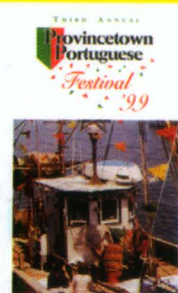


TENTH ANNUAL

Provincetown Portuguese

Festival 2006

1997 Special 10th Anniversary Edition 2006

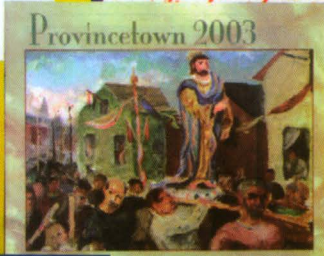
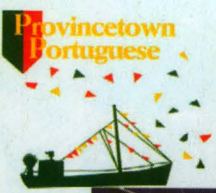


30th Annual Blessing of the Fleet

54th Annual Blessing of the Fleet

51st Annual Blessing of the Fleet

62nd Annual Blessing of the Fleet



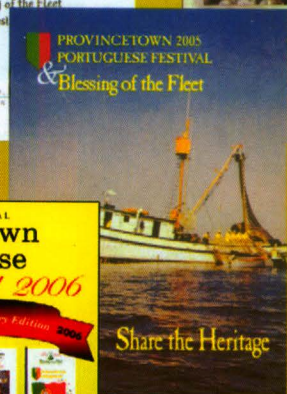
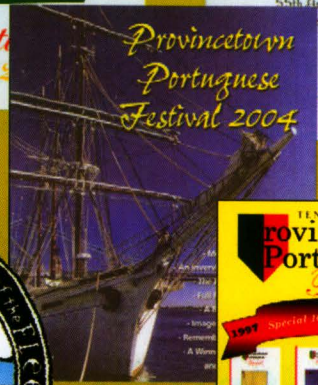
55th Annual Blessing of the Fleet

Festival

Provincetown Portuguese Festival 2004

PROVINCETOWN 2005 PORTUGUESE FESTIVAL & Blessing of the Fleet

Provincetown Portuguese Festival Blessing of the Fleet



Share the Heritage

Share the Heritage

Provincetown Portuguese Festival

June 22-25, 2006

JUNE 22 (THURSDAY)

9 am-5 pm – Exhibit: Net Working: The Portuguese Community and the Arts – Inspiration, Sustenance and Support at the Pilgrim Monument and Provincetown Museum.

12-8pm – An Introduction to the on-going exhibit at the Pilgrim Monument and Provincetown Museum at the Provincetown Public Library. (L)

12-5pm – Portuguese Festival Exhibit at Provincetown Art Assoc. & Museum (PAAM)

6-10:30pm – FISHERMEN'S DINNER All are welcome! (B)
6-8pm Portuguese food and entertainment (Grace & Tony)
\$20.00 Limited tickets for dinner available. Open for dancing only @ 8pm \$5.00 admission (B)

JUNE 23 (FRIDAY)

9am-5pm – PMPM Exhibit: see Thursday 9am

10am-12pm Capt. Manny Phillips Fishing Derby for Kids (FREE) (F)

10am-5pm – Library Exhibit see Thursday 12pm. (L)

12-3pm Portuguese Soup Tasting with entertainment (B)
12-5pm – Portuguese Festival Exhibit at Provincetown Art Assoc. & Museum (PAAM)

3pm Life Saving Demonstration at Old Harbor Life Saving Station, Race Point Beach

3-4pm Rev. John Nelson Singing Songs of Provincetown (FREE) (R)

4-6pm "Old Jugs" (Remaining Jug Band Members) (FREE) (R)

5-9pm Clam Feed (B)

6:30-8pm Entertainment (R) Chris and Shawn (FREE)

8-10pm – Portuguese Festival Exhibit at Provincetown Art Assoc. & Museum (PAAM)

8:30-10:30pm Entertainment (R)

Grace with Sasha and the Boys. (FREE)

10-1:00am Willie & the Poor Boys at the Surf Club. (S)

JUNE 24 (SATURDAY)

9am-12pm Kids Games and Cookout (MF) (FREE)

9am-5pm – PMPM Exhibit: Net Working: see Thursday 9am

10am-2pm – Library Exhibit see Thursday 12pm. (L)

11:00am on – Azorean Whaleboats from the Azorean Maritime Heritage Society on Exhibit (M) (FREE)

11:30am-7:30pm Lions Club Portuguese Food Court (B)

12-5pm – Portuguese Festival Exhibit at Art Assoc.

12:30-2pm Entertainment (R) Portuguese Dancers (FREE)

2-3pm Entertainment (R) Toe Jam Puppet Band (FREE)

3-4pm Entertainment (R) Miracle Fish Puppets (FREE)

3pm 2006 Portuguese Festival Parade (On Commercial St. from Cape Inn to Franklin St.)

4:30-5:30 Entertainment (R) Toe Jam Puppet Band (FREE)

6pm-7pm Entertainment (R) "Mia" (FREE)

7:30pm-9:30pm Fado Concert (F) (donation only) Singers: Celia Maria, Tania, Natalie Pires, Manuel Hilario. Guitars: Viriato Ferreira and Jose Silva.

8-10pm – Portuguese Festival Exhibit at Art Assoc.

9pm -12am Entertainment (R) Bossa Triba and the Berkshire Bateria (FREE)

JUNE 25 (SUNDAY)

9am-5pm – PMPM Exhibit: Net Working: see Thursday 9am

10:30am Fishermen's Mass (F)

11am-12pm Entertainment (LS)

Captain Jack the Pirate (FREE)

12:00pm—1pm Procession from Fishermen's Wharf to MacMillan Pier Entertainment Free by Grupo Faldorico and the St. Anthony's Band, Cambridge (M) (FREE)

12:00pm-3pm FOOD - Tasca do Pescador (M)

12-5pm – Portuguese Festival Exhibit at Provincetown Art Assoc. & Museum (PAAM)

1:00pm-59th Annual Blessing of the Fleet (M)

1:00pm-4:00pm Band Concert—St. Anthony's Band, Cambridge (M) (FREE)

1-5pm – Library Exhibit see Thursday 12pm. (L)

4:30-7pm Ed Sheridan at the Surf Club (S) (FREE)

Location Key:

B = Bas Relief • **R** = Ryder Street

MF = Motta Field • **LS** = Lopes Square

F = Fishermen's Wharf • **L** = Library

M = MacMillan Pier • **S** = Surf Club

See Map on pages 26-27

PORTUGUESE EMBASSY
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It is indeed my pleasure to address the people of Provincetown in the quality of Ambassador of Portugal to the United States of America on the occasion of this Portuguese Festival and Blessing of the Fleet 2006.

