

IT WAS CERTAINLY A CONVIVIAL AFTERNOON

Although we weren't snowed out, many agreed that snow would have been nicer than the weather on Sunday, December 4, when Christmas Open House was held at Jericho. Nevertheless, a larger number than could have been expected braved the fearsome winds and rain to start off the Christmas season in a manner which has now become a Dennis tradition. Jericho House was lovely, softly lighted and serene, in spite of gale winds outside. Each room had tasteful and artistic decorations arranged by Ann Chalmers and Hazel Newcomb. The table, adorned with a pineapple, the symbol of hospitality, was laden with goodies, punch and hot chocolate, and the golden tones of Enrico Caruso soared over the sounds of pleasant conversation. A very convivial gathering and well-deserved thanks go to Jericho Committee members and D.H.S. members for their efforts to make it so.

'MAY 7, 1742, WENT A-WHALING WITH CAPT. SAM'L PADDOCK.'

Those with an interest in our town's history should certainly take delight in learning of the history of American whaling. Early town and Plymouth colony records are full of references to this lucrative activity, learned from the native Americans. Rights to shore whaling were granted to certain men, but a portion of the oil obtained went to the town, the colony and the King. Nevertheless, the whaling men became affluent. Lt. Jonathan Howes had his own tryworks on Sesuit Neck as early as 1695. Before that, in 1693, Ichabod Paddock had been invited to Nantucket to teach the Islanders the skill, and a creditable job he did, indeed. The Paddocks were involved in whaling for several generations. There is a story about a certain Capt. Paddock who lost his favorite harpoon when he struck but failed to kill a whale in 1802. He was fortunate to recover it in 1815 when he captured the same whale! The diary of Benj. Bangs of Brewster refers to a whaling voyage he made with Capt. Samuel Paddock, during which they encountered spermaceti whales somewhere off Monomoy, and "killed one ye first stroke." As whaling expanded to greater distances, the character of the vessel and the voyage changed. In the heyday of whaling, the life of a crew member on a whaler was less than pleasant. Sheila Callaghan of the New Bedford Whaling Museum will tell us about this life when she speaks to the D.H.S. at Carleton Hall on Tuesday, January 10, at 7:30 P.M. Members are urged to bring guests. Don Bacon will warm us up to the subject by singing several whaling sea chanties to open the program.

DID YOU KNOW THAT D.H.S. IS HOMELESS?

The Dennis Historical Society is one of the most active historical organizations on the Cape, but we are one of the few without a home. The two Historical Centers are town-owned and managed by committees appointed by the Selectmen. All of our Society's property - audio-visual equipment, books, records, etc. - is scattered among Board members' homes. The artifacts, memorabilia and ephemera which D.H.S. purchases or obtains as gifts are either placed on loan to the Town's Historic Centers or are stored (carefully, we hope) and brought out when appropriate. The lovely model of the Belle of the West has no home port, but has to be rotated among public buildings. And, perhaps most critical, there is no temperature and humidity controlled archives room in town, where delicate ancient letters, diaries and documents can be stored safely. This is no way to run an Historical Society! The Board has discussed the need for a permanent Society headquarters, and the many problems which this presents. We have placed this matter on a long-term planning basis, something we should be aiming towards in the future. But the Board felt it important that the membership be aware of their concern. Owning our own home will be expensive. So one of our short-term goals will be the establishment of a building fund. We hope some of you who have a deep interest in the history of the town will consider making tax-deductible contributions to this fund, whether as gifts or legacies. Many of our sister (or brother) societies have received their building as a gift or bequest, or have purchased it from a fund made up of this type of gift. You will hear more about acquiring a home in the future. We don't expect to begin tomorrow, but we do want you to be aware of the need.

GLASS NEGATIVES PROCURED

Through the persistence and assistance of several of our members, a set of nearly 100 year-old glass negatives has been purchased by D.H.S. from a local antique dealer. Many of these pictures are of Dennis Village and East Dennis. The box in which they came identifies the photographer as 'Herrick.' With a little detective work, we have further identified him as John W. Herrick, who taught school in East Dennis in 1885 and 1886. These pictures were undoubtedly taken at that time. Richard Howes is experimenting with ways to print these negatives, and we plan to offer copies of the best ones for sale to interested people. They will be displayed at our February luncheon. Perhaps you will recognize your own old house among them. Thanks go to Joshua Crowell, Richard Howes, Ben Muse, Ron Howes and Henry Kelley III for their interest and help in obtaining these negatives.

