

L. DIANA McLEAN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF SOCIETY

NEW EXECUTIVE BOARD INSTALLED AT JULY MEETING



NEW BOARD: (l-r) Gladys Panzarella, *Corresponding Secretary*; Leslie Haworth, *1st Vice President*; Diana McLean, *President*; Rose Marie Sirenski, *Treasurer*; Elizabeth Soderlund, *Recording Secretary*; Lura Sellew, *2nd Vice President*.

East Providence native **L. Diana McLean** was elected President of the East Providence Historical Society at the Annual Meeting on June 26th, and installed at the Directors meeting on July 12th.

Diana is presently Executive Director of the East Providence Chamber of Commerce, of which she is past president.

She is also past president of the East Bay Mental Health Center, General Federation of Women's Clubs of Rhode Island and past Protocol Chairman of the International General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Other officers elected are:

First Vice President **Leslie Haworth** is owner of Atlantic Flag and Banner in Rumford. He has served as chairman of the Society's Preservation Committee and is a member of the East Providence Historic Properties Study Commission, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

Second Vice President **Lura Sellew**, a charter member of the Historical Society, was head of the Art Department of East Providence High School. She was elected to the East Providence High School Hall of Fame in 1993. Lura is past secretary of the John Howland Society and past governor of the Rhode Island Mayflower Society

Treasurer **Rose Marie Sirenski** is employed as secretary at Bacon Construction Company of East Providence. She is former treasurer of R.I. Professional Secretaries International.

Recording Secretary **Elizabeth Soderlund**, an East Providence native, who is Data Processing Supervisor at the Providence Visiting Nurse Association.

Corresponding Secretary **Gladys Panzarella** is retired from the East Providence School Department where she served as Teacher's Aid for Special Needs. She is a member of the Catholic Committee on Scouting in the Diocese of Providence.

ANNUAL HUNTS MILLS FAMILY PICNIC

ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 200

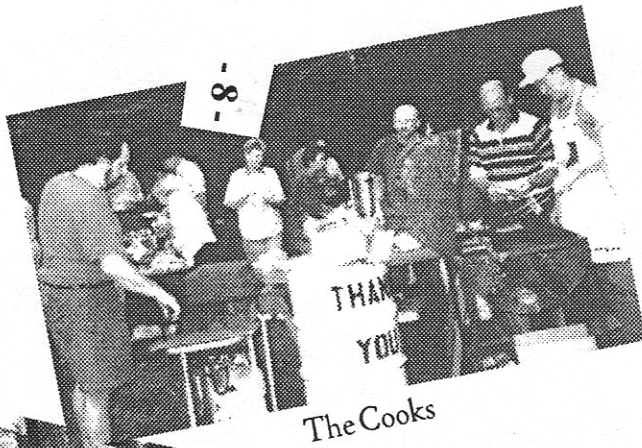
The "Family Picnic", originally established as a strictly *inside* event for members and their families, was expanded three years ago to include friends, neighbors and anyone else who might enjoy a day at beautiful Hunts Mills and genuine Strawberry Shortcake .. made with *real* (Horsford's original Rumford formula) *baking powder biscuits!*

It has now become a very popular *tradition*, attracting more people every year.

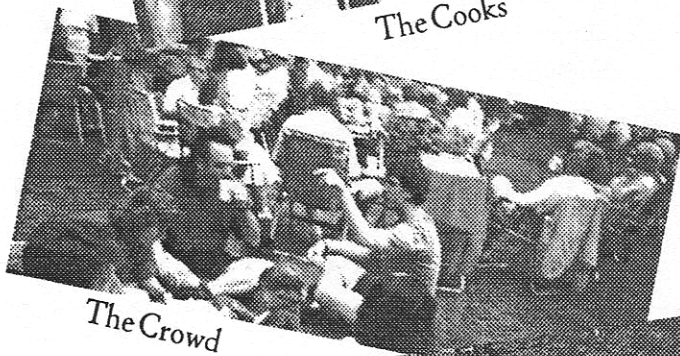
This year more than 200 people came to enjoy the food, the music, the Museum and good company.

Now that Hunts Mills is being uncovered (see the Buildings and Grounds page)..... who can *imagine* the magnitude of the 1996 Family Picnic?!

