



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Q. When is an Eldridge not an Eldridge? A. When it's an Eldredge with an E. In our last newsletter the article about the Ezra Baker School Reunion told of the wonderful job done by Principal Donald Eldridge and his staff. Don was very pleased with the kind words but corrected us on the spelling of his name. He said it was "Eldredge with an E" and he was proud of it! He should be proud--his Cape Cod Eldredge name goes back to 1645 when Robert Eldred (Eldredge) moved from Plymouth to Yarmouth (Dennis). There he married Elizabeth Nickerson, daughter of William, in October 1649. They later moved to Chatham and the Eldredge name has been a strong force in that town to this day. Mr. Eldredge retired from his career in education on October 29th after 31 years in the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District, with the last 9 years as principal of Ezra Baker School. He is looking forward to spending more time with his wife, Marilyn, pursuing outdoor activities they enjoy and living at their dream home on Prince Edward Island, Canada, during the mild months. Don's commitment to education is reflected in the high esteem he is held by other educators, parents, and students alike. He originated the National Seashore program in which fifth grade students spend a week at the Seashore studying environmental science. That program is now enjoyed by students from throughout our region. Donald Eldredge has been a strong force in our town of Dennis. We thank him for his work with and influence on our children and wish him many happy years of retired life. My mother used to say that your name is the only thing you take with you when you die and it is your responsibility to keep a good name. I'm sure Don's mother would be proud of how well he's kept his good name of Eldredge.

IT'S TIME TO MEET OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Let me introduce you to Lura Crowell, our new president. Lu was born and raised in Taunton, MA. She met Seth Harvey Crowell of Dennis while they were students at U Mass, Amherst, and they married in their Junior year. Lu graduated in 1956 with degrees in history (a plus for DHS), and education (also another plus), and taught school for two years before daughter Beth arrived. Seth's job with Western Mass Electric Co. (later Northeast Utilities) took them to West Springfield. In seven years they had 5 children and Lu says she was "kept busy at home somehow until Cathy entered first grade". Add to that volunteering for church school, cub scouts, and girls scouts. She then decided to reenter the work force--although what you might call raising 5 small children and caring for a house and husband except WORK, I can't imagine! Her now job was teaching 4 year old pre-school youngsters for three years, then becoming school director for 16 years. Lu and Seth retired to come home to Seth's old family homestead on Sesuit Neck Road where they are operating Sesuit Neck Farm. Lu became interested in DHS through volunteering for our third grade school program and hostessing at the Josiah Dennis Manse. Her energy and enthusiasm seem boundless and transfers to visitors and volunteers alike. The next time you are at a DHS function introduce yourself to the dynamo with a great smile. You'll be glad you did!

...AND ALSO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Isabelle Flynn has announced ten new members to DHS. They are: Mr and Mrs. Jeffrey Deck, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Hewitt, Mr. and Mrs. Oren Foley, Mr. and Mrs. William J. Mailhot, Kathleen E. Roche, and Elizabeth K. Govan. We are pleased to have you join us. We hope as you learn more about our town of Dennis you will come to love it as we do.

BICENTENNIAL BITS

As our Bicentennial year nears the end we have a special event planned for November. There will be a Bicentennial Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving at Nathaniel H. Wixon Middle School, Route 134, South Dennis on Sunday, Nov. 28 at 4:00 P.M. This will be a gathering of thanksgiving for the many blessings bestowed on our town since its incorporation. A combined choir from Dennis churches has been formed and will present music from several periods of time under the direction of Noel Tipton. Rev. Joshua Lovell Crowell of Essex, CT and Dennis, a descendant of John Crowe, one of our first settlers, will give the sermon. He is researching the early sermons of Nathan Stone, the minister at the time we became a town. As we give thanks for all we have received it is right that we remember those less fortunate. A donation will be accepted for the homeless in our area. The Bicentennial Committee invites you to join them in the celebration.

