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Olá, como está?...Hello, How are you?

Provincetown's ever growing heritage

By Sue Harrison

This summer items from the town's two museum collections – the Heritage Museum and the Pilgrim Monument and Provincetown Museum – are being joined for a unique look back at the heritage of Provincetown and the many people that have played a part in her past. The exhibit, on display daily at PMPM on High Pole Hill behind the Bas Relief, leans heavily toward the sea with its fishing and whaling but also includes looks at the insides of homes and businesses, the saga of the houses floated over from Long Point, the dune shacks and many other telling items and displays.

We tend to think of heritage as a static thing but in reality, it's always in flux. When we look back at our grandparent's time, we find elements of our roots, beliefs and customs that are part of our lives and cultures. It's easy to forget that today we are creating what will become the heritage of future generations. The exhibits in the display look at the way Provincetowners lived and worked and shows how the life they took for granted back then has become today's generation's cherished memories.

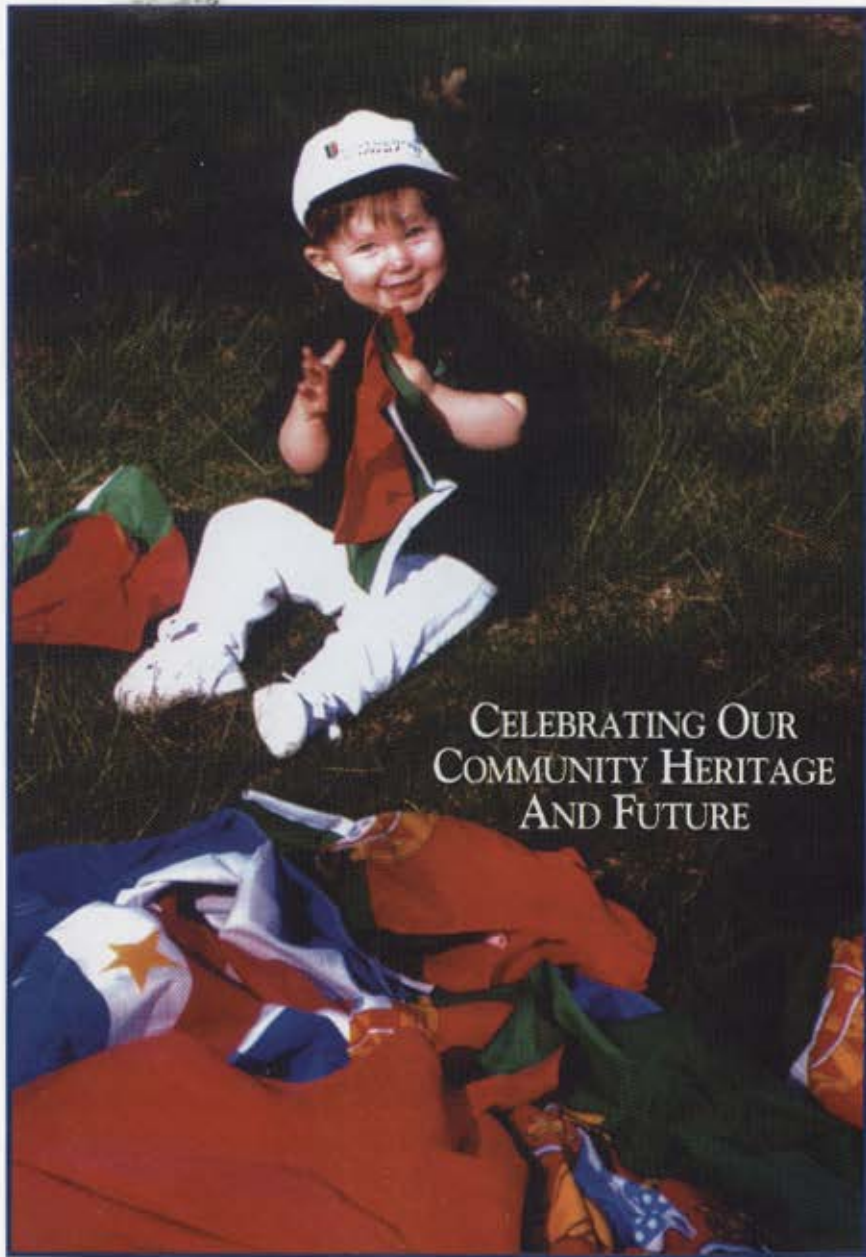
The Portuguese influence is prominent in the displays along with the old Yankee families. Most of the Portuguese families that immigrated to this area came because of the fishing, and in fact, Portuguese families are coming here again due to the beginnings of a resurgence in the fishing industry.