Be thereif you can stand the pace!



The Cooks



The Crowd



The Band

the GAZETTE

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	L. Diana McLean
1st Vice President	Leslie Haworth
2nd Vice President	Lura Sellew
Recording Secretary	Elizabeth Soderlund
Corresponding Secretary	Gladys Panzarella
Treasurer	Rose Marie Sirenski

◦ CALENDAR ◦

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday, September 13
Board Meeting 7:30 p.m. Hunt House

Sunday, September 10
Opening Tea and Reception
"A Living Museum - The Loeff Carousel"
Weaver Library 1 - 4 p.m.

Sunday, September 17
BLACKSTONE VALLEY EXPLORER
10 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Monday, September 25
Member's Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Weaver Library
"A Living Museum - The Loeff Carousel"

OCTOBER

Wednesday, October 11
Board Meeting 7:30 p.m. Hunt

the GAZETTE

is printed
at

PRONTO PRINT

1062 Willett Avenue, Riverside

AROUND THE HOUSE...MUSEUM ACTIVITY

From the Attic

Edna Anness
Museum Curator

Accessions - Gifts

Virginia Berwick
Museum Chairman

A midsummer update: **About the Museum**

Our Museum was started in March, 1989. A committee was formed and a *Museum Collections Policy* was written and accepted by the membership. Conservation supplies were purchased and two rooms were set aside for archival work and storage. We collected about forty items which had been donated over the years since our founding.

Since the fall of 1989 we have been given 502 gifts which number 3068 individual items as of this writing. These include books, letters, genealogies, photographs, scrapbooks, clothing, decorative and utility items and much more.

We now have two attic store rooms, a workroom and store room on the second floor and soon a reference library and office. The house is also furnished as a living house museum

Our first exhibition was in December of 1989 and since then we have produced thirteen more with the next one due to open in December. The Museum has conducted bus tours for adults and schools, the **Feinstein Project** for fifth graders includes a lecture series and is available for research by appointment.

Thanks to the chairman, Virginia Berwick, the steadfast/faithful Museum Committee, all who have donated to preserve our history for posterity and those who have donated hours working with our programs.

Curating the collection is a constant source of pleasure interspersed with exciting moments of discovery.

Come visit us and "experience" the Hunt House.

Edna

Gene Amaral - Two packages of Washburn Wire matches.

Joe MacDougald - Vietnam book, Rumford Co. advertisement, book of Crescent Park tickets.

Alvin Meservey - "History of Riverside" news article.

Claire Clegg - 2 copies of Alice Waddington's "News of the Old Home Town", pamphlet and a letter from Alice W. about the first monetary donation to the Museum in 1976. Program from the dedication of the Veteran's gate at Pierce Stadium, 1947.

Ed and Marion Coop - Rumford Co. paper artifacts.

Austin Butterworth - 2-man crosscut saw, grain measure, 2 horseshoe removal tools.

Bill Rix - Photo and 13 postcards.

Edna Anness - Iron cooking pot and History of Squantum Club.

Len Erickson - Handle for Cherry and Webb box, drug store medicine bottle.

Ethel Cutten - Wilson School photo, 1921.

Myrtle Veno - Coffee grinder.

Roger and Martha Vaillancourt - Silver plated caster set.

Alfred Rezendes - 12 photographs of old East Providence.

Howard Mersereau - History of St. Mark's Church.

Charles Tebbetts - Wash bucket from A.P. Hoyt School and texts from Riverside Jr. High School.

Hope Yeaw - Photo of Six Corners showing horse and wagon.

Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor - Videotape, "Along the Blackstone, 'The Mills'".

