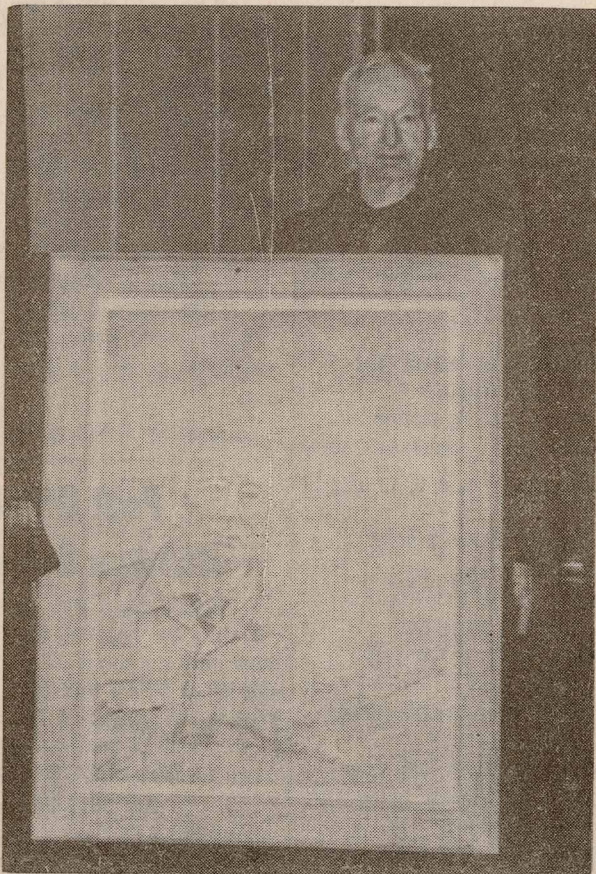


## DEATH OF HARRY KEMP, POET OF THE DUNES, MARKS THE END OF AN ERA

The death of Harry Kemp on Monday morning brought closer to an end the era of Provincetown's literary heyday. For Harry was one of the small circle, who in the 1920's formed the Provincetown Players, and who carried the name to a theatre marquee in Greenwich Village, where it still remains.

Harry Kemp never achieved the re-

grim women. He sponsored a celebration honoring a famous Portuguese poet and received a copy of Louis de Camoens works from the Portuguese government for the Provincetown Public Library in appreciation of his efforts. He challenged England's town criers to a "meet" with Provincetown's crier. He was always active.



Early this Spring a portrait of Harry was presented to the Town by the artist, Marilyn Zapp. He is seen above at the presentation ceremony in Town Hall.

nown of his friend and contemporary Eugene O'Neill. He was a prolific writer and a persistent one; a champion of causes. In recent years he set out to tell the world that the Pilgrims had first landed in Provincetown, and his efforts in this behalf were noteworthy. He annually celebrated the First Landing by recreating the event, he sponsored several unsuccessful swims between Provincetown and Plymouth and he was instrumental in ensuring that the Mayflower II accurately recreated the original voyage by making its first call in the New World at this port. He re-enacted with the aid of local women, the first Monday wash day of the Pil-

During the past year, visibly aged and weakened physically from years of diabetes it often seemed that Harry was kept alive by sheer will power. Walking became increasingly difficult, but not impossible, and Harry, until the night before his death was around town in his familiar places; the Mayflower Cafe, the Patrician, reading his newspaper and rarely missing a Saturday night at the Beachcombers.

Harry Kemp was a valid and honest Bohemian. Thirty years ago his capers made news. Those who remember Harry from his Greenwich Village days recall him as strong and good looking

with bright red hair. Agnes Boulton, writing in "Part of A Long Story," described him as "wild, kind tramp poet . . ." For in those days he was known as the Hobo Poet, or Tramp Poet, a nickname acquired from riding the rails and from stowing away aboard a ship to Europe. He made a trip around the world, beginning with 25 cents in his pocket and had crisscrossed the United States on freight cars. Having lived all his life as a Bohemian, Harry Kemp's work, particularly in later years, was extremely conventional. He was fascinated by Shakespeare and the Elizabethans and a devotee of the poetic forms of that age.

The New York Herald Tribune, writing of Harry's death, quoted their own 1936 review of his novel "Mabel Turner," in which the book had been called "an example of the idyllic period of farm literature," and they added, "Beatniks would regard it as square."

Around 1919 Harry Kemp first came to Provincetown. He had a shack out on the dunes near Peaked Hill where he lived as long as the weather permitted and for years in the winter he lived at Johnny Francis' apartments on Commercial Street. Last Fall Harry got a cottage of his own, built for him by Sunny Tasha, with the help of some of the Beachcombers, and it was there that he suffered a cerebral hemorrhage on Monday morning. Death came at about 11 a. m.

According to his wishes, his body will be cremated and his ashes will be scattered partly over the dunes at Peaked Hill and partly in Greenwich Village.

In "More Miles," an autobiographical novel written in 1927, Harry wrote, "After all I have made up my mind to live and die for poetry." He kept his word.

Harry Kemp was born Harry Hibbard Kemp in Youngstown, Ohio on December 15, 1883, the son of Wilbert Elijah and Ida Hibbard Kemp. He attended the Mount Herman (Mass.) Preparatory School and the University of Kansas. In 1915 he married the late Mary Pyne, who died in 1920 and in 1923 was married to Frances McClerman.

