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Op/Sail
NEM

BICENTENNIAL PROVINCETOWN



April 28, 1976

Henry R. Leo, Consul
Royal Consulate General of Sweden
825 Third Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022

Dear Mr. Leo:

Provincetown looks forward to the pleasure of a visit from H. Sw. M. S. Älvsnabben in June. As we discussed over the phone, the timing of her visit is fortunate in that it coincides with the Annual Blessing of the Provincetown Fishing Fleet.

The Blessing of the Fleet and related celebrations are under the direction of the Committee for the Blessing of the Fleet. The Committee is made up of representatives from the Provincetown fishing fleet. Mr. Sonny Roderick is the Chairman of the Committee.

Provincetown is an Official Outport for Operation Sail 1976 and, as a part of the Town's Bicentennial Celebration, the Provincetown Bicentennial Commission and the Provincetown Chamber of Commerce are working with the Blessing of the Fleet Committee to assist with liaison and in any other ways which the Committee wishes.

The Committee for the Blessing of the Fleet is most enthusiastic and hopes to include H.M.S. Älvsnabben and her personnel in their celebrations. Mr. Roderick and the Committee have made preliminary arrangements with the U.S. Coast Guard, various Town Authorities, and local civic groups. As you will

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see from the enclosed schedule, Provincetown plans to salute the Älvsnabben, to welcome the ships officers and crew to the Fishermen's Dance, to hold a special softball game for the Älvsnabben's crew, and to invite her officers and crew to the concert to be held on Sunday afternoon. The Committee hopes that a contingent from the Älvsnabben will join in the Fishermen's Parade and that the officers and crew will join in wishing the fishermen of Provincetown safe voyages and bountiful catches in the year to come.

The Committee thanks the Älvsnabben for her offer to hold a reception and the Committee will be pleased to accept the hospitality of the ship.

Through the generosity of the Board of Directors of the Cape Cod Pilgrim Memorial Association and the Board of Trustees of the Provincetown Heritage Museum, the Committee has arranged for the personnel of the Älvsnabben to visit the Pilgrim Monument and Museum and the Heritage Museum at no charge.

The Committee will arrange for transport from the Bay side to the ocean if the Älvsnabben wishes, although swimming is also available and pleasant on the Bay side. The Committee is also working on arrangements for conveying personnel from the Älvsnabben to the shore as you requested. We will advise on this and other details in the near future.

We are forwarding for your information and consideration a schedule of events for the Blessing of the Fleet this year, a brochure of last years Blessing, a brochure about Provincetown, and a brief history and description of Provincetown.

In case you wish to contact the Committee or the Commission, We have provided the addresses and phone numbers below.

Mr. Sonny Roderick, Chairman
Committee for the Blessing of the Fleet

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8 Conant Street
Provincetown, Massachusetts 02657

Telephone: Area Code; 617
Number ; 487-0783

Mrs. W.A. McNulty, Chairman
Provincetown Bicentennial Commission
586 Commercial Street
Provincetown, Massachusetts 02657

Telephone: Area Code; 617
Number ; 487-1674

We hope that you will be pleased with the arrangements which have been planned. We look forward to the Älvsnabbens visit and to the opportunity of giving her Provincetown's traditional warm welcome.

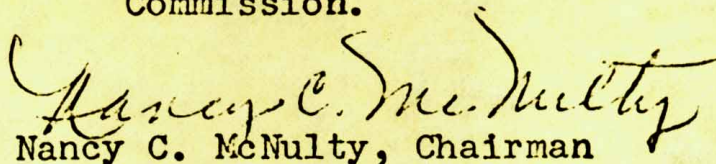
Very truly yours,

Committee for the Blessing
of the Fleet.



Sonny Roderick, Chairman

Provincetown Bicentennial
Commission.



Nancy C. McNulty, Chairman

Encl.

Copies: Mr. Wendell N. Gustafson, Consul for Sweden
in Boston.
The Board of Selectmen, Town of Provincetown.
The Provincetown Chamber of Commerce.
Miss Sandy Pollock, Operation Sail 1976, N.Y.

