



THE CAPE COD CANAL

We are grateful to the U.S. Corps of Engineers ranger for the excellent presentation of the history of the Cape Cod Canal. Those who were there will look at that scenic waterway with a deeper sense of appreciation as they cross over the bridge--in either direction.

DENNIS FESTIVAL DAYS ACTIVITIES

In this 30th year, the Festival Days activities are many and varied. The following are events which D.H.S. will sponsor:

BIKE TOUR OF HISTORIC DENNIS VILLAGE...Tuesday, August 23rd, 10 A.M.

Bill and Isabelle Flynn have updated our tour. About two hours of easy riding with comments on many historic sites and a visit to the Manse and Old West Schoolhouse. Meet at Carleton Hall. Rain date, Wednesday, August 24. People who are not bikers are invited to follow us in cars.

HISTORY OF THE CAPE PLAYHOUSE...Wednesday, August 24th, Dennis Union Church Hall NOTE CHANGE IN PLACE AND DATE!! 7:30 P.M.

You will see a video tape tracing the history of America's oldest summer theater in continuous operation, followed by the personal reminiscence of people who have knowledge of the theater's early days. Hear anecdotes about some of the world famous celebrities who have visited this theater

WALK ON THE INDIAN LANDS...Sunday, August 28th, 4:30 P.M.

Meet at Town Hall parking lot for a walk on the Nickerson land recently added to the Indian Lands Conservation Area. The walk will be led by Susan Nickerson, Executive Director of the Association for the Preservation of Cape Cod, who will point out natural and historical features of this important Indian archeological site.

JOSIAH DENNIS MANSE AND OLD WEST SCHOOLHOUSE

Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday during Festival Days from 2-4 P.M. Special Flower Show arranged by the members of the Village Garden Club.

JERICHO HOUSE AND BARN MUSEUM

Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday during Festival Days from 2-4:30 P.M. Specially for the children--the Driftwood Zoo.

DOWN ON THE FARM

Another activity which D.H.S. members should bear in mind is a conducted walk around Tobey Farm on Route 6A in Dennis. About 1675, Thomas Tobey of Sandwich married Mehitable Crowell of Dennis. They settled in Sandwich and in due time became the parents of a baby boy, named Thomas Jr. Then Thomas, Sr. was called to serve in King Phillips War, and he never returned. Mehitabel Tobey and her little son came back to Nobscusset to live with Hittie's family. Some years later the General Court gave land grants to the veterans and their survivors of that war. At Hittie's request she and her son were allowed to take up their grant at Nobscusset. The land that is now the Tobey Farm is that grant, and it is owned and farmed by descendants of this Thomas. Established in 1696, the oldest part of the house probably is the original structure. The dwelling reached it's present shape and form in 1801. The walk around Tobey will not only give you a chance to see one of the few working farms on Cape Cod, but you will also get a very different view of Simpkins Neck and Chase Garden Creek. Walks will be held on the hour from 10-4 on Friday, August 26th and Saturday, the 27th. (Rain date, Sunday 28th). No charge, bring a camera--and enjoy a refreshing slice of watermelon at the end of your twenty minute walk.

CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

Members of D.H.S. are hereby officially notified that the Annual Meeting and election of officers will be held at Carleton Hall on September 20 at 7:30 P.M. You are also reminded that dues are due and may be mailed to Isabelle Flynn, P.O. Box 547, South Dennis, MA 02660. Individuals, \$5.00, Family, \$7.00, or, for a real bargain, Life Membership for \$100.00. Just think, never again to wonder whether or not your dues are paid. You may also pay your dues at our meeting or functions. If you are not presently a member, but have received this newsletter, please consider this an invitation to join us. Any one who is interested in preserving the history of this town may become a member just by paying the dues. You will be most welcome.

