

44th

1991



Donation \$2.00

DEDICATION



Captain Sonny Roderick, Jr.

The fishermen of Provincetown take great pleasure in dedicating the 1991 Blessing of the Fleet to Captain Bernard (Sonny) Roderick, Jr. A moving force behind many Blessing celebrations, he personifies those qualities that make a dedicated fisherman.

In any history of the Blessing of the Fleet, the name of Sonny Roderick, Jr. would figure prominently. Like his father, Sonny, Sr., he has always been actively involved. He and his wife, Sue, co-chaired the event four times, and in other years were always willing workers. Those who know him are well aware that whatever he becomes involved in, he gives it his all. It's not just in his nature to do otherwise.

A graduate of Provincetown High School, he was an active participant in sports and school activities. After graduation, he chose to enter Fitchburg State College, but soon realized that the lure of the sea and the fishing industry was in his blood. Although he had fished with his father during high school years, he wanted to learn more about navigation and newer methods of fishing.

His next step was one of many innovative moves he was to make. He joined his high school classmate, John Vasques when he enrolled in the Commercial Fisheries Program at the University of Rhode Island. The things he learned there were later put to good use. On a trip through the Cape Cod Canal, he

impressed his Dad and the crew with his navigational skills.

It was at URI that he met a young nursing student, Susan Flynn, from Tiverton, Rhode Island. To use a cliché, "the rest is history". At their wedding, a year after graduation, a friend sang "We've Only Just Begun". These words were to become a kind of philosophy for Sonny and Sue. Never complacent, this couple strove to see, to learn, and to grow.

Sue began her nursing career at AIM Medical Center in Wellfleet and continued to study, taking advanced courses and broadening her experience.

After fishing with his father for several years he bought a stern trawler, the Bay of Isles. Sonny continued to search for new fishing grounds because fish was already becoming scarce and harder to find. The Bay of Isles was one of the first boats to travel to Long Island, New York, in search of a catch.

Throughout these years, the Blessing of the Fleet was an event to be worked for and enjoyed. In 1976, the Swedish warship HMS Alvsnabben played a major role in the festivities. Not only was the ship in the harbor for all to see, but the crew took part in a softball game with the fishermen and was welcomed at the Fishermen's Dance held at St. Peter's Parish Hall. That same year there was a fish dinner sponsored with the local Rotary Club, held in a tent in front of the Bas Relief which depicts the signing of the Mayflower Compact. He also arranged for a fly-over by a plane from the South Weymouth Naval Air Station.

Nothing delighted him more than the children's day held at Motta Field. His special affinity with children might come from the fact that there will always be a lot of "little boy" in him. There is an impish quality to his grin which gives this secret away.

He was chosen to be the subject of a documentary on fishing for PM Magazine shown on Channel 5. He proved to be an articulate spokesman and the program was well done and well received.

Sonny and Sue are the parents of two sons; Kurt who is ten and Alex, who is five. Undoubtedly, looking to the future of these two bright and active youngsters, some decisions had to be made. The result was almost a foregone conclusion. As the supply of fish dwindled, the costs of maintenance, insurance, and fuel escalated. The Bay of Isles was sold to a fishing captain Sonny had met when he was fishing off Long Island.

What happens when a fishing captain sells his boat? Some opt to enjoy the retirement they have earned. Others, in anticipation of this happening, have bought businesses which they can run seasonally. Still others take jobs ashore.

Young Sonny as he is often referred to, is perhaps the only fisherman to go back to college to pursue a whole new career. Already the holder of an Associates degree from the URI fisheries program, he enrolled at Cape Cod Community College and earned an Associate degree in accounting. During this time, he worked at two part-time jobs and was very involved in the activities of his children. For two years he has coached basketball and baseball. Not satisfied with just an associate degree, he enrolled in Southeastern Massachusetts University to work towards a Bachelor's degree. At this time, he is but three courses away from achieving this goal.

A handsome, strapping, affable person, it was seldom evident that, for a number of years, he had endured health problems that would have cowed many. Going through surgery several times for Crohn's Disease and related problems, he bounced back each time (after endearing himself to all the health professionals he came in contact with).

