

John Hunt House

Vol. XI No. 8

April 2000

Gazette



Sixth Annual Ballroom Memories Event

Monday, April 24, 7:30 p.m.

Post 10 American Legion
830 Willett Ave., Riverside

Ballroom dancing hasn't lost its 'swing' in six years. If anything it's on the up'swing'. More and more young people are getting into the 'swing' of things judging by the popularity of 'swing' dance classes. The 17 piece *Strictly Sentimental Swing Band* of Riverside will once again 'swing' out a fox trot, waltz or latin number for our dancing and listening pleasure.

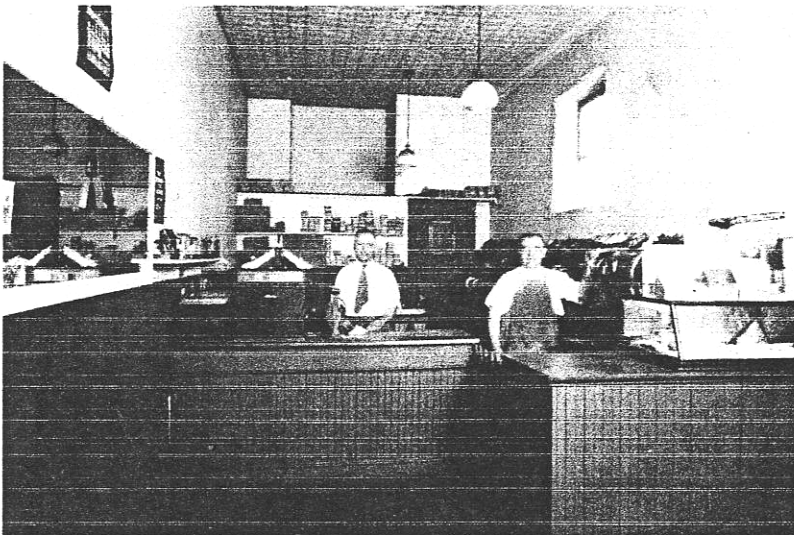
ADMISSION IS BY TICKET ONLY

Donation is \$5 per person.

The telephone committee will call the membership to take reservations and ask for cookies or bars to be served with Kris Rose's heavenly "Rainbow Punch". Tickets will be held at the door for payment. The public is invited. Reservations may also be made by calling the society, 438-1750 or 437-1530



We thank Post 10 members, especially Don and Annette Akers, for their continued support for this affair.



Six Corners Shoe Repair Shop, circa 1927. On left, proprietor Nicholas Sincero - photo donated by Paul L. Sincero

MEMBERS' MEMORIES

What I Remember About Six Corners

by Paul L. Sincero

My father, Nicholas Sincero, was owner and operator of the Six Corners Shoe Repair Shop. His store was located at the end of the block of stores on Waterman Avenue. I started working there after school at the age of nine, shining shoes, sweeping floors and sometimes as cashier.

As the years went by, store occupants changed and I'll try to remember who the shopkeepers were. After our store, at the end of the block, was a Ford dealership. I believe the name was Hagan Ford. Next to us going towards the corners was Standard Hardware, Six Corners Barber Shop, owned by

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Board Briefs

Edna Anness, Museum Curator, suffered a broken leg bone when she slipped on ice at her home in March. Five more weeks and she'll be as good as new. Of course, she's working as hard as ever but confined to home. *Our best wishes.*

Ray Anderson represented the society at the 15th Annual Statewide Historic Preservation Conference held Saturday, April 8 in Woonsocket. Society Vice President **Dave Kelleher** also attended.

The Board approved the **Building Committee's** recommendation that *changes be made in the heating system* to make it more efficient. Details to be reported at the May members meeting.

The John Hunt House is open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 am until noon, or by appointment.

The *Gazette* welcomes "letters to the editor" and articles of historic interest, especially personal reminiscences. Deadline: first Friday of the month. Mail Attention **Doreen Bonney**, East Providence Historical Society, P.O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI 02916.

