

Worcester Daily Telegram Wed., June 4, 1958

Whale of a Tale

PROVINCETOWN, Mass. (AP)

—Joseph Corea of the dragger "Papa Joe" tells of a struggle with a 60-ton whale that nearly pulled him and his crew to their deaths.

Corea said they encountered a pod of some 14 whales. One of them nosed into their net, apparently looking for fish on which to feed.

During the whale's struggle to free itself, the captain said, the dragger's stern was pulled down to the gunwhales. About then the crew was first able to play out the net.

After a feverish 30-minute struggle, the fishermen managed to dispatch the whale and cut the

line, allowing the carcass to sink, Capt. Corea related.

July 1959

Killer Whales Return to Water Near Provincetown

PROVINCETOWN, Mass. (UPI) —A pack of killer whales, some of them 35 feet long, have returned to the waters off the Massachusetts coast, according to the Coast Guard and sports fishermen.

A large number of fisherman have spotted the finback mammals and some have made movies of their movements.

Recently a whale lifted a 16-ton fishing boat four feet out of the water when it surfaced directly beneath the craft. No one was injured.

The whales reportedly attack fish, both large and small, and other whales.

Most of the reports came from boats near the Provincetown Harbor area.

Fishermen say the killer whales began returning to the area last year after an absence of almost a decade when only a very few were seen. There was no explanation for the reappearance.

PROVINCETOWN WHALING SHIP REPORTS:

The whaling schooner Mary G. Curran, June 2, 1884, Captain George W. Dyer, at Dominica, West Indies, with 200 bbls. oil—at same place and date, schooner Ellen Rizpah, Captain Dunham, 200 bbls.; schooner Rising Sun, Captain Thomas Taylor, 200 bbls. The Mary G. Curran bound for St. Kitts, West Indies, for letters, and thence to Hatteras Grounds, sperm whaling.

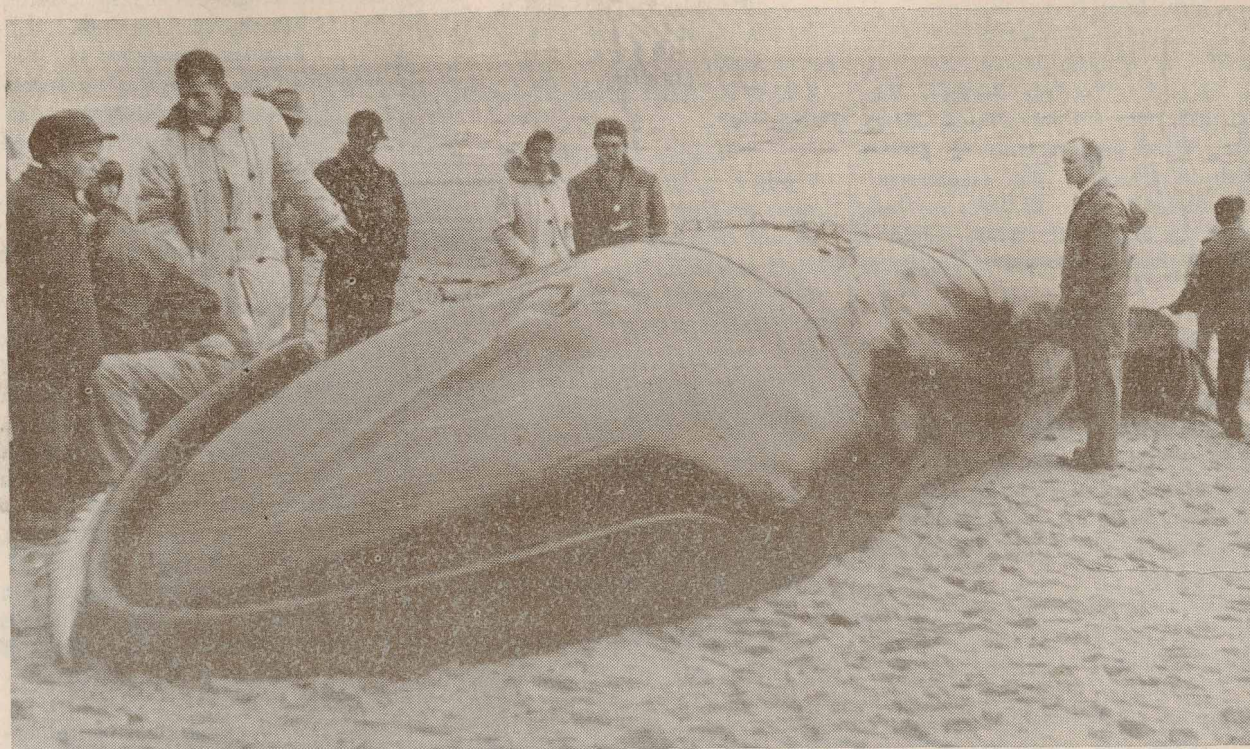
Schooner William A. Grozier, Captain Wm. Roberts, April 29, 1884, at Pernambuco with 610 bbls. oil on board.

