

DENNIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
JULY NEWSLETTER

Birthday Celebrations

The Birthday Party Luncheon at the Lighthouse Inn was replete with birthday cake and party balloons. Mrs. William Wood served as Mistress of Ceremonies and the cake was cut by Mr. S. William Baker, thought to be the oldest native-born resident of Dennis. Three flags, a "Betsy Ross", a "76", and a Bicentennial, were donated by Mr. Everett Durgin, and were awarded as door prizes. Two pairs of tickets to the DHS House Tour (scheduled for August) were won in a "Name the Photograph" contest. One pair of tickets went to Harriet Foss and the other pair to Bob Stone for being able to name all ten photos of old scenes of Dennis. (The photos were loaned by Mrs. Richard S. Hall for the occasion.) Peg Eastman shared her thoughts with the group about the All-America Town Award.

The Ezra Baker School children were served Birthday cake at lunch on Monday and a group of school children from the Nathaniel H. Wixon School were bussed to the Josiah Dennis Manse where they heard talks by Mrs. Anson Howes, Mrs. Richardson Reid, and Selectmen Joel Crowell and S. Russell Kingman. The band played, the chorus sang and a good time was had by all.

All in all, it was a good birthday celebration for Dennis' 185th year.

Historic Centers Now Open

Don't forget our town's two interesting Historic Centers, when you are entertaining your summer visitors. The Jericho Historic Center opened on June 30th with its annual Silver Tea. It will be open every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday during the summer from 2-5 PM. The Barn Museum holds many artifacts of early Cape life and the 1801 Jericho House, which was recently featured in Colonial Magazine, is a beautiful example of a full-Cape house.

The Josiah Dennis Manse on the North-side was built for the Reverend Josiah Dennis in 1739. It houses some beautiful period furniture and a library of historic information. The Manse is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-4 PM and by appointment.

The houses are town owned and are managed by committees appointed by the Selectmen. Mrs. Anson Howes is Chairman for the Committee for the Manse and Mr. Parmalee Fitch for the Jericho Historic Center. Both work tirelessly to keep our Historic Centers at their finest. Admissions are free, although your donations are welcome. A booklet about the two centers, A Tale of Two Houses, by W. Jeremiah Burke, can be purchased at either house.

We Are Searching For Your Roots

If you have done some research into the roots of your family, will you share the results with Dennis Historical Society? We would like to amass a large collection of family lines, to be made available to others doing genealogical research at the library at the Josiah Dennis Manse. If you have done family research and are willing to have a copy in our library, please contact the secretary at 398-8842, or Mr. Jeremiah Burke, librarian at 398-8035. We thank you.

Centennial News

Cablevision Channel 11 is presenting a program of interest to Historical Society members. Ben Thacher, curator of the Old Sound Museum in East Dennis is a 19th century "anchor man" on a broadcast of news of one hundred years ago. Research for the program is done by Marion Wiffleumier and Richard Holbrook, both well-respected Cape historians, who use file copies of the Barnstable Patriot and the Register as information sources. The program can be viewed at 5:45 PM on Monday and Friday on Channel 11. It will run through July and longer if sponsorship can be secured. Catch it if you can.

Baseball Fever

And speaking of baseball--as everybody is--who among you remembers the days of the Dennis Clippers? Seems to us their best seasons were in the 1940's--when Ralph Richardson, Joe Walker, Chappie and Don Kendrick did their thing at the then Dennis Consolidated School Field. Can any Dennis Clippers fans come up with some facts and figures about who, when and for how long the Clippers sailed? Our address is D.H.S., Box 607, South Dennis, MA 02660.

DENNIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR
Summer 1978

- July 18 Board Meeting, 7:30 PM. Home of President, Mr. Peirce.
August 16 "The Evolution of Building Styles on Cape Cod", a talk by
Mr. Russell Lovell, 7:30 PM, West Dennis Community Building,
Open to the public, no admission charge.
- August 26 to September 2. 20th Annual Dennis Festival Days. The Historical
Society will sponsor a House Tour in West Dennis. There will
also be an antique show and quilt exhibit as well as the
annual antique car parade. For other events, see the flyer
prepared by the Chamber of Commerce.
- ALL SUMMER: Maps for self-guided historic bicycle tours are available
at the Chamber of Commerce or call 398-8842.
Jericho Historic Center, Old Main Street at Trotting Park Rd.,
West Dennis. Open Wed., Fri., and Sat., 2-5 PM
Josiah Dennis Manse, Nobscussett Rd., Dennis. Open Tues. and
Thurs., 2-4 PM.
Centennial News--Channel 11, 5:45 PM, Monday and Friday.
Historic Maps available at Town Hall and at the Historic
Centers.
- Coming in September--Annual Meeting on September 11, West Dennis Community
Building.

The Streets of Our Town

Cove Road begins on Main Street in South Dennis and goes down to Bass
River at Grand Cove. Cove Road also begins at Route 28 in West Dennis and
ends at Grand Cove. This is not just a coincidence, but an historical
reminder of the importance of the Cove in the past of the town of Dennis.
Once it was filled with two and three-masted coast-wise schooners, packet
ships, and fishing boats, taking refuge against a strong sou'wester. The
roads from the homes of the Captains and crews of these vessels in South and
West Dennis to the Cove were once connected by a wooden draw bridge--and
formed a vital link between the two villages. In the early 1900's the
bridge was destroyed by storms and the town voted not to rebuild it. Folks
who now have to brave the hazards of Route 28 may wish it were back, to
unite two of the loveliest streets of our town.

Open Meeting Set

The August program meeting will be a lecture by Mr. Russell Lovell
entitled, "The Evolution of Building Styles on Cape Cod". It will be
presented at the West Dennis Community Building at 7:30 PM on Wednesday,
August 16, and is free and open to the public. If you are dating your
house, this should be especially interesting. Come and bring a guest.