



**CHRISTMAS ON THE GREEN**

The village green in Dennis village is a sight to behold these days. The gazebo is decorated and lighted with a lovely Christmas tree in the center of the gazebo. The creche is in place, lights are strung around the green and all is in readiness for the holiday festivities.

On December 15 at 4:30 P.M. everyone is invited to the band concert and chestnut roast on the green. Lou Pells Oom-pa Band will keep your toes tapping to keep the chill away and the roasted chestnuts will warm your inner self. The Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School Chorus will be on hand to sing all the old holiday favorites and Nick Rodday will be there with his team of horses to take one and all on a hay ride through the village. This fun event is sponsored by Paul Sullivan. If you've never been on a hay ride--or if you haven't been on one in years--give it a try this year.

Eight days later, on the 23rd you are also invited to take part in the annual candlelight procession from the Cape Playhouse grounds to the green escorting Joseph, Mary, and baby Jesus to the creche. John Scofield will lead the procession as the Town Crier, starting promptly at 5:00. Famed Dennis artist Rick Howard did the honors for a number of years until ill health forced an early retirement. A group of youngsters ring the church bell at 4:45 to announce that it's time to assemble at the Playhouse. One year a certain enthusiastic young group rang the bell vigorously --ad infinitum--and the interim crier (a retired minister) called Carol Bell in this "loud, public-speaking voice" to send someone over to church to stop those damned bells! When you're "doing it live", every year brings something new, unexpected, and interesting. Talk to Carol sometime. She had lots of funny stories.

This years Holy Family will be portrayed by Mark and April Robinson with their new baby, Gray. Noel Tipton at Dennis Union Church has planned an Evensong concert to follow at the church, and then refreshments will be served. This is a not-to-be-missed event. Everyone will meet on the Playhouse grounds at 4:45 P.M. Bring a candle shielded by a paper cup and get into the spirit of the season.

The village green is owned by the Village Improvement Society of Dennis, an all volunteer group whose by-laws written in 1902 stated that women will always be part of the board. The Society was organized "to improve and ornament the streets and public grounds of the village of Dennis by planting and cultivating trees, cleaning and repairing sidewalks, and doing such other acts as shall tend to beautify the village." The first president was Hannah Paddock, a suffragette who is believed to be the first woman to wear bloomers and ride a bicycle in Dennis, and she also survived the San Francisco earthquake! Hannah would have approved of the current president, Carol Bell. She's a go-getter, too! The Village Improvement Society maintains the village green, the training field, and in 1972 they built, with all volunteer help, the playground on the corner of Nobscusset and Old Boston Road. In early years a windmill stood on this corner and until the playground was built it was known as the "mill lot". Four memorial benches were recently donated to the playground in memory of Louis O. Kelley. These benches are something new in technology--made from recycled plastic and reportedly able to stand up to some pretty tough usage. Other memorial benches have been placed on the green--one in memory of Jean Johnson, a past secretary of DHS. Stop by Jean's bench sometime--at a summer concert or on just a nice day--and enjoy the quiet pleasure of sitting on the green and watching the world go by.

The lovely creche is having its tenth anniversary. The original one created years ago by Kay Berrien was destroyed by the fire at Carleton Hall on October 1983. Walter Horak, a Scituate wood sculptor, has made these current pieces. Be sure to check out the detail when you are there. The angel on the roof has an especially poignant story. Her name is Cynthia, given by Joan Smith in memory of her daughter, Cynthia, who died on Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. More pieces will be added to the creche as donations are received.

Carol wants you to know that VIS always welcomes new members. They have some new ideas to make the village a little nicer and are committed to maintain all the lovely traditions that will keep Dennis village the place that anyone would want to call 'home'.

**DINING FOR DHS**

DHS is looking for a "few good men and women" with an interest in helping to fund our painting restorations. Our Ways and Means Committee came up with a number of good ideas for fund raising but the one that appealed most to the Board was an evening (or afternoon) of "Dining for DHS". Some Board members have agreed to host a dinner party at their home, incurring all expenses, with the guests making a \$25.00 tax-deductible donation towards restoring our paintings. The committee has selected the week of January 22-28 for these dinners. No doubt Old Man Winter will be settled in enough by that time and we'll all be looking for something fun and different to do. This is it! If you would like to host a dinner party for six to ten people inviting some of your friends to this worthy cause we would be delighted to hear from you. Please fill out the form below.

