



THAT WAS A GREAT SCHOOL REUNION!!

Somewhere between 300-400 old grads, new grads, old teachers and new teachers greeted each other with lots of laughter and a few fond tears at the Dennis Consolidated/Ezra Baker School Reunion. Principal Donald Eldridge and his staff outdid themselves in planning a lovely reunion. Many of the first teachers were there, including Irene Tibbetts Dumican, Hope Crowell Hallett, Ellen Sears Curran, Evelyn Longfellow Stairs, Dorothy Gill Royal, and Marion Mugridge Eldridge. Two of the "Murphy girls" from the '30's were there, the three "Dean girls" from the 30's and 40's--dressed alike, just as they used to be, and the four "Robbins girls" from the 40's and 50's. Miss Goodspeed would have shook her head in dismay to see any one of them on the end of a hockey stick today! As mother would say, "They've blossomed." There were Ellises, Howes, Crowells, Searses, Thachers, etc. enough to please our forbears. Joseph Monteiro, his daughter Julia Johnson, and her son, Lawrence made three generations who have gone to school there. Memories ran rampant all afternoon. One thing that was immediately clear was that every old grad could tell anyone who would listen just how many changes had been made in the school since they went there-- even to the new windows that were recently installed to replace the ones "that pulled down from the top with a long pole". A number of class pictures had been assembled (although not as many as we had hoped for through several appeals in this newsletter) and classmates identified by Phyllis Horton and Joshua Crowell. They were displayed in the corridor leading to the cafeteria and proved to be a popular gathering spot as everyone tried to find themselves in the old photos. Many thanks to all who responded to our request.

Susie P. McHenry was remembered fondly by everyone she taught and all wished she had felt up to being there. Can't you just hear her leading us in that daily opener, "Good morning to you, Good morning to you, We're all in our places, With sunshiny faces, And that is the way, We start a new day." Ahh--more memories. Three members of the first graduating class of 1932 were there--Elizabeth Spears Mullan Mueller from West Dennis, Vernon Preston and James White from Dennis Port.

Refreshments were served in the cafeteria by the Dennis Women's Club, after which everyone assembled in the auditorium for the closing ceremonies. Mr. Eldridge introduced classes by the decades, with the loudest response coming from classes of the 90's. Oh, to have a little of that energy! Longtime former Principal Walter Morley was introduced, and Bicentennial Chairman Jonathan Stone addressed the assembly with greetings from the Bicentennial Committee. The Ezra H. Baker Bicentennial Singers under the direction of Mrs. Katherine Hoopes presented a fine musical program including an original work of the story of Princess Scargo and her fish.

All in all, it was a wonderful reunion that will keep a lot of people in good spirits through the coming cold winter. One of my special memories is seeing two classmates who haven't seen each other for 40 years or more squint through their bifocals, first to read, then try to associate the name on the name tag (that they remember so well) with the face that now has seen 40 years of changes. Suddenly they each realize that it really is their old friend and they both dissolve into hugs, tears, laughter--and all the things that make reunions so very special. Many thanks to all who had a part in making this a memorable day.

SPEAKING OF PRINCESS SCARGO....

....the musical program at Ezra Baker School moved our Poet Laureate, Town Crier, and Old Grad, Ben Thacher, to pose a poetic question--as Follows:

The Legend of Princess Scargo

Scargo, princess of the Tribe,
And lovely to behold,
Received a dish of living fish,
From her warrior bold.
She put them in a big clay pot,
But as the time went by,
That fishy mess swam less and less,
It seemed that they might die.

The tribesmen stood and watch with pride,
As rain filled up the lake,
The squaws, though pooped stood loosely grouped,
And murmured, "Piece o' cake!"
The fishes swam around with glee,
Which gave the tribe a thrill,
And with the sand they had on hand,
They built up Scargo Hill.

The Chief then gathered up the tribe,
And told them with alarum,
"Without a lake, for goodness sake,
Those fish will come to harm!"
The women did the work, of course,
Though it was quite a tussel,
They dug away, mid rocks and clay,
Men didn't move a muscle.

Cape Cod has near 400 lakes,
One question, but a big one,
With lakes galore, from shore to shore,
Why did they have to dig one?

Thanks, Ben, for another gem!

BICENTENNIAL BITS

There are two upcoming events in October. The Dennis Bicentennial Quilt Show on the 9th from 10-4 at the Dennis Senior Center under the direction of Peggy Reed. Admission is \$2.00. This will be an outstanding display of quilt from antique to new creations. The second event is an East Dennis Historical Tour, Wednesday, Oct. 13. A walking tour of about 1 mile beginning at the East Dennis Community Church, 9:30. Reservations 385-2333. A bus tour over the same route, leaving the Sr. Center at 1 PM Reservations 385 5067. Bus tour only for people unable to walk. Both tours free.

