

John Hunt House

Vol. XI No. 7

March 2000

# Gazette

## Pasta Supper? YES!

We have eleven people who called and want to help with the supper, along with those who always help out.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

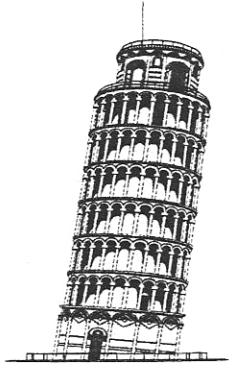
Newman Church March 25, 2000 - 6:00 pm

Adults \$6.00 Children 6 - 12 \$3.00 (5 and under free)

The Telephone Committee will call members for reservations and desserts. If no one calls you, call Florence Adams, 437-1530, or Ginny Berwick 434-0998.

All reservations must be in by Thursday March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

When we all work together, things happen!!



## FROM THE ATTIC *by Edna Anness*

This month we are taking a rest from reminiscing, but will resume again next month with "New 20<sup>th</sup> Century Churches in East Providence" in time for Easter Season.

This March we start our twelfth year of collecting for the Museum. Anyone visiting will notice the changes as we start to make the eighteenth century house a home. Thus far we have some 5700 artifacts accessioned with some one-hundred waiting to be done. And with more arriving every week. So if anyone has spare time on Tuesday or Thursday mornings and can type, please call the Museum and leave your name and phone number. Help your community save their history.

*(Continued on Page 3)*



Bishop's Tavern which once stood at the curve at East Providence/Rumford Center on Route 1A.

*(Photo donated by PRESERVE RI)*

## Board Briefs

A plasterer and mason have been contracted to install a ceiling and floor in the basement "summer kitchen" and store room at the John Hunt House... **YEAH, Building Committee !!!**

**Paul Lamont**, City Manager, came to the March 1<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting by request of **Dave Kelleher**, society Vice President, and talked of various plans and projects being considered for the city. Most important to the society is the prospect of having the **office of the Water Department occupy the former Pump House at Hunts Mills**, along with the construction of an additional building on site to house necessary materials.

On March 10<sup>th</sup>, the "*Tewksbury Van*" delivered treasures from the **Walker House**, North Broadway to the John Hunt House. Details to be reported at the Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> Pasta Supper/Members Meeting.

A **Grist Mill Committee** has been formed to consider the feasibility of reconstructing a *grist mill at Hunts Mills*. Members are **Ray Anderson, Edna Anness, Ned Connors, Les Haworth and Dave Kelleher**.

### The John Hunt House is open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 am until noon.

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

### **WANTED-----HELP**

**If you like to work with numbers, this volunteer position is for you!!**

The society's treasurer is resigning after nine years on the job. The books will be in order after an audit is completed in June and the new treasurer can take over with everything in place.

Duties include receiving all money, making deposits, reconciling bank statements, paying bills, making disbursements, providing a monthly report to the Board of Directors and members meeting, and preparing an Annual Report at the end of the fiscal year.

This job can be shared by two people working together. Please come forward if you are interested in this challenging position. Call **Rose Marie Sirenski**, current treasurer, 438-3517, for more details.

## The GAZETTE

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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
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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



3 Crescent View Avenue, Riverside



In memory of...

*A donation was made to the Society's Memorial Fund  
in memory of*

**Doris Mitchell Andrews**

*who recently passed away.*

*Sadly Missed... Fondly Remembered*

## 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,**  
**Rhode Island 02916-4774**

## From the Attic *by Edna Anness*

*(continued from page 1)*

Good news! We have two cartons of papers from the **Walker House**. During a quick look we found a 1914 copy of the **Crimson** high school yearbook. This was the only yearbook missing between 1912 and 1994, for those of you who have inquired. We also have a wonderful oak framed set of five photos - all different views - of the **Bishop's Tavern** which once stood at the curve at East Providence/Rumford Center on Route 1A. It was a rest stop for those early coaches traveling from Providence over the Boston Post Road (Route 1A today). On March 10th we will be picking up some furniture from the Walker House which **PRESERVE RI** has decided to let us have.

For those of you who have inquired what **FROM THE ATTIC** means. It does not mean we store everything in the attic! Rather, there was a story in a magazine some years ago about how the **Smithsonian Museum** calls itself "*America's Attic*". So I decided to call the **Hunt House** "*East Providence's Attic*". And our news is therefore **FROM THE ATTIC** so to speak. **This does not mean our office is in the attic** - tsk! tsk! (for those potential volunteers).

## GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

**Dr. John Erhardt** - Volume II of his "Early History of Rehoboth".

**Judith Sharpe** - Sport photo of her father, Wesley, outside East Providence High School, c. 1920.

**Clint Sellow** - Rumford Garden Club records from back to the 1930's.

**Dan Shea** - Copy of "The Wealth of Nations - A People's History of Rhode Island"

**Robert & Doris Dunbar** - Four early photos of Daggett House and a neighboring house on Roger Williams Ave. at the foot of Wilson hill.

**Gail Moran** - Cole family genealogy (Cole's Bridge) descendants of Joseph Peck.

**PRESERVE RI** - An assortment of artifacts from the Philip Walker House.

**Lowell Anness** - World War I helmet and air raid helmet from World War II

**Ed Serowik** - A copy of genealogy of Peter Trenn, Mariner

*Your generosity is greatly appreciated!*

## MEMBERS' MEMORIES

### *The Traffic Lights at Six Corners*

*by Raymond Germerhausen*

I was one of the persons involved with that project, which was done by the **East Providence Fire Alarm Division of the Fire Department**, along with two members of the **Police Department Traffic Division**, **Frank Finizia** and **Harry Raymond**. The installation was under the supervision of **Horace Smith** who was the Superintendent of Fire Alarms, along with **Leroy Ballou**, **Harry Everett** and myself.

As you may recall, there were six individual lights controlled by a fixed time controller. The main street which was **Taunton Avenue** had the most time allotted, followed by **Waterman Avenue** and then **Broadway**. If you can remember, there was no "walk" cycle involved.

This system was later replaced with a much more sophisticated system when the state rebuilt Taunton Avenue. The lights were controlled by the amount of traffic on the individual streets, along with a push button for a walk light.

I would like to mention that this work was done *before* the use of *bucket trucks*. **Everything** from installing the rings that supported the cables for the lights, and the lights themselves **had to be done with an extension ladder**.

*This is the first in a series of articles on Six Corners written by members who tell it as they remember. What was it like to shop in those Six Corners stores now long gone. What did they sell? How was it different from today? Write and tell me in your own words and I'll add your memories in a coming issue. (Writing on only one side per page would be helpful). Maybe you can tell about someone who worked in a Six Corners store. Tidbits welcomed. Send to Members' Memories c/o Ray Anderson, 32 Algonquin Rd. East Providence, RI 02916-3502, or c/o E.P. Historical Society, P.O. Box 4774, Rumford, RI 02916*

## GROUNDS COMMITTEE

*by Ray Anderson*

Even though the garden is asleep, plant identification signs of high quality should be in place this spring. If you haven't seen the **stonework the Parks Department did**, stop by and check it out. Let me know how you like it.



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

On May 22, as our share, we will have an **OPEN HOUSE AND TEA** from 1 - 4 at the Hunt House. Our exhibition will be **THE 20<sup>TH</sup> 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!



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## EVENTS CALENDAR

### MARCH

Saturday, March 25, 6:00 p.m.  
**Pasta Supper/Members Meeting**  
Newman Church, Rumford

### APRIL

Wednesday, April 5, 7:30 p.m.  
**Board Meeting (members welcome)**  
John Hunt House, Hunts Mills Rd., Rumford

Saturday April 8, 2000  
**15<sup>th</sup> Annual RI Statewide Historic  
Preservation Conference**

Fax inquiries to: Conference Coordinator,  
RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission  
(401) 222-2968.

Monday, April 24, 7:30 pm  
**Strictly Sentimental Swing Dance Fundrai:**  
American Legion Post, Willett Avenue, River:

### REPORT ON *COFFEE HOUR WITH DESCENDANTS OF "THE ORIGINAL 58"*

Ten people came to the first meeting of the "58 Group". It was an interesting start - the Pawtucket Times came to take a photo. The East Bay edition of the Journal did not have the notice until two weeks *after* the meeting and so we are now getting more calls from people who want the original list. **Anyone else who would like a list may contact us at the Museum.** We will be meeting again in a few months. Meanwhile ...

The NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL GENEALOGICAL  
CONFERENCE will host  
"THE NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY 2000  
CONFERENCE IN THE STATES"  
in PROVIDENCE MAY 31 - JUNE 3, 2000

Many informational booths will be set up in the  
CONVENTION CENTER.  
Contact NANCY WOLFE for further information at our  
dinner on March 25<sup>th</sup>.