

EAST • PROVIDENCE • HISTORICAL • SOCIETY



G A Z E T T E

John Hunt House

Vol. IX No. 6

RIGHT ON.

June 1997

EAST • PROVIDENCE • HISTORICAL • SOCIETY

Annual
**HUNT'S MILLS
FAMILY
PICNIC**
Monday, June 23, 1997, 5 p.m.
A GRAND CELEBRATION

Exotic Foods To Delight the Palate of the Most Discriminating
(Hamburgers & Hot Dogs)
& The Famous Hunt House

Strawberry Shortcake

Made with REAL WHIPPED CREAM and Dandelion colored Hardened Eggless BAKING POWDER. BLENDED

State House
Brassworks
presents the
**PROVIDENCE
BRIGADE
BAND**
Authentic re-creations of Civil War Regimental
Band music and Mid 19th Century polkas, waltzes and
quick steps as played at Hunt's Mills nearly 150 years ago.

All Are Welcome

Donation: **Members \$3.00** **Guests \$6.00**

Admission by Ticket Only

Tickets are available at the Hunt House Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. until noon
and at Atlantic Flag and Banner, 694 North Broadway, Monday through Friday
telephone (401) 438-1750 for ticket information

ANNUAL MEETING • FAMILY PICNIC • BAND CONCERT

The election of officers will occupy a few minutes of time on Monday, June 23rd when we gather for the Family Picnic and Band Concert. There having been no nominations from the floor at the May 19th members meeting, the recording secretary will cast one vote for the slate recommended by the Nominating Committee:

President:	Les Haworth
1st Vice-president:	Nancy Moore
2nd Vice-president:	David Kelleher
Recording Secretary:	Betty Soderlund
Corresponding Secretary:	Gladys Panzarella
Treasurer:	Rose Marie Sirenski

The rest of the time will be devoted to the serious business of **food**: hot dogs, hamburgers, salad, beverages, homemade biscuit strawberry shortcake...and **music**: The Providence Brigade Band playing Civil War Music, vintage polkas, waltzes and quick steps...and **socializing**. Starting time is 5 PM. Tickets are \$3 for members, \$6 for non-members, and can be purchased at the Hunt House, Hunt's Mills Rd, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 AM to noon or American Flag and Banner, 694 No. Broadway, Monday through Friday.

Admission is by Ticket Only! Tickets may be reserved and picked up at the 'door' by calling 438-1750 or 437-1530. The deadline for reservations is **Saturday, June 21st**.



Trolley car conductor with old Riverside trolley barn in background.
-photo donated by Everett Chapman

From the Attic

Edna Anness, Museum Curator

Over the last eight years many photographs of local scenes have been loaned or donated to the Museum. When preparing the **Images of America: East Providence** book hundreds of photos were scanned. And yet even when looking
(continued on page 3)

Board Briefs

One of the best turnouts of the year greeted historical designer, **Lala Searle**, at the May meeting. Visitors from Providence, Seekonk, and Attleboro were noted in the audience. Obviously, this lady's work is well known and highly admired. Those of us who were treated to a step-by-step restoration of the grounds of the magnificent **Nightingale/Brown House** were amazed at the transformation of the site. I wonder if any of us were able to visit the house afterwards to see it "for real". Our own Board has voted to have Lala draw up site plans for the front of Hunt House in anticipation of the restoration of our grounds and gardens.

If you have driven by the Pawtucket Avenue property now owned by Gregg's Restaurants, you may have noticed the labor intensive dismantling of the **MacDonald House**. This fine example of turn-of-the-century architecture has been rescued by a Rhode Island couple who will store the house until a suitable site is found. They will then reassemble the house, hopefully in a safe place, where it should serve as gracious living space for another century or more. Thanks go to the **Historic Property Commission** and the **Historical Society** for requesting that Gregg's allow time for a rescue mission. And a **huge thanks to Gregg's** for recognizing the architectural value of the house and accommodating this unusual venture.

