



### WASN'T IT A LOVELY PARADE?

From the minute that the Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School band stepped off in precision to set the tempo for the marchers, we knew it was going to be a great experience. But right up until the moment that the County Crier rang out the announcement that the parade was ready to go, we weren't sure we would be! Every glitch that could glitch had occurred in our planning, beginning on Wednesday morning and lasting right up until 1:25 P.M. Saturday. But we surmounted them all, and those of you who were there will attest to the fact that the town was well represented at the Barnstable County Tercentenary official opening. Twenty schoolchildren representing the Ezra H. Baker School carried flags and the poster announcing our theme - "Town of Dennis - An Eye to the Past, an Eye to the Future". I was so proud of those kids! Behind them, in a Bus-Truck which was itself an attraction, rode the new Dennis Band, sponsored by the Village Improvement Society and led by Bruce Hill. Kids and band members all wore "I Love Dennis" buttons, courtesy of the Dennis Committee, and got lots of applause as they proceeded down the parade route. The first float was labeled "Dennis Historical Society - Preserving Our Past" and carried our logo. The central component was a model of the Salt Works, complete with windmill, and the float carried students from Nathaniel Wixon School, who enjoyed themselves in their colonial costumes, engaged in colonial tasks such as spinning, and waving and smiling in response to the crowd's applause. The second float, perhaps the prettiest in the line-up, was labeled "The Dennis Committee - Protecting Our Future" and bore the logo of that group. It carried shrubs, trees and flowers, symbolizing the great effort made by that committee in helping the town to obtain land to preserve for open space and conservation. Elsewhere in this edition you will find the list of all those who helped in this tremendous effort to make the Dennis entry work. Please, can I boast a little? Each town was asked by the Tercentenary Commission to supply marchers, music and a float. We were one of the few towns which supplied all three, and we had two floats and two bands (if we count D-Y) from the citizens of this little town. Right on!

In the process, I must admit we learned a lot, but that will help us as we plan our own town's Bicentennial parade in 1993. Wonder where we'll have it. Route 28 from the Ezra Baker School to the bridge maybe? Or Route 134 from Mid-Cape to Upper County Road? No, that would take too long. Maybe Sea Street in East Dennis? Well, we've got time to work on that.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DEAR DEXTER

No, that's not another glitch - you might say it is an introduction to an exercise called "What if?" or an imaginary rewriting of history. You all know that our town is named for the Rev. Josiah Dennis, who served as the first pastor of the East Parish of Yarmouth, later a separate town, which in 1793, became this town. He served the parish well from 1725 until his death in 1763. However, he was not the only candidate for the job. How would things be different in the course of 192 years if another man had been the first pastor? One of the men who was offered the job was really a non-candidate. He was the Rev. Daniel Greenleaf, already the pastor of the mother church of Old Yarmouth. Mr. G. declined, although he might have regretted this decision, when the old church had trouble raising his salary without the help of the Nobscusset families. A Mr. Deming was also considered but not called. Then a call was sent to Mr. Samuel Dexter. Here was a man who had actively campaigned for the job. He had been to Nobscusset to preach in 1722, and had met with Deacon Hall. He had also been to "Sirsuit" in the spring of that year, and had met with the leading clergy in the area, Mr. Greenleaf of Yarmouth, Mr. Lord of Chatham and Mr. Stone of Harwich. These three clergymen heartily recommended him. But in the end, he went to Dedham. Well, Dedham's nice, too. But one must wonder whether or not the flow of history in this town would have changed very much if one of these other candidates had been chosen instead of Mr. Dennis. Josiah Dennis was not a notable scholar, but he appears to have been a tender pastor to his flock of families, as they prepared to become an independent political as well as religious body. Anecdotes which have been preserved reveal him to have been religiously conservative, interested in the ecology of this fragile land, sentimental, even romantic, but a man with a typical dry Cape Cod sense of humor. If another man with different qualities had held this position - which was one of great influence - in this time of preparation for independence - how much different would our town be today? Of one thing we can be sure - the name of the town we salute this month would have been a different one.