Thanks to ALL

The History of Watchemoket and Kent Heights

Discussion with Slides

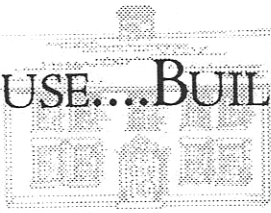
By

Edna Anness

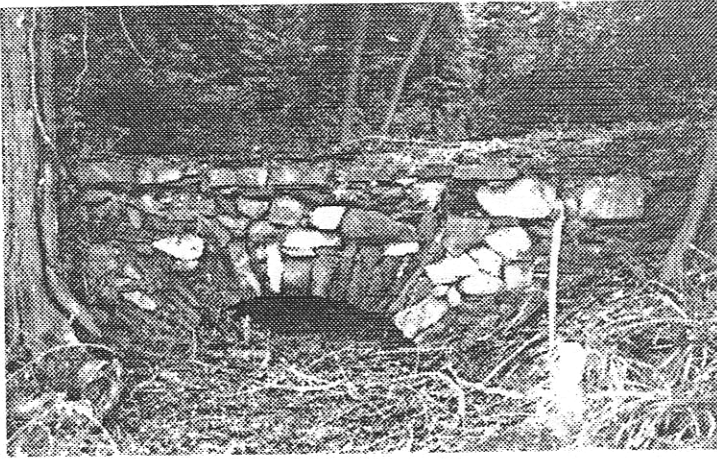
Wednesday, September 13, 7:30 p.m.

Weaver Library

AROUND THE HOUSE....BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS



LOOK WHAT WE FOUND



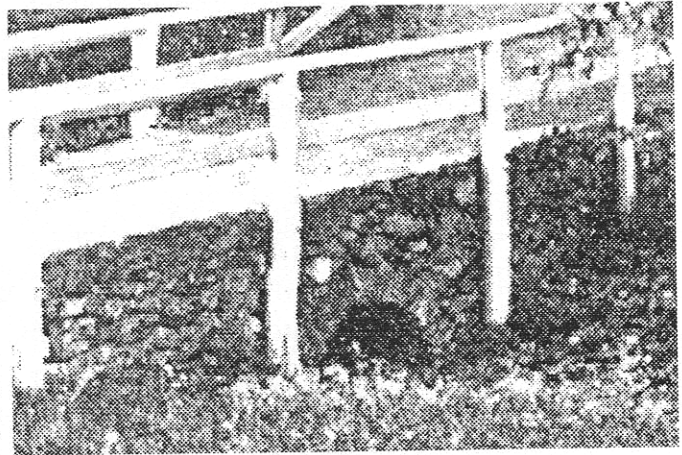
The Bridge ... 1995

A team of high school students, supervised by Society member **Bob Tewksbury** have been clearing trees and brush from around the Hunt House. Bob is head of the Industrial Arts Department at East Providence High School. The department was awarded a grant from the *Alan S. Feinstein Foundation* to do service work. The clearing work was requested by the Historical Society at Bob's suggestion.

The five students, **Brian Laurendeau**, **Greg Saraiva**, **Mathew Lopes**, **Corey Lema** and **Ricardo DeOliveira** discovered the stone foundation of a bridge that had led from the trolley stop and the "Teahouse" to the carousel and ballroom of the Hunts Mills recreation area.



Hard working amateur archeologists (l - r) **Brian Larendeau**, **Greg Saraiva**, **Mathew Lopes**, **Corey Lema**, **Ricardo DeOliveira**.



The Bridge ... 1925

The students also exposed an asphalt parking area behind the house that should be very useful to the Historical Society, as well as clearing a large area that significantly improves the appearance of the grounds.

The **East Providence Parks Department** has agreed to maintain the area, trimming the trees and cutting the grassfor which the Society is very grateful to **Greg Gammell**, superintendent, and **Richard McMann**, foreman.

"Team Tewksbury" also cleaned the Hunt House basement, attic and the Meter House ...removing *four tons* of debris!

Buildings and Grounds Chairman, **Walt Vincent**, says that the House is now ready for new restoration work which will begin on September 5. Work will be done in the "Summer Kitchen" in the cellar, where there is a fireplace and beehive oven, and in the Upstairs Library as well as various touch-up jobs.

VOLUNTEERS are urgently needed for the awards winning Hunt House Restoration Team.

Walt is very grateful to the summer workers..the 5 hard working highschoolers, **Bob Tewksbury**, **Earl Berwick**, who also worked through the hot summer and the East Providence Parks Department.

AROUND THE HOUSE....MEMBERS AND FRIENDS



THE EMERGENCY BOTANICAL TEAM . . .
.. A QUICK RESPONSE

The flower garden around the sign in front of the Hunt House was inadvertently shorn by overzealous grass mowers on June.2.

The perennials had survived the winter and had started to bud when they were struck down.

