

KELLY'S CORNER

by Jan Kelly

This will be our longest summer and great it will be, too. An early Memorial Day, a late Labor Day and great summery weather throughout. We have been swimming at Herring Cove since the end of May. The galleries and the Heritage Museum are open and well attended. The Provincetown Art Association and Museum hung four shows for its May 29th opening.

Susan Baker held court as we tiptoed between humor and nostalgia—the Old Colony, Piggy's, and the Foc's'cle now called the Fossil, Fat Jack's and no longer the Briny Fisherman's Bar—are prominent backdrops to the portraits. So much of Susan's show is autobiographical that if she stood still at the show opening you could mistake the live Susan for one of the sculptures.

June 12th sees the opening of a retrospective, "Henry Henschel and His Legacy." Henry was the successor to Charles Hawthorne. He referred to himself as one of Hawthorne's "soldiers" and he ran the Cape Cod School of Art in the Brewster/Pearl St. loop. We would start by painting white wooden geometric shapes and little by little we would come to see and paint all the colors therein. We painted outdoors as the impressionists did, taking all our leads from natural light. Friday mornings were demonstration time, and Henry would choose a student or friend,

A Mosaic
We Call
Summer



usually an attractive female, to sit. We would cluster, students and admirers, to watch how deftly the blank canvas became a piece of memorable summer, chording all that was light, beauty and peace out of the observant heart.

These demonstrations took place in Henry's garden across from the old A & P. His garden was as impressive as the demonstration itself, sprawling rows of such healthy looking vegetables that you might suspect a small nuclear blast had pushed them to their great size; and of course, all the sense-pleasing flowers in so many shapes and colors were there — an inspiration for Ada Raynor, Henry's wife and a patient woman, a gifted and well known painter of flowers.

Lois Griffel runs the Cape Cod School of Art today. She is the "soldier" who keeps the tradition alive while bringing her own youth and artistic strength to the battle. Lois' paintings act like a trade, a swapping. You cannot look at one without it taking away a little piece of you and you taking away a part of the painting. They enter your memory so easily. If you want a quick glimpse of a very popular Lois Griffel, just buy a bottle of North Truro's South Hollow Vineyard wine. As you sip Chardonnay, Cape Blush or Cabernet Franc, study the label — a Griffel painting of Highland Light. She may even be there to sign it for you.

The prestigious St. Botolph Club of Boston will hold an exchange exhibition at the Art Association beginning June 17th. St Botolph was the first important art club in America, founded in January 1880 in Boston and was the first to exhibit Monet in the United States. Charles Hawthorne had a show there in 1911. Writers Robert Frost and Samuel Eliot Morison were among its famous members and John Updike and J.D. Spooner continue the tradition today

While PAAM displays works from St. Botolph, they will be showing works from the Art Association's collection. The Boston audience will view a cross-section of our collection led by Hawthorne from among the old masters and Nancy Whorf, Sal Del Deo, Arthur Cohen and Tony Vevers from among our present contributors. Jim Bakker, vice-president, has worked long and hard for this important exchange. Please come, view the show and watch the Provincetown art world emerge once again as a leader.

June will sport the 2nd Annual Tennis for Life on June 20-21. Last year was our virgin year and we raised about \$4,000. for the Academy at the high school, Helping Our Women and the Provincetown AIDS Support Group. This year's response indicates the event will grow, raise even more money and continue to be fun. The Moors Restaurant will host a welcoming Cocktail Party on June 19th, 5-7 pm. Thank you John Medeiros and Mylan Costa.

The Culinary Arts Class at the high school will prepare breakfast treats to go along with Marcia Fair's French Roast coffee. Bleachers will be set up for observers at Bissell's Tennis Courts, thanks to the generosity of Jon vanRader and

Peggy Bissell. The spirit of Hawthorne Bissell and his "Zen Tennis" will be present. The Provincetown Tennis Club will be joining in this year and have reserved three courts in case of overflow. It's great when a community effort is just that, a community effort. Thank you.

The great opening party of the season was recently held at the Schoolhouse Center. The entire town was invited and responded. Many were impressed with the renovations and felt grateful that this Center will now become a vital force in the Provincetown gallery and performing arts community. The food was sumptuous, the champagne flowed. We were entertained by Bart Murell who presented a fine dance program as well as by each other's banter. The Schoolhouse has two galleries, working and rehearsal space for visual and literary arts, music, dance and theater. There are also six working artist studios, a rehearsal and reading room and a music room.

David Davis beamed all night. He, Michael Carroll and Midge Battelle greeted us and looked after our interests. They asked me to photograph the revelers. In one photo I captured Napi next to a photograph of Rams as he stated, "I am the only person present whop went to school in this building." He's right.

Most recently the building has served as a gallery; prior to that it was the American Legion Hall. Even earlier, it was the East End School — all at 494 Commercial St. Even earlier, this spot marked the boundary between the Province Lands and Truro. On September 24, 1719, the General Court decreed the boundary as "The jaw bone of a whale set in the ground by a red oak stump... a marked tree standing by a reedy pond." Difficult to preserve such transient markers, but we do know that the line "passes close to the spot of the old Eastern Schoolhouse on Commercial Street and then follows the eastern boundary to the sea."

So last June 5th, history was made again with David Davis leading the way and I was there with him. "Vincere!"

