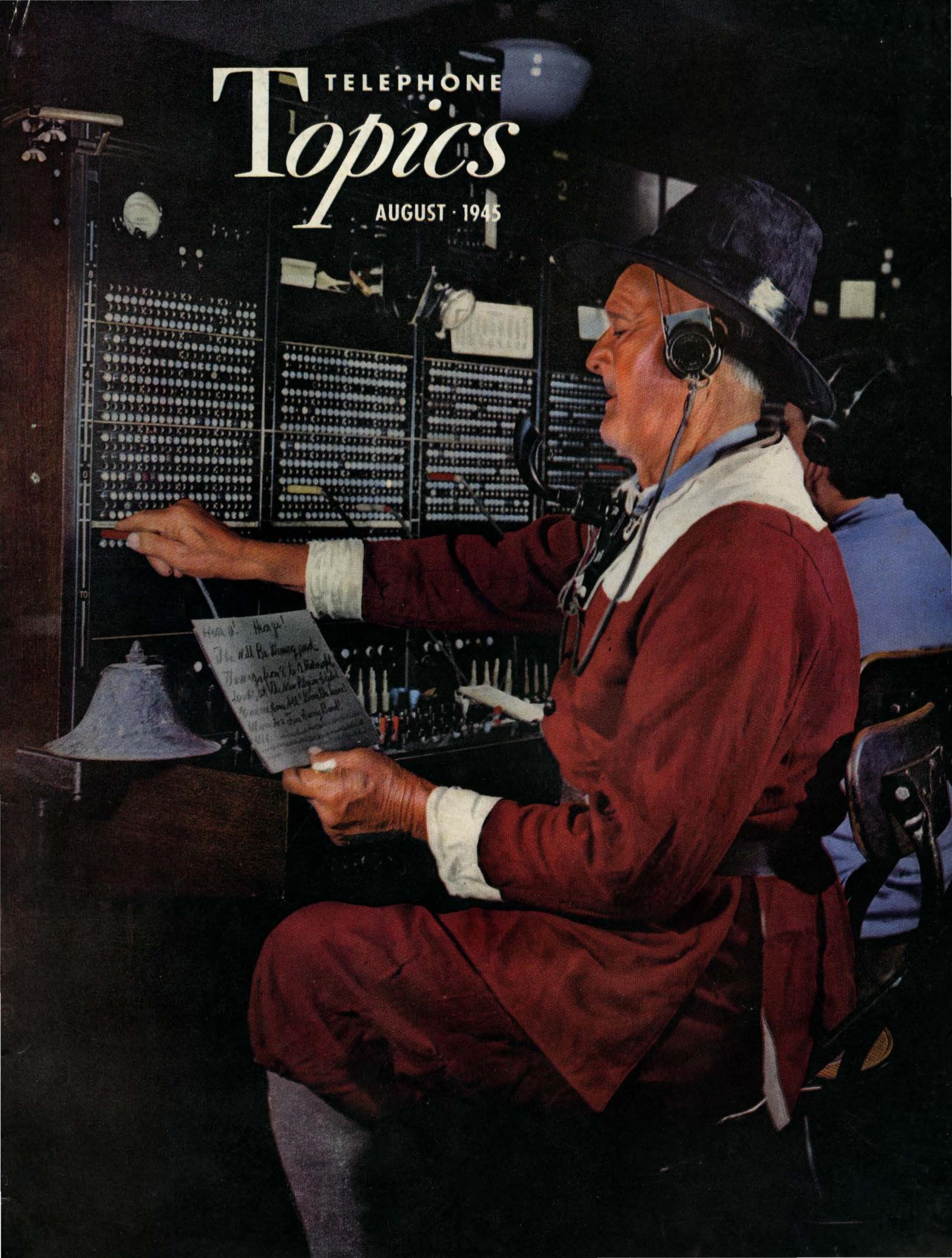
