

Town Hall gets 8 new benches

Eight new benches made of strengthened fir and galvanized steel were installed last Wednesday in front of the Provincetown Town Hall, replacing the old, dilapidated benches that have been there almost 12 years.

The new benches have been installed despite a lot of bureaucratic red tape, said Dick Rowe, Town Hall custodian.

Town Meeting appropriated \$5,000 in the spring for an article sponsored by Nora Welch to buy and install the new benches. Over the summer the Provincetown Beautification Committee worked on a plan that would meet safety standards and fit the character of the town, said Barbara Rushmore, a member of the committee.

Town Manager William McNulty, who attended the committee's meetings, made sure the plan fit the budget. The plans had to be redone three or four times, said David McHoul, a member of the committee.

"It's amazing how much you have to go through for a bench," Rowe said. McHoul said it took a long time to find the benches with the right look. Selectman Elizabeth H. Steele said there were too many fingers in the pie for the committee to make a quick decision.

The committee finally decided on benches with galvanized steel posts that are

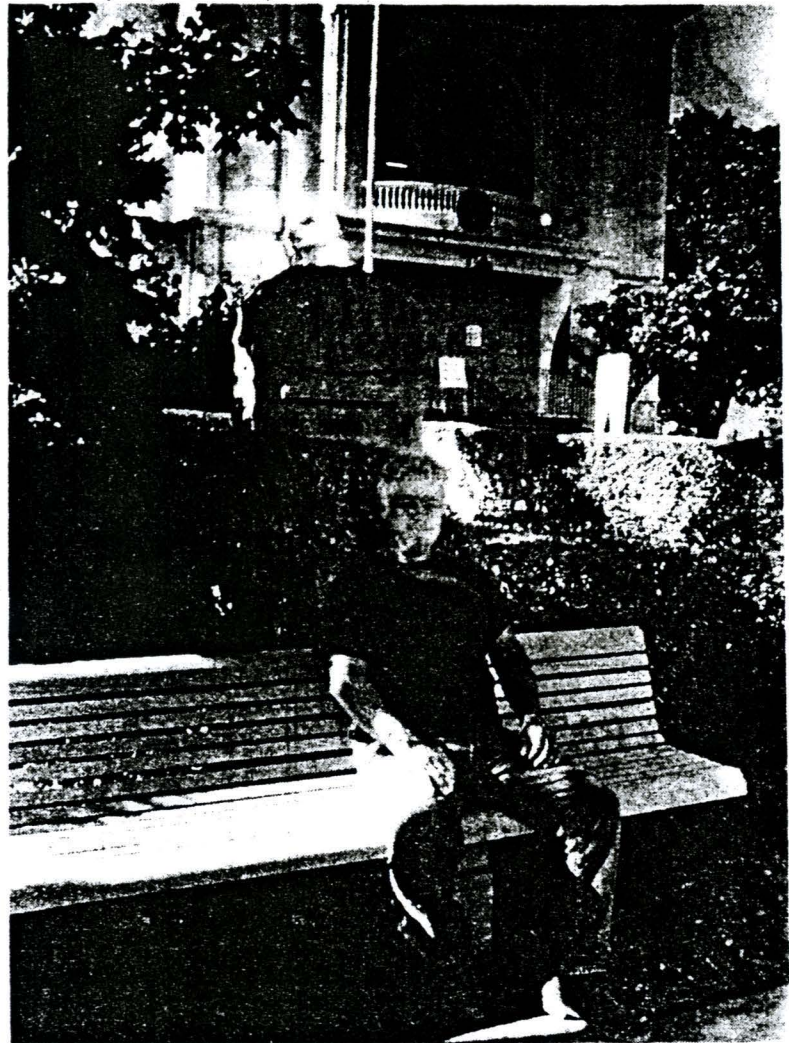
set into concrete footings. Rushmore said kids used to pick up the old benches, which rested on concrete forms and were not set in the ground, to show off their strength, then drop them.

The most recent problem arose last Wednesday when Fire Chief James F. Meads insisted on 10 feet between benches that flank fire hydrants instead of five as the beautification committee had planned.

Eight new benches are now in front of Town Hall. Four 16-footers are alongside the front walk leading to the stairs, three 12-footers are along the sidewalk in front of Town Hall, and one eight-footer is on the corner of Commercial and Ryder Streets.

The 16-footers cost \$700, the 12-footers cost \$600, and the eight-footer was \$500, Rushmore said. The beautification committee is setting up a fund for businesses and organizations to donate eight-foot benches.

The committee would put plaques on benches donated by businesses or organizations bearing their names. Other benches would be placed on the pier, on Harry Kemp way, and on side streets off Commercial Street.



Advocate photo by K.C. Myers

Dick Rowe, Town Hall custodian, sits on one of the new benches.