



REPORT ON THE JUNE DOINGS

June was such a busy month, I will just take a minute to sum up our many activities. First of all the Lady Slipper Walk was very well attended, and very much enjoyed. We are grateful to Dr. Norton H. Nickerson, who has led us on this walk for several years now.... Ezra H. Baker field trips went very smoothly at both the Manse and the Jericho House, and we thank all who were so willing to help.... This year we were asked to conduct a fifth grade historic site tour, and Phyllis, Nancy and Sarah gladly obliged. It was gratifying to learn that the students remembered so much about the field trips they had been on in the third and fourth grades.... The birthday luncheon at Lighthouse Inn was as usual a delightful affair. President Phyllis Horton presented Ann Treat Reynolds with a certificate acknowledging her as a Life Member of the Society. (If you would like such a certificate, see below.) Door prizes were donated by the following: Positively Depot - a centerpiece; Lighthouse Inn - two luncheons; La Petite Maison - scrimshaw pendant; Stagecoach Stop - candy; Craig Nursey - hanging basket; Finlay's YD Liquor Store - bottle of wine.... Over 150 people attended the showing of our slide show on Dennis at Carleton Hall, sponsored by The Register, in honor of their 150th anniversary. They will be sponsoring a second showing at West Dennis Community Building on July 27, 3-5 P.M.... As we go to press, both House committees are holding opening ceremonies and preparing to be opened on their regular days all summer.... And that's about all we did in June.

THAT'S THE GOOD NEWS, NOW FOR THE BAD NEWS

It is time to pay your dues. This year the Board has decided it must raise the annual assessment, to cover the increased postage we now pay on mailing the newsletter. Dues for September 1986 to August 1987 will be: \$5 individual members, \$7 family memberships (two voting members). Sorry, but we have delayed this increase as long as we can. Life Membership remains \$100. Send your dues, at any time now, to Membership Chairman Isabel Flynn, Box 607, So. Dennis, MA 02660. If you wish a membership card, enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Or you may pay at any of the scheduled meetings of the society. (See calendar.)

MOBY DICK ARISES FROM HIS WATERY GRAVE

Kathy Swegart wowed a standing room only audience for her talk on Cape Cod ghosts last time she spoke for us. Since then she has devoted uncountable hours to the research of the real story on which Melville based his immortal tale of the great white whale. Don't miss her talk for us on July 16 at 7:30 P.M. PLEASE NOTE change of place. We will meet at the Dennis Senior Center. And I hope she brings Gregory Peck!

WHAT WOULD WE DO WITHOUT SCOTCH TAPE, SAFETY PINS AND PAPER BAGS?

Well, you and I will never know that kind of deprivation, but our predecessors in this blessed land did. I think it's time to tell you a story of a Dennis man whose claim to fame has nothing to do with the sea. Luther Child Crowell was born in West Dennis to a family which considered the ocean which surrounded them as their main source of livelihood. But Luther heard a different rhythm than the rise and fall of the tide. His mind was by nature inventive, and he was often preoccupied with trying to solve mechanical problems. By the standards of his day, his family must be judged as extremely understanding. But when Luther reached the age when most boys went to sea as cooks, his father decided that Luther must face his destiny. So he served his apprenticeship as a cook on a fishing vessel - not a job which present-day teenagers would relish, but a necessary step to determine a lad's adaptability to a life at sea. Well, not surprisingly, Luther didn't like the job. It's hard to be inventive while mixing biscuits for a crew of hungry fishermen. He spent what spare time he had in dreaming, and when he got home, he tried out his ideas. He had seen Zadoc Crowell wrapping purchases at his store in paper, and he wondered if there wasn't a quicker and easier way to bundle up provisions. His first invention in that area was for paper which had metal strips in it, which could be folded around a purchase without tying. But soon he had developed a paper bag, one with a square bottom so that the clerk could use both hands while packing it. Not only that, Luther also designed a machine which would crease, fold and glue a piece of paper into such a bag mechanically. His idea was given a patent in 1847, and the very first paper bag company in the United States was on Main Street, West Dennis. That was just the beginning for young Luther C. He went on folding paper, folding paper - so much so that some in town thought he was a bit daft! But before long he had more inventions to his credit, and they included the first printing machine for folio or quarto fold newspapers, one which could print, double cut and fold from a continuous roll of newsprint. First used by the Boston Herald in 1875, it was a major step in printed communication and it made a fortune for its inventor! In all, Luther Child Crowell received 300 patents from the United States, among the five most prolific inventors in a list published by the U.S. Patent Office in 1900. He also invented a flying machine, but that story will have to wait for another day.