## CALENDAR

June 3-7		Ezra H. Baker School field trips to Jericho and the Manse.
June 8	10 A.M.	Town Hall parking lot, meet for the Lady Slipper Walk.
June 13	7:30 P.M.	Nancy's house. Board meets.
June 18-19		192nd ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCORPORATION OF DENNIS AS A TOWN. Schools will make a special notice of these days.
June 22-23		Heritage Weekend. See Insert.
June 28	2-4 P.M.	Opening Tea at Jericho House. All welcome.
June 30	3-5 P.M.	Opening Reception for the Shiverick Exhibition at the Manse.

Also save July 16 for an evening meeting at Carleton Hall sure to be of interest to you and your summer guests.

### SHIVERICK EXHIBIT BEING PLANNED

The Josiah Dennis Manse Committee is putting forth a major effort to prepare a really outstanding exhibit telling the story of the Shiverick Shipyard, which operated at Sesuit Harbor from 1815, when the first small schooner came off the ways, until the Civil War. The exhibit will tell the story of the Shiverick family, the shipyard and what it meant to the East Dennis economy, the many vessels that were built there, including the eight clippers, and the captains and crew who sailed them, some on global circumnavigations. The committee still seeks artifacts which will help us tell this interesting and romantic story. We also have need of display helps such as glass cases, and, strangely, dress models, in small sizes, to show some of the beautiful gowns in our collection which are made from materials brought home from exotic ports visited by the Shiverick ships. If you can help to make our display as complete as possible, please call John Gill, 385-2765, or Maree Galvin, 385-3291. And do plan to see the exhibit. You can get a sneak preview if you visit when the Manse is open during Heritage Weekend, which will be on Saturday, June 22 from 1-4 P.M. The official opening ceremonies will be on June 30th from 3-5 and the exhibit will be open throughout July and August, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2-4 P.M.

### JERICHO PLANS OPENING TEA

The official opening of Jericho House and Barn Museum will be held on Friday, June 28 from 2-4 P.M. and you are all invited to attend. Ann Chalmers will chair the event and a special happening is planned. The Jericho Committee has planned to honor Chairman Emeritus Parmalee Fitch by placing a plaque in his honor in the large room of the barn museum, henceforth to be known as the Fitch Room. We hope that you can be there to honor our former chairman and dear friend, Parm.

### B.C. 300th

In any gathering of native Cape Codders, should you bring up the subject of the exact geographic area which constitutes "Cape Cod", there is sure to be a difference of opinion. Probably the strongest opinion is that you are not on Cape Cod until you have crossed over the bridge, be it Sagamore or Bourne. This leaves the town of Bourne in a somewhat schizophrenic position, as half of the town is on one side of the bridge and half on the other. Still it seems a more realistic definition that the one which includes Wareham, Marion, Onset and even Plymouth and Duxbury as part of "The Cape". When Bartholomew Gosnold chose the name, it appears that he meant it to apply to the whole peninsula which he viewed as he sat upon his vessel enjoying a fresh Codfish chowder. Plimouth Colony, however, referred to that part of the strong arm of New England from about the wrist to the curved fingers, that is north Truro and Provincetown, as Cape Cod. I like to define the Cape as a synonym for Barnstable County. That's much easier on Bourne, and it does provide not only a geographic but also a political definition which can be defended. Today Barnstable County includes all 15 towns which occupy this sandy cape. When Plimouth Colony decided that its population warranted division into counties, in June of 1685, this county extended a little further, including the area which is now Wareham, Onset and Rochester, but these were soon annexed to Bristol.

Ready for some trivia questions about the County of Barnstable?

