

Provincetown's TOWN CRIER

Arthur Paul Snader, now 74,
has been actor, etcher, flier,
radio announcer and sculptor--
among other things

By Frank Crotty

ARTHUR Paul Snader, the town crier of Provincetown, is perhaps the most photographed man in the world.

"I'm photographed 400 times a day during the summer season," he says. "Some days, 500 times."

Art likes his job and likes meeting people. He first went to work as summer town crier in 1952 and continued through 1956. After a hassle over wages (he was then getting \$600 a summer), he quit and Tom Hennessy, a Provincetown High School teacher, served in 1957. Hennessy subsequently became ill and Art returned to the job in 1958. Hennessy later resigned and Art was reappointed for this summer.

The financial arrangements were straightened out and Art was given additional duties of sitting in at the Chamber of Commerce office evenings. He spends about six hours during the day in his town crier's uniform and three hours in the evenings, helping out people who want accommodations, information about the town, etc.

Art, who is 74 years old, has an interesting background. A former actor, poet and etcher, he was born in Baltimore, Md., Sept. 9, 1884. His parents were William Henry Harrison and Florenza Victoria (Marsh) Snader. His father, an officer in the Union Army, worked most of his life for the Post Office Department.

Art received his education in the Philadelphia public schools, Temple University and the University of Pennsylvania.

"WHEN I was 5 or 6 years old," he says, "my family moved from Baltimore to Greenwich Village in New York where we re-

mained for a couple of years. We then went to Philadelphia. I never went to school in New York and remember very little of it.

"I had a brother, Edward F., 18 years older than I, who was advance man for William A. Brady, the theatrical producer who also happened to manage world's champion fighter James J. Corbett.

"Through my brother's efforts, I made my stage debut at the age of 6. I used to carry a 50-pound dumbbell onto the stage and hand it to a strongman. Incidentally, I was a pretty strong kid myself."

Art went into show business seriously at the age of 20. He had a small part in the Victor Herbert operetta "It Happened in Nordland."

"That was in 1904," Art recalls. "I left that to go with Andrew Mack, an Irish tenor and popular star of the day. That year I played with him in 'Tom Moore' and 'The Way to Kenmare.'"

"The next year I was in repertory, playing with the Grand Opera House Company in Winnipeg and the Rebecca Warren Company in Indianapolis. I was also director with the latter.

"In 1906 I was a featured player in 'The Ninety and Nine' in New York. I followed Thomas H. Ince in the part. It was the part of a little man who wasn't funny. I seemed to get a lot of that type of part.

"Oh, I've played in stock in various parts of the country. I played in about everything of the period . . . even 'East Lynne.' I quit the business in 1913 or '14."

ART IS still a little man physical-

ly. He's 5 feet, 6 1/4 inches tall and weighs 155 pounds. He has gray hair and snapping hazel eyes.

He has been a flier since he was 23 years old. He still occasionally pilots a plane today.

"The first thing I flew was a blimp in 1907," he says. "I flew with the Civil Air Patrol at Annapolis, Md., in World War II."

He is also a fine etcher and for many years has been a printer for etchers. He taught Grand Duchess Marie of Russia to etch.

He has also written some fine poetry and with Ralph Travers of Boston collaborated on a book, "How to Make Professional Molds and Castings," which was published in 1950 and revised in 1952. Art not only wrote most of the text but also did many of the illustrations.

SUMMERS Art lives in the large rambling Kibbe Cook house, owned by writer Mary Heaton Vorse. He works as town crier from May 30 to Sept. 7. Other seasons of the year he lives in Boston where he is employed in an advisory and public relations capacity by Travaco Laboratories. He does everything from writing brochures and advertisements to building dioramas for boat shows and fairs.

Speaking of fairs, after the season at Provincetown is over you can usually find Art in his town crier's uniform at the Brockton Fair. He has become something of a feature there.

Over the years he has done many more interesting things. In 1930 he invented the Apsolite etchings, which is etching on plastic. In 1933 he worked on the General

Motors Futurama at the World's Fair in New York. In the 1940's he was a radio announcer and commentator in Annapolis. In 1946-47 he built the airport at Annapolis; did all the engineering, awarded contracts, etc. He's also a sculptor and writes many articles for technical magazines.

Art has one son, Jere A. Snader, who has owned and operated the Gray Inn at Provincetown since 1945.

In 1956 Art trod the Provincetown Playhouse boards in a show titled "Feathers in the Gale." It was written by Reginald Lawrence and was about the Cape-End village.

ART SAYS: "I remember years ago when I was playing in a show in New York. I spent all my money on clothes for the opening night and, believe me, I was meticulously attired. After that performance I ran into one of the newspaper critics and we talked a bit. He praised everyone in the cast but me.

"I couldn't understand it so I said: 'What about me?'"

"He elevated his eyebrows and fingered his chin.

"'Oh you?' he replied. 'I thought that was an excellent press you had in your pants.'"

Quite a fellow, this Art Snader!



FORMER ACTOR Arthur Paul Snader, town crier of Provincetown. During the summer he is photographed by tourists some 400 times a day.