

BANDER 4-1-99

INVEST IN HISTORY

THE OLD CENTER METHODIST CHURCH BUILDING
(CHRYSLER MUSEUM) IS A SOUND INVESTMENT FOR THE
TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN BECAUSE:

1. As a Town owned and operated museum, it will provide a repository for many historical artifacts, endangered records, art works and memorabilia of the Town of Provincetown. There are two fire-proof vaults in the building ready for use. Remember, the Town has no museum of its own!
2. It is a beautiful, historical landmark in itself — a building of national landmark status in a prime central location.
3. The purchase price is \$135,000 — far below the appraisal value of \$200,000. Alterations and repairs by previous owners amount to \$140,000.
4. The building has been inspected by a qualified structural engineer and has been declared structurally sound.

THE MUSEUM WILL NOT BE A BURDEN TO THE TOWN BECAUSE:

1. The Town is being asked only for the purchase price and the finance charges, which will reflect just 36¢ on your tax bill.
2. The maintenance, repairs and every other expense connected with the building will be funded from general admissions to the museum and private contributions from organizations and individuals.
3. The building will eventually return in earned revenue many times its purchase price. It will also employ citizens of the Town.

PROJECTED OPERATING BUDGET (1st Year)

Salaries	\$8,000.00
Repairs & Insurance	\$4,000.00
Electricity	750.00
Centralized Purchases	\$2,000.00
Miscellaneous	250.00
TOTAL	\$15,000.00

PROJECTED INCOME (1st Year)

*General Admissions	\$15,000.00
Private Contributions	5,000.00
*(Admission figure is based on 20,000 adult attendance @ \$0.75 per person over a period of 90 days. The museum will be open longer if profitable.)	

HOW WILL THE MUSEUM BE RUN?

The museum will be run by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Board of Selectmen. They will be at least 5 and no more than 7 trustees who will have the authority to manage and operate the museum.

THIS IS A REALISTIC CONCEPT BECAUSE:

Admissions from other historic sites in Massachusetts have shown that people are interested in history and will pay many thousands of dollars annually to see their country's legacy. In 1974 the Plymouth Plantation had a gross income of \$625,000 which included 418,000 admissions to the Mayflower II. We lost the opportunity to have the Mayflower II in Provincetown Harbor. Don't lose this opportunity!

VOTE "YES" ON ARTICLE 8, NOVEMBER 12th

☪ HISTORY IS GOOD BUSINESS ☪



THE CENTER METHODIST CHURCH

LITHOGRAPHED BY WELLS, BIGGS & COMPANY
NEW YORK, N.Y.

Lithograph courtesy of George Bryant

Paid for by the Provincetown Historical Association

This hand-out was used in the late-'70s to help persuade town voters to spend \$135,000 for the purchase the former Center Methodist Church and Chrysler Museum to become the Heritage Museum. Among other claims, it said the building "would not be a burden to the town" because maintenance and expenses would be covered by museum revenues and private contributions totalling \$20,000 a year.

THE WHOLE TRUTH by Jackson Lambert

MARCH 11, 1898, DOROTHY GISH BORN IN MASSILLON, OHIO

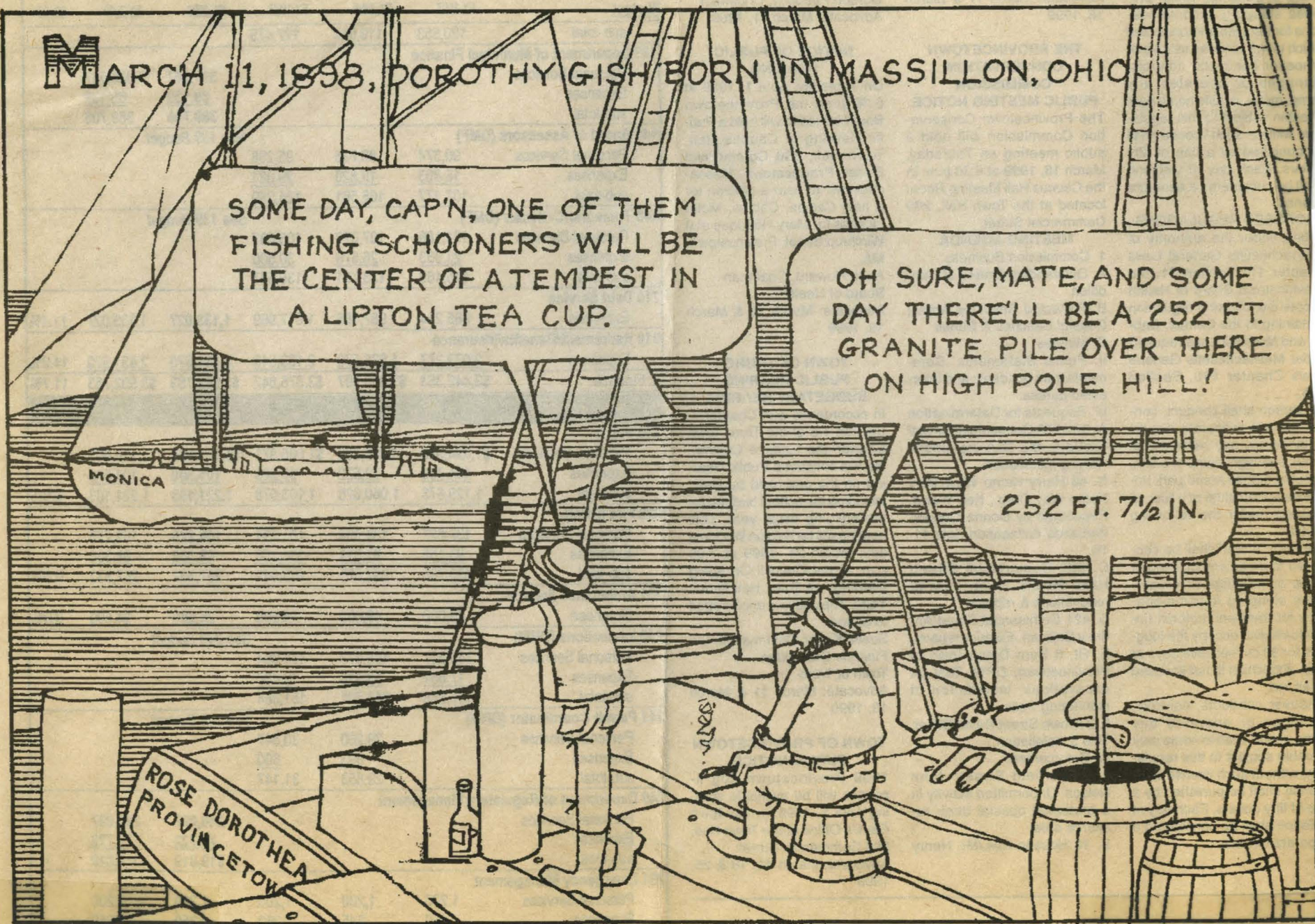
SOME DAY, CAP'N, ONE OF THEM FISHING SCHOONERS WILL BE THE CENTER OF A TEMPEST IN A LIPTON TEA CUP.

OH SURE, MATE, AND SOME DAY THERE'LL BE A 252 FT. GRANITE PILE OVER THERE ON HIGH POLE HILL!

252 FT. 7½ IN.

MONICA

ROSE DOROTHEA
PROVINCETOWN



Heritage museum undergoing maintenance repairs

Advocate 10-28-99

Bay State Contractors has been busy with repairs to the Heritage Museum since August 24.

But once they're done with the work, which could be within four weeks, it's still uncertain who will occupy the building next year.

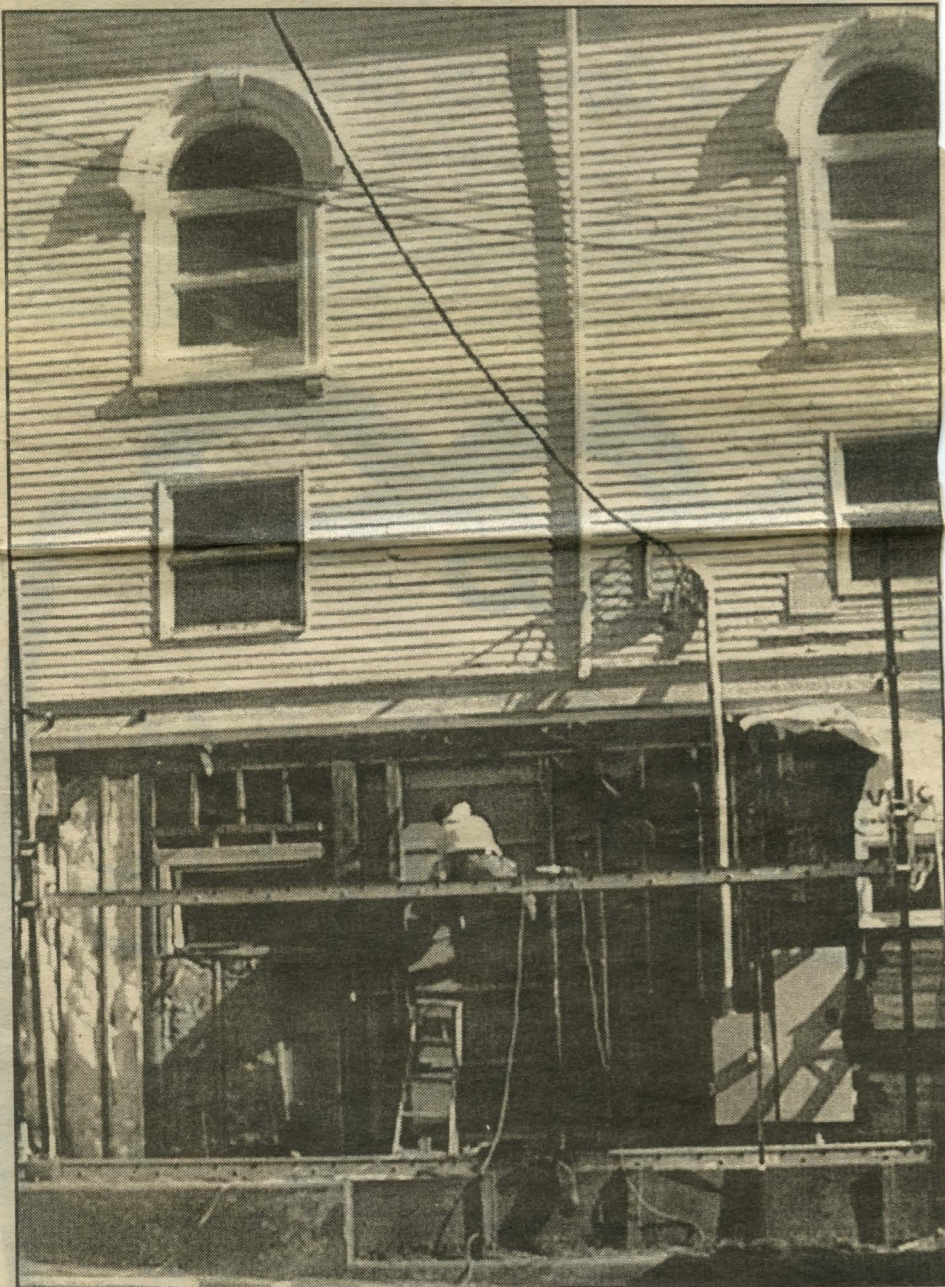
A study is underway now by Tappe Associates of Boston to determine the feasibility of moving the library into the museum building and having the museum move into the library building.

The \$30,000 study, authorized by the selectmen, is being paid out of the Provincetown Library Gift Fund, donations raised by supporters of the

study the museum-library swap, "that felt like a slap in the face," he said.

Bez, vice chairman of the zoning board of appeals, is also a member of PACT, the Provincetown Association of Concerned Taxpayers, a group that originally called itself SCAM, which is not to be confused with SCRAM, the organization that removed three selectmen in 1976.

He told the selectmen he's concerned that the study is a "runaway train" that will end up costing townspeople a lot of money unless it's stopped. The library friends are paying for the Tappe study, he acknowledged, but staff and town counsel are involved in the study



Advocate photo by Marilyn Miller

Workmen repair Heritage Museum

Heritage museum undergoing repairs

Continued from page 1

"We voted not to spend this money and the town said go ahead. There was nothing ambiguous about the Town Meeting vote on this issue," he said.

He asked the selectmen to tell him how much time town employees will be putting into the feasibility study. On a motion by Selectman David Atkinson, the selectmen voted to have respond to Bez's questions.

Selectman Richard Prowell said after the meeting he's pleased to see the work underway on weather-proofing the museum building. Bay State Contractors was hired for \$145,000 to make the repairs. The contract was increased to \$197,370 in February when the selectmen authorized spending more on the project.

DPW Director David Guertin, who is overseeing the work, said he's pleased with what's been done so far. "I'm very pleased with the quality of work and the extent of work being done," he said. "But this is by no means going to restore the building. This is Band-Aid work."

Last week, workers uncovered some "really bad rot in the front facade" of the building, he said. There's about \$64,000 available that was appropriated by the 1998 Town Meeting that will be used to fix a roof leak by the chimney and rebuild the facade, which is more "deteriorated than anticipated," he said.

Prowell said Tuesday, "I'm happy to see any work done on it, but I'd really like to see the facade board which fell off during Hurricane Floyd put back up again."

Prowell said he's pleased that the supporters of the library offered the money to pay for the feasibility study. "I'm ready to see the study done," he said. "They're paying for it, so let's see what the architect says about the feasibility of a swap."

"I think it's wonderful that citizens got the money to do this. They got no support from Town Meeting, so they went ahead and did it on their own. I really think that building should have been fixed years ago. This has dragged on much too long," he said.

library.

Granted, private funds are being used for the study, Peter Bez told the selectmen Monday. But the idea that the selectmen would authorize the use of this money on a study of the feasibility of having the library and museum swap places makes no sense to him, particularly since Town Meeting last April voted against a similar study for \$20,000.

When he saw a legal ad saying that the selectmen were seeking bids to

and it is taxpayers who pay their salaries.

"We want you to put the brakes on this proposal," he said. "We feel it would be a waste of the town's resources. This is not the solution for any need the library has for more space. There's got to be a better way to do this."

Bez said he joined PACT because the selectmen ignored the Town Meeting vote against a study of using the museum building for a library.

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Selectmen like the idea of linking the museum and library

Advocate
6-10-99

Rose Dorothea would stay in the museum building

Library in museum building could become nautical research center

The Provincetown selectmen now agree that they want to keep the model of the Rose Dorothea in the Heritage Museum, and will investigate switching the public library building for the museum building.

The museum's collection would then be moved into the library building. All five selectmen agreed on this as a goal recently, provided the museum is large enough to meet the library's needs.

Further, the cost of reinforcing the museum with steel to support the weight of the library collection and the ship model must not be prohibitive.

Selectman Mary-Jo Avellar, whose idea it was to link the two institutions, said after the meeting, "With the Rose Dorothea in the building, we could concentrate our efforts on creating a nautical center with books and research materials there. I think there's a way to do this. A lot of great libraries have museum exhibits in them."

Selectman Cheryl Andrews, who originally favored moving the ship model to another location and turning the museum into a library that would be the envy of many towns, surprised herself by agreeing to keep the model within the building.

"For me, it was a big leap," she said. "I felt that we'd do much better with the ship in a different location, but hey, at this point, I think it makes sense to re-examine things and see if there are other possibilities. We need to analyze the cost of structurally reinforcing the building for a library both with the ship there and without it there, and make sure that the cost differential isn't ridiculous.

"Clearly, if we can do this, it saves the grief of having to move the model out and building a new home for it."

She said she's convinced that the model could be better displayed in another location, but if it's possible to keep it in the building and use that building as a library, then she's willing to bend.

"But if it turns out that to structurally reinforce the building with the ship in there adds \$2 million to the cost, then that will be a problem."

Avellar proposed combining the museum with the library in a way that would capitalize on Provincetown's maritime history. She suggested keep-

ing the model in the museum and turning the museum into a library, perhaps a library that specializes in the nautical history of the town. Ideally, she said, she wanted the town to keep both the museum building and the library, but put them to a more creative use.

"The whole basement of the museum is a fabulous space," she said. "We could have interactive stuff there and maybe link both buildings together. We could move part of the museum over to the library,

and maintain the reading room over there, so that both buildings could function.

"Then, we could concentrate our efforts with the ship being in the museum on what could be the beginnings of a nautical center."

Selectman Richard Prowell said his goal was to see the museum building structurally restored and used as a library. Selectman Betty Steele-Jeffers, chairman, said she wanted to see the museum continue to be owned by the town, too, and repaired, but she wondered if there was enough space for it to be used as a library as well.

Prowell said he could envision the museum becoming a "magical place." He said, "It could be made beautiful. I think it can be a library, even with the

Continued to page 30

Selectmen like the idea of linking the museum and library

Continued from page 3

ship there.”

Andrews at first was skeptical of the museum building also housing a library. She said she had been in favor at Town Meeting of giving the museum to Dave Davis for \$1 only because there was no support for restoring the museum with the ship in it.

Town Meeting voted against selling the museum building, but a majority voted to remove the ship from the museum. A two-thirds vote was required to move the model out, so the vote fell short.

“I’m for keeping the museum and keeping the Rose Dorothea in it,” Avellar said.

Selectman David Atkinson said he favored selling the museum building, since the town has failed to properly maintain it. Prowell disagreed. “I don’t think we should get rid of any town building,” he said, “These are prime Commercial Street properties.”

When Andrews said she thought it was a “ridiculous concept” to have a ship in a library, Atkinson disagreed. “I think the kids would love to be around it,” he said.

Avellar suggested not only keeping the model in the museum, but creating a nautical research center there by providing library books and other documents relating to the town’s maritime and fishing history.

“We could have both buildings serving two purposes, which would be a more creative use of them,” she said.

That idea struck the fancy of her fellow selectmen. Andrews said after the meeting she liked the idea of creating a research library within the museum. While a nautical museum is one idea, another might be a genealogical research center, she said.

Public sentiment for keeping historic buildings runs high

Advocate 1-28-99

By Marilyn Miller

More than 70 Provincetown board members and townspeople Tuesday spent almost three hours discussing the feasibility of consolidating the public library and recreation department with the high school to streamline services to save money.

Final draft plans of three proposed building projects, ranging in cost from \$2.4 million, \$1.2 million and \$300,000 were presented by J. Stewart Roberts and Eric Johnson, the project architects who were hired for \$35,000 to prepare the study Town Meeting approved last year.

These costs are based on the assumption that the library building will be sold for \$400,000, the Community Center for \$600,000 and the Annex for \$800,000 with the money applied to offset construction.

Maghi Geary, library board chairman, said the existing library needs three times the space it has to meet the public need.

Lois Borgesi, school committee chairman, said the town could "greatly benefit" by consolidating services at one location.

Dennis Clark, recreation director, said he has been "happy" at the community center, but consolidation opened up the "exciting possibility of a true community center."

Selectman Betty Steele-Jeffers, chairman, and Bill

Dougal, FinCom chairman, said this is a small town with big financial needs that might be more than the 3,500 taxpayers can afford to handle.

But when the public got a chance to speak at this first public hearing on consolidation, they talked of things that you can't put a price tag on, things that you won't know you've lost until they are gone.

They talked of Commercial Street as the "soul" of the town, of the library and community center as "jewels" to be treasured, not sold for a quick infusion of cash. They talked of the town's vitality, its unique blend of uses with homes, businesses and public buildings cheek by jowl downtown, and how this could be lost if public buildings are sold.

Jackie Kelly said she would like to see the library and Heritage Museum swap places, a proposal that "would keep the soul of the town on Commercial Street where it belongs.

John Lauritsen was applauded when he spoke of how the "wonderful vitality of the community" would be lost if the library was uprooted and its building sold.

The library trustees, school officials and recreation department have "failed" the public with these proposals, which should be "rejected with contempt," he said. Those who want to save the library building are viewed as "sentimentalists," but in truth "we are the ones with common sense," he said, suggesting that a task force be created to think of ways to save the

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library.

"We cannot save money by doing the construction," he said, suggesting that more space be found at the present library by moving the children's department and computers to another location.

"Diversity is one of the things that makes a city alive, not conglomerating everything together like a shopping mall. Provincetown is not a generic town with generic people. The library is a jewel and we ought to save it," he said.

Dan Towler said he was opposed to selling the library and community center and unconvinced that the town would save money with a building project that triples the size of the library.

"It seems as if we may have bitten off more than we can chew by trying to lump the needs of three departments in one study," he said.