A THANK YOU FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Isabel Flynn has asked me to thank all of you who sent in your dues without being billed and enclosed a self-addressed and stamped envelope. This not only saved her a great deal of work, but also, at 40¢ per membership, in postage, saved the Society something over \$40. These people are to be thanked not only for their generosity but for their efficiency. Like many others, I myself am inclined not to get around to pay anything until I'm billed for it. So we thank all of you who have paid your dues, whether billed or unbilled, and we gently remind those who have forgotten, that your Society tries to use the dues money as wisely as possible to achieve the purpose of preserving and teaching this town's history. We greatly appreciate your support.

WANTED: A LOGO

Seems as if everybody nowadays has a logo - a symbol which they use as a visual representation of their organization or business. I was surprised not to find the word defined in any of our dictionaries, here at our house. Instead, I found "logogram" - "an abbreviation or other sign representing a word, as \$ for dollar." But whichever word you prefer to use, that is exactly what we need - an easily recognizable symbol which represents D.H.S. It would be used on stationery, membership cards, invitations and such. But primarily it would help greatly in making posters advertising our events easy to spot among the multitude on the supermarket or post office bulletin boards. Your Board discussed a logo at a recent meeting, and decided to have a contest. All members and friends of the Society are invited to submit a design for the Board to choose from. Your logogram design should represent the purposes and activities of the Society, should be distinctive, and effective when reproduced in one color only. We would like to display these designs at the Mid-Winter Festivity Luncheon, so please submit your entry to Sarah Kruger, 28 Dr. Lord's Road, Dennis, MA, 02638, in time for that date. A prize is being offered, a complimentary trip on one of the Bacon Tours planned for this spring. All you would-be artists, and real artists, get busy. We'd like to have a nice choice of logos from which to choose.

JANUARY IS A SUPER MONTH

A New Year - a chance to make resolutions, do a post-Holiday housecleaning, and start off fresh. And lest our resolutions fail us too early in the year, January brings us holidays like Martin Luther King Day, and the anniversary of the birth of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Whatever your politics, these two illustrious American citizens provide fine examples of what personal effort can accomplish, and should spur us on to better lives. But lest we get too caught up in reflection and self-improvement, along comes "Super Sunday". Personally, I consider this as a total day off. The men in my life gather in the den, there to shout and applaud while twenty-two of America's biggest and best batter, bruise and break each other's bodies for the glory of being proclaimed the champion football players of the year. The fans are perfectly happy with a ham and cheese on rye in place of a proper Sunday Dinner, and I am free to do "some of the things I've been meaning to do" for such a long time. Not that I have anything against football. I was a real fan back in High School, in the days when I thought that Knute Rockne and The Irish of Notre Dame had invented the game.

In our encyclopedia, the article on "Football" covers 12 pages and indicates that the game was not invented, but evolved from a combination of Soccer and Rugby. But don't you believe it. I have in my possession an eye witness account of a game played by the seashore Indian tribes of New England. It is from a book entitled New England Prospects, written in 1633 by William Wood. The game being described is called "Football". Read it and see what you think.

"Their goals be a mile long, placed on the sands, which are as even as a board. Their Ball is no bigger than a handball, which sometimes they mount in the air with their naked feet; sometimes it is swayed by the multitude..... Before they come to this sport they paint themselves even as when they go to war.... While the men play, the boys pipe and the women dance and sing... It is most delight to see them play in small companies, when men may view their swift footmanship, their curious tossing of the ball.... (and) their lubberlike wrestlings."

Except for the size of the ball and the length of the field, that sounds just like an afternoon at Foxboro, to me - complete with band, cheerleaders and a barefoot punter. If you are one who enjoys the game on Super Sunday, I would say you have our native Americans to thank. As you enjoy the game, try to picture the scene 350 years ago on Chapin Beach. As for me, I think I'll clean my desk.

MID-WINTER FESTIVITY

Our annual February luncheon will be held this year on Saturday, Feb. 18 at The Brass Kettle in Dennis Port. Social hour will be at 12:00 noon and the luncheon at 1:00. The menu will consist of homemade soup, choice of 5 entrees, vegetables, roll and butter, dessert, coffee or tea.

A brief program will be presented, door prizes given and we hope to have entries to our logo contest to display, as well as prints made from our new (old) glass negatives. For reservations at \$7.50 per person, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with a check to: Mr. Joshua Crowell, P.O. Box 963, Dennis, MA, 02638. Jean and Bill are once again co-chairpeople for this welcome winter refresher.

