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Old Harbor Coast Guard Station wends its way to port

By PETER HARTLEY
Staff Writer

PROVINCETOWN — Old Harbor Coast Guard Station sailed into Provincetown Harbor about 10:30 Wednesday morning still flying the American, Coast Guard and Irish flags that had been strung from her tower Tuesday noon.

The harbor was like burnished pewter under the heavy overcast, flat calm, as had been the sea since the job of towing the station from its former location on North Beach in Chatham had begun shortly before 4 a.m.

The tug Taurus of Vineyard Haven lay off the breakwater, took in its topline and tied on to the port quarter of the barge and its cargo, and ran slow patterns in the outer harbor until early afternoon when there was sufficient water to bring the barge inshore.

For that work, she was joined by the dragger Petrel which tied on to the starboard quarter of the barge, and between them the two powerful vessels slowly maneuvered the slightly listing steel barge with its strange looking cargo past the west end of the breakwater, across in front of the end of McMillan Wharf, and nudged it up to a berth next to Macara's wharf, where she was secured by an anchor and with lines to the wharf.

There she'll stay, according to Dan McCloskey, who has been superintendent of the whole job for Jack Corey's Middlesex Contractors and Riggers, Inc., until the station's Race Point site is ready, and weather is favorable for the next phase of the job.

McCloskey said the foundations for the new site were expected to be completed



The Old Harbor Coast Guard Station, late of North Beach, Chatham, glides by McMillan Wharf, Provincetown early Wednesday afternoon headed for a berth next to Macara's Wharf. The Provincetown dragger Petrel is

visible on the near side, the Vineyard Haven tug, which actually towed the improbable barge-load from Chatham is on the far side. There wasn't much room to spare on the barge.

today, and that unrigging the two huge cranes, transporting them across Chatham Harbor and over the road to Provincetown, then rerigging them could take about a week.

At that point, McCloskey said, the barge will be moved from Provincetown Harbor

around to Race Point, and the station and boathouse sections lifted off the barge, and by successive moves of cranes and buildings onto its new site, several hundred yards from the water northeast of the bathhouse at the Race Point Beach bath house.

McCloskey, who hadn't

slept since "... sometime on Nov. 28," said Wednesday he had about had it with people who'd been telling him he couldn't possibly do what the contract had called for ever since the job had started, and admitted absolute disgust with those who'd actually hoped the North Beach part

of the job would climax with the sinking of the station.

He admitted, however, that North Beach had been one of the most difficult places to work he had ever encountered, and he had nothing but praise for the crew that had worked with him on the job, noting that foreman

Nathaniel Faxon of Hyannis, hired for this job, now had a permanent job with the Corey firm on the basis of that job.

"Right now, though, all I want is a shot and a beer, do my lobster act in the tub, and about six hours sleep," McCloskey said.

Dear Boss: Consider my string of luck

Editor's Note: Every once in a while we get a plaintive bellow from one of our Lower Cape functionaries in which he offers to quit as a result of something he has done he shouldn't have, or something he hasn't done he should have. Herewith, the most recent.

Dear Boss:

You've never taken me up on quitting before, so how about early retirement?

If my luck over the past 10 days or so holds up the way it's been going, the paper might even come out making money on the deal by just keeping me off the streets.

About the Old Harbor Coast Guard Station story, for instance. Now you know that's been my story for two years. What's more I've harrassed the Park Service, harangued selectmen, badgered congressmen — you name it, anything to get some action.

So where was I when the action came? I mean the BIG action? In Boston, that's where, keeping appointments with a coupla doctors, both of whom told me I'm fine, don't come back for two months.

You know WHY they moved Old Harbor Coast Guard Station on Tuesday? Not Monday? Not Wednesday?

For two reasons.

Because I'd rescheduled the original doctors' appointments a week ago Tuesday for this Tuesday, and couldn't put it off any longer.

Also, because I'd been on the beach when they DIDN'T move the station Sunday the 20th, and I'd frozen. So I'd gone out last weekend and spent far too much money for one of those nifty down filled parkas, warm enough to hatch glass eggs.

Thus had I insured the station WOULDN'T be moved on Tuesday, Nov. 22, and then just as surely insured it WOULD be moved Tuesday, Nov. 29.

With that kind of luck I'm a menace to the news business.

What's more, I think I'll get my daughter to embroider the back of the parka with the legend "Old Harbor Life Saving Station Memorial Parka" or something like that.

It would be a real conversation starter at the dump on Sunday mornings.

— Peter Hartley