Visitors to the museum are greeted by large poster-sized enlargements of old Provincetown postcards showing scenes along the water and well known



A Figurehead from the clippership Eugenie shows a very done up young woman.

Olá, como está?...Hello, How are you?



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AND FUTURE



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The figurehead from The Belle of Aberdeen, one of the ornate decorations that used to appear on the great sailing ships.

buildings like the Atlantic House and Central House (now the Crown & Anchor). Gracing the walls are items as mundane as a sailor's guide to knot tying and as impressive as the two figureheads from sailing ships of long ago. The two figure heads are from the Scotch ship, The Belle of Aberdeen and the clippership Eugenie from Cape Elizabeth, Maine. The museum has two other figureheads but both are in need of extensive restoration and are not on display at this time.

Below the figureheads are whaling tools used to capture and then butcher the huge marine mammals that drove the economy of this area for many years. Now, descendants from some of the same whaling families can be found leading whalewatch tours and still making their living from the sea.

Moving around the exhibit, there are old furnishings from Adams Pharmacy, a mollusk collection with each shell identified in fading ink by the precise hand of the man



One of the fishermen's houses being moved by boat from Long Point to the mainland when the community shifted away from the point.

Que dia bonito!...What a beautiful day!

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Um que não seja muito caro?...One that is not too expensive?

shelves are other religious artifacts like a healing crown, sprouted wheat symbolizing the staff of life, a large number of other Saints and white candles signifying the light. All the shelves are draped in filmy white cloth with lace edges.

This particular shrine may have been put up around Christmas since on the second shelf is the Menino Jesus, a standing Christ Child as opposed to the more familiar infant in swaddling clothing. In Portuguese families the Menino Jesus figured prominently in the celebration of the Christmas season. Another Christmas inference are the roses strewn about the shelves, the rose being the flower of Portugal, which blooms there during the Christmas season.

Being so close the lives of those who came before us makes history and heritage come alive in a different way. Take the time to visit the Pilgrim Monument and Provincetown Museum to get a personal look at the past. The museum also houses other exhibits including the personal effects and a swell collection of stuffed animals including a polar bear brought back to Provincetown by its native son and arctic explorer Admiral Donald MacMillan.

For a great view of town and the harbor, take the climb to the top of the Monument and imagine the Portuguese women of years past looking out to sea, waiting for their husbands and sons to come home. ■



Provincetown Harbor, 2001

Aqui perto...Around here.



Provincetown Boats, 1973

É muito amável... You're very kind.

In Memoriam

Fernando P. Ribeiro

By Mary-Jo Avellar

Tragedy, no stranger to the Provincetown fishing community, struck without warning December 20, 1999 when it claimed the life of Capt. Fernando P. Ribeiro, skipper of the F/V Charlotte G. Nando to his family and friends, Capt. Ribeiro was 43 years old when he died near Race Point. He was caught in the propeller shaft inside the engine room of his 56-foot trawler where he had been working. He left behind a wife, two children and a close knit community of friends and co-workers, who still continue to grieve.

Good friends like Joe Vinagre of Cape Cod Bay Fisheries are haunted by the loss of their friend and the horror of his death in what can only be termed a freak accident.

Vinagre is extremely emotional in recalling Ribeiro's death more than a year later. He said Capt. Ribeiro never took chances with either his own life or those of his crew.

"I was close to this kid," said Vinagre. "He didn't take chances. It was a terrible accident."

Capt. Ribeiro was a good worker, as well, said Vinagre. If he couldn't go fishing due to weather conditions, he would work for Vinagre taking out fish on MacMillan Pier.

"He worked on the pier a lot. Any time he couldn't fish, he worked for me. He was a good worker and a good guy," remembered Vinagre.

Ironically, Capt. Ribeiro had told Vinagre the day before the accident that he'd be down to the pier to work should there be any rough weather.

"I'm going to get up tomorrow morning," Capt. Ribeiro told Vinagre. "and if the wind comes up, I won't go out. I'll work for you."

That fateful morning, Vinagre recalled, Capt. Ribeiro's boat was the first boat out.