- Nancy Moore

OTHER NEWS:

The Board approved a donation to the **American Legion, Post 10 Scholarship Fund** in appreciation of their support for the Society's April 28th Ballroom Dancing affair held at the Willett Avenue location.

New Members

Warm Welcome to Our New Members

Sophie Fredrick

Everett Hurd

Eleanor Martin

Barbara Flynn

William & Eleanor Saunders

Joan Bang*

Louise Capello*

*Happy 50th Birthday, Girls

SPECIAL REQUEST FROM THE MUSEUM

Does anyone know of a used Apple or MacIntosh computer and Xerox machine available as donations to the Museum? We would like to put a Cross-reference Accession Inventory List on computer. We have the intern who is available to transfer all of our records from a card file system to a computer system. The Museum phone number is 438-1750. Such donations would be tax deductible... and greatly appreciated.

The GAZETTE

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EAST•PROVIDENCE•HISTORICAL•SOCIETY
 P.O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI 02916-4774
 (401) 438-1750

OFFICERS

President	Les Haworth
1 st Vice President	Nancy Moore
2 nd Vice President	Lura Sellew
Recording Secretary	Betty Soderlund
Corresponding Secretary	Gladys Panzarella
Treasurer	Rose Marie Sirenski

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Buildings/Grounds	Earl Berwick
Markers	Chris Rose
Membership	Mona Breault
Museum	Virginia Berwick
Newsletter	Doreen Bonney
Preservation	Les Haworth
Publicity	Florence Adams
Museum Curator	Edna Anness

The
GAZETTE
 is printed at



1062 Willett Avenue, Riverside

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, individual or \$15, family.

Please make check payable to:

East Providence Historical Society

Mail to: Mona Breault
 34 Josephine Avenue
 Rumford, RI 02916

New Renewal Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____



Annual Memberships

Annual memberships are due the anniversary month that each member joined. We suggest that you check the mailing label on your newsletter for that date.

Example: 9707 translates to July, 1997
 9711 is November, 1997

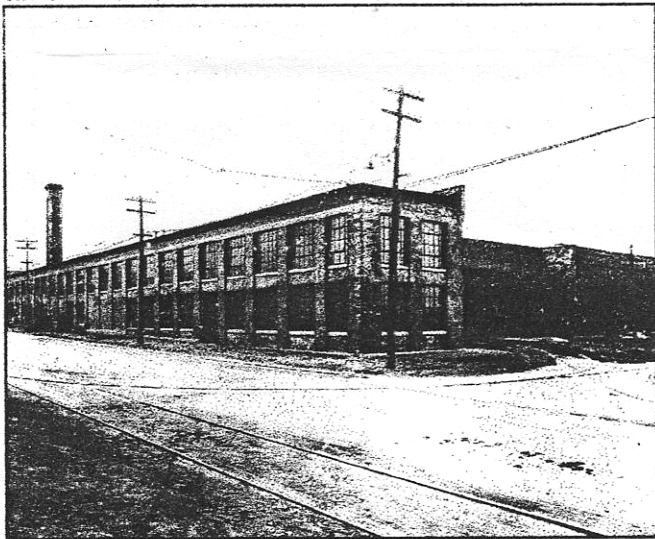
Your prompt payment will reduce the cost and labor involved in mailing reminders. *Mona Breault, Membership Chairman, thanks you.*

From the Attic (continued from page 1)

by Edna Anness

at hundreds, there were a few that were missing and we thought we would never find them. We never give up hope! Two longed-for photos came through the Hunt House door a few weeks ago in the hand of Everett Chapman, and were we excited!!! Two old landmarks from the 1890's. The photo with the trolley car conductor in the foreground is the old **Riverside Trolley Barn** which stood on Bullock's Point Ave. near Knowlton St. The other is a photo of the **Broadway Trolley Car Barn** on North Broadway. This barn later became the location of one of the early discount stores and was called the **Broadway Mill Outlet**, a very popular store in the late 1950's/early 1960's. This building was torn down to make way for the Henderson Bridge approach ramps to the west of today's Orlo Avenue School. Two great pictures!

