



OLDE NEWS

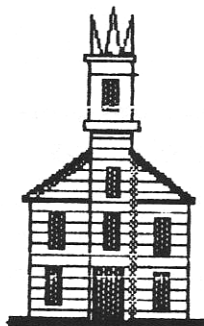
EAST ■ PROVIDENCE ■ HISTORICAL ■ SOCIETY
■ NEWSLETTER ■

FORGOTTEN MEMORIES

The human memory is a strange thing. It can frustrate one to no end by refusing to come forth with that certain bit of knowledge which you know is stored away in that filing cabinet between your ears, somewhere but where exactly? How many times do we have a name "on the tip of our tongues" yet fail to come up with it no matter how much we concentrate.

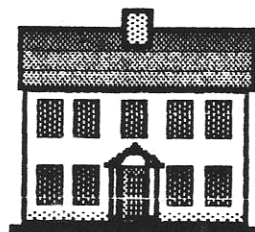
Yet by the same token how often do we find ourselves suddenly overwhelmed by a distinct

MEETING



THE NEXT MEETING
OF THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
will be held Dec. 21, 1992
from 7:15 pm
at Newman Congregational
Church.

memory, called forth from out of the blue by some slight physical stimulus, a musty smell in an old house, a sound heard on a busy street. The other day such a situation happened to myself. I had just left work and was walking to my car as the frigid cold winds burned my face. Suddenly I remembered clearly another time and place. It was the mid 70's and I was a student at Grove Avenue Elementary School in East Providence. The students had been told to put on our coats and hats for we were all going for a walk, an impromptu field trip. This seemed strange as there had been a snowstorm the night before and it was still very cold outside. The walk was short to the East Providence City Hall, or should I say what used to be the City Hall. It seems that in the early morning hours the historic landmark had caught fire and despite all efforts by fire fighters the 1889 building was destroyed. I remember feeling somewhat sad for the loss of the building although probably more impressed with the huge



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438-1750

OFFICERS

President Scott Booth
First Vice-President Nancy Moore
Second Vice-President "Bud" Plummer
Secretary Kris Rose
Corresponding Secretary Lura Sellow
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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.*

frozen icicles that hung everywhere as the water from the fire hoses had frozen in the arctic night. Years later I grew to appreciate the magnitude of the loss of that building, the cornerstone of downtown East Providence. This was probably, for many people, another example of not appreciating something until it is gone. For some reason this is human nature. Yet this is not true for everybody. Some people appreciate things while they are still here, in fact work hard to make sure that these important things are not lost. These are people concerned with historic preservation. People like the members of the East Providence Historical Society. People who put in untold hours of work and sweat so that memories of lost landmarks are fewer and memories of landmarks saved are greater. People who don't need a burst of frigid wind in the face to remember the importance of saving and preserving our past. People who don't wait until the

holiday season to act charitable but act so year round. To these people, a hearty thank you! If not for you, so much history would be nothing but a forgotten memory.

Michael Charves

PRESERVATION

The Historical Society has received a copy of a letter from Edward Sanderson, director of the RI Historic Preservation Commission, to J. Michael Bennett, chief engineer in charge of the Roger Williams Avenue upgrade project. Mr. Sanderson outlines those properties already listed on the National Register (the railroad bridge, Dagget House), those considered eligible (Roger Williams Spring) and those potentially eligible (Philpsdale district, #68, #15 - Agawam Hunt, and Wannamoissett). He goes further to state, "in addition to these properties, portions of the corridor are considered sensitive for archeologi-

continued on next page

cal resources from the prehistoric and early historic periods. Therefore, archaeological investigations may be warranted if the reconstruction plans indicate substantial potential for subsurface disturbance." We should feel confident that all parties, ourselves, the City, the RIHPC and the DOT are well aware of the great historical significance of this area and we look forward to a cordial association with the DOT during this project.

**Nancy
Moore**

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)

MUSEUM

As you can see by the following Donor's List, many people are thinking about the East Providence Historical Society Museum as a place to preserve the history of our city. It is most gratifying and exciting to see our collection growing. As people visit Hunt House and see what has been donated or loaned they have an idea what to give to the museum.

Edna did a terrific job getting our exhibit ready for the Dec. 6th sale and open house. "Olde Businesses" was quite a success - people were impressed. Edna and I work well together and the committee does too.

Many said they have articles or papers they will donate.

DONOR'S LIST

Mrs. Milton Miner - Five issues of "The Works" - a Rumford Co. newsletter.