29th ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE FLEET
JUNE 25th, 26th, 27th, 1976

FRIDAY'S EVENTS

- 10:00 A.M. Guided tours on the fishing dragger, Liberty Bell.
- 10:30 A.M. Fishing contest for all children.
Held at the end of MacMillan Wharf under the
direction of Recreation Director, David Oliver.
- 1:30 P.M. All children welcome for water games and prizes at
MacMillan Wharf Beach.
- 6:00 P.M. Happy Hour for the fishermen, wives and their guests
at the Rum Runner Restaurant followed by a banquet.
Entertainment by the Four of Us.

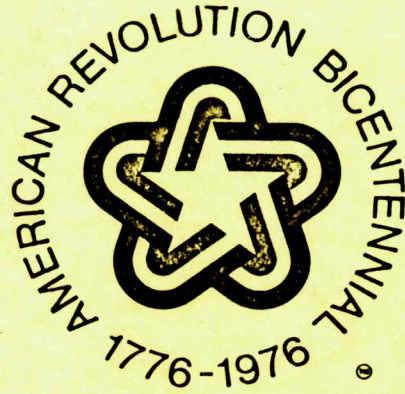
SATURDAY'S EVENTS

- 9:00 A.M. Cannon salute and anchoring of the H.M.S. Älvsnabben
A Swedish minelaying ship. Part of the Bicentennial
Reviewing Fleet. The Swedish warship has a length
of 334 feet and a crew of 170.
- 9:30 A.M. All children welcome for games, prizes and refreshments
at Motta Field.
- 10:00 A.M. 2nd Annual Arts & Crafts Fair at the MacMillan Wharf
parking lot. Over 140 exhibits overlooking Prov-
incetown Harbor.
- 11:00 A.M. First Annual Fish Dinner sponsored by the Blessing of
TO the Fleet and Rotary Club of Provincetown. Held
7:00 P.M. under a tent at the Compact Area behind Town Hall.
- 1:30 P.M. Softball game. The Crew of H.M.S. Älvsnabben vs.
the Provincetown Fishermen. Held at Motta Field.
- 8:30 P.M. Senior Citizen Ball. Music by the Four of Us. Held
at the Town Hall.
- 9:30 P.M. Fishermen's Dance. Welcoming the crew of the Älvsnabben.
Open to the public. Music by the Four of Us. Held
at the Town Hall.

SUNDAY'S EVENTS

- 9:45 A.M. Parade. Fishermen, Coast Guard, Crew of the Älvsnabben,
and marching bands gather at MacMillan Wharf for parade
to St. Peter's Church.
- 10:00 A.M. Opening of the Arts & Crafts Fair.
- 11:00 A.M. Fishermen's High Mass of Thanksgiving by his Most
Reverend Bishop Daniel Cronin.
- 12:00 P.M. Procession of Bishop Daniel Cronin, Fishermen, members
of the Clergy and marching units to MacMillan Wharf
for the Blessing of the Fleet.
- 1:30 P.M. Blessing of the Fishing Fleet by Bishop Cronin held at
the end of MacMillan Wharf.
- 3:00 P.M. Outdoor Band Concert. Held at the Compact Area behind
the Town Hall. Music by the Taleb Grotto Band.

BICENTENNIAL PROVINCETOWN



PROVINCETOWN

The following material is presented
to provide visitors with information on
Provincetown, it's people, it's history,
and it's culture.

PROVINCETOWN

HARBOR AND FACILITIES

Provincetown has a large, sheltered, deep water harbor which has been used by ships, large and small, since the 1600's. The harbor has anchored hundreds of ships at a time (Thoreau's estimate in 1849 was about 400 ships on one occasion). President Teddy Roosevelt's Great White Fleet of naval vessels anchored here in 1907. There were eight battleships together with numerous cruisers and other warships. The President himself received their 21 gun salute as he sailed the fleet in line on his yacht Mayflower. At the turn of the century the United States Navy (Battleships, Cruisers, Destroyers, etc.) paid annual 4th of July visits to Provincetown. These visits continued until interrupted by the First World War. In more recent times, the U.S. North Atlantic Fleet has visited Provincetown right on up through the 1960's. A NATO flotilla was our guest in the late 1960's. We have hosted many square rigged vessels including the Eagle, the Sagres, the Libertad, and others.

