



# OLDE NEWS

EAST ■ PROVIDENCE ■ HISTORICAL ■ SOCIETY  
■ NEWSLETTER ■

## DANGER EDITOR AND THE CASE OF THE DISAPPEARING NEWSLETTER

"Watson, come here, I want you."

"My name's Friday, not Watson, flatfoot. Whaddya want?"

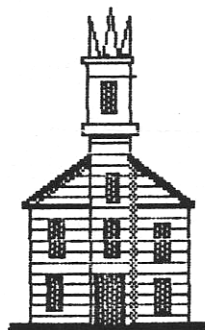
"Watson..."

"It's Friday, shamus, Friday. Like as in the day after Thursday?"

"Whatever. Wat...er, Friday, a dastardly crime has been perpetrated. A deed unparalleled in the history of Western civilization in its heinousness. An affair so sor-

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## MEETING



THE NEXT MEETING  
OF THE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
will be held March 23, 1992  
from 7:15 pm  
at Newman Congregational  
Church.

**DANGER EDITOR, cont.**

did, so monstrous in its implications..."

"I get the picture. Dastardly, heinous, monstrous. Terrible, just terrible. What are you talking about?"

"Its the newsletter, Friday. It's...it's...I can barely bring myself to say it."

"So I've noticed."

"It's disappeared Friday, utterly vanished!"

"Get a grip, gumshoe. How can something so monumental, so integral to the life of the community just...vanish?"

"Oh, it didn't just happen overnight, Friday. It was more insidious than that. It just slowly got smaller. One less report, then one more, until now, this! The end. Finis! The *coupe de grace*. There's nothing left, nothing."

"Oh, you're over-dramatizing as usual. There'll always be a newsletter. You'll strap something together; you always do."

"But how long, Friday? How long must I go it alone? I can't stand it anymore, I tell you, I

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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.*

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## MUSEUM COMMITTEE

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The Museum Committee has accepted the following gifts: Bruce Britton has donated fifty-eight CRIMSON yearbooks from 1930-1988, seven Central yearbooks, and thirty-six class record books from the Agriculture Department at the High School. Also included was a WWII Civil Defense uniform worn by Bruce's mother in the Elm Street-Wilson Avenue-Greenwood Avenue neighborhood.

Warren and Hope Ivers gave us a Roger Williams Grange group picture from 1912 and Hope's Grange pin which she wore for some twenty five years. These are nice additions to the Grange sign which is now safely stored at the Hunt House. The Ivers also gave us six CRIMSON yearbooks and a Riverside Grammar School class picture taken on the front steps of the Masonic Temple in Riverside. Genevieve Sanford of Bristol sent us two badges from field days held at Vanity Fair by the same Grange unit, 1907-

1909. Harold Tebbetts, who grew up in the Armington House that once stood at the corner of the Wampanoag Trail, loaned us (for copying) pictures of the house and the Armington Genealogy. The only CRIMSONs now missing are for the years 1914, 1916 and 1917. Thank you all for heeding our call for a complete collection of CRIMSONs.

New displays are going up. Virginia Berwick has updated the Restoration display. The other display will be sampling of everything that has been donated since March 1989. The committee hopes to honor all 80 donors in some way this spring. More later on this.

The house was dusted and swept for March 3 when the Rumford Home Garden Club held their meeting in the House. Walter chased all the sawdust "bunnies" out of sight. We appreciate the donation which the Garden Club made to the Historical Society.

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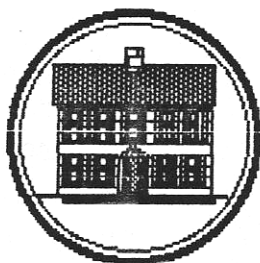
## HUNT HOUSE UPDATE

The Building Committee held their monthly meeting on March 7, 1992, 9:30AM at the Hunt House. The entire Committee was present.

The following is a brief summary of what was discussed.

**Heating System** Walter Vincent reported that the recovery time of the heating system was greatly improved by turning the setting up to 190°. It was decided to turn the water setting back to 165° to save money since the house is not occupied all the time. In a related matter both Scott Booth and Walter have spoken to City officials about pumping out the remaining oil in the tank so that the tank could be removed. They are also trying to get the City to remove the old boiler.

**Insulation:** Discussion on the heating system led to deliberation about insulating the house. Scott feels strongly that the house should be insulated, but



Claudette Field expressed reservations. Walter made a motion to get an estimate on blowing insulation into the walls from the outside.

The motion passed unanimously. Atlantic Insulation was mentioned as a company to contact.

