

John Hunt House

# OLD DE NEWS

EAST • PROVIDENCE • HISTORICAL • SOCIETY

VOL. VII NO.3

OCTOBER, 1994

## “A Walk Through History”.....



Museum docent **Gladys Panzarella** showed costumed 5th graders from the Silver Spring School how to make and use 18th century toys and games in a “practice run” in June.

The October session of the “Walk Through History” started this month with visits to the schools and further explanation of the printed materials with lectures and slides. It will be followed up by tours of the Hunt House and Bridgham Farm later in the month.

Coordinated by **David Kelleher**, the program includes slide-lectures by **Edna Anness**, a demonstration of the making and use of 18th century toys and period costumes by **Gladys Panzarella**, assisted by husband, **Steve** and tours of Bridgham Farm by **Nancy Moore**.

Volunteers from the Society and the East Providence Land Conservation Trust will assist with the tours.

The members meeting on October 24 will feature a description of the events this month and a demonstration of the Hunt House program with Gladys, costumes, toys and all! Come play some 18th Century games!

Historical Society Meeting  
Monday, October 24, 7:30 p.m.  
at Weaver Library

presenting a demonstration of the  
5th grade childrens program.....  
sponsored by the Society and  
funded by a grant from the  
*Feinstein Foundation* .

The  
East•Providence•Historical•Society's

Famous

## Ham and Bean Supper



Saturday, October 29, 6:00 p.m.  
Newman Congregational Church

Home Baked Pies  
Brown Bag Auction

Donation: Adults - \$6.00, Children under 12 - \$3.00

Information and Reservations: 438-1750 or 437-1530

# President's Letter

Nancy Moore

It seems that election years bring a special opportunity to groups such as ours which value heritage and preservation. Once again, we as a public are being asked to fund the 1994 Historic Preservation Bond Issue (# 6 on the ballot). This bond issue would provide \$3 million in grants to historical organizations such as the EPHS and municipalities that own historic structures, and \$1.5 million in revolving loans to private owners. Studies of past monies spent on preservation show that this \$4.5 million will have the effect of producing \$10 million worth of work for the building trades and related businesses.

One of the responsibilities that we as Society members must assume is to tell our friends and neighbors how important this bond issue is to our Society and to society in general. We must talk about the need to protect for our grandchildren the treasures we now have like the Hunt House and the Carrousel, and the need to vote monies to save other buildings like the Pump House and Weaver House. We also know from first hand experience that preservation does bring in tourism monies so spending money on preservation is most sensible.

Please spread the word and make sure you vote YES! on Issue 6.

## OLDE NEWS

Welcomes articles, reminiscences and recollections, commentary, poetry, photographs, drawings, etc. relating to East Providence and East Providence history, for publication in our newsletter.

**Original** material is preferred....**Re-prints** will be considered only if they are in the *public domain* or with the *written* consent of the copyright owner.

Those who submit text on a 3.5" "floppy disk" (ascii text, MS DOS, Mac, etc.) will win the affectionate regards of the editor....our typing staff is of humble competence!

Photos and art work may be in color or black and white (flat art 3 X 5 or larger preferred), negative or slide. VHS or normal 8mm videotape from which a still frame may be captured is acceptable also.

Please call the editor, George Adams, at (401) 437-1530 to discuss the material that you would like to submit, or take a chance and mail it..... 3632 Pawtucket Ave, Riverside, RI 02915-4215

DEADLINE FOR REPORTS and TIME VALUE INFORMATION IS THE FRIDAY FOLLOWING the MEMBERS MEETING (4th Monday)

## 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	Elizabeth Soderlund
Corresponding Secretary	Lura Sellev
Treasurer	Rose Marie Sirenski

### COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Buildings/Grounds	Walter Vincent
Markers	Kristine Rose
Membership	Madeline Vincent
Museum	Virginia Berwick
Newsletter	George Adams
Preservation	Leslie Haworth
Publicity	Florence Adams

### COMING EVENTS

#### OCTOBER

Monday, October 24  
Members Meeting 7:30 p.m.  
Weaver Library  
"A Walk Through History"

Saturday, October 29  
6:00 p.m.  
HAM and BEAN SUPPER  
Newman Congregational Church

#### NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 6  
Open House on Support of Bond Issue  
1 - 4 p.m. Hunt House

Wednesday, November 9  
Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Hunt House

Saturday, November 12  
HOLIDAY GIFT & TREASURE SALE  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Hunt House

