

IN OUR TOWN

Reef His Britches

George Washington Ready, Provincetown's town crier of 40 years ago, had sailed all over the world and knew most everything worth knowing, but even those accomplishments did not prevent irreverent little boys from playing tricks on the old man now and then. Some of the crier's epic remarks grew out of his anger at these.

Hersey Taylor recalls one prank of his boyhood friends that showed that Crier Ready turned saltier than ever with increasing age.

"One of my gang sidled up to Professor Ready on Commercial Street and dropped into the Crier's pocket the ripest egg in town. A moment later another youngster lurched heavily against the old man, and then we all stood back to await developments. We didn't have to wait long.

"After a few sniffs, the Professor plunged his hand into his pocket and brought it out immediately, dripping with the ruins of the rotten egg. 'You — — —!' Mr Ready shouted, waving his other fist at his young tormentors. 'If I ever get hold of the — — — responsible for this, I'll trim him as I would a square yard!'"



Town Crier, Provincetown, Mass.

Pub. by the Providence Advocate.

George Washington Ready - 1900

more about Ready



Town Crier, Commercial Street, Provincetown, Mass.

Another of Ready by Ryder St (arrow)



1907

Town Crier, Provincetown, Mass.

Walter Smith, or "Hoppy T"-1907