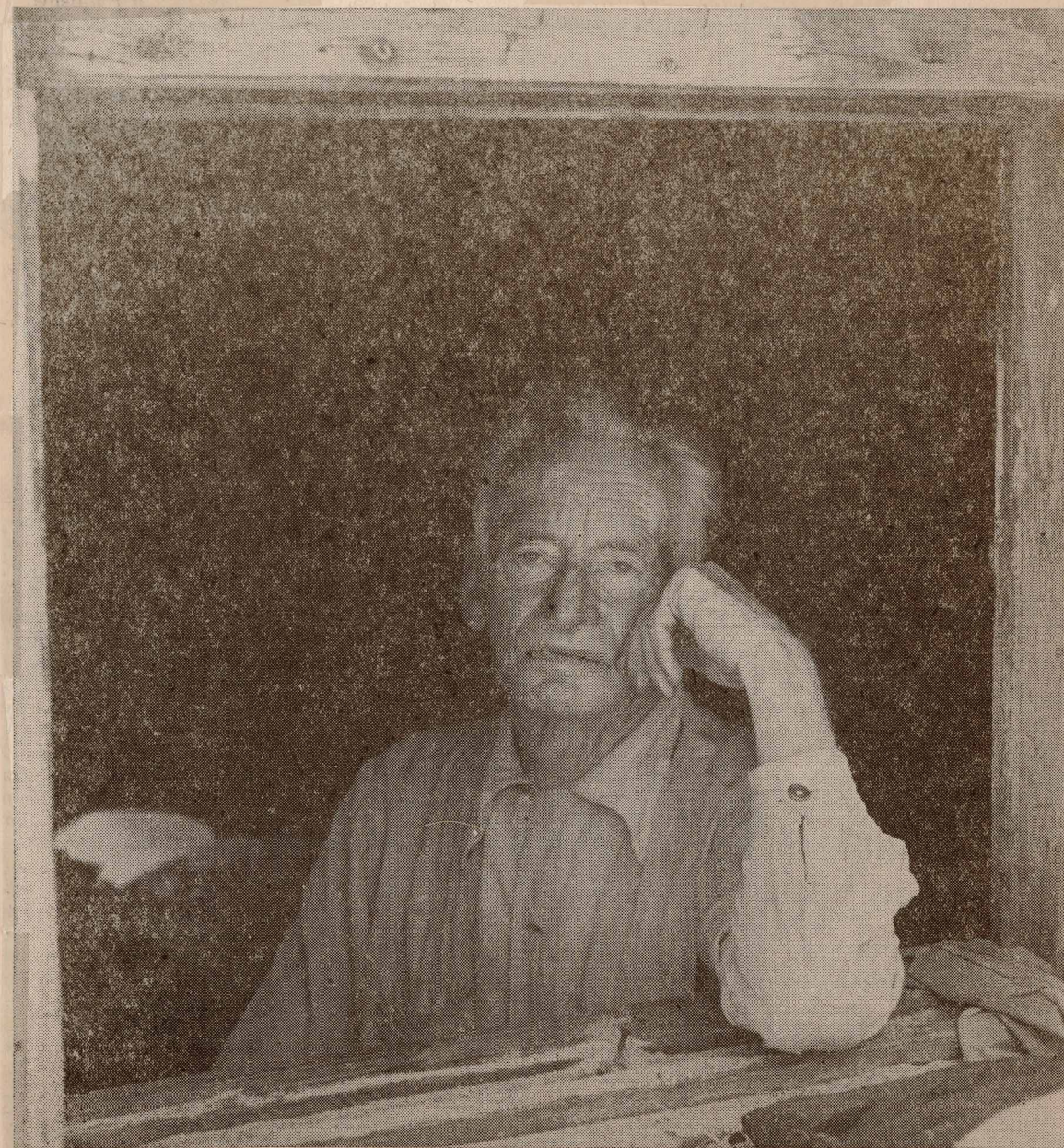
Manager and founder of The Poet's Theatre, he was also founder and president of the Provincetown Pilgrims Association, a member of the London Poetry Society and of The Beachcombers.

He was the author of Judas (play) 1910; The Cry of Youth (verse) 1914; The Thresher's Wife (narrative poem)

1914; The Passing God (verse) 1919; Chanteys and Ballads (verse) 1920; Tranning on Life (prose) 1922; Boccaccio's Untold Tales and Other One-Act Plays, 1924; The Sea and the Dunes (verse) 1926; More Miles (prose) 1927 and The Bronze Treasury (anthology) 1927.

Other works to his credit were The Golden Word—an Outline of a Non-Ascetic Religion 1930; Love Among the Cape Enders (novel) 1931; The Love-Rogue (poetic translation of El Burlador de Seville de Tellez) 1922; Mabel Turner, an American Primitive (novel) 1936; Harry Answers Omar, Counterblast to the Rubiyat (poem) 1946; The

Poet's Life of Christ; Songs of the Living Lord, 1946; Provincetown Tideways, A Miscellany (periodical) 1947; Poet of the Dunes—Songs of the Dunes and The Outer Shore 1953 and Rhyme of Provincetown Nicknames 1954.



Provincetown's famous Dune Poet Harry Kemp died in August. This remarkable photograph by Dan Bernstein shows him at the window of his shack out near Peaked Hill where he did much of his writing.