

Barren Provincetown of 1853 Inspires Tribute to Shade Trees

PROVINCETOWN, Aug. 30—Lawns, trees, flower gardens and fields at the Cape-tip in 1853 were so unusual that correspondent "X.Y.Z. Jr." in his column, "Matters and Things in Provincetown," in an old publication, congratulated "the readers upon their happy lot if they dwell far enough from this end of the world to be surrounded with these, with birds and songs."

"Truly they 'live in clover' — such clover as delimits few at this part of the world. It is true Mr. Lothrop with some others has made, and Mr. Chandler with some others is making, meadows, where grass enough is growing to show our children how and where the hay for our already numerous and constantly multiplying horses finds existence — true enough and 'costly enough' Mr. Ryder our new and excellent post master (so was our other P. M. excellent, God bless him!) and a host of others, have imported or are importing a rich soil for their gardens and ornamented their doors with a most charming profusion of vines, trees and flowers.

ers favored by it, and place it in the hearts of those dwelling here, now it is proved that trees will grow even in our soil, to take the benefit of planting and enjoying them. It has the support of more than one physician here, when the statement is made, that more than one year would be added to the general average of life and many doctor's bills paid, if there were a continuation of shade trees through every street in Provincetown, like those that adorn and overshadow Forest Street.

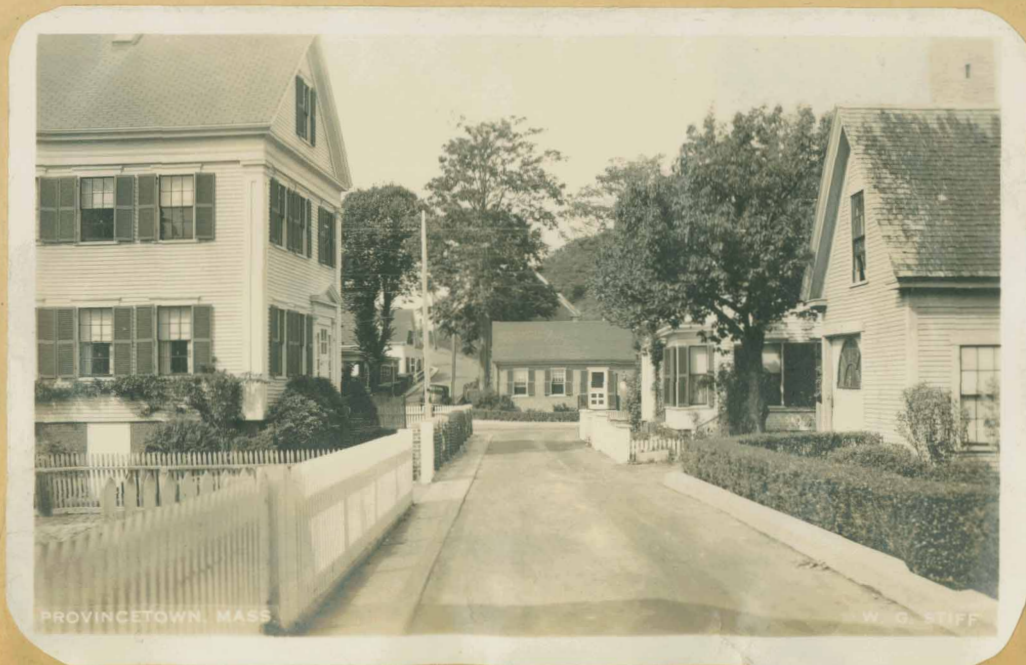
For the reader whose unhappy lot it was to dwell in the desert of Provincetown, Forest Street at that time had "lately been called Mud Alley," and is now called Gosnold Street.

"These are perfect oases in the desert and to be hailed with the deepest gratitude by every lover of health. But happy he who lives where meadows and trees and vines and flowers are not the exception to the rule but the 'rule itself.' Life there must be invited and wooed to stay to old age; it must flow joyously and happily along.

"Heaven grant the influence of such a section to each of your read-



Gosnold Street around 1880. House on right now Adams Pharmacy (See the pictures on preceding pages). Note lamps & plank sidewalk.



.. Same scene on Gosnold Street, about 1938. Road ahead goes up to the Monument. Cement sidewalk, too!



As Provincetown looked in the horse and buggy era. The late John D. Adams, a prominent Cape Cod citizen, is shown standing in front of his drugstore.