



*John Hunt House*

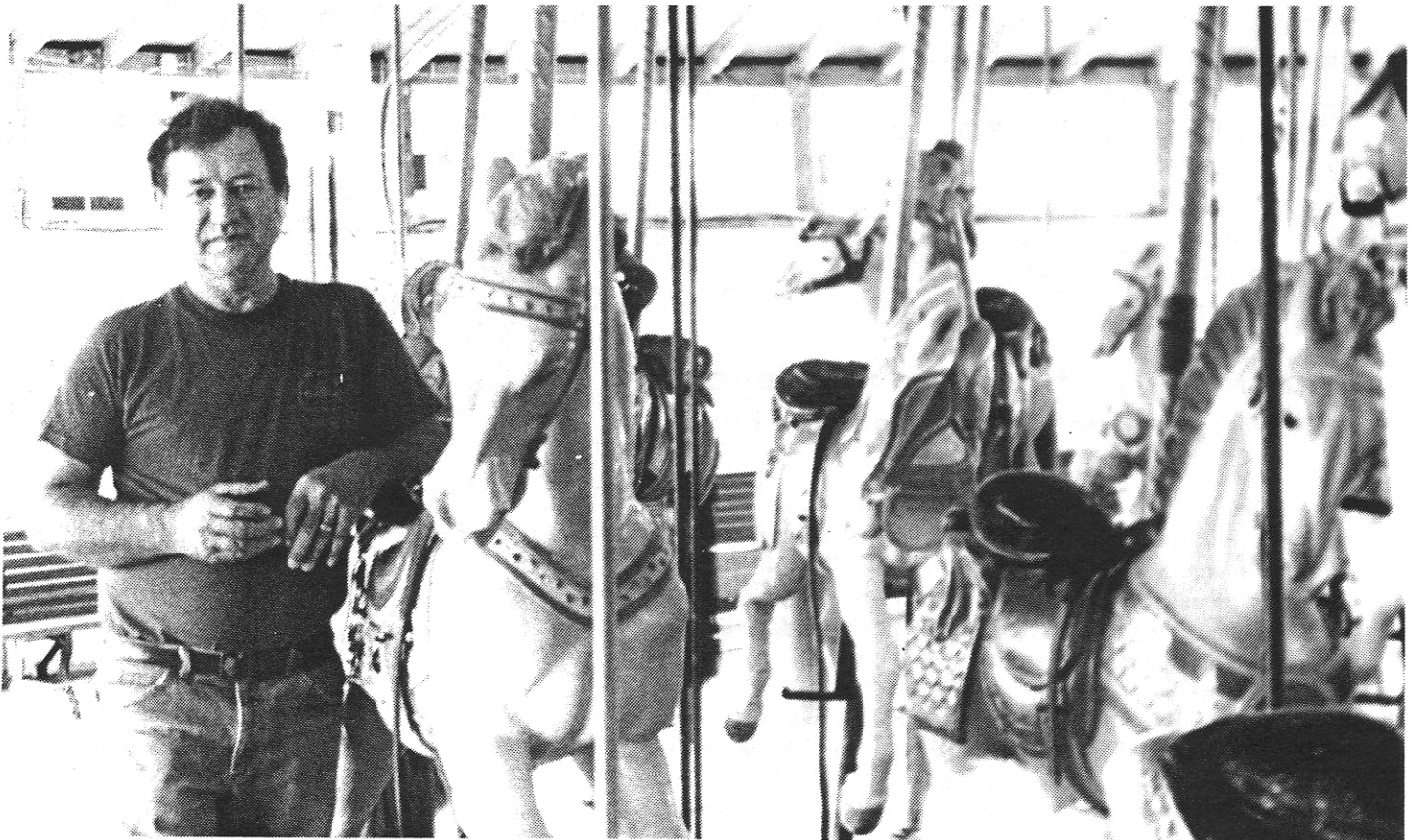
# OLD NEWS

EAST • PROVIDENCE • HISTORICAL • SOCIETY • NEWSLETTER  
VOL. VI NO. 4

NOVEMBER 1993

## CRESCENT PARK REVISITED

**Monday, November 22, 1993 at 7:30 p.m.**  
**Riverside Congregational Church**



**Ed Serowik and some of his famous charges at the historic Looff Carousel**

**Do you remember...the Tumblebug...the Caterpillar...the Pretzel...the Comet  
.....Tango...Magic Carpet...Music by Denishes Band...the Charlie Weygand  
Orchestra....Celia Moreau's Kadets (all-girl) Orchestra.....? ?**

If you do remember . . .please join us on November 22 for an evening of Crescent Park Memories. Our memories will be jogged by **Ed Serowik**, 40 year veteran of the Park and present caretaker of the Looff Carousel. Ed, with the help of some of his friends, will show us some pictures and other memorabilia from the great old fun days of Crescent Park.

All who remember the wonderland at the end of the carline are welcome to share memories with us!

# President's Letter

*Nancy Moore*

It was a heady evening, a members meeting in full swing.....delicious treats on a beautifully set table hosted by **Doris Andrews** and **Ruthie Mitchell**.....supper tickets and raffle tickets selling like hot cakes...green name tags on the fronts of clothing....guest speaker, **Joe MacDougald** recalling his childhood in Rumford and showing off his peachstone carvings.....a sound system that really worked....a short business meeting and over 50 members and guests on hand. If you missed the October meeting, make sure you get to Riverside Congregational Church (on the square) on November 22 for **Ed Serowik** and his seldom seen Crescent Park show.

Those members who heard Joe MacDougald's talk on the growth of the *Wrentham Historical Commission* and the *Wrentham Historical Society* most likely realized how important and influential a strong historical society can be. Appointed groups such as a commission are just a small board with no constituency. It is the society membership which gives breadth and muscle to projects and can push a difficult project like historic district zoning over the top. Joe and his wife, Ruth, both remarked on the strength of our group....giving us high praise for our accomplishments. That praise belongs to you all. See you on November 22!

