



-- 1931 --

This station was abandoned for a newer one (in the background over boathouse roof) and later was sold to Mabel Dodge and Maurice Sterne. Then she sold it to Eugene O'Neill, son of James O'Neill, who played "Monte Cristo". (Turn back to Paine's Wharf opposite Uncle Herm Mayo's for the story of Eugene's life.) Eugene O'Neill did his play-writing in the boathouse beside the station, in the company of Terry Carlin. The house was toppled over by a wild storm in the winter of 1931, and hundreds of Provincetown citizens were on hand, not many hours later, carrying on the business which their forbears had followed so alertly. Furniture and other belongings of O'Neill were carted off to a hundred homes.

Some of these "Keepsakes" remain to this day - and are pointed to with pride!

..... From the "Cape Cod Pilot" ... by Jeremiah Digges

STORM HURLING SEA AT STATION

Peaked Hill Bar Crew Fear It Will Topple Over

1931

PROVINCETOWN, March 4—Unless the wind diminishes before the next tide it is feared that the Peaked Hill Bar life-saving station will topple into the sea.

Last night 44 feet of sand separated the station from the cliff. At noon there remained only 22 feet and the merciless water was steadily tearing away at the cliff sand. The crew is still at the station on guard.

The flagpole was undermined and has toppled.

Early in January there was a space of 64 feet, but the storm that carried away the cottage of Eugene O'Neill, the playwright, reduced the barrier to 44 feet. At that time William Wolf, superintendent of the Coast Guard, recommended that the station be moved back 800 feet. Proposals were made and bids received but nothing done.

The water is up to the flagpole at the Pamet River life-saving station. It is within 25 feet of the station and there is every reason to believe the station soon will be flooded. All telephone connections of the Coast Guard service to the Monomoy station and the Monomoy Point stations are gone.

North Scituate reported to the head station here that the basement of the North Scituate station is flooded, all fires are out and the waves are battering against the station walls.

The Peaked Hill Bar station is now just eighteen feet from the embankment and men on duty in the lookout tower have to stand on their tip-toes to see the water front. 1931