The Charlotte G., one of the oldest and largest in the dwindling Provincetown fleet, was fishing for yellow tail flounder at the time of the accident. Capt. Ribeiro had only owned the vessel since May.

Vamos para a praia... Let's go to the beach.

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Capt. Fernando P. Ribeiro, skipper of the FV Charlotte G. Nando, with his family

It had been his dream to own his own fishing boat said his sister-in-law Isabel Machado. She remembered her brother-in-law as "a super nice guy. A wonderful human being. He came to our house with my sister and my nephews for the holidays. It was rare to see him in a bad mood."

These sentiments are still being echoed after his death by members of Provincetown fishing fleet who knew Capt. Ribeiro nearly as well as his family. They still speak of him as a kind, generous and soft-spoken person. The kind of person who could be relied upon when the chips were down.

Machado said Capt. Ribeiro lived for his family, her sister Ermelinda Soares, his wife of 21 years, and their two sons Jason and Joshua. Playing

Aonde é o supermercado?...Where is the supermarket?



Fishing Fleet, Provincetown 1973

Onde posso apanhar um táxi?...Where can I get a cab?

cards and spending time with his friends were his only other activities.

"He lived to fish and he lived for his family," said Machado.

This is a simple, yet familiar story to those with knowledge of Provincetown's fishing fleet. It takes a special kind of person to even want to fish. It's not an easy life. Some compare this need to fish to a religious vocation. A calling, if you like, where the weak are quickly culled. Fernando Ribeiro was just that kind of man.

He knew who he was. He knew where he came from and, more importantly he knew where his duty lay.

He was the epitome of the traditional Portuguese fisherman, who established Provincetown as a fishing Mecca. He knew who he was. He knew where he came from and, more importantly he knew where his duty lay. Capt. Ribeiro shouldered his responsibilities to his family, his crew, his friends and his adopted community and country without complaint. His was the stuff that built Provincetown, gave it its character and contributed to its fame.

In an industry which needs all the youthful exuberance it can get, untimely death is a harsh reminder of the rigors of the job. In a small community like Provincetown, struggling to rebuild its fleet and its reputation as a leader in the industry, Capt. Ribeiro's death is even more poignant.

Fishermen like Fernando Ribeiro knowingly accept the possibility of losing their life at sea. The risk of death is as old as fishing itself. Books and films like "The Perfect Storm" are present reminders of these dangers, but these are dangers fishermen willingly embrace.

Capt. Ribeiro's death, by an accident in the engine room, not at sea in a "perfect storm" still echoes through the fleet nearly two years later. "Where but for the grace of God go I", their mantra, still unspoken, but as palpable and as real to them and to all of us as the chilly December day when Capt. Ribeiro died. ■



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**Everything I Know About Provincetown,
I Learned at Cookie's Tap**

By *Mary-Jo Avellar*

Just the other night, friends and I were talking about how much Provincetown has changed. I decided then and there if I ever wrote a book about the town I'd name it "Everything I Know About Provincetown, I Learned at Cookie's Tap."

This is actually a step up from the book co-workers and I once threatened to write about our years at Howard Johnson's called "Behind you with a Hot Dog."

That name, which garnered only the most vulgar remarks, snickers and sneers, was the brainchild of Mike "Moon" Henrique. He thought it sounded pretty good and we agreed. Some one was always behind you with something, and very often with a REAL hot dog, a comestible for which Ho Jo's had been widely known.

Usually these alcohol induced reminiscences centered on memorable co-workers, strange customers and the day-to-day events which could be labeled "Believe it or not, but...". Like the time one of the waitresses, a tiny little thing (who'd kill me if I mentioned her name), asked brightly, while refilling coffee cups, "Would anyone care for any more cream?" just as one of her breasts accidentally landed in one of those freshly filled coffee cups. Ouch.

Things like that.

Obviously, neither of these books would ever be misconstrued as serious tomes. The "Everything I Know..." volume would be a series of vignettes about what it was like to grow up in the pre-gentrified Provincetown of the 50's and 60's. Remember them?

These were the halcyon days before sex, drugs and rock and roll. Ike was President, the Cold War a national obsession and boys and girls at Provincetown High entered the school on opposite sides of the building. More importantly, fishing was the town's major industry.

What goes around comes around. George W. Bush bears a striking resemblance to Ike. The Cold War is back, having been predicted last October by my dear friend Bernie Haff, thanks to the recent shoot down of an American spy plane over Communist China. The best news of all is that our fishing industry is on the comeback trail.

