

Kelly's Corner



Christine Lorenz in the Rambling Rose carriage

By Jan Kelly

Starflowers, mayflowers and lady's-slippers are flourishing through the woods. The soaking rains and brilliant sunshine cooperate to push the blossoms up in new places every day. There is a particular small hillside patch at the edge of a dune which I prefer to all others. It's a perfect place to take special company with a bottle of champagne or chilled Chateau St. Roseline, to sit and sip surrounded by the beauty of the Cape's flowering vegetation. The shadbush and fruit trees have bloomed and gone. One of spring's most poignant sights—delicate shad petals, defenseless pale ovals drifted on the blacktop where the wind has blown them. Shad blooms early and usually suffers severe storms that shatter the blossoms and shake the shapely petaled bushes to half nudity. When the shadbush blooms, you must go quickly and see it as often as you can before a nor'easter changes the landscape. The scenery around the Moors and the West End breakwater is particularly beautiful with the marsh as a foreground.

Lavender is the local color of the week: lilacs, wisteria, stray spiderworts, chives and many ornamental shrubs make purples, lavenders, and mauves the dominant colors. For lovely wisteria take a look at Dot Cook's house at the corner of Bradford and Gosnold, and also look down the lane at 216 Bradford. I guarantee your reaction will be a smile. Then you'll be spotting wisteria everywhere.

The sixth annual Cape Cod Road Race will be held Saturday morning, tomorrow, at eleven. It is a 10-kilometer foot race through the National Seashore ending at Town Hall. It is sanctioned by the AAU and sponsored by the Center for Coastal Studies, the Rotary Club, and Budweiser beer. The entry fee is \$4 in advance, \$5 on race day, and souvenir T-shirts are available. Afterwards, runners and guests are invited to the Moors restaurant for a seafood buffet, featuring

underutilized species of fish. There will be six seatings between noon and 2:30. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$4 for runners, and \$3.50 for children under 12 years of age. Tickets are available at the Center for Coastal Studies, and it's suggested that you purchase them in advance. My suggestion is to get there before the runners do. It's one of the great meals of Provincetown.

On Commercial Street there are all kinds of unusual sights. One of the most attractive is the well-turned-out blonde gliding above the crowds, directing her horse and carriage through the crush. One would think it to be a difficult maneuver. This competent driver, however, spins through town effortlessly time after time. The driver is Christine Lorenz, and Christine explained to me that horses prefer to wedge through a crowd. It gives them a guided feeling. So all those tourists serve one more purpose!

Christine is smartly attired in black suiting and a red ruffled shirt with a perky derby atop her neatly braided blonde hair. Sitting on her Victorian-style carriage, she lends elegance to Commercial Street. The contrast with the very casual summer wear of the crowds makes her doubly eye-catching. Christine has two horses, Jerry and Red. Jerry prefers the daytime, and Red, the younger of the two, takes the busier shifts and the night shifts. Both horses are obviously well cared for. Her carriage was made in the Midwest and seats six, rather than the usual four, vis-a-vis, meaning face to face. This way the passengers may see each other and chat. The carriage lamps were made for candles, but now they are fitted with electric lights which are lit by a cleverly concealed battery. These beautifully thought-out details result from several years' experience as a carriage-company employee, mucking stalls and driving out while making plans to do it for herself.

Christine's Rambling Rose Carriage Company offers rides lasting 10 to 15 minutes at a cost of \$4 per person, with a \$10 minimum for the basic ride. Other rides



Ronnie Ribs and Molly Gazpacho—
darling couple of the week

tour the East End or the West End, transport wedding parties, and turn any event into a special occasion. Make up your own. A street arrangement is the easiest way to set up your jaunt. The Rambling Rose is usually parked outside the Library or at the Pronto restaurant on Lopes Square from 11 till 5, then from 6:30 to 11 or midnight. Christine will take good care of you, and you will have another view of Provincetown.

A sight which is pleasurable to us as well as the tourists is Gene Poyant, newly ordained Town Crier, handsome and well-suited in his custom-made uniform and leather hat. Belt, buckles, buttons, and stockings, each detail blends to the "right look." There will be others besides the basic black one you are seeing this week. Gene has ordered a red, a blue, and a green suit, also. The belt of great girth was fashioned and made by Bill Everett and Bob Williams of Outer Cape Leather. Gene has been studying for his new role through the winter—"Little things that happened way years ago." With his uniform, his bell, and his history studies, Town Crier Gene Poyant is eager to spread the word. On Wednesday Gene, along with Candy Collins, the Provincetown Chamber of Commerce Executive Secretary, and Michael Fucci, Executive Secretary of the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce, was invited to the State House to meet Governor Dukakis and to kick off National Tourism week. He'll miss greeting the bus loads of tourists at the Bas Relief that day. Gene Poyant is excited and serious about filling a traditional role as spreader of news and information. He was invited to the Memorial Day services and dedications and said these ceremonies brought proud and grateful tears to his eyes. He looks good, he sounds good, and he will probably enjoy this summer more than any of his laborious bakery/merchant seasons. The only problem thus far is popping a few buttons, but, as Evelyn Johnson said in the Post Office, "Gene, the Pilgrims never had enough food to fit into that size."

The Heritage Museum was open for Memorial Day weekend and had good attendance each day. It will close two weeks for sprucing up and open again in mid-June. Work continues on the half-scale model of the *Rose Dorothea* under the tutelage and professional skill of Flyer Santos. All work on the boat is volunteered, and people at the desk are also volunteers. This is a

tribute to the true Provincetown spirit. People from all over the United States and abroad visit daily, as you can note in the register, and all of them are impressed and grateful that the heritage of this small, unique, and varied town is being preserved and demonstrated. Take a trip through the museum yourself. You'll see something that is personally connected to you and probably find much that is new to you. The museum is open from 10 am to 9 pm seven days a week.

If you are in the wave of physical fitness or in the wave of cats, or even better, if you are in both, there is a book you will certainly enjoy, not only for the first time but also for years—just like a good relationship. It's called *Catness: How to be Feline Fit*, being a handbook of catskills and cattitudes written by Sharon Frink and Carol Frakes. The book is for people who don't like to exercise or who have no time to exercise, as well as for those who do indulge. The drawings and diagrams will help you to a more peaceful, limber, and in-shape body by simply imitating a cat—only the motions: no cat noises, no cat diet, those stay human. The book is fun to read, though the puns will make you groan now and then. Better the puns than a pulled muscle. It is printed by Seaworthy Press of Washington DC and all proceeds are donated to nonprofit organizations which improve the lives of humans with pets.

"Just when you think it's time to leave, it's time to stay." This phrase can apply to: birding, a prize fight, a slow-starting movie, a love affair, a cocktail party, a museum, a foreign country, a family visit, a flea market, watching small children, the race track, fishing, walking in the rain, checking exits on the highway, whale watching, shopping for that special gift, gardening, a multicourse meal, an appointment in a public place, an auction, a line for tickets, a first conversation with someone at a party, six in the morning on your day off, a sunset, stargazing, a job interview, thinking you are visiting at an inopportune time, and your own wedding.

The piping plover survey showed no signs of the species either nesting or migrating. They do nest farther north. Provincetown's human and gull populations are growing steadily and will keep shyer species from nesting locally. Two ospreys were sighted at Hatch's Harbor; let's hope they will nest here.

This week the Darling Couple Award goes to Ronnie Ribs and Molly Gazpacho!