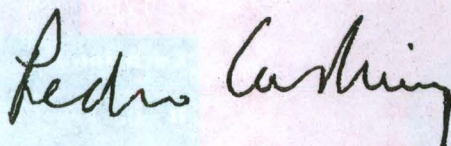
The community of Portuguese origin of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in particular the one of Cape Cod, is a well established and old community. Firmly set in the local society and active in every sector of the community life it is undeniable the mark of its contribution toward the progress and development of this region.

Today, proud of their deep-rooted origins in the seas of the Azores archipelago and keeping a close relationship with the region, they are an integral part of this great nation where the younger generations have fulfilled their ancestors' American dream, many of them reaching high-levels of education and actively participating in public service.

It is with pride, both in their past as well as in their present, and with great faith in their future that they celebrate the history traditions and gastronomy of their forefathers' home country

I am particularly happy to convey to all of you my heartfelt greetings and best wishes for the future.

Last but not least a word to acknowledge the enormous amount of effort put into this celebration by the organizers to whom I would like to express my most sincere appreciation.



Pedro Catarino
Ambassador of Portugal

A message from the founder of the Provincetown Portuguese Festival - July 1997
Reprinted from the first year's book.

July 1997

Welcome to Provincetown's 50th Annual Blessing of the Fleet, a fifty year tradition that is rooted in the church and our fishing fleet.

In the early days and for the majority of the fifty years, this celebration was organized and executed by the fishing fleet. Unfortunately, with the decline of our fleet and the transformation of the fishing industry in general, the number of participating boats has dwindled.

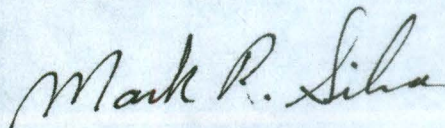
Approximately five years ago, the Blessing was in danger of extinction. If not for the hard work of Joy McNulty, Steve Roderick and the entire McNulty family, this celebration would have died and would not have reached its golden anniversary.

This year's Blessing is enhanced by the First Annual Provincetown Portuguese Festival – a four day celebration of the Portuguese heritage of the town. We have put together a full calendar of fun, exciting and inspirational events to honor the Portuguese fishermen and their families that were for so many years the economic, social and cultural backbone of the town.

We welcome all of our guests and hope you will enjoy the festivities as well as learn something about the Portuguese of Provincetown and how their hardwork and dedication to their vocation of fishing have shaped this town and made us what we are today.

We, the people of Provincetown, thank the fishermen for all their past efforts and vow never to let the memory of the Provincetown Portugese or the fishing dragger industry be forgotten. Enoy your stay, have fun and please remember to respect the town and its people.

Warmest regards,



Mark Silva

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*in honor of our Lions members who
made their living from the sea*

59TH BLESSING OF THE FLEET

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In this year of 2006, we look back over the ten years of the Portuguese Festival. It has evolved and grown into a major four day event that attracts thousands of people. We feel that we have been true to the original dream, always remembering that the festival is a prelude to the Blessing of the Fleet, a rite which is remembered fondly by anyone who witnessed or took part in it in the years since its origin. The true success of the festival lies in the support of the community. Recently, the Pilgrim Monument Provincetown Museum and the Provincetown Art Association have joined to share the heritage. Their exhibitions offer vivid pictures of the fishing industry through the years and the influence of the Portuguese in Provincetown.

The festival team honors those who worked so hard to develop the festival.

While some of the original group are not actively involved with the planning, their spirit remains in all of us.

2006 Provincetown Portuguese Festival Team

Susan Avellar
Richard Couette
Betty Costa
Liliana DeSousa
Yvonne DeSousa
Maureen Hurst
Susan Leonard
David Mayo
Don Murphy
Luis Ribas
JPaul Silva

Special thanks to Barbara Mullaney

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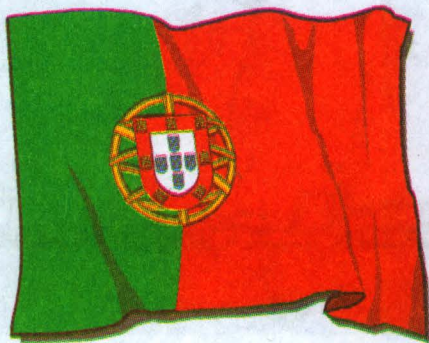
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In 1998 Rose Steele and Mark Silva were all smiles as Governor Paul Celucci proclaimed the month of June Portuguese Heritage Month while Shirley Gomes and Henri Rauschenbach looked on.

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Trap boat Charlotte loaded with tuna.

Photos courtesy of Bill Berardi

Trap (Weir) Fishing In Provincetown

David Mayo

“It was beautiful, trap fishing was a healthy, vigorous life and you felt good all of the time. I loved it.” A quote from Provincetown trap fisherman Manuel “Cul” Goveia. For many years trap (weir) fishing in Provincetown had a major economic and social impact on the town. Today, most people have no idea what it was and how it worked. The Charlotte, a trap boat captained by Louis Cordeiro, made her last run in the fall of 1975. It was the end of a proud era in the history of Provincetown fishing.

The Native Americans were the first to use weirs for fishing. Written accounts and drawings from the earliest settlement of the colonies confirm their existence and the expertise of native fishermen. What had evolved by the time trap fish-

ing became a part of the fishing repertoire in Provincetown was a variation on that Native American theme.

Records indicate that weir (trap) fishing with staked traps was started in Provincetown by Solomon Bangs in 1852. At one time there were over 100 traps spanning the distance from Wellfleet to Race Point. Each trap consisted of approximately 90 hickory poles driven into the sandy bottom of the bay, nets of various mesh sizes, about a mile of rope, at least sixty feet of chain, lead weights and a number of anchors. The design of the trap consisted of three major parts: the leader, the heart, and the bowl. The idea was to take advantage of the schooling instinct of the fish and to confuse them. The fish followed the leader into the heart and finally into the bowl which was enclosed on all sides. Once inside the bowl, there was no escape. The trap men slowly drew (pulled up) the bowl net by hand until the fish were concentrated in a

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small area and then used a long handled dip net (called a kill devil) to transfer them into the hold of the trap boat. It was an exciting gamble every day – what would the catch be? If it is squid, the fishermen are splattered with their ink as they are brought on board. If it is tuna, the water boils and the trap men are in an elemental struggle to get them into the boat before they tear the bowl net apart. Many times the trap men would use rifles to shoot the larger fish before they were hauled aboard. Most days the traps yielded a variety of fish. Some days the traps were empty.

