

John Hunt House

VOL. VII NO. 11

GAZETTE

RIGHT ON.

JUNE 1995

SOCIETY RECEIVES THIRD PRESERVATION AWARD

Latest award for Hunt House restoration presented by Historical Properties Commission

At ceremonies in East Providence City Council Chambers, **Richard Cady**, Chairman of the Historic Properties Commission, presented a "Preservation Pride" award to the Society for restoration work on the John Hunt House.

This award takes its place next to the others from the American Association of State and Local History and the Rhode Island Historic Preservation Commission.

"Pride" is the word and surely indicates the feelings we should have for our hard working and very competent Restoration Team.

Congratulations! Again!

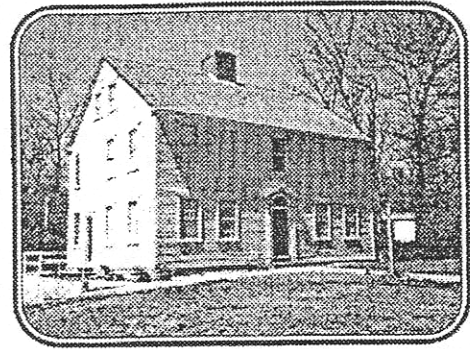
"REACHING YOUR GOALS" BENEFACTOR MEETS THE BENEFICIARIES

Philanthropist **Alan Shawn Feinstein** visited the Silver Spring school and participated in the presentation of Goal Awards to the pupils. Mr. Feinstein was presented a picture of the Bridgham Farm tree by the children.

Over 300 children recently toured the Hunt House and Hunts Mills area and learned about 18th century games and costumes in the Society program supported by the Feinstein Grant.



The Feinstein team ... l-r: Gladys Panzarella, Edna Anness, David Kelleher (Principal of Silver Spring School), Mr. Feinstein, Virginia Berwick.



Whereas, the history of East Providence is reflected in its varied buildings and landscapes;

Whereas, connections to the past keep a community grounded as it moves forward;

Whereas, it is possible to integrate the past in the present providing living reminders of our history;

Whereas, pride in our community is reflected by a commitment to preservation of our heritage;

The East Providence Historical Properties Commission hereby presents this
PRESERVATION PRIDE AWARD to:

East Providence Historical Society

for work completed at:

John Hunt House, Hunts Mills

The Commission wishes to acknowledge your investment in this community and commend you for your contribution to the preservation of a special part of East Providence.



President's Letter

Nancy Moore

Just for fun, I have been rereading some of the old newsletters of the past years and find them very good reading still. This of course marks yours truly's last entry under the heading of President's Letter. I can honestly say that the writing of same has been a pleasure and my editor has been most forgiving of missed deadlines. I'll take this opportunity to thank my Board for steadfast confidence and support, and to thank you all for your kindness. All your other great attributes are too numerous to name! I look forward to working on some of my favorite projects, such as the marker program, preservation, and landscaping.

I also look forward to watching this group continue to stretch itself with new projects and ideas. Our "triple crown" of national, state, and city awards for restoration of Hunt House is very gratifying and you all should be most proud. But perhaps more importantly, those awards also mean that EPHS has established itself in the forefront of volunteer work, and the Society is already being looked to as a model group. You, the Board and the membership, have willingly accepted that responsibility, and I think that the statewide recognition will bring interesting possibilities and challenges. I dream about like recognition for our educational programs and for our museum exhibits. You all can make that happen.

Thank you for a most fulfilling stint as your president. I can't imagine anyone having a better group to represent.

ANNUAL MEETING

The East Providence Historical Society Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, June 26, 1995 during the "Family Picnic" program.

Among other matters will be Election of Officers. There having been no nominations from the floor at the May, 1995 Member's Meeting, the Secretary will cast one vote for the following slate, proposed by the Nominating Committee:

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

the GAZETTE

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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

JUNE

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

Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 a.m.-noon
Through June 29
"Jess Welt's Watchemoket"
Hunt House

Monday June 26
HUNTS MILLS
FAMILY
PICNIC
and Annual Meeting
5:00 p.m.

the GAZETTE

is printed

at

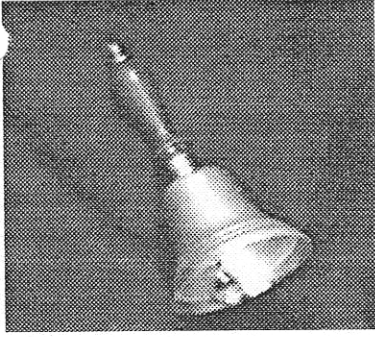


1062 Willett Avenue, Riverside

From the Attic

Edna Anness

Museum Curator



This school hand bell was used by Mary Roe, principal of the Union Primary School on Pawtucket Avenue in the 1920's and 30's. There was a large bell in the belfry which was rung at nine in the morning and one in the afternoon. At

other times Miss Roe would use the handbell to bring the children in from recess. The larger bell was rung by the janitor, who stood in the hall outside the office and pulled the rope.

