



BY THE SEA BY THE BEAUTIFUL SEA....

The Lighthouse Inn did its usual fine job of wining and dining us to celebrate Dennis' 199th birthday. Gertrude Lailey once again found some great entertainment for us. The Surftones harmonizing was a pleasure to hear as we enjoyed the beautiful view of Nantucket Sound. The birthday cake provided by the Stone Family was cut by DHS long-time Treasurer Joshua Crowell as we all wished Dennis a Happy Birthday. Ice cream was added with the cake this year and was appreciated by all. Thanks, LHI! The lucky door prize winners were: Martha Williams--rose impatiens, Isabelle Flynn--ivy geranium, Jeanette McClune--History of Dennis Union Church, a dried plant and silk flower wreath donated by Country Crafts--Phyllis Horton, Luncheons at The Lighthouse Inn donated by the Stone Family--Tom Periera and Ann Chalmers, and 2 Bicentennial cups donated by the Bicentennial Commission--Nancy Howes. Congratulations, all!

OF PATCHWORK AND POT ROAST

(Or Thoughts While Driving to the Recycle Center)

My "significant other", known to most of you as Dick Reid, is a beef lover. He is especially fond of steak. So it has been a really painful adjustment for him to comply with Nurse Nancy's "Cholesterol Reducing Directive" which mandates that beef should appear on our menu but once a week. I want you to know, I'm really tough with him about that issue. It is no longer proper to opt for a nice steak as the answer to all of life's most exciting moments, be they good or bad. Now it is a matter of Decision. Shall we have beef to enliven our spirits on Friendly Friday or Gloomy Tuesday? Or just for a traditional Sunday dinner? Whatever the choice, beef is bought but once a week in our home, and my stoic husband seems to be taking it nicely. Lately, however, I have noticed that he occasionally says, "Let's have a Pot Roast", when I ask for the Great Weekly Decision About a Beef Meal. So I go shopping for a nice bottom round or boneless chuck and all those nutritious vegetables that go with it. Half of the joy of a pot roast is the wonderful aroma which fills the kitchen as it cooks. The other half is having left overs to be creative with. I was brought up by a proper New England mother who made me understand the virtue of using everything at least twice. Whether it be bits of cloth from sewing projects, ends of yarn from knitting or what remains from a fabulous meal, New England women have made the best of left overs from the beginning of the Old Colony to the present. I was thinking of this inbred delight as I drove to the dump, --excuse me, Trash Transfer Station--the other day. The joy of using everything twice is no doubt one of the reasons for the success of the voluntary re-cycling that has gone on in Dennis for many years. There is a certain amount of satisfaction which we gain when sorting out the glass, newsprint, plastic, etc., reminiscent of the joy of pot roast and patchwork. Thinking of recycling makes me think of an old friend, Mary Hood Hagler, who can rightly be called the Mother of the Dennis recycling effort. Mary Hood is no longer with us, but if you knew her, you would not forget her. She was not a diplomat, not even a politician. "Press on, regardless", was her motto. She believed in what she did, and more importantly, she DID what she believed in. A mover and shaker if ever there was one. Having successfully badgered the Selectmen and Highway Department of this town to provide bins for glass and a trailer for newsprint, she moved on to pressure for Regional recycling, including periodic collection of Aluminum in Hyannis by the Reynolds Company. Then she sharged on the General Court and her efforts, with the help of those she inspired, resulted in the so-called Bottle Bill to make bottles and cans returnable. She was a bundle of energy, from the top of her prematurely white head, (upon which there often perched a sunhat made from cut up beer cans, crocheted together with odds and ends of left-over yarn), to the bottoms of her non-designer canvas sneakers. She was the only woman I ever knew who could think, write, argue, and do beautiful needlework all at the same time. Her foreign off-Cape drawl, and the fact that she had lived in such far away places as Alaska and New Orleans hid the fact that beneath that multi-colored hand knit vest beat a heart that was pure New England. There is another reason to remember Mrs. Hagler. It was she who suggested that D.H.S. have a mid-winter festivity to drive away the February blues. The first was held in 1978 at the Hereford House on Lower County Road, Dennis Port and Pauline Derick gave a talk on the history of that village. Held every year since then, our Mid-Winter blues chaser has become one of our most popular activities.

Enough reminiscing. Now I have to put my mind to being creative with those pot roast left-overs. Hey, wait a minute! We've already had beef once this week! Can it be that Nurse Nancy is being out maneuvered here? Oh, well, whatever cholesterol left over pot roast contains is more than compensated for by the good it does for my soul!

