



John Hunt House

# Gazette

## HERITAGE HARBOR MUSEUM PROGRAM TO BE PRESENTED AT OCTOBER MEETING

### MEMBERS MEETING

October 23, 7:30 PM

Riverside Congregational Church

Corner Bullocks Point & Oak Avenues, Riverside

Society members **Peter and Catherine Allen** will present a program at the **Members Meeting on October 23** which will introduce the **Heritage Harbor Museum**, Rhode Island's first statewide heritage center. Heritage Harbor Museum will bring together the stories and treasures of seventeen Rhode Island historical and cultural organizations. The museum will feature exhibits and collections of the diverse immigrant groups, which comprise the population of the state, along with its industrial, military, and maritime heritage.

The program will include a multimedia overview of the plans for the museum, as well as an overview of several **Partners Exhibits**, and an inside peek at the **Smithsonian** portion of this exciting new attraction on **Museum Mile** in Providence.

## FROM THE ATTIC

by *Edna Anness, Curator*

A new season has started and we have many artifacts to accession and many Gift Agreements to get out in the mail. One large group of papers I have been accessioning are the papers of **Leroy Flint** which are just now coming into the Museum after storage at the **Sellews'** house since 1976. They are fabulous and reflect the years of historic research which Mr. Flint carried on.

One set of papers is devoted to the **Little Neck Cemetery**, its history and lists of those buried therein. To lend more meaning to the papers I recently spent three and one half hours touring the cemetery with **Michael Znosko**, Chairman of the Historic Little Neck Cemetery

**Commission.** In a historic sense Michael is the curator of an *outdoor museum*. The preservation and conservation of the stones, flags and grounds present the same problems as we encounter here in the Museum. Do visit the cemetery off Read Street and ask Michael to give you a tour. He is very knowledgeable and interesting in his narration. He is usually there in his green Jeep-like roofless truck.

We repeat our request for **help at the Museum**. If you do not like accessioning, there is also a need for someone to answer the phone and greet visitors. So far we have one volunteer. If we got **seven** more volunteers, a person would only have to give one morning a week for three hours once a month.

## The Day St. James School Caught Fire

By *Mrs. Earle Mountain, Hanover, PA*

Time and again we had been through the fire drill at school. The third and fourth grades marched down the stairs, the first and second graders came from the two downstairs rooms. Miss Carpenter, the principal, and the other three teachers saw that we had our coats, stayed in line and were all present and accounted for outside the building. We were prepared for the worst!

But one cold blustery day a neighbor rushed into Miss Carpenter's second grade room, calling out, "Hurry! The school's on fire!"

"Get your coats and get out!" we were told – and we did, with none of the precision of the drills but with plenty of speed. How or if we were checked off, I do not remember, but do recall crying all the way down Waterman Avenue and up Walnut St. to 115, where my mother met me.

"What's the matter? Are you all right? Are you hurt?" Her questions tumbled out on each other. She knew from the fire alarm the location of the fire and was beside herself with worry.

"I'm all right but my new red mittens are in my desk and they'll get all burned up!" I gulped between sobs. Well they didn't. It was a roof fire but there was a lot of water damage so that we had to attend another school in shifts for a while. But my new red mittens were unharmed after all!

## Board Briefs

Members of the Board, the elected officers and committee chairmen, will meet on Tuesday, October 17, at 7 pm at the Hunt House to review the revised bylaws as suggested by the Bylaws Committee. The Board will make a recommendation to the membership for final approval.

The Riverside Revitalization Partnership solicited an opinion from the historical society regarding the beautification projects underway in Riverside Square. Dave Kelleher, Society Vice-president, responded with a letter of support for the partnership's effort.

**The John Hunt House Museum is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 to noon.**

### *The Gazette*

is published monthly by the  
**EAST•PROVIDENCE•HISTORICAL•SOCIETY**  
 P.O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI 02916-4774  
 (401) 438-1750

#### OFFICERS

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1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	David Kelleher
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Nancy Moore
Recording Secretary	Jo Marchi
Corresponding Secretary	Gladys Panzarella
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#### COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Buildings	Earl Berwick
Grounds	Ray Anderson
Markers	Kris Rose
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Museum	Virginia Berwick
Museum Curator	Edna Anness
Newsletter	Doreen Bonney
Preservation	Les Haworth
Program Chairmen	Ray Anderson/Dave Kelleher
Publicity	Florence Adams

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

## 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, R I 02916-4774**

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 with form below to:

**Mona Breault**

**34 Josephine Avenue**

**Rumford, RI 02916**

New  Renewal

Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_



## New Members

**Warm Welcome To Our New Members:**

*Hugo & Ellen Esposte*

*Elizabeth Ingraham*

*Henry Maksymowicz*

*Russell Richard*

*Dan & Julia Wood*

## GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

**Beth DeCosta** – 1933 Rumford Cookbook  
**Edna Anness** – iron dipper.  
**Marjorie Welt** – glass beaker from Leonard's Drug Store,  
 Good Attendance book presented to the donor.