Trap fishing is “passive fishing” – the traps are set and you wait for the fish. For many years certain fish could be relied upon to arrive in Provincetown harbor in enormous schools from approximately May through September. Mackerel, herring, whiting, butterfish, tuna and squid were the mainstays of the trapping industry. The first market for the trap fisherman was that of supplying baitfish for the long line fishermen to bait their trawl lines. If a schooner entered the harbor flying its ensign lowered or upside down, it was the signal for the trap men that they were in the market for bait. The advent of the internal



Emptying the kill devil (dip net)

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PROVINCETOWN



Mending the nets.

combustion engine and the use of draggers instead of sailing vessels signaled the end of the market for baitfish.

The extension of the railroad to Provincetown created a lucrative market for the trap fishermen – that of fresh fish. The fish caught in Provincetown harbor in the morning could arrive in the Boston and New York markets the next day. A market for school fish, especially whiting, also developed in the Mid Western part of the country and expanded the need for frozen fish from the cold storages. Trap fishing became very profitable.

The trap fishing industry helped to initiate the building of seven cold storages along the shoreline of Provincetown, creating hundreds of year round jobs for both male and female residents. These monolithic “fish factories” changed the look of the waterfront and introduced the modern concepts of marketing to an industry previously defined by rugged individualism. Fish were frozen in large quantities and stored in the cold storages

until the market price was agreed upon. Eventually most of the trap boats and their crews were in the employ of the cold storage companies, owned predominantly by Yankee businessmen.

The rich fishing heritage of the Azores, the Madeira Islands and mainland Portugal made Provincetown a perfect fit for the waves of Portuguese immigrants who were arriving in the United States. Most of the immigrants who settled in Provincetown became involved in some aspect of trap fishing and they defined the identity of the industry. It was the rare Portuguese resident who did not at one time or another engage in some aspect of trap fishing.

The rhythm of the seasons was underlined by the activities of the trap fishermen. In the spring, nets that had been repaired during the winter months were brought out of the many fish shacks (stores) that lined the harbor. The trap men dipped their nets in tar and spread them out to dry on open tracts of land throughout the town. The trap boats were caulked, painted and launched. The scows,

flat bottomed raft-like craft with tall scaffolding (to secure the weir poles as they were driven into the sandy bottom of the harbor) and flat decks (to transport the weir poles) were also painted, launched and secured at their moorings – favorite places for town children to dive from during the summer months! The long process of setting the weirs at their designated sites took place throughout March and April.

After the weirs were set, the sounds of the fishermen walking to the harbor beaches, rowing to the anchored trap boats and starting their motors served as the early morning introduction to each new day. The rhythmic sound of the trap boat engines reverberated throughout the town and would continue until the hauling of the traps was completed by late morning. As the trap men discharged their cargo of fish at the piers that were built into the harbor from the cold storages, a different sound joined that of the trap boats. The metal wheels of large hoppers filled with fish from the trap boats made a loud staccato sound as they were pulled on iron tracks into the processing area of the cold storages.

When the season ended in October and November, the traps were dismantled and the scows and trap boats were hauled out on shore. The trap men



spent the winter months preparing for the next seasons fishing.

With the demise of trap fishing a huge void was created in the fabric of Provincetown life as it was. What lives on are the stories and memories of the few remaining Portuguese residents who engaged in the industry as well as the scattered snapshots and films taken by the native population and tourists. The rich visual and written record left to us by hundreds of artists, poets, playwrights and writers who were inspired by this rare and authentic life continue to enrich our lives each day.

*Special thanks to George Bryant,
Laurel Guadagno and Diane Reagan*

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Where Does Our Portuguese Heritage Come From??

By Yvonne deSousa

Our Portuguese Festival helps us to honor and share our rich Portuguese heritage—a heritage built on the experience of the adventurous explorers who came here seeking new lands and new opportunities. If not for these fascinating and brave souls, we would not have this valuable heritage to share. This Portuguese exploration began in earnest in the mid-1800's and continues to this day. We thought for the tenth anniversary of the festival, it would be interesting to focus on the individual experiences of some of these explorers. And, as history often highlights the voyages of men, we thought it might open our eyes to learn more about the voyages of women. What did their journeys mean for them? What would these journeys mean for us as a community?

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Maria Idalina Ribas left Vila Praia de Ancora twenty years ago. She arrived in New Bedford with her children and her husband, Luis. Luis was fishing and his trips often took him away from home for days, often weeks at a time. Idalina was alone in a new city with Bruno, then 4 years old and Andrea, seven months old. They settled in New Bedford as the fishing at the time was prosperous but Idalina (who was from a large family) longed to be in Provincetown where her sister Gloria lived and worked. Idalina struggled, especially while Luis was at sea, but she was strong and determined and she set to work making a life for her family. She worked all day and took ESL classes at night. She would take the children with her to work or they would stay with a neighbor. New Bedford was a city, larger than she was used too and there was more crime than she was used too as well. She was very frightened at night being alone with the kids and she describes this period as a very lonely and depressing time. She had some friends in the city (many were women whose husbands

fished with Luis), but often her neighbors who lived in New Bedford were trying to speak English only and it made it harder for her to meet new people as she struggled with the new language. She refused to compromise when it came to her children however. Many neighbors took their sick children to a doctor who spoke Portuguese and Idalina did too. But when she no longer agreed with his prescribed treatments she switched to an American doctor with no office translators who she felt was better match for Bruno and Andrea.

One thing that helped her through this time was visiting Gloria in Provincetown. Gloria had opened a Portuguese Restaurant and Idalina would bring the children down on weekends to help her. Eventually she began working in housekeeping at the Sandcastle Resort. She was very nervous as she still struggled with language barriers but then manager, Ed Archway, was very understanding and he helped her find her confidence. Soon weekends turned into daily commutes when the kids

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were older and in school. Idalina, Luis, Bruno and Andi lived for ten years in New Bedford but Idalina longed to live full time in Provincetown where it was beautiful and more like a community. So when Luis' vessel was damaged in a fire they decided it was time to fish two smaller boats and make the move here. Smaller boats meant shorter days at sea and Luis was able to be home in the evenings. The children thrived in the Provincetown schools and even though Gloria eventually left Provincetown, Idalina felt truly at home. Today she is the head of housekeeping at the Sandcastle, supervising a staff of five women who make the daily commute from New Bedford, leaving at 6 AM and often not arriving home until 8 PM. Her family visits Portugal frequently and she is proud of her kids' regular contact with cousins in Portugal and all over Europe. Luis owns two draggers and is an Assistant Harbormaster. They are both involved with the Portuguese Festival and again this year Festival participants will be treated to Tasca do Pescador, a Portuguese cafe at the end of MacMillan Pier on Sunday. New this year, Idalina will be preparing a Portuguese feast on opening night at the Bas Relief.

