

KELLY'S CORNER

by Jan Kelly

Of Flotsam, Jetsam & Books

One of my prominent warm weather activities is the beach walk while conducting outdoor lectures on the geology, history, flora, fauna and folklore to school children from all over New England, New York and Pennsylvania. It's part of a three-day program beginning with a cetacean lecture the first night, then onto a whale watch, museum stops, the guided beach walks and a bit of Commercial Street strolling. The ages are fifth grade through high school, some from rural communities, some from the inner cities. We have 12 to 20 students with chaperones and we meet at Head of the Meadow Beach. Pilgrim and Native American lore, tides, shipwrecks, indigenous and introduced plants, birds and the glaciers are all discussed.

Identification of flotsam, jetsam and what is held by the wrack line covers a lot of subject matter. I always have my students spread out in a single line on the beach, separated by six feet on either side. I ask them to be silent and to simply look at and listen to the ocean. They observe many factors they would have otherwise missed and are a bit more tranquil and receptive to learning after this brief experience. I tell them how most people who live here make it part of their routine to get to the ocean, beach or bay every day. That way we never take it for granted. I also tell them how useful it is for creativity and that they will be able to call up this memory any time they are in need of a subject for creative writing or art class or maybe just to soothe a bad mood.

The students love the beach, the sand, the water. They love getting wet and gritty and love screaming as they run from the oncoming waves. Some walks I may have a person who has never seen the ocean. Sometimes we see seals early on in the season, whales later. That really sets them open-mouthed silent and after initial gasping, the whoops of joy are irrepressible, a learning holiday.

This wonderful program was started in 1991 by the Center for Coastal Studies headed by Nancy Flasher, the Education Coordinator. We study the whole spectrum for 3 months each year and share our learning,

refreshing old knowledge and going on to appreciate the new. In 1997, the Center for Coastal Studies passed the Beach Walk program over to the Provincetown Inn where the students reside. Jody Melander serves as the present coordinator. The rest of us are guides and together we call ourselves Outer Cape Explorations. There are 12 naturalists working the field this season. Jill Putnam of Wellfleet teaches in the Dennis-Yarmouth school system. She is an early childhood teacher of preschool integrated special needs. Teaching on the beach is a good balance for Jill.

Randie Lyn is half of *S-R Designs* by Steven & Randie, specializing in unique designs and custom work in the fine jewelry trade. They are part of the famous Whaler's Wharf family of artisans. Steven & Randie have their "shed" for the season and welcome you to their display of eye and mind-catching jewelry. They graciously donated an exquisite pin to last year's *Helping Our Women* auction. It was a gold map of Cape Cod with a diamond where Provincetown would be. As auctioneer, I had a good time with this item, since the bidding was hot and heavy and very competitive. The pin went for far more than its assessed value; it was desired. Randie also volunteers as a guide for Audubon.

Cricket (Betty) Comey worked her way through school, playing music on saxophone and clarinet. She also plays sacbut, an early version of the trombone. Cricket taught school for eighteen years, three of them as principal in Stowe, Massachusetts. She was also active in the Girl Scouts as a teacher of outdoor skills. Teaching Tai Chi Chi'h in Mexico, Boston and locally is another of Cricket's skills.

Cricket has always kept her music going and now plays saxophone and clarinet with the "Hot Flashes," a local women's band. The band has played together for three years and has played at functions, benefits and in local clubs regularly. The band is also available for hire.

Irene Briga is a professional videographer. She worked for six years at the Center for Coastal Studies and on the Dolphin Fleet. Irene now works for the National



Marine Fisheries in Gloucester, Massachusetts and as an aerial observer, searching out Right whales. As an endangered species observer, Irene flies out of Otis Air Force Base. She also spends time aboard dredges as required by the Marine Fisheries.