CALENDAR

July 11 1 P.M. Dedication and Reception - Eagle Pond Nursing Home.
 July 16 7:30 P.M. Dennis Senior Center. 'The Real Moby Dick' - slides and talk by Kathy Swegart.

 *Cape Cod in a Capsule 4 lectures - July 21, 24, 28 and 31. Liberty Hall 7:30. *
 * 4 field trips - July 22, 25, 29 and August 1. Place to be *
 * announced. Robert Barlow. For more information, see below. *

July 23 7:30 P.M. Board meeting at Phyllis'.
 July 27 3-5 P.M. West Dennis Community Building. Reception sponsored by The Register, showing of our slide show 'Dennis'.
 August 25-31 Dennis Festival Days.
 August 27 Lecture by Jim Coogan. 'The Real Cape Codder'.
 Coming in September:
 Sept. 16 7:30 P.M. West Dennis Community Building. ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS. Program: 'The Postmasters' Walter Babbitt and Louise Kelley. Fun! Do plan to come.

CAPE COD IN A CAPSULE

Those of you who have attended Mr. Barlow's lectures in the past will certainly want to be in on this mini-series on Cape Cod's past, present and future. Bob will talk about ecology, history, flora and fauna and his talks are always well-laced with personal experience. The cost for one lecture and the field trip on the following day is \$10 per person. The entire series will be \$30 per person, \$50 for a couple. Lectures will be on the first floor of Liberty Hall, the field trip which follows will compliment the topic of the lecture. For more information, call Bob Barlow at 362-6161, or Phyllis Horton at 394-0017.

A SPECIAL MARITIME EXHIBIT

The more I learn about this town's history, the more I am impressed with our former citizen's involvement in maritime activities. The Josiah Dennis Manse Committee is again presenting a special exhibit which tells something of that involvement. I would like to tell you about one of my favorite parts of this exhibit. The Manse has a portrait of the schooner John F. Kranz, of which Marcus Lafayette Howes of Dennis was master. Capt. Marcus Howes lived in a house still standing on Whig Street, with his wife Desire (Hall) and two daughters. He was a well respected member of the Boston Maritime Society, a worthy citizen of this town, and a typical example of a Cape Cod boy who chose the sea for his career. He was a deep-water man, taking his schooner to all the ports of the world. But once home, he was a small town boy who made good. The most touching exhibit in the east parlor of the Manse is the exquisite wedding gown, made from silk brought from India by Capt. Marcus, worn by his daughter Blanche for her marriage to Seth Crowell, June 24, 1896. Capt. Marcus had some experiences which clearly illustrate the risks our Master Mariners took when they assumed the responsibility as captain of a deep-water vessel. I will tell you some of these next time.

EAGLE POND DEDICATION - COME ON DOWN

There's a brand new nursing home in Dennis - although you can't hardly get there from here. It is beautifully situated on the east side of Eagle Pond, and you have to go through North Harwich to get to it. It's a nice ride, either by Old Chatham Road or The Great Western, to Main Street and Love Lane, right beside the old Baptist Burying Ground. Eagle Pond Nursing Home invites you all to the dedication of its residential wings, which will receive names appropriate to our town's history. You will also see the vintage photos, which D.H.S. provided as decoration in their pleasant dining room. The dedication will be on July 11 at 1 P.M. Please come.

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