



John Hunt House

GAZETTE

VOL. VII NO.8

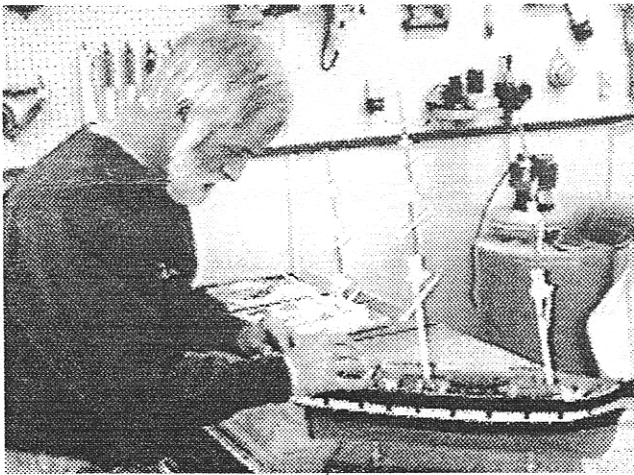
RIGHT ON.

MARCH 1995

MARCH MEETING TO FEATURE “WHALING EXPEDITION OF THE MIND”

As Carl Sagan visits the future in a “Spaceship of the Mind”, Jim Plante the guest speaker at the March 27 meeting, will visit the *past* in a “Whaling Ship of the Mind”.

DONT CALL HIM “ISHMAEL”



Shipwright & Yarnspinner Jim Plante in his workshop.

Jim Plante, a *Model Shipwright*, builds exquisitely detailed ship models in his shop located on a knoll behind his restored 18th Century house in the wilds of nearby Rehoboth.

He builds these ships, by commission only, for museums, historical institutions, etc. The models are complete in every detail, every part of which he builds in his shop, of exotic imported woods and materials appropriate to the original vessels.

In researching the background of the original ships, he has learned much about the customs, politics, economy, styles, social mores, etc. of times past. It is this background that he will bring to our meeting on March 27.

Through Jim’s spoken narrative we will board the Whaling Ship (of the mind!) in New Bedford on November 10, 1853 and return on May 8, 1857, laden with oil for the lamps of the country and some of the scrimshaw that we made to occupy our time off watch.

If you can stand the rigors of life at seabe at WEAVER LIBRARY, Monday March 27 at 7:30 p.m.
All are Welcome.

IN THIS ISSUE:

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pages 4 & 5
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WHO....IS SHE?



See page6.....“SHE.....”

President's Letter

Nancy Moore

Perhaps by now you will have heard the great news: THE EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL RECEIVE THE 1995 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARD! The award comes for the restoration of our beloved Hunt House and for the extraordinary volunteer efforts made on the building's behalf. In the group's honor, a contingent led by this person and Walter Vincent will proudly accept the award on April 1, at the State Preservation Conference in Providence. We hope to have as many volunteers as possible there, to stand and be recognized. (It sure is cheaper than getting them all to Omaha!) The Society's work will be shared with all conference attendees as Ginny Berwick and Nancy Moore serve as panelists in the day's activities. With the National and State preservation awards under our belt, wouldn't it be great to go for the triple crown? An East Providence Preservation Award - does such an award exist? If it does, please call your Councilman and put in a plug.

It will soon be time to hold our annual meeting and election. To that end, we now officially invite all of you who wish to be considered for office to let the Board know of your interest. The nominating committee will be appointed in March. (One sure way of staying out of office is to volunteer for this committee.) Please call 438-4299 if you wish to serve or wish to find others to serve.

The Story of the Award Winning Hunt House Restoration

Illustrated Presentation

by

VIRGINIA BERWICK

assisted by

EARL BERWICK

Hope Congregational Church

Wampanoag Trail

Sunday, March 19

7:30 p.m.

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

COMING EVENTS

MARCH

Wednesday, March 8
Board Meeting 7:30 p.m. Hunt House

Saturday March 16
Pasta Supper 6:00 p.m.
Newman Congregational Church

Monday March 27
Member's Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Weaver Library
1850s Whaling Voyage

APRIL

Wednesday, April 12
Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Hunt House

Monday, April 24
"Evening of Ballroom Memories"

the GAZETTE

is printed
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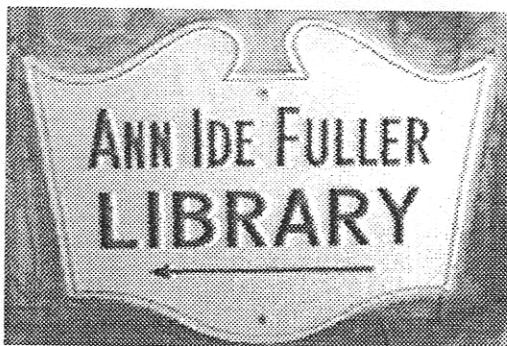


