



36TH ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE FLEET

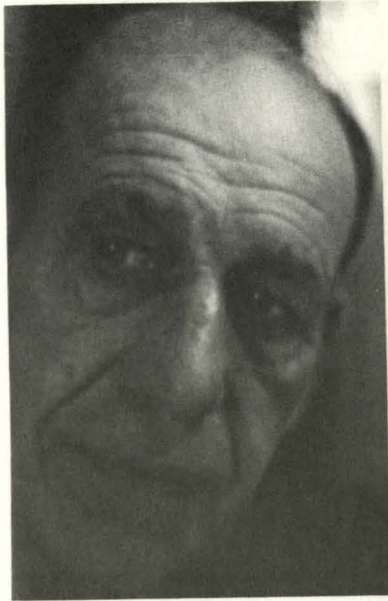
June 23rd thru 26th, 1983

Donation \$1.00

DEDICATION



It is with pride and respect that we, the fishermen of Provincetown dedicate the 1983 Blessing of the Fleet to the late captains Francis "Billy" Segura and Salvador Vasques.



"As for me, my life is already being poured away and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith."

—from the second letter of St. Paul to Timothy

—Dedication— WILLIAM "BILLY" SEGURA

As the thirty-sixth Annual Blessing of the Fleet looms on the horizon, the members of the fishing fleet face many challenges, problems, and decisions. Thoughts of the future, however, must occasionally give way to lessons from, and memories of, the past.

The two men whose memory the Blessing honors this year were giants of the fleet. Men of their stature are not soon forgotten. In years to come, crew members and captains alike will say "I learned that from Sal Vasques" or "Billy Segura was the one who taught me how to do it."

Billy Segura was born on October 24, 1916, in Provincetown, the son of Lawrence and Almeda Segura, and was the oldest of their seven children. His fishing career started when he was a young lad with his father, whom everyone knew as "Big Bill". He fished for bluefish off New York and for mackerel in Provincetown. After a time with the scallop fleet in New Bedford, he bought the Helen Mae. In subsequent years, he sold the Helen Mae and was deckhand or Captain on boats such as the Viola D., the Three of Us, the CR&M, and the Victory II. He skippered the Mary M. before taking over the Plymouth Belle. He later bought the Daisy T., selling her in 1965. Like most of the members of the fleet, he fished on many boats, learning their differences and perfecting his expertise in net making and mending.

Billy married Jeanette Brazil on November 14, 1938 and they became parents of Richard, a teacher and coach at Barnstable High School; Christina, a nurse in Connecticut; and Kenneth, a bookkeeper at Seafood Packers. He was intensely proud of his children, all three of whom are college graduates. When Dick and his wife Joy, and Christina and her husband, Walter, presented him with grandchildren, eight in all, his happiness knew no bounds.

A high school athlete himself, he remained an ardent sports enthusiast all his life. He followed his children as they participated in high school sports on the Cape. His interest remained after the children were grown as he attended sporting events or watched them on television.

When health reasons forced Billy to come ashore, he did not lose his love for or interest in fishing. He had successful heart by-pass surgery and worked at the Truro Package Store, the Provincetown Liquor Mart, and for the town as assistant manager of the parking booths. During this time, he spent countless hours making and mending nets. He could often be found in his yard or in what is now the Fine Arts Work Center with his twine and spindle. It was his link with the life he knew and loved.

His life was visited with profound sadness when he lost his beloved Jeanette and then, his grandson Richard. Billy though, was no quitter. He visited his mother daily and looked forward to visits from his children and grandchildren. Mention of any of them brought a ready smile to his face. He could often be found at the K of C hall playing cards with his cronies, Joe Roderick, Joe Thomas, Al Rocheteau, Frank Volton, and Manny Harrigan, to name a few. Son, husband, father, brother, or friend, Billy Segura was special in every relationship.

—Dedication—
SALVADOR VASQUES

Salvador Vasques was born on October 3, 1910 in Fuzeta, Portugal. As a youth in Portugal he worked in local boatyards as a ship's carpenter. He had visited the United States when he was nine years old and at the age of nineteen, he returned to stay. Living in Gloucester, he worked at the Story Boatyard in Essex. He helped to put the finishing touches on the Gertrude Thebeaud, the famous fishing schooner which was converted to a racing ship.