Being involved with the Festival helps her to stay close to her roots in the community. Idalina loves it when Portuguese families get together and she wishes the opportunity were there to do it more often. She describes a wonderful time all had at an impromptu party at the VFW on New Years Eve and looks forward to the fun and excitement of people coming together at the start of the Festival on June 22nd. Look for Idalina on that night- she will be dancing and enjoying a party that celebrates her history and her community.

When Maria Silva landed in New York's LaGuardia International Airport on December 17, 1972 her first step on American soil was into a large, slushy, cold pile of snow. She wasn't prepared or dressed for it. She hadn't seen snow before coming from Ponte de Lima in the North of Portugal. But snow was to be a regular companion for her as she became used to her new world. She delivered her daughter Natalia on December 24, 1974 during a snowstorm and because of this her friends and family were not able to reach the



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hospital to visit. She was alone without a translator and with a new baby daughter. But she and Natalia got through the delivery with the help of the much loved Dr. Lee Britton. So as not to break her relationship with snow, Maria delivered her son Paulo during the Blizzard of '78. She likes snow now as long as there is not too much of it. It became one more new, but welcoming aspect in her American world. Others were the support of the people who came here before her. Maria lived in a cottage on Arch Street owned by Lucillia and Jack Rivers. Lucillia was a very kind woman who helped Maria get acclimated in many ways, especially with language. She would teach Maria words to help her get by and to help her with her shopping. Maria still faltered at times as she was learning and she remembers the day she wanted to bake a cake and went to the L&A Market on Conwell and Bradford Streets (now FarLand Provisions) and asked the ladies there for "legs." She didn't understand why they seemed confused and after a time she became flustered and

simply went home. Once back in her little cottage she realized it was "eggs" she needed for her cake but was too embarrassed to go back that day. Arch Street was the neighborhood of my childhood and truly an idyllic environment where children and those trying to establish a new life could feel safe. Many looked out for each other and Maria remembers help coming from many people in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Rivers. My mother helped Maria with deciphering paperwork as she set out to work and my sister would visit often, watching Natalia and keeping Maria company while she baked. And bake she did. Her delicious baking at home eventually lead to a job in the high school cafeteria. This worked well for her as she was able to stay close to the kids at the school and she found the teachers very friendly and supportive. In the early eighties there was a Portuguese school in Provincetown where kids were sent after their day classes to help them perfect reading, writing, and speaking in Portuguese. She is proud that her kids have kept

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speaking Portuguese and are fluent to this day. Maria and the kids would often spend summers in Portugal and the kids have many friends and relatives there they have kept close too. Maria still has a home in Portugal and gets back to see her family twice a year. She hopes to take her granddaughter Julia to Portugal as she used to take her own kids and though Julia is not much more than a baby, Maria is teaching her Portuguese.

In Maria's story you find a depiction of the American dream. As she would go about town she always admired an adorable ice cream store owned by the Codinha family. When once she saw it was for sale she dreamed of buying it and making it her own. With hard work and the assistance of the Codinha family, she was able to buy the business and turn it into Maria's Café. The Codinha family helped her greatly in her pursuit with licensing, taxes, ordering and all those details relative to starting a business. As she had started a new life, she could start her dream business. She has owned Maria's Café for eight years and it is a wonderful café featuring sandwiches, breakfasts and those delicious sweets she bakes herself. Visitors need not worry about the 'legs'

in the sweets, Maria has the ordering down pat. And, in staying true to the roots of the business, she kept the Codinha spirit in the café with her ice cream sales.

Like Maria, Isabel Chaves also came from the north of Portugal, from the coastal town of Viana do Castelo. And, like Maria, Isabel says it was the help of friends and family who came before her that got her through. Isabel's husband Conha was fishing in Portugal. But they had friends and family in the states who spoke to them about the opportunities here. They arrived on September 11, 1985 with their nine year old daughter Fernanda while their youngest daughter Raquel (then 2 yrs old) stayed in Portugal with Isabel's parents. The family came here first but as they had friends in New Jersey they thought they should see what New Jersey would hold. Isabel quickly realized that if they were to make a new life in America, then Provincetown was the place in which to do it. The beauty of Provincetown's coast reminded her of home and she felt that the small town atmosphere would be better to help her daughter adjust. She needn't have worried as Fernanda did very well and Isabel thinks

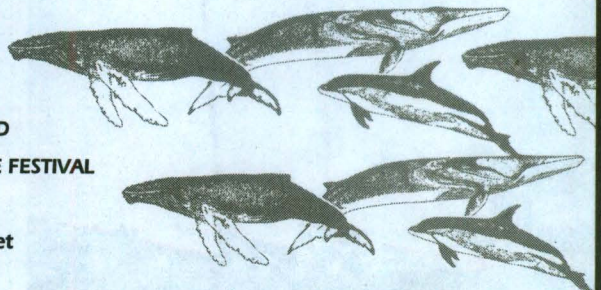


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Who among us doesn't look back on our pre-teen years with a bit of a shiver? Our minds and bodies seem so foreign to us when we are 12 and 13- imagine if they actually were foreign. That was Ana Ferreira Murphy's experience as she came to Provincetown when she was 12 years old. With a new country, a new language, and a new family dynamic, all was very difficult for this shy young girl. Ana and her sister Candida (then 11) lived with a beloved aunt in Coimbra, Portugal for many years while their parents Antone and Guilhermina and older brother Tony sought out the family's new future in Dorchester, MA. After many years they returned to Portugal and, within a year, the whole family moved to Provincetown. They lived at first in a small basement apartment and while their parents worked very hard (her father at the Provincetown Inn and her mother at the Manor) Ana and Candida worked hard at adjusting to their new surroundings. While the rest of the family had pretty much learned English from their earlier years in

Dorchester, Ana and Candida had to learn as they went when they entered school. The school helped by bringing in a tutor from the community- a local police officer (and my father) named Fred deSousa who not only shared a common language with the girls but a common experience as well. He had come from Olhao, Portugal in the early 1960's with his mother and sister Liliana (then 12). In May of her Senior year of high school, the Provincetown Advocate interviewed Liliana as she was about to graduate and the story she told of her experience then echoes the story Ana tells today.

