This ox-drawn, two-wheeler from East Dennis was one rather weighty mode of "Rapid Transit" around Cape Cod in days long since gone. Yet, at least one early postcard publisher thought the posed scene interesting enough to put it down in print, together with a fun caption explaining things. The setting is a sandy School Street (no hard-topping in those days), right in front of David Henry (called "D.H.") Sears' store where you could pick up your groceries, fresh meats, and some homemade ice cream. The store burned down on Feb. 16, 1951. The ox cart's owner, standing on the road to the right, was Isaac Berry Sears, who lived across the street raising corn (he sold both hull corn and popcorn among other things). The identity of the two boys in the front of the cart is uncertain, except that both probably worked in Sears' store in the summer. The two little girls in the rear of the cart were sisters: Gertrude (Sears) Hodsdon, with the glasses, left, and Molly (Sears) Doherty. And, the two Sears girls were D.H. Sears' children, but no relation of Isaac. Said Mrs. Hodsdon: "We all came from the same trunk of the tree - Richard Sears - but not the same branch."

(Postcard No. 455 published by Whitten & Dennison Post Card Co. of West Bethel, Maine; the postmark date is October 5, 1909; some of the facts are courtesy of the late Gertrude Sears Hodsdon of East Dennis and Helen Angell of South Dennis.)