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But what does this have to do with Cookie's?

Before the building of the Veterans Memorial School, Provincetown kids went to school in their respective ends of town. East and West. We had our own schools and our mothers had their own A&P's and First National stores.

Never the twain did meet. Until junior high. It was then that East End kids like myself, would come face to face with those denizens of Conant, Montello and Pleasant Streets. Boulevards we dared not trod except under cover of darkness.

Even then it was dicey. The dreaded West Enders. Street bullies and thugs, I thought. I always looked over my shoulder on the rare occasions I ventured up along Commercial Street past Court.

The truth is that in spite of the town being really small, being an East Ender limited my knowledge of Provincetown. I might have known who someone was and who all their relatives were, but I really didn't know a lot about the town. I was mentally landlocked and never really got a grip on what Provincetown was all about until my mid-20's when I got a job at Cookie's in the far West End.



Blessing of the Fleet, 1977

Cookie's used to be where Gallerani's is. It was a happening place. My sister Susan worked there and got me the job. I felt so daring. Both our parents were scandalized since Cookie's had once been known as a men's only joint. Decent women never entered its doors, or so my father said. "And now both my girls are working there," he'd wail.

But it was so much fun. Everyone showed up at Cookie's sometime or another. It was there I cemented my hold on Provincetown. The Cook brothers, Joe and Wilbur, who ran the place, knew everyone. It was a real local hangout. East Enders, artists and tourists went there for local color. But locals, real locals, went there for the news.

My job at Cookie's coincided with my entry into local politics, which dominated the daily discussions at Cookie's Round Table. Until that time, my whole perspective, especially my philosophical and political take on life, was rooted in the ideology of the 60's, Definitely an idealistic, often impractical, East End point of view for which I was chastised daily by the regulars.

What I quickly learned at Cookie's is how quickly political philosophies can change given the exigencies of the real world. Causes sometimes paled in comparison with time, money and the people whose lives were being affected. Problems were no longer philosophical questions to be pondered and decided. For me, they began to take on the face and form of those who brought them forward.

The regulars at Cookie's saw the world very clearly in shades of black and white, while I danced on the sidelines, hoping to see things in shades of grey. What really happened, I like to think, is that we both learned something from one another. But in my heart, I know that I learned a whole lot more. For that, I will always be grateful.

The town could use another Cookie's Tap. ■

Blessing of the Fleet, 1982



È carol...It's expensive!



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 10 am - Noon **Kids' Fishing Derby** at Fisherman's Wharf.
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Jerry Nelson & Friends on Ryder Street Stage.
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SATURDAY, JUNE 23

 9 am - Noon **Kids' Games and Cookout** at Motta Field.
10 am - 5 pm **Craft Fair** at Universalist Church, Commercial Street.
11:30 - 7:30 pm **Food Court** at Bas Relief. *Enjoy Provincetown's fine Portuguese fare.* Entertainment by Eddy Sheridan & The Dinosaurs 12 - 3 pm.
 1:30 - 3:30 pm **Traditional Portuguese Dances Performance.** At Ryder Street.
5 pm **FESTIVAL 2001 PARADE.** Begins at the Best Inn at Snail Road, continues down Commercial Street, ending at Franklin Street. Don't miss it!
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SUNDAY, JUNE 24

 11 am - Noon **Mass** at St. Peters Church.
 Noon - 1 pm **Procession to MacMillian Pier.**
1 pm **54th Blessing of the Fleet** (Cape Cod Fiddlers).



