

THAR SHE BLOWS... AND TO NEW BEDFORD DHS GOES

Enjoy a trip to the old whaling port of New Bedford on Wednesday, Nov. 28th. Visit the world renowned Whaling Museum and Seamen's Bethel on Johnny Cake Hill. View a film taken on a real whaling voyage. Then step aboard a whaling bark surrounded by the tools of the challenging trade. See the splendid old oil entitled "Panorama of a Whaling Voyage Around the World". Just think about what our forefathers went through to get oil before they even knew of Arab boycotts.

Poke around the newly restored waterfront district and have lunch in one of the charming little restaurants. Then view beautiful 19th and 20th century ornamental glass including Pairpoint and Mount Washington glass manufactured in New Bedford. Stop briefly at the Revereware Factory Store in one of the many old stone factory districts and then go on to see a prerevolutionary fort in Fairhaven which overlooks the beautiful harbor and New Bedford's fine fishing fleet. Arrive home in the late afternoon.

To reserve your seat, send Paula Bacon at 28 High Bank Rd., South Dennis, MA 02660, your check for five dollars. The total cost for transportation, admissions and the guided tour all along the way is \$10. payable in advance. This tour is being announced to all the historical societies on the Cape so you may meet some interesting people along the way. Call 394-5739 for more information.

WINDMILLS ON OUR MINDS

The present interest in alternate energy sources has reminded us that the early settlers in Dennis made good use of the wind's power in their daily lives for transportation and for industry. In October, Mr. James Owens presented DHS with a fine program on windmills which included European and Asian versions and which traced the development of the windmill from the Crusades to the present day. Most particularly he told us of the design and workings of the grist mills of Cape Cod, and well prepared he is to do so because of his research and study as well as actual experience as a miller at the Eastham Windmill.

Our mystery mill in Dennisport has been tentatively identified as having been built on Chase Avenue near the present Dennis Shores early in the 1800's, probably by Reuben Burgess. After it was abandoned as a Mill, it was repeatedly destroyed by fire as a Fourth of July prank about 1910. (One member of the audience stated that he knew who did it--but he wouldn't tell!) We also learned the origin of some interesting sayings, which I will tell you sometime, and all enjoyed a pleasant evening. many thanks to Miller Owens.

LAST FALL BIKE TOUR COLD BUT FUN

A large and hardy group of bicyclers fought a brisk headwind to take part in the DHS bike tour of South Dennis on October 8th to bring to a close our series until the spring returns. A sincere thank you to the many people who have so graciously shared their knowledge of the town for our various tours in each village. You are reminded that maps for self-guided historic bike rides are always available by calling Bicycle Committee Chairman Paula Bacon, 394-5739. Maybe during the January Thaw??

SHOW AND TELL

Who among us does not appreciate the beauty of fine antiques? And certainly most of us have a prized possession from another generation which we would like to share and perhaps learn more about. You are invited to bring such a treasure to the DHS meeting at Carleton Hall on Nov. 7 at 7:30 PM when Mr. John Schofield will talk about antique collecting and tell us something about the items we own and love.

SCUTTLE WATCH

If you have been a sixth grade student at the Nathaniel H. Wixon school, you know all about the scuttle watch and its purpose, for you will be well acquainted with the delightful book of this name, written by Marion Crowell Ryder. The book has been out of print for some time and now Mrs. Ryder has offered the Dennis Historical Society the opportunity to publish a third edition; an opportunity which the Board has eagerly accepted with the endorsement of the Annual Meeting. The book tells the story of children growing up in late nineteenth century Cape Cod, in the days when a fishing fleet moored for the winter at the wharf at the end of Aunt Julia Ann's Road, and the West Dennis Lighthouse was an important navigational aid for sailing ships in Nantucket Sound. Our own school thinks so highly of the book, that it is used for reading classes. We are hoping to interest other Cape schools to do the same. The book is also available for individual sales by writing "Scuttle Watch", c/o DHS, Box 607, South Dennis, MA 02660. The cost is \$4.95 plus mailing costs of 75¢. A special prepublication offer is being made whereby Scuttle Watch and Dennis Mariners may be purchased together for \$4.50 if prepayment is made prior to December 1st. The printing is limited to 1000 copies several hundred of which will go to schools and libraries, so get your order in promptly. The books will be here for Christmas giving.