On June 6, while Hunt House staffers were wailing and moaning about the loss, 5 members of the **Rumford Home Garden Club** arrived, dug out the roots of the deceased plants and replanted the garden with *Columbine, Lady's Mantle, Verbena, Begonias, Violas* and other blooming plants with the prayerful hope that they would live for the rest of the summer. They did.

THANKS to the courageous members of the RHGC E.B.T., **Karen Kent, Mildred Davenport, Peg John, Ann Joyce and Lura Sellew** for restoring life and color to the front yard.



I Want YOU

Join the **AWARDS WINNING HUNT HOUSE RESTORATION TEAM**
Keep busy ...have fun ... and have some of Walt's great coffee!

Call **Walt Vincent** at (401) 434-0481

NEW MEMBERS

WARM WELCOME TO OUR RECENT NEW MEMBERS:

Norma L. Allen
Charles and Dorothy Boylen
Edmund and Claire Clegg
Jaime and Lorraine D'Oliveira
Frank and Ruth Gaboury
Sarah Gray
William G. Guca
Leonard G. Iannacone
Ray and Hazel Johnston
William J. Regan, Jr.
Edward F. Taylor
Robert E. Tetreault
Anthony and Alice Valerio

COMING IN THE SEPTEMBER G A Z E T T E . . .

Reminiscences & Recollections: . . **Ray Anderson** remembers *Crockers Spa* in particular and candy stores in general.
and ...A ten year old girl's chronicle of the 1938 *Hurricane* ...from the diary of **Marjorie Welt**.

East Providence Scrapbook: Many picturesof the Carousel and Crescent Park ...from the postcard collection of **Bob Tetreault**.

the G A Z E T T E

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

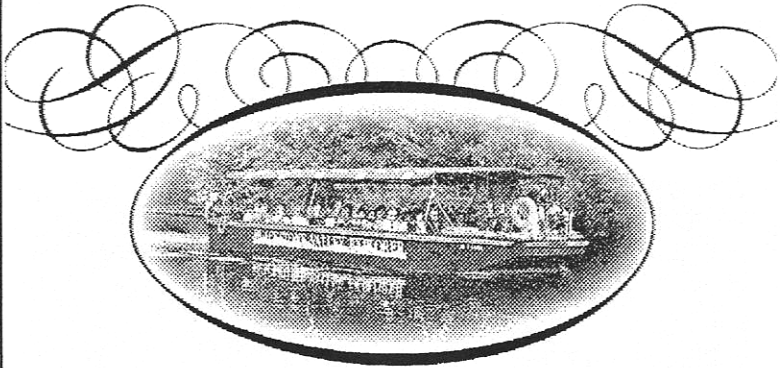
Original material is preferred....**Re-prints** will be considered only if they are in the *public domain* or with the *written* consent of the copyright owner.

Text may be submitted on a 3.5" 'floppy' disk, DOS, Windows or Mac
...or neatly typed on a clean, non-textured 8 1/2 x 11 sheet of paper.

Photos and art work may be in color or black and white, 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 to:

3632 Pawtucket Av., Riverside, RI 02915-4215



CRUISE THE SEEKONK

WITH THE EAST•PROVIDENCE•HISTORICAL•SOCIETY

On the Blackstone Valley Riverboat

EXPLORER

Sunday, September 17

(rain or shine... the boat is covered)

2 Sailings - 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.

From the *Old Oyster House* Landing
Water Street

Special Price \$5 per person

for reservations, make your check payable to
East Providence Historical Society
and mail with coupon below to

Sophie Allen
150 Pavillion Av.
Rumford, RI 02916

Telephone Sophie Allen: 401.434-3786
or Nancy Moore: 401.438-4299

EAST•PROVIDENCE•HISTORICAL•SOCIETY
EXPLORER CRUISE

Name _____

Reserve _____ places for 10 a.m. 11 a.m.

