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- June 26, 1941 -

Town Crier Charles Walton Arrives In Town Today To Assume New Role Saturday

Charles Walton, actor, director and stage manager, who will be Provincetown's Town Crier this summer, arrived today from New York City and will assume his new role on Saturday.

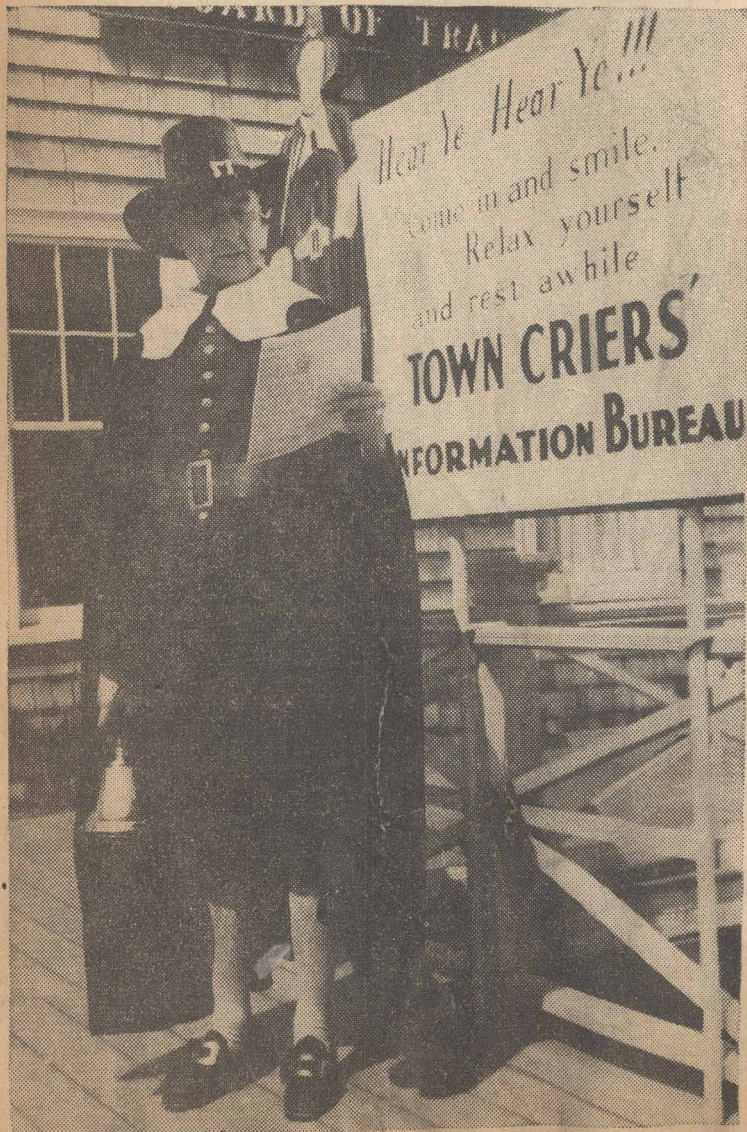
He stopped first at the Commercial Street home of Mrs. Louise Paine and was immediately taken in charge by Freddie McKay, Provincetown's self-appointed Grover Whalen, for preliminary instruction.

But Mr. Walton is no stranger to Provincetown having made a number of visits here and during one season acted and directed at the Wharf Theatre.

New Bedford Standard-Times

- July 13, 1941 -

Provincetown's Crier Kept Busy by Queries



CHARLES WALTON

Worcester Gazette
Provincetown '42

Crier Loses Job

PROVINCETOWN, June 9 (AP)—The "town crier," an institution in this resort, has lost his job because of the war.

Members of the Town Criers Association announced today that business conditions did not warrant an appropriation for his salary.

Bell in hand, and wearing buckled shoes, breeches and hose, and long cloak, the "town crier" has strolled the streets every Summer for half a century.

In earlier years, he served as a newsgathering and dispensing agency and was employed by the town to call out various notices of meetings and other civic affairs. However, in recent years merchants paid him and he spent most of his time meeting vacationists at the pier and calling out the times of tides.

Standard-Times Cape Cod Bureau

PROVINCETOWN, July 12—"Why did they build the streets of Provincetown so narrow? What time is high tide? Why do you wear those funny clothes? Are you a real Pilgrim?" These are just a few of the questions which have been answered so far this Summer by Charles Walton, Provincetown Town Crier.

Walton, a veteran New York actor who knew "Diamond Jim" Brady and Lillian Russell, strides the streets of the village costumed in homespun, buckle shoes and a "Pilgrim" hat. Here and there along his way he stops to ring his bell and collect a crowd while he cries the news of local interest... the bill at the Summer theater, the hours of the exhibition at the Provincetown Art Association, the times of the tides.

Questioned By Georgians

"Yesterday a trio of Georgia girls stopped me on the street and asked me what I thought I was doing," the Town Crier chuckled.

"I told them I was a crier... that I cried the news.

"Don't you all have no newspapers in these parts?" one of them asked.

"I explained that the Town Crier was a traditional part of the village — a colorful custom which had been kept alive. But the girls went away unconvinced that Provincetown was anything more than a backward hamlet."

Each afternoon at boat time

Crier Walton stations himself at the head of Sklaroff's Wharf and greets the 1,000 or more visitors who arrive on the excursion boat.

For each group that passes he has a smile and a word of greeting.

Welcomes Visitors

"Welcome to Provincetown. We're glad to see you. Glad you're paying us a visit," he calls.

When the tourists leave he wishes them a good trip and hopes they will come again.

Amateur photographers stalk him along the streets.

"I'll estimate that I've posed for almost 500 pictures a day since I started," he said.

Employed by the Town Criers Association, Walton has instructions not to cry commercials of any kind. His work, because of this rule, benefits non-members as well as members of the association.

His costume and bell have been firmly established as a part of the village and visitors from every State come to Provincetown to hear him cry:

"Hear ye. Hear ye. Hear ye. I tell the news of the day."