



OLDE NEWS

EAST ■ PROVIDENCE ■ HISTORICAL ■ SOCIETY
■ NEWSLETTER ■

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

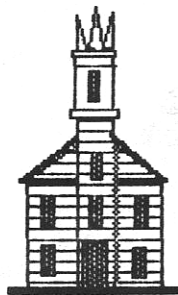
February, 1992

For those who have been wondering, I am still alive and well. As some of you may know, I have been working so much in Boston for the last few months, that I had to miss the January General Meeting because of a project deadline. However, I understand our First Vice President, Nancy Moore, did a marvelous job filling in for me. Thanks, Nancy! In any event, I still have been thinking about the Historical Society and the work that needs to be done.

The first item is our By-Laws and our Rules and Procedures.

cont. on pg. 2

MEETING



THE NEXT MEETING
OF THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

will be held February 24, 1992
6:00 pm
at Newman Congregational
Church.

**Potluck Supper, and Mystery
Auction!**

See page 6 for details

PRESIDENT'S LETTER cont.

By the time this letter has "hit the streets" the Board will have worked out most of both documents and only a few remaining items will need to be clarified. This will enable the Board of Directors, Committees and the Membership to better understand their respective roles and be guided in their responsibilities.

Second item is the Hunt House itself. Now that funds are available, the Board of Directors and the Building Committee now have the task of finding professionals do the masonry work, repair and paint the exterior and replace the windows. This will be completed and the earmarked monies will be utilized in a more orderly fashion than the heating system was, I promise. Once all this work is completed, we will have a facility in which much of the work was done by many of the members in the Society.

Thirdly, the By-Laws Committee and the Board of Directors are organizing the way the Historical Society works.

cont. on pg. 4

**OLDE NEWS**

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Providence Historical Society

Editor George Field, IV
Printer's Devil Michael Charves

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 Sellew
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.*

PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

February 1992:

The Traffic Light: The Final (or Final) Chapter

What is tall, slender, fluted, black and now has an elegant finial atop it? You guessed it- the light pole at the Pleasant Street intersection! Thus ends the Society's discussion with RIDOT over this engineering change in an historical zone.

Veteran's Parkway

If you have been following the progress of the Veterans Memorial Parkway through the City's successful attempt to have this road declared a scenic highway, you may have noticed the article on that highway in *The Arts and Cultural Times* February supplement to the Providence Journal. Thanks to much work by Rep. Weygand and the EP Planning Dept., the Scenic Highway Board has accepted the road, and the RIHPC has nominated the Parkway to the National Register. These actions assure that before any (more) changes are made to

Vets, a review will be made by the Scenic Board and RIHPC. Great news indeed!!

Union Primary

Union Primary is looking like a painted lady these days and the personal opinion of this writer is one of approval, (now that the shock has worn off.) Recently I toured the building, checking out the appropriate, new double glazed windows, the new kitchen the handicapped-accessible bathrooms, and the bright, clean functional interior. The meal site is a lovely space with the original vaulted ceiling and carved beams restored. The long windows are especially attractive here and the proportions are ample. This should be a space of good use for many groups? Please treat yourself to a look at the back entrance and the intriguing portico that adorns an otherwise mundane brick addition. EP residents should be very pleased with this

cont. on pg. 4

PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

community group collaboration. Union Primary is again a source of pride for us all.

Bridgham Farm Update

On December 19, the EP Land Trust made an offer of \$600,000 cash to US Bank and Trust of Boston for this property. This offer was well below the \$1,000,000 price on the land, but an appraisal which the Land Trust had done in December fixed the current value at \$730,00, well below the 1986 appraisal of \$1,200,000. In January, written refusal of that offer was received from the bank, with comment that no offers under \$1 million need apply. Acting on a suggestion by Rep. Greene, the Trust is now asking local Boston conservation groups to plead our case. If you know of anyone with strong ties to a group, please call Nancy Moore or Bill Simpson. Thus far we are working with Nature Conservancy, Audubon, and Save the Bay.

Goff Property (Willett Avenue)

Update

Thus far the Neighborhood Housing Services is still willing to consider re-habbing this house. The sticking point seems to be the large lot it commands which would support 2 houses were the house demolished. Factoring the cost of getting one house instead of two has yet to be resolved.

Nancy Moore

PRESIDENTS LETTER cont.

The Building and Grounds Committee and "The Boys" are renovating and rebuilding the Hunt House. However, the Society is only as good as its membership. And that membership needs to work together for the GOOD OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Politics has caused many problems at both the State and Federal levels, and it can infect and paralyze any organization, even ours. We need to work together and help one another to make this organization the best it can possibly be.