## **Announcing the East Providence Historical Society Memorial Fund**

At the October meeting, the membership voted to establish the **East Providence Historical Society Memorial Fund**, in memory of all members who have died during our 25 years of existence. The timing was especial poignant with the deaths of **Lew Allen** and **Wendy and Bud Plummer** this summer. The Fund, established "for the betterment of the Society", has no specific purpose but will be administered by the Board under policy guidelines to be accepted and voted by the membership. These policies will set up the Fund as a qualified endowment, with full use of the interest and up to 50% of the principle. If any member unable to attend the October meeting has questions or concerns about the policies, please speak to a Board member before November 10. Any member or resident wishing to donate to this Fund may do so now by sending that donation to:

**The East Providence Historical Society  
Memorial Fund  
P.O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI 02916**

**SPECIAL THANKS** to The Public Works Dept. and **Julie Forge** for quick attention to the deteriorating roadway in front of Hunt House. The road was repaired within a week after it was brought to the attention of the City!

## **O L D E N E W S**

is published monthly by  
The East Providence Historical Society  
Editor.....George Adams  
EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 4774  
East Providence, RI 02916  
(401) 438-1750

### OFFICERS

President	Nancy Moore
1st Vice President	Kristine Rose
2nd Vice President	Edna Anness
Recording Secretary	Don Brothers
Corresponding Secretary	Lura Sellew
Treasurer	Rose Marie Sirenski

### COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Buildings/Grounds	Walter Vincent
Markers	Kris Rose
Membership	Madeline Vincent
Museum	Virginia Berwick
Newsletter	George Adams
Publicity	Florence Adams

### COMING EVENTS

#### NOVEMBER

**Wednesday, November 10**  
**Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Hunt House**

**Monday, November 22**  
**Members Meeting 7:30 p.m.**  
**Riverside Congregational Church**  
**"Crescent Park Remembered"**  
**Ed Serowik, guest speaker**

