



OLDE NEWS

EAST ■ PROVIDENCE ■ HISTORICAL ■ SOCIETY
■ NEWSLETTER ■

DARK DAY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

**Voters reject both
historic referendums by
shamefully wide margins**

On November 3 Rhode Island voters went to the polls to make known their opinions on many important issues. To those people who realize the immense importance of historic preservation, two of their most critical votes would be cast for the approval of statewide referendum questions #5 and #7. Number 5

MEETING



THE NEXT MEETING
OF THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
will be held November, 23,
1992
from 7:00 pm
at **UNION PRIMARY/
COMMUNITY CENTER**

concerned the creation of a state-wide history museum. The project would have involved bringing many fine historical organizations together under one roof as well as offering a place to store and protect their numerous collections. The clincher of the deal was that the location of this project would be the restored Shepard's building, one of many tarnished and forgotten jewels of downtown Providence. The criminal neglect of these buildings is a whole topic unto itself, suffice it to say that this project would have reversed a small portion of this tragedy. Would have...could have...should have...; all phrases that fit as *5 was soundly defeated at the polls by a 34.6% to 65.4% margin statewide. The 15,349 East Providence voters statistically mirrored the statewide vote by voting down *5 by a 35.6% to 64.4% margin. The totals on bond issue *7 were almost as dismal, 39.5% for approval and 60.5% for rejection. Of 15,393 votes cast in East Provi-



OLDE NEWS

is published monthly by The East
Providence Historical Society

Editor Michael Charves
Editorial & Spiritual Advisor George Field, IV

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 "Bud" Plummer
Secretary Kris Rose
Corresponding Secretary Lura Sellow
Treasurer Rose Marie Sirenski

*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.*

dence on this issue, 38.7% approved with 61.3% rejecting. Bond issue #7 would have provided money grants and low interest loans to help save and rehab historic houses, buildings, and sites. What makes this defeat so frustrating is the fact that this bond issue was **approved** by the voters in 1989 but was never issued due to **"technical wording problems"**. Of course considering our recession racked economy three years ago could as well be a life time ago. The life of the Shepard's building perhaps? The lives of many significant and essential projects across the state?

Now that these battles have been lost we must now study the situation and try to learn from it. Was there anything that could have been done differently that would have reversed the outcome on #5 and #7? Given the terrible shape of the economy and the non-stop examples of political corruption in the state is it any surprise that the voters were suspicious of any new spending project.

Well where does that leave us then. No doubt that as historic preservation minded people we are saddened by these turn of events. But what is done is done; you can't saw sawdust. We must look at this as a turning point, the point that we realized that knowing the importance of historic preservation ourselves is not enough. That selling historic preservation to those already sold on the idea is not enough. We must do our best to sell it to those who are now not sold on it. It should not be hard to find them, they outnumber us by more than 60% to 40%. No recounting of the ballots will change those numbers, but spreading the word and selling the idea of historic preservation one on one, person to person can. If every one who voted to approve the historic bond issues can find one person who voted to reject those issues, and convince that person of the extreme importance our preserving our heritage, come next election the state and the people will be in less danger of losing forever

many valuable historic treasures.

Let us start our mission of attitude adjustment with some positive news... the voters of East Providence voted to approve the local referendum question dealing with the establishment of a Municipal Land Trust by a vote of 54.8% to 45.2%. These numbers are a start, hopefully a start that will lead to a happy ending.

*Michael
Charvas*

MUSEUM COMMITTEE

We are planning an exhibit of ads of "Old Businesses in East Providence for our Christmas Open House on Dec. 6th. If you or anyone you know has any ads we would appreciate it if they could be loaned or given to us. We will take good care of all items.

We have received photos of early policemen in the "town"; an article about the "New Washington Bridge, Sept. 26, 1930; a clipping of a fire in the Town Hall on Taunton Avenue, March 1920; a

copy of History of E.P. Police Department 1862-1962. All donated by Edward Adams. Also an invitation to the dedication of the New Washington Bridge Sept. 25, 1930, sent to Mrs. Edythe L. Armstrong of Warren Ave., E. Providence, Sept. 20th. The stamp on the envelope was 2¢.

We will be glad to have Edna back to get our display underway. In the meantime- look around and ask your family and friends for old time "ads."

Virginia Berwick

MESSAGES

Please consider remembering the East Providence Historical Society at Christmas time. A donation in any size is most appreciated. We know that our bank account looks large, but that money is earmarked for specific projects. Expenses for day-to-day operations such as telephone, electricity and security are billed on a monthly basis and must be paid for out of gen-

eral funds such as dues and fund raisers. Thanks for thinking of us and have a happy Thanksgiving!

