

Playful Whale Takes Youth For Ride Brings Him Fame And Spot On Radio

Sixty-Foot Mammal Bunts Lobstering Dory-Young Frank Cabral Lands On Animal's Back-To Tell His Story On "We, The People"

the dory that 17-year-old Frank E. sitting on top of the water and then Cabral Jr., was using Sunday morn- in a few seconds I could see that ing, about 8, while helping his he was swimming." Mr. Cabral father pull lobster pots off Race started rowing toward his son who Point Station, stove the boat, threw was then making for his sinking the youth into the air, none too dory. Both reached it in time to lift playfully, caught him on its back the outboard motor out, put it in the for a fast trip of several seconds, sound boat, haul the somewhat landed him on the front pages of shaken youth in and tie on the damall the metropolitan papers, and aged dory. They pulled for the gas finally arranged for the young poat and there they examined the man's appearance, shortly, on the boat the whale had struck. They radio program, "We, the People" in found planking smashed in the bow New York City.

the first person on the record ever that the playful whale had been to have ridden a whale, bareback, scratched, at least, for its prank. or any other way. To be sure, many The Cabrals raised the bow of the a Cape Ender of old whaling days damaged dory over the stern of the took the "Nantucket sleighride", their dory at one end of a taut line, an enraged whale with the other end in a harpoon in its back, scudding self.

Whale Sighted

ant and clear, and the Cabrals, youth might have been taken for a father in one 16-foot dory and the considerably more extensive ride. son in another, were pulling their lobster pots about a quarter of a which he did not kick off, Frank mile off the end of Cape Cod, some Jr., was able to swim to his sinking distance away from their 30-foot dory, and he said that his early gas lobster boat. The father was the training as a Boy Scout in Quincy first to sight the huge mammal where he won swimming awards, cavorting about 500 feet away, breakfasting, probably, on fresh mackerel. It came toward him and so close that his boat was almost capsized by the wash. He yelled a warning to the son as the whale on the beach, in back of his father's turned in his direction.

it seemed. But when the youth came him to the city for his big moment down he didn't sink. His father said on a national radio hook-up.

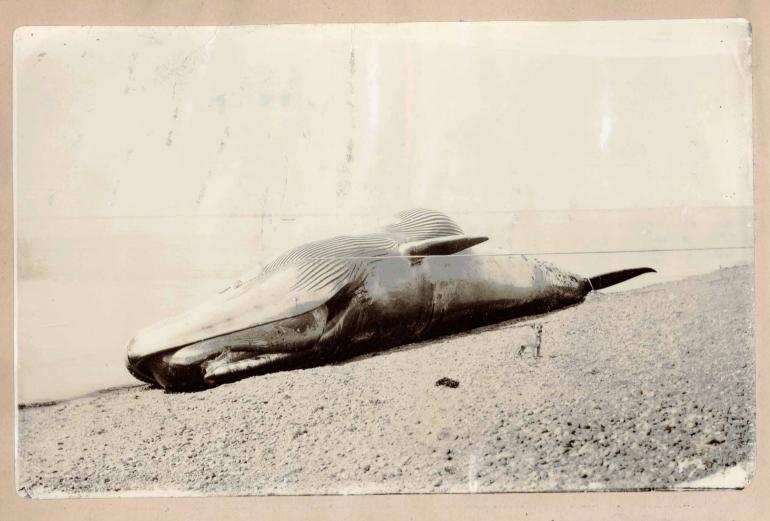
A playful 60-foot whale nudged afterwards that he appeared to "be and in the jagged hole was a hunk All this because young Frank is of whale hide and blubber, showing larger boat and brought it back. They even saved all of their lobsters.

A Bit Shaky

Young Cabral was a bit shaky, with breath-taking speed over the and he had cut his finger and sea. Jeremiah Digges in "Bowleg bruised a toe. At first it was hard Bill, the Sea-Going Cowboy" relates to realize just what had happened. how Bowleg rode and broke "Slick- All that he knew was that when he britches", the giant hoss-mackerel came down from his sudden somerin Provincetown Harbor. But for saults, he didn't sink. And he could actually mounting and riding a feel that he was sitting on something whale, coming through practically slithery, and he figured that he must unscathed-young Frank Cabral have been on the back of the whale seems to have the honor all to him- several seconds-although it seemed longer-before it went down and left him to swim for the boat. Had Sunday morning was fairly pleas- it remained on the surface, the

Although he was wearing boots, had "paid off". He will be a senior in the Provincetown High School next year.

Yesterday afternoon he was out fish shop, helping Jule Costa repair In a moment he saw the dory dart the damage done by the whale that from the water and the boy cata-pulted into the air about seven feet,



Fin-Back Whale, largest ever taken in Provincetown. (John R. Smith-1886)

"Killed by Captain Joshua S. Nickerson in the whaling schooner A.B. Nickerson. It measured 65'4" in length: 14'5" across the tail: length of lower jaw 111; length of fins 101; girth 371; estimated weight 136 tons; capacity of mouth when closed, thirty barrels. Note the dog standing beside it. The whale was sold to a Chicago syndicate: special cars were made to transport it. and it was taken through the western country on exhibition.

.... from H. A. Jennings' "Provincetown, or Odds & Ends from the Tip End"