In 1978 he had a heart problem, but was able to resume fishing after four

months. There has been a recurrence of this problem recently. At the present time, he is a candidate for a transplant and is awaiting a donor. His schedule is somewhat limited, but he can be seen at his sons' Little League games, and occasionally raiding his Mother's refrigerator, a lifelong habit.

His spirit is indomitable and the support of his family and friends is loving, strong, and steadfast. It is very probable that before long, we'll see him dancing to the tune "Pick yourself up, dust yourself off, and start all over again".

Our congratulations and best wishes for smooth sailing.

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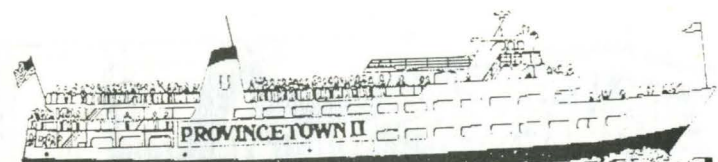
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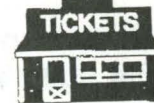


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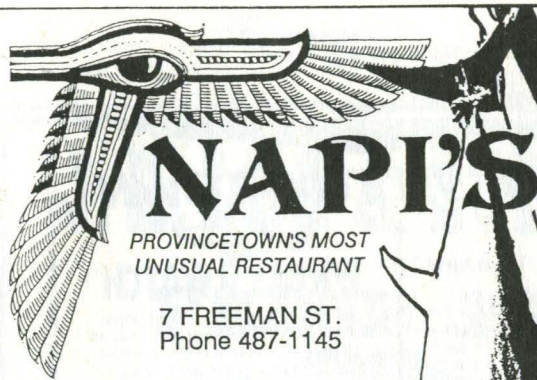


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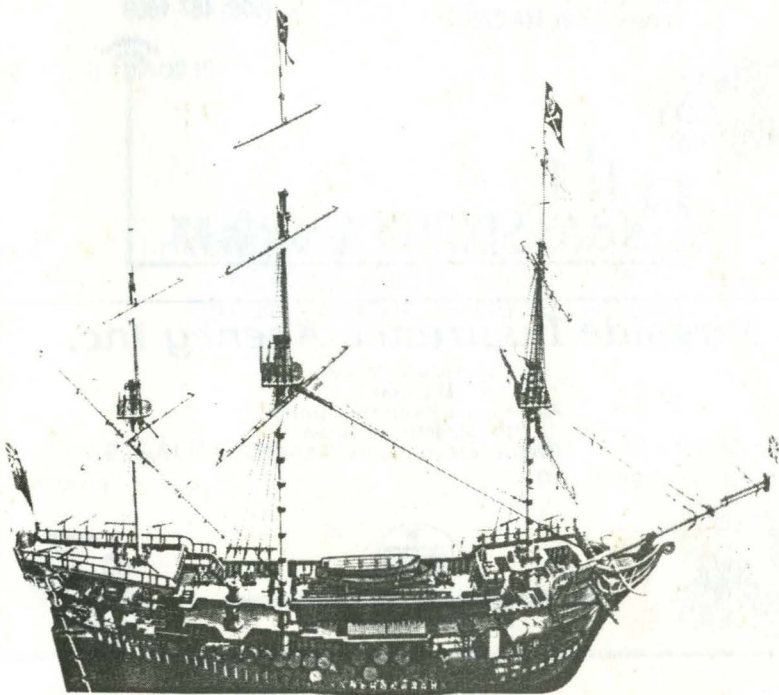


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Treasures from the Pirate Ship 'Whydah'

More than 270 years after a fateful storm took them to the ocean's floor and after eight years of excavation and conservation, treasures and artifacts from the pirate ship 'Whydah' are on display for the first time in a special exhibition at the Pilgrim Monument & Provincetown Museum, which, even before this exhibition, was Cape Cod's most-visited attraction.

The 'Whydah' an eighteenth-century merchant ship built by the Royal African Company to transport slaves to the New World, was commandeered in 1717 by the Pirate "Black Sam" Bellamy. It capsized and sank in a storm off the coast of Wellfleet on April 26, 1717. Dating from the gold age of piracy, the 'Whydah' is the only pirate wreck ever discovered. According to the recorded testimony of the eight pirates who survived the wreck, Captain Bellamy attacked and raided merchant vessels throughout the Caribbean and, at the time of the sinking, the 'Whydah' carried plunder of more than fifty other ships. The discovery of the 'Whydah' in 1982 by salvage expert Barry Clifford was one of the most important archeological finds of the century.



