



### HERITAGE CAPE COD--1996

Heritage Week was celebrated by DHS at both the Josiah Dennis Manse and Jericho House. Colonial games were demonstrated at the Manse by a number of junior guides in costume who not only enjoyed teaching visitors how to play the old games but had fun trying to beat each other at jacks, graces, rolling hoops, and other early American games. They were joined by two local fiddlers, young Benjamin Thacher and Michael Morea who truly surprised everyone with their talent at drawing a bow over the strings at such a tender age. They were forthwith invited to join the Manse guides at our Dennis Festival Days Colonial Open House on August 17. Perhaps some DHS members can be enticed to participate in a reel or two. Dancing was allowed in the 1700's--even in Dennis. If you are interested in donning Colonial garb and dancing the Virginia Reel and some other classics call 385-3689. There will be some practice sessions beforehand so you will be polished performers on the 17th. It's sure to be a lot of fun--do call.

Jericho joined the West Dennis Garden Club in a fund raiser for the garden club's scholarship fund. After touring a number of lovely gardens the guest arrived at Jericho for a tour of the house and barn and refreshments. The event was very successful, raising \$1,040. for the scholarship fund, and giving the guests lots of great ideas for their own gardens. Heritage Week was a great success all over the Cape with over 150 events from Woods Hole to Provincetown celebrating the heritage, culture, and environment of our special place--Cape Cod.

### OUR PHOENIX HAS RISEN

Jericho is alive and well again and better than ever! Last August 25th when the Dennis Fire Department was doing the last of their clean up and we were trying to collect our wits and figure out what to do next that statement was not even in our wildest imagination! The pervasive smell of smoke that was everywhere, in everything, was the master of our emotions. Now, ten months and thousands of work hours later, Jericho is a joy to behold. The entire house shines--with the exception of one, small, smoke-stained area over the keeping room fireplace that was left especially by request of the Jericho Committee as a reminder of what had happened. The Committee and Friends of Jericho have worked diligently to bring it all together in time for the opening in June. Well done!! to everyone involved at Jericho. Do find time to stop by and see this restored town jewel sometime during the summer. They are open Wednesday and Friday afternoon from 2-4 P.M.

### SUMMER FOLKS

When I was growing up in Dennis Port I thought there were two classes of people: we native Cape Codders and "summer folks from away". In those days people came here for "the season"--or at least for a month. There were grand summer homes along Chase Avenue and other places along the beach built primarily by wealthy families who had previously summered at the Hotel Belmont in the late 1800's. Another group who came here for the summer were Cape Codders who had gone away to seek fame and fortune and, having found it, returned with children and grandchildren to enjoy the balmy Cape breezes at the old homestead. Quite often the old place was refurbished to the point that no old timer would recognize it, nevertheless it was always referred to as "The Old Homestead". Among the notables that first come to mind are Caleb Chase and Joseph Lincoln Baker. Caleb Chase's homestead is now the Irish Pub on Herring River in West Harwich. He was the sixteenth of Job Chase's seventeen children. He went to Boston at age 23 working with various dry goods and grocery companies until 1878 when he formed Chase & Sanborn which became the largest coffee company in America. In his prosperous years he built or moved seven houses in a compound in Dennis Port and West Harwich near the Belmont for his guests and family. One house was for the servants, the others for his guests who occasionally dined and enjoyed some of the amenities at the hotel. Caleb Street in Dennis Port is named for him. J. Lincoln Baker, known locally as "Linc", was the son of Joseph Kelley Baker, a prominent Dennis Port merchant. Linc heeded the advise to "go west young man" in his early 20's. He settled in Nebraska and became owner of the Parker Ice Co. in Omaha. Numerous meat packing plants sprang up in Nebraska at the end of the trail drives with Omaha becoming second only to Chicago. Linc Baker's company provided refrigeration for the meat as it was shipped east. Linc came back to Dennis Port and built an imposing three story mansard roof house and barn on Main Street across from his father's home. There was a wisteria-covered arbor from the house to the barn with a matching fence along the front side walk. The barn is still standing, known today as The Improper Bostonian, but the house was torn down in 1945 by Gus Kennedy after being vacant for a number of years. Linc and his family would arrive on the train at North Harwich with tons of baggage, some household help, occasionally a pair of prize horses, and one time a new carriage which he left in the barn for use in other summers. With the advent of the automobile he brought that instead of horses. Harriet Murray Foss remembers being friends in the 1920's with Linc's daughter, also named Harriet. They would go to Frank Estey's drug store for an ice cream cone, then climb up into the cupola to eat it and enjoy the view. All of these homes were provisioned with fresh meats, fish, vegetables, and ice from local vendors who visited daily with their supply wagons. Even into the 1940's my grandfather's fish market delivered fish to those homes by truck. A few of the maids who came did not return. They caught the eye of a local boy and married into a Cape family which was always good for the family. They gained a daughter and a new blood line! After World War II those grand houses disappeared due to changing lifestyles and were quite often replaced by large motels or commercial properties and the days of Victorian opulence on the Cape were over.

