



John Hunt House

Gazette

Vol. XVII No. 6

March 2005

EAST PROVIDENCE POSTCARDS, BOOKMARKS IN THE PAGES OF TIME

Members Meeting
Monday, March 28, 7 pm
Newman Church, Rumford

Were you aware that a covered bridge existed in East Providence? Did you ever visit the railroad passenger station? Did you ever wonder why there is a Roger Williams spring on this side of the river if Roger Williams founded the city of Providence?

Society member, **Reinhard Wohlgemuth**, an avid postcard collector, will display panels with more than 50 old picture postcards of East Providence. This is part one of his talk and slideshow featuring history and current photos.

Refreshments and business meeting will follow.

Preservation Committee

David Kelleher, Chairman

Progress continues on the **Weaver House** behind city hall. The contracts have been signed and work will begin on the roof and the gutters. Work continues on the front portico. **Jean Boyle**, city Planning Director, has been advised to begin the process of having the house put on the National Register of Historic Buildings.

I have found little history of the house or the Weaver family in the Weaver library. If anyone knows of any material about the house or family, please contact me, 433-2763 or rid05377@ride.ri.net.

Jean Boyle has wisely decided to hire an architect with a historical architecture background to evaluate the **Brown/ Williams cottage** in Hunts Mills before any restoration begins.

Apparently there is a hold on the installation of **fish ladders** in the Ten Mile River at Omega Pond, Hunts Mills and the Turner Reservoir. Seems to be a matter of finance.

An easement has been approved by the city council for the **1905 Amusement Park Office Building** at Hunts Mills. A separate account has been opened for this project and a meeting has been set up with **Ed Catelli**, Superintendent of city buildings, to begin planning the actual restoration this spring.

The Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse continue to organize. Committees have been formed: finance, fundraising, education, membership and communication. Anyone interested in joining the group should contact The Friends of Pomham Rocks Lighthouse, P.O. Box 15121, East Providence, RI 02915. There will be applications at all future meetings.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A Nominating Committee will soon be operational to select candidates for office to serve in 2005/2006. Their slate will be presented, along with nominations from the floor, at the May 23 members meeting. **ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD AT THE ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 27.** Any member interested in seeking office is encouraged to call the society, 438-1750, and get in the running.

IN MEMORY OF **Jewel Drickamer**

who died in February.

Sadly missed... fondly remembered.

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

OFFICERS

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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

RECOGNITION DEPARTMENT

The following society members were pictured in the *East Providence Post* or *Providence Journal* over the last few weeks:

Everett Chapman, collector of trolley car hardware and postcards, was shown with **Richard Shappy** who has a crew refurbishing an eight-wheel trolley car from the days of electric transit.

Richard Buckett, who with his wife, **Kim**, owns and operates Buckett's General Store in Riverside Square. They have won 2 beautification awards: one from the city and one from the state.

Howard Partridge, member of the Wampanoag Association, the parents group organized in the 1960's to get better access to the public schools. They still meet monthly.

Carolyn Ainsworth and **Billie Arden** were shown raising tea cups at the Polar Bears and Penguins Tea hosted by the Bristol Historical and Preservation Society. Guests were encouraged to bring penguins, polar bears or other stuffed animals.

Edna Anness, Virginia Berwick, Cheryl and Jeff Faria served as Hunt House Museum docents on Sunday, February 13. **Edna, Virginia** and **Julie Lundgren** volunteered on Sunday, March 13.

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**

Warm Welcome
To Our New Members:
George Brown
Jesse and Elizabeth Albright

East ● Providence ● Historical ● Society
Historical 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**.

Request information by sending your name, address and phone number to the

Marker Program
East Providence Historical Society
P.O. Box 4774
East Providence, RI 02916-4774

Membership Form **New** **Renewal /Change**

Name(s) _____
Street _____
City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____
Phone # _____

Amount Enclosed:
\$25 Family **\$15 Individual** **\$150 Life**

Mondo and “Col-leej”

By Doreen Bonney

During the late fifties and early sixties when I was a student at Central Junior High and then East Providence High schools there were two unique groups of students: the *mondos* and the *college* (pronounced “col-leej” with the accent on the second syllable). It was quite easy to tell the two groups apart by the type of clothing each wore, and by the hairstyles they sported.

