

## MacMillan Marks 92d Birthday

PROVINCETOWN, Nov. 10 — Rear-Admiral Donald B. MacMillan, Provincetown's noted Arctic explorer, celebrates his 92d birthday anniversary today quietly at home here, probably reminiscing, but having no such celebration as was noted two years ago.

Admiral MacMillan, famed explorer who accompanied Admiral Peary on his trip to the North Pole in 1909, and his wife, Miriam, plan to spend the Winter in Provincetown, rather than go south, as they have in the past.

Spending the birthday and a few days with them will be Dr. Edgar and Helga Morse of Camden, Me., but outside of the well wishes of many members of the community, no other celebration will be held.

### Message From President

Already the admiral has received a congratulatory card from the President. However, he spends his time reading and he and Miriam are working on expanded exhibits to museums, including that at Bowdoin College, his alma mater, and at the Pilgrim Memorial Monument and Museum in Provincetown.

In looking through a mass of material, Mrs. MacMillan found a letter written to the admiral Nov. 16, 1909, by two Provincetown selectmen, official congratulations from the town on his trip with Admiral Peary to the North Pole.

The letter was signed by Selectmen C. Austin Cook and A. P. Hannum.

The letter is addressed to him as a professor, which he was until he accompanied Admiral Peary, and for some time thereafter until he gave full-time to his North Pole explorations.

### Letter Cited

The letter follows: "The People of Provincetown have followed your career with great interest and pleasure and now, as you return to your native town, we offer the congratulations of our people and ourselves for the great success that has crowned your labors and brought honor and fame to yourself and to the town of your birth.

"We trust you may live many years to enjoy the fruit of your labors, and that your later years may be filled with as large a measure of success as your earlier days.

"With all good wishes, in which we feel that all our townspeople join, we are, yours most truly. . . ." and the two signatures follow.

The admiral was born in Provincetown Nov. 10, 1874, watched

his father sail away from Provincetown never to return, and then went to live with relatives in Maine after the death of his mother.

At 92, he still is catching up on his reading, "learning something every day," his wife says, and

goes for his daily walk. He still watches the harbor from his living room, looking out the picture window to spot any ships coming around the "point," which would be Long Point, the tip end of Cape Cod. He says he feels well and hopes to continue.



Side view of Admiral MacMillan's home - 1964

Cape Cod Standard Times - June 15, 1964

## Citizen of Year Award Given to MacMillan

PROVINCETOWN, June 15 — Provincetown's famed Arctic explorer, Rear Admiral Donald B. MacMillan, was honored yesterday by the Department of Massachusetts, Jewish War Veterans, receiving the organization's distinguished service award at ceremonies at the Provincetown Inn.

Admiral MacMillan, sole surviving member of Admiral Peary's expedition of 1909 that discovered the North Pole, was described as one of the outstanding explorers of the century, as he received the award from the Massachusetts Department's chairman of the awards committee.

Prior to this award, the last official act of the 34th annual encampment of the Jewish War Veterans, Massachusetts Department, Mrs. MacMillan spoke briefly to the 310 persons at the final luncheon, telling various anecdotes garnered on the extensive lecture tours with her famed husband.

