

November 16, 1926

Severe Gale in the Harbor

A wind storm of great velocity spread over Provincetown and vicinity Tuesday afternoon increasing as night came on. In the violence of the storm the U. S. S. Cutter Morrill harboring here, dragged her anchor and broke hawser causing her to drift helplessly to the shore broadsides. She drifted in between Higgins' wharf and Pickert's Canning Factory wharf and with the tossing about both wharves were completely demolished, the bow of the big steel ship striking one wharf and the stern the other wharf. The damage amounts to thousands of dollars.

The gale was terrific and subdued only when the ebb tide came at 9 o'clock. At that time the Cutter was high and dry, the ship thoroughly lighted with electricity and large search lights. When tossed about between the wharves a voice from a megaphone on shipboard ordered every person to vacate the wharves and buildings thereon.

Although the damage was great, there was no one injured. Several gasoline boats were sunk and more or less smashed.

The Casino building and new garage on Higgins' wharf were thrown upon the tide and washed ashore.

The Cutter had a full complement of 50 men on board.

The street was lined with hundreds of sight seers who were horrified at the destruction, the crashing and smashing of timbers. The vicinity looked like the aftermath of the Florida hurricane with the great amount of debris.

The Morrill broke anchor, the chain parted and the remaining anchor weighting 11 tons was not enough to hold her. She draws 8 feet of water. Her fires were all going, but the strength of steam was not enough to buck the terrible wind. It is believed she is not injured in the least though all about her is havoc and ruination.

A queer incident about the Morrill is that just one year ago on the same date and hour on the Nova Scotia coast, she lost eight men.

Photographers from Boston Post and The Associated Press were in town early Wednesday morning taking pictures of the wreckage of the storm's fury.

The conservative estimate of the damage done in the storm of Tuesday Nov. 16th in Provincetown is \$100,000.00. The damage to bulkheads

in the eastern part of the town is great. The wharf of Miss Isabel Boynton was swept entirely away. Five hundred feet of bulkhead from Ocean Lodge west is destroyed and the bulkhead at the Church of St. Mary of the Harbor under repair is also ruined.

The following gasoline boats are reported as damaged, either sunk at moorings or washed ashore:

- Jos. King Peters, C H 65
- Antone Souza, C 951
- John Phillips, 4590
- Jos. Perry, C 741
- Antone Joseph, C 735
- Standard Oil Gas boat,



The J. D. Hilliard Wharf with schooners and fish flakes on the wharf about 1920. Wharf with the Cupola is the George O. Knowles Wharf



George O. Knowles Wharf after the cutter Morrill and the storm of November 16, 1926 got through with it. Clipping, above picture and pictures on next page given to Althea by Lizzie Livingston.

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