The Gazette

is published monthly by the
EAST•PROVIDENCE•HISTORICAL•SOCIETY
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Grounds	Ray Anderson
Markers	Kris Rose
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Museum Curator	Edna Anness
Newsletter	Doreen Bonney
Preservation	Les Haworth
Publicity	Florence Adams

The
Gazette
 is printed at



3 Crescent View Avenue, Riverside

In memory of...

Donations were made to the Society's Memorial Fund in memory of

**Olga Rowland,
 Florence Sharpe
 and Edward Taylor**
who recently passed away.

Sadly Missed... Fondly Remembered

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Virginia Berwick, Les Haworth and Nancy Wolf will serve on the Nominating Committee. They are responsible for "presenting a slate of candidates for elected office at the May members meeting" as stated in the society's Standing Rules and Procedures. The positions are listed in the masthead of the *Gazette*. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted at the May meeting. Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting in June.

Would you or someone you know be the candidate we're looking for?

Call the society, 438-1750 or 434-0998.

MUSEUM COMMITTEE

by Virginia Berwick, Chairman

The Pasta Supper was a success because of all the volunteers who came to help. **Ray Anderson and Dave Kelleher** did the shopping and worked in the kitchen with **Tom Thornton**.

Others helped to set up the tables, set the tables, take money at the door and clean up after the supper. Volunteers were: **Mona Breault, Helen Smith, Billie Arden, Rose Marie Sirenski, Ginny Berwick, Susan Lundgren, Carolyn Ainsworth, Jeffrey Fitzgerald, Ed Luciano, Dick Lundgren, Dorothy Duane, Ruth and Robert McCarthy, Ceil Beckett, Norman Ouellette, Bob Tewksbury, and my grandson Evan Berwick.**

We netted \$335.72 with the supper and split the pot. We also gained two new members. I knew we could do it and we will do it again.

Thank you to all who served and came to the supper.

New Members

Warm Welcome To Our New Members:

**Norman Ouellette
 Carolyn Ainsworth
 Edward "Ned" Connors**

What I Remember About Six Corners

by Paul L. Sincero

(continued from page 1)

Leo Paparella, a **tailor shop** owned by a man named Colafrancesco and then **King Drug Store** at the corner. Going around the corner on the Taunton Ave. side was a **gift shop**, a **New York System** weiners restaurant, that the kids used to call "hot weinie joint", again Standard Hardware. The hardware store had entrances on Taunton and Waterman Avenues. Next to the hardware store was **Barbara's Candy Store**, owned by the Mooney family. Now I draw a blank. It seems that end of the block tenants never stayed too long.

Across Taunton Ave. was the **Six Corners Department Store** owned by the Siperstein family who lived upstairs. Only one building next to the department store was a **soda shop**, with a great juke box that played all big band tunes. A driveway separated these two buildings. Next came **Dolce's Restaurant**, which is now Bovi's. Next at the corner of So. Broadway and Taunton Ave. was a **Richfield gas station**. Across So. Broadway was a **used car lot**. At this eastern apex of Six Corners was a **Standard Oil gas station** owned by the Fratus family. Florence Fratus was a high school classmate. Across the street was a **drug store** and a small **grocery store**. To complete the circle, we go back to a block of stores across the street from King's Drug Store and the tailor shop. We begin with **Colt's Hardware Store**. Next, a store which was empty most of the time was followed by **Sabetta's Tailor Shop**. The very end of the block, at one time, was occupied by the **VFW**.

I'm not certain of this, but I believe when **Liberty Furniture** moved to the corner of James St. and Waterman Ave. was when Standard Hardware moved in. Right in the middle of Six Corners was a giant traffic rotary. I don't remember any traffic lights.

Two outstanding things that I remember happening at Six Corners are: watching the **Hindenburg** fly by in 1937, and the **Wendell Wilkie Motorcade** pass by in 1940.

After graduating from East Providence High School in 1943, I left Six Corners and went into the Army.

