



PHOTO VINCENT GUADAZNO

## 100 years young

Mary-Jo Avellar presents Francis "Flyer" Santos with his birthday cake, sporting a big "100," Wednesday at Bubala's in Provincetown. See more photos page 26.

*In Loving Memory of*

**Francis 'Flyer' Santos**

September 10, 1914

April 5, 2015

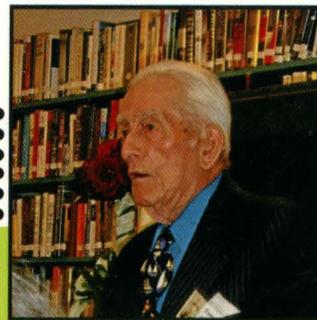
*Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi*

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

© Divine Master; grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

**Gately Funeral Home**

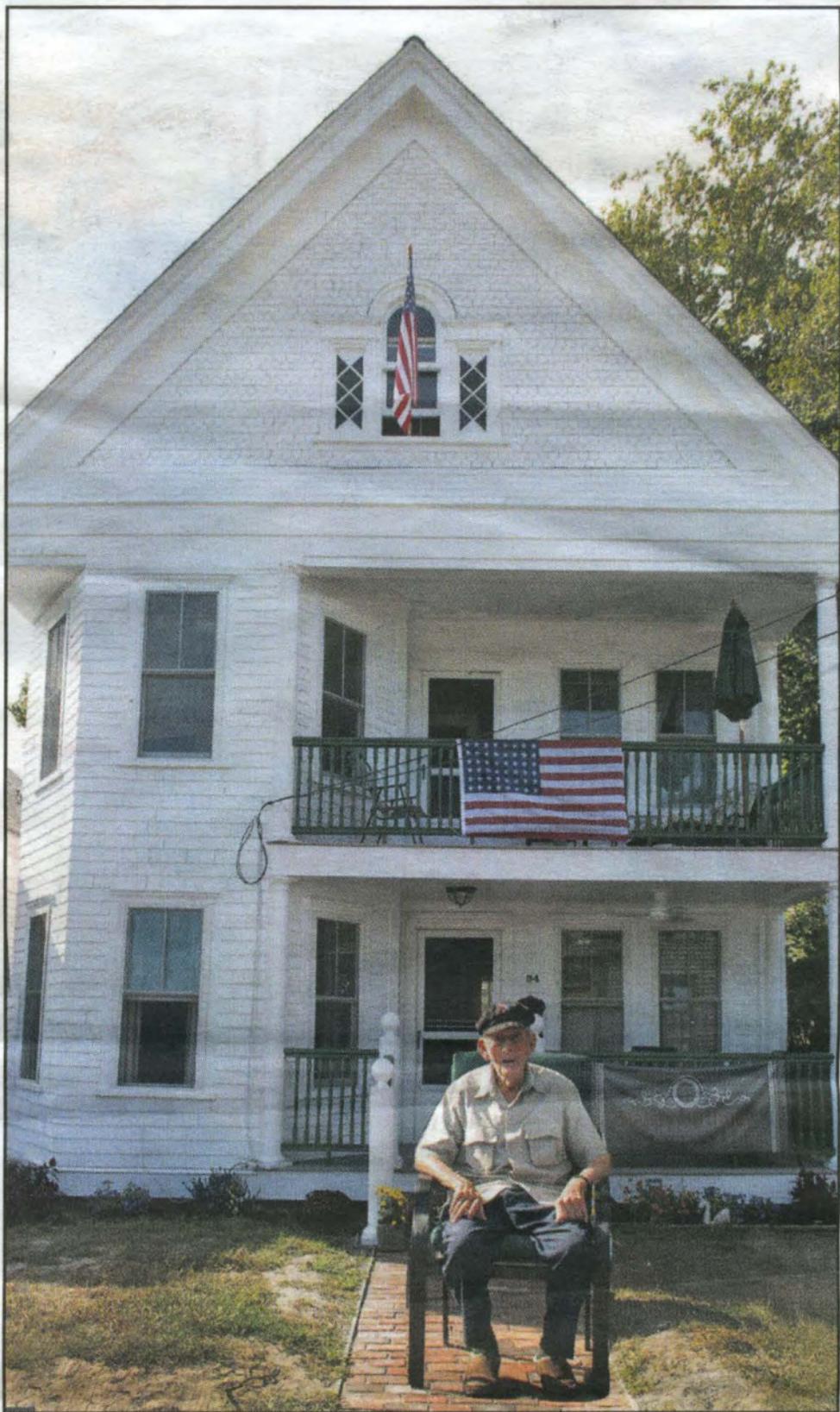
## Flyer's 100th Birthday Party



Please join us to celebrate the 100th birthday of Francis 'Flyer' Santos.

When: Wednesday, September 10th, 2014. 2 to 4pm.

Where: Bubala's by the Bay Restaurant. 185 Commercial Street, Provincetown, MA.



*The house that Flyer built.*

## **Sept. 10 is Flyer Santos Day**

Francis "Flyer" Santos, a Provincetown icon, was feted for his 100th birthday Wednesday, Sept. 10, at Bubala's By the Sea. Family, friends and more joined the celebration, with state Rep. Sarah Peake reading a proclamation from the State House and selectmen chair Tom Donegan offering up one from the town.



*Peake's proclamation.*



*Family and friends crowded Bubala's to celebrate Flyer Santos turning 100.*



*It's all about family.*



*Town tribute*



PHOTOS VINCENT GUADAZNO

*You're as young as you feel!*

PROVINCETOWN

# BANNER

*"Be just and  
fear not."*

*Serving the Communities of Provincetown, Truro and Wellfleet*

Volume Twenty, Number Twenty-one • Three Sections • Two Dollars • Thursday, Sept. 11, 2014

## 'Flyer' Santos turns 100

By **Deborah Minsky**  
BANNER CORRESPONDENT

PROVINCETOWN — Even nowadays, with declarations that the 90s are the new 70s, turning 100 years old is still a major achievement. In the afterglow of post-Schooner Regatta excitement amid the bloom of phenomenal September weather, what could be better than celebrating life-long sailor and boat-builder Francis "Flyer" Santos's centennial milestone?