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. no. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Guest \_\_\_\_\_ Host

(Which would you prefer to be?)

Please mail to: Dennis Historical Society  
 P. O. Box 607  
 South Dennis, MA 02660

## CALENDAR

Dec.	10	2-4 P.M.	Open House at Josiah Dennis Manse. Pauline Wixon Derick Library dedication.
Dec.	13	7:30 P.M.	DHS Board meets at the Manse.
Dec.	18		Happy Hanukkah!
Dec.	25		Merry Christmas!
Dec.	31		"Should auld acquaintance be forgot...." Happy New Year to one and all!

### CHRISTMAS AT THE MANSE

After a three year hiatus we will once again celebrate the holiday season at the lovely 1736 home of our namesake, Rev. Josiah Dennis. Very talented Susan Kelley and her dedicated committee are making plans and snipping greenery and you just know the old Manse will be beautifully decorated and aglow with early American charm. The refreshment committee has dusted off the "recept" for Col. Negus Punch and will have great quantities mixed and awaiting your pleasure along with mulled cider and all kinds of delicious goodies. Do plan to come see the minister's home dressed up for the holidays, listen to some music from Williamsburg, and enjoy some sociability with other DHS members and friends on Sunday, December 10, 2-4 P.M.

### PAULINE WIXON DERICK LIBRARY DEDICATION

Along with the open house celebration on December 10 will be the dedication of the DHS research library to Pauline Wixon Derick. This is a well deserved honor to this grand lady of Dennis genealogy and history. Polly's roots in Dennis go back eleven generations and she has been doing research just about all of her adult life. Join us in saying "Thanks" to Pauline for all her many contributions to Dennis.

### 1,001 STEPS TO A RESTORED PAINTING

There probably aren't that many steps to the finished restoration but it seemed like it when Dr. Simon Coren was relating all the processes involved in his work to bring a painting back as near to its original glory as possible. His slides showed some of the art work he has restored and the change was truly amazing. I would have thought many of them were beyond any kind of help but his expertise and patience brought them back to life. A large group gathered to hear him speak at Carleton Hall and they asked some interesting questions which Dr. Coren had some interesting answers for. We can all feel comfortable knowing that the restoration of DHS paintings are in such capable hands.

### THE WORK AT JERICO

So many have asked how Jericho's restoration is coming along it seemed a good time to bring you up to date. Recently the insurance company, the town administrators and Whalen Restoration met and, based on Whalen's previous work, the insurance company agreed to give them the contract for the remainder of the restoration. The Fairbanks Room which sustained the major part of damage is all sheetrocked and ready for plaster. The entire house is being repainted inside. Joan Martin of the Jericho Committee reports that the furniture and furnishings in storage at Whalen's look great and are just waiting for the house to be ready. One of the hold-ups have been the replacement of the windows. They must all be specially reproduced--the original windows were hand made in 1801 (no catalogs or mass production in those days!)--so replacing them will take a little time. I'm sure the neighbors won't mind looking at plywood window coverings is they know that eventually the old house will look just like it always did. The DPW has installed some more sections of fence--and--a supplier for the bullseye window has been found. No answer was received from the many letters to restoration companies, but an ad in Old House Journal led us to a glass restoration company in Passaic, NJ. I talked with someone there who said they had discontinued bullseyes because their supplier had **tripled** the price. I gave her my telephone number in case she might hear of someone else who would have them. Within a half hour she called me back to say their foreman had found three pieces in a back corner of the warehouse, and at a price of \$56! We had been warned it might cost \$100-200.00. So, I expect Jericho will soon have a matching bullseye in the front door. Captain Theophilus Baker's house is returning slowly to its original beauty. The current timetable calls for a spring opening, and I'm sure it will be well worth the wait.

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P.O. Box 607  
South Dennis, MA 02660

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