

# Cape Codders of '80's Fought Construction of Railroad Line

Today Cape Codders rise up in protest at every attempt to discontinue some section of the railroad line, but it was not always thus.

When, in the middle '80's the Old Colony Railroad wanted to construct a line down from Plymouth to Provincetown, Cape Cod protested the move.

The residents stood their ground until a foxy editor of one of the

local weeklies raised the argument that, if the British should ever again attack this country they would land at Provincetown, and, without a railroad for transportation, Provincetowners would be trapped.

"Now the trains are running daily between Boston and Sandwich," at this time in 1848 "the line having been opened last week, Cape Cod business men are all trying it out and amazed at the advanced state of progress in which they can go to Boston, transact business, and return the same day. This has never been possible before in Cape Cod history." But the arrival of the railroad was not warmly greeted by all. One old Cape Cod mariner, after seeing his first train, remarked: "Why, there's nought manly about it. Watch a ship now, with her sails bellying out, laying down to it just enough to show she feels the breeze, tossing the spray from her bows, and lifting her head over the seas as if she stopped 'em. There's something like life there. There's something about a horse; he stops as if he know he was going and fond of his duty, and able to do it. But that lubber—bah—come insinivating, sneaking along, crawling on his belly like a thundering long snake with a pipe in his mouth."

Provincetown Advocate, August 27, 1873: "The land about the depot is being hardened and put in very passable condition. The depot is about done. More filagree makes it look better. The freight depot will soon be completed."

(Si Young's Son, second left)

CAPE COD STANDARD-TIMES, MONDAY, JULY 18, 1938

## Passing of Passenger Train Makes Provincetown Funsters Tearful – or Almost



## MOURN DEATH OF RAILROAD

### Doleful Ceremony Held at Provincetown

PROVINCETOWN, July 17—Members of the artist colony and night club set bade an effective farewell to the Old Colony railroad's passenger service by playing a funeral dirge to the engineer of the last train and draping the Provincetown depot in mourning. Some time last night a group decorated the most exposed side of the station with 150 yards of black crepe. The crepe served as a frame for a placard that read, "We mourn the death of our railroad. May it not rest in peace." Two flags at half staff completed the composition. Just as the last train was leaving, two performers from one of the night spots played a funeral dirge as a violin and accordion duet. One of the town's popular hostesses presented the engineer with a bouquet that looked all right on the surface, but was said to contain some vegetables and overripe fruit.