
KELLY'S CORNER

by Jan Kelly

The Housing Authority construction continues smoothly. Begun in May with no interruptions, (even Hurricane Gloria scheduled herself so that only a morning shift was lost) it looks like all bargains, commitments and contracts will be held to and occupancy is not far away. There are 2 family buildings: 1 of 2, two-bedroom and 1 of 2, three-bedroom.

The Senior Citizen building is appreciably larger. It shelters 24 one-bedroom apartments, a sunspace corridor for solar heat collection, a community room, a laundry room, a maintenance room, our office room, and a waiting room. The structure is framed, roofed, shingled, plumbing is in, and electricity are underway. Solar heat ducts and hot water heaters are in. The grounds are up to grade and paved. The landscape architect, David Perry, has visited twice. David Perry has met with representatives of the Regreening Committee and the Beautification Committee to discuss the species of plants selected for planting.

We would like indigenous plants so that the site will look as it did before a part of Provincetown with blueberry, choke berry, and Rugosa rose. Yews and some lawn will be added. This is a large scale project for Provincetown and the coordination of not only out-of-town but out of state, subcontractors is a job that has not been easy, but it has been done by Cumberland Construction Company of Arthur Chianese with Paul LeVasseur, superintendent, daily present and hammering at it. Gerry Scallion, as clerk of the works, keeps a check on all, gives daily written reports of circumstances to all heads involved, and is the right-hand man of David Crawley, our apt and dedicated architect. David likens the continual construction and progress and ultimate use of a building design to the birth of a child.

Each week the architect, contractor, superintendent, clerk of the works, Tom Hackenson, construction supervisor from the office of Community Development, who awarded the million and a quarter dollars grant, and myself as Chairman of the Provincetown Housing Authority, meet for a check of progress and to work out any problems that may have arisen. I have been working with these individuals weekly since May. I had respect initially, but it has grown. A person who does their chosen job well deserves your respect. Maybe it's because they can teach you something just by doing what they do right. Example is a silent and thorough teacher.

As I cycled up to the site this afternoon for a check, I noticed Sammy T. Janopolis, age 90, giving the job his good going over. Sammy T. follows the progress of everything in town. He had already been uptown for his regular wall conversation, and his shift at the



Sammy T. Janopolis at the PHA site

Mayflower. Sammy and his brother Mike ran the Mayflower for years as well as the "Blue Moon", a restaurant which was just west of the New York Store. When a road was to be put in there 9 years ago, the Blue Moon was razed to the ground and both brothers concentrated on the Mayflower. Sammy T., at 90, still does. He's there every day prepping onions, cutting the bread, washing dishes, or doing whatever kitchen chores need doing or taking the shift of someone who doesn't show. His nephew, Michael, runs the Mayflower now and Michael tells me how he teases his uncle. "You used to come early and stay late. Now you come late and leave early and you even want an hour for lunch."

Sammy T. Janopolis came from his native Greece to Ellis Island, America at the age of 15 in 1911. He arrived in this country with two young women friends, Georgia and Basilica. He said he didn't know exactly why they came to America, maybe just youth or ambition, but they came. They first went to Wisconsin where Georgia had family. From there Sammy moved on to Salt Lake City, Utah, back to Boston always involved in selling and merchandising. From Boston he went to Onset and was in the trucking business. A boat trip to Provincetown finalized his residence and he and his brother Mike leased the Blue Moon land from the railroad and then built the restaurant themselves. They

also built the Mayflower, where you can still get the best fried oysters in town. The brothers both married. Sammy had no children but told me if he did, he would want one son to be a doctor, one to be a lawyer, one to be a judge, and one to be an undertaker. Not only is education important, he told me, but then he'd be covered, too. Mike had four children, Michael, Sammy, Louine, and Helen.

At 90, Sammy stood erect and told me he didn't need the cane he carries. "It's for style." Sammy also always has a flower in his lapel, "for style, too," he confided. He loves flowers and always has a vaseful in his kitchen. "A flower is a gift, like your life is a gift, like your body is a gift." Sammy T. impressed upon me the need to take care of the human body and not to abuse it. He doesn't and never did smoke or drink alcohol. He has one cup of coffee in the morning and then resorts to milk. Sammy is surrounded by family.

