

THE WRECK OF THE ANNIE L. SPINDLER

December 27, 1922

There is an amusing and ironic tale about the wreck of the Annie L. Spindler. It seems a French-Canadian skipper was running a cargo of rum off Race Point one dark and stormy night during the prohibition days. He must have been thanking his lucky stars that he had almost reached Massachusetts Bay, having made the run without an engine and avoided the Coast Guard, when a "gutterin' no'easter" batted back the vessel like a shuttlecock and she grounded directly in front of the Coast Guard Station at Race Point. There sat the Spindler with her "hot cargo", neatly delivered at the Coast Guards' front door. The good skipper, however, had no intention of losing his cargo as well as his ship. His papers, as was the case with all rum runners, were made out to the West Indies. Vigorously he protested that he had been blown off his course, denying any intention of making for Plymouth where a "shuttle ship" would transfer the cases ashore.

Meanwhile, half of Provincetown had got wind of the wreck and had rushed out to the Race for pickings. The citizens "salvaged" what they could find on the beach. For safekeeping, the Coast Guardsmen broke open the hold and took the entire cargo into the basement of the station. There it was held from Provincetown's army of volunteer "rescue workers" while the skipper got in touch with his owners. Another vessel was sent from Nova Scotia and tied up at Railroad Wharf. The obliging authorities of the Coast Guard provided trucks and took enough men off rum patrol duty to transport the cargo from Race Point to the wharf. There it was loaded on the second vessel, which also had papers made out for the West Indies. That night, the liquor was taken across-Bay and unloaded at Plymouth!



SCHOONER ANNIE L. SPINDLER
from Lunenburg, N. S.
A rum runner came ashore at Race Pt. Cape Cod, Mass.
December 27, 1922

- Taken September 1924 -
Dad, Charlie Mayo and his son Charles on
the rail.

