

Schooling on Old Cape Cod

EVERY town of the Cape, like those of the rest of Massachusetts, was required by law of the Commonwealth in 1825, to maintain one school master or school mistress if it had fifty families. The selection of this important person lay in the hands of the selectmen; at least, he could not teach without their first furnishing him with their certificate of qualification and authority for his post. It was the declared duty of such a teacher to instruct the children in the arts of reading and writing (provided this was specified in the agreement) and, in any case, "to instill into their minds a sense of virtue and teach them decent behavior."

presentation. It is every way a happy one, and if something of our joy can come into the heart of the donor, you will not feel altogether unrepaid for your labor and liberality. For myself, personally, I can say that if my connection with our school interests has not been without labor and anxiety, neither has it been without many pleasing and beautiful incidents, which will always linger gratefully in my memory; yet, in the course of such work, I can recall few happier hours than this. We are all happy. We are all delighted. We all recognize a certain appropriateness in unfurling our country's flag over our schools that fills us with patriotic pride and pleasure. This pleasure springs from no narrow, illiberal sentiment. From all lands under heaven America has gathered her sons and daughters to share, side by side with her native children, in working out the problem of human existence under the truest conditions of civil, social and religious liberty.

me; and this flag shall witness to the covenant between us." Yes, our joy is greater that it is unpartisan, unsectarian, all-involving. It is such unselfish considerations as these that give moral beauty to that flag—where, we must all be agreed, the material beauty is not lacking. They seem to toughen the fiber of that pole from which it is suspended, which looks pretty solid and substantial, to begin with. I must not linger, though there is much to linger on. It is appropriate that on these shores, hallowed by the first footprints of the Pilgrims, whose advanced ideas, however immature, necessarily, were caught up and carried afar by mighty causes they could not see, and have wrought so powerfully in American character and institutions—it is significant that here the associations of intelligence and freedom should be regarded as emblemized in the emblem of the nation. It means that to us. Let us be resolved that it shall mean that to all men. Let its presence dignify the

A TELEGRAM from Massachusetts' United States Senator Leverett Saltonstall just received reads: "Pleased to announce that the Commodity Credit Corporation Board has today authorized purchase of 100,000 barrels of cranberries for distribution to the school luncheon program and to charitable institutions. Details on the invitation to bid will be available later this afternoon. This is a step in the right direction and I shall continue my best efforts on behalf of the cranberry growers." August 24, 1961

The Provincetown Seminary in 1845-46, boasted an enrollment of 130 in the gentlemen's department and 98 in the ladies' department.

Yarmouth Register April 26, 1890

— We are pleased to state that the High and Grammar Schools will soon have floating over their building our national flag. During the last and this year, many schools have been presented with flags, and the Hon. J. P. Johnson wishing our schools to enjoy a patriotic spirit, which is thus inspired, will present them with this much wished for emblem.—[Advocate.

Yarmouth Register June 7, 1890

PROVINCETOWN. Flag Raising.

On Thursday week, the flag presented to the schools by Hon. Joseph P. Johnson, was unfurled from the High school building with appropriate ceremonials. The sudden illness of Mr. Johnson several weeks ago, when the ceremony was announced to occur, postponed the occasion until the 29th. Mr. Johnson himself was unable to be present, and his son, Wm. W. Johnson, in very appropriate and well-chosen words, delivered the address. Dr. Henry Shortle, of the school committee, in behalf of the schools, received the flag, speaking as follows: It gives me great pleasure to respond to the sentiments you have so eloquently expressed, and to join with the other members of the school committee, with the teachers and pupils of the High and Grammar schools, and, indeed, with our fellow townsmen generally, in expressing our united thanks in receiving from your generous hands this well-conceived, well-executed and noble



Center Methodist Church, left. Pilgrim Monument. Town Hall. High School. Universalist Church. From Winslow Street - - 1954 -

The means by which she prepares them for these mutual opportunities and mutual obligations as common members of one great nationality, committed to the most liberal policy for their individual self-development—that means is education, and when you look up and see her symbol floating over her schoolhouse, you seem to hear her say: "I am not for one; I am for each and all. From the greatest to the least, you are my children. I will protect you with a sovereign's arm, I will cherish you with a mother's heart. By all I have of power I am pledged to do my best for you; your sympathy with these ideas, your joint interest in this all-embracing heritage, pledge your loyalty to

school life of these pupils with a deeper daily sense of the relations of the school to the nation. Let those historic folds, waving as a signal by the sea, inspire our townsmen still to fight on in the moral battles of peace; resolved that under that flag, for which so many they loved and honored have died, a free, intelligent, virtuous and happy people shall live.

March 15, 1962

Although Provincetown property owners will probably face a tax rate of about \$63 per thousand valuation as the result of the voting, almost unanimously, for the addition to the present High School building, citizens left their two-night session of the annual Town Meeting Tuesday night with an obvious feeling of satisfied relief for having approved of most of the expenditures urged in the 65-article warrant and having done a good job in their most important civic business.

Provincetown Town Hall rang with resounding applause of citizens rejoicing over the almost unanimous approval of a \$550,000 addition and alterations to the High School, as voted at the annual Town Meeting, Monday night.

Despite the stormy night of wind and rain, Cape End voters showing real spirit filled the main floor of the Town Hall auditorium nearly to capacity, while many spectators including large numbers of High School youngsters sat in the balcony.