

KELLY'S CORNER

by Jan Kelly

Provincetown has been selected again. Besides being a playground for eager tourists, a "HOT SPOT" for bird watchers and natural history buffs, and for just plain history buffs, Provincetown is also an artistic and cultural center. From June 14 to June 17, Provincetown will host approximately 250 visitors, many from abroad, who will join in a conference, *Beginnings 1915—The Cultural Movement*. The reason that Provincetown was chosen is natural. It was chosen in 1917 for the beginning of serious theatre in America so it's only natural to celebrate the start of this cultural force where it began.

In 1912 a group of young poets joined together pioneering new thought—liberal progressive and freedom bound. They moved east to universities and to Greenwich Village. Summers were spent in Europe. WWI stopped that pleasant migration and so Provincetown was chosen as an alternative. Now, seventy-two years later the artistic and cultural contributions of this group will be studied with the idea of bringing this neglected part of our history to a more general public. The conference opens with the Joyce Symposium we all enjoyed five years ago which Nat Halper coordinated. That symposium is held the week of Bloomsbury Day, June 16th, in Dublin one year and at an international site the next. Tiny Provincetown was chosen again.

Adele Heller is co-director of the conference. The Provincetown Playhouse and the University of Massachusetts in Boston are co-sponsoring the event. The BBC of London will be taping the entire conference for British television and PBS will be videotaping. We are most fortunate that we can experience part or all of the conference live. The international registration is good. Adele Heller would like for Cape residents to take advantage of the three day study by signing up for individual lectures or the entire conference. If you have a special interest and prefer only one day, the charge is \$15. The entire conference costs \$45. The Provincetown Inn is the location of all lectures and socials except the historic walking tour which will take place in the east end Tuesday, the 16th, from 1:45 to 3:00 pm.

The intent is to research the Provincetown Players as leaders in such issues as the New Art, The New Woman, The New Psychology, and The New Politics. Individual freedom is the underlying direction of each. The Provincetown Players used theatre as a forum to express these changes erupting in a once placid society. Through spoofs and satires, they reflected the ferment of the time. This period of history is sometimes referred to as "The Little Renaissance."

With the intellectual expertise of such individuals as Daniel Aaron, Professor Emeritus, English and American Literature at Harvard and President of Library of America; Theodore Mann, Artistic Director of Circle in the Square, NYC; Lois Rudnick, Direc-

tor, American Studies Program; Blanche Weisan Cook, Professor of History, John Jay College of Criminal Justice; Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, Professor of History and Psychiatry, University of Pennsylvania; John Burnham, Professor of History, Ohio State University; Dr. Sanford Gifford, Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School; Fred Matthews, Associate Professor of History, York University, Ontario Canada; C.W.E. Bigsby, Professor of American Literature, University of East Anglia, United Kingdom; and Robert Sarlos, Professor of Theatre History, University of California Davis.

You will be guided through a comprehensive study of the New Art, The New Woman, The New Psychology, and The New politics, with the use of lectures, panel discussions and informal discussions. Mary Henderson, former director of the theatre collection at the Museum of the City of New York, will also be present. The tapes of the interviews of Carlotta Monterey by Barbara Gelb will also be available for the conference. Another section of great and immediate interest is called *Reminiscences*. This is an on stage remembering and storytelling of the Provincetown Players by their descendants: Miriam Hapgood De Witt, Trixie Hapgood Faust, Joel O'Brien, Heaton Vorse, Peter Steele, and others.