MEET THE BOARD

The Executive Board of D.H.S. has given me permission to expand this edition of the Dennis Historical Society Newsletter so that I could have room to introduce the officers and directors of the Society to you. So, ladies and gentlemen, meet the board.

Pres. Nancy Thacher Reid shouldn't need any introduction, if you have been a member for any length of time. A native Cape Codder, she is an old-timer on the Board, (though really very young in years). She is also editor of the Newsletter.....V.P. Paula Bacon is also well known to most of you. Paula is one of our best "idea people". She also acts as publicity chairperson, and does an excellent job in this capacity..... 2nd V.P. Lilla Smith is new to the Board, but a long-time friend of Dennis history, as a valuable member of the Jericho Committee. She has been a great help with our school field trips, and her sensitive welcome to the children when they visit makes their visit much more meaningful. I hope you will all take the time to get to know Lilla. She's a great lady.....Phyllis Robbins Horton is our Recording Secretary, another native Cape Codder. She represents Dennis Port on the Board, and has been active in the Oral history collection. Phyllis is quiet, but she knows a lot of great stories, learned from her own ancestors and those of her husband as well. If you're thinking about restoring an old house, speak to her.....Jean Taylor is our Corresponding Secretary and she and her really neat husband Bill have served the Board as co-chairpeople for many of our semi-annual luncheon meetings. Jean and Bill not only make the arrangements with the restaurants, but also plan door prizes, flowers, table arrangements and all. Try our Mid-Winter Luncheon and you will see what a great team these two are.....Now, Josh Crowell, he's in a class by himself. He's the best Treasurer we've ever had. In fact, he's the only one, having kept the Society in the black for all of its 20 years, a truly significant contribution of time and effort. Making out the tax exempt forms alone would give a man grey hair. Josh is our voice of reason and caution, as a good treasurer should be, but he is always on the alert for good opportunities to advance the purposes of the Society.

These are the officers. Now for the directors, each of which is elected to serve a three-year term. With one year to go, Edmond R. Nickerson and William E. Crowell, Jr. are the veterans. Edmond is our House Dating Chairman, so if you have dated your house and would like a date board, or if you need information on how to do it, call Ed. Bill is a lawyer and has aided us with several legal decisions, and was our main advisor when we revised our By-laws a few years ago.Directors with two years left to serve are Gail Hart and Richard and Nancy Howes. Gail, as a past president, is known to most of you. During her term of office, she initiated many of our most successful programs, not the least of which was the idea for historic bike tours. Richard and Nancy are currently working on the Winter Carnival idea. Richard is a fine photographer and has taken some nice pictures at recent events, and Nancy receives and sifts out news from other historical societies as the Bay State Historic League, and Cape and Islands Area Association.To our new directors - You may be acquainted with Sarah Kruger through the excellent articles she has written for the Yarmouth Register. She is our expert on the Paddock Family and lives in one of the old Paddock houses. She also has a great interest in the school field trips.Wilson Scofield is new to the board, but his contribution to the Society has been very visible since the production of the slide show about our history. Bill is our equipment expert, and photographer. He and Josh Crowell head our Audio-Visual Committee, and in addition they have shown our slide show 36 times, to an audience which totals over 3500 people.

According to our By-Laws, three of our board members are appointed to represent other historic groups. Parmalee Fitch represents Jericho and helps us coordinate joint activities. Everyone knows Parm, as long-time chairman of the Jericho House, and devoted to its maintenance. Elinor Crowell represents The Manse. She and Maree Galvin are co-chairmen there, and both of these ladies are most cooperative in organizing the field trips. At present there is no official member representing the Historic Commission, but Nancy Reid, Edmond Nickerson and Josh Crowell are all Commission members. Ex-officio members of the Board are Isabel and Bill Flynn. Isabel is Membership Chairman, and she and Bill are largely responsible for getting the Newsletter ready to mail. They also get Bike Tours off the ground, so you can see their attendance at meetings moves several things along. Chairmen of other committees are invited to attend Board meetings where items on the agenda pertain to their work. And of course, all are welcome to any meeting. So now you know your Board of Directors. This is a hard-working board, but we have lots of fun. Maybe, if you are good, you'll be invited to serve some year. If so, I hope you'll say, "YES."

RECENT NEW MEMBERS

The following are among the new members who have joined D.H.S. in recent weeks. We welcome them, and hope you will make an effort to meet and greet them.