Ana had never seen a coffee shop with a soda fountain like the one at Adams Pharmacy and the school was so very different. She missed her aunt whom she had spent so much time with and her childhood friends. The school assigned another 7th grader named Karen Costa (now Silva) to be her guide through school and Ana laughs at how closely she stayed by Karen's side as she made her way



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Maria Lomba grew up in Viana do Castelo regularly attending San Domingos Church and working in the Rectory of the Our Lady of Agony Church. She chose to marry her husband in San Domingos as that was where they were both baptized. She was such a part of Our Lady of Agony that they chose to ring bells after her wedding ceremony too. Her devotion to her Parishes and her faith brought her strength on her journey to America. Arriving with her husband Joe and two oldest children, Isabel and John (youngest child Helena stayed in Portugal with Maria's parents until the family was settled) Maria found comfort at Saint Peter's Parish. It was not easy in the beginning however. The family arrived in winter and did not have a car so it was not easy for Maria to get to Church. And when she did, it took time to adjust to a Mass in a language she could not understand. But Maria remembers how comforting Father Mike Nagle was, bringing books to the children and as Isabel loved flying, the pilot Priest brought the family to visit the airport. Isabel (then 7 yrs old) and

John (then 6 yrs old) learned English within a few months. Maria taught them to always begin class each morning by saying "Good Morning Teacher." The kids complained that the other students did not do this and they felt silly but Maria told them they must do it anyway as it was important to respect their teachers in this way. And while the kids continued with school and Joe was fishing, Maria was able to attend Church and volunteer in any way she could. She began by regularly decorating the altar with flowers she purchased herself. She felt in her heart she wanted to give to the Church as much as possible and she felt she had support in many ways to do this. The flowers were expensive and when new fishing regulations drastically cut Joe's trips she worried how she would pay for the flowers she so loved to place on the altar. But within a few days her job at Harbor Hill increased to full time and she received a generous tip, thus allowing her to continue. As all three children grew and eventually left home, Maria felt

continued on page 25

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**"I love this place, it is like paradise to me.
The people are so helpful and wonderful and I enjoy staying here."**

-MARIA LOMBA

continued from page 23

it was time to contribute to the Church in a deeper way. With help from Father Henry Dahl, Maria chose to undergo the process of becoming a Eucharistic Minister. And with the help of her home and Church families, she completed this faith filled mission.

Today Maria administers Communion to people both homebound and in Church. She works at Cabot's Candy Store, is a grandmother and is very active at St. Peter's Parish. Devastated by the loss of the Church building in a fire last year, Maria has rebounded from the tragedy again with the help of her families. And she looks forward to the Portuguese festival and the spirituality of the Blessing of the Fleet. She calls this celebration the "best time in her life" and as growing up I spent many Blessings' with her family on Joe's fishing boat the Triumph, I

can say it was the "best time of my life" too. Maria says of Provincetown "I love this place, it is like paradise to me. The people are so helpful and wonderful and I enjoy staying here."

What do these brave women have in common? They all left their native countries to explore America in search of opportunity. And what do their journeys mean for us? These journeys remind us of what it means to be Provincetown-to reach out to others and welcome them to our special corner of the Massachusetts coastline. And these women and the other men, women and children who have journeyed as well, have all done their great part to help shape who we are as a community with a proud Portuguese heritage. We thank them for sharing their stories with us. □



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PORTUGUESE FESTIVAL AND BLESSING OF THE FLEET

Portuguese natives and art

by RACHEL WHITE

During my years working in the seat of Town Government's main office, and simultaneously serving as member of the Provincetown Art Association Commission, I often acted as docent for the Town Hall art collection. It was common to be asked repeatedly if there were any local Portuguese artists. My response was that there were many that I knew. I, too, am a painter of Portuguese decent, but the interpretation may be different from that of an artist. Perhaps one of Provincetown's best kept secrets is that Portuguese men and women were/are not only resourceful, but also multi-talented. They live quiet and unassuming lives, going about daily routines, raising families, and painting when the spirit moves them. The art work of some, now gone to their eternal reward will be lost in the dust bins of history and some perhaps still adorns the walls of surviving family members. Portuguese people were traditional, and the old world ones were more so. Their first priorities were their families and principles of strong, loyal work ethics. Anything else was secondary.

However, one couldn't live here and be observant of the environmental beauty without being affected. The women and some men, crocheted, knitted, sewed and hooked rugs, but painting was more remote, maybe as a hobby, but not taken seriously. During the early 1950's, some Portuguese took to studying with recognized area artists/teachers such as Hensche, Paar, Yater, Malicoat, McKain, Hoffman and others. Those of us who studied, were persistent in believing, yes, we can do that too! It was empowering to try. There were Portuguese last names of people in art classes such as Mendes, Raymond, Cabral, Roderick, Tasha, Martin and at least twelve or more that I remember. All were with innate talent that was further developed by study, obser-



Rachel White

vation, formal instruction or self taught. There were more local women than men who embraced painting but a few men demonstrated their skills well enough that local banks purchased their art works that were related to fishing and maritime history. I believe that Seamens Savings Bank in Provincetown was the first local bank that allowed some of us to show our work on the bank walls from time to time. The Provincetown Public Library and Berta Walker West Gallery were the first public indication since the banks exhibits, that many natives here could paint.

There is an established art organization from Portugal, whose members showed their work in Provincetown several years ago at an invitational exhibit during Blessing of the Fleet week at Cabral's pier.

They were accomplished and it was a welcoming experience to converse with them about their art group. They offered applications for our consideration to join, but distance involved is not conducive to some of us here. They and/or their work travel to Europe, the U. S. , and New Zealand. It was pleasing to find that a group of Portuguese artists were making strides in promoting their work worldwide and we here wish them the best.

I would be remiss in not mentioning Mary P. Roderick who is now 100 years old, mentally sharp and who painted so well. Her art teacher determined that because of her ability with color sense, due to dying wools for the nearly 200 hooked rugs she's made, her vision to paint with color intensely was enhanced.

In a more humorous vein there was one Portuguese man who liked painting nudes. Even though beautifully done, he had to give them away upon completion because his wife refused to allow them to hang in the house for fear he'd be labeled perverted!

A person who purchased one of my pieces said, "I liked it, but also as a Portuguese native you are a dying breed." The realization of the comment, although perhaps true, was a bit unnerving! I suddenly knew why it's often said that artists work usually gains in value after they're dead. I'm not anxious for that acclaim too soon!