The proposal to sell the library building was "morally reprehensible," said Susan Hoffman, a former library trustee. Barbara Rushmore, also a former trustee, said by letter (see Letters to the Editor) that it was "reprehensible to break the will of Nathan Freeman," who gave the building to the town. "The library is a jewel and should be treasured. Don't move it, improve it!" she said.

Elizabeth Patrick warned that Provincetown could turn into another Freeport, Maine, an outside retail mall, if public buildings are sold. "Provincetown is very lucky. It's a small, compact, walkable town that has never had a mall built on its outskirts. But there is a danger that the town will become attractive to outside retailers.

"If you vacate the library, the Heritage Museum or any other public buildings downtown, you will have

a retail outdoor mall in town and you will not have a really alive downtown area."

Laura Darsh said she was "a little amazed" at the public comments. People did not seem to hear that the library needed much more space than it now has. "I think people have their head in the sand if you think somehow you can shoehorn everything in that building or farm it out piecemeal.

"It's nice to applaud for sentiments, but I think you've got to be realistic. I'm surprised we're not hearing a little more realism."

Selectman Cheryl Andrews said of all three proposals, she favored the least expensive one that did not include moving the library. She has a vision of the library and Heritage Museum swapping places with the library becoming "the finest public library in new England."

Selectman Mary-Jo Avellar said she could "never support the desecration of Provincetown" by removing from public use "these beautiful buildings."

Geary said the only new information she got out of the hearing was the suggestion by Richard J Murray that the elementary school should be included in the consolidation study.

Arthur Pike, library trustee, said it would be "foolish" to even think of going to Town Meeting with a consolidation proposal this year. But the joint meeting between the trustees, recreation department, school committee, selectmen and finance committee was a step in the right direction. "I'm so glad we had this dialogue," he said.

Winn Davis, assistant town manager who chaired the meeting, said the comments will be transcribed and reviewed by the boards at future meetings to see if consensus can be reached.

Library

To the Editor:

As a strong supporter of the Provincetown Public Library and a former member of the board of trustees, I want to register my firm opposition to any plans that involve selling and moving the library on the following grounds:

(1) I think it is reprehensible to break the will and bequest of Nathan Freeman — indeed of any will — and I don't think we should ever do so, as a public policy.

(2) The population of Provincetown has not been increasing and does not warrant a big expansion.

(3) The library should remain in the very best location in town, where our population without cars (which is one of the largest percentage in Massachusetts) can easily access the library. No busing is needed to go to the library. Indeed, if it is put at the high school, then drop in usage may destroy our library. If the library is crowded with people, expand the hours and hire more help. Fight for a bigger budget.

(4) To be in a school building puts the library in the school and under the rules of the elected school board with all the uncertainties of that

position.

(5) To be crowded and busy is what every business, restaurant, hotel and library wants to be. It is certainly possible to reduce the non-library uses to make more space for tables, chairs, and books. The children's programs might meet at the Community Center or school.

The computers for public use (E-mail, etc.) could be put at the high school Learning Center, also freeing space.

(6) Renting adjacent spaces — a shop place or condominium — at Freeman Street or at the Pilgrim House or at the Provincetown Boatworks — might provide closer computer space, storytelling space, and/or book storage.

Perhaps a small area of the back of the Café Blasé could be purchased and added to the library lot, giving room for the heating unit and allowing expansion in the rear.

(7) The Beautification Committee believes that a fine-grained mixture of residential, commercial and public buildings on each block promotes the most desirable, safest, most attractive and livable, vibrant community, and Provincetown is that. Our library is a cornerstone of our community.

(8) If the desire to expand floor space area in

the building is important, plans could be made to do that at much less expense and disruption. The third and second floors would be enlarged if the central staircase were removed. (Access to the third floor could be by the front stairwell.)

The rear stairwell, which is windowless, could be used on three levels for computers and microfilm reading equipment if a fire escape were added outside and the stairwell was reconfigured.

The Provincetown Public Library should have a janitor and be kept up to top standard, not allowed to run down.

The Provincetown Public Library is a jewel and should be treasured.

We nearly lost it years ago when the furnace was put on the roof, and then later when handicap-access laws made us put in the ramp, proper door, elevator and accessible toilet — all of which were willingly paid for by us, the taxpayers, to keep the library where it is.

Don't move it! Improve it!
Barbara Rushmore
Provincetown

Library move opposed

By Sally Rose
BANNER STAFF

A hearing Tuesday night to obtain public input on the School/Public Library/Recreation Dept. Consolidation Feasibility Study drew a large crowd, and the concerned committees and consultants for the study were peppered with questions by both the public and a variety of town board members. Low grumblings were audible from the audience at the start of the meeting as the plan was being presented, and once given their chance to take the floor, many members of the public more fully aired their displeasure (for some it verged on antipathy) for the consolidation plan.

The town entity that participated in researching the study consisted of the Board of Library Trustees, the School Committee, Library director Debbie DeJonker-Berry, school Supt. Susan Fleming and Recreation Director Dennis Clark. Also present were the Board of Selectmen and

Library continued from page 1
Finance Committee. Assistant Town Manager Winn Davis was moderator.

The plans presented came out of a request by the Selectman and the Finance Committee last year for a study on the feasibility of combining into one facility the high school, library and Recreation Dept. The plans were to meet three price points: \$2 million, \$1.4 million and \$0. Actual cost of the respective plans ring in at \$2.4 million for Scheme A, which would include all program desires of all three departments; \$1.2 million for Scheme B, which cuts costs by limiting new construction and renovation; and \$300,000 for Scheme C, which appeared slightly different from the last presented Scheme C plan (which was again different from the original scheme C), and included only the Recreation Dept. and the school in the consolidation.

Questions included one about the possibility of taking buildings next to the library by eminent domain, since the owners would not sell. (Board of Library Trustees chair Maghi Geary said eminent domain was not an option.) Rick

Murray, chair of Zoning Board of Appeals, asked why the elementary school had not been part of the study, and Davis answered that it had not been part of the original proposal.

Jackie Kelly asked whether the town had considered switching the use of the Heritage Museum and the library buildings. Davis commented that it would take \$800,000 to bring the museum building up to code, and DeJonker-Berry, who is on the museum's Board of Trustees, said the space at the Heritage could be at the most 9,000 square feet, short of the 15,000 square feet required by the current and projected needs of the library.

Many members of the public expressed concern that if the library was up at the school site, it was not as easily accessible on foot.

Year-round resident John Lauritsen, who has previously voiced opposition to the consolidation plan, said the plan was unacceptable. "The impression has been given that every option has been considered to save the library, this is not true," Lauritsen said. "If there's a will there's a way." He described the proposed consolidated structure as

"a single, nondescript building [for] library functions, recreational functions, educational function, excretory functions." In short, he said, "it would not be a library. And the space on Freeman Street would die."

Geek Patrick warned, "If you vacate the library, the Heritage Museum, or any other public buildings in downtown area, you will have a retail outlet mall in Provincetown."

FinCom member Michael Hattersley urged board members and Selectmen "to consider the big picture, and to take each of these consulting studies as only a piece of the pie." He added that since he learned the study was based on assumption that school population would stay the same, referring to the fact that the school population has dropped by 30 at the elementary school, "to me that completely knocked out the legs from under this study."

School Committee member Billy Rogers said the three proposals were based on "misinformation and misassumptions," especially regarding the value of the existing buildings, which he said would depend on whether there is a sewer or a Title 5, and if there is a sewer, on changing the use of the buildings which he said may not be possible once they set the gallonage.

Selectman Betty Steele-Jeffers said that whether or not anyone approves of any of the options, we are "still going to be left with the fact that we have this library which is inadequate for the town."

UPFRONT

Library is bustin' out all over

By Sally Rose
BANNER STAFF

In the midst of debate, discussion and discovery regarding the possible consolidation of the Provincetown Public library, the Recreation Dept., and the high school, a visit to the library makes one thing plainly evident: the library is in dire need of more space. And with the building itself barely confined within property bounds, there is no room for further additions.

Library director Debbie DeJonker-Berry explains that the historic building, built in the 1870s, has had several additions. In the 1970s they extended the building at the back adding the stairs and bathrooms, in the '80s they added the boiler room, and in the '90s the elevator and a handicapped accessible bathroom.

"The town has really fought to keep this building as a library," DeJonker-Berry says, praising the effort and the old building. "Having said I love this library, the bottom line is we need more space." She adds, "My other bottom line, and I don't have many, is I don't believe you can separate your services. I think a public library should all be in one facility. If you separate the collection, it's just going to compound the problem."

If, for example, as some have suggested, the children's library is moved to the school annex, DeJonker-Berry says parents who bring their child to a story hour won't be able to go upstairs and browse through or check out books themselves, as they do now. And, she adds, because they don't always keep regular nine-to-five hours, splitting the collection could cause problems for staffing as well.

It is plain to see, the current facility is busting out of its confines. Every bit of available space is used either for book display and/or storage. That includes stairwells and bathrooms. And rows of books are displayed on makeshift bookshelves, including on booktrucks, throughout the library.

"We have storage every place you look," DeJonker-Berry says, pointing to under the stairwell in the lobby. Under the stairwell in the lobby are boxes upon boxes of books in storage; on the other side more boxes are piled nearly up to the ceiling, behind the elevator, in corners, crevices, in any space available.

"Some libraries, when they need more space, make a point of it by keeping books on the shelf," she says. "We don't do that. We make a very good attempt when something's old and dated to pull it out, if something's falling apart, to pull it out. We're part of the CLAMS System on the Cape, so we don't have to own everything, and we know

that, and so we will rely on other libraries."

Pointing to the tiny front desk area, where transactions with the public occur, DeJonker-Berry says, "Two, three people work there, and you can see how cramped [it is]."

Another of her peeves is lack of a meeting space. "I think in a town like this there ought to be a really good meeting space that the library should have and allow different groups to schedule, and borrow a room the way they borrow a book. I feel very strongly about that," she says.

Folding chairs, boxes of bathroom tissue and other supplies line the stairwell, at the foot of the stairs, on the middle landing, at the top landing.

"One of the things that the addition did for us in the 70s was it put in decent, supposedly, bathrooms," DeJonker-Berry says. However, she points out, they are totally inaccessible for the handicapped. So with current regulations, the handicapped accessible bathroom on the first floor was added in the '90s. The two bathrooms in the stairwell now have other uses — one is used by staff and the other is crammed full of storage.

Books in circulation are even kept in the offices, however, they are inaccessible for people who want to browse. In addition, the offices serve as storage for children's program supplies, office supplies, in addition to housing a computer for staff work and processing area for new books.

When the elevator was added for handicapped accessibility, explains DeJonker-Berry, they had to be given a variance because only a residential elevator would fit. The same variance also allows them to maintain the local genealogy collection in one of the offices.

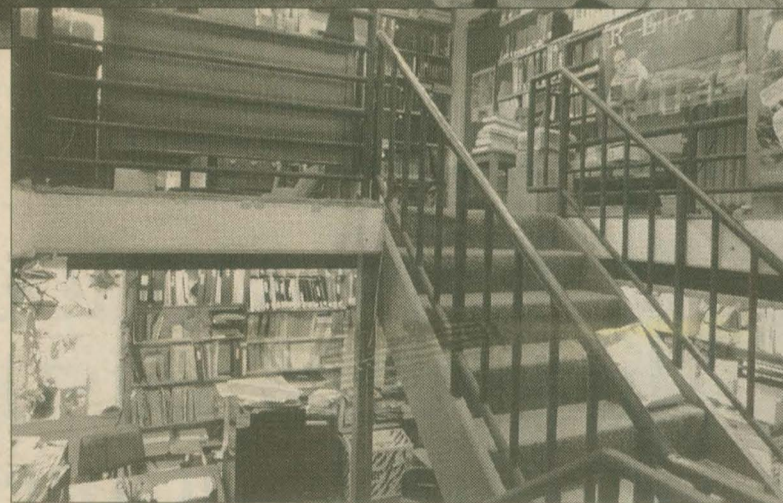
"That elevator bought us as much time as it's going to take us to figure out what to do," she says. "It's wonderful that we have that elevator. Again we're using every inch of space we can." She adds, "It shouldn't be like this in a real library. It shouldn't be like this, no matter how much we all love this building, it shouldn't be like this."



Photos Vincent Guadagno
Provincetown Public Library director Debbie DeJonker-Berry outside the historic building on Commercial Street.



Evidence of the serious overcrowding is everywhere, including overflowing storage shelves in the children's area...



... and books stacked at the top of a stairway leading to the third floor.



... cramped office space ...

Selectmen back museum-library building swap

By Mary Ellen Butler
BANNER STAFF

The Selectmen stuck to their guns at a joint meeting with the library and Heritage Museum Boards of Trustees to discuss swapping the Heritage Museum and Provincetown Public Library buildings.

Selectmen set goals for 2000, P. 17

While listening and responding to the concerns of the Heritage Museum, the Selectmen made it clear they wanted to work through their goal of swapping the two buildings provided it gives the library and the town museum collection adequate space for the next 20 years.

But the museum board members reiterated their complaint that the

idea of keeping the museum in its current location has not been given enough consideration. And Heritage Trustee Len Bowen said they did not want to let go the building without a fight.

"I understand you want our building, but I don't understand why you want us to roll over and play dead," Bowen said.

Selectmen Cheryl Andrews suggested if the Heritage Trustees were ultimately unhappy with the plan after further discussion, they could present their own plan to Town Meeting in April.

The Heritage Trustees argued in favor of looking into the plans developed by John Sunderland of Binder Boland Associates (see page 7) to create a theater downstairs and to make better use of the half-scale model of the schooner Rose Dorothea as a centerpiece of the mu-

seum's collection.

The plan, said Bowen, was more in line with the Selectmen's focus on "fiscal realities" since it would cost less than the nearly \$4 million estimated to swap the two buildings.

"It seems to me like you're adding to the financial plate of the town," Bowen said of the Selectmen's plan.

But Board of Selectmen chair Betty Steele-Jeffers said she found it hard to take the "leap of faith" that the Heritage Museum really could be improved while in its current location. Steele-Jeffers also questioned how the museum's entire collection could be made to fit on the second floor to accommodate a theater when the museum trustees said the collection was too big to fit in the library building.

Members of the Library

Trustees urged the Heritage Board to consider the compromise. The Library Trustees have looked at all the other options, said the group's chair, Maghi Geary, but none of them were viable and none of them received support from the public.

The group considered the move to the school, moving into the Pilgrim House or even the possibility of the West End parking lot, Geary said. "You name it, we've talked about," she said. "We've exhausted ourselves looking for something else."

Geary said she believes the current swap plan is the best solution for both groups and said the Library Trustees would find a way to fund the study of use of both buildings. "The Heritage Museum could benefit from being more downtown and in a better building," she said.

The two boards also clashed on

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Selectmen continued from page 1

the benefits to the town of the museum and the library.

The Heritage Trustees emphasized the importance of educating the public on the town's history and the revenue potential of an upgraded museum. "The town is in part a business and the customers are tourists," Bowen said. "People need to learn the town's history."

But the library board focused on their role as a year-round service to the entire town and many of the summer visitors. "To me, the library and the schools are the most important things in Provincetown," said Library Trustee Anita Berman.

Heritage Trustee Candyce Rusk seized on the similarities in the functions of the library and the museum to point out there could be some room to work together.

"It seems like there's some common ground here," Rusk said. "We're talking about doing the same things."

Both groups are working to educate and serve the public at large, Rusk said.

Andrews agreed there was room in the goals to work toward some linkage between the two groups so that the museum would not lose control of the Rose Dorothea even after they were in separate buildings.

The two groups could also work on joint programs for the public or apply for grants together, she said.

And Steele-Jeffers said the plans were not a foregone conclusion, that the structural and cost considerations would determine if the proposal made it past the first stage.

In going through the specific considerations for proceeding with the plan, the Selectmen decided to incorporate some suggestions from the Heritage Trustees and voted to place some additional provisions on the proposal.

Along with making sure the library will have adequate space for growth for the next 20 years, the Selectmen voted to include having sufficient space for the Heritage Museum's growth over the same period of time.

And in addition to guaranteeing that the Rose Dorothea model does not negatively impact the library's eligibility for grants, they added the provision that the library must be able to provide adequate viewing and accessibility to the model.

Library/museum swap study begins

By Mary Ellen Butler
BANNER STAFF

The first steps in studying the feasibility of a swap between the Provincetown Public Library and the Heritage Museum got underway last week with promising results.

Last Wednesday and Thursday, staff and board members representing the Library and the Heritage Museum met with Tappe Associates of Boston, the architectural firm hired by the town to do a study of the two buildings.

The groups also spent time meeting with Main Street Design, a museum exhibit design firm from Cambridge, which will help develop a thematic museum concept depicting the history of Provincetown. The \$30,000 study is being paid for by the Supporters of the Library.

"It was from their point of view to make sure they know what they're looking at and know what they need," said Library Director Debbie DeJonker-Berry.

On Wednesday, the designers and architects toured the Library with the Heritage Museum Board of Trustees and discussed ideas for exhibits and use of the space. On Thursday, the Library Board of Trustees went over to the Heritage Museum for their turn to take measurements and discuss whether it could meet their needs for the next 20 years.

The architects and designers were equipped with both an exhibit theme design from museum director Dale Fanning and a list of what will

be needed in a library from DeJonker-Berry.

In all, the first meetings of the study lasted about 14 hours, Fanning said. While they were productive, it's only the beginning of the process. By the end of the month, the architects will bring back a preliminary look at space allocations for the two buildings. Then after more feedback from the boards of the library and museum, the architects will produce a more formal space allocation design around mid-November.

The next step will be the presentation of three schematic designs, looking at options for both buildings, DeJonker-Berry said. The designs, called bubbles, will focus on the common themes between the library and the museum.

"Both buildings, both institutions are being treated equally," DeJonker-Berry said.

The study as a whole is not expected to be complete until December or January. It will, however, be ready in plenty of time for a scheduled public hearing in February at Town Meeting this Spring, DeJonker-Berry said.

Heritage trustees dispirited by selectmen's goal

Forecast the end of the museum

By Marilyn Miller

Trustees of the Heritage Museum last week discussed the likelihood that they won't be able to open this summer due to delays in starting the \$202,000 in building repairs to seal the building against water intrusion.

They also talked of the possibility that they've seen their last season as trustees of the Heritage Museum collection in this building. That's because the selectmen have made it a goal for FY 2000 to have the library and Heritage Museum use both buildings, provided a lot of conditions can be met.

The selectmen will hold a joint meeting on June 29 with the library and museum trustees to discuss the proposal, which would leave the Rose Dorothea model in the museum building, but under the library trustees, not the museum trustees.

"I would say we've probably seen the last season of a museum in the Heritage Museum building," said Trustee Len Bowen.

"That's quite possible," said Dan Towler, chairman of the trustees.

Trustee Jack Papetsas said he thought the idea of the library taking over the museum building was from "outer space." Even if it could be done, with the Rose Dorothea remaining, the cost of heating the library and maintaining the temperature needed for books would be "astronomical."

He vowed to fight the proposed swap. "I'm not going to take this lying down," he said. "I'm not a quitter. We haven't put money in that building for years, yet everybody was willing to take \$450,000 to move the Rose Dorothea out.

"We should be able to take \$450,000 for that building," he said. "There are people in this town buying houses and paying close to \$1.5 million. If we can't as a town fix up our own building for \$1.5 million, then we've got problems.

"That museum is part of this town, it belongs here. It's the heritage of this town. It's what it's all about, and we can do things with it to make it more popular and make more money."

Trustee Fred Pappalardo said he'd like to see the boat removed to another display site with the museum remaining on the ground floor and a performing arts center on the top floor.

He said, "We're the trustees of the Heritage Museum collection, and the selectmen are still considering swapping the library and the museum. We're putting a lot of effort into sealing the building, getting handicap variances for a building the library could be moving into at the end of the summer, and we could be in the library.

"I think it's ridiculous to make that building a library, but the selectmen seem to feel that's the way to go. After 20 years here, for Provincetown do something irrational would not surprise me."

He questioned if there was enough space in the library for the museum collection. "Where will our collection fit? Where's the fire truck to go in that building? We'll end up with a mini-version of the Heritage Museum. Instead of a boat, we'll have a fire truck, and we'll be moving our collection into a smaller building."

Bowen, however, said it was possible that the library building would be a better location for the museum collec-

tion. "In my own heart, I don't think this board will ever have the financial support to maintain the museum facility and develop it with success," Bowen said.

