

HISTORICAL SOCIETY BEGINS COMPILATION OF EAST PROVIDENCE PHOTO BOOK

"IMAGE OF AMERICA" SERIES TO BE PUBLISHED IN SPRING WILL CONTAIN MORE THAN 200 PICTURES RECALLING THE PLACES, EVENTS AND PEOPLE THAT HAVE SHAPED OUR CITY'S HISTORY.

Arcadia Publishing, of Dover, New Hampshire, has published more than 60 photo books in the *Images of America* series. The East Providence Historical Society was asked to participate in the series, as were several other communities in the Rhode Island area, the books scheduled to be delivered in the early part of next year.

Images of America, "Pawtucket", published in September by the Friends of the Pawtucket Library is the first of the series and is now available. (see page 2 for more information)

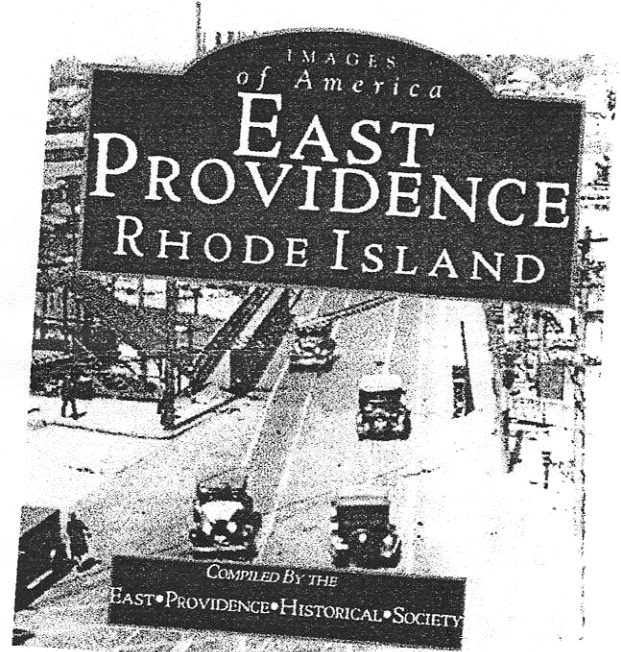
The book will contain more than 200 photographs with brief descriptive captions and will cover the time from the late 1800's through the present. This will be the first extensive collection of pictures to be published about East Providence.

1996 is the 30th anniversary of the East Providence Historical Society*Images of America* "East Providence" will be an appropriate memento of that event.

Photographs are being collected from various sources, including the *East Providence Planning Board*, *The Jess Welt Collection*, several small private collections and the *East Providence Historical Society Archives*. Members of the *R.I. Postcard Club* have also offered to loan their collections.

Several volunteer members of the Society, who have knowledge of our history or have access to research resources or who just love pictures make up an editorial group, and will begin compiling pictures and information on October 25th.

The book will be edited at Arcadia Publishing and printed in England.



CONSTRUCTING DIGITAL PHOTO ARCHIVE

The Society has received and continues to receive many gifts of valuable photographs for our Museum collection. Because the photos are valuable and delicate they have not been on public view. Except for Virginia Berwick's albums of contemporary photos, one of our most popular exhibits, and this years highly commended *Jess Welt Exhibit*, many have never been seen.

For the past year photographs in the GAZETTE have been processed *digitally* on a computer work station... (the newsletter has been produced on an electronic "Desktop Publishing System" since it started in 1988) All the photos and graphics that have been used in the GAZETTE are stored on high capacity disks, each of which can contain from 300 to 400 images, and are *instantly* accessible (or transmittable in a form that is compatible with other electronic libraries, including newspapers, Library of Congress, etc.) for anyone to view by screen or print.>> *continued page 2*

OCTOBER

Our digital format has been accepted by Arcadia Publishing and by their printer in England for transmittal of the photos for the *Images of America* book discussed on page 1. This means that the original photos don't have to leave East Providence, but will be transmitted by *modem* (telephone line) to Dover. Because of this the owners of the photo collections have agreed to let us digitize their materials, knowing that the photos will be safe from harm.

Saturday, October 21, 6:00 p.m., Newman Congregational Church
FAMOUS HAM & BEAN SUPPER

Monday, October 23, 7:30 p.m., Monthly Meeting
Riverside Congregational Church
"HISTORIC EAST PROVIDENCE"
David Kelleher, *discussion, with slides*

NOVEMBER

A useful by-product of this activity will be a greatly expanded digital photo archive for the Society, copies of which may be easily copied for use by those agencies who have loaned us their collections. The E.P. Planning board, for example, has the facilities to display and print digital photos but will be saved the labor of creating the files.