#### DECEMBER

**Sunday, December 5**  
**10:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m.**  
**"CHRISTMAS AT HUNT HOUSE"**

**Monday December 20**  
**7:30 Hunt House**  
**Christmas Party**

## **O L D E N E W S**

is printed at

**PRONTO PRINT**  
1062 Willett Ave., East Providence

# NEWS FLASH!!!

**BRIDGHAM FARM** is yours, East Providence!.....To walk, birdwatch, find animal tracks, watch the leaves turn, sit on the banks of the Reservoir, hug a 400 year old tree, dance a jig in the delight of SO MUCH OPEN SPACE!

Thanks to the **East Providence Land Conservation Trust** and our own Preservation Committee members, **Nancy Moore** and **Bill Simpson**, the land was closed on October 27 after 8 years of "hanging in there". This historic piece of land is safe on its 350th birthday and the Society had a part in making that happen. Thank you for keeping vigil all these years....sometimes it just takes patience. And for those of you who wish to help the Land Trust safeguard this land by helping with management costs, please send your contributions to:

**Bridgeham Farm Stewardship Fund  
East Providence Land Conservation Trust  
PO Box 16201  
East Providence, RI 02916**

## EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MARKER PROGRAM

**Your home may be eligible for a MARKER.**

Any building in the City of East Providence which contributes to the historical development or architectural character of the city is eligible to be considered for a historical marker.

Help promote an appreciation of the heritage of East Providence.

Send the coupon below to:

**The Marker Program  
East Providence Historical Society  
P.O. Box 4774  
East Providence, RI 02916-4774**

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I am interested in receiving information about the East Providence Marker Program

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

*Madeline Vincent*  
Membership Chairman

Our membership is continuing to grow with 2 new members joining us at the October meeting, bring the total to 124 memberships....the actual member count is much larger.

We welcome **Martha Tourtellot** and **Pat Henry** to the Society.

Those people who have mentioned that they'd like to host one of the meetings, please call me at 434-0481, for your date of choice.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS are available at all functions, in the newsletter and by request.

## MUSEUM GIFTS

*Virginia Berwick*  
Musum Chairman

### October Gifts to Museum:

**Bill Rix** - 2 Posters. 1 framed, of "Rumford the Wholesome Baking Powder"

**Burt and Doris Chace** - 1960 *Crimson*, soda bottle, E.P. medicine bottle, Watchemoket.

**Caroline Hurdis - Harriett Briggs** - 1918/19 *Crimsons*, History of Weaver Library.

**Barbara Nelson** - *The Works*(Rumford Newsletter)

**Hiram Wood** - Dedication of Washington Bridge.

**Al Hutchinson** - Oleo Factory

Loans from **Yeaws, Dick Deasy and Edna Anness.**

**Attention: Public Hearing  
Roger Williams Avenue Reconstruction  
Thursday, November 18, 1993  
3:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
East Providence City Hall Rm. 306**

On display will be aerial maps showing buildings, wetland areas, landscaping features, property lines, topography, historical properties and other sensitive environmental areas. The Department of Transportation intends to solicit as much local input as possible.

During the open hearing period, project engineers and landscape architects will be present to answer questions and concerns. A brief presentation will be given at 6:30 p.m. A court stenographer will be present to record verbal comments. WRITTEN comments will be accepted throughout the evening and by mail through December 20. **All residents and other concerned citizens are encouraged to attend!**

Anyone unable to attend the hearing may inspect the mapping at the DOT by appointment only. Call **J. Michael Bennett** at 277-2023.

