

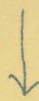
November 6, 1952

Hailing GOP Victory



(Cape Cod Standard-Times Photo)

Miss Abbie Putnam, 83-year-old Provincetown Republican who had waited 20 years to see the GOP returned to office, plays "The Star-Spangled Banner" on her trumpet, which she promised to do if the party returned to office. The elderly retired librarian lives at 476A Commercial Street.



November 6, 1952

Blood Vessels Are All Safe

PROVINCETOWN, Nov. 5— Celebration of the election of a Republican Administration takes many forms but few probably as unusual as today in Provincetown when an elderly woman, near 84, who said last night that if "Ike" and the Republicans won she'd blow "the Star-Spangled Banner" on her trumpet— and did just that.

Miss Abbie Putnam of 476A Commercial Street, a native and lifelong resident and Republican—as her forebears were before her—said if the Republicans won she'd "blow her trumpet if it broke a blood vessel."

She did not break a blood vessel but she did play "The Star-

Spangled Banner" several times from in front of the Figurehead House and then went down the street to "serenade" Dr. Frederick S. Hammett, who is ill but who could see her from his window.

Dr. Hammett, famous research scientist, said he was "highly pleased" as he watched from his window and added, "It's the most wonderful thing I've ever heard; it represents the America I grew up with. It's fine America."

Miss Putnam, whose ancestors include the famous General Israel Putnam and whose grandfather, Captain Henry Cook, found the famous figurehead which is on the house near Miss Putnam's home while sailing in the Indian Ocean, was for many years librarian at Provincetown. She once owned the Figurehead House.

Miss Putnam said she had been "waiting for 20 years to see the Republicans returned to office."

When she was 82 yrs. old she wanted to prove that she could still walk out to the Back Side, so she coaxed Althea to take her to Peaked Hill, and she did it too!

- June 8, 1956 -

Abbie Putman Dies Former Librarian

Funeral services were held Monday afternoon at the Fisk Funeral Home for Miss Abbie Cook Putnam, 86, former librarian of the Provincetown Public Library for many years, who died late Friday at her home at 476A Commercial Street after being in ill health for some time. The Rev. Arthur O. Dewey, pastor of the Provincetown Methodist Church officiated and interment was in the Gifford Cemetery.

A daughter of Louis A. Putnam who came to Provincetown from Danvers, Mass., and Adelaide Cook of Provincetown, Miss Putnam's ancestors included the early American hero, General Israel Putnam and the noted whaling skipper, Captain Henry Cook who found the figurehead which now adorns the front of the east end home, formerly owned by Miss Putnam. Her parents and grandparents were skilled mariners and were prominent in fishing and whaling activities. At one time they owned many of the houses and buildings in the east end where Miss Putnam lived.

For a long period Miss Putnam was the Cape End librarian but in recent years in her retirement she lived at home, cared for by Mrs. Elizabeth Gillis. However, she retained much of the fortitude and determination of her forebears and at 65 she decided to learn to play the trumpet. She was a staunch Republican and with the return of her party to office in 1952 she gave a public demonstration of her trumpet abilities by playing the "Star-Spangled Banner" as she had promised she would.

Only survivors are cousins in Danvers and elsewhere.

West ... was 19 years old she coaxed Althea to Peaked Hill to ...
Jan. 24, 1962

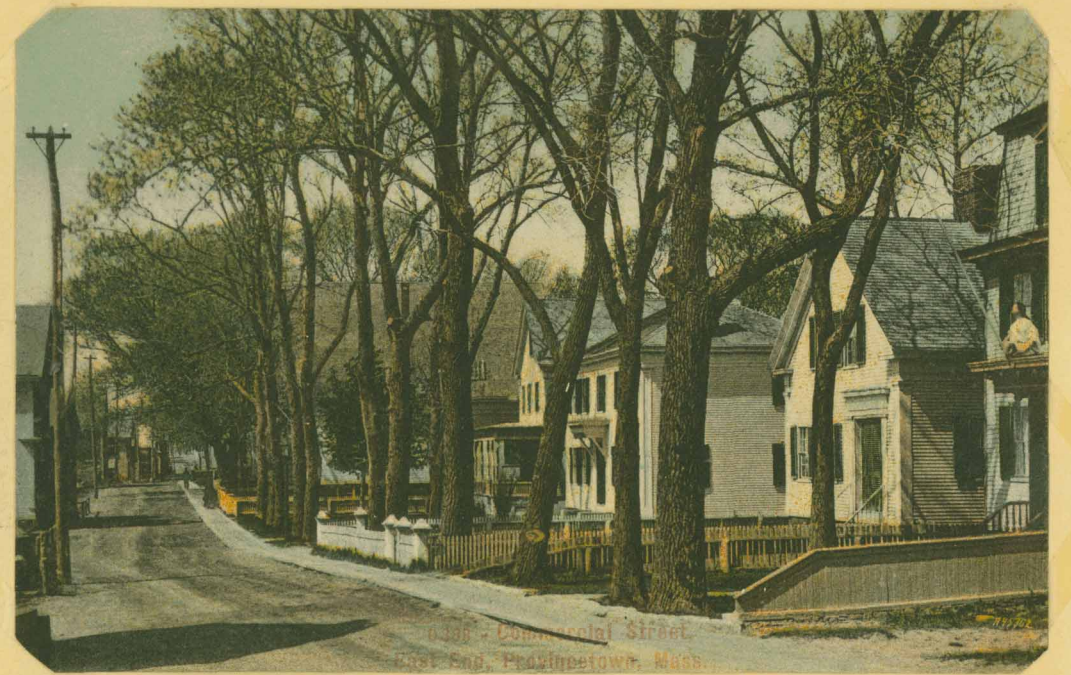
Mrs. Blanche Cordes is back at the Figurehead House after visiting her son, Whitman Cordes, in St. Louis, and the Misses Edith Haight and Irma Embree in New York.

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"FIGUREHEAD" HOUSE, PROVINCETOWN, MASS.

- 1940 -



Figurehead House, right - - - - - 1911
Facing West