Captain Robert West of Barque Franz Lambert, on a twenty-month voyage to Australia, Java and numerous other foreign ports docked at New York on Monday, August, 1884, and arrived at his home here in Provincetown on Wednesday.

Schooner Wm. A. Grozier, Captain John Dunham, sailed on a long whaling voyage Tuesday, April 13, 1893. The usual farewell from the families ashore was "Success Attend."

Schooner Agate, Captain Winslow, was reported at St. Helena, March 20, 1881, with 240 bbls. sperm whale oil . . . Same date and place—Brig Rosa Baker, Captain Howard, 90 bbls. sperm . . . Schooner Wm. A. Grozier, Captain Dunham, sailed from Tarpaulin Cove on the 16th.

WHALE BEACHED ON SHORE MAKES MEDICAL FIRST



Scientists from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute take electrocardiographs of a 44-foot whale beached along the Provincetown shore. Tests on the live whale were said to be the first ever made by scientists, who hope that studies of the huge mammal will aid in studies of the human heart.

A medical first was accomplished along the Provincetown shore front Sunday morning, when scientists from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute recorded the heartbeat of a 44-foot finback whale, which beached itself sometime early Saturday morning and stayed alive until early Sunday afternoon.

The whale, dubbed "Willie," or "Wilbur," as all whales who frequent the Provincetown area seem to be named, was discovered on Saturday morning by Loring Russell, engineer at the Consolidated Cold Storage on Commercial Street near Howland, who heard a strange noise on the beach in front of the freezer plant. Upon investigating he discovered the whale a short distance below the bulkhead, and found the noise to be caused by air expelled by the huge mammal through its blowhole, as it took each breath.

Word of the discovery soon went through town and spectators began to gather on the beach to see the whale, who occasionally moved its tail. Its eyes moved continuously with a scanning motion, and it appeared to be un-

hurt. The problem of what to do with the whale soon became foremost, and the Coast Guard elected to tow it out of the harbor. A rope was hitched around his tail and he was pulled out into the bay four times. Willie had apparently taken a liking to the Provincetown scenery, however, for each time he returned, finally coming to rest on the beach at the foot of Washington Avenue.

Scientific Tests Made

It was here, on Sunday morning, that Dr. John W. Kanwisher and Dr. Edward J. Kuenzler, both of Woods Hole and Dr. Alfred Senft of Falmouth, took six hours of recording the whale's heartbeat, studying his respiration and taking his temperature. According to the scientists, the heart of the 44-foot whale is the largest heart whose beat has ever been recorded, and it is hoped the studies of the electro-cardiograms will give some insight into the correlation between the size and functioning of hearts in mammals. Dr. Senft, who took the tests on the whale's heart, said they were to see if the "heartbeat and method of conduction (of electrical impulses in the heart) are similar to

those in human beings."

Dr. Kanwisher, a physiologist interested in the temperature and metabolism of marine mammals, noted that he had kept his instruments ready for the past three years hoping that such an event would occur as happened over the weekend.

Dr. White Interested

Also interested in the beached whale was Dr. Paul Dudley White, famous Boston heart specialist and physician to President Eisenhower, who flew to Provincetown with Dr. William Cheville of Harvard University. Unfortunately, due to poor flying conditions, they arrived after the whale had died. Dr. White had attempted in the past to record the heartbeat of a whale while swimming, but the attempts to insert the electrodes into the mammal with harpoons were unsuccessful. Dr. White apparently has measured the heartbeat of a small whale in Alaska several years ago, and commented that what is needed now, are the recordings of the heartbeat of a finback whale who is in perfect health.

Animal Rescue League Aids

During the hours that the whale lay