Some 100 family members and close friends were scheduled to gather at Bubala's by the Bay Restaurant Wednesday af-

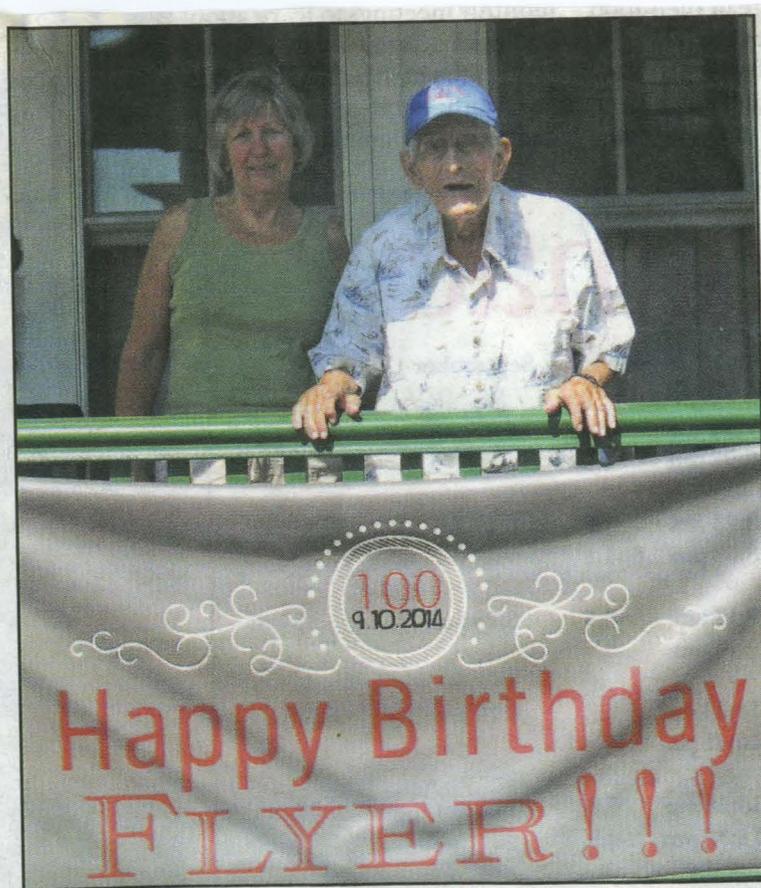
ternoon to pay tribute to this colorful Provincetown icon and help him celebrate his birthday in style.

Born on Sept. 10, 1914, Santos has been a key figure in the town's story of the last 100 years, as a sailor, boat-builder, selectman, fireman, board member at the Heritage Museum, husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. His friends

**SANTOS** continued on page 15

PHOTO DEBORAH MINSKY

*"Flyer" Santos with daughter Dora and the birthday banner at his home in the West End of Provincetown.*



**SANTOS** continued from page 1

are legion, his achievements many.

Although he is a bit frail and hard of hearing, Santos's wit remains sharp, his vision clear. He is still very much the charming host. By way of explaining the origin of his nickname "Flyer," which he has carried proudly since childhood, Santos says during a chat with the Banner at his home in the West End, and with his daughter Dora by his side, "Flyer" means day and night worker, always on the move. Always."

Of all the attention he is receiving, he says, "The greatest thing just happened to me — the President of the United States sent me a letter this week, congratulating me on my birthday." Santos says he plans to frame the letter and hang it among the many such tributes he has received over the years. In his mind, nothing beats the "personal" note from Barack and Michelle Obama, which reads in part, "We are pleased to join your family and friends in wishing you a happy 100th birthday. As you celebrate ... we hope you reflect on the many memories you have made over the past century. Your generation has shown the courage to persevere through Depression and war, and the vision to broaden our liberties through changing times."

Despite his advanced age, and occasional attention drifts, Santos seems grounded in the present. He is full of sage comments about healthy living and stands firmly against smoking cigarettes. When asked if he had any advice for family and friends, he said succinctly, "Children older than 8 to 10 should be doing things for themselves." He notes his own good health comes from the "blessing of God," and gleefully reports his son Jimmy's recent regatta victory as skipper of the "Columbia," the schooner they built together.

Except for a WW II stint in Rhode Island, Santos's entire life has been defined in and around Provincetown Harbor, building and repairing boats. He raised his family to love and respect the sea with equal intensity. Through the West End Racing Club, which he started, he taught scores of kids to swim and sail, beginning with West End "lifer" Donald

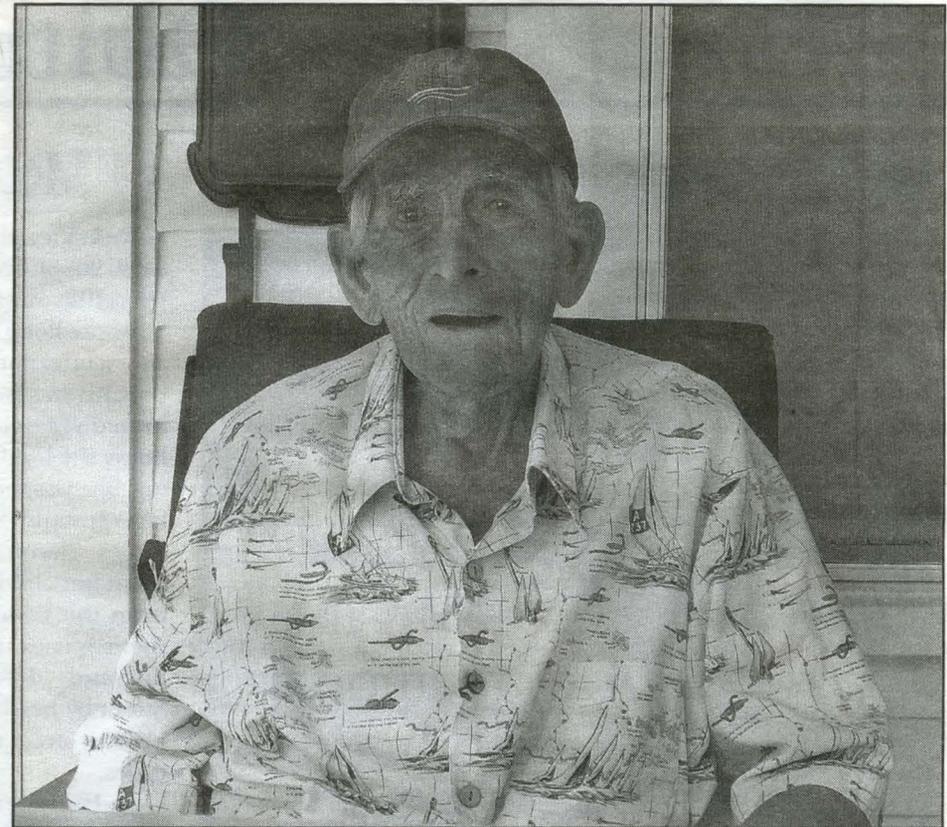
Murphy, who claims he became the club's first official member at age 11, after asking to borrow a sailboat and being told he could, only if he took another kid along and taught him how to sail.

