

# Artist painting museum mural

The Provincetown Heritage Museum has been shaking with the banging of hammers on nails and the whining of saws for the past four autumns as Captain Flyer Santos has worked at building a half-scale model of the famed fishing schooner Rose Dorothea.

In mid-summer this year, the harsh sounds of Santos' labors were joined with the muted tone of artist Steve Toomey's paintbrushes as he began painting a 240-square-foot mural depicting Provincetown at the turn of the century to serve as a backdrop for the replica.

Toomey, a summer resident of Provincetown for eight years, has been working on the mural five to six hours a day since starting, and has donated his talents to the museum.

Done in oil on 10 Masonite panels totalling 12 feet by 40 feet, the mural will ring the front of the boat on a stage in the second floor main gallery of the museum.

Jo Del Deo, chairman of the museum board of trustees, described the mural as of "spectacular, Smithsonian quality. With both Steve and Flyer, their work is a labor of love to donate their time and considerable talents to the Rose Dorothea."

Del Deo said the entire Rose exhibit should be completed by the fall of next year, noting that the entire main gallery will be devoted to the schooner, with photos and a simulated wharf area surrounding her.

The mural offers an onshore view of a wharf area busy with fishing boats, sailors, and merchants. Toomey planned the layout using old, turn-of-the-century photos as source material.

"I've never taken on a project quite this large," said Toomey, who first came to town to study with artist Bob Hunter. "Maybe this will lead to future work like this for me, but what really turned me on was the subject matter."

The fishing schooner Rose Dorothea was built by designer Tom McManus in 1905, and until she was sunk by German submarines in 1917, created a strong reputation not only for fishing, but for her speed. In 1907, the Rose won the Lipton Cup under Captain Marion Perry of Provincetown, narrowly defeating another Provincetown boat, the Jessie Costa.

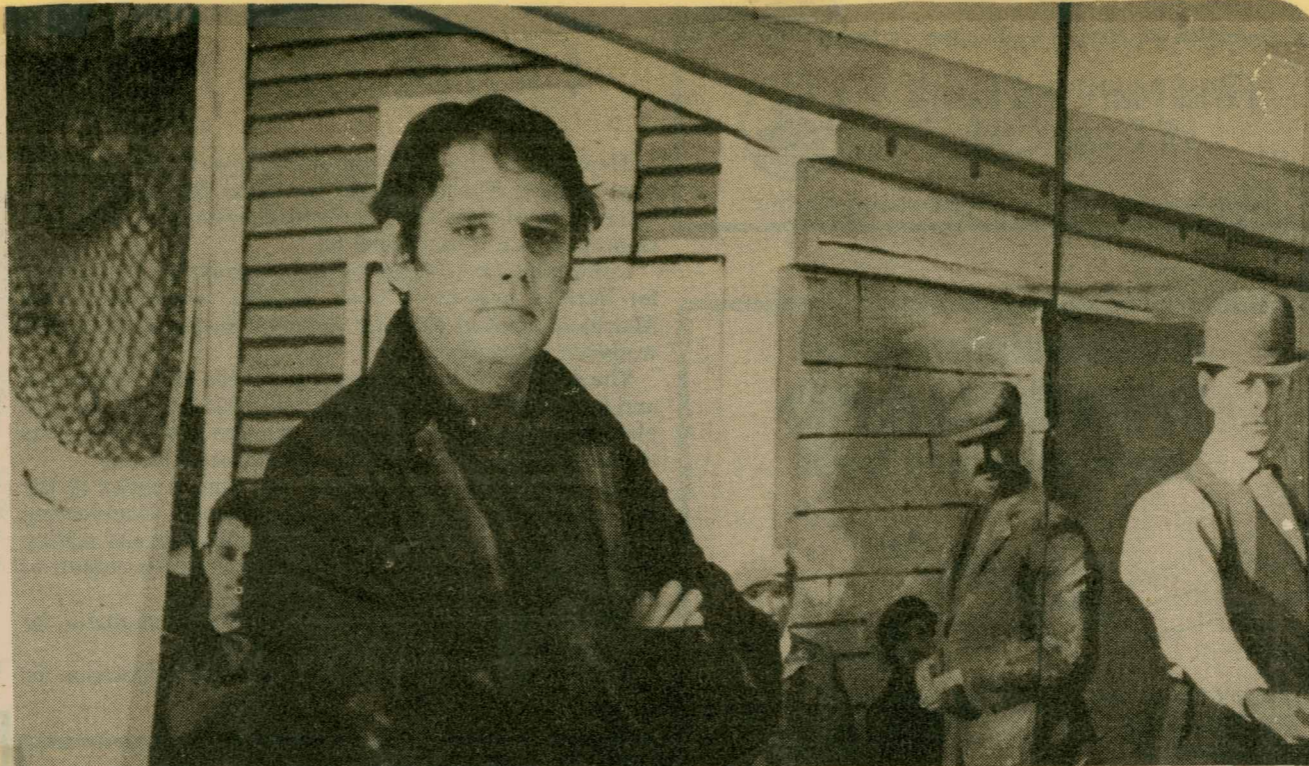
Toomey has completed about seven of the 10 panels, and started work on all but one. "I'll stay a few more weeks and then come back in the spring to finish up," he said.

Toomey, 37, has worked as a courtroom artist for WBZ-TV in Boston, and last year as an illustrator for Marvel Comics in New York City. He said he hopes to continue working as an illustrator.

The Rose, meanwhile, has progressed smoothly since work began in August of 1977. Santos said that the hull is "90 percent completed and we hope to be done by late next year."

Once the hull is completed, work will begin on the masts and sails. Santos said, "We need help in further funding." Financing for the project has been provided by the Provincetown Historical Association, a private, non-profit organization.

When completed, the model will be 66 feet, 11 inches long, and its mainmast will rise to a height of 60 feet, making her the largest indoor boat and a vivid legacy to Provincetown's history as a fishing port.



Artist Steve Toomey

The Advocate, Thursday, November 5, 1981

The Advocate, Thursday, October 8, 1981

# Face lift



Advocate photo by Marilyn Miller

Renovation of the Heritage Museum has been underway since September 15, and is expected to be completed by the middle of this month.

The work is being done by the Russo Painting and Decorating Company of Cambridge, which submitted the winning bid of \$29,894 for the project.