

Provincetown Advocate, Thursday, December 8, 1977

Bell resigns town post

John Bell, active in Provincetown's government since 1963, retired as building inspector Thursday.

Bell, 61, said he is acting on the advice of family, friends and doctors who told him he needed more rest. His retirement follows closely the resignation of Town Clerk-Accountant Paul Cook and the retirement of Health Agent-Sanitarian Fernando Gonsalves, leaving new Town Manager Charles Cobb with three important positions to fill.

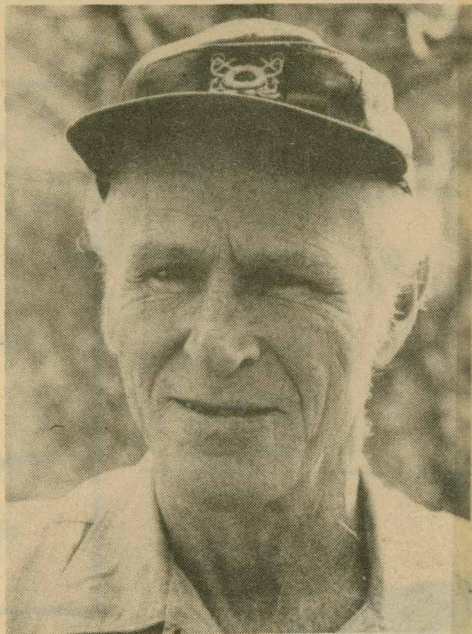
Bill Ingraham, Provincetown's wiring inspector, is now acting building inspector. Cobb said Monday he will advertise the permanent post before making a decision. The building inspector is appointed by the town manager.

Bell said he would be available for consultation for 30 days for any matters needing his attention. He also said he would be glad to serve the town in any advisory capacity.

The final paragraph of his retirement letter read: "With deep regret, I must yield to the advice of those who know my limitations better than I do. On the other hand, I shall always be ready to serve my adopted town in any unpaid capacity, to the best of my ability."

Bell said his health is fine, but his doctors have advised him that he is not getting enough rest. "They told me to take it easy for awhile."

Bell served on the finance committee from 1963-70. He was then elected selectman for a three-year term. During



John Bell

this period he was appointed to two three-month terms as temporary town manager.

He left office in 1973 and was a member of the historic district study committee for three years. He resigned that committee when he was appointed building inspector in September 1976.

Bell is also an *Advocate* columnist. His column, "Now and Then," has appeared in the local newspaper for years.

He wrote the foregoing article on the Town Hall.



PROVINCETOWN, MASS.

M. G. STIFF

Town Crier, Frank Andrews in front of Town Hall - 1940