Motta Field, Kids Games, Festival 1998



Cooking and smiling ~ Chef Ernie, Festival 1999

Thank You, Leo



Leo J. Morris 1934-2001

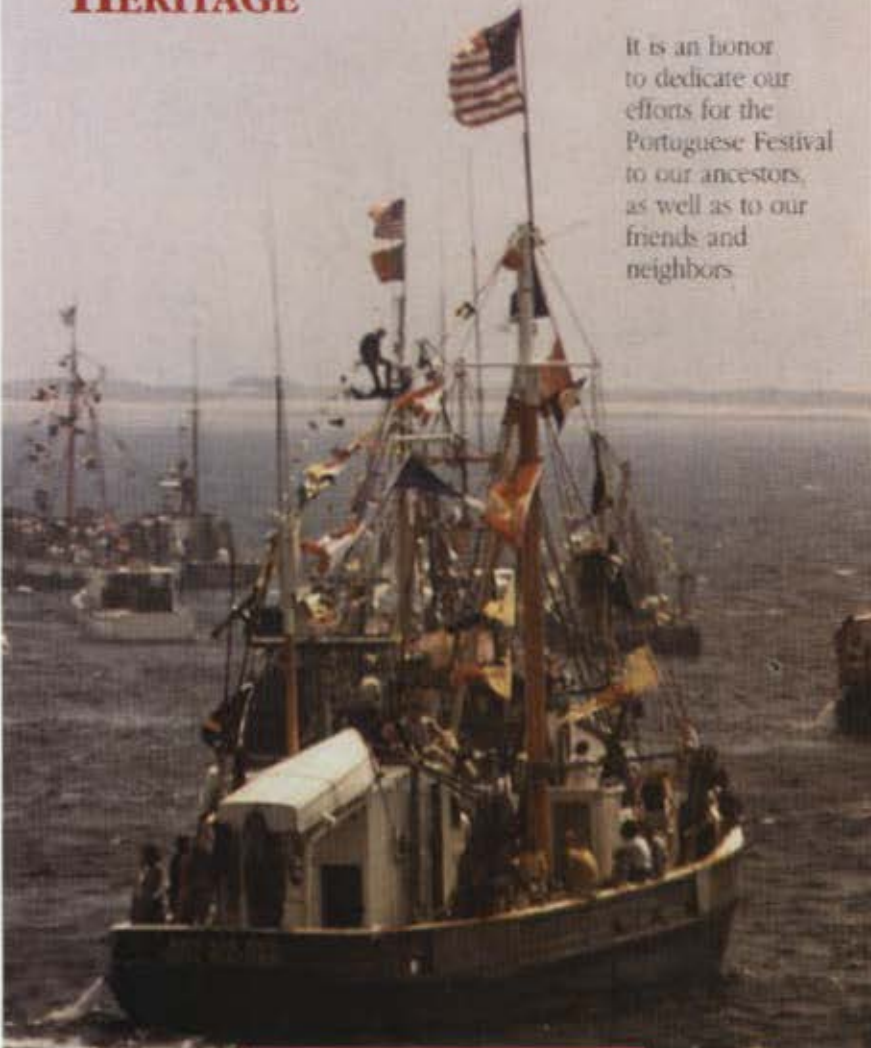
We pay Tribute to the memory of one of our biggest supporters and volunteers, Mr. Leo J. Morris, who recently died after a long illness.

Leo gave unselfishly any assistance needed for the Portuguese Festival whether it was to hang flags, serve food or sell raffle tickets. He proved once again, as he had in the past for the Rescue Squad, Lions Club and other civic organizations, to be a reliable, helpful servant to his community that he loved so much. We will truly miss his helping hand, sense of humor and warm heart.

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É muito bom!...It's very good!



The Center for Coastal Studies: 25 Years of Serendipity

By Mary-Jo Avellar

From its humble beginnings on an East End beach to the purchase of a new office building at the corner of Bradford and Ryder Streets, the Center for Coastal Studies is celebrating its 25th anniversary as leader in marine research and biology.

To co-founder Dr. Charles A. "Stormy" Mayo, however, "It was all serendipity."

Serendipitous or not, Mayo, his late wife Dr. Barbara Mayo, and their partner and other co-founder Dr. Graham Giese all found themselves in the right place at the right time just as interest in coastal ecology became part of the national conscience.

Giese said the formation of the Center coincided with the passage of the Coastal Zone Management Act. With emphasis shifting from deep water studies to coastal zones, the Mayos and Giese found themselves involved in what would be truly ground-breaking work.

"We were part of a time when coastal studies grabbed the attention of the country," Giese said. "People were asking questions about what is a

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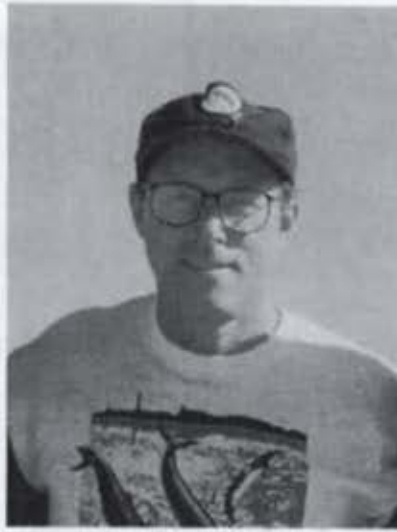


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Tem piscina, o hotel?... Does the hotel have a pool?