1062 Willett Avenue, Riverside

From the Attic

Edna Anness

Museum Curator



Those readers from the Brightridge/Kent Heights area will recognize this sign as one of two which for many years hung in front of the Anne Ide Fuller Library on Hawthorne Avenue. Anne Ide was a member of a well known family in that area who owned a large farm on Pawtucket Avenue. The old homestead is still standing at 2585 Pawtucket Avenue, next to St. Martha's Church. Part of the farm was platted in the 1920's and was known as the "Fuller Ide Plat" or the "Brightridge Plat". One of the first houses built was that of Arthur and Anne Fuller. Anne died soon after.

Arthur Fuller opened his home, at 19 Hawthorne Avenue, to the public in 1926 and made his library available on loan. In 1929 the Anne Ide Fuller Brightridge Library was incorporated and Mr. Fuller deeded his home to the Corporation in memory of his late wife. In 1933 the Anne Ide Fuller Library Association was formed and consisted of a group of ladies who raised money to operate the library and purchase books. The first resident librarian was Alice Franklin who lived on the second floor, but had her kitchen on the first floor so she could keep house and take care of the library at the same time. By 1955 there had been 10,000 memberships recorded.

In 1968 the City of East Providence took over operation of the Library and leased the house from the Corporation. In 1970 the new Anne Ide Fuller Library was built on Dover Avenue and the last librarian, Virginia Conner, and her husband bought the house from the Corporation. In 1988 the old Board of the Library was dissolved.

Thanks to **Paul Nelson**, the last Treasurer of the Corporation, who salvaged the signs and papers of the old library, and donated them to the East Providence Historical Society.

This is an abbreviated version of the history of the library. Anyone interested in examining the library materials is encouraged to visit the Hunt House. Please telephone (401) 438-1750 to arrange to see the library files.

"Jess Welt's Watchmocket"

A special display of the photographs of Jess Welt's famous photographs of East Providence in the 1920's and 30's is planned for May 7 through June 30 at the Hunt House.

Bill DeMarco is loaning us his collection of Jess Welt prints for the exhibit, and it is hoped that others will loan additional material.

This exhibit is arranged through the courtesy of **Marjorie Welt**.

MUSEUM REPORT

Virginia Berwick

Museum Chairman

MUSEUM GIFTS
Received in February

Mim Gustafson - Two copies of History of St. Michael's and Grace Church.

Ralph Bradley - Photograph of old PS#8 on Pawtucket Avenue.

Len Iannucone - Four prints of his pencil drawings of the Hunt House.

Paul Nelson - Papers from the old Anne Ide Fuller Library, Booklet titled, "Fifty Tears with Hope Church", by Jessie Kent, pictures of Hope Church, 1980/81 membership list of the East Providence Historical Society, advertising envelope from the Fram Corp.

Don Brothers - Sacred Heart Church pamphlet.

Gwen Johnston - 1937 Children's Minstrel Show program - Wilson School Rumford/Phillipsdale PTA.

Dan Shea - 12 year subscription to OLD RHODE ISLAND magazine.

Ruth Porter - "History of Grace Memorial Church" by Elliot Broadbent.

Bruce & Carolyn Chick - "Through These Doors" History of St. Michael's Church.

Ken Bridge - History of St. Mary's Church.

Nancy Benfer - Her father's (Dr. Ray Stevens) Hall of Fame award from URI, Rehoboth 325th Anniversary coin, Rehoboth commemorative linen towel.

THANKS to ALL

Thanks to **Isabel Rich** for responding to our plea for information about the United Congregational Church.

Can anyone provide information about ST. MARK'S CHURCH, FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH on Alice Street, EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH on Pawtucket Avenue or OUR LADY of LORETO CHURCH ??

Please call Edna, (401) 434-3347

the GAZETTE

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.....

3632 Pawtucket Ave, Riverside, RI 02915-4215.

E-MAIL <GeoAdams@aol.com.>

The
East•Providence•Historical•Society
presents...an evening of

Ballroom Memories

Dance to the music of the thirties, forties & fifties

with the seventeen piece

Strictly Sentimental Swing Band

Playing the arrangements of Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, Duke Ellington and all Your Favorites

in the beautiful

Wonderland Ballroom

*High Atop Post 10 American Legion
830 Willett Avenue, Riverside*

Monday April 24, 7:30 p.m.

