



John Hunt House

OLD NEWS

EAST•PROVIDENCE•HISTORICAL•SOCIETY•NEWSLETTER

VOL. VI NO. 10

MAY 1994

COMING MAY 23

The Grand Movie Palaces of East Providence

Hollywood & Lyric

A Special Memories Roundtable featuring . .

☆ Joe Jarvis ☆

Monday, May 23, 7:30 p.m., Riverside Congregational Church.

Join us at the regular meeting of the **East Providence Historical Society** for one of our popular "Memories Roundtables"...this one a free-for-all recalling of the pre-TV entertainment we enjoyed.....

MOVIES! at the *Hollywood and Lyric* (later *Gilbert Stuart*)...Our recollections will be assisted by **Joe Jarvis**, a movie exhibitor for more than fifty years and presently owner/operator of the *Jane Pickens Theatre* in Newport.



Joe, who signed his 1940 *CRIMSON Yearbook*, "**Joe, the Hollywood Man**" started as an usher at the *Hollywood Theatre* in 1937, later becoming manager. He operated the *Lyric* in Riverside, which was later renamed *The Gilbert Stuart*. He managed the *Four Seasons* in Seekonk when it first opened and eventually bought the *Strand Theatre* in Newport, which he renamed the *Jane Pickens* in honor of the actress, who lived in that city.



Joe, the Hollywood Manlooks back at the Hollywood of 50 years ago

President's Letter

Nancy Moore

This Society is indebted to its museum curator, **Edna Anness**, for her splendid talk on the history of the Rumford Company at our April meeting. Not only did she arrange the tour of the factory beforehand, but she was pressed into service as speaker at the last moment when our scheduled speaker had to bow out. It is obvious that we have our own highly qualified Rumford historian, and her remarks, plus the tour, put this entire year of the Rumford exposition into clear perspective. Thanks also to **Fales Pierce** for his remarks along the tour route. They added a very human touch to wood, glass, and bricks. There were others also who shared with us their memories and we appreciate their reminiscences. Thanks go also to **Les Haworth** and **Bill Hardy** for opening their businesses to us.

A very special thanks to **Mona Breault**, **Pat Henry** (single handedly) and **Mary McManus** for the decorations, treats, and HOT COFFEE for those of us who got chilled on the tour. These members graciously accomodated our schedule changes and even managed to make the tour themselves. And again, **Ginny Berwick** came through with another cake - what a woman!

From the meeting comes the news that **Billie Arden** and the Beautification Committee, plus the City Parks Department, wish to begin planning the landscaping for Hunt House and the Hunts Mills entrance. That is welcome news indeed and means that the Society needs to put together a group to help research appropriate plantings. If you are interested in this project, please call Nancy Moore at 438-4299.

On May 3, members of the **Rumford Home Garden Club** re-beautified the small plot of ground surrounding the sign in front of the Hunt House, cleaning the area and replacing the old plants with *pansies*, *forget-me-nots*, *feverfew*, *snapdragons* and others.

Thanks to **Lura Sellew** and her **R.H. G.B.** buddies for their generous contribution of plants and GREEN THUMBS!



OLDE NEWS

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	Kristine Rose
Membership	Madeline Vincent
Museum	Virginia Berwick
Newsletter	George Adams
Publicity	Florence Adams

COMING EVENTS

MAY

May 1 - 28
"140 YEARS of BAKING POWDER HISTORY"
Exhibition, Sat./Sun. 1-4 p.m. Tue./Thu. 9-12
Hunt House

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

Monday, May 23
Members Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Riverside Congregational Church
Memories Roundtable ...
The Grand Movie Palaces...
Hollywood & Lyric
Joe Jarvis, guest speaker

JUNE

Wednesday, June 14
Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Hunt Hoouse

Monday, June 27
Annual Meeting & Family Picnic
5:00 p.m. Hunts Mills

OLDE NEWS
is printed at

PRONTO PRINT
1062 Willett Ave., East Providence

140 YEARS OF BAKING POWDER HISTORY ..The EXHIBIT ..

Edna Anness, Project Director

The Exhibit opened Sunday, May 1....everything went very smoothly except for the WEATHER. As 1 o'clock drew close the skies crackled with lightning and thunder and the clouds opened up with a deluge. Considering the weather, attendance was good.

Walter Vincent manned the Pump House, Nancy Moore and Madeline Vincent tended the Rumford Store, Clint Sellew, the Museum Room, Earl Berwick, the Parlor and Lura Sellew and Rose Marie Sirenski "floated"

The PUMP HOUSE was open (and will open again on May 14) and we thank Mr. Lamont and Ken Booth for permitting the building to be open.

Among the visitors were Donna Lee, food editor of the *Providence Journal-Bulletin*, Louise Tetreault, writer for the *Times* and Tom Roberts, Executive Director of the *Rhode Island Committee for the Humanities*.

As we locked up at 4 o'clock, the sun broke through in all its glory!