Our fine harbor and Provincetown's traditional hospitality are the attractions which have brought these ships and, we hope, will be attractive to ships considering visiting Provincetown in the future.

The Town itself, its people, and the surrounding areas offer much of interest to visitors. The very large numbers of visitors who come to Provincetown each year are an indication of the varied attractions which Provincetown offers. In addition to the Town's attractions, we are fortunate in being located in the midst of the Cape Cod National Seashore with its beaches, bicycle trails, dune areas, and its visitors center.

The facilities and services of the Town are well developed and ample to accommodate vessels as well as large groups of people. We are confident that our visitors will be comfortable and well taken care of.

We believe that visitors will find Provincetown, with its mixture of old world, Yankee, and modern cultures, interesting and memorable.

PROVINCETOWN

WEATHER

The weather in the Provincetown area is quite pleasant all year around. Typical temperatures and rainfall as well as information on tides and length of the day are given below.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Temperature</u>	<u>Rainfall</u>	<u>Tides</u>	<u>Length of Day</u>
June	64° F.	2.9 in./mo.	8-11 ft.	15 hr.
July	71	3.0	8-11	14-15
August	69	3.5	8-11	13-14
September	63	2.8	8-11	12-13

PROVINCETOWN

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Provincetown has had a very long maritime legacy extending back to before 1000 AD when Vikings landed and encountered the first true settlers, the Indians. The Norsemen established settlements and returned in subsequent years to continue their explorations. The first recorded instance of whaling was by Vikings here on Cape Cod. Viking ruins are still found from time to time under the buildings in Provincetown's West End.

In November of 1620 the Pilgrims dropped anchor in Provincetown Harbor and came ashore for the first time since leaving the Old World. The first English child, Peregrine White, was born in Provincetown Harbor. Having achieved their landfall after a long and frightening voyage, they assembled and drew up a document which has come to be known as the Mayflower Compact. This document is considered to be the root of democratic government in America and is the ancestor of our Constitution.

During the 1600's and early 1700's Provincetown and the outer Cape was settled by men pursuing the mackerel and cod fisheries. Enough English settlers had arrived by about 1727 to incorporate Provincetown as a Town. Prior to about 1760, inshore fishing and beach whaling made up the activities of the Town. By 1760 deep water fishing and whaling was coming of age in the New England ports and Provincetown is reported to have been home port for about a dozen whalers and a cod-fishing fleet which worked the Labrador coast.

During the Revolutionary War, men from Provincetown and other Cape towns joined the Continental forces and also formed militia forces at home for protection. There were a number of encounters between these militia units and the forces of several of His Majesty's ships such as the Spencer and the Somerset. The British 60 gun frigate Somerset, well known for her participation in the blockade of Boston and the bombardment of Bunker Hill, used Provincetown Harbor as a port from which she sallied forth to attack Continental and French shipping. Returning from a sortie against French Merchantmen, the Somerset came aground about two miles east of Provincetown's Race Point in November of 1778 and was wrecked. Captain Aurey and some 300 of his men were taken prisoner and marched off to Boston. The remains of the Somerset still lie beneath the sand at Race

PROVINCETOWN, HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Point and every 60 to 80 years the shifting sands uncover her remains briefly and then cover them again.

Fishing had been the mainstay of Provincetown's economy since the 1600's and by 1790 some 20 ships are recorded as working out of Provincetown---by 1802, 62 ships. The average yearly catch at this time is reported as 11,088,000 pounds. Following the Revolution, deep water whaling started to come into its heyday. Provincetown, Nantucket, and New Bedford emerged as the principal whaling ports. The Provincetown whalers left their home port with minimum crews and filled the crews out in the Azores and other places. The Portuguese crewmen often returned to the home ports with the ships and settled. During the late 1800's there was a large influx of men from Cape Breton and other coastal towns in eastern Nova Scotia who joined the Yankees and Portuguese in manning the fishing fleet. The descendants of these men are still here.

