

OLDE NEWS

EAST ■ PROVIDENCE ■ HISTORICAL ■ SOCIETY
■ NEWSLETTER ■

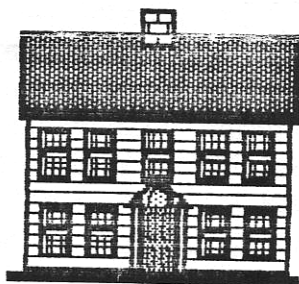
PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The presentation at last month's meeting by Bill Ewen and the Friends of the *Nobska* at the Weaver Library was very enlightening for the fifty or sixty people that attended. Many thanks to Bill and Dave for the program and best wishes for your group's fund raising efforts to rebuild this fine and valued element of our nautical heritage, the last coastal steamer in this country.

Those of you who attended the Christmas Bazaar at the Hunt House on Sunday, Dec. 1st, know what a wonderful and successful event it was. The decorations, the crafts and baked goods all had a very festive feeling about

cont next page

PARTY!
(& MEETING)



THE NEXT MEETING
OF THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
will be held December 16,
1991
from 7:30 pm
at the Hunt House.
(See page 5 for details)

PRESIDENT'S LETTER cont.

them.

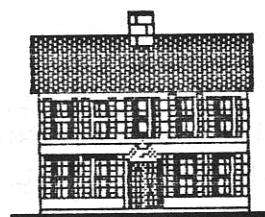
I would like to say a special "thank you" on behalf of the Society to Gladys and her "Helpers" for an excellent job of organizing and preparing the numerous items for the Boutique. I also think a word of thanks is due to Walter and "The Gang" for having the house, especially the Entry Hall and Parlor, in such wonderful condition and also to all the various volunteers who helped make the event such a fun and joyous experience.

My two and four year old daughters are still asking about the "Talking Christmas Tree."

Those of you who were unable to attend the Bazaar still have an opportunity to see the Hunt House in its holiday finery on Monday, the 16th of December. The Board has decided to have a Holiday Party in lieu of the December General Meeting, "so come one, come all" and join us. Who knows, maybe we'll get lucky and have a little dusting of snow to make it a truly festive occasion.

After re-reading this month's President's Letter it seems as if

cont. on pg. 6

**OLDE NEWS**

is published monthly by The East
Providence Historical Society

Editor George Field, IV

EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 4774
East Providence, Rhode Island 02916
438-1750

OFFICERS

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First Vice-President	Nancy Moore
Second Vice-President	Patricia Millette
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*The
East Providence
Historical Society meets every
month on the fourth Monday
except for holidays and the
months of July and August.*

*Meetings are free to all and
all are welcome.*

MUSEUM COMMITTEE

The newly restored parlor and front hall looked beautiful at the Open House. Thanks to Virginia Berwick, Carolyn Donahue, Nancy Stevens and Lowell Anness for their loans of furniture to complete the Federal Parlor decor for this year.

An interesting afternoon was spent with Charles Tebbetts of Apponaug and his wife. Charlie grew up in the Armington House which once stood at the South corner of the Wampanaug Trail and Pawtucket Avenue- now a gas station. He loaned the Society the Armington genealogy and numerous pictures of the house prior to its demolition.

Another morning was spent with Eunice Russell reminiscing about Kent Heights. She donated a beautiful portrait of Governor Dorr which has been in her family's possession for some ninety years. Among her gifts was a copy of "News of the Old Home Town" a newsy booklet that was sent to hometown boys overseas during World War II, a picture of the famous Miss Pagny and her students at her school on Pawtucket Avenue,

plus a Hoyt graduation picture, circa 1910. This picture was often taken in the backyard of the Weaver House, the customary place, if the picture was not taken in a studio. This was my second visit to Eunice and she never ceases to dazzle me with stories of East Providence at the beginning of this century. Louise Healy has given us research which she has done on the history of some of the schools in the City. Nancy Stevens donated a 1981 Crimson yearbook and Fales Peirce, who has been on the Board of Directors of the East Providence District Nurses for many years, has given us a treasure box of pictures, business records and the original charter of the District Nurses. The District Nurses of East Providence no longer exists as an independent entity, but has merged with a State Nursing organization. Virginia Berwick donated two advertising pens-Doyles Service Station and In-bank. From Don and Cathy Britton - "The Works", a Rumford Chemical Co. newsletter for WWII servicemen and a Rumford envelope plus "Survey of East Providence" by Charlotte Williams. In answer to our plea for a

cont. on pg. 6

VOLUNTEERS

Our third annual Christmas Boutique was a terrific success, measured not only in the dollars brought in, but in the joy of working together for a worthy, common cause. We all made a few new friends, met a few folks we hadn't seen for years, learned a bit about our fellow volunteers and a lot about ourselves. Everyone who volunteers in any capacity should feel very proud of themselves for working together without complaint, with the wisdom to know that even though we may disagree about approach or philosophy, every member and new friend comes to our society with a magnificent contribution to make...themselves. Thank you all for giving so generously of your time, talent and love.

