

80 Mile Winds, High Tides Batter Shore Boats Beached, New Channels Appear

A southwest storm with roaring winds and raging seas battered this Cape Tip town Friday night and Saturday morning, leaving in its wake three fishing boats blown ashore, tree limbs and debris washed in by the high tide cluttering low-lying places along Commercial Street, flooded cellars, and damage along the Beach Point section of Provincetown and Truro such as has not been known for many years.

A high course 11-foot tide, driven higher by gale winds reported at Race Point Coast Guard Station at 70 miles an hour and clocked over 80 unofficially in town, sent huge waves battering the shore. At times during the storm the East End breakwater was completely under water. Along Beach Point Route 6A was under a foot of water at times, entire cottage colonies and motels were surrounded with water, and the road was impassable because of debris brought in by waves which dashed high in the air over shore front cottages.

Damage High

Total damage to Provincetown from the storm has been unofficially set over \$100,000 but the full extent will not be known until Summer cottage owners return to check on damage to their property. Most of the cottages and motels were closed along Beach Point for the Winter.

All three Provincetown fishing draggers, blown ashore Saturday morning in the southwesterly storm, were refloated during the weekend, two Saturday and the third Sunday morning, although extent of damage has not been determined.

The 60-foot Victory II, Captain Manuel Macara, was refloated early Saturday, while the 60-foot Joan and Tom, Captain Manuel Thomas, was refloated shortly after 10 P. M. Saturday, with the assistance of another Provincetown dragger, Jimmy Boy, Captain Joseph Roderick.

Draggers Refloated

The Victory II, grounded near the Church of St. Mary of the Harbor, was refloated Saturday morning, with the assistance of Race Point Coast Guardsmen, who braved heavy surf in their DUKW to put fishermen aboard, and later assisted in refloating the craft.

The Joan and Tom, grounded a

short distance east, was refloated without difficulty, and the Queen Mary, Captain Anthony Russell, blown ashore at Beach Point, was refloated Sunday morning on the high tide, assisted by the Race Point Coast Guard and towed off by the DUKW. A bulldozer had dug a trench to assist this operation.

In addition to the boat damage, not fully determined, a New Bedford vessel, the Sunapee, suffered damage while tied up to MacMillan Wharf, as did the wharf itself.

Earlier Saturday, Coast Guardsmen launched their DUKW through heavy seas and put the skipper and men aboard the grounded 60-ft. Victory II. Captain Manuel Macara's 60-footer foundered close to the church of St.

Mary of the Harbor. The combined effort of Coast Guardsmen and seamen aboard the Victory II floated the vessel free and tied her up to MacMillan Wharf.

Some Damage

However, the vessel had developed extensive leaks in the seam area and the Coast Guard were forced to put aboard a pump to work with the draggers equipment.

Both pumps were forced to work overtime to keep ahead of the water pouring through the seams.

Some damage was expected to the Joan and Tom as the vessel slammed against a rock bulkhead. Thomas L. Thomas, son of the