**Insect Damage:** Walter reported that the exterminator who had been called in to look at the attic said that damage to the rafters was from an old powder post beetle infestation and that there was no sign of an active problem.

**Masonry:** Scott promised to complete the specs and to call Frank Genello, the mason as soon as possible. The Chair extracted a promise from him that he would call Genello in two days since such a long time has passed since he called for the specs. According to the Guidelines adopted by the Committee the group must get three estimates. Edna Anness submitted the name of Joseph Gnazzo Company, Inc., a firm

doing work at the John Brown House.

***Electricity and Plumbing:*** Walter again brought up the need to proceed with electrical and plumbing work. It was pointed out that this work should be done before the masonry repairs begin as much of the wiring and old plumbing is in the way and would hamper the repairs.

***Plumbing*** — the existing bathroom on the first floor would remain intact. All water service to the second floor would be permanently eliminated. A much smaller feed line and waste line would be installed to service the kitchen. A small under counter water heater would be included in the specs.

***Electrical*** — The scope of work has already been identified.

Scott said the specs were already on his computer. Walter will use the Hunt House plans to indicate where outlets should be removed or added. All new outlets will be white. Scott mentioned his concern that the Society should provide emergency lighting in the event of power failure.

Claudette suggested investigating plug in emergency lights available from Brookstone rather than installing more expensive commercial grade lights. The Committee approved of the idea and Walter was instructed to take this need into account when specifying where the new outlets should go.

***The Upstairs Room:*** The Committee viewed the room and decided against adding crown molding to cover up the deficiencies in the ceiling plaster, since the room never had such molding. The group decided it would not look right because of the peg board around the room and then addressed the suggestion that the room be wallpapered since the walls had never been painted above the chair rail and six layers of old wallpaper were found. Walter also mentioned that a faux finish had been found on the woodwork and the restorers were planning on putting it back with some help from Edna on how to apply the faux wood grain. Walter also mentioned

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**HUNT HOUSE REPORT cont.**

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that the workers wanted to sand down the remnant of the peg board which had been discovered flush with the wall and to create a new thin pegboard which would be flush mounted. A motion was made and passed unanimously to allow the restorers to replace the wallpaper, paint below the chair rail, restore the faux finish and to fabricate a pegboard.

**Keeping Room:** While on the subject of pegboards, Claudette brought up the fact that it would be nice to replace the peg board that had been found under the cabinets in the keeping room. The group then voted to replace this pegboard also using the original model in the hall as a guide.

**Parlor Mantle:** A motion was made and passed to leave the parlor mantle in place and not attempt to reseal it. The Committee approved of the work that had been done so far but they were concerned that moving the

mantle might pop some of the ornamentation off of it.

**Meter Shop:** Walter again asked Scott if he would speak to (former) City Manger Lemont about the Society using the meter shop. It will be needed for storage once the ell is removed and the cellar restored. Claudette pointed out that in order for the house to be painted before fall certain things must happen first. i.e. the ell must be removed and the windows replaced. She also emphasized the importance of securing the meter shop.

**Windows:** The discussion then went on to windows. Claudette showed the group an ad in *Preservation* magazine for architecturally correct Pella windows. Scott said what was needed were replacement sashes and promised to bring in the material he has on handmade sashes.

**Misc..** A new light fixture for the front hall was discussed. Scott will provide the group with catalogues.

*Claudette Field*

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**MUSEUM COMMITTEE cont.**

On March 25 the "Hunt House Restoration and History Story" slide presentation will visit a meeting at the Blackstone Valley Historical Society.

Thanks to Charlie Jackson for being the Historical Society Story Teller and visiting classes at St. Margret's School last month.

*Edna Anness*

**DANGER EDITOR cont.**

can't!"

"Pull yourself together man! You can't weaken now!"

"Thanks, I needed that. Did you have to slap me quite that hard?"

"You had it coming. Now stop whining and start typing. You've got a newsletter to crank out, fella!"

"Friday, you're an inspiration! Someday I'll get you for...I mean, thank you for this."


Join the Historical Society today! Send this coupon (with money) to  
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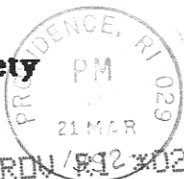
**E.P. Historical Society Pasta Supper**  
**Saturday, March 28, 1992.**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**Newman Congregational Church**  
**Adults \$6 - Children \$3**  
**under 3 free!**  
Members will be called to donate  
desserts

# IMPORTANT DATES

- 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.
- April 3 thru 5 **OLDE NEWS** deadline for committee reports.
- April 27 **E. P. Historical Society** Newman Church, April Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

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