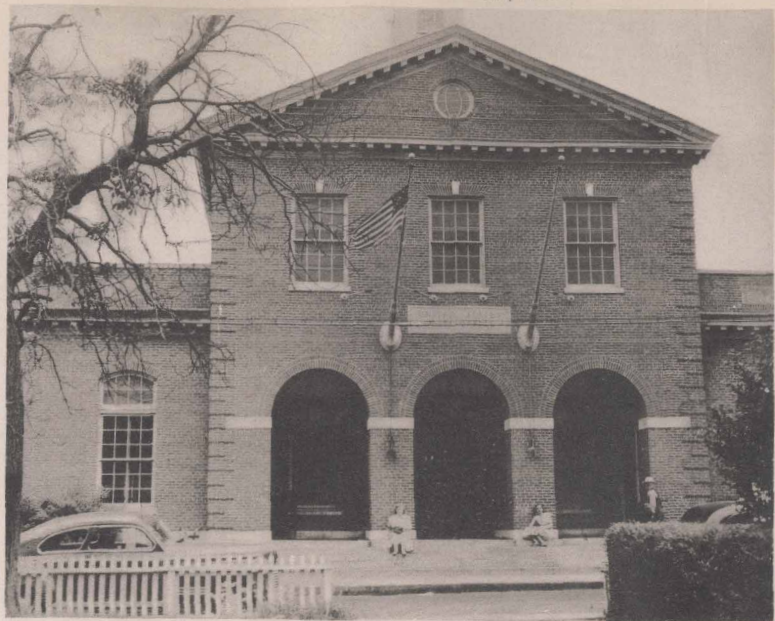


U. S. POST OFFICE, PROVINCETOWN, MASS.



1940

19- Mails. -19

The citizens of the Cape were dependent upon travelers to carry letters until 1797, a weekly mail route was established from Yarmouth to Truro, but it was not considered of consequence enough to continue the service to Provincetown, so it was not until 1808 that the mail was brought here.

History speaks of a Mr. Mayo who used to take the mail to Pamet River, on horseback. Crossing the foot bridge, he took another horse on the opposite side and proceeded to Provincetown, returning by the same route. By this plan he saved three miles each way through a sandy road.

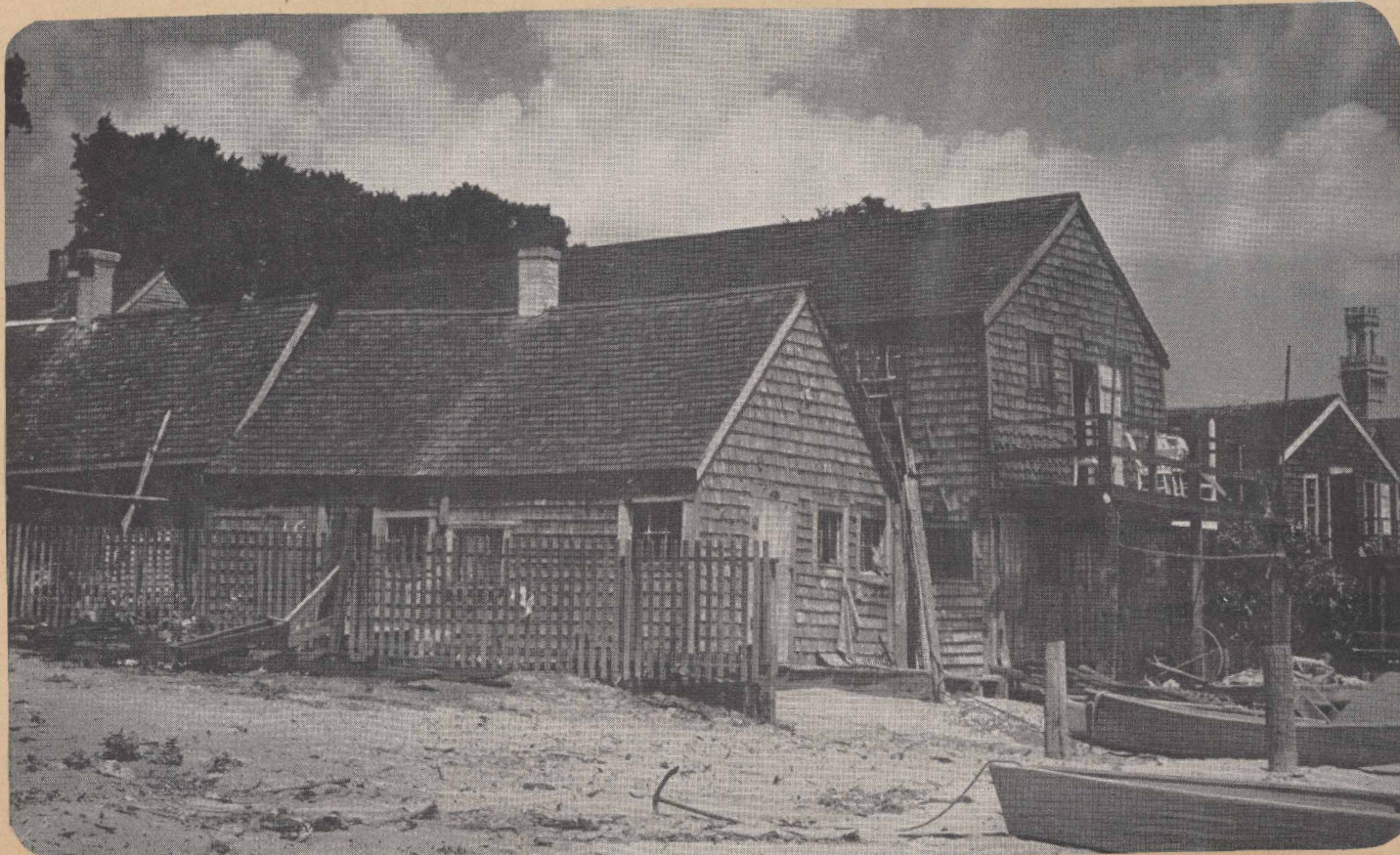
The mail was easily carried in one side of a pair of saddle bags, the other side was devoted to packages and an occasional newspaper. It was considered a great distinction to have a letter in the mail. When the carrier was about to start from town a man was sent around with a tin horn to give notice of that fact. The mail carrier, in winter, used to carry a saw on one side of his horse and an axe on the other to clear away ob-

structions after a snow storm.

In 1820 the mail was brought to Barnstable and Yarmouth three times a week; about this time a petition was circulated to have the same arrangement on the lower part of the Cape but many refused to sign, on the ground of expense and because once a week was often enough. After the daily stage route was established, the mail was brought by stage.

Next to this arrangement came the postal car service, which was introduced about the year 1855. Cyrus Hicks of Boston was the first postal clerk, leaving Boston in the morning for Hyannis and returning in the afternoon. One mail pouch was sufficient for the letters and a limited number of pouches for the newspaper mail. There were from 80 to 120 pouches per day required in 1890 for newspaper mail alone. Since that date, the quantity of mail has been greatly increased by the introduction of post cards, the unlimited number of magazines and daily newspapers, and one of the most convenient of all, the parcel post service.

1035



From approximately behind Post Office toward Monument - 1951