Thank you Paul for sharing your knowledge with our readers. For more memories, read on...

Member **Dorothy Sampson Duane** remembers a **Benny's** on the corner next to Horton's Fish Market (at present). **Young China** (her favorite Chinese restaurant in all the world) first opened on Taunton Ave. in 1935 before moving to Warren Ave. in 1940. Many of her family worked at the Taunton Ave. address which was where the **Six Corners Dry Goods Store** was opened by the Solomon family.

GROUNDS COMMITTEE

by Ray Anderson, Chairman

By the time you read this, the garden should be pruned and winter debris removed thanks to the assistance of volunteer **Vikki Kizirian**.

Plant identification should be in place thanks to the donation of **Jim Rose**, husband of Kris Rose. Very professional looking!

Come check things out. Thanks so much to **Vikki and Jim**.

FROM THE ATTIC

by Edna Anness, Museum Curator

The curator is out of commission with a broken leg until June. I can hop around on one leg, but can't do stairs, and fortunately there is no pain. The museum hours are still in force and Virginia and Edna can still field inquiries by phone. The article on **Churches** is in the computer, which now has decided not to print for me. Watch for it next month.

We hope the **Open House** can still take place, but we need a few volunteers to help Virginia hang the pictures. An **Eagle Scout** candidate has volunteered to clean the Hunt House with his troop, and **Ed Serowik** has volunteered to put up the display stands with the boys.

On March 10th **Bob Tewksbury**, with four of his students from school, **Ray Anderson**, **Dave Kelleher**, **Earl Berwick**, **Lowell** and I met at the Philip Walker House and moved anything that was left after the auction to the Hunt House. The furniture listed in this month's *Gifts List* had been specifically put aside for us. Next fall the **East Display Room** on the 2nd floor will be a bedroom almost completely furnished with Walker House furniture. How does naming the room "*The Philip Walker Bedroom*" sound?



Millennium 2000 - May is Millennium Month. Heritage Harbor Museum is organizing a State-Wide Museum Program to celebrate the month.

On May 21, as our share, we will have an **OPEN HOUSE AND TEA** from 1 - 4 at the Hunt House. Our exhibition will be **THE 20TH CENTURY IN EAST PROVIDENCE IN PHOTOS**. The display will actually be up and open the entire month of May during our Museum hours. More later!

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

by Ray Anderson, Chairman

Members Florence Adams, Rose Marie Sirenski and I have met three evenings and expect to submit our ideas to the Executive Board in a timely manner.



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Events Calendar

April

Monday, April 24, 7:30 pm
Strictly Sentimental Swing Band
 Post 10 American Legion
 830 Willett Avenue, Riverside
 Donation: \$5 per person

May

Wednesday, May 3, 7:30 pm
 Board Meeting (*members welcome*)
 John Hunt House, Hunts Mills Rd., Rumford

Sunday, May 21, 1 to 4 pm
Open House and Tea
 20th Century in East Providence in Photos
 John Hunt House, Rumford

Monday, May 22, 7:30 pm
 Members Meeting
 Nominating Committee Report
 Newman Church, Rumford
 Program: *Monroe Dairy History*

GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

- Beverly Simmons** – Antique signature quilt, c. 1840 in memory of her son and daughter.
- Mike Tierney** – Blue Rumford bottle.
- Fales Peirce** – Acid phosphate bottle.
- Bob Moravec** – Collection of papers and programs relating to St. Mark's Church, the Hope and Riverside Congregational Churches, Crescent Park, and of local interest.
- George Chalko** – Copy of postcard of old Town Hall on Pawtucket Avenue.
- Preserve RI** – Eighteenth Century mahogany Hepplewhite four poster bed, a walking wheel, Empire desk/bookcase, Empire bureau and numerous small items from the Philip Walker House.
- Leonard Nyberg, Jr.** – Framed picture of Dr. Elmer L. Moore of Rumford and two copies of his death notice.
- Diane McLean** – Two chairs from the former Armington's Corners Volunteer Fire Company #4.