

Birthdays Celebrated

At this time when visitors are migrating Capeward to enjoy our sea, sun and sand, it was interesting to learn from Jerry Burke that there have been times when native Cape Codders have migrated away from their homelands, and the reasons for these migrations. Mr. Burke delivered his interesting talk at the Birthday Luncheon at Lighthouse Inn on June 17th. The affair was chaired by Bill and Jean Taylor. Mr. Peirce welcomed all, followed by the invocation delivered by the Rev. Marion Phelps. Prizes were won by Ruth Latham, Mildred Stewart, Elinor Crowell, and Dr. Arthur Bickford. Marion Crowell Ryder cut the beautiful birthday cake and Mrs. Anson Howes read a most interesting paper describing the 35th reunion of the 5th Regiment Mass. Volunteers (Civil War) held at the Nobscusset Hotel in Dennis on June 24, 1896. Our thanks to all of the committee, to Mr. Peirce for the beautiful roses, to Everett Durgin who again contributed historic flags for prizes, and to the Lighthouse staff for a fine luncheon.

'Weep! 'Weep! 'Weep!

This was a commonly heard cry in the city streets of England in the 1700's. On July 25 at 7:30, Mr. Paul Sheehan of Falmouth will present a program entitled "The Art and Science of Chimney Sweeping". His program consists of slides, talk and discussion and includes the history and some of the interesting legends surrounding the chimney sweep. Plan to attend, for Mr. Sheehan is a "sweep" himself, and if you shake hands with a chimney sweep, you will have good luck, something we can all use these days. That's July 25, 7:30 PM at West Dennis Community Building. All welcome.

Dennisport Bicycle Tour

At the Sea Street Beach parking lot on Saturday, July 7th, the next bicycle tour will start at 10:00 with the history of the port that once really existed in Dennisport. The Union Wharf Company in the 1850's unloaded hundreds of pounds of fish on the site of Sea Street Beach where there was a wharf and the industries needed by the fishermen like ship chandlers, fish flakes, sail makers, etc. Now the viewer sees no fish but rather a lot of flesh belonging to the tourists who flock to this summer colony. Learn about how time and events turned a seaport into a cottage colony from some of the salty souls who have grown up watching the changes.

Membership Drive

The Membership Committee of the D.H.S. is conducting a membership drive during the summer to try to attract interested people to the Society. Our by-laws state that any interested person may become a member upon the payment of dues which at present are \$3.00 (including newsletter subscription). Please help us in our drive for new members by asking friends to join or by sending names of potential members to the Committee: Elinor Slade, Membership Chairman, Box 607, South Dennis, MA 02660.

If you receive this newsletter and are not presently a member, it is because your name has been suggested as potentially interested. We hope you will respond by sending your dues to Mrs. Slade. Members receive the newsletter monthly and are offered the first chance to attend any historical society programs at which numbers are limited. In addition, this year members of D.H.S. are being offered an opportunity to visit the Old Sound Museum in East Dennis for half price, by showing their membership card. We hope other historical museums will soon do the same. But most important, as a member, you are contributing to the support of an organization which preserves, teaches, and cherishes the proud history of the town of Dennis. Please join us in this worthwhile effort. New memberships will be effective from day dues are received until September, 1980.

Annual Meeting Scheduled

The by-laws establish the second Monday in September as the date of our annual meeting. It will be held on Monday, September 10 at V.I.C. Hall, Depot Street, Dennisport, at 7:30 PM. This has been an exciting year, and the reports of committees will reflect this increased activity. The By-Laws Committee, Gail Hart, William Crowell, and Nancy Reid, are preparing to recommend some important by-law changes. Officers are to be elected. So your attendance is respectfully urged at this important meeting. Circle the date today.

Dennis Festival (Historic) Days

The Executive Board is trying to arrange for an event of historic interest for each day of Dennis Festival Days. Events will include special activities at both historic centers, exhibits and outdoor activities. A complete schedule will be in the August edition.

The Streets of Our Town

Recently I had a request to tell about the origin of the name, Airline Road, for the street of our town which goes from South Dennis to East Dennis. The road appears on the map of 1880 but is not named. Exactly when it became the Airline is obscure but Mr. Dean Sears says it is so called because it is the shortest way to get from South Dennis to East Dennis and vice versa. To add to the aviation orientation, several new streets have sprung up along Airline Road with such names as Jet Drive, Pilot Drive, Wing and Landing Lane.

Perhaps an equally good explanation of the name might be that the hills and valleys of the road tend to make one feel slightly airsick! Take care not to fly over the Airline for it is among our most scenic roads, with ponds and bogs, hills and curves--truly one of the loveliest Streets of Our Town.

CALENDAR

- July 4 Independence Day
July 5 Jericho House opens Regular Season
July Josiah Dennis Manse opens Regular Season
July 7 10 AM Bike Tour, Dennisport
July 15 St. Swithin's Day--If it rains today, it will rain for 40 succeeding days!
July 25 8 PM Open Meeting, West Dennis Community Building, "The Art and Science of Chimney Sweeping", no admission charged
August-- Dennis Festival Days. Calendar of Events of special interest to DHS members will be included in next edition
Sept.10 7:30 PM, V.I.C. Hall, Annual meeting--exhibits by various committees, election of officers, short program. Please come.

To Help Your Green Thumb

The Society will give a useful moisture meter for house plants to anyone making a donation of \$3.00 or more to our treasury. These are attractive and accurately give the moisture reading in your house plant containers to help you judge the correct amount of watering to do. They make nice gifts. If interested, contact Mr. Peirce at 385-9135. The moisture meters will also be available at all D.H.S. functions throughout the summer.

Memorial Fund Report

The Dennis Historial Society maintains a Memorial Fund which was established in 1970 at the time of the death of Mrs. Samuel Carothers, who was curator at Jericho House. For many years, Mr. Richard S. Hall was treasurer for this fund, and contributions have been made in memory of many devoted friends of Dennis.

The Executive Board voted recently to place a book containing the names in whose memory money has been contributed into each of the two historic centers. A book will also be in each house, which will list the various exhibits and furnishings which have been purchased from this fund. In this way we will continue to remember and honor those who, in their lifetimes, have been interested in the preservation of Dennis history. Contributions are welcome and should be made directly to the Treasurer, Mr. Joshua Crowell, marked for the Memorial Fund.

Fly the Flag on the Fourth of July

A Bicentennial benefit that seems to continue has been an increase in the number of flags being flown at private homes and businesses. Flags and pennants are important in an area of rich maritime history such as the Cape, being used not only for identification but as signals and to pass messages from place to place and from vessel to vessel.

The Town of Dennis has the distinction of having its own official flag, designed by the Bicentennial Commission in 1975. Mr. Everett Durgin, vexillologist, has kindly furnished us with the following information.

The town flag was designed to incorporate the town seal, consisting of a tun schooner encircled by a chain. The vessel depicted is the type which was used to fish on George's Bank in the 1800's. Many of these ships were manned by Dennis men. The colors of the flag are a light blue background, with dark blue letters, designated Nobscusset Blue, using the Indian name for the area now called Dennis; the chain is golden cornmeal yellow, symbolic of the corn which was so essential to the economy of the first settlers; all on a light blue background, with white for the ships sails and waves.

Mr. Durgin reported to the Dennis Historical Commission in June, 1979, that flags are now placed in all of the Public buildings designated by the Commission. This lovely flag is one of which all Dennis citizens can be proud.

Dennis Historical Society
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