



MEET MRS. NELL SILVEY, who's getting lazy at 88 -- she says.

If you express amazement at her spryness and memory and ask her how she manages to be a career woman at 88, Mrs. Nell (Smith) Silvey laughs and claims she really "can't do anything anymore."

She'll pop up and down from her chair a dozen times to tend to a neighbor's visiting cat and show you the pink doll's costume she crocheted last night after returning from her two-hour-a-day waitressing job at the Hatchway Rest Home, but if you remark about her energy, she'll tell you she's getting "lazy."

Her blue eyes may gleam in delight when she's amused you with her wry comments, but she can't see well enough to read anymore or do as much needlework as she'd like, she insists. She only finished three afghans this month.

Last week, the Nautilus Club honored her and seven other members as Mayflower descendants. Sitting now at her home, in front of her favorite window overlooking Commercial Street, she was asked which one of the Pilgrims was her ancestor.

"Stephen Hopkins" she proclaimed in high-pitched, feigned drama. "Everybody's his descendant."

#### LIFESAVING HUSBAND

She has lived at 93 Commercial St., above Perry's Market, for almost 30 years, as housekeeper for Albert Nickerson.

She turned to practical nursing and housekeeping after the death of her husband, William E. Silvey, in 1929.

He is prominent in photographs she has, a personal and historical collection that captures Provincetown at a time she preferred. ("Too many dogs and kids and half-clothed people now.")

For 32 years he served in the U. S. Life-Saving Service and Coast Guard, which incorporated the Service in 1915.

Before he retired, he had achieved the rank of assistant keeper of the Peaked Hill Bars Station on the dunes, patrolling by foot and eye the "ocean graveyard."

It was an "awful station," Mrs. Silvey recalled with the shudder of some unpleasant memories. Before the Cape Cod Canal was finished, shipwrecks were common.

#### SURVIVOR JOINED FAMILY

Her husband was almost killed, she recalled, when a barge full of lumber grounded and he was struck by onrushing logs.

In one wreck, Mr. Silvey saved one barge occupant and made him a guest in his home for the next 20 years. Mrs. Silvey named the white cat Tommy. A picture of him licking water from the family fishbowl hangs on one wall.

The Silveys were married in 1901. They lived then on Bradford Street, at the foot of Ryder St., where the bas relief is now. They were living in Boston when he died.

#### PRIZE-WINNING BOWLER

Mrs. Silvey returned in 1937. For

#### Silvey-Oct. 25, 1971

Mrs. Nell Silvey, 90, of 93 Commercial Street, died October 25 at Cape Cod Hospital.

Born in Truro, she was the daughter of the late Samuel and Alice (Peterson) Smith, and the wife of the late William Silvey.

She had lived in Provincetown most of her life.

She was a member of the Universalist Church, of P.A.C.L. of Mass., and of Rebekah Lodge 41, IOOF of Orleans.

Mrs. Silvey is survived by a cousin, Mrs. Henry B. Foster of Truro.

Funeral services, conducted by Rev. Charles Harrell of the Universalist Church, will be held at the church Friday at 2 pm.

October 26, 1972

#### Silvey

A memorial service for the late Mrs. Nell S. Silvey will be held this Sunday, October 29th, at 11 am in The Universalist Church, 236 Commercial Street.

Mrs. Silvey passed on in her 90th year on October 25, 1971 at the Cape Cod Hospital after a short illness. She was born in Truro but lived in Provincetown most of her life.

A Mayflower descendant, Mrs. Silvey was a member of the Portuguese American Civic League of Massachusetts, the Nautilus Club and a past noble grand of the Rebekah Lodge 41, IOOF, of Orleans. Her primary interest, however, was the Get Together Club of The Universalist Church. For a number of years, as its president, she headed and directed the thrift shop, a major source of income for the upkeep of the church.

In accordance with a previously expressed desire, her many loving friends sent memorial contributions to The Restoration Committee of the Lower Cape. With these contributions The Nell Silvey Memorial Fund has been established to perpetually honor her memory.

recreation she bowled, averaging 150-200, and winning a 5-pound box of candy once as the highest scorer of the week.

For four years in the 1940's, she was noble grand of the Rebecca Lodge.

She's not too happy with the changes the town has undergone since she moved here from Truro at age 13, particularly the destruction of historic buildings.

She does, however, enjoy her church activities. Every Sunday she trades her loafers for high-heeled shoes and attends services at the Universalist Church. And this summer, its thrift shop is certain to be well supplied, as usual, with her handiwork.