

DENNIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Call to the Annual Meeting

Members are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of the Dennis Historical Society will be held at 7:30 PM on Monday, September 11, 1978 at the West Dennis Community Building, School Street, West Dennis. The agenda will include annual reports, the report of the nominating committee and the election of officers, as well as any other business which may legally come before this meeting. You are urged to attend.

Following the business meeting, Ferd Baxter of West Dennis and Dedham will show slides made from old pictures of Dennis and new slides taken recently of the same sites depicted by his antique pictures. We are sure this will be among our most interesting programs. Mr. Baxter has entitled his showing--"Do You Remember When?"

News About Dues

The By-Laws of the Dennis Historical Society state in an amendment that the dues shall be \$2.00 per member annually. This is the primary income for all of the programs that the Society runs. This year we have undertaken to provide members with a monthly newsletter, which has strained our budget considerably. Therefore, the board has voted to assess each member \$1.00 extra to be collected with the dues to help absorb this additional expense. We hope the membership will feel that the benefit of the newsletter justifies this assessment. Thank you.

The Streets of Our Town

A quiet street which winds its way through pines and across Scargo Hill Road and Rt. 6A just east of Scargo Lake, is Paddock's Path. The name refers not to horses, but to people--the Paddock family. They were among the first-comers to that part of Old Yarmouth, now Dennis. The names of the Paddocks are scattered throughout the early history of the town--Zachariah, John, Ichabod, Ebenezer--and the daughters of the family became mothers of new generations of Howes, Halls, and Sears. Apparently, they tended to be mariners, for the family burying ground just off Paddocks Path names many of those resting there as Captain.

One Paddock we know followed the sea. He was Ichabod and legends and stories abound about this Captain Paddock. One is that he was a whaler of such renown that he was called to Nantucket to teach the men there his skill. Another tale, more romantic and fanciful, is retold by Jeremiah Digges in his book, "Cape Cod Pilot".

The family of Paddocks no longer live in Dennis--those Paddocks still here lie resting in the family lot, along with memories of the family's contribution to our early settlement. The name survives today only as Paddock's Path, one of the Streets of Our Town.

Dennis Clippers

Good baseball for the Cape Cod fans has not always been played only in Boston. From 1946 until 1956, a team known as the Dennis Clippers played regularly in the field in back of the Dennis Consolidated School (now Ezra H. Baker). This was a town team in every sense of the word. The money for equipment was originally donated by Carl Maloney, then added to by a town appropriation and by "passing the hat" at games (always ably handled by Helen Richardson and Alice Walker). The team even installed night lights on the field, using army surplus equipment and volunteer help of Birdie Pate and Stuart Wixon.

Clarence Bayles, late of South Dennis, who was for many years Post Master and Fire Chief, was one of the men responsible for the organization. Managers over the 10 years were Ralph Richardson, Russ Chase, George Marble, and Wes Eaton. And the team was made up of local boys. Can anyone add to this list of original players? Outfield: R. Dean Sears, Tommy Embler, Ed Crowell, Wes and Earl Eaton. Infield: Birdie Pate, Bren Taylor, Thatcher Chase, Bill Chapman, Ralph Richardson, Leo Babineau, Dave and Bill Hodsdon. Pitchers: Dan Kendrick, Dave Hodsdon and Earl Eaton and behind the plate, Catcher, Joe Walker.

Later, younger fellows such as Cliff Ellis, Jackie Gomes, Jolin Perry, Paul Hunter, Carl Doane and Ernie Babineau helped the veterans to carry on.

Unfortunately (or fortunately, as the case may be) no one has come forward with Won-Lost statistics, ERA's, RBI's, or records of what year(s) the pennant flew over the DCS field. But these may come to light. The team played in a league made up of similar local town teams from Harwich, Chatham, Yarmouth and Orleans. The fans were loyal and vociferous and the games were always fun, whatever the outcome. Many of these players still live in Dennis--wouldn't a reunion exhibition game be fun?

Fall Bike Tours Planned

Save Saturday morning, September 23rd. All interested in learning more of the history of Quivet Neck and the Sesuit area are invited to meet in the parking lot by the boat ramp at the end of Cold Storage Road at ten o'clock. The tour will start with how Cold Storage Rd. got its name. Among other features of this bike tour will be stops outside of the old straw factory (did you know one even existed?), the Dean Sears Manse where one of our finest local historians still lives, the East Dennis church with its stormy history, the Jacob Sears library, the old Homer house which is a gem of Federalist architecture, Worden Hall where the lecture society first met, and Players Pharmacy where among other things local fishermen would trade news about what was biting. From Rt. 6A the group will turn off onto Bridge Street and cross beautiful Sesuit marsh where we will briefly dwell to hear about the merits of marsh conservation. The finale of the tour will take us to the spot where clipper ships were built by the Shivericks. These ocean going ships are thought to be primarily responsible for taking Cape Codders into global trade which for a while brought great wealth to the area. This corner of Dennis saw some very exciting history transpire. Relive it with us. Rain date will be Sunday afternoon, September 24th, at 2:00 with the same departure point.

The second of our fall bike trips will be held Saturday morning, October 14th, Columbus Day weekend. This tour will start from Carlton Hall and take in Black Ball Hill, the Tobey Farm, Josiah Dennis Manse, Little Taunton, and will end at Chapin Beach. The rain date will be Sunday, Oct.15th, at 2:00.

A third trip to complete the series of north side bike tours will take in Corporation Beach, Scargo Hill, the Indian grave site and will end at the theater with its glamorous history. A date has yet to be set for this tour.

Call 394-5739, Paula Bacon, for any further information.

CALENDAR

- September 11 Annual Meeting 7:30 PM at West Dennis Community Building.
Program following: Ferd Baxter, Old and New Slides of Dennis.
Dues due and payable at this meeting.
- September 23 Bike Tour--East Dennis. Starting time: 10 AM, Cold Storage Rd.
Rain date: Sept. 24, 2 PM.
- October 14 Bike Tour--Dennis. Starting time: 10 AM, Carlton Hall.
Rain date: October 15, 2 PM.
- October 18 Program to be announced. 7:30 PM, V.I.C. Hall, Depot St.,
Dennisport.

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

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