

EAST • PROVIDENCE • HISTORICAL • SOCIETY



GAZETTE

John Hunt House

Vol. IX No. 4

RIGHT ON.

April, 1997

The
EAST • PROVIDENCE • HISTORICAL • SOCIETY

ANNUAL
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
850 Willett Avenue, Riverside

Monday April 28, 7:30 p.m.

Donation, \$3.00 per person

Tickets on sale at the Hunt House and Post 10

For reservations telephone (401) 438-1750 or (401) 434-0481

STRICTLY SENTIMENTAL SWING BAND

3rd Annual Appearance

The Monday, April 28th Members Meeting will be a strictly social affair for your listening and dancing pleasure. You can kick up your heels or just get a kick out of listening to the East Providence-based band led by **Ed Maddern**, Riverside.

TICKETS ARE REQUIRED

Donation is \$3.00. Reserve by calling 438-1750 or 434-0481. Tickets may be purchased at Hunt House, Hunts Mills Road, Rumford on Tuesday or Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon, or at Post 10, 830 Willett Ave. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

From the Attic

by Edna Anness, Museum Curator

An interesting phenomenon in East Providence is the fact that all of our major intersections have proper names: some go back to the nineteenth century, some few have ever heard of and some are still used by pre-1940 residents and confuse newcomers who do not have a clue. Example: one word, **BOATHOUSE**, and a whole area would jump into one's mind. To some today the **BOATHOUSE** still conjures up the area where North Broadway, Roger Williams Ave. and Centre St. converge. If you lived at the **CENTER**, you were in the area of Pawtucket and Greenwood Avenues and Pleasant St. And after 1920 if you bought gas at **THE ROTARY**, you were at the intersection of Ferris, Newman and Pawtucket Avenues.

We had our share of **SQUARES**, too. Of course everyone knows **WATCHEMOKET SQUARE**. **DEPOT SQUARE** was where the Rumford Depot sat at the crossroads of Greenwood Ave. and that part of Newman Ave., now Elm St. **RIVERSIDE SQUARE** brings to mind a railroad station, tracks and Bullock's Point and Pawtucket Avenues meeting Turner and Lincoln Avenues.

We also had **CORNERS**. An 1895 map shows **LEONARD'S CORNERS** where Pawtucket Ave. crosses Waterman, and **ARMINGTON'S CORNERS** where the Wampanoag Trail meets Pawtucket Ave. **MOORE'S CORNERS** was the intersection of Pawtucket and Warren Avenues. These corners carried the names of farm homesteads located near the intersection. All of the homes are long gone but one. The house pictured here which gave the name to **INGRAHAM'S CORNERS** is still standing on Warren Ave. near the corner of Broadway. (Continued on Page 3)



INGRAHAM'S CORNERS, the intersection of Warren Ave. and Broadway was named for the builders of this Victorian Italianate style home. The town jail was once housed in the basement.

(photo donated by Dorothy Santos)

Board Briefs

Our excellent speaker, **Barbara Sherman Stetson**, was wowed by the turnout at our March meeting, and the evening was well worth coming out for. Barbara is a well-known author of cook books and has traveled to schools in the area demonstrating and lecturing on the johnnycake. Her collection of kitchen utensils was fascinating to see and hold, and many of us were taken back to our Grandmother's kitchens (or ours perhaps?).

Our great thanks to Barbara for such an enjoyable meeting.

Perhaps many members were taken by surprise at the meeting by the announcement that the Board needed to see a show of hands of those interested in having the annual Pasta Supper. Not everyone had noticed the bulletin in the newsletter stating that our man-woman power from the Board was scanty for the supper and the general population would have to pitch in in order to make it come about. And, as the member response at the meeting was spotty at best, the Board thought it wisest to cancel for this year. **IF YOU HEARTILY DISAGREE WITH THIS DECISION AND WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT THE SUPPER TAKES PLACE NEXT YEAR, PLEASE LET A BOARD MEMBER KNOW!!** The Board is more than willing to take on the fundraising responsibilities. Please let us know if this supper is one you really enjoy and will support.

Please keep **May 19** (notice the earlier date) open for the last of our "Around the House" topics for this year. **Lierena Searle**, heralded historical landscape architect, will be with us. She will be visiting Hunt House this month and can't wait to see our project.

Special thanks to **Billie Arden, Mary McManus and Helen Smith** for the goodies they baked for the March meeting. **PRESERVATION NEWS**

Did you hear the news that the **MacDonald/Gregg's house** on Pawtucket Ave (next to Gregg's) is **free to the taker**, provided it is moved by the summer. This is a great house, folks, and well worth it. Spread the news.