Mike Wright loves to aerobic vacuum her B & B with the purple trim at 160 Bradford Street. Mike is an assemblage artist who has won the national competition, now showing at the Provincetown Art Association. Her success in this competition, now entitles her to her own show next spring in one of the Association's galleries. Along with her Boston terrier, Sammy, Mike won the best look-alike contest at last year's Canine Carnival. She was also a member of the Green Gorilla Girls. They were environmental activists who dressed in green gorilla suits. Their mission was to educate the public on the benefits of recycling trash. With handouts, costumed presence at selectmen's meetings and press coverage, they accomplished the start of recycling at our dump.

Bruce Augustus Norton is starting yet another career as the coordinator of Truro's "Roots to Wings," an offshoot of First Light Organic Farm. This program promotes awareness of our participation in the web of life. There are guided tours, workshops, field studies, internships and residency programs. Roots to Wings is affiliated with the Life Center for Health. Bruce has his Ph.D. in psychology and sociology and is a docent at the Truro Historical Society in addition to his involvement in environmental education.

Billie Bates has been the coordinator of a wetlands identification class involving the Center for Coastal Studies, the National Seashore and the local school system. Billie, a fish processor by trade, also plays music. She performs with Eric Sewer's Steel Drum Band.

Anne Lord is a ceramic artist flanked on all sides and all generations by artistic folk. Every part of this family's approach to life is artistic. Anne has had her own gallery on Commercial Street. Her beautiful works display Anne's love of the dunes, the beaches and the back shore. The school committee was a large part of Anne's community service while her 3 daughters, Robena, Galen and Bronwyn attended school here. Her husband Conrad Malicoat is a well-known sculptor and mason. His unique, splendid, one-of-a-kind fireplaces are famous. You can see one at Napi's Restaurant. Anne Lord was the first woman president of the Provincetown Art Association. She is also the founder of the Provincetown-Truro Mediation Services. This service helps individuals solve their conflicts and avoid court. Lovers, married couples, tenant-landlord disputes and businesses, employee-employer disputes all have

been aided to the art of compromise and understanding. Angela Norton has joined Anne's efforts and has introduced the process to the school system where the students are learning the process to help solve problems with their peers.

Jody Melander, coordinator of Outer Cape Explorations, teaches children and enjoys getting involved with them. She also enjoys the naturalists, their various backgrounds, skills and interests. "It is a pleasure getting to know them" states Jody. Jody's sister Leigh is a harpist and has performed at The Mews and other beautiful spots in town.

The classrooms may close down but the library is ever open days, evenings and Saturdays, with bedtime stories on Tuesday evenings at 7:15 pm from July 15th to August 18th. Pajamas and nighties are the dress code. These Bedtime Stories form part of our Summer Reading Program. Last year we enrolled 80 children and expect more this year. The theme this year is *Unlock the Mystery - Read!* We welcome Renee Gibbs-Brady as our new children's librarian. Renee began to sign children into the program in June and will continue each afternoon from 1:00 to 5:00. Tee-shirts, water bottles and a

reading log, all with the logo of the mystery theme, will be awarded to each child. For every hour of reading, a child will earn library tokens that can be redeemed at the annual ice cream social and market place that wraps up the program.

Students in grades K through 2 will meet Tuesdays and grades 3 through 5 will meet on Thursdays. A "mystery" will be unlocked each week whether it be from nature, crafts, music or

drama. Again, coupons can be earned from local eating establishments. The Thursday theatre project is open to all interested students from grade 4 and up. They began in early July to write, produce and act in an original play, "Mr. Freeman's Treasure." Any guesses, sleuths? The premier will be August 18th and a repeat performance on August 20th.

Throughout the summer, the little scholars will make a marionette, dissect a squid, win many prizes and read, read, read. Sign your child into the program. These programs are truly successful each year. The children have fun, grow in skills, self-esteem and friendship. They keep their academic and social skills honed through the hazy, lazy days of summer.

The Summer Reading Program is sponsored by Friends of the Provincetown Library. We support many of the programs at the library. The children's programs benefit greatly from the proceeds of our Xerox machine and from the book sales we hold each month in season. The sales begin the last Wednesdays of the month and last through Saturday. The next one occurs from July 29th through August 1st. Please donate and buy books. All your dollars are well spent on our children.

