

Lost in the Snow

WHEN the steamship Portland was lost in a great blizzard five miles off Cape Cod's Point on November 27, 1898, there was another vessel that came to grief at the same time and place—the two-masted schooner Addie E. Snow, of Rockland, Maine.

It is quite possible that the presence of the Addie E. Snow was the direct cause of the loss of both vessels—or that their collision with each other, which ever vessel brought about the crash—was the cause. The Portland was a long way from her destination—Portland, Maine—for which she had bravely sailed from Boston the night before about sunset. So terrible was the wind that the Portland could make no headway against it, and the snow that began falling as night wore on, was blinding. The schooner, also, was probably far off her own course, for she had to rely on sails alone for progress, and if the much more

powerful steamer was being thrust out of Massachusetts Bay by the blizzard, the schooner must have been driven at a terrific rate to leeward. Had both vessels been a few miles more to the north of the Cape tip, they might have escaped to the comparative safety of the open sea. But somehow in the darkness and the wild fury of the gale, they crashed together and both vessels, carrying down all hands with them, went to the bottom. Miss Addie Snow, the lady for whom the ill-fated schooner was named, was at that time a lass of nineteen years. Now, at seventy-five, she lives in Rockland, Maine, homeport of her nautical namesake.

1805

- November 26, 1956 -

SONS AND DAUGHTERS of the Portland Associates, comprised of descendants and friends of those who lost their lives when the Steamship Portland sank in Massachusetts Bay 58 years ago, met at sunset Saturday at the Race Point Coast Guard Station on Cape Cod. A tablet was unveiled and flowers were cast into the ocean by the group's president, Miss Marie Hansen of Cambridge. Memorial services were held Sunday at Portsmouth, N. H., Monday at Boston's India Wharf, and on Tuesday—the anniversary of the tragic sinking—at Portland, Me. The group of about 15 organization members, including Edward Rowe Snow, historian of the group and noted historian of New England wrecks, was headed by Miss Marie Hansen of 19 Glenwood Avenue, Cambridge, newly-elected president of the organization. They arrived at Race Point shortly before 6:30 p.m. and soon after their arrival a brief ceremony was begun with Mr. Snow telling the history of the catastrophe. A small tablet was presented to the Coast Guard Station and accepted by Chief Boatswain's Mate George L. Silva for Chief Boatswain's Mate Bernard Webber, officer in charge. This tablet under glass contained a list of 190 of the passengers and crew lost in the blinding blizzard; a brief history of the disaster and a picture of the steamer, City of Portland, the loss of which caused the wild storm forever after to be called "the Portland gale".

... There is also this tablet on the Keeper's House, at Highland Light. - Taken December 26, 1956