Co-founder
Dr. Charles A. "Stormy" Mayo

coast, in an eco-system sense. Our first real income came from our coastal marine ecology courses."

It also happened that Provincetown was embroiled in a serious dispute over whether or not to permit the building of the Cee-Jay solid fill marina project. Both the Mayos and Giese found themselves opposed to this project and in the course of their discussions, the idea for the Center finally took root.

It was apparent to the Mayos and Giese of a genuine need on the part of the general public to learn more about Cape Cod's unique coastal environment.

"It was as a result of Cee-Jay, not because of Cee-Jay that we got the idea for the Center," Mayo said.

Ads were placed in The Advocate soliciting students. The response from the non-scientific community was so overwhelming that the trio set up a classroom on the beach, in front of Mayo's Cape Codder Guest House. When it rained, the class and its portable blackboard took refuge in the Cape Códder.

Giese remembered those years as "a lot of fun and a lot of hard work."

With no space to speak of, other than the Mayo's property and Giese's small office above the Chamber of Commerce, the threesome found themselves financing the fledgling Center from their own pockets.

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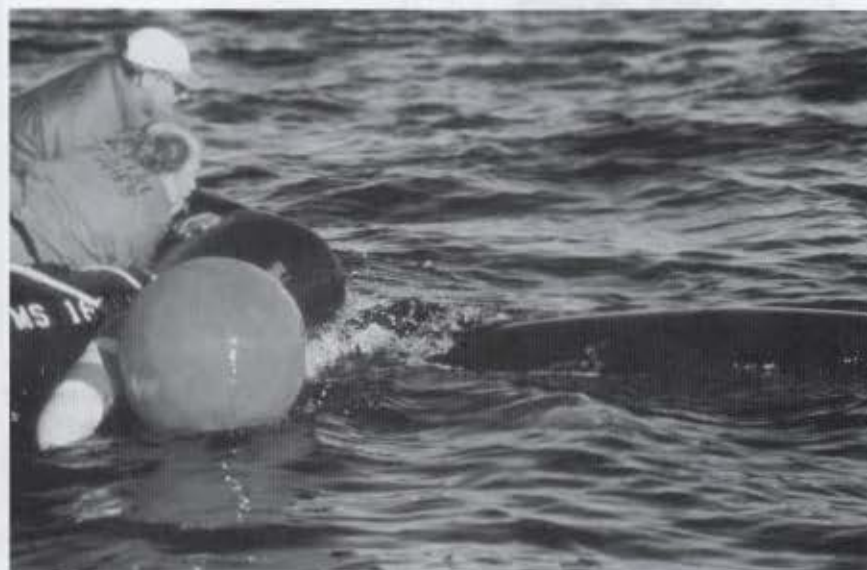
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Naõ tem café mais forte, uma bica?... Do you have a stronger coffee, an espresso?



Whale rescue in action

"We had to put our own money into it," said Giese, "but we figured a marine lab would work well in Provincetown."

Eventually, the Center found a permanent home in the West End, on the beach, for what Mayo said was the "astronomical sum of \$68,000." By the time Giese left the Center for the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in 1982, the Center was well established.

The Mayos and Giese each brought a different scientific discipline to their operation, which contributed to the Center's growth. Barbara Mayo was an ecologist, whose primary interest was the study of the coast's biological constituents as they interacted with its physical and chemical characteristics. Stormy Mayo was the group's theoretician. He specialized in the study of plankton, ocean productivity and the food web. Giese brought the physical sciences to the center as an expert in coastal geology.

These courses and the formation of the whale watch industry also contributed mightily to the growth and international reputation the Center now enjoys. Mayo signed on as the resident expert on Capt. Al Avellar's Dolphin fleet of whale watch vessels and established what would become the real bread and butter of the Center.

De manhã gosto de beber um galaõ....In the morning I like to drink a cappuccino.

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photo Macara's Wharf

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Center for Coastal Studies Bay Keepers logo

As a result of whale watching, whale research began to dominate, not only Provincetown's off-season tourist industry, but the Center's agenda as well. "Everything coalesced around the whales," said Mayo.