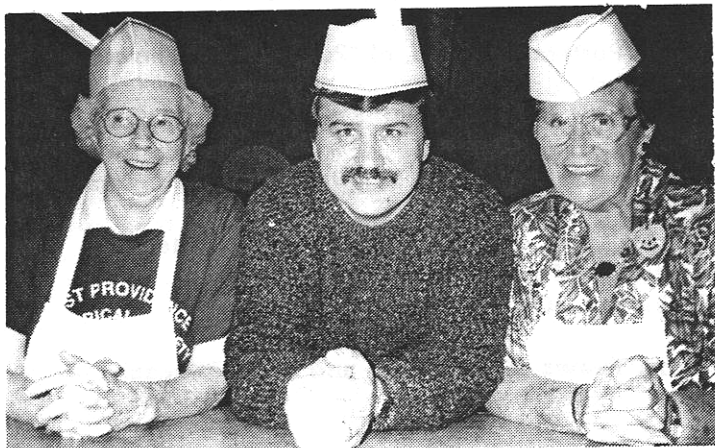
## BUILDING RESTORATION

*Walter Vincent*  
Chairman, Building Committee

In getting back to our projects, the deck is one to take note of. This has been a great accomplishment for **Don Brothers** and **Austin Butterworth**. They certainly should be very proud of their professional job. Well done, guys! Cant wait to have our coffee break on the new deck in the spring....which might mean the need for a few lounge chairs out there!

After scrounging around through **Bill Rix's** lumber pile for about 1 1/2 hours, **Charlie Jackson** and I finally found 2 needed boards the right size for the bedroom floor wir repairing upstairs. Of course the boards being of solid mahogany didn't faze us in the least to use on the floor. That should bring up the value of the house a bit, huh? The installation of the windows is still in progress and will continue for some time.

In your travels, drive by the Hunt House to see the new deck and the downstairs windows.



Serve-Up Crew, **Ginnie Berwick, Jim Rose and Billie Arden**

## THE AUTUMN SUPPER

*Florence Adams*  
Pie Recruiter

There were 4 long rows of tables with 5 centerpieces each. And such centerpieces! 19 butternut squashes standing upright, each on a bed of varied and colorful leaves....each with a varied and colorful face. One refused to stand, so in the horizontal position became a skunk!.....the work of artists **Lura Sellew** and **Ginny Berwick**.

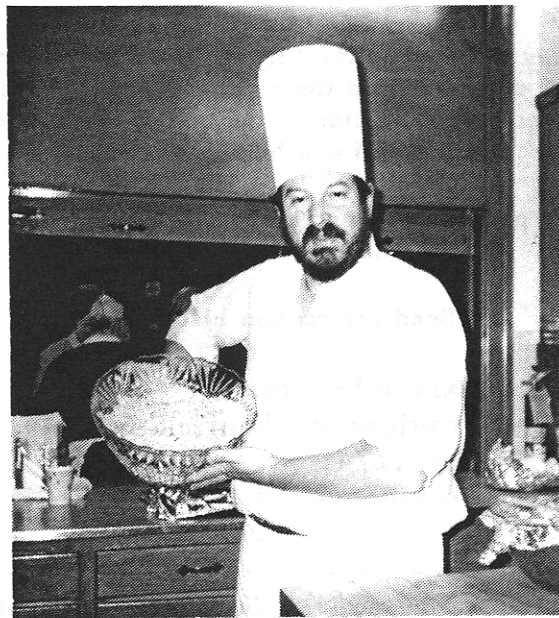
Ham, beans, coleslaw, brown bread (not enough to meet the demand), rolls beverages and pie....was the menu overseen by **Dan Moore**, Chef de Cuisine and fun person in the kitchen.

The FRIENDLY MIXERS, square dancers including Society members, **Walter and Madeline Vincent** and callers **Roger and Peggy Dufault** got everybody up for some DOSIDO before the evening was over.

A special thanks to the 17 pie bakers and to the telephone committee who solicited their donations. Home baked pies continue to be the #1 favorite dessert.

The set-up, serve-up and clean-up crews deserve our special appreciation.

From all reports, everyone had a great time. There is much sentiment for square dancing to accompany the Autumn Supper next year. In the meantime, we look forward to the participation of all in the next major fund raising meal....the PASTA SUPPER, March 12 at Newman Church. Perhaps a strolling violin and accordion? Mama Mia!