"My vision is to keep the museum in operation, and I don't know if this can't better be done in the library building, or on the first floor of a combined performing arts center. I don't think it can be done with us trying to be a building manager as well a museum."

Trustee John Gair said his goal was to see the museum a "viable enterprise that is not a burden to taxpayers." He said he favored looking into John Sunderland's proposal to turn the Heritage Museum into a bigger attraction by capitalizing on the boat.

The board agreed to arrange to meet with Sunderland and with Dave Davis, who had proposed creating a performing arts center on the top floor of the museum with the museum collection on the first floor, if the boat could be removed.

Towler asked DPW Director David Guertin why Bay State has not yet started the work on sealing the museum sills and roof, a job that could have started within days of Town Meeting ending in April.

Guertin said the contract is signed, the bond is in place, but Bay State is waiting for specially milled wood to arrive, and having no luck in speeding up this mill work.

When Towler asked if the construction could be postponed until the fall, enabling the museum to "salvage" a part of the season, Guertin said that was not likely. The trustees would have to make the side entrance handicap accessible, would have to have at least one handicap unisex bathroom, and would have to provide a videotape of what's available on the second floor for those who can't get up there.

All of this would cost money, and the selectmen have made it clear, he said, that they want to see the money spent on nails and repairs, not on making it handicap accessible so that it could be opened this season.

Bowen said he doubted the building would ever be able to open unless it's put into "jewel like condition" with an elevator. He seemed disillusioned with the selectmen's stand on this matter. "Why do they need us if they are going to second guess us on everything? I'm bewildered. If we can't open and maintain our presence by meeting handicap access requirements, then what's the point of doing any work?"

The point, said Guertin, is to protect the envelope of the building.

"It's a question of triage," said Gair. If the roof leaks and water is coming in, then you fix that first before you try to open for the season by putting in a handicap bathroom.

The board also discussed hiring a clerk of the works to supervise the repair work when it starts, authorizing Papetsas to sound out Bill Ingraham about handling this job.

Papetsas said the lack of clerk of the works led to all the problems at the Wellfleet Police Station. Guertin agreed this money would be well spent, but pointed out that it would have to come from the money that otherwise would go into construction work.

"If a contractor is God's gift, then this is money that could have been used on nails and construction," he said.

Editorial

Taking a needed lead

BANNER 7-8-99

It may be a reasonable expectation to think that elected officials will exercise leadership on issues that involve difficult choices, but that's not how it always works out. More common is the long-drawn-out dance of keeping all options open until none remain or the direction of prevailing political winds can be determined.

That's why we're giving credit to the Board of Selectmen for attempting to step up to the plate on the thorny matter of the future of the Heritage Museum building — not because we agree 100 percent with their approach or their position, but because they are trying to take the lead and act in the overall interest of the town, not just one constituency.

Here are some facts to consider:

— The Provincetown Public Library has outgrown the space in its historic building and cannot properly serve the number of people needing its services.

— The Heritage Museum has not made full use of its building, nor has it attracted anywhere near the level of visitors or generated the income needed for maintenance or salaries.

— Whatever its present condition, the Heritage building is one of the town's preeminent properties and of significant monetary value.

— Substantial state funding is likely to be available for renovation of the Heritage building as a library.

For these reasons, and more, we agree with the Selectmen's stated goal of seeing the museum and library swap buildings, if it's feasible. We also think a better place might be found to display the half-scale Rose Dorothea model. And we believe that every effort should be made to avoid putting a confusing menu of options before voters when the issue comes to Town Meeting. Still, it's refreshing to see the Selectmen step up on an issue like this, and there's no doubt they'll be taking some lumps over it in the coming months. But they were elected to lead, and whether or not you agree with them, no one should fault them for trying.

Goals include study of library move

In latest scenario, Rose Dorothea would not be relocated

By Mary Ellen Butler
BANNER STAFF

The Selectmen tried to build off of last year's goals and tie up loose ends in formulating ideas at their second preliminary goal-setting meeting Tuesday night.

Along with eliminating 50 signs by Oct. 1 and reducing the number of unauthorized curb cuts, the board is also looking to tackle larger issues like the creation of a Buildings and Grounds Supervisor in the Department of Public Works. That position is designed to improve the everyday maintenance of town buildings, eliminating the need for high-cost repairs down the road.

Looking into a potential building swap between the Library and the Heritage Museum is also on the board's agenda. As the goal is currently framed, the board is considering swapping the uses in the

buildings but keeping the Rose Dorothea half-scale schooner in its current location. They also discussed the possibility of having the Visitor Services Board move into the building as a tenant who would pay rent.

"We put a lot of restrictions on it so if things didn't fall into place we could go back," said board chair Betty Steele-Jeffers.

One of the sticking points in the plan, Steele-Jeffers added, would be whether or not the library could thrive in that building for the next 20 years. Even though no money was provided at Town Meeting for a feasibility study, Selectman Mary-Jo Avellar said they should look into possible funding sources within the Friends of the Library or other outside groups.

"I'm excited about this because for a town that supports making tourism a town objective to not emphasize history and things that put us on the map, and things that make us stand out, is just foolish," Avellar said.

The Selectmen are also looking into identifying a tax bill cap, taking into consideration the projects underway and for the future. The idea would be to have a certain af-

fordable limit in mind during the planning of major projects.

In light of Monday night's fiscal realities meeting (see story on page 1), the Selectmen are highlighting the affordable housing issue as a goal again this year. Selectman David Atkinson is particularly interested in approaching the National Seashore about using housing at the former North Truro Air Force Station for summer workforce housing.

And the Selectmen will continue to look at alternative management scenarios for the Cape End Manor. However, Avellar and Cheryl Andrews said they were concerned about the town losing all control of the Manor in privatization. Getting the community involved in raising money and volunteering time at the Manor is also a priority, Andrews said.

Some other goals include creating new evaluations for the Town Manager; monitoring licensed establishments, like restaurants and bars, for overcrowding; holding a hearing to review the growth management bylaw; improving the interior and exterior of Town Hall; producing a harbor information sheet; and reviewing the state of

the historic firehouses still owned by the town.

The board has also suggested as goals investigating the feasibility of burying overhead wires at the same time as construction was being done on municipal projects, looking into a stipend for the Board of

Selectman, and reviewing the function of the Department of Regulatory Management Coordinating Committee.

The discussions are a basis for the June 28 public hearing when the board will vote to adopt goals for fiscal year 2000.

Selectmen like the idea of linking the museum

Advocate
6-10-99

Rose Dorothea would stay in the museum building

The Provincetown selectmen now agree that they want to keep the model of the Rose Dorothea in the Heritage Museum, and will investigate switching the public library building for the museum building.

The museum's collection would then be moved into the library building. All five selectmen agreed on this as a goal recently, provided the museum is large enough to meet the library's needs.

Further, the cost of reinforcing the museum with steel to support the weight of the library collection and the ship model must not be prohibitive.

Selectman Mary-Jo Avellar, whose idea it was to link the two institutions, said after the meeting, "With the Rose Dorothea in the building, we could concentrate our efforts on creating a nautical center with books and research materials there. I think there's a way to do this. A lot of great libraries have museum exhibits in them."

Selectman Cheryl Andrews, who originally favored moving the ship model to another location and turning the museum into a library that would be the envy of many towns, surprised herself by agreeing to keep the model within the building.

"For me, it was a big leap," she said. "I felt that we'd do much better with the ship in a different location, but hey, at this point, I think it makes sense to re-examine things and see if there are other possibilities. We need to analyze the cost of structurally reinforcing the building for a library both with the ship there and without it there, and make sure that the cost differential isn't ridiculous.

"Clearly, if we can do this, it saves the grief of having to move the model out and building a new home for it."

She said she's convinced that the model could be better displayed in another location, but if it's possible to keep it in the building and use that building as a library, then she's willing to bend.

"But if it turns out that to structurally reinforce the building with the ship in there adds \$2 million to the cost, then that will be a problem."

Avellar proposed combining the museum with the library in a way that would capitalize on Provincetown's maritime history. She suggested keep-

Library in museum building could become nautical research center

ing the model in the museum and turning the museum into a library, perhaps a library that specializes in the nautical history of the town. Ideally, she said, she wanted the town to keep both the museum building and the library, but put them to a more creative use.

"The whole basement of the museum is a fabulous space," she said. "We could have interactive stuff there and maybe link both buildings together. We could move part of the museum over to the library,

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ship there."

Andrews at first was skeptical of the museum building also housing a library. She said she had been in favor at Town Meeting of giving the museum to Dave Davis for \$1 only because there was no support for restoring the museum with the ship in it.

Town Meeting voted against selling the museum building, but a majority voted to remove the ship from the museum. A two-thirds vote was required to move the model out, so the vote fell short.

"I'm for keeping the museum and keeping the Rose Dorothea in it," Avellar said.

Selectman David Atkinson said he favored selling the museum building, since the town has failed to properly maintain it. Prowell disagreed. "I don't think we should get rid of any town building," he said, "These are prime Commercial Street properties."

When Andrews said she thought it was a "ridiculous concept" to have a ship in a library, Atkinson disagreed. "I think the kids would love to be around it," he said.

Avellar suggested not only keeping the model in the museum, but creating a nautical research center there by providing library books and other documents relating to the town's maritime and fishing history.

"We could have both buildings serving two purposes, which would be a more creative use of them," she said.

That idea struck the fancy of her fellow selectmen. Andrews said after the meeting she liked the idea of creating a research library within the museum. While a nautical museum is one idea, another might be a genealogical research center, she said.

the Heritage Museum and felt disheartened by its peeling paint and clear, crying need for tender loving care. Before our very eyes, this grand building, built in 1860 as the Methodist Episcopal church, is settling into decay.

On May 1, I was among many townspeople in attendance at the Unitarian Universalist Meeting House at an engaging and timely symposium, "The Great Building Era of Provincetown," sponsored by the restoration committee. How fortunate Provincetown is to have such a dedicated and knowledgeable group of people working with restoration experts to preserve this architectural and spiritual treasure in the heart of town.

On the lawn in front of Town Hall is an unpretentious and perfectly dignified monument to the Rose Dorothea's capture of the Lipton Cup in 1907. Certainly, this was a great event in the town's history and all honor and respect is forever due Captain Perry and his men.

But what about the men who proudly and arduously built the Methodist Episcopal Church? I suspect they were practical men who believed that ships belonged in water. Could they have imagined that the edifice they built to the greater glory of God would one day serve as an eternal drydock for a "ship" lovingly but ill-conceived, a gargantuan gatherer of dust and tourist attraction of diminishing interest? Granted, the church was deconsecrated but that did not give the town the moral license to desecrate its interior. Thomas Fuller said that "Light, God's eldest daughter, is a principal beauty in a building." That light, so tenderly preserved at the Meeting House, was diminished and disrespected on Center Street. It's hard to believe how primitive our preservation instincts were in the 1970s. All I can say is, what were they thinking?

Here's to the Meeting House preservationists. But for their efforts, Karl Wendt's magnificent trompe l'oeil might have been supplanted by a colossal Styrofoam whale.

Dennis Rhodes
Provincetown

Historic church desecrated

To the editor:

I stood for a while today before

Rose Dorothea in context

I am a 26-year-old native who volunteered in the Heritage Museum for two summers after college. I feel compelled to write this, my first letter-to-the-editor, because I feel the Rose Dorothea should be allowed to stand where it is.

Its current surroundings, or context, are a subtle but essential part of its meaning to the community.

I chose to volunteer at the Heritage Museum not because it is a perfect museum, but because I felt it represented the history of my ancestors in town, Portuguese and Yankee whalers and fishermen, better than any other institution. Those I watched come inside, the days I sat at the front desk of the museum, always seemed a little surprised by how much they found, and most of all, by "that beautiful

ship" on the second floor.

My first day on the front desk, a man lugging a camcorder asked me the length of the Rose Dorothea on his way out. I didn't know the answer, but I also didn't think that was the point. Ever since I had first glimpsed the massive hull of the schooner through an upstairs doorway, I'd felt that the Rose Dorothea was really a monument, both a material clue and generalized symbol of how my ancestors lived.

The tourist didn't agree. He asked me how they could let me work there if I didn't "know how long the stupid ship was." (66 feet. I'll never forget it now.)

What would the Rose Dorothea lose by being uprooted? Dignity, permanence, appropriateness — in short, those qualities that make it a monument and not your average ship model.

1. There are dollars, but no dignity, in toting that ship around town like a circus sideshow under a glass tent. The quiet and still half-sacred mood of the old church's sanctuary is the right and necessary atmosphere. The "sense of reverence" another letter-writer referred to is a direct result of "the space in which it is displayed."

2. Flyer Santos's instinct was right when he built that wooden schooner indoors, even if his execution, those masts bursting through the ceiling, was overly exuberant. He is a ship-builder who wanted to build something permanent for once, to create something that would finally stay in one place, as safe from the sea as anything around town can be.

Even I know what happens to wooden ships outside. (Take a look at these New Bedford whaleships left rotting at their wharf in the late 1800s in the picture I enclosed.

Nowadays, I suppose, museums would love to have one more of these left around.)

3. No one talks of getting rid of the Pilgrim Monument. It's not perfect either, but I think we've come to understand it finally as an appropriate symbol. I like to think of the Yankees capping their centuries on this sand with something unyielding, solid rock through and through. To me, the Rose Dorothea is mainly Portuguese. While the outer building may seem shabby to the outside eye, a little down-at-the-heels over the years, it hides a gorgeously worked interior, a ship filled with both solid purpose and inchoate longing. So let this monument stand as built too, in all its pride and folly.

Oona Patrick
Cambridge

Heritage Museum awaits fate

Continued from page 1

we've got this building, we've got this boat in there, and we've got some ideas that can make the building more economically viable.

"I think it would be a shame if the town sells that building. I personally would like to see the building the way it is, with the boat the way it is, with some of John Sunderland's ideas about incorporating the boat into a plan that will attract some money, and continue pretty much the way we've been going with better exhibits."

Dale Fanning, museum director, agreed with Gair. But Trustees Fred Pappalardo and Len Bowen seemed skeptical of the ability to continue on as

before.

Pappalardo said he liked the idea of Davis buying the building.

"That keeps it in the town," he said. "We don't run the harbor well, the Manor and Heritage Museum are falling apart, so we're lucky to have private enterprise come in and keep that building."

Pappalardo said he "trusted" that if Davis purchased the property, he would maintain it. "For him, it's a business venture. For the town, it's a white elephant."

If the building's sold to a private developer, the town "will lose something," Candyce Rusk, trustee, said. She said she liked the idea of the library moving into the museum.

Two library board of trustees were to meet at the Museum this morning with their consultants on the consolidation study, J. Stewart Roberts, to view it as a possible home for the library, Maghi Geary, chairman of the library board of trustees, said earlier Tuesday.

Rusk, during the meeting, mentioned this. "They'll find out very shortly if the library is feasible there," she said.

Pappalardo said moving the library to the museum building is not feasible.

The Rose Dorothea structurally broke the back of the museum, and the building could not possibly support the millions of pounds of books a library would involve.

"To do anything with the building will cost a lot of money, and the town is spread so thin now," he said. "That's why I think it's good to get somebody else to pay for the museum building. We will still have the building, although we may lose control of it, but that may not be a bad thing."

Towler asked if the trustees agree on the need to keep the Rose Dorothea either in the building or outside.

"I don't think it's something we want to scrap," Pappalardo said, but Bowen said he wanted to "pass" on that question.

There was no need to reach a consensus on anything now, Fanning said. "I think the consensus of the board is that all options are open at this point. You're not taking the position that it can only be a museum. You're willing to listen to the other options, and I think that's important."

Towler said he has been told by Winn Davis, assistant town manager, that the museum will not be able to open the second floor this season unless it is handicap accessible.

Fanning said this came up at the FinCom meeting earlier Tuesday. "One of the members said that the second floor will be closed. I said, that's a rumor, and at this point, it's not a satisfactory option."

Towler pressed Fanning. "Did you say we are not going to operate on one floor?"

"That's right," Fanning said.

Bowen said, "I don't want to waste my time coming to meetings and planning for a season if there isn't going to be one."

Fanning said he is confident they will open this year, but later than usual due to construction work to seal the building envelope that will start next month and continue for three months.

Rose Dorothea to remain moored in Heritage Museum

By Marilyn Miller

Provincetown voters declared Tuesday that the Rose Dorothea, said to be the largest model of a schooner in the world, will remain within the Heritage Museum.

The vote was 262-227 to spend \$400,000 to relocate the model to another location, but it failed to pass by the required two-thirds vote that required 325 affirmative votes.

Town Moderator Roslyn Garfield was applauded when she said, "This year, the Rose Dorothea will be on Commercial Street," not in a glassed-in enclosure overlooking the harbor, as was proposed.

The voters not only rejected the recommendation of the selectmen and finance committee to relocate the model, but applauded when Christopher Snow criticized the selectmen for their stance on the model and on other articles that would have converted the

Community Center and school annex to affordable housing units.

A motion to convey the annex to the housing authority, proposed by the selectmen and finance committee, was indefinitely postponed Tuesday.

Also indefinitely postponed, on a motion by the proponent Roger Chauvette of the building committee, was an article to convey the Heritage Museum building to the selectmen for sale to a private party.

Both articles apparently were withdrawn in response to the strong opposition, as demonstrated Monday, to the idea of conveying the Community Center to the Housing Authority for affordable housing. Suggested by Joy McNulty of the building committee, the proposal had been supported by the selectmen and finance committee.

An article to spend \$20,000 to determine the feasibility of the library moving into the Heritage Mu-

Continued to page 24

Rose Dorothea to remain

Continued from page 1

seum was similarly rejected by voters, who also turned back a move to reconsider the vote.

Selectman Jane Antolini called for indefinitely postponing the article to study the feasibility of moving the library to the museum, saying it would send out a "very mixed message of what to do with the building," which would continue to deteriorate while the study was underway.

But the voters rejected the motion to indefinitely postpone in order to discuss the issue on its merits, then it was rejected.

In another article, they voted to spend \$68,250 on minimal repairs to the museum to seal leaks. They also learned that the museum will not be open this summer.

Dan Towler, chairman of the museum board of directors, said after the meeting, "We've got our work cut out for us. The majority did vote to remove the boat from the building, and that's unsettling. We've got to show that this museum can be turned around some how. I just hope that this administration sticks with the program to rehabilitate the building because we certainly need their help."

Michael Bunn of the housing authority was apologetic when he proposed Tuesday the article to convey the annex to the Housing Authority.

This article, like the Community Center article, put the Housing Authority in "a very awkward position," he said. "We feel we were unfairly pitted against a very good group of people, and both sides have a valid argument. It was very uncomfortable for everyone involved."

Lois Borgesi, school committee chairman, said they voted against this article since it would not benefit

the children.

Snow, a lawyer, said it was "lunacy" for the selectmen to propose spending \$400,000 on relocating the Rose Dorothea and lunacy to propose disposing of town-owned real estate without providing people with more information.

"We have such a haphazard manner of taking care of our real estate that we don't know what we have and boy, wasn't that apparent from the arguments we heard last night when this town pitted the needs of affordable housing against the needs our children," he said.

"Talk about lunacy. Let's get real! Let's take all of these items with respect to capital improvements and treat them in a responsible, businesslike manner and indefinitely postpone this and similar articles dealing with disposition of real estate that we've acquired and held in our accounts for many years until our Town Fathers can give us a businesslike report to this community, an analysis of the needs of these buildings, the uses of these buildings.

"I think we basically are being treated as outright fools, by the fools, and for the fools. I think it's time we woke up and demanded more from our administration in the form of explanations, numbers, responsibility and accountability. Don't take drastic measures," he told the selectmen. "Don't pit us against each other in this already fragile community because of your lack of good business standards." He was applauded.

Flyer Santos, the 84-year old former selectman and ship builder who gave 11 years of his life to build the Rose Dorothea, was given a standing ovation after he spoke of Provincetown's day of glory in 1907 when the Rose Dorothea won the Lipton Cup.

"This was our greatest era," he said, turning away from the microphone and speaking directly to Bill Dougal, finance committee chairman. The tourism industry did not exist in Provincetown then, he said. "They were fishermen," and they were responsible for building the Town Hall and the Heritage Museum, he said.

"You owe those people who won the Lipton Cup since they paid for these buildings, and you've got to keep them up. Don't ever turn your backs on the men who broke their backs to win the greatest race in the history of Provincetown," he said to loud applause, cheers and a standing ovation by town officials and many townspeople.

