



OLDE NEWS

EAST ■ PROVIDENCE ■ HISTORICAL ■ SOCIETY
■ NEWSLETTER ■

THEY JUST DON'T GET IT

Recently in Washington the original document of the Emancipation Proclamation was put on public display. Did anyone decry the cost of preserving and storing this great and historic item as a waste of public funds? After all the contents could be copied on computer disk, leaving only a piece of old paper and some dried ink. What about the Statue of Liberty.

Was there a public outrage over the spending of millions of dollars to refurbish it a few years

MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING
OF THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
will be held Jan. 25th, 1993
from 7:15 pm
at
WEAVER LIBRARY
Public Meeting Room

THE PASTA
DINNER IS COMING
ON
MARCH 27

ago? After all we have enough pictures of it to remind us what it looked liked. Think of the money that could be made selling it for scrap metal. Most people with any sense of the importance of our history would call the two above ideas at best foolishness and at worst criminality. Yet at this very moment important historic buildings state wide are in grave danger and the reaction of the public at large could be summed up as a collective yawn. The Outlet building in Providence was allowed to sit vacant until someone very conveniently decided a little arson was in order. As you read this newsletter another Providence landmark is being turned into a heap of rubble. The century-old former Crown Hotel on Weybosset St. is being torn down by it's current owners, J&W University. (The J&W stands for Johnson & Wales, not Junk and Waste which seems to be their policy towards historic buildings.) The mayor of Providence also does not seem to be too



OLDE NEWS

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OFFICERS

President	Scott Booth
First Vice-President	Nancy Moore
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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.*

upset. The Providence Journal reported, *"Mayor Vincent A. Cianci Jr. was nonchalant about the demolition. "This isn't a major loss," he said. "It's not like we are losing a big piece of tax revenue, because the building is already owned by the university," whose property is not taxed."*

But the topper is the Shepard building. As most know the voters rejected the ballet question in Nov. to raise money to buy and restore the old department store building and use it for state offices and numerous historical groups. The state decided to go ahead with the project anyway as the current owner was threatening demolition. This editor feels that for once the state is spending money on a worth while project, yet the plan has been attacked left and right as more pork barrel. It has been thrown in the mud along with more genuine white elephants as the convention center and the airport make over. The major difference between the Shepard building project and the other two is a simple one,

time. Could we build the convention center next year, 5 years from now, ten years? Yes. Could the airport be expanded at a later date, after more debate? Yes. Could the Shepard building be saved after it is demolished? No, obviously. Yet comments are heard as, "We shouldn't buy. Let them knock it down and make it a parking lot." It is sad to think that despite all the important buildings that have been lost many people still are this historically shallow. It is up to us, those who understand what the stakes are, to convince those who don't. It is easy to preach to the converted, our job is to do the converting. The people who see no difference between the Shepard building and a parking lot are the same people who probably see the Emancipation Proclamation as a piece of paper and the Statue of Liberty as pile of scrap metal.

Michael Charves

**PASTA DINNER
MARCH 27**

RESTORATION

Another year of scrapping and painting has begun and our crew has been diminishing slightly and is sadly missed, with Earl's 2nd accident and Bud's ill health. Our crew wish them a speedy recovery and also welcome new volunteers. Please call Walt Vincent at 434-0481 if interested in helping in any way. Your help is needed.

At the moment we are waiting for a decision on wallpaper for the 2nd floor front room on the left. This room has been worked on quite extensively, having had 5 coats of paint over 5 layers of wallpaper; plus the stripping of the woodwork with it's many coats of paint. We have made a decision to go ahead and restore a 3rd floor room for storage, enabling us to make room and move some of the artifacts from the museum on the 2nd floor. This will put us into the next project on the agenda.

Walter Vincent

TELEPHONE

THEN THERE WERE SIX.

The Telephone Committee has increased by three. Betty Davis, Louise Healy and Wendy Plummer have joined Jewel Drickamer, Lois Driscoll and Florence Adams. We are responsible for notifying the membership of matters in need of personal or immediate attention. Our thanks to Ginny Berwick who served on this committee until becoming Museum Chairman. Today the Telephone Committee . . . tomorrow, who knows.

Florence Adams

MUSEUM

Edna reports that the following gifts to the Museum were received and accepted in December: **Charles and Elizabeth Horton** -a trapunto quilt,c.1840. **Virginia Berwick** -numerous news articles, OPA ration book coin, Rumford

Co. outing ticket, a Civilian Defense belt and badge and auxiliary Fireman's badge from WWII and advertising postcards.

