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Modern fire force at Provincetown

By NEIL G N.ICKERSON

PROVINCETOWN — Provincetown has one of the most up-to-date fire departments on Cape Cod. There is need for such a facility here where houses, in many instances, are only a few feet apart.

This modern department had its start how,ever, over 130 years ago, when the first move was made in 1836 for an engine. This engine is still seen in Provincetown.

For many years, this piece of equipment, a hand operated pumper named the George Washington, was in the basement at Town Hall, except when it was taken out for demonstrations. It could work, and amazed the assemblage that watched it.

The "Washington" was purchased at town meeting on March 7 1,836, when voters authorized buying it. It was built at the Hunneman works in Roxbury. It was hand made, as was a hand drawn pumper, made with wide sand tires expressly for Provincetown, by William C. Hunneman, a apprentice of Paul Revere.

It has an end stroke engine, popular in New England in those days, with reversible pumping handles for narrow passageways. Also the same year, the town voted to buy 30 second hand leather buckets and 100 feet of leading hose and other necessary fixtures.

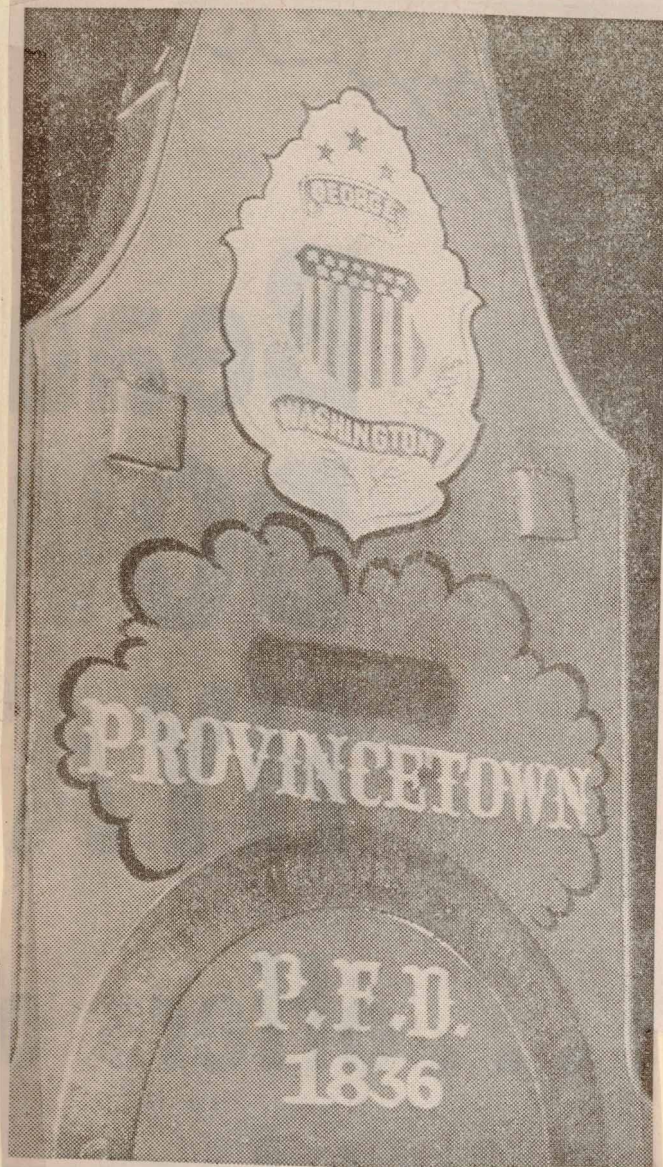
Provincetown Advocate, Thursday, November 1, 1973



Members of the Provincetown Fire Department, led by Chief Russell Perry and Bob White, pulling the town's two antique pumps along the four-mile parade route at the 100th Anniversary of the International Association of Fire Chiefs in Baltimore on October 20.



Manuel Noones and the First Horse-Drawn Fire Apparatus - from a Mural in the Provincetown Inn - Sept. 1977



Insignia on the side of the apparatus, identifying it as the George Washington, and its year of vintage, 1836.

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