

# Gazette

## ANNUAL MEETING ELECTION OF OFFICERS PICNIC

Monday, June 26, Hunts Mills, Rumford

### MENU

- Hot Dogs - Hamburgers -

- Assorted Salads -

Beverages (including E. P. Water)

*AND*

Strawberry Shortcake/Monroe Dairy

donated Cream

“Doors” open 5:00 pm for purchase of tickets

**Tickets: \$3.00 members;**

**\$6.00 non-members**

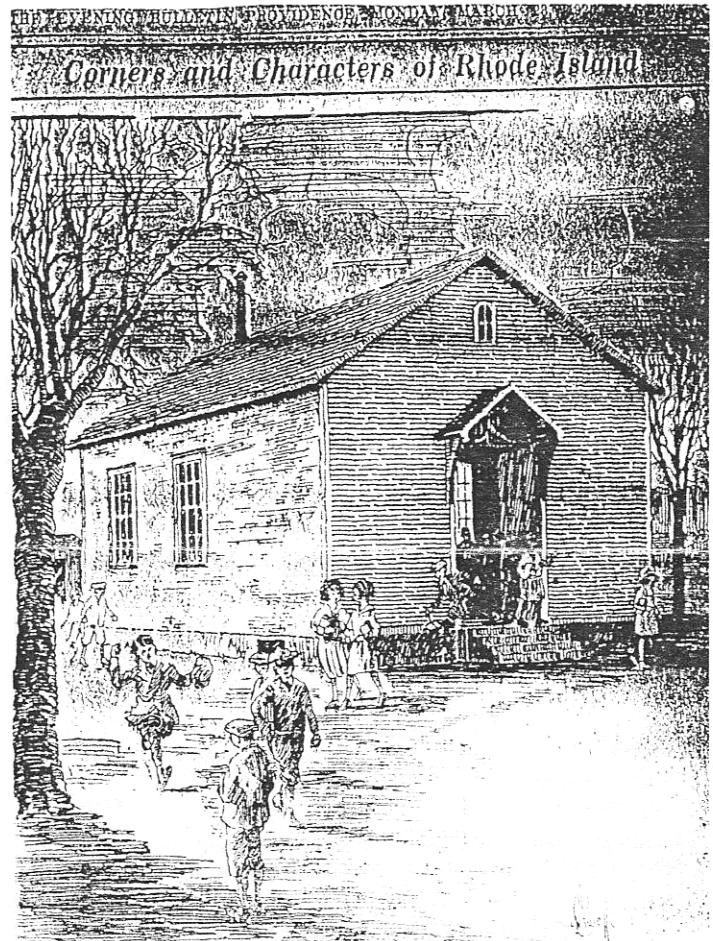
**FOOD SERVED 5:30 pm**

The telephone committee will contact members for salads and biscuits. You are welcome to come to the area early to enjoy the setting and view the Hunt House gardens.

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee: Virginia Berwick, Les Haworth and Nancy Wolfe, presented the following as candidates to serve the society 2000 – 2001. There were no nominations from the floor at the May Members meeting. The Recording Secretary will cast one vote at the Annual Meeting for their election.

President	Bob Tewksbury
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Dave Kelleher
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Nancy Moore
Recording Secretary	ANYONE???
Corresponding Secretary	Gladys Panzarella
Treasurer	Peter Allen



### RUNEN'S RIVER SCHOOL HOUSE

Article published in the Providence Evening Bulletin,

March 23, 1925

*Researched and presented by George Amaral*

Automobilists using the Barrington backroad from Armington's corners in East Providence to the eastward have noticed the small school building typical of half a century or more ago that stands slightly back from the roadway not far from where the crossroad goes to the north over "Ruhlin's" river bridge, as it was written in old colonial records. It is now called "Runen's" river.