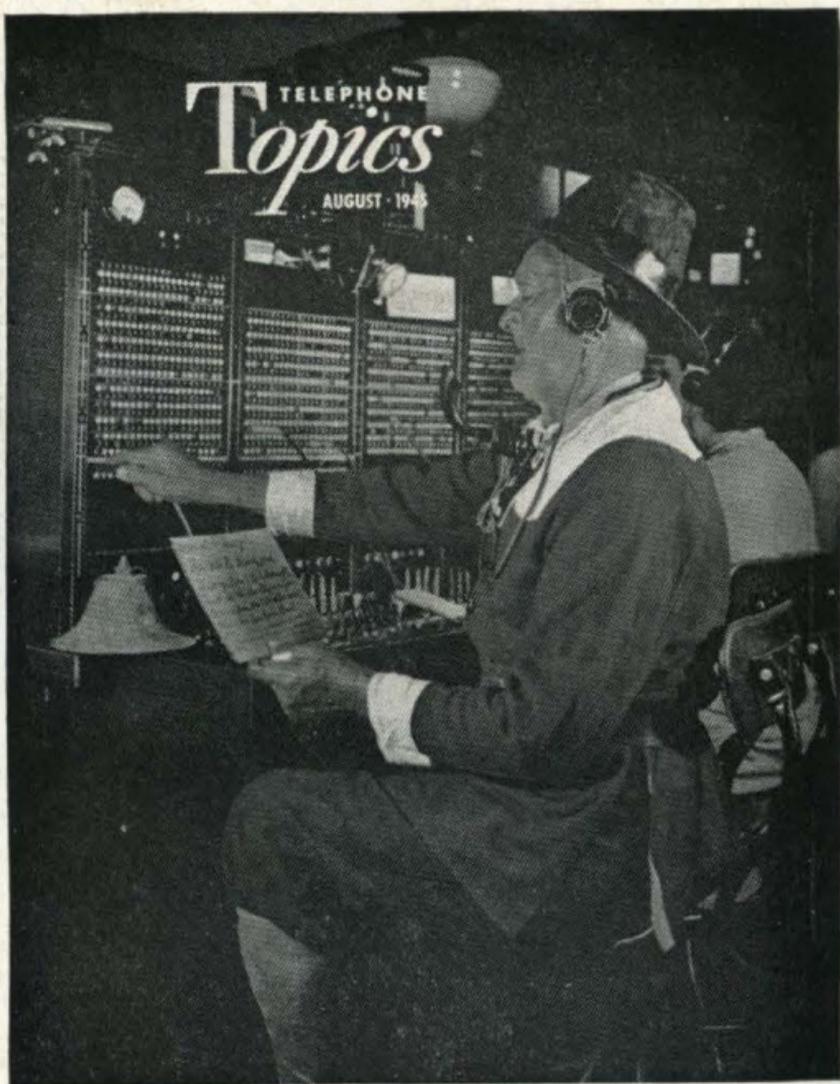