Ms. Virginia Van Vorst, Mr. and Mrs. James C. Wick, Mrs. I.H. Korslund, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. John F. Usher, A.E. Whelden, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Staples, Ms. Leonora M. Ryder, M.J. Landau, M.A. Riker, Mrs. A. Valentin, Mr. and Mrs. William VanGerven.

CALENDAR

- Jan. 2 7:30 P.M. Board Meeting home of Nancy Reid
 Jan. 10 7:30 P.M. Carleton Hall "Life Aboard a Whaler" Sheila Callaghan
 Jan. 15 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
 Jan. 22 Super Sunday
 Jan. 30, 1882 Birth of Franklin D. Roosevelt
 SOME COLD SAT. REAL SOON Winter Sports at Scargo. Listen to WQRC and watch the local bulletin boards.
 Feb. 18 The Brass Kettle, Dennis Port - Mid-Winter Festivity Luncheon.
 Also of interest to our members - Bus tour to J.F. Kennedy Library, with a special showing of the movie, "Rose". Jan. 19
 Trip to see "Cats", Jan. 11, Feb. 1, 4, and 8. Call Paula Bacon 394-5739.

A-ICEBOATING ON SCARGO LAKE * JANUARY OR FEBRUARY, 1984

Since we have been talking about a day of skating and iceboating on Scargo, I have had all sorts of phone calls and information sent to me about this not-at-all forgotten winter sport. Gilbert Burchell of Nantucket sent me some fine articles he had collected telling about the sport's origins. The earliest picture of an ice-travelling vessel is from about 1790, but in all probability this form of transportation was in use in Holland and Scandinavia before that. These early boats were sailing vessels to which runners had been attached. Oliver Booth of Poughkeepsie, N.Y. is said to have introduced iceboats to America in the 1790's. His vehicle was box-shaped and had a mast all the way forward, with runners at each forward corner and a steering runner under the rudder. For fifty years, this basic design was popular on the Hudson River. Then, at about the time our ancestors were discovering the thrill of racing Clipper ships around the Horn and across the oceans of the world, their stay-at-home financeers were discovering the thrill of iceboating. Bear in mind that when iceboats were first introduced, they were the fastest moving vehicles known. Experts reckon that on perfect ice and with the right wind, an iceboat can reach the speed of 100 M.P.H. The Hudson River Valley was the iceboating center of the country, with these "hard-water" craft becoming more streamlined, even as their sister ships, which plied through "soft water" were becoming more extreme. It was the age when speed was discovered. In 1865 the country's first ice yacht club was founded at Poughkeepsie, followed in a few years by the Hudson River Ice Yacht Club, founded by John E. Roosevelt at Hyde Park. The ice yachts which were raced on the Hudson in those days bore no more resemblance to the craft used on Cape Cod ponds than the Belle of the West does to a Sail Fish. They were mammoth vehicles, some carrying 650 to 1000 square feet of sail, requiring up to 10 men as crew. One of the Roosevelt's vessels, named Icicle, was transported to and from the ice on its own railroad flat car. Now, some of these huge ice birds have been restored and can be seen flying across New York lakes and ponds, manned by members of the Eastern Ice Yacht Assoc. Cape Cod also has an Ice Yacht Assoc. Two of the favorite spots for iceboating are Long Pond and Wequaquet Lake. Iceboating has also been enjoyed in years past here on Scargo and on Fresh Pond in South Dennis. We hope it will be again and that some of you will have the thrill of travelling faster than the wind. But a work of caution. There is an old Cape Cod proverb: "He who travels lickety-split across the ice of Scargo is likely to split his lickety." As you rummage around for the parts of your iceboat, look also for a hockey or motorcycle helmet to protect your head. Several layers of winter clothes should protect your other bones. Be alert for an announcement of a Winter Sports Day whenever a long spell assures good safe ice. Skaters, observers, kids on sleds - all will be welcome. We will serve hot chocolate, and if the Fire Department allows it, we will have a bonfire for warming cold extremities. Keep your eyes and ears open for the announcement of the date.

CUP PLATES ARE COMING

As we go to press, we are momentarily expecting to receive the cup plates commissioned from Pairpoint Glass Co., especially for the D.H.S. The plate features a rendition of the Town Seal and will be available in clear, and later in colors. Hear more about it, and possibly see the plate at the January meeting.

Dennis Historical Society
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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