**Dan Moore**, Chef de Cuisine

For MORE Good Food...  
come to  
Christmas at Hunt House  
Sunday, December 5



# CHRISTMAS at HUNT HOUSE

**Sunday December 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**  
**Holiday Cafe 11:00 to 3:00**  
Serving home made soups, bread, beverages and dessert.

**Sales of crafts, foods, wreaths, greens and plants!**  
**and**  
**Special Rumford Chemical Anniversary Souvenirs.**



**Come and Enjoy a Traditional Hunt House Christmas**

### **The East Providence Historical Society**

is dedicated to preserving the heritage and enjoying the history of our city.

If you are not a member, we invite you to join now.

Annual dues are: \$10 per year, individual or \$15 per year, family.

Please make your check payable to **East Providence Historical Society**  
and mail with coupon below to:

**Madeline Vincent, membership**  
**45 Priscilla Av.**  
**Rumford, RI 02916**

### **EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

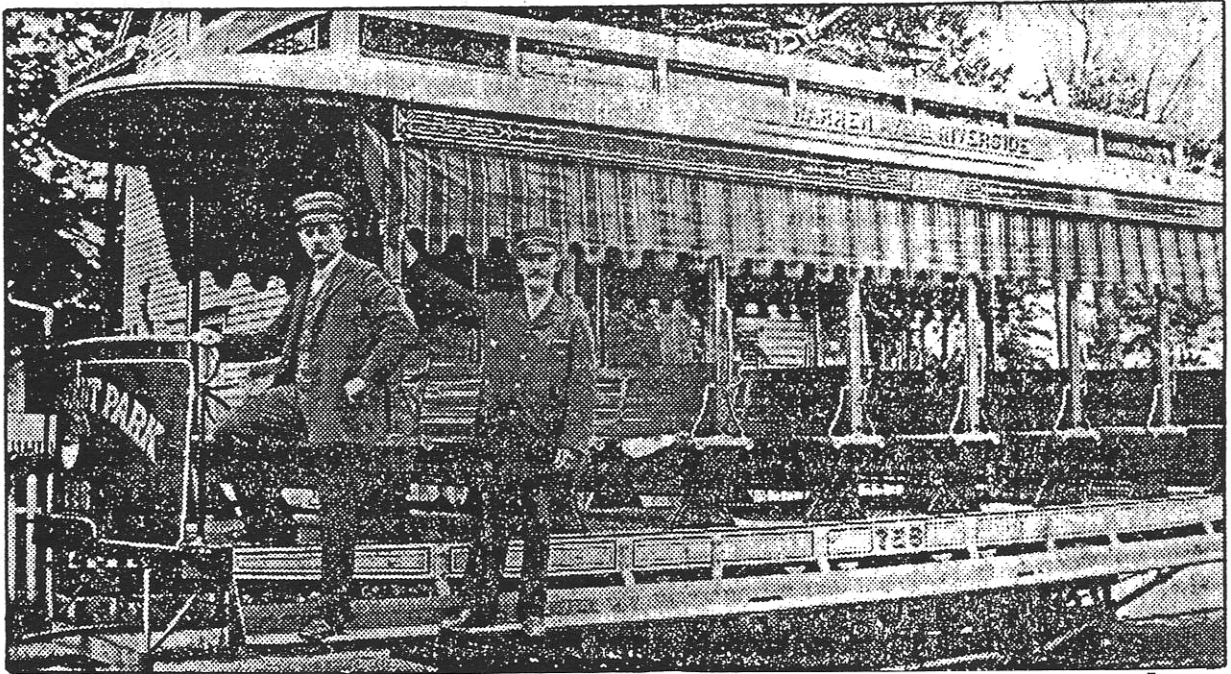
Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ @ 10.00 individual, 15.00 family

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## Crescent Park Streetcar 1903

Tell the conductor to let you off at the corner  
of Bullocks Point and Oak....on November 22