TELEPHONE *Topics* AUGUST · 1945



Here is. Here is!
The will be coming out.
The way you can't let them
down. So the New Program
is now for all. Let's be
the first to see it!

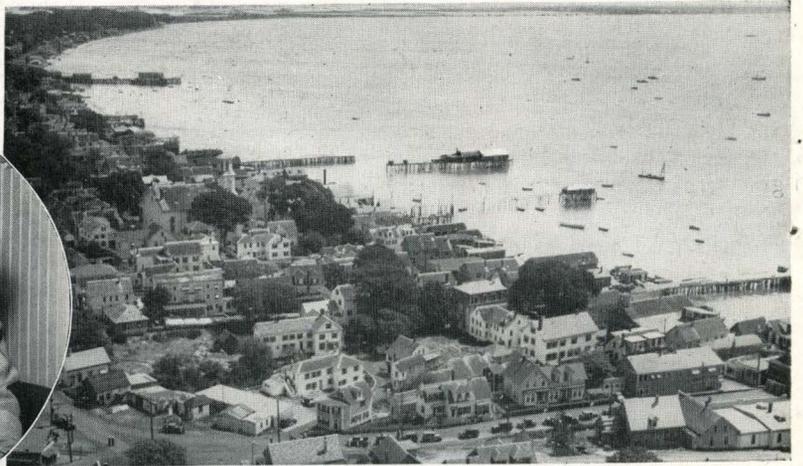
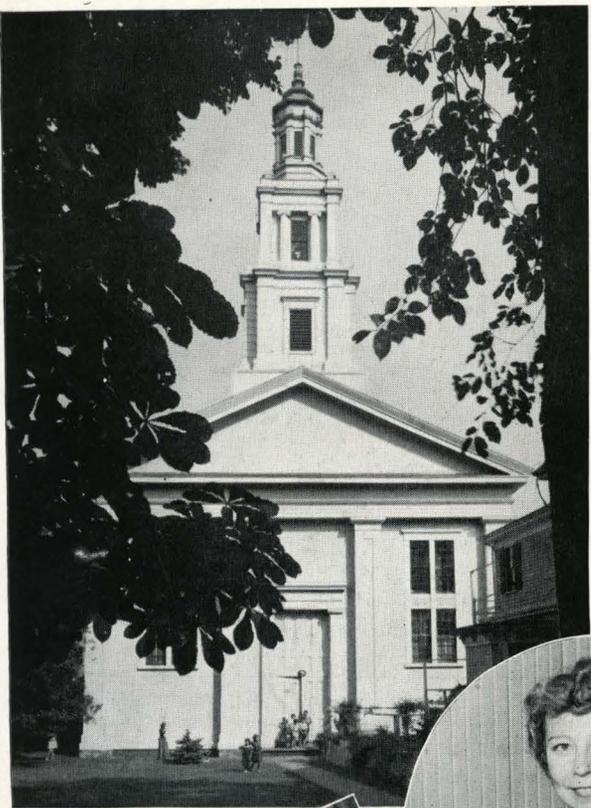


THE COVER . . . When the *Topics'* reporter first saw Provincetown's Town Crier, Amos E. Kubik, who since 1930 has had the distinction of being the only Crier in the country, he was struck by the contrast between this quaint method of communicating information and the modern methods. To symbolize the great advance that has been made since the days when the Crier's bell and his call "Way up along" and "Way down along" brought out the populace to hear the news from other settlements, *Topics'* photographer posed Mr. Kubik at a position of switchboard and photographed him in kodachrome. Actually Mr. Kubik never operated a switchboard and undoubtedly never will, but as our cover for this month he represents "the modern town crier."

An example of old-fashioned New England architecture is the lovely Church of the Redeemer set in the center of the town.

Provincetown

When viewed from the Pilgrim Monument, Provincetown and its Harbor look like a toy village. The harbor, without rock, shoal, or current provides a good anchoring ground. A thousand vessels once found security here in a single gale.



Wire Chief Walter S. Sanford handles the area from Co-tuit to Provincetown, a distance of 65 miles. He has 39 years' service with the Company.



Alice Staffen, Service Representative, handles the accounts for Harwich customers as well as for Provincetown.



Under the supervision of Junior Supervisor Frances E. Raymond, who has 16 years' service, Provincetown's Operating force carries on its important work. Left to right: Mary A. Cruza, Ruth G. Sousa, Marion L. Rose and Jocelyn M. Lewis.

District Manager Carroll S. Parker, left, chats with District Judge Robert Welsh. Judge Welsh succeeded his father as Judge and Town Moderator in 1933 at the age of 28.



The Business Office at Hyannis handles Barnstable, Osterville, Hyannis, Dennis, Brewster, Orleans, Chatham, Wellfleet and Provincetown. The Office force includes: Henrietta Thacher, Alice Staffen, Mary Hansell, Jeannette McGillen, Senior Service Representative, Roger T. Gott, Manager, Herbert Thornton, Commercial Representative, Cleone Bassett, Order Writer, Louise Cox and Agnes O'Neil, Cashier.



ONE of the most colorful resorts in the country, whose population grows to three times its normal size during the summer and whose wooded dunes, thread-like lanes, weather-beaten cottages and sheltered harbor have been portrayed by innumerable artists and authors during the past half a century, Provincetown lies peacefully at the tip of what Henry Thoreau once called "the bared and bended arm of Massachusetts."

Hostess to Adventurers

Provincetown has been destined to play hostess to the historic discoverers of this continent as far back as Thorvald Eriksson, who is said to have built there the old Norse wall in 1004, the remains of which still exist.

