

REMEMBERING ANTHONY SOUZA

by Jan Kelly

Local fisherman, violin and cabinet maker, Anthony Souza died on Wednesday, Sept. 3 at the Cape End Manor. He was 88 years old. This photo of Anthony and his dog Charley graced the cover of *Provincetown Magazine* in 1984. Carrying a camera is one way to capture our friends in the relaxed order of their lives. It's a good feeling to see them in print when you no longer can see them in person.

Anthony Souza lived on Pearl Street moving about his town on foot or bicycle. He had a good brain and a good disposition. He seemed never to be in a bad mood. Anthony fished with his father; the boat was small enough to be run by two. When his father died, Anthony continued to run the boat. Gradually he moved to his second occupation, carpentry. His keen mind and sense of detail drew him to cabinet making and finish work. His curiosity led him to violin making. His love of fishing did not fade. He fished recreationally and kept up with the fishermen and their news. Mostly, he liked to visit John and Vivian Silva. Anthony had so many ideas about improving the fleet's catch through equipment designs. Johnny Silva was fishing the *James M. Burke*. Anthony convinced John to try his newly designed net. John did and went even higher in the fleet. Anthony never patterned the design and the quick eyes of other eventually reproduced it.

Anthony was a man of ideas. His weakened hearing could never hear the music of the violins he crafted, but he enjoyed thinking and being innovative. He was highly social. He loved visiting. Many people invited him at meal time after his mother died. Wherever you met him, Commercial St., the harbor, the A&P, or on the wharf, he was ready for a long and loud conversation. The subject was always tailored to your interests: fishing, hawk migrations, recipes, sports or detailed weather observations. He talked, you listened and he presumed you agreed with him. He was wise and knowledgeable, so it was no trouble.

And, as I wrote of him 18 years ago:

"Now he is really an original—brilliant, very cheery and not connecting for a moment to what the bulk of mankind seeks. He is content in a body, a human who enjoys his life moment by moment. By his method you miss nothing."

We'll miss you Anthony. Thanks for being a friend.

