

# village view

by Andrea Leonard

Most of us who live on the Cape year 'round look forward to Labor Day not only because that's when the tourist traffic eases off, but also because that's when some of the year's finest weather arrives — along with our own vacation time.

It's contradictory that many of us plan to leave home this time of year. Warm clear days, crisp cool nights, and almost empty beaches just happen to come at the end of our busiest season and when our souls yearn for a change of scene and freedom from work-a-day responsibilities.

Each year the question comes: where shall we go for our fall trip? And each year the answer differs. The choices are wide and the possibilities varied.

Within easy driving distance are other seashore resorts; rocky coastlines like Maine, Nova Scotia or Cape Breton Island. Hardly far enough to be "away" are island paradises like Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, Block and Cuttyhunk.

There's mountain scenery in New Hampshire, Vermont, New York and Pennsylvania, or bustling city life in Boston, New York and Montreal. There's open farmland in the fertile valleys of the Connecticut, Hudson or St. Lawrence rivers.

And wherever you go, there are history-rich trails to follow. In this, our final Bicentennial year, combining a couple of these attractions is entirely possible even on a trip lasting but a week or ten days.

'Twould be difficult, as a matter of fact, to travel anywhere on the eastern seaboard without running into reminders of the country's 200th birthday and historic past.

Since vacationing provides spare time, and spare time must be filled with activity of some sort, part of vacationing pleasure is sightseeing. Just as tourists on Cape Cod sightsee at museums and monuments, historic sites and historical societies, windmills and watermills, so, when it's our turn to be tourists, we visit similar spots.

When planning any trip, our first decision is how long we'll be gone. For most of us the controlling element is how much we're willing to spend.

As a rule of thumb it's safe to allow an average of \$100 a day per couple. That amount will include every expenditure and provide a contingency cushion as well. It sounds like a lot of money, and you may be able to vacation for less, but unless you have a camper and, like a turtle carry your housing along with you, that is about what it takes.

Since we don't hanker to leave the comforts of home unless we can live as well on the road, and since we don't enjoy pinching pennies on a trip, we include in these calculations all transportation and tolls, meals and lodging, entrance fees and entertainment, treats and gift shopping, emergencies — the works.

There's no law you have to spend every cent before returning home; if there's some left over, wonderful! Save it for next time.

If you can't spare that much cash, consider vacationing here at home. It's not a bad idea — and a good vacation is possible at about one-fifth the cost — if certain compromises