

# Benches Go Back Into Place After Big To-Do

The benches were returned in front of the Provincetown Town Hall on Tuesday four weeks after they had been removed by order of the Board of Selectmen.

Their return followed a second vote of the Board of Selectmen at a hearing last week. At that hearing a crowd of from 200 to 300 residents had favored the return of the benches by an overwhelming margin.

But the actual return of the benches by the town's highway department was delayed for a week because the Selectmen had stipulated when they voted to replace the benches that they wanted to specify the arrangement and spacing of the benches.

The Selectmen took care of this last bit of decision-making at their regular meeting on Monday night.

Just prior to the meeting all five Selectmen walked out in front of Town Hall to survey the sidewalk and entranceway to the building.

After some consideration the Selectmen decided that it would be wisest to place six benches facing Commercial Street east of the entranceway, three benches facing Commercial Street west of the entranceway, and three benches on each side of the entranceway.

This deployment is very similar to that of four weeks ago. The Selectmen also said that the benches should be placed slightly away from the shrubs behind them in order to allow sweeping all around them.

When the Selectmen went back inside Town Hall and got into their meeting, Selectman Munro Moore put the bench arrangement into a motion and asked that it be carried out the next day. The rest of the Selectmen passed the motion unanimously.



In the old days, when there were no official benches in front of Town Hall, folks used to sit wherever they could. This photograph, from an old postcard printed by The Advocate, shows that the scene along Commercial Street was congested then too. The old Advocate Building is in the center. The photo comes courtesy of Kent Continho, who collects such things.



Conventionally-clothed "desirable" tourists inhabit the benches on the first day of their return.

## New Town Hall benches readied

With the help of several local merchants, the Provincetown Beautification Committee will provide new benches to be installed in front of Town Hall in time for the summer season.

A welcome and sure-to-be-appreciated addition to downtown Provincetown, the new benches will stretch from in front of one end of Town Hall lawn to the other end. To be constructed of wood and steel-reinforced bases, the benches will replace the deteriorating green park benches which are now the temporary refuge of many a weary passerby on Commercial Street.

Edward Brady, owner of the Courtyard Restaurant, and Gene Poyant, owner of Gene's Bakery, will donate money to pay for the bases for the new benches. Craig's Lumber will donate wood to build the benches.

The bench bases, to be constructed of concrete and reinforced with steel, will extend two feet into the ground, Brady said. Brady said he and Poyant will donate 14 bases, enough to build 100 feet of benches. The new benches will be more resistant than the present ones to vandalism because they will be firmly planted in the sidewalk, Brady said.

The Provincetown selectmen commended the beautification committee last Thursday for its gift to the town. The benches on Commercial Street in Town Hall have traditionally been a favorite meeting spot for local people and visitors alike.