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Landing Ceremony

In brief ceremonies held shortly after dark at the windswept West End plaque commemorating the First Landing of the Pilgrim Fathers in Provincetown, attention was focused on this fact of the town's history by Edward Rowe Snow, historian and writer who headed the ceremonies. Also participating in the program were Arthur J. Cunningham, president of the Massachusetts Marine Historical League, others representing the League, the Portland Associates, an organization of descendants of those who perished in the Portland Disaster in 1898, and Dr. Daniel H. Hiebert.

Mr. Cunningham emphasized that the annual ceremony insures that these historical spots will not be forgotten, and keeps in the forefront of people's minds the historical facts, such as that the Pilgrims first landed in Provincetown.

Mr. Snow's participation fulfilled a two-fold purpose. It is his custom annually to visit lighthouses, by air and drop gifts at Race Point Light, but bad weather interfered. In town for the First Landing ceremony, he was able to deliver the parcels in person, donning his Santa Claus costume for the enjoyment of children at the lighthouse who received some of his gifts.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1964

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN, MASSACHUSETTS

FIRST LANDING DAY

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, it is a widely acknowledged Historical Fact that on November 21, 1620, the good ship "Mayflower" dropped anchor in Provincetown Harbor and the Pilgrim Fathers first set foot on the shores of the new World in Provincetown, County of Barnstable, Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, the first document establishing a democratic system of Government with the consent of the governed was drawn and executed in the Cabin of the "Mayflower" while it lay at anchor in this first port of the Pilgrims; and

WHEREAS, by virtue of these undisputed facts, our own democratic system of Government which has been a model to which the entire civilized World has aspired, was first initiated in the Town of Provincetown; and

WHEREAS, it is especially fitting in these times of atomic

terror and militant Godlessness that we review the life of the Pilgrims, made possible only because of their faith in Almighty God and their firm conviction that liberty and freedom could be attained in the new land; and

WHEREAS, our own beloved Harry Kemp was so proud of his adopted Home Town and its history and spent so much of his time and energy in proclaiming it to the World;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Provincetown, do hereby proclaim Saturday, November 21, 1964, as "First Landing Day" to commemorate the first landing of the Pilgrims in Provincetown Harbor and urge all citizens, young and old, to join in its observance.

Given under our hands and the official Seal of the Town of Provincetown, this 16th of November in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty-four.



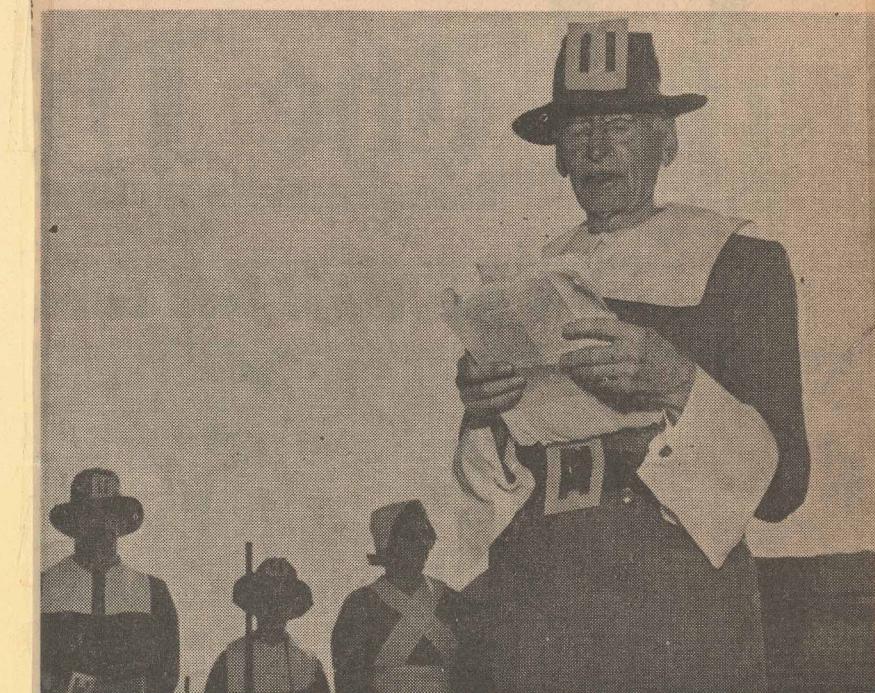
Charles J. De Riggs, Chairman
Marion Tayes, Jr.
Ernest Irmer
Eugene C. Watson
Burton Kenney
Selectmen of Provincetown

60.—The First Landing Place of the Pilgrims, Nov. 11, 1620, O. S. Provincetown, Cape Cod, Mass.



The Marker, before it was moved across the street

Have We Forgotten The First Landing Day?



Although everybody celebrated Thanksgiving Day with the traditional turkey, either at home, with the family in, or away with relatives and friends, and, on the whole, had a pleasant holiday, virtually forgotten among the holiday celebrations was the "First Landing Day." This day was proclaimed by the local Selectmen who set aside the day "to commemorate the first landing of the Pilgrims in Provincetown Harbor and urge all citizens, young and old, to join in its observance."

Nothing came to our knowledge to indicate that this had been done. And, ever since the indomitable "Poet of the Dunes" Harry Kemp, passed from the scene, the observance of the day has also virtually passed from the scene. Although, there have been times when some hearty souls have attempted to revive the spirit of the day, they have been driven off by the cold weather, and raw winds, much like the Pilgrims of old. However, when Harry was around, he was undaunted by the elements, and saw to it that some ceremony commemorating the day was held.

Presenting itself now is the opportunity for some interested group of citizens to get together and present a yearly pageant commemorating the "First Landing Day" and also the poetry of Harry Kemp. If a short, but