



COME TO THE PARADE

This year's Dennis Memorial Day Parade will start at 9:30 A.M., May 27 in Dennis Port. The parade will form on Center Street with the line of march from Benny's to arrive at the Dennis Port Green on Hall Street at 10:00. The Grand Marshal is Brigadier General Geoffrey Cheadle USAF (Ret.) and Colonel Walter E. Burr USA (Ret.) will be the guest speaker. Ceremonies will be held at the gazebo on the green. Included in the parade will be veterans organizations, the Wixon and Dennis-Yarmouth bands, scouts, and numerous other civic and social organizations. Among the honored guests will be the surviving families of the six young men who will be memorialized after the official ceremonies. These young men gave their lives in World War II. Special markers for those men will be dedicated to their memory in their individual villages in South Dennis, West Dennis and Dennis Port after the parade ceremonies.

A FAMILY BUSINESS

History is not just something from the 17th or 18th century. History is being made hour by hour and day by day around the world and right here in Dennis.

The six bronze markers that will be dedicated on Memorial Day to the young men who gave their lives in World War II were made here in Dennis at the Prue Foundry. This family business was started in Dennis in 1949. Wilfred E. Prue had been a pattern maker for foundries in Worcester until he was called into the service during the war. After being mustered out and back into civilian life he was not happy working for someone else. He decided to take the risk of starting out on his own. After all, he had just survived the war!

Wilfred came to Dennis and found a good location on Paddock's Path. William Crowell was the real estate broker and executor selling the land for the Paddock heirs and was asking \$750.00 for the property. Wilfred said, "You must think I'm nuts!" Remember, this was 1949. They negotiated and he paid \$500.00--a bargain in any year.

In 1955 Wilfred received a long overdue payment which he had already written off the books a couple of years before. He decided that since he'd been able to survive without it he'd spend it having a party. He went around to the Dennis Garage and the Post Office, community gathering places, and invited his friends and neighbors to a party at the foundry.

1995 marked the fortieth anniversary of the Prue Foundry Party. Sons Paul and Grandville now operate the business and their circle of friends has grown to "barely standing room" at the party. A foundry would not be considered a white collar business. It is a steel building with a dirt floor and has heavy machinery all around. Not exactly the Ritz, but their friends talk for days about the upcoming Prue Party.

The Prues roast the meats and provide other foods and most of the attendees bring something--the covered dish tradition continues! Many people pitch in to help. For years Roy Nyberg went clamming and then dispensed his harvest from the raw bar, Joel Crowell has presided over the carving board for about eighteen years, and many folks fondly remember Flossie Prue, Paul and Grandy's mother, coming over to the foundry from her kitchen bearing pots of succulent baked beans and all varieties of other foods. One of the more popular guests was Grandy's black "mostly Lab" dog who went, free-loading, from person to person--and was never turned down.

Although most people think of the foundry in terms of the party many others are pleased to have a foundry service in Dennis. The Prues made the Pauline Wixon Derick Library plaque for DHS and has also made a number of other historical markers for the Dennis Historical Commission in addition to the veterans markers. Family businesses have been the backbone of Dennis for years and we hope it continues forever.

TWO HUNDRED AND THREE

Would you believe it's Birthday Time again and we're 203 years old?! The days and years keep racing by and it's time to celebrate the founding of the Town of Dennis. We'll gather below decks at Lighthouse Inn on June 9, at 11:30 A.M. for a bit of social reminiscing on why Dennis is such a nice town, accompanied by LHI complimentary hors d'oeuvres. Luncheon will follow upstairs overlooking lovely Nantucket Sound and West Dennis Beach at 12:30. We're working out the details for our entertainment and I'm sure everyone will be pleased. The reservation form is below. Fill it out and sent it to Josh.

203rd BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS JUNE 9, 1996 LIGHTHOUSE INN--WEST DENNIS
Please make reservations for _____ people. I enclose a check for \$_____ (\$13.50 per person)
Tax and gratuity included.
Choice of entree: _____ Broiled Fresh Scrod _____ Chicken Bianco with White Wine and
Mushroom Sauce
Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope and send to: Joshua Crowell
Box 963
Reservations by June 3rd. Dennis, MA 02638

CALENDAR

May	15	7:30 P.M.	DHS Board meets at the Manse
May	19	2-4 P.M.	Dennis Maritime Exhibit at the Manse in celebration of Cape Cod Maritime Week. Featuring the Shiverick Shipyard display.
May	27	9:30 A.M. 11:00 approx.	Dennis Memorial Day Parade. See related article. Dedication of World War II memorial markers.
June	1	8:45 A.M. 10:30 A.M.	Lady Slipper Walk on the Indian Lands Conservation Area. See related article for reservations.
June	9	11:30 A.M.	Dennis' 203rd Birthday Luncheon. See related article for reservations.

A DENNIS C. I. T.

Ben Thacher was in his usual good form as he entertained us with words and music at the West Dennis Community Center last month. Ben describes himself as a C.I.T.-- Character-in-Training. That's not really correct. Ben has been a bona fide character for some time now--at this point he's just polishing and perfecting the art. Cape Cod Characters are a rare and special breed--mostly gone now--so it's a pleasure to know that here in Dennis we have someone carrying on the tradition.

Much of Ben's ruminations concerned Cape Cod weather--always a source of conversation for everyone, character or not. He has generously given me permission to include two short poems in the newsletter.

CAPE COD GRAY

The sun came out two weeks ago,
And set there for an hour or so,
But then by ten she'd gone away,
Left more familiar Cape Cod Gray.

I'd like to see a bumper crop
Of sunshine that just wouldn't stop,
But Cape Cod dwellers just assume,
Our winters will be big on gloom.

POLL-UTION

The smells of spring, in large amount,
Result from sky-high pollen count.
The sinus ache, eyes puffed and red.
The nose, to all intents, is dead.

The house, the car, and yes, your throat,
Are covered with a light green coat.
They should, I think, put up large signs:
Be Careful! Pollinating Pines.

Through winter weather cold and sear,
The sinuses and such stay clear.
Till new spring green breaks forth, and then,
AACHOO!!, it's pollen time again!

Thanks, Ben, it's always a pleasure!--and he has promised another one for a summer newsletter.

THE INDIAN LAND ORCHIDS

Once again it's time to start looking forward to that special treat--the lady slipper walk. This special event is one of the highlights of our year. As usual, Dr. Norton Nickerson will lead the walk over the Indian Lands Conservation Area. He predicts they should be ready on Saturday, June 1st, but a little inclement weather could hold them back to the 8th. In any case, please make your reservation at the Natural Resources Office at Town Hall 394-8300 ext. 23, being sure to leave your telephone number so we can contact you in case it is postponed to the 8th. There will be two walks at 8:45 and 10:30 A.M. Each one is limited to 40 people, so make your reservations early. We will meet at the Town Hall parking lot.

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

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