"As I look back over the years that my family has known him, it is not the beautiful harbor or the love for sailing. It is the importance of a sense of purpose, strong will and commitment in one's vision," says Murphy of Santos's impact on the lives of young people. "Many of the people he has touched don't realize it. They think he just taught them how to sail and, yes, in some cases debate for what you believe in."

Long-time Provincetowner Don Thibeault says he has known Santos since 1968, "when I began working for him summers during high school and college. Along with his son Jim and Dick Silva, we raced the Columbia in the Provincetown Yacht Club." After serving in the Peace Corps, Thibeault returned to Provincetown, worked in Flyer's Boatyard, and helped build the Rose Dorothea model in the Heritage Museum, now the Provincetown Public Library, and the Old Pro with his son Francis John. Currently restoring antique yachts in Palm Beach County, Fla., Thibeault adds, "Flyer's obsession with wooden boats has been an inspiration my entire boatbuilding career."

"Flyer has meant many things to me," says Kathy Meads, who has known Santos since her childhood. "He has always worked to bring Provincetown youth to the water. He would never accept that a child should live by the sea and not use the sea, not be comfortable and at ease. When I reflect that Flyer has been here for 100 years I realize his meaning in my life has changed as I have changed and grown. I can see now that he has known all along what it means to recognize my heritage. He has nurtured the ties I feel for this harbor and sailing and taught me that I should always respect who we are and value where we come from."

A good and longtime friend of Santos's, Susan Avellar, a retired teacher who helps run the West End Racing Club, first began working for him when she volunteered on the Rose Dorothea project. "It has been a great experience working for



*Santos, on his porch in Provincetown, turns 100 on Sept. 10.*

him at the West End Racing Club; I just love the place. I also enjoy Flyer's stories, even though at times they can be a bit jumbled as ideas abound in his head. I love it when I pop into his house, around noon, and get feasted on kale soup and pineapple pie."

Peter Cook remembers his childhood, growing up on Mechanic Street about 100 yards from Flyer's Boat Rental. "All the neighborhood kids spent summers playing at Flyer's Beach. Mr. and Mrs. Santos made sure every kid down there knew how to swim. No kids were allowed to get into a boat, even to play, unless they knew how to swim. Once we mastered swimming, we were allowed to use a rowboat (for free)," he says via e-mail. "Mrs. Santos would yell from the shore, 'Get in closer to the beach, you are out too far!' ... And Flyer, watching us row, yelled, 'Hey, you are rowing like a farmer. Keep two oars in the water and pull. Two oars together, not one at a time. And feather those oars!'" Essentially, Cook adds, "The Flyer family ran a free daycare center in the West End of Provincetown

in the best environment."

Noting her father's longevity and the cooperative attention she, brother Jimmy and other family members have lavished upon him, daughter Dora Santos says, "Guess it's good family genes and values passed down. Dad and his family took care of their mother in her own home until she died, a few months after her 100th birthday."

It is virtually impossible to write about Santos without mentioning the celebrated Rose Dorothea and the half-scale model of that schooner he built by hand. Installed in the second floor of the Provincetown Public Library, in the children's section, this creation symbolizes a good portion of Santos's many contributions to his town. Along with the racing club, he sees building the Rose Dorothea as his life's greatest accomplishment that evolved out of a shared effort by many townspeople. That effort illustrates his knack for bringing people together for common good. And his 100th birthday party celebrates that gift.

# Remembering 'Flyer' Santos: 'His touch is everywhere'

By Ethan Genter

egenter@capecodonline.com

Francis A. "Flyer" Santos, who died Sunday at the age of 100, was described as a lover of Provincetown and a man unafraid to voice his opinion.

Santos, a graduate of Provincetown High School, was a custom boat designer and master builder, and owned Flyer's Boat Rentals on Commercial Street. He served as a selectman in the 1950s and on numerous town committees.

In 1950, he started the West End Racing Club to teach kids to sail.

"He was sort of humble for how great he was," said the Rev. Mick McCullough of St. Peter the Apostle Church in Provincetown, Santos' parish. "He was a master builder."

Santos was the builder of the half-scale schooner Rose Dorothea that resides in the

Provincetown Library. The original ship was a Provincetown-based schooner and entered the 1907 Lipton Cup sponsored by Sir Thomas Lipton. Although the Rose Dorothea lost her fore-topmast in the final leg of the race, the crew managed to secure a victory and even tied a broom to the mast to symbolize a "clean sweep."

"I was greatly saddened to hear about the loss of Capt. Flyer Santos this past weekend," Provincetown Library interim director Matt Clark wrote in an email. "He was a monumental figure whose contributions to Provincetown history and the community will not ever be forgotten. We feel truly special at the library to have the opportunity to work every day in the shadow of one of his finest achievements and gifts to our town, the model of the Rose Dorothea Schooner."

Santos was also a member of the Knights of Columbus for 40 years, said friend and Grand Knight Jim Keefe. As in his church congregation, Santos was the oldest member, Keefe said.

"We as a club will really miss him," Keefe said. Along with the charitable programs of Knights of Columbus, Santos was devoted to his project, the West End Racing Club.

"Thousands of kids have gone through it through the years and have learned a love for sailing and for the sea," Keefe said.

In an article in the Times from 2000, the origin of Flyer's nickname came to light.

"No one ever sees me sit still. When no one could find a job, I had five, six, or seven. I was always flying around," Santos said.

People also commented on his importance to the town.

"It's hard for me to even begin

to measure what Flyer Santos means to Provincetown," former Selectman Mary-Jo Avellar said. "His touch is everywhere. When it comes to water, nothing escapes his eye. Nothing."

According to his obituary, Santos is survived by his sons James Santos, John Santos and Arthur Joseph Santos and daughters Janet Greenquist and Dorothea M. Santos. Fourteen grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren also survive him.

Family and friends are invited to call at the Gately Funeral Home, 94 Harry Kemp Way, Provincetown, from 4 to 7 tonight. A funeral Mass will be held at 10 a.m. Friday at St. Peter the Apostle Church, according to the obituary.