Our program for the annual meeting will be a showing of both of our historical slide shows, "Dennis" and "The Story of Shiverick Shipyard". Each production is about ½ hour, very lively and informative. Josh Crowell and Bill Scofield have shown our productions on Cape and off, but it has been a while since Dennis People have had an opportunity to see them. The business meeting is short, so you will still be on your way home by 9:00 P.M.

CALENDAR

Aug. 8 7:30 P.M. Board meets with Nancy and Dick Howes
Aug. 21-28 30th ANNUAL DENNIS FESTIVAL DAYS
Aug. 23 10 A.M. Carlton Hall Historic bike tour of Dennis Village
Aug. 24 7:30 P.M. "History of the Cape Playhouse"
Aug. 26 & 27 10-4--on the hour Walking tour of Tobey Farm
Aug. 28 4 P.M. Walk on the Nickerson land, Indian Lands Conservation Area
Sep. 20 7:30 P.M. Carlton Hall ANNUAL MEETING

OF OVERALLS AND CHICKEN PIE

"Hi! What's for dinner?" That's almost always the first subject of conversation when either of my star boarders returns home after a meaningful and productive day interacting with the real world. And, one night during this hot spell of weather I absent-mindedly answered, "Chicken pie". My partner in life stopped dead in his tracks--"Whew, the heat has certainly gotten to you, baking a chicken pie on a day like this." Well, I hadn't really baked a chicken pie, but I had been thinking about them. It all began at Jericho while working in the barn on our summer exhibit. One section of the barn is devoted to a display of artifacts illustrating a mini-Industrial Revolution on the Cape, during which time three overall factories were established here in Dennis. The proprietor of one was Edmund Augustus "Pop" O'Brien, and as I was arranging the labels at that table I had an olfactory illusion. I thought I could catch the delectable scent of Chicken Pie. Some of you other old-timers will know why. For those who don't, let me introduce you to "Pop" O'Brien, a man of many talents. He was born in Canada in 1861 into a less than affluent family with 13 children. At age 14 he was apprenticed to a painter and paperhanger, and at the end of 3 years, he left home for Chicago. There he worked as a painter of carriages, and later as a clerk in a shoe store. Through contacts with shoe salesmen from Brockton, then the shoe capital of New England, he obtained a job in that city cutting out uniforms for employees in the shoe factories. He continued working as a cutter in Boston, where he met a gentleman whose son lived in Dennis. This man had visions of setting up an overall factory in South Dennis with his daughter-in-law supervising the women stitchers. No doubt these young people were Fred and Eleanor Young. Mr. Young Sr. convinced Pop that he would love Cape Cod--and he was right. The trip down to South Dennis was one which Mr. O'Brien never tired of talking about. He had as a seat mate the inventor, Marconi, and the two men of such different talents and backgrounds chatted amiably for the entire trip. Well, Edmund started Mrs. Young in business all right. Her factory was on Cove Road, near the Lavin's house, and both Ellie Young and her factory are pictured in our exhibit. When fire stopped production, Pop took the opportunity to build and outfit a factory of his own on Main Street, near Heir's Landing. But fire swept his establishment as well, and without insurance, he was not able to rebuild. For a while he tried his hand at raising poultry--his farm was also on Main Street and was called Cape Cod Poultry Inc. History is silent as to why he switched from raising hens to cooking them, but that's what happened. So he bought a house on Division Street in Dennis Port, and began taking orders for Pop's Chicken Pies. For three months during the summer, Pop's Pie Plant would be erected somewhere in an empty space on Main Street, Dennis Port, and that delectable aroma which came to me at Jericho would waft up and down the business center. I forget how much he charged, but I have a picture of the Pie Plant advertising Chicken Sandwiches for 20¢. So now you know why overall factories make me think of chicken pie. I had to reassure my husband that I had not flipped out in the heat and made a pie for dinner. In reality I had made something much more sensible for such a hot and humid evening---reservations!

Dennis Historical Society
P.O. Box 607
South Dennis, MA 02660

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