

DENNIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
APRIL NEWSLETTER

Railroads of Cape Cod

On April 19, at 7:30 at the West Dennis Community Building the Dennis Historical Society will present a talk by Mr. Howard Goodwin of Bourne, entitled "Railroads of Cape Cod". Mr. Goodwin traces the development of the railway companies and lines which served Cape Cod. His talk is illustrated with slides showing the old railway stations and trains. Be sure to come and hear the story of the "Dude" Train.

National Historic Preservation Week

The Dennis Historical Commission is calling attention to National Historic Preservation Week, which is proclaimed annually in the month of May. To commemorate this designation, a program will be presented on May 24 at 7:30 PM at a location to be announced. A talk on "Road Townscaping" will be given by Ronald Lee Fleming, nationally known consultant for the firm, Vision, Inc. Mr. Fleming's talk centers on the visual assets of a town, how they can be improved and preserved. Watch for an announcement concerning the location for this most interesting speaker.

Dennis Historic Centers

The two historic centers owned by the town, and operated by town appointed committees, are being readied to be open to the public for the summer. Volunteers are needed to serve as hosts and hostesses at the Josiah Dennis Manse and Jericho House and Barn Museum. The Manse is open Tuesday and Thursday and Jericho Wednesday and Friday from 1 until 4 PM. If you can give one or more afternoons to help, you will find it a pleasant and interesting experience. Volunteers for Jericho call Mr. Parmalee Fitch, 398-3418. For the Manse, please call Mrs. Anson Howes, 385-3338.

Bay State Historical League Meeting

Our Dennis Historical Society is a member of the Bay State Historical League, which this year celebrates its 75th Anniversary year. The League is made up of member societies and individuals, and its purpose is the same as that of our own society here in Dennis -- to encourage the study and preservation of local history. The League has asked its member societies to appoint a delegate to receive mail and inform the members of local societies about the league's activities. Anyone who would be interested in serving as the delegate, please call Mr. Pierce, 385-9135, and he will gladly send in your name.

The next meeting of the BSHL will be held in Longmeadow on June 17. Members of league societies are welcome to attend -- more to come in the next newsletter.

Bicycle Tour--May 6

The third in our Historical Bicycle tours of the villages of Dennis will be held in Dennisport on May 6. Dennisport may seem the least likely section of town to provide historic sites of interest--but would you believe the planning committee had trouble eliminating stops in order to keep the tour down to a time limit? Bicyclists should meet at the Sea Street Beach Parking Lot at 10 AM. The tour will take approximately 2 hours and will cover about five miles, with frequent stops. If the day is pleasant, why not bring a lunch and picnic on the beach at the end of the ride? Children are most welcome. We are planning the ride with the cooperation of the Dennis Police to insure a safe route.

Our first two rides were very successful (in South Dennis and West Dennis). We are in the process of planning rides in Dennis Village and East Dennis, and the maps for each of these five Historical Bicycle tours will be made available for those who would like to make self-guided rides later this summer. This is fun and a great way to discover some interesting places around our very interesting town.

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Bay State Spinning Competition

Are you a SPINNER? Would you like to represent the Dennis Historical Society at the Bay State Spinning Competition at the Seventh Annual Sheep Shearing Day -- Merrimack Valley Textile Museum, Andover, Massachusetts on Sunday, May 21st? For more details, contact Mr. Byron Peirce, 385-9135.

Old King's Highway Trees

The members of the Village Garden Club of Dennis have watched with concern as the beautiful elms which once lined the highway have fallen one by one to Dutch Elm Disease. They are putting their concern into action, and have asked us to solicit the aid of DHS members. A 5'-6' tree costs \$50 to purchase and plant. One hundred trees are needed. If you can donate any amount to this beautification of our old Dennis Village, please send your contribution to:

Mrs. Robert F. Thompson
P.O. Box 472
Dennis, MA 02638

Checks should be made out to The King's Highway Tree Fund of Dennis.

CALENDAR

- April 19 7:30 PM, Howard Goodwin, "Railroads of Cape Cod", West Dennis Community Building. Free
- May 6 10:00 AM, Guided Historical Bicycle Tour of Dennisport (Rain date, May 13). Meet at the Sea Street Parking lot. Approximate time--2 hrs.
- May 24 7:30 PM. Talk by Ronald Lee Fleming on Roadside Beautification. Place to be announced. Program sponsored by the Dennis Historic Commission.
- June 18 Town of Dennis Birthday Party. 12 noon. Luncheon at Lighthouse Inn. Reservations must be made and paid in advance to Mr. Joshua Crowell.
- July -- House tour of West Dennis houses. Date to be announced.
- August 16 7:30 PM. Program meeting at West Dennis Community Building.
- Sept. 11 7:30 PM. Annual meeting of the Dennis Historical Society and Election of Officers.