Donations in Flyer's memory may be made to the West End Racing Club, 94 Commercial St., Provincetown, MA 02657, or to the St. Vincent de Paul



**Francis "Flyer" Santos, retired boat builder and sailor in Provincetown, shown here in 2002, died on Sunday.**

STEVE HEASLIP/CAPE COD TIMES FILE

Society, 11 Prince St., Provincetown MA 02657, according to the obituary.

## MEMORIES OF FLYER

Congratulations on your monumental 100<sup>th</sup> birthday! What a milestone! You are one of the most well-liked, smartest, and highly respected men I've ever had the pleasure to know.

I was only 17 when I started working for you. You were a mentor to me and taught me so many life lessons. Here are some of the things you told me way back then: 1. "Whiskers on a baby I never did see." 2. "Just remember that hard work never killed anybody." and 3. "Work hard and you'll be rewarded." You were always a gentle kind man who I admired for your intelligence and hard work. Almost every day I learned something new from you. You taught me the fundamentals of boat building, the importance of getting along with people that you work for and work with, and so many other valuable life lessons.

It's amazing what you have accomplished over the years----starting the successful sailing program for kids and doing so much for the town of Provincetown. What I've accomplished over the years was a result of your good example.

Flyer, you are an inspiration to me and to everyone who is fortunate enough to know you. My wife Tina and I and everyone here whose lives you have touched are so happy and honored to be with you today to celebrate 100 years of good living.

May God bless you with good health, wonderful memories to cherish, and much happiness always.

Your friend,

Jerry Costa

On the occasion of Francis 'Flyer' Santos' 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.....a memory:

When I was about 10 years old my father, Larry Richmond, built a Blue Jay for me. Since it was the first boat he built I think Flyer probably helped him and guided his work. When the little boat was finished and ready to be launched there was much fanfare. My dad said I could invite a friend to come along for the maiden voyage so Jeanie Van Arsdale and I were eager and ready for the big day.

We launched the boat at Flyer's boat yard. Jeanie remembers it coming down a railway. There was a crowd of people around, my mother included, and before the boat hit the water good yachting tradition dictates that you break a bottle of champagne over the bow. Well, no one wanted to waste the champagne so my father had poured the contents for the guests and filled the bottle with water. I forget whether I smashed the bottle on the bow or if it was someone else, but we accomplished the deed and got the Blue Jay in the water.

Jeanie and I helped my dad raise the sails and rig the boat and off we went. Did I forget to mention that it was Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>? Flyer had cautioned that it wasn't a good idea to launch a boat on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>, especially when we were tempting fate twice by draining off the champagne. As we left the beach it was a beautiful day, sunny skies, gentle southwest breeze. The little Blue Jay was riding high and all was well. By the time we got to the end of the Coast Guard Wharf the sky had darkened, the wind picked up and it was evident that a squall was about to pass over the town. At just that moment the pin in the rudder popped out making it next to impossible to steer. My father was leaning over the stern trying to secure the pin and having no success. We were moving sideways toward the trap poles, the sails were flapping madly and Jeanie was terrified. Having no luck getting the rudder pin back in place my father decided he had to jump overboard to make the repair. Once in the water he found it hard to hold onto the boat that was now moving rather swiftly downwind. The boat took off on its own and my dad swam as fast as he could to try and catch up yelling to me to haul in the sails and try to tack around. By then we were close to the weir poles and we got tangled up in the nets but at least it stopped our rapid journey out of the harbor. Eventually my dad was able to get back in the boat but the rudder was useless. Someone from Flyer's eventually came to our rescue in an outboard once the squall had passed.

My dad got a verbal tongue lashing from Flyer who reminded him that no boat should ever be launched on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> and the champagne needs to be in the bottle when it is broken over the bow. Needless to say, Larry took a lot of ribbing for that fiasco but never made the same mistakes again.

Thanks Flyer!

Happy 100<sup>th</sup> birthday!!!  
XOXO - Lauren and Bruce



# Francis "Flyer" Santos

OCCUPATION: Boatbuilder;  
founder of Flyer's Boat Yard

HOMETOWN: Provincetown

LIFETIME: 1914-

FAMILY: Grandson of a whaler;  
married Irene Maille, 1940; six  
children.

Accomplishments: Served  
on Provincetown Board of  
Selectmen, Provincetown School  
Committee, most local commit-  
tees; founded West End Racing  
Club (1950) to teach sailing and  
swimming; built scale-model  
replica of schooner *Rose Dorothea*  
in Provincetown Library.

Sept. 10, 2014 -- 100 years  
old!



Francis Santos

Watching West End Racing Club  
members roughhousing on the  
club float: "Those kids learn more on  
that float—or taking a boat across the  
harbor—than they do from any  
schoolteacher or in any classroom.  
They come from all over the world  
and learn to get along."

Celebrating you

and this momentous occasion –

And hoping these warm thoughts

and happy wishes

are a special reminder

of just how amazing you are.

Happy  
100<sup>th</sup>  
Birthday

Love,  
Pete  
(Janet's friend)

Dear Flyer.

Happy 100<sup>th</sup> birthday! I am so happy that you are still here with us. You are a very important person in my life, even though you probably don't know it. And you may not remember helping me out, but there was one time when you really did.

That was back in the late 60's when my boyfriend of the time had ended our relationship. I had been thinking of him as my future husband so I was really devastated and felt like a total failure.

Janet told you that I was suffering from a broken heart. I remember that you became very quiet, looked me right in the eyes, and said, "This is just going to make you stronger."

The way you said it made it clear to me that these weren't just words. They were support and acceptance coming to me right from your heart.

I think it's fair to say your words made the difference between my wasting many years of my life in regret and sadness to being able to live a life full of joy and happiness.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

With love — Janet's friend Roberta  
9/10/2014

September 10, 2014

Dear Flyer,

Over twenty years ago a dream came true and I was able to purchase a home in Provincetown. Shortly after we arrived in town, I was cutting the lawn when I ran over the extension cord that I had just bought. I stood in the yard, staring at the damaged cord, very frustrated and muttering to myself.

A man that I had never met who was walking down the street stopped and asked what was wrong. When I told him that I had just ruined the extension cord that I bought earlier that morning he said, "I can fix that" and proceeded to go back to his house two doors away, return with electrical tape, repair the cord and assure me that it was now safe to use.

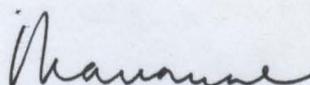
Things that I learned about Flyer that day: he sees where there are problems; he volunteers to do anything that he can to help; he will help anyone that he can even if it is a total stranger; he can fix almost anything.