Today, the Center enjoys an undisputed reputation as a leader in marine mammal research. Two National Geographic film crews were recently in Provincetown recording the Center's whale rescue work, which Mayo pioneered in developing, and a new program with a professor from Cornell University which will listen to whales remotely by means of hydrophones at the bottom of Cape Cod Bay.

Other on-going programs include right whale research, a program in which Mayo is actively involved and which may determine the future of this rarest of all cetaceans; a whale surveillance program which assists the state and federal governments in preventing collisions and entanglements of these mammals with ocean going vessels and marine gear; the whale rescue programs; programs to track humpback whales, their distribution, identification and genetics; courses for credit and non-credit through the University of Massachusetts; monitoring of the outfall pipe; and continued collaboration with institutions, universities and nations world wide in the study of marine biology.

The Center is also proud of its many interns who have gone on to earn doctorates and teaching positions of prominence and its very active and little known Elder Hostel program which brings senior citizens to Provincetown especially for whale watching and study. ■



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Tillie's Kale Soup

Clotilda Medeiros Steele

Clotilda "Tillie" Medeiros Steele was my mother-in-law. One of 18 children, she learned at an early age how to cook for a crowd and do it economically. She always used salt pork in her kale soup. The salt pork can be rendered to sauté the onions or just added all at once to the pot with all of the ingredients and removed when the soup is cooked. It imparts a flavor to the soup that is unique. My husband, Duane Steele, Tillie's son, can always tell if I haven't used salt pork when I make kale soup.

- 1 to 2 bunches fresh kale
- 1 lb. linguicça, sliced
- 1 lb. chouriço, sliced
- 4-5 large potatoes, like Yukon Golds which hold their shape.
- 1 small piece of salt pork, about 2-inches
- 2 large onions, sliced
- 1-15 oz. can shell beans

Render the salt pork and sauté the onions. Add the linguica, chourico and kale. Cover with water and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat and cook until the kale is tender. Add the potatoes and cook them until tender. Add the beans and heat through.

The soup is still excellent if all of the ingredients, except the potatoes and beans, are placed in a large soup kettle covered with water, brought to the boil and then simmered until the kale cooks down. When the kale is tender, add the potatoes and beans. When the potatoes are done, the soup is ready.

Kale soup is best served the next day, but it smells so good that most people can't wait.
Serves 6-8.

Kale Soup

By Mary-Jo Avellar

Rich, hearty kale soup has been a staple in most Portuguese kitchens ever since the first days of Portuguese immigration to Provincetown. These enormous steaming kettles of soup were economical and fed large families for a day or two at a time. The soups also easily provided the immigrant's large family with one or two main meals or a boat full of hardworking fishermen a mid-day snack. Because kale soup contained vegetables, potatoes and some kind of meat, it was also highly nutritious.

The Portuguese equivalent of Jewish chicken soup, kale soup will cure what ails you. Once found only in the home kitchen, kale soup is now on the menus of almost all of Provincetown's restaurants.

Caldo verde in Portugal, kale soup is called couves by most Provincetown old-timers. Although couves is actually the Portuguese word for cabbage, couves in Provincetown is synonymous with kale, the dark green, curly-leafed vegetable that is easy to grow and better to eat after the first frost. Because kale can stay in the ground long after delicate greens like spinach are but a distant memory, kale has always been a popular staple in the kitchens of the Provincetown Portuguese.

What actually goes into a kale soup is often the subject of considerable debate. Regional differences also exist in Provincetown with people from the Portuguese mainland using large cuts of meat, often pork, rather than linguica like the Azoreans do in their soups. Many Portuguese cooks, like my mother-in-law, added cabbage and any left over pork or smoked shoulder to their kale soups, economically stretching the soup for yet another meal. The fact that these tasty goodies added to the flavor was a bonus.

Purists like my mother-in-law, however, scoffed at the addition of ingredients like tomatoes, carrots, wine and garlic to kale soup. Hers was the basic meat and potatoes kind of kale soup. Many Portuguese cooks, on the other hand, wouldn't dream of making kale soup without adding a little something extra like wine or maybe even a dash of vinegar.

As kale soup has evolved in the annals of the Provincetown culinary tradition, more experimentation has occurred. Debates on the subject of what constitutes a good kale soup are legendary in the folklore of Provincetown. Although the soup is forgiving and can take the addition of just about anything, my advice is keep it simple. ■

[from Provincetown Portuguese Cookbook.]

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