Oona Patrick was applauded when she urged townspeople to keep the model in the museum. and "let this monument stand as built in all its pride and folly."

There was applause also for Peter Cook, who said, "Keep the boat in the museum," and urged steps to be taken to get grant money to save the ship and the building.

Kathy Meads urged townspeople "not to sell our heritage short" by removing the model and relin-

Rose to remain in berth

BANNER 4-8-99

By Sue Harrison & Sally Rose
BANNER STAFF

For now, it looks like the Rose Dorothea won't be moving out of the Heritage Museum, and the library won't be moving in.

In the second night spent on 24 Special Town Meeting articles (with a daunting 71 Annual Town Meeting articles still ahead of them), voters failed to muster a two-thirds majority to relocate the half-scale schooner replica to a waterfront enclosure at a cost of \$400,000, and shot down a \$20,000 study of the feasibility of moving the library to the neglected-but-historic building that houses the town-owned museum.

Tuesday night's session began with the indefinite postponement of Article 19, the conveyance of the School Annex building to the Housing Authority for affordable housing purposes. On Monday night, voters defeated an article conveying the Community Center for the same purpose.

Housing Authority member Michael Bunn spoke on behalf of affordable housing, stating that

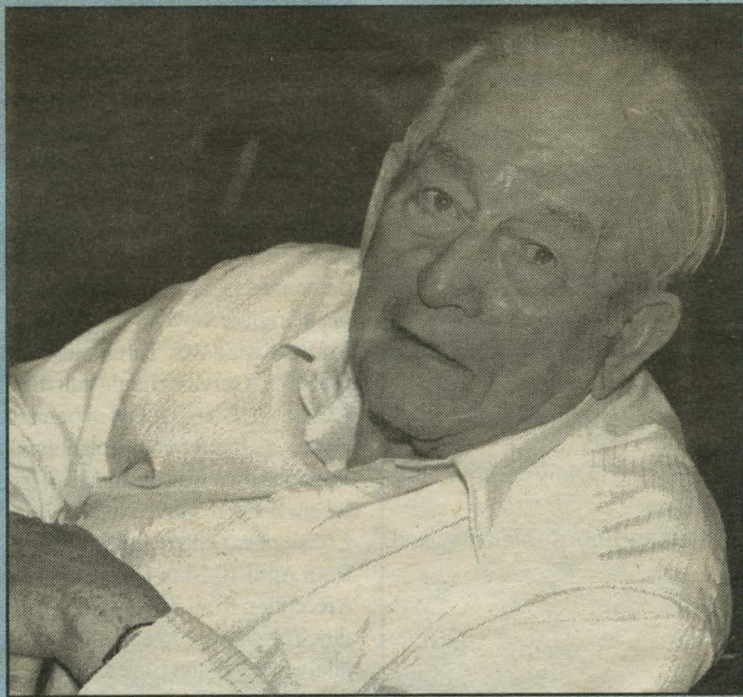


Photo Vincent Guadagno

Francis "Flyer" Santos was at Town Meeting to speak against plans to move the half-scale model of the schooner Rose Dorothea, which he built in the 1980s, from the Heritage Museum.

both the Community Center and Annex are underutilized.

Alix Ritchie made the motion to indefinitely postpone, noting that the "Campus Provincetown" consortium (see page 5) has

looked at the building for possible shared use with the high school and Cape Cod Community College. School Committee chair Lois Borgesi said the committee
continued on page 10

Meeting continued from page 1 was not prepared to declare the Annex as surplus property.

Debate on Article 20, a request to borrow \$400,000 to relocate the Rose Dorothea schooner, began at just before 7:45 p.m.

Dan Towler, who spoke on behalf of the Heritage Museum's Board of Trustees, said the trustees voted 3-2 not to recommend the article, which he said was indicative of how difficult and heart-wrenching a decision it was. He said that \$400,000 would go a long way toward restoring the building, adding that the town had spent a total of \$167,000 on the building since 1976, and had done nothing whatsoever to the building in the last eight years.

Chris Snow made a motion to indefinitely postpone the article. "Until our town fathers can give a business-like report regarding these buildings," a decision should be postponed, he said. Howie Schneider didn't agree, and spoke in favor of moving the model. "You don't stick a 66-foot boat in a 67-foot room," he said of its indoor berth.

Francis "Flyer" Santos, who created the model, said of "the real issue of the Rose Dorothea" that the famous race brought the town the Lipton Cup, and he gave a history of the race and the building of the replica. He said the building of the Rose Dorothea "did not cost the town a cent" and suggested that the townspeople could once again rally and raise the money to keep up the museum. He finished his impassioned speech with the words,



Photos Vincent Guadagno

Moderator Roslyn Garfield appears happy to be back at the podium.

"Don't turn your back on the men who broke their backs to win the greatest honor in Provincetown."

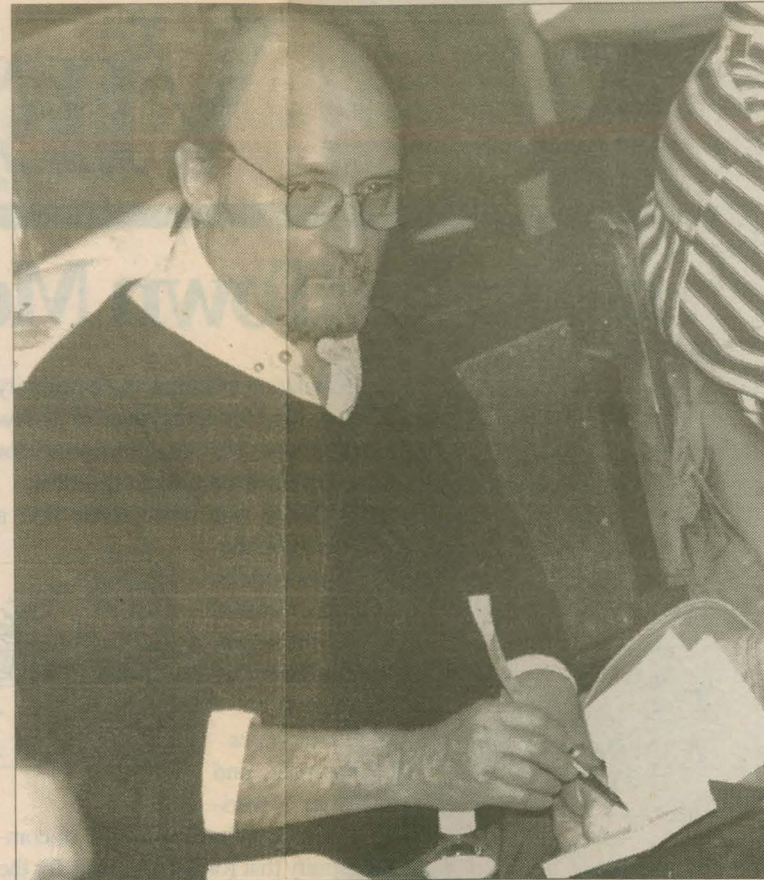
After heated discussion and many impassioned speeches on both sides of the issue, a vote was finally taken at about 9 p.m. Moderator Roslyn Garfield announced the decision would require a two-thirds vote and a count, and sure enough, when the hands went up it was difficult to determine the outcome. After the count, it turned out that 262 had voted yes and 227 voted no — not a two-thirds majority. (After the break, a motion to reconsider the ar-

ticle failed by a vote of 161-236.)

The Selectmen were prepared to move indefinite postponement of the following two articles which were also related to the Heritage Museum but got opposition from the Board of Library Trustees over the first, a request for \$20,000 for a set of designs putting the library in the museum building.

Trustee James Cole said that even with the Rose Dorothea still in place, the library wanted to give it a try. It would still provide room needed for expansion while keeping the library downtown. The Finance Committee, which opposed the library option from the first, said that trying to retrofit the Heritage Museum would be a costly replication of previous efforts to fit a library into a building not suited for it.

The Selectmen said they had initially voted 3-2 to support this article



Cartoonist Howie Schneider captures Town Meeting in his sketchbook.

but that vote was predicated on the removal of the Rose Dorothea. With the model still there, a majority no longer supported it. Selectman Mary-Jo Avellar said that the idea of moving the library to the school (an additional library option) had been pretty much dismissed and for that reason she still supported spending the money to see if the museum building would be suitable.

Library director Debbie De-Jonker-Berry acknowledged that grant money would be harder to get with the model in the building, but not impossible. The design study, she said, was the last piece of information needed before the September deadline in order for the trustees to file a grant application for \$1.3 million. After nearly 40 minutes of pros and cons, voters said no. A mo-

tion to reconsider which was heard at the end of the meeting also failed.

The saga of the Heritage Museum was nearly completed for the night when the next article, which would have allowed the museum to be conveyed to private ownership, was indefinitely postponed.

One final Heritage Museum article, a request for \$68,250 for repairs to the roof and sills, passed. It was during that discussion that voters found out that the museum will not be open this summer.

In short order, voters approved funds totaling over \$500,000 for computers for the parking department, improvements to Jerome Smith parking lot, the closure of the old burn dump, library repairs and roof repairs at the high school. They also voted to accept over \$93,000 in highway funds from the state.

From white elephant to cash cow?

Advocate
2-11-99

Study shows 3 possible revived uses for Heritage Museum

One would put the library in the museum building

By Marilyn Miller

The Heritage Museum, which some see as a white elephant, could be turned into a cash cow, a valuable attraction that people would pay money to visit, the Provincetown selectmen were told last week.

John Sunderland, a designer with Binder Boland Associates, the local firm that was hired last fall to take a fresh look at the museum building and its continued existence as a museum, spoke with enthusiasm about three visions he has for the building.

It could, he said, become an enhanced museum with Mary Heaton Vorse's Book, "Time and the Town," turned into a visual attraction "where people would follow the story" through the presentation of artifacts from the museum's collection.

"The museum collection on the first floor could be developed into a story line and, believe me, people would pay to come and see this," he said.

The full-scale Rose Dorothea model on the second floor could be turned into a "story ship," a stage with actors in the ship itself who could tell different tales with the help of audio visual aides, he said. "It would be a powerful attraction, especially for kids," he said.

The second option would involve the removal of the Rose Dorothea from the building and its placement elsewhere. The first floor could be used for display of the museum collection and a "presentation stage" for artifacts illustrating Vorse's book, while the second and third floors would be used for a 250-seat theater, Sunderland said.

The third option would move the Provincetown Public Library into the museum building with the museum collection relocating to the existing library building. The library would have more than double the square footage it now has.

The museum could share the library building with the Visitor Services Bureau, which is looking for office space to provide visitors with information.

If possible, the Rose Dorothea would be moved to another location and perhaps turned into an attraction that children could climb aboard, Ginny Binder

told the selectmen.

The selectmen asked the consultants to return on February 22 with more details on the possibility of converting the museum with the Rose Dorothea in place into a staging area, and the proposal for the museum and library to swap places. They also stipulated that if more consideration is given to moving the Rose Dorothea from the building, that the consultant talk first with Flyer Santos, who built it.

The idea of relocating the library to the museum struck the fancy of Selectman Cheryl Andrews. At the public hearing last month on the possibility of consolidating the school, library and recreation department, Andrews said she could envision the library becoming the finest in New England if relocated into the museum building.

"This plan is exciting beyond belief," she said last week, after hearing the consultant's proposal to have open stacks, reading areas, and rooms for computers and children's activities in a relocated library.

Maghi Geary, chairman of the library board of directors, said she needed time to consult with the other directors and check with their "experts before we consider this as a viable option."

Dan Towler, chairman of the Heritage Museum board of directors, said, "we are not displeased with what we've heard."

The options presented "would change the way we operate," he said. "But we certainly are not opposed to what we heard tonight."

Sunderland spoke with contagious enthusiasm as he presented his proposals to the board. The 250-seat theater option could attract conventions to the town during the off-season, then be used for theater productions during the season.

Provincetown is unique in what it offers, he reminded the board.

"What happened here, the artists, the writing, the First Landing, I recommend you never underestimate that," he said.

Tom Boland, principal of the company, said he

Continued to page 26

Study shows 3 possible revived uses for Heritage Museum

Continued from page 3

Provincetown is unique in what it offers, he reminded the board.

"What happened here, the artists, the writing, the First Landing, I recommend you never underestimate that," he said.

Tom Boland, principal of the company, said he originally viewed the Rose Dorothea as a problem, "a ship in a bottle" that would impede efforts to better utilize the museum building space.

But after studying the building, and talking to townspeople, he has changed his mind. "I may have given the impression in the past that the Rose Dorothea was sort of a throwaway," he said. "But, the more we've gotten into studying this issue, the more we realize the Rose Dorothea is anything but a throwaway.

"It is a consideration that we have to take very seriously. Any option that deals with the Rose Dorothea not only has to deal with the removal, but it has to deal with the relocation and what that entails," he said.

A firm has been asked to look into the possibility of moving the boat from the museum. The owner of that company wants to talk about how it was built with Flyer Santos, who constructed it within the museum, Boland said.

He said as he was leading the owner of this company up the stairs to see the Rose Dorothea, the owner "said to me I'm going to see something very strange, aren't I. He's very interested in talking to Flyer Santos to see how it was built, and he's also convinced that it can be moved," Boland said.

But David Ditacchio, harbormaster, disputed that. "I spent 10 years of my life helping to build the Rose Dorothea. There is no way possible for that vessel to be dismantled and moved elsewhere."

Selectman Betty Steele-Jeffers said she thought "the library is the least pie-in-the sky of the three options."

Selectman Mary-Jo Avellar said she did not agree with Selectman David Atkinson that the Heritage Museum is a "white elephant."

If they are going to pursue the idea of relocating the library to the museum building, and the museum to the library building, then they would have to include a "reading room" in the relocated museum so as not to break the will of Nathan Freeman that this building be used as a library, she said.

To do otherwise, to break the will, would "send a very bad message out" that the town does not honor the wishes of its benefactors, she said.

Model likely to be moved

Replica's relocation seen as key to historic building's future use

By Sue Harrison
BANNER STAFF

The Selectmen continue to ponder both the long- and short-term fate of the Heritage Museum building and, despite the lack of a firm direction, seem poised to agree on one thing: the half-size scale model of the schooner Rose Dorothea ensconced on the second floor should come out and be resurrected in a more accessible, outdoor location.

The Rose Dorothea, while being the most impressive single item in the museum collection, has become somewhat of an albatross. The ship dominates two floors of the museum, reducing the area that could be

Heritage continued from page 1 used for other purposes and because of the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, will no longer even be able to be seen unless an elevator is installed in the building. In fact, if handicap bathrooms and a ramp are not installed this spring, the building may not be open to the public at all.

The museum, like many other town buildings, has not been properly maintained and is in real danger now of deteriorating to a fatal degree if work isn't undertaken to seal the exterior from rain and snow. When the town purchased the building, it did so with partial funding from the Mass. Historical Commission and has been pursuing various grants from that and other agencies recently to save the building from further ruin.

Although the town can reasonably be proud of the collection that has been assembled, many have expressed doubts that the museum can generate enough revenue to maintain the building.

To look at that situation and offer options, the design firm of Binder Boland Associates was hired to make an assessment. They came up with three options for the building — to leave it as the museum's home, move the library there, or to sell the building with the condition that it be kept for public use of some sort. Schoolhouse Center owner David Davis has expressed interest in purchasing the building, putting a theater upstairs and allowing the collection to remain on the ground floor.

The Selectmen are split on whether the library or the theater

would be the better choice for the town and have been gathering information to help them in their decision-making, which is where the boat comes in. Neither of those options will work without removing the boat, and no one has been sure if it is even possible to do. The fear has been that there is no way to move it without destroying it.

Binder Boland's Tom Boland has been meeting with Robert Hayden of Hayden Building Movers and has spoken with the boat's builder, Flyer Santos. Santos remains opposed to the removal, but Boland feels that if a proper site were found it might become acceptable to Santos.

After the talks, Boland concluded that the boat could be disassembled and removed through the closed off front window in three parts, the deck and the two pieces of hull. (There is no keel. The boat sits on a beam and is attached to the floor joists.) As an added complication, the front portion of the building is part of current rehab plans to seal the exterior and once that work is done, it would be costly to redo it to remove the boat later.

Boland suggested the foot of the Johnson Street parking lot, Lopes Square, Fisherman's Park or the West End parking lot as potential sites. Other sites including the Bas Relief and the area adjacent to the bus waiting area were mentioned.

The Selectmen were not ready to vote support for the move and agreed instead to meet again with the Heritage Museum trustees and to continue to get information on the other options.

**INVITATION FOR BIDS
HERITAGE MUSEUM
STRUCTURAL REPAIRS
AND RESTORATION**

The Town of Provincetown is requesting sealed bids for the structural repairs and restoration at the Heritage Museum. Completed sealed bids must be returned to the Town Manager's Office, 260 Commercial Street, Provincetown, MA 02657, no later than 3:00 p.m. on September 21, 1998 at which time and place they will be publicly opened and read. Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope plainly marked on the outside.

A copy of the Contract Documents may be obtained at the Provincetown Department of Public Works Office, located at the Grace Gouveia Building, 26 Alden Street, Provincetown, MA 02657 or by calling (508) 487-7060/7067. A deposit sum of \$25.00 will be required for each set of contract bid documents obtained. Bidders requesting contract documents to be mailed to them should include a separate check for \$10.00 per set mailed, made payable to the Town of Provincetown to cover mailing and handling costs. Contract Document deposits will be returned in full to formal bidders only, upon the return of the Contract Documents in good condition.

The Contract Documents may be examined at the Engineer's Office of Coastal Engineering Company, Inc., 260 Cranberry Highway, Orleans, MA 02653 and at the Provincetown Department of Public Works Office, 26 Alden Street, Provincetown, MA 02657. Documents may also be seen, but not removed, at F.W. Dodge Company, Prudential Tower, Suite 320, Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02119

Funds for this project have been secured through a grant from the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Funds (MPPF), of the Massachusetts Historic Commission. All work must comply with the Secretary of the Interior Standards for the treatment of historic properties and all Massachusetts Historical Commission Guidelines.

All contractors submitting bids for the work must obtain and review copies of conditions, assessment, specifications, and drawings prior to their submission. A pre-bid conference will be held on-site, at the Heritage Museum on Thursday, September 3, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. Attendance at the pre-bid conference to review the scope of work and provide clarification of any details is required for a bid to be considered acceptable.

A qualifications statement including references and prior cli-

ent list especially highlighting work on historic properties must also be submitted. Previous work done under the MPPF program should also be noted.

General bidders must be certified by the division of Capital Planning and Operations (DCPO). General bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit equal to 5% of the amount bid in accordance with MGL, Chapter 30, Section 39M.

All bids for this project are subject to Chapter 149, Section 44A to 44L, inclusive, and Chapter 30, Section 39M of the MGL, as amended.

Attention is called to the fact that minimum wage rates have been established by the Commissioner of Labor and Industries as set forth in the Contract Documents. The bid will be awarded by the Town of Provincetown to the lowest eligible bidder as defined in the bid documents.

The Town of Provincetown reserves the right to waive any informalities in the bids, to reject any or all bids, or to accept any bid which it deems to be in the best interest of the Town.

Len Landry, Director of Public Works

Advocate: August 20 & 27, 1998



Letters

BANNER
4-1-99

Dispelling Long Point myth

To the editor:

I am writing in response to Glen Martin's mix of fantasy and fol-de-rol in a recent letter about Josephine Del Deo, and the Long Point Gallery. Ms. Del Deo is a historian, and she knows that the Heritage Museum confusion can be laid at the door of one so-called "millionaire": the late Walter P. Chrysler, Jr. who bought the old Methodist Church and turned it into an art museum. Like Mr. Davis, with his Schoolhouse Center, he was seeking to "realize a dream" (to quote Mr. Martin).

When the dream became a nightmare, due to his inability to get along with the town government, Mr. Chrysler decamped, leaving the great old building to its uncertain fate. So much for art-crazed plutocrats!

Mr. Martin refers to his grand-

mother's copy of the Social Register to categorize some of the Long Point Gallery members as "millionaires." I think that many of the people in the Social Register would be surprised to be classified as "millionaires." For most of us snobs, the Register is a listing of social rather than financial status.

Long Point was founded as a cooperative gallery: a gathering of equals in art. If there had indeed been any millionaire in the group, it would have been inappropriate for him or her to stand out by purchasing the building. Lord knows, we discussed the problem over and over. It seemed inconsistent for a dozen or so increasingly geriatric, old codgers to assume the burden of a large historic building and its upkeep. Establishing an art center was never contemplated in the founding of Long Point. We had enough to do to create the work, meet payrolls, etc.

