

DENNIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAY NEWSLETTER 1978

The Railroads of Cape Cod

The April program, presented by Mr. Howard Goodwin of Bourne brought out a fine group of interested members, despite extremely inclement weather (It poured!). Mr. Goodwin's program was certainly rewarding enough to make up for the inconvenience. His slides include pictures of all Way Stations on the Cape Cod Railroad, including some pictures of locomotives, station masters and even train wrecks. He told the fate of most of these stations and included some photos of those still in existence, though serving different purposes. All agreed his talk proved well worth the soaking we received to get there.

House Tour

The Bicentennial House tours were so popular, we have decided to hold one in the West Dennis area this summer. Details will be announced in the next newsletter. In the meantime, anyone who would like to open their home, or serve as a host or hostess, please call the secretary, Nancy Reid, 398-8842.

Wanted

Information about Liberty Hall, South Dennis. This interesting building, called Totten Hall previously, has served many and varied purposes. If you have any information about the history of the building, or any old pictures, will you let us know.

Dennis Historical Society
Post Office Box 607
South Dennis, MA 02660

Bike Tours

The third in our series of bicycle tours through the villages of Dennis will be held on May 13 in Dennisport. Beginning at Sea Street Beach, the tour will follow a map of the village with numbers indicating points of interest; corresponding comments on the reverse side of the map will explain the historic or scenic interest of the site. On the day of our guided tour interpreters will speak and answer questions along the route. But it is hoped that the maps will also be useful for self-guided bicycle rides by visitors to Dennis. The maps will be available at the Dennis Chamber of Commerce, or by calling the secretary at 398-8842. South Dennis, West Dennis, and Dennisport are ready, and we are working on the North Side Villages. If anyone is interested in helping to prepare the maps and guided tours in East Dennis or Dennis Village, please let us know. We need all the ideas we can get!

National Historic Preservation Week

The nationally designated week to encourage Historic Preservation is held annually in May. To draw attention to this nation-wide observance, the Dennis Historic Commission invites the public to attend a talk by Ronald Lee Fleming, Executive Director of Vision, Inc. Mr. Fleming is a nationally prominent consultant on visual amenity and will speak on town Roadscaping, to prevent visual pollution like that currently seen along some portions of Route 28. Mr. Fleming will be speaking in Sandwich at the Henry T. Wing School cafeteria on Route 130. The title of the talk and slide presentation is "Townscape Strategies" and is sponsored by the Sandwich Landscape Council. This program is scheduled for 7:30 PM on May 24. Anyone desiring to arrange transportation or who can provide transportation for additional passengers, please contact Mary Hood Hagler at 394-0907 between 9 AM and 4 PM.

CALENDAR

May 13 Bike Tour of Dennisport. 10 AM. Sea Street Beach Parking Area.
May 24 Talk by Ronald Lee Fleming, Executive Director of Vision, Inc.
Henry T. Wing School, Sandwich. 7:30 PM. For transportation,
call 398-3183.
June 18 Birthday Luncheon, Lighthouse Inn. Social hour 12 noon --
Luncheon 1 PM. \$5.50. Reservation necessary. See above.

Non-Profit Status Confirmed

After extensive dealings with the Internal Revenue Service and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, all forms, confirming our non-profit tax-exempt status have been filed and all documents received. This seems like a relatively easy matter, for no one doubts our status as a non-profit educational Society. But the amount of paperwork and correspondence has been phenomenal. Only as the result of hours of work by Joshua Crowell, our treasurer, and Mr. Peirce, our president, have the multitude of papers, forms and documents been duly filed--signed, sealed and delivered, sometimes by hand to Boston.

As a result of this work, three things have been accomplished. First, all gifts of money or items of value, donated to the society may be taken as a bona fide income tax deduction by the donor. Second, we are exempted from paying state tax for goods and services. And last but not least, our bulk mailings are being sent at the lowest possible rate.

The Society owes a debt of thanks to Mr. Peirce, Mr. Crowell and all others who helped to gather the necessary information, facts and figures to present to the IRS. It has not been an easy nor a very interesting job, but it has been accomplished and will be a benefit to D.H.S. and its members for years to come.

Dennis 185 Years Old

On June the nineteenth, our Dennis, the All-America Town, will celebrate the 185th anniversary of its incorporation. Prior to June 19, 1793, Dennis was the East Precinct of Yarmouth (which was incorporated in 1639). The Act of Incorporation was signed with a famous signature--that of John Hancock, then Governor of the Commonwealth. The split between the two towns came about amicably and smoothly, the East Precinct had conducted much of its own business for some time and the East Parish Church was well-established.

The new town was named in honor of the much-beloved first minister of the parish, Reverend Josiah Dennis. He had served the East Yarmouth church from 1725-1768. The Josiah Dennis Manse, where he lived, is now owned by the town as an Historic Center and is opened to the public during July and August.

(Dennis is one of three towns on the Cape bearing the name of a person. Do you know the other two, and for whom they were named?)

Birthday Party

A Birthday Party will be held at the Lighthouse Inn on Sunday, June 18, social hour at 12 and luncheon at 1 P.M. The menu is as follows: Cape Cod Clam Chowder, Seafood Newburg in Patty shells, Jellied Strawberry Salad, Spring Garden Peas, Cranberry Sherbert, and Beverage. The luncheon is \$5.50, tax and gratuity included. All reservations must be paid in advance and made through Mr. Joshua Crowell, treasurer, Box 963, Dennis, MA 02638. Arrangements may be made for children to enjoy a lunch from the sandwich bar in the pool area. Members of the All-America City Committee will be present. The highlight of the luncheon will be a 185th birthday cake. Last year's birthday luncheon was a sell-out, so please get requests for reservations in early.

Bulk Rate
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