



Another of Lancy's Corner facing Tremont Street (ahead). - 1906



The Corner minus the tree. August 1940

## Do You Know ?

### WHY COMMERCIAL STREET ZIG-ZAGS AT FRANKLIN STREET?

Commercial Street was not laid out as a county road until 1835. Until then it was little more than a sandy pathway following the backyards of the houses lining the shore. When the county commissioners, together with a supervisory committee of three Provincetown men, began to survey and take land, they encountered opposition from owners of an industry that has since disappeared.

Sixty years after Captain John Sears of Dennis invented way to make salt by evaporating sea water, Provincetown had 78 salt-works. These consisted of broad, shallow, wood-

en vats into which salt water was pumped by a windmill. from three to seven vats, each about 20 feet square, were connected; as the water evaporated to the proper salinity it was drained from one vat to a lower one until pure salt cystalized on the bottom of the lowest vat. Salt-works produced a good income, occupied a great deal of ground, and the works on the shore at Franklin Street belonged to Benjamin Lancy at the time Commercial Street was being laid out.

Says Nancy Paine Smith in her "Provincetown Book": "When they reached Lancy's Corner, Mr. Lancy came out and said: 'Whoever saws through my salt-works saws through my body.' And Joshua Paine replied, 'Where's a saw?' Nevertheless, the road went around the Lancy property and makes the two bad turns now so dangerous."

Lancy's Corner in 1941 with ...  
a traffic signal.

Franklin Street, the first street to be laid out in town, on the right.