As I have said before, any work,

HELP AGAIN

done for the Society is appreciated by everyone. However, if something is not being done in the Society the way you think it ought to be done, make a suggestion to a Board Member or at the General Meeting. Better yet, volunteer yourself and help the already overworked VOLUNTEERS, who are doing the best they can.

Article II of the new By-Laws says: "The object or purpose of the Society is to collect facts and objects relative to the history of East Providence" and (more importantly) "to increase the *interest* of its citizenry of the City in their heritage and (their) preservation." That seems clear enough; let's all work towards that goal.

Scott Booth

Remember Ned Conners and his request for information on the Richmond Paper Company? His research has borne fruit in the form of a pamphlet detailing the short but eventful history of this pioneering paper mill. Ned sought help from the Society in his research, and as a thank you to us, donated a copy of his pamphlet to the Society. Even for those not enthralled by the history of paper, it is a fascinating look at industry in East Providence during the 1880's.

The Society has been called upon once again to help track down some quickly vanishing local history. Helen Brederson-Goulet is trying to find the records of the Swedish Congregational Church, active in Rumford in the 1930's and 40's. It changed into the Evangelical Covenant Church, with a Rev. Carlson as Pastor. If anyone has any knowledge of what may have happened to the church's records, specifically baptismal records, contact the Society at P.O. Box 4774 or leave a message at 438-1750.

Join the E. Providence Historical Society!

Return this form to

EPHS, P.O. Box 4774, E. Providence
RI 02916

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

Single (\$10)

Family (\$15)

MAILING LIST

We are updating our mailing and membership lists. If the arrangement of letters and numbers on your mailing labels is not "historically correct" or if you know of someone who should have but did not receive all or part of the newsletter, you are encouraged to call Florence Adams, Newsletter Coordinator, 437-1530 or the Society at 438-1750.

Florence Adams

THIS MONTH'S MEETING

The Society's February meeting will be a combination potluck supper, business meeting and mystery auction, coordinated and organized by the inimitable Mr. William Simpson. Bill requests that if you come, bring a dish which reflects your ethnic heritage (for me, for example, that would be either a TV dinner or

twinkies). Volunteers who signed up last month to help with the dinner should show up at the appropriate time to do their thing. Anyone with questions, or who wants to help can call Bill at 438-0623. (He should be completely recovered from his Caribbean vacation by now.)

The festivities will start early, at 6:00, and will be climaxed by one of our EP Historical Society's famous Mystery Auctions.

If you plan to participate in the auction, bring an Object carefully wrapped up and sealed in a grocery bag in such a way as to discourage anyone from guessing what it is. The bags will be numbered, and bids taken on them. What you will get for your bid should depend on the ingenuity and deviousness of the membership. Remember, all proceeds will help the Society, and that all desserts of a ethnic nature will assist Yr. Obd. Editor in his continuing research on Cookies From Many Lands.



HUNT HOUSE REPORT

A matter of record: the volunteers at the Hunt House have worked a total of 1140.5 hours, and they're still going strong. Their current project is restoring the bedroom over the keeping room: removing the new floor, and opening the fire place.

The heating system is now installed and working, and Walter has pronounced himself satisfied with the way it performs. He is going to experiment with raising the water temperature from its economy setting of 140° to 190° for a week to see if the system can heat up the building faster when there is a meeting. Concerns with noise have been laid to rest; while the system is audible when running, especially in the parlor, it is not at all obtrusive or unpleasant. The volunteers will also commence boxing in the few areas in the office where ductwork and water lines

are visible.

An exterminator, Mr. David Martin, has been asked to inspect the apparent insect damage of some of the attic rafters. Scott Booth has commenced preparation of the specifications for masonry repair.

Building Committee guidelines have been prepared and submitted to the Board of Directors for their review prior to presenting them (in OLDE NEWS) to the membership at large. If approved, they will be incorporated into the new by-laws, just as the Museum guidelines were.

Claudette Field

Attention Committee Chairs

The deadline for the March issue of OLDE NEWS is the weekend of March 7 (March 7 thru the 9). Your reports can be dropped off at OLDE NEWS Central (1474 Pawtucket Avenue) anytime during that period. Remember our motto "All the News that fits, we prints"

IMPORTANT DATES

- February 24 **E. P. Historical Society** Newman Church, February Meeting and Potluck Supper.: 6:00 p.m. Call 438-0623 if you want to help.
- March 3 **Rumford Home Garden Club** Meeting at Hunt House, 11am.
- March 7-9 **OLDE NEWS** deadline for committee reports.
- March 18 **E.P. Historical Society:** Board meeting, at Hunt House 7:30 p.m.
- March 23 **E. P. Historical Society** Newman Church, March Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- March 28 **E. P. Historical Society** Pasta Supper at Newman Church. Time and details to be announced.

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