Never let it be said that artistic talent is lacking in local Portuguese people. It may be under wraps, but it's alive and well to be enjoyed by those who participate whether only for their own amusement or for sale to interested collectors. It all remains significant of a disappearing local heritage. □

Rachael White has worked and studied all mediums and has shown her work at the Art Association, the Berta Walker West Gallery, the Chatham Creative Art Center and the Cape Cod Museum, to name a few. She continues to work and to exhibit, and will be a part of the Portuguese Festival Show at the Provincetown Art Association.

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Memories of our fisherman

By Ruth V. Littlefield
March, April, May 2005©

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She wears
A Halo of
Heavenly Blue
Studded With
Brilliant Diamonds
An Aura of
Rainbow Colors
Envelope
Her Sunsets
From The Sand-Dunes
A cloak
Of Sand
Graces her Being
Her endless Refreshing
Salt Water
Quenches her thirst
Our Beloved
Provincetown
All who
Grew up here
Were fortunate
To be
Amongst those
Provincetown called
Her Children
Fishermen Knew
Many Kids in
Provincetown
All Kids Knew
the Fishermen.
When our mothers
Handed Us A
Bucket or A String
We Knew
Today Was


Fish Day
We Watched for
The Boats
To Appear Along
The Bend
At Long Point
When They Came
Into Sight
Down Commercial Street
We'd Run
We had a Date
At Skarloff's or
Railroad Wharf.
As the Boat Nears
The Wharf
Rope was tossed
Over the Side
On to the Pier
Securing The Boat
Standing on the Deck
Of their boat
After A Hard
Day's Work
Braving High Winds
Rough Seas
Heat or Cold
Fishermen
Broadly Smiling
Happy to be
In Port
We'd hand down
Our Buckets or String
The Fishermen Would
Fill up our buckets
String up the fish



Ruth Littlefield

All for
The Asking
All required was
A Thank you
There was Never
Ever
Any Reason For
Anyone to
Go hungry in
Provincetown.
Provincetown fishermen
Took Care of
Their Own

In gratitude
We Remember
In the early
Morn
When you Put Out
To Sea
Standing Beside you
On the Deck
Of you Vessel
"The Big Fisherman"
Will
Always Be
God Speed.


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The Nature of the Sea

The sea's waves crash on the shore
The seagulls dancing in the distance
My ears perk up to the sound of the dolphins splashing.

The calm periods of the open sea
And the aqua blue salt water splashes against my face.
The cold water refreshes me as I close my eyes to relax.
The beautiful sounds of the sea calm me.

The sea's waves crash on the shore
The seagulls dancing in the distance
My ears perk up to the sound of the dolphins splashing.

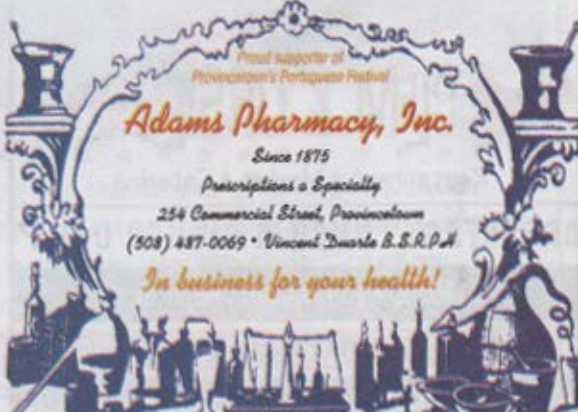
By Kelly Johnson Provincetown High School 8th Grade

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Waves

Why do the deep blue waves roll?

The children's play and rumble on the sandy shoreline
The birds are flying high in the sky and having a feast with
the hard shell creatures

Why do the blue waves roll?

The whales are singing and the fish are swimming
The waves are dancing to the kings and queens of the
ocean shores

The schools of fish are in the deepest part of the blue ocean jungle

Why do the deep blue waves roll?

The rolling waves crash and tumble
The heart of the ocean sings like the song of the whales
The deep blue ocean waves calm the person that washes
away the unsteadiness of life

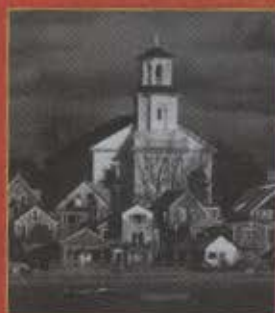
Why do the deep blue waves roll?



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Oh Fair Sea

Oh fair sea, oh fair sea,
wash away my memory.

Your waves are what can set me free,
To float upon your blue and green,
As grace and beauty embrace me.

Oh fair sea, oh fair sea,
wash away my memory.

And now I sit and watch you thrive,
Your playful spirit seems so alive,
To be as wonderful, I must thrive.

Oh fair sea, oh fair sea,
wash away my memory.

The thought of you brings glee to eyes,
Your encaptive beauty is such a prize.
Forever, you will be so wise.

Oh fair sea, oh fair sea,
wash away my memory.

By **Sophie Yingling**
Provincetown High School
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Living by the Sea Poem

Having your toes in the sand
Taking quick dips in the summer sun
There is nothing else that compares to summer fun
Just to kick back and relax
And never be on the run
Something about living by the sea
Makes tourists want to be me

Spending my summer days
In the hot sunny rays
Swimming in the deep, warm, water of the ocean
Surfing the curls that the waves form
Making sand castles on sand bars
Leaving your footprints noticeable for all to see
Makes everyone wish to live here year-round just like me



As the summer ends
The beach clears
Just tourists salty tears left behind
No more crowds
No more competition for waves to surf
No more tourists to soak up the sun
Just the beautiful sight of the sun over the horizon of the sea
Gives a feeling that absolutely intrigues me
Then I scream loud and clear for all to hear
"This is why I am lucky to live here"

By Zachary Tobias - *Provincetown High School 8th Grade*

Azorean Whaleboats and the Azorean Maritime Heritage Society

Rosemary Rebello

Azorean Maritime Heritage Society

The cultural ties between New Bedford and the Azores date back as early as the 1840's, when whalers from the Azores served on New Bedford whaling ships. Today over 64% of the population of the south coast region of Massachusetts is of Portuguese heritage. The Azores is a nine island Atlantic archipelago, approximately 900 miles off the coast of Portugal and 2000 miles from the United States. Discovered in the 15th century, the Azores played an important role in oceanic navigation,

serving as a port of call between Europe, America and India and as a place to lay anchor for the galleons bringing the wealth of the Americas back to the old world. In the 19th century, the Azores was a key port for the American whaling industry. Today, these lush green islands known as "the gem of the Atlantic" are an autonomous region of Portugal with its own parliament and government.

