

Provincetown Advocate, Thursday, March 23, 1972

### Derby-Hatted Winner

Mrs. Mary A. Marshall of Fairhaven, third cousin to Marion "Bert" Perry, sailed with Bert's uncle, "Captain Bertie" Perry on the newly-launched fishing schooner **Rose Dorothea** in 1905. She was ten years old when she made that voyage from Essex to Provincetown with her three sisters and her parents. Now 77, she recently sent Bert a clipping dated March 20, 1938, showing the **Rose Dorothea** winning the Lipton Cup in 1907 in spite of a broken fore topmast. Bert was aboard his uncle's boat in that race.

Mary reminds Bert that this coming Memorial Day weekend will be the 34th anniversary of the celebration of that victory and the erection by the Portuguese-American Civic League (PACL) of the memorial stone on Town Hall's west lawn. "It would be appropriate," she writes, "to have an article in your paper..."

Captain Marion "Bert" Perry was a legend in his own time. A fisherman at 12, he became a captain at 20 and sailed mackerel schooners until his retirement in 1934. His fishing successes earned him the sobriquet of "high liner." The 1907 photo taken just before the Lipton Cup race shows him at the boat's wheel wearing a suitcoat, a square-set derby hat, a handlebar moustache and a bulldog expression.

During the first 10-mile leg the **Rose Dorothea** had trouble setting her sails properly and appeared to be out of the race. The **Jesse Costa**, another Provincetown boat, footed nicely in the high wind and led the field of ten.

As Cap'n Bertie rounded the first buoy, the **Rose Dorothea's** fore topmast gave way, letting the topsail collapse uselessly. Surprising the other contenders, this apparent disaster made the schooner sail better. She finished several lengths ahead of the **Jesse Costa**, as shown by a photograph in the clipping. The original photo, says Mrs. Marshall, is in the Peabody Museum.

### Putting Down a President

Provincetown old-timers love to tell of Cap'n Bertie's sturdy reply to a White House aide who called on him in August, 1907. It symbolizes for them, I think, not only the seafarer's independent spirit but also a hard-won social status.

President Theodore Roosevelt, less than a month after Cap'n Bertie won the Lipton Cup, had come to Provincetown to dedicate the new Pilgrim Monument. At his hotel he referred to Captain Perry as "a champion of his class" and expressed a desire to meet him. He sent an aide to request Cap'n Bertie's presence.

The derby-hatted captain told the messenger, "If the President wants to see me, he knows where he can find me."