



*The Board of Trustees
of the
Provincetown Heritage Museum
request the honor of
your presence
at the
Dedication Ceremony
and
Personal Tour of the Museum
on
Sunday, the Fourth of July
One Thousand, Nine Hundred and Seventy Six
at Three o'Clock*

*R.S.V.P.
The Provincetown Heritage Museum
487-0666*

Dedication:

July 4 -
1956

Josephine Del Deo - Dedication
speech
HERITAGE MUSEUM -

My dear friends, on behalf of the Board of trustees of the Provincetown Heritage Museum, thank you for coming here today to participate in the dedication of this beautiful old building as a beautiful new museum. It is your museum, of course. So we are gathered together to share the realization of a hope and the fulfillment of a dedication which began many months ago:

It was your endorsement of our idea to save this national registered landmark building as a unique museum for the Town;

It was your vote which said "yes" to purchasing the property,

And it has been your volunteer effort joined with ours that has enabled these doors to open on exhibits which have been donated by you.

As I thought about this remarkable series of achievements yesterday, I was suddenly struck by the full meaning of what we have done. For weeks we have been receiving loans, gifts, suggestions, ~~donations~~ contributions of time and interest from every part of the community, and this enthusiasm represents the only way in which a project like this could possibly succeed. The heart has generated a love for the idea, and the spirit has been willing to listen and to give. Today, I am certain that Provincetown is awakening to its heritage; therefore, what event other than this awakening is more worthy of honoring, and to whom, other than to those who bear the gifts of the spirit should we pay tribute? ~~So~~ let us turn to each other with pride and say, "Thank you!"

As for myself, I would like to take this occasion to thank, in particular, the members of the Board of Trustees: Joseph Lema, Cyril Patrick, Adelaide Kenney, my husband, Salvatore Del Deo and Nathan Malchman, ~~for their~~ ^{who} ~~unquestioning~~ ^{have demonstrated day by day an} faith in what we are attempting, and who have encouraged me when others said that what we were doing was impossible. ~~The representative of the Board // Jose Lema expressed the //~~ Joe Lema could not have expressed the attitude of the Board any better

when he said, after a week of spackling the walls in the central hallway with no end in sight; "The impossible just takes a little longer."

I would also like to recognize the overwhelming response of the community to our request for volunteer help to staff the building with attendants for the summer. Over ~~forty~~ / forty persons are giving their time on a weekly basis to keep the building open ^{to the public} twelve hours a day, seven days ^{A week} ~~a week to the public~~. Towns many times our size cannot produce this kind of cooperation.

And to all of those persons who have given considerations of time, deductions in services rendered and outright donations, may I express my very personal heartfelt gratitude as well as the appreciation of the Board of Trustees.

Lastly, I would like to say something about our plans for the future: We wish to establish a totally ~~representative~~ ^{for} museum ~~of~~ the representing its total heritage: Town of Provincetown: its great fishing tradition, its unique environmental beauty, its unparalleled contribution to American art, its kaleidoscopic and ever-changing history and its permanent legacy as the First Landing Place of the Pilgrims.

We intend to build in this museum, a half scale model of ^{the} ~~The~~ "Rose ~~Dorothea~~ renowned fishing schooner, the "Rose Dorothea." She will be 54' long and her masts will approximate 30'. This model will honor what is the heart and soul of this community, its fishing industry. Our fishermen and our fishing tradition ^{are} ~~is~~ second to none, and its about time the world learns about us. The "Rose Dorothea" like the "Lagoda" for New Bedford, will tell Provincetown's story better than anything else we could say or do. It will bring to mind the days of the Grand Bankers, the seiners, the trawlers, the doryment, ^{the TRAP fishermen,} the draggers, and all the rest. Provincetown has been so busy living her life, she has forgotten to remember the richness of that life. This museum will help her remember and provide the living present with the historic materials for building a future.

I would take more time discussing the dreams I have for the museum in every category, but you could not stand here long enough to listen. One thing I must say, however, and that is how much it has meant to me to share the life of this town for over twenty years. It is not easy to describe my love for this place, so I will do better to quote someone who loved it as much as I do, and who speaks for us all- Mary Heaton Vorse: "If Provincetown were wiped out-my house and my town gone, I would be vulnerable as a hermit crab without its shell. Wherever I go I carry Provincetown around with me invisible. And as I am, so are most of those who live here."

July 20 - 10:00 p.m.

Doymae - Curator -
Worcester ~~at Museum~~ has a long history of
association

John De Witt - Director of the Visual Arts Program
for the National Endowment
a Bicentennial Exhibition for the sponsorship by
Dept. of the Interior
entitled "America 1776 -"

Grace Collection
Bernese Shears

Fogg - Oct. 19