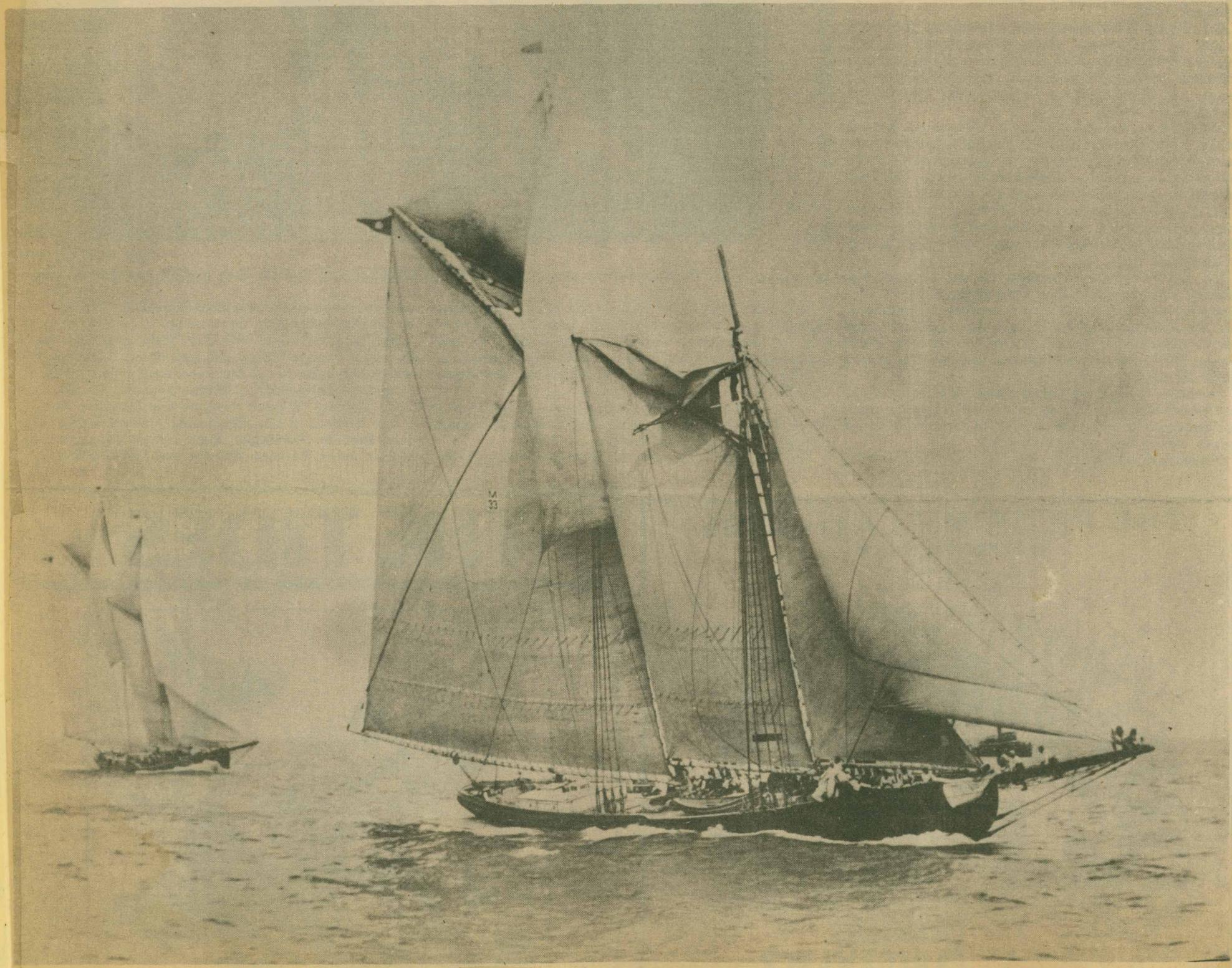


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Winner of the 1907 Lipton Cup

Provincetown's fabled *Rose Dorothea*



ROSE DOROTHEA sprints only moments ahead of the JESSIE COSTA on her way to winning the Lipton Cup in 1907.

By Steven Schwadron

Provincetown's legendary fishing schooner, the *Rose Dorothea*, which sailed into history 70 years ago by winning the Lipton Cup in a race off Boston, will be recreated as a half-scale model in an exhibit in the Provincetown Heritage Museum.

Pictures of the stalwart and perky Grand Banks schooner crossing the finish line still strikes pride in local hearts. It's their most famous fishing boat, a thoroughbred among work horses.

The first boats to hit the Boston fish markets took home the most money and pride. Capt. Marion Perry of the *Rose Dorothea* was known as "The Killer" for his obsession with speed on his graceful schooner.

While formal races between fishing vessels were not uncommon, Sir Thomas Lipton, heir to the Lipton Tea empire, put up enough prize money to draw five boats off the busy Grand Banks for that August afternoon race.

Many today look back on the race as a challenge match between fleets from Provincetown and Gloucester, two fishing capitals of the early 1900's. In fact, only a Boston boat, the *Joseph W. Parker*, challenged the two Provincetown entries in the first-class division race: Capt. Manuel Costa's *Jessie Costa* and Capt. Marion Perry's *Rose Dorothea*.

But her victory in the race won the *Rose Dorothea* far more than the \$450 in first prize money and the Lipton Cup, which still stands in the Pilgrim Monument museum.

It earned her a place in Provincetown's maritime lore. But until now, she's been honored only by a stone slab in front of Town Hall.

The town is on its way to reconstructing a half-scale replica of the *Rose Dorothea* in the Provincetown Heritage Museum. A \$64,000 CETA grant will help prepare the 1860 building, formerly a Methodist Church and then the Chrysler Art Museum. The project will be the largest indoor boat model in the world.

Organizers like Josephine Del Deo and Cyril Patrick hope the project will reflect Provincetown's tradition and its contribution to the national heritage.

The original *Rose Dorothea* was 108 feet long, 25 feet wide with a 12-foot draft, a large mainsail and a mainboom of 89 feet.

The federal CETA grant will provide 10 workers to get the five-year project off the ground. Flyer's Boatyard will coordinate technical aspects of the project, including supervising construction of a hollow boom in Connecticut. Benefit dinners and auctions have raised about \$9000, with other such events planned.

Though a proud bunch, Provincetown people still keep formalities in proper perspective. When Teddy Roosevelt was here in 1907 to dedicate the Pilgrim Monument, he wanted to meet Capt. Perry, fresh from his Lipton Cup victory. According to Bert Perry, his nephew, who was

aboard the *Rose Dorothea* during the race, the town's one policeman ran over to tell Capt. Perry the President wanted to shake his hand. Perry said he'd wait until Roosevelt stopped by in person.

Lipton, a Scotsman, had already lost two of his five bids for the America's Cup. A yachting enthusiast from the start, he spared no expense in any of the five sloops, each named *Shamrock*, he built for those challenge races.

The Gloucester fleet was invited to compete for the \$1550 in winnings for his Lipton Cup, as part of Boston's Old Home Week celebration. But they were either intimidated by the Provincetown competition or were unable to spare the fishing time for sport.

The *Joseph W. Parker* was given only the slimmest chance in the race. So it came down to the two Provincetown boats. Many think the *Jessie Costa* was a