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

Saturday, November 11, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Hunt House
Annual Gifts and Treasures Sale & Holiday Caf 

All the photos, postcards, documents, etc. that go through this process will be easy to reference and retrieve. •

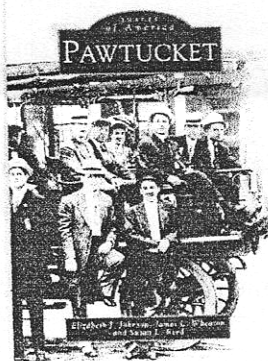
Monday, November 27, 7:30 p.m. Monthly Meeting
THE ISLAND CONNECTION
CAPE VERDE - RHODE ISLAND
Weaver Library
see back page (p. 8)

FROM THE EDITOR.....It's about pictures ...

As we noted in the September GAZETTE, most of our readers like **pictures**. That issue, which was almost ALL pictures, got more favorable comments than any other issue! Doesn't anyone READ anymore? I know that YOU doyou're reading THIS! (Oh yes you are!) Whoever said "One picture is worth a thousand words" was probably selling pictures ...and he would have had a tough time making that point without *words*! HISTORY must be told, but PICTURES sure help the telling, as the National Geographic Society found out a long time ago. We found out, too. By springtime we'll have PLENTY PICTURES!

If you'd like to get the "PAWTUCKET" book ...
Friends of the Pawtucket Library
13 Summer St.
Pawtucket, RI 02860

\$18.81, incl. s & h
(R.I. resident tax 1.19)
\$20.00



the GAZETTE

is published monthly by the
EAST • PROVIDENCE • HISTORICAL • SOCIETY
Editor.....George Adams

EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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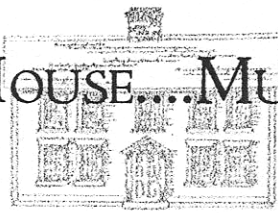
AROUND THE HOUSE...MUSEUM ACTIVITY

From the Attic

Edna Anness
Museum Curator

Right now storage is in transit. Wait until you see the new Curator's office and reference room/library that the restorers are putting finishing touches on. They will be ready for the Open House on Dec. 3rd. Our book collection will move to the reference room along with scrapbooks and written materials. We even have a mini genealogy section. Box storage will move to the former workroom. Many larger artifacts can be displayed in our "New backhalls". They are marvelous display areas for tools and barn equipment for the Hunt House was part of a working farm.

We are working on preparations for our next exhibition "The Island Connection: Cape Verde/Rhode Island" recognizing the 20th anniversary of Cape Verde's Independence from Portugal. Emphasis will be on East Providence. For this exhibition we are in need of "heads" to display native costume headgear. Remember those styrofoam head forms when we all had wigs in the Sixties. Please search your attics and closets so that we can borrow them for three months. Let us know at the Hunt House (438-1750) and we can pick them up. We can once again use some old white sheets. Rose Marie Sirenski has given us a ten year supply of white gloves.



Accessions - Gifts

Virginia Berwick
Museum Chairman

GIFTS RECEIVED SINCE AUGUST:

- Howard Mersereau-His World War II draft registration
- Mary McManus-Wooden stamp box with letters RUMFORD carved in top
- John B. Soteris ("John the Barber")-Fifty historic pictures of East Providence from the wall of his barber shop in Kent Heights
- Edna Anness-Linsey woolsey coverlet and 1 oz. cream bottle from Barber's Dairy
- Rose Marie Sirenski-Two history books on World War II and Korean War
- John and Nancy DeMerchant-eight old photos of East Providence
- Virginia Whitcomb-Her research on First Universalist Church .
- Donald Bowden-Four air photos of Washburn Wire, Kennecot, Bird and Son and Gulf Refining .
- Janet Jaguinto-five antique cigarette tins .
- Carleton Bulley-Muff, spats, photo, '63 POST and three history books .
- Dorothy Marshall-1935 RUMFORD Cookbook.
- Sylvia Amaral-EP High School memorabilia and class picture from Potter St. School.
- Beverly Simmons-History of the Loeff Carousell .
- Len Iannucone-two pencil sketches of Hunt's Mills
- Caroline Hurdis-mint condition flax for Bowen flaxwheel.

THANKS TO ALL! ...the Gift Agreement Forms will be coming. We are a little backed up after the summer off.

Museum Purchase-EP High School Alumni Directory 1912-1993.