The Exhibit will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and Saturdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m.... We still need more volunteers to tend the exhibits...so PLEASE CALL!

THE RUMFORD PROJECT

The Exhibit and special Rumford programs were over a year in the making. The first meeting of the Rumford Project Committee was in March 1993. and consisted of members of the Board, Restoration Committee and Museum Committee, plus the publicity chairman, newsletter editor and membership committee members. The cooperation was absolutely super. The phone lines were jangling between George, Florence, Virginia, Madeline and myself with all the others springing into action for the Rumford Roundtable, Mr. Hippleheuser's visit, Dr. Jones' lecture and the April meeting.

Some memories will live forever.....Dave and his video in September 1993....snow, sleet and gales for Mr. Hippleheuser's visit....freezing on the tour of the plant.....eating our way through delicious food and desserts... Ginnie's CAKES....all those CANS arriving from Terre Haute....stuffing the cookbooks with Clint's history sheet...George getting up at 4 a.m., on too many mornings to recall, to get out all the required copy on the computer..Florence..edit, edit, edit.....Martha scraping ALL those windows...Earl buried in sawdust in his garage turning out display stands...Earl, Jr. and Walt Anness.."do you guys have a minute to move a little something?!"...Virginia burning up the miles and the phone lines..run, run, run...Madeline and her familiar query "How many do we expect?"...Walter and Don adjusting their work schedule around the display....Lura swimming in red ink...Louise sitting through all our programs and that great *Times* front page... Dr. Jones driving 240 miles to educate us...Mr. Hippleheuser flying thousands of miles to meet us... »

» ...Jane and the 'Humanities Committee' always just a phone call away for advice....and Les, with always a little more shelf room too sell our cans and cookbooks.

It has been a GREAT year... and all of you...everyone deserves a lot of thanks and appreciation.

AND....Lest We Forget (ed.)... OUR TIRELESS LEADER...



Baking Powder Queen, Edna Anness, whose energy and ebullient enthusiasm inspired ALL !

The East Providence Historical Society will participate in the May Annual Meeting of the League of Rhode Island Historical Societies which is being held in East Providence on Saturday May 14.

The program will begin at 9 a.m. at the Newman Congregational Church. The group will be greeted by Nancy Moore president of the Society. There will be a short history of East Providence and a history of the Rumford Company, with slides, presented by Edna Anness.

Following the meeting, Betty Davis will give a tour of the Newman Congregational Church which has recently celebrated its 350th Anniversary. Lunch will be served at 12:15. Cost of lunch is \$12.50.

From 1:30 to 3:30 a tea and open house will be held at the John Hunt House. The "140 Years of Baking Powder History" exhibition will be open as will the Pump House.

Maps will be provided for a self-guided tour of the Rumford Chemical Works and historic Rumford homes.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Virginia Berwick, *Chairman*
Louise Healy
Pat Henry
Helen Smith

Section IV of the Standing Rules and Procedures states: "The Nominating Committee shall be responsible for presenting a slate of candidates for elected office at the May members meeting for the ensuing year. NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR SHALL BE ACCEPTED AT THE MAY MEETING ONLY"

The Nominating Committee recommends the following candidates for your consideration;

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

Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting/Picnic Monday June 27, John Hunt House.

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Florence Adams, *Chairman*
Rose Marie Sirenski
Helen Smith

Traditionally, and in accordance with the bylaws, dues are payable at the Annual Meeting in June.

It was suggested that dues be payable on the anniversary month of joining. This would result in improved record keeping and would conform to the method used by most organizations and magazine and newspaper subscriptions.

According to Article VII, Sections 1, 2 and 3 "Proposed amendments to the bylaws shall be presented to The Bylaws Committee. The Bylaws Committee shall present its recommendations to the Board of Directors for approval and recommendation to the membership. A vote of two thirds (2/3) of the members in good standing, present and voting at a regular meeting shall be required for passage of any amendment(s), provided that notice of such amendment(s) shall have been mailed, first class postage prepaid, to each member at least two (2) weeks before the meeting when such amendment(s) is to be acted upon. >>>

>>>PROPOSED:

Change Article III, Section 3 to read.... "Dues shall be paid annually. Effective June 1994, the month of initial membership shall be considered the anniversary due date"
Article III, Section 5.... "Any member whose dues payments are in arrears after 30 days shall be dropped from the membership list after written notification by the Membership Chairman.

The amendment will be voted at the members meeting Monday, May 23.

MUSEUM REPORT

Virginia Berwick
Museum Chairman

GIFTS RECEIVED

Ted and Barbara Adams - Oil painting of the Pump House (painted by Ted).

Sophie Allen - Rumford Cookbook, in Swedish.

Virginia Berwick - Photographs.

Marilyn Brewer - First edition 1908 Rumford cookbook, old 1 lb. Rumford tin.

Doris Chace - Large collection of Rumford Chemical Works photographs.

Edward and Marian Coop - Office equipment from Rumford Chemical Works, including paper memorabilia used by Milton Miner.