CALENDAR

- Oct. 8-11 Howes Family Reunion, Brewster, NY
Oct. 9 10-4 Bicentennial Quilt Show at Dennis Senior Center
Oct. 13 Bicentennial Historical Tour of East Dennis. See article other side.
Oct. 13 7:30 PM DHS Board Meeting at Hannah Paddock House with Sarah Kruger

CRANBERRY PLAQUE DEDICATION

It seems quite likely that Henry Hall would be surprised at what has happened to his cranberry discovery. It may not have improved Henry's fortune very much but it certainly has done so to others who came after him. As Cape Codders (and later others from off-Cape) developed new strains of berries and methods of harvesting, many fortunes have been gathered from our sandy soil. This past year the Massachusetts total income from cranberry cultivation was \$2,250,000.00, making it our state's largest agricultural crop.

The dedication of the plaque commemorating Henry Hall's discovery was held at 4 PM September 18th at the corner of Nobscusset and Whig Streets. The Master of Ceremonies was James Jenkins, President of Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association, assisted by Nancy Thacher Reid, Chairman of the Dennis Historical Commission. The dedication was sponsored by both organizations. Massachusetts' new Secretary of Economic Affairs Gloria Larson told of the impact cranberry cultivation has on our state's economic welfare. Edward Gelsthorpe of East Dennis, former CEO of Ocean Spray Co. regaled us with some very interesting cranberry history, and Senator Henri Rauschenbach read the Proclamation signed by Gov. William Weld. The plaque, unveiled by Dean Emery, present cultivator of the Henry Hall Farm and Ashley Carolyn Foster, a 12 year old descendant of Henry Hall, (for all you old-timers, she is the great granddaughter of Richard and Eleanor Hall) was made by the Prue Foundry in East Dennis.

The afternoon was filled with warmth and humor as our cranberry people seem to be a very friendly sort. Jim Jenkins told a story about Mr. Washington Chase of Brewster, who, now in his 80's is the oldest active grower in this area. It seems that Mr. Chase arrived at 2 PM and asked Josh Crowell, who was setting up the sound equipment, if the dedication was at 2 o'clock? Josh said, "No, it's at 4 o'clock." To which Washington allowed that two hours would give him time enough to go home, change his clothes, and pick some more berries. Jim asked him if he had really done it, and Mr. Chase responded, "No, I screened some instead." Following the dedication refreshments were served at the Josiah Dennis Manse featuring, of course, cranberry juice, cranberry cookies and other goodies. Thanks to DPW for setting up the chairs, Harwich Historical Society for the loan of their sound equipment, and all the ladies who baked and served at the Manse.

DHS ANNUAL MEETING 1993

On Sunday afternoon, September 26th, we elected a new board to guide us through this coming year. Our new President is Lura Crowell, 1st Vice President--Brendan Joyce, 2nd V.P. Gertrude Lailey, 3rd V.P.--Richard Howes, Treasurer--Joshua Crowell, Recording Secretary--Nancy Howes, Corresponding Secretary--Jim Carr, Director for 3 years--Phyllis Horton and Sarah Kruger, Director for 2 years--Katherine McNamara and Nancy Sears. Representatives from: Dennis Historical Commission--Nancy Reid, Josiah Dennis Manse--Margaret Maher, and Jericho House--Lilla Smith. Membership Chairman Isabelle Flynn announced there are 392 members at present, and Joshua Crowell's Treasurer's Report found our cash position better than at this time last year.

Out-going President Richard Howes presented John Burton with a Certificate of Appreciation for his work on the diorama of the Shiverick Shipyard now in the Maritime Room at the Josiah Dennis Manse. John has given much time to the upgrading of the Manse and especially in creating the diorama. It must have taken many exacting, painstaking hours to build the N-scale model of the shipyard. If you have not yet seen this work of art, do go to the Manse next summer just for that purpose. It will be a well-rewarded trip.

Lil Phillips entertained everyone with her very humorous presentation, "The Funny Side of Misery". She has an uncanny knack of finding something humorous about almost every facet of life. Gertrude Lailey and her hospitality committee once again offered us some delicious refreshments. Thank you ladies. You are building quite a reputation. Good luck to our new president and her board for a successful year ahead.

MESSAGE FROM DHS PRESIDENT CROWELL

I would like to express DHS heartfelt appreciation to Nancy and Richard Howes for their terms as President. I am pleased they have both agreed to stay on the board as I am sure we will benefit from their experience. Sincerely, Lura Crowell.

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