Donation, \$5.00 per person

Tickets on sale at the Hunt House

For reservations telephone (401) 437-1530 or (401) 434-0481

AUCTION GOOD

QUALITY

CASH



I W
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Join the
HUN
Volunteer RES
Call the Hunt
or Walt Vir
Keep busy...have
Walt's

\$50 REWARD

W
FG

East•Providence•Historical•Society

Annual

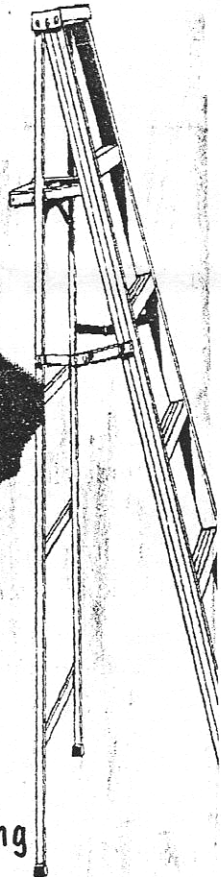
PASTA SUPPER

Saturday, March 18, 6:00 p.m.
Newman Congregational Church
Rumford

Pasta, Meatballs, Salad, Dessert
Donation: \$6.00 adult, \$3.00 child



Call Kris Rose (401) 434-5581 for tickets
(also available at the door)



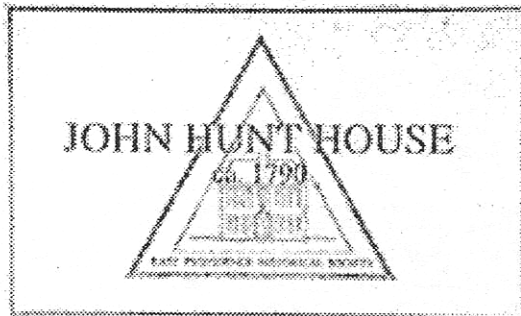
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award-winning
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TORATION GROUP

House at 438-1750
cent at 434-0481
fun...and have some of
great coffee!

East•Providence•Historical•Society
MARKER PROGRAM

Your home may be eligible
for a historical
Marker



example

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

SHE IS ONE HALF OF.....



BABCOCK & DOLLY

Babcock and Dolly met in New York while performing on the Keith-Orpheum Vaudeville Circuit in the early 1920's. Arthur Babcock was a tumbler/acrobat and Dolly (*Dorilda Tetreault*) played a French vamp. They merged their acts and performed "Adagio" and "Apache" dances. They married during that time.

After the "death" of vaudeville they settled in Riverside on Park Drive, and around 1930 they opened a variety store in Riverside Square, known as **BABCOCK'S VARIETY STORE**.

Most of those who were in or near Riverside in the thirties remember BABCOCK'S.....where one could buy (almost) anything..... water pistols, balsa wood gliders, Oh Boy and Blony Gum, pictures of movie stars (which also came on Hoodsie caps) and those propellor gizmos with the spiral rod and cylinder. Arthur was known to frequently say, "I know we've got it, I just cant find it."!

They operated the store until 1938 or 39.

Although everyone remembers Babcock's.....very few knew about BABCOCK & DOLLY.

These and other photos were donated to the Society by Dolly's cousin, **Robert Tetreault** of Bristol, who also provided the historical information. Our thanks to him and to Society member **Don McLean** for the discovery.

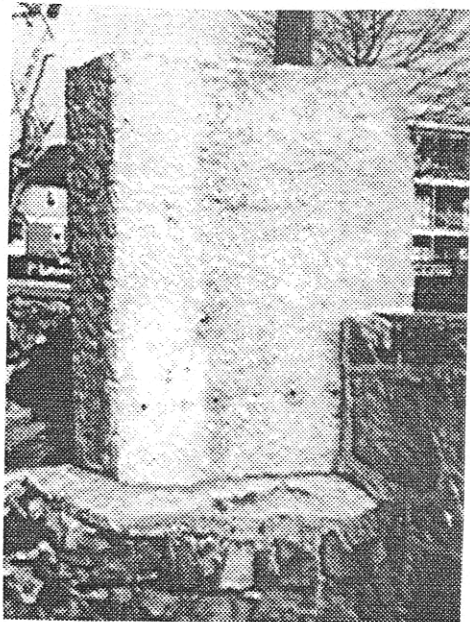
Coming Soon.....

Vedder & Olcott

another surprise from the Riverside Rialto

East Providence Scrapbook

Clint Sellew



Ancient Boundary Marker

Located on Pawtucket Avenue at Silver Spring Golf Course, marking the line between Rehoboth and John Browne's property.

The south side of the marker reads:

"Sowams -1620, Wannamoissett bought by John Browne 1645"

The easterly point of this line in East Providence was at Bowen's Bridge, at the Runnins River. This Marker must have been placed on the location of the original one by Thomas W. Bickell, the great Rhode Island historian, as his initials appear at the base of the marker on the south side.

