



# KELLY'S CORNER

by Jan Kelly

**T**he Provincetown Public Library runs a well planned and always successful children's program each summer. Renee Gibbs-Brady is our Children's Librarian and a woman of electric energy. A fine idea person able to organize and activate her ideas. Renee's constant disci-

pline avoids any behavioral problems. She is a talented grant writer and has created exceptional programs for our toddlers and grade schoolers. Renee wisely uses all the funds donated by Friends of the Library, a group which finances the children's programs as well as requests from Head Librarian Debbie De Jonker-Berry, for items and programs not covered in the regular town budget.



The theme of this year's summer program is "Funny Things Happen When You Read." The theme last year, "Unlock the Mystery," was so successful we went far beyond our average count of 80 children. So far this year we have 75 children enrolled, ages 0-12. (Can you imagine giving your age as "0?") ...All the world and future before you. Whatever the theme, the clever Renee uses her solid educational background and adaptability to teach the reading skills needed by all students.

Learning becomes so attractive to children they are barely aware until half way through the program how much they really are advancing. They have so much fun with a puppet show, a beach party, a bazaar, and become clowns themselves with expert guidance as they enjoy all the prizes, ice cream and pizza donated by local merchants. The children understand enjoyment; they realize later how much they have advanced socially and intellectually. Their sense of respect for the library, its books and learning continues season after season, year after

year. Many of these youthful citizens aspire to become librarians, teachers and writers, always eager to "help out" and practice these skills.

Tuesday Tickle's aims for grades K-3 and Thursday Thrills seeks grades 4-6. Both take place at 3:15 PM at the library. Children are encouraged to read daily. When they attend the weekly programs they record their weekly reading totals.

At the end of the program, August 12th, they will enjoy the Annual Ice Cream Social and Marketplace. The students will be able to purchase, with bonus coupons reflecting the number of books read, gifts donated by local merchants. Last year the group amassed 1500 hours and they were very careful shoppers wanting all their hard work to really pay off for them. They were so happy holding their tangible reward and grateful to the specific donor. A complete list of donors will

be listed in the local papers at the completion of the program. If

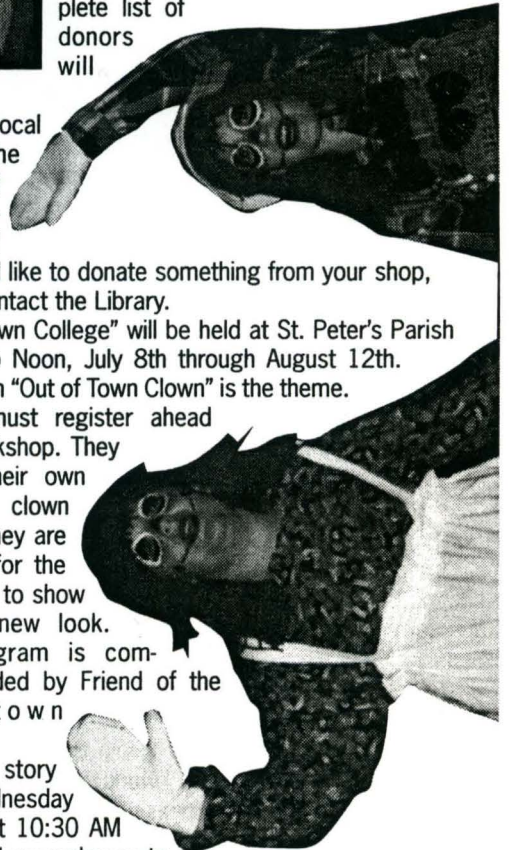
you would like to donate something from your shop, please contact the Library.

A "Clown College" will be held at St. Peter's Parish Hall 10 to Noon, July 8th through August 12th. Become an "Out of Town Clown" is the theme.

Children must register ahead for this workshop. They will create their own makeup and clown identity So they are just itching for the next parade to show off their new look.

This program is completely funded by Friend of the Provincetown Library.

There are story hours each Wednesday and Saturday at 10:30 AM at the library. All are welcome to this year round activity. The "Born to Read" program for ages 0-3 takes place Thursdays from 3 to 5 AM at St. Mary of the Har-



bor. The children will have opportunities to be read to, sung to, to sing themselves and to engage in suitable craft projects. They will be delighted by Linda Schlechter's many surprises. An average of 6 children and their caregivers attend. After some free playtime the group settles in for the stories and games and they end with a nutritious snack. Percussion instruments were added this year. Hand, eye and ear coordination are developed. marching, walking, hopping and eventually skipping in beat will develop. Furthermore some 75 age-appropriate board books were purchased and will be sent home with the children, a start to build each child's personal library. This program is funded for the second year by a grant from Mass Family Network.

To close out these long and busy summer days, the Library will feature bedtime stories on Thursdays at 6:30 PM. I attended one reading last year and smiled as nightgowned and pajamaed children listened to Town Manager, Keith Bergman, lull them with tones reminiscent of John Kenneth Galbraith. This program is also funded by the Mass Family Network. (Renee Gibbs-Brady has been so effective with these grants.)

