

OLDE NEWS

EAST ■ PROVIDENCE ■ HISTORICAL ■ SOCIETY
■ NEWSLETTER ■

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

As we begin a new year it is traditional to look at where we've been. Many milestones and firsts were achieved this year in the Historical Society.

We finished restoring our first room at the Hunt House, made serious inroads on the restoration of the keeping room, and installed a state-of-the-art alarm system in the house

We developed a sophisticated Museum policy and accessioned almost three hundred objects into our collection. We also began accepting pieces of furniture for the collection.

We had more fund-raisers in one year than ever before and we had

MEETING



THE ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
will be held JUNE 25, 1990
from 7:15 pm
at Newman Congregational
Church.

Election of Officers
*coffee and refreshments
will be served*

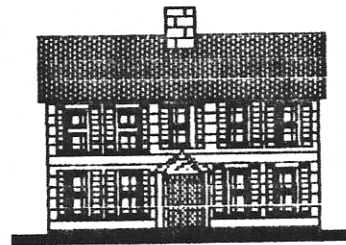
LETTER CONT.

our most successful fund-raiser to date, the Mystery Dinners. The City Council approved our twenty-five year lease on the Hunt House and we were awarded our first grant for the restoration. We also received the first donation to our new Adopt-a-Window campaign, initiating a program which we hope will raise enough money to replace all the windows in the house with authentic but air-tight reproductions and we finally received our long-awaited determination letter from the IRS.

All our other milestones were exciting and most of them are tangible, so very few people appreciate what this IRS ruling really means. It establishes that we are a legitimate non-profit organization according to very specific IRS guidelines; and donations made to us are now tax deductible.

The determination letter is also one of the first requirements for most grant application. So in addition to the progress we've made we've acquired a necessary tool for any future success.

Claudette Field

**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 Sellev
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. Faies 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 M. Vincent

NOMINATIONS, cont.

The election will take place at the June 25th monthly meeting. If you cannot attend the meeting you may complete the Absentee Ballot in this newsletter and return it to Ellen O'Hare, 27 Gertrude Ave. Rumford. These ballots must be received by Monday, June 25 at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Milette

Ellen O'Hare

Helen Smith

Nancy Stevens

Agnes Thompson



THIS MONTH'S BAKERS
Ginny Berwick
&
Hazel Ward

Don't miss them!

DANGER EDITOR!

It was a dark and stormy night not too long ago when we got the call: "motion detected in the Hunt House basement." J-Kor Security was on the job, but now it was up to me to do the dirty job of checking out the problem. But that's my job: they call me Danger Editor.

I pulled on my trench coat, snapped the brim of my battered fedora down over my eyes and checked the oiled movement of the Walther PPK nestled in my shoulder holster. I was as ready as I'd ever be.

It was quiet at the old house, too quiet. My Girl Friday and I cased the joint quickly; no broken windows, no signs of forcible entry, yet when we went inside, there was the message on the alarm system, as plain as barrel of a .357 magnum aimed between your eyes: "Movement in Basement."

"You'd better go first, Gorgeous," I said. "This could be ugly."

She tossed that mane of hair

she had and laughed scornfully. "Get a life, shamus," she taunted. "What are you, afraid of a little mouse tripping off the alarm?" She coughed. "Besides, I have these real bad allergies, and there are all these icky cobwebs down there and things..."

"Forget it, Beautiful, I'm going alone. That's the way I like it see?"

She was right, I should have listened. There *were* these icky cobwebs down there. But there was nothing else, at least nothing I could see or hear. But I thought I felt... no, it must have been the wind, that was all. False alarm, I figured. But back at the office, I wasn't so sure. Those stories about Allen Hunt. Did he *really* fall in that mill race, or was he pushed? Was it his restless spirit roaming his old house at night that triggered off one of those sensitive alarms, alarms so advanced they can see and feel things we mere humans can't? This crazy caper was leading me around in circles.

J-Kor was there the next morning. Joe thought one of the

sensors had become too sensitive, and that a sudden change in temperature, or even a draft could have triggered it off. He readjusted the sensitivity. Sure Joe. If that's what you want to think, it's okay with me. I know what it's like; we all need to believe in something to get us through the night sometimes. But I'll take my facts like I take my bourbon: straight up. Because that's what you have to do...when you're Danger Editor.

LIVE THE ADVENTURE!

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) _____

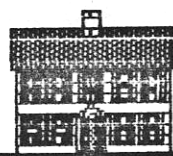
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PHONE _____

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



HUNT HOUSE UPDATE



BEEHIVE OF ACTIVITY

The big news at the Hunt House is that the beehive oven that everyone has suspected of being in the keeping room is really, really there, and in fine condition. A mason sent over by Ken Kazarian to investigate the fireplace checked the construction of the fireplace in the basement, where we know there is a similar beehive oven, and assuming that the fireplace upstairs was constructed the same way, opened up the oven and a niche for storing wood underneath it. Walter Vincent claimed this "made his year". This discovery, coupled with our "best guess" reconstruction of the mantle means that our restoration of the keeping room fireplace will be a complete one.

THE BACK DOOR MEN

In the meantime, Charlie Jackson and Earl Berwick have started a long and painstaking restoration of the back door, which was in sad shape. They

have taken the door apart down to its component panels, stiles and rails and are now putting it back together, carefully splicing in sound wood where the original has either been damaged or rotted away. Once reassembled it should be literally "better than new".