After a year or so, he went to sea, swordfishing on the Jorgina Silveira. He then moved to Provincetown which was to become his home. He resumed his fishing career on the Seraphina with Arthur Duarte. On the Fannie Parnell, he went dragging and bluefishing out of New York and as far south as Norfolk, Virginia. He crewed on the Beatrice S., the Frances and Marion, and the Emilia R. On the Aerolite, he fell overboard by the Pollock Rip Lightship. The quick action of the captain and crew saved his life.

On June 14, 1939, he married Marguerite Thomas. Their children are Sal, Junior who runs a company that outfits tuna boats in San Diego; Marguerite, who is married to Ronald Lopes and who has two children; and John, the owner-captain of the fishing vessel Gale, which is named for his wife. Sal was a quiet man, who was devoted to his wife and family. His grandchildren were a special delight to him.

He bought the Reneva in 1947 and he ran it until 1966. He then fished on various boats until 1975. At that time, while out fishing, he suffered a heart attack and was no longer able to go to sea. He was, however, a frequent visitor at the boatyards and at the wharf where he kept in touch with all things concerning the fleet. He also helped his son John with repairs and chores on his boat. From 1978 until 1982 he worked as a parking attendant for the town during the summer.

Always interested in canaries, he spent even more time in his retirement collecting, breeding, and raising these colorful birds. Sal also had the proverbial green thumb and his beautiful garden attested to his prowess in this area. His pleasures were simple, and his wants were few. He was a man grateful for the life he had lived. He had traveled, he had achieved, and he was happy.

There are many similarities between these two men. Both were quite and reserved; both were devoted family men; and both were experts at their craft. Their purpose in life was direct and uncomplicated. They had livings to make and families to raise. They worked hard, became the best at what they did, and were fulfilled. Their careers spanned years of change and they adjusted to these changes and learned from them. They have left memories and challenges to their families, to the fleet, and to the town. Not only were they gentlemen, they were gentle men. Those who knew them are better people for it. May their families take comfort in this, and may the rest of us emulate the traits that made them what they were.

Betty V. Costa

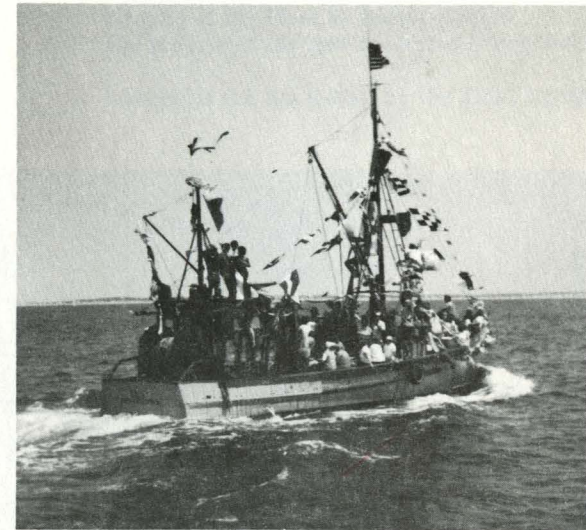
Schedule of Events

THURSDAY, JUNE 23rd

Fishermen decorate town pier and town.

2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Open House at the Provincetown Heritage Museum.
Open to the public.
The presentation of a plaque, for the best decorated boat from 1982's Blessing of the Fleet.

6:30 p.m. Fishermen's Banquet at the Holiday Inn.
Cocktails - Dinner - Dancing.

