

Provincetown Advocate - - April 12, 1973

Boston-To-Provincetown Boat Begins Service In June

Sometime during the first week in June, a white 135-foot triple-decked passenger ship with the word "Provincetown" written on her bow will steam into Provincetown Harbor.

The time will be close to noon, and captain Richard Nakasian will have cut back his boat's two 1800 horsepower Caterpillar diesel engines to a near idle.

As the boat nears MacMillan Wharf, Nakasian's passengers will move towards the decks' rails—some of them probably seeing Provincetown from the water for the first time.

A couple of minutes later, the Provincetown will slide into its berth at the end of the Wharf, and the passengers will disembark—the first to do so

since Boston-to-Provincetown on-the-water public transportation was suspended in 1966.

The resumption of Boston-to-Provincetown passenger boat service was officially announced this week in a publicity mailing by the Bay State Spray & Provincetown Steamship Company.

In its literature, the company included a drawing and list of specifications of the Provincetown, a press release from Nakasian, who owns the company, describing the ship's launching in South Bristol, Maine on April 5, and a fancy, two-color brochure describing what the Boston-Provincetown trip will be like.

(Last week, this paper

reported the cruises might not begin until late summer. A check with Nakasian's company on Tuesday proved otherwise. The cruises will begin the first week in June, a Bay State Spray company spokesman said, and hopefully on June 1. The Provincetown, according to the contract with the Maine shipyard, is to be delivered the last week in May, and the day of the first official trip will depend on the exact delivery date.)

The brochure says the trips will be daily in late June, July, and August, and weekends only in late May (next year), early June, and in September and October.

The Provincetown will leave from 20 Long Wharf in Boston at 9:30 in the morning, and will arrive in Provincetown at MacMillan Wharf (at space rented from the town for \$4000 a year) at approximately 12:30 in the afternoon.

In Provincetown, the brochure says, there will be "an opportunity to meander through Provincetown's narrow winding streets, view the majestic monument that commemorates the original landfall of the Pilgrim fathers and the signing of the Mayflower Compact, visit the profusion of intriguing shops displaying exotic selections from the four corners of the globe, and distinctive handmade pottery, glass, leather goods, and jewelry by native craftsmen..."

After all this, plus lunch at one of our "attractive wharf restaurants overlooking the colorful Portuguese fishing fleet," the traveler will reboard the Provincetown at about 3:30 in the afternoon, for the three-hour return trip to Boston.

The round-trip boat ride will cost (according to the present rate schedule) \$10, with no apparent discounts for children

or the elderly. A one-way ticket will cost the same amount.

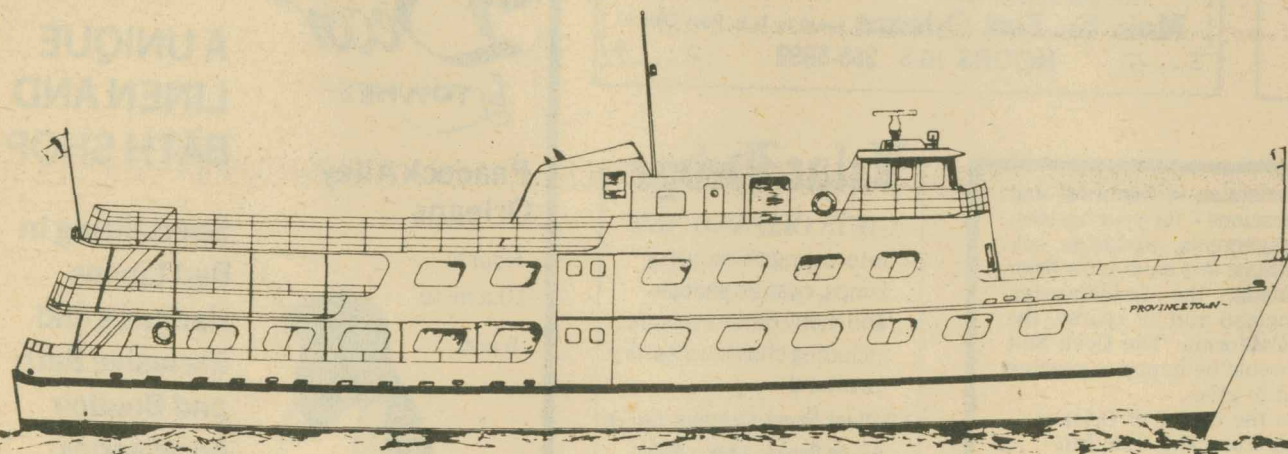
The ship, herself, has three decks, is steel-hulled, and is "the largest and fastest passenger vessel operating under the American flag between Cape Cod and Canadian waters." She has a cocktail lounge, a dining room, and "ample seating throughout."

Built by the Harvey F. Gamage shipyard, the Provincetown carries radar, a ship-to-shore radio, a depth sounder, and a public address system on all decks. She also has two staterooms.

According to the company's press release about the ship's launching, Nakasian says, "We feel that the Provincetown is filling a need. It will help alleviate traffic congestion to Provincetown and provide passengers with a pleasant, relaxing water route from Boston to the Cape."

The First Week of the New Boston Boat

June 4, 1973



The Boston-to-Provincetown passenger boat began service this past weekend.

The 135-foot "Provincetown" is making a daily round-trip on Saturday and Sunday during June from Long Wharf in Boston to MacMillan Wharf off Commercial Street in the center of Provincetown.

Service will be extended to seven days a week in July and August.

The 600-capacity passenger boat (no

cars; it's not a ferry) will leave Boston at 9:30 in the morning and arrive in Provincetown at 12:30 in the afternoon. The boat will return on the same day, leaving Provincetown at 3:30 in the afternoon and arriving in Boston at 6:30 in the evening.

Passengers not wanting to leave Provincetown the same day they arrive, or people who wish to go to Boston in the afternoon, and return to the Cape the next day, will be permitted to do so

with the same Boston-to-Provincetown single-day ticket.

However these tickets will be granted on a standby basis depending on how full the boat is at sailing time.

Passengers on the "Provincetown" can relax during the three-hour trip by leisurely strolling the boat's three decks, eating in the dining room or having a drink in the ship's cocktail lounge.

The Boat 1977

The slowest, but probably most delightful way to commute from Provincetown to Boston is by boat. The Bay State Spray and Provincetown Steamship Company is resuming its daily service July 1. The Provincetown, a 135-foot, steel-hulled, 600-passenger boat, will make one run daily from Long Wharf in Boston to MacMillan Wharf in Provincetown. The boat makes one run on both Saturdays and Sundays during June.

The boat leaves Boston at 9:30 a.m. and arrives in Provincetown at 1 p.m. On the same-day return trip the boat leaves Provincetown at 3:15 p.m., arriving in Boston at 6:45 p.m.

There are no reservations, but tickets can be bought in advance at 20 Long Wharf in Boston. For adults the cost is \$12 round trip, \$8 for a one-way ticket. In Provincetown you can buy tickets at the Chamber of Commerce next to MacMillan Wharf.

There is a \$2 charge for bicycles, which can be stored on the bottom deck. On board, there are snack bars serving soft and hard drinks, sandwiches and cakes and live entertainment.