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## Barney Gould

Visitors to Cape Cod often hear about the strange and sometimes hard to believe actions of Barney Gould, a character not out of fiction, but out of fact. The following is an excerpt from the book "Tall Tales of Cape Cod" by Marillis Bittinger, published by the Memorial Press, and reprinted here with author and publisher's permission. To the right you will see a photograph of Barney, from the GUIDE'S collection of old and unusual photographs.

"All these stories 'bout what you off-Capers would call characters, brings to mind old Barney Gould . . . he was quite a feller. A mite tetchd, mebbee, but harmless.

"One thing he was most set about. That was usin' trains or enythin' else besides the two legs God gave him. He uster make regular trips up Boston and back carryin' packages and letters for folks. T'wasn't long before we wuz callin' him 'Barney Gould's Express!' An I swan efen one day, when Ben Howes wanted a dozen wood-end tooth rakes, he gave Barney a quarter and the durn fool walked all the way to Boston, got the rakes, and hiked all the way back with the rakes over his shoulder.

"Nuther funny thing about Barney. He'd got the idee somewheres that he owned the roads. He'd stop everybody he met and ask 'em for two cents for his 'road tax.' I 'member one day he came up to me for the tax. All's I had was a dime. He said that would pay my road tax for five years. If he'd lived for that five years, he would've waited 'til then to ask me again; he never forgot who had paid and who hadn't and never hit up the same feller twice in the same year.

