

EDWIN ATKINS GROZIER,
PUBLISHER FROM PROVINCETOWN
(The Cape Codder) (April 27, 1950)
By Gustavus Swift Paine

In the middle of the Golden Gate, San Francisco, Edwin At-kins Grozier was born September 12, 1859. His father, Captain Joshua F. Grozier, was master of famous clipper ships sailing between Boston, New York, and San Francisco. The Groziers have been a small but interesting family of Truro and Provincetown.

Edwin Grozier went to grammar school and high school in Provincetown, until he was 15. Then his family sent him on a trip of two years around the world, largely on windjammers, learning to take care of himself in any circumstances. He attended Brown and graduated from Boston University, where he helped pay his way by working as a reporter on newspapers.

After being secretary to Governor George D. Robinson in 1883-4, he became secretary and assistant for 6 years to Joseph Pulitzer of the World, New York. In October 1891 he purchased a controlling interest in the Boston Post, taking over debts of about \$150,000, and eventually paying them in full. By the time of World War I he had increased its circulation from 20,000 to over 650,000. He insisted on accuracy in the reporting and writing of the news, won the affection of his readers, and treated his employees liberally.

The Post raised money to buy three elephants for the Boston zoo, and later helped get for the zoo the largest hippopotamus in captivity and two sacred cows. Grozier believed in appealing to civic pride, generosity, interest in animals, and love of parents for children. In 1906 he established a Santa Claus department at Christmas, and soon was raising funds to give presents annually to about 150,000 needy children. Meanwhile he had imported fine ebony from Africa, made it up into gold-headed canes, and gave one to the oldest man in each New England community. Later he gave each day a Ford to the one sending in the best news item. Cape Codders know that shrewdness was in his ancestral background. Once, when his rival, the Boston Journal, was in financial difficulties, he supplied for several weeks from his own pocket the money to pay the Journal men.

To an employee who had finished 50 years of service with the Post, he wrote: "I hope that through these many years, you have come to regard the Post not merely as a place to work but in a certain sense as an industrial home, and have come to regard the members of the Post staff, who are so zealously working with you, not merely as co-workers for a weekly stipend, but as members of the Post family—all interested in the welfare and in the happiness of one another. . . I have never regarded the Post as merely a piece of private property, to be conducted for mercenary ends, but rather as an institution to be managed for the public

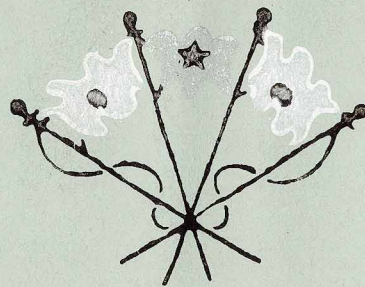
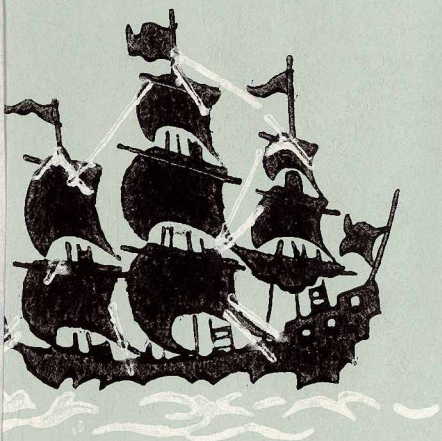
good, and to be made a force in the community, for the promotion of the welfare of our city, state, and nation."

One piece of his writing that is in the libraries is "The Wreck of the Somerset," Provincetown 1887. He married November 26, 1881 Alice G. Goodell of Salem. Edwin Atkins Grozier died in Cambridge May 9, 1924. On the Post he supervised personally every department of the business, and no detail was too small to receive his careful scrutiny. The Groziers have continued to publish the Boston Post.

From Edwin M. Bacon: Men of Progress. Boston 1896; National Cyclopaedia of American Biography; and from materials sent me by the Boston Post.

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Given To Althea C. Boxell by N. Edwin
Lewis, Selectman of Provincetown.
February 1941