

Written by the Editor
of "The Cape Codder"

Jack Johnson

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In The Lee

Angus Matheson's was my first stop in Provincetown. Captain Matheson was a rugged Scot who had fished in some far places. He told me one time how a Barbadoes black crept up to his bunk and how he almost got knifed in the gizzard. But his story of how he defied the Russian navy in the Bering Sea is a pip. They finally invited him aboard ship and returned his papers with due respect and offered him a noggin of vodka in the hospitality of the officers quarters. Meanwhile Captain Matheson's mate, Mr. Lindsay, was trying to stir up a mutiny and get the fishing schooner back to San Francisco. I've never forgotten the Scotch burr in his description of this incident. He told how he came on deck and found Mr. Lindsay haranguing the crew. It seemed he was always in command of his ship, for he rumbled to the mate . . . "Mr. Lindsay, you're no good to the ship, you're no good to yourself, you'd best go home."

It was Angus Matheson's bathtub I jumped out of early one evening and got to the phone to receive the biggest newspaper assignment of my career. City Editor Edward Dunn of the Boston Post was calling me to get the first eyewitness story of the submarine S-4 disaster outside Provincetown Harbor.

Tony Marshall had his smoke-filled poolroom—the fishermen's hangout—close by Dr. Hiebert's office in the center of town. On the other side of the street Duncan Matheson had his big drygoods store and the cellar was a cavern of rubber boots, sou'westers, oilskins, overshoes, rubbers and other hard weather wear. It was quite a sight, seeing the city newspaper fellows swoop down on Duncan Matheson's place to fit themselves out in seagoing wear soon after they hit town to cover the S-4

story. I remember the newsreel man, too, who set his camera in the center of Commercial Street to grind off some "local atmosphere."

Angus and Duncan Matheson were boon companions and they would have morning chats in the old store, which burned down not too long ago, and now the site is occupied by Arnold's handsome, modern store. Duncan had a big Scot's frame, the same as Angus. When the New Deal revolution was starting up I would drop into his store and he would inevitably greet me . . . "Well, what do you think of Mister Roosevelt today?"

There was John Matheson who'd been a United Fruit boat skipper. He and Angus were great pals. Captain John would frequently visit Angus' home. Frequently I would hear them downstairs, worked up to a terrific argument. Then the door would close with a jolt and Captain John would be off in a hot spirit. You'd think the two would never again exchange words. But Captain John would be back the next day or the day following and ultimately there would be another fierce argument.

At Tony Marshall's poolroom that evening when I got called from the bathtub at Angus Matheson's home, I found Manuel Zora and hired him to take me out in his canvas-back fishing dory to the Coast Guard boat Paulding that had rammed the bow of the S-4 as she rose to the surface. This was my first contact with the fishing colony and the beginning of my newspaper career in Provincetown. —J.J.

Advocate—Feb. 5, 1873

A new invoice of Ladies House Dresses, sizes from 34 to 53, price One Dollar and upwards. Matheson's Department Store.

-- 1875 --

A good thing—try it! D. A. Matheson has just received a new article in the shape of a ladies overshoe, which is neat and answers the purpose of rubber boots. Also a large line of Boots, Shoes and Rubbers. Call an dexamine stock.

July 1902

D.A. Matheson is having his store painted a rich shade of cardinal red, an attractive color of advertising value for so large and prosperous a firm.

December 15, 1903

Our line of Ladies' Shirt Waists was never more complete, great variety of cheviots and silks, at D. A. Matheson's.

A large assortment of Ladies' button boots to close out, at low prices, at Matheson's Department Store. Advt.

December 5, 1918

Yarmouth Register
July 18, 1891

Mr. Duncan Matheson of Provincetown, has opened his store and has put in a line of boots and shoes and gent's furnishing goods, under the charge of Capt. John Cole.

From Deyo's "History of Barnstable County!"

Duncan A. Matheson, born in Richmond county, Cape Breton, N.S., February 8, 1848, is a son of Donald and Flora Matheson. Donald Matheson was the son of Murdock and Anne Matheson, of Lock Alsh, Rosshire, Scotland. Flora Matheson was the daughter of John and Katherine Matheson, also of Lock Alsh, Rosshire, Scotland. Duncan A. came to Provincetown in September, 1872, and opened a shoe store. In 1881 he added a clothing department, and in October, 1884, opened a branch store in Wellfleet. In August, 1884 he married Irene P., daughter of William and Rebecca Bush, of Provincetown. They have one daughter, Rebecca Florence Matheson.