Over the last twenty years, Flyer has become a dear friend. He has taught me a great deal about what it means to be a friend and he puts his own special definition on what it means to be a neighbor.

Flyer's work with the West End Racing Club is legendary. It stands as a tribute to his vision of what could be and his commitment to young people. Hundreds and hundreds of children, including some of our grandchildren, have learned to share Flyer's love of sailing through that club. Flyer sold me my own treasured sailboat and deepened my love of all things related to the water with his wonderful stories of the sea and those who made their lives by and through the sea.

One day, several years ago, Flyer took me, my partner Peg, our daughter and granddaughter out for a sail on the Columbia. As if it were yesterday I can see him at the tiller on a sparkling, sunny day with fair winds, in the most beautiful boat in the harbor.

A friendship with Flyer is a treasured gift. Happy Birthday, my dear friend.



Marianne Hinkle



**WILLARD SCOTT**  
TODAY SHOW

4001 Nebraska Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

September 2014

Centenarian Francis Santos  
94 Commercial Street  
Provincetown, Massachusetts 02657

Dear Francis,

Joyful greetings are in order for you in honor of your 100th birthday, a remarkable milestone in your life of many memories to treasure.

I send this little note to offer best wishes to you for this very special and marvelous event. God has given you many years on earth. May he continue to bless you, my friend.

Congratulations and Love, Francis.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Willard Scott".

Willard Scott

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HARDWARE  
MARINE SUPPLIES  
PAINTS AND OILS  
CORDAGE

C. E. BECKMAN CO.

JOBBER'S OF —

RADIOS AND PARTS  
AUTOMOTIVE SUPPLIES  
ELECTRICAL SUPPLIES  
BATTERIES

8/18/14

TO: Francis Santos,

Greeting from New Bedford.  
Thanks for the invitation for Sept.  
18<sup>th</sup>. - Carl & I plan to attend.  
Congratulations on your 100<sup>th</sup>  
birthday! During these many  
year you have been a good friend  
to the C. E. Beckman Co and we  
sincerely do appreciate that. It  
has been one of our longest business  
associations and one of our best.  
Thanks again.

Best wishes from Charles Beckman

CHARLIE  
Beckman!

September 16, 2014

Dear Flyer,

I'm so sorry I didn't make it to your birthday party. I'm sure it was fabulous. I would have loved to see you. We were traveling—DE, NJ, NY.

You are very special to me, especially when you spent so much time explaining the town's history which was fascinating. Publishers said my book was too "regional." Oh well, I'll try again some day.

Also, I'll never forget you saying several times that my Dad was the most honest man you knew. I know you were instrumental in the town's government and, or course, the beautiful Rose Doreathea. I do miss him and Mom a lot. We had a good childhood.

Well, take care and stay healthy. Hope to see you soon.

Love,



Liz (Lema) Perillo

PAT (SILVA) BENATTI

August 18, 2014

I've known Flyer all my life. I'm a classmate of his daughter Dorothea. When he and his wife found out I did sewing repairs, I became a regular visitor picking up and dropping off clothes. One afternoon, I stopped by and the conversation turned to food. I told them the story about the day we had a snowstorm and I made a coffee cake and some muffins for the police. I put the food on the counter and within seconds



-2-

there were officers pushing their way to the counter and trying to get to the food. I said it looked like a shark feeding frenzy. Both Flyer and his wife started laughing so hard that Mrs. Santos almost spilled the frappe she was holding.

Whenever I stop by, Flyer is always teaching me something about town politics, fishing, and many of the people who lived here.



-3-

To my special friend,  
happy 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and  
thank you for your friendship  
and many wonderful memories

Best Wishes,  
Patricia (Silva) Benatti



FRANCIS "FLYER" SANTOS

has been enrolled

in the

Jesuit Seminary and Mission Bureau

for the coming year and will

share in the Masses and prayers

of the Jesuits of the

New England Province of the

Society of Jesus

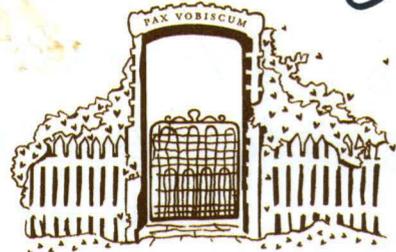
by

Patricia & Paul Benatti

James P. Mc Davitt  
Director



CHARLIE  
WESTCOTT



① Sept 1,

Dear Flyer—

Just a note to wish you a Happy Birthday on this special occasion.

I was recollecting back to summer—1934—when the two Smith brothers from Chicago, staying at the Waugh's place on Aunt Hil's lane, asked if I wanted to join them in a sailing class at Mr. Furdado's boat yard. I did and I recall you

were the skipper in the <sup>②</sup> Furdado Cat boat. One thing I always remembered was when you said "never cleat the main sheet"—you had the lee rails awast and it was a grand lesson.

Years later in 1939 Coulton Waugh said I could use his Eskimo, the "Belafado" #9—PYC raced Wellfleet over there and for some reason I came in 3rd giving enough points for PYC to keep the cup. That was the last time I was ever that close with the races.



③

Anyway, I always put the beginning of my interest in sailing to your framing that summer of 1934.

Perhaps somewhere in your mind you were thinking of "WERC"—

Smooth Sailing—

Charlie

WESTCOTT

2014

Happy Birthday

Flyer

Fondly  
Gloria Furman



I still have your recipe  
for your Boston baked  
beans which you exchanged  
for my stuffed Squid recipe  
and then proceeded to bring  
me a dish of Portuguese  
Squid stew.

Have a great Birthday!  
I'm looking forward to next  
summer when I can see  
you again.

**GLORIA  
FURMAN**

Fondly  
Gloria

2014

Dear Flyer,

Provincetown would not  
be Provincetown without you.

Every summer when I come  
to the Cape, I'm so happy  
to see you on the porch  
ready to recall old times.

all the happy memories  
when we all belonged to  
the Sailing club and  
your "Columbia" raced in  
the open class with Stu's  
"Metaxa".