## OLDE NEWS

is printed at



1062 Willett Avenue, Riverside

**Virginia Berwick**  
*Museum Chairman*

*Clint Sellew*

**Gifts Received in September**

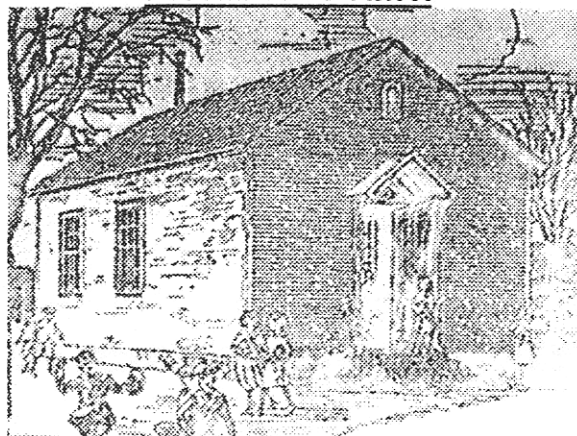
- Elmer and Hope Yeaw** - 1924 class picture from James Street School and East Providence emergency phone card, ca. 1940
- Marilyn Brewer** - Scrapbook kept by Marilyn while a student at East Providence High School.
- Charles Tebbetts** - 2 copies "News of the Old Home Town", photo of Armington House, Armington family genealogy and local news clippings.
- Judith Sharpe** - Swedish language Rumford wooden box.
- Bob Bosworth** - Antique parasol.
- Howard Mersereau** - WWII ration book in case.
- George and Beverly Chalko** - Antique caned chair, Bennington bowl, brown jug, bread baker, coal shovel, copper box and Toleware.
- Donald Boyden** - Model of steam launch built by *Judkins showcase Co. and Boat Works*, Hunts Mills, a 1902 article about the Wonkituk Boat Club on the Ten Mile River, with articles of co-partnership listing J. Boyden as a partner, Canoe Club clippings including one about the disbanding in 1915 and a poem card.
- Bruce Soderlund** - Brass plate from launch made by *Judkins Co.*, late 19th century map showing buildings owned by the *Richmond Paper Co.* (Coincidentally, the brass plate arrived 4 days after the launch model, both from the *Judkins Co.*. We did not know that the company made boats as well as showcases. Mr. Boyden and Mr. Soderlund did not know each other!)
- Thomas Poland** - Carton of old books and historically significant booklets.... "News of The Old Home Town", East Providence Annual Reports, maps, etc.

We also thank **Fales Peirce**, who donated several Rumford Acid Phosphate bottles for sale, and the **American Office Furniture and Systems Center** in the Rumford Building for a great 4 drawer filing cabinet which we promptly moved into!

**DECEMBER 4**

**Children's Christmas at Hunt House**  
 opens with reception and tea, 1 - 3 p.m.  
 Sundays, December 4 - 18  
 featuring handcrafted toys by  
 Wendy and the late Elliott "Bud" Plummer

Runnins River School



A small school building of a style typical of many at the turn of the century stood slightly back from the Wampanoag Trail near the junction of Mink Street and River Rd., not far from the "Rhulin's" River Bridge as it is written in the old Colonial records. It was later called "Runen's" and now called "Runnins".

As early as 1699 there was a schoolhouse in that section. At the town meeting of March 28 of that year, Jonathan Bosworth was 'confirmed' as schoolmaster for the year and instructed to begin teaching, "ye second month on *New Meadow Neck*", and in 1730 it was voted that the school be kept three months at the *New Meadow Neck*.

From that time until the territory was transferred from Seekonk to the Town of East Providence, a school was maintained there, although attendance was very limited. East Providence school authorities kept the school in operation until 1886, when it was decided to close it and the pupils were transferred to schools either at Armington's Corner or Willett Ave. in Riverside.

In 1898 the school population increased to such a number that the school committee, under Judge George N. Bliss, superintendent, decided to reopen the schoolhouse and it remained open until the mid twenties.

(source: Providence Evening Bulletin, 1925)

*(Clint Sellew has for many years been collecting historical information about Rhode Island and East Providence.....some of it important...some trivial... ALL of it interesting. He has agreed to share it with O L D E N E W S readers.. This is the first of what it is hoped are MANY contributions. Ed.)*

Small items are needed for  
Gift and Treasure Sale

knick-knacks...jewelry...whatever  
please bring to the Hunt House  
Tuesday or Thursday, 9 - 12  
or call Lura Sellew 434-8961

FROM the PRESIDENT'S DESK.....