### CALENDAR

July	4		America celebrates 220 years!!
July	10	7:30 P.M.	DHS Board meets at the Manse.
July	14	3:30 P.M.	Jacob Sears Memorial Building Centennial Celebration, Pleasant Street, East Dennis.
July		2-4 P.M.	1736 Josiah Dennis Manse open every Tuesday and Thursday. 1801 Jericho House and Barn Museum open every Wednesday and Friday.

### A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

On July 14 the Jacob Sears Memorial Building will attain the venerable age of 100 years. This imposing building was a bequest to the residents of East Dennis from native son and successful businessman Jacob Sears. He had married Olive Kelley also of East Dennis and, sadly for them, they had no family. He died at the early age of 48 leaving provisions in his will that after certain bequests Olive would receive the balance of his estate for as long as she remained his widow. Then, at her death, the estate would go to the inhabitants of East Dennis. They were to erect a building for educational purposes on Quivet Neck. One third of the money was earmarked for the building with the other two thirds to be invested for support of the building. A Board of Trustees was established to oversee the project. A first class architect and builder were hired and on July 14, 1896 the Jacob Sears Memorial Building was dedicated with much fanfare. Over the years many lectures and meetings have been held there. The East Dennis Ladies Aid Annual Fair and East Dennis Community Christmas Tree are always held there and our DHS has used it for a number of programs and annual meetings. The small library begun many years ago has now grown to encompass the major part of the building with a fine collection of books. The current Board of Trustees and the Friends of Jacob Sears Memorial Building are planning a Centennial Celebration with a band concert, children's chorus, a sing along and, surely, at least one speech. Historical artifacts will be on display and the hall will be festively decorated for the grand occasion. Events will get under way at 3:30 with formal ceremonies at 4:00 P.M.--and you're all invited!

### LUNCHEON AT THE LIGHTHOUSE

Our birthday luncheon at Lighthouse Inn to celebrate Dennis' 203rd year was a lovely get together. It was great to see so many old friends again. President Brendan Joyce greeted one and all, 96 year old Edward Chase of Dennis Port cut the birthday cake while we all sang the appropriate song and we were beautifully entertained by the Vocal Minority--a very talented group of Wixon Middle School girls under the direction of Patricia Anderson. Oh, to be that young, that lovely, that talented, and have all that energy!! A grand time was had by all but only Elaine Anderson went home with a bonus--she won the door prize, a handsome hanging plant.

### SCHOOL DAYS AT JERICO

On Wednesday, June 5, the seven classes of third graders (154 in all) from the Ezra Baker School visited Jericho House and Barn Museum. Seven stations allowed the children to tour the house, visit the barn and country store, see the saltworks and cranberry rooms, hear a story, play a game, see slides depicting boys who went to sea long ago, and explore the Driftwood Zoo. They said that they liked comparing the Jericho House and the Manse. The children especially liked the gingerbread fish cookies.

My thanks to the following volunteers: Ann Chalmers, Mimi Williams, Mary Louise Tarbell, Don and Pat Swain, Peter and Kay Delaney, Tom and Paulette Pereira, Bill and Isabelle Flynn, Pat Doyle, Rosemary Mailhot, Marion Low, Midge Halwartz, Alice Hildebrant, Bob McNamara, Lorraine Methe, and Joan Monteiro. Kitty McNamara, Program Director.

### A NOTE ABOUT MEMBERSHIP

We have good news and bad news. The good news is that we have some new members. They are: Mr. and Mrs. Richard B. Colby, Mr. and Mrs. Aldo Gianotti, Mary B. Harty, Joan Monteiro, Stewart P. Doane, Ann P. O'Keefe, and a new Life Member Richard G. Kelley of New Jersey. For some of our long time members, Richard is the son of former Dennis Police Chief Gilbert S. and Mary Kelley and grandson of Smith R. Kelley.

Now for the bad news--where did a whole year go? It seems as if I just recently wrote about it being dues time and here I am repeating myself so soon! Our fiscal year runs from September 1 to August 31 and your dues are payable by September 1 to insure receipt of the newsletter and a vote at the annual meeting in September. Please use the enclosed envelope. Snowbirds please note all address changes with dates on your envelope. Thanks!

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