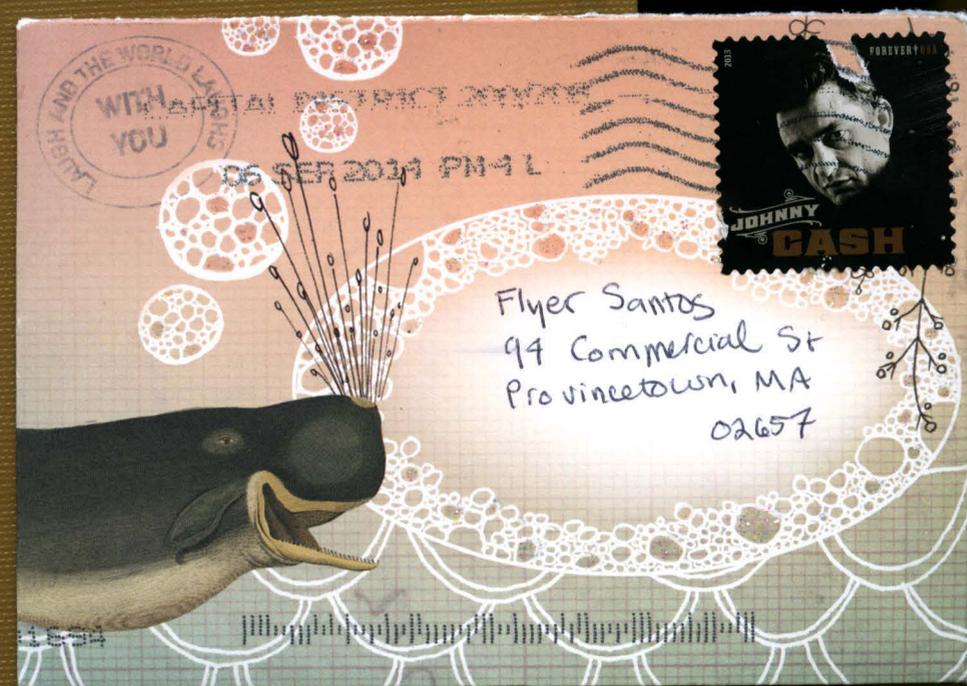
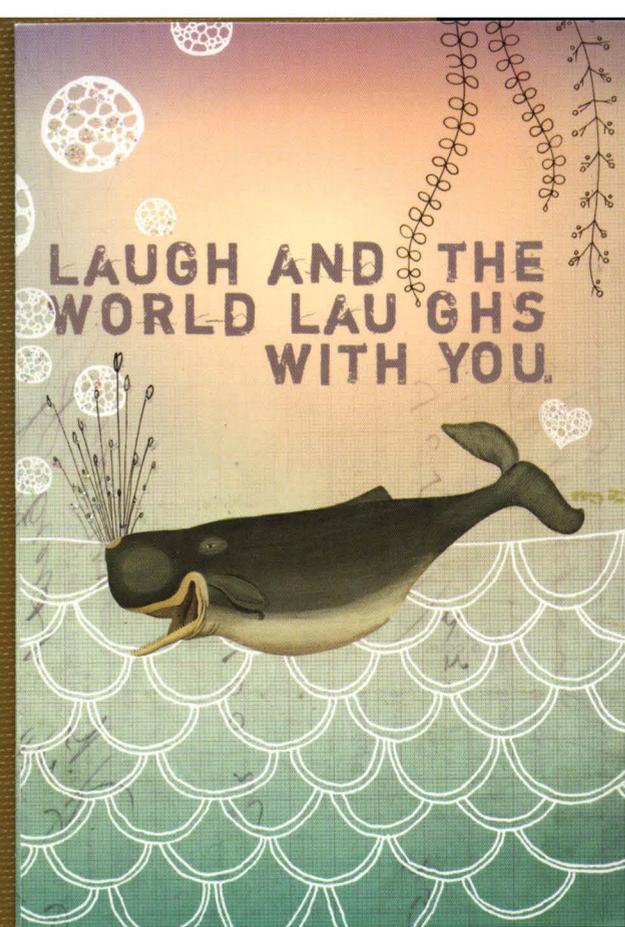
The friends I made  
at the Raing Club  
have been lifelong  
~~the~~ friends. I hope  
your birthday is  
a beautiful day  
filled with family,  
friends, and good  
weather.

Sincerely,

Mary Bergman  
in Washington, DC  
formerly of Mechanic  
St.

September  
2014  
Dear Flyer,

I wanted to write to  
you to wish you a  
very happy 100th  
birthday! I have  
not seen you in  
many years but I  
am so grateful  
for all you have  
done for the  
children of Provincetown.



SENT \$100 CASH 



...especially  
one-of-a-kind uncles  
like you!

Happy Birthday

Uncle Francis,  
I wish I could be  
there to celebrate  
your Birthday  
Love & Blessings David, Cathy  
& Kerry Scott

Uncles  
are  
heroes.

 Uncles  
get to  
spoil you.

Uncles  
make special days  
even more special.

Uncles  
make you feel  
important.

Uncles  
ask questions  
that really make you think —  
or laugh — or both.

Uncles  
are like having  
a great coach, a favorite teacher,  
a big brother, AND a best friend —  
all rolled into one.

Uncles  
tell stories  
you've never  
heard before.

Uncles  
are one of the  
best parts about  
being a family.

## Flyer's 100th Birthday Celebration , September 10, 2014

Today, the 100th birthday of Francis" Flyer "Santos, I am copying a tribute I wrote 10 years ago on his 90t birthday in anticipation of his being cited by Portugal for his lifelong contribution to the community of Provincetown and to his Portuguese Heritage

The Portuguese community of Provincetown is one of tho oldest and greatest fishing communities in America. It boasts of a long history of the men who have gone down to the sea in ships, and their combined record is extraordinary. None of them, however, have had a record that is more interesting, varied or productive than Francis "Flyer" Santos who will be ninety years old in September, 2004. He is a man for all seasons; a man for all times. He is a native of Provincetown, but a citizen of the world like his famous Portuguese ancestors, men of discovery and of incredible skill. He has been enamored of the sea all his life. Although his parents were born in this country, his grandfather came from the island of San Miguel in the Azores and arrived in America as a striker aboard a whaling schooner at the beginning of the 20th century.

In his long life in Provincetown, he has served the town in a number of official capacities and in many meaningful ways. He was a select-man at a critical moment when the town wharf needed rebuilding in the 1950s, and his knowledge and expertise were brought into play in its supervision .

His lifelong career as a master boat builder in the town and his operation of a successful boatyard, over many years, made an enormous contribution to the fishing industry. He has either built or repaired, with great skill and integrity, a large portion of the fishing fleet.