Grand Banks fishing developed concurrently with whaling during the 1800's with trap fishing growing into another major factor starting in 1851. As the demand for whale oil decreased in the later 1800's, deepwater fishing of the Banks became the Town's major industry. Fleets of literally hundreds of ships, brigs, schooners, etc. were a common sight in Provincetown Harbor in the 1860's, 1870's and 1880's. 55 wharves lined the harbor along Commercial Street in 1867 and salt works were numerous. One of the distinctive features of the Provincetown shoreline during this era was large numbers of individual pumps used to furnish the salt for fish preservation.

Immigration of Portuguese, Nova Scotian, and some Irish fishermen continued throughout the 1800's and from 1870 to 1900 Provincetown had the largest population of any town on Cape Cod. The last whaler is reported to have left Provincetown in the early 1900's. The famous whaler, Charles W. Morgan was owned and registered in Provincetown during her last three whaling voyages (1918-1921). Deep water fishing declined during the same period, but inshore fishing continues to the present day. Catches are still running in the range of 11,000,000 pounds per year.

While Provincetown has remained a fishing town to this day, new elements have entered her culture since the turn of the century. Starting about 1915, a Fine Arts and Literary colony began to develop and a summer theater colony followed shortly thereafter. Such names as Eugene O'Neill, Mary Vorse, Sinclair Lewis, Charles Hawthorne, and many others have sprung from Provincetown's intellectual community.

Provincetown has served as a summer resort since the late

PROVINCETOWN, HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

1800's. It has become especially well known since World War II and now a typical summer's day finds 25,000 to 30,000 people visiting the Town.

Thus, today, Provincetown is still a fishing town. It is unique in being, at the same time, a center for the arts and theater and a thriving summer resort. Still strongly represented among its people are the old Yankees, the Portuguese, and the Nova Scotia Scots together with those who have come to live here from other parts of America over the last 75 years.

Provincetown's seafaring tradition is still the principal element in its character and today's fishing industry in Provincetown promises to keep alive its maritime heritage.



ROYAL CONSULATE GENERAL OF SWEDEN
IN NEW YORK

825 Third Avenue, 38 fl
New York, N.Y. 10022

April 14, 1976

Provincetown Chamber of Commerce
307 Commonwealth
Provincetown, MA 02657

Re: H. Sw. M. S. Älvsnabben

Dear Sirs:

In conjunction with the bicentennial celebration there will, as you no doubt know, be a sailing parade in New York Harbor on July 4, 1976. Reviewing the parade from the Hudson River will be a fleet of some 50 naval vessels from several countries. Sweden will be represented in both the parade and the review fleet. The Swedish participant in the review fleet, the HMS Älvsnabben, intends to anchor up on the bay-side of Provincetown from June 26 to June 28.

I enclose for your guidance a memo regarding the "Älvsnabben".

The visit to Provincetown is of course strictly unofficial. It is intended partly to be able to put the ship in shape before the parade in New York and partly to allow the sailors possibilities to swim. The purpose of this letter is two-fold. Namely 1/ to inform you of the forthcoming visit, 2/ to ask you if it is possible to provide for the "Älvsnabben" launches to take the crew from the ship to shore and busses to take them from the bayside to the oceanside where I understand the beaches are located.

Any help or advise you can give us in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Henry R. Leo
Consul

cc: Mr. Wendell N. Gustafson, Consul for Sweden in Boston

New York

Memo regarding HMS Älvsnabben

I. Data about the ship

- a. The HMS Älvsnabben is a minelaying ship built at Eriksbergs Shipyard in Gothenburg and delivered to the Royal Swedish Navy in 1943. She was originally designed as a merchant vessel. To increase the minelaying capacity of the Swedish Navy during World War II, the Navy bought the drawings and made suitable changes to make her a minelayer.
- b. HMS Älvsnabben has a displacement of 4.250 tons. The dimensions are: length 334 feet, beam 46 feet, draught 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet and height of mast 98 feet.
- c. Her armament consist of two six inch guns, two 57 and two 40 m/m anti aircraft guns.
- d. The propulsion machinery is a dieselengine which gives the ship a speed of 10 knots.
- e. HMS Älvsnabben is a saluting ship.

