

Celebrating  
25 Years  
of History



## OLDE NEWS

EAST ■ PROVIDENCE ■ HISTORICAL ■ SOCIETY  
■ NEWSLETTER ■

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

This month's letter will consist of bits and pieces:

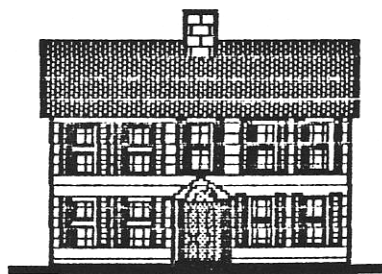
For those of you unable to attend the Pasta Supper, I think it's safe to say that everyone had a "Marr-velous" time. The pasta was done to perfection and the sauce had that special taste: not too thick nor too thin. (This sounds more like a review instead of a President's Letter.

Maybe there's a future in this. Then again maybe not.) Anyway, thanks goes out to Bill Simpson and Don Moore, the kitchen crew and the membership who provided all the wonderful desserts

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### MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING  
OF THE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
will be held April 27, 1992  
from 7:30 pm  
at the  
East Providence (Weaver)  
Library.



Lecture and Slides on the Hunt  
House Restoration

**PRESIDENT'S LETTER, cont.**

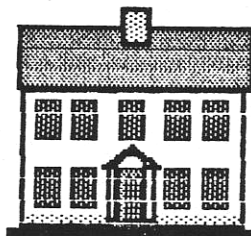
and for making the event as successful as it was.

Thanks also goes to Bud (I remembered this time, Bud; sorry about last time) Plummer for bringing his scale model of Union Primary School for all to see and marvel at.

If some of you are wondering about the Hunt House renovation, I strongly suggest attending this month's general meeting at the East Providence (Weaver) Library on Grove Street, behind City Hall. Edna Anness has graciously agreed to give a talk and slide show on the work done to date. I know that the discoveries and little surprises that have been uncovered will show the special character and the personality of our Hunt House.

You are all doubtless aware from the recent mailing that **THE BY-LAWS ARE COMPLETED!** They have been extensively discussed and approved by the Board, and now

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

**OFFICERS**

President	Scott Booth
First Vice-President	Nancy Moore
Second Vice-President	Patricia Millette
Secretary	Kris Rose
Corresponding Secretary	Lura Sellow
Treasurer	Rose Marie Sirenski
Board Members-at-Large	Virginia Berwick Virginia Solitto Nancy Stevens

*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.*

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## MUSEUM COMMITTEE

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For the first event of our belated Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the founding of the Historical Society, the Museum Committee is giving a Recognition Tea for those who have donated historical materials or equipment to the Museum since 1966. The tea will be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1992 from 2-4 p.m. at the Hunt House. A display on view entitled "Thanks for the Memories" (*Cute! ad*) will consist of at least one artifact donated by each donor. Invitations are being mailed to the donors in appreciation of their support, but it is hoped that all of our members will find time to attend, and view the new display and to see how far the Hose Restoration has progressed. The Restorers under Walter Vincent have made great strides.

This month we have received the following donations: from Edward Adams, a collection of East Providence Police Department badges, some of which were worn by by his father and also by

his grandfather and great-grandfather, who were police chiefs in East Providence. There is in addition a set of handcuffs and a call box key and whistle. From Bruce Britton are souvenirs of various E.P. High School class reunions, a linen parasol, putties worn by his grandfather in WWI and a Civil Defense helmet worn by his mother in WWII. Lewis and Sophie Allen donated two Mulberry Ware dishes from a set owned by the daughter of Allin Hunt. Lewis also made us a reproduction of a kerosene lamp holder. Joe MacDougald sent us a picture of the Victorian MacDougald house on Pawtucket Avenue and postcards from the ill-fated Vanity Fair amusement park. Ned Conners gave us a copy of "The Richmond Paper Company" a research paper done while he attended Brown graduate school. The mill was located in Phillipsdale, and remnants of the original buildings have been in-

cont. on pg. 6

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## By-Laws Line By Line

At the April 27th General Meeting the Board of Directors will recommend passage of the newly revised bylaws. A copy of the By-Laws was mailed the week of April 6th to be received by the members two weeks before the meeting, in compliance with the bylaws.

The By-laws Committee drafted the document, along with the Standing Rules and Procedures, over a period of a year and a half. Board members provided further input.

Now we await the Oscar equivalent: membership approval. Come on out and do a push-up or two in celebration of this "historic" document.

The By-Laws Committee  
*Florence Adams*  
*Earl Berwick*  
*Charles Gross*  
*Bill Simpson*



*Attention,*

*Gardeners!*

Spring is here- and it's time to turn your thoughts to your garden. I hope you have one, even if it's all in containers on your window sill!

I have a suggestion for you. When you plant your seeds or divide your plants, think "HUNT HOUSE". If you sow seeds of Everlasting, Globe, Amaranth or Statice, just to name a few, the blossoms may be dried and used in wreaths, dried flower arrangements and small baskets.