The Bicentennial Quilt Show at the Dennis Senior Center was well attended by an enthusiastic group. Quilters seem to be a special brand of people. They will travel miles to view a quilt display. Those that visited our show were not disappointed. There were 64 quilts on display from antique to elaborate new designs, including the 1976 U.S. Bicentennial quilt made by 11 Dennis quilters, and two quilts made by preschool children at the Scargo Nursery School. Also on display was the Dennis Bicentennial Quilt created for this years celebration by twenty-two women of the Stitch and Chatter Quilters beginning in January 1990 and completed in February 1993. This quilt will be framed and permanently displayed at the Dennis Town Offices.

The walking and bus tours of East Dennis were also very well attended. So much interest was generated it is hoped that a similar tour of each village can be arranged. We will keep you informed if that develops.

CALENDAR

- Nov. 10 7:30 P.M. DHS Board meeting at Hannah Paddocks House with Sarah Kruger.
 Nov. 11 Veterans Day--A time to honor all our countrys veterans.
 Nov. 25 Happy Thanksgiving to one and all.
 Nov. 28 4:00 P.M. Bicentennial Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving. See article on other side.
 Dec. 5 2-4 P.M. DHS Christmas Open House at Jericho.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE--1993

The Dennis Historical Society Open House will be at Jericho House Historical Center, West Dennis on December 5th from 2-4 O.M. This lovely full Cape house was built in 1801 in the area called Baker Town for Captain Theophilus Baker, and was lived in continuously by his descendants until 1955. It was then purchased by Miss Elizabeth Reynaud, author of the Cape Cod Classic "The Narrow Land". Miss Reynaud restored the house and named it, with a touch of humor, "Jericho", as some of the cracked plaster on walls and ceilings came 'tumbling down' during the restoration. At her death she willed Jericho to her cousin Virginia Gildersleeve with the expressed wish that it eventually be given to the town of Dennis as an "historic society house" or library. As there was no Dennis Historical Society at the time Miss Gildersleeve contemplated giving Jericho to the Historical Society of Old Yarmouth. Some Dennis people were concerned about this and asked her neighbor, Selectman Kirkwood Brown and Dean S. Sears to call on Miss Gildersleeve in an effort to change her mind. As a result of that meeting Jericho was given to the town and accepted by Dennis voters at a Special Town Meeting on August 27, 1962. A five member Administrative Committee was created to run the house and the Dennis Historical Society was formed on July 2, 1963 for the purpose of collecting and preserving Dennis history, and to help with programs and staffing at Jericho.

Do come on December 5th to have some refreshments, including our famous Col. Negus Punch, listen to harpist Katie Lynch, and take a fresh look at the house that was the catalyst for our being. As always, the house will be beautifully decorated by members of the West Dennis Garden Club.

QUEEN'S CAKE

In the September newsletter I promised to share some of the recipes served at the Josiah Dennis Manse during the Dennis Festival Days school program as space allowed. The Queen's Cake appealed to a lot of our visitors. Although this recipe was adapted for modern use at Williamsburg, VA this basic recipe is found in many antique cook books in use in the colonies in the late 1700's. Trade between the West Indies, Spain, and the colonies made oranges, lemon, and spices available to our cooks, no doubt at a dear price. The early cake recipes called for a dozen or more eggs, and a couple of pounds of butter. The sugar came in a large solid cone and was scraped with a knife to get the desired amount. This would make a nice addition to your Thanksgiving menu.

Time: 1 hour and 20 minutes at 325°.

Grease and flour a loaf pan
 Cream together 1 C. Butter
 1 C. sugar
 Add 5 eggs--one at a time, stirring until each is well blended
 Add 1 tsp. lemon extract
 1 tsp. orange extract
 Sift and Add: 2 C. flour (also reserve 1 tbsp. flour)
 ½ tsp. baking powder
 ½ tsp. cinnamon
 Coat 2 C. currants with reserved tbsp flour and fold into batter.
 All ingredients should be at room temperature.
 (I made mine with an electric mixer. I sure beats mixing by hand for an hour as the old recipes called for.)

Dennis Historical Society
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