As early as 1699 there was a schoolhouse in that section, for at the town meeting of March 28 that year Jonathan Bosworth was "confirmed" as schoolmaster for the year

(continued on Page 3)

## Board Briefs

Let's get sentimental for a moment. **Rose Marie Sirenski** and **Betty Soderlund** will not be returning as board members. Their decision. **Betty** has served as **Recording Secretary** since 1994 and **Rose Marie** as **Treasurer** since 1991. (Yes we're gonna have an outside audit!!!) Seriously, folks...their contribution to the society has been constant, devoted and critical to the smooth operation of this volunteer organization. *We thank you enormously.*

And speaking of contributions, **Doreen Bonney**, *Gazette* editor since '96, feels the need to ease out of that job. We need a computer-literate replacement. We know you're out there.

The Bylaws Committee: **Ray Anderson**, Chairman, **Florence Adams** and **Rose Marie Sirenski**, completed its review of the bylaws. Suggested changes will be presented to the Board for further scrutiny and then to the membership for review and final approval.

**Pat Henry** will be accepting membership renewals at the Annual Meeting. Check the address label on your *Gazette*. If it reads "2006", you're due.

The **John Hunt House** will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 to noon, through June. The house will be closed July and August except by appointment. Call the society, 438-1750.

The *Gazette* welcomes "letters to the editor" and articles of historic interest.

Mail: **Doreen Bonney**, East Providence Historical Society, P.O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI 02916

## DAVE KELLEHER HONORED AT LUNCHEON

The **East Bay Tourism Council**, Warren, a division of the **Rhode Island Tourism Council**, cited **Dave Kelleher**, society Vice President, for his **contribution to tourism** at a luncheon at the Convention Center, Providence. Dave was recognized for the many East Providence projects he has created or supports including the following: "Historic East Providence", a slide show; Book of 25 East Providence historic sites with facts and maps which are in all East Providence schools; tours of the Bridgham Farm, Rumford and John Hunt House; "conductor" of the Carousel, Crescent Park; R.I. Lighthouses lecturer including pictures, facts and maps. He is giving visitors to the state, or locals, a reason to consider East Providence as more than a drive-through city.

The **East Providence City Council** presented him with a citation as a result of having received the award. **Members of the society extend congratulations and thanks.**

### *The Gazette*

is published monthly by the

**EAST•PROVIDENCE•HISTORICAL•SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI 02916-4774

(401) 438-1750

#### OFFICERS

President	Robert Tewksbury
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Nancy Moore
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	David Kelleher
Recording Secretary	Betty Soderlund
Corresponding Secretary	Gladys Panzarella
Treasurer	Rose Marie Sirenski

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

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

The

*Gazette*

is printed at

**PRONTO PRINT**

3 Crescent View Avenue, Riverside

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

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

Example: 9907 translates to July, 1999

2003 translates to March 2000.

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

## MEMORIAL FUND



The Society's Memorial Fund was established in 1993 in memory of past members for "the betterment of the Society and with no specific purpose."

The Memorial Fund is a qualified endowment administered by the executive committee. Members and friends wishing to contribute may make checks payable to the

**East Providence Historical Society**  
and mail to the Society at:

**Box 4774 East Providence, RI 02916-4774**

**Runen's River School House** (cont'd from page 1)

and instructed to begin teaching "ye second month on New Meadow Neck" and in 1730 it was voted "that the school be kept three months at New Meadow Neck".

From that time until that territory was transferred from Seekonk to the town of East Providence, a school was maintained there, although the attendance was often very limited. East Providence school authorities kept the school in operation until 1886, when the attendance became so small it was decided to close it and have the children attend school either at Armington's corner or at Willett Avenue, in Riverside.

In 1898, however, the pupils increased to such a number that the school committee, under Judge George N. Bliss, at that time superintendent of schools, decided to reopen it and it has since been used for school purposes.

Where is it now? The city of East Providence gifted it to some organization and they had it moved to another location somewhere in Seekonk or Rehoboth. Does anyone reading this article have information on its whereabouts? *Ed. George Amaral's brother attended the school from 1913 to 1917.*

**FROM THE ATTIC**

by Edna Anness, Museum Curator

I have not been to the Hunt House for three months and I sorely miss it. By Fall, things will be back to normal again. BUT, in the meantime we all have **Earl and Virginia Berwick** to thank for keeping the Museum in operation while my leg mends. All the work has fallen on their shoulders including house tours. True they had volunteers for the Open House and for one day that Virginia couldn't make it. And of course the Boy Scouts. But the responsibility was all theirs. **LET'S hear a cheer of appreciation out there for these "troopers"**.