ADOPT A WINDOW

The Historical Society's "Adopt A Window" campaign has now officially begun with the gift of \$700 from the GFWC Rumford Junior Women's Club. This of course will entitle them to a very tasteful plaque on the window once it's installed. This is a fine beginning: one down, twenty-nine to go! Tell all your friends that everlasting fame and glory can be theirs for the mere price of a window.

LOVE IT OR LEASE IT

The long lease war continues with the city. The lease, which was passed by the city Council, is still for some reason in limbo in

the City's legal department, where they are still massaging paragraphs and scrutinizing clauses. The City now would like the City Council to hold an annual review of costs to the City associated with the lease (cost of heating, snow removal and the like) and that the five year plan submitted by the Society be reviewed by the Planning Board for their recommendations and comments.

Our lawyer, Robert Nocera, confesses himself to be confused over why the City Solicitor's office is making changes to a lease which (much to everyone's surprise) was approved as written by the City Council last month

MUSEUM COMMITTEE

The Museum Committee met on May 23 to accept gifts to the Society. In addition to the gifts mentioned last month from Mary Flores, the Pierces and Virginia Berwick, we also accepted a framed picture print of the old Rumford Chemical Company and surrounding neighborhood from Bill Simpson, a Central Junior High School bracelet given by the First Baptist Church in memory of Charlotte Britton and a souvenir coin from the "Fight the

Flames" show at Vanity Fair from Gordon James of Guilford, Maine.

Now that spring cleaning is coming to an end, I do not want to hear that anyone threw out old EP or Junior High School year-books, annual city reports, prom souvenirs, graduation programs, school play programs, or old photographs pertaining to any aspect of life in East Providence. Remember that as a Museum we are a repository of anything that has to do with the history of our city and that history "begins yesterday." History can usually be found in attics, cellars, old cedar chests, trunks, barns, etc.

In July we hope to continue our Oral History Project at the Evergreen Nursing Home. Debbie Booth, Scott Booth's wife, in cooperation with the director of the home will set up arrangements. Evidently there are several East Providence residents there who will provide us with a great resource of local history.

And speaking of oral history, Onna Williams has started her project of recording oral histories from the Cape Verdean community in East Providence.

Edna Anness

NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following candidates for office for the 1990-1991 year:

PRESIDENT:
Claudette Field

1st VICE PRESIDENT:
Scott Booth

Bud Plummer

2nd VICE PRESIDENT:
Ginny Berwick

Pat Millete

RECORDING SECRETARY:
Rose Marie Sirenski

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

Lura Sellew

Madeline Vincent

TREASURER:
Martha Rivas

ABSENTEE BALLOT

Must be received by the Nominating Committee by Monday, June 25, at 12 noon

PRESIDENT: Claudette Field

1ST VICE PRESIDENT:
Scott Booth
Bud Plummer

2ND VICE PRESIDENT:
Ginny Berwick
Pat Millette


RECORDING SECRETARY:
Rose Marie Sirenski

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:
Lura Sellew
Madeline Vincent

TREASURER:
Martha Rivas

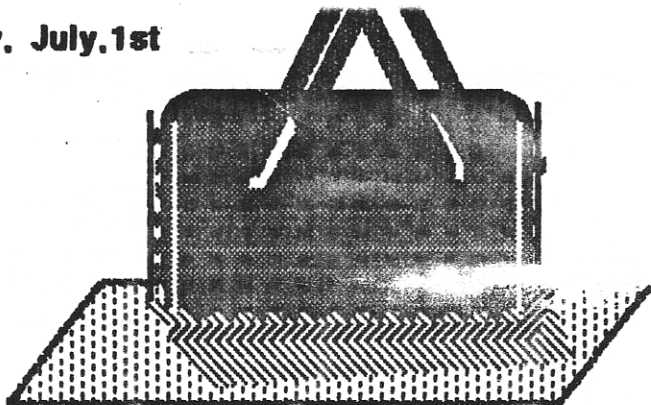
SIGNED: _____
NAME

- THE OFFICIAL OLDE NEWS CALENDAR -

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5 hunt house workday	6	7 hunt house workday	8	9
10	11	12 hunt house workday	13	14 hunt house workday	15	16
17	18	19 hunt house workday	20	21 hunt house workday	22	23
24	25 June Meeting*	26 hunt house workday	27	28 hunt house workday	29	30 E.P.H.S. Picnic
1 Picnic Rain Date	2	3 hunt house workday	4 	5 hunt house workday	6	7
8	9	10 hunt house workday	11	12 hunt house workday	13	14
15	16	17 hunt house workday	18	19 hunt house workday	20	21
22 Newsletter items	23	24 hunt house workday	25	26 hunt house workday	27	28
29	30	31 hunt house workday	* June Meeting is the Annual Meeting of the East Providence Historical Society			

Workdays are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8AM to noon.

Picnic rainedate: Sunday, July,1st



The Annual Historical Society Picnic

SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 1990

at Hunts Mills from 2PM to dusk

**Barbecue at 5 PM, tours of Hunt House, games,
and socializing before and after!**

Members free - - Guests, \$2.00 - - Reservations required

Call 438-1750 or 431-0257 before June 26th to join us..

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East Providence Historical Society

P.O. Box 4774

East Providence, RI 02916