Over the years, Long Point has been characterized as a bunch of rich tightwads "who could have bought the Legion building at any time." I share Mr. Martin's nostalgia for those "rickety stairs" which lead to the wonders of our gallery, but I'm also glad not to be involved in

their upkeep. I also hope that this dispels that erroneous Long Point myth.

Tony Vevers
Former president,
Long Point Gallery, Inc.
Provincetown

Hit a nerve

Advocate
4-1-99

To the Editor:

The first time someone suggested selling the Heritage Museum building, I was outraged. But a lot has happened since then.

We are now confronted by an obsolete pier which is essential to the livelihood of many Provincetowners. We still have deficits at the Manor; a tax increase because of the Land Bank; a library that is too small; an acute housing shortage for working people; and, worst of all, an abominable plan for a \$30,000,000 sewer to serve less than one third of the town's properties.

Advocate 4-1-99

ROSE DOROTHEA...from 15

Critics of the proposal to sell the Heritage Museum say the problems there are the town's fault. The town should maintain the building. The town should have promoted the museum and the centerpiece of its collection, the Rose Dorothea model.

Who is the TOWN? It is not THEM, it is US! We are the TOWN and WE own the building which houses the museum and the model, but the Heritage Museum trustees are responsible for running the museum. Therefore, isn't it the trustees' responsibility to promote the museum, not ours?

If this is so, before turning on the trustees, we should remember that they, like the members of every other board or committee, are volunteers. Members of these groups work harder for us than most of us give them credit for. In defense of the Heritage Museum trustees, I think it would take a lot more than promotions to get more visitors into that building.

Visitors come to Provincetown for the day or to stay at inns or guest houses so they can go to the beaches, shop, whale watch, look at the town, eat at restaurants, visit art galleries and sometimes sit on a bench with us and watch whatever goes by. With the Heritage Museum, we have a large, dingy, intimidating church. Yes, we love it, but if you were staying here for a short time, what choices would you make? Beach or museum? Whale watch or museum? Rest on a free bench or museum? Incidentally, when was the last time you went to see the collection at the Heritage Museum?

The proposal for moving the Rose Dorothea model has hit a nerve in all of us. It brings home the failure of this splendidly idealistic plan to preserve Provincetowners' accomplishments for future generations. Suggestions have been made by many who want to keep this property under town ownership because they believe all will be lost if we do not own the building.

I am afraid it will be lost if we keep it. We need a plan for repairing the building that also addresses state mandated handicap-accessibility issues and which makes the building absolutely irresistible to visitors when they see it from the street. Who is going to carry out that plan? So far, we have shown we can't do it.

We have an intriguing offer from a

reputable person who would, if he acquires the building, retain the collection on the first floor. He is interested in re-establishing a theater on the second floor. This would restore the town's theater HERITAGE to the museum where I think it belongs. We should give him the information he needs, so he can determine what it will take to make a proposal. He might even find a way to keep the Rose Dorothea model where it is.

For example: If space of the second floor is opened up for a theater, could the model become a very special seating area with removable seats to be used only during performances? If this is possible, part of the proceeds from these seats might be used to maintain the model. On some occasions, could theater seats be turned toward Rose Dorothea so she could become part of readings of the Provincetown plays of Eugene O'Neill or other appropriate projects? The Rose could still receive visitors in daytime hours and would be there for all theater functions in the evening.

Neva Hansen
Provincetown

Advocate 3-11-99

Rose Dorothea

As a sixth grader, I learned about the Portuguese tradition of the Blessing of the Fleet. We didn't do that in Ohio.

The idea really captured my imagination. Unfortunately, as children often do, I got the location of this yearly event mixed up and thought it was celebrated in Providence, Maine.

Now that I have found Provincetown, I have, like many other newcomers and locals alike, spent hours watching ships and boats in the harbor and reading about the town as it was. And, yes, I have seen the Blessing.

I wish I had been here in 1907 to see the Rose Dorothea sailing victorious into Provincetown Harbor. It must have been wonderful. I have been to the Heritage Museum to see the model of Rose Dorothea.

I was pleased by the beautiful workmanship in every detail and felt a sense of reverence somehow imbedded in the work as completed by Francis Flyer Santos and his associates. But I was also disappointed, not with the model, but with the space in which it is displayed.

You see, I had imagined that the model had the whole second floor to itself and that it would be under a glass ceiling with sunlight on it. I could not stand back and view the model as a whole. I left with the feeling that it deserved something better, more space and better light.

I was also disappointed by recent reports in the press to the effect that those who are exploring possible changes in the use of the museum space and considering the removal of the model to another location do not respect the Portuguese tradition, accomplishments, and history in Provincetown.

I was shocked by these remarks. I thought

bringing the Rose Dorothea model out of that closet and into daylight would bring more attention to the accomplishments of the Portuguese community and to the fishing community as a whole. I imagined scores of visitors, among them people who might not go to the museum, being delighted to see the model near the place where Rose Dorothea must have been moored so many years ago.

Yes, I recognize the difficulties before us as outlined by Mr. Santos and others. We must listen to them carefully when they talk about the problems of removing the model from the building. Where it should go and how it should be maintained and protected if it is outside or in another structure is also important, not just to members of the Portuguese community, but to all who care for everything about this place.

It is a pity that small towns with limited resources have such difficulty raising funds to maintain their historic treasures. The Heritage Museum and Truro Town Hall, are glaring examples.

We all know the museum needs a lot of work. However, one cannot say that the building's use and contents have to stay exactly as they are and the town has to fix the building unless one also presents a viable plan to accomplish that goal.

We have an offer of help from David Davis who did the work at the School House. When that building was sold and we lost Long Point and Rising Tide galleries, I was upset. I still miss them, but the new galleries are fine and have space for other related activities. I count myself as being lucky to have Mr. Davis among us and hope to meet him some time.

Unfortunately, Mr. Davis has been accused of

being a "millionaire." This may or may not be true. Blaming people for being millionaires is like blaming them for being lawyers, selectmen or having red hair. Having money is not the problem, it is what is done with it that counts.

Think of all the towns that have libraries thanks to that millionaire Andrew Carnegie. This is not a case of having Donald Trump coming into town with plans to tear down the neighborhood around the museum in order to turn it into a casino and amusement park with one hundred condominiums.

All Mr. Davis has offered is restoration of the museum and a return of the second floor to its previous use, a theater. Keep in mind, theater also has an important place in Provincetown's history. Indeed, had the theater been retained on the second floor of the museum, would proceeds from performances have made it possible to maintain the building?

We should see the proposal Mr. Davis will present later this month before we set our minds against his offer. There are people in town with interesting ideas for solving the library and Heritage Museum problems. Whatever solutions they propose will require compromise.

I dislike compromise as much as the next person but we cannot go on at our current level of indifference to dilapidation. If we lock ourselves into keeping everything as it is right now, the Heritage Museum will deteriorate to a point beyond repair. The only solution will be to bring it down with a wrecking ball. What will become of the Rose Dorothea model then?

Neva Hansen
Provincetown

often worked for performing art centers, in various capacities ranging from promotional art direction at BAM (The Brooklyn Academy of Music) to answering phones at a Broadway show taking Telecharge orders. So when this person mentioned opening a theater here in Provincetown I started to think and think and think. As was reported by Kay Longcope in her recent article in the Banner, the one element I was not able to include in the Schoolhouse plan was a full-fledged theatrical performance space.

As a result of my interest in the Heritage Museum I have recently been characterized as a wealthy developer. I don't wish to discuss my financial situation in any detail here, however I will underline what I have already said, which is that had monetary considerations been the primary concern in The Schoolhouse Center project, the end product would be very different.

I seem to have become something of a "lightning rod" in the controversy swirling around the Rose Dorothea and whether or not it should be moved out of the museum building. I would like to say that I have no wish to disrespect or disparage anyone's heritage to promote my own personal or professional agenda. It is very simply not within my power to decide the fate of the replica of the Rose Dorothea, however I do feel that the ultimate fate of its present home, the Heritage Museum building, rests on the outcome of the debate. For whatever reasons, the town has been clearly negligent in maintaining the physical structure, not to mention the aesthetic value of the museum. Viewed simply as an important historical ar-

tifact, the museum building has been sadly forgotten during the emotional exchange that has been raging relative to the Rose Dorothea. I firmly believe that both can be saved without anyone feeling slighted or unappreciated, and without undue financial burden to the town's people. The proposal to display the schooner in an outdoor (yet protected) setting would cost the Provincetown taxpayers far less than the estimates for rescuing the museum building, and it would be seen by many more people than in its present home. This move would also free up the interior sanctuary of the museum building to be used in a more cost-effective way, theater or not.

I understand that there is a great deal of interest on the part of the library to move into the museum building, which would likewise require the "eviction" of the Rose Dorothea. I find it somewhat odd that I am being called names and painted as an uncaring developer, while no one has criticized the library for not wanting the Rose Dorothea as a roommate. In addition, the library proposes to swap buildings with the present museum collection, which would end up being housed at the current library. Although this "trade" seems, at first blush, to make sense from the standpoint of mere square-footage requirements, it fails to hold up after further scrutiny. Both buildings would require extensive refitting to accommodate their new usage, not to mention the burden of restoring the badly decaying museum. Books are much heavier than people, and even heavier than ship replicas. The extent of the work required to house

the library in the former church would be staggering, in my opinion. And the vast majority of the financial burden for this simple swap would fall squarely on the shoulders of the taxpayers. Yet there is another solution.

The town of Provincetown, among many other valid traditions and heritages, has been called the "Birthplace of American Theater," and yet we are a town that has no theater facility. I recoil in fear from those who suggest that Provincetown has only one true heritage, one symbol or one tradition worthy of celebrating. I believe the very nature of this tiny place which sets it apart from perhaps anywhere else on earth is its history of welcoming every and all people with their traditions and lifestyles. In fact, from the town's entry into the American history books as the first landing place of the Pilgrims, themselves an oppressed people seeking refuge, it has been a haven for those searching for personal freedom and acceptance. So to imply that there is only one true heritage is not only incorrect, but also arrogant and contrary to the spirit of this wonderful place where we all live, no matter how long we individually may have been here.

I suggest that the Heritage Museum building, which was originally built as a church, is by design a meeting place for an "audience" to congregate. I have presently exhausted all other avenues to find a suitable space to either refurbish or construct a new theater here in Provincetown. We have either used up the land or zoned, bylawed or scaled ourselves out of being able to build such a facility. I have even

continued on next page

tried to find a home in Truro as an alternative. No luck. We do however have a prominent and beautiful building which was designed for just that purpose, albeit a different kind of "theater."

At the risk of further criticism I might suggest that a library does not need the kind of space provided by an old church, nor should it be, in my opinion, in the business of restoring old buildings. The type of space required by a library is to my mind very different, and to further remove the Heritage Museum building's architecture, even interior spaces, from their original intent would be a mistake.

I have proposed, with the urging of some at Town Hall, that the town of Provincetown consider transferring the Heritage Museum property to me in order to repair, restore and preserve the physical structure of the building, as I have done to the Eastern School. In return, I pledge to provide a first-class performing arts center and community theater space. My plan is also to continue to provide a home for the Heritage Museum collection (although sadly without the magnificent Rose Dorothea) on the ground floor of the facility. The town would retain right of first refusal for any future sale of the building, and I would be required to adhere to the historic character of the building. Most importantly, the town would be relieved of the financial burden of the building, while it would remain open to the public, proudly regaining its position as a vital and beautiful focal point on Commercial Street.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the

Museum building's best use

To the editor:

BANNER 4-1-99

Much has been said lately about the fate of the Heritage Museum building, the former Methodist Church and Chrysler Museum. Much has also been said both for and against my potential involvement with that magnificent (but ailing) structure. I feel that it is time that I go on record with some of my own thoughts about the debate that seems to be dividing the town into two very opposing camps.

Last summer (I don't remember the date) a member of the Heritage Museum Board approached me during a visit to the Schoolhouse Center and said, "Are you ready to do another building?" I laughed and mumbled something like "I'm not that crazy." He then went on to explain that there were some who felt that it was time to put the Heritage Museum into private hands and perhaps turn it into a community theater. The conversation was very brief, but he left having planted a seed.

My college and professional background has been rooted both in the visual arts and theater. As an undergraduate I was a studio art major (specifically printmaking and typography) and a theater minor. I have always felt that art is my love and theater is my passion. In New York City and other places I have most

BANNER 4-1-99

Museum fate in our hands

To the editor:

The first time someone suggested selling the Heritage Museum building, I was outraged. But a lot has happened since then. We are now confronted by an obsolete pier, which is essential to the livelihood of many Provincetowners. We still have deficits at the Manor; a tax increase for the Land Bank; a library that is too small; an acute housing shortage for working people; and worst of all, an abominable plan for a \$30 million sewer to serve less than one-third of the town's properties.

Critics of the proposal to sell the Heritage Museum say the problems there are the town's fault; the town should maintain the building; the town should have promoted the museum and the centerpiece of its collection, the Rose Dorothea model.

Who is the town? It is not them, it is us! We are the town and we own the building which houses the museum and the model; but the Heritage Museum trustees are responsible for running the museum. Therefore, isn't it the trustees' responsibility to promote the museum, not ours? If this is so, before turning on the trustees, we should remember that they, like members of every other board or committee, are volunteers. Members of these groups work harder for us than most of us give them credit for. In defense of the Heritage Museum trustees, I think it would take a lot more than promotions to get more visitors into that building.

Visitors come to Provincetown for the day or to stay at inns or guest houses so they can go to the beaches, shop, whale watch, look at the town, eat at restaurants, visit art galleries, and sometimes sit on a bench with us and watch whatever goes by. With the Heritage Museum, we have a large, dingy, intimidating church. Yes, we love it, but if you were staying here for a short time, what choices would you make? Beach or museum? Whale watch or museum? Rest on a free bench or museum? Incidentally, when was the last time you went to see the collection at the Heritage Museum?

The proposal for moving the Rose Dorothea has hit a nerve in all of us. It brings home the failure of this splendidly idealistic plan to preserve Provincetown's accomplishments for future generations. Suggestions have been made by many who want to keep this property under town ownership because they believe all will be lost if we do not own the building. I am afraid it will be lost if we keep it. We need a plan for repairing the building which also addresses handicap accessibility and which makes the building absolutely irresistible to visitors when they see it from the street. Who is going to carry out this plan? So far, we have shown we can't do it.

We have an intriguing offer from a reputable person who would, if he acquires the building, retain the collection on the first floor and is interested in reestablishing a theater on the second floor. This would restore the town's theater heritage to the museum, where it belongs. We should give him the information he needs so he can determine what it will take to make a proposal. He might even find a way to keep the Rose Dorothea model where it is. For example, if space on the second floor is opened up for a theater, could the model become a very special staging area with removable seats to be

used only during performances? If this is possible, proceeds from these seats might be used to maintain the model. On some occasions, could theater seats be turned toward the Rose Dorothea so she could become part of readings of the Provincetown plays of Eugene O'Neill or other appropriate projects? The Rose could still receive visitors in daytime hours and would also be there for all theater functions in the evening.

Neva Hansen
Provincetown

Rose Dorothea replica can be moved, consultants say

By Sue Harrison
BANNER STAFF

The cost hasn't been announced yet, but consultants from F.G. Marine Design, Inc. of Bristol, R.I., say the half-scale model of the historic schooner Rose Dorothea can be successfully removed from the upper floor of the Heritage Museum and relocated without being damaged. The work would be done by segmenting the hull after both the running and standing rigging have been removed.

Andy Tyska and Cory Wood, naval architects and engineers from F.G. Marine Design, came to town last Wednesday to inspect the model. After spending over two hours inside and outside the replica, the men told Public Works Director David Guertin that the boat can in

fact be moved — the answer to the question that has been hanging in the air for the past few months.

Guertin told the Banner that Tyska and Wood's plan for removal would include shoring up the replica, both inside and out. The model has no keel as such and the bottom of the hull is incomplete. The model was built in place, and as part of its installation, beams that go across its bottom were attached to a long, heavy timber that was set into the floor. Once the boat is removed from that timber, its stability as related to the shape of the hull will be compromised.

To overcome that problem, the consultants suggested strengthening the model internally with additional beams, sistering some of the ribs, and constructing cradle-like exterior supports. A faux keel may be constructed for alignment purposes. The

cradles, similar to those used to remove boats from the water for dry-dock, would then be used to wheel the segments to the Center Street side of the building (the siding would be removed) and out onto a scaffolding. From there, a crane could lift the pieces and put them on a flatbed truck for transport.

(Guertin said removal through the side of the building would not interfere with planned restoration since work on that side is limited to the sills and to siding on the lower third of the historic former church.)

F.G. Marine Design is available to oversee the deconstruction, removal and the reconstruction of the model.

The consultants, Guertin said, are viewing the move and work as no different from any boat reconstruction project as far as protecting the integrity of the vessel goes. Before

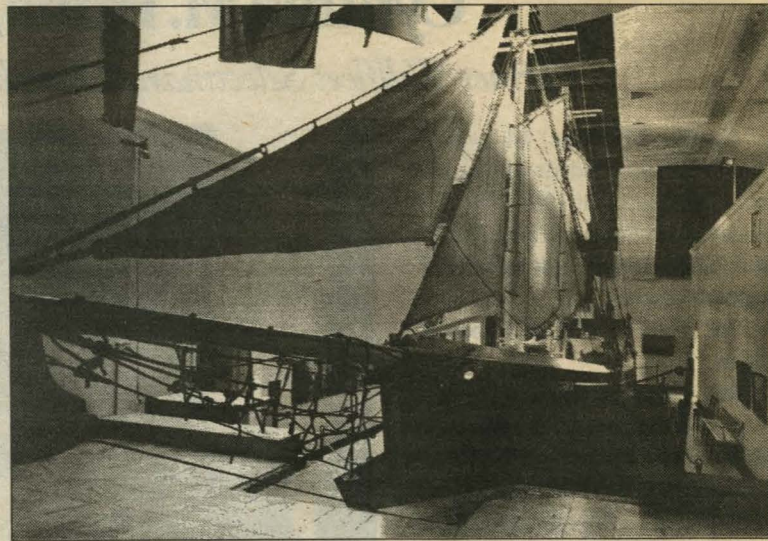


Photo Vincent Guadagno

The half-scale Rose Dorethea model at the Heritage Museum.

creating computer-generated 3-D renderings of their suggestions, they will also discuss the project with the president of the Halsey and Herreshoff Museum to get additional in-

put. (Tyska and Wood serve as consultants for that museum.)

Preliminary cost figures and a time line for the work should be delivered to the town this week.

BANNER 3-18-99

cal buildings, when properly maintained and preserved, remind us of our heritage.

The Heritage Museum was founded with the aim of protecting and preserving a landmark town building while celebrating and exhibiting the town's local history. Thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours of volunteer labor were donated by members of the community to make this dream a reality. Many of the people who started this project, including my husband, the late Cyril J. Patrick, are no longer alive to protect the fate of the project they so fervently believed in.

The half-scale model of the Rose Dorothea is the largest indoor ship's model in the world. For almost 100 years the story of the Rose Dorothea has inspired members of the town's fishing and boating community and has been a symbol of perseverance and independence.

According to local legend, Captain Marion Perry entered his fishing boat, the Rose Dorothea, in the Lipton Cup race merely to please his wife. During the race his topmast broke. Perry was furious and wanted to get back to Boston pier as quickly as possible to give the boat builder a "good talking to." The broken spar enabled the Rose Dorothea to point up closer to the wind while her closest rival, the Jessie Costa, had put up too many sails. With a broom handle affixed to her topmast, the Rose Dorothea sailed into Boston Harbor the winner, and the silver Lipton cup trophy was brought back to Provincetown.

Whereas the items on the first floor of the Heritage Museum could be exhibited at other museums and public buildings on the Lower Cape, the Rose Dorothea cannot. Perhaps at this juncture, it would be more appropriate for a private foundation or individual to take over the ownership of this important building. But surely it should be someone with enough vision, to complete the viewing gallery above the Rose Dorothea and properly publicize its existence on a national scale, so that it would attract the tourist dollars it deserves.

Nadja Maril
Annapolis, Md.