History is FUN

tell your friends

and show them the G A Z E T T E 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

EAST•PROVIDENCE•HISTORICAL•SOCIETY

NAME (s)

STREET

CITY

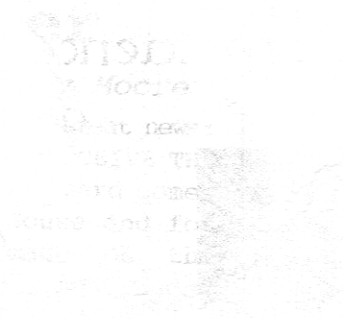
STATE

ZIP

TELEPHONE

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

@ 10.00 INDIVIDUAL, 15.00 FAMILY

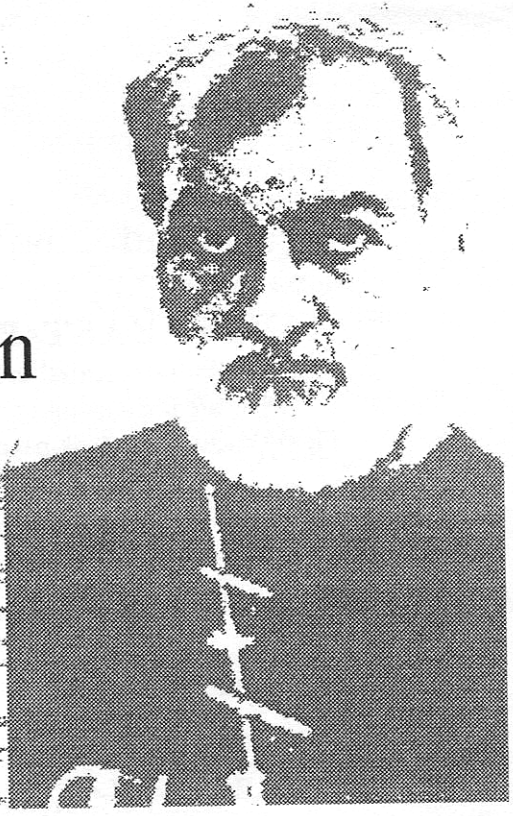
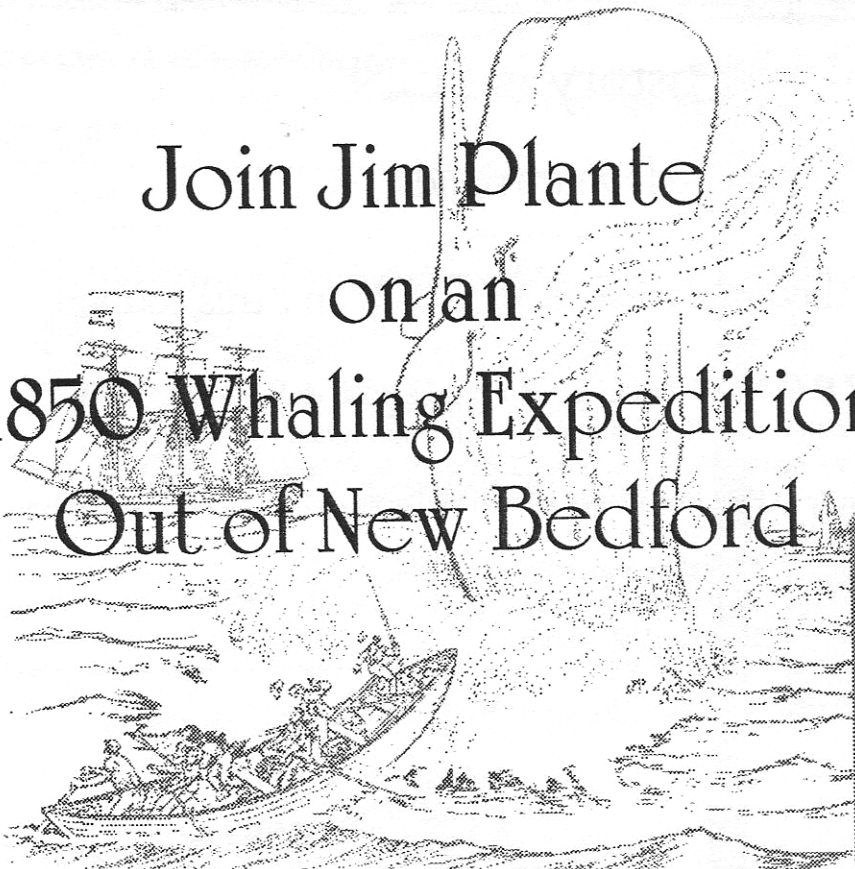


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GAZETTE

Join Jim Plante
 on an
 1850 Whaling Expedition
 Out of New Bedford



Weaver Library, Monday March 27, 7:30 p.m.

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