Austin Butterworth - Civillian Defense equipment from a bomb

shelter at the Masonic Temple on Taunton Avenue, a Scythe, coal shovel, Trolley car rail turner, enamel cooking ware.

June Goff - antique cooking utensils.

Armando Ladeira - School picture.

Charles Tebbetts - Weather-vane from Armington House barn

Elmer and Hope Yeaw - card-table covered with local advertisers, medicine bottle from King's Drugstore.

Walter and Madeline Vincent - Scrapbook of photos of well known EP landmarks

Russell Coit - Scrapbook of photos of Daisyfield Area - Center St.

City of East Providence via

Nancy Stevens - map of Little Neck Cemetery showing graves of veterans.

Frances Collins - her family baby clothes, linens and silk pieces.

Many thanks to **Edna Wilcox, Hazel Lundgren** and **Howard Prendergast** for advertising

loaned by them to the new display.

Virginia Berwick
Chairman Museum
Committee

HUNT HOUSE

Three cheers for Walt and his Crew! If you haven't been to Hunt House lately, do come and see what Walt and the men and ladies have done. You will be amazed, I'm sure. Walt, after many, many phone calls, got the plumber and the electrician to finish the work in the "kitchen" the Friday, Dec. 4th, before open house. I'm sure the "Cafe" workers were delighted to have enough outlets to work with.

Walt and Charlie also secured the door where the ell came down and put plastic over it outside, also the window in the basement.

Three cheers for Walt, Charlie, Lew, Don, Ted, Earl and Bud both recuperating, Jennifer Murdock, Martha Tourtellott, and Ginny.

Virginia Berwick

EVENTS

Christmas at John Brown House- This beautiful palatial three story house/museum owned by ardent RI patriot John Brown will be decorated as it would have appeared in the late 19th century for the holidays. Admission is charged. Tues. - Sat. 11-4pm Sun. 1-4pm. Closed on Mondays and holidays. 52 Power St., Providence. 331-8575

Christmas at the Vineyard Diamond Hill Vineyard of Cumberland will be decorated for a Victorian Christmas with pinecone and grapevine wreaths and gift baskets of wine and New England gourmet foods. Sample wines daily and enjoy hot wassail on the weekends. Diamond Hill Road., Route 114, Cumberland. Open Wednesday, Thursday, and Fridays Noon - 7pm. Sat. 12 - 5pm. Sun. Noon - 5pm. 333-2751 or 1-800-752-2505

Christmas in Jenks Park

Christmas characters of many types are displayed on the Broad Steet side of the park

along with the traditional scenes. The historic and delightful gazebo is decorated especially for the season with hundreds of twinkling lights. The Jenks Park lighting ceremony will be held this year in early December. 727-7488

Fiber Arts Exhibit and Sale

15th annual exhibit and sale of fiber art at Slater Mill Site. Cash and carry sale of handmade items from Fiber Artists Co-operative. Dec. 12 - 20, 12 - 4pm daily. Roosevelt Ave., Pawtucket. 725-8638

A Musical Christmas at Blithewold Elegant decorations, music, and refreshments will be offered. Shopping at the Gift Shop in the Carriage House. December 11-23 and 26-30, 12-8pm. Admission - Adults...\$6.00, children(6-15)...\$2.00, also special group rates. Blithewold Mansion and Gardens Ferry Road, Rte. 114, Bristol, Rhode Island. 401-253-2707

For further details on these events please call the phone numbers given.

A View From The Kitchen
or
Song of the Open House

Hail to the King! Unit, that is.
And also to Walter, who made it his biz
To get it connected along with wall sockets
Where we plugged in the soup crocks.
(Maybe some year---chicken croquettes.)

Cabinets and shelves built by one Charlie Jackson,
From salvaged wood, meet with our satisfaction.
As of now, formica is just an abstraction.
But soon it will be a counter attraction.

Billy and Fales, Greta, Florence and Nancy
Served soup, bread, beverages. All of 'em fancy.
Raved patrons, who dined in Ye Olde Yule Cafe,
"Such cuisine is the equal of Child and Franey."

Many thanks to all for a day that was stellar.
To the many all working 'neath one big um-
brella.
To the museum exhibit we sing, a copella.
Let's hear it again for Gladys Panzarella!

FLORENCE ADAMS

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM THE
EAST PROVIDENCE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

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P.O. Box 4774
East Providence, RI 02916
