

IT WAS A DAY OF CELEBRATION

By proclamation of the Selectmen and the County Commissioners, Sunday, June 19, 1983 was a day of celebration for citizens of this town. It was the Town of Dennis' 190th Birthday. The Masons of Mount Horeb Lodge were also marking the 250th anniversary of the founding of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge. They chose to celebrate by joining with D.H.S. in honoring the town. And the town was certainly appropriately honored. A parade of at least 250 people, floats and autos wended its way down Main Street, South Dennis, to convene at Jericho House for ceremonies during which Master Hughson Hawley of Mount Horeb Lodge presented a gift of a sundial for the Jericho House. Dean S. Sears was the honorary Grand Marshall. He rode in a Cadillac convertible at the head of the parade, and being a Past Master of the Masons, the first president of the Historical Society and a 40 year moderator of the Town of Dennis, he certainly encapsulated the purpose of the day. It was a lot of fun, involving scouts, majorettes, officials of the town, officials of the county, the Masons, Jericho Committee, Garden Club, service groups and interested citizens. Mr. Hawley promised more parades in town. If they can be as much fun as this one, we hope they will come to pass.

THE CHINA TRADE

Who among you, when important guests are expected, is not prone to take out your best "China" to set your dining table? Yet, probably few of us are fortunate enough to have genuine Chinese porcelain upon which to serve our guests. The Chinese discovered the secret of producing lovely porcelain long before the Europeans were able to copy their craft. Early explorers brought back examples of their art, and tempted European craftsmen to try to duplicate it, and European traders to try to import it. Both proved difficult tasks. The homemakers of nineteenth century Dennis were far more likely to have real China ware on their dinner tables than are we. For Cape Cod men were among the crew and officers who pioneered in trade with China. Massachusetts vessels began trade with China in 1790, and, with a brief interruption for the War of 1812, continued in this profitable, though dangerous trade, until the Boxer Rebellion in 1899. We can document voyages of Dennis men as early as 1837, when Allen Howes, John C. Howes and Joshua Sears sailed as seamen aboard the ship Eben Preble, under Capt. James B. Crocker of Barnstable. Joshua Sears returned to the Orient in the Shiverick-built clipper Wild Hunter in 1855. D.H.S. is in possession of charts which plot the China voyages of Captain Moses Howes, and in 1865 Capt. Benj. Perkins Howes lost his life at the hands of Chinese pirates. Knowing of the involvement of local mariners in the China trade should heighten your interest in the talk to be given by Henry Callum of Marion on Thursday, July 14, 7:30 P.M. at Carleton Hall, entitled "Treasures from Old China: Export Porcelain for America, 1785-1835". We are privileged to hear this excellent lecture, on a subject which should be of interest to all, whether local historians or lovers of the beautiful art of Oriental porcelain. Do come, and bring a friend. There is no admission charge, but we will accept donations towards the cost of this fine talk.

THE MEDIA SHOW ON DENNIS.....

.....continues to be in demand. We have scheduled some showings during the summer months, so that visitors can become acquainted with our interesting history. Feel free to come to any of these showings and bring guests and interested friends.

July 5	4 P.M.	V.I.C. Hall, Dennisport
July 28	4 P.M.	West Dennis Community Building
August 3	4 P.M.	Carleton Hall, Dennis
August 23	4 P.M.	West Dennis Community Building
August 31	4 P.M.	West Dennis Community Building

ABOUT MEMBERSHIP

July and August are the months during which we conduct our annual membership drive. We invite you to write or call Membership Chairman Isabel Flynn, Box 607, So. Dennis, MA 02660 (385-2966) if you know of a prospective member. We will send them a copy of the summer newsletters as an invitation to join D.H.S. If this is your first newsletter, it is sent to you in the hope that you will accept our invitation to join. D.H.S. publishes a newsletter each month and conducts programs of interest all year long, for the schools and the general public - programs designed to teach and preserve the history of this interesting town. You can become a member by mailing this portion of the newsletter to Isabel Flynn, address above, with the appropriate dues, and a stamped, self-addressed envelope. You will receive a new members letter, by-laws, and the monthly newsletter, telling you about the society's activities, as well as interesting bits of local history. If you are already a member, please help us by sending your dues in the same manner. Individual dues are \$4.00. Family \$6.00. Life membership \$100.00

