



# Gazette

Vol. XVI No. 9

June 2004

## ANNUAL MEETING/ ELECTION OF OFFICERS/PICNIC

MONDAY, JUNE 28, 6 PM  
HUNTS MILLS, RUMFORD

Members and friends of the historical society are invited to meet for the **election of officers for 2004 - 2005**. The candidates are: **Kris Rose, President; Nancy Moore, 1st Vice President; Edna Anness, 2nd Vice President; Arline Butterworth, Corresponding Secretary; Jeanne Davis, Recording Secretary; Peter Allen, Treasurer.** Since there were no nominations from the floor at the May meeting, the Recording Secretary will cast one vote for the Nominating Committee's slate.

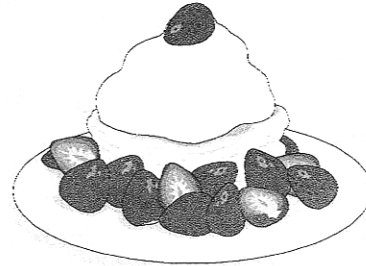
We'll celebrate with hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, beverages AND strawberry shortcake. (cream donated by **Munroe Dairy**.)

The **Telephone Committee** will call the membership for reservations, (to be paid at the door) salads and 'Rumford' baking powder biscuits.

**TICKETS: \$3 members; \$6 non-members. Bring a lawn chair.**  
**Reservation deadline: Saturday, June 26.**  
**Call the society, 438-1750 or 437-1530.**

**Mona Breault**, Membership Chairman, will be available to accept **annual dues**. The anniversary month of initial membership is indicated on your address label along with the current year. Example: 2406 = June 2004. 2407 = July 2004. 2408 = August 2004. Mona will accept all!!

All are welcome to Hunts Mills at **5 pm** to pay for reservations (**Peter Allen**, Treasurer will greet you), view the gardens and newly installed gazebo. **FOOD WILL BE SERVED AT 6 PM.**



## Preservation Report

*David Kelleher, Chairman*

The **East Providence Historic Properties Study Commission** held a meeting several weeks ago at Grace Chapel, Roger Williams Avenue, with residents of the **Phillipsdale** area to determine if there was an interest in having the area declared a **historic district**. A slide show of the area was presented and a discussion followed regarding the pros and cons of such a designation.

A later meeting was held at Grace Chapel on May 25. Representatives from Washington, DC, Cambridge, MA and state and city officials met with residents. The discussion centered on creating a **'walkable' area** after a presentation about similar projects around the country. Many ideas surfaced for improving Roger Williams Avenue such as **better sidewalks, alternating on-street parking, 'roundabouts', trees**, and constructing a **waterfront drive** to eliminate trucks on Roger Williams Avenue. Future meetings will be held in the fall to continue to involve the residents.

*(continued on page 3)*

*The Gazette*

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**EAST●PROVIDENCE●HISTORICAL●SOCIETY**  
P. O. Box 4774, East Providence, RI 02916-4774  
Tel: (401) 438-1750 Web Site: [ephist.org](http://ephist.org)

**OFFICERS**

<b>Kris Rose</b>	<i>President</i>
<b>Nancy Moore</b>	<i>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President</i>
<b>Edna Anness</b>	<i>2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President</i>
<b>Jeanne Davis</b>	<i>Recording Secretary</i>
<b>Arline Butterworth</b>	<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>
<b>Peter Allen</b>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<b>David Kelleher</b>	<i>Immediate Past President</i>

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

<b>Bob Tewksbury</b>	<i>Buildings</i>
<b>Ray Anderson</b>	<i>Grounds</i>
<b>Kris Rose</b>	<i>Markers</i>
<b>Mona Breault</b>	<i>Membership</i>
<b>Virginia Berwick</b>	<i>Museum</i>
	<i>Museum Curator</i>
<b>Doreen Bonney/Florence Adams</b>	<i>Newsletter</i>
<b>David Kelleher</b>	<i>Preservation</i>
<b>Ray Anderson</b>	<i>Program</i>
<b>Florence Adams</b>	<i>Publicity</i>
<b>Reinhard Wohlgemuth</b>	<i>Webmaster</i>

**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 \$15 individual, \$25 family, or a  
Life Membership for \$150.

Please make check payable to:

**East Providence Historical Society**  
and mail with form below to:

**Mona Breault, 34 Josephine Avenue,  
Rumford, RI 02916-3018**

**Membership Form**     New     Renewal  
/Change

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Enclosed:**

**\$25 Family    \$15 Individual    \$150 Life**

**JOHN HUNT HOUSE MUSEUM**

**THE JOHN HUNT HOUSE MUSEUM,  
HUNTS MILLS ROAD, RUMFORD  
WILL BE OPEN SUNDAY, JULY 11, 1 TO 4 PM  
ADMISSION \$3; \$1 EAST PROVIDENCE  
RESIDENTS; FREE SOCIETY MEMBERS.**

**RECOGNITION DEPARTMENT**

**Helen Smith, Mona Breault, Virginia Berwick and  
Florence Adams** provided refreshments for the men  
and women of the *Rehoboth Minute Company 13th  
Continental Regiment* and all who attended the May  
meeting.

Several elementary school classes were given tours of  
the *John Hunt House Museum and Ten Mile River  
area* in May and June. The following members  
served as guides: **Edna Anness, Virginia Berwick,  
Dave Kelleher, Gladys Panzarella and Charlene  
Underhill.**

**Marie Brand, Barbara Flynn, Sophie Fredrick  
and Gladys Panzarella** served as *docents* at the John  
Hunt House Museum on Sunday, June 13.

