

KELLY'S CORNER

by Jan Kelly

Two plants were brought to me last week both are flowers and both are herbs. Yarrow was the first. Though abundant, it is not always noticed. It blends in with the grass and all the other greens and may be noticed only when in bloom. Even then, the blossom is modest white and a flat-topped cluster, more rarely pink in color. Yarrow is a member of the daisy family. The more interesting part of this flower/herb is the leaves. Without blossoms, the plant looks like a fern of small, fringed, dark-green leaves. And, it is the leaves that hold the health-giving properties. When brewed as a tea, they are beneficial to a run-down condition, and if taken the first day of a cold, can break up the congestion. The liquid is also soothing to the mucous membranes. Of course, it can be drunk at any time, as any of the herb teas.

The other plant was hog cranberry, the ground cover so common on the lower Cape. This species is not our edible cranberry of the heath family, but is uva ursi and may be eaten by animals but not humans. It is waxy, and to us tasteless, but has a fuel-like effect on the animals. For us, once again, it is the leaf growth which is important. The leaves, steeped as a tea, work as a diuretic and is helpful in any diabetic or kidney problem. Both teas would benefit the organs and digestion in general. Both yarrow and hog cranberry are abundant, easy to gather, and will give you a further connection to your environment.

Dot Simmons called me from the Heritage Museum last Wednesday. She has the 12-2 shift as I do on Monday. I was just out the door to a Housing Authority meeting. "There's going to be a wedding on the *Rose Dorothea* at 2 pm." Oh, August! Everything at once! So, in case my meeting would be lengthy and go beyond wedding time, I left my camera, pen, and paper with Dot and Kay Silva, now *Cub Reporters*."

By the time I did arrive, both were married, but all were celebrating. The denim-clad bride was Joyce Baker, a Boston Physician, the corduroyed groom was David Alberts of Chicago, Illinois, a Computer Programmer. Both live in Los Angeles now. Shiela Silva, Town Clerk and Justice of the

Peace, performed the ceremony. Flyer Santos, ever involved with his masterpiece, the *Rose Dorothea*, was best man, and Peggy McEachern, ex-Boston teacher now in New York, and friend of the couple, was Maid of Honor.

Peggy was in a bit of a shock, since the couple has kept company for fifteen years; they invited her to visit and "sprung" it on her. Kay Silva bustled camera, flowers, champagne as if she were mother of the bride, caterer, dressmaker, and dear friend all at once! The reception party consisted of the diners from the neighboring tables of Lunch at the Lobster Pot Restaurant. Joy McNulty and crew gave their blessings as the couple and a good portion of her dining room headed for the Heritage Museum, the *Rose Dorothea*, and two for ultimately married life. Rose Bernstein of Connecticut, Lillian Burke, also of Connecticut, Hannah Kramer of New York, and Lee Hecht of Philadelphia wept, laughed, toasted, kissed, and wished well their new friends. Flyer acted as "sommelier," host, and bard. Flyer recited for all of us a poem which has never been in print. He heard it first when he was eight years old from yarning fishermen. He asked me to write it here, and to therefore put it in print for the first time:

*Many years ago
They sailed the Francis Whelan
And her dear sis, Mary Dear.
Then they built the Santo and Squanto
The poorest sailors around here.
And then they built the Dablin'
Little Jesse Costa.
But the Annie Perry was the pride of the sea
But the one that won the cup in the
Provincetown Race
Was the good ole Rose Dorothee.*

Flyer just "happened to be there" working on the sails when Joyce and David came in to check out their wedding deck. Flyer is often there, and spends countless freely-given hours working, coddling, and correcting his precious one-half scale model of the *Rose Dorothea*. Flyer has devoted eight years thus far to this model which is the largest indoor model of a boat. Fate would have him there for a wedding of fantasy-reality. Scott Bruce, our custodian would also be there, of help and a guest.

Joyce and David now live and work in Los Angeles, California. Joyce has recently completed studies at Stanford University and U.C.L.A. Her field is Child Psychology/Psychiatry. I commented that only a shrink would be crazy enough to get married on a boat that would never put to sea. Joyce and David both love New England, Boston, the Cape. But they are especially fond of the *Rose Dorothea*. They feel California has a lack of feeling of caring, that New England values include working long term and with dedication. They believe that the *Rose Dorothea* embodies these qualities,



Wedding on the Rose Dorothea: Shiela, Officiating; Flyer Santos, Best Man; Joyce Baker, Bride; David Alberts, Groom; Peggy McEachern, Maid of Honor

that it integrates the past and the present, that it is liberal and traditional at once. They also feel that the *Rose Dorothea* is of greater national importance than any other Cape monument.

The Heritage Museum was once a church, but now it is secular and includes everybody and broader knowledge. It is now universal and humanitarian; it is a focus of delicacy and sharing. And for all of these reasons, the Heritage Museum and the *Rose Dorothea* were chosen. It was the only happy wedding I had been to in years. No burdensome plans, no uncontrollable weeping, no weather problems; just a simple ceremony, fifteen years of friendship and love culminating in a spontaneous, simple, and open wedding ceremony on a perfect August 19th.

The couple were attending a conference of the Einstein Institute and the Cape Cod Institute of New England at Eastham. A Provincetown break invited marriage. Now they are back in California. David baking the bread as before, Joyce tending the main course. Peggy is back at City Island, New York, still in shock and teaching and maybe thinking "next time is my turn." Kay Silva is at the Museum today for her volunteer shift. She will meet Dot Simmons after for lunch. Flyer Santos is tending the sails of the *Rose Dorothea* waiting for and hoping for the next wedding, or maybe christening, or maybe Bar Mitzvah.

Several of us were hanging out the windows of the Martial Arts Building enjoying the view and waiting for aerobics to begin. "What a beautiful Rose of Sharon," Priscilla Jackett said. "Solarge." "Must be over a cesspool," Page McMahan commented. Out of towners looked puzzled, but all the Provincetowners gave a lazy nod of agreement.

On September 8, 10:30 am, Gene Poyant, Town Crier, will be on Cabral's Pier to greet the Mayors of both Barnstable and Plymouth, England, and 135 English citizens who are travelling through Massachusetts. Their special interest is, of course, to visit Barnstable and Plymouth, Massachusetts. The visit will be covered by the B.B.C.

The Provincetown Library will present a program featuring storyteller/singer Davis Bates. Davis Bates lives in a small cabin in the woods without electricity. He dedicates his life to stories and songs and the sharing of these with the public. At schools, libraries, fairs, and revivals as well as magazines and radio, Davis Bates spreads his vast knowledge of folklore thoroughly. A New Englander, his lore is of farming, harvesting, the sea, Cape Cod, and Western Massachusetts. He also does a program on international folksongs and runs storytelling workshops. His storytelling concerts are for all age groups and all levels of sophistication. He will be performing a program on September 23rd at 7:30 at the Provincetown Public Library. Do attend.

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We're back, and we're having a ball with our totally unique business— Pearl Oysters. It's a crazy way to shop for jewels. You buy an oyster for \$6.95, a pearl is extracted from it and cleaned in salt. One oyster that we opened today was a six and a half mm, cream colored, with a beautiful lustre; worth about \$20.

Every oyster is guaranteed to have a pearl and every pearl is guaranteed to be worth \$15 to \$100. You get better odds here than you do playing the lottery! The pearl can be drilled and set, free of charge, in any number of settings that include pendants, rings, earrings, tie tacs and stick pins that are sold at the shop.

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