And speaking of holidays (and money) don't forget that the Christmas Bazaar is fast approaching, and any donations of craft goods or time you may care to make will also be appreciated.

•••••

The First Universalist Church in Providence (at the corner of Washington and Greene Streets, across from the Central Library) will be singing psalms from the "Ainsworth Psalter" which the Pilgrims brought with them on the *Mayflower* and used for decades afterwards.

The Pilgrims first used the "Ainsworth Psalter" in Leyden Holland following its publication in 1612, and it was used by the Pilgrims when Roger Williams was a member and a preacher in Plymouth for three years in the 1630's.

The First Universalist Church will debut its use of the psalter at the November 8 regular 10:30 service, all are welcome.

CRAFTS

The 25th Anniversary Christmas Boutique is just a few weeks away: Sunday, December 6th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. We need workers for Sunday, the 6th. Please let me know what hours you might like to work. Help is also needed to set up on Saturday, December 5th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

There will be raffle tickets in the newsletter, a good chance for people to participate. Please make ticket returns at the November meeting. Don't forget token gifts for the Santa's Chimney. We will have a sign up sheet for: baked goods, breads, jellies, home made soup, coffee, tea, cream, sugar, juices, etc.

If you have been working on items at home, please let me know so I can plan where to display them for the sale.

Gladys Panzerella

HOUSEHOLD GOODS FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

We will be collecting non-perishable items at the Nov. 23 meeting for our needy family "Harvest" basket. The collected items will be given to Ms. Onna Moniz, Director of the East Prov. Welfare Dept. She will put out non-perishable items into the Thanksgiving Baskets donated to Welfare for Needy East Prov. Families. The following suggestions would help a needy family stretch their meager resources during the coming cold weather.

Any type of **PAPER GOOD**: napkins, towels, nose/toilet tissue, lunch bags, wax and paper food wrap, foil, baggies, and diapers, etc.

LAUNDRY: ammonia, Mr. Clean, Lestoll, Pine Sol, Spic and Span, Windex, floor wax/polish etc.

First Aid: Band aids/cream/jell, toothbrushes, aspirin, etc.

PERSONAL: tooth paste, hand soap, hand/body lotion, powder, mouth wash, lip balm, etc

There will also be a **Turkey Raffle** at the meeting. The prize is a \$20.00 gift certificate from **SHAW'S MARKET.**

Louise Healy

NOVEMBER MEETING NOTICE

NOVEMBER 23rd, 1992

UNION PRIMARY/COMMUNITY
CENTER

1320 Pawtucket Ave., Rumford

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

(Please note the earlier time)

Come at 7:00 for pie and a
"Look-Around"

Meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

TRIVIA

You are all probably familiar with the large body of water in northern East Providence. But did you know that it was not always called Omega Pond? Here are some of it's other names ...

Mills Cove----1777

Seekonk Cove----1803

Factory Cove----1869

Phillipsdale Pond----1922

Do you know any other names Omega Pond was called? And where did the name Omega come from? Let us know!!

RUMFORD FRUIT CAKE

The following recipe for Rumford Fruit Cake is from the "RUMFORD COMPLETE COOK BOOK", put out by the Rumford Company, Rumford, Rhode Island. The date of the book is 1950. Needless to say Rumford Baking Powder finds its way into many of the recipes. For this Thanksgiving holiday you can now have a taste of old Rumford on your table!

Makes one 9-inch tube cake.

- 2 cups sifted cake flour
- 1 teaspoon of Rumford Baking Powder
- 1 teaspoon of baking soda
- 1 cup of brown sugar
- 1 1/4 cups of water
- 1 cup of seeded raisins

1/2 cup candied peel, finely cut

1/3 cup shortening

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1/2 teaspoon ground cloves

1/2teaspoon grated nutmeg

1/2 teaspoon salt

Sift together flour, baking powder and baking soda; combine sugar, water, raisins, peel, shortening, cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg and salt. Boil for 3 minutes; cool. Add dry ingredients; mix well. Put in well greased tube pan about 9 inches in diameter; bake in slow oven (325 degrees F.) about 55 minutes.

Invite your friends/relatives
to

JOIN the
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Annual dues:

\$10- single, \$15- family

Make check payable to:

EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mail to:

Madeline Vincent (Membership Chairman)

45 Priscilla Avenue, Rumford, RI 02916

**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING
to all from the
East Providence
Historical Society**

OLDE NEWS

East Providence Historical Society

P.O. Box 4774

East Providence, RI 02916
