



Looking up Standish Street toward town wharf - 1940  
 Freeman Street, left; Bradford Street, right.  
 The A & P store at end of Standish St.

# 'Iron Horse' Of 1873 Hailed With Fanfare

## Cape Communities Excited On Day Of Trip

### Several Days' Journey

Before the railroad was completed a trip to Boston meant a tiresome several days' journey in a stage coach or a sea voyage in a sailing packet. The railroad was hailed as the "Band that unites the Cape to other communities in the State," or, "The long looked for harbinger of commercial revivication and social stimulation." Provincetown mortgaged her future by subscribing for \$93,800 in stock in the enterprise and other Cape communities contributed

their share. The shifting sands of the lower Cape constituted a problem that nearly forced engineers to abandon the attempt to build a road bed but finally a suitable route was agreed upon and the work completed, July 22, 1873, was chosen as the day for the opening ceremonies.

At 6:25 a.m. on the morning of that day a special four-car excursion train left Boston bearing the official party and invitee guests. Railroad officials had grossly underestimated the demand for seats on the train and by the time the entourage reached Harwich nine extra cars had been added. At Orleans, Eastham, Wellfleet and Truro huge crowds that stopped the train at the depot and begged to be taken aboard could not be accomodated.

-1910

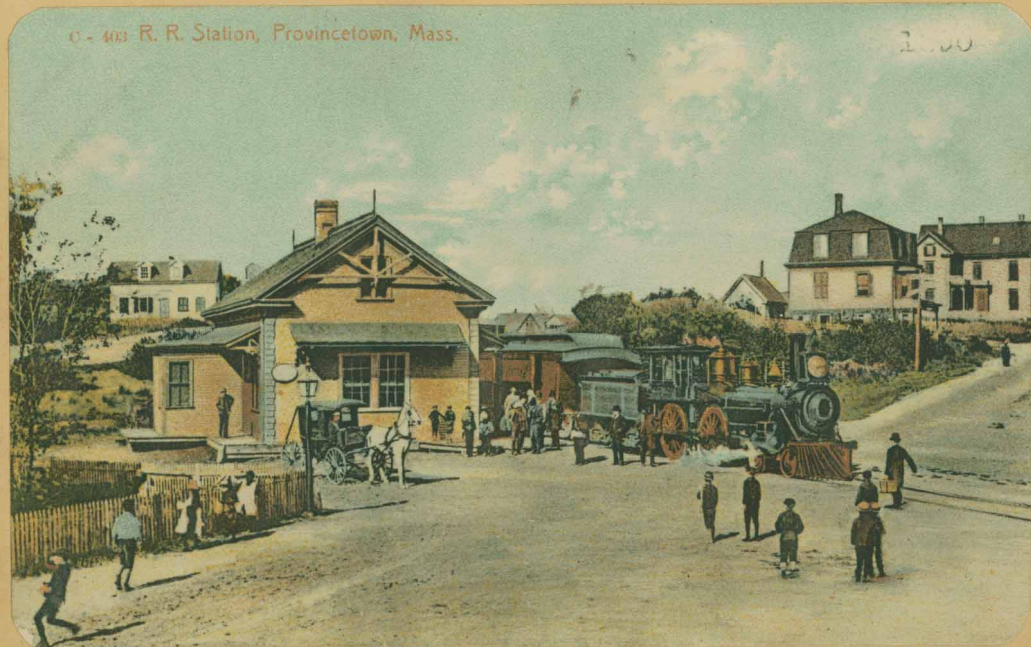
Strangers who land here from the (railroad) cars had no idea till they visit Provincetown that they were of so much importance, but they find themselves the center of attraction at the depot from a large and admiring crowd. Yet they are not happy.

October 13, 1875

Mr. Hiram Snow's horse, with carriage attached ran from the depot Saturday up Parallel into Forest to Commercial Street and thence home without the beast or vehicle being badly damaged. No person was in the carriage.

Eighty Years Ago  
 January 8, 1873

The working of the railroad goes briskly on in spite of the bad weather and we are looking to an early completion of the grading.



There's Ike Snow's "deppo" wagon (operated by Deacon Hiram Snow. --- 1880

It wasn't until July 22, 1873 that the "Railroad was open for traffic". Even then, the train was an uncertainty unless she had a fair wind down the Cape!



The Railroad Station from the Rear. - 1880  
 Center School & Town Hall on right.