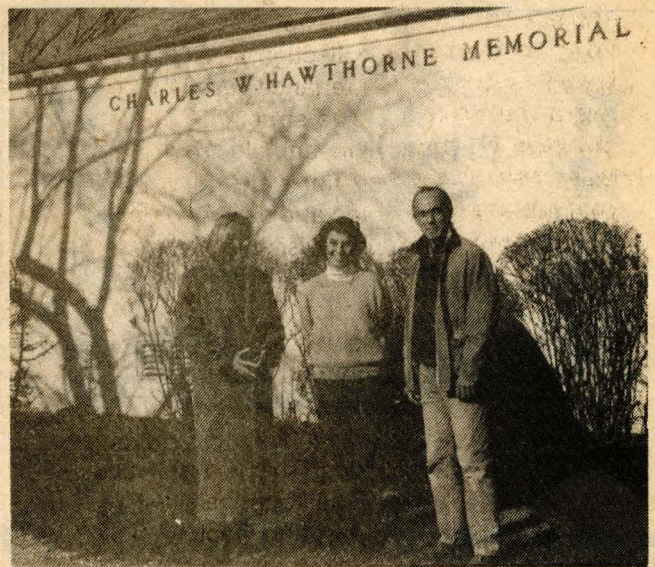
He lives with his niece Helen Davis and works with his nephew Michael. Michael told me Sammy loves this time of year when all the senior citizens visit by bus. He snuggles right into the booth with the groups of tourist women, asking, "Where are you chicks from?" Sammy puts in a long day every day, and every day is interesting and fresh for him. At age 90 and having lived in tiny Provincetown for about 60 years, he mused: "You know, you never know where you're going to be tomorrow. You could go and be anywhere in the world. What's to stop you?" A spirit of adventure at age 90. We all hope he will have all his tomorrows with us. This picture of Sammy is when he was twenty years old. He wanted you to know how much hair he had.



Sammy T. at age 20

Provincetown has a problem. Luckily, it is a problem that can be remedied. The Art Association is in its fourth year of being a year-round cultural and recreational center. The Art Association was founded in 1914 and used Town Hall as a base until they bought the current Art Association at 460 Commercial Street in 1919. The association was seasonal until 1982 by force of the problem of no heat. One gallery was heated. The

Theatre Company made use of that space. This is only the fourth year that all parts of the building can be used. Let's not lose this valuable space. The Art Association needs money. It's that simple. Only the lack of money could cause us to lose the lectures and slide presentations of local artists, the Xmas craftsfair and pot luck supper, the classic film series, aerobics with Marianne Maloney, French classes with Sherry Dranch, pen drawing class, painting with Lois Griffel, sculpture with Joyce Johnson, and, of course, the original reason for the Association: exhibitions of paintings. The heated building is also in demand as a meeting place for many organizations: The Gallery Guild, WOMR, Coastal Studies, and Women's Guest House Association have held their meetings there for 3 years.



Ellen O'Donnell, Bonnie Oppen, and Don Sterton at the Art Association

Ellen O'Donnell is the Art Association's ever capable and devoted director. Think of something that is so important to you that you give it your utmost effort and cannot think of losing, but only of working more strenuously to maintain. You'll understand how Ellen feels about her job. Add to it the dedication and daily concern of Don Sterton, coordinator of shows and the permanent collection and a man of so many hats, as you see him guard all aspects of the building, the art and the business. And all you have to do is give money. What could be easier? No amount is too small, but neither is no amount too large. Any donations from local businesses will be matched dollar for dollar by the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities. For all of us the contribution is tax deductible.

Let us all get together and keep our Art Association open year round. The activities on schedule are varied, there is something for everyone. Many functions are free. There is always good art to see. Guest houses and restaurants would be wise to suggest a visit to the Art Association to tourists when they ask, "What is there to do?" To have a year-round recreational and cultural center is a gift. Let's all give ourselves a gift by helping a needed and worthwhile 12-month schedule.