

Provincetown Advocate, Thursday, February 2, 1978

Station move off till spring

By Jim Gilbert

As expected, the Old Harbor Lifesaving Station will sit where it is, tied up between Macara's and MacMillan Wharves, until spring.

Inclement weather late last week prevented the moving company, Middlesex Contractors and Riggers, from moving the barge from the harbor to its future home on the beach at Race Point. It will now be another week before tides are again favorable for the move.

But mover Jack Corey, fearing the tremendous cost of mobilizing another unsuccessful moving effort, has decided to call it quits until milder, calmer weather.

One of the two giant cranes used in the dramatic move in November off an eroding barrier beach in Chatham will be used, however, on the new water tower construction project. Supervisor Dan Tarr said the crane will be rented for two months.

The easy availability of the crane helps both Corey and the water tower builders, Rego Construction Company. The giant cranes have to be dismantled and trucked to new construction sites.

The other crane will stay on the beach until a rental comes up or until after the move, Tarr said.

Meanwhile, a skeleton crew will watch over the station and the remaining equipment. One person will stay in Provincetown, checking the station daily. Tarr said he will come up two or three days each week, too.

The barge has been secured with 11 wire rope lines. Two five-ton and two three-ton moorings have been dropped so that the station does not have to be attached to rickety old Macara's Wharf. Earlier this winter the station ripped out a piling during a storm, causing damage to the wharf and setting the barge partially adrift.

A meeting is set for today between Tarr, Marsha Fader, the architectural historian in charge of the move and National Seashore officials. The Seashore is footing the \$119,000 bill for the move.

At the meeting, Tarr will present testimony from local fishermen and others knowledgeable about Provincetown's weather as justification for postponing the move. Tarr said the meeting is "just a formality" to satisfy the Seashore that making any more attempts this winter is futile.

Tarr said he was concerned that the company that owns the barge the station sits on will want it back. He said the rental for the barge is high, about \$300 to \$400 a day.

The postponement of the move did not take anyone by surprise. Tarr said for weeks fishermen and others in town "have been telling us we were crazy. But we had to try it." He said the biggest hangup in the move was the late start off the beach in Chatham.

"We had to get it off there," he said.

Provincetown Advocate,

Thursday, April 27, 1978

OLD HARBOR. After bobbing in Provincetown Harbor through a tough winter with us, the Old Harbor station may soon be on its way to the backside. Marsha Fader, the Seashore historical architect coordinating the project, said this week she's shooting for a move sometime after the first of May.

As in the fall, moving the huge barged station requires favorable winds and tides. Eventually, two cranes will lift the station off the barge onto a foundation at Race Point.

The contractor's cranes are expected to return here by the end of this week. The watch for the right combination of wind and tide will resume next week. The building withstood the winter storms with only minor damage.

The Advocate, Thursday, May 11, 1978

OLD HARBOR. The first sign that preparations are underway to move the Old Harbor Lifesaving Station the last few miles around Long Point to its new Race Point home was the dismantling of the huge crane used all winter on the water tower construction job.

The crane was dismantled early this week and moved to Race Point where another crane sits in preparation for the move. Seashore officials and movers are waiting for calm weather to finish the move. Like last fall, it's just a matter of waiting. It could happen tomorrow or the next day or . . .

The Advocate, Thursday, May 18, 1978

HARBOR STATION. By the time you read this, the Old Harbor Lifesaving Station should be resting at its new Race Point home. After a winter of bad weather and postponed moves, Marge Burling from the Seashore called us yesterday to say the station would be moved last night and this morning unless the weather suddenly turned bad.

They had decided to move the station in two steps. Yesterday afternoon fishing boats were planning to tow the station away from shore. It was supposed to spend last night anchored in the harbor. This morning, a tugboat was scheduled to take the station around Long Point and to its new Race Point home.



Old Harbor Station