\$ _____ enclosed @ 5.00 per person

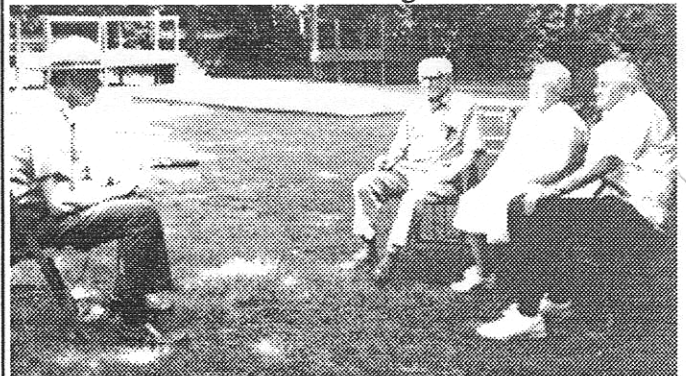
SOCIETY MEMBERS FEATURED ON "ALONG THE BLACKSTONE" CABLE TV PROGRAM

"Along the Blackstone", a cable tv program produced by the **Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor** made celebrities of **Edna Anness, Earl Berwick, Mary McManus** and **Vernon Stromberg** in their recent program, "The Mills".

The program recalled the history of the industry along the Blackstone River Valley, and how a large part of life in the area revolved around "The Company"

Among the industries discussed were **The Rumford Company** and **Bird and Son**.

National Park Ranger **Chuck Arning** spoke to **Earl Berwick** and **Mary McManus** about old times at "The Rumford", and **Vern Stromberg** recalled **Bird and Son**.



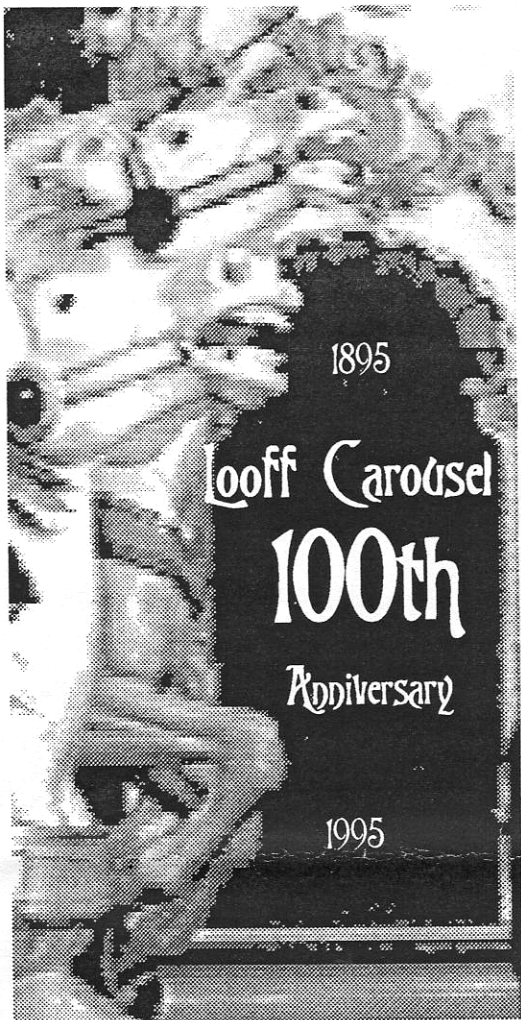
Ranger **Chuck Arning** interviewing (l-r) **Earl Berwick, Mary McManus** and **Vernon Stromberg**

Edna Anness told about recreational facilities, especially our own **Hunts Mills** and the company outings and summer events that provided entertainment for the workers and their families.



Edna

The program is currently being broadcast on the 'interconnect' and on E.P. Cable tv. There is also a videotape available at the **Hunt House** museum, courtesy of the **Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor**.



We've been going around together for a hundred years!
September will be Carousel Month

From September 10 to October 8 at Weaver Library
"A Living Museum - The Looff Carousel"
an exhibition of photographs by
Alex Caserta

Opening Tea and Reception Sunday, September 10, 1-4 p.m.
Champlin Room, Weaver Library
Co-hosted by the Carousel Commission and
The East Providence Historical Society

Monday, September 25, 7:30 p.m.
Member's Meeting - Weaver Library
Program: "A Living Museum - The Looff Carousel"
Alex Caserta, photographer
Mike Bell, folklorist

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 \$10.00, individual or \$15.00, family.
Please make your check payable to **East Providence Historical Society**, and mail with coupon below to:

East Providence Historical Society - membership
P.O. Box 4774
East Providence, RI 02916