In the Fall the plan is to make the upstairs Museum Room into the **Philip Walker Room**. We have several pieces of furniture to furnish a bedroom and decorate it. AND REMEMBER – the furniture is ALL THAT IS LEFT of furnishings from the Philip Walker House that remain in East Providence. AND when you come for the PICNIC do notice the "new" desk in the parlor and the chest in the back room which are also from the Walker House. More later on when we will dedicate this room.

**RING FOUND**

A ring was found at Oakland Beach – East Providence High School **Class of 1957**. The initials are **R.E.M.** If anyone knows to whom it belongs, please call **Mark** at **769-7672**.

**GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM**

**Robert Armstrong** – Munroe Dairy bottle and milk card.

**Ray Anderson** – Postcard of the river at Hunts Mills.

**Seth Kent** – Two books "Representative Men and Old Families of Rhode Island", Volumes I and II.

**Dorothy Marshall** – Hand mower and old tools.

**Aaron Usher** – Color negative of H.F. Walling Map of Seekonk, MA (c.1850-60)

**Marjorie Welt** – Photograph of Haven Methodist Church choir will all names so noted.

**Clint Sellew** – Holmes to Sellew genealogy. Souvenir program-Centennial Celebration of E. P. High School, 1984.

*Thank you. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.*

**MUSEUM COMMITTEE**

By Virginia Berwick, Chairman

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of May we had an open house for the **Millennium Display**. **Edna** had the pictures copied (**Lowell** did that for her) and then glued them onto foam core board. She then separated them into bags with the name of the board to put them on at the Hunt House. Some of the **Scouts from Troop 5, Riverside**, came and tacked them up, with supervision. They did real well.

The day of the open house we had four Scouts and two Scoutmasters there to greet and count people. There were 34 visitors who enjoyed the display and had punch, tea and pastries. **Earl, Mona and I** were there to help also.

**Eric Oulette**, who is working for his **Eagle Badge** was in charge of the other scouts... **Mike Peters, Carl Silva, Sejohn Serowik**. Scoutmasters were **Ed Serowik, Jr.** and **Don Oulette**. We thank the Scouts and Scoutmasters for their help as Edna was still at home recuperating, but doing nicely now. (Edna has been working at home all this time. We miss you Edna.)

On June 1<sup>st</sup> at 12:00 noon twenty third grade students, their teacher **Catherine Savage**, and three parents came to the Hunt House. They had their lunch outside at the picnic tables and then came in for a tour of the Hunt House. **Gladys Panzarella, Earl and I** were there. All seemed to have a good time.

**BUILDINGS COMMITTEE**

By Earl Berwick, Chairman

At last the summer kitchen and store room ceilings have been plastered. The next item is the floor and walls have to be done. I have high hopes that the mason can finish it by September.



# GROUNDS COMMITTEE

by Ray Anderson, Chairman

Please check out the **cottage garden** and plant identification stakes at the *June picnic*. Let me know if it lives up to expectations. **Ocean State Charities Trust** has awarded the society a **grant of \$2000** to be applied to development of Phase III behind the Hunt House. Concrete footings have been put in for a hand rail at the front door but a snag has developed in finding a craftsman to make it. Meanwhile, consider using the side door if needed. Easier steps.

