



**WE HAVE SOME NEW MEMBERS...**

and we're glad to welcome you aboard. They are: Dennis Brann, Jeanne Carens, Josephine Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. P. Considine, Mrs. Dorothy W. Henion, Patricia M. Kelly and family, Steven and Mary Kuhrtz, Helen McCormick, Marjorie Milano, Virginia M. Osborne, L. Ray Sears III, Priscilla Waters, and Albert E. Kelley. Please do come to our Christmas Open House at Jericho--and everything else we do. We're a pretty congenial group of folks devoted to preserving Dennis history for our own enjoyment and education and for our future generations. We should leave them a record of their heritage.

Membership Chairman Isabelle Flynn wishes to notify some of our members that their dues are overdue, and the December newsletter will be the last one unless she receives their 1996/'97 dues. See form at the bottom of page. If your newsletter is hi-lited in yellow (here.....) this message is for you--if not, relax, you're all paid up and in good standing.

**...AND SOME NEW ARTIFACTS**

In fact, a lot of new artifacts! Dennis history is alive and well--and being made every day that goes by. Two hundred years from now the Clinton-Dole election will be reduced to a sentence in the history page on the 2196 version of the Internet, but here in Dennis we hope our great-great-and-then-some grandchildren will be thrilled with the RCA dog given to us by Priscilla Dean. Do you remember his name? He was pictured in thousands of ads with his ears cocked in front of the old fashioned Gramophone listening to "His Master's Voice". This particular dog stood in the front window of Louis E. Dean's Radio Shop--authorized Atwater Kent dealer--on Main Street, Dennis Port. In my 'formative' years that was the place to be. He had the latest 78 records and sheet music. Remember Glen Miller, the Dorseys, Ella Fitzgerald, and the oh, so young Frank Sinatra? Priscilla also gave us one of the first radios Louis sold to Chester Kelley of Belmont Street, West Harwich in 1926--a bread board, vacuum tube type radio--a state of the art advancement from the crystal radio that electrified and united the country, along with a list of his early customers, boy, do those names bring back memories!) and a list of the radio stations he was able to receive in Dennis Port. Among the long list was one from Oakland, CA where he heard "In A Cottage Small By A Waterfall" sung by a tenor at 3:34 EST on Nov. 26, 1926 which came through "in spite of heavy static with good volume on his seven tube Atwater Kent".

Some of the other items received are the Julia Sears Biography--a Dennis girl who went on to become the first female president of a coeducational college--from Evelyn S. Foster. Connie Bechard gave us a wood block print, which was included in Nancy's book, of the wharves at Dennis Port. Lu and Seth Crowell took a trip up to their attic and found an invitation to Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Crowell for the wedding of Blanche Linwood Howes and Seth Crowell. We have her wedding gown, his coat and vest, their wedding certificate and a painting of the Schooner John Kranz, Marcus Lafayette Howes, Commander (her father). He was in Calcutta when he received word that he had a new baby daughter named Blanche. He brought back a bolt of silk that was saved to make her wedding gown--so the invitation finishes out a nice display at the Manse. Barbara Mc Phee gave us a lovely Armand Marsielle doll and John Burton made a Wild Hunter quarterboard for the Maritime Room at the Manse. Harrison Fisk, early of West Dennis and now of Holderness, NH sent down a great collection of West Dennis photos and post cards, and Ruth Colby gave us a fantastic collection of deeds, letters, etc. pertaining to the Schooner Bride and others from the home of Judah and Mary Howes. This will take all winter to record, but what a great piece of Dennis history! The Bride washed up on Race Point, Provincetown in the Great October Gale of 1841 with all the masts gone and the Captain and crew drowned below decks.