*Thank you. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.*

### GROUNDS COMMITTEE

*By Ray Anderson, Chairman*

The **East Providence Parks Department** will begin **Phase III** by next month. Plans shown at the last members' meeting received good reviews. For your convenience a railing has been installed at the Hunt House front door. Members may still memorialize a loved one in the **Hunt House Cottage Rock Garden**.

Call 438-1750 or 438-2464 for details.

**Cecilia Beckett** – photo of a Ten Mile River Canoe Club's members, c. 1920.

**Clint Sellev** – Set of Rehoboth Annual Reports, 1881 – 1965; two antique rug hooking tools.

**Daniel Wood** – payroll book from Brownell and Hinman in Riverside.

### MEMBERS' MEMORIES

*By Ray Anderson*

Do you have a fond memory of life in your younger years? I will put together your recollection with others of similar recall. This month we speak of schools and Riverside Square. Can you add to it? Next month I have material on the "Rumford Airport"! Send your reminiscing articles to **Ray Anderson, 32 Algonquin Rd., E. Prov., RI 02916-3502** As our bodies slow down, let's keep our minds active. Right? Write!

### East Street School by Dorothy Duane

**East Street School** is of course on East Street behind the fire station in Riverside. It is a four-apartment building now. We recall two teachers there, a **Miss Cosgrove** and **Miss Swift**. Donald remembers in first grade the day he was pestering a girl named Agnes Hathaway and Miss Swift took him out and paddled his hand with a ruler. Oh for the good ol' days.

The next school was **Turner Avenue School** on Turner Avenue across from St. Marks Church, next to what used to be a bowling alley. I believe it was grades three and four. A **Mrs. Bowen** was principal and a **Miss Patts** was on the second floor. My memory of Turner Avenue School was the day my teacher sent me upstairs with a note for Miss Patts. The door was closed so I knocked and waited quite a while. She finally opened the door and gave me the dickens, which made me cry as I was very shy in those days. They were saying the prayer, but how was I to know through a closed door!

### The Carlson Block by Ned Clark

At the southwest corner of the Carlson Block there was a drug store run by Ed McMullen for many years, until he retired. The prescription counter was at the back of the store. As you entered you would see dark mahogany paneling on the walls, small white and black hexagon-shaped tiles on the floor, glass show cases holding Whitman's and Schraft's candy boxes, cold remedies, magazines and newspapers.

One of the shops on the westerly side of the Carlson Block was a barber shop owned by Joe Zuccaro. He was a friendly man and loved to talk, especially about local news and politics. There were many magazines to read while waiting your turn for his 25-cent haircuts. A few older men from the neighborhood went there every day for a shave. I think the charge for that was 25 cents, too. When the building was sold, Joe set up a shop in his home across the street.

### Program Committee by Dave Kelleher and Ray Anderson, Co-Chairmen

#### **Programs for 2000/2001**

October 23	Heritage Museum
November 13	Ham & Bean Supper
November 27	Narragansett Indians
December 18	Holiday Open House
January 22	Pot Luck Supper
February 19	Pot Luck Supper
March 26	"What's on our Minds"
April 23	Swing Dance
May 21	Spaghetti Supper/ "Experience Architecture"
June 18	Society Picnic/Annual Meeting

#### **Speakers**

Mr. & Mrs. Peter Allen
Dr. Ella Sekatau
Edna Anness "Ring of the Green"
Open Discussion
Bruce Sundlun
Strictly Sentimental Swing Band
Jim Barnes

#### **Location**

Riverside Congr. Church
Newman Church
E.P. Community Center
John Hunt House
Newman Church
Newman Church
Weaver Library
Riverside VFW
Newman Church
Hunts Mills

#### **Time**

7:30 pm
6:00 pm
7:30 pm
6 – 9 pm
6:00 pm
6:00 pm
7:30 pm
7:30 pm
6:00 pm
TBA



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# Events Calendar

## October

Monday, October 23, 7:30 pm  
 Members Meeting

Riverside Congregational Church  
 Corner Bullocks Point and Oak Avenues, Riverside  
 Program: *Harbor Museum, Providence*  
 Presented by members Peter & Catherine Allen

## November

Wednesday, November 1, 7:30 pm  
 Board Meeting (*members welcome*)  
 John Hunt House, Hunts Mills Rd., Rumford

Monday, November 13, 6:00 pm  
 Newman Church  
 Ham & Bean Supper

Monday, November 27, 7:30 pm  
 E.P. Community Center  
 Program: *Narragansett Indians*  
 Presented by Dr. Ella Sekatau

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, E. Providence, RI 02916-4774

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

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