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A TRIP TO THE CAPE a Week After the Hurricane

By DOROTHY G. WAYMAN

Provincetown More Upset by Stories Than by Storm

PROVINCETOWN, Sept. 22—This town is still on the map. The inhabitants will have to spend the whole Winter writing letters and postcards to assure anxious relatives and Summer residents to that effect. But this is official, Chairman Irving Rogers of the Board of Selectmen and Chief of Police John Rego and superintendant of highway Leo Silva all say so.

Nothing happened to Provincetown in the hurricane that won't be all prettied up again by next Spring. They are having a special town meeting next Thursday, at 7:30 p. m. to appropriate \$40,000 loose cash in the town's reserve fund for emergency repairs and Irving Rogers says it won't take \$40,000 to fix up the town's damage from the storm, including a new slate roof for the Town Hall,—if they can ever get a slate-roof contractor to come put it on.

Of the half-million dollars damage done in the town, \$300,000 was incurred by the fishing fleet, seawalls on private property and the extensive fish-traps in the bay. There will be no work for fishermen the rest of this autumn at the traps. The other \$200,000 is mostly in private property, a chimney here a roof there; a seawall yonder.

John Whorf, nationally known Boston artist who lives now at 52 Commercial st., for instance, overlooks the bay with the tide 50 feet from his front door. He sat out the hurricane in his house and suffered no greater loss than the elm tree in the front yard getting a trifle askew so they are chopping it down this week.

Up at the Gifford House, the big hotel on the hill above the Town



JOHN WHORF, Winthrop boy, now nationally known artist, sat out the hurricane in his undamaged little white Provincetown cottage, fronting directly on the bay and the storm's sweep.

Hall, Dan Merrill and his father had a quota of regular guests, took in a lot of Summer cottages from exposed locations; and only lost an awning, a chimney and some limbs off the nearby trees. Their greatest hardship was losing juice for the electric ranges and having to cook breakfast for 40 on a three-burner oil stove. But they did it!

Lt Gage Whittier, USNR, in charge of the Provincetown naval base, actually turned in and slept Thursday night at the barracks on the steamer wharf! He is a for-

mer Everett Alderman, and Provincetown folks have a lot of nice things to say about the way the Navy men pitched in and helped clear the streets of debris in neighborly fashion.

Maybe that is why, when "communications" went out, as wires went down on the Cape, the rest of America couldn't believe that Cape Cod wasn't exterminated root and branch by the hurricane. Up in the cities maybe folks don't understand the way neighbors act in emergencies on the Cape.

It was like that at Eastham. There wasn't so much damage, as a lot of inconvenience when the electric power failed. Ranges and electric pumps and plumbing systems ceased to function. That's awkward, of course. But town clerk Lester Chase happens to be president of the trustees of the Universalist Church, where, 70 or 80 years ago, the forefathers drove a good well and put in a good old-fashioned, elbow-grease hand-power pump. So town clerk Chase opened up the church and everyone brought their pails and pitchers to the pump until the power was back on.

Some way at Provincetown. There are a lot of boats piled up on the shore and a pile of trees down all over the streets, but every one's pitching in to clear up the mess. They declared a "state of emergency" 9 p. m. curfew to keep people from breaking their necks on fallen trees until the lights were on; but if you'd like a good poke in the nose, just ask a Provincetown man if it is true they had "martial-law!"

Provincetown is really upset over the stories that went around The State Guard and Coast Guard evacuated about 75 persons from the exposed Beach Point section before the storm hit, and the Red Cross berthed them all down for night at the high school. Next Morning, it turned out not one

LOWER CAPE GOES BACK TO CANDLES AND LAMPS

Provincetown was not "demolished" in the hurricane. Wellfleet is still there.

Truro was not washed away in the tidal wave.

Grace Deschamps, staff writer for the Worcester Sunday Telegram, was able to put through a telephone call last night after nearly three days of broken communications, and brought the story of the "blacked out" tip of the lower Cape. She had been taking a vacation in Truro when the storm struck.

She said:

"Candles and kerosene lamps are back in service on the lower Cape. Nobody has ice North of Orleans. Ice cream is mush, and the small amount of butter there was melted.

"Provincetown suffered its principal damage from falling trees and wrecked boats in the harbor.

Historic Trees Lost

"Some of the lovely old trees which made Provincetown a national show place were planted as seedlings by members of the Massachusetts Bay Colony nearly three hundred years ago.

"They had withstood everything else. But this time many of them crashed. Churches, homes, business establishments and even funeral parlors were draped with the fallen trunks of trees. Roofs were smashed, porches and cupolas crushed and eels laid low by the havoc among the trees.

"Only two or three of the boats which crowded Provincetown harbor Thursday night went through the hurricane undamaged. The cost in sunk or smashed boats alone represents a huge part of the loss there.

"Telephone service is still not operating there. But the Provincetown Light & Power Co., which serves the lower Cape, has partly restored service.

Many Need Gas

"One of the establishments in P-town restored to power was a gasoline station, which found an unending line of motorists waiting for gas. One other station attached a hand pump and sold all of its fuel. The other stations, their tanks brimming, can't get at the 'gas.'

"Truro and Wellfleet suffered damage mostly from fallen trees. But the skyline show places in Truro, the two churches and the Town Hall went through the blow all right. Only small buildings were damaged.

"The Taylor Funeral Home in Wellfleet was caught in the path of a gale-hurled tree, which destroyed the chapel and made kindling of some new coffins.

"There is more automobile traffic on the Cape than I have seen since the old days of unlimited gasoline when everyone had a car and chose a weekend to visit the Cape.

Bumper to Bumper

"Automobiles came down yesterday morning, bumper to bumper, weaving their way around obstacles, jamming to a stop that moved back along the line like a crinkle in a snake when something stopped the lead car.

"The lower Cape is a carpentering job, a tree-planting job, an da job for the power and light and telephone people."

Allen K. Burrows, manager of the commercial department, New England Telephone & Telegraph Co., said last night that six splicers and cablemen have left here for Cape Cod to help with the communications job.

house had been washed away. Provincetown calls that just taking reasonable precautions, and it hurts feelings to have folks talk about "hundreds homeless."

Wellfleet, Yarmouth and the big beach properties at Hyannis, Craigville, Osterville and Wianno were much harder hit than Provincetown, in terms of damage and reconstruction to be done. Provincetown is doing very nicely, thank you.