Mary Aseltine gave us an old pully block and a sixteen pound smoothing iron. Can you imagine running that over the acres of lace and linen that made up a young woman's attire in the 1800's? Thanks be for some modern inventions--I'll take my super light electric steam iron any day! Pauline Derick donated a copy of early birth, marriage, and death records in Barrington Township, Nova Scotia. Cape Cod and Nova Scotia have many family ties. Henry Kelley II gave us 20 copies of the Howes Family Tree which we sell through our shops at Jericho and the Manse. Our new member L. Ray Sears III donated a ships compass made by Nickerson and Baxter, Boston that was found in his family's barn in East Dennis. Eldon Davidson gave us some old Dennis pictures, his autobiography, and "recollections of growing up in Dennis". Great reading! AND the Howes Family Association gave us a \$600.00--no strings attached--donation! Sincerest thanks to everyone from a grateful society. As we prepare to enter the 21st Century it is important for us to preserve our 20th Century heritage. P.S.--Our new dog's name is Nipper.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Dennis Historical Society dues for 1996/97 are:

Student	\$ 2.00	Family	\$ 15.00
Individual	\$10.00	Individual Life	\$100.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Dennis Historical Society, Box 607, South Dennis, MA 02660-0607

Thanks!

## CALENDAR

Nov. 13 7:30 P.M. DHS Board meets at Josiah Dennis Manse.  
Nov. 28 A happy and bountiful Thanksgiving to all.  
Dec. 15 2-4 P.M. Christmas Open House at Jericho.

### BELIEVE IT OR NOT

There's a light at the end of the history publishing tunnel. Our good treasurer Josh Crowell has signed a check for the first installment to the printing company for the history of Dennis written by Nancy Thacher Reid. I expect as you read this the presses are rolling--or will be soon. Lu Crowell of the publishing committee has done yeoman's work in bird-dogging this project through to the printer. She said on October 30 there is no date yet but she should have the schedule in a week to ten days. She is hoping for a Christmas delivery. You will know when the book arrives because of a great gust of wind sweeping over Dennis--caused by the collective sigh of relief from all involved--but I can promise you it will be worth the wait regardless of how long.

### A LITTLE FALL CLEANING

This seems a good time to catch up on some corrections, additions, and odds and ends. First is a correction from the February newsletter. I had supposed that Betty Dean was taken to Mrs. Alton Chase's home to be dried and warmed up after falling through the ice. Harriet Murray Foss was able to correct my guesswork. It was Mrs. Roscoe Chase who lived up near the screenhouse in North Harwich who wrapped an embarrassed little Betty up in towels in her kitchen.....I tried to alter the course of history and genealogy when I reported on the Howes Family Reunion. I said that Thomas and Mary Howes had three sons, Thomas, Joseph, and--Nehemiah! Not so--his name was Jeremiah.....The Brewster Historical Society invites any interested members to join with them for an Olde Concord Christmas Friday, December 6. For details contact Paula Bacon 394-5739.....And now a question for some of the Dennis old timers. How many of you can remember the fire truck that was in front of "Your Father's Mustache" in Dennis Port? What do you know about it? Where did it come from--where did it go--and what purpose did it serve while it was here? Was it ever used in any Dennis parades? Any bit of information will be put into the empty spot in the puzzle. Drop me a line at P.O. Box 607, South Dennis, MA 02660-0607 or call me at 394-0017 or 385-3689. I'd love to talk with anyone who remembers this piece of Dennis history.

### PREPARING YE FOULE

With Thanksgiving arriving at the end of the month I have been perusing some cook books for a few different ideas beyond the standard fare. Reading the relatively simple instructions for cooking today's turkeys brought to mind some of the colonial cookbooks and earlier instructions on 'how to prepare ye foule'--which in Pilgrim times meant 'wild turkie'. The first step was to cut off the head and hang it up by the feet to bleed, then remove the innards and feet and dunk in a cauldron of hot water to loosen the feathers. Next, pluck out the feathers and save for various uses later on. Place 'turkie' on spit over 'ye well burned fire' and turn often to 'cook all around ye sides and keep from burning'. Moving into the 1700's didn't find a great improvement. The only change I could find was from a great spit over the fire to a tin reflector oven in front of the fire that still had to be turned by hand. If you were fortunate enough to have a youngster of the right age they could sit on the floor and turn it. Otherwise the goodwife had to bend over and turn it each time. The late 1700's and early 1800's brought a "new and improved" spit that ran mechanically by a series of weights, chains, and pulleys. When the weight reached the floor the cook would pull it up to the ceiling again and the spit would turn as the cog caught each chain link as the weight descended to the floor. How easy it is now to turn that thermostat to 325° and wait for the pop-up timer! Happy cooking to you all and remember to count your automatic range as one of your blessings.

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

Non-Profit Organization U. S. POSTAGE PAID Permit No. 2 So. Dennis, MA 02660
--