EAST•PROVIDENCE•HISTORICAL•SOCIETY

NEW RENEWAL

NAME (s)

STREET

CITY

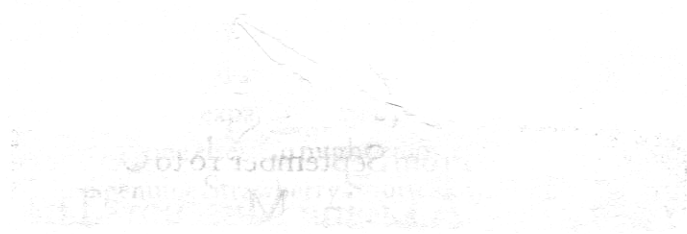
STATE

ZIP

TELEPHONE

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$

@ 10.00 INDIVIDUAL, 15.00 FAMILY

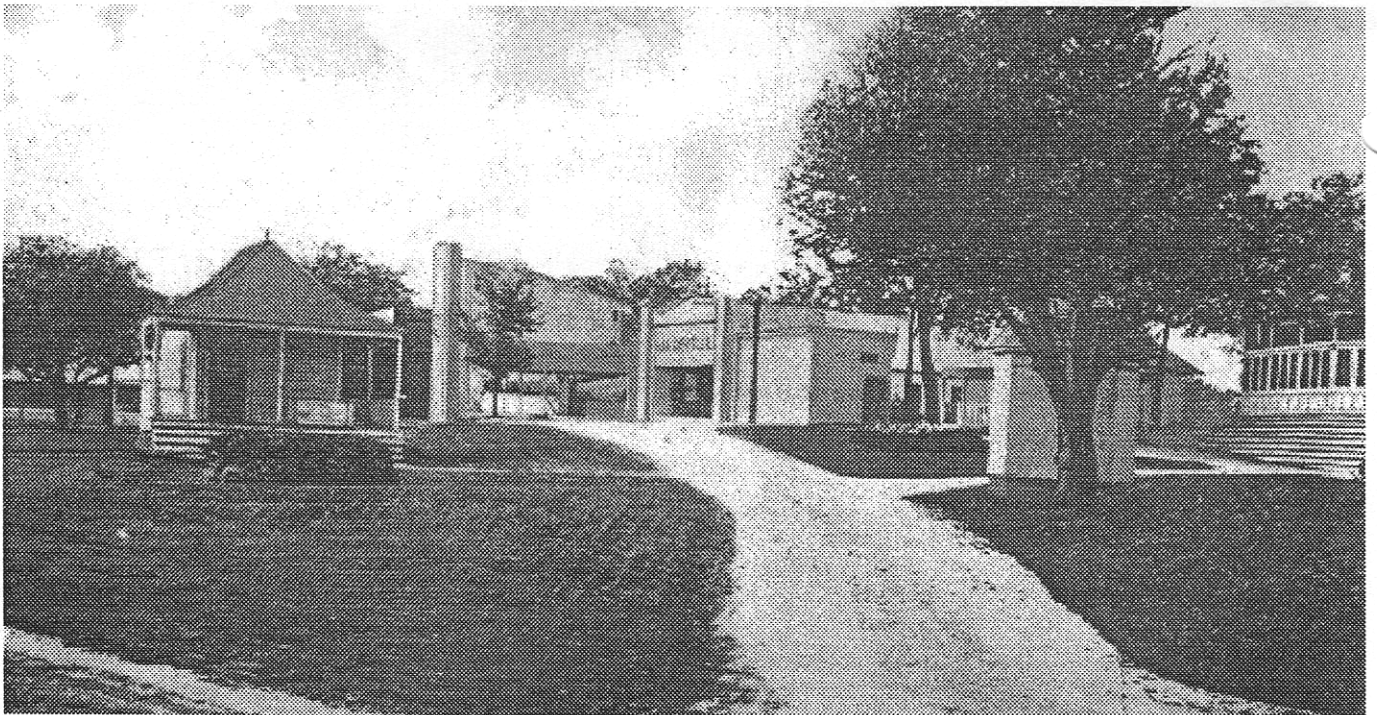


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GAZETTE



Hunts Mills . . . Before the Grass got Too High

see Page 4

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