II. Crew

- a. The Commanding Officer is Captain Nils Hellström and the total crew is expected to be about 170.
- b. In the Swedish Armed forces, Warrant Officers now have Officers' titles such as Lieutenant and Sub-Lieutenant. Petty Officers have Warrant Officers' titles, e.g. Master Sergeant, Sergeant etc.
- c. The uniform of the Cadets and Officer Apprentices is essentially the same as that of the ratings except that the cap ribbon for the former categories reads "Kungl. Sjökrigsskolan" whereas for the latter category it reads: "Älvsnabben".
- d. Shore leave is normally granted on the same grounds as those applied by the Navy in the country visited.

Band (MHz)	A	B	C
4	4182	4216	4195
6	6273	6324	6292,5
8	8366	8432	8390
12	12546	12648	12585
16	16728	16864	16780
22	22245	22352,5	22290

A= Calling frequencies

B and C = Traffic frequencies

Transmitting methods A1, A3, A3A, A3H, A3J

d. It is desired that two, mostly three, telephone lines be connected to the ship. The ship will provide English speaking operators.

V. Official visits, entertainment etc.

a. The morning of the arrival is to be set aside for Official visits by the Commanding Officer, and/or a press conference.

b. The Commanding Officer is prepared to host, while in Portland, a luncheon, a dinner and a reception. The meals will have to be limited to 10 guests, the reception to between 100 and 200 people from shore, officials, members of the Swedish colony etc. (Prince of Fundy, New Sweden etc.).

VI. Other points for the program

a. The crew with the exception of the Commanding Officer, Executive Officer and some other senior officers have watches with one half of the force on during working hours (until 16.00 hours). Thus engagements ashore for more than half the personnel cannot be arranged at the same time.

b. The Commanding Officer would appreciate it if - when possible - representatives of all categories - thus not only officers or cadets - are kept in mind for "official" entertainment ashore.

c. It would be valuable if excursions could be arranged to interesting sites, especially those with a "local" connotation.

d. Coaches will probably be required for the transportation of the sailors to such places or for other sight-seeing. The costs should if possible be paid in advance.

III. Arrival, berthing etc. (desirable services)

- a. The HMS Älvsnabben will arrive in the morning (probably 09.00 hours).
- b. Pilots and tugboats are desired both at arrival and departure.
- c. If a salute from the Älvsnabben is expected to be fired, where is it so expected and from where on shore will the salute be answered.
- d. It is preferable if the HMS Älvsnabben can be berthed alongside.
- e. It is preferable that she be tied with the starboard side against the pier.
- f. It is desired that a roped off area be provided.
- g. It is a strong desire that a fresh water supply be connected to the ship and used continually during the entire stay.
- h. It is requested that refuse may be emptied ashore or that a refuse barge be provided..
- i. Departure time should not be before 10 A.M. in order that necessary bank and postal transactions may be effectuated. Other circumstances, such as tide, nautical conditions and others must, of course, also be taken into account.
- j. The Commanding Officer would appreciate to be informed whether costs for pilots, tugs, refuse barges, harbor dues etc. will be charged.

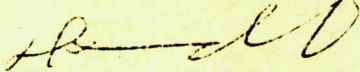
IV. Telecommunications

- a. A permit for the ship to use her radiostations for communications with Sweden is desirable.
- b. HMS Älvsnabbens international calling signal is SCIB.
- c. The desired frequencies are found in the following table:

KUNGL.
SVENSKA GENERALKONSULATET

- e. The HMS Älvsnabben may, if it is considered desirable, be shown to the public one or two days for a period not exceeding two hours each time.

New York, April 7, 1916



Henry R. Leo
Consul