The Pilgrims first weighed anchor in November, 1620, and in the cabin of the Mayflower forty-one men signed the first gospel of Americanism, the Compact, which was to become the cornerstone of democracy. It was here also that the Pilgrim mothers did their first washing in nearby ponds, thus creating the homely institution of washday on Monday for the modern mother.

Art Center

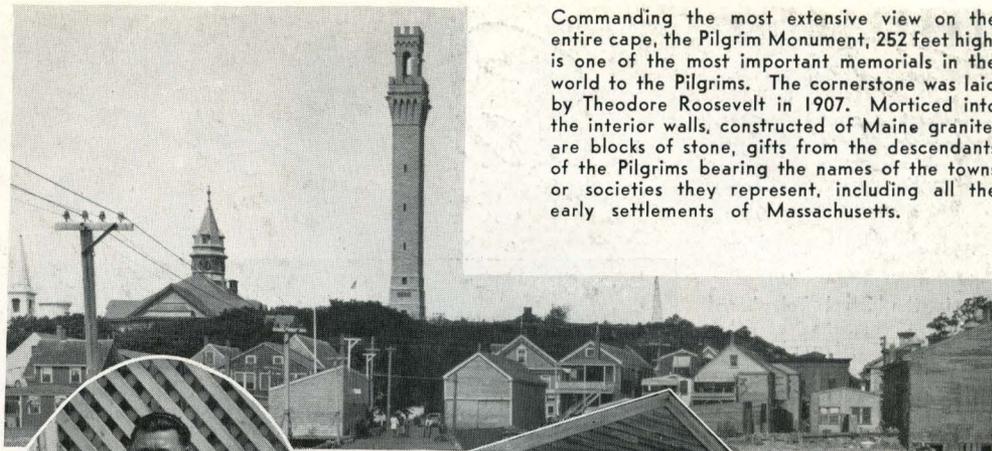
Since its beginning, the town has been a fishing village and is still laden with the reminders of the prosperous seafaring life, the most prominent being the more than half Portuguese population whose forefathers originally came from the Azores, the Canaries, the Cape Verde Islands, and Portugal as crews on the old whaling vessels. Since the late nineties Provincetown's crumbling wharves, rambler-ridden cottages and quaint narrow streets have lured the painter and the writer who have made her famous throughout the country. The village is reputed to attract the largest summer art colony in the country, and the works displayed at the annual exhibition held at the Town Hall have frequently been purchased by the well-known art galleries of the country.

Museum

The birthplace of Donald MacMillan, leader of Arctic expeditions, Provincetown has been made the custodian of his relics of the far north. Housed in the Historical Museum, the collection includes a white wolf, one of the only two in the United States and a nest of brant's eggs. The breeding place of these birds had long been a mystery to ornithologists until MacMillan discovered their haunts in the Arctic.

The museum is also devoted to relics of the Indian days, the fisheries, and the early days of this picturesque seaport.

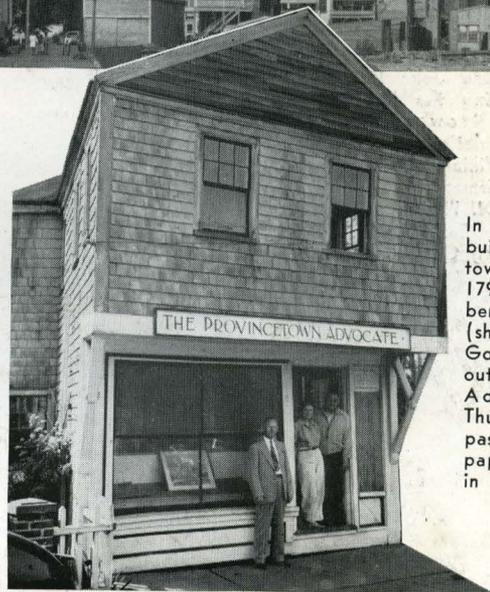
(Continued on Page 15)



Commanding the most extensive view on the entire cape, the Pilgrim Monument, 252 feet high, is one of the most important memorials in the world to the Pilgrims. The cornerstone was laid by Theodore Roosevelt in 1907. Morticed into the interior walls, constructed of Maine granite, are blocks of stone, gifts from the descendants of the Pilgrims bearing the names of the towns or societies they represent, including all the early settlements of Massachusetts.



