



### COME TO OUR OPEN HOUSE

The Josiah Dennis Manse will have an Open House on Sunday, August 18 from 2-4 P.M. especially to show off the newly renovated back chamber. The spinning and weaving exhibit has been relocated there as this is the area of the colonial home where these chores were traditionally done. In colonial times this was a rough, drafty attic with no amenities. Imagine the colonial spinster performing her work up under the eaves--stifling hot in the summer, freezing in the winter--with very poor lighting at any time of the year. In view of today's oil prices we have insulated, lighted, and finished off the room in keeping with the rest of the house. This work has been done from start to finish by our volunteer renovators par excellence, Dick Howes and John Burton. Dave Talbott of South Shore Heating and Cooling donated the heating ductwork and Ray Speakman did the electrical wiring--all with Frank Estey's approval. Many thanks to Dave and Ray and especially to Dick and John! They estimate they have saved the Town approximately \$3,000.00 in labor. Come meet our craftsmen, view their handiwork, and have some refreshments with us. P.S.--Be sure to look at the antique door with leather hinges and a latch string found under the eaves.

### DENNIS FESTIVAL DAYS

Once again DHS is happy to participate in the Festival Days celebration. Our first offering is a narrated bicycle tour of Dennis Port led by Sarah Kruger, leaving from the Village Green on Hall Street at 9:30 A.M., returning about noon on Monday, Aug. 19. Parking available at the Town Parking Lot across the street. Also on Monday at 7:30 P.M. at Carleton Hall Nan Waldron will give her slide presentation "A View From Outermost House". Refreshments will be served and admission is free. On Friday, Aug. 23, Nancy Thacher Reid will narrate a bus tour of Dennis leaving from Wixon School's lower parking lot at 9:30 A.M. Reservations are limited to 42 and **must be made** through the Dennis Chamber of Commerce at 398-3568. Of course our two antique houses will be open and delighted to welcome one and all. The Josiah Dennis Manse will be open on Tuesday and Thursday 2-4 P.M. featuring the Village Garden Club Flower Show on both days. Jericho House and Barn Museum will be open on Wednesday and Friday from 2-4:30 P.M.

### BYLAW CHANGE IS NECESSARY

In reviewing our bylaws the Board has realized there is no provision to fill vacancies of officers or directors which occur between annual elections. Therefore the proposed new section will be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting on Sept. 11, 7:30 P.M. at the Jacob Sears Memorial Library, East Dennis, as follows:

#### ARTICLE IV

##### D. Vacancies

Vacancies on the Executive Board, which occur between annual meetings, whether among Officers or Directors, may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Executive Board. Any Officer so elected shall serve until the next Annual Meeting. Any Director so elected shall serve until the expiration of his predecessor's term.

### IT'S DUES TIME AGAIN

My, doesn't time pass quickly? It seems like just the other day that it was dues time, but really it was a year ago! Isabel Flynn, our Membership Chairman, says that DHS membership is the Best Bargain in town! The dues for Sept. 1, 1991 thru Aug. 31, 1992 are \$6.00 single, \$8.00 family, \$2.00 student, and \$100.00 for an individual LIFE membership. Isabel would appreciate your prompt remittance. It makes her job easier. If you would like a membership card please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Also, please note if a seasonal residence address is needed to insure receipt of 3rd class-non forwarding newsletter--and dates of departure from Dennis and return. Additionally, voting on bylaws revisions at the September Annual Meeting requires dues paid in good standing.

### OUR BICENTENNIAL IS BEING CAREFULLY PLANNED

A vigorous and enthusiastic committee of fellow citizens is now meeting on a monthly basis to talk about the celebration of the town's bicentennial in 1993. It sounds as if there will be something for everybody--young and old, dancers and jazz enthusiasts, gardeners and conservationists, and, especially for people interested in the town's history. The Dennis Bulletin is covering the meetings of this committee, which are scheduled for the first Thursday of each month, 7:00 P.M. at Town Hall. If you have any ideas, or if a club or organization to which you belong would like to plan an activity, try to attend a meeting, or contact Jim Coogan who serves as secretary, to get your activity on the schedule or your idea before the committee. It is going to be one of the Cape's finest historical celebrations--and it should be, as Dennis is one of the Cape's most historic towns.