**The historical society appreciates the  
corporate membership of the following  
businesses:** Clockwork Deli, Consolidated  
Concrete, East Providence Fuel Oil Company,  
Fogarty Auto Body, Gregg's Restaurant,  
Graphic Ink, Inc., Gripnail Corporation,  
Grinnell Fire Protection, ICM Corporation,  
Indoor Tennis Court, Jonette Jewelry.

**Ken and Irene Roberts** were unable to attend  
*Alhambra Cabaret* in April but donated their  
admission fee. **Lois Driscoll** also couldn't attend.  
She won *'Split the Pot'* at the May meeting and  
donated it back to the society to be credited to  
*Alhambra Cabaret*.

**Joseph C. Prisco**, Uncle of society member  
**Rosemary Prisco**, will be inducted into the *East  
Providence High School Hall of Fame* at a ceremony  
to be held Saturday, October 23, Johnson and Wales  
Inn, Seekonk. Mr. Prisco, Class of 1936, was a  
Professor of Business at Providence College, a coach  
and twice received the PC Hall of Fame award. He  
served with a bomber squadron in Italy, Sicily and  
the Burma Theater during WWII. He is also  
recognized as an outstanding New England golfer.

# Preservation Report

*(Continued From Page 1)*

The Properties Commission is moving to obtain grant money to **hire a consultant** to apply to Washington, DC to designate the **Phillipsdale** area a **national historic district**.

The properties commission believes that East Providence needs a **demolition delay ordinance** to **protect historic properties** from being demolished before an effort has been made to save them. The commission is studying different ordinances in cities and towns in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

The city of East Providence has set aside \$30,000 to restore the **Brown Williams cottage**, Hunts Mills Road. There is some evidence that the cottage may date back to 1710.

The historical society is looking to obtain grant money from the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission to develop a **master plan for the Hunts Mills area**.

Dave Kelleher

***Warm Welcome To Our New Members:***  
**David Downes**  
**Peter Ballou**

## GIFTS TO THE MUSEUM

**Anonymous donor** - Carl T. Thompson school flag

**Gladys Carroll Estate** – two medicine bottles:  
Town Drug and Allen's Drugstore

**Louise Healey** - hay rake

**Lowell Anness** - Mileage minder from Richard's Filling Station, North Broadway

**The Gazette welcomes "Members Memories" and articles of historical interest.**  
**Mail to the society: P.O. Box 4774,**  
**East Providence, RI 02916.**

# A Great Little Car

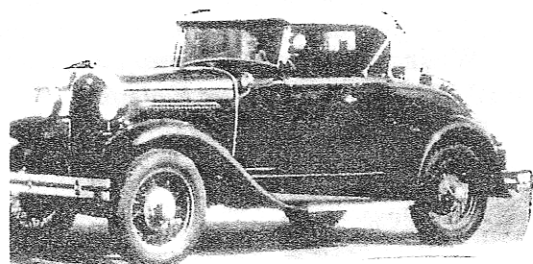
*By John Agren*

In the summer of 1941, I bought a neat 1931 model A Ford Roadster for twenty dollars. I earned the money by caddying at Wannamoisett Country Club. I knew my Ford would open many new and interesting opportunities for me and many East Providence High School friends. My brother-in-law said I paid too much for my car. He had bought a beautiful battleship grey, 1932 Ford convertible for eight dollars. My roadster had a roof that would go up or down but differed from a convertible in that there were side curtains that had to be attached if rain or snow or other inclement weather was coming. Roadsters have not been made since 1937.

Twenty dollars in 1941 is not the same as twenty dollars in 2004 but it is not possible to buy a nice car for anything approaching the price I paid in 1941 for that two-tone roadster. Later in the war years, when gas rationing began, I found that my Ford would go along good on kerosene or even turpentine if gasoline was not available. Try that with a modern car!

In August 1943, I went out to the garage to place my Ford on blocks when I was called into the army. Dad stopped by and asked me what I was doing. I told him that I was putting my roadster on blocks so that when the war was over I would have a car to run around in. Pop put a stop to my idea. "You can't leave that ash can in the garage until you come home. That might not be for years," he said. Reluctantly, I sold my Ford to Warren Lundgren for twenty-five dollars.

I didn't know it then but soon after I went into the army, Dad bought a horse. He named it Buster and placed it in his garage where my roadster had been. He needed a diversion what with all three of his sons now in the army.





John Hunt House

East • Providence • Historical • Society  
P.O. Box 4774  
East Providence, RI 02916

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Providence, RI  
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JUNE

Sunday, June 13, 1 - 4 pm  
John Hunt House Museum  
Hunts Mills Road  
Admission \$3; \$1 EP residents;  
Free society members

Monday, June 28, 6 pm  
*Annual Meeting/Election of Officers/Picnic*  
Hunts Mills Recreation Area  
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

### JULY

Wednesday, July 7, 7 pm  
Board Meeting *Members Welcome*  
John Hunt House Museum  
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Sunday, July 11, 1 - 4 pm  
John Hunt House Museum  
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford  
Admission \$3; \$1 EP Residents;  
Free Society Members

### **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

The Society has a "Return Service Requested" arrangement with the Post Office. *There is a CHARGE every time we retrieve an undeliverable mailing.....* Please advise the Society of all changes, temporary or permanent. Thank you for helping us save money.