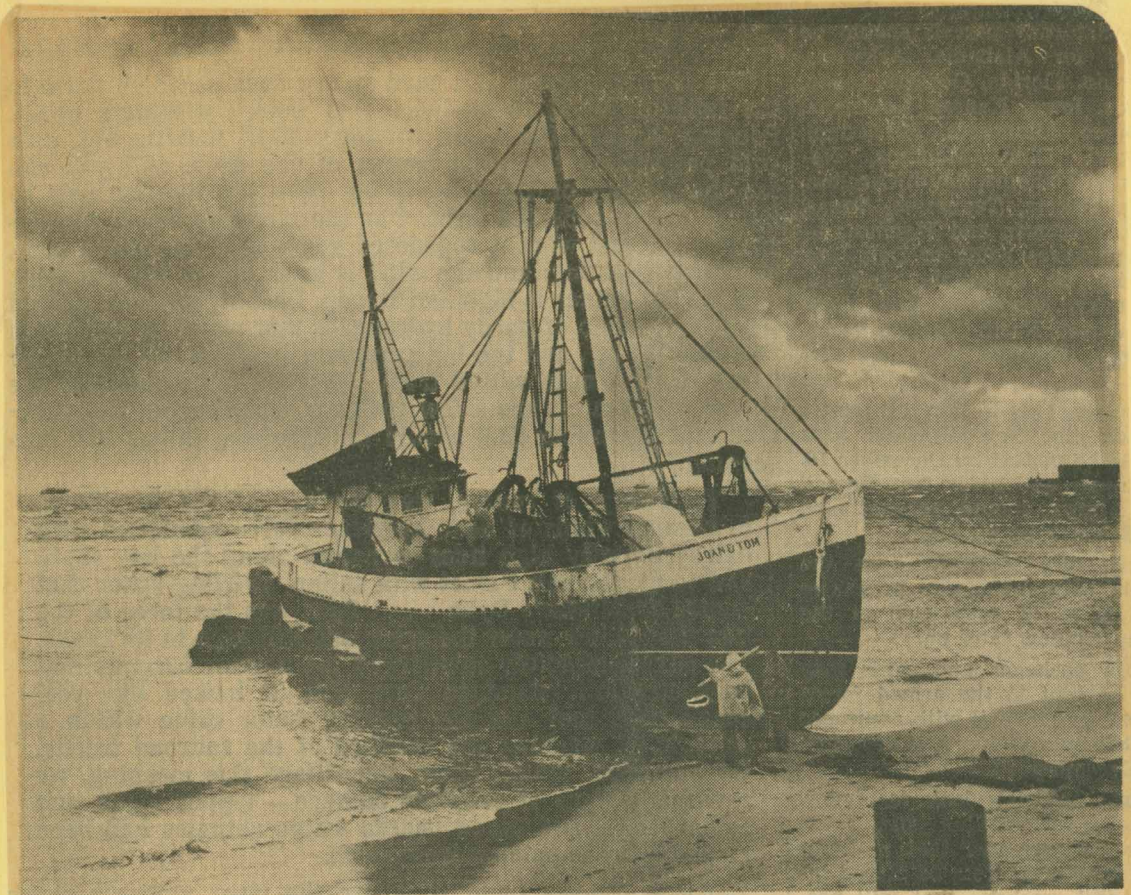
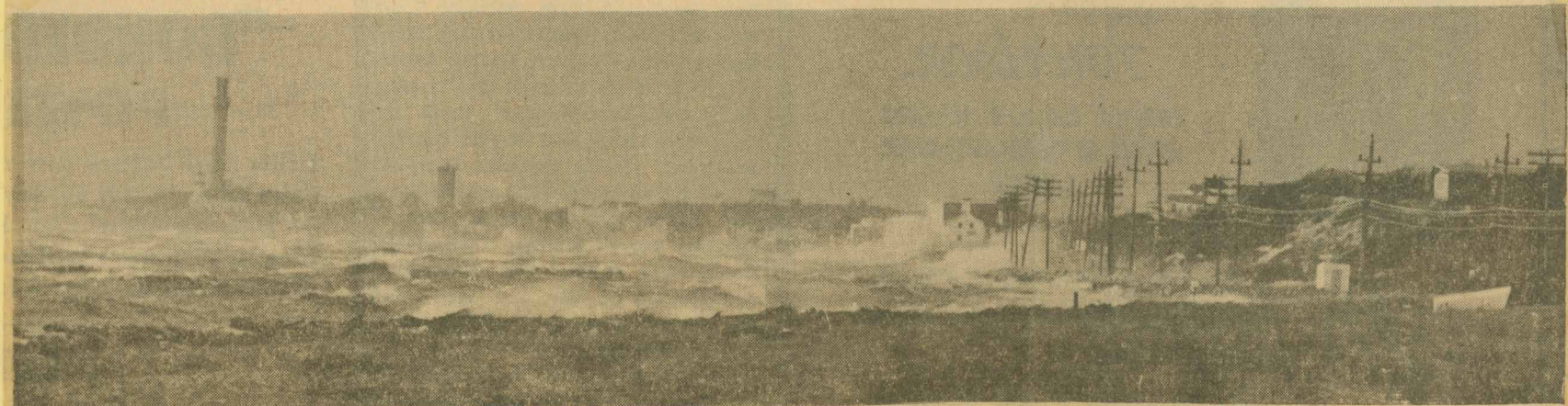


Photo by Richard Medeiros

Heavy dragger, Joan & Tom, Captain Manuel Thomas, went ashore in the East End but was refloated shortly after 10 o'clock Saturday night with the assistance of the dragger Jimmy Boy, Captain Joseph Roderick.

THE BREAKING WAVES CRASHED HIGH ON A STERN AND ROCKBOUND SHORE



This photo was taken from the area of the Tides Motel, looking back towards town, during the height of the weekend storm. At times the East End breakwater was under water as waves broke completely over Route 6A. Huge waves were also seen to go as high as second story windows in homes along the East End shoreline, resulting in flooding, and considerable damage to bulkheads and private and public beach facilities.