Joyce Gomes - Collection of Rumford Chemical Works photographs.

Dr. and Mrs. Karl Holst - Large collection of Rumford Company artifacts from Company museum, photographs of departments, complete set of cookbooks, tools, papers, etc.

Howard Mersereau - East Providence Police brass uniform button, 1908.

Clint Sellew - Rumford Co. notebook.

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. Dues are \$10.00, individual or \$15.00, family.

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

Madeline Vincent, membership
45 Priscilla Avenue
Rumford, RI 02916

NAME (s) _____

STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____ @ 10.00 individual 15.00 family

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Madeline Vincent
Membership Chairman

We welcome the following new members to the Society:

Raymond & Paula Anderson
Bertrand L. Choiniere
Edward & Marion Coop
Donald & Nancy Doucette
Alfred & Janice Hutchinson
Albert & Phyllis Kirkman
Rhonda Marzetta
Isabelle Rich
Wallace & Joan Saleeba
Robert J. Tefft, Jr.
Robert & Barbara Tewksbury
Patricia Thacker
Lou & Gloria Tomasso

THANKS to our April hostesses, Pat Henry, Mona Breault and Mary McManus for fine service at the April 25 meeting, splendid in the colorful Rumford aprons, made by Pat.

The balloon decked hall added to the finishing touches.

√ REMINDER

1994/95 Dues are payable now....
and are **due** by June 27.

(note: if the bylaws change relating to annual dues, described on page 4, is approved, all 1994/95 dues paid by June 27 will be considered paid on July 1.)

Please make check payable to:
East Providence Historical Society
and mail, with coupon below, to:
Madeline Vincent, membership
45 Priscilla Avenue
Rumford, RI 02916

EAST·PROVIDENCE·HISTORICAL·SOCIETY
PLEASE RENEW the MEMBERSHIP OF:

Name(s) _____

\$ _____ enclosed
10- individual, 15- family

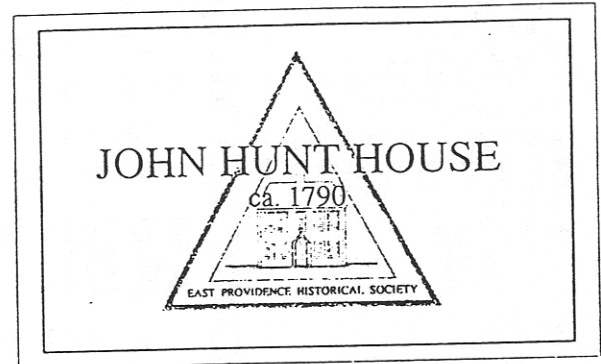
Dont Miss . . . 140 YEARS OF BAKING POWDER HISTORY

John Hunt House
Sundays and Saturdays 1 - 4 p.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 a.m. - 12 noon
Through May 28



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

Send the coupon below to:

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

East Providence, RI 02916
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 EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 OLD NEWS

JOHN E. NOWLAN *Presents*
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 AL DONAHUE
 AND HIS ORCHESTRA
 and with Paula Kelly and Phil Brito
 BEA WAIN
 Star of the "Hit Parade"
acts from New York & Hollywood
 Hours of Sparkling Entertainment

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"MEN WITHOUT SOULS"

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 JOHN LITEL—ROCHELLE HUDSON

ON THIS PAGE
 FOR FRIDAY'S
 SHOW

DANCING

Keeps You Young!
 Renews Your Youth!

RHODES

Is THE Place
TONIGHT

SAT. MARCH 23

In Person

EDDY

DUCHIN

AND HIS ORCHESTRA
 8 to 12—Adm. 50c plus tax

ARCADIA

BALLROOM

DINING
 from \$1.25
 NEVER A
 COVER
 CHARGE
NARRAGA
 PROV. "W"

METROPOLITAN THEATRE
 FRI., APRIL 5 at 8:30

NELSON EDDY

Tickets 1.65, 2.20, 2.75, 3.30, 3.85
 At AVERY PIANO CO.,
 256 Weybosset St.—9:30 to 5

FAYS

WHERE
 THERE
 IS
 ALWAYS
 A GOOD
 SHOW

NAITTO FAMILY
 In Breath-Taking Aerial

Hollywood
 TRUNTON AVE. EAST PROV.

Wednesday Revue Day

JAMES STEWART—JEAN ARTHUR in
 "MR. SMITH GOES TO WASHINGTON"
 WILL ROGERS—IRWIN COBB in
 "STEAMBOAT ROUND THE BEND"

The LYRIC Theater

RIVERSIDE, R. I.
 WED., THURS.,
 "MUSIC IN MY HEART"
 Tony Martin Rita Hayward
 "LITTLE ACCIDENT"
 Baby Sandy Richard Carlson

From Providence Evening Bulletin Theatre Page, March 20, 1940.
 (see the **WHOLE PAGE** at the May 23 Meeting!)