Mondos usually wore black or gray. The girls were known to wear tight, straight skirts and cardigan sweaters turned around and buttoned up the back, along with black nylon stockings and “mondo boots”: black, pointed-toe, over-the-ankle shoes. They wore heavy makeup, “teased” their hair into exotic styles, wore dangly earrings and their boyfriend’s ring on a chain around their neck. Mondo boys wore tight black pants, Nehru-type jackets or a style of pullover shirt specific to that era of the sixties. They also wore mondo boots. Their hair was combed into a “duck tail” in the back, up at the temples and down into the middle of the forehead.

Typical “col-leej” girls dressed in plaid pleated skirts, blouses with round Peter Pan collars, pullover sweaters, knee socks and saddle shoes. Their hairstyles were flatter, their makeup more subdued and their jewelry limited to scarab bracelets, circle pins and small earrings. Alternate items of clothing included A-line skirts, nylon stockings with sneakers or red or navy flat pumps, and madras plaid jackets. “Col-leej” boys wore chino slacks or white pegged pants, button-down-collar shirts, skinny ties, and madras plaid jackets or pullover sweaters. In the beginning they wore their hair in crew cuts, then later on in the style of the “Fab Four”.

Appearance was not the only thing separating the two groups. Music preferences played an important role. Mondos seemed to like Motown, and “col-leej” were fond of folk, the Beach Boys, and the Beatles. Some mondos liked to hang around in gangs and were more likely to get into fights after school. “Col-leej” kids joined school clubs, sports, or played in the band, and, as the name suggests, they were generally enrolled in college prep courses. Mondos were more apt to be in the lower divisions of the school and take “shop”. In junior high it seemed the two groups disliked one another quite a lot. This seemed to become less pronounced in high school as students

were more likely to come together in classes like gym, swim and art and get to know each other.

You’re probably wondering if I was mondo or “col-leej”, aren’t you? Well, I started out as a mondo, mostly because I had an older cousin who handed down her clothing to me. She had beautiful clothes, but the skirts were straight, the sweaters all cardigan, and there wasn’t a pair of saddle shoes in the lot. My parents couldn’t afford to buy all new clothes for me. I felt so conspicuous in my mondo style because I was in a college prep division. I also hated Motown music. Then when I got my first paycheck from a summer job, I spent the entire amount on pleated and A-line skirts, round-collar blouses, and pullover sweaters at the Poise ‘n’ Ivy dress shop in Rumford. I combed the “teasing” out of my hair and chose a more natural hairdo. I bought a pair of saddle shoes. I remember when I started my junior year at E.P. High. So many people in my classes came up to me and said, “Doreen! You went “col-leej”!”

The Gazette welcomes "Members Memories" and articles of historical interest.

**Mail to the society: P.O. Box 4774,
East Providence, RI 02916.**

THE THIRD ANNUAL BUS TOUR OF HISTORIC EAST PROVIDENCE

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2005

10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

**STARTING AT THE HUNT HOUSE MUSEUM,
HUNTS MILLS ROAD**

**(OFF PLEASANT STREET) RUMFORD
TICKETS: \$12.00 FOR MEMBERS OF THE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OR THE EAST
PROVIDENCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

\$15.00 FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

COME AND ENJOY A COUPLE OF HOURS OF FUN ON A DOUBLE DECKER BUS AND VIEW SOME OF THE HISTORY OF THE CITY. VISIT THE RING OF THE GREEN IN RUMFORD, THE HISTORIC MILL VILLAGE OF PHILLIPSDALE, WATCHEMOKET DISTRICT, RIVERSIDE AND ITS THREE AMUSEMENT PARK SITES. DAVID KELLEHER WILL BE YOUR HOST AND POINT OUT THE LANDMARKS AND DISCUSS SUCH TOPICS AS JOHN HUNT, JOSEPH AND SAMUEL BRIDGHAM, PHILIP WALKER, CHARLES LOOFF, EUGENE PHILLIPS AND GEORGE WILSON. CALL THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR RESERVATIONS: 438-1212. SEATING IS LIMITED.



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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Providence, RI
Permit #2712

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

Sunday, March 13, 1 – 4 P.M.
Hunt House Museum Open
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford
Admission Charges

Monday, March 28, 7 P.M.
Members Meeting Public Invited
Newman Church, Rumford
*Program: East Providence Postcards,
Bookmarks in the Pages of Time*

APRIL

Wednesday, April 6, 7;00 P.M.
Board Meeting Members Welcome
Hunt House Museum
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford

Sunday, April 10, 1-4 P.M.
Hunt House Museum Open
Hunts Mills Road, Rumford
Admission Charges

Monday, April 25, 6 P.M.
Ham and Bean Supper
Newman Church, Rumford

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.