WE HAVE SOME NEW MEMBERS

Membership Chairman Isabelle Flynn has announced our new members from April to the present. They are Mr. and Mrs. James F. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. James Metropoulas, Mrs. Edwin R. Sparrow, Jr., Stephen F. Snow, Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Robbins, Mrs. James Mason, Mr. and Mrs. David H. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Wiper, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Duker, and Margery E. Johnson. Our newest Life Member is Norma E. Phillips. We welcome you, one and all, and hope you'll enjoy being with D.H.S. as we go into Dennis' Bicentennial Year--1993.

CALENDAR

Aug. 22-30 Dennis Festival Days. Watch for the flier.
Aug. 24 7:30 P.M. "On The Home Front Of Cape Cod, 1941-1945". An illustrated lecture by Lynne Horton, Curator of History at Sandwich Glass Museum.

BICENTENNIAL BITS....The Other Dennises--Part II

The history of New Jersey is as interesting as that of our own state. The first settlers were the Dutch around Bergen, and the Swedes in the Southern region. In 1664 the territory was surrendered to England and King Charles II gave the colony to his brother James. He in turn gave it to Lord Berkeley and Sir George Carteret, who offered the land for sale to colonists, promising religious and political freedom. This promise was very attractive to New Englanders, especially those who chafed under the theocratic thumb of the orthodox Puritans. In 1674 the Quakers bought out Berkeley's share and the state was divided into East and West Jersey. At about this time, a sizeable number of people from Cape Cod emigrated to East Jersey, among them several from our town. Robert Dennis and his family joined this emigration. You will remember sometime ago I told you that Dennis Pond in Yarmouth takes its name from this early resident. Robert's sons were prominent in the new towns and, eventually established a township at Cape May which today bears their name. Incidentally, the township of Dennis has a village called South Dennis. So perhaps we can claim some cousinship with this one of the Dennises. With the rest, we can at least be friends.

"1800 AND FROZE-TO-DEATH"

Weather is often described by the learned meteorologists in terms of superlatives--coldest, warmest, rainiest, snowiest. Two superlatives come to mind in connection with the winter of 1991-92. They are mildest and longest. Summer was set to arrive at 10:14 P.M. on June 20th, and as of June first we were still waiting for spring to appear. I know, I know, Cape Cod has a reputation for very short spring seasons. "One warm day in May", is how it is often described. I guess I was off Cape that day. Anyway, I missed it. But things are never so bad but they could be worse, or may have been worse, and that's the way with weather. What about the year of 1816? Spring didn't happen that year either. It was the famous "Year Without A Summer", also called "Poverty Summer", and "1800 and Froze-to-death". In early June of that year 10 inches of snow fell in the Berkshires, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Frosts of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch or more were recorded in both July and August. There was not one month in the entire year without a frost in some area of New England. Coming on the heels of "the late disastrous War" of 1812-1815, this cold summer caused much hardship locally for crops were scanty and pasturage lean. The cause of this meteorological phenomena, so 'tis said, was multiple volcanic eruptions in Indonesia. I don't believe modern Cape Cod could survive such a disaster today, not economically, and not psychologically. What good would our beautiful beaches do us without the warm summer sun to lure the visitors? Well, according to the Old Farmer's Almanac, July should average 73.5° with a hot and clear Fourth (but we now know what happened there!) and August, 3 degrees above average, so it doesn't look like 1900-and-froze-to-death is upon us yet. As for spring, you know the old New England saying heard a great deal during the summer season. "Wait till next year."

THE HELP WANTED SECTION

Dennis' two historical centers are in serious need of more volunteers. The 1736 Josiah Dennis Manse and 1770 School House on Nobscusset Rd. and Whig St., Dennis Village, is open Tuesday and Thursday from 2-4 P.M. The center, including the new Maritime Room, is full of wonderful stories about our town. Each room has a booklet for the hosts use that explains each item in the room and also has general information about the Manse, Rev. Dennis, etc., to make the host or hostesses job easier. The 1801 Jericho House and Barn Museum on Main st. and Trotting Park Rd., West Dennis, is open Wednesday and Friday, 2-4:30 P.M. This charming house also comes "with instruction". The Barn is full of all kinds of interesting things from our past--from a wooden bathtub to a general store (complete with a checkers game). We find that men volunteers can be quite content talking with our visitors in the Barn--so don't think we're appealing to ladies only. This volunteer service is very easy and the best part is all the interesting people you meet--both other volunteers and visitors. Please call Jean Twiss at 385-8766 for the Manse and Lilla Smith at 398-3367 for Jericho. They'll be glad to hear from you and you'll find it's an interesting way to spend a couple of hours.

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