The new year is just beginning and each month ahead holds the opportunity for you to make a difference. Please help us channel our society's needs into your schedule. Please return your questionnaire to E.P.H.S. Volunteers, P.O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI 02916, or bring them to the December 16 meeting.

If you did not receive a ques-

tionnaire in the October newsletter, or if the form you received is lost among your pre-holiday wrappings, call Pat Millette at 431-2055 and we will send you one. Please save us from telephoning the survey.

Pat Millette

MEMBERSHIP

Since you received your last newsletter we have had eleven members pay their annual dues and we have welcomed three new members. WELCOME ABOARD!

LOOKING FOR A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT????

• WHY NOT THE GIFT OF A MEMBERSHIP TO THE EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY? Gift membership certificates are available upon payment until Christmas, and will be available at the December 16th meeting at the Hunt House, or call your Membership Chairman Madeline Vincent at 434-0481. What a special gift for friends and family:

Single member	\$10.00
Couple/Family	\$15.00
Life member	\$75.00

• Gifts for folks far away or folks who believe in the "MAGIC" our Society is doing for the History of East Providence????? How about an East Providence Historical Society Tee Shirt? We still have tees in every size and as a Holiday Special, we will box and wrap to order at our December 16th meeting at our First Annual Christmas Party at the Hunt House, or call Maddie at 434-0481.

Madeline Vincent

Join the Historical Society today! Send this coupon (with money) to
E.P.H.S.
P.O.Box 4774
East Providence, RI
02916

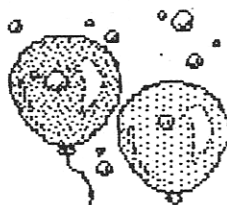
NAME (S) _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

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

**IT'S A PARTY!
IT'S A MEETING! IT'S
A PARTY
AND A MEETING!!**



This year, for the first time, we are having our December meeting at the Hunt House, and a fitting theme/program is a Christmas Party. As part of the festivities we are asking everyone to bring an attic treasure, wrapped, to contribute to an old fashioned "Yankee Swap". A wrapped gift makes you eligible to receive a number for a choice of someone else's treasure. If you bring a wrapped gift, you will go home with a gift! Please join in the fun, for the more treasures to choose from, the more merry the party.

PRESIDENTS LETTER, oont.

I'm thanking a number of different groups for their work. Thanks to all, whether acknowledged here or if not. Your efforts are greatly appreciated by the entire Historical Society.

And finally, the Board of Directors and I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. We wish you all a fulfilling Christmas and Hanukkah, and a Happy New Year.

Scott Booth

MUSEUM COMMITTEE, oont.

rug for the Museum floor- we now have a beautiful gold 9' x 12' rug plus four smaller area rugs through the generosity of Jean Waage. Many thanks and what a difference a "rug" makes!

Hunting artifacts from the history of East Providence is like putting together a giant picture puzzle. Every piece of history, no matter how small, helps with the reconstruction of the story of our very historic hometown. So keep cleaning your closets, basements and attics and drawers, and PLEASE do not throw history away.

Edna Anness

**ATTENTION, ALL
ELVES
AND MEMBERS**

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Because of your help and support, the Third Annual Christmas Boutique was a **HUGE** success!!! But, as a few beautiful items that remain cannot be stored for a year, we have things to trim your tree, stuff your stockings and give as gifts, and are now discounting them as a special gift to you.

These items will be available at the Open House on December 8, 15, and 22, from 1pm to 4pm, and at the December 16th meeting.

Gladys Panzarella



BONUS GOODIES

I'm sure that we all remember Helen Smith's recipe for hermits, published recently in this newsletter. This month, as part of our continuing series of The Olde News Treasury of Great Historical Society Recipes, we are proud to present Florence Adam's Country Kitchen Mince Pie. Pay very careful attention, for this recipe represents perhaps one of the finest achievements of Western civilization.

