

## Gas Boat, Two Draggers Are Victims Of Unheralded Gale Striking Cape End

They're still talking, here in Provincetown, about the unpredicted gale that struck the Cape End Friday night and Saturday morning with a ferocity unmatched by any storm within the memories of old timers. Some say that they have never seen the waters of the harbor so maddened by the wind which blew at 70 miles and better. Others are of the opinion that even the Portland Gale did not produce more terrific thrusts. Meanwhile, along the shorefront the cost has been counted. Two large boats, the Texaco gas and oil supply boat Elsie Howard operated by Charles Holway of North Truro and the dragger Stella, Captain Manuel Santos, are on the hard rocks of the West End breakwater. The Aerolite is beached in the West End. Other large craft drifted against wharves, inflicting and sustaining considerable damage.

At the Race Point Coast Guard weather station the strength of the wind put the measuring device out of commission and the men there estimate the force of the storm at 70 and better. The gale blew in from the east, northeast at the start and finished off with equal violence from the southwest. Torrents of rain came with the wind and Race Point measured 1.36 inches in about twelve hours. High tides added to the power of the turbulent seas which broke over the roadway in places along Beach Point where water collected in two deep and dangerous pools along the Don Scott area. Both the motor life boat with Coast Guardsmen from Race Point and the 83-foot patrol boat berthed at Town Wharf were busy through the night hauling boats away from danger.

### Gas Boat Lost

It was about 10:30 Friday night that the Texaco boat, Elsie Howard, went adrift with 400 gallons of gasoline and 2,500 gallons of diesel fuel oil, valued at about \$1,000 aboard. As she began breaking up on the rocks the gas and oil spread out creating a fire hazard. Acting Fire Chief Manuel White, toured the vicinity in a car with loud speaker, warning all to avoid igniting the fumes and drifting fuel. For hours after the air in the neighborhood was heavy with the odor. Charlie Holway said that he had been planning to pull the Elsie Howard up for an overhaul in a few weeks. He doubts whether the craft, which was insured, will be

replaced and in the future fuel will be transferred to boats from trucks on the wharf.

The dragger Aerolite, Captain Joaquin Martin, went ashore at the Cape Cod Storage wharf in the West End. Both the craft and wharf are badly damaged. The dragger, Charlotte G., Captain Henrique Duarte, broke loose and went smashing against Monument wharf, inflicting considerable damage to the pier. The craft also suffered from the pounding. Joseph Francis, manager of the Cape Cod Fisheries, closed the end of the wharf to traffic because of the loosened planking.

### Craft Found

For a time it was thought Joe Days' lobster boat, Downeaster, was also lost but she was discovered on the low tide Saturday, sunk at her mooring. On Sunday the dragger, Liberty, Captain Norbet Macara helped to raise the boat, towed her to shore and beached her near the Macara Wharf. A 42-foot, double end open seining boat had to be cut loose from a Gloucester seiner during the storm and smashed against the breakwater, a total loss. The craft was hauled away and beached by the Coast Guard on Sunday. The draggers, Perry Brothers, Captain Francis Rego, and the Reneva, Captain Salvador Vasques also went adrift but were hauled to safety.

Along the shore many limbs were broken from trees, TV aerials blown down, cellars flooded and shed and garage doors blown open. All day Saturday the roar of the wind-driven surf, pounding on the long Back Shore could be heard through the town.

From "United States Commercial Recorder" dated December 6, 1890 and reprinted in Provincetown Advocate, February 2, 1956

## Angus McKay

Dealer in Dry and Pickled Cured Fish.

Success in the prosecution of any commercial business is very rarely due to a combination of fortuitous circumstances, but is oftenest and most surely obtained by unremitting effort, guided by a thorough understanding of the chosen vocation, and when this is connected with ability to anticipate its requirements, success must naturally follow.

These remarks are very applicable to Mr. Angus McKay at Provincetown, Mass., for since starting in the business in which he is engaged he has met with uniform success, and today is one of the town's most prosperous merchants. Mr. McKay has been engaged in the fishing industry for the past fifteen years and employs three large vessels in the cod fishing industry, and his products are sent all over the New England States and quantities to the West. The large cities in the East are the principal consumers, Providence, Boston, New York, Baltimore and Philadelphia.

Beginning with comparatively limited capital and contracted resources, tact, energy, integrity and liberality have in their case produced legitimate results in a present prosperity as well deserved as it is commendable. It is with pleasure, therefore, that we call attention to his enterprise, confident that all those who establish relations with him will find their interest greatly promoted, and meet with that same honorable treatment that has characterized his operations in the past.

Yarmouth Register  
February 14, 1891

### BOSTON FISH BUREAU.

The annual report of the Boston Fish Bureau makes a neat, pretty and valuable volume of sixty-four pages, crowded with information of interest to the fishing trade.

The high-liners of the New England fleets are given as follows:

Mackerel fleet—Schs. S. F. Maker of Gloucester, \$9400; Stowell Sherman of Provincetown, \$8155; C. R. Washington of Wellfleet, \$2450.

Codfishermen—Schooners Mystery of Gloucester, \$18,013.57; Cora S. McKay of Provincetown, \$11,500; A. V. S. Woodruff of Bucksport, \$12,000.

Haddock Fleet—Schs. Carrie E. Phillips of Boston, \$24,000; Rattler of Gloucester, \$26,000; Julia Costa of Provincetown, \$22,500. The largest trip was landed by the sch. Harry L. Belden of Gloucester, Feb. 17, consisting of 100,000 lbs. fresh haddock, 7000 lbs. fresh codfish, and 700 lbs. fresh halibut, from Georges.

The importance of this fishery is shown by the fact that the total number of fares landed was 3540, and the amount of fish 55,805,615 lbs.

The New England catch of mackerel is placed at 19,042 bbls., viz: Massachusetts 12,204; Maine 6725; and Rhode Island 115.

Yarmouth Register  
April 12, 1890

### MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

The schooner Susan R. Stone purchased by Mr. Joseph Manta of Boston parties, for \$9000, arrived at Provincetown Sunday. She will be commanded by Capt Joseph Crowell, formerly of the schooner Gertie Winsor; and will be an important addition to our fresh fishing fleet.

Schooner Lulie Wilbur arrived at Provincetown with 30,000 lbs. fresh fish which owing to low prices she was obliged to split, and were purchased by Capt. Wm. Matheson at 3 cents per lb. for large and 2 cents for small.

A message received at Provincetown from Capt. Dunham of schooner William A. Grozier, dated at Key West, reports had taken 80 bbls. sperm oil and 10 lbs of ambergris.

Mackerel Fishing Fleet making ready for the season, Provincetown, Cape Cod, Mass.

