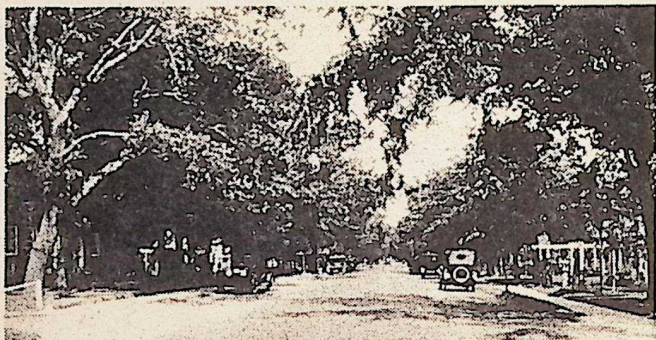


Looking back -- only five years -- to the first issue of the Village Advertiser is rather like looking at a high school yearbook, an old family photograph album, or rummaging through grandmother's attic.

Things have changed that much -- the economy, environmental progress, heads of our local government, school problems, personal situations for many of us.

It's not easy to look back and see things as they really were, even with the help of such reminders as pictures although pictures can bring to the surface of our minds more vividly than anything else how things were, even a long time ago.



For example, Main Street, Hyannis looked like this in the 1920's. Looking east from the West end, we see one-way traffic hadn't yet come to town, and trees lined Main Street from one end to the other. Traffic wasn't an overwhelming problem in those days.



Later, in the '30's, the corner of Main Street and Barnstable Road is shown on a summer's day. Diagonal parking along Main Street provided the challenge and promise of our present-day traffic and parking problems.

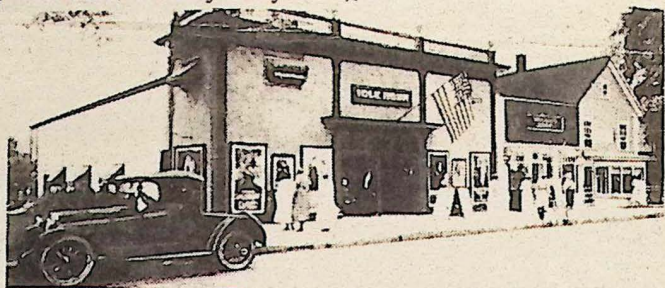
The kiosk on the corner sheltered the local police officer from summer sun and winter winds and provided a convenient space for travel directions.

The sign directs motorists to turn right for Yarmouth, Chatham, Orleans and Provincetown, to turn left for Falmouth and Woods Hole, and to reach Boston, Plymouth and New Bedford proceed straight ahead.

Dr. Hinckley's sign asks his patients to climb the stairs to have their eyeglasses fitted; the Bell Beauty Shop advertises a special on shampoos, marcel waves and finger waves. F.W. Woolworth is flanked by Mitchell's Ice Cream Parlor and Pearlstein's, where Hasckel's stands now.

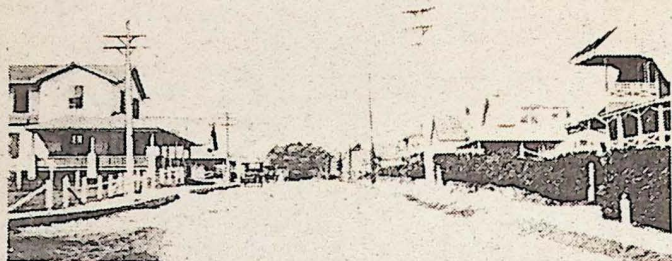
At the far left you can see the roof of one of the many residences lining Main Street before these were razed to make way for modern

stores. This little cluster of shops was, indeed, the heart of Downtown Hyannis thirty or thirty-five years ago.



Across the street from Woolworth's stood the Idlehour theatre. In the '30s the First National Store occupied the corner where Gloubs now displays furniture. When this picture was taken, however, the year was 1925 and a three-story white clapboard house, surrounded by a brick fence, occupied the corner lot.

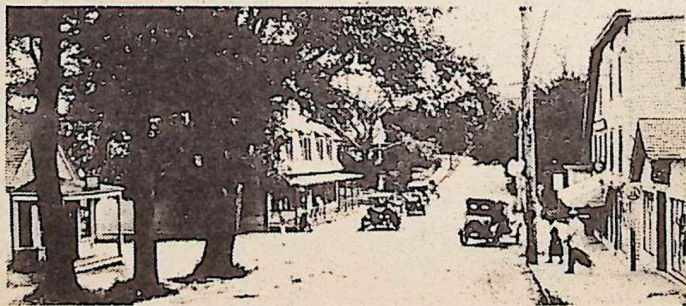
Ladies in long skirts and black shoes and stockings promenaded along Main Street. The featured show at the theatre is "Light of Victory", and a bicycle competes for curbside parking space with a vintage automobile.



Hyannis Port offered residents electrical service before its streets were paved. What a difference affluence has made in the appearance of the village of Hyannis Port!



Further from Hyannis, Craigville was enjoying the height of its reputation for being among the finest beaches in the country. The bathing costumes suggest this picture may date back to before 1920. The rows of bathhouses were swept away in the 1938 hurricane.



Even Main Street, Cotuit, was preserved for posterity on a picture postcard. Cotuit had its own telephone exchange in those days. Cotuit residents who remember back to 1923 (before my time) can probably identify each shop and store, and maybe even some of the people.

I'm not certain of the view since the center of Cotuit has changed entirely, but I'd guess the road leading off to the left is School Street and the scene is looking north, up Main.

It may take some real old-timers to set me straight, and if they can, I wish they would.

A package of old postcards is certain to bring back memories of long ago days. People we thought we'd completely forgotten walk once again through our minds, speak, smile, share their joys and sorrows.

Newcomers to our villages may find little of interest in these pictures, but if you grew up here, were a child here fifty or sixty years ago, your memory will people the pictures with old friends and beloved relatives, and for a few minutes you'll feel young again.