

BOAT RIDE FROM SESUIT

At 1 P.M. on June 19th, which is the 190th anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Dennis, the Albatross will set out from Sesuit Harbor for a cruise on Cape Cod Bay. Members and friends of D.H.S. are invited to be aboard for a 1½ hour trip at sea. We will be holding a "floating birthday" complete with cake and candles. Bring a lunch if you wish, beer, wine and soft drinks available. Tickets for the cruise are \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for children under twelve and must be obtained in advance, as seating is limited. If you have never seen the town from the bay, here is your opportunity. Captain David Howes will comment on points of interest, and you will hear an ancient NobsCUSSET legend that has almost been forgotten. This sounds like a nice family outing for Fathers as well as a unique celebration of the town's birthday. If you have not contacted Gail Hart (398-9359) or Phyllis Horton (394-0017), better do it today. Be among the first to hear a special poem composed for the occasion by well-known writer, Lil Phillips.

MOUNT HOREB IS CELEBRATING

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Masons of Massachusetts. Our local lodge is joining in the celebration and they have doubled the significance of their festivities by choosing to honor the town as well as the Grand Lodge. In cooperation with the Dennis Historical Society, the Masons of Mount Horeb Lodge will sponsor a parade on Sunday, June 19th, which is the town's 190th birthday. The parade will form at High Bank Road in South Dennis at 1 P.M. and will march to Jericho House. There the Lodge will present and dedicate an engraved sundial, as a gift to the town, to commemorate both anniversaries. On the same day, a Craft Fair will be sponsored by the Epac Grotto at Ezra H. Baker School. It also happens to be Father's Day, and whether you choose to celebrate by taking a boat ride, visiting the Crafts Fair or watching the parade, you can also end the day by taking Dad to the Old-Fashioned Strawberry Festival at Liberty Hall from 3-5 P.M. It sounds like a great day of celebration, whether you are a Mason, a proud citizen of Dennis or a father - or all three.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF MOUNT HOREB LODGE

Our local Mount Horeb Lodge of Masons has been around for a while, although it is not as ancient as the Grand Lodge. Mount Horeb was organized and chartered in November, 1854 and its first Master was Nehemiah Doane Kelley, who lived in the Kelley neighborhood of Dennisport, at Telegraph and Upper County Roads. Early members of the lodge were leaders of the West Harwich and Dennisport business community. They were all engaged in building a very busy port. Between 1845 and 1860, three large wharves were built jutting out into the sound, lined with all of the businesses which pertained to the fishing and merchant vessels. Some of the West Dennis Masons were shipwrights, at the Crowell and Studley shipyard, which built many of the schooners for these fleets. Many of these early Masons were active in town affairs, as selectmen or school committeemen. I have not determined the location of their first meeting place, but in 1865 they celebrated the tenth anniversary of their charter by dedicating Ocean Hall, on the Harwich side of Division Street. This Hall was the home of Mount Horeb Lodge for nearly 100 years, until their new building was constructed on Old Bass River Road. Simeon Deyo says that the Hall was built by Bartlett White of Yarmouth at a cost of \$7,000. It certainly must have been regarded as a marvel of its day, rising three full stories high - higher than our present zoning laws would allow. Compared to other public halls in town, it was huge. The third floor was a dining room, the middle floor the Lodge rooms, and the first floor a large public meeting room. The building survives and is now the home of the Harwich Junior Theater. Throughout its history, Masons of Mount Horeb have continued to be involved, constructive citizens. On June the nineteenth, they will join with the Dennis Historical Society in honoring the town they have served so well, on its 190th birthday.

