

1819
-November 26, 1968-

Peaked Hill Bars Claim New Victim, Crewmen Rescued

The 95-foot Boston trawler Rosie C. sank off Peaked Hill Bars early Tuesday morning after a Coast Guard helicopter had plucked seven crewmen and a young Coast Guardsman off her deck Monday evening. Ten-foot seas and 60-mile northeast winds forced the 210-foot CG cutter Active to go to the aid of another CG craft disabled off Race Point. When the Active returned at dawn to tow the Rosie C. into Provincetown Harbor, the boat was gone.

The eight men spent the night at the Race Point Coast Guard Station; the trawler crew returned to Boston by taxi Tuesday morning. They were Capt. Frank Sclafani, 46, of Quincy; engineer Ralph Polci, 49, of Boston; Frank Giacalone, 48, of East Boston; Vico Sclafani, 47, of East Boston; Ignatius SanFelippo, 52, of Everett; Martin Molloy, 60, of Chelsea; and Joseph Bono, 50, of Everett. Paul Randall, 21, of Danville, Vermont, had boarded the Rosie C. from the cutter Active.

The Race Point Station's 44-foot patrol boat, manned by BM2/c Oliver Jamieson, Fireman Harry Hoch and Seaman Paul Hunt, also went to aid the trawler. Pounding seas knocked out one engine, and the remaining engine failed off Race Point. Chief Robert Oliver ordered the station's LARC, manned by Engineman 2/c David B. Weber and Eng. 3/c Edward J. Trenn, to stand by, but high seas prevented the LARC from leaving the shore. After several anxious hours, while the helicopter hovered overhead, the cutter Active took the patrol boat in tow and brought it to Provincetown Harbor.

Crewmen rescued from the trawler were given coffee and aspirin at the Race Point Station house. All were wet and so chilled that several could not write their names for the station records. Two swore they had "had it" and would not return to commercial fishing. Engineer Polci, wearing only trousers and boots when rescued, was shaking with chill after hours of exposure to near-freezing wind and water.

Their 30-year-old trawler, a frequent visitor to Provincetown Harbor, was owned by Peter Condelli of Medford. The boat had left Boston Saturday morning in company with five other trawlers. Their attempts to aid the Rosie C. proved fruitless and all five sought shelter Monday night in Provincetown Harbor.

Seven wet, cold and frightened crew members of the 84-foot Gloucester fishing dragger, Raymonde, were airlifted from their foundering vessel in the early morning darkness yesterday by a Coast Guard helicopter from Salem after the Raymonde had damaged her hull and was taking on water after striking two sand bars just South of Peaked Hill Bars, that historic graveyard of ships.

The men were burning their shirts to make flares in the darkness as water came in through the sprung seams of their vessel. Capt. Pasquale Palazolo of Boston, skipper of the craft, who said he had gotten off course, attributed the miscalculation to a faulty compass.

Coast Guard search for the men had been complicated also by the faulty description of their position to Coast Guard headquarters at Boston. Capt. Palazolo said he had believed himself to be off Wood End whereas he was between four and five miles South of Race Point and on Peaked Hill Bars.

The Raymonde sent out an S.O.S. to the Coast Guard Search and Rescue Unit at Boston at 2 a.m. All Coast Guard units between Boston and Chatham were ordered to search for it and the Race Point Coast Guard Station alerted also. At the same time a Coast Guard helicopter from Salem was despatched to hunt for the vessel.

The 36-foot patrol boat from Race Point, with Chief Boatswain's Mate Manuel Macara and Seamen Wayne Walker and John Spirk aboard, had searched the Wood End area and was proceeding farther along the coastline in the direction of Peaked Hill Bars when the searching helicopter flew overhead and radioed that it had located the Raymonde. The local Coast Guard DUKW also took part in the search.

The men were found at 3:20 a.m., and in a skillful airlift taken from their craft and transported by the helicopter to the Race Point Station. There, hot coffee, dry clothes and food restored the shivering, nerve-strained fishermen. They remained at the station until noon when they departed by taxi for Boston.

The Raymonde had left Gloucester Tuesday night at 9 o'clock bound for the fishing grounds. The Raymonde is still aground off Peaked Hill Bars, both her condition and position making it unlikely, in the opinion of her captain, that she could be successfully pulled off afloat.

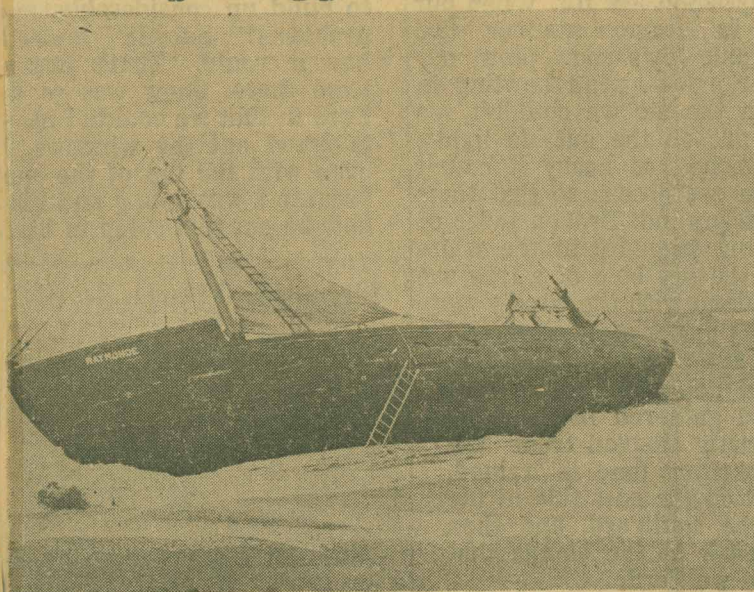
Capt. Palazolo did not accept a Coast Guard offer to make an attempt to do so. He said efforts

Crew Airlifted Off Sinking Ship

PROVINCETOWN, MASS.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1966

Fishing Dragger Driven Ashore And Wrecked On Peaked Hill Bars



photos by Philip Malicoat

The three Provincetown men who salvaged equipment from the 86-foot Gloucester fishing dragger, Raymonde, (above) which went ashore on Peaked Hill Bars January 26, worked in hurricane-force winds to remove as much gear from the vessel as possible before it broke up. Taking advantage of low tides, they had to clamber up the ladder to be seen dangling from the vessel's deck in winds that could have swept them from their feet at any moment. Philip Tarvers, Albert Silva and Thomas Rutherford purchased the Raymonde from the insurance underwriters after her seven-man crew had been airlifted early Wednesday, January 26, from the foundering dragger by Coast Guard helicopter. Right, how the Raymonde looked on the following afternoon, January 27.

The 86-ft Dragger...
"Ramonde" out of
Gloucester.

See story above

would be made to salvage as much of the Raymonde's equipment as possible. Should "the winds come up," in the opinion of the Coast Guard, the vessel could be totally wrecked.

Both Capt. Palazolo and his crew were warm in their gratitude for the skill of the Coast Guard and the care they had received from personnel of the Race Point Station.