CALENDAR

Aug. 14 4:30 P.M. DHS Board meets with Gertrude Lailey.  
 Aug. 19-23 DHS participates in Dennis Festival Days. See related article.  
 Sept. 11 7:30 P.M. DHS Annual Meeting and Election of Officers at Jacob Sears Memorial Library, East Dennis.

LET'S TAKE AN AUGUST TIME-OUT

We've just sent the Connecticut branch of the family home, after having a great visit with our son, daughter-in-law and three absolutely beautiful grandchildren, aged 3 to 8. I'm sure many of you have shared this delightful experience, and probably will understand what I'm about to say. Not being critical, or anything like that, but it seems to me that children are being brought up a little bit differently these days. But, any way, they are beautiful children. One innovation which I have noted, probably a positive one, is the "time-out chair". Children who are guilty of such pranks as putting ice cubes down a siblings neck, or planting a fake snake in someone's bed, are not punished by having to stand in the corner, or by receiving a swift smack across an appropriate area of their anatomy, as, I must confess, my poor children may have received from time to time. They are sent to the "time-out chair" to sit incommunicado for whatever length of time their crime requires, presumably to contemplate their sins, but in fact, so it sometimes seems, to plot another even more heinous trick. However, on the whole, taking time out now and then to look at what one has been doing with one's time is never a bad idea. One of the mothers of my grandchildren has confessed to me that she sometimes announces to her offspring that it's her turn for a "time out" and no one can speak to her or disturb her in any way for at least ten minutes. Fair enough, I say. Taking "time out" in the busy summer season on Cape Cod is not what we usually expect to do. Long lost friends show up, grandchildren come to visit, and many of us still in the work force find this our busiest season. But 'twas not always so. B.T. (Before Tourism) Cape Codders had a nice spell of time between planting and harvesting, for a little time out from routine tasks. And fortuitously, the arrival of Methodism here on the Cape afforded a much needed opportunity. I speak of Camp Meetings. The Methodist denomination sprang up in England about 1739. One of the major differences between the religion preached by the Wesleys and the orthodox Protestant churches was the informality and joyfulness as compared with the more sedate somewhat harsh and judgmental tone of the Congregationalists. Following the American Revolution, Methodism came into its own in New England and was of growing influence here on the Cape. While the Baptists might be credited with initiating the idea of Camp Meetings, the Methodists perfected the idea and a religious "time out" filled with preaching, singing, conversations, and good socialization developed. The first Camp Meetings on the Cape were held in Wellfleet in 1819. Transportation was necessarily by water, and only those who were moved to explore this new type of itinerant ministry would attend. In 1826 the meeting was moved to Millenium Grove in Eastham, and the packet lines of the Cape offered special trips to transport families to and from the Camp Meetings. At first the families who attended lived in tents and all of the meetings were out of doors. Facilities were primitive, one well serving all who attended. A permanent wooden building was constructed to accommodate the preachers who attended, a 2 story building but not much better than the tents which encircled it, for the preachers proved their zeal in attending, by sleeping on straw pallets. In 1863 the railroad having come as far as Yarmouth, the Methodists moved their camp Meeting to that town. For the next 70 years Camp Meetings were held every August on the 40 acre plot still known today as the Yarmouth Camp Grounds. Cottages were built and owned by families who attended annually, many of them still existing. In 1890 the Tabernacle was built, at a cost of \$2,400. Notations in diaries of the era from 1836 to the late 1800's make frequent reference to who was away at Camp Meetings. A note in the Yarmouth Register of August 3, 1872 states that work will begin in earnest on the "new hotel" (which later became the famed Nobscusset Hotel at the end of Nobscusset Road in Dennis), as soon as Camp Meeting was concluded. It seems quite apparent that it was not only Methodists, and not only for religious fervor that Camp Meetings were popular. The informal, emotionally charged atmosphere of Camp Meeting was a great "time-out" for a generation burned out from puritan suppression. Don't you ever feel, as my daughter-in-law does, that it's about time for a "time-out"? O.K. Dennisites, it's about to happen! Join in the fun of Dennis Festival Days. It's not just for visiors, you know. Everyone of you deserves a "time-out", and I hope you will take it and enjoy it.

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