The Azorean Maritime Heritage Society was established in 1997 to "promulgate and preserve the values and traditions of Azorean culture, particularly that of Azorean maritime history." The flagship project of this all volunteer organization was the construction of two 39-foot Azorean whaleboats at New Bedford Whaling National Historic Park on the grounds of the New Bedford Whaling Museum in 1998. Unlike traditional American whaleboats which were lowered from whale ships to pursue whales, Azorean whaleboats were longer in profile and were launched from beaches and boathouses. Equipped with sails, the Azorean whaleboats, with their razor-sharp silhouettes, are considered by many to be the most beautiful in the world.

Having hosted the 1st International Week long Regatta in August 2004 and participated in the 2005 Regatta in Fayal and Pico, the Azorean Maritime Heritage Society has proudly competed in whaleboat sail and rowing races. We are looking forward to participating in more events and to offer the opportunity for the public to learn more about

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The nine islands of the Azores

Azorean-Portuguese history and culture. This is our second year visiting the Provincetown Portuguese Festival. The Saturday of the Festival one vessel will be on display on MacMillan Pier while

the second vessel will be in the harbor and later in the parade. Both whaleboats will participate in the Blessing of the Fleet procession in the harbor. We look forward to seeing all of you. ☐

JOAN SNOW

Gladys Johnstone

❖
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Raymond Cabral

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Uncle Louis Cordeiro - A Provincetown Fisherman

By Carol Leonard-LaDuke

Like most Portuguese youth of his day, Uncle Louie completed elementary school and graduated from Cape Cod Bay, an experienced fisherman. The middle son, he began his fishing career with his father, Louis Cordeiro, Sr., and his brothers, Henry and Ernie. Like a page from a history book, he explains, "I was born on January 4, 1920...write that down! I loved fishing. I skipped school just to go fishing. I snuck out of the house just to unload the boat. I was crazy about fishing!" he loudly explains.

Always to the point, Uncle Louie was a slam dunk in verbal communication. He was also every bit larger than life. I am sure life sometimes struggled to contain him, considering the general population in comparison, seemed dull.

When Uncle Louie grew up in Provincetown, there were 50 or 60 fishing boats tied at the wharf. A summer event was a rowing contest in a dory around Provincetown Harbor. Sixty years ago it tested a young man's strength and skill. He won \$50.00 for winning a race, his rowing partner a Segura boy.



Louis Cordeiro

Uncle Louie was a best friend to everyone. If you knocked on his door, the first thing he'd say was "Ya wanna drink?" If you politely said "No", he'd say, "Bull! Have a drink!" And like a good friend, he'd help one forget his misery. After listening sympathetically, he would have his compadre laughing about life's lemons. With unlucky traces disappearing forever, the way a seagull swallows a fish in one gulp.

Uncle Louie's greatest influence was Henry Duarte. They fished together on the Charlotte G. While working with him he explains, "I learned to do everything on the boat. Splicing, mending, cooking, fixing the engine running the boat. I could do everything." They worked together for nearly two decades. Henry was a man's man. It was on this same boat that Uncle Louie's bullish proportions prevented a serious accident. Former Provincetown selectman and boat builder, Rocky Taves,

accidentally slipped off the pilot house while working on the boat. Just as he fell, Uncle Louie leaned out the door and Rocky landed on top of his back, saving him from serious injury.

Although engaged in many types of fishing, he explains "I liked swordfish fishing the best. It was like yachting. I got to wear my sneakers."

He explained the danger of swordfish fishing from the vulnerable view of sitting in the dory with metal covering the floor for protection. His concern for the slack line attached to the moving, angry fish wielding a tusk-like sword was likened to an average day of people watching from the benches in front of Town Hall. Swordfishermen were the matadors of the sea. When fishing got slow, crews would sail to No Man's Land in the Martha's Vineyard area. There, they would fish their small boats, while others had regular fishing boats with minor conversions. A tower or stand would be on the deck for watching the fish. Another rigging would

hang from the bow over the water. The men would lance the horned fish that held a small removable dart. The lance would pull out and, attached to the rope was a barrel dragging its weight. It would pull the fish down and serve as a marker to follow it. It was common for the angry fish to spear through the dory in the circle, smashing its tail on the water and ramming its sword through the bottom of the boat. Uncle Louie served as matador in the dory in his thirties. It took a strong man with weight to complete the job. Yachting in sneakers, as did wearing a macho red cape, came with a price.

Uncle Louie sardine fished too. His partner was a Portuguese fisherman by the name of Tony Shamrock. These were real sardines they caught, not the herring sold today. In the still of the night, they would fish. A lit keg of kerosene served as a torch and drug that summoned the small fish. They would use a large dip net to scoop them out in the light. It proved very profitable. Perhaps having the name Shamrock helped. It never crossed



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Louie examines the catch.

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Uncle Louie's mind that Shamrock was not a Portuguese name.

My uncle, Bob Doucher Silva would help Uncle Louie pull his lobster traps. Not one to slow down, Uncle Louie worked until he was in his eighties. He, with his wisdom, would patiently wait on the beach by the bulkhead at Pepe's for the tide to go out so he could walk to his boat. One day, Uncle Bob questioned him, "Why are you waiting? The boat is right there.." "The tide is too high. I'm telling ya" answered Uncle Louie. "No it's not, it's right there." Uncle Bob told him "I'm going to the boat." As he began sloshing through the water, right before the boat, he stepped off a ledge, falling, dropping his cell phone into the water. He said now he understood why Uncle Louie waited for the tide and learned he had better listen to him. "He knew what he was talking about. I ruined my cell phone."

Louis (front) & Ernie Cordeiro fishing on the Charlotte G.

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Louis Cordeiro and Donald Murphy.

Louis Cordeiro was the last of the trap fishermen. There were two boats remaining, the Charlotte and the Carlotta. While there were hopes that these boats could be restored, it was not to be, and all that remains are the memories of a kind of fishing that is no more.

Had he not become a fisher of the sea, Uncle Louie said his career would have been in the law. "I would have been a bull-lawyer," he states without hesitation. There's no doubt about it, Uncle Louie could have persuaded any judge or jury. □

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History of the Blessing of the Fleet

by Betty Costa

It has been said that there are no atheists in fox-holes. Perhaps the same could be said of fishermen, alone or with a small crew in the middle of the ocean. With no land in sight, a sudden squall, a leak or fire, or the loss of radio contact can result in a feeling of utter helplessness. It is no exaggeration to label fishing as hazardous. Thus, then, was ample reason for the early fishermen to invoke the blessing of God upon their endeavors.

With origins in Portugal, the solemn rite is often coupled with a celebration of the Portuguese heritage. The Blessing of the Fleet is a time of celebration and reflection.

