the original (i.e. be a fake) but should instead be distinct from the original building. The example usually cited is the third floor on the Davol Building in Providence. With its simpler lines and blue tinted glass it is obviously not part of the original building.

As of this writing Dave Kelleher has written to the Commission expressing his disappointment and offering them his detailed photographs of the building, which they did not request at the time of their evaluation.

HELP!

**OLDE NEWS NEEDS
YOUR HELP.**

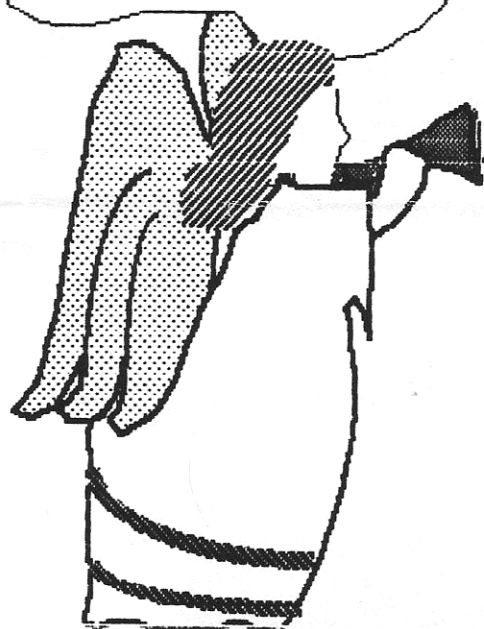
If you think the newsletter is important, please get involved. Writing a story, sharing historical facts, or selling an ad, are only a few ways you can help.

ANGEL DEPT.

HARKEN!

**This Month's Angel is
Judith Sharpe!**

All Glory and Honor
unto her.



PSSST! Wanna be an Angel too? Want your name up in lights? Call or write OLDE NEWS for exciting details on earning *YOUR* wings, TODAY!

DECEMBER'S MEETING

Last month's speaker, writer Michael Fink, Professor of English at R.I.S.D., spoke to a meeting somewhat reduced in size over our usual showing, but no less appreciative. Due to scheduling conflicts, we couldn't use the meeting hall at Newman, but we turned this to our advantage by making ourselves very comfortable in the lounge downstairs.

Professor Fink spoke with great affection of his impressions of East Providence and of Wayside Furniture, his parent's furniture store, on Taunton Avenue.

Seeing our city from a writer's perspective was fascinating. Prof. Fink grew up on the East Side in Providence; as a child he considered trips over the Red Bridge as voyages of discovery. The city has retained that sense of adventure and mystery for him.

We're grateful to Professor Fink for sharing his East Providence with us and hope to hear more about his impressions of the city in a future visit.

**Be a local hero!
Support the
Historical Society
with an ad.**

OLDE NEWS

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