*Memorialize a Loved One  
in the Hunt House  
Cottage Rock Garden*

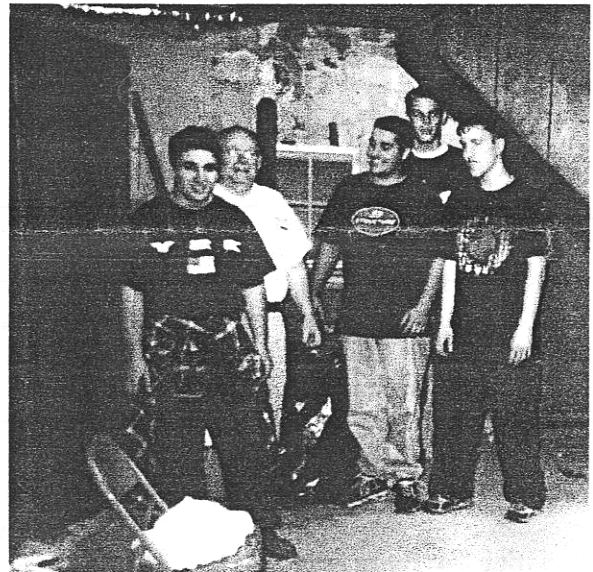
*Please make checks payable to  
East Providence Historical Society  
and mail to the society at  
P. O. Box 4774  
East Providence, RI 02916-4774  
Attn: Ray Anderson*

*For additional information, call the  
Society at (401) 438-1750*

*Your donations are greatly appreciated*



Boy Scouts who have been helping out at the Hunt House. Back row, #1 on left is Ed Serowik, Historical Society member. Eric Oulette, who organized the work detail, is #3 from left. 2<sup>nd</sup> row, far right is Debbie Serowik, wife of troop leader (who was absent). Other adults are parents who also helped out.



President Bob Tewksbury and the students from E.P. High School who moved the furniture from the Philip Walker House to the Hunt House.

- Above photos by Lowell Anness

**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

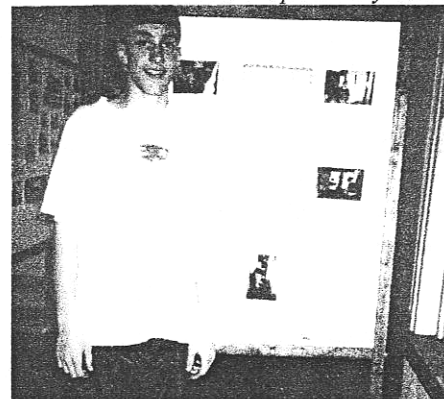
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Eric Oulette, who is working toward an Eagle Badge, has been helping out at the Hunt House.

## MEMBERS' MEMORIES

by Ray Anderson

John Viall's presentation on Monroe Dairy at our May meeting made me recall the various home deliveries our family had. Ross Bailey was our iceman and the card in the window showed him what size piece you wanted. Depending upon which side was facing up, you could get a \$.25, .50, .75 or 1.00 size "cube" of ice. We would always go to his truck for "shavings" when it was warm.

Mr. Grant was our egg man. Every week he would complain about the price of feed going up to justify his price increase. One day my oldest, who was a pre-schooler at the time, decided to make conversation with the egg man as my wife went for her change. Not yet aware of the producer of the commodity, my son said, "Mr. Grant, how are your ducks?"

Ted, our Monroe Dairy milkman, used to bring the milk in and rotate the stock in the refrigerator. Fond memories.

Do you have memories of home delivery? Tell me about who came to your home in East Providence. Send to **Members' Memories** c/o Ray Anderson, 32 Algonquin Rd., Rumford, RI 02916 ...or, E. P. Historical Society, P.O. Box 4774, Rumford, RI.

## SIX CORNERS EXPERIENCE

by Bill McWeeney, Amarillo, Texas

As a young boy growing up in East Providence one routine that was always a treat was leaving my grandmother's house on Broadway (and later Reynolds Street) with my "mom and walking to Six Corners the long way. Up Grove Avenue to the library and check out the books. Drop off the mail at the post office and then off to the drug store next to Ben Franklin's to pay the electric bill. Stop in at Ben Franklin's where mom would get her supplies and I would go down to the basement area where all the toys were. Down past the Hollywood Theater with Six Corners the next stop.

I remember the hardware store where you could walk from Waterman Ave. to Taunton Ave. by walking through the store. There was the barber shop where I got my crew cuts to the shoe store where a new pair of high top black U.S. Keds was a treat. I seem to remember a "wiener" restaurant on the curve between the two major streets. We would cross the street heading back to Broadway and stop in at Benney's where once again I would head for the

toy aisles. Leaving the store we would maybe stop at Horton's (always on Fridays) and then the baker shop down the street from the junior high school. The final stop was always a treat, Viall's Dairy for a coffee cabinet.

