

# Hull of Steamer Portland Found

## Dragger Locates Wreckage off Cape

Diver to Inspect It in 1945; Nov. 25  
1944  
176 Lost in Sinking of 1898

BOSTON, Nov. 25 (UP)—The hull of the ill-starred steamer Portland, which sank with all 176 persons aboard in the great blizzard of '98, has been located off Cape Cod, and New England's No. 1 marine mystery may be solved next Spring when a diver inspects the wreckage, it was learned today.

Announcement of the location of the sunken ship, and of plans for exploring it, will be made by Edward Rowe Snow, Boston Harbor historian, here tomorrow night at ceremonies on India Wharf marking the 46th anniversary of the disaster.

Snow told the United Press that research had established that the hull lies nine miles north-northeast of Cape Cod in 22 fathoms of water. It was located, he said, by the late Captain B. Carver of Rockland, Me., whose scallop dragger picked up a bell and other articles that were identified as belonging to the Portland.

### Identified by Purser

Identification was established by James F. Hunt, purser of the Portland, who should have made the voyage but who missed the boat when he went home for Thanksgiving dinner. Hunt now lives in Portland, Me.

Not long after locating the hull of the lost steamer, Captain Carver's dragger sank in a storm and he and his crew perished.

Snow said that two professional divers, Al and Bill Jordan, have agreed to go down to search the Portland's hull in June. Attempts will be made to recover \$18,000 in uncut jewels in the ship's safe and the Captain's log which, if found, may record the vessel's last hours.

### Headed Into Wind

Snow, who has made an exhausted study of the Portland disaster, said that after putting out from Boston, Captain Horace H. Blanchard apparently sailed his vessel as far as Thacher's Island off Gloucester, then reversed his course and

headed into the wind.

Wallowing helplessly in the pounding seas, one of her paddles useless, the side-wheeler evidently was buffeted down the coast to the tip of Cape Cod, where four distress signals were heard the next morning.

Thirty-three bodies were washed up on Cape beaches during the next few days, but not until Captain Carver's dragger accidentally hooked the hull was the exact scene of the tragedy established.