



-- About 1927 --

Facing East. Pearl Street, left (behind automobile). "Si" Young in his usual rocker (left). Sign hung in middle of street advertises The Lobster Pot which is on the site of the old Knowles wharf.

Cape Hack Driver Had Monopoly 50 Years Ago

PROVINCETOWN, May 4?

— More than 50 years ago, Josiah Young drove the horses of the town "accommodation" up and down the length of the town.

He often stopped and waited while a passenger did some shopping. On state occasions, such as weddings, christenings or funerals, he drove people in a hack.

"I had all the business in town," he recalls. "I had the only hack!"

A gala event was the opening of Bangsville, now called Pilgrim Heights, in 1892. The whole town turned out for the affair. Most of them walked the two miles, but a few luckier ones were driven down and back by Si in his three-seated buckboard. Making so many trips in one day finished his horse, Fanny, who died quietly in her stall that night.

His most illustrious fare was Theodore Roosevelt, who had come to lay the cornerstone of the Pilgrim Monument in 1907. He met the President at the Town Wharf, and drove up to the monument site. In a Victoria hired from Boston by the town, with Si on the box, the President passed through a row of sailors with secret service men on all sides.

Gets \$1 Fare

"That was the most jittery ex-



JOSIAH YOUNG

perience I ever had, and I thought we'd never get to the top of that hill," Si said. When the ordeal was over, the President gave him a dollar bill, which he still has, pressed in the family Bible.

Shortly after that (he said he never could remember a date, even with a lady) about 1911, the horses were sold and Mr. Young drove the first motor bus through the town, with horses shying on all sides. He drove it for 15 years and three months, and then he went into the express business, meeting the trains and boat with his "jigger" and hauling freight. In 1914 he sported his first car, a handsome Ford with brass trimmings.

Seven years ago he retired from the express business to assist his wife in her antique shop. They lived over the shop, in an apartment furnished in choice furniture of the Victorian period. The floor was covered with a flowered Brussels carpet and the what-nots were filled with curios. On the wall hung portraits of ancestors. Most interesting of these paintings is that of an uncle, Captain Nemiah Paine, skipper of the Great Eastern, the largest trans-Atlantic steamer afloat in 1852. Beside it hangs a portrait of his wife, Rebecca.

Since Mrs. Young's death a few years ago, Mr. Young has continued running the shop. In front of the large windows will be a row of rocking chairs soon, where he and his friends will rock, swap yarns and reminisce. This Summer they probably will talk of the good old days when gas and tire rationing was unheard of, and there were plenty of horseshoes to pitch!



Josiah M. Young on his 82nd birthday, September 1943