Remembering growing up in the 50's and 60's in East Providence makes some days in the year 2000 much more enjoyable.

### EAST•PROVIDENCE•HISTORICAL•SOCIETY MARKER PROGRAM

Your Home May Be Eligible for a MARKER



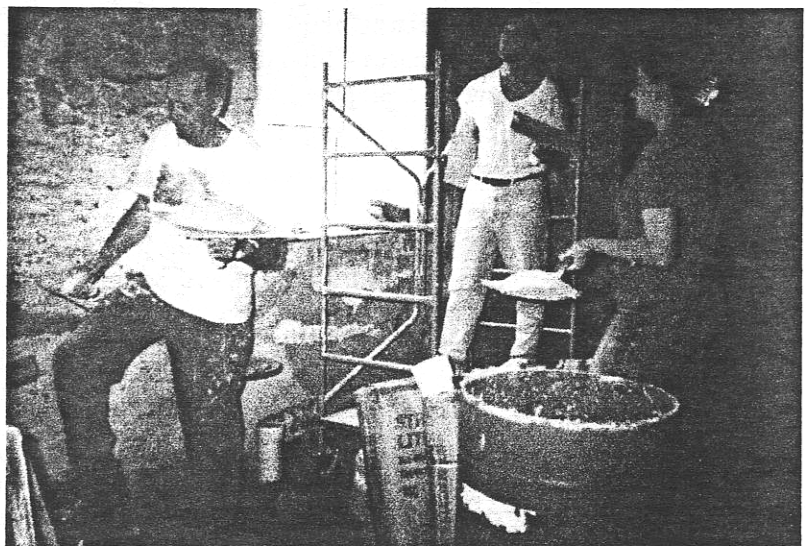
Any building in the City of East Providence which contributes to the historical development or architectural character of the City is eligible to be considered for a historical marker.

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 \_\_\_\_\_



Peter, Mary and Girard Poulin plastered the store room and summer kitchen. Mary picked up the plaster and handed it off in a shovel to Peter and Girard. They had it down to a science.

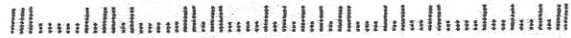


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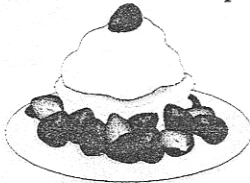
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## Events Calendar

### June

**Monday, June 26, 7:30 pm**  
**Annual Meeting/Election of Officers/Picnic**  
**Hunts Mills, Rumford**  
Open for ticket purchases – 5:00 pm  
Food served – 5:30 pm



### July

**Wednesday, July 12, 7:30 pm**  
**Board Meeting (*members welcome*)**  
**John Hunt House, Hunts Mills Rd., Rumford**

### Listen and Learn

*Submitted by Ned Clark, Riverside*

Engine Co. 2, the Fire Station in Riverside, made up a fire location schedule printed on a 12" X 8" white cardboard card that showed how four-digit numbers, sounded on their fire house horn, would tell where a fire was. The schedule was paid for by the Riverside Businessmen's Association and was distributed to the local citizens.

For example, two blasts of the horn = 2, one blast = 1, etc. 2121 was the signal for Riverside Square. This system helped the volunteer firefighters locate a fire and told everyone else where it was. Sometimes this would draw quite a crowd. We counted the numbers we heard from the firehouse, usually to see if a fire was near us or someone we knew.

The Engine 2 chief was a Mr. Hay. He was also the head janitor of the Turner Ave. Elementary School. If there was a fire in his territory, he was picked up at the school in a Ford Model "A" ladder truck and rushed to the fire. The truck, at times, had to go in the opposite direction of where the fire was, but that was the procedure in those days. There was a LAFRANCE pumper engine that was sent directly to the fire site, often before the chief got there. It was quite exciting to see all these volunteers and fire fighting equipment converging at the fire, coming from many directions.