The festivities are not always the same. Each locality is apt to have a different agenda. In Viana Do Costelo, in the Portuguese Province of Minho, the Blessing is preceded by a three day festival. There are daily parades, each with a different theme. The first day showcases artisans and their wares, and is whimsical in nature. A biblical theme is the motif for the second day, and on the third, the history of relations between Spain and Portugal is spotlighted. On each of the three evenings, there are impressive displays of fireworks. At midnight on the third day, the road from the church to the pier is closed to traffic. Throughout the night, following an age old custom, a carpet is laid down. Using colored sawdust in a myriad of colors and patterns, the road on which the procession will proceed, is decorated. It is a strikingly beautiful sight.

Having witnessed the festivities in Gloucester with Domingo and Edith Cohinho, Arthur Bragg Silva was so impressed that he vowed to bring the custom to Provincetown. He took notes during a

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conversation with the Gloucester chairman and brought his information home to share with the local fishermen. They were quick to embrace the idea.

Serving on the first committee with Mr. Silva were fishermen Domingo Godinho, Salvadore Vasques, Frances Segura, Louis and Fred Salvador, Joseph Roderick, Joseph Lisbon, Manuel Henrique, Manuel Macara and George Adams, with Frank Taves and Ernest Carreiro as volunteers. These men were a part of the blessing for many years. Willing workers, they were joined by others as the years went by.

Anyone who has been involved in the planning for this annual event will attest to the large amount of work that goes into it. Through the years, volunteers have worked tirelessly to collect ads, contact marching bands, arrange childrens' games and plan the different events that have been a part of the festivities. Different highlights such as Arts and

Crafts Fairs, Wind-surfing Regattas, softball games, net mending and wire splicing contests, senior dances and fishermen's quahog parties are but a few of these.

For many years, the statue of St. Peter has been lovingly decorated by Florence Menangas, whose late husband Tony was one of the men who carried the statue in the procession. Although in some countries St. Anthony is honored, in Provincetown the fishermen revere the patron saint of the local church, who was also a fisherman.

On the day of the blessing, the men of the fleet marched to the church, sometimes carrying banners with the names of their boats. The mass was celebrated by the Bishop, with fishermen acting as lectors reading from the scriptures and also as alter servers. Often priests who had been at St. Peter's returned and took part in the celebration. At the conclusion of the Mass, there was the procession to the pier for



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the blessing ceremony.

The wives and families spent days planning and preparing food for the parties that followed the blessing. The boats had been cleaned, painted and decorated with flags and banners and were a colorful sight as they anchored off Long Point.

There have been many somber moments as the years have gone by. Giants of the industry and beloved priests are no longer with us. Three vessels, the Patricia Marie, The Cap'n Bill, and the Victory II sank with the loss of all crew members. These tragedies rocked this entire community and the loss is still felt.

The annual Blessing has involved all segments of the community. Shops have decorated their windows and it has been the occasion for cookouts and beach parties.

Frequently in evidence at some of the related festivities was the Linguica Bank. Clad in embroidered red vests, these men entertained tirelessly. With Frank Aresta on the concertina, Anthony Russell on the mandolin and Loring Russell on the guitar, this group was a hit at many gatherings. Jack

Edwards often joined them on the bass fiddle.

Throughout the years, the roster of fishermen has changed, as have types of fish and the methods of fishing. Smaller crews have meant adapting the old ways. Once known as a whaling town, Provincetown is now known as the place for whale watching. Trap fishing is a thing of the past. As fishing stocks have dwindled, regulations have multiplied. Some of these, while meant to preserve and nurture future catches, are especially hard on the small wooden boats that make up most of the Provincetown fleet. Weather is a constant factor and quotas seem unfair to some. For a number of years, the industry has been struggling to survive. Aquaculture and fish farming are possible ways to satisfy the market for seafood.

It is the fervent hope of all involved in the Blessing of the Fleet, that this year will mark a turning point in the fishing industry. □

- Story reprinted from the PPF first commemorative book.

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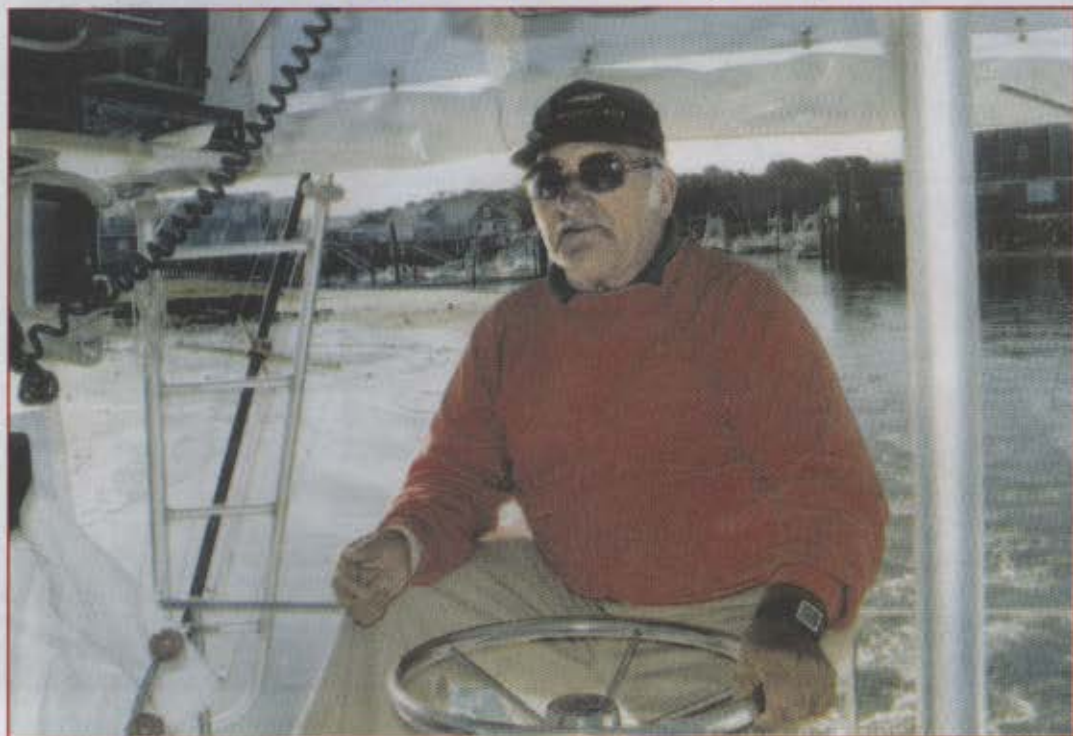
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