

The Advocate, Thursday, January 15, 1981

Papa Joe' Macara dies at 101

Captain Joseph Joaquin Macara, 101, the oldest man in town, a retired fisherman who came to Provincetown from Portugal 81 years ago, died January 5 at the Cape End Manor.

Macara started fishing in Portugal when he was eight years old and only attended school there for a year. Over an active fishing career in Provincetown that spanned more than 50 years, until his retirement when he was about 70, he tried his hand at many different kinds of fishing and captained several boats.

He worked as a seine fisherman, harpooned swordfish, did weir fishing, long lining, handlining, trawling, gill netting and dragging. Among the boats he skippered were the "Liberty," bought in 1915, the "Victory," purchased in 1918, the "Annabelle R.," a former rumrunner that he

converted to a fishing vessel when he bought it after prohibition, and his last boat, the "Jennie B."

Aside from occasional trips to see family in Portugal, Macara, known as "Papa Joe" to friends and family, spent his entire life in Provincetown and raised a large family here. He had many friends and was well-liked for his kindness and courtesy. He once said the two things he was most proud of were that he never set foot in a police station—or a barroom.

He enjoyed good health for virtually all of his life and at the age of 99 still made frequent trips to the wharf and to visit his family. He even went out tuna fishing when he was 99.

"He never really retired," said Mary Tarvis, his oldest daughter. "He stopped doing it for a living when he was about 70 but whenever someone would come along and ask him to go out, he'd go everytime."

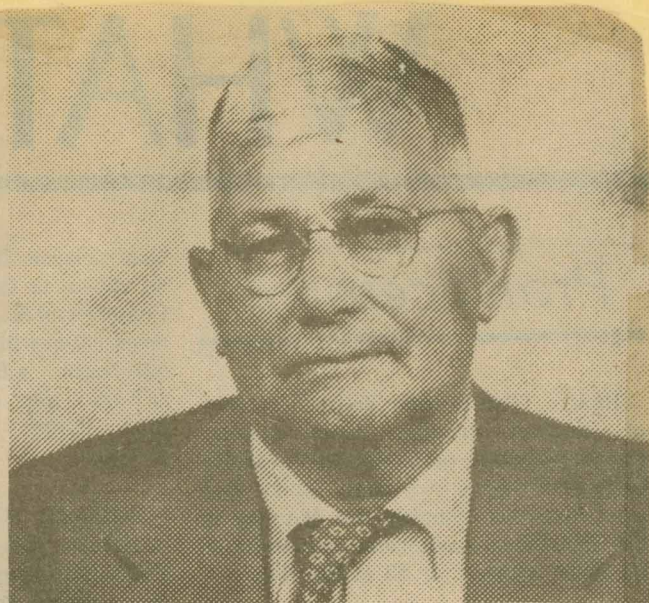
Mary-Jo Avellar, chairman of the Provincetown selectmen, presented Macara with the Boston Post Cane last year, a gold-tipped cane traditionally held by Provincetown's oldest resident.

He was a former member of the Fishermen's Dragger Association and the Moose Club of Provincetown. He was a communicant of St. Peter the Apostle Church in Provincetown.

Since 1976 he had lived with his oldest daughter, and her husband Ernest Tarvis in North Truro. Two weeks before his death he suffered a stroke and was moved to the Cape End Manor.

He was the husband of the late Maria C. (Lopes) Macara, who died 11 years ago. They were married for 62 years.

Survivors include two sons, Joseph Macara of Provincetown and Florida and Norbert Macara of Provincetown; three daughters, Mrs. Tarvis and Celeste Francis Jr., both of North Truro, and Lucille Cordeiro of



Capt. Joseph Macara in 1954

Florida; 29 grandchildren; 46 great-grandchildren; six great-great-grandchildren and many neices and nephews.

The funeral was at 10 a.m. Thursday in St. Peter the Apostle Church. Burial was in St. Peter's Cemetery, Provincetown.