

Voters want cold storage plant

By NEIL G. NICKERSON
PROVINCETOWN — An article will be inserted in the special town meeting warrant, scheduled for May 21 at the high school auditorium, seeking acquisition by the town of the old East end cold storage plant at 501 Commercial St.

This was assured before a capacity audience at Monday night's regular selectmen's meeting, when a petition seeking the action was submitted by Munro Moore. The petition contained 269 signatures, chairman of selectmen Marion Taves said.

The petition reads: "We, the undersigned registered voters of the Town of Provincetown, respectfully request the honorable board of Selectmen of the Town of Provincetown to insert an

article in the warrant for the May 21, 1970 special town meeting, which will provide for the acquisition by the town of the East End cold storage property for the public purpose of recreation, or such other public purposes as may be subsequently voted by the town."

Selectman Taves said Gary Ross, owner of the premises, who had installed a much discussed 40-foot trailer at the site, to live in while rejuvenating the place, had been invited to present his plans to the board, but did not appear. A letter was received saying that he couldn't appear.

- September 14, 1907

An Italian workman, employed at the new Consolidated Weir Co. freezer at Provincetown, fell through a scuttle and was so badly injured that he lived less than an hour.

From: "Cape Tip Breeze"
- 1950 -

Provincetown Advocate - - May 21, 1970

Town May Buy Ice House To Make It A Playground

The Town may be able to negotiate an amicable purchase of the former ice house property on Commercial Street in the East End.

At a Finance Committee hearing Monday night in Town Hall, Gary Ross, owner of the ice house site, told the FinCom he would be willing to negotiate with the Town.

His comments were made during discussion of an article on tonight's Warrant authorizing the sum of \$86,000 to take the property.

The article was placed on the Warrant as the result of a petition circulated by FinCom Vice Chairman Munro Moore, who disqualified himself from the FinCom during discussion of the article.

Mr. Moore said his interest in the old ice house property dates back to shortly after last year's Annual Town Meeting when he found children playing in the hulking concrete structure.

He said it was nighttime. And while chasing the children out of the ice house, he noticed an open

40-foot elevator shaft.

The dangerous situation prompted him to go to the Building Inspector who had it boarded up.

Mr. Moore said he has discussed the ice house with various Town boards and officials since the Annual Meeting to try and find out how the Town could acquire the property.

He said the site would be ideal to relocate the present East End playground, which, he said, is located at the site of a former coal yard on a busy intersection. The traffic is dangerous to the children who play there, he said, and the coal dust filters through the sand-covered playground making it a very dirty place to play.

He said the problem of where to move the East End playground has been brought up at various Town Meetings, but never resolved because an alternate site was not available.

The present playground could be truned into a parking lot—handling at least 30 cars, he suggested.

The Atlantic Coast Fisheries Company, with its four plants at Provincetown, recognized authority on whiting, developed a fillet machine for whiting that now cuts the fish into fillet form and prepares them for sale over the entire country.

The machine is automatic and enables the company to put on the market a fillet of value that could not be produced by hand within a reasonable cost, it is said. The fish, also cut as the "butterfly type" resembling the wings of a butterfly, have been selling chiefly in the Chicago and Pittsburgh markets. Frozen singly they lend themselves to the sandwich trade and have become popular at roadside stands in the West as "hot dogs" are popular in the East.

Whiting production—or catches—in the New England area eight years ago was approximately 34,000,000 pounds. About 60 traps (fish weirs) costing about \$5,000 each, in 1942, were used off Provincetown to produce the whiting. Small boats manned by five-man crews draw the traps daily from May to October, getting under-way at 4:30 a.m.

In more recent years the large Provincetown dragger fleet have also been reaping the whiting harvest and bring in hundreds of barrels from off-shore. Today the whiting business is probably our most important "seasonal" fishing item. And even at this late date the fishermen can still be heard "bemoaning" the millions of dollars of whiting (Silver Perch) that were dumped overboard as "trash."