

AUGUST NEWSLETTER

August Open Meeting

On Wednesday, August 16, at 7:30, members and guests of the Dennis Historical Society are invited to attend an illustrated lecture, "The Evolution of Cape Cod Architecture" by Mr. Russell Lovell of Sandwich at the West Dennis Community Building. Mr. Lovell follows the development of the typical Cape homes from the earliest salt boxes to the type now known as "The Cape." Tickets for the House Tour in West Dennis will be available at this meeting. All are welcome, there is no admission charge.

Annual Meeting

Members of the Dennis Historical Society are hereby notified that the annual meeting of the Society will be held on Monday, September 11, at 7:30 at the West Dennis Community Building. The agenda will include a report by the nominating committee, election of officers, reports of officers and committees and any other business that may come before the meeting.

Nancy T. Reid, Secretary

West Dennis House Tour

The House Tour in West Dennis is planned for August 30 from 1-4 PM. Tickets are \$4.00 and may be obtained from committee members listed below or by mail, c/o Box 607, South Dennis, MA 02660. Reservations will also be taken at the Chamber of Commerce Office on Route 28 at Route 134. Tickets will also be on sale at the meeting on August 16.

The Tour will begin from the West Dennis Community Building on School Street, where maps will be distributed. Included on the tour will be five houses from 1780 to 1974--including a Victorian and the Jericho Historic Center and Barn, where refreshments will be served.

On the same day as our tour there will be a quilt exhibit at the Ezra H. Baker School. Members of the committee will describe the Tour in full on radio interviews on WOCB at 11 AM, August 21, and on WQRC Sunday, August 13, on the Cape Cod PM Program, so be sure to listen.

Committee members from whom tickets may be obtained are Nancy Reid, Gail Hart, Sabra Stockdale, Hazel Newcomb, Lilla Smith, and Florence Crockett.

The Streets of Our Town

Probably the area of Dennis which has changed the most over the years of settlement is Dennis Port. First-comers found the fog and dampness of Crook's Neck, as it was then called, so formidable that for a while they left it to the Indians. But soon a few families set up housekeeping on the higher ground, Chases, Wixons, Kelleys, Gages. Their descendants still live in the Port. They soon discovered that the richness of the sea far surpassed the richness of the land and so turned to the many ventures which have continued to change and grow, making Dennis Port the commercial center of the Town.

Sea Street, which leads from Lower County Road to Nantucket Sound, once led not to a shimmering bathing beach, but to a center of seashore industries such as wharfs for fishing boats, fish flakes, salt works, and a sea clam cannery. The heavy white shells from this last industry were crushed and strewn on the road that led from the village to the shore and it was then called Shell Road. Now all these picturesque industries have vanished and instead of hardworking fishermen and their wives and children, the beach is filled with sun-bathers. As you drive down Sea Street, try to imagine that the black asphalt is replaced by white shell, the motels by salt works, and the tourists by men, women, and children with hats and light clothing to protect them from the blazing sun, mending nets, tending the fish flakes, rigging their small boats for a fishing trip. It is a much different place now on Sea Street than it was when Shell Road was one of the Streets of our Town.

CALENDAR FOR AUGUST

- August 16: "The Evolution of Building Styles on Cape Cod", talk by Mr. Russell Lovell, 7:30 PM, West Dennis Community Building. Open to the public at no charge.
- August 26 to September 2: Dennis Festival Week. Programs for the week available through Chamber of Commerce and at all Post Offices.
- August 30: West Dennis House Tour. Commencing at the West Dennis Community Building. 1-4 PM. Five buildings of historic and architectural interest. Refreshments at the Jericho House. Tickets \$4.00 by mail from

Dennis Historical Society
P.O. Box 607
South Dennis, MA 02660

Membership

New members are constantly needed to help keep our Historical Society active. Annual dues are \$2.00 and constitute our major source of income. As most of our programs and services are free, the more members we have, the better our programs will be. If you know a prospective member, please have them contact Mrs. Elinor Slade, membership chairman, at the Town Office. On payment of dues, the new member will receive our Newsletter and will not need to renew membership until September, 1979.

Nominating Committee Appointed

Mr. Byron Peirce, President of the Dennis Historical Society, has appointed a nominating committee for officers and board members to be elected at the annual meeting on September 11 at the West Dennis Community Building. Nancy Flinkstrom, (Mrs. Charles) is Chairman of this committee. If you have a suggestion of someone who might be a valuable addition to this slate, please contact Mrs. Flinkstrom.

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