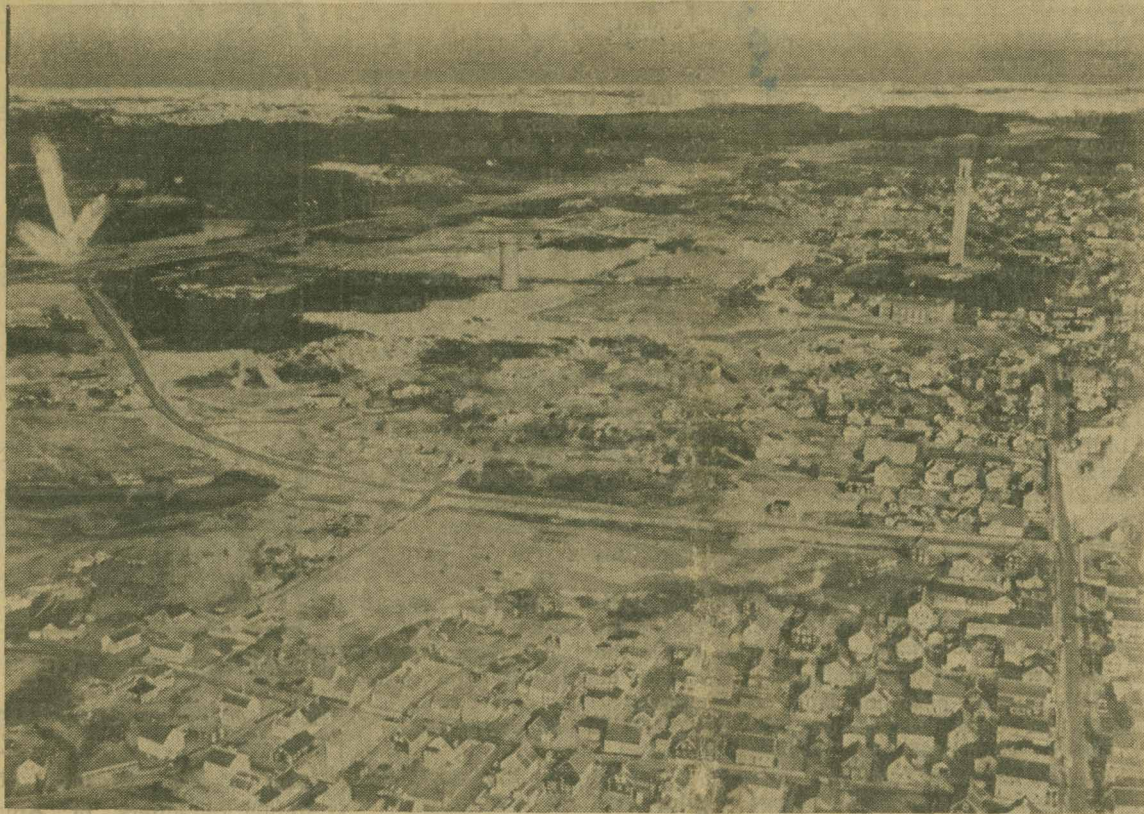


And now we have a new Street between the Governor Bradford School and Winthrop Street, called Shank Painter Road, because of the pond of the same name in that vicinity. (And it had better not be called "Hell Town Road", because this road is now the new location of the Provincetown Methodist Church!)

PROVINCETOWN, MASS.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1956

Suitable Name Sought For Important New Town Link With Route 6



John D. Bell Photo

Hell Town Road has been suggested as the name for this new avenue connecting Bradford Street with the new Route 6. Years ago fishermen had a small village of sheds around New Beach and there they kept their boats and gear and to this point they brought their catches which were hauled into town by horse drawn drays. There were exciting and boisterous times out there and the place became known as Hell Town.

Funds for placing a hard top on the above street will come under the Chapter 90 appropriation to be voted at the annual Town Meeting next month. It was expected that the street would be in use during the latter

part of last year but unfavorable weather made it impossible to sealcoat the surface and this step has been postponed until warm, dry weather.

After the hardtop has been laid down and guard rails along the

sides installed, the new street should be ready for use. It will provide a good West End access to and exit from the new Route 6. Arrows in the above photograph show the terminals of the new street.



In Our Mail

Suggests Better Name

Provincetown, Mass.
March 2, 1956

Editor, The Advocate:

In the warrant for the coming Town Meeting the Planning Board proposes two names to be voted on in selecting a designation for the new street connecting Bradford with Route 6. "Hell Town Road," the first of these, seems to me a poor appellation, and one which, if adopted, might be a source of some embarrassment for us. Since this will be an important way to and from Provincetown, such a name might be misunderstood by the casual visitor. The witty and the malicious would possibly even delight in fostering this misunderstanding.

On the other hand, "Shank Painter Road," the second name, appears to me a most fitting title for a street that runs close to the easterly end of Shank Painter Pond and between the pond and the old grave yard, which seems to have once been called Shank Painter Cemetery. "Shank Painter" (which is not the name of a man, as I once thought) would also give the street a good nautical flavor.

Along with the latter, one other name appears equally appropriate. This is "Meeting House Road," after Meeting House Plain, the area lying between the new way and Winthrop Street. Many years ago there was a sign there calling attention to Meeting House Plain, which was then a beautiful place decked out with handsome willow trees. I should think this may have been the site of the first church in town.

It comes as a surprise to me to hear of New Beach as the location of Hell Town. I had always had a hazy idea that it was at Race Run, and I am not yet entirely convinced that it was elsewhere. The topographical map from the U. S. Geological Survey

of 1887 shows some twenty buildings on the far side of Race Run and none in the New Beach section, nor anywhere between Race Run and Wood End. If the structures indicated on the 1887 survey did not comprise Hell Town, it would be interesting to know what they really did constitute.

Yours truly,
Ross Moffett

- March 12, 1956 -

The proposal to name the new street Hell Town Road was also downed and Shank Painter Road adopted instead, after Mr. Van Arsdale said that names of new streets might well be chosen in reference to the town's rich historical background.