1. Can you name all 15 towns in the county? (Easy)
2. When the county was formed in 1685, it contained 8 towns, but only 4 were legally incorporated. Can you name them? (Not quite so easy)
3. Can you give the 1685 name for the other four unincorporated towns? (Hard)
4. Until 1884, there were only 14 towns in Barnstable County. How do you account for the present number of 15? (A few of my friends will know this)

For the answers to these and other equally fascinating and challenging questions about this county and this town, come to the luncheon at the Lighthouse Inn on Heritage Weekend.

Now, this question is purely for contemplation. Speaking of rewriting history, do you think that the history of Barnstable would have been measurably altered if the crew of Bartholomew Gosnold's little boat had pulled in a mess of Blues instead of Codfish? Well, probably not, but they wouldn't have had as tasty a chowder! (Cape Bluefish....hmm)

BARNSTABLE COUNTY CELEBRATES  
ITS TERCENTENARY  
June 1685 - June 1985

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Our sincere thanks go out to all who helped us to participate in the B.C. 300th Parade June 1st. Among the many who assisted, special thanks go to Mr. Edward Crowell, of Crowell Construction, Mr. Robert Our, of Robert B. Our Co., Inc., and Mr. Craig Larson of Schoolhouse Cafe for the use of vehicles, Evergreen Landscape for loaning landscape material, and Mid-Cape Center for the lumber used to build the salt works. Also the folks at Ezra H. Baker and Nathaniel H. Wixon Schools, and the parents and students who participated; the Dennis Committee for their beautiful float; the Dennis Band and Mr. Bruce Hill; D-Y Regional High School Band; Hallett Funeral Home and Eaton and Blute Funeral Home; Liberty Hall trustees for loan of chairs; Josh and Joel Crowell, Susan Kelley, Gail Hart, John Miller, Mercedes Hart-Miller, The Taylors, the Laileys. Dee Moore, the nice people who work for Crowell Construction and Evergreen Landscape, Hughson "Sleepy John" Hawley, Freeman Bullard, Lucille Hawley, our float drivers, Sarah Kruger and I'm sure there are lots of others who should be mentioned. Also, the Dennis Committee for the "I Love Dennis" buttons given to participants. Gee, I could go on and on. Thank you one and all for a job well done.

B.C. 300th TREES PLANTED

There are three tercentenary trees in town, that I know of. They were planted as part of a project sponsored by the County to have trees growing in each Cape town that commemorate this special County anniversary. One of those trees was planted by the Village Improvement Society in Dennis. A second tree was planted by the Old South Dennis Village Association on the green at Liberty Hall. The third was given by that association to D.H.S. and was planted on the grounds at Jericho in memory of Dean Virginia Gildersleeve, who gave the Historic Center to the town in the name of her friend, Elizabeth Reynaud. I will take it upon myself to keep track of these trees, and will report to you on how they are doing in "B.C. 350th", which will take place in 2035. Stay tuned.

HERITAGE WEEKEND PLANNED - June 22-23

Our town's birthday celebration this year will, in accordance with a resolution passed at the Annual Town Meeting, also be a celebration of the County's birthday. The schools have been asked to plan a simple observance for the children during the last week of school. Local churches have been invited to make note of this special weekend in whatever way they deem appropriate. Watch the papers for additional events and announcements.

The schedule which has so far been firmed up is this: On Saturday at 12 noon, opening ceremonies will be held at Town Hall, weather permitting. Then, from 1-4 P.M. both Jericho House and Josiah Manse will be open, and there will be craft demonstrations, tours of each house, a school marm in the schoolhouse - all kinds of activities going on. On your way from house to house, you are invited to stop at Liberty Hall to see the exhibit that was placed at the State House in March, as well as the salt works model made by "Sleepy John" Hawley for the parade.

On Sunday, after church, a luncheon will be held at Lighthouse Inn in West Dennis, BY RESERVATION ONLY. Details were in your last newsletter. If you have not made your reservation yet, a form is included below for your convenience. Hurry! This is going to be a very special time.