Good work like this does not go on only in summer. As our monthly meetings of Friends of the Library, Renee outlines her plans for our approval and funding. We are impressed by her growing ideas and natural gift of thrift. A formal Tea Party for twenty four 2nd and 3rd graders dressed in party clothes allowed them to cautiously enjoy cucumber sandwiches and sip tea from the Librarian's Blue Willow teacups. A "Cat in the Hat" craft project followed.

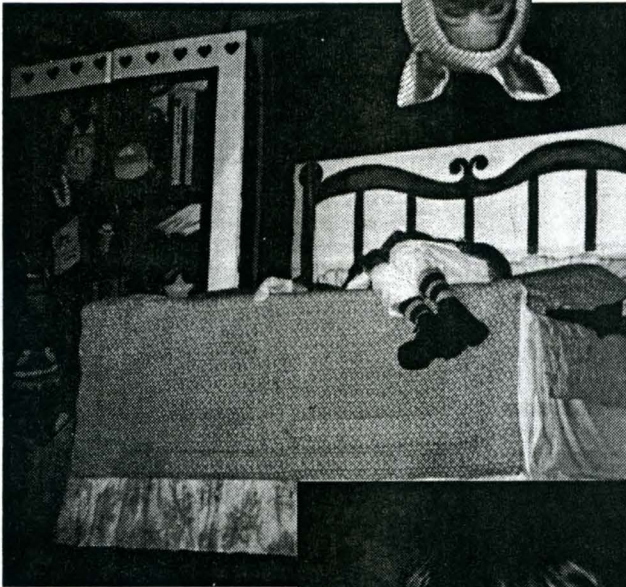
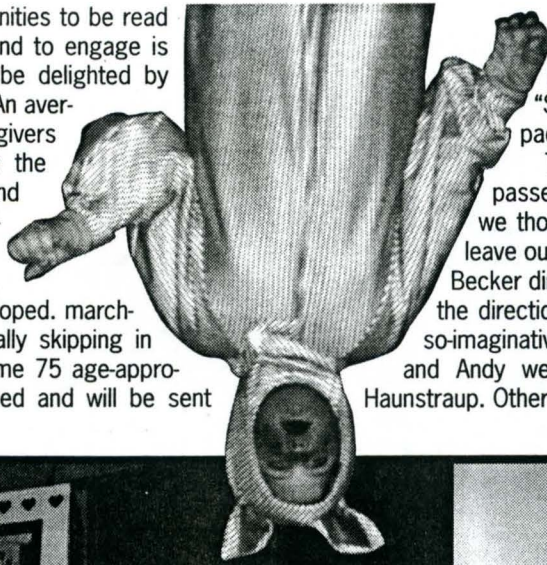
Holiday gift workshops were held for Christmas. All elementary students were welcome for 3 consecutive afternoons. They created cards and gifts for friends and family. This very successful program was repeated for Valentine's Day. Renee is ever amazed at the creativity of this group, sponsored by Friends of the Library.

The Local Cultural Council and Mass Cultural Council sponsored a puppet workshop in a first time Sunday program. Dianna Morton guided the students through script-writing, puppet mak-

ing and the building of a puppet theatre. The five-week workshop of steady progress culminated in the performance of "Sleeping Groovy Ruby" to an audience that packed the library and raved for weeks.

The smash hit "Raggedy Ann and Andy" surpassed everybody's expectations. So much so we thought the troupe would go on the road and leave our town diminished by their absence. Melissa Becker directed and acted, Dianna Morton assisted in the direction and Ellen Daley designed and made the so-imaginative and believable costumes. Raggedy Ann and Andy were played by Mary Bergman and Orlon Haunstraup. Other student cast members were Hazel Everett,

Ernest Joy, Sarah Frisco, Elizabeth Berman, Marissa O'Connor, Tessa Gifford, Kari Olsen and James Richmond. The Little Loonies were played by Dominique Richmond, Caitlyn Dionne, Joselyn Santos, Tina Brown, Taylor Duncan, Bruce Henrique and Rebecca Ferrick. Mae Bush played



#### King Koo Koo.

Thanks to Fr. Raposo, the play was performed at St. Peter's Parish Hall and played to packed audiences throughout the weekend. The concerted effort of sets, costumes and precise voice training developed into a professional rendering of an ageless childhood favorite. The stipulation was ample and free parking and no admission fee. That grant came from the Mass Cultural Council.

With such loving interest and careful guidance our children gain more each season in our small town where each child is known by name and personality. Because they experience so much individual attention, each of them gets a turn to star, to shine, to be nurtured until we eventually leave them off into the wide world beyond childhood and Provincetown. We at the library are ever grateful for your interest and support. The value of your giving multiplies with each child.

So when you come to our auctions or buy books at our book sale, use our Xerox machine and most of all when you become a Member of the Provincetown Library, you are helping in so many ways. We thank you and invite you to visit any programs you wish to observe.