Country Kitchen Mince Pie

- 2 cups prepared mincemeat or 1 9 oz. package
- 1 unbaked 9" pie shell
- 2 beaten eggs
- 2 cups dairy sour cream
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

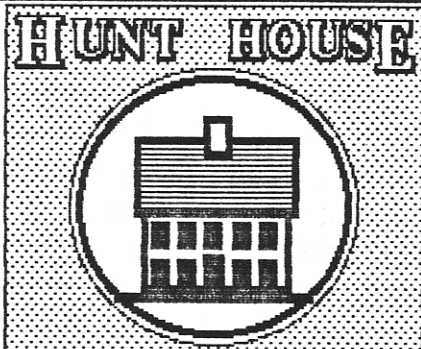
If using packaged mincemeat, prepare according to package directions. Spoon mincemeat into unbaked pastry shell; bake in hot

oven (425°) for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, combine eggs, sour cream, sugar and vanilla. Remove pie from oven and pour sour cream mixture over the mincemeat. Continue baking for 15 or 20 minutes or until topping is almost set. Cool pie. Decorate with pastry cutouts (see below). Chill.

- Pastry cutouts: cut designs of your choice from scraps of rolled dough, prick with fork. bake on cookie sheet in hot (425°) oven 3 or 4 minutes. Cool.

■ **HELP WANTED:** Volunteer to edit East Providence Historical Society newsletter, position to start Sept. of 1992. Candidate must have sense of humor (*very* important) and communication skills. Computer experience with Page Maker software helpful, but will train the right person. Excellent opportunity to attend Board meetings, learn some new skills and lose some sleep. Write Editor, E.P. Historical Society, P.O. Box 4774, E. Providence, RI 02916, or call 431-0257.

It's been a long hard struggle but finally the new heating system is being installed at the Hunt House. When the new gas boiler is fired up in time for our party this month, over a year



will have passed; a year spent designing a new system, gathering bids, and having the RI Historical Preservation Commission review what we thought at the time were the final plans.

Since then those plans have been further refined to address the concerns of the Commission, with special care taken to ensure that the system would cause the least structural disruption to the house while providing the level of heating and air-conditioning needed for a museum space used for occasional meetings.

The system which best meets the criteria is a high-velocity Space Pak heating and air conditioning system. Society member Paul Millette, a mechanical engineer who drew up the original heating system plans, expressed concern that the high velocity system would prove noisier than the one he proposed. Although,

the Board valued Paul's opinion, it was decided that in the Hunt House application it would be best to trade a slightly quieter system for one which would cause the least intru-

sion, following the Building Committee's new motto: "Above all, do no harm."

The Space Pak system uses flexible tubing which can be concealed inside walls and floors instead of the the exposed sheet-metal ducts of a conventional system. Because of the configuration of the joists in the house the conventional system would have necessitated some cutting which is unnecessary with the small (four- inch diameter) flexible tubing of the Space Pak system.

The Building Committee's motto (admittedly stolen from a certain well-known profession) means if there are two ways of doing things, use the one which leaves the house intact, view all changes and improvements as temporary (i.e. they could be removed in thirty years, when the standards for restoration may be radically different) and rever-

sable with minimal structural alterations.

What we all must remember is that this isn't just the restoration of an old house. There are things we are doing at the Hunt House which we probably wouldn't do in our own homes. For example, at the December 7th meeting of the Building Committee it was decided that a small section of the conduit lines for the heating system will be left exposed on the basement wall. The alternative was to remove some of the stones from the foundation, snake in the pipes and then lop off some the backs of the stone to accommodate the pipes.

While hiding the lines would be more aesthetically pleasing, it would alter the foundation in a way which could not be undone in the future. Therefore, we decided to live with this minor intrusion of modern heating and leave the house intact.

Although it's been mentioned elsewhere in this issue, it's worth risking redundancy to tell you that if you haven't been to the Hunt House this year, shame on you - but you're in for a treat.

The parlor is exquisite. We've all been saying this for years but

it bears repeating: we are extremely fortunate to have members who possess a combination of talent and dedication toiling away at the Hunt House. Their skills are more evident with each restored room.

The celery green woodwork and the natural colored chair rail are the result of paint sampling and research done by the Building Committee chair and the volunteer restorers. The results are not only authentic, they are very pleasing.

HEAR YE, HEAR YE!

I applied for another grant from the Champlin Foundations and they have awarded us the \$64,250. I requested!

The money is to be used for the extensive masonry repairs now needed at the house, plus new twelve over twelve window sashes and, for an item which will be a terrific morale booster for everyone who has worked so hard on the restoration: outside painting and wood repair!

We're all grateful to the Champlin Foundations for their faith in us and our project.

Claudette Field

IMPORTANT DATES

December 8, 15, & 22 **E.P. Historical Society:** Open House at the John Hunt House, from 1p.m. to 4 p.m.

December 16 **E.P. Historical Society:** December Meeting and Christmas Party at the Hunt House, 7:30 p.m. Please note the special date and location.

December 25 **Christmas Day**

January 1, 1992 **New Year's Day**

January 27, 1992 **E. P. Historical Society:** January Meeting at Newman Church, 7:30 p.m.

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