The Union School was built in 1874 as a grammar school. The first four grades were spent in PS#2, 8 and 9. The children would then join together at Union School for the next four grades-hence the "union" so to speak of the children. Graduation from this school was held in the old Town Hall on Pawtucket Avenue where school public speaking competitions were also held. The town hall had a large assembly hall on the first floor.

Back to UNION... one of the best known principals of the Union School was Amy Bowen. In her time the toilets were outside in the back yard which was surrounded by the forest of Bridgham Woods. Every spring gypsies would migrate into this area and one year they settled in and around the privy. According to lore Miss Bowen went into the backyard with a broom one day to scare the gypsies away. Apparently it worked: Miss Bowen was a gutsy little lady. Later the toilets were put in the addition to the right of the building, but the children still had to go outside to get to the ell where the toilets were. Finally in about 1937 indoor toilets were installed and the iron grided cloakrooms were removed.

I was a student there starting in 1933. The teachers were Miss Carpenter, grade 1, Mrs. Bentley in grade 2 (she slapped our knuckles with a ruler if our recitations were incorrect), Miss Roe had grade 3 and Lizzie Cie had grade 4. She was to become principal. In my day there were only Grades 1 to 4 as a new grammar School, Wilson, named after one of the founders of the Rumford Chemical Works (who had donated the land) was built c. 1912 at Bourne Avenue. Miss bower was the first principal there.

The old belfry bell is now in the foyer of The Francis School and the handbell is in our museum, thanks to **Bill Rix** who donated it to the Society. **Bud Plummer** had built a miniature replica of Union School which is on display with the bell in our Museum.

MUSEUM REPORT

Virginia Berwick
Museum Chairma

MUSEUM GIFTS Received in May

- Marjorie Welt** - 2 Jess Welt photos and 2 booklets.
Arnold McConnell - Early papers of the Society, East Providence tax books 1873-1927.
Charles Tebbetts - White Rock Farm (Kent Bros.) milk receipt.
Judith Sharpe - Graduation photo of her father, Wesley Sharpe, from Wilson School.
Robert Tetreault - Photos of Babcock and Dolly (Babcocks Variety)
Ralph Baker - 1922 East Providence High School yearbook.
John Erhardt - 2 volume History of Rehoboth.

THANKS TO ALL

BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Florence Adams
Rose Marie Sirenski
Helen Smith

The Board approved the following amendment to the bylaws suggested by the Bylaws Committee and recommends it to the membership for approval.:

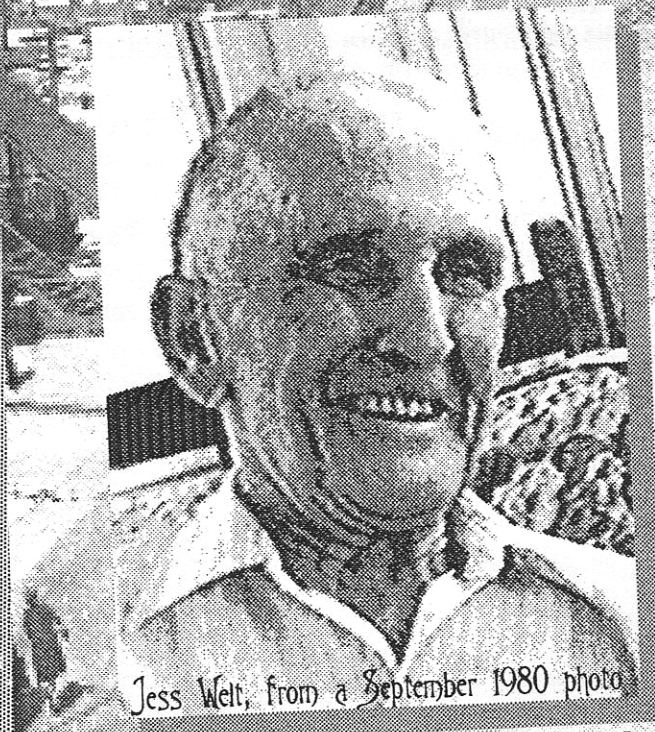
Article VII Section 3 AMENDMENTS: A vote of two thirds (2/3) of the members in good standing, present and voting at a regular meeting, shall be required for passage of any amendment (5) provided that each member is notified at least two (2) weeks before the meeting when such amendment (s) is to be acted upon. A printed notice in the monthly newsletter or, if time is a factor, a documented telephone call to each member shall be considered official notice.

