



### CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

Members of the Dennis Historical Society are hereby notified that the annual meeting of the Society will be held at Jacob Sears Memorial Hall East Dennis at 2 P.M. on Sunday, September 21, for the purpose of hearing reports, electing officers and conducting whatever business can legally be brought before the meeting. It won't be all work, however. Jim Coogan will present his much acclaimed program, "Cape Cod Architecture" for our enjoyment, and refreshments will be served.

### JOSEPH'S GARDEN

In a recent draft prepared by the Dennis Comprehensive Planning Committee on the segment dealing with Historic Preservation and Community Character, Ray Urquhart and his co-writers have listed many of the efforts in preservation of our heritage and character which the town presently has undertaken as well as many areas in which additional effort and/or change seem appropriate. Among the positives are the two historic districts. Among the negatives, Route 28. Many of us would agree.

The sub-committee's draft calls particular attention to the unsightly entrance to Dennis from Harwich at Division Street and Route 28. Cluttered with signs, impeded with a complicated traffic island and numerous traffic lights, one passes from West Harwich into Dennis Port with little notice and with much distraction. Until recent years, there stood upon the southwest corner of Division Street a large building, attractive only for its antique charm and the memories of us old-timers. This muddy green storefront with its decorative skyline used to be "Biney" Small's Dry Goods Store. Zebina Small and his wife Augusta did business at this site for many a year. Their emporium was more or less the Bradlee's of its day, featuring clothing, household needs, even shoes and outerwear. It was the place we went for first day of school clothes or that new outfit for Easter Sunday, including hat and white gloves. With the advent of shopping centers, the old Dry Good Store became outdated, the business was closed and eventually the store was torn down.

For many years the lot has stood vacant and unadorned but this summer, some Dennis citizens have taken on the task of adding some light and color to the drabness of our town's border. Thanks to the effort of Evelyn Varrieur and other volunteers of the Dennis Beautification Committee, it now is a small island-- or perhaps sand bar--of beauty. Sand, and a snowfence form the background for a "Joseph's Garden."

For those of you new to Cape Cod ways, a "Joseph's Garden" is an old dory, retired and placed in the yard as a container for flowers. It takes its name, tradition says, from the Rev. Mr. Joseph Metcalfe, the orthodox minister of Falmouth from 1707 to 1723. Mr. Metcalfe--Joseph, if I may be so bold--had served at Falmouth for several years, when he found himself the recipient of a legacy, which eased his financial position. Having lived in proximity to the sea for these many years, he decided to buy himself a small boat and undertake the habit of going out fishing. But his congregation was aghast! If Mr. Metcalfe wanted fish, he would have them, but for a member of the cloth to engage in such a mundane activity as catching his own fish? Unheard of! What would the people of Sandwich think? No, Joseph must give up all idea of rowing himself about and fishing. The dory must go. Joseph had looked forward to the quietude and satisfaction which catching or not catching fish from one's own small boat can bring. But he must not rile the parish. And so his dory sat unused in the sideyard of the Manse. And one spring, the wildflowers from the next fields began to grow in the abandoned boat. Joseph liked it that way, and the flowers remained and flourished, and the deteriorating dory became known as "Joseph's Garden."

You will see many such dories in use around Cape Cod, and none more attractive than that at the otherwise less-than-attractive entrance to Dennis Port. Evelyn Varrieur tells me that the dory was donated by Linda and Jonathan Provost of Mayfair Boatyard, the flowers by Petal Carte and the labor by herself and other volunteers. Thank you, Dennis Beautification Committee members, for your Joseph's Garden and for other beauty spots, including the island across from Holiday Hill, the corner of Trotting Park Road, the rotary at West Dennis Beach and the gardens at the Town Office Building.

From Abraham Lincoln: "Let it be said of me that I never failed to pull a thistle and plant a flower wherever I thought a flower would grow." Is there somewhere in Dennis where YOU could plant a flower?

## CALENDAR

Sept 10 7:30 Board meets at Jericho House  
Sept 21 2 P.M. ANNUAL MEETING OF DHS Jacob Sears Memorial Hall  
Program: Jim Coogan "Cape Cod Architecture"  
The Manse will be opened Tues. 10-12 and Thurs 2-4 in September

### AN ADDITION TO THE REPORT OF THE BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

We forgot to mention that Henry Kelley II was the winner of the door prize, two tickets of admission for a day at Sturbridge Village. The tickets were donated by Betsey (Hall) Wentworth, a longtime friend and member of DHS and a descendant of "Cranberry" Henry Hall. Our thanks to Betsey and congratulations to Henry. Have a wonderful day in the nineteenth century and don't forget to take Susan.

### WHAT? YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF PUNKHORN STEW?

That's what a lot of you told me after reading the article about Nicholas Lipari and the macaroni. I shall hasten to enlighten you forthwith. Here's the old receipt.

Before the menfolk leave for the field in the morning, send one of the young 'uns down to the root cellar with a sizeable basket. Tell him to fetch up a suitable number of pieces of the pork that Father put by when the old pig was killed last winter. And to fill the basket with winter vegetables--carrots, onions, parsnips, potatoes and some Eastham turnip, if there's any left. Put your pork in a skillet, cover with boiling water and simmer on the back of the stove while you do your chores. About an hour and a half before you expect the men for their nooning, set a spell and peel and slice the vegetables. Put them on the front of the stove cover with water and cook until soft. In the meantime, saute a few onions in butter in your spider, just until clear. Now layer onions, meat and vegetables with a good shake of pepper between layers and salt if you've a mind to, in your iron kettle, cover and let cook slowly. Fifteen minutes before you expect the menfolk, slice thick some oatmeal bread and put it on the top of the stew, cover and just let it steam. You won't have to call the boys for this dinner.

You don't have a spider and a crock full of pork? Try this modern version. Just nip down to Louie's (Dennis Public Market it's called these days) and ask for the number of country style spare ribs you will need. On your way out, grab a couple of packages of frozen stew vegetables and a loaf of French Bread. Parboil the ribs, changing the water as necessary, place sauteed onions, the meat and the frozen vegetables in the crock pot. You know how long your pot will take to cook it, and how much water is required. Serve with slices of the bread. You won't have to call the family more than once for this version, either. And why is it called "Punkhorn Stew?" Well, that's another story.

"Eat hearty, lads, and give the ship a good name!"

### HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

According to Membership chairperson Isabelle Flynn, many of you have. For those who have forgotten, it would be appreciated if you could get them to Isabelle before the Annual Meeting, September 21. Also, consider life membership. At \$100, its a good deal and saves on stamps.

Dennis Historical Society  
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