Some other photos we would like to locate are the **Union Chapel on the Terrace**, the chimney that stood where Willett Arms is today, PS #2 on Wilson Ave., the **Benjamin Wilson mansion** on Wilson Ave., **Wightman's Diner** at the junction of Newport and Pawtucket Avenues, the **Judkins Showcase Factory** and the brick arsenal at **Rumford Center**, the reservoir on **Bourne Ave.**, and the **Rumford Volunteer Fire Station** south of Greenwood Ave. in Depot Square. These are a few starters! I am sure you can think of others.



Broadway Trolley Barn, later the Broadway Mill Outlet
photo donated by Everett Chapman

Museum Committee

Virginia Berwick, *Chairman*

The Museum Committee met at the Hunt House on May 28th to look at the articles which have been donated in the past few months. All were accepted and now they can be accessioned. We warmly welcome **Amelia Cabral**, our new intern from **Roger Williams University**. She will provide the Museum with 140 volunteer hours. Amelia is a senior at the University with a major in historic restoration. She graduated from E.Providence High School and still lives in

East Providence. She will be providing her hours from the end of May, when she started, until the end of December. She is the reason we would love to get a computer so that she could bring us into the 21st century with our inventory on disks.

Helen Smith, Mona Breault, Ginny Berwick, Gladys Panzarella, Virginia Ripley, Earl Berwick and Steve Panzarella were tour guides at the Hunt House from 10:30 to 2:30 on Wednesday, June 4th for the **E.Providence Senior Citizens Picnic**. About fifty people came through the House and were very impressed with what has been accomplished.

ACCESSIONS - GIFTS

Helen Brush - A stool from Union Primary School.

Miriam Gustafson - Framed atlas map of the northern section of East Providence, 1895, given in memory of Charles Jackson.

Marian McCabe - 1909 RUMFORD Receipt Book.

Eleanor Peterson - Her father's receipt from First Baptist Church for pew rental; two letters.

John Agren - Gold-framed collage of pictures of the Class of 1943, East Providence High School.

Everett Chapman - Four photographs of East Providence trolley scenes.

Lowell Anness - Antique iron apple peeler.

Thank you

LURA - LOVED AND REMEMBERED

If you knew Lura you would first think of her bright smile, her infectious giggle and her love of life. Everything interested her - art, flowers mainly, but history also had it's place as well as friends of all ages.



We all miss her. Two of her teacher friends, Anne Rourke and Peggy John, are planting gardens at the Hunt House in her memory. Lura grew all the plants in a greenhouse and in her yard. She was always asking if you would like a clipping of some plants. She was a sharing, caring friend.



She was one of the founding members of the East Providence Historical Society and worked to get our first lease for the Hunt House. She was Secretary for twenty-five years and held other offices as well. She was our "Artist in Residence", always ready to help.



The Monday Craft Group has had many hours of fun with Lura and we will miss her. A life well lived.

Events Calendar

JUNE

Monday, June 23, 5:00 p.m.
Annual Meeting/Election of Officers
Family Picnic/Strawberry Shortcake
HOMETOWN BRASS BAND CONCERT
Hunt's Mills Recreation Area

JULY

Wednesday, July 9, 7:30 p.m.
Board Meeting, Hunt House
Newsletter Deadline
Program Planning - '97/'98

SEPTEMBER

Next Members Meeting, Newman Church

IN MEMORIUM

A donation was made to the Society's Memorial Fund in memory of Alice Valerio, who died in April, and Lura Sellev, founding member, who died in May.

Sadly Missed... Fondly Remembered

EAST•PROVIDENCE•HISTORICAL•SOCIETY
MARKER PROGRAM

Your Home May Be Eligible for a MARKER



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.

Send the coupon below to:
The Marker Program
East Providence Historical Society
P.O. Box 4774
East Providence, RI 02916-4774

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

Name _____
Address _____



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