Late in life in 1977, he brought his experience in boat building and his love for his heritage to the building of the half-scale model of the fa-

mous Provincetown fishing schooner, "Rose Dorothea," the largest half-scale model of a fishing schooner in the world, which he completed, after eleven years of arduous labor and which was dedicated in the Provincetown Heritage Museum on June 25, 1988 . The story of this Herculean task is documented in the accompanying material of this proposal. All of his labor was given without recompense as a memorial to his Portuguese heritage and to the people of Provincetown, past and present,

Francis "Flyer" Santos believes in people and has never ceased in his attempts, in every aspect of his life, to make the world a better place. No stronger proof of this could be demonstrated than by his fifty-year commitment to maintaining a sailing and swimming club for the young people of the community not far from his home on the water's edge. Here, he has lectured and demonstrated the skills needed to be able to sail and to swim to young people from the ages of 8 to 14 every summer for fifty years. Today, the West End Racing Club membership averages approximately 150 during the months of July and August. The wonder, for him, of teaching the young the moral values of life while, at the same time, giving them lifelong aquatic skills is totally rewarding.

To this man of unceasing energy, enormous vision and integrity and personal pride in what he does and in what he has accomplished, the town, the nation and his ancestral home of Portugal owe him both recognition and gratitude, for it is a man such as Francis "Flyer" Santos who points the way to a better future, to a sounder way of life and to an enduring humanity.

In 1968, I dedicated the following poem to "Flyer" on the occasion of the launching of his boat, the "Columbia," a beautiful sloop which he had crafted for many a sailing Saturday in Provincetown Harbor. I include it here as my personal tribute to a man with whom I shared the dream of building the "Rose Dorothea" and for whom I have the most profound respect.

## A MAN AND HIS BOAT

His world begins here in an empty cradle  
Holding the shape of hulls against the sky,  
Waiting to snuggle up a boat then slip it back to sea.

Rib-cage poppets rise above a maze of yard,  
Deliberate confusion of the trade  
Where the sea gulls stalk at ease,  
And where he talks, talks of the sea.

The tools that lie in readiness, as if awake,  
Live by his summoning to make the dead oak  
Quake beneath the quick and shivering sail.  
Nothing he keeps sleeps,  
But speaks the dialect he taught them-  
Ship's talk- to build a ship.

The man is true,  
Heart's keel beneath him,  
Balanced by work, he lives close to the wind.  
The ship he made, he launched, he loves, he sails.  
I cannot tell you more that needs my telling.

Josephine C. Del Deo

(Founding Chairman of the Provincetown Heritage Museum )



Helping my brother David build his boat. You always found the time! 1991



'A man and his castle.'

Dear Uncle Francis ~

What do you give a man who's about to reach his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday? The list is pretty small. So I'm sending love and memories. The large picture is the way I remember you. Strong, hard working and a big heart.

The smaller ones show your involvement with family to help build David's boat. Memories remain in our hearts forever and the "Thank You's" could never be enough.  
All My Love  
Niece Susan

**SUSAN SANTS** *Just a note...*

Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday + God Bless!

To my Uncle Francis,  
You'll always be larger than life!



all my Love  
Niece Susan Sants-  
Darnell



Here you are with your with  
your "gang", Always, teaching and  
finding time to help something  
to be built. Your generosity  
was always appreciated!

SEPT 91

SEPT 91

Sept. 7, 1991

Susan  
**SANTS**

Final photo of the launching!  
The love, hard work, generosity,  
and time you put into this project  
will be appreciated forever!

PT 91

SEPT 91

**FROM SUSAN SANTS**

Dear Flyer,

You are an amazing man,  
the heart and soul of  
Provincetown. You showed  
your kindness when I  
brought children to see you -  
my own great-nephew, and  
then Wamsutta Frank James  
grandchildren.

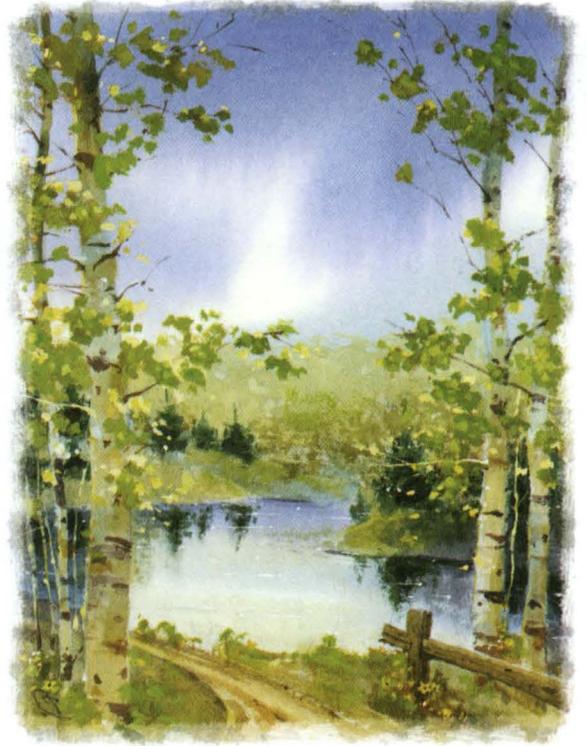
May your 100th birthday  
be filled with joy and love!

Linda Simon

LSIMON2004@yahoo.com

WAMSUTTA FRANK JAMES GRAND CHILDREN

Wishing you life's simple  
pleasures on this special day



LINDA  
SIMON



Happy Birthday



Left to right: Bob Allison, Don Thibeault Sr., Flyer

Flyer Memory 9-10-14

This is how we often think of Flyer. In the WERC, sharing his experiences

and thoughts. (In this picture from the early 90's - with Don Thibeault)

Evelyn  
Bob  
John  
Robert

Phil  
Phyllis

The  
Allison's  
and  
Gaudio's

MARION (Cook) Gouzia



Dear Francis -

May the Lord's kindness and love  
bless you on your special day!

Happy Birthday

I miss you in front of  
me at Sunday Mass in  
your pew.

As you will agree - work  
comes before pleasure so  
I won't be able to join your  
celebration. Enjoy your day!  
Fondly - Marian



Only goodness and love  
will pursue me all the days  
of my life; I will dwell in  
the house of the Lord for  
years to come.

PSALM 23:6

Dear Flyer,  
congratulations

The roads you've walked,  
on your 100<sup>th</sup> the suns you've seen,  
birthday! the joys you've gathered you are  
truly "one" in between, in a million."  
the years you've lived  
and all they mean...

we celebrate with you!

## Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday to You

I remember with my husband  
Jim visiting you and Irene in  
your condo in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.  
years ago. Irene made a Key lime  
pie. It was delicious. God bless you  
always. Happy birthday, Flyer.