*Nancy Moore*

Did you miss our first meeting and the fascinating talk given by US Park Ranger Suzanne Buchanon about the Blackstone Valley Heritage Corridor (in which we sit!)? Well, we can't make up for Suzanne's very special presentation, but she did leave with us the 15 minute video "Making Things Work", a beautiful, educational visit to the Blackstone area, and lots of information which you can check out at Hunt House on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 to 12:00

FREE OPEN HOUSES: FREE OPEN HOUSES:

Is there an old Rhode Island treasure of a house you've always wanted to visit? Our own treasure, the John Hunt House, will be open on Sunday, November 6 from 1-4pm as part of the state-wide 1994 Historic Preservation Open House. Free simultaneous open houses will occur all over the State in support of the Historic Preservation Bond Issue #6. The EPHS welcomes this opportunity to educate the public about its past restoration work and its goals. Please call the RI Historical Society at 331-8575 for a list of houses you may visit.

**PASSAGE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOND  
ISSUE #6 WILL MEAN JOBS, HOUSING, AND RESCUE  
OF COMMUNITY LANDMARKS**

Passage of Historic preservation Bond Issue #6 will authorize \$4.5 million in new funding for preservation projects throughout the state. "Those projects will create jobs, provide housing, revitalize communities, rescue community landmarks and support Rhode Island's billion-dollar tourism industry," explains Al Klyberg, Executive Director of the Rhode Island Historical Society and Chair of the Historic Preservation Bond Issue Steering Committee.

If approved by voters, the Historic Preservation Bond Issue will provide \$3 million for grants and loans to restore historic buildings and sites owned by non-profit organizations, municipalities, and the State.

It will also provide \$1.5 million to the Historical Preservation Revolving Fund. The Revolving Fund makes loans which assist non-profit organizations, cities and towns, and individuals to preserve and restore endangered historic properties and to revitalize historic neighborhoods by rehabilitating housing and commercial properties. As the loans are repaid, the funds are used to make new loans.

"The Historic Preservation Bond Issue Steering Committee is urging everyone to vote for the bond issue because PRESERVATION WORKS!" says Klyberg.

East•Providence•Historical•Society

# Annual Gift and Treasure Sale

Saturday, November 12  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

John Hunt House  
Hunts Mills Road

- handmade items
- crafts
- plants

Rumford Cans & Cookbooks

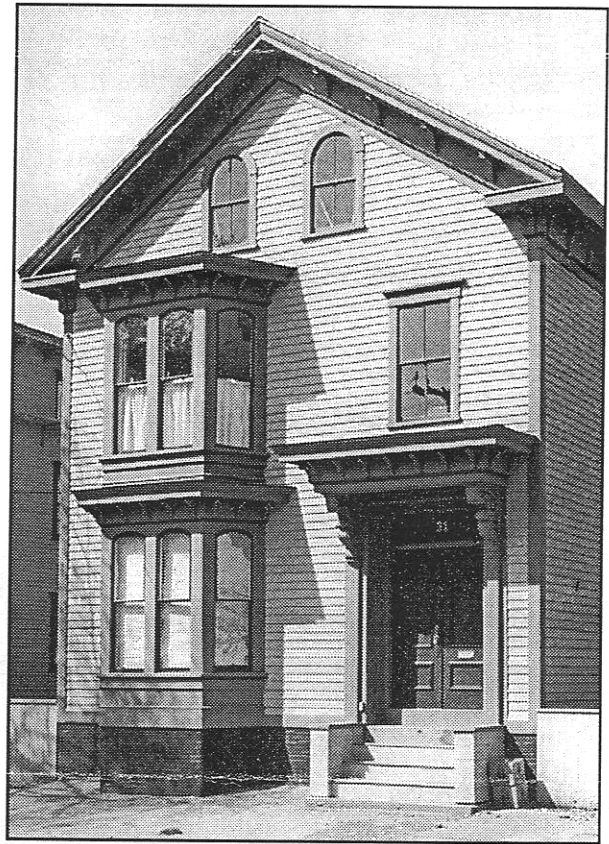
*Holiday*  
**CAFÉ**

*Homemade Soups*  
*Bread*  
*Beverages*  
*Desserts*



VOTE YES ON #6

# ***PRESERVATION WORKS!!***



Your vote for the Historic Preservation Bond Issue  
is a vote for **Jobs, Housing** and **Heritage**.

**On November 8th  
Vote YES on #6**

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Providence, RI  
Permit # 2712

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EAST-PROVIDENCE-HISTORICAL-SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 4774  
East Providence, RI 02916



## The Historic East Providence Clock II

1943...it had migrated from Watchemoket Square to Riverside Square  
Next Month...Where is it Now? We know...do you?

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