The amendment will be voted on at the ANNUAL MEETING/FAMILY PICNIC Monday, June 26.

EAST•PROVIDENCE•HISTORICAL•SOCIETY

PRESENTS

Jess Welt's Watchemoket



Jess Welt, from a September 1980 photo

An
Exhibition
of Jess Welt's
Photographs
of
East Providence
in the 1920's
and 1930's

At the John Hunt House May 7 - June 29, 1995
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - noon

AUCTION
QUALITY
CASH



I W
Y

Join the a
HUN
olunteer RES
Call the Hunt
or Walt Vin
Keep busy...have
Walt's

EAST • PROVIDENCE • HISTORICAL • SOCIETY

Annual
**HUNT'S MILLS
FAMILY
PICNIC**

Monday, June 26 5:00 p.m.
A GRAND CELEBRATION

Exotic Foods Imported From the Four Corners of East Providence



(Hamburgers & Hot Dogs)
& The Famous Hunt House

Strawberry Shortcake

Made with **REAL WHIPPED CREAM** and (Rumford original Horsford Formula) **BAKING POWDER BISCUITS**

THE HUNT HOUSE MUSEUM OF HISTORIC ARTIFACTS

&

Jess Welt's Watchemoket

an Exhibition of **Jess Welt's Photos of The 20's & 30's**

A Robust and Nostalgic

HOMETOWN BRASS BAND CONCERT

By the



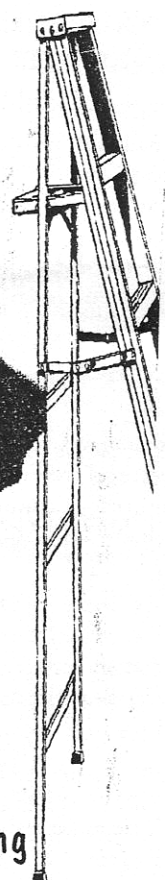
All Are Welcome

Donation: Members \$2.00 **Guests \$5.00** (Children Under 6 FREE)

**Please Bring Your
Folding Chairs**

Tickets are available at the Hunt House Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. until noon
or telephone (401) 438-1750 for reservations
reservations must be made by June 22

W
FC



**WANT
YOU**

award-winning
HOUSE
CORPORATION GROUP
House at 438-1750
cent at 434-0481
fun...and have some of
great coffee!

East Providence Scrapbook

Clint Sellew

Reminiscences of the Shore

Providence Evening Bulletin, July 21, 1886

Mr. Nelson C. Follett, who superintends the Bake at Crescent Park, is the veteran clam annihilator on the Bay. When he first began making bakes at Bullock's Point, in 1860, there were but few shore dinner resorts on the bay. Sherman's place on the old Peck farm next above Bullock's Point, was then advertised as Cherry Grove, and further up the bay on that side the only other place was Ocean Cottage, then kept by Reuben Greene. On the west side were Horn Spring, now Rocky Point, Mark Rock and Smith's Palace. Field's Point had not then come into prominence as a resort for clam eaters.

The bakes then consisted of corn, clams, potatoes, fish and lobster, but after awhile all excepting the clams were eliminated from the bake proper and cooked in kettles and ovens. The change was necessitated because the "extras" speedily became soggy and water-soaked and people would not eat them. Then, as now, the price of the tickets was 50 cents, and although clams went up to \$2 per bushel during the war period, the cost of dinners to consumers was not increased.

Horn Spring was absorbed by Rocky Point when Byron Sprague developed the latter named resort. Mark Rock became the resort of the roughest element in the State, and was fortunately wiped out by a fire, and Smith's Palace, on account of its inaccessibility from the river, fell into disuse, the extensive grounds were platted into house lots and the buildings were sold to the Home Club, an association of well-to-do Irish-Americans, who make use of them for delightful family parties.