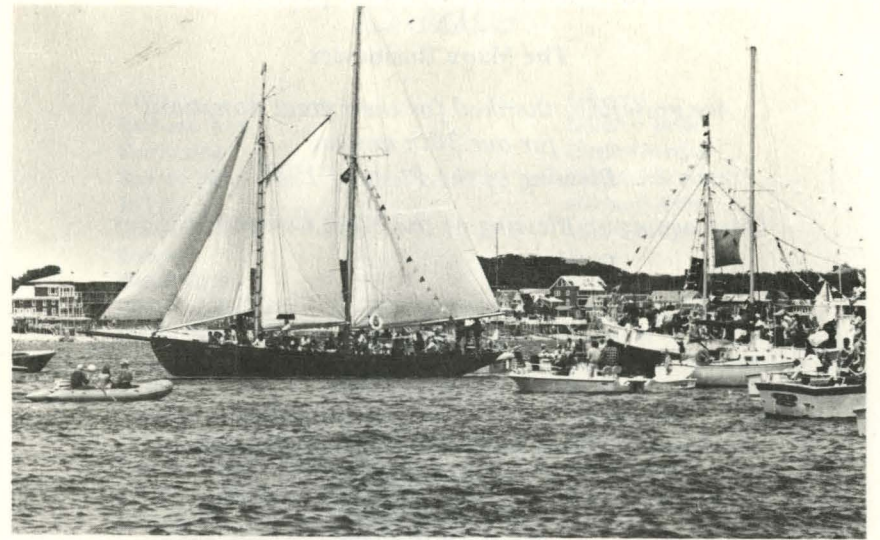
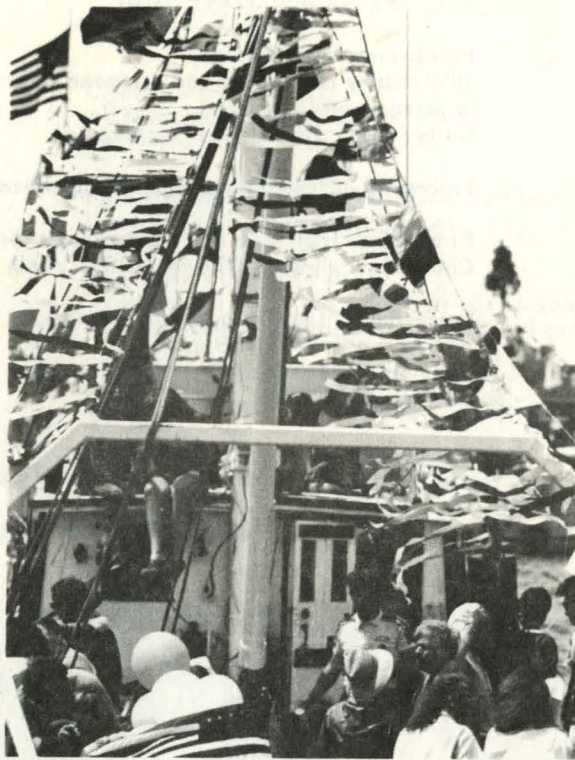


FRIDAY, JUNE 24th

9:00 a.m. Decorating of fishing boats at MacMillan Wharf.

9:30 to 10:30 p.m. Fishing Contest - Children to age 9.
10:30 to 11:30 p.m. Fishing Contest - Children to ages 9 - 14.
Held at MacMillan Wharf, under the direction of the Provincetown Athletic Department.
Prizes awarded - All Children are Welcome.

8:00 p.m. Old Home Week Dance
Will be held at the Town Hall, Cocktails available.
Music by Bob Taylor and the Moors Jazzmen.
Open to the public - free to all people.



Provincetown Seafood Corporations
AND
The Many Businesses

*Are gratefully thanked for their great donations
for our 36th annual*

Blessing of the Fleet of 1983

Once again the Blessing of the Fleet Committee Says

THANKS!!

Provincetown Seafood Market & Dairyland
Cape Cod Trading
Cape Tip Fish Co.
Seafood Packers

And the Many Others that helped Support
The Blessing of the Fleet.



