

Town Welcomes Excursion Boat

Greeted by Town officials and by a large crowd on MacMillan Wharf, the Martha's Vineyard, the 210-foot excursion vessel, arrived here last Saturday on its first trip between Boston and Provincetown with 403 passengers aboard.

Originally planned for the previous week the first trip was delayed when the vessel grounded at Woods Hole and was in dry dock for several days. Its arrival Saturday saw restoration of service between Boston and Provincetown which was ended by the Wilson Line late last season.

On MacMillan Wharf to officially greet the Martha's Vineyard were Chairman of Selectmen John C. Snow, Selectman William McKellar, Town Manager Walter E. Lawrence and Frank H. Barnett, executive secretary of the Provincetown Chamber of Commerce. Adding color to the affair were Miss Catharine Huntington of the Provincetown Playhouse in a 19th century costume and carrying a parasol, reminiscent of the many years of boat service between Boston and Provincetown, and Town Crier Arthur P. Snader.

On board the Martha's Vineyard was its owner, Captain Joseph T. Gelinas, of Hyannis. Skipper of the boat was Captain Arthur Bradstreet.

First to greet Captain Gelinas was Selectman Snow, with the comment, "We are very pleased that the century-old tradition of Boston boat service has been revived and we wish you, Captain Gelinas, every success."

As the vessel was warped along side MacMillan Wharf Town Manager Lawrence said that "the value of this boat service is much more important to the town than just the money that it brings in."

Mr. Barnett, executive secretary of the chamber of commerce, said that "this is an important day for Provincetown and continuation of the Boston service will be very beneficial to the town."

Sunday the Martha's Vineyard brought 586 passengers to Provincetown, Monday there were 308, Tuesday a hundred less or 208, and yesterday 400.

"I always come down once every summer to see who misses the boat," said a local resident standing on the wharf Sunday afternoon, as the Martha's Vineyard gave some final toots on her whistle and passengers continued to straggle along to the end of the pier. They all got aboard, as it turned out, but the local lady got her share of excitement after all.

A member of the crew was left behind. The poor fellow fell overboard off the wharf as he tried to step from the pier to the boat and floundered around in the water for several minutes before grabbing on to a piling. To all appearances he seemed unable to swim and it took some time before a line was rustled up and thrown to him and he was pulled up on to the wharf by Harbormaster Arthur Bragg.

While all this was going on the bow of the Martha's Vineyard edged out into the harbor, while a 3-inch hawser at her stern, still attached to the wharf, got tauter and tauter as the ship strained to pull away. The crew member having been retrieved by Arthur Bragg hurried over to let the line go and at the same moment the men on the ship decided they better let their end go. Both did and the heavy line began to slide quickly into the water. Just when it seemed the hawser was about to disappear forever, the crew managed to get hold of the end still aboard the ship and hauled it in and the Martha's Vineyard sailed off into the distance, leaving behind a trail of smoke, some strains of rock 'n roll music and a stranded crewman, dripping sea water from his grey denims.

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The crewman's falling overboard and subsequent efforts on the wharf to find a line or a lifering brought vividly to mind several past efforts on the part of Leo Gracie and others to provide for such a happening. Mr. Gracie, we recall, on numerous instances has asked to have liferings ready on the wharf in case of accident and he has been pooh-poohed and told that liferings would have to be chained to the wharf to prevent them from disappearing and other such answers. Maybe so. But Sunday's accident shows that such things can happen and it might very well be worth a few liferings if a possible tragedy could be averted.

Go the COMFORTABLE WAY BOSTON-PROVINCETOWN

By Water

MV MARTHA'S VINEYARD

ENJOY A 100-MILE CRUISE ACROSS FAMOUS MASSACHUSETTS BAY

RELAXING, FREE OF TRAFFIC, WITH ALL THE SPEED AND JOY OF AN OCEAN LINER

Leaves Central Wharf, Atlantic Avenue Boston—10 A.M.

Arrives Provincetown—1:45 P.M.

Leaves Provincetown—4:30 P.M.

Arrives Central Wharf—7:45 P.M.

—GO THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD WAY—

SNACK BAR — SUN DECK — COCKTAIL LOUNGE

Cape-Boston Run Shows Loss

A spokesman for the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad yesterday labeled this Summer's Boston-Cape Cod commuter service "disappointing".

Benedict E. Hines, information officer of the railroad, said the two-car trains never have "enough passengers to fill one car." This is in direct contrast to the New York-Cape Cod service via Attleboro, which he described as "in the black".

Mr. Hines attributed the lack of patronage principally to the excessively long time taken by the train since the Neponset Bridge has not been in service. The trip takes about 2½ hours now, as compared to 1¾ hours on the old route.

A scheduled mid-day train was dropped July 23 because of lack of patronage. Mr. Hines said the company had not been optimistic about the service from its start on June 30.

Excursion Vessel Totals Reported

PROVINCETOWN, Sept. 12 — The excursion vessel Martha's Vineyard, operating between Provincetown and Boston on a daily schedule since Aug. 12, carried approximately 9,182 passengers to the Cape-tip, according to figures released today by the Provincetown Chamber of Commerce.

The Martha's Vineyard made its last trip of the season Sunday when it brought in 360 passengers. Bad weather caused cancellation of trips of only three days. Biggest single day was Sept. 2 when 800 were brought.

The Nantucket Express Lines, Inc., which provided service with the motor vessel, Martha's Vineyard, from Boston to Provincetown, part of last season did not apply to continue that service this year. (1962)



The Martha's Vineyard - 1961