OUR PRECIOUS INDIAN LANDS

"... In shade

Beyond the ferns, sequestered in the glade
The orchid of the north swayed silently.

The Lady Slipper.............."

If you have walked the Indian Lands Conservation Area this spring, you don't need to be told what a precious possession we all share in owning and protecting this priceless piece of land. For those of you who may have forgotten, perhaps it would be well to remind you how it came to be, that these two peninsulas, embracing a beautiful marsh, are ours forever. In 1973 Mallam Realty Trust, owners, proposed to develop the 23.4 acres on the south peninsula, by dividing it into more than twenty lots. Such a proposal raised red flags, not only in the eyes of the Conservation Commission, but for others, who could readily see the possible damage such a development would have on the marsh and river. A citizens' campaign bolstered the Indians who occupied this land for thousands of years before our European ancestors arrived—or perhaps of the native birds and animals whose descendants are tenants on our common ground today. Walk the Indian Lands in silence—a silence accompanied by the eternal sounds of songbirds and gulls. Look at the opposite side of Bass River, where homes sit cheek by jowl, most certainly threatening the purity of Bass River. And, as you meditate upon the beauty of the Conservation Area, send up a silent "thank you" to those voters of the Town meetings of 1974 and 1985 who preserved for us and our descendants forever a very special part of our town.

[Note: Mr. Morley's poem has been produced as an audio-visual production by DHS, narrated by Mrs. Almina Morley. The poem is dedicated to our dear friend and teacher, the late Esther Wigginton Howes.]

OUR MARITIME HERITAGE

Our language here in New England is full of expressions which have their origin in our maritime roots. If someone is running risks, we might say she is "sailing too close to the wind," and she should "trim her sails," or "take in a reef or two." The common expression "by and large," meaning "comparatively," or "in general," is also a nautical expression. To sail "by" is to sail close to the wind. To sail "large" is to run with the wind on the quarter. A sailing vessel was judge as "smart" or "crank" depending on how she handled "by and large."
CALENDAR
July 4  INDEPENDENCE DAY. Celebrate!
July 9      7:30 P.M.  Board meets at Josiah Dennis Manse
July and August  Jericho House and Barn Museum open
               Wednesday and Friday  2-4 P.M.
July, August and September
Josiah Dennis Manse open
Tuesday 10-12 A.M.—Thursday 2-4 P.M.
Coming in August 21st through 27th  DENNIS FESTIVAL DAYS
Check next month's newsletter for events of interest to DHS members

DUES ARE DUE
It's that time again! If you are a dues paying member of DHS
(honorary and life members and complimentary subscribers excepted,) you
will find attached to this newsletter your "dues are due" envelope. We
hope that you will respond promptly. DHS depends on your dues to provide
members services, such as printing and mailing this monthly newsletter,
sponsoring our programs and school field trips and funding acquisitions.
Some of you may wish to consider eliminating the need to make out an
annual check by becoming a Life Member—a real bargain at only $100 per
individual. Otherwise, it will be deeply appreciated if you will submit
ASAP your yearly dues of $2 for students, $10 for individual or $15 for
family membership (2 votes per family). Ours is a vital and active group,
furthering interest and education in our town's past. Please help by
paying your dues.

OUR ANNUAL BIRTHDAY PARTY
Dennis is now officially 204 years old and the birthday was
observed, as has been the custom since 1976, with a "gala " luncheon held
this year at the Lighthouse Inn, as it is has been for most of twenty-two
years it has been celebrated. As always, a delicious dinner was served to
all. Music was provided by the Dennis-Yarmouth Summer Strings. The
honorees of the day were the many volunteers who give countless hours of
time to DHS programs—the school field trips, manning Jericho House and
the Manse in the summer, and assisting with all of the many duties which
DHS undertakes as we try to interest others in this town's history.
Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Bill and Isabel Flynn for
the many years they have taken care of the mailing of our monthly
newsletter; to Lilla Smith and Marion Lowe for their work at Jericho; and
to Florence Bennett and Hope Hallett for the service they have given at
the Manse. In addition, all who were present who have devoted volunteer
time to DHS activities were presented with a carnation. To all
volunteers, DHS Board extends a hearty vote of thanks. What would we do
without you? A brief business meeting was held, at which members present
voted to accept a minor by-law change which limits the number of
consecutive terms which an individual can serve as president to two terms.
Other officers consecutive terms are unlimited.

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY
No fireworks in Yarmouth or Dennis this Glorious Fourth. Dennis
is saving our pyrotechnic display for Festival Days. Fourth of July
fireworks were largely family affairs when I was young. The men in the
neighborhood would take a trip to Hamblin's garage in South Yarmouth to
purchase Pinwheels, rockets and sparklers. There would be lady crackers
for the girls and salutes for the bigger boys, and a supply of punk to set
them off with. Then as darkness fell on the night before the fourth, Dad
and the other men in the neighborhood would fire off our own private
fireworks in our front yard. Those were the good old days!