Boats

Alwa
Barbara Ann
Barracuda
Bay of Isles
B-Trio
Charlotte G.
Dawn
Deborah H.
Divino Criador
Divino Mar
Esther M.
Gale
Jennifer & Aaron
Jimmy Boy
Joan & Tom
Joe & Stephen
Johnny O.
Josephine G.
Kathryn Marie

Liberty
Liberty Belle
Little Natalia
Michael & Amy
Michael Ann
Miss Sandy
Patsea
Petrel
Plymouth Belle
Radar II
Richard & Arnold
Ruthy L.
Sarah Lynn
Shirley & Roland
Silver Mink
Suzy & Sandra
Taurus
Victory II

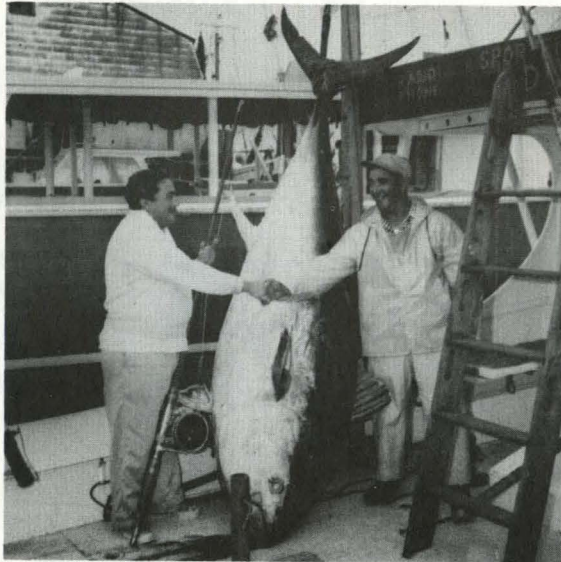


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*Provincetown Party Boat Association
Presents*

—In Memory of Bobby Woods—



Benefactors

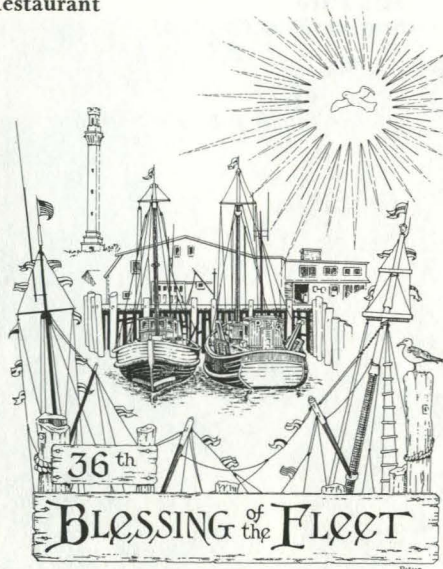
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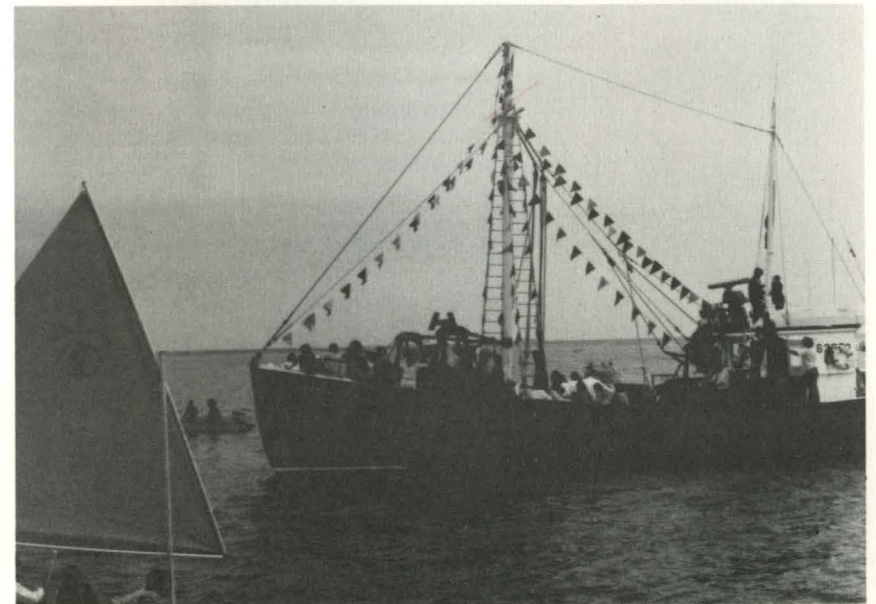


*God's will
 is the beacon that
 illuminates the
 hours of the day.*

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 Body, Body



The Committee wishes to thank
all those who helped in any way
towards the production of this
book and the organizing of the
Blessing of the Fleet.