Adele Heller

The funding extends to the Art Association. Adele and Lester Heller successfully coordinated with Bill Evaul, Director of the Art Association, three exhibitions which will be open to all. The first is *Against Broadway* "The Rise of the Art Theatre in America 1900-1920". The exhibit of historical photos will be in the Murchison Gallery. The second exhibit will be *Provincetown Painters and Printers, 1915*. The third exhibit is a three-part video: *Art of the Masses, Mable Dodge: The Salon years, and the Armory Show to the Depression*. The Armory Show took place in 1913 in New York. It was an exhibition of European and American Cubistic and Avante-Garde painters. This "New Art" caused riots

in New York and broke open the minds of America for a genre of painting suddenly not representational. The conference, the exhibitions, and the walking tour will provide a context for the four plays and the understanding of their impact in 1915 and their lasting and symmetrical effect to 1987 and beyond. The plays: *Constancy* by Neith Boyce, *Suppressed Desires* by Susan Glaspell and George Cram Cook, a spoof on early Freudian psychoanalysis, *Change Your Style* by George Cram Cook, a satire on the riotous reception of abstract art, and *Contemporaries* by William Daniel Steele, an early mass protest of the homeless, are the four plays to be studied from as many angles as possible.

This well-coordinated undertaking of such international, national, and local interest is supported in part through grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Massachusetts Foundation for Humanities and Public Policy. For further information call or write: Adele Heller, Provincetown Playhouse, Provincetown, Ma., 02657 or call: 617-487-0955.

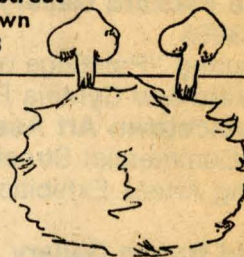
While we are on the subject of history and local importance, let me tell you of an idea concerning Emily Farnham. We, of the Provincetown Historical Association have been hard at work on another neglected point of our history. Plymouth receives the constant glory. The Mayflower II and the tourists in admiration of the first landing of the pilgrims but Provincetown is the spot where the Pilgrims first touched ground. "Holy Ground" as they put it. Peregrine White was born on the Mayflower in Provincetown Harbor. Dorothy Bradford fell overboard and drowned in our harbor. The Pilgrims replenished their drinking water and washed their clothes at Pilgrim Spring on the Truro bike trail. They saw their first Indians at First Encounter Beach. They dug up and confiscated a cache of corn for planting at Corn Hill. But they were farmers who cast a woeful eye on our hills of sand and so, after 35 days, headed off for greener sites. Look across the water from Herring Cove Beach on a clear day. There is Plymouth, and that's where they went. But they started here and this bit of national neglect is ending. We need a decent and fitting monument.

The spot where they first landed is at the rotary near the Provincetown Inn. It is commemorated by a brick structure resembling a subway entrance and is crowded with greenery. The beautiful bronze plaques of Bill Boogar cast in 1948 are lost in the confusion. We are planning to change it. One of the three plaques is missing. Alice Boogar has found the original mold, and we will recast the plaque. Emily Farnham, with the help of Joe Patrick and Mary Spencer Nay has drawn up this plan of benches, fountain, and a sculpture displaying the three plaques to replace the current oblivion. Ride by the Provincetown Inn and look at the unused rotary. Imagine it with a mini-park effect with its magnificent view of Long Point and the surrounding marsh and dunes. Think of what good use it can be. We need funding. We need grants. We need help. If you can be of any guidance, contact any of us individually or write to the Provincetown Historical Association, Box 552, Provincetown, Ma., 02657.

Different Ducks

restaurant & tavern

135 Bradford Street
Provincetown
487-9648



BREAKFAST

8:30 am to 3:00 pm

SPECIALS DAILY

eggs • omelettes • pancakes • muffins

LUNCH

11:00 am to 3:00 pm

burgers • salads • chicken clubs

New Hours

DINNER

from 6 pm

CREOLE—a spicy tomato sauce served on a bed of rice.

SEAFOOD PASTA—fresh seafood cooked in wine and fresh herbs over pasta.

STEAKS—charbroiled 12 oz steak served with potato or rice.

-much more-

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HIGH DRAMA

Friday & Saturday

June 5 to 6

9—Mid.

Sunday, June 7

7—10

coming soon

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