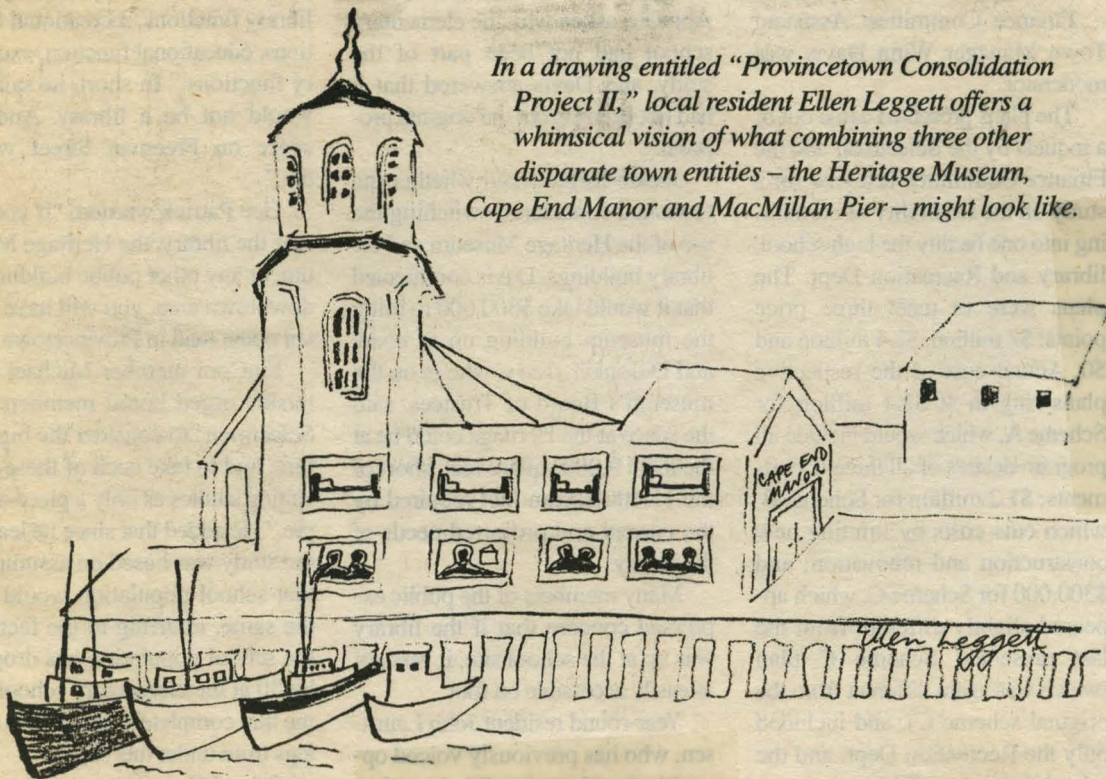
Rose Dorothea needs vision

To the editor:

I have followed the debate regarding the preservation of the buildings currently housing the town library and Heritage Museum with interest. As one previous letter writer noted, people not buildings, make a town. Although I consider people of utmost importance, the sad fact of life is that people die while buildings live on. Our histori-

1-28-99

In a drawing entitled "Provincetown Consolidation Project II," local resident Ellen Leggett offers a whimsical vision of what combining three other disparate town entities – the Heritage Museum, Cape End Manor and MacMillan Pier – might look like.



Advocate Clean sweep

4-1-99

To the Editor:

I am writing to urge you not to sell the Provincetown Heritage Museum to David Davis. I think the Provincetown Heritage Museum needs to remain town property and be supported by the town.

I was raised in Provincetown, went to school there and now live in San Jose, Calif. Every year we visit Provincetown as tourists. We visit the Provincetown Heritage Museum to see the Rose Dorothea, Steve Toumey's mural of the wharf scene of that era in front of the Rose Dorothea, the dune shack, Peter Hunt furniture, Dr. Heibert's picture, the old-fashioned fire engine, the whaling boat with the life-size model of Irving Roderick, the beautiful paintings of Provincetown.

Each year since my children were babies, since the project started in 1977, we would visit and see how much progress Grandpa and his friends had made on the Rose Dorothea that year. Eleven years later in 1988 we were living in Maynard and were able to be present at the wonderful dedication ceremony where high school students sang beautiful songs, and children carried brooms in a parade to the Rose

Dorothea.

The brooms were to commemorate "the clean sweep" that the fishing schooner Rose Dorothea had made in defeating all the other contenders in the Lipton Cup Race. My great-grandfather was a crew member during the race and was given a broom along with the other crew members to march up the front street of Provincetown to celebrate the victory. (They had to give the brooms back after the parade.) Many Provincetown school children were a part of this dedication ceremony, and it is now part of their heritage.

My children are 23 and 24 years old now, and the Rose Dorothea is still there in the museum protected from the elements. I believe it has never been repainted and is in pristine condition.

On the other hand, from the secondary window of the museum you can see the trapboat Charlotte, which had been restored by a group of students at Cape Tech, exposed to the elements of Provincetown summers and winters

without protection. She is in an awful state of decay. She is the last of her kind.

When I was a child, when Provincetown was a hard working fishing community and an art colony, trapboats like the Charlotte, along with the fishing traps and cold storages, fish processing plants, were a common sight and part of my heritage.

I think it would be a good idea to have interpretive guides who would be able to discuss what fishing life was like then when the Rose Dorothea was a fishing schooner. The exhibit could also chronicle the actual building of the boat for future generations to look at when they want to know how a boat like that was built. More advertising could probably help.

Once again I urge you not to sell the Heritage Museum but to keep it under town control and support the treasure we have.

Janet Santos Greenquist
San Jose, Calif.

Advocate

Million-dollar asset

4-1-99

To the Editor:

Is the town aware the Rose Dorothea is an asset worth upwards of \$1,100,000?

A caravel, the type of Portuguese ship that made world exploration possible, will be financed and built by the Portuguese government as the centerpiece of the Heritage Harbor Museum in Providence, R.I. It will span three floors. The \$1,100,000 financing provided by the Portuguese government is only the cost to build the ship. Additional funds are being provided to build walkways around the caravel. Surrounding the caravel will be displays depicting Rhode Island's rich maritime history.

How very sad that while Providence is restoring its historical waterfront and celebrating its heritage, Provincetown is in the midst of a debate over whether to let a big piece of theirs go. That's why I ask, are you aware of its worth, not just historically, but financially? Until I began researching the caravel, I was unaware of the monetary value of the Rose Dorothea. We often take for granted that which is close to us!

As a native of Provincetown, I am writing to ask that you preserve the heritage Museum and the Rose Dorothea as a symbol of Provincetown's Portuguese

fishing heritage. There are no more schooners, fish houses, fishing traps, etc. to remember the town's history. Let the majestic Heritage Museum and the Rose Dorothea stand as monuments to the proud heritage of this town and its diverse people.

I am the youngest daughter of Francis "Flyer" Santos and was named after the Rose Dorothea. This being the case, I feel my comment may be perceived as biased, so I will end this letter. As a concerned native of Provincetown, please include me in any fund raising projects for the restoration of the Heritage Museum.

Dorothea Santos
East Greenwich, R.I.

Rose Dorothea letters

Alien past

To the Editor:

Schooner sails built our beautiful town, but condominium sales propel it now. It is small wonder that the past is so alien.

An effort is being made by town officials and unqualified preservation consultants to move the model of the schooner Rose Dorothea from the Provincetown Heritage Museum to a glass enclosure on the waterfront where it will be gradually twisted out of shape by the sun. This is, of course, assuming that it gets to the new site. If you recall the fate of the old Jot Small house at 214 Bradford Street a few years ago, you will have serious misgivings about any "Provincetown preservation" project of this size. It is easy to imagine that the schooner model and the building could also "accidentally" collapse in the process.

I plan to listen to the builder of the model at Town Meeting. Who would know better than Flyer Santos about what should be her fate?

George Bryant
Provincetown

To the Editor:

Advocate 4-1-99

When I first heard of removal of the Rose Dorothea from the Heritage Museum, I thought it to be a joke. When realizing it was someone's wild notion to follow through, my initial thought was to lash whomever they were to the mast and flog them to death!

But, of course, that's as wild and as absurd a notion as removing the Rose Dorothea. People who want to re-write history here should not expect it to be acceptable. As one who spent many happy hours in the former Eastern school/American Legion building, there's nary a doubt that Mr. Davis rehabbed that building (American Legion) into something that is no less than spectacular. I truly respect him for his vision and the expense he incurred to restore it.

I do support arts and theater and the need for a cultural center. The Heritage Museum is another matter. I'm certain it would receive the same T.L.C. if Mr. Davis were to acquire it, but I personally agree with all those who support keeping the Rose Dorothea where it is. My sentiments are strong because it's a large part of what my ancestors before me represented.

My husband's grandfather was captain of the Eleanor de Costa, which has its own fishing/sailing history. My father, a master mariner, taught many younger men the rudiments of fishing here. I have respect for all that and as the saying goes, "They were iron men with wooden ships."

I had the honor of being present, as did the whole town, when the Rose Dorothea at the Heritage Museum was dedicated to "sail" forever at its berth in the museum. There was such high energy and hap-

piness amongst the crowd when the Rose was unveiled

I can't fathom that it would now be removed at unnecessary cost to be placed outside. Take a look at the Carlotta, the last trap fishing boat, which is in wrack and ruin, and tell me that the Rose Dorothea if kept outside won't suffer the same fate. Where's the guarantee that that will never happen? There are enough business oriented people here creative enough to promote financial success at the Heritage Museum.

A portion of our tax dollars is applied to advertise tourism business in Provincetown, even though some of us not in any business, rental or otherwise, do not garner a nickel in return, so let's advertise more diligently the Heritage Museum and the Rose Dorothea as choice priority in being a must see in Provincetown.

Imagine working constantly, gratis, for 10 years in your advancing age on a project for the good of all and for posterity to find it could be all for naught some years later. The caliber of ship builder that Francis "Flyer" Santos is are now almost non-existent. It's an insult of the worst kind to even entertain the idea of dismantling that which he committed 1/8th of his life to.

"S.O.S." to all supportive voters to attend Town Meeting, hopefully to stop this heresy! Don't be intimidated! Stand up and be counted before it's too late! We don't want our history lost, given away or shuffled around like a deck of cards!

Rachel White
Provincetown

BANNER

Give credit where it's due

To the editor:

3-25-99

I am astounded by the vitriolic statements attributed to Josephine Del Deo regarding a man of great integrity, David Davis. I had always thought of her as one of the outstanding members of our community; an artist, environmentalist, and a woman of compassion. I have come to the conclusion that she has never walked down Commercial Street from the East End and gazed upon the Schoolhouse Center since its loving restoration by Mr. Davis. Ms. Del Deo, did you ever enter the building in 1998? You would have seen lovely and wondrous things!

Perhaps she is unhappy about the demise of the internationally acclaimed Long Point Gallery as some of the most famous artists in the country were in the habit of showing there. I, too, loved climbing those rickety stairs to gaze upon the Resikas and Vevers, among others, but if they had wanted to save the gallery as it was, it was in their power to do so.

She speaks of millionaires. I happen to know that a few of the artists who showed at Long Point fall into that category. Some of them are even in the social register. I saw them in my grandmother's copy. They failed to do what Mr. Davis has done: realize a dream, restore an important building, and open it to the public as a center for the arts. (I am not criticizing anyone for choosing not to act, perhaps it was not in their nature or interest to do so. But please give Mr. Davis credit where it is due.)

It is time for Ms. Del Deo and the people of Provincetown to realize that, when it comes to the properties held by our town, decisions must be made. We cannot allow the Selectman to continue to form committees who form committees who form committees to hire consultants at great expense to hire other consultants to tell us what to do with the Heritage Museum, the wharf, the library, the Manor, the fire houses, and the desperately needed sewage system. It is time to make some decisions here, and the town of

PROVINCETOWN BANNER

Provincetown must take immediate action.

The exquisite model of the Rose Dorothea is degraded by its current location. One cannot look upon it and admire it in its cramped space. It should be granted the status of the monument that it is and placed at an appropriate site for all to see.

Mr. Davis has proven his good intentions with the unprecedented Schoolhouse Center. The town of Provincetown has allowed a number of properties, through indecision and neglect, to fall into horrible states of disrepair. The solution regarding the Heritage Museum is clear. Allow David Davis to work his magic and give him your wholehearted support.

Please note that I have never met David Davis and that I have no business dealings with him.

Glen Martin
Provincetown

Destruction of town history

To the editor:

DAVID
3-23-99

I like to poke around old cellar holes and home sites in the woods

this time of year. The perennial old plantings stubbornly make themselves known each spring even when their joyful presence is no longer cultivated, only tolerated. At the Ball estate today I was taken aback by a message scribed into the sand with a stick by the ruins of the old homestead: "Rich-Ball Home-site Historical Property Destroyed by NPS '75." The love and time this family had invested in the place was forever forgotten and with that labor of love, another piece of our heritage was gone. The source of my uneasiness and distress these last few weeks suddenly became clearer to me: "Provincetown's Hundred Year-Old Volunteer Fire Department Destroyed by the Provincetown Board of Selectmen '99." "Provincetown's Rose Dorothea, Proud Symbol of Town's Seafaring Heritage, Destroyed by Town Meeting Vote '99."

We still have time to make our voices known before these labors of love and pieces of our history are lost to us forever. When my family was in need, it was our Fire Dept. who supported us. I hope funds from the Richard Meads and Joseph Trovato Memorial Fund will be used to help their fellow firefighters now when their town officials refuse to. As for the Rose Dorothea, another labor of love and symbol of our heritage, I know the answers are not easy ones; but what is the rush?

We owe it to our town and our heritage to take the time and examine this issue thoroughly. Let us not be guilty of another shortsighted action we will live with forever. Unlike the perennials that stubbornly remind us of the life that once was, our time is limited, our voices eventually silenced and any testimony to our heritage is lost.

I say a grateful prayer that the monument was constructed with granite and left in private ownership. If not, I'm sure that symbol of our Pilgrim heritage would have been dismantled and the prime real estate it sits on sold off to the highest bidder.

Kathie Meads
Provincetown

FinCom likes plan for Rose

Annex, Community Center sale for affordable housing endorsed

By Sally Rose and Hamilton Kahn
BANNER STAFF

Setting its own priorities for town spending, the Finance Committee, in a marathon session last Friday, enthusiastically endorsed plans to move the half-scale Rose Dorothea model from the Heritage Museum to a glass-and-wood enclosure near the pier at an estimated cost of nearly \$400,000, yet declined to recommend a \$20,000 study of moving the library to the museum building.

The committee, during a review of Town Meeting articles that stretched from 9 a.m. to nearly 6 p.m., also unanimously endorsed the conditional sale of the Community Center and School Annex for conversion to affordable housing but de-

continued on page 5

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Fincom continued from page 1
clined to take a stand, for now, on the open space acquisition of the Patrick family subdivision adjacent to Shank Painter Pond. It also heaped praise on Cape End Manor acting administrator Dennis Anderson for his belt-tightening measures, which have reportedly reduced the town nursing home's anticipated 1998 deficit by more than \$100,000.

Of the plan to put the Rose Dorothea near MacMillan Pier, FinCom chair Bill Dougal said it "would be a crown jewel," and member Alice Foley said she was "very impressed." Department of Public Works director David Guertin added that Harbormaster David Di-tacchio has been working hard to win over opponents of the move, including model builder Flyer Santos.

Of the total cost of the move, \$270,000 would be for the 80-foot-high, 45-foot long open-air structure to house the replica of the Provincetown-built Grand Banks schooner that won the Lipton Cup in 1907. "On a busy day in summer [there would be] tens of thousands of visitors to this," Guertin said.

The meeting began with discussion and recommendation of two Special Town Meeting articles dealing with plans for MacMillan Pier. The first would establish a public corporation to whom the town would lease the pier "for the purpose of bringing sound and market-based management practices to MacMillan Pier operations," and the second would allow the town to borrow and appropriate \$2.8 million toward the total cost of the rehabilitation of the pier (\$16 million, with \$13.2 million supplied in grants).

They also unanimously approved four articles regarding the proposed sewer system. One would allot \$140,000 for continuing the development of plans, including \$15,000 for a second opinion on using the Route 6 median strip for effluent discharge. The next would request a permanent utility easement from the Mass. Highway Dept., while the third provides an option for homeowners along the sewer route to choose to hook up to the system. For those who do so choose, the town would then assess a betterment. It also allows for those homeowners who can comply with Title 5 regulations to opt out. The fourth sewer article would authorize a private company to design, build, own and operate the wastewater treatment facility.

The articles proposing the low-cost sale of the Annex and Community Center for affordable housing were received warmly, with Dougal noting two areas of need — year-round and seasonal — although Housing Authority member Michael Bunn noted that seasonal housing is not with his panel's purview. Both recommendations came with proposed amendments to have the properties revert to town ownership if not used for the stated purpose.

Following its gushing support for relocating the Rose Dorothea model, the committee voted not to recommend spending \$20,000 to hire an architecture firm to provide the town with plans redesigning the Heritage Museum building as a library (see accompanying story). Not surprisingly, it then recommended an article to sell the Heritage Museum building through a public bidding procedure. (Schoolhouse Center founder

PROVINCETOWN BANNER

David Davis has formally expressed an interest in buying the building and turning it into a performing arts center). They also unanimously approved the appropriation of \$68,250 for repairs to the museum building.

As discussion began on Article 28, which proposes withdrawal from the Cape Cod Land Bank, the committee listened to a statement by Gwen Bloomingdale, who said she was speaking both as the town representative to the Cape Cod Commission and as a concerned citizen. She asked that they disapprove the article, pointing out that voters had supported the Land Bank three times in the past. She said the National Seashore "does not count as our open space. They have a very different mission," adding, "It seems to me premature to opt out of the Land Bank. I suggest setting up a committee to study the issue. To do it without investigation is silly."

"I don't think people realized what they were voting for," said member Robert Vetrick, and the committee voted unanimously in favor of withdrawal. Later, they also disapproved a home-rule petition article requesting that Land Bank funds be allowed for the creation of affordable housing.

A petitioned article submitted by Celine Gandolfo, to use a combination of Land Bank funds, state grants and town money totaling \$1.6 million to purchase the Patrick family land near Shank Painter Pond, brought a lot of questions from the committee, in light of their previous Land Bank votes. Dougal fretted that the town could be liable for the whole sum if funding failed to come through, even though Mark Robin-

son, director of the Compact of Cape Cod Conservation Trusts assured the members that was unlikely unless there was no town commitment to participate. Robinson and Gandolfo noted that the land is considered one of the top open-space priorities in the state. Vetrick suggested the town could opt out of the Land Bank and still spend \$600,000 for the land, which Robinson called "kind of silly," and member Lynn Mogell said that without the Land Bank funds, buying the land would not be fiscally responsible. Noting that the committee lacked a consensus on the article, Dougal suggested tabling it until the committee's meeting tomorrow.

(Outside the meeting, Patrick Patrick said his family has not received any offers on the five lots since they went on the market a year

and a half ago, but is not willing to negotiate the price; in fact, he said, if Town Meeting does not approve the purchase, the price will rise to \$1.9 million.)

The committee finally turned to the Cape End Manor's convoluted finances, which are funneled through a revolving enterprise fund. Bergman said that the good news was that the estimated \$400,000 deficit had been reduced by \$100,000, while the not-so-good news was that revenues were down \$270,000 due to a reduced census. While the members had questions about the ins and outs of it all, they offered praise for acting administrator Anderson's efforts.

"Congratulations," said Dougal. "This is the first time in five years that I've had any confidence, based on this snapshot today."

BANNER

3-25-99



Letters

Rally 'round the concept

To the editor:

Provincetown is fortunate to have a person like David Davis committed to the continued development of a broad-based arts community in town. What he has done at the Schoolhouse Arts Center is testimony to his vision, commitment and selflessness. (That property could have been made into a condo development by someone interested in personal financial gain.)

I feel that the town should rally around his concept of making the Heritage Museum a performing arts center for music, theater and dance. A facility like that would be a significant contribution to firmly establishing Provincetown as the cultural center of Cape Cod. As a tourist attraction, it would bring into town people who want to stay in town at the increasingly beautiful guesthouse and hotel facilities, eat at the growing number of fine restaurants and shop at the interesting and different shops that make Provincetown shopping a unique experience not found at the local mall.

Tourism is this town's major industry. We residents have to position the town to attract the type of

tourists we feel would be in the town's long-term best interest. Are we only interested in the hordes of daytrippers who come into town during the summer, shop at the t-shirt shops, grab a quick sandwich and return to their motel rooms in neighboring communities? That type of tourist we already have in sufficient numbers.