The exhibition combines a representative sampling of artifacts recovered from the 'Whydah' such as weaponry, jewelry, gold doubloons, "pieces of eight" and personal effects of the pirates, as well as a working conservation laboratory. Here, conservators, surrounded by treatment tanks containing additional artifacts, work on reducing concretions (heavily encrusted masses of sand, stone, and objects) in full view of the public.

The wreck was irrefutably identified as the 'Whydah' in October 1985 when Barry Clifford recovered the ship's bronze bell, which is inscribed "The Whydah Gally 1716." The bell is one of the centerpieces of the exhibit.

Provincetown artist F. Ronald Fowler was commissioned to do a hypothetical portrait of Captain Bellamy for the exhibition, using as props actual pieces of clothing, a pirate's pistol, silver buttons, and other objects that have been recovered and which are on display next to the portrait.

The foremost historical marine painter in the world today, John Batchelor, was likewise commissioned to do a portrait of the ship, which has been expanded to mural size. Other paintings and drawings explain the sinking and salvage operation.

Each visitor to the exhibition is provided with a Soundalive recorded tour, which explains the various exhibits, and the visitor may also stop anywhere along the tour to examine an object or to ask questions of the conservators on duty. More than 10,000 visitors have already viewed the exhibition since its opening on April 26th, the 274th anniversary of the sinking of the 'Whydah.'



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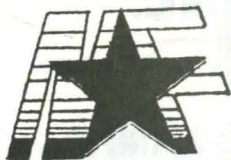
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The 1991 Blessing of the Fleet Committee wishes to sincerely thank every person who in any way helped with the organization of this year's events.

If not for community involvement, financially and otherwise, this part of Provincetown's tradition would cease its existence. May the fishermen's blessings be reflected onto all whom have participated.

44th Blessing Committee
Kevin J. Ferreira, Chairman
Austin L. Rose, Jr. Co-Chairman

1991 BLESSING of the FLEET

Schedule of Events

Thursday, June 27, 1991 Decorating of Lopes Square and MacMillan Pier

Friday, June 28, 1991

7 - 8:30pm

Lower Cape Concert Band performance at the Bas Relief behind Town Hall

7 - 1am

44th Annual Fisherman's Banquet at the Provincetown Inn Tiffany Room. Fishermen, wives and guests. Dedication of the 1991 Blessing Entertainment by Second Generation Band with Singer David Guevia.

Saturday, June 29, 1991

9 am - noon

Children's games and puppet show at Motta's Field. Barbeque, prizes, etc.

noon - 6pm

Tent Festival, clam boil at Motta's Field. Clams served 1pm on. \$10.00 donation. **Arts & Crafts Fair** sponsored by Provincetown Art Association. **Portuguese/American entertainment** by Second Generation, Forty Thieves and the United Fishermen's Club of New Bedford. Programs, raffle tickets, T-shirts on sale. Raffle prizes: First \$500.00 Savings Bond, Second 2 \$100.00 Savings Bonds, Third 3 \$50.00 Savings Bonds.

8 - 9pm

Portuguese Folklore Dancing & Singing by the United Fishermen's Club of New Bedford.

9pm - 1am

Old Home Week Dance, in the Provincetown, Inn Mayflower Room. Top 40 and contemporary music by the Meadow Larks, a 16 piece big band. Also featuring music from Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey and Count Basie. A \$10.00 per adult donation will be asked at the door to help defray transportation and food costs. Open to the public.

Sunday, June 30, 1991

11am

44th Annual Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Peter the Apostle R. C. Church celebrated by Most Reverend Daniel A. Cronin, Bishop of Fall River, Rev. Bento Fraga, pastor and other clergymen.

12:30pm

Parade from St. Peter's to MacMillan Wharf

2pm

44th Annual Blessing of the Fleet of Provincetown

3 - 5pm

Concert at the Bas Relief by the Meadow Larks Dixieland Band and the St. Andrews Ladies Pipe Band and Dancers.