Publication: Provincetown Advocate,Date: Aug 31

Coast Guard Article By Lighthouse Keeper

Captain Douglas Shepherd, well known keeper of Wood End Lighthouse has another of his interesting articles featured in the September number of the U. S.Coast Guard Magazine, entitled "Cape Cod and the Shoals of Disaster," in which the skipper tells of famous wrecks on Cape Cod shores and heroic bravery on the part of the men of the Lighthouse and Coast Guard service.

"Apart from the various Lighthouses, "declares the writer, "The Lighthouse Service maintains 6 modern Lightships anchored on their respective stations guarding against the menace. So it would seem that today the Lighthouse Service serves to present disaster at sea, while the Coast Guard Service "Stands By' to render first aid to the injured afloat after disaster. But even with this splendid efficient service, it would seem at times that Old Lady Nature and Daddy Neptune will get together just to see what they can do to make the mariner a prey to their efforts.

"Such was the case abreast of the Monomoy Point Coast Guard Station about 9 a. m. on the morning of September 18, 1917. Boatswain Richard Ryder was the officer in charge a tthe time. His crew were all seated in the dining room drilling the Morse Code with their small electric light."

The lookout man, continues Mr. Shepherd, spied a ship in distress. He notified the officer in charge. The captain took a look at the helpless vessel then he hurried downstairs to his men, with the cry.

"Oilers and boots, boys, make it snap-

py.' Turning to surfman Worth: 'Hustle down to the barn and hitch up Kittie to the breeches buoy cart, jump around boys, schooner comin' plump head on to the beach.' "

Description is then given of the ship's condition and the well trained work of the active men. This was in the day when horses were still used at stations, before the motor equipped tractor came into use.

"Assuring himself that the crew had made everything fast to the now swaying mast of the crippled schooner, Captain Ryder gave orders to haul out the breeches buoy. Grimly the Coast Guards heeded not the biting blasts of light sand that was caught up by the sudden squalls of the gale to sting their faces, but bent every effort to the characteristic task of saving life. One by one the three men in the rigging were brought safely over the chasm of snarling green breakers fringed with white seething foam, on to this gale-swept desolated beach. Willing hands rushed down to the edge of the surf with blankets which were quickly wrapped around the now exhausted crew, and were helped into the wagon of the Coast Guards and hustled up to the station.

The cook, knowing just what to do under such circumstances, had busied himself with preparing hot food and drink. The vessel proved to be the Cora M., a three masted schooner loaded with lumber."

Such a description of a shipwreck is typical of the work done many many times since that year of 1817. The Coast Guardsmen are making eventful rescues every storm-ridden day, it becomes second nature to them, so that many times their bravery and alertness are overlooked. It is from such writers as Mr. Shepherd, Captain of the Wood End Lighthouse, that we become acquainted with the doings of the Coast Guardsmen who help to keep our shores safe and who never fail to participate in a rescue.