

- July 10, 1963 -

PROVINCETOWN MUSEUM

Mementoes of whaling days, early American paintings and ship models, relics from the Long Point colony and many more fascinating exhibits including the

Arctic Collection of Admiral Donald B. MacMillan

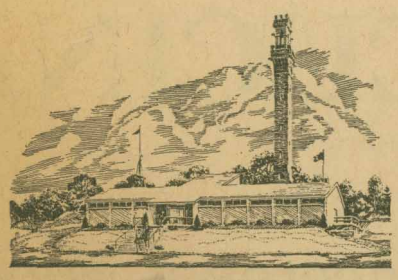
PILGRIM MONUMENT

Rising 352 feet above sea level, the Monument is dedicated to the band of Pilgrims who first landed in the New World at Provincetown.

A gradually inclined plane (no steps!) makes it easy for everyone, regardless of age, to reach the top of the Monument, from where an unrivalled panorama of the entire Cape is visible.

**Adults 75c
Children under 12 - 25c**

Admission charge covers both the Museum and Monument



JANUARY 23, 1964

Tribute Paid To Museum Aid

Melville T. Nichols, well known here for his assistance in creation of the Provincetown Historical Museum after its move from Commercial Street into its new building, died at his home in Medford Sunday, January 12. Mr. Nichols was in his 80's when he gave a hand to the Museum staff here, and was about 84 when he died. Later on in the Spring a memorial service for him will be held somewhere on the Cape, according to his widow.

Museum Grows Popular

PROVINCETOWN — Pilgrim Memorial Monument and Museum had its most successful season last year when 133,866 persons entered the complex.

The facility, with its 252-foot tower is operated by the Cape Cod Pilgrim Memorial Association, George F. Miller Jr., of Provincetown, president.

Attendance at the historic site has grown by leaps and bounds since the monument was expanded to include the museum. First year of the combined units was 1963, when 82,000 visited the structures.

Units Combined

When the former Provincetown Historical Museum was disbanded and possessions handed to the Cape Cod Pilgrim Memorial Association seven years ago, plans were made to combine the units. Until the first year of occupancy of the two units there was some wonder whether or not the move was wise.

With the increased attendance, and this growing all the time, any fears were soon dispelled, and plans call for more exhibits this year.

The monument and museum opened April 17 and will continue until late October.

The museum once was located on Commercial Street center of town but lack of parking facilities and other factors, caused the museum, operated by the Research Club, to be disbanded.

Lighting Improved

A complete renovation of the lighting system, inside and out, was performed this Spring and the 200-car parking area was included in the area to be flood-lighted.

In addition to the various exhibits — the main one concerns Rear Admiral Donald B. MacMillan's Arctic explorations. Three exhibits have been added this year. They are the history of Long Point, once the site of the town; old coins, and how salt codfish was made.

The museum already includes, in addition to Admiral MacMillan's work, the art of making glass, particularly Sandwich Glass; Provincetown's oldest fire engine, dating back nearly 150 years; antique dolls and doll house; early American and Foreign pewter; Indian artifacts from Cape Cod; ship models and figureheads; Eugene O'Neill and the theater over the ocean; Moon-cusser's ladders, and facts about

shipwrecks; shells and marine fauna; period costumes; captain's parlor; Cape war relics; whaling ship's cabin; 1,000 years ago on Cape Cod, and sailing, fishing and shipping gear.

The monument and museum has six full-time, year-round employes, and one part-time. Arthur H. Bickers is curator and other fulltime employes include Eugene Watson, maintenance; Joseph Roderick, William Lucas, Anthony Joseph and Ernest Irmer, with Mrs. Joseph Bent working part-time as secretary, stenographer and clerk.

Facilities are open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and during July and August 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Highest attendance for any one day last Summer was 2,305, and several registered over 2,200. One ticket gets the visitor in to see the full museum, and to go through the rotunda to the monument and up the spire which, on a clear day, can be seen from the mainland, across Cape Cod Bay.

The spire itself, of the architecture of the Torre del Mangia in Siena, Italy, is used by mariners for bearings, and a few feet east of it is the weather bureau tower, where small-craft, gale force and hurricane wind warnings are flown during the day, and lighted at night, when necessary.

Cornerstone of the Pilgrim Memorial Monument was laid in

1907 by President Theodore Roosevelt and dedication services were presided over by President William Howard Taft Aug. 6, 1910.

The Provincetown Research Club, which formerly maintained the museum, was a group of Provincetown women whose dream was to keep Provincetown antiques in Provincetown. It held its first exhibition in 1920, and a few years later, after several money-raising campaigns, purchased the three-story Delancy House, where the museum was located until the possessions were turned over to the Pilgrim Memorial Association.

- July 22, 1965 -

Early Glass Works Model Unveiled At Historical Museum Ceremonies

By Grace Des Champs

More than 200 gathered last Thursday morning at the Provincetown Historical Museum, for the unveiling of artist Courtney N. Allen's model glass factory, now a permanent possession of the museum. The unique model on which Mr. Allen has spent a year of work and exhaustive research — entailing visits to the country's leading glass works — embodies characteristic features of the early American glass works, including many of those in the Sandwich factory on Cape Cod.

Mr. Allen's model is considered a major contribution to Americana. It is an extraordinary piece of reconstruction, faithfully carrying out to scale the details of those early glass works producing the treasured hand-blown

glass of more than a century ago.

Besides the glass works, itself, and all its appurtenances, is an extensive collection of minute hand-blown glass also made by the artist. And Mr. Allen, with the feeling for life and drama that gives his models — including his wood carvings — their unusual appeal, has carved the figures of the workmen who worked their skills in another period of history. (The glass works deserves more description than is given it here — and will receive it in a later column).

Mrs. Horace F. Hallett of Provincetown was hostess after the unveiling for cocktails at her home, 81 Bradford Street,

for some 100 guests, and later for a luncheon at the Gifford House honoring the artist. Filmore Miller, president of the Pilgrim Historical Society, and Mrs. Miller, were among head table guests. Arthur Bickers, curator of the Provincetown Historical Museum, was master of ceremonies for the unveiling.

The glass works is the gift of Miss Dorothea Setzer of Dennis, in memory of her mother, Mrs. Ella Ottmann Hallett. Miss Setzer has long had an interest in early American glass and a particular interest in the Provincetown Museum. She gave the presentation speech and with Mr. Bickers, paid tribute to the work of the late Melvin T. Nichols of Bass River in behalf of the Museum. Mr. Miller died a year ago. Mrs. Nichols was among special guests at the unveiling.

Mr. Allen, artist, illustrator wood-carver, lives on Route 6A, North Truro, where his big studio houses, together with the familiar materials of the artist, the amazing collection of tools — some of them he contrived or fashioned, himself — that he used to make the glass furnace and its accompanying mechanical devices. Besides its unique artistic value, the glass works model is also considered a remarkable embedment of the mechanics of early glass-making. Mr. Allen described the model at the unveiling and gave a brief history of American glass-making.

G. D.