William Soloninka who came to work for the Company in 1922 is Combination-Repairman for Provincetown.



In the oldest shop building in Provincetown, erected in 1799, Paul G. Lambert and his wife (shown with Roger Gott, left,) have put out the Provincetown Advocate every Thursday for the past eight years. The paper was founded in 1869.



Outside the Traffic Office built in 1938, Chief Operator Matilda D. Montgomery, who has been with the Company for 35 years, is shown with Leona Joseph, the youngest member of the Operating force.



Standing beneath a reproduction of the painting by James Whistler depicting the signing of the Compact which hangs in the corridor of the Town Hall are, left to right: Manager Robert Gott, and the Board of Selectmen, John I. King, John Dennis and I. S. Rogers.



John J. Smith
from Commercial Rep.
at New Bedford to
Camp Manager at
Newport, R. I.



John F. Shea
from Switchman at
New Bedford to
Div. C.O. Dial Supvr.
at Providence, R. I.

RECENT Changes



Walter C. Caswell
from Special Rep.
at Lynn to
Manager at
Dover, N. H.



James H. Conlon
from Customer Rep.,
Met. Div. Office,
to Acting Mgr.
at East Boston



Jeannette B. Lessard
from Jr. Supervisor
to Acting
Chief Operator
at Athol



A. Ernest Smith
from Sub-Station
Repairman to
Service Foreman
at Presque Isle, Me.



Dorothy P. Frazee
from Supervisor
to Chief Operator
at Norway, Me.



Ruth E. Bates
from Dining Service
Supervisor at Worcester
to West. Div.
Dining Service Supvr.

PROVINCETOWN

(Continued from Page 5)

At the rear of the Town Hall and at the foot of the hill on which stands the Pilgrim Monument is a granite and bronze bas-relief memorial. Sculptured by Cyrus E. Dallin, designer of the Massachusetts statue at Plymouth and "The Appeal to the Great Spirit," it commemorates the signing of the Compact. Not far from this memorial is a bronze tablet commemorating the four members of the pioneer group who died during the five weeks the Mayflower lay in Provincetown Harbor.

In 1838 when Provincetown unexpectedly received \$6,000 as part of her share from Massachusetts of \$28,000,000 distributed among the states in the opulent days of Andrew Jackson, there was a heated debate, resulting in a majority of one vote for the construction of a plank walk. Feeling ran so high that thereafter, opponents never stepped on the planks, but laboriously picked their way along the middle of

the sandy road, which is held accountable for the extreme narrowness of Provincetown's streets.

Advancement in Communications

The town crier was the most popular old-time method of conveying news to a community, and the quaint custom lasted longer in this land's end town than anywhere else because what news did eventually filter through was an event. In 1927 the last town crier in the United States passed away at the age of 78, but the custom was revived in 1930 when Amos E. Kubik was appointed Town Crier and is still heralding social events.

Modern communications are now as important in Provincetown as in any American town. This small community also made her contribution to the development of radiotelephony, when it was selected as one terminal of an experimental two-way radio circuit to operate with a similar terminal at Green Harbor, Mass., this radio link forming part of a Boston-Provincetown circuit

to be used interchangeably with the longer all-wire circuit. The system, designed for spanning water barriers, where submarine cable construction might be expensive, was placed in service in July, 1934, and normal telephone traffic was handled over this circuit for eight years until 1942 when its use was discontinued in the interest of national security. Now that the restrictions have been lifted, it is expected that the system will be in full use before the end of the summer.

The business office at Hyannis handles the accounts of the some 800 telephone subscribers. In the attractive new brick building which is the central office at Provincetown, approximately 7,800 calls per day are handled at the four-position switchboard. Under the capable direction of Chief Operator Matilda Montgomery, the ten traffic employees control the communication system for this village whose normal population of 3,870 souls swells to 10,000 during the summer season.