"Lost East Providence"

Lost and Endangered Historical Sites
in our City

Discussion with Slides

By Edna Anness

presented by the E.P. Historic Properties Commission

Wednesday, November 8, 7:00 p.m.

Weaver Library



**Annual
Gifts & Treasures
Sale**

Saturday, November 11 10 a.m. -4 p.m.
John Hunt House

•handmade items •crafts •unique gifts
•plants •baked goods ... •raffle

**Holiday
CAFE** from 11 until 3
Homemade Soups
Bread
Beverages
Desserts

AROUND THE HOUSE....MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

OFFICIAL NOTICE

The Board of Directors approved a motion to make the office of **Museum Curator** a voting member of the Board. This requires an amendment to Article V, Section 3 of the Bylaws, which must be approved by the membership. This requires at least 2 weeks notice to the membership.

This motion will be presented at the members meeting on November 27, 1995.

Florence Adams,
Chairman, Bylaws Committee

NEW MEMBERS

WARM WELCOME TO OUR RECENT NEW MEMBERS:

Cindy Ashman
Charles and Helen Bradley
Beth DeCosta
Paul and Pamela Gullet
Albert and Norma Hibbett
Mr. and Mrs. William Irons
William McWeeney (Texas)
Mr. and Mrs. James Robinson (Maine)
Madelyn Rumowicz
Myrtle Veno

Coming in the GAZETTE

Reminiscences and Recollections: Ray Anderson remembers candy stores in general and *Crocker's Spa* in particular.

East Providence Scrapbook: A well known policeman who maintained law and order and directed traffic in Watchemoket Square for nearly 50 years.

more of *Then*.....and **Now**our new feature.

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 to:

3632 Pawtucket Av., Riverside. RI 02915-4215



**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

File: Carousel 100
Special Guests (now Members!)
Severly Simmons & son Gray
Presented Carousel Quilt (6 yrs work!)
Gray is GREAT GREAT grandson of
Charles Kooff!



Quilt Presented
To City



East Providence Scrapbook

Diary of a ten-year-old describes the 1938 hurricane

Marjorie Welt

Society member Marjorie Welt kept a "chronicle" of the hurricane of 1938. She was 10 years old at the time. She's twice that old now and shares her chronicle with us during the 1995 hurricane season.

".....Went to school the wind was blowing quite hard. When we came home from school a tree was blown down in the school yard. On the way home we ducked trees all we could. Then it began to rain. Then a tree in front of Grandma Welt's fell. Then a tree in front of Beulah's house. Then out went the lights.

Went out on the hill. A tree had fallen across the Parkway. We saw the water coming over the railroad tracks. A while later we could not see the railroad tracks at all the telegraph poles down by the railroad tracks became under water. Then the Sewage Disposal Plant was washed away. All of a sudden I became scared. At recess time I had said it was fun. The tankcars down on the railroad track were floating all over the river. It was not only a Hurricane but a Tidal Wave also. Over in the city the cars were under water. It was also up to the second stories of the building lots of people didn't get home till the next day. Mr. Ames got home 12:00 that night. We are using kerosene lamps.

Thursday 22, 1938

No school hardly a shingle left on A.P. Hoyt. When daddy came home We went down to Narragansett Terrace. Lots of houses were tipped over. One house was blown away you

