

CALENDAR

Feb. 2 Ground Hog Day. Will he see his shadow. How will our winter go?
Feb. 12 7:30 P.M. DHS Board meets at Jericho.
Feb. 15 12 noon Mid-Winter Festivity at Christine's See related article and reservation form.

COME MEET OUR AUTHOR

It's time once again for the annual Mid-Winter Festivity to chase away the wintry blues that set in about mid-February. We have a sure fire remedy for that cabin fever. Come to Christine's Restaurant in West Dennis for luncheon at 12:00 noon on February 15 and meet our own Nancy Thacher Reid author of "Dennis, Cape Cod: From Firstcomers to Newcomers 1639-1993". If those sparkling blue eyes and delightful wit don't chase Old Man Winter into a corner--nothing will! Nancy is our guest speaker and she will have some stories about her book that aren't in the book. For any who are interested you will be able to purchase this wonderful book on Dennis history at the luncheon. For those who already have your book and would like Nancy to sign it, bring it along--she'll be happy to oblige. Altho--she said today she made out a check to cash for a little pocket money and realized afterwards she'd made it out to Nancy Thacher Reid!--then wondered if the bank would honor it. Obviously she's signed her name a few dozen times. New habits become ingrained so easily! Please find the reservation form on other side, call a friend to join you, and come to Christine's for a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon.

AN EAST DENNIS POOL ROOM

How many of you ever knew there was a pool room in East Dennis--and that the building is still standing? This particular pool room was privately owned by Mr. Alfred Carlow who had a boarding house on Sesuit Neck down near the Shiverick Shipyard when the yard was in operation. The principal boarders were single men who came primarily 'from away' to work at the shipyard. One of the main attractions was a pool room. The barn behind the house had an attached three-sided wagon shed as did many barns in that time. However, there was a second story, with an outside stairway, over the wagon shed. That was the location of the pool room. This, no doubt, was a popular spot with the young sports in town while the shipyard was in full swing. The good Methodist folk of East Dennis were outraged at this den of iniquity in their midst. Surely it was the subject of several Sunday morning sermons and many a mother's admonitions.

The second owner of this house was J. Wallace Smalley, son of James Anthony Smalley of cranberry fame. J. Wallace bought the house some years after the shipyard closed for use as his private home. On rainy days when it was uncomfortable to work outside Mr. David Shiverick would walk down to Wallace's and engage him in a lively "fight-to-the-finish" game of pool. The stuff of which great stories were told while waiting for the mail to be sorted. A number of years later Wallace sold his house and moved up to Main Street--and took his pool room with him! Undoubtedly the games continued in the new location--perhaps with an audience, as the pool room was now across the street from the post office.

Since Wallace Smalley's demise the property containing the pool room has passed through various owners. It would be interesting to know what became of the pool table and accessories--or even if they are still in that little East Dennis pool room?

DENNIS HISTORY

Nancy Reid's book on the history of Dennis has been "selling like hotcakes". The Marketing Committee: Joan Martin, Kitty McNamara, and Jim Coogan have certainly been busy dispensing books with some assistance from Josh Crowell, Phyllis Horton, and Susan Kelley working in the mail room. This history has been mailed from Maine to Florida to California and many points in between--plus--Canada! Everyone involved has been pleased with the book's reception--but how could it miss?--a great subject, a great author, and a great presentation! They are available at the town libraries, the Dennis Town Clerk's office, or write to Dennis History, P.O. Box 1793, Dennis, MA 02638 for more information.

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