In 1861-62, so Mr. Follett says, there were but three houses between Whitcomb's Hill and the extremity of Bullock's Point. Soon after that period, when Mr. Follett took possession of Cedar Grove, the place became a favorite camping out ground for people from Mansfield, and they were followed by residents of Worcester, Providence and Taunton, until for several seasons the campus numbered between 3000 and 4000, making the grove at night look like a scene in fairyland. The brush was so thick, and the growth of briars so great in 1861 at Cedar Grove that Mr. Follett was obliged to chop a clearing as he would had he been in the far West, and in that luxuriant growth were rabbits and

quail galore. Many a day he stood in the newly made roadway and shot fine bags of game.

The grove was originally offered to him for about \$2000; later he paid \$12,000, and in the land fever season which swept over this State he sold it for \$24,000. So intense was the fever that one party offered him a \$17,000 bonus for his unexpired lease, but he preferred to hold it and continued to serve shore dinners.

After leaving Cedar Grove Mr. Follett went to Coney Island and superintended bakes, but to his disgust the New Yorkers refused to eat the tender long clams of Rhode Island fame, insisting that the hard round chunks of leather-like substance, known as round clams or quahaugs were preferable and more delicious than our own pet bivalves.

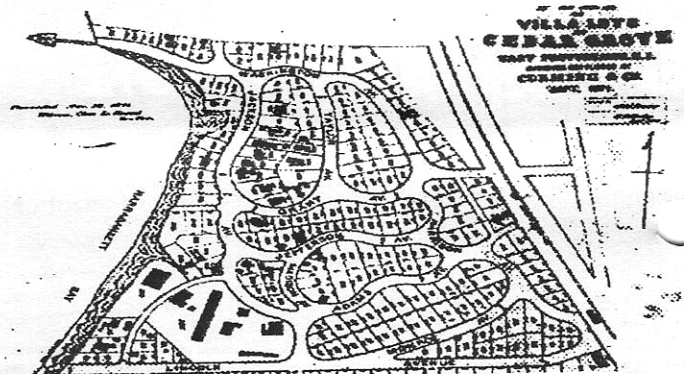
Mr. Follett says that within his recollection, acres of Bullock's Point have been swept away by the high September flood tide and every year he can see that inroads are being made on the bluffs and the beach.

Thanks (and a tip of the Ed.'s green eyeshade) to **Christine Lama** genealogist, historian, librarian and Director of the Foster Public Library, who discovered the above article in the course of some research, and correctly assumed that we would be interested.

Cedar Grove was purchased by a group of investors, headed by "General" Lysander Flagg, and divided into house lots. Flagg had just returned from Chicago where he had seen a park designed by Frederick Law Olmstead and Calvert Vaux, who had also designed Central Park.

Flagg hired his engineer brother-in-law, Asa Knowlton, to design a park based on the Olmstead designs in Chicago. Knowlton opposed the Olmstead plan for Cedar Grove, so they compromised, half being laid out in grid fashion, and the rest according to Flagg's eccentric whim.

The area was named after the Chicago park, RIVERSIDE, and to this day the Cedar Grove area is called "The Maze"!



MEMBERS ... The new dues cycle begins in JUNE!

In June 1994 we changed our dues cycle from ANNUAL, payable in June, to a SEQUENTIAL system, payable on the ANNIVERSARY date of membership. All those who were members at that time still have a June membership.

The MAILING LABEL on your GAZETTE displays a date on the top line, the first two digits the year and the second two the month

9507 indicates July, 1995, and is the date that the name will be removed from the active list if dues are not paid. (this allows for a 30 day grace)

We urge all those whose dues are payable now to send in their check for renewal, with the coupon below, to Madeline Vincent at the address below. This will save the Society the expense of postage and save wear and tear on the Membership Chairman!

This invitation is not limited to June members ALL are urged to send in payment to extend membership for a year. 1996 is our 30th Anniversary dont miss it!

History is FUN

tell your friends

and show them the GAZETTE and this coupon

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

NEW RENEWAL

EAST•PROVIDENCE•HISTORICAL•SOCIETY

NAME (s)

STREET

CITY

STATE

ZIP

TELEPHONE

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$

@ 10.00 INDIVIDUAL, 15.00 FAMILY

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

EAST PROVIDENCE, RI 02916
P.O. Box 4774

EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

GAZETTE

PRESERVATION PRIDE

City of East Providence

Given in recognition of a commitment to preserve
the architectural heritage of East Providence

TO: East Providence Historical Society

RECIPIENT

FOR: John Hunt House, Hunts Mills, Rumford

PROPERTY



Richard M. Cady
Chair, Historic Properties Commission

May 1995

DATE

Richard R. Hunt
Mayor, City of East Providence

ANOTHER ONE?!

(SEE PAGE ONE)