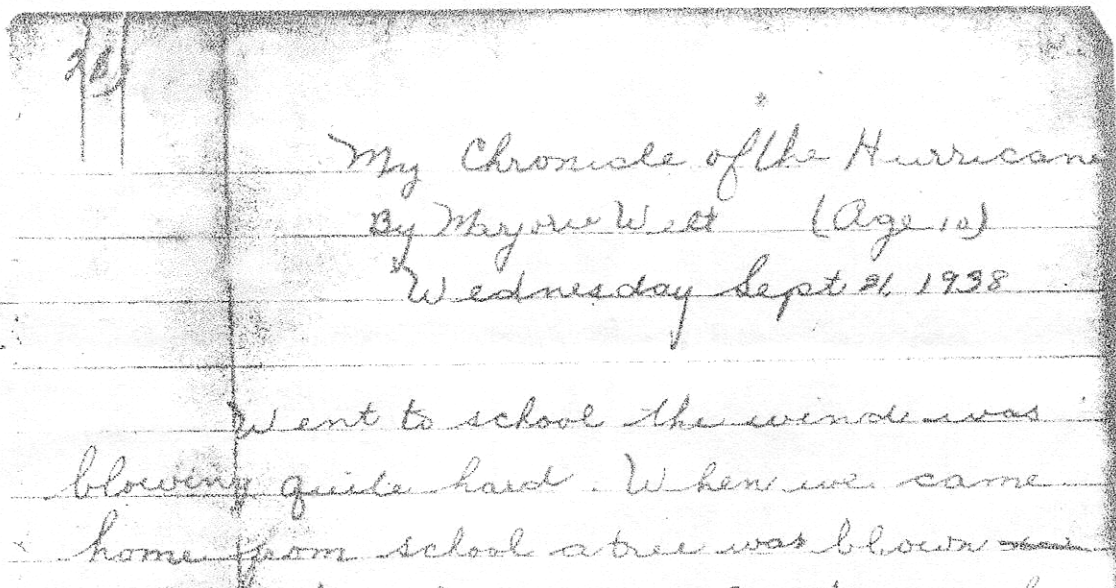


Narragansett Terrace September 22, 1938. Jess Welt photo

would have never known there was a house there except for a bathtub on the shore.

The street was so muddy you couldn't drive along down near the end of the Terrace. Oh! what a mess! Trees were twisted and broken to pieces and uprooted down to Squantum Woods. Buildings wiped away down to the old Dry Dock. The tugboat Gaspee sunk and the old Mount Hope is flat like a pancake. W.P.R.O. towers are broken off. Four Bodies were found drown down in the Cove. A city Mud Scow is up on the pier.

Daddy and I were up on Fort Hill before the sun was up. Lee Hastings Saved his boat. Uncle Maurice's Grandma Lermonds & Chases Chimneys were blown off....."

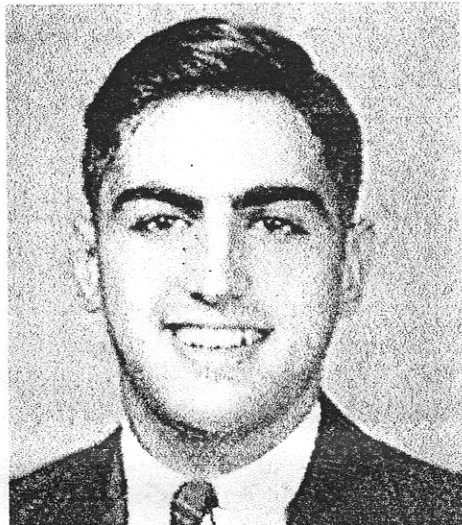


INTRODUCING A NEW FEATURE

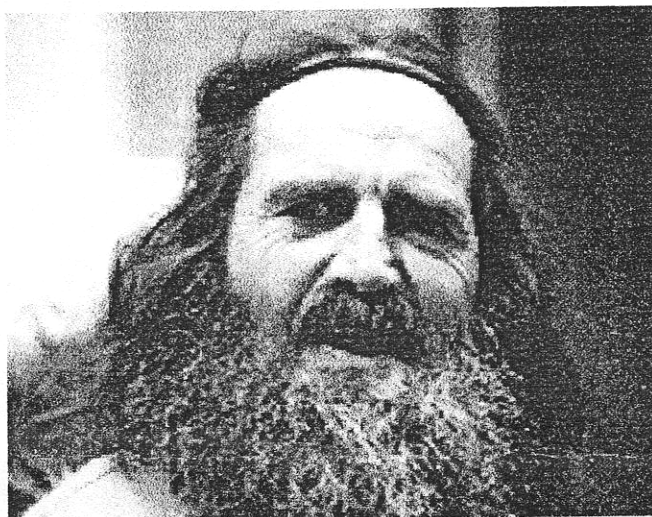
Several people have suggested that it would be interesting to compare what was with what is . . .
places, buildings, and in this case . . . PEOPLE . . . welcome to . . .

THEN AND NOW

Carl Bulley



1945... High School Yearbook



1995...At a recent Historical Society meeting

History is FUN Tell your friends

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

NEW RENEWAL

EAST • PROVIDENCE • HISTORICAL • SOCIETY

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CITY

STATE

ZIP

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EAST PROVIDENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

GAZETTE

THE ISLAND CONNECTION

Cape Verde - Rhode Island

Monday, November 27, 7:30 p.m.

WEAVER LIBRARY

Roundtable discussion of Cape Verdean Culture and History

with Local Citizens of Cape Verde Birth and Descent, including:

Peter Coelho, Virginia Gonsalves, Oona Moniz, Dr. Isadore Ramos, Yvonne Smart and Tony Spencer

Observing the 20th Anniversary of Cape Verde Independence

and introducing the CAPE VERDE PROJECT of the Historical Society

from December 3 through February 29

Special Exhibits, Programs, Music, Dances, Foods, Crafts.....and More.