

8-19-1954

Among the hordes of visitors in town is James Maguire, son or our last surviving sailmaker of the same name. Young James and family live in Flushing, Long Island, and works for the Military Sea Transportation Service, Port of Embarkation, in Brooklyn, main shipping point on the east coast for military men and material. Like his father he is still working with canvas; not fashioning the vast expanses of sails, but making canvas covers for lifeboats, hatches, winches and other parts of ships that need protection from the weather.

November 4, 1943

... One of the most interesting spots to visit in Provincetown is the loft of James McGuire, veteran sailmaker and the only survivor of his craft in town today. In a huge barn-like room on Hilliard's Wharf, where Mr. McGuire admits he roasts in the summer and freezes in the winter, on the floor worn shiny with the miles of heavy canvass that have been pulled over it in the many decades of the Cape End's maritime history, he still makes sails but his awning work really enables him to stay in business. With more than a half century of experience, many of which were spent in the employ of great sailmakers, Mr. McGuire has a rich store of sailing lore to tell. He made some of the sails for the Rose Dorothea, Provincetown's winner of the Lipton Cup which today can be seen in the Selectmen's office in Town Hall.



-- 1935 --

Draggers tied up to Hilliard's Wharf (Higgins Lumber Company)



Here is a September 1946 view of the scene above. Maguire's old Sail Loft, left. Note Dragger Fleet in the harbor. Railroad Wharf, next on right, with pile driver on the right side (new building erected in 1947). Sklaroff Wharf, right.

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