A performing arts center would attract people all year-round and have the potential to make Provincetown a year-round haven for people interested in the performing and visual arts. In my opinion, these tourists would insure the long term prosperity and financial health of the town.

What about the Rose Dorothea and protecting the town's heritage? As a relatively new resident, that heritage was one of the elements that attracted me to move here. But let's be realistic, no one sees that wonderful tribute to Provincetown's past where it is presently located. Calls to have the town undertake restoration of the museum and promote it with all of the pressing fiscal demands currently facing us are emotional, not rational. Raise property taxes to do this and we'll see just how many residents are committed to protecting the town's cultural heritage. There is no such thing as a free lunch, somebody has to pay.

Moving the Rose Dorothea to a location where it would be a focal point for tourists would be a far greater tribute to the town's past

than trying to figure out to make people come into a badly decaying building to see it.

I hope town residents are able to look at the big picture when the issue of the Heritage Museum is discussed at Town Meeting.

Peter F. Demers
Provincetown

To the editor:

I'm pretty sure I know what is meant by the "heart and soul" of Provincetown. Born and raised in Provincetown, my heart still tugs at me, like all those with "sand in their shoes," to return as often as possible to my home and my family.

Like a physical heart, Provincetown's is made of several important elements. Only together, as in all things, do its parts create a whole, none of its fragments standing on its own. The Rose Dorothea is one integral piece of a cherished heart, a living, pulsating component of Provincetown.

Perhaps those who don't fully comprehend the love packed into this town's heart think of the magnificent scale model of the Rose Dorothea as a kind of hobby craft pasted together on a whim. Maybe those who think nothing of carving up this magnificent ship to reassemble it elsewhere don't realize it simply can't be done, according to Flyer Santos, a master shipbuilder who studied ship architecture at the Herreshoff Shipyard in Bristol, R.I., and

Letters continued from page 8 who established Flyer's Boat Yard, which has been instrumental to the Cape's fishing industry, indeed, its entire economy in his creation and care of numerous ships, and a man who established the West End Racing Club which has taught generations of children to swim and sail free of charge.

Flyer Santos spent 10 years studying documented design plans and reconstructing the Rose Dorothea's to exactly one-half scale. Flyer will tell you its wood, in order to prevent post-construction shrinkage, is recycled from 100-year-old former library shelves as well as lumber from other razed local buildings, each plank hand-planed, painted and varnished and then fitted perfectly. No guesswork or shortcuts here. Its bowsprit is made from floor joists painstakingly glued together so that no seams are visible. Flyer will tell you its graceful curves cannot be cut and put back together like cheap plastic. Even at half-scale, its water line length at 66-and-a-half feet and its topmast height of 45 feet cannot be accommodated by the proposed 65-by-30-foot glass structure.

Those eager to dissect her can't possibly know the ship's history, how the highliners of the fishing schooners, unlike trained yachtsmen per se, learned their craft by struggling daily in treacherous seas to reap the ocean's harvest and race to market to ensure its freshness. In one year alone, Provincetown captains commissioned 11 majestic schooners, the sails of Provincetown's 48 schooners among those of hundreds of other ships patronizing our many ship chandlers.

Maybe it's difficult for some people to appreciate how the townspeople cherish their 1907 trophy. Conferred by Sir Thomas Lipton, Baronet and Knight of the Royal Victorian Order to the British Sovereign and renowned yachtsman, the silver Fishermen's Cup is the largest sailing trophy awarded in the world. Those unable to sense such pride probably can't understand the excitement of the parade that followed the race, each crew member proudly carrying a broom signifying "a clean sweep," or that President Theodore Roosevelt requested a meeting with her Captain Marion "Bertie" Perry, or that the Portuguese American Civil League erected a monument to its victory in front of Town Hall. Neither can they feel the pain the town experienced when they received the news that the Rose Dorothea had been sunk by a World War I German submarine in February of 1917.

While a more accessible location for the Rose Dorothea might at first appear attractive, this magnificent tribute to Provincetown cannot be filleted and transported like a shipment of horse mackerel. Josephine Del Deo of the town's Historical Society and the many other volunteers, my father included, listed on a plaque in the museum worked on this project side by side with Flyer tirelessly. Frank James, one of the few remaining ship riggers in the world, rigged the authentic lines, stays and halyards. The sails in exact replica of the original sails sewn by James McGuire were donated by the Lions Club. All of these volunteers did it for — what? Under contract? State grant? There were no

grants, no contract, no hourly wages, nothing. They did it on their own time, after a regular day of employment, free, from the heart, out of love.

The town held bake sales, raffles, sold memberships to pay for those materials that were not donated by numerous townspeople. Private contributions poured in. The treasurer was known to boast that the scale model of the Rose Dorothea was paid for when completed. Why can't we do it again? Why can't we save her? Let the cost of an undersized, nonconforming architectural glass house that would only further obscure the view of the harbor — a rare vista these days — go toward renovating the beautiful Heritage Museum and/or Library. Instead of more surveys and further studies, why not apply those funds to preserving what little integrity we have left. The people who extended a welcoming hand to you now ask you to reach back and grasp it once again and help save the Rose Dorothea. I'd be proud to make a donation to save our heart.

Liz (Lema) Perilla
Marietta, Ga

BANNER 3-25-99

Promote it, don't move it

To the editor:

Francis "Flyer" Santos, master ship builder, lifetime resident and historian is my father. It was with great pride and love I watched him, with the help from many friends, neighbors and strangers who gave of their time and money to fulfill his dream of building the Rose Dorothea. The dream was to leave a lasting memorial to his ancestors and the many men and women touched by the sea.

The Heritage Museum, which houses the Rose Dorothea, is in need of repair. There are those that would simply sell it to the highest bidder and try and remove the half-scale model, to another location, the waterfront. If there is no money to save the museum, where is the money coming from to move the model, build a building to house it and then maintain it? No money to maintain the museum, how will you maintain the new location?

From a young age at my father's knee we learned the history of Provincetown and its great legacy. Portuguese fishermen built the town, whalers, schooners plied the waters bringing prosperity and a great history to this deep water harbor. My father a boat-builder, my grandfather, a fisherman, my great-grandfather, a whaler — all involved with the sea. Many of the families in Provincetown have similar family histories. Where is the monument to these hard-working dedicated people? Where is the monument to all the sailors who never came home? At the Provincetown. Heritage Museum, that's where. The Rose Dorothea highlights the history of the great schooner, but walk around the museum and you'll find the only memorials to the Patricia Marie and the Captain Bill are held within these walls.

Provincetown, a unique town created by fishermen, drew the art colony, writers and stage actors to this small haven. The fishermen helped them to survive by giving anyone who needed it a fish to survive, they were generous men. What has always amazed me is with all

the history, a visitor comes to Provincetown with so little knowledge, to see the Seashore or the Monument and there is no guide that escorts them to all the towns' highlights. If the Rose Dorothea and the Provincetown Heritage Museum were advertised properly and linked to other more notable attractions, there would be no question of having enough money to maintain both the ship and the museum.

The cost of artwork, copy and printing of brochures promoting the Rose Dorothea and the Heritage Museum would be a drop in the bucket compared to the absurd ideas of moving and more likely destroying a great piece of history.

Boston's Freedom trail, Plymouth Plantation and Mayflower, Mystic, Conn., New Bedford whaling and waterfront, Battleship Cove in Fall River — all of these great attractions are thriving by linking one attraction to the next. Why not Provincetown's whale-watch fleet, Pilgrim Monument, The First Landing Place of the Pilgrims, historical houses moved from Long Point, and the Rose Dorothea and Provincetown Heritage Museum?

For the love of Provincetown, its history and for all the generations to come, save the Rose Dorothea. Vote no to moving it and yes to promoting it.

Patricia Nicholson

Harwich

BANNER 3-25-99

Town should stay the course

To the editor:

My heart catches in my throat like at the first sign of a nor'easter sneaking up on you. The town is my ship, but is now cast upon the stormy seas and no one is at the helm. If the Rose Dorothea were my ship's mainsail on which I once depended to capture the wind and tame it in her billows, she is now flapping in abandon. Straight out, she cannot be dismantled and put back together again. It's not that simple.

Inspired by Josephine Del Deo of the Provincetown Historical Society, the Rose Dorothea's course was set in 1977 by my father, Flyer Santos who, as her skipper for 10 years, kept a steady hand at the wheel. Many other proud citizens of Provincetown joined the crew sacrificing hours of personal time and demanding physical labor. Intent on producing a memorial to the fishermen of Provincetown's glory days, especially those of our beloved families and friends lost to the sea, they donated time and materials and solicited donations to make the majestic, precisely one-half scale model of the triumphant Rose Dorothea, winner of the 1907 Lipton Cup Race. After several prototypes, they recreated her to the minutest of detail, by hand, expecting no recompense in return.

Today, almost a century later, there is no one to make a tack, set the town's course straight, save the historical tribute represented in the Rose Dorothea from a raging tempest. Decisions regarding her fate are being made without consideration to the craftsmanship and heartfelt devotion to her. Don't let the sacrifices of the ship's workmen and the memories of our ancestors be cast overboard like worthless flotsam. People of my father's generation raised enough money, time and talent to build her. Why can't we preserve her from the elements now? Coming together like the crew of the magnificent schooner, we can keep her on an even keel. These are people's souls we're dealing with. It's personal.

Francis J. "Grassy" Santos
Provincetown

UPFRONT

Remove his model?

Come hell or high water, no, says Flyer Santos

By Hamilton Kahn
BANNER STAFF

If the town attempts to proceed with plans to remove the half-scale model of the schooner *Rose Dorothea* from the Heritage Museum, they're going to have one hell of a time, declares 84-year-old Francis "Flyer" Santos, the life-long resident, renowned boatbuilder, and former Selectman who built the massive replica in the late-'70s and '80s, mostly by himself.

Not only would the town find the job of removing the model without significant damage to be prohibitively expensive, if not technically impossible, Santos makes it clear that, despite his advanced age, he has no intention of allowing it to happen without a fight — a fight he sees as being over nothing less than the preservation of Provincetown's proud maritime history.

The *Rose Dorothea* model may or may not be "the greatest thing that ever happened in Provincetown, as the late John Worthington said to him at its dedication — Santos says he's too modest to accept that — but it is certainly one of the town's most noteworthy accomplishments. And while Santos is

aware that the Heritage Museum has never become the tourist attraction originally envisioned by its founders, Santos sees that mostly as a failure of promotion and a lack of investment on the town's part.

"That boat was built for historical reasons," he says, sitting in the living room of his Commercial Street home Tuesday morning. "It belongs to the Heritage Museum — our heritage." He adds, "It would cost so much money to move that, it isn't even funny."

It was around the pot-bellied stove at the Sand Bar Club in the West End where the young Flyer first heard tales of the *Rose Dorothea*, which won the prestigious Lipton Cup in a 1907 race in Boston Harbor with Capt. Marion Perry at the helm.

"When I was in high school, this was the Depression, 1929 on, I used to go out and sell stuff every night, 'bout five nights a week, say. When I got over to the boat shop over there, the retirees — whalers, captains of the bankers, captains of the schooners — they were there every night, full gang playing cards, the other guys would be telling whaling stories and everybody'd be making fun of each other. All they'd ever talk about was the *Rose Dorothea*,



Photo Vincent Guadagno

Francis "Flyer" Santos alongside his beloved half-scale model of the *Rose Dorothea* at the Heritage Museum.

the *Rose Dorothea* on the way to Boston beat every boat and this and that, and I guess it was indoctrinated in my mind."

A few years later, as a new member of the Knights of Columbus at age 21, Santos came up with the idea of building a model of the schooner for the 4th of July parade.

"They gave me 15 men. You know something? Only a couple of my personal friends, old man Prada and a couple of others, helped build that model, over 30-foot long. That was where this whole thing started then."

Santos is less clear on exactly where the impetus came from for

the colossal model project he undertook years later. The late Cyril Patrick was the first to come to Flyer's Boatyard looking for items to put in the fledgling town museum, he says. Josephine Del Deo also was a champion of the project, which wound up taking 10 years to complete, utilized mostly second-hand materials and volunteer labor (Santos gives special credit to Frank James and David Ditacchio), and a cost that totaled around \$100,000.

But why did Santos make the model so big? Why not, say, a quarter-scale model instead of a half-scale model, which is not only impossible to remove but is difficult to fully appreciate in its cramped quarters?

"I don't know," he says. "I can answer indirectly. If you go up to the Pilgrim Monument and saw the replica 14-feet long of the *Mayflower*, you think that represents anything?"

He notes, also, that the original plans for the museum called for construction of a balcony that would have allowed for viewing of the model from above.

In the unlikely event that the model could be extracted from its wooden bottle, Santos is dubious of the feasibility of displaying it outdoors, say near MacMillan Pier, where he believes it would interfere with the town's biggest tourist draw, the whale-watch ships. Santos's alternative suggestion to the Selectmen was to leave the model's hull in the museum, remove the masts and booms, and build a new hull outdoors at one-third the cost. "That slowed 'em right down," he says.

Having lived in Provincetown his whole life and seen all the changes that have occurred along the waterfront and in Town Hall, Santos is not about to go quietly into

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Photo courtesy Flyer Santos

It was tales heard 'round the pot-bellied stove at the Sand Bar Club in the West End in the late 1920s that sparked young Flyer's interest in the famed schooner.

Selectmen gulp at \$400,000 to move Rose Dorothea

By Ed Bilodeau

A proposal before the selectmen Monday to move the replica of the Rose Dorothea out of the Heritage Museum and into a partially open glass A-frame at the municipal parking lot — at a cost of about \$400,000 — got a cool reception.

David Guertin, director of the department of public works, said the architectural preservation firm of Binder Boland and Associates studied the problem and determined that despite Flyer Santos's assertions to the contrary, the Rose Dorothea can be moved.

Selectmen gulp at \$400,000 to move Rose Dorothea

Continued from page 1

we do not know what we're doing." And \$400,000 is a lot of money, he added.

Guertin said the structure's ability to withstand the weather is a "function of design" and can be done, but the study did not include a full design of the structure. He said he is unsure exactly how the structure will be constructed, but insisted, "It is doable."

"I appreciate your concerns," said Guertin. "It will be an extremely challenging engineering problem."

Selectman Mary-Jo Avellar said she was not satisfied that the future maintenance of the model has been assured. She said Provincetown has a reputation of not caring for its assets.

"Before I'm going to vote to move 11 years of blood, sweat and tears, I want to know what maintenance system is in place for this beautiful vessel," she said.

Guertin said ongoing maintenance of the model could be assured for \$4,000 to \$8,000 a year. He said some exposure to the elements would be better for the model than what it is exposed to now, sitting in a damp and unheated building during winter.

Selectman Jane Antolini said it is a shame that more people do not visit the Rose Dorothea. "I would like to see it on the pier," she said. "It is a treasure. The story of the building of the model is more important than the story of the schooner itself."

But Antolini agreed the ongoing maintenance of the model must be assured before it is moved to the pier. "We can't let it slide 10 or 15 years down the road when budgets get tight," she said. "The Heritage Museum itself is an example of a building that has gone into decay."

Avellar said moving the Rose Dorothea is the "first step in unloading the Heritage Museum from the tax rate." She said the town needs to determine what will be done with the rest of the museum's collection.

Avellar said talk of costumed interpreters and guides is bringing closer Jay Critchley's vision of nothing but a theme park.

The selectmen declined to take any vote to approve the move or not approve it. They likewise declined to approve one of four options for dealing with the Heritage Museum building itself.

Guertin outlined four options, ranging in cost from just under \$2 million to more than \$3 million in a second report by Binder Boland and associates. Two options include keeping the museum in the building, but one of those would limit the museum to the first floor and build a function hall on the second floor. With both options, the model could stay.

In another option, the Rose Dorothea would go, but the museum would stay, and a theater would be built upstairs. The first three options call for public ownership, but private management of the facility.

A fourth option would use the Heritage Museum building for the town library and the museum would likely be housed in the existing library building.

Guertin said making the museum into a library is the most cost effective option and is the best bet from a strictly financial point of view.

Selectman David Atkinson said the town would be stuck maintaining two old buildings that are falling down, but he was quickly countered by Selectmen Betty Steele-Jeffers, chairman, and Cheryl Andrews, who called the buildings important parts of the town's history.

Antolini argued that the library is fine where it is. She said with 51 percent of property owners not living here, the town would be paying big bucks for a huge library to serve the people who come for just a few weeks in the summer.

Antolini said she would rather see the Heritage Museum become an arts and cultural center. "It's nothing right now but a decaying building," she said.

Avellar decried the "push to divest ourselves of our heritage, this need to eliminate our responsibilities to the town." She said the people who plan to build million-dollar homes on Telegraph Hill should have a real community to be a part of.

"Are we going to be just a place where wealthy people live or maintain some kind of community?" she asked.

A motion by Andrews to support using the museum for the public library failed to get a second, so the matter was dropped.

Santos led the volunteers who built the largest ship model in the world over a period of 11 years, using scrap and donated materials and volunteer labor.

Guertin said the possibility of moving the model to the parking lot prompted a redesign of the lot that could produce 50 more spaces, 25 of which would be taken by the ship's enclosure, a 25-space net gain.

Guertin said he and David Ditacchio, marine superintendent, met with Santos Monday morning and were told, "It ain't going nowhere." Ditacchio said Santos promised "one hell of a fight on Town Meeting floor."

"But he said if he loses, he will lose gracefully and we'll still be friends," said Ditacchio.

Dan Towler of the Heritage Museum trustees, said the Rose Dorothea is the "1-A" exhibit in the museum collection, and the trustees have a big concern for it. "If I'm convinced the waterfront is the best place for the Rose Dorothea, for the museum and for the town, I'm all for it," he said. "But at this point I'm not sure all the questions are answered."

Not only is there the question of whether the model can be moved, but whether the A-frame enclosure can be built to withstand storm winds that often come in off the water, protect the model and still allow the public to enjoy it.

"What happens when 50 to 75 mile-an-hour winds come through?" Towler asked. "Do we take down the sails every time the wind comes up."

"I hate to endorse cutting up the Rose Dorothea if



Photo Jose Alemany, courtesy Flyer Santos

Santos's first Rose Dorothea model was this 30-footer he made with members of the Knights of Columbus for the 1936 July 4th parade.

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the night when it comes to something that is so near and dear to him, something that not only sprang from his hands and head but also something that represents the Provincetown he knows, the Provincetown he believes is being taken over by people with little regard for its past. For him, building the Rose Dorothea model was much, much more than an oversized hobby project.

He recalls the special interest of his mother, who died just a few years ago at age 100 and whose father was a crew member on the original Lipton Cup-winning vessel, when he was working on the model and fund-raising efforts were ongoing.

"Her social security check was \$260. She at different times made two \$25 contributions [to the model project]. When she made a third one, I'm sitting at the table with her, and she puts \$25 on the table, which

she really didn't have, you know what I mean? And I said, 'I don't want you to do that, let all these other people in town, let them do some paying.' And she slapped my wrist — that's the first time in my life my mother ever put her hand on me."

Schooner victory heralded Portuguese fishermen

Winning the Lipton Cup a milestone in local history

By Marilyn Miller

Cup remains Provincetown's cherished possession

When Flyer Santos, 84, was a boy growing up in Provincetown, he said townspeople were still talking with pride about how the Rose Dorothea was the "fastest, the best schooner there ever was."

Owned by Capt. Marion Perry of Provincetown, the Rose Dorothea took on the best schooners of Boston, Gloucester and Provincetown on August 1, 1907, during Old Home Week in Boston, and beat them all, winning despite a topmast that snapped half way through the race.

Boston went wild at the race. It was covered by newsmen and photographers from all over the world. Perry and his crew of 26 men were presented the Lipton Cup, a huge silver loving cup that was offered by Sir Thomas Lipton.

The cup remains one of Provincetown's cherished possessions. It is on display at the Provincetown Museum. The Jessie Costa, another Provincetown

schooner, came in second in the race, which followed a 39-mile course from Boston to Gloucester and back.

Joseph Berger related in his book, "In Great Waters," how crowds gathered at T Wharf in Boston and cheered when the Rose Dorothea arrived.

She was "given a shrieking welcome by steam craft of all kinds," he wrote.

But Boston's reception was nothing compared to the greeting Perry received when he and his crew returned to Provincetown. He rode through town in a parade that was led by a big brass band, town officials at his side, the streets decorated in his honor.

Three weeks later, Provincetown celebrated again with the arrival on August 20 of President

Theodore Roosevelt, who came to Provincetown to lay the cornerstone for the Pilgrim Monument.