Dot Crosskey  
David, Jimmy, + Bob,



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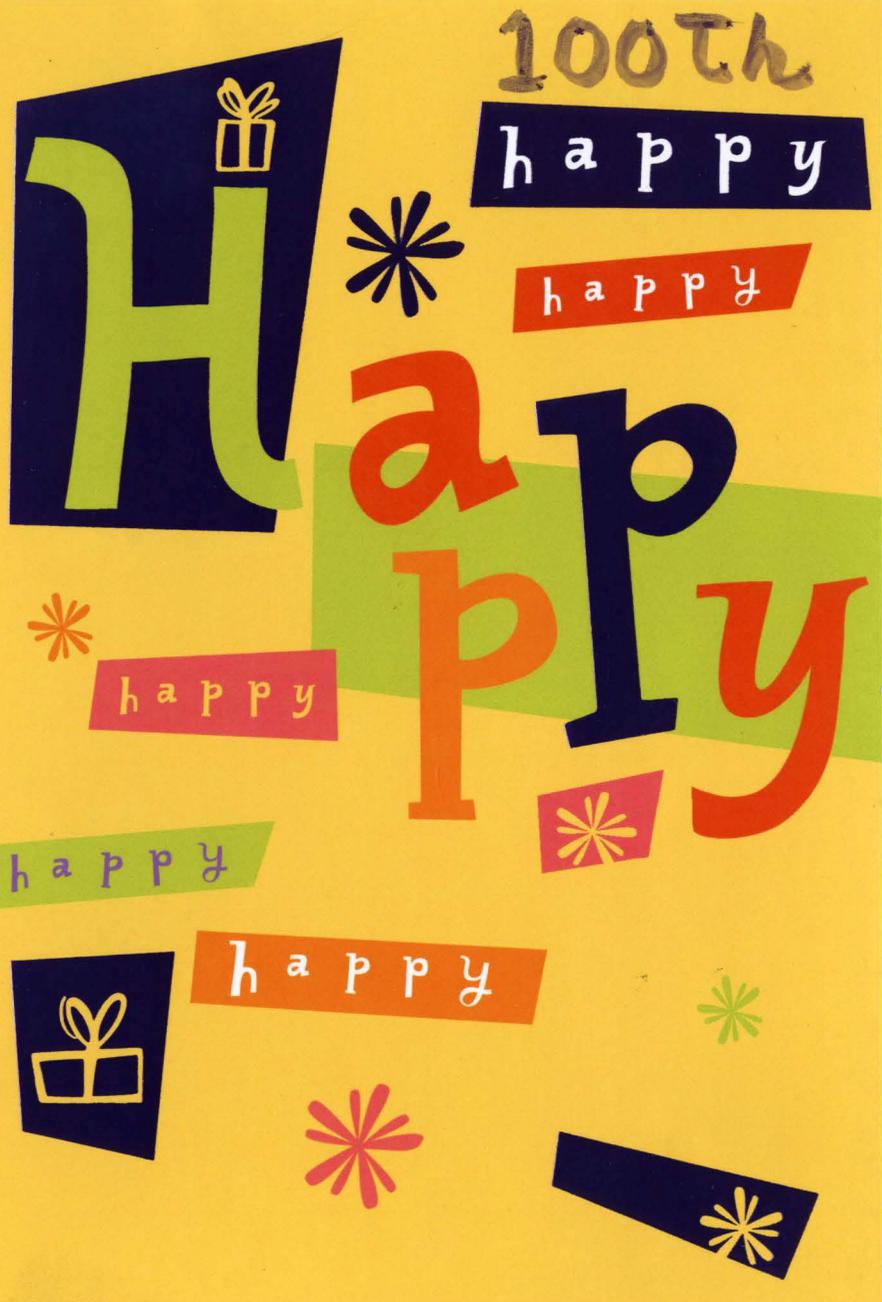
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RACHEL WHITE

Dear "Flyer" 9/10/14

It gives me great pleasure  
to enjoy your 100 years  
as I did on your mother's  
100 years. I always enjoyed your  
Grandmother too at 1 Holyway Ave.

God Bless you  
and for you of family who  
assisted you as you traveled  
this long road. You and  
Irene did a "yeoman's" job  
raising your family of good  
responsible people to be in  
place for you now.

Your 33<sup>rd</sup> Cousin  
Rachel White

It's your birthday-  
Have a  
**WHOLE LOTTA**  
happy!

and may God grant  
you the health to  
continue to celebrate  
beyond your 100th on  
this day.

With much Love  
and thanks for all you've  
done for your Community  
during your longevity



DEAR FLYER

May your moment in the sun  
be filled with friends and fun!

Happy Birthday

A FOND MEMORY I HAVE OF YOU  
OCCURED 3 YEARS AGO (~~1998~~)  
WHEN CLARENCE (B.D. 3/3/16)  
HAD A MEDICAL SCARE. WHEN  
YOU HEARD ABOUT THIS YOU WERE  
SO CONCERNED YOU WALKED UP ALONE  
TO SEE WHAT WAS HAPPENING.  
WHAT IMPRESSED ME WAS YOUR  
THOUGHTFUL<sup>NESS</sup> AND TAKING IMMEDIATE  
ACTION. YOU WERE GIVING  
ENCOURAGEMENT AND SEVERAL HOURS →



OF GOOD ADVISE. I WAS IMPRESSED  
WHEN<sup>YOU</sup> DEMONSTRATED BY DOING  
THE JIG. YOU CERTAINLY MADE  
US FEEL YOUR CONSIDERATION.  
CLARENCE IMPROVED AND HAD ONE  
MORE GOOD YEAR. THANK YOU.  
Mike + Kathy  
Kacenzis



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Printed on Recycled Paper

295 USA 375 Canada BDG10808

Happy Birthday  
Gram Pa Love Lillian  
+ Lye



Pat  
Horton

Warren Wm. Costa  
Provincetown, MA 02657

To Flyer,

Happy

100  
Birthday

td  
from  
Warren Wm.

Provincetown, MA 02657

To Flyer,

This is the second time this month I've clipped a report from the Provincetown Banner about your 100th birthday. There was another report on Sept. 10 having been Flyer Santos Day. He was feted at Bubala's by the sea for your 100th birthday party thrown by your family & friends, as Rep. Sarah Peake read a proclamation and selectmen chair Tom Donegan offered up one of your cake. You've been presented with your 100th birthday cake. P.S. I put the news clippings inside the note.

from  
Warren Wm.

*happy*

100<sup>th</sup>

BIRTHDAY!