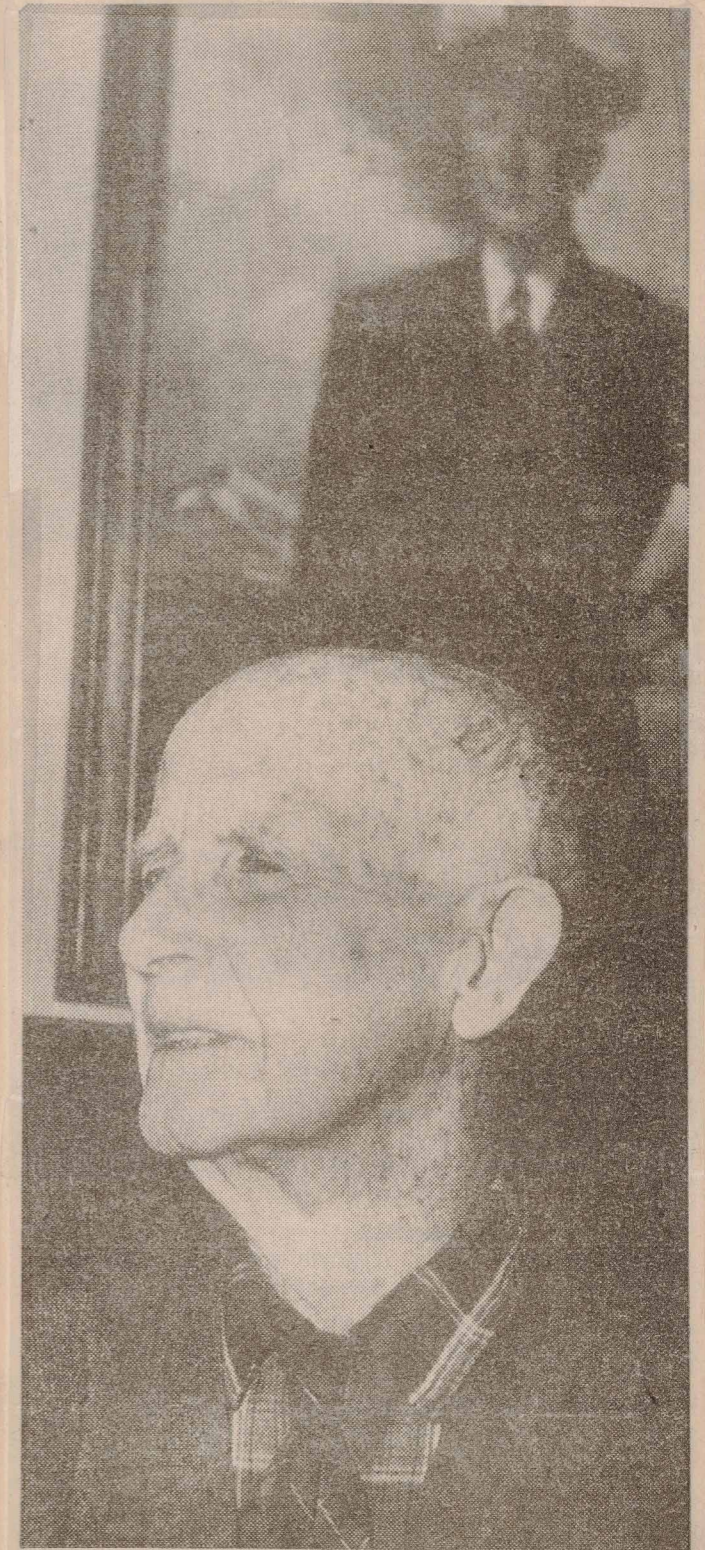
When Admiral MacMillan spoke, he said he could spend the time

discussing the Far North, but added he wouldn't say a thing about that, and spent a brief time telling of the history of Provincetown, where he was born nearly 90 years ago.

He told of the loafing rooms at various stores; about the geological structure of Provincetown; that it is on an elongated sandbar; how the village was floated over from Long Point many years ago, and how once Pilgrim Lake was the easternmost part of the harbor.

Admiral MacMillan, in his remarks on the acceptance of the Distinguished Service Award, said he had received many awards, and would prize this one highly. He said it will be hung on the wall at his Commercial Street home, and then, subsequently, would be a prized part of the MacMillan Museum at the Admiral's alma mater, Bowdoin College.

The distinguished service award, presented Admiral MacMillan by Irving Chester of Brockton, chairman of the awards committee, was given for the admiral's explorations, scientific exploits, teaching and for being author of many articles.



(Staff Photo by Neil G. Nickerson)

## Explorer Is 92

Rear-Admiral Donald B. MacMillan, famed Arctic explorer, was 92 years old Thursday. He is shown here at his home on Commercial Street in Provincetown where he now lives. He accompanied Admiral Peary to the North Pole in 1909.