Those were heady days for Provincetown.

"The harbor was filled with boats coming in, their sirens going, and the sound of firecrackers and fire engine sirens in the air," said Santos, who grew up listening to tales of the Rose Dorothea victory and President Roosevelt's visit to town.

"Teddy Roosevelt was here, and he said he wanted to meet the captain of the Rose Dorothea," Santos said. "You want a better story than that?"

What happened, according to Berger, is that almost all of Provincetown was at the Town Hall Hill, as it was called then, watching the president lay the cornerstone for the Pilgrim Monument. But not Perry. He was down at the wharf with the Rose Dorothea, checking its gear.

One of Roosevelt's aides, after learning that Perry was at the wharf, went down to let him know that the president wanted to meet him.

The aide thought perhaps Perry had not heard him, so he repeated his message, this time a little louder.

Perry, Berger said, bit through the pencil he was chewing, dropped a few papers, and turned to the man, saying with annoyance, "All right, all right! Tell the president if he wants to see me, he knows where he can find me!"

Perry "got plenty of hell" from his wife when she found out about this, Berger said. "He was too embarrassed to go to the Odd Fellow's Hall that night to hear the president's speech to the fishermen," but he told his wife that he would write a letter "and try to make it up to the president."

He did just that, writing a letter to Roosevelt on August 23, 1907. "As master and part owner of the trawling schooner Rose Dorothea of Provincetown, the craft which won the Lipton Cup in the Fishermen's race off Boston on August 1, I cor-

dially invite you to be my guest on that schooner during a trip to the fishing banks, the date of departure from port to be of your own selecting."

He said he would be "glad to have you with us" and would do his "level best" to make his stay on board both "pleasant and profitable."

Roosevelt did not take him up on the offer, Berger said.

That two of Provincetown's schooners came in first and second in the Lipton Cup race was a tremendous source of pride to townspeople, said Josephine Del Deo, former trustee of the Heritage Museum.

"It was an incredible race," she said. "The big rivalry was between the Jessie Costa and the Rose Dorothea, the fastest vessels in the Provincetown fleet." They both were designed by Thomas McManus, who designed most of the great fishing schooners on the Atlantic coast in the 19th century, she said. Both had rounded bows, spoon bows, an invention of McManus's that made them much more maneuverable than schooners with clipper bows, which would sometimes come up on their own dories with such speed that they would cut them in half, she said.

McManus was a "world famous designer," Santos said. "He designed boats that saved a lot of people's lives. If McManus and Lipton were still alive and heard about what they want to do with the Rose Dorothea in that museum, they'd come down themselves with chain saws, but they wouldn't cut the boat up," he said. "They would cut something else up. It would be like the Boston Tea Party years ago."

The Lipton Cup is on display in the Heritage Museum. It used to be kept winters at the Monument Museum, and was stolen from there on one occasion, but recovered by former Police Chief James J. Meads in the early 1980s. Chester Peck, director of the museum at that time, got a call from a man who said he had the cup and wanted money for its return, Meads said.

"He told him where to come with the money and Chester asked if he could bring a friend for protection. The guy stupidly said yes, so he brought me. I protected Mr. Peck down to the beach where this guy started to dig, and out came the Lipton Cup," Meads said.

Moving Rose Dorothea seen as a "disgrace" and "insult"

By Marilyn Miller

The idea of removing from the Heritage Museum the Rose Dorothea, believed to be the largest indoor wooden replica of a boat in the world, strikes Francis "Flyer" Santos, the Provincetown native who built it, as a "disgrace," an insult to the town's heritage.

"The Rose Dorothea was no boat," he said. "It was a schooner, and it was no ordinary schooner. It won the Lipton Cup in 1907."

Santos, 84, is the boat builder who devoted 11 years with the help of a handful of other volunteers to build the majestic replica.

Josephine Del Deo, who was a trustee of the Heritage Museum from 1977 to 1990, thinks it is "immoral" and "unconscionable" to think of removing the model from the museum, let alone sell the building to a private individual, no matter how good his intentions.

The selectmen indicated a willingness last week to make a policy decision on Selectman Cheryl Andrews's motion to remove the schooner from the museum. The motion failed to pass when only Andrews and Selectman David Atkinson voted for it.

"I believe, basically, it has to come out of the building, but I'm not quite ready to vote for that motion," Selectman Betty Steele-Jeffers, chairman, said last week. "I think the board of selectmen probably has a very different idea on the use of that building than the museum trustees have. I think we

Schooner replica represents Portuguese fishing heritage

Removing it said to be impractical

need to give them the courtesy of one more discussion between them and us, although it is not going to change my mind about the way I feel."

Monday, after meeting with the trustees and Santos, the selectmen again rejected a policy decision on removing the boat. It would make no sense to do this until they have a place to relocate it where it is protected from the elements, they agreed.

Selectman Mary-Jo Avellar said the more she heard, the less willing she is to remove the boat. At first, it sounded like a good idea to remove it, and let the library and museum swap buildings, she said. "But after listening to Flyer, whom I respect enormously, I've suddenly come to realize that should we move the Rose and put it outside in the elements, we're still talking about money the town will have to spend on maintenance."

Probably more money than they now spend with the boat inside the building, Steele-Jeffers said.

Guards would have to be hired to protect the schooner if it were on display outside, Avellar said.

"It suddenly dawned on me that if we want to save the Rose, option one is starting to look pretty good."

That option, presented by designer John Sunderland, would maintain the schooner in the building, making it a focal attraction.

Tom Boland, hired to prepare a feasibility report on the museum, said he thinks the Rose could be removed in three sections.

Santos disputed this. "It can't be taken out," he told a reporter. "It's 66-feet long, the largest indoor boat in the world with a bowsprit 22-feet long. You couldn't drop it down. If they ever got on the floor and started pushing it around, the whole floor might drop through."

"I built that boat. I know how much weight is there and what we had to do to keep it there. You'd have to take the whole side of the building down to get it out. How much do you think that would cost? You're talking to people who don't know anything about this stuff."

If the model is removed, it could be relocated as an outdoor display to Lopes Square, the Johnson Street parking lot, Fishermen's Park, the West End parking lot, or the First Landing Park, Boland said.

Removing the boat "is the most insane thing I've ever heard," said Del Deo, during a phone interview. "It will destroy the building," she said. "There will be nothing left of the museum if they do that. The whole point of building the boat in the building was to create an attraction that people would go to see. You'd be removing the main feature of that building, and that's only the dollar-and-cents aspect of this."

"It would be immoral to take the 11 years of blood, sweat and tears Flyer Santos gave to building this beautiful artifact to commemorate the Portuguese and the whole fishing industry," she said.

The Rose Dorothea is a "symbol of what the town has been, and to destroy it is immoral," she said. "You'll never be able to take it out and put it back together, and if you did put it back on display, where

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would you put it, and how would you build a cover for it?"

It would cost at least 20 times more to move it, rebuild it, and protect it from the elements than it would cost to maintain the Heritage Museum, she said.

"It's a disgrace, I tell you, a disgrace to the town historically and every other way to even consider not maintaining that building," Santos said. "The realtors are going crazy trying to get hold of that building and the library to sell, but it is not going to be good for Provincetown."

Del Deo said Town Meeting, not the selectmen, should decide the fate of the Rose Dorothea and the Heritage Museum.

David Davis, owner of the Schoolhouse Gallery, notified the selectmen by letter of his interest in buying the Heritage Museum, restoring and maintaining it and operating it as a theater, museum and visitor center. He said he will send the selectmen his extended proposal in March.

Michael Hattersley of the finance committee told the selectmen last week that he thought the town should give serious thought to Davis's proposal since it would mean restoration of the historic building, its maintenance as a museum, and give the town its first "permanent theater" in 20 years.

When the town acquired the Heritage Museum, there was a theater in it, Del Deo said. "We took the theater out on purpose, so that it wouldn't be a community center, and so we could put an attraction in the building, something beautiful, representing Provincetown. Now, they are talking of taking the symbol of Provincetown out of its most symbolic building and putting back a theater."

"I'm not against the theater, but I am against a theater in that building when you already have in there a magnificent thing which represents this entire community. Why would you do something as wrong-headed, as stupid as that?" she said. "It's like somebody is standing on their heads and walking around with their feet for their brains."

She said she hasn't met Davis, admits he has done a fine job in restoring the old school house, but thinks he should keep away from the Heritage Museum.

"We need one less millionaire in this town," she said. "They destroy all the values. They have everything their own way because they have money in their hand. I don't even know the man, but let him leave the Heritage Museum alone and build a the-

ater some place else."

People should think about why they moved to Provincetown, Del Deo said.

They came because of the mix of people in town and the town's rich history and beautiful buildings. But that mix is being lost now, she said.

The Rose Dorothea and the Lipton Cup "are part of our heritage," and now they are being threatened.

"If you care about what this town becomes, then you should care about the Lipton Cup and the Rose Dorothea," she said. "I never met Marcus Aurelius or Plato, but they mean a lot to me because that's what our heritage is, and there is a heritage that we have to recognize here."

"If we don't recognize it, then we don't know who we

are and we don't know where we are going. We are very transitory.

"We don't mean anything and soon we will all be dead. Then what do we have?"

"We have somebody's knuckle-headed, brainless idea that the symbol of this town means nothing, that the Portuguese fishermen here mean nothing, that the great tradition of fishing here means nothing because it is not contemporarily expedient. What kind of civilization is that?"

"This is crazy. I thought the people of this town had better sense — or better heart. That's why this should go before Town Meeting, because the people in this town have heart, and a lot of people will recognize that this museum has to stay."

Fate of Rose Dorothea to be in the hands of Town Meeting

Advocate 3-11-99

By Marilyn Miller

The Provincetown selectmen, who twice considered but fell short of deciding whether the Rose Dorothea should be moved from the Heritage Museum, agreed to put that question next month to Town Meeting.

The selectmen voted to have a "plan, location and funding article" placed on the Town Meeting warrant as to whether the Rose Dorothea "is to be moved."

DPW director David Guertin by then will have talked to a naval architect about whether the Rose Dorothea can be moved. Francis "Flyer" Santos, the 84-year old native, former selectmen and boat builder who constructed the model, thinks the people who are talking about moving his boat don't have any idea

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and reassembling the model. The turning point in the discussion came with the unveiling of Sunderland's sketch showing an A-frame glass structure that might house the Rose Dorothea along the bulkhead at the municipal parking lot," he said. "All were enthusiastic about the concept, including Ditacchio."

But when Santos saw the sketch, he saw little to get excited about.

"These people they've listed as experts, none of them have ever moved schooners out of buildings before," he told the selectmen Monday during public statements. "Not one of these people have the least idea of what they are talking about."

He was critical of Sunderland's sketch, finding its dimensions falling far short of what would be required to house the schooner. He was critical of how many parking spaces the town would lose if it created a glass display for the model at the end of the lot, overlooking the harbor between the two piers.

"We might deprive ourselves of \$80,000 worth of parking," said Santos. "It may interfere with the whaling industry, which is the biggest industry in town, and then you'll really be hurting the prosperity of Provincetown."

If the wind blows 25 to 30 miles an hour, "you've got real problems," he said. If the glass structure is open-ended, as shown on the sketch, with a high wind "the whole thing would blow away."

Ditacchio said he thinks it would be nice if the model could be safely relocated to the harborfront where it could become a monument to Provincetown's fishermen. But he has his doubts if this can be done.

"If it can be moved from the building without injury, if it can be placed where it's protected from the weather and maintained, then I would rather see that happen than see it meet its fate with a chain saw in the building," he said. "Those are a lot of ifs, but I'm in favor of it, if all those concerns can be met."

Santos scoffed at Sunderland's sketch, pointing out that it showed a height of 30 feet for the A-frame and

of what is involved.

Town Manger Keith Bergman met on March 4 with Guertin, Winn Davis, assistant town manager, Michelle Jarusiewicz, grant administrator, John Gair, trustee of the Heritage Museum, Ginny Binder, Tom Boland and John Sunderland, all of Binder & Boland Associates.

Selectman David Atkinson and Harbormaster David Ditacchio also attended the meeting, which was held to discuss where the schooner could go if it can be moved from the museum.

"We agreed to approach the issue of relocating the Rose Dorothea from the Heritage Museum by considering where the model should go, and then working backwards," Bergman told the selectmen by memo.

"We also discussed the specifics of disassembling

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a width that fell far short of the model's dimensions.

Selectman Betty-Steele Jeffers, chairman, listened politely to his complaints, nodding her head in agreement with each point he made.

"So it's not in scale?" she asked.

"You haven't got the measurements here anywhere right," he said.

After the meeting he said the mast of the model is 30', but there's a top mast on top of that, and gaffs which bring the height up to 45'. Lengthwise, the glass structure would have to be at least 75' long, he said.

Possibly, the Rose Dorothea can be removed from the Heritage Museum, he conceded. "You can't really say it's impossible, because you could put it on the moon if you have enough money. But you don't have the money."

Santos' son, John F. Santos, who now owns the family boatyard, urged the selectmen to show some leadership and start "steering this town, which is the ship" in a different direction.

The Heritage Museum is to be maintained, not sold, he said. "I think it's poor policy to say you want to sell something because you can't maintain it. I really think the town fathers have to set a policy. You guys are the policy makers, and you have to set a destination.

"We can't do a study, we can't ask somebody to come down every time we have a problem," he said, criticizing the board's tendency to call on consultants to answer their questions.

"We have to use common sense and solve problems on our own," he said. "As far as the Rose Dorothea goes, it's unconscionable to even think about taking it apart."

What they should be doing, he said, is maintaining the museum and holding on to it. "There's lot of things that don't make money. The schools, roads, the community center don't make money. I think the Heritage Museum is one of our centerpieces, and if we allow it go down the tubes and be sold, I think we've really done the town a disservice."

Heritage contract awarded

Fate still uncertain, ship model is the key

By Sue Harrison
BANNER STAFF

After a joint meeting Monday with the Heritage Museum trustees to discuss the future of the historic museum building, the Selectmen remained open to all the options on the table but did vote to proceed with the desperately needed repairs to the roof, steeple and siding. In terms of future use, the ability and desirability of removing the half-scale model of the schooner Rose Dorothea remains central to all discussions.

The Selectmen continued to debate the merits of selling the build-

ing for a proposed theater, keeping the museum collection there, or re-tooling the building to house the library, which has outgrown its historic quarters a block down the street.

*Flyer Santos speaks out
on removing model, Page 3*

At least one private party, Schoolhouse Gallery owner David Davis, has expressed interest in taking over the building for a theater project which would keep the museum's collection (sans the Rose Dorothea) intact on the lower floor.

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Selectman Mary-Jo Avellar said she would never support removing the boat only to put it in storage. "Not until I know there's a suitable location with access for the public and that she would be protected from the elements could I support that," Avellar said.

Speaking to the money issue, Selectman Cheryl Andrews said she believed there would be great support for moving the boat to a location where more people can see it and suggested that the Visitor Services Board might pick up part of the tab. "If this isn't a Visitor Services Board project, what is?" Andrews asked.

But for now, the only funding will be for the start of the repairs for the building. The board voted to award a contract for \$209,600 to Bay State Contracting Co. to begin the work. That money comes from various grants and previous Town Meeting articles. They also voted to request an additional \$68,250 at the Special Town Meeting so that the roof could be replaced instead of just repairing one corner. In a separate vote, the Selectmen voted to remove the Rose Dorothea but only with the understanding that it not be done until a plan and a site for the relocation was done, funding ap-

propriated and a subsequent town meeting had voted approval (Avellar opposed).

A naval architect is being brought in to consider the boat moving problem and both the library and Davis will continue their information gathering.

Heritage continued from page 1

The library trustees, who appeared at first to not have an interest in the building as a possible future home are now taking a harder look and don't want any decisions made that would preclude them from being the new tenants. At this point, the library trustees would like to have schematics done to see if the building is actually large enough and can be shored up enough to bear the weight of its books.

All agreed that the building itself is at a crisis in terms of its dilapidated condition but were apprehensive about spending money for repairs if those repaired sections would be torn out when whatever use is finally decided on goes forward. Issues of handicap accessibility also played into the financial wrangling.

After years of neglect and a failure of the museum to become the attraction some believe it could be, deferred maintenance and lack of income have created another political hotspot fueled by the emotional pulls of the town's heritage and the financial realities of the building's needs. Consultants from Binder Boland Associates identified the three options listed above (and noted there could be others). The decision will be put to the voters at some point but in the interim, the Selectmen and trustees from the library and museum are amassing as much information as possible to bring to those voters.

What continues to plague the discussion is the question of the

half-scale model of the schooner Rose Dorothea, which was constructed inside the museum and is sitting on and attached to beams in the second floor. Neither the library nor a theater could exist in the building unless the model is moved, but so far no one has come up with a feasible and financially possible way to do it.

Flyer Santos, the model's builder (see story on page 3) met with the trustees and Hayden House Movers earlier in the day and came to share his views with the Selectmen Monday. He said the giant replica could not be moved without destroying it. The sides are made with wood curved by steam. If the boat were cut into sections, those curves would come undone and could never be righted, he said, and the cost would also be prohibitive due to the weight of the boat. But, he later said, "You can do anything if you have enough money. They put a man on the moon."

(Binder Boland consultants previously suggested that the boat could be flaked into three parts, the deck and each side of the hull which would not cut into the curves.)

Santos also said he doubted that town voters would ever support either getting rid of the museum building or removing the model.

Selectman Jane Antolini noted there is no article on the Town Meeting warrant requesting funds to move the boat or to construct a shelter for it at a more visible location. And, she said, she didn't believe the Selectmen should make the decision about the move. She said she'd like to see all the building's options presented at Town Meeting with appropriate funding for each.

Boat in a Bottle

Advocate 2-25-99

It seems as though the library study may not have been a total waste of money since it did inspire a public outcry, which led to investigating the possibility of having the library swap buildings with the Heritage Museum, employing part or all of the museum for a new library location.

What has now been added to the mix is the offer on the table by David Davis, who did an excellent job restoring the Schoolhouse, to buy the Museum. He proposes to restore it and keep the museum on the first floor while returning the second floor to its original state as an auditorium.

As much as I know this offer would bring welcome relief to the town of the financial burden of restoring the museum building, I feel it would be a mistake for the town to give up this structure. The proposed library swap would ultimately provide the town with much needed library space, which might even include a theater space that could be made available for use to all the theater companies in town.

Provincetown is a pedestrian town, an original village mall that has an inherent attraction that other towns on the Cape are lacking. This quality is not one that can be given a monetary value and so it is constantly taken for granted. To lose the diverse mix of both public and private buildings on Commercial Street will only diminish this distinctive attribute of Provincetown.

The notion of a swap would keep both buildings in the public sector and would certainly relieve many of the concerns that residents voiced at the public hearing on the library study that looked at a move to the high school.

Both buildings are centrally located, historic landmarks, and embody an important aspect of the spirit and character of the town. If such a plan was to be

Peace of Mind



By Jonathan Sinaiko

implemented, the library wouldn't be shunted off to an out-of-the-way location, making way for one more mini-mall complex downtown. The library would end up with more room and the museum would end up with a much more manageable space. The only real question aside from the financial feasibility is what to do with the boat?

As inspired as the construction of the half-scale model of the Rose Dorothea was, there were some major drawbacks to the project that were ignored or overlooked for one reason or another. The basic premise to have a local shipwright build a replica of a Grand Banks schooner in an evolving exhibit has all the right elements for a museum project.

It celebrates the history of Provincetown as a fishing port. It demonstrates the skills of wooden ship building that is gradually being lost in this modern age of fiberglass and steel. It provides an exhibit that is educational, inspirational and demonstrates process and the value of commitment. No one can question the quality of the craftsmanship or the commitment to historical accuracy.

The end result was unfortunately incarceration of a masterful piece of work in an enclosed space and the expropriation of a potentially vital community meeting space.

Instead of building a boat in a bottle for all to see and creating an attraction that has the power to draw visitors with a single glance from a distance, the boat was put in a box, keeping it hidden from view and restricting its potential draw.

It would be wonderful to give the Rose Dorothea a new life and at the same time to breathe new life into the Heritage Museum building by moving the schooner to a place more fitting for its stature and size and against a backdrop that adds to its historical message.

It should be preserved in a structure with enough glass to display it for all to see, at a location that lends itself to the nature of its intended purpose. A place where crowds can catch a glimpse of it and it would honor the tradition of fishing that is slowly slipping away in this town.