CALENDAR

July 14 5 P.M. Sunset Nature Walk, Crow Pasture, Dr. N.H. Nickerson.
Meet at the Quivet Cemetery. Bring a bag supper if you wish.
July 14 7:30 P.M. Carleton Hall Henry Callum, 'Treasures from Old China:
Export Porcelain for America, 1785-1835'
Media Show dates See article, page 1.
Dennis Festival Days August 28-Sept. 5

Also of interest to our members:

Overnight bus tour, Sturbridge and Tanglewood - August 26 & 27
For information, call Paula Bacon (394-5739)

IT'S THE FOURTH OF JULY

What do you recall as your favorite Independence Day? Certainly, that fabulous Bicentennial Fourth, when national spirit, Boston Pops and fireworks combined in an absolutely unforgettable celebration. And, maybe like me, you have other Fourths which stand out in memory. In my 'younger days', the Fourth was a neighborhood celebration. The families all got together and made out a list, then drove over to South Yarmouth (was it Hamblen's Garage?) where a licensed dealer sold us Roman Candles, pinwheels and rockets. The older boys also got Two Inch Salutes, but the girls could only have Lady Crackers, cherry bombs and caps. On that exciting night, we would all meet on the appointed lawn, and while we waited for darkness, we would light our sparklers, throw our cherry bombs and squeal at the loud noise of the salutes. Then, when the dads deemed it sufficiently dark, the magical display would begin. No parking problems, no vendors, no traffic jams, for we were at home. Just good times, perhaps long since gone, but never to be forgotten. I've looked up historical records of past Independence Day celebrations. Most sound terribly dull. The earliest record banquets at which endless toasts were given to our founders and leaders, which leads me to wonder if any banqueting ever got to be enjoyed in some degree of sobriety. Then as the era of Temperance fell upon the land, the Fourth was marked by such events as a lecture by Prof. Eccles at Worden Hall, on subjects such as 'The effect of the configuration of the Planets on the leaders of our Country.' Somewhere in between comes a celebration at which I would like to have been present. It was in 1845, when the first fireworks display was seen in the town of Dennis. The display was set off near 'Keziah's Mill,' behind the present Town Hall. Young people walked for miles, and I dare say older people rode, or even walked to see this phenomena. Fireworks were 'old hat' in China, but were new and wonderful on Cape Cod. At dusk the display began. Oh, the wonder of it all! Probably among those present were those very lads, who at an early age had gone with Capt. Crocker to China. Perhaps they had even brought these marvels home with them. What a thrill it must have been to be among the first in this county ever to see the exciting fireworks from China! Surely a Fourth of July to be remembered forever.

"I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM, WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM"

Last week, a tube blew in our T.V. and the men in our family, frustrated at missing their ballgame, suggested we go out for an ice cream cone. This is an outing not to be entered into lightly at this time of the year, for wherever we go it entails entering 'Tourist Country'. But all went well (except that they were out of Black Raspberry), and we returned home happy with our favorite summertime confection. The children of the 4th grade of Ezra H. Baker School will enjoy their ice cream cones with a different perspective this summer, as a result of their field trip this Spring. For while at Jericho, they learned about the ice farming on the Cape, and about the history of Ice Cream. Flavored snow was enjoyed by Roman Emperors, but real ice cream was concocted by the Royal French chefs in the 16th century. For a long time it remained the privilege of Royalty. In 1809, Dolly Madison introduced ice cream at the White House, and the first ice cream parlor was established by Jacob Fussell in Baltimore in 1851. While the children were given this background, a volunteer prepared the mix, filled the barrel with ice and salt, and before their very eyes, cranked the old handle and made ice cream for all to enjoy at the end of the afternoon. Best ice cream in the world, except for that made by D.H. Sears! And I will tell you about this famous Dennis ice cream parlor next time.

Dennis Historical Society
P.O. Box 607
South Dennis, MA 02660

July 1983

Postal Permit No. 2 South Dennis Mass. 02660

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