



# SOUTH WIND

By Heaton Vorse

Once upon a time the Coast Guardsmen who manned Wood End, Race Point and Peaked Hill Bars were for the most part of local product. It was taken for granted that when a boy became eighteen he'd start pounding the beaches for the next three to six years. The worse the weather the more carefully was the shoreline patrolled. No Coast Guard Captain ever said, "You'd best not go out into the storm, son. It's cold and wet out there and you might catch a virus." Nowadays . . . Well, I'll come to that later.

The men walking the beaches wore side arms for the first time after a German sub sank a tugboat and a couple of barges off Nauset beach during World War One. I met one Coast Guard friend of mine overly conscious of the pistol dangling at his hip. "I hope nothing ever happens while I'm on watch," he said. "I sure wouldn't know how to use this. I don't even know for real which is the working end of the thing. If I ever tried to shoot it I'd probably hit myself."

Things have changed a bit since then. Instead of having three operational Coast Guard Stations within Town limits there is only part of one. I say "part" because as of now the Captain at Race Point has no boats at his command. And the boys out at the Station no longer merely cross the dunes when they go home on leave. They go back to Texas, Kansas or Arizona or they talk with the soft, slurring accent of the Deep South. They're nice boys and work hard but, let's face it, theirs is not the tradition of generations at sea.

As I said, Race Point is but partly a Coast Guard Station. It's boats, the fast thirty footer and the whale boat non-sinkable 36 footer have been moved to Wellfleet and berthed in the million and a half dollar Marina there. A letter from Admiral Harding, Coast Guard Commandant in this area, was read by Selectman Ralph Carpenter at a Selectmen's meeting a couple of weeks ago that said that the reason the action in relocating the boats has been taken was that there were no adequately sheltered berthing facilities here during a North Wester. And that when the wind blew from that quarter

the little Coast Guard boats would have to ride out the weather in the lee of Long Point with no facilities for either feeding the crew or keeping its members at room temperature during the unpleasantness. The letter pointed out that when a marina was constructed here we could have the boats back again.

So now the Walloping Windowblind and her escort are cuddled in the womb of Wellfleet. But there's something that I don't quite understand. After all, the marina in Wellfleet was built some years ago. Why is it, then, that the powers that be waited until the year that the General Court allocated some forty acres of Province Lands for a marina, (that may or may not be built,) to discover that the little Coast Guard craft were not receiving adequate shelter here.

- March 7, 1963 -

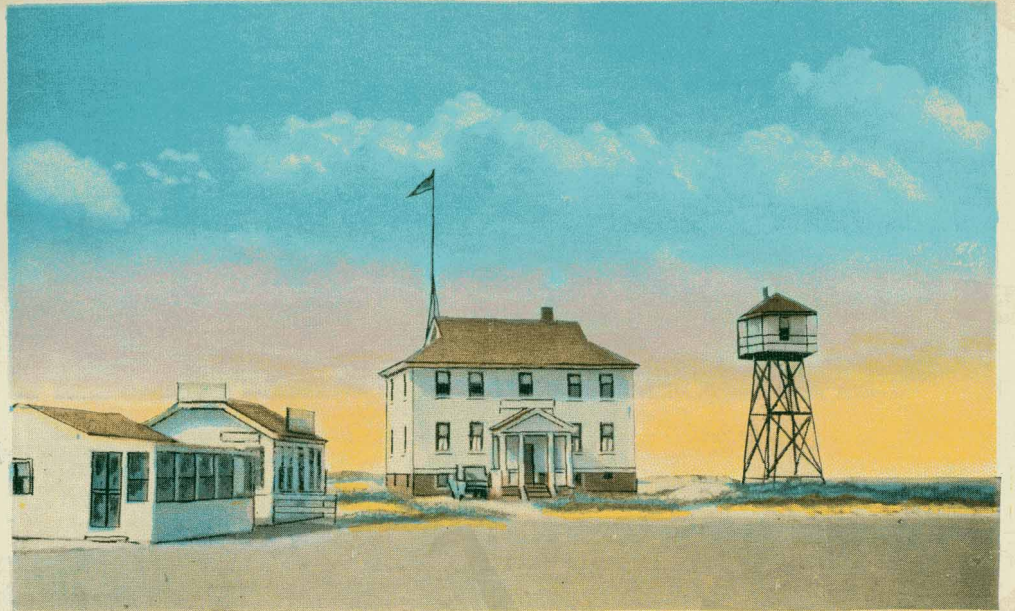
**COAST GUARDSMEN** from Race Point Coast Guard Station rescued a jeep last Friday which had become mired at Race Run when the operator, identified only as Charlie, had attempted to cross the run at low tide. Completely under water when the tide was high, the vehicle was rescued by Boatswain's Mate 2d Class Kenneth Trimble and Seaman-Boatswain's Mate George Bassett at low tide by attaching a line from the jeep to the DUKW and hauling it out. The jeep was said to have travelled only 5,000 miles.

**THE OLD AMPHIBIOUS DUKW** that served the Race Point Coast Guard Station for so many years, made its last voyage recently and it was by land. The 25-year-old DUKW was on its way to the scrap heap at Otis Air Force Base in Falmouth. It has been supplanted by the larger and modernly equipped LARK.

- November 14, 1968 -

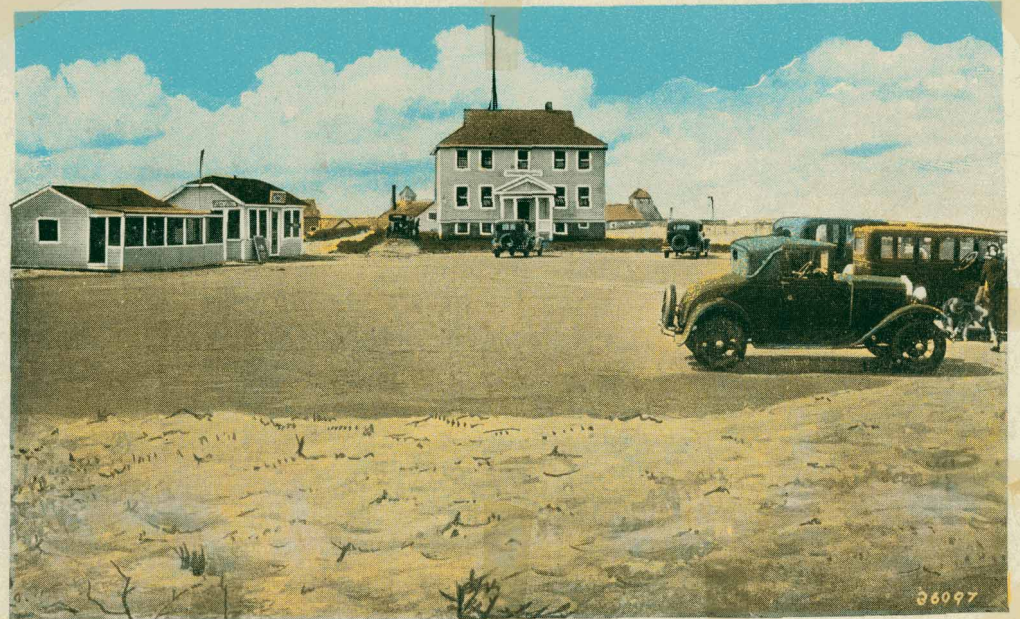
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RACE POINT COAST GUARD STATION, RACE POINT, CAPE COD, MASS.



- 1925 -

Race Point Coast Guard Station at the Tip End of Cape Cod, Provincetown, Mass.



- 1927 -