There appears to be action at City Hall regarding the **Weaver House**. Please stay tuned.

The **old white cape** on Roger Williams Ave. near the bottom of Wilson Ave. hill is on the market. 15,000 square feet on Omega Pond. This is one not many of us know anything about but we are investigating. Anyone have any knowledge?

There is an exciting project on water power being set up between the high school and our Society. High school students are investigating how water power works and have targeted the **dam at Hunts Mills** as a great site to find out. They are willing to try experiments with a historical nature. Do any members have knowledge to share?

IN MEMORIUM

A donation was made to the Society's Memorial Fund in memory of **Clarke Rodman**, who died on March 15th.

Sadly Missed ... Fondly Remembered

The GAZETTE

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The
GAZETTE
is printed at



1062 Willett Avenue, Riverside

Upcoming Events Delivered to the Community

On May 15^h **Edna Anness, Museum Curator** and
Virginia Berwick, Museum Committee Chairman will
present a program

"The History of the Rumford Chemical Works"
at **EAST PROVIDENCE HIGH SCHOOL**
for **Industry and Science Week**
and at

ST. MICHAEL'S AND GRACE CHURCH

Edna will give a Slide Presentation:

"Early East Providence History"

May 14th 7:30 p.m.

New Members

Warm Welcome to Our New Members

Raymond and Linda Young

Museum Committee

Virginia Berwick, Chairman

Gladys Panzarella has created a costume for our docents to wear when giving tours at the Hunt House. Gladys and **Trudy Lima** made the outfits. The aprons and bonnets will fit everybody and the docents will wear blouses and skirts to complete the outfit. They are in keeping with what ladies were wearing in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. If any docents would like a brush-up on Hunt House and Hunt family history you are welcome to come to the Hunt House on any Thursday morning at 10 o'clock and we will bring you up to date and include stories on recent acquisitions. Just let us know when you are planning to come. Anyone who would care to be a new docent, do come along too. It is fun. We are having some school classes coming this spring and in the fall we hope to have a fifth grade school tour start again (1/2 in fall and 1/2 in spring). We will also have an **open house when the photo book is released and for the picnic in June.**

Frances Gross has completed the recaning of one of our Victorian side chairs which needed repair. We are most grateful for her volunteering to do it.

An ad appears in the new monthly issue of **The American Chemistry Society** courtesy of **Dr. Paul Jones**, current editor of the newsletter. It advertises what we have available in our Rumford Chemical Works collection for research.

Many thanks to the above volunteers. You really "made our day" in March.

FROM THE ATTIC *(continued from Page 1)*

Edna Anness, Museum Curator

Dorothy Santos sent the photo and the story of the house to the Historical Society in 1977. It was built in 1868 by the **Ingrahams** in Victorian Italianate style with a mansard roof. They also bought the lots on both sides so that their yard extended to the corner of Broadway. It was very elegant with a porch across the front, high ceilings on the first floor and wide pine plank floors. In the basement was once housed the town jail before the "new" town hall was built in 1889 which had a police station. Bars on the cellar windows and traces of the cell are still visible. In 1964 the Santos family removed an addition, an outhouse and garage to build their store to the east of the house.

SIX CORNERS is the intersection of Waterman and Taunton Avenues and Broadway. Newcomers will call this area the **UNDERPASS**, but the name **SIX CORNERS** still sticks. Finally, we have **CHIMNEY CORNERS** in Riverside, so called because of a chimney which stood in the ruins of a burned house at the curve of Willett Ave. It had been on the old foundation of **Capt. Willett's** house. Some say old bricks were put into the chimney replicas now on the curve. Play a game while you are waiting at the red lights in the city and see how many proper names you can remember!?!



Gladys Panzarella (l) and Trudy Lima model new old costumes

ACCESSIONS - GIFTS

Elizabeth Smith - A tile picturing Newman Congregational Church

Jane Civins - Postcard of Hunts Mills

Tom Connors - Framed picture of the First National Warehouse, now Nyman Manufacturing

John Agren - Class of 1943 E.Providence High School Reunion mug filled with spent bullets from the old rifle range

Edna Anness - Iron stilyard and iron candlesnuffer

THANK YOU!

ATTENTION!

The new book "IMAGES OF AMERICA: EAST PROVIDENCE" will be on the bookshelves shortly.