DENNIS, 18 JUNE, 1906, YARMOUTH REGISTER

"Toward evening one day last week an official of the village improvement society was met plodding along with a big basket on his arm, gathering up the sea clam shells some thoughtless individual had strewn along the main highway. Please help in keeping the highways and byways tidy and wholesome." If Mary Hood Hagler had lived in Dennis in 1906, we probably would have had a Sea Clam Shell Bill instead of a Bottle Bill.

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RESERVE:

\_\_\_\_\_ CHICKEN \_\_\_\_\_ No. of MEMBERS @ \$9  
\_\_\_\_\_ SCROD \_\_\_\_\_ No. of NON-MEMBERS @ \$10

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose check and stamped, self-addressed envelope. Thanks.

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

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U. S. POSTAGE  
P A I D  
Permit No. 2  
So. Dennis, MA  
02660



BARNSTABLE COUNTY CELEBRATES  
ITS TERCENTENARY  
June 1685 - June 1985

Here's a list of some of the County-wide events in June:

- JUNE 1 Official Tercentenary Day  
Celebrations to be held at the County Complex in Barnstable Village. Ceremonies, which will be attended by local, state and national dignitaries, as well as visitors from England, and will be filmed by BBC to be shown in Devon, England.  
Some of the many events -  
1:30 and 4:30 Band Concert by United States Navy Band  
1:30 Parade from West Barnstable Elementary School to Court House  
DENNIS WILL BE REPRESENTED BY FLOATS AND MARCHERS  
3:30 Official Ceremonies, including 15-gun salute  
5 - 9 Picnic, strolling players, musicians, dancing and all sorts of informal fun  
9 Surprise Finale and Lighting of the 300th Birthday Candle

PLEASE NOTE - NO CARS will be allowed in Barnstable Village on this day. You may park at Mattacheese School, Cape Cod Community College, or the Commuter Parking Lot at Route 132 and the Mid-Cape, and take the shuttle bus. Other details of transportation arrangements will be well publicized in local papers.

JUNE 15 Strawberry Festival in Yarmouth

JUNE 15 Tri-County Celebration in Bourne  
Plymouth, Bristol and Barnstable Counties join in their mutual birthday celebration, and help commemorate the opening of the canal bridges, 50 years ago.

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\* JUNE 22 - 23 DENNIS CELEBRATES HERITAGE WEEKEND \*  
\* Sat. - On the 22nd, both Historic Centers will be open \*  
\* with special exhibits and crafts demonstrations, \*  
\* chanty singing, slides, and much more. Also the \*  
\* "Doric Hall" Exhibit, recently at the State \*  
\* House, will be set up at Liberty Hall. All will \*  
\* be open from 1-4 P.M. Admission Free. \*  
\* Sun. - Our Annual Birthday Luncheon will also be a \*  
\* salute to the County. It will be held at the \*  
\* beautiful Lighthouse Inn. Reservations are \*  
\* necessary. \*  
\* Menu \*  
\* Melon Ring with Sherbert \*  
\* Choice: Chicken Bianco or Broiled Scrod \*  
\* Potato and Vegetable \*  
\* Birthday Cake Rolls & Butter \*  
\* Beverage \*  
\* \$9 for members \$10 for non-members \*  
\* There will be door prizes and entertainment at \*  
\* the social which will precede the luncheon, \*  
\* beginning at 12 noon. To make a reservation, \*  
\* fill out the reservation blank below, and mail \*  
\* it, together with a self-addressed, stamped \*  
\* envelope and check to: \*  
\* Mr. Joshua Crowell \*  
\* P.O. Box 963 \*  
\* Dennis, MA 02638 \*  
\* (The announcement of the luncheon will be made \*  
\* to the public on June 10) \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RESERVE:

\_\_\_\_\_ CHICKEN \_\_\_\_\_ No. of MEMBERS @ \$9  
\_\_\_\_\_ SCROD \_\_\_\_\_ No. of NON-MEMBERS @ \$10

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose check and stamped, self-addressed envelope. Thanks.