Frank K. Atkins Of Provincetown Dies at Age 63

Businessman Since 1894 Built Theater, Started Bus Service

PROVINCETOWN, April 26 -Frank Knowles Atkins, 63, of 3 Carver Street, well-known and active as a businessman here since 1894, died at 8 o'clock this morning at Quincy City Hospital, where he had been taken from his residence yesterday morning. Death was ascribed to heart trouble, complicated by a lung condition.

Mr. Atkins was born in Provincetown and spent his life here.

June 28,* 1871.
The omnibus is now one of our greatest conveniences, and Mr. Libby a careful and accomodating driver. It should be liberally patronized, as the community can scarcely afford to do without it. Besides carrying passengers about town he stands ready at a momment's warning to drive them to the Dike, or Highland, at reason-

He first started in business as operator of a livery stable left to him by his late grandfather, Samuel Knowles, who operated the oldtime Provincetown-Orleans stagecoach. The livery stable was on the site of the Old Pilgrim Theater in the center of town.

Later the business was moved to a site opposite the railroad in Bradford Street, where Mr. Atkins also carried on a fuel, grain and building materials business and served as agent for the Adams Express Company. He erected the Pilgrim Theater, which was Provincetown's second movie house, and at that time specialized in showing the Pearl White thriller films and Mack Sennett comedies with vaudeville interspersed.

Started Bus Service

Mr. Atkins established the first motor bus service in Provincetown about 1911, thus carrying on a service for Summer visitors which was started with his horse-drawn livery stable vehicles which took the Summer residents on sightseeing trips to the ocean shore and the dunes.

He was the owner of one of the

first automobiles in Provincetown, an Elcar, and he operated the first commercial popcorn machine. Many men now in business in Provincetown worked for him at various

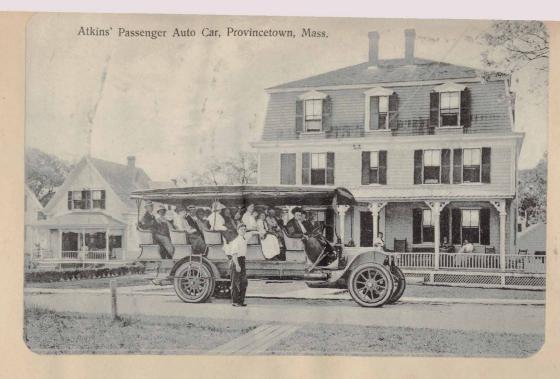
Perhaps his most interesting venture was the plant he established on the present Provincetown Post Office site where he, with his son, Samuel K. Atkins, and his son-inlaw, Frank H. Hogan, manufactured artists' paints. The output of this business was not only used by painters of the Provincetown colony, many of whose works are hung in the world's eminent galleries, but the paint products were sold throughout the United States.

After the war the exportation of raw materials became so costly that the business was suspended.

Operated Gas Station

For the last seven years Mr. Atkins and his sons operated a gasoline filling station across from the railway station.

He was married 37 years ago to Miss Emma W. Cook of Provincetown, daughter of the late Captain John Cook, a whaling master.



In front of the Mayo Cottage

1911