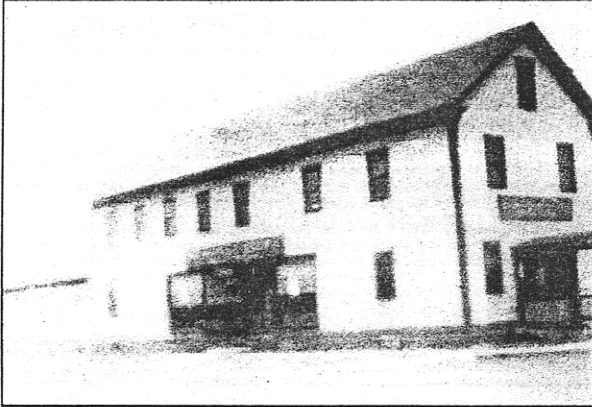
ALL MEMBERS will be able to buy the book for **10% OFF THE LIST PRICE**

when it arrives at the John Hunt House Gift Counter. You will be notified when it arrives.

The Rumford and the Depot Square Grocery Stores

By John W. Agren, with help and input from Gladys Kronquist Bradley, Ralph Bradley, Walter Swanson and Clint Sellev

One Saturday morning Ma gave Edgar a long list of groceries, meat, soap and other household products that she had written on the back of a brown paper bag. The list was to be carried to the Rumford Store at 176 Greenwood Ave. and given to Mr. Kronquist so that he could fill the order for the Agren family. Ma said, "Take John with you, he is big enough to help". Edgar squawked a little about having to give me a ride, but the two of us headed over to the Rumford Company Store.



The Rumford Store on Greenwood Avenue



Lars Kronquist

A big glass case held all kinds of mouth-watering items. A little boy's eyes would pop when viewing goodies in that revered glass candy case. Behind the spotless curved glass container were boxes of "root beer barrels", the flavor of which would last for hours if not broken into a thousand melting pieces by hungry jaws. Jelly beans and chocolate-covered peanuts looked good, and you got so many for a penny! Squirrels, with chewy centers and little pieces of peanuts, Tootsie Rolls, long licorice rope, gum balls and big red fire balls, vanilla creams, Mary Janes with centers of peanut butter, and other delicious candies. A five-cent bag of penny candy, enriched by donations from managers of the store, was a big one. Our goodies could last for hours.

The purchase of the candy must have been exasperating for Mr. Kronquist but he seemed as anxious as we were to make the most desirable purchase. We were never hurried. A lot of deliberation was required before we decided how each of the five pennies was to be spent! Would we buy the Mary Janes or should we get chocolate-covered peanuts? Maybe we should buy a piece of bubble gum with a colorful pitch card of a World War aviator hero. We could break the slab of gum into two equal pieces.

The journey home, with a wagon full of groceries, was a quiet one because we had goodies in our mouths. When all the candy was gone, Edgar filled the empty bag with air and struck the bottom. The resulting "Bang!" signaled an end to much of the magic of our trip. We looked at one another and laughed. By this time we were almost home.

To get to the Rumford Store we usually went past the Rumford Churning Company (The Butterene Factory), across Barney St. and Ferris Ave., through the "Rumford Polo Lots" and over Bishop Ave. near St. Margaret Church. Then we went through Lakeside Cemetery, between the Rumford Chemical Works on the left and the fire station and post office on our right. We turned left down Greenwood Ave. Going to and from the Rumford Store is a cherished memory of Edgar, the Kronquist brothers, their store and earlier days in Rumford.

I bumped along, towed in an old red wagon, and observed a little of the world outside of Pavilion Ave. This could have been my first trip away from home! Going home from the store I would be required to push on the back of the wagon. I must contribute to the completion of the grocery shopping mission. Anyway, the wagon would be so full of Ma's groceries and other things that there would be no room for me. During the thirties this shopping trip became a regular Saturday morning job for Edgar and me. When there was snow on the ground we would use Edgar's big Flexible Flyer sled.

Going to the Rumford Store was something special for me, not Edgar. He had been there before and enjoyed looking at many interesting things on the road and in the store. At the end of Ma's long list there was a note for five-cents-worth of candy for us from the expansive and ornate oak and glass candy case in back of a wooden post over near the old cash register.

We left our wagon on the sidewalk and entered the store through the wide double doors on Greenwood Ave. We were immediately greeted with a smile and a cheery "Good morning". Edgar gave Mother's shopping list to one of the Kronquist brothers and he quickly began to speed up and down the aisles, taking soap down from one shelf and canned goods from another. These men moved fast! They knew the location of each item and the quickest way to the article. In just a few minutes our order was filled, except for what Edgar and I thought was the most important item on the list: the five-cents-worth of candy!

Lars' mother came from Sweden with children Peter, Anna, Nels, Lars and Hannah in 1881. Lars was two years old when he arrived in Rhode Island. Frank was born shortly after his mother, brothers and sisters came to America, and Emma, the youngest, was born in 1884.

