

May 1937

All glass in the watch tower at Peaked Hill Bars Coast Guard station is being replaced, an annual spring improvement brought about by the winter storms which every year drive sand from the surrounding dunes against the exposed tower.

Advocate - June 10, 1937

Provincetown Citizens Protest Closing Coast Guard Stations

Object To Abandonment Of Pamet River And Peaked Hill—Navy Official Explains Decision In Letter To Congressman Gifford

Provincetown officials and businessmen alike are protesting the proposed closing of two coast guard stations, Peaked Hill Bars and Pamet River, in September. Among those who signed a three-page petition objecting to the abandonment of the stations are:

Chairman Jesse D. Rogers of the Board of Selectmen; Selectmen William J. McCaffrey and N. E. Lewis, William F. Silva, president of the Provincetown Board of Trade; George M. Allen, Manuel Dutra, Daniel H. Hiebert, W. J. Rowe, William Sklaroff, president of the Cape Cod Fisheries Incorporated; and S. W. Snow, secretary of the Provincetown Yacht Club.

Congressman Charles L. Gifford has also been urged to do his utmost to change the decision, has just released a communication received from Rear Admiral R. R. Waesche explaining the reasons for the reorganization. The letter follows:

"My dear Mr. Gifford:

"I have your letter of June 4th 1937, in which you represent to me your interest in the Peaked Hill Bars and Pamet River Coast Guard Stations, which were recently ordered decommissioned, and urging that those stations might be continued active.

"I appreciate the great service which has, in the past, been rendered by the Peaked Hill Bars and Pamet River Coast Guard Stations to those who avail themselves of water sports, as well as to those engaged in the business of fishing in that particular locality.

PLAN O

Plan Outlined

"As you are no doubt aware, however, our plan to reorganize the Coast Guard Stations in all Districts was arrived at only after a very careful and thorough study of every section of our coastline. In the case of the Peaked Hill Bars and Pamet River Stations, as in

every other instance where a station is to be closed, the intent is to improve—with the use of motor boats and trucks, radio, and other modern equipment—the efficiency of the Coast Guard in its duties of protecting life and property on the water, and this is expected to be brought about through the establishment of improved and enlarged key stations, with increased personnel and equipment, strategically situated along the coast. It is further hoped that the regrouping of personnel, which the plan contemplates, will further tend to improve the living conditions of the men and give them greater opportunity for liberty and recreation.

"It is my belief that under the new setup, equal or better protection will be given to yachting activities, including week-end racing, etc. Boats from stations kept in commission will be on patrol to watch out for small craft. Lookout towers of inactive stations will be manned, where necessary, and these connected by telephone with the key station to which they are attached. In addition, motor patrols will be maintained along the beaches. You may rest assured, therefore, that any service now being rendered by the Coast Guard to the various communities of Massachusetts in emergencies, will, in no way be affected by the reorganization.

Regret Closing

"I can well understand that a great many residents along the Massachusetts coast regret seeing these stations go, if for no other reasons than those of sentiment alone—though I know yours is a deeper interest in the Coast Guard, and in the welfare of its men. In

this connection, I can only hope that experience will indicate where in the plan above referred to will improve, but our ability to operate efficiently as well.

"With very kind regards, I am
Sincerely yours,
R. R. WAESCHE
Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard,
Commandant."



All boarded up. - September 1938 -

Mother and Mopsy standing against the doors.

- August 5, 1937 -

Peaked Hill Bars station now stands empty keeping its lonely vigil looking out on one of the danger spots of the Atlantic Coast. But other kinds of storms are brewing over the closing of this station and as a result, after hearings to be held in Provincetown this month it may be reopened.

1758

Sept. 9, 1937 Stations Closings Made Official

Nothing is Said of Pamet And Peaked Hill Protests

Confirming its action of last month, Coast Guard headquarters has announced 38 stations on the Atlantic Coast had been eliminated, including the Peaked Hill Bars and Pamet River stations on Cape Cod.

No mention was made in the official announcement of protests against the closing of the Cape stations, which were eliminated for "efficiency and economy." The two stations, among others, were placed on the inactive list Sept 1. No reduction will be made in the personnel.