



AMOS KUBIK

Shown above is the Town Crier of Provincetown who walks through the streets of the Cape-tip town daily ringing his bell and crying out the news.

1939

In the olden days, the crier wore no costume; but now that the business has lapsed into a tradition, the frills go with it. Walter Smith, who laid aside his bell in 1930, was the last of the non-theatrical criers.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1937.

Town Crier Is True Bohemian

Amos Kubik Furnishes Endless Material for Summer Cameras

By Joanne Carpenter

Amos Kubik, well-known as Provincetown's colorful town crier, is one of the few real honest-to-goodness Bohemians in this art colony, but he doesn't number a single Pilgrim in his ancestry.

In a recent interview he revealed that he was born in the historic old country of Bohemia, near Prague, sixty-seven years ago, and did not come to this country until he was three years old. His mother was a member of the old nobility that was abolished after the World War,

while his father was a commoner. When young Amos was only three his mother, who was, as he said, "what they call a highbrow", wanted to come to this country, and it was not long before the family was established in New York. There they remained until Amos was ten when headquarters were shifted to Springfield.

Mr. Kubik made Springfield his home for thirty-six years before coming to Provincetown. The reason for his coming here to live in 1916 was neither devotion to the Pilgrims nor desire to relive the early history of America. He came here as a contractor connected with a building firm that was developing the Mayflower Heights region. This beginning, however, influenced his later adoption of the town crier calling.

For Mr. Kubik professes an ardent interest in history—any brand. He is fascinated not only by the history of his own country but also by that of America and of Europe in general. He is well versed in the details of the World War and the peace settlement. He is informed on subjects of mediaeval history of Europe. His favorite history book is a sort of historical anthology, with classified histories of all the countries in the world. This he reads for pleasure, and finds it a fascinating pastime.

An Old Deed

It was this hobby that made him track down the past of the thirty-seven lots that he had acquired on Mayflower Heights when he first came here. One day, he recalls, he was in the Town Hall and saw the original deed for the land that he owned. It was 217 years old. He offered to buy it from Mr. Chapman who was showing it to him. "This," exclaimed Chapman. "Why, money wont buy this. This has to go to the museum." And there it is today.

From this early document Mr. Kubik learned that it was Indian territory. They called it "Mexico Noya". The Pilgrims called it East Harbor. About seventy years ago the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad acquired the land and filled it in to lay tracks. The now completely enclosed bay was called Pilgrim Lake. The neck of artificial land was called Mayflower Heights.

Thus it was that he offered the tract of land to the Tercentenary celebration in 1930, for the restoration of an Indian settlement. The offer printed in The Advocate was never accepted. Joshua Paine, who owned the Provincetown Inn, saw the announcement, and had the sudden idea of employing this man with an interest in history to do some town crier advertising for his hotel.

Office Vacant

The last of the Provincetown town

criers had passed away a few years before, and the office, vacant, was almost forgotten. Mr. Paine's revival of it was a sensation. He donated a gold colored Pilgrim suit that his wife had made. The town crier was stationed in his picturesque garb in the center of the town.

In 1934 the town crier did private "cryin'", but was not very active until the dispute between Plymouth and Provincetown about the first landing place of the Pilgrims. The town crier was employed in the defense of Provincetown. And at this he was such a success that in time the position became permanently revived.

Today he is a familiar sight at boat time and never failing material for many snapshots by visitors who come on the boat for the afternoon. Children trail him. People ask him millions of questions, and ask him to pose millions of times. He has been in the movies. He has broadcasted over the radio. He has been drawn by Howard Chandler Christie for a stamp design. He has been interviewed by countless newspaper reporters.

So an alien from another land has become the town crier for a Pilgrim town. Mr. Kubik pointed out that, after all, the Pilgrims were immigrants too once.

December 16, 1937 Chicago Calls For Town Crier Kubik

**May Fly to Windy City For
Aviation Show**

If all goes well in the negotiations between the Town Criers Association and the Airline Feeder Corporation of New York City, Town Crier Amos Kubik and Selectman N. Edwin Lewis, Provincetown's traveling representatives, will be Chicago bound by plane along toward the end of January.

Officials of the airline saw Kubik on his recent trip to New York, and immediately got in touch with William Gilman, secretary of the Town Criers, requesting Kubik's appearance at the International Aviation Exposition in the Windy City.

After receiving authorization from the Board of Selectmen, Mr. Gilman sent a letter to the airline approving their offer, but stating that Kubik's duties in Chicago must be strictly in keeping with the type of work he performs in Provincetown. He expects final word on the matter in the next few days.

A brand new bell with a brand new tone, and a fancy braided cape have been ordered for the westward jaunt, and Kubik looks forward to being the first flying Town Crier.

The publicity value of the Town Criers off-Cape trips is attested to by the hundreds of press clippings that have been sent to Mr. Gilman. They consist of photographs and articles from newspapers in nearly every state, and in each of them the name of Provincetown looms large.

804 933
073

July 15, 1937 Town Crier Magnificent In New Puritan Garb—Will Appear In Sound Picture

Town Crier Amos Kubik is walking the streets of Provincetown these days resplendent in a new garb which while it may lack the color of the old is more puritanesque. The new costume is of black velvet, relieved with white collar and white cuffs. He also has a new black hat. There has been some difficulty in obtaining hose to match his new clothes, but Miss Lois Clifford of the Town Criers, who has been scouring the country for a more suitable outfit for Provincetown's well-known figure, has not given up hope.

The Red Cross this year will have a town crier figure on the annual Christmas seal and it is understood that Kubik will appear in a short sound motion picture reel which will be used throughout the country to publicize the Red Cross drive.



1939