Bruce Britton-Bliss' "History of Rehobeth", 1957 EP City Directory, a 1923 Rumford cook book and a 1911 Prov. Directory.

Bernard Hurley-a booklet entitled "Squantum-/the Story of Eighty Years and More". **Lew**

Allen-three quilt racks. **Helen Smith**-a copy of the Bird and Son Magazine. **Lowell Anness**-ad-

vertising material. **Walter Anness**-ice pick from Tyler's Ice House in Rumford. **Paul Nel-**

son-two signs from the old Anne Ide Fuller Library when it was on Hawthorne Avenue. **Rumford**

Junior Women's Club, Debbie Booth, Project Chairman-72 essays from EP Jr.High student for the club 1992 "Spirt of Giving" Contest.

The Museum display "Olde East Providence Businesses" will continue until the end of February. Make an appointment to visit or

come down tho the Hunt House on Tuesday mornings between 9 and noon.

Lately we have received pictures and stories relating to the East Prov. Fire and Police Departments including badges and Handcuffs,muster pins and a lantern. Does any one know of the existence of old fire helmets, firefighting equipment, police hats or uniforms from either group? How about an old District Nurse's uniform?

**Virginia Berwick
Museum Chairman**

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)

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership roster has just been updated and I'm happy to welcome new members to our list as of Oct '92. They are:
Austin and Arlene Butterworth ✓
Donald and Virginia Prescott
Jeff and Maria Jenkins ✓
Kathleen R. Pawek
Frances Collins ✓
Ruth and John Alexyon
Genevieve C. Sanford

Another name chart will be pasted at our Jan. 25th meeting for Volunteer Hostess for the months following February. It should be the one and only time of the year you'll be asked to host any meeting. It really only means greeting the members and seeing to it that they receive their badge and take charge of a refreshment committee. It will not be necessary for a Feb. Hostess as we have the Pot Luck Supper on Feb. 22. Please give your support and if unable to attend our next meeting to sign up, please

call me, Madeline Vincent at 434-0481 to chart your name. Thanks.

If you haven't received your membership card for 92-93 Please Call Me.

Madeline Vincent

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Many thanks to all who volunteered, donated and bought items at our Christmas Boutique. It was a smashing success as always. Thank you to all the elves on Wednesday and the "work at home elves", they out did themselves. The talking tree, painters of ornaments, makers of ornaments, craft sales people, food people at the cafe, waiters, waitresses, clean-up, greenery, bake shop, Santa chimney and to any one else we did not mention. Friends one and all, thank you.

Gladys Panzarella

Chair person

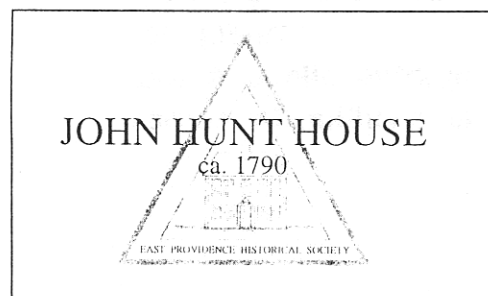
Anne Del Pozzo

Co-Chair person

MARKERS

HISTORICAL MARKERS NOW AVAILABLE. Do you want to have an EPHS marker for your home or special building? Please tell us if you are ready to order a plaque or are seriously interested in having one. We expect to have brochures available at the general meeting, January 25th., which show the design of the marker and will explain the criteria and procedure for obtaining one. We also plan to have the brochures available at other locations including the Hunt House and East Providence libraries. As present, the cost for the marker/plaque will be \$60.00.

**Katherine Rodman
Marker Committee**



EVENTS

A Pot Luck Dinner will take place at the Feb. 22 meeting to be held at Newman Church at 6:00 pm. Everyone is to bring a dish from their own nationality background. We will eat 6:30 pm sharp, after the meal there will be a "Brown Bag Auction" finishing with a meeting. Please bring in your surprise items already in brown bags. The more bags brought in the more fun will be had.

Also don't forget that the PASTA DINNER is to be held on March 27th. Spread the word to friends and relatives. All proceeds go to important East Providence Historical Society projects.

Bill Simpson

Members of the Rhode Island preservation community will gather in Bristol on April 3 for a statewide conference including talks, panel discussions, and workshops.

**SPREAD THE WORD.
HISTORICAL
PRESERVATION
IS
IMPORTANT!**

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