***** CALENDAR *****

- November 7 7:30 PM Mr. John Schofield. Bring your favorite antique for Mr. Schofield's comment. Carleton Hall, Dennis.
- November 11 O.S. or November 21 N.S. Forefather's Day. 359th anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims at Provincetown.
- November 15 7:30 PM Board meeting, home of Pres. Gail Hart. All members welcome.
- November 28 New Bedford Historical Tour by bus. 9 AM departure from Ezra Baker School parking lot on Trotting Park Rd., corner of Rt. 28, S. Dennis. You must have a reservation. Total cost \$10. See details above.
- December 2 3-6 PM Jericho House Christmas Open House. All welcome. Bring a friend. Refreshments and seasonal music.
- Coming in January... Illustrated talk on the History of the Cape Cod Canal.

CHRISTMAS AT JERICHO

In 1955 when Elizabeth Reynaud bought the Cape style "double House" built in 1801 by Theophilus Baker, she called it Jericho because its walls were tumbling down. Now restored to perfect condition, the house, which was given to the town of Dennis for use as an Historic Center in 1962, will be the location of a Christmas Open House for the Dennis Historical Society on Sunday, December 2, 3-6 PM. Rhoda Babcock is Chairman of the event, Georgia Bagge will provide appropriate seasonal music and the West Dennis Garden has been asked to decorate. Refreshments will be served so please circle the date and plan to come and see this beautiful old home all dressed up for the holidays.

Marion Crowell Ryder has agreed to be present at the Open House to sign copies of her book, Scuttle Watch which is just being reprinted by DHS in the 3rd edition.

MY FATHER'S SAYINGS

Among our favorite poems at our house is one entitled "Mending Wall" by Robert Frost in which he tells of the spring ritual of putting stones back on a stone wall between his and his neighbors' farms even though neither any longer keeps farm animals that must be restrained by that wall. "Good fences make good neighbors," says the farmer to the poet, and "he will not go behind his father's saying," even though he no longer needs the fence. How many expressions and sayings are in our daily vocabulary which we use, but do not understand or even know their original meaning. One such expression has been on everyone's lips in the past few weeks, as we looked forward to and eventually enjoyed our Indian Summer. The first-comers in this area learned to anticipate Indian Summer with some apprehension, however.

At the first sign that summer was over, the native Indians would move their families and belongings from the ocean shore inland to winter quarters. They chose areas with readily available fresh water, protection from the winter winds and maximum exposure to the sun, such as the Indian Lands Conservation Area. Here they built more or less permanent homes, using saplings for the frame and covering them with woven mats on the outside and animals skins and fur on the inside. Nearby was buried the dried corn and other food supplies for the winter. The Indians stayed close to their winter quarters, exchanging stories, working on hides, weaving baskets and mats in the warmth of their carefully constructed lodges. The white settlers could rest peacefully, knowing that their Indian neighbors were staying by their firesides. But after a short cold spell, came the last burst of warm weather, "Indian Summer"--for the Indians took advantage of the warm days for a last sortie abroad for additional winter supplies. Here on the Cape there was no fear for life and limb as there was in areas where the natives were hostile. Nevertheless, there was concern for property, which the Indians often regarded as fair game as they attempted to provide for the cold winter. So we have Indian Summer--enjoy, but be sure all the pumpkins are safely in the barn, lest the Indians should be abroad.

A REVOLUTIONARY EXPERIENCE

We had a truly good time on our tour of the Drummer Boy Museum in Brewster on a very cold day, made so pleasant by the warmth of our welcome. The Museum houses an incredible collection of murals, brought to vivid life by our host and guide, Mr. Anthony McGowan. All of us learned something new and agreed that the museum is a must for all history buffs. Our thanks to Mr. McGowan and to Mr. Carl Ahlstrum for a most rewarding afternoon.

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