

#### REPORT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting was the twentieth in the history of D.H.S. The usual reports showed us active and in good financial shape. The following slate of officers was read as the nomination of the committee, by Phyliss Horton and was elected as nominated: Nancy T. Reid, President, Paula Brown, 1st Vice Pres., Lilla Smith, 2nd Vice Pres., Phyliss Horton, Recording Secretary, Jean Taylor, Corr. Secretary, Joshua Crowell, Treasurer. Directors for 3 years: Sarah Kruger and Wilson Scofield. We welcome the new members of the Board and we ask for your support of the programs planned. This year's goal is for more involvement of our members in the many activities of D.H.S. which include house dating, genealogy, school programs, bike rides and walks, research, audio-visual productions, oral history, acquisitions, library development, publication, open programs, and other things. If you are interested in being involved in any of these programs or in any other aspect of running the society, please call a board member, or speak to any of us at a meeting. If all else fails, drop us a note, Box 607, South Dennis, 02660. We want and need your help.

#### AN ORDINARY IS NO LONGER ORDINARY

The unabridged dictionary defines "ordinary", as to British use, as 1. A meal provided regularly at a fixed price (early bird special?) and 2. the place where such a meal is served. I don't know of an eating place still known as an Ordinary on Old King's Highway, although there are still a few taverns. Jack Bragington-Smith told about the old Taverns and Ordinaries which used to be found at intervals along this historic route, and the part they played in commercial and social life. If you missed his talk, try to hear him when he speaks again.

#### MEMORY DAY - DENNISPORT

For some time the Board has discussed ways to gather information about early days in Dennis from long-time residents of the town, while memory is still keen. We have settled on a series of meetings which we think will be fun for all and will provide us with a good beginning towards collecting on tape some reminiscences. The series, entitled "Memory Days", will begin on Sunday, October 30, at the V.I.C. Hall, Dennisport, at 3 P.M. A group of senior residents of Dennisport will share with us their memories of the good old days. Perhaps we will hear some stories told to them by their parents or grandparents. We will also have an exhibit of pictures, postcards and scrapbooks, and will invite the audience not only to ask questions, but also to add their own recollections of the way things used to be. Ben Thacher of Old Sound Museum will provide equipment and expertise to record everyone's comments. Newcomers and oldcomers alike should enjoy this afternoon. We urge you all to join us for some genuine Dennis tales, and extend a special invitation to long-time residents of our "village for the day" to spin a yarn or two.

Each village will have a turn to star in our Memory Days. East Dennis will be featured in November and the other villages in the spring. So search your mind's attic for remembrances and your home's attic for memorabilia to display.

#### WOMEN WHO WENT TO SEA

From time to time I like to tell you stories about some of the ladies from Dennis who went to sea with their Captain husbands, in the Golden Age of Sail. Some of the stories are tragic, some are of high adventure, all are of experiences which few of us will ever have. This is a story which one Captain's lady had to share with her friends when she returned to her home in West Dennis. The lady was Anna Lewis Crowell, wife of Capt. Willard Crowell. Capt. Crowell was in foreign and coastal trade between the years 1840 and 1887. His second wife, Anna, was descended from the family for which Lewis Bay is named, a family long engaged in maritime activities in both Barnstable and Yarmouth. Capt. Crowell's family accompanied him whenever possible, on the Schr. John H. Hancock and later on the James W. Drury. It was on a voyage carrying ice to Cuba that Mrs. Crowell had her unique adventure. The Cubans had a law forbidding women to appear on the streets unless accompanied by a man. But Mrs. Crowell felt that as the wife of an American Captain she would be perfectly safe to explore the city. So while her husband was negotiating for a return cargo of sugar, Anna called for the boat to take her to the wharf. When the Captain returned from his business, he was met by the American Counsel, who informed him that his wife had been arrested and was being detained in the Havana jail. The Counsel accompanied Capt. Crowell to the city, where they were successful in obtaining her release with the promise that she would not repeat her excursion, without a suitable escort. It is not recorded what the Captain said to his wife in the privacy of their cabin. But I'm willing to bet that when the women of West Dennis met to exchange stories of their sea adventures, she was the only woman present who could describe the interior of the Havana jail.