The first Swedes who came to Rumford were Andrew Hokanson (Nov., 1871), Peter Peterson (Sept., 1872), Nels Swenson (June, 1872), Hakan Hammarlund (my grandfather, Jan., 1873), and Peter Wenberg (May, 1873). Andrew Hokanson, Hakan Hammarlund and other early immigrants from Sweden, were employed by the Rumford Chemical Company at a rate of \$8 a week. Rumford, at one time, was called "Swede Village". Andrew Hokanson wrote to the Kronquist family when he arrived in America and probably influenced their coming to America.



The Rumford train depot, near the Depot Square Grocery Store

The Depot Square Grocery Store opened for business at 310 Greenwood Ave. in 1913. This store, named because of the location close to the Rumford train depot, was owned and operated by the brothers Frank and Lars Kronquist. In 1929 the Rumford Chemical Works sought the Kronquist brothers to operate their company store. In July of 1929 The Rumford Store opened with the Kronquists as managers. Its previous operator had been Mr. McCourt. He lived in a Rumford house near where the Marshall Construction building is now located. Ownership of the Kronquist's Depot Square Grocery Store building was retained while the brothers managed the Rumford Company Store. The Depot Square Grocery Store remained vacant until 1936 when it was rented to Ellis and Marion Hawks who operated a variety store, with an ice cream fountain, in that building.

In 1940 there were changes in management at Rumford Chemical, new ideas about the value of The Rumford Store were expressed. There was a desire for Frank and Lars to make a change. They wanted to be free of the encumbrance of working for people who were not a part of the grocery business. The Rumford Store at 176 Greenwood Ave. was permanently closed and The Rumford Depot Store at 310 Greenwood Ave. was re-opened as The Kronquist Brothers' Grocery Store. The store was operated until the brothers retired in 1970.

THE NEW RUMFORD STORE

On JULY 1st, 1929

the Depot Square Grocery at Rumford, will unite with the general store now operated by the Rumford Chemical Works, under the new name of

RUMFORD STORE

and under the personal management of the Kronquist Brothers, the present proprietors of the Depot Square Grocery.

RUMFORD STORE will conduct its business in the building now occupied by the Rumford Chemical Works Store, and this building is to be renovated and changed, both exterior and interior, to meet the requirements of the enlarged business, and to make of it an up-to-date store, that will be in every way possible most convenient and attractive to its customers.

RUMFORD STORE will carry a full line of standard groceries, together with such fruits, vegetables and meats as the community may require; also certain special lines of dry-goods, such as have been carried by the Rumford Chemical Works Store in the past.

RUMFORD STORE, while continuing to meet the needs of former cash-and-carry customers, plans to make a specialty of quick delivery service by motor truck, and to this end will have available a trunk-line telephone switch-board that will insure immediate attention to orders.

RUMFORD STORE, under the management of the Kronquist Brothers, who have established for themselves, in the Depot Square Grocery, a reputation for courtesy and attentiveness most satisfying to their customers, with its increased facilities at their command, will be in a position to render service still more satisfactory.

RUMFORD STORE, then, asks for itself and its managers, not only a continuance, but an enlargement of the patronage that the united stores have for a long time enjoyed separately; assuring not only the past, but also prospective customers of its intention to furnish the best goods at the best prices, and with the best service that it is possible to make available to the community whose needs it will endeavor to supply.

RUMFORD STORE
Kronquist Brothers, Managers.

1-29 629

Poster announcing the opening of The Rumford Store

Lars, with his wife Huldah and family, moved to Seekonk in 1917. This house, on the corner of Arcade and Newman Avenues, was built in 1811. Frank and his wife, Mary A., stayed at 29 Thatcher St., Rumford until 1967 when Frank moved into the Seekonk home with his brother. In Seekonk a vegetable garden was maintained in the back of the house. The garden was as neat and well-organized as their grocery store. Neighbors who visited, and profited by gifts of vegetables cultivated there, stated that "insects did not dare to enter the Kronquist garden".

The Kronquist brothers were the first in the country to provide frozen vegetables for their customers. This "Birds Eye" brand led to a revolution in the way vegetables were grown, harvested, packaged, displayed, and made available. The rapid freezing of vegetables was a tremendous change. People could have fresh-frozen vegetables at any time of the year, no matter where they lived.

(Continued next issue)



The Kronquist Brothers' Grocery Store

Events Calendar

APRIL

Monday, April 28, 7:30 p.m.
Post 10, American Legion
830 Willett Avenue, Riverside
Strictly Sentimental Swing Band

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

MAY

Monday, May 19, 7:30 p.m.
Members Meeting
Newman Church
Speaker: Lierena Searle,
Landscape Architect
Subject: "Historical Gardens"



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