THE CHINA TRADE

My husband and I have recently moved up to an inboard-outboard motor vessel which we feel is safe enough to undertake two trips which we are very anxious to make. One is to Nantucket Island. The other is around the backside of the Cape to Provincetown. Each involves a distance of perhaps thirty or forty miles. I hasten to say that we are very cautious sailors, and we will be equipped with C.B. radio, two compasses, Coast Guard-approved safety devices, maps, charts, and a plan filed with the Coast Guard, with expected time of arrival, etc. About 150 years ago, Master Mariners sailed from the East Coast of this country in vessels, somewhat larger than our little motor launch, but infinitely less well equipped, headed around the Horn to China, with perhaps a compass, a sextant, and knowledge gained from experience. No C.B. radio, no kapok flotation jackets, no motor. Depending upon wind and wave, these intrepid sailors dared waters which most of us would never dare to navigate and entered ports where dangers lurked in every corner, all for the immense profits which could be gained from the China Trade. Mr. Henry T. Callan will talk to us about the treasures which these mariners brought to this country, when he speaks to the D.H.S. on Thursday, July 14, at Carleton Hall at 7:30 P.M. This is a program which your friends and guests are sure to enjoy.

CALENDAR

June 19th Father's Day
Happy Birthday, Town of Dennis
Happy Anniversary, Grand Lodge of Massachusetts
10:00 Crafts Fair
1 P.M. Parade. So. Dennis
1-2:30 Boat Ride from Sesuit
3-5 Strawberry Festival, Liberty Hall
July 14 Lecture, Henry T. Callan "Treasures from Old China" Export
porcelain for America, 1785-1835, Carleton Hall 7:30 P.M.
5 P.M. Sunset Walk at Crow's Pasture with Dr. Norton Nickerson

FIELD TRIPS BEING CONDUCTED

Even as we speak, approximately 250 children from the Ezra H. Baker school are being treated to a field trip to one of the town's owned Historic Centers. Through the excellent cooperation and help of the two house committees, the school and the Dennis Historical Society, we have fashioned one of the finest programs for school children on the Cape, perhaps in Massachusetts. The third and fourth grade children gain an historical perspective of family life on Cape Cod during the early period of each house. They have fun too, as do the 30 or more adults each day who take part in demonstrating that learning history can be an enjoyable experience. Watch the newspapers, for they always give this happy activity good coverage. WQRC is also attending one day to interview the children as they make butter, make ice cream, and write with quill pens.

A TRIBUTE TO FATHERS

In addition to all of the other things that are going on on Sunday, June 19th, it's Father's Day. The idea for this annual tribute to the most important man in everyone's life was originated in Spokane, Washington, in 1910, suggested by Mrs. John Bruce Dodd. She must have had a father like my dad, who taught his children how important a man can be to his family. My Dad was a Cape Cod boy, who grew up here when tight economics made providing for a family a struggle. But he was blessed with that marvelous Cape Cod sense of humor. His recollections of boyhood were always told with a twinkle in his Cape Cod Blue eyes. When he graduated from Dennis South High School in 1910, he debated the question: Resolved; that the young people should leave Cape Cod. Dad took the negative, and I don't know if he won the debate, but he sure convinced himself, and all of his children. In his later years, Dad liked to sell vegetables at a table in front of his house. The sign said "Self Service, put your money in the jar." But Dad liked to amble out and "jaw" with his customers. "Have you lived here all your life, Mr. Thacher?" many would ask. "No, sir," Dad would reply, "Not yet!" His was the last full generation of true Cape Codders - those who knew how to combine good humor with hard work, dignity with humility and independence with love and commitment to family, neighbors and friends. We may never see his like again. But let us salute the new generation of fathers, men who have adapted to different times, different ways, and who still make and keep strong commitments to families they love and serve. Happy Father's Day to each of you wonderful, important dads!

A SHORT TALE

One of the things we stress to the school children on field trips is that early Cape Codders were by necessity very thrifty. Everything had to be used and twice if possible. My Dad had lots of stories about Cape Cod thrift. Here's a short one. Cousin Elkanah and Capt. Elisha were among the group gathered around the stove at the Post Office. Capt. Elisha was expounding about the virtues of raising a pig. "Every durn bit of that pig is useful, except the tail and the squeal," declared the Captain. In a while cousin Elkanah slipt away, and after collecting his mail, Capt. Elisha found Elkanah in the pigsty of his farm, cutting off the tails of his pigs. When asked to explain, he replied "Tarnation, I'll be damned if I should be feeding something that's not going to do me any good." End of the tail.

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