The trick to gathering nice flowers for drying is to pick them about noon, when the flowers are just beginning to open and the sun has dried the dew off them. But you can't do that if you never plant them!

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## PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

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If you missed the March meeting of the Society, you also missed the unveiling of Bud Plummer's labor of love, a 1/8" scale model of Union Primary as he remembers it from his school days. Bud has been planning and building since last summer, but we suspect the seeds of the idea were sown well before. The detailing is very carefully worked and Bud even restored a bell to the tower! We all had great fun inspecting the model and listening to the reminiscences of former students. We hope that Bud will bring the model to the April meeting at the Main Library. Plan to be there!

This committee has been notified by the RI Historic Preservation Commission that the DOT is due to upgrade the traffic signal at the intersection of Massasoit and North Broadway, location of the historically important Philip Walker and Joseph Fitts houses. As you may remember, the Soci-

ety has already discussed the subject of upgrading in an historic zone with DOT. It is very satisfying to learn that DOT has observed the historic overlay for this area and has already consulted with RIHPC. This time, we're confident that an appropriate upgrading will be done the first time.

*Nancy Moore*

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## Gardeners, cont.

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If you have house plants that need to be divided or slipped, now is the time to do it. (Slipping is a term used when small branches of a plant are removed to root and start new plants.) Small plants started between now and early June, with the entire summer to grow, would be just right for late fall gifts or an early December sale at Hunt House. A pretty pot cover and a bow complete the gift.

*Lura Sellew*

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**PRESIDENTS LETTER, cont.**

need the review and approval of you, the general membership. Please take your time reading them, and if you have suggestions or corrections come to the next general meeting, at which time they will be discussed and adopted by the vote of the membership.

It's that time of the year again; the time when we review our membership list, ferret out those members who have been hiding behind the person on the membership list who immediately precedes them and ask that they take the Historical Society into new and uncharted waters so to speak. Yes, we nominate them to be on our Board of Directors. Do I have any volunteers, as they say in the Armed Services? (And no stepping backwards, ladies and gentlemen.)

In all seriousness, if you have someone who you think would make a fine officer and/or Committee Chairperson, please notify the Nominating Committee

this month so that a final slate of officers can be put together for the May General meeting.

We look forward to seeing you April 27th.

*Scott Booth*

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

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

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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

**MUSEUM COMMITTEE cont.**

corporated into the old Washburn Wire complex. Lowell Anness donated an 1882 Tax Assessor's Meeting sign and three R.I. history books. Norma Lord, a recent visitor to the Museum, returned a few days later and gave us two new waste baskets

which we really needed.

The Blackstone Valley Historical Society made a monetary donation to the Museum in March after viewing a slide presentation of the Hunt House restoration. A tour group from Coventry also left a donation last week.

An "Anniversary Did You Know?" question: Did you know that East Providence has the distinction of being the "first" settlement made in Rhode Island and that the First Continental Congress in America met in a Meeting House near the present Newman Church in 1709 in what is now East Providence?

*(From notes by Allen Usher, an early member of the Society.)*

See you at the tea May 3<sup>rd</sup>!

*Edna Anness*

## THANKS FOR THE MEMORY

April 12, 1992

Your Obd. Editor would like to take this space to say "Thanks for the Memory" (sorry Edna, I couldn't resist) to the Board for their quick response to an OLDE

NEWS catastrophe. On March 28, the Society's Macintosh SE (a.k.a "that ungrateful piece of \*/\*&'") had its hard drive self-destruct. Since all of the OLDE NEWS files, and many other E.P. Historical Society files, resided on this drive, it meant that Your Obd. Editor was up the proverbial creek.

The Board immediately authorized the money to repair or replace the drive, and add memory. Mr. Mac returned home (thanks go here to Mike Charves, who braved the wilds of Elmwood Ave. to retrieve him) with a new, bigger hard drive and twice the memory Thursday the 9th, and we are now back on line. Alas, the files on the old, dead hard drive are in limbo-land, so they all have to be restored or reconstructed, a process which is continuing. The important lesson to be learned here is that (1) Computers are vicious, treacherous alien slime and (2) because of (1) ALWAYS BACK UP YOUR WORK! You future users of the Society's (or any) computer should learn from (my) bitter experience.

*Your Obediant Editor*

# IMPORTANT DATES

April 27

**E.P. HISTORICAL SOCIETY** April Meeting,  
East Providence Library 7:30 p.m. Lecture and  
slides on the Hunt House Restoration

May 2

**OLDE NEWS** May deadline

May 3

**MUSEUM DONOR'S TEA** Hunt House  
Museum 2-4 pm

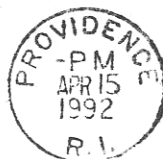
May 25

**E.P. HISTORICAL SOCIETY MAY MEETING**  
Newman Church 7:30 p.m.

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