

Seventy-Five Years Ago

September 30, 1874

A Needed Improvement

One of the best interests of the town would be, as we have always claimed, to build a road of some sort to the back side and thereby afford to the town, that of which she is desolate, a drive, and one which could not be surpassed in novelty. It would prove an attraction that would warrant the outlay it would require to construct it.

The time has gone by when a town can profitably ignore improvements and attractions. "We have always got along without drives and good roads." It could have been said only a little time ago that we always got along without a steam boat, without a plank walk, without a hardened street, with a one-eyed horse, without a high school, without a public library, without a railroad. Who is willing to be deprived of them now? They all cost money. Can we afford to be without ONE of these? A wharf 70 feet long answered once all the commercial requirements of Provincetown and the people wagged their heads and said a pier would not stand and that the enterprising, public-spirited man who built it was a fool. It is the way many talked then; it is the way many talk now. The fact is people do more business than they used to and do it easily. They have better houses and take better care of them. The ladies have five times the conveniences for doing their work they once had. And the town itself needs to improve just as fast as the private residences. We desire to live as other people live. Families here have no idea of being behind times in the furnishing of their bodies or their homes and there is a healthful emulation existing. We have not the natural facilities for having a handsome town, perhaps, but much can be done artificially and much is being done. A photograph of our village as it was fifty years ago, and one of today, would show vast improvement in the appearance of the place, (whether a picture of the morals would show as much progress we hesitate to say.) Yet the fact is patent that more remains to be done and we should not grow weary in well doing.

We hope as soon as the town is able some action will be taken to give us a good road to the ocean not only as an attraction to strangers but for its practical good to the inhabitants. How many men, owners and drivers of teams who have to truck goods from shipwrecked vessels in the dead of win-

ter would oppose it. What objection could Boston Underwriters, whom it would pay in helping save cargoes of stranded vessels, bring against it, and would it not pay them to assist in constructing such a road? Land owners and the railroad Corporation would find it for their interest to help out such an undertaking. We hope before long to see some steps taken in this matter of so much importance.



State Road - Provincetown

Sand dune & State road - Provincetown

