

FEBRUARY 1978

DENNIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Members and friends of Dennis Historical Society gathered at the West Dennis Community Building in January to hear a talk by Ben Thacher on "History and the Phonograph". Using examples from his extensive record collection, Mr. Thacher played famous voices from that of Thomas A. Edison himself to the time of World War II. He traced the development of recorded sound from Edison's tin foil machine, invented in 1877, and showed its uses as a recorder of history, and a great influence in the development of musical trends. A most enchanting addition to the evening was the playing of a recording by Enrico Caruso, on a machine developed expressly to show off his magnificent voice. After a lively question and answer period, all agreed that the program was informative and entertaining--well worth the trek out into the cold January night.

February's program will star the village of Dennisport, in the form of a mid-winter luncheon at the Hereford House. The afternoon will be mostly social, but we are hoping to have an interesting collection of pictures of old Dennisport and Pauline Derrick will talk very briefly on the old days in this interesting village. Incidentally, our first bicycle tour of the spring will take place in Dennisport. Tickets for the luncheon are \$5.00 per person and may be obtained from Joshua and Eleanor Crowell by mail (Dennis, MA 02638) or by phoning 398-3689. However, all reservations must be paid in advance, as last spring many made reservations but could not come, and many on the waiting list were unnecessarily disappointed. Make checks payable to the Dennis Historical Society and send to Mr. Crowell. You will receive your tickets by return mail. The menu for the day will be Onion Soup, Chicken Supreme on a bed of rice, Salad and Caramel Custard. Happy hour at 12 noon, luncheon to be served at 1 PM.

Dennis Historical Society is more than just a group sponsoring evening programs of historical interest. This year the Society has placed exhibits in the two schools in the town, from time to time. With the cooperation of the principal of each school, these exhibits have been displayed in the glass covered showcase, whenever the case was not being used for other purposes. Arranged by Nancy Flinkstrom, the displays have been a collection of pictures of the town today; antique photos, taken from postcards, and loaned by Mrs. Richard S. Hall; a collection of antique toys loaned by Mr. and Mrs. John Symington; and articles from the Josiah Dennis Manse, selected by Mrs. Esther Howes. We thank all of these people for their help.

An easel has been constructed for a portable display, to be circulated around our town libraries from time to time. The display for the month of February is old Valentines. Watch for it at your library.

For the more active members, look forward to a continuation of village by village Historical Bike Tours. We anticipate that a tour will be conducted in each village this summer and the maps for self-conducted tours will be available through central locations.

House dating continues, many members working on their own or others' homes, up to the date of 1673. A copy of Mrs. Pauline Derrick's talk on how to tackle the dating of a house may be obtained from the Historical Society Secretary, Nancy T. Reid, 398-8342.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- February 13 -- 1 P.M. Mid-Winter Luncheon, Hereford House, Dennisport.
Reservations necessary, see above.
- March 8 -- 7:30 P.M. Carleton Hall. Mr. Donald Eldridge, "Whaling on Cape Cod"
- April 19 -- 7:30 P.M. West Dennis Community Building. Mr. Howard Goodwin, "Railroads on Cape Cod"
- Coming in May -- Bicycle Tour of Dennisport.

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